



# The Parish Church of St James' Arnside with Storth Village Church Parish Newsletter for APRIL 2024



**Priest in Charge:**

Rev. Andrew Bryan Norman  
(015395) 62355  
email: [revdabn@gmail.com](mailto:revdabn@gmail.com)

**Assistant Curate:**

Rev. Hannah Wallace  
(01524) 449035 - email:  
[revhannahwallace@gmail.com](mailto:revhannahwallace@gmail.com)

**Churchwarden:**

Mr Edgar Shepherd (01524) 761132

**Lay Readers:**

Mr I Service (01524) 762019 - Ms Lesley Jackson (01524) 951566



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

**EMPTY!**

**O**n the first day of the week, at early dawn, they came to the tomb, taking the spices that they had prepared. They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they went in, they did not find the body. (Luke 24.1-2)

“It’s empty!” the women who appear at the tomb on that first Easter Sunday may have said with dismay and confusion. When we find that things are empty, we usually have a negative response - whether it’s our wine glass or the food cupboard, the petrol tank or our bank account, yet another discarded plastic bottle or a bombed house, a promise or a feeling of the soul, the hospital bed or that chair...

Finding things empty is often hard. Finding things empty doesn’t normally fill us with joy and confidence.

And yet, there is something positive in the emptiness that those women found three days after the crucifixion of Jesus - something good that can help us to cope with all the other emptiness.

The darkness of the events of Good Friday can seem hard to imagine. A good

and innocent man was put to death. This man who had been healing bodies, hearts and lives, who had been teaching the good and loving ways of God, who had been inviting people to find rest and peace in his promises, and who had been offering people the gift of eternal life. That man was killed.

And so Jesus lay in a blackened tomb – a ton-weight stone sealing him in.

The emptiness of the hearts of his followers must have been so very hard to bear.

However, let’s not forget that this was the man who had been healing bodies, hearts and lives, who had been teaching the good and loving ways of God, who had been inviting people to find rest and peace in his promises, and who had been offering people the gift of eternal life!

The brutal death and dark tomb was the only way he could follow through on the promises. But, this wasn’t the end of the story. For such was that man, that the tomb could not contain the power and love that he embodied. The Son of God burst from death to life revealing an empty tomb that speaks of an open way to life in all its fullness. The emptiness is an invitation to us from the Creator of the universe – one that beckons us into relationship with that man.

When we feel empty ourselves or we are weighed down with the emptiness



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we see and experience around us, there is something – someone – that can flood in and fill the space with the love that we all so need, love that is so plentiful that it couldn't be contained in the tomb.

In the emptiness of life, we find despair, lack, longing, suffering, fear, absence. In the emptiness of the tomb, we find hope, meaning, comfort, new life, light, presence. In the emptiness of the tomb, we find that we are found!

*In love,  
Hannah*

**For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but have eternal life. (John 3.16)**



If you are in any way struggling with emptiness, and would like to know more about this man, Jesus, or would like to just have a chat or be prayed for, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

## JUNIOR CHURCH

We give thanks for the establishment and running of Junior Church.

Anyone who might be interested in joining the team of helpers, both in terms of providing some extra help as well as growing that team of volunteers, please speak to Hannah or Andrew.

## ADVANCE NOTICE - REST AND RESET

An opportunity to pray and reflect through Christian meditation, with words, silence and music.

**Tuesday 7th May, 6.15-7.00pm, at St James'**

## Vicar's Sunday Notes

If you do not receive Andrew's weekly email with church information, please do let him know and he will add you to the list.

### 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 (before Thursday).

**Andrew's email is:**

**revdabn@gmail.com**

## DEADLINE FOR MAY NEWSLETTER

**WEDNESDAY 11th April**

**email: [sandy.felton@btopenworld.com](mailto:sandy.felton@btopenworld.com)**

**If you would like a copy of this newsletter by email please contact me on email address above.**





## READERS AND READINGS FOR APRIL

### Sunday 7th April (1st Sunday after Easter)

Acts 4: 32-45 - Mrs J Bratt  
1 John: 1.1-2.2 - Mrs J Mitchell  
John 20: 19-31

### Sunday 14th April (2nd Sunday after Easter)

Acts 3: 12-19 - Mrs S Swire  
1 John 3: 1-7 - Mrs Y Service  
Luke 24: 36b-48

### Sunday 21st April (3rd Sunday after Easter)

Acts: 4.5-12 - Mrs S Humphery  
1 John 3: 16-24 - Mr A Mitchell  
John 10: 11-18

### Sunday 28th April (4th Sunday after Easter)

Acts 8: 26-40 - Mr T Bradford  
1 John 4: 7-21 - Mrs S Comer  
John 15: 1-8

### THE GOSPEL IS READ BY THE VICAR



(If you would like a clearer understanding of a passage you are reading, Andrew or Ian will be happy to discuss it with you).

## PRAYER LEADERS FOR APRIL

### Sunday 7th April

Mrs L Smith

### Sunday 14th April

Mrs S E Felton

### Sunday 21st April

Ms S Woodburn

### Sunday 28th April

Mrs S Humphery



### READERS/INTERCESSION LEADERS

*Note: If you are going to be away on holiday the following month can you email Sandy before the deadline date for that month's issue, so you are not put on the rota. If you are down on the rota and for any reason cannot do that slot please arrange an exchange with someone yourself and alter the list in the church room. Thanks.*



*Come to me, all who labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.*

Matthew 11.28





# FROM OUR SCHOOLS

**Arnside National School**  
**Headteacher, Mr N. Sharp**



The spring term has been extremely productive and the pupils have been settled, hardworking and full of spark. Every day brings a new challenge and it's always a pleasure to see young, inquisitive minds embrace learning with such enthusiasm. School has welcomed several new families this term and our pupils have done a wonderful job helping them settle; we wish them every success and look forward to an exciting journey together.

One of the highlights of the year is Book Week: a fun-filled, literary rollercoaster aimed at celebrating stories, books, poems, and the creative magic of authors. Our year 6 pupils spent an afternoon at Holly Bank Care Home sharing their own English work with residents. It was a huge success and a wonderful opportunity to spend some valuable time with the local community. Thank you to the staff and residents for making us feel so welcome. In addition to this, all the pupils had a lesson with Fiona Barker, writer and author, to learn about her latest book about swifts. The pupils really enjoyed the experience and it certainly inspired us all to be a bit braver with our writing. The week culminated in World Book Day and the pupils had the opportunity to dress as a book character or wear pyjamas and read to their favourite teddy.

Charity work is at the heart of many of our whole school events and is a good reflection of our school vision. The World Book Day donations were sent off to an organisation that provides books for children and adults who face challenging situations. We recently held a 'wear red' non-uniform day in aid of Comic Relief. Our wonderful FOANS (Friends of Arnside National School) team are busy planning a series of events and activities for the summer term and their help, support and generosity makes a huge difference.

Four of our older School Council members had the opportunity to attend the South Lakes Pupil Parliament day at Kendal Rugby Club. Pupils from a range of South Lakeland schools came together to spend a day discussing and debating a range of topics and themes. On one session, the pupils were challenged to debate a 'hypothetical' proposal to have a 4-day school week but with longer days – a tricky one... Enriching the curriculum with wider opportunities is vitally important and years 4 and 5 were recently invited to attend a special viewing of 'We Will Rock You' at Dallam School. Our pupils came back 'buzzing' with excitement and full of Queen songs for the rest of the day!

A special mention must go to our Key Steps gymnastics team who have managed to win a place at the County finals in Penrith. Their determination, hard work and dedication has been an inspiration to us all and we wish them every success in the final. Our intrepid Year 3 and 4 pupils will soon be off to Ingleton for the first residential of the year. The pupils will have the opportunity to complete the Waterfall Walk, rock climb, visit White Scar caves and complete a village trail and team building exercises - phew.

With the help from our friends at St James' Church, we will soon be holding our annual 'Stations of the Cross' walk around Arnside, linking all the churches together in a procession of reading and songs. What a lovely way to finish the spring term and embrace the joy of Easter.

*"All you need is Love. But a little chocolate now and then doesn't hurt."* Charles Schultz  
Take care, Mr Sharp



## HELP NEEDED

If anyone feels they can help with some of the tasks below your support would be most welcome and appreciated. Help sharing out some of the roles and responsibilities needed to ensure the efficient running of the church is vital and as the saying goes “*more hands make light work!*”

**Help with the PCC Treasurer role:** - please see Alan to find out what’s involved.

**Sunday Refreshments:** Volunteers always welcome to go on the Sunday rota (which is on the noticeboard in church room). Thanks to all who already help with this important and welcoming task on Sundays.

**Locking/unlocking church building:** If you might be able to help with locking/unlocking church, see Edgar or Ian.

**Readers:** If you would like to read at Sunday services please see Sandy. New readers always welcome.



**MONTHLY  
MANNA**  
Friday  
5th April  
12.15pm - 1.30pm  
St James' Vestry

An opportunity from  
Arnside Christians  
Together for  
conversation,  
reflection and  
fellowship as we  
share in eating lunch  
together (hot drinks  
provided).

## THE BEREAVEMENT JOURNEY

### *A place to talk*

**On Thursdays 18th April through  
to 23rd May**

**plus optional session on 13th June,  
1.30-3.30pm / Storth Village Church.**

The Bereavement Journey is a series of films and discussion groups that gently guide people bereaved at any time through the most common aspects of grief and bereavement, enabling them to process the implications for themselves and discern next steps.

Usually run by churches, the course uniquely offers a final session on faith questions in bereavement, provided from a Christian perspective. This follows the main sessions and is optional, making The Bereavement Journey suitable for people of any faith or none.

For more info or to book (limited spaces), please contact:

**Revd Hannah Wallace**  
[revhannahwallace@gmail.com](mailto:revhannahwallace@gmail.com)  
01524 449035

## Annual Parochial Church Meeting

This will be held on **Wednesday 1st May** at 6.30pm in Church where we come together to elect the church officers (Churchwardens, PCC members, Deanery Synod representatives) for the coming year.

The APCM will be preceded, as is customary over the coming weeks, by the review of the Electoral Roll so if you are not already on the roll, do please consider joining. There are forms available at the back of church.

Please do try to attend as this is an important meeting in the annual life of the church.



## ADVANCE DIARY DATES FOR MAY

### Deanery Ascension Day Service

The Deanery will gather together, as has become tradition, to celebrate Ascension Day (the fortieth day of Easter) at **St Patrick's Preston Patrick.**

The preacher will be the Dean of Carlisle, The Very Reverend Jonathan Brewster.

All are welcome!

**Thursday 9th May, 7.30pm at  
St Patrick's Preston Patrick**

### Thinking Ecumenically

An afternoon with Canon Jeremy Morris (National Ecumenical Adviser for the Church of England).

Join us as we explore the history and theology of the modern ecumenical movement, and share insights from those ministering in the ecumenical county of Cumbria.

**Monday 13th May, 1.30-4.30pm,  
St Thomas' Kendal.**

## ARNSIDE

## HIGHLIGHTS

### LIMELIGHT

**Arnside Educational Institute  
Saturday 20th April 7.30pm**

Tickets £12 (U25s £6)

book online:

[www.highlightsnorth.co.uk](http://www.highlightsnorth.co.uk)

Capturing life through the eyes of three actresses, *Limelight* is a comic play based on a true story of Julia St George.

## ARNSIDE METHODIST CHURCH

## MONDAY FELLOWSHIP GROUP

*Meetings are held from 2pm to 4pm.*

**1st and 3rd Mondays  
of each month**

## Christian Aid Week and Christian Aid Big Breakfast

**Christian Aid Week takes place between 12th-18th May.**

An opportunity for us to remember the work of this important charity and to support its work. Once again, Arnside Christians Together are organising a Big Breakfast to be held on **Saturday 11th May, 9.30-11.00am**, at Arnside Methodist Church Hall.

We are hoping to invite donations (small and large) to cover the cost of buying everything we need for breakfast so that the Breakfast can raise as much money for the work of Christian Aid as we can. We will also need some helpers, so look out for more information

soon.



The Parish Church  
of  
Saint James  
Arnside



ST JAMES CHURCH



**APRIL 2024**

**Sunday 7th April (The first Sunday after Easter)**

- 08.00 Holy Communion (BCP)
- 09.30 Service of the Word



**Sunday 14th April (The second Sunday after Easter)**

- 08.00 Holy Communion (BCP)
- 09.30 Parish Communion with Junior Church

**Sunday 21st April (The Third Sunday after Easter)**

- 08.00 Holy Communion (BCP)
- 10.30 Parish Communion with Junior Church



**Sunday 28th April (The fourth Sunday after Easter)**

- 08.00 Holy Communion (BCP)
- 09.30 Parish Communion with Junior Church

*Evensong at St Michael and All Angels, Beetham, each Sunday at 6.00pm*

*(Please note: 8.00am Communion Service may on occasion be unavailable, any change will appear on Pew Sheet in preceding week.)*

*Morning Prayer: Every Wednesday during term time at 8.15am  
School Church: Every Wednesday during term time, 9am. (all welcome)*

