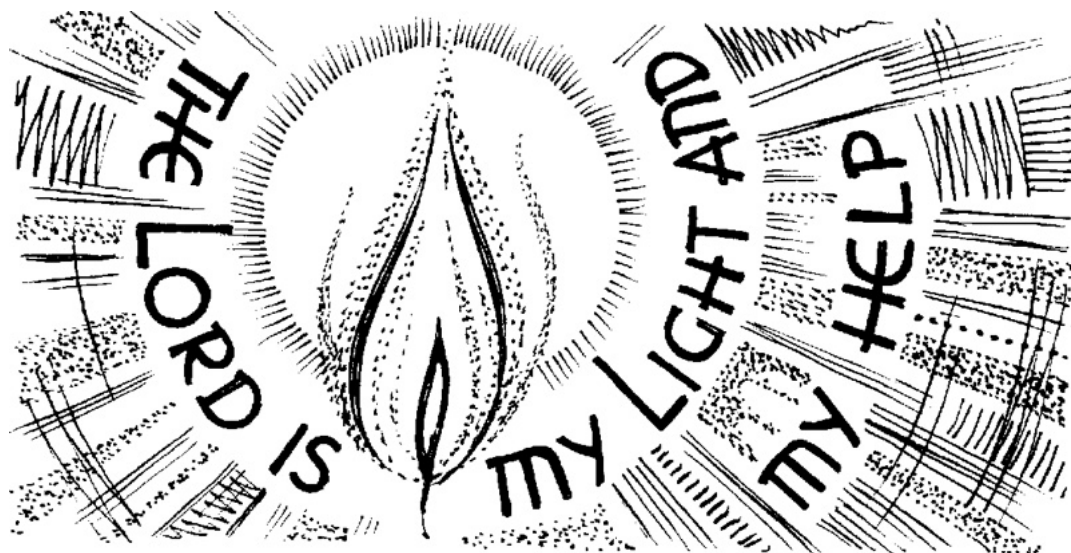




The Parish Church of St James, Arnside *with* Storth
part of The Kent Estuary Mission Community in The Diocese of Carlisle

Parish Newsletter

September 2026



Priest-in-Charge

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Letter from the Curate **from The Vicarage, Arnside**

As I sit down to write this, I'm enjoying the feeling of having just witnessed a once-in-a-generation event. 12th August saw a solar eclipse that crossed parts of the northern hemisphere with much of Europe experiencing a partial if not full eclipse.

The rather beautiful eclipse (even if more beautiful on the video footage online than in the somewhat cloudy Arnside) highlighted just how dependent our world is on light. For a short time, the moon came between us and the sun, and daytime became strangely dim. The sun had not disappeared - it was still shining - the moon could not blot out the light completely - but our view of it was temporarily obscured. There is something wonderfully Christian in that image. The opening of the Gospel of John contains these words, *'...the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it'* (John 1.5).

We live in a world where it can sometimes seem as though the light of God is being eclipsed. The news brings us stories of wars and suffering, political uncertainty, extreme climate concerns and divisions within all manner of communities. Closer to home, people may be carrying private worries that nobody else can see. At times, faith itself can feel dim or distant. But an eclipse reminds us that although something may be hidden, it doesn't mean it isn't there.

The sun may sometimes be hidden from our sight, but it continues to shine. As does the Son of God. Jesus Christ describes himself as *'the Light of the world'*, and is recorded to have said later in John's Gospel, *'...whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life'* (John 8.12). The Christian life is not exempt from darkness. Rather, the hope of the Christian faith is that darkness doesn't have the final word, and that light shines more powerfully.

Perhaps that is a helpful thought as September begins. We may not be able to control everything that happens in the world around us at this time or what the coming (academic) year will hold, but we *can* choose where we look for light. So, as we begin a new season - as the nights draw in and the days lose some of their light - may we remember that Christ's light is not overcome by any shadows. It remains faithful and strong no matter what our life circumstances. *'...the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.'*

With love and prayer,
Hannah

The Baker's Dozen is 84

A venerable local group is in its ninth Decade

The Baker's Dozen, a village debating society, or, if you prefer a less formal title, discussion group, has been meeting for the purposes of convivial conversation on a variety of serious and sometimes not-so-serious topics for eight decades and is still going strong. Members are drawn from Arnside, Silverdale and the surrounding area, and meet in one another's houses every two or three weeks. The club, as it described itself, first met in a café in Arnside and consisted of thirteen members, hence the name. The year was 1942, in the dark days of the Second World War. The aim was to uphold the traditions of rational debate and the free expression of views at a time when the horrors of war and the militant politics of totalitarian states seemed about to engulf and overwhelm civilisation. Perhaps this is just as true now as it was then.

The membership in those early days consisted mainly of professional men, retired, who had both the experience and the time to make the venture a success. They have included, over the years, engineers, scientists, businessmen, teachers, doctors, clergymen and members of the legal profession. Sustained by coffee, biscuits and the esteem of one's fellow "Dozeners", conversation flows like wine, a heady mixture of goodwill, careful thought and well-prepared and delivered introductions to a member's chosen topic. Subjects thus introduced are then discussed eagerly but judiciously, with never a feeling that there was nothing more to add.

We look forward to the years ahead, when, like tailor-elves sewing your torn garments in the dead of night, we put the world to rights, with scarcely a stitch or seam visible.

Richard Norman



'Rest & Restore'

Tuesday 8th September
6.15pm to 7.00pm at St James'
A time of prayer for healing and wholeness.

Deadline for the October Parish Newsletter...

Wednesday 16th September

please send any items to:

sandy.felton@btopenworld.com



Please do be in touch with Andrew or Hannah if there is any support, encouragement or pastoral care that the church here in Arnside can offer to you or your loved ones, if you would like to receive Holy Communion at Home, if you would have any questions about services church life or the Christian faith, or if you would like anyone or anything remembered in prayer.

What's on...



Kent Estuary Mission Community Gathering

**Sunday 13th September
10.30am**

at St James', Arnside

*We come together as churches
across the Kent Estuary to unite
in worship and prayer together.*



**Sunday 20th September
at 10.00am**

at St James' Church
Church Hill, Arnside

ARNSIDE

crafts &
activities

food
(including
a meal)

**Messy
Church**

fun

stories
& music

**Friday 11th September 2026
3.30pm - 5.30pm
Arnside Methodist Church**

Grief is hard.
Death can impact
all of life.

The Bereavement
Journey
a place to talk

7 Sessions of films
and discussion
for anyone bereaved anytime

Topics include:

- Attachment, separation and loss
- The pain and responses of grief
- Anger and guilt
- Coping with others' reactions
- Delayed and suppressed grief
- Adjusting to change
- Moving forward healthily
- Faith questions – a Christian perspective (optional)

To find out more visit:
thebereavementjourney.org

Running soon:

**St Thomas' Church
Milnthorpe
Thursdays
1pm - 3.00pm**

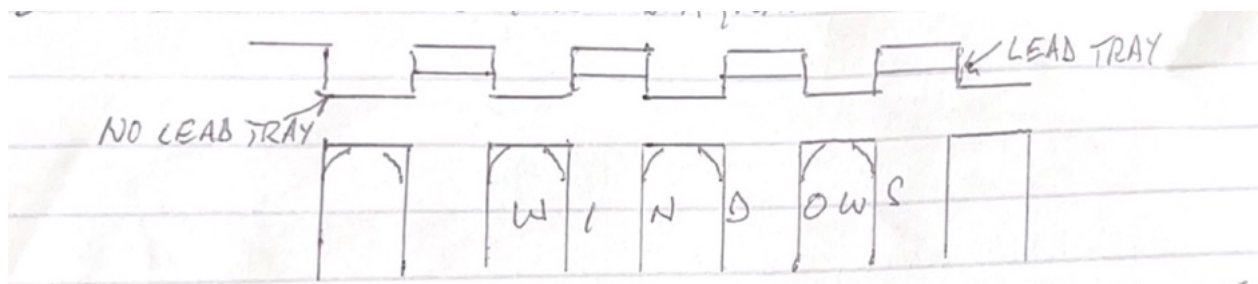
Booking is necessary.
For more info &/or to book
Contact Lesley Jackson
01524 951566/07823406848
dianalesley@btinternet.com

The Fabric of St James' - repairing and caring for our church building

Many of you will have seen scaffolding on the north side of church last autumn, together with the rebuilding of the garden wall at the west end.

The north aisle of the church was built in 1905 to cater for the increase in congregation as the population of Arnside grew. The construction was of a flat leaded roof surrounded by a sandstone parapet wall with a hidden gutter behind the parapet discharging rainwater through the wall into hoppers and downspouts and into the drains. This was where a big mistake was made in the construction of 1905, causing us a problem ever since.

Sandstone is porous so it is necessary to put lead trays under the sandstone copings to prevent moisture seeping into the wall, especially in winter. In the construction of the castellated parapet, lead trays were put under the higher parts but not the lower parts as this diagram shows:



The lower parts of the parapet without the lead trays have caused constant dampness to the windows in the church room and the toilet passage. The decision was taken to rebuild the parapet and put new lead trays under all the copings. This work was undertaken by Stephenson & Sons, our local builders, with new lead trays made by a lead specialist from Kendal.

Now the wall has had at least nine months to dry out we will shortly be able to re-plaster the inside of the church room and toilet passage with lime mortar and breathable paint. The work so far has cost just under £14,000 and there will be more expense when the plastering is done. The project has been overseen by our church architect, whose fees we also have to cover.

Just another example of the high cost of maintaining church buildings.

Edgar Shepherd

From the parish registers...
Funeral - Tuesday 18th August 2026
MARY OAKLEY

We pray that she may rest in peace and rise in glory, and all her family and loved ones know the comfort and hope found in the faithful promises of God.

What's on (continued)...

Harvest Festival



Sunday 4th October

8.00am - Holy Communion

9.30am - Harvest Parish Communion

We will (alongside Arnside National School) be inviting donations to help support the valued work of

Lancaster & District Homeless Action

Manna House, Kendal

Springfield House, Kendal

which can be left at the back of church

Thank you very much!



All are invited to our...

Harvest Supper

Thursday 8th October 2026

eating at 7.00pm

in the W.I. and Village Hall

£15.00

please sign up at one of the three village churches

Two courses: main and dessert (vegetarian option available).

Tea and coffee provided, but please do bring other drinks if desired.

*'For his mercies still endure,
ever faithful, ever sure.'*



the
prayer
course

*An eight-week journey
through the Lord's Prayer...*

Wednesday 30th September

7th, 14th, 21st October

4th, 11th, 18th, 25th November

12.30 - 2.15pm

at Arnside Methodist Church Hall

An opportunity to come together
and help grow and deepen our lives
of prayer - as individuals and as
part of the wider church.

Please, if you would like to, bring some lunch!



Fairtrade
refreshments
will be served.



24-7 PRAYER

*'Yet he gave a command to the skies above and opened the doors of the heavens;
he rained down manna for the people to eat, he gave them the grain of heaven.'*



Food ~ Conversation ~ Fellowship

**Monthly
Manna**

*Psalm 78
v. 23-24*

An opportunity to join together for food,
conversation and fellowship; sharing questions
and insights around the Christian faith.

Friday 4th September

Friday 2nd October

Friday 6th November

Friday 4th December

12.15 - 1.30 pm

St James' Church

Bring some lunch, drinks provided.

All are welcome



Rotas - readers, intercessors, sidespersons

READINGS & READERS

Sunday 6th September

The Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity

Ezekiel 33. 7-11

Mr S Smith

Romans 13. 8-end

Mrs S Woodburn

Matthew 18.15-20

Sunday 13th September

The Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity

Kent Estuary Mission

Community Gathering

at 10.30am

Sunday 20th September

The Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity

Joint Worship Together

at 10.00am

Sunday 27th September

The Seventeenth Sunday after Trinity

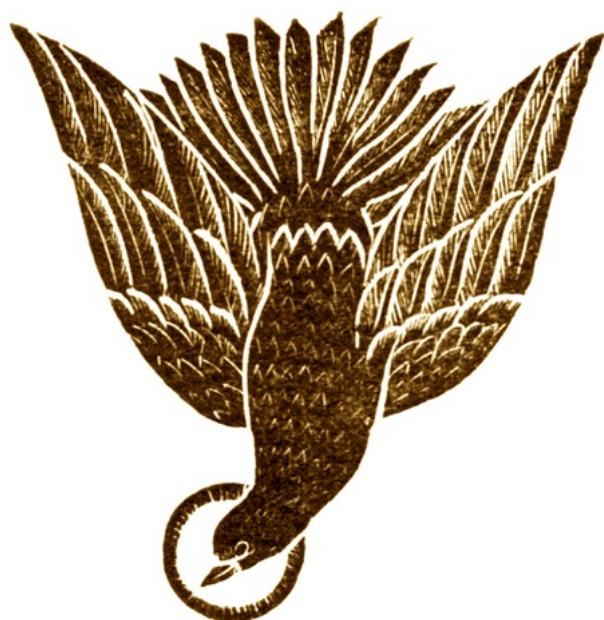
Ezekiel 18.1-4, 25-end

Mrs S Swire

Philippians 2.1-13

Mrs J Bratt

Matthew 21.23-32



INTERCESSORS

6th September - Mrs L Smith

13th September - KEMC Gathering

20th September - Worship Together

27th September - to be confirmed

SIDESPERSIONS

6th September

Mr S Smith

13th September

KEMC Gathering at St James'

Mr G Chatham, Mr R Hamer
and Miss A Dean

20th September

Worship Together at St James'

Miss A Dean, Mr R Hamer
and Mrs S Comer

27th September

Mrs S Swire

Weekly Parish E-mail

If you do not receive Andrew's weekly e-mail with church information (and electronic copy of the pew sheet), please do let him know and he will add you to the list.

'Sundays News' Pew Sheet

If anyone has any news/notices (including prompts for prayer and those who are sick) to be included on the weekly pew sheet, please let Andrew know during the week.



Services during September 2026

Sunday 6th September (*The Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity*)

8.00am - Holy Communion (BCP)

9.30am - Parish Communion

Tuesday 8th September

6.15pm - 'Rest & Restore' (*a service of prayer for healing and wholeness*)

Friday 11th September

3.30-5.30pm - Messy Church at Arnside Methodist Church



Sunday 13th September (*The Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity*)

10.30am - Kent Estuary Mission Community Gathering at St James - *a united service for all the churches of the Kent Estuary, as we come together in prayer and worship*

Sunday 20th September (*The Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity*)

8.00am - Holy Communion (BCP)

10.00am - Joint Worship Together at St James'

Sunday 27th September (*The Seventeenth Sunday after Trinity*)

8.00am - Holy Communion (BCP)

9.30am - Parish Communion

Junior Church (*during the school term*) **meets during the Parish Communion at 9.30am**

Every Wednesday (*during the school term*) **there is Morning Prayer at 8.15am**

Every Wednesday (*during the school term*) **we gather with the whole community of Arnside National Church of England School for School Church at 9.10am**

Evensong (*takes place each Sunday at 6.00pm*) **at St Michael and All Angels, Beetham**

The Parochial Church Council of St James, Arnside is a Registered Charity (Number: 1143293)