

CHURCH SERVICES FOR DEC20 & JAN21

Date	BARTON	POOLEY BRIDGE	MARTINDALE
6 th December		10.00am Church4All Mr A Wright	10.30am Communion Rev D Jago
13 th December	10.00am Morning Prayer		
20 th December		10.00am Communion Ven L Townend	
22 nd December			<u>5pm</u> <u>Carol service</u> <u>on zoom</u> No service in church See website for details
24 th December Christmas Eve	<u>Bethlehem @ Barton</u> <u>Nativity</u> At Barton House <u>See website for details</u> 5pm Communion Ven L Townend		
25 th December Christmas Day		10.00am outdoors Carols for Christmas <u>See website for details</u> No service in church	10.30am Communion Ven L Townend
3 rd January Epiphany		10.00am Church4All Mr A Wright	
10 th January	10.00am Morning Prayer Ven L Townend		
17 th January		10.00am Communion Ven L Townend	
24 th January	10.00am Communion Ven L Townend		
31 st January		10.00am St Paul's Day Celebration Service Mr A Wright	
7 th February		10.00am Church4All Ven L Townend & Mr A Wright	

Church4All services are relaxed, informal, all age worship times lasting around an hour – children very welcome – activities provided for them. All services listed above are subject to government and C of E Covid 19 regulations and should therefore be regarded as provisional. Please check on a weekly basis on the website: www.ullswater-churches.org.uk. Full details of the arrangements in place in each church in the benefice are to be found on this website – click on the COVID 19 tag. Please do not attend any church service if you have any Covid 19 symptoms or if you have had contact recently with anyone with such symptoms. The church buildings remain closed except for published services – this enables each church to establish a safe environment for Sunday services.

GRAPEVINE

December 2020 January 2021
A Bi-Monthly Notice Sheet for BARTON GROUP PARISHES
Barton Pooley Bridge Martindale
www.ullswater-churches.org.uk www.barton-church-ullswater.uk

Bethlehem at Barton ...a socially distanced Nativity

Christmas 2020 is going to be different & the annual St. Michael's Barton Crib Service is no exception. We can't cram ourselves into the church or sing carols with gusto, but we still want to celebrate the birth of Jesus.



So join us for a COVID-safe drive-through Nativity at

Barton House on Christmas Eve

from 3.00pm: let us know what time you want to come

Carols, crafts, readings, food & drink and a familiar cast of characters... all from the comfort of your own car (about 15 minutes).

Barton House is on the north side of the B5320 opposite the road to Celleron.

*For more details please see ullswater-churches.org.uk
facebook @ullswaterchurches or phone: 017684 86194*

This is a prebooked event so please phone to fix a time slot

CHRISTMAS COMMUNIONS in the churches

**Christmas Eve at 5pm at St. Michael's Barton
Christmas Day at 10.30am at St. Peter's Martindale
Celebrant at both services: Venerable Lee Townend (Vicar)**

VICAR'S LETTER

Dear Friends,

Hope you are well and keeping safe.

At this time of year I settle down to read Charles Dickens' "A Christmas Carol". Reading this story has been a habit of mine for as long as I can remember and it is possibly my favourite book from my favourite author. I suspect we are all very familiar with what happens in the story.

Essentially Scrooge has to go through 3 conversions, enacted by the visitation of 3 ghosts, before he is transformed from someone who hates life and people into someone who is bursting with a love of life and a profound, deep, generous love of others (particularly the unfortunate). Martin Luther said that there are 3 conversions for every Christian to go through ***"The conversion of the heart. The conversion of the mind. Finally, the conversion of the wallet"***.

For Scrooge there is great truth in Luther's words. That conversion of the wallet is not just about money but, for me, it is more about becoming a person whose whole life is brimming over with a spirit of generosity. A life brimming over with generosity of love, friendship, forgiveness, kindness, protection, possessions and a willingness to be sacrificial in all that you do. Which to me sounds a bit like Jesus. Essentially we are called to be like Jesus in all that we do.

For Scrooge his conversions, along with his new found love of people and life, made him say ***"I will honour Christmas in my heart, and try to keep it all the year."***

What would it be like if we were to keep the spirit of Christmas every day of the year? What difference would it make?

Christmas, for me and my family, is a time of extra kindness. A time of extra laughter and hope. A time for extra generosity and, especially with lots of family around, a time for extra forgiveness when we begin to get on each other nerves (particularly because I'm a sore loser when we play board games!).

Now, in my role as a priest, I'm acutely aware that for some people Christmas can be difficult especially if family members are missing or it is spent alone. However, the point of the story of Scrooge is that Christmas, by and large, is a time when the 'extra' attributes of the generosity of love to celebrate the birth of Jesus are shown.

Again, we, like Scrooge, are called to live with that extra generosity of love in our hearts every day of the year.

On that first Christmas Day the angel said to the shepherds in the field ***"Fear not, a saviour has been born to you this day"***. Those of you who know me will have heard me say dozens of times that God, in the Bible, says to you and me ***"Don't be afraid, fear not, do not be anxious"*** no fewer than 366 times to be precise - that's one for every day of the year including leap years. Every morning when you awake Jesus is there smiling, holding out his hand and whispering to you ***"Be not afraid of what this day may bring"***. He does this because he knows how hard life can be.

Especially during this time of pandemic.

Knowing Jesus is there for me every day gives me a renewed confidence to live, breathe, rejoice and try to show "extra" generosity no matter what comes. Knowing that Jesus overcame the very worse that life can throw at Him tells me too that with my hand in His everything will be well.

In 1939 King George's Christmas and new year message quoted a poem by Haskins which said this: ***"And I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year:***

"Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown."

And he replied:

"Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the Hand of God.

That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way."

Have a truly blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year and may the spirit of Christmas be honoured by you and me every day of 2021.

With much love

Lee

VILLAGE CAROLS ON CHRISTMAS DAY

10.00am for 1/2 hour on December 25th

POOLEY BRIDGE

field behind the Sun

(limited vehicle access by Holly House)

Come and start Christmas Day
with a BIG SING!

ALL WELCOME

(NB No service in church this year)

more details on website

ullswater-churches.org.uk

PLEASE WEAR A FACE MASK

MARTINDALE CAROL SERVICE

Tuesday 22nd December 5pm
ON ZOOM

For access details

Email: andymcconk@gmail.com

Website: ullswater-churches.org.uk

**ALL WELCOME TO JOIN ON
LINE FOR THIS FESTIVE
CELEBRATION**

No service in church

**BRING YOUR OWN MULLED WINE
AND MINCEPIES THIS YEAR!**

CHRISTMAS TREE RECYCLING

Hospice at Home will be collecting trees for recycling on Friday 8th January in
all of our area.

To arrange for collection please contact them on
www.charityxmastreecollection.com before January 5th.

Churchwardens contact details

St. Michael, Barton

St Peter & St Martin, Martindale

St Paul, Pooley Bridge

Mr H Pitt

Mrs J Cooper

Mrs A Strong

01768 890500

01768 868055

017684 86034

Items for the February and
March Grapevine should be sent
to
veronica@thewrights.org.uk by
21st January.

A black "Fulton" umbrella was left
at the Lychgate following the Act of
Remembrance on November 8th.
Contact Henry Pitt - 01768 890500.