



The ^{New} Link

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

August 2022 - September 2022

Following my appeal in the last issue, I received the following - My father was minister of the Swaledale and Wensleydale group of churches from 1968 till 1981. When he began his ministry there were six churches in the group: Richmond, Low Row, Thwaite, Keld, Hawes and Bainbridge. Until Bainbridge closed he often took 5 services on a Sunday, leaving Hawes during the last hymn and arriving at Bainbridge during the opening hymn. After that it was 4 services each Sunday unless he call came from Hawes, 'You'll not get over the Buttertubs today!'

As I say, we moved to the dale - the Manse was in Low Row - in 1968. On New Year's Day. We'd spent the previous night at the White Hart in Hawes and drove over the Buttertubs in a blizzard, with chains on the tyres. We didn't know what we were coming to, especially my sister and I who'd not been up to see the house. However we settled in and quickly came to love Swaledale and its people.

I only lived there for just over two years as I moved to West Yorkshire for work. However, as much time as possible was spent at Low Row, my parents being very welcoming. I have many fond memories of times spent there but perhaps two stand out. Smarber services were always special, climbing the hill to that quiet spot with all its history and worshipping there. The other amazing memory is of carol singing around the village, often in appropriate weather and being welcomed into many homes with a warm drink and a mince pie.

It is now over forty years since my father retired and over fifty since I officially left the dale but I have to say that when we return it is like coming home. We have been several times to Keld both for holidays and events at the Keld Centre which was very much my father's brainchild. There is also a tree dedicated to my parents in the orchard bought by my nephew James.

There will be a few people who remember my parents and, no doubt, others who will have heard of them. To all of you I send my good wishes and those of my sister, Catriona, and thank you for some of the best memories we have. John Wadsworth

WORSHIP AUG - SEPT 2022

		Low Row (10.30 am)	Keld (2.00 pm)
Aug	7 th	Rev Alan Coustick	
	14 th	Peter & Daphne Clarke	
	21 st	Mr Derek Jackson	
	28 th	Rev Trevor Pitt	Rev Trevor Pitt M in R
Sept	4 th	Rev D Hobman	
	11 th	TBA	
	18 th	TBA	
	25 th	Rev Peter Poulter	Rev Peter Poulter M in R (Harvest)

KELD: There are two more Ministers in Residence this year, Rev Trevor Pitt at the end of August and Rev Peter Poulter at the end of September. Peter and his wife Yvonne love coming back to the Dales. He will lead worship for the Harvest Festival and no doubt attend the Auction of Produce.

LOW ROW: We are sorry that our regular organist Duncan Bythell has had to leave us. He has had fluctuating health for a while but recently had to move into accommodation in Bainbridge with his relations looking to see if they could find a similar place in Halifax. He has now moved there and Anne Brown has the address should anyone want it.

As we have no minister at present I often ask visiting preachers to contribute an article and this is one.

Having visited Swaledale on holiday for the last 40 years or so, Jane and I are always pleased to be back in the Dales. Worship at Low Row during our holiday has become a must. It is always good to see old friends and to check up on the latest goings-on. The Low Row chapel itself stands in marked contrast to my home church in south London. Yet the concerns of the people in both places are remarkably similar - family, health, finances etc. as well as the international situation - and the atmosphere for worship is almost always cheerful and upbeat. That is people are glad to see each other and happy to worship God together in a joyous, friendly, welcoming way. None of that is very different from my home roots in London where Sunday worship is characterised also by friendliness and concern for each other.

As many of you at Low Row URC will suspect, we also love the chapel at Keld with its openness and with the humbling wall plaque and memorials to Edward Stillman and his wife Grace. What

tremendous names they are for a pastor and his wife in the northern Dales! I always find the words on their memorial uplifting. I am also humbled by the well-kept grave outside the Keld chapel to our friend, Gillian Bobbett, who, like the Stillmans, warmed to the call to Christian witness in upper Swaledale. For us this year it was an added bonus to meet again with Rev John Proctor and his wife Elaine, to worship with them, and to share conversational insights.

Thank you again to all these Swaledale churches for your constancy and steady Christian witness. Rest assured that your quiet faith has made and is making a positive difference.

Alan Argent

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