

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

Parish Newsletter

December 2025/January 2026



Priest-in-Charge

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Letter from the Parsonage, Beetham

Dear friends,

One of my favourite writers, as the season of Advent gives way to Christmas, is the twentieth century poet and teacher Ursula Askham Fanthorpe, who writes with humour, insight and faith about the celebrations soon to be upon us.

Her poem, '*Angels Song*' encapsulates this well, in which she reflects not only on the response of the angel host to the events of the nativity, but seeks to understand and frame this within the bigger story of where Jesus' life will ultimately lead.

Intimates of heaven,
This is strange to us,
The unangelic muddle.
The birth, the human fuss.

We sing a harder carol now:
Holy the donkey in the hay;
Holy the manger made of wood,
Holy the nails, the blood, the clay.

The reference to 'unangelic muddle' and 'human fuss' particularly struck me in contemplating all that the coming weeks will hold as we look ahead to the festivities, fun and frenzy that accompany our keeping of this most special time of the year. Not least since, for so many, 'muddle' and 'fuss' are perhaps apt

descriptors for how we are usually encouraged (by our wider society and culture) to approach the Christmas period; not least when we consider the unhelpful pressure and sense of false materialist and consumerist expectation that so many feel as we near the twenty-fifth of December.

It is then - quite understandably - amidst the 'muddle' and 'fuss' of our lives that we approach and enter the weeks of Advent. That particular moment in the church's year for looking at ourselves and our world a bit more closely and so - in that act of looking - to realise how much we need a Saviour. A time for recognising that things (if we need a reminder) are 'not as they should be' and that instead of remaining detached, separate and isolated from human experience and the everyday circumstances of our lives, God is not simply merely interested but actively involved and fully committed. For such is the hope and promise to be discovered in the manger of Bethlehem, in the 'muddle' and 'fuss' of a human birth, where the Lord of heaven and earth draws close to us in love, grace and mercy.

For many people it can often seem easier to believe in evil rather than in God. Yet, in the acknowledgement of evil and wrong, seen in the brutality, fear and injustice of our daily news - in the reality of war and poverty, in the cries of the

of war and poverty, in the cries of the poor and the oppressed, in the sorrows of the marginalised, the isolated and the unloved - then you may be able to understand why we need a Saviour. One who comes not as the result of human endeavour, but as the pledge and proof of a faithful God who loves the world, and loves each and everyone of us, so very much.

This is the truth that lies waiting for us at the close of our Advent journey, as with angels, shepherds, wise-men we are drawn - just like countless generations - to kneel in wonder, joy and adoration before the child of Bethlehem, the Word made flesh, the Saviour of the world. The God who meets us in the 'muddle' and 'fuss' of life and tell us we are never alone.

As the carol, simply but effectively, puts it:

**And he feelth for our sadness,
and he shareth in our gladness.**

With every good wish and prayer this Advent and Christmas.

As ever,

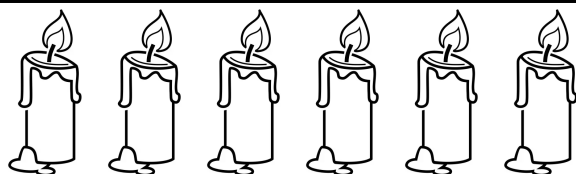
Andrew

**Deadline for February
Parish Newsletter:**



Wednesday 14th January

*please send submissions to
sandy.felton@btopenworld.com*




**A.C.T
Christmas
Fair**

**Saturday 6th
December**

10am - 12pm

**Arnside WI &
Village Hall**

**FREE
ENTRY!**

**king's
food bank**

KINGS FOOD BANK

An appeal at Christmas for struggling families!

Please can you donate something, however small? Packs of instant pasta, some treats (especially welcome this time of year), mince pies, sweets for the children, long life milk, squash, toiletries.

St James members can you bring in on Sunday 30th November and December 14th. You can also leave offerings at back of church below Food Bank board.

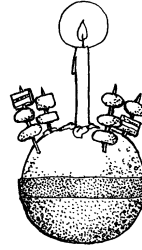
Financial donations also welcome (cheques preferred). I will be taking all boxes to King's Food Bank immediately to give time to deliver before Christmas.

May thanks. lude

FROM OUR SCHOOLS

Arnside National CofE School

Headteacher: Mr Nick Sharp



After a brief rest and recharge over October half term, the pupils are back and bubbling with festive anticipation. It's such a lovely term in school and a delight to share the excitement and joy of advent and the Christmas period.

The FOANS (Friends of Arnside National School) team have been busy planning future events and it looks set to be an exciting year ahead. Our Autumn disco was a huge success with over 90% of the school attending to dance and sing their hearts out. Coming soon is the hotly anticipated Christmas Social. Our wreath making workshops have been a sell out for 2025 and I would like to extend a huge thank you to Leanne Sharp and the team for their time and effort, and Jamie Smith for providing the much-needed greenery. The doorways of Arnside are going to look amazing!

School recently celebrated national anti-bullying week in November and it was a week of fun, reflection and personal development. The theme this year was 'Power for Good' and our pupils certainly demonstrated an understanding of the power of kindness and respect for all. We started with 'Odd Socks Day' which was a vital reminder that we are all wonderfully different and unique – something which we all should be proud of. The week ended with Children in Need and this year our School Council chose the non-uniform theme of bright and spotty. Arnie's, our wonderful after-school club, held a bake sale and managed to raise an amazing £360. A huge thank you to Sam Reynolds, Julia Holroyd and the Arnie's team and a special 'high five' to our very own Pudsey Bear who made a guest appearance at the end of the day. During Remembrance week, the pupils wore their poppies with pride and, with the help of Mrs Brough, sold poppy merchandise to raise extra funds for the Royal British Legion. Bethan Wallace and Julia Adair did a wonderful job representing the school by laying a special EYFS poppy wreath at the community memorial service. The thoughtfulness, conduct and love for others, shone out through this special time.

Instilling a sense of adventure is certainly on the cards as the pupils look forward to a morning at the Kendal Mountain Film Festival; a brilliant platform to motivate our future adventurers and environmental activists. The infants are also looking forward to an exciting trip out to Leighton Hall for a day of Victorian, historical fun.

Our Festive activities have kick started with a creative craft club where pupils make decorations and cards to adorn the school tree at the forthcoming Methodist Church 150th anniversary tree festival. Christmas Jumper Day, 11th Dec, is always a highlight and the range of woolly knits is certainly a sight to behold! All money raised is donated to Save the Children. Our infants are currently mid-rehearsal for their nativity 'A Miracle in Town' and we look forward to a heart-melting performance on **Wed 10th Dec, 10.00am or 6.00pm**, in St James' Church (tissues at the ready). The end of term will finish with a warm, cosy carol service in St James' on **Wed 18th Dec, 6.00pm** – a mixture of carols,

songs, readings, and festive cheer; the perfect start to the Christmas holidays. From all at Arnside School, we wish you health, happiness, peace and prosperity. Spread a bit of sparkle this Christmas and enjoy your family time together; it'll soon be time to start planning those 2026 adventures... *"Christmas isn't a season, it's a feeling."* Edna Ferber.

Take care, Mr Sharp

'REST & RESTORE'

Tuesday 2nd December
at 6.15pm

'REST & RESET'

Tuesday 6th January
at 6.15pm
At St James Church



ARNSIDE

Upcoming dates

Friday 12th December
Friday 9th January 2026
Friday 13th February 2026
Friday 13th March 2026
Friday 17th April 2026

3.30pm - 5.30pm
at Arnside Methodist Church

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Sunday 14th December
 2.00pm - 'Carols around the Crib' on the Promenade

Tuesday 16th December
 7.00pm - Storth Village Carol Service at Storth Village Hall

Thursday 18th December
 4.00pm - 'Blue Christmas' Service at Storth Village Church

Sunday 21st December
 4.00pm - Village Carol Service at Arnside Methodist Church

Wednesday 24th December - CHRISTMAS EVE
 6.00pm - Village Christingle Service at St James' Church

Thursday 25th December - CHRISTMAS DAY
 8.00am - Christmas Day Holy Communion
 at St James' Church
 9.30am - Village Christmas Day All-Age Worship
 at Arnside Methodist Church
 10.30am - Morning Worship for Christmas Day
 at Storth Village Church
 11.00am - Mass of Christmas Day
 at Our Lady of Lourdes, Roman Catholic Church



What's on...



**Christmas Carols
around the Crib**

Arnside Promenade
(opposite Bullough's Londis)
Sunday 14th December
at 2.00pm



with Fairtrade hot chocolate in biodegradable cups (or bring your own mug!).
We are very grateful to Bullough's Londis for their generosity in supporting us!



ADVENT LUNCHES

Our Lady of Lourdes
12:30pm - 13:45pm
A time of conversation
Bring some lunch!

Wednesday
3rd, 10th & 17th
December



Village Carol Service

Sunday 21st December
at Arnside Methodist Church
@ 4.00pm



Village Christingle

Wednesday 24th December
(Christmas Eve)
at St James', Arnside
@ 6.00pm



**churches
together**
IN BRITAIN AND IRELAND

One Body, One Spirit
*A Service for the Week of
Prayer for Christian Unity*

Sunday 18th January 2026
at 3.00pm

Our Lady of Lourdes
Roman Catholic Church

*"There is one body and one Spirit, just as you
were called to the one hope of your calling"*
Ephesians 4.4

Rotas - readers, intercessors, sidespersons

READERS

Sunday 7th December

The Second Sunday of Advent

KEMC Gathering at Arnside Methodist

Sunday 14th December

The Third Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 35: 1-10 - Mr M Crabtree

James 5: 7-10 - Mrs Y Service

Matthew 11: 2-11

Sunday 21st December

The Fourth Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 7: 10-16 - Mrs H Leach

Romans 1: 1-7 - Mr A Mitchell

Matthew 1: 18 - end

Sunday 28th December

The First Sunday of Christmas

Isaiah 63: 7-9 - Mrs S Comer

Hebrews 2: 10-end - Mr T Bradford

Matthew 2: 13-end

Sunday 4th January

Epiphany of the Lord

Isaiah 60: 1-6 - Mrs S Humphery

Ephesians 3: 1-12 - Mr A Mitchell

Matthew 2: 1-12

Sunday 11th January

The Baptism of Christ

Worship Together

Sunday 18th January

The Second Sunday Epiphany

Isaiah 49: 1-7 - Mr M Crabtree

1 Corinthians 1: 1-9 - Mrs H Leach

John 1: 29-42

Sunday 25th January

The Third Sunday Epiphany

Isaiah 9: 1-4 - Mr T Bradford

1 Corinthians 1: 10-18 - Mrs Y Service

Matthew 4: 12-23

INTERCESSORS

7th December - KEMC Gathering

14th December - Mrs S E Felton

21st December - Mrs S Woodburn

28th December - Mrs S E Felton

4th January - Mrs L Smith

11th January - *Worship Together*

18th January - Mrs S E Felton

25th January - Mrs S Woodburn

SIDESPERSIONS

7th December - KEMC Gathering

14th December - Mrs A Jackson
or Mr G Chatham

21st December - Mr R Hamer

28th December - Mrs S Comer

4th January - Mr S Smith

11th January - Miss A Dean

18th January - Mrs A Jackson
or Mr G Chatham

25th January - Mr R Hamer



Weekly Parish E-mail

If you do not receive Andrew's weekly e-mail with church information, 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 December 2025 and January 2026

Tuesday 2nd December

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

Sunday 7th December - *The Second Sunday of Advent*

10.30am - Kent Estuary Mission Community Gathering at Arnside Methodist Church

Friday 12th December

3.30pm - Messy Church at Arnside Methodist Church

Sunday 14th December - *The Third Sunday of Advent*

8.00am - Holy Communion (BCP)

9.30am - Parish Communion

Sunday 21st December - *The Fourth Sunday of Advent*

8.00am - Holy Communion (BCP)

9.30am - Parish Communion

4.00pm - Village Carol Service at Arnside Methodist Church

Wednesday 24th December - *CHRISTMAS EVE*

4.00pm - Village Christingle

Thursday 25th December - *CHRISTMAS DAY*

8.00am - Holy Communion for Christmas Day (BCP)

9.30am - Joint Christmas Day Service at Arnside Methodist Church

Sunday 28th December - *The First Sunday of Christmas*

9.30am - Morning Praise (Service of the Word)

Sunday 4th January - *The Epiphany of the Lord*

8.00am - Holy Communion (BCP)

9.30am - Parish Communion

Tuesday 6th January

6.15pm - 'Rest & Reset' - *a service of Christian meditation*

Friday 9th January

3.30pm - Messy Church at Arnside Methodist Church

Sunday 11th January - *The Baptism of Christ*

8.00am - Holy Communion (BCP)

9.30am - Worship Together (*a service for the whole church family - young and old together*)

Sunday 18th January - *The Second Sunday of Epiphany*

8.00am - Holy Communion (BCP)

9.30am - Parish Communion

3.00pm - ACT Service for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity at Our Lady of Lourdes

Sunday 25th January - *The Third Sunday of Epiphany*

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

