



# The <sup>New</sup> Link

News from Low Row and Keld  
United Reformed Churches in Swaledale,  
Part of the Tees Swale Pastorate.

**February 2022 - March 2022**

We are now a few weeks into 2022, and may I wish you all a Happy and Blessed New Year. One of my blessings as a lay preacher is when preparing to lead worship, the lectionary passage is one that I have a great deal of love and respect for. To say it literally thrills my heart is no exaggeration.

On January 9<sup>th</sup> we had one of those readings Isaiah 43L: 1 - 3 (7)

*"Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;  
I have summoned you by name; you are mine."*

For days I was singing the hymn taken from this passage and it is one we would do well to remember, as we are all in stages of vacancy as we hopefully emerge from the pandemic.

Are you thrilled when you read or sing the words, 'I have summoned you by name, you are mine'. As we face a future with change all about us, how can we be full of worries when God assures us, he has called us by name and we are his.

The last couple of years many would agree we have been walking metaphorically through flood and fire, in some countries sadly it has been the literal truth. We do not walk alone because he is with us, every step of the way!

Maybe you feel that with the new ways of being Church, you really do dwell in the exile of the stranger. If so, the words from Isaiah, shared in the hymn must bring comfort to your head and heart, 'remember you are precious in my sight!!'

As I prepare for a service, it is usual for me to be singing one of the hymns chosen throughout the week, I believe that hymns and songs stay in our hearts and minds long after the sermon has been left in the mists of time. At the moment several are chasing each other through my mind but coming out on top are the words of the last verse of 'Do not be afraid You are mine, O my child I am your Father, and I love you with a perfect love' **'Do not be afraid for I have redeemed you. I have called you by your name, you are mine'**.

As we move onwards into 2022 with all our questions to be answered, all our fears to be overcome, if we need reassurance as we continue on our Christian pathway, if we are depressed with all we are facing at the moment, then look no further, "I have called you by your name you are mine!!"

I will be interested to find out, how many of you are singing this hymn in the days to come. May 2022 bring you many blessings as it is sure to do, as we continue to be blessings to one another.

*With grateful thanks to Maranny Jones, Northgate*

*URC*

## WORSHIP FEBRUARY – MARCH 2022

*Services in Low Row return to a weekly format in March but there are no planned services at Keld until Easter*

*The joint church service for the World Day of Prayer will be held in Low Row URC at 2.30 pm on 4<sup>th</sup> March – all are welcome*

	Low Row (10.30 am)	Keld (2.00 pm)
Feb	13 <sup>th</sup> Revd Michael Hopkins HC	
	27 <sup>th</sup> John & Rachel Hall	
March	4 <sup>th</sup> World Day of Prayer	2.30 pm
	6 <sup>th</sup> Mr Scott Lunn	
	13 <sup>th</sup> Mrs Maranny Jones	
	20 <sup>th</sup> Revd Adrian Gragg	
	27 <sup>th</sup> Harry Bunting	

The Quinquennial inspection of Low Row and Keld buildings took place in December and we have now received the surveyor's report. It highlighted the necessity for routine maintenance in both premises and also stressed the need to keep records of all activities in order to comply with Health and Safety rules. At the moment there are no serious concerns re the structure of either building but a five year plan of work was suggested which will be a subject for discussion at the church AGM.

**CHRISTMAS AT KELD:** Sponge painting, fabric, tinsel, sticking, chatting plus tea and yummy cake! Five children plus adults met in the Upper Room one wet Saturday

afternoon in December. They made small wooden peg nativity sets to take home and contributed to a larger one that we took through into the chapel - thanks to those of you that ate the Pringles so we could have the tubes!

A week later some of that group met with others, a total of 32, in the chapel, for our annual Carol Service. As we heard the bible readings, telling the story of that first Christmas, and monologues from a shepherd, Joseph and Mary, the nativity was gradually re constructed on the table at the front. It was agreed by all that it was good to sing those well known carols again.

*Sue Pellatt*

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