



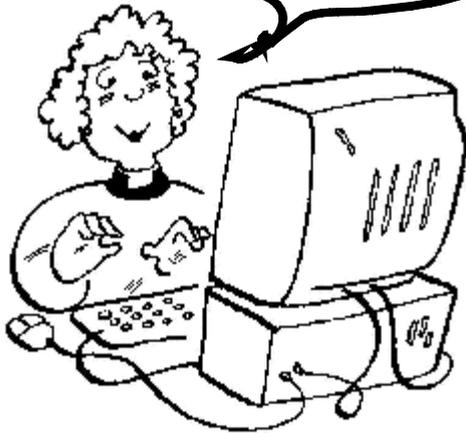
Newslink

SOUTH WEST CUMBRIA UNITED AREA

Charity Registration Number 1141404

Methodist and United Reformed Churches Working Together

The
Minister Writes



When you read this edition of Newslink, I will be hundreds of miles away in London. As Millom, Roose, Ramsden Street and Vickerstown are joining together in worship, I will be attending the most important day of my ministry. I will be at Central Hall, Westminster where the congregation will be asked if the Ordinands at the front of the church are worthy to be ordained. In response, the congregation will say 'They are worthy.' This means that it is not a Bishop or a District Chair who will decide if I am to be ordained but the

ISSUE 83 July/August 2013

whole people of the Methodist Church who are represented at Conference on that day. An important part of being a Methodist is that those in ministry are called to represent the people they serve, both to God and to the Methodist Connexion. For me, this is a huge privilege and one that I do not take lightly. Over the past two years, Martin, as my supervisor, has been asking me what ordination means to me. At times, it has seemed frustrating that the Methodist Church did not ordain me straight from Theological College, especially when working with ecumenical partners such as the Church of England and with some in the United Area who have not understood the current Methodist procedure of two years of probation. There are some ministers in the District who were ordained straight from College. Yet I can see from the perspective of two years of probation that it is a further

Area Website www.swcumbriaunitedarea.urc.org.uk

period to test the calling that each individual has received. Feeling called to ministry is one thing in the 'dreaming spires' of the Theological College atmosphere, where Fresh Expressions are the norm and experimentation is expected. It is a completely different feeling after a busy day which concludes with a difficult meeting. Perhaps it is better to say that Theological College questions the calling that you feel have received and circuit ministry tests that calling - sometimes almost to breaking point. In some ways, this is an ending; an ending of formal training, an ending of testing and an ending of being a probationer. In other ways, it is the beginning of a vocation which will last a lifetime, the beginning of regular chosen reading and the beginning of a new journey with God. In my opinion, through ordination the Methodist Church confirms the calling I have felt for the best part of ten years, which I have previously tried to avoid and finally come to accept and embrace. Ordination is saying to God that the person to be ordained is suitable to do the work that they are called to do. It's also asking God to enable them to follow their vocation with the continued help of the Holy Spirit. It is the continuation of developing the calling, which some choose to do through chaplaincy work in industry, workplaces and the Armed Forces and which I feel called to fulfil in rural areas. It is the continuation of being a Local Preacher and therefore continuing development as a preacher and leader of worship. It is a continuation in building relationships with those in the United Area, especially in the churches I serve. I look forward to continuing this journey with you and hope to see some of you in London.

Rachel Williams

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

September issue No 84 of *Newslink* will be published at the end of August. Please send all material to reach Mrs Hazel Edmondson, 22 Tweed Rise, Barrow, LA14 3LX by Sunday August 4th. Items can also be passed on by ☎ **01229 474601** or ✉ edmo@twtw.freeserve.co.uk

Dear Friends,

It is now 18 months since the Ecumenical County Declaration of Intent was signed at Ambleside committing the United Reformed, Methodist and Anglican churches to working together at every opportunity in mission, in the training and deployment of ministries and in optimising the use of our church buildings for the benefit of the whole community. In that time, working groups have been developing strategies offering concrete methods as to how we might go about living out these commitments.

The Outreach strategy has a simple purpose, *“To help all people in Cumbria, of all ages and backgrounds, discover more of God and God’s purpose for their lives; so that they will discover more of Jesus and the Good News and become followers of Jesus within a Christian community.”* Life is a journey where no two people follow quite the same route. This journey can be viewed through all sorts of lenses of which the spiritual is one. The outreach strategy recognises that there are a range of tools available to help all people in our county, resident and visitor alike to discover more of God. These include local churches, chaplains, evangelists, our buildings and the land we inhabit.

The Ministry strategy is based on two convictions: “God is for all” and “Church is by all” celebrating the vocation shared by all baptised Christians to share in Christ’s work in the world. It recognises that the way many churches ‘do’ church today does not work as well as it used to and that numbers of people attending church and the number of ministers available to lead churches has been declining for many years and continues to do so. Where churches used to have their own minister, now ministry is shared or part time. Part of the reason for this is financial but part of it too arises from denominations considering how the overall number of ministers available might be shared out most fairly.

Here in Cumbria, we have 17 URC congregations who share 6½ paid ministry posts. No church has its own minister. The North Western Synod has 137 churches sharing 43 ministers. There are approximately 500 stipendiary ministers in the URC shared across around 1500 churches. It doesn’t take a genius to realise that the days of one minister being able to have sole responsibility for a single church are past. Few churches can afford their own minister and even for those who can, the broader question needs to be asked whether it is right that church life be a form of survival of the fittest with smaller or poorer churches rarely if ever able to have access to professional ministry? There are only a finite number of ministers in the church. Ecumenical consultation took place last summer which anyone interested was invited to attend. This produced two outcomes. One was that there was a strong appetite in the county for further development of lay and non-paid forms of ministry. The second was a wish for ministry to be located as locally as possible and that local ministry was thought and felt to be preferable to further spreading clergy and

ministers over ever larger geographical areas. Ecumenical deployment of ministers was seen as being a positive way of achieving this outcome.

The working group took this on board and proposes a plan for organising churches that will ground mission in local communities and provide a way of deploying ministry. It is proposed that around 60 fully ecumenical Mission Communities be developed across the county by 2020. A Mission Community would consist of an ecumenical group of churches overseen by an ecumenical ministry team. Individual churches would continue to belong to whichever denomination they had always belonged. The benefit of moving towards grouping churches in this way is that individuals, congregations and ministers will be able to put much more of their energy into serving their shared local community as well as developing a sense of being the body of Christ together in a particular place more deeply.

The buildings strategy arises both out of the data collected within the strategic buildings review and the experience held by the working group of the management and use of church property. This working group understands their role to be about supporting churches across the county as we implement the outreach and ministry strategies. Their assumption is that church buildings exist for the glory of God and that their use should be optimised for the benefit of the local community. This strategy commits the three denominations to considering the total plant present within a locality when discerning which/what type of buildings are needed and can be realistically managed.

Overall, the proposals contained in the strategies are exciting and if accepted will enable the body of Christ in the county to grow in all sorts of ways. They are a means to help us and all the people of our county to discover more about God and God's purposes for our lives and to help us serve our communities lovingly and with conviction.

Yours in Christ,

Revd Sarah Moore
President of the Cumbria Area

Churches Together In Barrow

Churches Together in Barrow are holding a 1940's themed evening and quiz. It takes place on 12th July at Trinity beginning at 6:00 p.m. There is no charge but you are asked to bring food to share. Fancy Dress is optional.

Margaret Manwell

Keswick 2013

Readers of the spring issue of *The Way* will no doubt have read the front page spread focusing on the Keswick Convention where under the banner of All One in Christ Jesus Christians of all nationalities and denominations come together to worship God and deepen their faith through high quality Bible teaching and a wide range of “fringe” activities. If you have not had the opportunity to attend it really is well worth a visit. Thousands go for one of the three weeks and make a holiday of their visit; others take a day off work and have a day trip. It really is the kind of occasion where you can pick and mix and feel at one with other Christians.

With a history of over a hundred years firmly established in the Anglican church but using preachers and Bible teachers from across the world and the denominations (two years ago one of the key teachers was a Methodist from Sri Lanka and the late Donald English was a regular speaker) Keswick really does offer the best that is available and succeeds in blending the traditional with the contemporary. Worship is at the heart of much that happens at Keswick and each year the worship leaders rank among the best available. Stuart Townend is once again leading one of the weeks. If you do get the opportunity to visit the convention between July 13th and August 2nd do take it, unlike other large Christian events there is no charge just a freewill offering.

Charlie Mills

United Area Camp

You may remember from the last Newslink that the United Area’s intrepid campers have once again booked the Urswick Scout campsite for a weekend in the summer. As always, there will be the option of bringing your own tent or using one of the two bunk rooms. This year we have gone for the end of the summer holidays, starting with an evening meal on Friday, August 30th, and finishing with Sunday lunch on September 1st. We’ll take 3 questions that families may be familiar with, and apply them to our journey with Jesus: “What should we take?”, “Which way are we going?”, and “Are we nearly there yet?” over the three days of the camp. We’ll put a full programme on the Area website in August, but it seems likely that the Saturday will again feature a picnic on Birkrigg Common (weather permitting) and a barbecue. People wishing to join in just for the one day (or even part of the day) will be most welcome - but we would still like to know in advance when you plan to come and go. Booking forms are available: please ring 474601 or drop me an email (edmo@twtw.freeseve.co.uk) and we’ll make sure you get one. The all-inclusive cost will be the same as last year: £25 per person or £60 for a family. The previous two camps have been brilliant, and we expect this one to be just as enjoyable.

David Edmondson

CAMEO and Reflections

CAMEO will be taking a summer break during July and August. Please note the date of the September meeting now: Wednesday 11th at Ramsden St at 7:00 p.m. It would be good to see others join us to take a look at contemporary issues through the light of our faith. The "Reflections" evenings continue into July, as usual on the third Sunday of the month at Vickerstown; the theme on the 21st will be "Postcards from Biblical characters". The church will be open from 8 pm until at least 9 pm, and (as always) refreshments will be available in the church porch. There will be no "Reflections" in August.

David Edmondson

First Tuesday Ladies

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

Janet Ladds

Community Outreach Group

Thanks to everyone who helped with or came to the COG coffee morning - a total of £218 was raised for the Leprosy Mission.

Daphne Watkinson

South West Cumbria Praise Group

The last Praise Group meeting before the summer break will be at 7:30 p.m. at Askam on Monday, July 8th. We have been pleased to have been used this year so far to lead a United Area service and a Christian Women's Fellowship meeting in Dalton. In the autumn we have invitations to the group that meets at the Hawcoat Community centre and to Askam sisterhood. We have continued to explore as well some of the new hymns in "Singing the Faith" while not neglecting old favourites. We will start again on Monday, September 2nd at 7:30 p.m. at Askam. This will be an Open Evening to which existing Praise Group members are taking food to share and we warmly invite anyone who would like to consider joining Praise Group and/or who is able to join us then to share in the fellowship we find in singing to God's praise. There are no auditions for joining Praise Group - you just need to enjoy singing!

Hazel Edmondson

Network

Please note the arrangements for the next two Network Coffee mornings: Thursday July 25th at Beacon Hill from 10:00 to 11:15, Saturday August 10th at Dalton Market Street (hosted by Elaine and Muriel) from 9:45 to 11:15

Janet Ladds

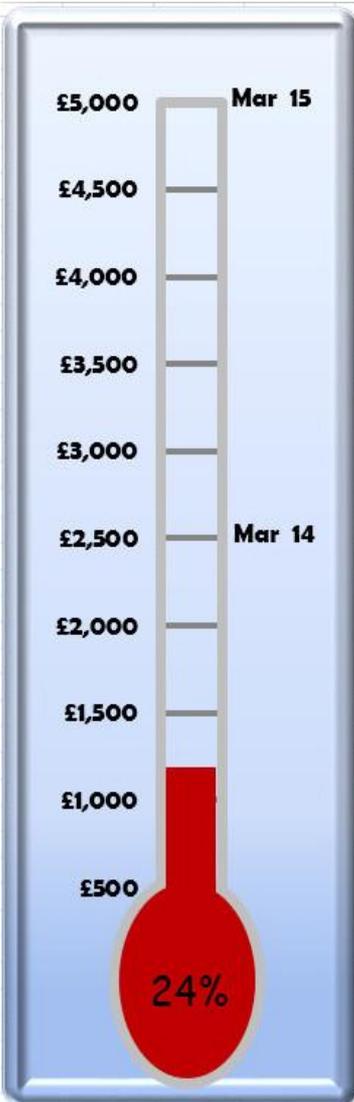
Local Preachers/worship Leaders Continuing Development

On Thursday 11th July at Kirkby Church, at 7:30 p.m. we will be looking at some of the new hymns in "Singing the Faith" on the theme of contemporary justice, led by Rev Martin Williams.

Anyone is welcome to attend.

Janet Ladds

Christian Aid Community Partnership



Thanks for the money collected since the last report: we now have passed the first £1000 - over a fifth of the way there! A further £20 came in from Edmondson birthday barbecue at Vickerstown, Millom have contributed £165 from their Lent Lunches, Askam have collected £70-00 from their Sisterhood and also devoted one of their Saturday coffee mornings to the appeal, raising another £24-25. Thanks too to Trinity Business Ladies for organising a coffee afternoon which raised £416-00. The grand total is now £1191-15. Please pass any money for the community partnership 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). Future planned events include Harvest fundraising at Hartington St and a quiz at Beacon Hill on October 18th. I have a display about the project and how a community partnership works that I will happily lend to anyone holding an event, and a labelled sweet jar which makes an eye-catching collection point. Imaginative ideas welcomed!

Hazel Edmondson



Green Tip

Whether you are going away during the summer holidays or staying at home, take the opportunity to check on how you are doing, as an individual, at home and at church in your efforts to reduce, reuse and recycle as much as you can.

Hazel Edmondson



Autumn Serenade

*-a celebration
in music
& flowers*

**At The Methodist Church,
Wellington Street, Dalton**

Saturday September 21st 2.30pm

**Concert featuring vocal group, Ceader,
other local soloists and organ pieces.**

Tickets £5 including Afternoon Tea

Proceeds for Church Funds

Sunday September 22nd 2 - 4pm

**Church open to view the flowers
with background organ music
and light refreshments.**

Donations to Church Funds

Tickets for Afternoon Tea Concert available from: The Full Octave, 152 Market Street,
Dalton-in-Furness, or tel. Margaret Harrison 01229 466069

Methodist Conference: 4-11 July 2013, London

This year's Methodist Conference will be held at Methodist Central Hall in Westminster, London from 4-11 July. The Conference is a gathering of 306 representatives drawn from each Methodist district, along with some who have been elected by the Conference, together with some ex officio members, and international, ecumenical and youth representatives. It is the governing body of the Methodist Church and meets annually to discuss matters affecting the life of the Church, the nation and the world. The reports from the Volume 1 of the Conference agenda are now online, and the remaining reports and memorials will be uploaded in about a week's time. Live video of the main Conference debates will be streamed online and people can watch the debates later through the Conference website too. There will also be regular Conference updates on Twitter (#methconf) and Facebook. Key events and issues for debate include:

- Saturday 6 July Induction of the president (Ruth Gee) and vice-president (Daleep Mukarji) of the Conference; The president's address and the vice-president's address; Report by the general secretary, the Revd Dr Martyn Atkins; Report from the Church's Children's and Youth Assembly
- Sunday 7 July Conference Worship; Ordination of Methodist ministers in venues across London
- Monday 8 July Supporting ministers with ill health; Same sex marriage working party proposals
- Tuesday 9 July Future mission together (Methodist Missionary Society Report); Discipleship and Ministries Learning Network
- Wednesday 10 July Address by Archbishop of Canterbury

For more details, look on the Methodist Conference website.

Bbc Radio Cumbria's Big Sing!

On Sunday 14th July at 2pm BBC Radio Cumbria will be broadcasting LIVE from the Keswick Convention Marquee, Skiddaw Street Keswick. It's the BBC Radio Cumbria 40th Birthday Big Sing. One hour of Hymns and worship songs, a look at how church has changed over the last 40 years and a re-dedication of the work of the BBC in Cumbria.

Would you like to be there? Groups are also welcome so are you a member of a choir, church or community group that could come together? Tickets are FREE and available by calling 01228 592444 (during office hours) or emailing

receptioncumbria@bbc.co.uk

Trinity

Monthly Coffee Mornings: Saturday 6th July and 3rd August from 10:00 -11:30a.m. The July one is sponsored by the Business Ladies and in August Sue Millard is responsible. On Wednesday 17th July from 2:00 - 4:00 p.m. Muriel is sponsoring a Coffee Afternoon. The Coffee Afternoon organised by the Business Ladies raised £416.00, which has been given the Afghanistan Christian Aid Community Project.

Family News: On Sunday 9th June Martin welcomed Kirsty and Gareth who brought their son Jake Thomas William Brown to be baptised. A happy occasion! At that service Martin presented Marian Hetherington with a card and gift token as a ‘thank you’ for all the work she has done within the Guide Movement and as Brownie Leader during 37 Years of service .

Margaret Manwell

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

- 07/07/2013 Trinity ‘Q’
- 14/07/2013 Vickerstown ‘R’
- 21/07/2013 Beacon Hill ‘S’
- 28/07/2013 Hartington St ‘T’
- 04/08/2013 Roose ‘U’
- 11/08/2013 Dalton ‘V’
- 18/08/2013 Ramsden St ‘W’
- 25/08/2013 Urswick ‘Y’

Anyone who would like specific prayer can get in touch by email or phone: janladds@btinternet.com or 833882.

Janet Ladds

Dalton

Our annual UNICEF Jars of Grace (collection of pennies) raised £250. A big thank you to everyone who contributed.

R Willock

Christian Women’s Fellowship will be taking a summer break and will meet again on Wednesday 18th September.

D Zazi

Dates for Diary: July 6th Church Coffee Morning at Market Street 9:45 to 11:15 am.
Sept 21st Autumn Serenade (see poster page 8)

Kirkby

Please note that from September our Coffee and Company will be on the 1st Tuesday in the month instead of the first Wednesday.

Janet Sheldon

Beacon Hill

Thanks to everyone who came to our concert by the new Abbey Singers. It was good to have support from the United Area. A total of £443 was raised for our roof fund.

Muriel Dawson

Beacon Hill Sunday July 28th: Elaine Pears junior will be here from York and she and her family will present a programme of “easy listening” music prior to the evening service. Tea and cakes will be served from 4:30 and donations to our roof fund would be appreciated. Everyone most welcome.

Elaine Pears

Rainbow Evening in aid of Beacon Hill Roof Fund

Everyone is invited to join us on Friday 5th July at 7 pm for an evening of colourful food and musical and poetical entertainment, including the first appearance of the Beacon Hill Toot Ensemble. Please wear rainbow colours!

Lilian Wood

Hartington Street

The next meeting of the Bible Study group which meets at our home, 16 Hornbeam Crescent, will be at 8:00 on Friday, July 5th. This will be the second in our new series looking at David Day’s book “Christ our Life” which examines Paul’s letter to the Colossians. We would like the group to grow - if anybody would like to join us you would be welcome. Please contact me on 822285 or hayleylisa@hotmail.com for further details.

Hayley Edmondson

By the time most of you read this the Hub (our new community space with state of the art soft play facilities and café style seating area) will be open - and we hope many people will have come along to the church at some time between 2 and 5 pm on 30th June to see what is on offer. We are dedicating it during café worship on July 7th, beginning at the usual time of 8 pm. If you didn’t make it on the 30th, here is another chance to see what the celebrations are all about: if you did, then come anyway and enjoy a time of lively praise.

David Edmondson

Broughton

Tuesday 9 th July	Art Exhibition and Strawberry Teas	10am - 4pm
	Coffee and biscuits	75p
	Soup lunch	£2.00
	Strawberry Tea	£2.00

Come and join us at our annual fundraising event, see the work of talented local artists and taste our home made goodies.

Beryl Hollowell

Askam

As Duddon Road is on the Askam Parade route, we opened the Church on Saturday, 1st June so that passers by could make use of the toilets and our premises. During the day we served coffee, tea and biscuits and offered chairs for people to use as they watched the Parade go by. We had some nice comments of appreciation and hopefully (weather permitting) we can continue to do this in future years. We feel we gave a Christian welcome to everyone who stopped and it was a lovely way to spend a beautiful Saturday.

Mid week Communion at Duddon Road Church will be on 1st Wednesday of each month. Next service is at 10:00 a.m. on Wed 3rd July.

Christian Aid project: We have raised £70-00 at Sisterhood and £24-25 at the Coffee Morning.

A final plea for information about people who contribute to Lebone Village: I have still a lot of photographs of the older children, some I am sure must be sponsored by members of the United Area. If you haven't contacted me about your 'child' please do so - tel: 465378 or email me on dorry55@talktalk.net. Avril Snyman from Lebone would love to be able to say thank you to you direct, only she isn't able until I give her your contact details. Plus the older children are now able to use computers so could write direct themselves.

Don't forget the Askam Garden Party - hopefully a poster will have appeared in your Church recently but in case it hasn't we are holding it on 6th July, at 2:00 - 4:00 p.m. cost £1.50 which includes your afternoon tea. There will also time to browse the stalls, and enjoy our lovely garden. See you there.

Dorothy Gleaves

Ramsden Street

The amount collected from our allocated streets in Christian Aid Week was £215. This was slightly less than last year due to an increase in refusals and empty properties in the area.

Our 'Friends' service on June 2nd was very well supported and we more than doubled our normal congregation. FACTORS shared some of the things they had been doing on the previous Friday evening including friendship bracelets; friendly biscuits and a "Friends" poster.

We are looking forward to the children from Greengate school choir coming to sing for us at our coffee morning on Friday June 28th at 10:30am. Everyone is welcome to join us.

Our next church lunch will be on Wednesday September 4th.

Anne Stevenson

Millom

Fourteen members from Queen Street joined the Salvation Army for Praise on the Lake on Sunday 2nd June. In contrast to the last two years when it was cold, windy and wet it was a beautiful SUNNY and WARM evening! We sang favourite and familiar hymns as well as some more modern ones People heard the bands playing and the singing as we neared Bowness Bay and they waved back at us after seeing our enthusiastic waving below deck (we thought maybe they were surprised at first as they didn't respond immediately — or was it because they didn't think we were in tune?? we were!!) It was still daylight when we returned to Millom around 9:30pm.

Our annual barbeque will be on August 11th after the morning service where once again we hope for fine weather and invite our Salvation Army friends to join us. Any donations will go to Canaan Heights School in Jamaica.

Please remember in your prayers Rachel Williams as she takes her next important step in her Christian journey at her ordination at Westminster Central Hall on Sunday 7th July. (We hope many of you will have been able to join us on the 16th June for her testimony service)

The Friday coffee mornings are well attended and continue during the summer months with the Good News library on the fourth Friday. If you are in the area please drop in. Everyone welcome.

Margaret Riley

Friday Afternoon 2nd August (2:30 pm - 5:00 pm) there will be Afternoon Teas in aid of the New Zealand Earthquake Appeal at Dalton House, The Green (the home of Jack & Sue Giles - 5 minutes walk from Green Road Railway Station). All welcome.

Jack Giles

Vickerstown

The Good News Library will visit as usual on the first Monday in July, July 1st from 2:00 p.m. There will not be a Good News Library visit in August. Our annual afternoon tea will be on Saturday July 13th at 3:00 for 3:30. Tickets will be £3-00, or if you don't see anyone from Vickerstown but want to come please give us a ring (474601) so we know numbers for catering. In August our monthly coffee morning, with the usual range of stalls and opportunity to stock up on Fairtrade goods, will be on the 24th from 10:00 a.m. We are also planning a children's holiday club from 12th to 14th August. Although the current plan promises an evening service at 6:30 at Vickerstown on Sunday, August 4th, that will not now be happening. This is because we will be joining with our ecumenical partners on Walney in the "Walney Walk", an event which owes much to the "Cog Slog". We will meet at St Mary's at 3:00 p.m. for a walk, share in a faith tea at 5:00 and worship together at 6:00 at St Mary's.

Hazel Edmondson

One Big Afternoon

Saturday 5th October
Beacon Hill Methodist Church
From 2pm to 4pm

For all kids in the Furness region

**Come and have loads of fun with crafts,
model making, games and much more**

**This really will be the biggest
afternoon of the year!**

Contact 01229 770071



Friday Afternoon 2nd August
(2:30 PM - 5:00 PM)

Afternoon Teas



In aid of the continuing



New Zealand

Earthquake Appeal

At: Dalton House, The Green,
Near Millom
(the home of Jack & Sue Giles)
5 minutes walk from
Green Road Railway Station
All welcome

Regular Coffee Mornings

Please note that coffee mornings are held every week as follows:

Askam -	Saturdays from	10:00 till 11:30
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; this will change to a Tuesday from September