

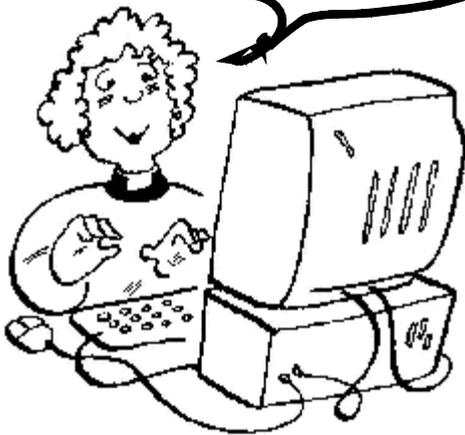


Newslink

South West Cumbria United Area

Methodist and United Reformed Churches Working Together

The
Minister Writes



Happy New Year everyone! For those reading this in February who are not part of a Chinese community or never visit a Chinese take away, I have not lost all track of time. February 10th marks the start of a new Chinese year. This year is the year of the snake; a creature seemingly so despised in Christian history as the one who was ultimately responsible for the demise of Eve. Of course, the joke goes that Adam blamed Eve, Eve blamed the snake and the snake didn't have a leg to stand on! Snakes are still loathed and feared by some people. I have to admit they are not my most favourite creature. Yet, later in the Bible, when the people of Israel are wandering through the desert,

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they fall ill through being bitten by snakes. When Moses cries out to God on behalf of the people, God tells Moses to make a snake of brass and fit it on a pole. This cures the people, but in the end, the snake becomes an idol to be worshipped. It goes to show that people can be so fickle - just read the book of Exodus! The people of Israel went after worshipping the thing God had instructed to be made rather than the God whose idea it was. This reflects our culture of worshipping attractive celebrities instead of the God who created them. In the New Testament, when Jesus speaks of his death, he says, 'And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up' (John 3:14). It creates a more positive spin on a creature treated with such suspicion. It tells us that the death of Jesus was to bring healing to all those who looked on him. As we look to Jesus we can receive healing and wholeness. God can help us with our fickle hearts, celebrity worship and even fear of snakes. 'Let us run

with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.' Hebrews 12:1-2. At the start of another year may we look to Jesus.

Rachel Williams

“Making a Difference” with a shoebox - Teams4u December 2012

Dear Church Members,

I would just like to say a ‘Big Thank You’ to all of you who contributed to this year’s shoebox campaign, sending gift-filled shoeboxes to deprived children in North West Romania. Thank you so much for your support, whether you have filled boxes, provided gifts to go into the shoeboxes, donated money or whatever your contribution has been.

Over 7300 boxes were collected from the area of South Lakes and the Furness locality. Early in January a team from South Lakes travelled to Romania to assist with the distribution of the shoe boxes to needy communities (the Eastern Orthodox Christmas is not celebrated until what we celebrate as Epiphany). We are really grateful for everything you have done for the “Shoebox Project”.

Many, many thanks on behalf of Teams4u and Rosemary Webster
(Coordinator for t4u Shoebox Project).

Pam Mills

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

March issue No 79 of *Newslink* will be published at the end of February
Please send all material to reach Mrs Hazel Edmondson, 22 Tweed Rise, Barrow,
LA14 3LX by Sunday February 3rd. Items can also be passed on by
(**01229 474601** or * edmo@twtw.freeseve.co.uk

Lebone Village

We have recently transferred £5000 to Lebone thanks to the continuing generosity of the folk of this area. Tom Luke feels he can no longer be involved as he now has new commitments from the Truro church. I have agreed to continue to receive money as I have done for the past 2 years and now receive statements from the Central Finance Board where so many of you do Direct Debit so that I am aware of the money available and hope to send at regular intervals. Thank you all for your continued support of this project. I have just received the following letter from Avril:

“Dear Special Friends in Cumbria,

I really don't know how to adequately express our very grateful thanks to you for your incredible gift just received which amounted to an amazing ZAR67446, as well as your very valued support of the work we do here. I can assure you your faithfulness is such a blessing to us.

What a wonderful God we serve, He knows all our needs and always goes ahead of us and provides as only He can through His servants in His absolute perfect time. Through you He has once again provided just when we needed it most. God blesses those who give of themselves, may He reward you for your kindness, compassion and generosity which are all reflections of His love.

The financial costs of this type of work are enormous and the demand for this work is always on the increase, therefore by the generosity of people like you our task is made so much easier. I can assure you each one here at Lebone Village joins me in saying “thank you”. I pray that you will catch a glimpse of our hearts and how much it means to us - thank you just does not seem to say it enough, but thank you thank you thank you from each and everyone to EACH ONE OF YOU.

May He bless you all,

Yours in His Service,

Avril Snyman, Trust Administrator”

Elaine Pears

Youth Organisation Day

The second Youth Organisation Day was held on Saturday 12th January at Beacon Hill on the theme of Promises. We used the story of Noah and some ideas from the Methodist Covenant service. Some of the entries in the competition were amazing - check out the model brought by someone from FACTORS! It was well attended by both children and adults. A good time was had by all. Thank you to everyone who came and helped to make the day possible. The next Youth Organisation Day will be held at the beginning of October (date to be arranged) on the theme of Harvest. We look forward to seeing you!

Rachel Williams

United Area Service

The United Area service at Roose at 6:00 p.m. on Sunday February 24th will be lead by Praise Group and 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 Roose 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. when all are welcome.

Hazel Edmondson

In Memoriam

It is with sadness that we record the death of Sam - Rita Williams' father. We know that he will be sadly missed and our thoughts and prayers go to Rita, Martin and other members of the family.

Margaret Manvell

Date For Your Diary

The Methodist District "Going for Growth Day" will be on Saturday 9th March 2013 at Penrith Methodist Church from 10am -3pm.

Paul Dunstan

An Introduction To The Book Of Revelation

A HALF-DAY SEMINAR PRESENTED BY REV DR ROGER LATHAM

This seminar introducing the Book of Revelation, arranged by the Furness and Barrow Deaneries, has been eagerly awaited by clergy and laity alike. Roger Latham, Vice Principal of the LCTP, is well known to many of us in the area and is respected as an excellent teacher of Scripture. The seminar will be held at Ulverston Parish Centre on Saturday 23rd February 2013 from 9:00 a.m. (for a 9:30 start) to 12:30 p.m. including refreshments at the start and at a half-time break. Cost is £5 per person to be paid on the door. Everyone is welcome. Not to be missed!

This will be a popular seminar and early booking would be advisable with Ulverston Parish Office on 01229 588081 or with Allen Legate on 01229 869906.

First Tuesday Ladies

We meet on 5th February, 5th March, and 9th April (as the 2nd is straight after Easter) all at 59 Croslands park at 7.30pm. With a delve in to the bible and a time of fellowship.

Janet Ladds

Cameo And Reflections

The CAMEO group 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. The February meeting will be on Wednesday 20th; the theme for that meeting will be decided at the January gathering.

The "Reflections" evenings continue on the third Sunday of the month at Vickerstown; the February gathering on 17th will be on the theme of "Fasting and Feasting". 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

Women's World Day Of Prayer - Coffee, Prayer And Fellowship

This event - a morning of preparation for the service on 1st March - will take place on Tuesday 12th February at Trinity from 10:00 a.m. - 11:15 a.m. approx. All welcome.

Margaret Manvell



Green Tip

How about planning what your church can do during Fairtrade Fortnight (Monday 25 February to Sunday 10 March 2013) and/or Climate Week (see below):

A Challenge to all Churches: hold an environment service on 3 March 2013

The Environment Group of Churches Together in Cumbria asks that every church in Cumbria focus all or part of a main service on 3 March 2013 on creation care and climate change to mark the start of Climate Week (4-10 March, see www.climateweek.com) The CTiC

Environment Campaign Group will be producing a pack with recommendations for worship material and proposals for action to help churches with service preparation for 3 March and other activities for Climate Week. Contact Judy Morris: 01539 535735.

Hazel Edmondson

Safeguarding Leadership Module For Cumbria Methodist District And Carlisle Diocese

This course is for all those in positions of responsibility within our churches who lead activities which involve children, young people or vulnerable adults. I will be leading it as training officer for the Methodist District along with Emma Saner-Haigh (safeguarding adviser for the Anglican Diocese). Those expected to come (using Methodist terminology) are:

- | All safeguarding officers (at church, circuit or district level)
- | All members of the district safeguarding group
- | All members of the district policy committee
- | All presbyters or deacons with an active preaching or pastoral ministry
- | Anyone paid through the Church to work with children, young people or vulnerable adults in our churches.

Others are welcome to attend. It is important that all those attending have FIRST attended the Safeguarding Foundation module. Further dates for the New Year are being published. It is essential to book a place so that we order enough materials, coffee and lunch (which is provided) - please contact me for a booking form or with any queries on edmo@twtw.freeseve.co.uk or 474601.

Date in 2013	Area	Venue	Time
Monday 4th Feb	Carlisle	St John's Church London Road CA1 2HA	10 - 4
Monday 18th Feb	Kendal	Netherton Hall, in the grounds of Kendal Parish Church Kirkland LA9 5AF	10 - 4
Thursday 28th Feb	Workington	St Michael's Church Centre, Falcon Place, Workington CA14 2EZ	10 - 4
Monday 4th Mar	Wigton	Wigton Methodist Church, High Street,	10 - 4
Wednesday 13th Mar	Gosforth	St Mary's Church Hall, Wasdale Road, Gosforth CA20 1AU	10:30-4:30
Saturday 16th Mar	Penrith	Penrith Methodist Church, Wordsworth Street, Penrith CA11 7QY	10 - 4

Further dates will follow later in the year.

David Edmondson

Families Worker Welcome Service For Mike Little

We look forward to welcoming Mike to Hartington St and the United Area at the café worship on the evening of Sunday March 3rd. Worship will begin as usual at Hartington St at 8 pm and the evening will be led by Bek. Not your usual formal welcome service, and perhaps a bit later than many people are used to, but we hope many of you will want to come and share in a memorable evening which will reflect the flexible way in which we are asking Mike to work.

David Edmondson



Event: A Pre-Lent Quiet Day.

Date: February 9th 2013.

Time: 10.00 hrs – 17.30 hrs.

Venue: Duddon Road Methodist Church.

Aim: To declutter our busy modern lives by becoming Spiritually more Open to God, as we approach our Christian Journey Through Lent .

Individual Churches

Trinity

On 2nd December we welcomed Darcy Belle Prescott into the church family at Trinity. She brought her mum Stacey and her father Robert with her along with members of her family and friends. On 30th December it was a great pleasure to welcome Poppy May Lynas (Kay and Brian's granddaughter) as well as Susan and Mark with many other members of the family and friends to be part of Poppy's Baptismal service. We hope to see both of these families again soon.

Also on Sunday 30th December, Martin conducted a Wedding Blessing for Ruth Park (Margaret Rudd's granddaughter) and Tony King. We wish them well in their married life in Dubai.

We will be holding our usual monthly Coffee Morning at 9:30 a.m. on Saturday February 2nd.

There will also be a Pie & Pea Supper and Quiz at 6:00 p.m. on Friday 22nd Feb, tickets available soon.

Margaret Manvell

The Prayer Meeting at Trinity is held between 8:55 and 9:30a.m. each Friday. It is open to anyone to come along, or to use the time wherever you happen to be. If you have a prayer need or request, please let Martin Williams or Janet Ladds know and they will be included.

The focus will be on the following churches and streets during February:

03/02 - Roose	Streets -	'S'
10/02 - Dalton		'T'
17/02 - Ramsden St		'U'
24/02 - Urswick		'V'
03/03 - Askam		'W'

Janet Ladds

Beacon Hill

You are invited to a Masked Ball to be held in aid of The Leprosy Mission at Beacon Hill on Saturday 16th February, 7.30 - 9.30 p.m. We have secured the services of dance instructor Mr. Alan Adams and light refreshments will be provided by Just Desserts. We would be very pleased to see you there, either to dance or to watch. Please try to obtain or make a mask. If you are unable to do so, helpers will be at hand from 7 pm to assist you in making your own unique creation.

Lilian Wood

Hartington Street

Appointment of Worker with Children and Families at Hartington Street

Hartington Street is pleased to announce the appointment of Mike Little as our Church worker. Mike already works part time in a similar role at Ulverston Methodist and will be employed for 20 hours per week at Hartington Street. The appointment begins on 1st March and his role marks the beginning of an active outreach ministry at Hartington Street. His aim is to engage with the children and families of the Hindpool area of Barrow and develop activities and events which demonstrate the relevance of the Christian faith to them. His experience, encouragement and expertise will also be available to the wider United Area. Mike's appointment is a bold step for Hartington Street and represents a new approach to ministry in the United Area. We ask that you support Mike and the Church in prayer as he begins his role.

Mark Mills

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 are 7th and 21st February.

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 February 5th and 19th.

Knit & Natter: Tuesday fortnightly from 10:00 to 11:30 - no experience needed (for knitting). Dates: February 12th and 26th.

Bible Study: Thursday fortnightly from 6:00 to 7:00p.m.
led by Rev Martin Williams Dates: February 14th and 28th.

Dalton

The Bible Society Advent Praise raised just over £99 for Bible Society projects worldwide.

Anyone willing to donate goods or help at the Coronation Hall coffee morning on Thursday March 7th please contact me.

Our Church Christmas Bazaar raised £401 for church funds. Donations to the URC/Methodist Christmas tree amounted to £155 which was given to the Furness Homeless Support Group for their Christmas Shelter.

Over the Christmas period £282 was raised for Christian Aid - £84 from our Coffee and Carols, £98 from our Carol Service and £100 from the Christian Women's Fellowship.

R Willock

Christian Women's Fellowship: Our first meeting of the New Year is on Wednesday 20th February and will be a Social Evening with light supper starting at 7 p.m.; ALL are welcome - male and female.

D Qazi

Ramsden Street

The Christmas period was a very busy and happy time for us. We enjoyed the visit of the Greengate Junior School Choir who sang Christmas songs and carols at our Coffee Morning on December 14th.

FACTORS made an Advent banner for our community room and made Christingles ready for Christmas Eve at Trinity. Our Carol Service, led by Martin, included a Power Point Presentation produced by Heather and Nigel. We all enjoyed tea together afterwards.

There will be a Church lunch on Wednesday February 6th.

Anne Stevenson

Vickerstown

We are pleased to report that we have now managed to raise the funds through our “Food and Fellowship” evenings to twin our second church toilet with one in Burundi - look out for the certificates if you ever use our facilities. We also enjoyed going “shopping” during the Christmas Day service from the Methodist Relief and Development Fund Virtual catalogue with the £175 raised by only sending one Christmas card to all our church friends and donating the money saved - and some extra besides! We held a one day Christmas holiday club session, and were pleased that some of the children who had come in the summer chose to attend again, and brought some friends - 12 children in all shared in crafts, games and stories on the Christmas theme.

The first “**Good News**” library visit of 2013 will be at 2:00 p.m. on Monday, February 4th.

Our February coffee morning will be from 10:00 on Saturday, February 23rd.

Hazel Edmondson

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