

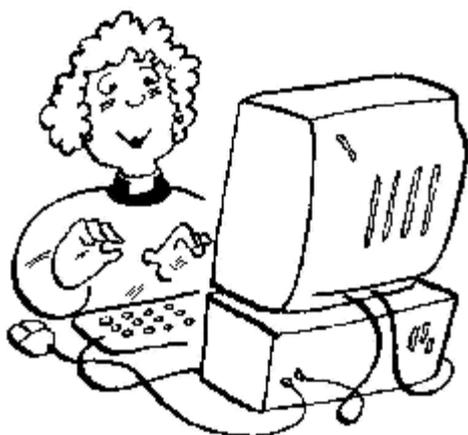


# Newslink

**SOUTH WEST CUMBRIA UNITED AREA**

**Methodist and United Reformed Churches Working Together**

## The Minister Writes



Rain, rain, go away, come again another day! I wonder if you have said this childish rhyme recently as the seemingly non-stop rain has plagued us. I've driven through floods more often this summer than ever before - at Parker's Pond and Goose Green in Dalton, at the bottom of Dalton Lane in Barrow and along the A592 to Windermere to name but a few places. Each time I drove through the huge puddles I had that bit of trepidation that the water might be deeper than I realised and get inside the car, or that the car would stall and I might get stuck in the middle! I may have been a bit fearful of the floods but many in our local area have suffered much more than that, being

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victims of the hopelessness and devastation caused by them - and if you are one of them I send you my best wishes for getting everything back to rights again. Sadly, more people may yet soon suffer damage to their homes, workplace or livelihood, for I heard it said on the radio that, even if we only get normal levels of rainfall over the winter months, flooding will be much more likely than usual because the ground is already so sodden.

Thinking of floods reminds me of the chorus of *Shine, Jesus, Shine*, where we ask God to 'flood the nations with grace and mercy'. When I'm using this hymn in a service, and especially if there are children present, I usually remind the congregation that although we often think of floods as bringing despair and destruction, there can also be 'good' floods such as when God floods a room with his presence, our worship with his joy or the world with his grace and mercy. And isn't that what Christmas is all about? God flooding the world in a new way with his grace and his mercy

through the birth of Jesus - so that every individual could be soaked in God's incredible love and life could be experienced in a more vivid and intense way than ever before.

So, this Christmas, and on into the New Year, may God flood your whole being with his love, graciousness and mercy as we remember 'The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.'

Blessings,

*Ann Hufton*

## **Methodist District Safeguarding Officer**

We are pleased to let you know that we have appointed Graham Kay as our new District Safeguarding Officer. Graham will begin this role in our District from Monday 5th November. Graham has a wide breadth of experience relating to Safeguarding and is also Safeguarding Officer in the Lancashire District.

We are grateful for the extra support given by David Edmondson in the interim period following the end of Brian Masterson's valuable support in this role.

Continuity will be maintained through the close liaison of Graham with David and other members of the Safeguarding Team.

Graham's details are as follows:

Graham Kay,  
2 Cottam Place,  
Poulton le Fylde. FY6 7RE.

The telephone contact is: 07818 861244

Graham has set up a separate email address for our District which is:

[cumbria.methodist.safeguarding@gmail.com](mailto:cumbria.methodist.safeguarding@gmail.com)

*Caroline Thoruborrow, District Administrator*

## **AREA & NATIONAL WEBSITES**

**District:** [www.cumbriamethodists.org.uk](http://www.cumbriamethodists.org.uk)

**North West Synod:** [www.nwsynod.org.uk](http://www.nwsynod.org.uk)

**Connexional:** [www.methodist.org.uk](http://www.methodist.org.uk)

**National:** [www.urc.org.uk](http://www.urc.org.uk)

February issue No 78 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 6th. Items can also be passed on by

☎ **01229 474601** or ✉ [edmo@twtw.freeserve.co.uk](mailto:edmo@twtw.freeserve.co.uk)

## Area Directory

The South West Cumbria United Area Directory will be updated in January 2013 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](mailto:secretary@ramsdenstreeturc.org.uk) by Monday January 14th (or telephone 01229 825662).

**If no changes are necessary** then an e-mail stating 'no change' would be appreciated.

*Anne Stevenson*

## Flashbacks... To Times With Jesus

Over 140 Dalton school children had a great time recently looking at particular times in the life of Jesus at *Flashbacks... to times with Jesus* which was run by an ecumenical team of helpers and held at Dalton United Reformed Church. All three Dalton junior schools sent their 7 and 8 year olds to *Flashbacks* which revolves around looking at various incidents in Jesus' life, much as one looks at photographs to remind oneself of particular times and events. To look at how Jesus' life fitted into God's plan for the world, they made a bead wristband where each bead symbolised something from Jesus' life story, before the children thought of themselves as followers of Jesus as they played a giant board game with themselves as counters. They listened to the story of Jesus asking questions of rabbis in the Temple in Jerusalem when he was just twelve years old. They made crosses of matchsticks and pictures of fish to remember Jesus' death on the cross and the time he ate fish and bread with his disciples on a beach after his resurrection. They also celebrated a mock wedding, similar to what would have been happening when Jesus turned water into wine at a wedding in the village of Cana.

Many thanks to all who helped in any way with Flashbacks (I think the helpers enjoyed themselves as much as the children!). Hopefully the event will be run in other churches in the future.

*Ann Hufton*

## Barrow Ladies Lifeboat Guild

Our annual carol service will be held on Sunday, December 2nd at 2:00 p.m. at St Mary's church, Walney. Barrow Steelworks Band will again take part, and it will feature soloists accompanied by Paul Blake. Tickets are £3 including refreshments, or pay at the door; children under 12 free. All proceeds to the RNLI.

*Joyce Tull, Secretary*

## **You And Me And Afternoon Tea**

A good number of Daltonians enjoyed this event when it was held at Market Street in October. The three week programme included such things as table top games, fun quizzes, a slide show, a short concert by members of the New Abbey Singers, a trip down memory lane with a reminiscence bag from the library and a chair based exercise session which had us all laughing as well as toning up our muscles. These activities were complemented by various organisations, such as the Police, Fire Service, Age UK and Dalton Leisure Centre giving out useful information to the participants. If you would like to know about the event in more detail or to host a similar event, please contact either Anne Stevenson or myself.

*Ann Hufton*

## **Youth Organisation Day**

Following the success of the previous Youth Organisation Day, we are having another one on the theme of "Promises". It will be at Beacon Hill on Saturday, January 12th 2013 from 2:00 to 4:30 p.m. There will be games, Bible stories and craft with children grouped by age to enable them to have fun with their peers. It will finish with a short service followed by a Prize Giving for Art, Craft, Creative Writing, Modelling, Baking and Photography. All church children's groups and the uniformed organisations associated with our churches have received details of the categories they can enter - replies are due back by December 22nd - please encourage them to attend.

*Rachel Williams*

## **CAMEO and Reflections**

The CAMEO group will meet during both December and January; meetings are at 7:00 p.m. at Ramsden St and are open to all who wish to spend some time in discussing a contemporary topic in the light of our Christian faith. On Wednesday December 12th the theme will be Contemporary Art in the Church. The January meeting will be on Friday January 18th; the theme for that meeting will be decided at the December gathering.

The "Reflections" evenings continue on the third Sunday of the month at Vickerstown, but not in December as by then many folk will be involved in a variety of carol and nativity services. The January gathering on Sunday, January 20th will be on the theme of "Unity". 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*

## **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 Remembrance Sunday and to the theme of the Trinity. We have been pleased to be invited to sing at Tottlebank Baptist church, at the “Women on Wednesday” group at Trinity and at Askam Sisterhood. We have been impressed by the quality and enthusiasm of participation shown by those who have invited us. December will see us sharing carols at Risedale in Abbey Road and at Staveley House in Dalton.

We are also preparing to lead the United Area service at Roose at 6:00 p.m. on the last Sunday evening in February, which will be a service of Holy Communion when we will share some of the modern settings of the communion service and hymns that take up the sacramental themes. We will hold a brief workshop at 4:00 that day for any singers who don't usually get to Praise Group but who would like to learn some of the tunes in advance; this will be followed by a Faith Tea at 5:00 p.m. 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!

*Hazel Edmondson*

## **From The National Methodist Women In Britain Prayer Diary**

### **December: We remember...**

- 1st** Those who live with HIV/AIDS, that they may overcome the fear of stigma and seek the help and medication they need.
- 8th** Lynne Ling and the volunteer editors of Magnet magazine, now being published through Hymns Ancient and Modern; Stella Bristow and Tricia Graves as they ‘guest edit’ the 100th issue.
- 15th** Child domestic workers and our ongoing partnership with Helen Veitch of Children Unite.
- 22nd** Mission Partners and their families, preparing to spend Christmas away from home.
- 29th** Those for whom this year has brought great sadness, that they will be able to place their trust in Christ, Emmanuel, as companion and guide for the coming year.

*Delphine Gratrix*

## **Churches Together In Barrow Events**

Carol singing around the town:

**Saturday December 22nd** starting at 2:00 p.m. Any money collected will go to the Homeless Centre and the Barrow Food Bank

Agape Meal: **Thursday 24th January** at St. Mary's Walney at 6:30 p.m. Price £3.50.

## “Encircled In Care”

This is the name given to a Methodist resource which aims to “train, power and enable pastoral carers and others to share in Christ’s caring ministry, leading to a fullness of life that reaches beyond the Church into the world”. There are 3 foundation sessions, “Why We Care”, “Developing Skills” and “Good Practice”. The first session was in November, but if you missed it you are welcome to attend the others, which will be held at 7:30 at Beacon Hill, on Thursday, January 17th and then on Tuesday 16th April.

*David Edmondson*

## First Tuesday Ladies

It has been good to see new ladies coming to join us as we share Bible Study/Reflections together on the first Tuesday of each month. We meet at 7.30pm, usually at 59 Croslands Park (we will definitely be there in November and December). The dates for the coming months are 4th December and 8th January 2013. December’s meeting will be a Christmas bring and share - worship, reflection or memory plus a little food to share.

*Janet Ladds*



## Green Tip

From the A Rocha website: “You may have heard that our native Ash tree is in trouble from a fungus called *Chalara fraxinea*, which has the capacity to wipe out the UK Ash tree population in much the same way as Dutch Elm disease wiped out the Elm population last century. The disease is spreading fast around the UK and continual identification is essential. A Rocha UK is working with the Forestry Commission to help identify how the disease is spreading, and we need your help too.

Could you please:

1. Look for Ash trees near you, in gardens, parks or church grounds. If you don’t know what an Ash tree looks like, this website from the Woodland Trust is helpful. <http://www.british-trees.com/treeguide/ashes/nbnsys0000003949>
2. Look for any signs of the disease. Help with identifying the symptoms is available here. <http://www.forestry.gov.uk/chalara#Symptoms> Send photos or descriptions, plus your location and contact details to: [jenny.griffiths@arocha.org](mailto:jenny.griffiths@arocha.org) with ‘TREE’ in the subject line. A Rocha UK will send any suspect photos/descriptions to DEFRA/Forestry Commission and send you an acknowledgement.”

*Hazel Edmondson*

## Individual Churches

### Trinity

- Saturday 1st Dec:** Christmas Fayre 2:00 p.m. - 4:00p.m. Admission £1.00  
(Includes coffee & mince pie)
- Saturday 8th Dec:** Home Grown Concert 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.
- Saturday 5th Jan:** Monthly Coffee Morning 9:30 a.m.

*Margaret Manuell*

### Hartington Street

All are welcome to our midweek Fellowship meetings:

#### **Tea Club:**

You are invited to join us for our Tea Club, which starts at 6:00 p.m. and ends around 7:30 p.m. on alternate Thursdays. Tea is served at 6:00 p.m. 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 and Speakers:**

December 13th - Christmas Party;  
January 10th and 24th.

#### **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 December 11th, January 8th and 22nd.

#### **Knit & Natter:**

Tuesday fortnightly from 10:00 to 11:30 - no experience needed (for knitting).  
Come along & knit a (K)Nativity.

Dates: December 4th and January 15th and 29th.

#### **Bible Study:**

Thursday fortnightly from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. led by Rev Martin Williams.

Dates: December 6th and 20th and January 17th and 31st.

*Ellen Powell*

We have now advertised for a family worker - please pray that the right person may come forward.

*Hartington Street Leadership Group*

# Dalton

This year the Dalton Methodist and URC are working together to decorate a tree for the Christmas Tree Festival. Our theme is "On Safari" and money donated will go to The Furness Homeless Christmas Shelter.

A cheque for £285 has been sent to the Bible Society HQ this was raised from the coffee morning and book sales on the 29th and 30th of October. Thanks to everyone who helped and supported the events.

The Bible Society Action Group AGM will take place on 20th November where we will plan future events. We have already arranged a coffee morning at the Coronation Hall for Saturday 7th March 2013.

*R Willock*

Christian Women's Fellowship: Our next meeting of the CWF will be on Wednesday 19th December when we will have a Festive Supper followed by a Carol Service (6.30 pm start) All Welcome. There will be no meeting of the CWF in January 2013.

Dates: Saturday December 22nd 9.45 to 11.15 am Coffee and Carols at Market Street

*D Zazi*

# Ramsden Street

**FACTORS** group met on Friday November 2nd and enjoyed making peppermint creams and crispy cakes for the Autumn Fair. We meet again on Friday November 30th at 4.00pm.

Our **Autumn Fair** on November 3rd turned out to be a very enjoyable and busy day raising just over £500 for church funds. Thank you to all who supported us.

On Friday December 14th the Greengate Junior School choir will sing some Christmas songs and carols for us at our coffee morning. We really enjoy having this group of children visit us and anyone is welcome to come along.

Our **Carol Service** will be held on Sunday December 23rd at 2.30pm and this will be followed by a Christmas tea to which everyone is invited.

There will be no lunches or midweek meetings during January but we will hold a **New Year lunch** on Wednesday February 6th at 12noon.

*Anne Stevenson*



## Kirkby

Three years ago we held a Craft Day in November to encourage people to come and visit our chapel. The building work had been completed and we wanted to show we had a working kitchen and toilet with disabled facilities. It was a great success and many came who had lived in the village for years but who had never been into the chapel, or who knew it in its dilapidated state and were not keen to come again. Each year we have made more improvements. The hall can now be used and our new carpet was much admired. About 96 people came not including children and we had a good variety of Crafts. We served tea and coffee with soup at lunch time. We sold hand made cards, cakes, jam and marmalade and winter pansies for church funds and many stall holders gave us a donation from their takings. To our delight we raised £480. Thank you to all our friends from the United Area who supported us.

*Janet Sheldon*

## Broughton

On Sunday December 16th we hold our Carol Service with Holborn Hill Royal Brass Band at 2:00 p.m. - mince pies to follow.

On Saturday 19th January at 7:00 p.m. it is our Burn's Night Ceilidh. Come and enjoy a night of Fun and Exercise. Feed on Soup, Haggis and Shortbread and Dance the pounds off. Adults £4, School age £2 pounds, pre school free.

*Beryl Hollowell*

## Millom

We are having a party for the Girls Brigade but we still have work to do. We are planning to join in with the Anglican church in Millom who last year had a Christmas tree festival. And this year the girls who are invited to join in are getting excited about that because it is something new! After Christmas we will go to the zoo, it has become an annual event!

We again have helped with shoe boxes, and it looks as if we will have made 80 boxes this year. On the Wednesday of half term we spent the afternoon packing the shoe boxes. Several children helped, and with a film and Pizzas they had a happy time (the adults as well!!!)

We are having a church party on the 3rd of January at 5 pm (bring some food please!) and we welcome all from the United Area.

We are having a Fayre from 10-12 on the 19th of January (sort of low time in Millom!!) to liven up after Christmas. This is our half yearly fundraiser.

*Sue Giles*

# Askam

The Sisterhood will be holding their **Christmas Party** on Wed. 28th November at 2:30 p.m. at Duddon Road Church. The Praise Group will be entertaining the ladies followed by a party tea. If you would like to join us please contact Dorothy Gleaves 465378.

**Christingle Service:** To be held at Duddon Road Church on Friday, 14th December at 6.00 p.m. This will be a lively service as we welcome members of Askam Village School, and the Duddon Brownie Packs.

**Christmas Day Service:** Will be led at Rev. Ann Hufton, at 10:45 a.m. All will be very welcome.

*Dorothy Gleave*

# 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.

We will be holding our Christmas coffee morning, with a wider range of stalls, from 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, December 1st. Our January coffee morning will be from 10:00 on Saturday, January 19th.

Once again the Walney churches will jointly be running an advent study group to help people prepare for Christmas. We will be looking at "Isaiah's Advent Hope" - lovers of Handel's "Messiah" will find that many of the verses we will look at are very familiar! The group will meet in the social area just inside the entrance of St Columba's church on Thursday afternoons at 2 pm, on 6th, 13th and 20th December. Do come and join us!

**Walney Churches Together Choir** presents this year's **Christmas Concert** on Thursday 6th and Friday 7th December in St Columba's Church at 7:30pm. 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.

The December "Good News" library visit will be at 2:00 p.m. on the second Monday, December 10th. There will be no visit in January.

We will again be hosting a **New Year's Eve** social at Vickerstown. Please join us at 8:30 for games and food; no set charge, but there will be a plate for donations and it would be helpful to have numbers for catering - please contact us on 474601. This will lead into a Watchnight service which will start at 11:30 p.m. - please feel free to join us then.

*Hazel Edmondson*