



Newslink

SOUTH WEST CUMBRIA UNITED AREA

Methodist and United Reformed Churches Working Together

The Minister Writes



In "Die Another Day", James Bond's arch enemy is Gustav Graves. Graves goes from being the hero exemplified by his knighthood from the Queen at Buckingham Palace to being revealed as the enemy, sought and killed by James Bond. For Jesus, the last week of his life, which we know as Holy Week, happens in a similar way. On Sunday, the first day of the Jewish week, Jesus is hailed as a king when he rides into Jerusalem but by Friday the crowds are baying for his blood - unlike Gustav Graves, Jesus has not turned out to be a man dealing in conflict diamonds, rather Jesus is following his Father's instructions.

Who was in the crowd that wanted Jesus dead? We know that the Scribes, Pharisees and other teachers of the law

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were there but who else was in the crowd? I doubt it was blind Bartimaeus or the ten people who were cured of leprosy. Perhaps it was the crowd who were so upset that Jesus went to eat with Zacchaeus because Jesus was eating with sinners? May be the accusers of the woman caught in adultery were there. Jesus had challenged them when he said 'the one without sin throw the first stone'. Jesus was dangerous - he knew their sins.

In Christian hymns, there is a recognition that Jesus died for our sins, one hymn or reflection even suggests that we are the ones in the crowd crying 'Crucify Him! Crucify Him!' We are often quick to place ourselves at the foot of the cross crying next to Mary but we do not want to be in crowd jeering at Jesus and calling for his death. We, who can be so hurtful to others, place ourselves above hurting Jesus. Yet we miss the point that if we are made in the image of God then there is a bit of Jesus in everyone. As we approach Easter, may we bear in mind that when we speak to others we are speaking to someone who Jesus loved so much that he died for them. This might help us speak kindly to each other.

God bless,

Rachel

Holy Week Services

Monday April 2nd:

6:30 p.m. at Millom Methodist - Holy Week reflections (Joint with Salvation Army)

7:00 p.m. at Dalton Market Street (Ron Wilson)

Tuesday April 3rd:

6:30 p.m. at Millom Methodist - - Holy Week reflections (Joint with Salvation Army)

7:00 p.m. at Dalton Wellington Street (Ann Hufton)

Wednesday April 4th:

6:30 p.m. at Millom Salvation Army Fortress - Holy Week reflections (Joint with SA)

Maundy Thursday, April 5th:

6:30 p.m. at Millom Salvation Army Fortress - Holy Week reflections (Joint with SA)

7:00 p.m. at Roose (St Perran's) - United Area ("Barrow end") service

(Martin Williams)

7:30 p.m. at Broughton St Mary's - Joint communion service for Christians in Broughton

Good Friday, April 6th:

10:00 a.m. at Millom Salvation Army Fortress (Joint with Salvation Army)

10:45 a.m. at Barrow Baptist Church - Free churches service (Hazel Edmondson)

2:00 p.m. at Askam Methodist Church (Alan Jones)

7:00 p.m. at Barrow Baptist Church - Churches Together in Barrow service

(John Goddard)

AREA & NATIONAL WEBSITES

District: www.cumbriamethodists.org.uk

North West Synod: www.nwsynod.org.uk

Connexional: www.methodist.org.uk

National: www.urc.org.uk

May issue No 71 of *Newslink* will be published at the end of April
Please send all material to reach Mrs Hazel Edmondson, 22 Tweed Rise, Barrow,
LA14 3LX by Sunday April 8th. Items can also be passed on by
(01229 474601 or * edmo@twtw.freeseve.co.uk

United Area Service

The Co-Moderator Elect of the United Reformed Church General Assembly, Mr Lawrence Moore, will be preaching at Beacon Hill Methodist Church, Barrow-in-Furness, at 6pm on April 29th 2012. Members of churches of all denominations are invited to attend this celebratory service to hear this exciting speaker.

Lawrence is an Elder at Carver URC, Windermere, as well as being the Director of the URC's national training centre in Windermere. Lawrence, alongside the other Co-Moderator, Rev Michael Jagessar, will take office at the URC General Assembly in July 2012.

The chosen theme for their moderatorship is "For Christ's Sake" - a theme that conveys urgency, they hope, while challenging the denomination to embrace afresh the purpose of its mission. They are keen for the Church to undertake "Living Conversations" during the two years they will be in office.

Ann Hufton

CAMEO

The next "Cameo" evening will be at Ramsden St on Thursday 12th April, at the usual time of 7 o'clock. The theme will be decided by the people who go to the March meeting. Do come along to explore whether Christians have anything distinctive to say about the subject under discussion, to enjoy good conversation, and to share in refreshments and lighter chat afterwards. We're usually away by 8:15.

David Edmondson

First Tuesday Ladies

We are meeting at 59 Croslands Park, at 7:30pm on 3rd April for a time of Lenten reflection. The May meeting is on Tuesday 1st, at 59 Croslands Park.

Janet Ladds

Network

Easter Offering envelopes will soon be in your church. There is no specific Easter Offering service this year, but gifts from each church will be received on Sunday 29th April, during the United Area Service at Beacon Hill at 6pm.

Coffee Mornings: Askam - Saturday 14th April, 10am to 11.30am; Broughton - Tuesday 8th May, 9.30am to 11.15am. Please support where you can. Thank you to everyone who supported the March Network coffee morning at Trinity, where the total raised was £100-00.

Janet Ladds

Local Preachers And Worship Leaders

There is to be a ‘**Come and Try**’ taster afternoon for anyone who feels they may like to see how worship is prepared and maybe have a go. It will comprise of four areas of worship preparation, and then refreshments, before putting some of what has been prepared into a short time of worship. The date is ***Sunday 17th June, 2-4:30p.m. at Kirkby Methodist Church.*** If you would like to go but have no transport please get in touch with Janet Ladds (833882) or David & Hazel Edmondson (474601).

“**Creating Safer Space**” - this is a compulsory foundation training session for all local preachers and worship leaders (though anyone who did the “Module A” session does not strictly have to do the new course). It will take place, along with a shortened LWP meeting on ***Wednesday 20th June, 7pm at Kirkby.*** If you are unable to attend on this date please let David Edmondson know: there will be further opportunities to complete the training. The training has to be completed by September if you wish to continue worship leading and preaching.

Study dates - Continuing Local Preacher Development - looking at prayer.

1. Wednesday 9th May, 7pm - Corporate Prayer
2. Tuesday 19th June, 7pm - Prayer life
3. Thursday 5th July, 7pm - Praying with current affairs

These will be held at Kirkby Methodist Church.

Janet Ladds

Awake To God

The Cumbria Ecumenical Spirituality Group invites you to ‘**Awake to God - Retrieving the mystical life today**’ led by Canon Melvyn Matthews on Saturday April 21st at St Thomas’ Church, Kendal from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Melvyn Matthews is a leading author on spirituality in Britain today. He writes: ‘The mystical way has largely been lost as an option within the mainstream life of the Church. We have turned the focus of our attention away from the immense reality of God. We have settled, perhaps, for something rather more comfortable...’ Melvyn shows that our ancient spiritual tradition is for all believers and one in which they will find themselves awakened to a greater realization of the presence of God within them.

Cost: £10; please bring your own lunch, drinks provided on arrival and for lunch.

Booking: Please reply to help us know numbers:

(Chris Wood: cesgsecretary@hotmail.co.uk or 28 Helme Drive, Kendal, Cumbria LA9 7JB)

Called To Serve

I'm hoping once again to run a "Called to Serve" group in Barrow starting at the end of September 2012. It's a wonderful way of acquiring the habit of including God in all those decisions you make which affect the direction your life takes. You will gain new friends, and a deeper understanding of what God might be calling you to do and be. To get the most out of the course, you need to be playing an active part in a church fellowship, and to have a basic grasp of Christian faith. You do not have to be academic, successful, or the life and soul of the party (though you would still enjoy it if you were!). The important thing is to be ready to bring the gifts that God has given you, and to examine them with other people who you get to know quite well during the course of the year. We ask the question "How does God want to use each course member to serve him and the church?" Sometimes, people end the year confirmed in what they are doing already. Other people find that they are moved to step out in a new direction. All have a deeper sense of God's involvement in the ways they spend their time.

The course consists of 5 Tuesday evenings in each of the 3 terms at St Paul's church, plus 3 full Saturdays in Ambleside - one at the beginning, one in the middle, and one at the end of the course, which finishes at the end of June 2013. It costs £135 (£45 per term) - but help with this fee is readily available. The first half of each 2 hour evening session is a presentation, after which you split up into small groups (I will be helped by Elaine Bates from St Paul's, and/or Yvonne Travis from Broughton). The group will hopefully be ecumenical. We'll hold a "taster" evening (no obligation!) on Tuesday June 26th: 7:30 at St Paul's. Do come along and see what it is all about. Leaflets with more details will appear in each church - look out for them, come along yourself, and encourage anyone else to come who you think God wants to become more involved in the ministry of your congregation.

David Edmondson

"Evening Reflections"

The theme of the next "Reflections" evening at Vickerstown will be "On the Beach". The church will be open from 8 pm until at least 9 pm on the evening of Sunday 15th April, and (as always) refreshments will be available in the church porch.

David Edmondson

Individual Churches

Trinity

Bedding Plant Sale: once again we will be having a plant sale. This will be held on Saturday 12th May from 9:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Order forms are available, so collect yours and take some for friends and neighbours. Coffee will be served during the morning.

It is with sadness that we record the death of Joe Reid. Joe had a very bad fall which rendered him unconscious. Joe did so much work for the Church and was such a faithful member. He will be sadly missed by his immediate family and the family at Trinity. On a brighter note it was a pleasure to welcome Lacey Wakefield (Muriel & Les' great grand daughter) by baptism, into the family of Trinity, on Sunday 26th February.

Margaret Manvell

Prayer Meeting -

Where - Trinity Church Centre, lower meeting room

When - Every Friday beginning on 20th April

What time - 8:45a.m. to 9:30a.m.

Who for - anyone who wishes to come along - this is an open invitation to anyone in the United Area as well as for Trinity.

Alan, Janet & Kay

On Monday, April 2nd at 7:00 p.m. we will be hosting a concert by the University of Sheffield Gospel Choir. Admission will be £3-00 on the door and proceeds are for St Mary's Hospice.

Brian Whittaker

Dalton

Despite the wet miserable weather our coffee morning on Saturday 3rd March was a huge success and raised £302.83 for church funds. The attendees had a chance to record, online, the number of Fair Trade steps taken. The attendees included members of Dalton Fair Trade steering group and a tea planter Francis Chisuse from Mali who was visiting the area. Thanks to everyone who supported and helped at the event.

R Willock

Christian Women's Fellowship: David and Doreen Walton are the speakers at the next meeting of the CWF to be held on Wednesday April 18th at 7:30pm. All welcome.

D Qazi

Hartington Street

All are welcome to our Fellowship mid week meetings:

Tea Club: You are invited to join us for our Tea Club, which starts at 6:00pm & ends around 7:30pm on alternate Thursdays. Tea is served at 6pm. It's a great opportunity to enjoy fellowship over a light meal, and listen to a guest speaker, a lovely gentle way to introduce new people to the church family (or re-introduce those who've been away for a while). More details from Val & Jim (831035). All are welcome! Dates & Speakers: 19th April Jack Giles

Care & Share Fellowship: Fortnightly led by Barbara Crickett on Tuesdays at 10:00 -11.00 a.m. at Hartington Street. Fellowship, prayer and a cuppa.

The dates are April 3rd and 17th

Knit & Natter: Tuesday fortnightly No experience needed (for knitting) Dates: April 24th

Bible Study: Thursday at 6pm -7pm Led by Rev Martin Williams. Dates: April 26th

Ellen Powell

Askam

The Askam Coffee Mornings will start on Easter Saturday, running from 10.00 to 11:30 a.m. (please note reduced time), each Saturday. There will be a Fairtrade stall, books, bric a brac.

Everyone very welcome - it's always worth a visit to Askam just for the beautiful view, as you drive along from the Dalton bypass.

Askam will hold a Coffee morning for Network on Saturday, 14th April, 2012 - again please join us on that day - you will have a warm welcome.

A Gift from Australia.

When visiting Askam Church please have a look at our new oil painting which is hanging in the Church. This was donated to the Church by the painter Michelle Ball, a member of the Cerebral Palsy Group which meets in their centre at Moorooka, Brisbane, Queensland. Whilst Dorothy and Cass Gleaves were visiting there during the winter, they met purely by accident Michelle Culshaw, who used to work for Age Concern in Barrow. Dorothy and Michelle had become friends during a computer course held at Duddon Road, a few years ago - Michelle the tutor, Dorothy the student. Michelle had emigrated to Brisbane in 2004, and she and Dorothy had lost touch - so it was amazing that they should 'literally' bump into each other just before Christmas, not far from Dorothy and Cass' son's home. Cass and Dorothy were invited to visit the CP Centre again, and met up with all the art group. They were presented with the painting - and have since their return to England, presented it to the Church.

Dorothy Gleaves

Ramsden Street

The decorating in the Community Room, kitchen and toilets has been completed and we are grateful to the Community Pay Back Team for doing this work.

The Rejoice & Sing evening on February 17th was not as well supported as in previous years. However, we enjoyed singing some of our favourite hymns and learned new ones from Songs of Fellowship and Singing the Faith as well as Rejoice and Sing.

As we are a Fairtrade Church we supported the Fairtrade Trust's request to 'Take a Step in 2012'. The FACTORS group enjoyed making lots of feet and also making cakes with Fairtrade chocolate on Friday March 2nd and the congregation enjoyed eating them on Sunday March 4th! Members registered their steps and took cards to hand in to the supermarkets requesting they stocked Fairtrade goods.

Anne Stevenson

Beacon Hill

You've heard of Tea at the Ritznow is your chance to experience Tea at Beacon Hill. Return to an age of elegance and refinement on Saturday 28 April, when afternoon tea will be available from 2 - 4 pm. Enjoy unhurried conversation, waitress service and music from our resident pianists. In order to enhance this experience please dress for the occasion (no jeans or trainers). Donations are invited for the work of The Leprosy Mission.

Lillian Wood

Millom

We started off with a New Year Fayre and raised £890, which was huge considering there was another event in the town. The money was for the church.

Valentines Day was a huge success, £185 was raised and some of the ladies couldn't stop laughing when we played Holy Beetle!!! The money was for The Methodist School in Jamaica which we support.

Lent Lunches are going well, we raise between £60 - £90 each week. Half is for Christian Aid.

We will announce the Daffodil Tea proceeds next Newslink.

We look forward to the St Georges event on 23rd of April (evening). This event will raise money for Lebone.

There will be a tea on 5th June Diamond Jubilee 3-5 and we hope to raise a good amount again for Methodists in New Zealand. Many of you will remember that last year Sue and Jack Giles were there shortly after the second earthquake.

Sue Giles

Marshside Kirkby-in-Furness

After a very informative and enjoyable visit last year to the Original Marmalade Festival held at Dalmain House near Penrith, Mary decided to enter some of her own marmalade at this year's festival. She entered jars in four different categories and was awarded 2 Silver awards and one Bronze. We hope that our friends who buy from Mary's gate and at our Coffee and Company will enjoy the marmalade even more, knowing it is "award-winning". The festival itself raised over £70,000 for the Hospice at Home organisation.

On Easter morning at 8:30 we will continue with our long-standing custom of starting our Easter Day with the singing of the first hymn outside. We will then continue with a service including Communion in the Chapel. All are warmly invited to share in breakfast after the service. We shall serve warm Hot Cross buns, bread and toast with homemade jam and award winning marmalade. Chocolate Easter eggs are usually on the menu too. You are welcome to join us.

On Wednesday March 8th we held our usual Coffee and Company followed by a Lent Lunch with all proceeds going to Christian Aid. We would like to thank all who came for a very enjoyable morning and lunch of bread and homemade soup and helped raise £105.

Our next mid-week communion service will be on Wednesday April 11th at 10:30a.m. led by Rev Rachel Williams. Refreshments will follow the service.

Janet Sheldon

Roose

Please join us for the following events:

April 19th, 9.30 till 12 at Roose North Row: Special Easter Coffee Morning.

May 4th 7.00pm at Roose North Row: Quiz in aid of Christian Aid, £2.50 with light refreshments.

Vickerstown

Please note the change of day for the April Good News library visit: Monday, April 2nd at 2:00 p.m. Do join us to browse and borrow the books and recordings, and to share conversation and a cuppa. Our next monthly coffee morning will be on Saturday April 21st from 10:00 a.m.

We will again be sharing in two ecumenical Holy Week events with our LEP partners on Walney. We will be part of the Palm Sunday procession of witness (another place where our “feather flag” comes in useful!) which leaves Walney Library at 9:30 a.m. We will then join in worship at St Mary’s at their 10:00 Sung Eucharist which starts at 10:00 a.m. so there will not be a service at Vickerstown that morning. On Wednesday, April 4th we share in the ecumenical Passover meal and liturgy at St Mary’s. This starts at 6:00 p.m. and costs £3-50; if anyone wishes to join us on this occasion please phone the Edmondsons on 474601 and we will book you in.

Hazel Edmondson



Green Tip

This month’s “Living Lightly Eco-tip”: Get rid of all that unsolicited direct mailing and reduce your waste paper by signing up to the Mail Preference Service. It’s very easy, just follow this link:

<http://www.mpsonline.org.uk/mpsr/>

Hazel Edmondson

Regular Sunday Services

You are welcome at any of these churches at the following times:

Askam	(Duddon Road) 9:30 am
Beacon Hill	(Holyoake Avenue, Barrow) 10:00 am
Broughton	(Princes Street) 9:30 am
Dalton Methodist	(Wellington Street) 10:30 am
Dalton URC	(Market Street) 10:30 am
Hartington Street	Barrow 10:30 am
Kirkby	(Marshside) 10:30 am (on 1st, 3rd & 4th Sundays) (6pm on 2nd Sunday) (St Cuthberts 10 am on 5th Sunday in any month)
Millom	(Queen Street) 11:00 am
Ramsden Street	Barrow 11:00 am (except 1st Sunday, 10:30am)
Roose	(North Row, Barrow) 11:00 am
Trinity Church Centre	(Warwick Street, Barrow) 10:30 am
Urswick	(Tarn Close) 10:45 am (2nd, 4th & 5th Sundays)
Vickerstown	(Warren Street) 11:00 am

For times of the evening services, special services and postcodes, please ask one of the church members, or look at our website:

www.swcumbriamethodists-urc.org.uk

Regular Coffee Mornings

Please note that coffee mornings are held every week as follows:

Broughton -	Tuesdays from	10:00 till 11:30
Roose -	Thursdays from	9:30 till 10:45
Millom -	Fridays from	9:30 till 10:30
Ramsden St. -	Fridays from	10:30 till 12:00



Dalton - Tea and Chat every Monday at Wellington Street from 10:00 to 11:30
On the first Wednesday of each month Kirkby have "Coffee and Company" from 9:45 till 11:30