



Newslink

SOUTH WEST CUMBRIA UNITED AREA

Methodist and United Reformed Churches Working Together

The
Minister Writes



Imagine what our churches would be like if all their people took seriously Jesus' final order to his followers at the end of Matthew's gospel: "Go and make disciples". It's one of those life ambitions that we all have, but find all sorts of reasons to avoid. Especially when nobody we meet outside our churches seems interested in Jesus, or they feel that he is irrelevant to their lives. It's tough going - whether you are thinking about sharing your faith with your neighbours, friends, or work colleagues. And sometimes (often, in fact) I think that sharing your faith with your own family is most difficult of all: there is so much at stake when you are talking to and living alongside someone who means so much

ISSUE 76

November 2012

to you, and whose love is so precious. We can't afford to appear to be "preaching at them", yet long for them to feel God's love for themselves. What support do we gain from our churches to help us to "make disciples"? For the past three years I've been working along with my NW training officer colleagues on the "Imagine" project. Using materials created by the "London Institute of Contemporary Christianity" one church in each of the NW districts (Wigton Methodist Church represents Cumbria) has been looking at this very question, as part of a pilot project which could be taken up by other churches. Like so many projects, it starts with a survey to see where a church is at present. I've seen the results of the surveys of the churches involved in the pilot, and the really striking thing is that almost nobody sees their church as doing anything which assists them in their main everyday activity, although people often speak very highly of the support they get from churches in terms of their welcome, friendship, and their prayerful care when illness or disaster strike.

This would appear somewhat strange: there are 168 hours in a week, of which most of us spend around 48 hours asleep. The research associated with the project suggests that a truly dedicated church goer will spend a maximum of 10 hours per week on church-related activities. So what about the other 110 hours? Can we afford to ignore them if Jesus wants us, as a key part of our mission, to make disciples for him? Especially if that is when we meet people who are not already disciples? Each of us has our own “front line” where we meet people who do not share our faith. With people in paid employment, their main “front line” is probably obvious: if your routine is home-based it might take a little more thinking about before you realise what it is. But we all have one. Our churches should equip us to make it clear to those people the difference Jesus makes to our lives, and to suggest the difference he could make to theirs. If we took this seriously, I think our communal worship, prayer lives, and teamwork would look very different.

None of this is new. Linking faith with the world of work has long been an emphasis of life in both the United Reformed and Methodist churches (though I don't think we have been as good at recognising the “work” of those not in paid employment). In fact, it is something of a mystery to me how we have allowed ourselves to become so inward looking. Be honest: how much do you know about the “front lines” of the people you worship with? And how often do you pray for them as they engage with those people, or let them know you're right behind them? How is the power of the Spirit harnessed to give them the strength and encouragement we all need so badly? How is the gratitude of the Church for their day-to-day witness expressed? Many of the churches whose lives have been transformed by this approach are bigger than ours (I think in small churches worshippers already know a lot about what each other does), but I'm sure there's a church or two in our area that would benefit from looking more deeply at “Imagine”. I'd be more than happy to lead you alongside your leadership team: is anybody up for it?

David Edmondson

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

Dec/Jan issue No 77 of *Newslink* will be published at the end of November. Please send all material to reach Mrs Hazel Edmondson, 22 Tweed Rise, Barrow, LA14 3LX by Sunday November 4th. Items can also be passed on by ☎ **01229 474601** or ✉ edmo@twtw.freemove.co.uk

Advent

As we prepare for Christmas 2012, 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 - Focus on Film". Running from 7.00 p.m. to 9.00 p.m. on Mondays 26th November and 3rd, 10th and 17th December, this short course offers extracts from four films along with study. Sessions will be led by various Beacon Hill folk, and all United Area members are welcome.

Millom: Two sessions are to be offered at the church, both on Tuesdays at 2.00 p.m. The first will be on November 27th and the second, a fortnight later, on December 11th.

Trinity: Running on Friday evenings 30th November and 7th, 14th and 21st December, the course will help us explore a selection of the 'O Antiphons'. If you don't know what they are, please come along and find out! The first three sessions will be held at 9 Hartland Road, Barrow, LA14 4EP, and the fourth at 19 Carlton Avenue, Barrow, LA13 9AT. All but the third of the evenings are to be led by Rev. Martin Williams.

Urswick: The course here is entitled "**Life of Jesus**". It takes us on a journey through Jesus' life, asking why he changed the shape of the world. This video based course by John Dickson will run on Mondays 3rd, 10th and 17th December at the Parish Room. Come at 7.00pm for refreshments. The study, led by Rev. Gary Tubbs, will start at 7.30p.m. All friends are welcome.

Vickerstown: The Advent studies here will be shared ecumenically. Watch out for further details over the next few days.

Calling All Surfers (Silver Or Otherwise!)

The new United Area website is now up and running.

- On the front page, it features news about future events in churches in the area - so its easy to find out what is going on.

- We aim to have copies of Newslink available to download from the site (for those who are interested, they're PDF files).

- There are dedicated pages for each church. So if your church would like its activities publicised, please let Steve know (preferably by email - stevemillom@gmail.com)

You can also find links to websites of other denominations in Cumbria, and newsfeeds to keep in touch with what's happening in the Methodist and URC churches nationally.

Please email me your comments or suggestions for improvements

Steve Williams

From The National Methodist Women In Britain Prayer Diary November: We give thanks for...

3rd The World Executive of WFM&UCW: Ann, Regula, Carla and Leu, as they lead the 'Weaving Together Programme' at the start of the North America Area Seminar in Chicago, USA.

10th Those who serve in the UN peace-keeping forces, risking their lives in areas of great conflict and danger.

17th All those who minister to prisoners and their families, either by visiting, engaging in chaplaincy, providing advocacy or by writing letters.

24th The joy and anticipation of the Advent season, the pre-advent retreat at Green Pastures and for every opportunity to focus on the 'light that enlightens the world'.

Delphine Gratrix

"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". Having already led this course in Millom, at the request of the COG meeting I will also present these foundation modules one session per term over the coming year. The first session will be at 7:30 on Tuesday, November 13th in the choir vestry at Beacon Hill - all welcome. The other two sessions will also be held at 7:30 at Beacon Hill, on Thursday, January 17th and then on Tuesday 16th April.

David Edmondson

Action For Children

Thank you to all who have home collecting boxes - we collected £408.52. Also raised was £304.44 from store collections, again thank you to everyone who helped. At this time of year, more and more families will be in need. How about us helping? I will be doing a sponsored silence (ha, ha) to raise funds for Millom Children's Centre. If I can do it so can lots of you. Please think about it and raise funds for one of your local Centres. There is one in Dalton and there are five in Barrow. I have the paperwork and if it is for you, give me a ring. It will help a local family to have a better Christmas than they expected. Another way to raise funds is by recycling old mobile phones and computer ink cartridges. A4C will receive £3.50 for each phone and £1 for a cartridge. If your Church is interested again give me a ring. If any Church would like a Speaker on the work of A4C or the Children's Centres, my phone number is 716640.

Beryl Hollowell

Network

The Feast of Praise service held on Tuesday 2nd October was a time of worship and reflection, using the parable of the Good Samaritan as our Bible base. It was good to see friends from around the area, as well as Baptist and Salvationists sharing in a time of fellowship together.

Janet Ladds

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 6th November, 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

Reflections

The "Reflections" evenings continue on the third Sunday of the month at Vickerstown. As none of our usual visitors was able to be there in September, the theme on November 18th will be "The Fruits of the Spirit". 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

Barrow Foodbank

We are holding a Christmas themed cake celebration on Saturday the 10th November at Abbey Road Baptist Church, from 11am-3pm. We would really love to get as many people as possible involved in this event to make it a success. There will be a cake competition where people can enter a cake into one of the 6 categories:

- | | | | |
|---|-------------------|---|-------------------|
| 2 | Christmas Cake | 2 | Yule Log |
| 2 | Christmas Pudding | 2 | Christmas cupcake |
| 2 | Christmas cookies | 2 | Mince pies |

We have prizes donated by a number of local businesses for the winner of each category and a team of mystery judges will be deciding on the winners, so get baking!! Also, there will be an icing and sugar-craft demonstration by the amazing Dorothy King. It's the perfect time to learn some new skills to wow your family and friends over the festive period.

To raise some much needed extra money for the Foodbank, we are also hoping to host a cake sale, so if you don't think your Christmas pudding is up to scratch but you bake some lovely fairy cakes, then please feel free to bring a batch on behalf of the Foodbank!! It will be a family friendly fun day and there will be children's activities too, including a decorating activity.

There will be an entry charge of 50p and tickets are available from your church. There will also be an entry form for people wishing to enter the competition-just so we can get an idea of numbers etc, also available from your church.

The Foodbank is making a difference to so many local people and families, restoring dignity and providing hope to many in crisis situations. Yet we still need monetary contributions and donations as well as food, to help with the general running of the organisation. This is the perfect opportunity to celebrate as a community all that the Foodbank has achieved so far. We really hope you all can make it! As you begin to plan and prepare your Christmas activities and events, we would just ask you to keep the Barrow Foodbank in mind. Since the opening, over 120 people have been fed, including families. Support for the Foodbank is growing, and especially with the recent government cuts to Shelter, the service the Foodbank is providing has become even more important and valuable. Despite the fact that the Barrow Foodbank is run entirely by volunteers, there are still many running costs for the organisation and as Christmas is such a special and amazing feast, we are hoping to be able to give a little extra to people using our service, over the festive period. It would be brilliant if we could arrange a stall at any of your events, as we would be able to generate a little extra interest and hopefully raise some much needed cash.

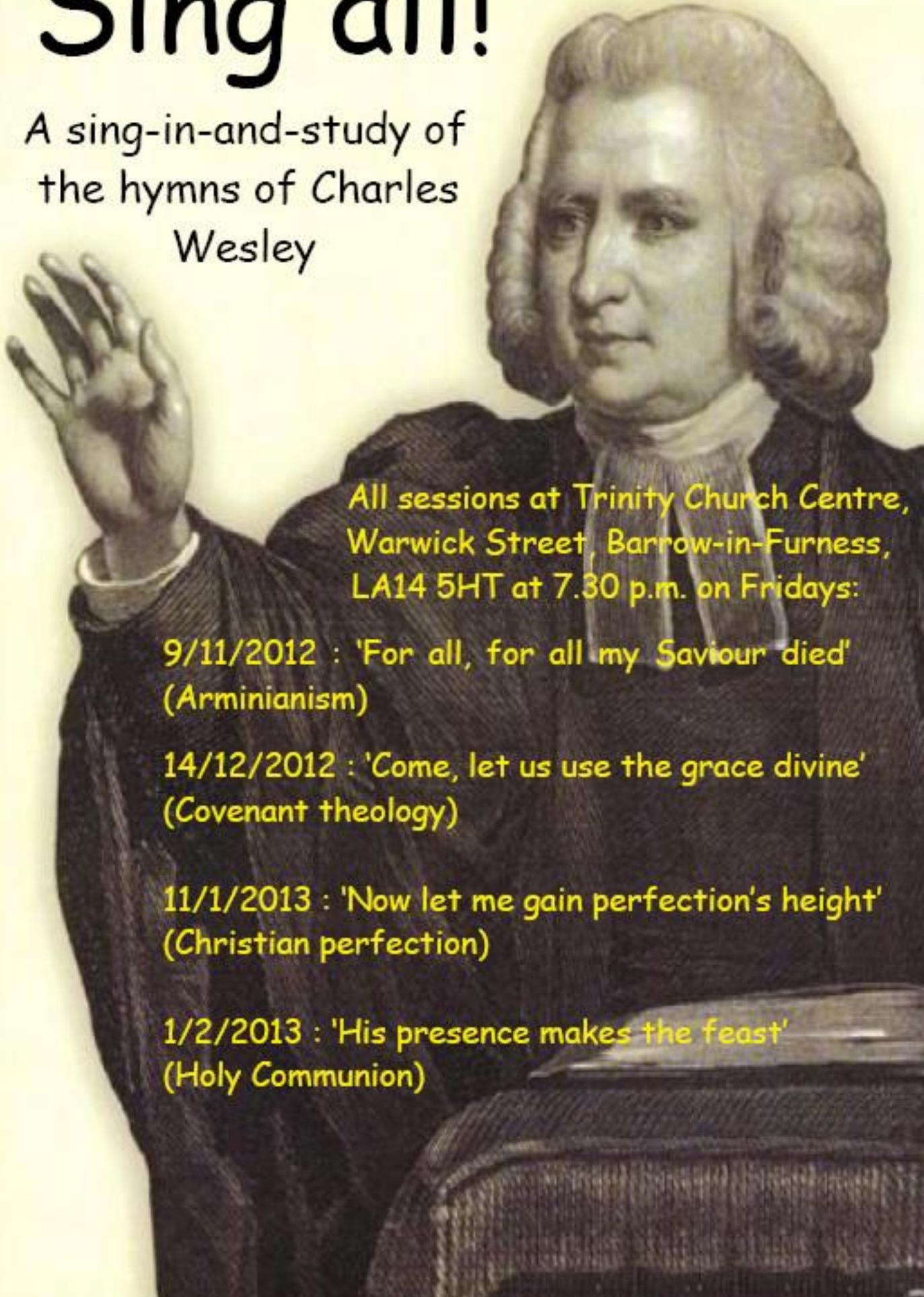
If you have any further ideas, or are aware of any other ways that the Barrow Foodbank can get involved then please don't hesitate to get in touch. The Foodbank is based entirely on the kindness and generosity of others and we really are grateful for all your support.

Best wishes,

Ashley Needham - Fundraiser

'Sing all!'

A sing-in-and-study of
the hymns of Charles
Wesley

A portrait of Charles Wesley, an 18th-century English Methodist theologian, hymnwriter, and evangelist. He is depicted from the chest up, wearing a dark, textured academic or clerical robe with a white cravat. He has a large, powdered wig and is looking slightly to the right. His right hand is raised, palm facing forward, in a gesture of blessing or teaching. The background is a plain, light color.

All sessions at Trinity Church Centre,
Warwick Street, Barrow-in-Furness,
LA14 5HT at 7.30 p.m. on Fridays:

9/11/2012 : 'For all, for all my Saviour died'
(Arminianism)

14/12/2012 : 'Come, let us use the grace divine'
(Covenant theology)

11/1/2013 : 'Now let me gain perfection's height'
(Christian perfection)

1/2/2013 : 'His presence makes the feast'
(Holy Communion)

Messages Of Thanks

Thank you to everyone who sent me cards and letters during my 3 months in hospital. It was so comforting to know you were all thinking of me and praying for my recovery. I am now back home having had the tumour which was causing all the trouble removed. I am still feeling rather fragile but am glad to be home. Thank you to you all for your good wishes.

Mary Willan

Thank you to those people who volunteered to help if the Lunchbox was restarted at Trinity. Unfortunately, there were not enough people to make up the teams of helpers required so we cannot go ahead with the project at this time.

*Ann Hufton & Anne Stevenson
(on behalf of the United Area Trustees)*



A Service Of Prayer And Dedication

on the World Day of Remembrance for Road Crash Victims at St John the Evangelist Church, Island Road, Barrow LA14 2QN at 3pm on 18th November 2012



Green Tip

From the A Rocha website: "As followers of Jesus we know that our whole lives are to be rooted in prayer and that an active life works best when it is accompanied by a prayerful life. This month make a conscious effort to be praying about the issues that our world is facing. As you watch, listen to or read the news, and as you read magazines, don't rush off, but take a few minutes to bring some of these things to Jesus".

Hazel Edmondson

Individual Churches

Trinity

Monthly Coffee Morning with Stork Sale: Saturday 3rd November from 9:30 a.m.
Saturday 1st December: Christmas Fayre 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Margaret Manwell

Roose

You would be particularly welcome to join us for our coffee morning on Thursday, 22 November (from 9:30 to 11:30) as it will be in aid of Network. No set charge - all donations gratefully received.

Jean Ashton

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: November 1st Liz Piper, November 15th Rev Rachel Williams, Nov 29th Rev Ron Wilson. December 13th - Christmas Party.

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 November 13th and 27th.

Knit & Natter: Tuesday fortnightly from 10:00 to 11:30 - no experience needed (for knitting). Come along & knit a (K)Nativity. Dates: November 6th and 20th.

Bible Study: Thursday fortnightly from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. led by Rev Martin Williams. Dates: November 8th and 22nd.

Our monthly visit to Station View will be from 2:00 on Monday, November 26th.

Ellen Powell

Broughton

Saturday 3rd November Christmas Craft Fair 10.:30am - 3pm

Tea, Coffee and Homemade Biscuits £1

Soup Lunch £3

Stalls Woodcraft Christmas Crafts Save the Children Christmas Cards Homemade Preserves Cakes Paintings and Photos Train Sets for Sale and Demonstration.

No entry charge: come along and see what can HELP you to get the chore of Christmas presents started.

Beryl Hollowell

Dalton

A sincere thank you to everyone who helped and supported the recent Bible Society coffee morning. The event raised approximately £200 for Bible Society work. In November the Bible Society Action Group will hold their AGM.

R Willock

Christian Women's Fellowship: The next meeting of the CWF will take place on Wednesday 21st November at 7.30 pm. The speaker on that evening will be Mrs Kate Hughes. All welcome.

D Zazi

Ramsden Street

On Sunday October 7th we celebrated the 40th anniversary of the United Reformed Church. The FACTORS group had made a lovely banner, a welcome notice for the door and they had hung balloons (with '40' on) around the church. We sang the specially-written hymn by Alan Gaunt. In between the Communion Service and the Family Service we enjoyed coffee and some Celebration cake provided by Martin and Rita as they too were celebrating - but they have only been together for thirty years!

Saturday November 3rd is the date of our Autumn Fair. There will be various stalls and refreshments, including light lunches, will be served from 10.00 am to 2.00 pm. Penny boxes can be returned on this day too.

FACTORS will meet on the following Fridays from 4.00pm to 5.30pm and all children are very welcome (and adults too!): November 2nd; November 30th.

Anne Stevenson

Vickerstown

The "Good News" library visit will be at 2:00 p.m. on Monday, November 5th. This will, of course, also be the date of the Bonfire Party. The bonfire will be lit at 6:00 p.m. Cost as last year will be adults £2-50, children £1, family £6, with all money raised going to support mission. Food provided - please bring fireworks to share. If you can come, it would be helpful if you could let us know numbers (474601).

November will also see our first use as a polling station, for the Police Commissioner election on November 15th. We have been asked to become the polling station for Vickerstown as the front entrance to the new Vickerstown school no longer falls within Vickerstown.... At least it means that more people will find out where we are! There will be no monthly coffee morning in November, as we will be holding our Christmas coffee morning from 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, December 1st.

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 & 6:00pm
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 & 6:00pm
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.swcumbriaunitedarea.urch.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