



# Newslink

*South West Cumbria United Area*

Methodist and United Reformed Churches Working Together

The  
Minister Writes



Dear Friends,

As I write this, a little over a week has passed since the papers, even the North West Evening Mail, covered the death of my old friend Reg - and that despite the fact that Reg lived and died in Derbyshire. I use the word 'old' advisedly, because aged 110 years and 63 days at the time of his death, Reg (the Reverend Thomas Reginald Dean to give him his 'Sunday name') was the oldest man in Britain, and old enough to have been my great grandfather. Ordained an Anglican priest in the 1920s, Reg went on to become a Congregational and in due course a URC minister. By the time I became Superintendent of the Wirksworth Methodist Circuit, the Fairtrade shop

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there was already flourishing, though it wasn't until after he turned eighty that Reg was instrumental in setting it up. If I had to pick a single memory of Reg, it would come from the early years of my time in Cumbria. I was invited back for the opening of 'Waltham House', an extra-sheltered care housing development in the town for which a group of us had been working for a long time. It seemed appropriate that, as one of the first residents, Reg should be invited to carry out the opening ceremony - even though he was then a mere 106 years old! Gathered in the communal lounge with many of the 'great and good' from around Derbyshire, I listened for what Reg would say. He wanted to use a portion from the Bible to begin. Unfortunately his eyes had failed him by that time, so he couldn't read it out. No problem - he 'read' it from his memory, a reminder to me of how important it is for us to learn at least some parts of scripture by heart if we can. With the address which followed, he held a roomful of dignitaries in the palm of his hand...

and offered them a gospel message.

We can't claim many centenarians in South West Cumbria, let alone among the membership of the United Area, though the one-woman ecumenical project called Anne Marshall joined that select band at the end of January, and it was good to share in her standing-room-only open house celebration with (among others) friends from both Beacon Hill Methodist where she worships on a Sunday and Ramsden Street URC where she's a much-loved member of the midweek fellowship. At both of those churches Anne will have seen signs of January's United Area Youth Organisation Day on the theme of promises. Ramsden Street's FACTORS group produced a collage for the occasion, illustrating God's rainbow promise to Noah. They might not have noticed the part of the story which tells us that "Noah was six hundred years old when the floodwaters came on the earth" (Genesis 7:6), but it's just one among many reminders that no matter whether we're old or young - or somewhere in between - God can use us for his kingdom if we'll just let him do his work in and through our lives

Towards the end of this month we'll be remembering a man who was put to death on a cross when he was just thirty-three. On March's very last day we'll remember how God raised Jesus from the dead opening the way to eternal life for us all!

So I wish you every blessing this Easter in the name of the crucified and risen Christ,

*Martin*

## **Holy Week Services**

Monday March 25<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. at Dalton Market St

Tuesday March 26<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. at Dalton Wellington St

Maundy Thursday March 28<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. at Ramsden St

Good Friday - Free Church Service at 10:30 a.m. at Barrow Salvation Army

Good Friday - Churches Together in Barrow service at St Mary's Duke St at 7:00 p.m.

## **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)

April issue No 80 of *Newslink* will be published at the end of March  
Please send all material to reach Mrs Hazel Edmondson, 22 Tweed Rise, Barrow,  
LA14 3LX by Sunday March 3<sup>rd</sup>. Items can also be passed on by  
( **01229 474601** or \* [edmo@twtw.freeserve.co.uk](mailto:edmo@twtw.freeserve.co.uk)

## **Lent Courses**

A reminder that the following Lent groups are meeting in the United Area.

*Please note change of time for the Beacon Hill group*

### **Beacon Hill Methodist Church**

“York Course” Theme ‘Glimpses of God’

*5 Sessions beginning Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> February 7:00pm - 8:30pm*

- i - The God who hears our cry
- ii - The Shepherd who guides and guards his people
- iii - The Son who is the way, truth and life
- iv - The God who shares our pain
- v - The God who calms our fears

### **Urswick Parish Room**

“Life of Jesus” Course video based

*3 Sessions beginning Monday 4<sup>th</sup> March 7:00pm for 7:30pm*

*Although this is a continuation of the recent Advent Course, each session is considered as ‘stand-alone’ and all are welcome.*

### **Abbey Group - Trinity @ St. Matthew’s**

“Engaging in Worship” Churches Together in Cumbria Course

*5 Sessions beginning Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> February at 7:00pm*

- 1 - Our encounter with God
- 2 - The Bible in Worship
- 3 - Community in Worship
- 4 - The Whole Person in Worship
- 5 - The World in Worship

## **“Going For Growth”**

The Methodist District Going for Growth Day 2013, “Into the Word - into the world” will be on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> March at Penrith Methodist Church from 10am -3pm.

Bookings (especially numbers for children’s work and crèche) to 01768 862787 or email: [admin@penrithmethodist.co.uk](mailto:admin@penrithmethodist.co.uk) Please bring your own lunch - children’s and youth activities provided. This year, “Going for Growth” offers the district the opportunity to spend the day in the context of worship exploring the written and living word of God relevant to your lives and in the world around you. Our speakers Jonathan Pye and Jeff Thomas will lead us into scripture, taking it from the page into our hearts and into our work and home lives. Come and be inspired to live out the Word in the world.

*Paul Dunstan*

## Flashbacks

Having successfully launched *Flashbacks...to times with Jesus* in Dalton last October we are now going to run it again but this time at Ramsden Street URC from Mon April 22<sup>nd</sup> (afternoon) until Thursday April 25<sup>th</sup> (afternoon).

Flashbacks revolves around looking at various incidents in Jesus' life, much as one looks at photographs to remind oneself of particular times and events. At Flashbacks the children will have the opportunity to experience various crafts and games relating to events in Jesus' life. Many people have enjoyed working with the enthusiastic children we get at these events. No particular skills are needed to be a helper, just a desire to work with the children and help them learn a little about Jesus in the process.

The organising team would be happy to hear from anyone who could help at one, or more, sessions. (We are expecting to use 4 half day sessions but we haven't got all the replies back from the schools yet to know exactly which sessions we will be using).

Please contact Iva Cole, Ann Hufton, Kate Hughes, Joan Linney, Hilary Mantle, or Jean Helme if you would like further information or would like to volunteer.

*Ann Hufton*

## Thursday Club

Free on a Thursday afternoon, 2-4pm? Then why not come along to the Thursday Club (designed for older people) at Dalton Wellington Street. By the time you read this we will already have had two sessions out of the six we have planned for February and March. This is a new venture for anyone in Dalton or surrounding area, whether church goers or not, to enjoy a time of getting together to do activities and chat!

Each week includes a short chair-based exercise session, opportunity to play different table games along with the activities shown below, and refreshments. If you need transport to get there then telephone Kate on 463885.

February 28<sup>th</sup> Slides - 'Egypt: Along the Nile from Luxor to Aswan'

March 7<sup>th</sup> Craft - Fabric brooches & Felt novelties, cost £3.00

March 14<sup>th</sup> Music - South West Cumbria Praise Group

March 21<sup>st</sup> Easter Crafts - cost £3.00 and an Easter Bonnet Parade

Come and enjoy an afternoon out!

*Ann Hufton*



# Network Dates - United Area And District For 2013

## Coffee Mornings -

April	Saturday	- Askam
April 20 <sup>th</sup>	Saturday	- Trinity (Janet & Kay)
May	Tuesday	- Broughton
June		-
July 25 <sup>th</sup>	Thursday	- Beacon Hill
August	Saturday	- Dalton (hosted by Elaine and Muriel)
September		
October	Thursday	- Roose
November		

Please could other churches volunteer to host a coffee/tea event? Also could Askam, Broughton and Roose set a date; thank you for your support.

**Easter Offerings:** The service is to be on **Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> April, at 6:00pm at Trinity Church Centre**. The service is to be led by Mrs Janet Ladds & Mrs Kay Sharp; the speaker is Mrs Yvonne Blackley. Easter Offerings from each church will be received and dedicated at this service. There will be a cup of tea after the service.

**Summer Celebration** - It has been suggested that we once again ask Margaret & Andrew Cain for the band to play at Beacon Hill, possibly on 19<sup>th</sup> June at 7:30pm.

**October Ecumenical Rally** - Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> October at 2pm with refreshments to follow. Mrs Di Wallace, our District President of Network (MWiB) has agreed to be our speaker. The theme will be "Making a Difference".

## District Events -

**Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> March - Spring Day** at Sandylands Church, Kendal.  
Council meeting - 10:45 - 12:45pm lunch,  
From babies to Babushkas Speaker - 1:45 - 3:30pm

**Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> May - Fellowship Day** at Brampton Methodist Church.  
'Palestine' - Rev Nicola Jones, 10:15am - 3:30pm

**Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> July - Summer Celebration & Ceilidh** at Ulverston MC  
2pm -Shetland -Di Wallace; Evening - Ceilidh.

**Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> October - District Autumn Day** at Wigton Rd MC, Carlisle  
Council meeting - 10:45 - 12:45pm lunch  
Speaker - Mr John Roughly on 'The Leprosy Mission' 1:45 - 3:30pm

**November (date to follow) - Abbot Hall Conference**

*Janet Ladds*

## **CAMEO and Reflections**

There will not be a CAMEO meeting in March, so that we do not clash with the many Lent groups. We will meet again in April.

The “Reflections” evenings continue on the third Sunday of the month at Vickerstown; the March gathering on 17<sup>th</sup> will be on the theme of “Gethsemane”. The church will be open from 8p.m. until at least 9p.m, and (as always) refreshments will be available in the church porch.

*David Edmondson*

## **First Tuesday Ladies**

We meet on 5<sup>th</sup> March, and 9<sup>th</sup> April (as the 2<sup>nd</sup> is straight after Easter). The April meeting will be at 59 Croslands park at 7:30 p.m. as usual, but in March we will join the Lent study group at Beacon Hill. **(7:00p.m. to 8:30p.m, please note the change of time)**

*Janet Ladds*

## **Women’s World Day Of Prayer**

The Barrow Women’s World Day of Prayer service will be held at St Marks on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> March at 2:00 p.m. The theme for this year’s service is ‘I was a stranger and you welcomed me’ and has been prepared by the women of France. The Leader will be Mrs Joan Ward and the Speaker, Rev. Ann Hufton. Refreshments after the service.

*Margaret Manvell*

The Dalton area Women’s World Day of Prayer service for 2013 will be held on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> March at 2:30 pm at St. Cuthbert’s Church Kirkby-in-Furness. The speaker is the Rev. Elaine Bates.

*D Qazi*

## **You And Me And Afternoon Tea In Askam**

This event, designed for older people, will be held over three Thursdays from 2-4pm at The Rankin Hall, Askam - March 7<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>. As usual each session will have a different theme (Keep Safe, Keep Active, and Keep Thinking) and will include a variety of activities and information and will end with afternoon tea. Look out for posters and fliers giving the final details of the programme. This is an opportunity for any older person to have an afternoon out and enjoy a social time. Do come yourself and/or invite your friends and neighbours to take part.

*Ann Hufton*

## Individual Churches

### Trinity

Monthly Coffee Morning and Stork Sale: Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> March from 9:30 - 11:30 a.m.

Our Easter Fayre will be held on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup>. March from 2:00 - 4:00 p.m.

The Abbey Group will be joining with St. Matthews for this year's Lent Course, starting on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> February at 7:00 p.m.

The Abbey Group will be joining with the Salthouse Group for a Quiet Day at Vickerstown on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup>. March. The day starts at 10:00 a.m. with refreshments. Donations to cover expenses - Bring a packed Lunch.

*Margaret Manvell*

### 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 & Speakers.:

March 14<sup>th</sup> Quiz Night;

March 28<sup>th</sup> Maundy Thursday Service @ Ramsden Street. Meet at Hartington Street for Tea & Biscuits, then a lift to the Service.

**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 March 5<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>.

**Knit & Natter:** Tuesday fortnightly from 10:00 to 11:30 - no experience needed (for knitting). Dates: March 12<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>.

**Bible Study:** Thursday fortnightly from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. led by Rev Martin Williams. Dates: To be confirmed.

*Ellen Powell*

We look forward to welcoming Mike Little to his family worker post at our café worship on March 3<sup>rd</sup>. The evening will be led by Rebekah and will start at the usual time of 8:00. We are sure that Mike will be a great asset both to Hartington St and the United Area.

*David Edmondson*

## Dalton

The Bible Society Action Group will be meeting in February to review the Christmas events and finalize the coffee morning at the Coronation Hall Ulverston on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March 2013. Any donations, especially books, cakes and raffle prizes, or help on the day will be greatly appreciated. (Please contact me).

*R Willock*

Christian Women's Fellowship: The next meeting of the CWF will be on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> March at 7:30 pm. when we will take an **Easter Journey**. All are welcome.

*D Qazi*

Dates: Saturday March 2<sup>nd</sup> 9:45 to 11:15 am Church coffee morning.

## Millom

Millom church had a good day for the Fayre on 26<sup>th</sup> January. We raised £611.61p. We had cakes and good bric-a-brac and plenty of people through the door; lots of jewellery and lots of chat.

On Friday 8<sup>th</sup> March we have our daffodil tea 3-5 p.m. £3 each.

Due to Lent lunches we change the time of craft classes from 2-4p.m. Lent lunches began from 21<sup>st</sup> February, 12 noon till 1:30, £2.50. We are having 5 lent lunches this year, finishing March 21<sup>st</sup>.

*Sue Giles*

## Ramsden Street

Our usual first Wednesday in the month lunch will be a Lent Lunch on Wednesday March 6<sup>th</sup> and everybody is welcome to join us. Proceeds from the lunch will be donated to the Food Bank.

Although Ramsden Street usually worships with Trinity when there is a fifth Sunday in the month, we will be holding our Easter Day services at Ramsden Street on March 31<sup>st</sup>. We are looking forward to Rev Sarah Moore being with us on this day. We begin at 10:30am for a short Communion Service followed by coffee and hot cross buns and the Easter Celebration Service will begin at 11:15am and a faith lunch will follow at approx 12:15pm.

*Anne Stevenson*

## Kirkby

We are holding our Lent Lunch following our Coffee and Company on March 6<sup>th</sup>. Coffee will be served as usual from 9:45 until 11:30 and then we will serve a Bread and Soup Lunch. The proceeds from the lunch will go to the Barrow Food Bank and we will also start another collection of goods.

On Easter Sunday we will again be serving breakfast after our Communion Service at 8:30am. All are welcome. If you are coming please give Mary or Janet a ring beforehand to ensure there will be enough Hot Cross Buns to eat. We will also be serving toast with our homemade marmalade and chocolate Easter Eggs are usually on the menu too.

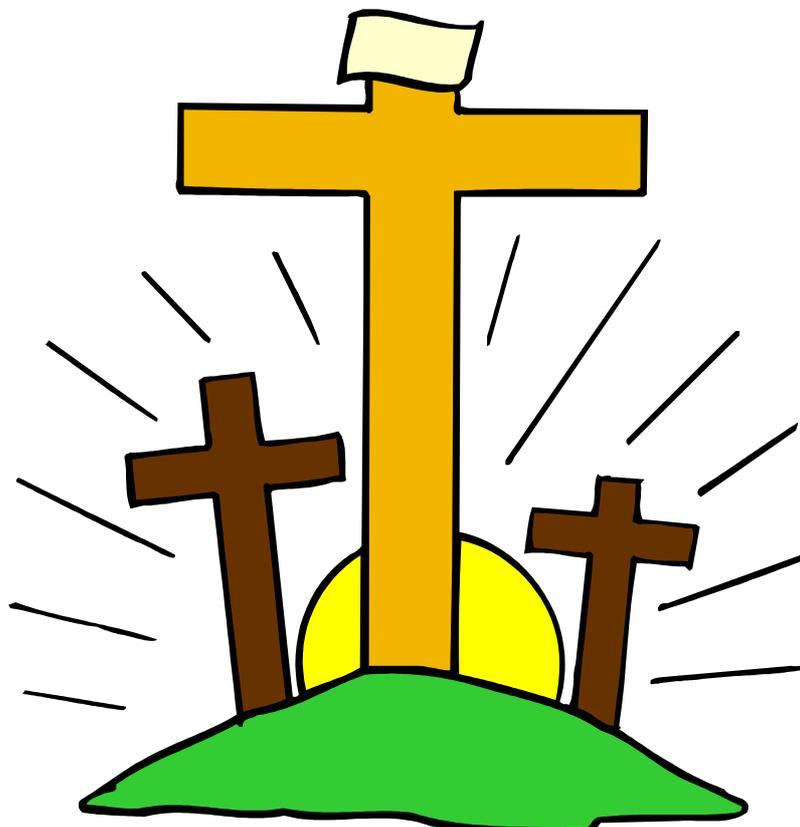
*Janet Sheldon*

## Vickerstown

There will be a "Good News" library visit at 2:00 p.m. on Monday, March 4<sup>th</sup>. Our March coffee morning will be from 10:00a.m. on Saturday, March 30<sup>th</sup>.

After a long wait, our friends from St Mary's will be welcoming a new vicar this month. Rev Andy Batchelor and his wife Julie will be moving to Walney from Ulverston, and Andy's licensing service is on Wednesday, March 13<sup>th</sup>.

*Hazel Edmondson*





## Green Tip

I have received as part of a regular emailing a link to a very thought provoking article by Andy Flanagan entitled “What Stops Me Sharing Stuff?” Here is just part of it:

“Is it possible that I just still don’t understand grace? You see the danger in lending something to anyone is that it might be damaged, or that at the moment when I might “need” it, it will not be to hand. First of all that need of mine to have it to hand speaks volumes of how I often prize

functionality above relationship. In our drive to make our lives efficient we squander cash and potential relationship by idolising self-sufficiency. But the bigger issue is that the danger of sharing is someone may take advantage of it. And the correct theological riposte to that worry goes something like this... “So what!!!” So what if someone takes advantage of your kindness. That is the position God finds himself in for about 99.3% of most of his days. It may be good to experience something of how he feels. If we are serious about imaging him then we need to understand the incredible grace we have received and somehow inhabit a mindset that desires to share without strings being attached. One could also throw in the point that these “things” are not ours anyway. And even if they were, they aren’t just for our personal use or personal good. Surely if we have been graced with resources, we have been given them for building up and blessing the communities that we are part of.”

If you want to read the whole article, go to

<http://www.arochalivinglightly.org.uk> and look for it under “Guest articles”.

*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 & 4:00pm
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 & 4:00pm
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](http://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