



Newslink

SOUTH WEST CUMBRIA UNITED AREA

Charity Registration Number 1141404

Methodist and United Reformed Churches Working Together

The
Minister Writes



ISSUE 87

Dec 2013 Jan 2014

Christmas @ The Hub

Doesn't Christmas come round quickly! It certainly doesn't feel like a year has passed since I was last avoiding Brussels sprouts! Time at the Hub however is also flying by. Since the opening day at the end of June so much has happened and it has been amazing seeing things starting to grow and flourish. You will have no doubt seen or heard good news stories about what is happening over at Hartington Street. Let's just say things have taken off far quicker than I anticipated they would. The groups we

have set up to date are Parent & Toddlers, a midweek playgroup, a dad's group, an after school club and Discovery Church which is similar to Messy Church. The first session of Discovery Church took place on October 26th and was based around the theme of Noah's Ark and how God gave the world a fresh start. We had no clue if we would attract great numbers but we were all looking forward to introduce this fresh expression of worship. It turned out to be an amazing start with over thirty visitors to the church. All of the families thoroughly enjoyed engaging with the craft team learning all about Noah's adventure. A short time of celebration through music was used to bring the theme to a close before a fantastic meal was provided for all who came. We really couldn't have asked for a better pilot session and we are eager to

Area Website www.swcumbriaunitedarea.urch.org.uk

do it all again! May I say a huge thank you to all who have prayed for the new direction the church is taking and thank you to all who have contributed by giving their time towards a bright future. I wish you all a very happy Christmas & New Year.

Mike Little

From The United Area Trustees

Our thanks to everyone who helped in any way with the invitation process - contributing to the profile, taking part in the visit day, being part of the Invitation committee or through your prayers. Hopefully everyone has heard by now that the United Area has invited Jennet McLeod to be the new Methodist Superintendent and she has accepted. Subject to the 2014 Methodist Conference ratification Jennet will join us in September 2014. Jennet is currently the superintendent minister in the Keswick and Cockermouth circuit, so knows Cumbria well already.

We now want to make sure, following this process and decisions made at some recent church councils and meetings, that everyone is aware of what the arrangements for pastoral charge of each of the churches will be from September 2014. Jennet will be in pastoral charge at Trinity, Hartington St and Vickerstown; Rachel at Millom, Broughton, Kirkby and Askam and Ron at Dalton, Beacon Hill, Ramsden St, Urswick and Roose.

In the current stationing round, David has also received and accepted an invitation, also subject to the 2014 Methodist Conference ratification, to be the minister in the Barnoldswick, Earby and Barley churches in the Pendle circuit in the Lancashire district. So from September 2014 David and Hazel will leave the United Area and be living in the manse in Earby; Karen will be staying on Walney.

We ask your continued prayers for the future mission and ministry of the United Area.

REGIONAL & NATIONAL WEBSITES

District: www.cumbriamethodists.org.uk

North West Synod: www.nwsynod.org.uk

Connexional: www.methodist.org.uk

National: www.urc.org.uk

February issue No 88 of *Newslink* will be published at the end of January. Please send all material to reach Mrs Hazel Edmondson, 22 Tweed Rise, Barrow, LA14 3LX by Sunday January 5th. Items can also be passed on by ☎ **01229 474601** or ✉ edmo@twtw.freeserve.co.uk

Area Directory

The South West Cumbria United Area Directory will be updated in January 2014 and in order that this can be completed would individuals and churches please check their entries in the current copy and e-mail any changes, additions, deletions etc to secretary@ramsdenstreeturc.org.uk by Monday January 13th (or ☎ 01229 825662). If no changes are necessary then an e-mail stating 'no change' would be appreciated.

Anne Stevenson

Visit Of President Of Conference

As you may have seen from the new plan, the President of the Methodist Conference, Rev Ruth Gee, will be in the United Area to lead the United Area service at 6:00 p.m. on Sunday, February 9th. This will be at Trinity Church Centre and will be preceded by a faith tea at 5:00.

Churches Together In Barrow Events

Look out for posters in your church giving details of the following events:

Carol singing around the town: Saturday December 21st starting from Forum 28 at 2:00 p.m. Agape Meal: Thursday 23rd January at St. Mary's Walney at 6:30 p.m.

Flashbacks...to Times With Jesus

This event for year 4 children from Barrow schools is going to run again at Ramsden Street URC in February 2014. The sessions will be over Mon 24th February to Thursday 27th February. We will not know the exact session times until next month because we have not yet contacted the schools. If you would think you might be available during this week to help, please get in touch with Iva Cole, Ann Hufton, Jean Helm, Kate Hughes, Joan Linney or Hilary Mantle

Ann Hufton

Cameo And Reflections

There will be no CAMEO or Reflections evening in December as folk will be busy with Advent and Christmas activities. The January CAMEO meeting will be on Friday 17th January; the theme of our discussion has yet to be decided. We meet at Ramsden Street at 7:00 p.m. It would be good to see others join us to take a look at contemporary issues through the light of our faith.

The "Reflections" evenings will resume on the third Sunday of January (19th) at Vickerstown. The theme will be "The Whole Armour of God". The church will be open from 8 pm until at least 9 pm, and (as always) refreshments will be available in the church porch.

David Edmondson

First Tuesday Ladies

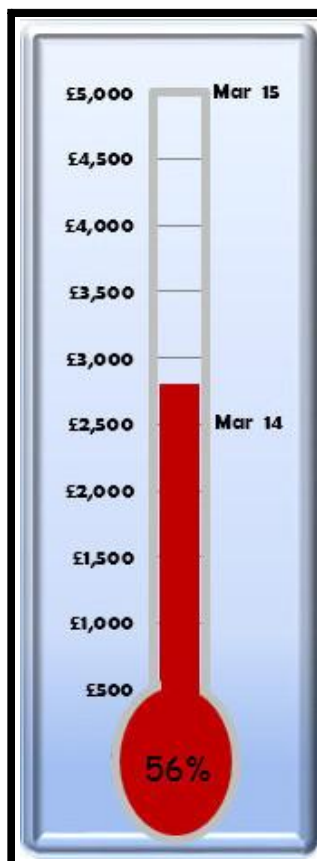
On December 3rd we will be meeting at 7:30pm at Elaine Pears' house, 59 Croslands Park, and would like all those present to bring something to share on a Christmas theme, as well as a little sweet or savoury food for a shared supper. We will also meet at Elaine's house on 7th January, and 4th February for time of Bible study and fellowship.

Janet Ladds

Praise Group

This term we have been able to explore and share more of the rich resources in "Singing the Faith", in particular those relating to Advent and Christmas. We have been pleased to be invited to sing at the "Women on Wednesday" group at Trinity, at Hawcoat Friendship Club and at Askam Sisterhood. We have been impressed by the quality and enthusiasm of participation shown by those who have invited us. We hope to visit Risedale as well to share Christmas carols. Our last evening before a break for Christmas will be on Monday, December 9th when we will sing and bring and share food at Pat and Alan Jones' house.

If you enjoy singing your faith and are free on Monday evenings, it would be great if you could join us at Askam from 7:30 p.m. New members always welcome - and there are no auditions! We start again in the New Year on January 6th.



Christian Aid Community Partnership

Generous donations from those who attended the Tony Vino evening have added £123 to the totals, which now stands at over £2800, with more to come from events already planned later in November. In your planning for 2014, please have a think about anything you or your church could do to help us reach the target of £5000.

Hazel Edmondson

Action For Children

Another BIG THANK YOU to all who have A4C Home Collecting Boxes. We have raised 563.07p which is GREAT. WELL DONE.

I also have some A4C Christmas Cards and Diaries, if anyone would like to see them they will be on sale at our weekly Coffee Mornings or give me a ring 716640 and I will bring them to you.

Beryl Hollowell

Abbot Hall Weekend 2014

As indicated in the last Newslink, we have booked another United Area weekend at Abbot Hall for June 6-8 2014. I have since heard from Abbot Hall that they have double booked themselves for the Friday night and that we would be in the lodges (discounted to £131 per person per weekend instead of £136 because of the muddle) or in standard (i.e. not ensuite) rooms (discounted to £100 instead of £116). We have 9 people who definitely still wish to go under those terms; it would help us decide whether to go ahead if we knew of anyone else who would like to come. Please contact me (474601) as soon as possible if you would like to go, or for further details. If we are able to go ahead, as we hope, I will then do proper booking forms and ask for the deposit.

Hazel Edmondson

Thank You

A huge thank you to David for bringing comedian Tony Vino to town. Tony's gentle humour and repartee with the audience soon had gales of laughter emanating from the few who had braved the weather. My highlight of the evening must be the sight of "Merlin Bob Mantle" River Dancing around the prostrate "King Charlie Mills" - oh bliss - I do hope there is laughter in heaven!

Elaine Pears

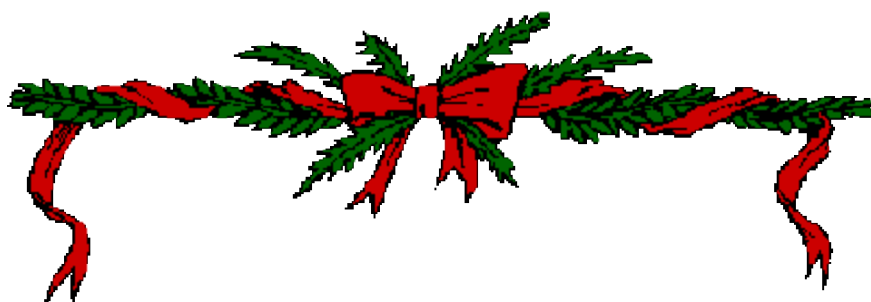
Thanks to all who went to the evening and gave an extra donation to the Christian Aid appeal - we raised £123.



Green Tip

Thank you to all those churches and organisations who will be both saving on resources and raising money for charity by not sending Christmas cards this year to people they see, but donating money instead.

Hazel Edmondson



ADVENT COURSES

2013

As we prepare for Christmas 2013, members and friends of the South West Cumbria United Area are offered a choice of Advent Groups. Please choose any one of the following... or more if you wish!

Beacon Hill: "Food for Faith - Songs of Christmas". Running from 7.00 p.m. to 9.00 p.m. on Mondays 25th November and 2nd, 9th and 16th December, this short course will look at four Bible passages, with singing, simple crafts and food. All United Area members are welcome.

Trinity: Running on Friday evenings 29th November and 6th, 13th and 20th December, our Advent Course for this year will be 'Expecting Christ' published by York Courses. The first three sessions will be held at 9 Hartland Road, Barrow, LA14 4EP, and the fourth at 19 Carlton Avenue, Barrow, LA13 9AT. In this course we look at several moments in our faith and lives where a door opens and lets Christ in. In particular, we will be thinking about how Christ can surprise us and meet us in four distinct contexts: in family, in ourselves, in prayer and in the end. Martin Williams will be leading most of the sessions. If you'd like a copy of the course book, please ring him on 830844.

Vickerstown: The Advent studies here will be shared ecumenically. They'll be held at the Methodist Church on Warren Street at 2.00 pm on the first three Tuesdays in December (3rd, 10th and 17th).

Individual Churches

Trinity

Advent Bible Study Course begins on Friday 29th November at 9, Hartland Road, starting at 7:00 p.m. all welcome.

Christmas Concert by the new Abbey Singers, Saturday 7th. December at 5:00 p.m. Tickets £4.00, including refreshments will be on sale soon.

On 4th January the regular monthly Coffee Morning takes place, this will be sponsored by Brian & Norma, then on 18th January there is to be a '**Bun Banter**'- more details later

Baptism: On Sunday 3rd November Martin baptised Willow Grace Adams - Buckingham. Willow brought her Mum Janine and Dad Neil, and lots of family and friends to her baptism. It was good to see lots of people there as we welcomed Willow into God's Family at Trinity.

Reg Norman died quite suddenly on 3rd November. He was in church the previous Sunday so his death came as a shock to us all. Reg was always interested in what was going on and although quite a quiet person was always cheerful. He had a long life and was a veteran of El Alamein.

Margaret Manuell

These Churches and streets will be remembered in our prayer time each Friday morning at Trinity, between 9am and 9:30am. If you have any prayer concerns which you would like included, please contact Janet on 833882. Week beginning:

- 01/12/2013 Askam 'N'
- 08/12/2013 Kirkby 'O'
- 16/12/2013 Broughton 'P'
- 23/12/2013 Millom 'Q'
- 30/12/2013 CTiB 'R'
- 03/01/2014 Trinity 'S'
- 10/01/2014 Vickerstown 'T'
- 17/01/2014 Beacon Hill 'U'
- 24/01/2014 Hartington St 'V'
- 31/01/2014 Roose 'W'

Janet Ladds

Beacon Hill

Beacon Hill's evening services are now at 4 p.m.

Sunday December 1st we join with Trinity Church Centre for the evening service during which Furness Chorale will perform Christmas music.

Our usual last Thursday in the month coffee morning will be replaced in December by the "Mince Pie" coffee morning Thursday December 12th.

Elaine Pears

Dalton

Nativities R Us: Do come to see our exhibition of Nativity Sets and Scenes at Dalton URC during Advent. We shall have over 50 different items in our free exhibition; some are traditional Nativity sets from this country or abroad, but quite a few are more unusual ones such as one from Vietnam made from recycled paper, one from South America in a hollowed out gourd, one in the 'pyramid' carousel style from Germany, some homemade ones and some maybe surprising modern interpretations of the Nativity. The figures in one set are over 1m high, and in another just 2cm tall.

Nativities R Us will be open for anyone to view at the following times:

Sunday December 1st, 3:30pm to 6pm (people could come in and look around whilst waiting for the Advent Sunday Parade to start) and from 9:30 am to 12 noon on each of the Saturdays December 7th, 14th and 21st (during the coffee mornings)

Music for Christmas: Concert by The New Abbey Singers on Sunday December 8th, 2:30pm at Wellington Street Methodist Church. Tickets £3.50 including tea/coffee and cake. Another chance to enjoy the music of this popular choir.

Ann Hufton

In view of the Nativity Displays being at Market Street Church during December it was decided at the joint Methodist/URC meeting to hold the Bible Society Advent Praise at Market St on the afternoon of 1.12.2013 prior to the switch on of the Dalton Christmas lights. The decorations on the Christmas tree for the Bible Society is "Sleeping Beauty" and the church's tree will be "An Enormous Turnip"

R Willock

Christian Women's Fellowship: The CWF will meet on Wednesday 18th December at 6:30 pm for a Festive Supper and Carol Service. All are welcome. Please note early start.

There will be no meeting in January.

D Zazi

Dates: Dec 21st 9:45 to 11:15 am Coffee and Carols for Christian Aid.

Askam

Askam Sisterhood will be holding a Band Concert on Wednesday, 15th January. The Royal Holborn Hill Band will entertain the Sisterhood from 2:30 p.m. and all are welcome to come along and enjoy the fun and music.

Special Services: Sunday 22nd Dec. Carols and Readings @ 9:30 a.m. also that evening Christingle Service at 6:00 p.m.

Christmas Morning at 10:45 a.m. led by Rev. Ron Wilson

Covenant Service at 9:30 a.m. 6th January, 2014 led by Rev. Ron Wilson.

Everyone is very welcome to join us on these special occasions.

Dorothy Gleaves

Kirkby

We were pleased to have been invited to host the gathering of friends from this end of the Area to meet the prospective new Superintendent on Saturday 9th November. It was really cold outside with hailstones on the ground, but it was warm in the chapel which looked very festive with over 25 filled Shoe Boxes awaiting collection as well as bags of knitted hats, gloves, puppets and blankets. Our Food Bank collection continues to go well and we have another full box ready to go into Barrow.

Our Craft Fair on October 26th had been very well attended by many who came to browse and admire the range of handicrafts on display, to buy Christmas presents, or to have a good natter with friends over a cup of coffee or at lunchtime a bowl of excellent homemade soup. We raised £546 for Church Funds and that has been put to good use immediately. Mary and Ken Wilkinson's grandson Dean and a friend have repaired, sanded and varnished the floor in the hall, making it look more inviting and easier to keep clean, and we have been able to pay back more of the loan to the United Area given to us last winter when our back wall was letting in water.

Our Midweek Service on Wednesday December 11th at 10:30am will again be Café Worship.

The dates for Coffee and Company are Tuesday December 17th (not Christmas Eve which is the 4th Tuesday!) and Tuesday 28th January 2014 at the usual time of 9:45am to 11:30am.

Janet Sheldon

Ramsden Street

We were delighted to welcome four ladies from Lancaster United Reformed Church to lead our worship on Sunday October 13th. They have been to visit Vellore in India and were able to tell us about projects they visited. It was good to share a faith lunch with them before they returned home. £50 has been sent to them as a donation to their 'Vellore Fund'.

The concert by the New Abbey singers held at Trinity on October 26th was very well supported and was a joint effort between Ramsden Street and Trinity and both churches shared the proceeds.

On Sunday October 27th we were pleased to host the Loved Ones Service at Ramsden Street for the first time. Martin led the service and was assisted by Rita in the lighting of candles. All who were there appreciated the meaningful service and most stayed on afterwards for refreshments.

Our Autumn Fair was held on November 2nd and proved to be a busy and enjoyable day. With stalls, refreshments and Penny Boxes we hope to raise approx. £1000.

In December we are holding several events including a social evening for our friends from Oaklea Trust on the 6th, Greengate choir will sing at our coffee morning on the 13th and our Carol Service is on Sunday 22nd at 2:30pm.

Anne Stevenson

Millom

We are delighted to report that we have filled 85 shoeboxes for Romania, and that the supper and Holy Beetle Drive successfully raised the money to send them.

Margaret Riley

Broughton

December 11th: Carols in the Square at 7:00 p.m. followed by Mince Pies in Methodist Church. Come and have a GREAT SING and let the people of Broughton know the real reason we CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS.

December 15th CAROL SERVICE 2 - 3PM with HOLBORN HILL ROYAL BRASS BAND. Readings by members of our USER GROUPS. Followed by Drink and Mince Pies. Everybody welcome.

December 24th & 31st COFFEE MORNINGS as usual on CHRISTMAS EVE and NEW YEARS EVE with "Memories of the Year 2013" on a Display Board.

PARTY TIME: I would like thank all of you who helped me to celebrate my 70th Birthday. Like the Queen I had 2 Birthdays this year. One in July with Joyce and Kate where we raised over £500 for Save the Children and my official birthday ceilidh which raised £260 for GARTH HEWITT'S 'AMOS TRUST'. A great BIG THANK YOU to Tony and Stan who have been playing for us for around 20years also Elaine and John who joined them about 10years ago and help with the Music and Calling. All for free. Just happy that all ages can join in the dancing and enjoy themselves. Helen who is now 11years old, first came as a baby, sitting on the floor while her parents danced. On Saturday we had Amelia at 4 years old up to Sarah who is 95 years young. A fun family healthy (?) evening, it did happen to be a PUDDING PARTY THOUGH.

Beryl Hollowell



Hartington Street

All are welcome to our mid week Fellowship meetings:

Tea Club: You are invited to join us for our Tea Club. Please note that we now start at 4:00 and finish at 5:30. 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! The Christmas party will be on December 12th. In the New Year we will start again on January 9th; speaker to be confirmed. On January 23rd we will join in with the Churches Together "Agape" meal.

Care & Share Fellowship & Knit & Natter: We meet weekly on Tuesdays at 10:00 - 11.30 a.m. at Hartington Street. Fellowship, Prayer, a cuppa & bring your knitting.

Bible Study:

Thursday fortnightly 4pm - 5pm led by Rev Martin Williams - December 5th.

Ellen Powell

In December, instead of Discovery church on the fourth Saturday, we will have a Christmas open afternoon from 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, December 15th.

Vickerstown

Thanks to all of you who joined us for the Bonfire party. It was a lovely evening; the weather was kind, Karen had built a superb bonfire, there were generous donations of fireworks to share and lively conversation round the tables over food. A total of £130 was raised for mission funds.

There will not be a coffee morning in December; our January coffee morning will be from 10:00 on Saturday, January 18th.

Once again the Walney churches will jointly be running an advent study group to help people prepare for Christmas. We will be looking at the Advent candle themes. The group will meet at Vickerstown church on Tuesday afternoons at 2 pm, on December 3rd (Prophets) 10th (John the Baptist) and 17th (Mary). Do come and join us!

Walney Churches Together Choir presents this year's Christmas Concert on Thursday 5th and Friday 6th December in St Columba's Church at the later than usual time of 8:00 p.m. We are delighted to be joined again by George Hastwell School Signing Choir. Free entry but donations gratefully accepted for Barrow Homeless Christmas Shelter and George Hastwell School. All welcome. Please come along and start Christmas celebrations in what has become a Walney tradition.

Hazel Edmondson