



Newslink

SOUTH WEST CUMBRIA UNITED AREA

Methodist and United Reformed Churches Working Together

The Minister Writes



The story of Zacchaeus has become very important to me over the last year - and I hope it has become equally important to several of the men in Haverigg prison. It is central to the "Sycamore Tree" course that the Prison Fellowship brings to us. You'll remember that Zacchaeus was a small man who, probably without doing anything that he thought to be unjustifiable, improved his own position at the expense of members of his local community. As a tax collector of doubtful integrity, he was just the sort of person people avoided and expected Jesus to avoid, but his life was transformed once he met Jesus, and accepted his request for hospitality. We get the men to look at the story from the different points of view of

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Zacchaeus, his victims, and the community at large. We set his story alongside contemporary stories of offenders and victims who have become reconciled through a recognition of the harm done followed by the seeking and offering of forgiveness. In each group, those of us who run the course feel that three or four men quite clearly come to see their previous lives in a very different light, and are given new hope that things could be different on release. Apart from wanting you to know how I spend a part of my time, I'm telling you all this because the course depends on volunteers. The Prison Fellowship group who deliver the course come from Kendal, and were unable to do as many courses as we hoped last year. It would be a great help to have more volunteers - could we possibly form a group of people living nearer to Haverigg? Volunteers would need to be regularly available all afternoon on a Tuesday, and to be prepared to undergo a certain amount of training. The screening process is also rigorous

before someone is cleared to enter a prison. Each course consists of 6 sessions. We're going to hold a "taster" afternoon (on a Tuesday, naturally) to show people what it's all about. If you feel you would be interested in this work, please do have a word with me. It seems to me to be an area in which the gospel specifically encourages the Church to take an interest.

Whilst I'm talking about things we must take seriously, I wonder if any of you reading this have ever felt that God might be calling you to offer to lead worship, or even preach? If you have ever found yourself wondering what it would be like, do come along to Kirkby on the afternoon of June 17th. You'll find a group of experienced preachers and worship leaders there, and will have the opportunity of having a look at what it might mean for you if you and your church felt that the Lord was indeed calling you to lead worship. Details are further on in this Newslink. Perhaps this month it would be good for us all to spend some time thinking about the possible ways in which we can show our love for Jesus in response to his gentle but persistent voice.

David Edmondson

Sabbatical: Reminder

Martin is on a three month sabbatical during May, June and July. Any issues, pastoral or otherwise from Trinity CC during that time should be directed towards David Edmondson, whilst similar from Roose or Ramsden Street should be directed to me.

Martin's theme of "Roots and Routes" will lead him (and Rita) around the country, so we wish them both well on their journeys, and look forward to their return, refreshed and invigorated in August.

Ron Wilson

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

Jul/Aug issue No 73 of *Newslink* will be published at the end of June. Please send all material to reach Mrs Hazel Edmondson, 22 Tweed Rise, Barrow, LA14 3LX by Sunday June 3rd. Items can also be passed on by ☎ **01229 474601** or ✉ edmo@twtw.freeseve.co.uk

“Unlocking The Growth” - Please Note This Date Now!

Do you want to see your church grow? The Trustees have booked a seminar with Michael Harvey on the evening of **Monday July 2nd**. Michael Harvey is a founding team member of Back to Church Sunday and has spoken to thousands of church leaders across three continents. The seminar offers simple and effective ideas for increasing the number of people gathered to invitational services. It is specifically designed for church leaders and lay people who want to see their church grow. The session will run from 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. with a brief break for refreshments in the middle; venue to be confirmed.

UNLOCKING THE GROWTH Topics include:

- The reasons Christians don't invite
- Hidden attitudes in our churches
- How to overcome the wounds of the past
- How welcome plays its part
- What is church in 2012?
- The keys to adding to the church
- 12 steps of kicking the habit of being an uninviting church
- How to double a congregation in a day

Hazel Edmondson

United Area Meeting

The June United Area meeting will be on Wednesday, June 13th at 7:00 p.m. at Ramsden St. Each church has at least two representatives and each committee has at least one representative. Please could all members of the Area meeting (or, for churches, the agreed substitutes if necessary) come to share in the planning of the life and witness of our United Area.

United Area Camp

Bookings are now coming for the second United Area camp at the Scout Campsite at Urswick from Friday, July 20th to Sunday, July 22nd, which will have an Olympic flavour - if you are planning to come and stay overnight please email me and I will send you a booking form (edmo@twtw.freeserve.co.uk). If you don't do email give me a ring (474601) and I'll get one to you somehow. As last year, day visitors will be welcome. Look out for a detailed programme in your church.

David Edmondson

We have received details of the following URC holiday opportunity from the Smeaton family: Alistair is the URC minister on the West Coast of Cumbria:

Holiday Forum 2012

Sat 18th August to Friday 24th August - FUN, FAITH and FELLOWSHIP
A Christian holiday for all ages at The Hayes Conference Centre, Swanwick, Derbyshire

Theme: Rev Nigel Goodfellow -

Worship: Rev Jane Rowell -

Music: Matt Timmins

Find Holiday Forum online at www.urcholidayforum.org.uk and also on Facebook and Twitter (@URCHolForum) Booking enquiries/forms from www.urcholidayforum.org.uk or Angela Storer, 26 Fir Tree Close, Acomb, York. YO24 3EU angela.storer@ntlworld.com

For those of you considering your summer holiday plans I would like to plug the merits of Forum 2012 - “**Following the Flame**”.

Rev Nigel Goodfellow is Trust Head of Chaplaincy for the NHS in Newcastle-Upon-Tyne. Born in Swansea, Nigel was ordained in 1983 and served as minister in Flintshire before becoming a chaplain. Nigel will be leading us on the theme of Following the Flame and will be talking on discipleship.

Rev Jane Rowell is Secretary for World Church Relations at the URC. Jane has been ordained for 10 years, ministering first in Sheffield, then working as a community minister in Croydon.

Matt Timmins and his wife Louise are from the Salvation Army. Matt undertook a music degree and is musically very versatile. He is currently working as music teacher and we look forward to him sharing his experiences with us.

Each day there will be all-age worship, a theme talk and workshops (discussion, bible study, needlework, photography, singing and others). Children’s groups are also organised for those under 16. Afternoons are a mixture of free time and optional activities with an organised outing on one afternoon. Each evening there is some form of entertainment. Early morning prayers and evening meditations are included. There is ample opportunity for free time, relaxed conversation, renewing old friendships and getting to know people from around the country. Breakfast, lunch and dinner are generous meals. Morning coffee and afternoon tea are also served. The Smeaton household are veterans of Forum and would be happy to answer any questions (01900 602385). It would be great to have more of a contingent from Cumbria.

Nancy Smeaton

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: 7:30p.m. 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

CAMEO

The next "Cameo" evening will be at Ramsden St on Friday June 22nd, at the usual time of 7 o'clock. Do come along to explore whether Christians have anything distinctive to say about a topical subject, to enjoy good conversation, and to share in refreshments and lighter chat afterwards. We're usually away by 8:15.

David Edmondson

Reflections

The theme of the next "Reflections" evening at Vickerstown will be the "I am" sayings of Jesus. The church will be open from 8 pm until at least 9 pm on the evening of Sunday June 17th, and (as always) refreshments will be available in the church porch.

David Edmondson

‘Come & Try Workshop’

You are invited to come along and have a ‘go’; see what goes in to planning and executing a service. The afternoon will cover Prayer, choice of music/hymns, readings, and preparing a message. If you are at all interested in helping to lead worship, this could be your next step of faith. So come and join Local Preachers and Worship leaders to find out more at:

Kirkby Methodist Church - Sunday 17th June, 2pm to 4pm.

Janet Ladds

Local Preachers & Worship Leaders

The two remaining continuing development sessions relating to Prayer are to be held at Kirkby Methodist Church at 7pm.

Tuesday 19th June, Prayer Life, Bob Mantle

Thursday 5th July, Praying on Current Affairs, Jack Giles.

LP and WL Meeting - Creating Safer Space - the Compulsory training for all Local Preachers and Worship Leaders will be the main part of the meeting on **Wednesday 20th June, at Kirkby Methodist Church** commencing at 7pm:

A 2 hour training session led by Rev D Edmondson. A shortened business meeting will also take place.

Janet Ladds

“Singing The Faith”

At Praise Group we are continuing to enjoy getting to know some of the new hymns from “Singing the Faith”. We will have another open evening at Askam Methodist Church from 7:30 on Monday, June 25th. We would be delighted if those who don’t usually come to Praise Group joined us that evening, and again we will also share a faith supper. We are still also open to invitations to go to individual churches or groups of churches to lead a “Singing the Faith” session there - have a word with anyone who goes to Praise Group, or contact me on 474601.

Hazel Edmondson

COG events

This year’s COG coffee morning will be at Dalton Market St as usual, from 9:45 to 11:15 on Saturday June 9th. Look out for posters and tickets in your church. At the last COG meeting it was agreed that we will use this for raising awareness and money towards either underwriting our next big event or for charity.

The COG slog walk will be on Sunday, June 24th. Details of the start time and venue for the walk have yet to be confirmed. You are invited to bring a picnic to eat at Ramsden St at 5:00; drinks will be provided. (Please ignore the 4:00 p.m. on the plan!) The United Area service will follow at Ramsden St at 6:00 and will be led by Rev Alex Armstrong.

Hazel Edmondson

United Area Lunch Box

You may remember that there used to be a very successful Lunch Box held each Wednesday at Trinity. As part of our work with older people the United Area trustees would like to re-open Lunch Box as an Area venture which would be owned by all the Churches in the United Area.

The trustees are looking for volunteers from any church, or from anyone in the community who has a desire to help, to work on a rota basis (possibly once a month) in the following areas:

- To be responsible for preparing and cooking a two course meal (e.g. hot main course and cold dessert or soup and dessert)
- Shopping for ingredients etc
- Help on the day (e.g. serving and clearing tables)

Occasionally it may be decided to 'buy in' a meal - e.g. meat & potato pies - so that the preparation would be much easier on that day.

The venue would still be at Trinity because of its excellent kitchen facilities and could possibly be held every Friday.

If you are interested in any of the above and would like to know more then please contact Ann Hufton (tel. 812439) or Anne Stevenson (825662) by the end of June.

Ron And Denice's Silver Wedding Celebration

Many, many thanks for all the cards and good wishes we received on the occasion of our Silver Wedding which we celebrated on the 2nd May. A special 'thank you' also to all who attended our Wedding Blessing Service on the 5th - we had lots of family and friends up from Manchester, so unfortunately, we couldn't invite anything like the numbers of 'local' people we would have dearly loved too. As for those of you who did share the day with us, thank you for making the whole occasion the joy it was. Although we requested 'no presents' for ourselves, donations were collected in aid of Breast Cancer Care, and I'm delighted to say that over £500 was raised (I'll give the final figure at a later date).

Again, many thanks to you all for making our 'Special Anniversary' so special and memorable.

God Bless - Ron and Denice Wilson

First Tuesday Ladies

Due to the late bank holiday break, the next meeting will be at 59 Croslands Park at 7.30pm on Tuesday 12th June.

Janet Ladds

Individual Churches

Trinity

Our usual monthly Coffee Morning will be held on Saturday 2nd June from 9:30 a.m.

Church Jubilee Lunch: Sunday 3rd at 12 noon - Booking essential!

Thursday 14th June: **Afternoon Tea** with Audrey & Debbie at 40 Glenridding Drive.

On Sunday 29th April we welcomed Lexie, her Mum, Christine and Dad Michael, her big sister Paige, as well as friends and other family members to Trinity, when Martin baptised her. Lexie is May Austin's great granddaughter. We hope to see them all in church again soon.

Margaret Manwell

Prayer Meeting: Fridays at 8:45am to 9:30am in the lower meeting room at Trinity.

You are invited to come along and spend time in prayer. There is no pressure on anyone to pray aloud, just to take time out in the stillness to bring your prayers to the Lord.

Janet Ladds

Roose Methodists at St Perran's

On Friday 4th May we held our Christian Aid Quiz Night. Everyone seemed to enjoy the evening. Mike Holmes was our popular quiz master, aided by Linda. Kath Spittle ran the raffle with quite a number of people taking home prizes as well as our quiz winners. The quiz was won by "The PEAS", standing for Pete, Eddy, Ann and Sue, for the second time. Half way through the evening we had supper of savouries and cakes. Thanks to all who contributed to this event which raised £350-00 for Christian Aid. It was lovely to see people from all over the United Area and local community.

Our Chapel Anniversary and gift day is to be held on June 17th at 11:00 a.m.

The next event at our church with the Salthouse group of churches is the Strawberry Tea at 4:00 p.m. on Sunday, 1st July followed by a service led by Father Bernard Woods at 5:00 p.m.

Dalton

According to the Fair Trade website a cash access fund was launched in April. This gives loans and technical support to Fair Trade farmers.

The Bible Society campaign for 2012 is "Let the Light Shine" (to give children with cancer around the world a brighter future by outlining the Bible's life changing message). The Bible Society Action Group are awaiting more details of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee celebrations in Dalton before deciding if they will have a book stall at the event.

R Willock

Christian Women's Fellowship: The CWF will meet on Wednesday June 20th at 6.30pm for a "Summer Special". This will be our last meeting before the summer break. Meetings will resume in September.

D Zazi

Askam

On Sunday, 22nd April, we had a lovely morning service at Askam. The Church was very lively with children, and relations and friends of Sophie Walsh, who was to be christened that day. Martin did a lovely service and it was great to see the children busy around the Church activity box. We welcomed Sophie into our Church life, and were delighted when all her guests stayed after the service and enjoyed a cuppa and fellowship. It was a bright but cold morning so it was good to give a warm welcome to so many into our Church. One or two of the Christening party remarked on how lovely and warm the building was - (apparently they had stayed at the Motel on Park Road and their room had been very cold!).

Two invitations to all our friends at other Churches: On 1st Wednesday of each month at 10.00 a.m. we hold a midweek service at Duddon Road Church. Looking ahead - On Saturday, 14th July, is Askam's Annual Garden Party: everyone warmly welcome.

Dorothy Gleaves

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. More details from Val & Jim (831035). All are welcome! Dates & Speakers: June 14th Praise Group. The Tea Club will resume in September.

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 June 12th and 26th.

Knit & Natter: Tuesday fortnightly 10am —11:30am - no experience needed. Dates: June 5th and 19th.

Bible Study: Will continue on Thursdays from 6pm —7pm led by Rev'd David Edmondson. Date: June 21st.

Ellen Powell

Ramsden Street

The Women's Meeting has enjoyed a variety of speakers and activities through the winter months but is now taking a break until Wednesday September 12th. During this time we have several events organised including a special Diamond Jubilee Lunch on Wednesday June 6th. Tickets are available at £4 and if you would like to join us you will be very welcome but please contact us so we know how many to cater for.

The Salthouse Churches are holding a Strawberry Tea at St Perran's on Sunday July 1st. Tea is at 4.00pm followed by the service at 5.00pm.

The Coffee Morning on Fridays is held every week - it doesn't go on holiday!

We are pleased to host the COG Slog on Sunday June 24th but would ask that people bring their own picnic this year instead of a Faith Tea (so we can more easily fit everyone in) and we will provide drinks.

Anne Stevenson

Beacon Hill

On 28th April at 2:30pm we held an afternoon tea at Beacon Hill Methodist Church. It was a lovely afternoon of elegance, refinement and lots of tea! Guests were served a selection of sandwiches, scones and cakes, while our 4 pianists played soothingly in the background. Everyone came in their best clothes (no jeans or trainers) and had a truly wonderful time! All the proceeds went to The Leprosy Mission and we are very grateful to everyone who contributed as we raised £271! Lilian and the Gateway girls - Jasmine, Eloise and Kelsey, organized the afternoon. We received lots of help from all who made cakes and scones for us and Kathryn, who spent the whole afternoon making sandwiches and brewing pot after pot of tea!

We have had many people telling us to hold another afternoon tea as soon as possible so if anyone missed the afternoon, don't worry as there may be another soon.

Jasmine Aldred

Marshside Kirkby-in-Furness

After a mixed week of sun, showers, torrential rain and gales May 12th was a glorious day and perfect for gardening. Over 100 people came to our Plant and Produce Sale and many must have spent the afternoon in the garden putting in the plants they had bought. Our posters said we had "masses" of plants for sale and our hall was filled with plants of every description. All the church members worked hard on selling and providing refreshments, but we thank especially Gwyneth Grisedale and family for bringing and selling an amazing array of perennials and Hazel and Karen Edmondson who brought cakes, fudge and bedding plants and manned the produce stall. We were also ably supported by Pamela and David Crawford, friends from Essex. The total we raised was £850 and we would like to thank all who supported us in any way. Our new carpet was much admired and this new money raised will go towards replacing the last two windows in the chapel.

Janet Sheldon

Millom

For some months at Millom we have been planning to start a Messy Church having meetings, thoughts and prayers and organising who does what. Fortunately we have lots of resources so have not needed to buy too much. Finally on 25th of April we were open! We had counted on the Girls Brigade for our numbers and several of them came, with mums and dads and grannies! One session of messiness, one of Bible base including lots of singing, followed by a light meal. Whole time: 1 hour 30 minutes. The theme was Creation and the next one will be Noah. It will always be on the 4th Saturday of the month starting at 10:30a.m. 26th May.

Our Strawberry tea is on 6th July 3p.m.-5p.m. Charity is Action for Children.

Our Jubilee tea is on Tuesday 5th of June.

Sue Giles

Vickerstown

We are joining with our partner Walney churches to hold a “Big Jubilee Lunch” on June 3rd, the Sunday of the Jubilee Weekend. We will meet at 12:30 p.m. at St Columba’s. It was good to see so many people at the May visit of the Good News Library. The June visit will also be on a Bank Holiday: Monday June 4th from 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 June 16th from 10:00 a.m.

Inspired by Rachel Williams, our “Food and Fellowship” group has decided to use any profit made during 2012 to see if we could raise the £120 needed to twin both our church toilets. We are delighted to say that we have already sent off the £60 for the first one.

Hazel Edmondson

Green Tip

This month’s “Living Lightly Eco-tip”:

“Throughout Lent many of us will have given something up as a way of reflecting on the sacrifice that Jesus made for us. As we celebrate the resurrection this Easter consider now taking something up in celebration of the life we have in Jesus: it might be making an effort to talk to a neighbour, or moving to a green energy supplier, or praying for a particular situation each day.

Whatever you do, enjoy bringing a new practice into your life.”

Hazel Edmondson

