THE CHURCH OF LOW FURNESS NEWSLETTER.

LATE SPRING EDITION

CHURCH SERVICES – MAY/JUNE 2021

Date	Church	Service	Time
Sunday 2nd May	St. Mary & St. Michael, Urswick	Holy Communion	10.30am
Sunday 9th May	Holy Trinity, Bardsea	Holy Communion	10.30am
Sunday 16th May	St. Mary & St. Michael, Urswick	Service of the Word	10.30am
Sunday 16th May	St. Michael's, Rampside	Holy Communion	2.30pm
Sunday 23rd May	St. Cuthbert's, Aldingham	Holy Communion	10.30am
Sunday 23rd May	St. Mary & St. Michael, Urswick	Healing Service	6pm
Sunday 30th May	Holy Trinity, Bardsea	Holy Communion	10.30am
Sunday 6th June	St. Mary & St. Michael, Urswick	Holy Communion	10.30am
Sunday 13th June	Holy Trinity, Bardsea	Holy Communion	10.30am
Sunday 20th June	St. Mary & St. Michael, Urswick	Service of the Word	10.30am
Sunday 20th June	St. Michael's, Rampside	Holy Communion	2.30pm
Sunday 27th June	St. Cuthbert's, Aldingham	Holy Communion	10.30am
Sunday 27th June	St. Mary & St. Michael, Urswick	Healing Service	6pm

Every Wednesday 10.30am from 5th May

Mid-week Communion service resumes in Urswick Church (not the Parish Room)
When the weather is fine we will service refreshments in the Churchyard after the service
Feel free to bring a portable chair and your own flask if you prefer

Healing Services

A service of prayer, contemplation, and healing. Held at Urswick Church, our monthly healing services are held on the fourth Sunday of the month at **6pm**

Sunday 23rd May 2021 & Sunday 27th June 2021

POST OFFICE®

The Post Office will be returning to Urswick Parish Room soon!

The Post Office is expected to be available on Friday mornings. Queueing will be outside, with one customer allowed in in turn. So bring an umbrella if it's wet!

Look out for further details soon

Centering prayer

Our Centering Prayer group is now able to be held in person. Please contact Ramsay Lunn for further details, tel.587200 or churchoflowfurness@gmail.com

Dates for Late Spring:
Thurs 6/20 May, 17 June
1.30pm Urswick Parish Room

Please Note: Masks are required to be worn during Church Services under current Covid regulations

He has shown you what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God. Micah 6:8

THE CHURCH OF LOW FURNESS NEWSLETTER.

View from the Vicarage

Revd Lucie Lunn

The Vicarage, Great Urswick LA12 0TA

tel: 01229 587200 email: revlucielunn@btinternet.com



Dear Friends,

Suddenly it feels as though we are 'open for business' again! Even though we remain constrained by mask-wearing, number counting, contact details and more risk-assessments than I ever expected to have to deal with in my lifetime, we have regular pattern of worship, community connections, weddings, baptisms and other events back in our lives.

It's strange how the long period of waiting and struggle of lockdown seems, for many, quickly put behind us as we pick up pace. It reminds me of the sense of urgency and rapidity captured by the Gospel writer Mark who uses 'Immediately…' as a premise to many paragraphs and events. For many of the people experiencing Jesus ministry at the time, it did move at a frenetic pace; Jesus' whole ministry of teaching, healing leading to his death and resurrection took place in about the same timescale I have been in Low Furness!

But we should not confuse this sense of speed with the immediacy we experience as an impatience to 'get back to normal', to fix the economy, or to re-take up things as they were before the pandemic. For some, our path out of lockdown cannot come quickly enough, for others it is happening too fast. Neither experience is wrong. *We each have a choice of how and when we re-engage*.

I am somebody who thrives on being busy *but* I also realise I need to slow down my pace after a year that has brought varied health and a good opportunity to reflect. For me, reaching new spiritual depth means I need to take longer in prayer and in being outside, the turn of the seasons has become an important way in which I have connected with God's creation and assessed the pace at which my spiritual life moves. Spring used to feel like a busy season of new life and new growth, this year though, I've been struck by how slowly and carefully it seems to be unfolding, much like myself as I adjust to varying and new patterns of work, in person and online. In that, God's purpose for me and the ministry he has called me to has been my guide through prayer.

Pace is, then, one of choice *but* it is a choice we do not have to make alone. Asking for God's guidance through prayer is open to all, to help us each know His purpose us and to discern what matters to us as we look ahead.

May the Lord be with each of you at this time. I hope to see you soon,

Yours in Christ,

Lucie

Urswick Parish Room – Notice to user groups

Urswick PCC is committed to making the Parish Room available to community and user groups as soon as possible. However, while we remain under onerous Coronavirus restrictions relating to public spaces, the room can only be made available for limited use that does not require specialist cleaning routines or bear significant risk.

We are prioritising the return of the Post Office to the village. Other than that, the room will only be in use from time to time for small church meetings or groups.

We will put out further information to interested parties as soon as we are able to safely extend the use of the space.

Thank you to all those who have supported the Church with the recent refurbishment of the kitchen following a flood last year. We look forward to seeing you back soon.

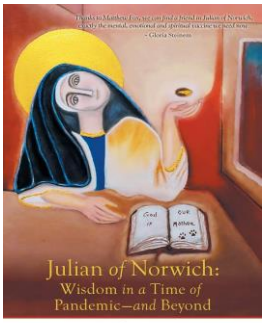
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Follow Daily: Christian Fellowship Reading Group

As part of our commitment to the principles of our refreshed Diocesan vision; to Follow Daily, Tread Gently, Care Deeply and Speak Boldly, we are starting a new Reading Group. This will run for 5 weeks and the first book we will share is:

Julian of Norwich :Wisdom in a Time of Pandemic and Beyond by Matthew Fox

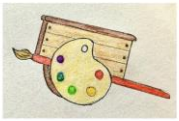


The group will be held on Monday evenings 7-9pm on June 7/14/21/28 & July 5 at Urswick Parish Room.

Those unable to join in person may be able to take part by Zoom. Please request a link from Lucie.

Copies of the book are widely available for purchase and some will be made available to borrow. Please get in touch to confirm attendance and in order that books can be ordered and shared.

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 May 13/27 & June 10/24 at Urswick

Contact Maggie (587369) or Lucie (t.587200) for more information and to book a place.

Online Prayer on Thursdays

Please see our Facebook Group for Live prayer or request links to our prayer podcasts:

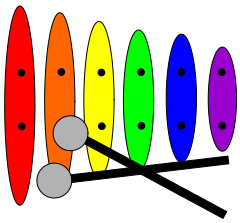
1st Thurs – Ignatian Contemplation – Facebook Live 10am
2nd Thurs – Lectio Divina – Podcast Link
3rd Thurs – Centering Prayer – Facebook Live 10am
4th Thurs – Christian Meditation – Podcast Link



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The Children's Gate – Lockdown Babies!



Music and Play for 0-18mths

Post-natal Support Group

We're not quite ready to get our popular Toddler Group up and running again...but we are keen to meet little ones born and who've been growing up in lockdown. and to offer to post-natal support to Mums. dads and carers.

Join us on Thursdays for a chance to meet. chat and share stories.

Beginning 10th June 10.30am Urswick Parish Room

For more information call Lucie Lunn t.01229 587200 or text m.07825241366

Family Services in Low Furness



After a year of not being able to offer **Christening services**, we are again able to arrange these, separately or as part of Sunday worship, in our churches across Low Furness.

We are also planning **Outdoor Family Services** in the coming months as a way of meeting families and encouraging fellowship among those who are bringing their children to baptism, including our long-awaited next **Teddy Bear's Picnic**!

Look out for notices on Church notice boards and social media. These will be sent directly to families who are planning baptisms this year or have had one in the last three years, but all families are welcome.

For Christening enquiries please contact Revd Lucie Lunn, contact details above.

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Graham Tate
Carr Ing
The Crescent
Barrow-in-Furness
01229 833150

Furness Footsteps still haven't met this year, but we are planning to re-start our walks in May – more about that later.

As there is no FF I thought I would take the opportunity to share somethings about my impending ordination. As most of you already know I am due to be ordained as a Distinctive Deacon in early September. How does that differ from the traditional Deacon role and what that will mean for me and the benefice?

All priests, bishops and indeed arch-bishops are initially ordained as deacons, or to be more precise 'Transitional Deacons'. That is those who are being trained for the priesthood, and spend (usually) a year as a deacon before being ordained as a priest. 'Distinctive Deacons' however remain as deacons. Sometimes referred to as 'permanent deacons'.

Why 'distinctive'? Well, that's to reflect the role of distinctive deacons. Each Distinctive Deacon has a distinct ministry. That varies with the individual and ranges across the whole spectrum of ministries within the church e.g. Chaplaincy; Funerals; Families and children; pastoral care; preaching, etc. or in my case pioneering. Distinctive Deacons undergo a course of training – much of which is shared with ordinands destined for the priesthood, but the scope is limited to the specialist ministry of the individual. Unlike priesthood ordinands who are trained in all aspects of ministry. This means that the training course is much shorter – 1 year instead of 3. It does include a significant amount of theology as most Distinctive Deacons do preach and lead worship as well as their 'specialist' role.

It also means that Distinctive Deacons can only minister under the authority and guidance of an incumbent, or supervising minister. Deacons can do most things a priest can with the exception of presiding at the Eucharist, although they can distribute communion by extension.

What changes will we see in September – perhaps not that many as the reason I was accepted for ordination was on the basis of what I have been doing for the last few years. That will be a few changes :

My role once ordained will be curate in our benefice.

Revd. Graham will be wearing a clerical collar, and maybe robes, when leading worship or preaching. But some things won't change – I'll still be leading Furness Footsteps on the 4th Sundays…

Furness Footsteps are planning to meet on Sunday 23rd May at 10:00 meeting at the triangle on the Ulverston side of Birkrigg. Erring on the side of caution bring your own refreshments with you – we'll find somewhere for a 're-fuelling stop'.

God bless, ***Graham***

If you want to know more about the role of a Distinctive Deacon try this website:
https://deaconstories.wordpress.com/what-is-a-distinctive-deacon/what-is-the-distinctive-diaconate-answering-some-questions

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Editor. Jim Page Bank, Rampside 01229 821561



Jane's parents were mortified after meeting her boyfriend. He sported disgusting tattoos, swore and just had an intimidating air about him.
After he left, the mother said, "Dear, he doesn't seem like a very nice person."
"Mum," Jane said, "if he wasn't nice, why he would be doing 500 hours of community service?"
Strangely enough, one thing the church is called upon to be is a community, rather than a club. When you think about it, the difference between the two is profound. A club will meet at a fixed time, be it Tuesday evening, or 10:30 on Sunday morning. A community is always there. Admittedly some clubs do involve you in doing things outside club meetings. Join a book club and it's not just drinking coffee or wine for a couple of hours as you discuss the book. You actually have to read the book when you're not at the club meeting. You can contrast that with a church. There, most of the stuff you do happens outside the weekly Sunday meeting. The Sunday service can be the time of refreshment where you get energised to go back out there and carry on with your job helping out in the Christian community. Mind you, there are similarities to the book club. It helps if you actually read the book when you're not at a club meeting. As the book says, 'Love your neighbour as yourself.' Mark 12:30-31. Well that should nicely fill your week.
The advantage of the book is that it also tells you who is in the community. Try Luke 10:25-37, the parable of the Good Samaritan. We're too far adrift from the world of Jesus to realise how subversive that was. It would be like the late Ian Paisley preaching about the Good IRA man.
Indeed the book goes further. It doesn't just tell you who is in the community, and in general terms what you should do, it goes into detail as to just how you're supposed to do it. In the parable of the sheep and the goats, Matthew 25:31-46 it lays out what you're supposed to do it rather more detail than anybody could want. It sets it out in terms that are rather difficult to gloss over.
Perhaps this is one of the differences between the Church as a community and a book club. Both Church and book club will meet to discuss a book. The meetings can be interesting, even fun and amusing. There is always the hope of coffee and even cake. The meetings even provide a chance to get to know people and make friends, which has to be a good thing.
But the difference between a Church and a book club is that the book club doesn't expect you to go out and live the message of the book, allowing the message to be visible in the way you live your life. As the book says, 1Peter 3:14 "But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behaviour in Christ may be ashamed of their slander"

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CHURCH OF LOW FURNESS ONLINE

Date	Church	Service	Time
Every Mon/Tue/Wed	Facebook Live	Morning Prayer	9am
Every Saturday	Facebook Live (also in person Urswick Church)	Compline	8pm
Every Sunday	Worship at Home podcast and supplementary material by email		
Facebook Live services are also uploaded to our YouTube Channel, details on back page. *We will be continuing all our current online and email service provision for the foreseeable future for those remaining at home.* *If you need and further information of help in accessing this provision please get in touch.*			

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.

Working as part of the ecumenical county of Cumbria, we are also part of the developing Furness Mission Community and Churches Together in Cumbria.

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

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

Additionally, these are uploaded to our **YouTube Channel**:
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCEiGPcDStf4AQE4E_wKV-Kg/videos

Worship at Home material is produced every week for Sunday. This is available via our Facebook group posts, or you can access the podcasts directly at **Anchor with Spotify**:
https://anchor.fm/lucie-lunn

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 new bulletin from Carlisle Diocese:
https://www.carlislediocese.org.uk/news-and-events/

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