



The ^{New} Link

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

December 2021 - January 2022

"And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth....." John 1:14

Dear friends,

During the pandemic most of us will have felt vulnerable on occasion. Even before Covid, we will all have felt vulnerable in different ways. It's part of being human.

When Jesus came into this world, he was very vulnerable - no fully equipped maternity unit or health care provision. No welfare state. Born into an occupied land ruled by a brutal empire, at a time when life was cheap and often short. However, that did not inhibit God's decisive intervention in human history for all people and for all time. By identifying so completely with the human condition, God entered fully into it through his Son, Jesus, experiencing our human frailty and vulnerability in a very immediate way.

Love came down at Christmas, and that same love ultimately conquered sin and death - not through power and might, but through vulnerability. Anyone who has ever loved will have tasted that vulnerability. In Jesus' life on earth, his coming that first Christmas finds its ultimate meaning through the vulnerability of

his cross and death, and love's great triumph through his resurrection at Easter.

In all our experience of weakness and vulnerability may we be both aware of and sustained by the love of God that overcomes all, and, resting in that love, live in God's peace whatever our circumstances this Christmas, and always.

God's peace and joy be yours this Christmas, wherever and however you mark Jesus' birth, and whatever your particular concerns and circumstances. *David Herbert, Moderator, Northern Synod*

(I am grateful to our Moderator, David Herbert, and also James Mawdesley who sent these contributions to me after preaching at Low Row in October.)

On Sunday 31st October, I made my first visit over the Buttertubs Pass to lead worship at Low Row. Being Yorkshire, the weather did not disappoint, and torrential rain accompanied the journey!

For those of you who are wondering how I ended up on Low Row's radar, Rachel and I acquired a caravan in Hawes during the first Covid lockdown in 2020, which was something pleasant for us to look forward to once restrictions were lifted. We are members of Chorley URC back home in Lancashire, and I am on the North West Synod's list of preachers for the county.

Our home church has just undergone a major refurbishment which we hope will make it a focal point of our community in Chorley. I know that some Low Row regulars are keen readers of *Reform* magazine, so I'm sure it won't have escaped their attention that our Repair Café at Chorley was the subject of an article in the November edition!

It was a great privilege for me to lead worship in a setting as beautiful as Low Row. The two congregations at Chorley and Low Row both serve their communities in different ways, not least as

our geographical settings are very different from each other. That said, we both endeavour to proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ to our respective communities, and we hope and pray that that will long continue.

James Mawdesley

WORSHIP DECEMBER 2021 - JANUARY 2022

	Low Row (10.30 am)	Keld (2.00 pm)
Dec	5th Derek Jackson	
	12th Revd Jane Rowell	
	19th P & D Clarke Carol Fest	Sue Pellet & Rachel Hall
	24th Low Row Village Carol Service at Holy Trinity	
	25th Sue Alderson	
Jan	2nd Mrs Maranny Jones	
	14th Peter & Daphne Clarke	
	28th Harry Bunting	

Worship has continued in Low Row on a weekly basis since the beginning of October, apart from Remembrance Sunday, but for January and February services will be every other week. The village carol service will be at Holy Trinity on Christmas Eve but will be at 4.00 pm instead of the usual 6.00 pm.

KELD has been busy since re-opening with Baptisms, Harvest service and Auction of Produce, and Remembrance service.

As there are now so many children in and around Keld a Christmas craft event is being held in the Upper Room of the Keld Resource Centre on Saturday 11th December from 2.30 - 4.30 pm. All are

encouraged to 'Come and build a Crib' one for you and one for the church. The Christmas celebrations continue with a Carol Service on Sunday 19th December at 2.00 pm.

Both Keld and Low Row churches still await the surveyors who will be carrying out the quinquennial inspections.

Christmas Greetings to all and a Happy and Healthy 2022.



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