

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

Parish Newsletter

October 2026



Priest-in-Charge

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Letter from the Vicar *from* **The Parsonage, Beetham**

Dear friends,

At the end of September I was asked, rather at the last minute, to take a wedding at Jesus Church in Troutbeck. And it was a joy, as weddings always are, to help and support Imogen and James as they began their married life together. If you've never visited Jesus Church before, then I'd heartily recommend it, not least because its only one of two churches in the whole of the Church of England that bears that designation (the other being found in Enfield).

The first record of the church is found at the beginning of the sixteenth century, though the building was only consecrated in 1562 as a place of worship. And, though little of that original church remains, as the main building and western tower were rebuilt in 1736, it remains a very picturesque, quintessentially lakeland structure. The building is perhaps most celebrated today because of its tremendous stained glass east window, dedicated in 1873, designed by the celebrated Victorian artists, Edward Burne-Jones, William Morris and Ford Maddox Brown.

The window is exceedingly detailed and, upon entering the church, a visitor is immediately faced with a blaze of sumptuous colours and intricate detail. It consists principally of five large lights and a further smaller fourteenth lights displaying various biblical scenes, all worthy of admiration and study. Though, I'd suggest that the most interesting detail are the four small windows with a particular local character, given that they rather playfully depict a host of trout swimming in the nearby beck. A vision of the things of earth being reflected in the splendour of heaven and the reminder that the ordinary, everyday things of our lives are of infinite importance to God.

This is, of course, something that we have particular reason to call to mind as the weeks of autumn stretch ahead of us through our celebrations and thanksgivings for Harvest. That moment in the church's year where, in the words of Psalm 65 (verse 11), we're reminded that the Lord '*crowns the year with his goodness*'. Harvest offers us the opportunity to record our gratitude for the work, efforts and industriousness of those, both locally and further afield, who help to provide for our daily needs and on whom we depend for our daily bread. And, whilst the work of farmers, fisherman and food production, is a year-round endeavour - it is good and right to acknowledge the blessing that they are to us for all that they do.

This call to thanksgiving is even more important in an agricultural year that has brought uncertainty, exhaustion and loss for so many farming families. The consequences of the unprecedented levels of heat (and accompanying lack of rain) our land has witnessed over recent months; challenges us to consider the pressing environmental challenges we are increasingly facing because of humanity's failure to steward the resources of the earth faithfully. A rather sobering reality that should prompt us to weigh more carefully both

our habits of life, knowing that our decisions (shopping habits, energy consumption, lifestyle choices) - small though they might sometimes seem - affect others.

We know this because, as the Bible makes clear and the ministry of Jesus evidenced, we are all made in the image of God and thus created for interdependence with one another, with our neighbours both near and far. Those whom we know and love, and those whom we will never see though share life together. At Harvest we have the chance to make our response, both through our prayers and our charitable giving to acknowledge and remember just this.

As the words of the contemporary hymn encourage us:

*'Lord of the fertile earth who caused the world to be,
whose life alone can bring to birth the fruits of land and sea,
teach us to use aright and share the gifts you give,
to tend the earth as in your sight that all the world may live.'*

With every good wish and prayer for the Lord's blessing,

As ever, 



Hymnal Appeal - *a word from the PCC Treasurer...*

Many thanks for the response to the hymnal appeal. We are very grateful to Ian Service for his work in initially scoping out the original hymnal project. It has served us so well, and Ian and Richard have learned how to get the very best out of it.

Visitors to our services often do not realise there is no one at the organ console. Ian realised that it would be possible to add a considerable number of modern tunes to it, hence, the recent appeal, and a member of our congregation generously donated the full £259 towards this. In addition, we also needed some new modern hymn books to support it and there have been further donations that have allowed this to happen, so that in total £659 has been raised, and all this money has been gift aided, increasing the value of the donations by 25% when Sarah makes our next HMRC claim. Well done and thanks to all involved.

Alan Mitchell

'The Prayer Course'

Wednesdays 12.30-2.00pm
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.

Bring some lunch, drinks provided.

'Monthly Manna'

Friday 2nd October
12.15-1.30pm at St James'

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

Bring some lunch, drinks provided.

FROM OUR SCHOOLS

Arnside National C of E School

Headteacher: Mr Nick Sharp



The start of a academic year brings renewed energy, excitement and infectious anticipation about the months ahead, especially when our new starters make their first steps into our wonderful Nursery. It's been a pleasure to welcome new faces and the warmth, love and care from fellow pupils ensures everyone settles quickly and happily. One of the highlights of the first week is catching up about summer activities and listening to the tales of friendship, discovery and adventure. Pegs ready, pencil cases packed, books labelled and over-sized jumpers on – it's time to smile and shine bright.

The Year 6 pupils were thrilled to attend the Westmorland County Show and the day was a fantastic mix of animals, rural craft, demos, presentations and the odd sweet treat. The Learning for Life marquee provided an opportunity to showcase some of our pupils' work and the display of felting and crochet certainly caught the attention of passing viewers.

Our links with St James' goes from strength to strength and it was great to start the school year off with our regular School Church. Father Andrew, Rev Hannah and Ian welcome us with open arms as we gather for a time of learning, reflection, song and prayer. Members of the community are welcome to join us and share our time together; every Wednesday, 9.00 to 9.30am if your diary has gap. In July, we were informed by the Diocese that we had been selected to receive a visit from Bishop Rob as a form of celebration for our recent SIAMS inspection and ongoing development as a church school. Rob spent a morning with pupils and staff, and all the classes enjoyed listening, talking and questioning our special visitor. Our Ethos Team are selected to represent and promote our school vision and the new members for the year are very excited to start their new role. Several members gave Bishop Rob a tour of the school and they had a chance to explain how our vision impacts all aspects of school life. Well done all.

Fitness, sport, games and competition are a particular strength at school, and the Autumn term has several key dates in the diary. Inclusive sport is a vital aspect of our curriculum that ensures all pupils can access and succeed in PE. Early in the term, we were very excited to welcome our Wheelchair basketball coaches back into school for a series of fun-filled, fast-paced taster sessions for all pupils, Nursery to Year 6. Nat has been coming to Arnside for many years now and he never fails to inspire and excite the pupils – a huge thank you from all involved. Jujitsu Club has started for the year and the 'ever young' Steve Hoare is back delivering lessons, coaching and an after-school basketball club. With cross country on the horizon, it will soon be time to get mucky.

With a vibrant and varied music curriculum, the pupils have a range of opportunities to learn and experience the joy of singing, composing, playing and performing. Recently, our juniors had an amazing opportunity to experience Taiko drumming with a team of players from Tethera Taiko. The noise was mesmerising, the beat hypnotic and the experience was certainly one to remember. Mrs Rich continues to provide piano and singing lessons, and our very own 'School of Rock' Ric French is back with us to provide guitar and ukulele lessons. Finally, our school rock band, 'Knott Breakers', are back to rehearsals and we look forward to hearing another thumping performance in the coming weeks and months. *"Rock is the energy that pulses within us, it's the soundtrack to our freedom."* Freddie Mercury.

*Take care,
Mr Sharp*

‘Arnside Knott’ by Kate Asquith

For a love like this, ancient rock conspired.
Little creatures ghosted over glassy seabeds
and melted into spiral shapes for you;
into limestone seeping to the shore.

For a love like this, the entire earth shifted;
vast and formless continents ravelling and unravelling.
South melded North and old faults gleamed over,
the cracks soothing against the rains.

For a love like this, a mountain erupted from a single shell.
Then slowly, legato, the ice glimmered away the mud.
And when Cumbria settled, this love curled like two dappled cats,
forming flanks of a land slumbering in the sun.

For a love like this, life purred;
bursting through in stubby green stems, flowers low and wild.

Birdsong dripping with devotion.
For a love like this, all of this – the world offered you a place to kneel,
a gentle place to find a home. A Knott to bind your lives together.

Today is shaped by all the little histories
of life that came before.
So if we ask, *how did spines calcify into spires?*
Troutbeck will answer, *how could they not?*
Every weathered storm, every unshaken root.
Every sacred place came to cradle you.
The world folded itself just right for you.
Your history is the history of millennia;
Of timeless, immutable love.

This poem was written especially for the wedding (at Jesus Church Troutbeck) which Andrew talks of in this month's letter. The poem was written (by one of the bridesmaids) to mark the place where Imogen and James (the couple who were married) were engaged, Arnside Knott. It is printed here, given it celebrates one of our parish's defining landmarks.



‘Rest & Reset’

Tuesday 13th October

6.15pm to 7.00pm

at St James’

a service of Christian meditation

‘a moment to press pause’



The month ahead...

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!



♫ 'A Fair Share' ♫
The Bishop of Carlisle's
Harvest Appeal 2026



Once again we are inviting support for the work of The Bishop's Harvest Appeal, supporting the work of

Christian Aid

in Burkina Faso

The Church Mission Society

in Northern Argentina

www.carlislediocese.org.uk/harvestappeal

ARNSIDE

crafts & activities

food
(including a meal)

Messy
Church

fun

stories & music

Friday 9th October 2026

3.30pm - 5.30pm

Arnside Methodist Church



A Season of Prayer

the
prayer
course

from Wednesday 30th September

12.30-2.15pm

at Arnside Methodist Church

Advent Lunches

2nd, 9th, 16th December

12.30-2.00pm

at Our Lady of Lourdes, RC Church

unanswered
prayer

the prayer course II

during Lent 2027

Rotas - readers, intercessors, sidespersons

READINGS & READERS

Sunday 4th October

Harvest Festival

Deuteronomy 8: 7-18

Mrs Y Service

2 Corinthians 9: 6-15

Mrs S E Felton

Luke 12: 16-30

Sunday 11th October

The Nineteenth Sunday after Trinity

Isaiah 25: 1-9

Mrs J Bratt

Philippians 4: 1-9

Mrs S Woodburn

Matthew 22: 1-14

Sunday 18th October

Saint Luke the Evangelist

Isaiah 35: 3-6

Mrs S Comer

2 Timothy 4: 5-17

Rev. H Scriven

Luke 10: 1-9

Sunday 25th October

The Last Sunday after Trinity

Leviticus 19: 1-2, 15-18

Mrs H Leach

1 Thessalonians 2: 1-8

Mr M Crabtree

Matthew 22: 34-end



Deadline for November Parish Newsletter...

Wednesday 14th October

please send any items to:

sandy.felton@btopenworld.com

INTERCESSORS

4th October - Mrs S E Felton

11th October - Mrs S E Felton

18th October - Mrs S Woodburn

25th October - Mrs S Comer

SIDESPERSIONS

4th October - Miss A Dean

11th October - Mr G Chatham,

18th October - Mrs S Comer

25th October - Miss A Dean

Weekly Parish E-mail

If you do not receive a copy of Andrew's weekly parish e-mail (including a copy of the pew sheet) and would like to, please do let him know and he will make sure you receive it.

'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.

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.

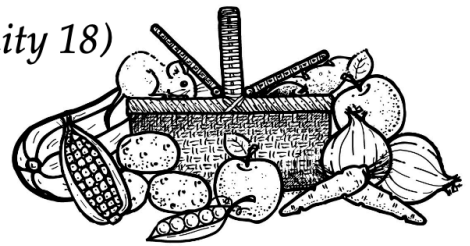


Services during October 2026

Sunday 4th October (*Harvest Festival / Trinity 18*)

8.00am - Holy Communion (BCP)

9.30am - Parish Harvest Communion



Tuesday 6th October

6.15pm - 'Rest & Reset' (*a service of Christian meditation 'a moment to press pause'*)

Friday 9th October

3.30-5.30pm - Messy Church at Arnside Methodist Church



Sunday 11th October (*The Nineteenth Sunday after Trinity*)

8.00am - Holy Communion (BCP)

9.30am - Parish Communion

Sunday 18th October (*Saint Luke the Evangelist / Trinity 20*)

8.00am - Holy Communion (BCP)

9.30am - Parish Communion

Sunday 25th October (*The Last Sunday after Trinity / Bible Sunday*)

8.00am - Morning Prayer (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 8.30am**

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)