



Newslink

SOUTH WEST CUMBRIA UNITED AREA

Charity Registration Number 1141404

Methodist and United Reformed Churches Working Together

The Minister Writes



I've just suffered a major shock to the system. I am horribly dependent on our broadband connection, which brings with it the email and internet which plays such a large part in 21st century living and working. Over the years, I have established an easy familiarity with our "server" - as I have learned to call the firm which provides our broadband. Our relationship has never been intimate: all I ask is that the email and internet is available when I switch on, and all I am asked for in return is a modest sum of money each month. We communicate via

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a few wires, a "modem" and a telephone line. No fuss, the link is reassuringly visible, and it works.

However, I heard that there was the possibility of a completely different sort of relationship with our "server" which would offer so much more. It would not depend on the visible link, but would be "wireless". The power of the internet would be at the fingertips of anyone anywhere in the entire house using any computer - you would no longer need to be sitting at the computer connected to the wire leading to the phone socket (rather inconveniently situated in Karen's bedroom). If we so wanted, every member of the family could enjoy the internet experience all at the same time.

I (or rather, we - because such a drastic change would affect the whole family) decided to go for it. Tentatively. I left the existing wires in place, and tried this new relationship from my lap-top, so

Area Website www.swcumbriaunitedarea.unc.org.uk

that if it didn't work we could just forget about the whole idea. I didn't realise that once the shiny new "router" kindly provided by our "server" had been plugged in and switched on, the old way of communicating would no longer work at all: the wires would truly be dead. Forever. If I'd known that, I'm not at all sure that I would have been able to let go of the comforting, visible link. This would have been a great shame, for the new "wireless" connection is indeed all that I'd heard it was - available at any time, to anyone.

Truly a Pentecost experience. Well, perhaps not quite. But I couldn't help think of the disciples, bereft after the loss of their well established relationship with the leader they had followed during the years of his ministry, suddenly confronted with first the possibility of a different relationship with the risen Jesus and then the immense potential of the gift of the Holy Spirit. I imagine it was as incomprehensible to them as wireless broadband is to me as they first experienced the difference it made to them, and then in the days, weeks and years that followed began to appreciate that here was a power that could transform the life of anyone who was open to it. No passwords, no charges, no viruses. Just the freedom of new life, and the love of God. We have much to celebrate on May 19th!

David Edmondson

United Area Ascension Day Service

There will be a service to celebrate Ascension Day at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, May 9th at Dalton Market Street, led by Ron Wilson and David Edmondson

Churches Together In Barrow Pentecost Service

Please note the change of usual venue for the event: we will gather at 3:00 p.m. on Sunday, 19th May in the little amphitheatre outside the Dock Museum. The guest speaker will be Rev Gary Cregeen

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

June issue No 82 of *Newslink* will be published at the end of May
Please send all material to reach Mrs Hazel Edmondson, 22 Tweed Rise, Barrow,
LA14 3LX by Sunday May 5th. Items can also be passed on by
☎ **01229 474601** or ✉ edmo@twtw.freeseve.co.uk

From Mike Little

Hello everyone. This is my first input to the United Area magazine and may I take this opportunity to say a huge thank you to everyone who has made Rachel and I feel so welcomed into the new church setting. I am very excited about the next few months on what can be achieved and I very much look forward to working with you all. Since beginning work at Hartington Street I am pleased to announce that the local schools and other organizations have responded positively and look forward to supporting the ministry. Now that the new family room is nearing completion we can begin hosting the parent and toddler group and the Dad's group plus look towards having our messy church up and running as soon as possible. The question is how can the United Area help us? My answer is firstly lots of prayer for the support of the new work we will be undertaking and secondly I would welcome help for these new groups. There will be a variety of roles even down to simply tidying up afterwards. If you feel that you could make a contribution to the exciting new work here at Hartington Street then I would love to hear from you.

With every blessing,

Mike Little :-)

Network

The Summer Effort is to be held at Beacon Hill Methodist Church on Wednesday 19th June, 7:15pm. Entitled 'A little bit of brass', Holborn Hill Brass Band will provide our entertainment.

Tickets will be available from Network reps, £2.50 including refreshments.

Janet Ladds

Local Preachers / Worship Leaders Continuing Development

Two sessions to be held at Kirkby Church, at 7:30 p.m. looking at some of the new hymns in "Singing the Faith" on themes as below:

Thursday 16th May - Discipleship, led by Hazel Edmondson

Thursday 11th July - Contemporary justice - led by Rev Martin Williams

Any one is welcome to attend.

We have also been invited to a preachers' refresher course at Penrith Methodist Church on Saturday, 8th June from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. - "Practical Points for Family Friendly Church" led by Mike Bossingham. The cost is £5 including coffee and a fish and chip lunch. If you wish to go, please let Martin Williams know by May 12th.

Janet Ladds

Cameo And Reflections

The May CAMEO evening will be at Ramsden St at 7:00 p.m. on Friday, May 17th. The “Reflections” evenings continue on the third Sunday of the month at Vickerstown; the May gathering on the 19th will be on the theme of “Pentecost”. 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

We will be meeting at 7:30pm at 59 Croslands Park on Tuesday 7th May, Tuesday 4th June, Tuesday 2nd July, no meeting in August, Tuesday 3rd September.

Janet Ladds

Churches Together In Cumbria Newsletter

It was good to see in the April edition an appreciative participant’s view of the recent Thursday Club sessions in Dalton:

Wellington Street Methodist, Dalton: The Thursday Club event for us folk of mature years comprised a really well thought out series of sessions with activities including armchair aerobics (even I could do them), crafts, music, quizzes, puzzles and the ever welcome chance to speak to other pensioners and enjoy a cuppa. We really did appreciate all the work that had gone in to organising this and look forward, funds permitting, to a repeat series of sessions in the autumn.

Margie Arts

Do look out for a copy of the CTiC newsletter in your church, or find it from the link on the home page of the CTiC website: <http://www.churchestogethercumbria.co.uk>

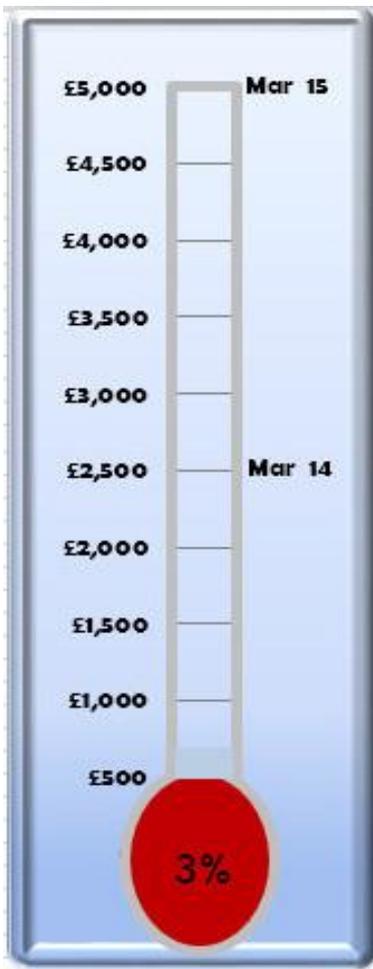
You will find further information and booking details for many events, such as:

Saturday 15th June Chaplaincy: taking Church outside the walls - CTiC Social Responsibility Forum conference 2013, 10:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Ambleside Parish Centre

Saturday 6th July: Living for Now: Preparing for the Future - An introduction to the Mental Capacity Act - St Thomas Church, Kendal
10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Saturday 21st September: Celebrating Together - ‘10 things they never told me about Jesus’ and Improving Congregational Song - Wigton Road Methodist Church, Carlisle 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. CTiC annual gathering with John Bell, Wild Goose Resource Group, The Iona Community.

Hazel Edmondson



Christian Aid Community Partnership

The United Area has now signed up to the Christian Aid Afghanistan Community Partnership Project. This commits us to raising £5000 by the end of March 2015, and this amount will be matched by the European Union at a ratio of 3:1 meaning that our £5000 will effectively be worth an amazing £20,000 towards the project. The project will enable women in some of the poorest parts of Afghanistan to have a say at last in the decisions that affect them and their communities, to learn to read and write, and to receive funding to start small businesses. Less than 13% of Afghan women are literate, and Afghanistan has the highest maternal mortality rate in the world.

Thanks for the money collected so far: we have the first £155-90. £50-90 came from the collection at the February United Area service, and Roose are the first individual church to hold an event, raising £105 from their Lent Soup Lunch. Please remember, if you do raise any money for Christian Aid to go towards our total, please pass the money through your

church accounting system in the usual way, and then send it to Bob Mantle (payable to South West Cumbria United Area but with a clear note saying it is for Christian Aid). Please let me know if you are planning an event, so we can both help to advertise them and avoid potential clashes; the two I know about so far are the barbecue at Vickerstown on May 11th (see Vickerstown article for details), and a planned quiz at Beacon Hill on October 18th.

Hazel Edmondson

Dates For Your Diary

Please could you note now a couple of dates arranged for events in June by the COG meeting? We have our annual COG coffee morning on Saturday, 8th June 2013 at Dalton Market Street; advance contributions to be taken to the United Area meeting on the 6th. Helpers are needed on the Saturday from 9:00 a.m. The money raised will go to The Leprosy Mission.

COG Slog - more details in June - this will follow the usual pattern and be based at Roose church on Sunday, June 23rd.

Hazel Edmondson

When we met Willem, we knew at once where Avril received her practical support and love. He was so welcoming, with his following of dogs, who seemed devoted to him and moved only when he did. They consisted of a great dane, which affectionately would 'lean' against you and trap you up against a wall, much to Willem's delight, who would roar with laughter. Then there was a white Alsatian, a beautiful animal which he had rescued when it had been shot in the leg, and an assortment of medium to smaller dogs, equally devoted to him. His job that day, was putting up guttering, which later he told us hadn't happened, as he had been called to see to so many other jobs, and this apparently was the way of things. Next day he was installing a large tank with a pump to catch rain water, off the roof of a huge workshop where Willem kept his 'big boy toys' the electric welder, and metal working tools, to name but a few. As diesel fuel, was shooting up in price he was fitting a 1,000 litre diesel tank, for use in the vehicles and farm vehicles - and the cost to fill this was huge, 'We'll need R7,000 to fill it' he tells Avril'- 'I haven't got it says Avril' and once again they rely on their great faith to find the money - which I found very humbling. They have a large shed where originally 100 chickens gave them sufficient eggs for the children and to be sold for extra income - the chickens were also sold off when too old to lay. Sadly through theft the number of chickens is now down in number.

Avril introduced us to Lulu, a much treasured member of staff, who took us around to show us what was happening at the moment. So much activity everywhere. The children have always slept in dormitories but now an old block was being changed into new bed rooms, singles and doubles for the older children, to give them 'space' to study and relax. Outside the new bedrooms - was the original entrance, and I notice plaques hanging in the trees - these turn out to be in memory of sponsors who are no longer with us and I noted the name of Bill Pears on one of them. Happy sounds and lovely aromas were coming from the bakery where smiling faces greet us. This is another way of raising revenue, as well as food for the children. I wonder where the children are, the older ones are at school, Lulu explains, which I should have realised, but then she takes us to see the little ones- and what a beautiful sight - lots of activity. The pre-schoolers are playing outside on swings and on the climbing frame, and also in and on top of the shell of a car, all looking so happy and busy. As soon as we got out our cameras they started to smile, wave and shout CHEESE!! wow. There is just one little girl standing alone, who isn't joining in, and I learn that she is quite new and shy - I just felt drawn to her. Next day she allowed me to hold her hand and I felt so much love for her, it was amazing. Maybe I will be allowed to sponsor her - she is called Kqotsofatso. We learn that there

were 100 children at Lebone at one time, but now just 64, as they are sometimes returned to the care of their wider families, which is wonderful, but sadly does not always work out for the best.

We are driven to see the city of Bloemfontein by Lulu's husband John who acts as the Lebone driver. He takes us up to the highest point of the city, where recently a huge sculpture of Nelson Mandela has been erected. He is one of South Africa's most famous and loved person, having given so much of his life to help bring the people out of the difficult times of apartheid. We can see 360° of the town from here, but have to make a dash for the car, as the heavens open. John drives us then to a park and on the large lawn is an awesome sight - an army of bronze statues 'matching' towards us, depicting all the people who have played an important part in South Africa's history.

We learn from Avril that fontein means fountain (or spring) in Afrikaans, and bloem means flowers - so Bloemfontein was built where blossoms bloomed around a water supply. This explains why we have driven through so many towns with fontein as part of their name - the early Dutch settlers obviously set up camp where there was a water supply - and so the towns were born.

Later the school bus appears, and brings the older children home from school, and returns some of the little ones to their own homes, they do not all sleep at Lebone. I am introduced to the older children and ask if any of them remember Tom and Jan Luke, a sea of hands shoot up, and I realise that Tom and Jan have made a real impression on these children. Lulu introduces each of the children by name, which I find daunting as I know I will find it very difficult to remember even one. She points out the twins, who I remember were taken in as very premature babies, but are now healthy 6 year olds. One of the older boys Pule, comes to talk to me and he has written a letter to Tom and Jan and asks me if I can give it to them. I tell them we are leaving for England soon, and another of the older girls asks me if it is cold there and will I need a jumper, three sometimes I say, and a coat, a hat, gloves and boots, she finds it difficult to take in.

The school bus is the second one they have had, as their first bus was stolen from the grounds - a huge hole cut in the fencing and the bus taken. Quite astonishingly they are given a much bigger and better bus quite soon afterwards, God seems to provide all the time. This new one is now kept bolted to the floor at night and they have had razor wire installed around the perimeter, and were also having surveillance cameras fitted. We were to see later that secure premises were a must in many areas of South Africa.

Dorothy Gleaves

(Part 3 to follow next month)

Request From Christopher Jenkin

Christopher Jenkin (former vicar of St Paul's) has asked us to let people know that he has written a book which he is self-publishing, called "I Believe - I Think... Stories and Struggles in Christian Ministry". In the book he reflects on his experiences during 49 years as a Christian minister, and what they have taught him about God, the modern world and everything. He seeks to grapple with some of the major theological and ethical issues facing the church. He has asked us to take any orders and let him know, so that copies for people in Barrow would be £10-50, without the £2-50 p&p. Any profits will go to charitable causes, with half going to his "Kasese" retirement project helping street children in Uganda.

If you are interested, please contact us on 827199.

Bob and Daphne Watkinson



Green Tip

Living Lightly Tip from A Rocha:

"One of the simplest things we can do to make a difference in our world is change our electricity supplier to one that is committed to renewable energy. The two best companies are currently Good Energy and Ecotricity and switching from your regular energy company to one or other of those is very easy. So make the switch!"

Hazel Edmondson

Marshside Methodist Chapel

Plant and Produce Sale

Saturday 11th May

10am-12noon

Homemade cakes and preserves

Handmade cards

Perennials, vegetables and bedding plants

£1 entry includes cup of tea or coffee

Children free



Individual Churches

Trinity

Monthly Coffee Morning and Stork Sale: Saturday 4th May from 9:30 a.m.-11:30a.m.

Plant Sale: Friday 10th May 3:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Family News: It is with sadness we report the death of Jack Dunwoody, Les Wakefield and Joan Cathcart. Jack did not get to church much latterly but continued to give financial support and was interested in what was going on when visited. Les on the other hand was always there with Muriel. Wherever Muriel was, Les could be found, in the kitchen or at the tombola stall. Les was a quiet man with a dry sense of humour and will be missed. Our thoughts and prayers will be with Liz (Jack's daughter) and Muriel and the rest of the family. Joan worshipped at School Street until it closed, then at Emmanuel, and lastly at Trinity. Joan was a representative to the former Lancaster District Council, a Synod Representative as well as acting as Pastorate Secretary for a time. She was also very active in the Scout movement. Our thoughts and prayer go to Judith, Lesley and Michael - her nieces and nephew -and to her sister Cathie.

On a much happier note it was good to welcome Steven & Hannah who brought their son Jacque Thomas McKenna to be baptised on Easter Sunday. Many friends came with them and enjoyed a joyful Easter Service. We trust that they will join us again sometime. It has also been good to see that at least two people who responded to our invitation service have been to church regularly since that day.

Margaret Manvell

The prayer group continues to meet on Friday mornings in the Lower meeting room @ 9:00am. Churches and Streets for prayer focus/Week beginning:

- 05/05/2013 Roose 'H'
- 12/05/2013 Dalton 'I'
- 19/05/2013 Ramsden St 'J'
- 26/05/2013 Urswick 'K'

Anyone who would like specific prayer can get in touch by email or phone:

janladds@btinternet.com or 833882.

Janet Ladds

Beacon Hill

You are invited to join us for "Music for a Summer Evening" at Beacon Hill with the Abbey Singers on Monday May 20th @7 p.m. Tickets £5 to include refreshments. All proceeds to the Roof Fund.

Elaine Pears

Kirkby

Plant sale - see poster (page 8)

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.: May 2nd: speaker to be arranged;
May 16th: Ellen and Rita - photos of New Zealand;
May 30th: speaker to be arranged.

Care & Share Fellowship & Knit & Natter: We meet weekly on Tuesdays at 10:00 a.m. -11:30 a.m. at Hartington Street. Fellowship, prayer, a cuppa & bring your knitting,

Bible Study: Thursday fortnightly led by Rev Martin Williams from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. on May 9th and 23rd.

Ellen Powell

Dalton

Despite heavy rain approximately 120 people attended the Bible Society coffee morning in Ulverston. The event raised £237 for Bible Society projects. A sincere thank you to everyone who helped and supported the event.

R Willock

Christian Women's Fellowship: The next meeting of the CWF will be on Wednesday 15th May at 7:30 pm when Sue Millard will bring us up to date on the work of Christian Aid. All are welcome.

D Zazi

Dates: Saturday May 4th Church coffee morning 9:45 - 11:15 am.

Ramsden Street

Our Lent lunch on March 6th raised £75 for the food bank.

A special Church meeting was held on March 24th to discuss a Back to Church Sunday (to be held on June 2nd and re named 'Friends' Sunday) and also a new 3 year plan.

Easter We were pleased to host the United Area Maundy Thursday service and on Good Friday, FACTORS met in the afternoon to complete their 3D posters telling the Easter Story from Palm Sunday through to Easter Day. They also made some Easter decorations for the Church. On Easter Sunday it was good to have our services led by Rev Sarah Moore and the Church looked lovely with banners, posters, butterflies and flowers and everyone enjoyed the buffet lunch which followed.

We are holding a concert by The New Abbey Singers on Saturday May 4th at 5:00pm. Tickets are £4 and includes Afternoon Tea (tel. 825662)

Anne Stevenson

Askam

Askam Methodist Church was pleased to organise You Me and After Tea in March at the Rankin Hall. There was a wonderful turn out at each session and the old folk certainly enjoyed the three afternoons. We were delighted to welcome representatives, from Age UK, Furness Carers, Community worker from the Fire Brigade, the Community Police, Library service, Walking for Health co-ordinator, Community Nurse and Barrow Council. All these gave short talks on their particular subject and really joined in with the activities, which included quizzes, armchair exercises, beetle drive, reminiscence box (from the Library), and a slide show.

The afternoon teas were very welcome towards the end of each session, and we trust that the senior citizens - as I was corrected to call them -will have had a good time and also benefited from the advice and companionship at each session.

My thanks go to all the organisers and helpers, but especially to Mrs Lorraine Tyson, who as Chairman of the Askam OAPs let us use three of their meeting times for YMAT and also for the wonderful cakes and scones she baked.

Sandra Hadwick, who is a very close friend of Askam Church and helped at the YMAT, and is a regular helper at the Coffee Mornings, has asked if I knew anyone who is in need of an electric organ. She has one which she would like to giveaway. Details from Sandra on tel: 464094 or email her on b.hadwick094@btinternet.com

Dorothy Gleaves

Vickerstown

It was good to have 10 local children between 5-8 years old at our Easter Holiday Club session, where we shared the Easter story in a variety of ways and make Easter nest cakes without getting too much chocolate everywhere. The children (and/or their parents!) are looking forward to the summer holiday sessions we hope to arrange.

Our monthly coffee morning, with the usual range of stalls and opportunity to stock up on Fairtrade goods, will be from 10:00 on Saturday, May 4th. As the first Monday in May is a Bank Holiday, the next visit of the Good News Library will not be until Monday, June 3rd. We start at 2:00 p.m.

As part of the fundraising for the Christian Aid Community Partnership project, David and I would like to invite you to a barbecue at Vickerstown between 5:00 and 7:30 p.m. on Saturday, May 11th to celebrate it being my 60th birthday (he sneaked his in during November last year without letting on...). We would provide the savouries and drinks and enjoy your company; if you would like to bring cakes or a sweet, that would be great. We really, really don't want any presents, but will have a bowl out for any donations to the partnership project. If you are intending to come, please let us know (474601) so we have the right amount of food!

Hazel Edmondson