

1

Ulverston, Church Walk, St Mary with Holy Trinity

Open weekday mornings WC

LA12 7EN



A church has served this ancient market town since at least 1111. Ulverston has historic importance being at one end of the treacherous sands crossing from Lancaster, which was the main land route into Furness until the turn-pike roads were built in the late 1700s. Along this coast to Greenodd the ports were key exits for boats carrying slate, charcoal and iron ore.

Features: Grade II* listed. Original church damaged by the toppling of the steeple in a storm; tower rebuilt c1540. Much of the interior is 19th century by the architect Paley. Contains the coat of arms of Sir John Barrow, formerly Second Secretary to the Admiralty. Sir John's monument, a replica lighthouse, stands on Hoad Hill behind the church.

3

Lindal in Furness, St Peter

Open 10am-4pm WC

LA12 0LS



Lindal in Furness was once the hub of a series of small iron ore mines. As a result of the population explosion that came with the rapid industrial development of the area, the parish of Lindal-with-Marton was created in 1872. The present St Peter's, which was consecrated in 1886, was built to replace a temporary iron church built in 1875.

Features: Grade II listed. The church has a reredos carved by Alec Miller of the Chipping Campden Guild. It also contains a fascinating photographic archive and pit-head model of local mine works.

4

Great Urswick, St Mary the Virgin and St Michael

Open 10am-4pm

LA12 0TA



This is reputedly one of the most ancient churches in Furness. In the mid 12th century the monks of Furness Abbey took charge of the church of St Mary's in the Fields, believed to have already existed for 200-300 years.

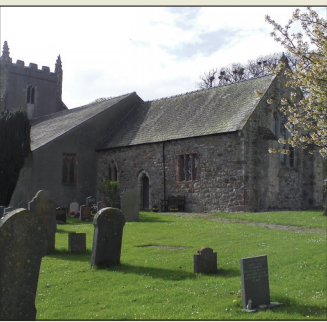
Features: Grade I listed. Lower part of the tower is probably 12th century and may have been a defensive pele tower. The weathered statue in the tower of the grieving Mary with her son removed from the cross probably came from Furness Abbey. Three tiered pulpit with beautiful shell-shaped tester. Two fragments of crosses date from the 9th/10th century and show Norse influence. 18th century altar painting of the Last Supper by local man James Cranke. Fine carved woodwork by Alec Miller of the Chipping Campden Guild, 1908-12. Local heritage display in tower.

6

Aldingham, St Cuthbert

Open 10am-4pm WC

LA12 9RT



Aldingham church stands open to the wild beauty of Morecambe Bay, where the sea has claimed much of the former village. The church tower holds two ancient bells bought at the dissolution of both the local Furness Abbey and Conishead Priory, one bears the inscription 'SSS' (sanctus, sanctus, sanctus).

Features: Grade II* listed. Largely Norman in origin (1147). A fragment of a worn Anglo-Saxon cross and some Viking burials hint at a more ancient sacred site. Contains a 12th century font bowl and 19th century stained glass. There is a 'leper hole', reputedly used for passing the communion bread to lepers outside.

7

Dendron, St Matthew

Open on request

LA12 0QN



Located in the tiny farming hamlet of Dendron, this beautiful little church also serves the nearby villages of Gleaston and Leece. The original church was built in 1642 as a chapel of ease during a period that saw the eclipse of the monarchy and the church, and the rise of Oliver Cromwell. For a long time no priest was appointed, but there may have been itinerant preachers calling. Certainly George Fox the founder of the Society of Friends (Quakers) preached here in 1652. St Matthew's was rebuilt in 1795.

Special interest: George Romney (1734-1802) attended the little school opposite. Other sites of interest nearby include an 18th century working water mill and the ruins of a medieval castle at Gleaston.

SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT THROUGH THE AGES

Christianity spreads throughout the Roman Empire and by 400 AD Romans occupying the south of Cumbria are known to be Christian.

Early Christian evangelist saints like Patrick, Ninian, Kentigern and Cuthbert preach across the northern counties

C7 - C10th – A time of unrest with Anglo-Saxons, Viking and Norse invasions. They initially destroy churches and religious communities, before settling and becoming Christians

1066 – Norman invasion. Some local churches retain architecture from this period

1127 – Furness Abbey, one of the most important abbeys in the north of England is founded. It survives a Scottish invasion led by Robert the Bruce

1517 – The Protestant Reformation begins in Europe, coming later to Britain and leading to

1536-40 – The Dissolution of the Monasteries and desecration of images of saints and martyrs in churches

1549 – The Act of Uniformity makes the Book of Common Prayer the only legal form of worship under Edward VI. It is used to unify religious worship in England but forces many persecuted Catholics to go into hiding

1611 – The King James Bible is published and also used to unify worship in England

1642-60 – Civil wars and the Commonwealth period. Britain has no monarch and Oliver Cromwell suspends the Book of Common Prayer because of its links with Royalism. Radical Religious groups develop including the Society of Friends (Quakers) circa 1650

1662 – The Book of Common Prayer is rewritten. Providing the pattern of future services, it remains unchanged until 1928

1720-30s – The beginning of the Methodist Movement under Charles and John Wesley

1829 – Catholic Relief Act removes restrictions on Roman Catholics in the UK

Cumbria's churches continue to serve local communities and welcome all visitors

YEARS AD

SOCIAL & INDUSTRIAL PROGRESS THROUGH THE AGES

100

Romans possibly surface-mine the rich local copper and iron ores, but the area is mostly dependent upon agriculture

400

700

A large hoard of Viking coins is buried at Stainton quarry near Dalton circa 955AD

By the end of the 12th century the Normans quarry slate for roofing, and mining increases

1100

The monks develop large scale sheep farming and the wool trade flourishes. They use Piel Island, known as Foudray, as a safe harbour where they build a fortified warehouse. The charcoal and iron industries grow. Charcoal is used in bloomeries in High Furness to extract iron from iron ore. In 1568 Elizabeth I establishes The Society of Mines Royal which brings foreign miners into the area

1500

1600

Following the Civil War the monarchy is restored. General Monck a key figure in the restoration of Charles II is rewarded with the Manor of Plain Furness

Turnpike roads of the 1750s improve movement and encourage the first tourists. Ulverston Canal is built at the end of the 18th century and the export of local goods and the building of wooden boats increases. The arrival of the railway in 1846 triggers the explosion of Barrow-in-Furness with iron smelting from the excellent local ore, and iron ship building

1800

Present day

Farming continues and numerous businesses support the local paper, slate, pharmaceutical and defence industries

8

Rampside, St Michael

Open on request

LA13 0PZ



Windswept in its elevated and isolated position, with views across Morecambe Bay, St Michael's stands, by tradition, on the site of an ancient burial mound. The first building was probably a small chapel of ease to serve the local community that lived some distance from the parish church in Dalton. St Michael's is known both as 'the farmer's church' for its service to the local farming community, and 'the seaman's church' because of the numerous sailors buried here after falling victim to the treacherous waters around.

Features: Evidence of earlier use of the site includes a neolithic stone axe-hammer and a Viking sword, discovered in the 1860s, as well as a medieval burial. The present structure is mainly Victorian and contains some good contemporary stained glass windows.

13

Ireleth with Askam, St Peter

Open on request

LA16 7HB



Known locally as 'the Iron Church', St Peter's was built in 1865, partly with the profits from the local iron mines, to support an increasing local population. This beautifully sited church overlooks the Duddon Estuary and the Irish Sea, which brought some of the earliest settlers and invaders to the area. Homes dating from the Bronze Age onwards can be found in the nearby hills.

Features: Grade II listed. Simple structure with a small bell tower. East window shows St Peter, Christ in Majesty and the Blessed Virgin Mary made by the famous Shrigley and Hunt.

10

Barrow-in-Furness, Duke Street, St Mary of Furness RC

Open 9am-3pm



LA14 1XW



St Mary of Furness bears the name of the Furness Abbey church where the roots of Roman Catholicism were firmly established in the area before the dissolution of the monasteries. But by 1835 it is said that Barrow had just one Roman Catholic person. However numbers grew as Barrow transformed from a tiny hamlet to a thriving iron and shipbuilding port in the mid 19th century, and as the Irish potato famine of 1846 drove many people to this developing town in search of work. Initially Roman Catholics walked to Ulverston for Sunday Mass, but in 1867 this proud church was ready for worship.

Features: Grade II listed. Built by E.W. Pugin, one of the most celebrated architects of the time.

14

Kirkby-in-Furness (Beckside) St Cuthbert

Open 9am-4pm WC

LA17 7TQ



It is possible that a church was built on this site as early as 875 AD by the Lindisfarne monks fleeing from the Danes with Cuthbert's body. Much of the church is Norman. The entrance doorway is particularly impressive.

Features: Grade II* listed. Contains two solid oak chests constructed from trees allegedly grown from the time of Christ. Roger De Kirkby, whose descendants were Lords of the Manor, reputedly built the church. Early 13th century sandstone tomb of his descendant Alexander remains near the pulpit. Two windows contain fragments of 13th century glass.

12

Dalton in Furness, St Mary

Open on request WC



LA15 8AZ



Dalton is the ancient market capital of Furness. Its earlier church was built before the establishment of Furness Abbey in 1127 and was the mother church to many of the local churches and chapels of ease. St Mary's church stands next to Dalton Castle and above the old town pound where stray animals were retained. Although little remains of the earlier buildings, this 1882 church is one of the finest of Paley and Austin's designs, and was funded by James Ramsden, Henry Schneider and other industrialists making their wealth in nearby Barrow-in-Furness.

Features: Grade II* listed. 14th century font bears the shields of Furness Abbey. Glass in the north porch is reputedly from the 14th century. There is a fine ring of ten bells. The churchyard contains the grave of the celebrated painter George Romney, born in Dalton.

15

Kirkby-in-Furness Methodist Church (Marshside Chapel) WC

LA17 7UT



John Wesley, the founder of Methodism, is thought to have visited the Kirkby hamlets in 1752, and certainly passed through in May 1759. Wesley encountered difficulty both with the tides and with the local people whom he reputedly called 'a generation of liars'! It is possible that immigrants, coming to work here from the Methodist strongholds of Cornwall and Wales, brought Methodism with them. Marshside Chapel was founded in 1870 when the area experienced a massive population increase prompted by the industrial developments in Barrow and the growth of slate quarrying.

Features: Built from slate, still quarried on the hill above the chapel, and sandstone from St Bees further up the coast. The inside of the chapel was refurbished following flooding in 2009.



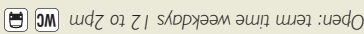
One of the most modern churches in the peninsula, St John's (built 1935 by Paget & Seeley of London) is one of three churches built to celebrate the 800th anniversary of the founding of the Diocese of Carlisle in 1133. It replaced the temporary church of 1878 which catered for the needs of the shipyard workers until 1933. Byzantine in design and constructed of ferro-concrete, this attractive church is in-keeping with the Art Deco style of the period. During World War II firewatchers regularly kept watch for the bitumen-covered roof during bombing raids. The church did have one near miss and you can still see a crack in the cloister from that incident.

Features: Grade II listed. The stained glass and furnishings are mostly from the earlier church. One of the previous curates, the Rev. Chad Varah, left Barrow Island for London and started the Samaritans organisation.



St John the Evangelist, Barrow Island, Island Road, LA14 2QN

Open: term time weekdays 12 to 2pm



Traditional Anglican church designed by George Webster of Kendal, 1843. Beautifully located overlooking Morecambe Bay; the spire forms a prominent landmark.

Features: Grade II listed. Apse windows designed by Irish stained glass artist Wilhelmus Geddes include the unusual depiction of Christ stepping out of the tomb. Also contains windows by Shrigley & Hunt. Other sites of interest nearby include a Quaker burial ground and stone circle on Birkkrigg Common.



Barrow-in-Furness, Holy Trinity Church LA12 9QU

Special interest: Grade II* listed and contains early period furniture. The hall offers holiday accommodation.

industries. locally and many of its members became important leaders of known as the mother of Quakerism. The Society of Friends expanded in Lancaster Castle. She later married George Fox, and became Fox's activities were based here, but this resulted in persecution by the converted too and meetings were held here for 38 years. George and convinced the Judge's wife, Margaret to join. The family soon George Fox, the founder of The Society of Friends, came to Ulverston Civil War 1642-51. In 1652, during one of the Judge's absences, positions during the important legal held a number of Parliamentarian, a family, Judge Thomas Fell, a Friends (Quakers), was first built in the 17th century as the home of the Fell an important site for The Society of Friends (Quakers), was first built in the 17th century as the home of the Fell

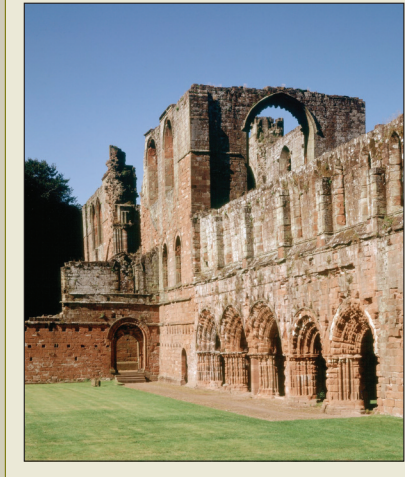
Open April - October Sunday - Thursday 1.30 to 4.30pm only



Swarthmoor Hall LA12 0JQ

Barrow-in-Furness, Manor Road, Furness Abbey LA13 0PY

Open Weekends all year (summer 10am-5pm, winter 10am-4pm) plus Mon, Thurs & Fri 10-5pm April-Sept. English Heritage site, charge for entry



The most iconic of the sites on this trail, the grade I listed remains of Furness Abbey, founded in 1127 by the monks of the Order of Savigny, France, stand quiet and dignified in a secluded valley. The Savigny monks soon merged with the Cistercian Order and this monastery had a huge impact on the lives of local people and shaped the landscape around it.

The Cistercians were great sheep farmers and developed the wool industry, founding a large fortified warehouse for wool on nearby Piel Island. The monks grew corn on Walney Island and had watermills for milling the grain. Their estate was divided into blocks of land; each managed from a grange. They also had mineral rights over a large area north of Dalton and produced charcoal for smelting iron. The monks traded their products (mainly wool, iron, salt, corn and malt) with the Isle of Man and Ireland.

A land endowment by Stephen (later King of England) meant that the abbey became the main landowner in Low Furness. In 1322 the area was raided by parties of Scots but the abbey bought itself protection and survived until Henry VIII's dissolution in 1537. At this time Furness was the second richest Cistercian abbey in England. Repair



works in 2012 uncovered the grave of a prosperous medieval abbot, buried with a silver-gilt crozier (staff) and an impressive gemstone ring. These rare finds underline the abbey's status as one of the great power bases of the middle ages.



Church Information: All churches are open daily throughout the year unless specified otherwise. Where churches are available on request, telephone numbers can be found at the church.

Links to each church can be found from the church directory page of www.ctfc.org.uk

Public toilet in or near church Church is on or near bus route

Tourist Information: For more detailed information about the area and to help you plan your trip, contact

Ulverston Tourist Information Centre, Coronation Hall, County Square, Ulverston LA12 7LZ
Tel. 01220 587 120 Mon-Sat 10am-4pm

www.golakes.co.uk or www.visitcumbria.com

Traveline 0871 200 22 33 or www.transportdirect.info
Recommended map: OS Landranger 96

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LAND, SEA & SPIRIT OF THE FURNESS PENINSULA



- The gently undulating landscape of Low Furness was forged by a dynamic and fascinating relationship between the riches of the land, the potential of the sea and the strong spirituality of its people.
- Discover how our predecessors made a living from the land with crops, wool, iron ore and slate, and how they used the ancient trading routes across land and sea – until the ship building of the 20th century.
- Visit this fascinating corner of South Cumbria, once a cradle of Celtic Christianity. The historic monastery and other places of worship were founded to serve the spiritual needs of its settlers wherever they came from.