THE CHURCH OF LOW FURNESS NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2024



JULY / AUGUST 2024

Headlines

Changes to July Services

Ghyll Singers Concert Aldingham 14th July 2:00pm

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Articles / Events / updates for inclusion in the Sept/Oct edition

to the editor Rev. Graham Tate by 22nd Aug 24

Email - revdgrahamtate@gmail.com

CHURCH SERVICES

JULY / AUGUST

Date	Church	Service	Time
Sunday 7th July 2024	St. Mary & St. Michael, Urswick	Holy Communion	11:00am
Sunday 14th July 2024	Rampside Village Hall St. Cuthbert's, Aldingham	Holy Communion Choir Concert	11:00am 2:00pm
Sunday 21st July 2024	Holy Trinity Church, Bardsea	Holy Communion	11:00am
Sunday 28th July 2024	St. Cuthbert's, Aldingham Holy Trinity Church, Bardsea St. Mary & St. Michael, Urswick	Holy Communion Family Service Healing Service	11:00am 11:00am 6:00pm
Sunday 4th August 2024	St. Mary & St. Michael, Urswick	Holy Communion	11:00am
Sunday 11th August 2024	Holy Trinity Church, Bardsea St. Cuthbert's, Aldingham	Holy Communion Sung Evening Prayer (BCP)	11:00am 2.30pm
Sunday 18th August 2024	Rampside Village Hall	Holy Communion	11:00am
Sunday 25th August 2024	St. Cuthbert's, Aldingham Holy Trinity Church, Bardsea St. Mary & St. Michael, Urswick	Holy Communion Family Service Healing Service	11:00am 11:00am 6:00pm

Every Wednesday 10.30am
Mid-week Communion service in Urswick Parish Room
Refreshments are served after the service

Morning Prayer

from the Church of Low Furness is posted on our Facebook page every Monday, Tuesday and Thursday at 9:00am when you can join live or watch later.

Healing Service 6:00 pm Sunday 26th May 24 & 23rd June 24

A service of prayer, contemplation, and healing at Urswick Church

Deacon's Deliberations

Revd Graham Tate

tel: 07579 798481 email: revdgrahamtate@gmail.com

As I write this it's few days past the Summer Solstice. And the days are getting shorter. Remind me did we have a summer this year? Was it those couple of days it didn't actually rain a couple of weeks ago! Meteorologically we have entered the summer season – We all wish the weather men/women would tell the clouds that summer should bring blue skies and nice warm weather.

The day of the solstice I was watching the BBC News and of course there was the report from Stonehenge. Pictures of the sun rise behind the Heel Stone. It was a clear day so the pictures did look spectacular - just to see the sun this 'summer' is a cause for celebration!

Celebrating the solstice is associated with Druids and the reporter at the occasion interviewed the 'arch druid' of Britain (I didn't know we had one – but there he was complete with long hair and beard)

The Druids were the priests of the ancient Celts who were spread across Western Europe and the British Isles long before the Romans started empire building. Although there are no surviving texts the Druid belief is based on Spiritual Truth being found in the natural world ; that all things are interconnected. Or in the words of the 'arch druid' "the Divine manifest in nature".

Sounds a lot like :-
"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth." Genesis1:1

And in every creation is the hand of the creator. The beauty; variety and synergy of the natural world is amazing. From the tiniest microbes to the huge whales; from the delicate flowers to the huge trees; from the gentle streams to the raging seas, God is in it all. The ancient peoples did seem to understand that but in modern times there has been a tendency to constrain God to heaven and fail to recognise His presence in the natural world in which we live – the world He gave us to live in.

Modern science is beginning to understand the interconnectedness of the natural world – not that we fully understand it – but we are starting to make connections e.g. the role of pollinating insects, in particular bees, in the supply of food. No Bees No Food!! Is the strap line!

Once we get outside of the towns and cities, we have built, out into the countryside, the natural world, we can find places to encounter a peace that seems to emanate from nature itself. Is that the divine within nature reaching out to us?

God bless
Graham

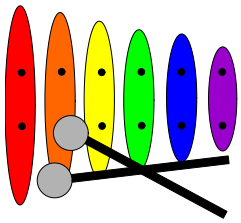
COMMUNITY NEWS & GROUPS

URSWICK POST OFFICE OUTREACH – URSWICK PARISH ROOM

Thank you to everyone who has supported the village Post Office and Coffee Morning. We are grateful for this service which is being used and hopefully will continue with a regular service.

Fridays 9.30-11.30am

Urswick Toddlers Group



Music and Play for 0-3yrs

Our popular Toddler Group is held on Tuesdays!

9.30-11am

Come and join us for play, snacks, and singing at Urswick Parish Room

Contact Julie Charnley on 07709341047

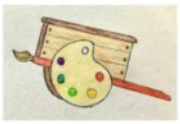
Urswick Parish Room – Room Hire

Urswick Parish Room is open and taking bookings.

Please do get in touch if the space can support your group or community venture. The hall includes toilet and full kitchen facilities. Heating by meter. For bookings and enquiries please contact Linda on
armstronglinda680@gmail.com
tel. 07856107256

CHURCH GROUPS AND EVENTS

CCArtT



Cumbria Craft & Art Therapy

Cumbria Craft & Art Therapy is open to individuals with any mental health or fellowship need, including those affected by bereavement and loss, stress and anxiety or isolation and loneliness. Meeting and working together, we use a variety of crafts and art to offer a safe space and understanding

1-4pm Thurs 4th & 18th July; 1st; 15th & 29th August at Urswick Parish Room

Contact Linda 07856107256 for more information and to book a place.

FURNESS FOOTSTEPS
Stepping Beyond the View

What about a walk in the countryside?

What do you see?

Maybe there's more than meets the eye

Join us on the 4th Sunday of each month

Contact Graham

Revdgrahamtate@gmail.com

Or mob : 07579 798481

Next Meeting 28th July 2024

Meeting at 10 am at Gleaston /water Mill

please contact Graham; FB page or website

Mental Health Fellowship Group

Essential to know who intends to come along **before** the date, please ring Sonjie 07710254123

Meeting in the Urswick Parish room. A time to chat, seek advice, advocacy or help with form filling are all available. This will be a safe space for anyone who attends.
If you feel that this would be beneficial to yourself or someone you know please contact Community Pastor : Sonjie Marshall Tel :07710254123 for further details.

CHURCH GROUPS AND EVENTS

Knead to Chat?



Please contact Maggie for details of our Bread Therapy sessions.

These take place once a month and are a safe and peaceful space for those who are experiencing isolation, bereavement, stress or any struggle.

A great way to spend a few hours with company, good food (a soup and bread lunch is provided) and some good fun.

Urswick Parish Room

Booking essential Contact Maggie 835606

Donations (£4) please to cover cost of ingredients and heating



LADIES LUNCH GROUP

The Ladies Lunch

TBA - contact Maggie for details

Booking Essential - contact Maggie : tel. 01229 835606.

Churchyard maintenance

We have been fortunate that the grass in Urswick churchyard has been cut by community workers at no cost to the church. We are hoping a similar arrangement can help at Dendron too.

However there are still some costs that the churches will incur in maintaining the churchyards. Any one who would like to make a contribution to the churchyard fund can leave a donation at the church.

All contributions are greatly appreciated.

EVENTS AND DATES



Medieval Fair at Furness Abbey

31st August 2024 10:00am - 5:00pm

Details on Furness Abbey Fellowship website

https://www.furnessabbeyfellowship.org/

PCC Meetings

Urswick : Monday 8th July 2:00pm Urswick Parish Room

Aldingham; Dendron and Rampside : Thurs 25 July 1:30pm Urswick Parish Room

This will include a presentation and discussion of the Quinquennial Inspection report by the architect

MISSION AND PIONEERING



Rev Graham Tate

Email : revdgrahamtate@gmail.com

Mob : 07579 798481

Furness Footsteps

Have continued to meet monthly.

May we met at Greenodd and took a short walked around Roudsea Wood. Short because - guess what - the weather was dull, overcast and about to rain. It did drizzle a bit but not real rain.

One day we'll manage a walk around the maze of paths that dissect the woods. Although it could well turn out to be a long walk.

June the weather was much better. A nice summers day. We met at Abbey Mill Cafe by Furness Abbey, and walked through Abbeywood Nature Reserve - having told the children not to touch any plants. There are some poisonous plants in the woods and the valley. It's quite likely that the monks form the Abbey used them in their medieval medicines.

We walked to ruins of Abbeywood house. Built as the home of James Ramsdon one of the founding fathers of Barrow. As you can see there's not much left after Barrow Council demolished the building. But some pictures on the residence do still exist. It was a what you would expect as the residence of a wealth Victorian Industrialist. Shame really as it was part of the towns heritage.



Then back to the cafe all important tea/coffee and cakes.

For our next walk we are meeting at Gleaston Water Mill - now the cafe has re-opened - on 28th July at the usual 10:00am.

Graham

Webster's Waffle



I'm writing this during the general election campaign. I feel no obligation to take any notice of the campaigning because I've been watching the parties over the last five years. Hence I know what they've actually done, or what they advocated from opposition when there was a major problem. I see no reason to take their promises seriously now just because they've scrubbed up a bit, when I've seen them slouching round in vest and slippers.

So we've had a lot of people telling us what they want us to think is important. From what little I've heard the good news the politicians are determined to share is that 'the other lot' are a bunch of rogues. Given it's the one thing they're agreed on, they might even be right. But what did Jesus tell us was important? When asked which is the most important commandment, Jesus replied, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul. Love him with all your mind.' This is the first and most important commandment. And the second is like it. 'Love your neighbour as you love yourself.' Everything that is written in the Law and the Prophets is based on these two commandments."

So with this in mind, just run through what you remember the various canvassing politicians saying over the last few weeks. (Or few months, or even years, let's be fair to them.) Allowing for the fact that a lot of them worship different gods or no god at all, concentrate on the second bit. How many of them preach or practice loving their neighbour?

Now I know people who will say 'not my circus, not my monkeys.' It's difficult not to feel sympathy for that opinion. They might even quote Paul, "But our citizenship is in heaven." The issue here is that we no longer have the same concept of citizenship. For Paul, you could, simultaneously, be a citizen in several places. He described himself as "I am a Jew, from Tarsus in Cilicia, a citizen of no ordinary city." This made him a Greek as well. Any Greek, from Pericles onwards, would have been happy to describe their home as no ordinary city. Your home city was part of what defined you. Paul had duties as a citizen of Tarsus, and given his use of sporting metaphors, he shared the Greek love of athletic events. Indeed Tarsus was the place where Anthony first met Cleopatra. It was an important city locally. Finally he was a Roman citizen, which also brought with it another set of responsibilities and perquisites.

And that's the place we find ourselves in. We also have the good news. We're citizens of this country and have duties. We vote and generally try and act as good citizens should. But there are times when our Citizenship of Heaven comes to the fore. Others can play silly games, damming their political opponents as knaves or fools. We are told to love our neighbours as ourselves, even if they do hold strange political opinions.

The electoral circus has passed through, we've had the person with a top hat twirling their whip, and we've had clowns, ladies in spangled tights, the barkers, the bullies, the three thimble men. And now at the back you get the guy with a brush and bucket because somebody has to clean up after the politically incontinent. Loving your neighbour is tough, but somebody has to try to do it. It's the only job worth doing and the only thing that keeps society worth living in. So whoever wins or whoever loses, we'll still have to pick up our metaphorical bucket and brush and help clean up the mess the circus made.

God bless
Jim

CHURCH OF LOW FURNESS ONLINE

Date	Platform	Service	Time
Every Mon/Tues/Thurs	Facebook Live	Morning Prayer	9:00am

ONLINE LINKS AND RESOURCES

The Church of Low Furness is the collective name for the churches serving the parishes of Aldingham, Dendron, Rampside and Urswick with Bardsea, a Church of England united benefice in the Diocese of Carlisle.

Please see our **Church of Low Furness website** for up to date information about our services and news: http://churchoflowfurness.org.uk/

Minutes of pubic domain meetings can be accessed via our website
http://www.churchoflowfurness.org.uk/meetingminutes.html

We deliver regular live weekday services and prayer sessions on Facebook. Live on our **Facebook group**, the **Church of Low Furness**:
https://www.facebook.com/groups/578956609372390/about/

You can find the Common Worship Liturgy we use on the **Church of England website**, along with many other resources including information on weddings, baptisms and funerals:
https://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/join-us-service-daily-prayer

The **God for All** website has news from churches around the County of Cumbria and many faith resources:
https://www.godforall.org.uk/
You can also sign up for a regular news bulletin from Carlisle Diocese:
https://www.carlislediocese.org.uk/news-and-events/

Contacts

Rev Graham Tate : revdgrahamtate@gmail.com

Rev Martin Williams : sweccsuper@outlook.com

Parish Room booking Mrs L Armstrong : armstronglinda680@gmail.com