



Newslink

SOUTH WEST CUMBRIA UNITED AREA

Charity Registration Number 1141404

Methodist and United Reformed Churches Working Together

The Minister Writes



I write as the period of LENT has already begun, and we've all embarked on the time of self-examination in the light of the trials, tribulations and temptations of Jesus, a period of time which leads us to Jesus' journey to Jerusalem and the cross! Some things we plan, whilst other unexpected events perhaps lead us to take different paths.

So what are you going to do over this coming Easter?

"What are you going to do...?" I wonder how many times we ask that question. Or the related question, "What are we going

ISSUE 90

April 2014

to do?" often said with excitement, although sometimes in panic! We spend a lot of time 'doing' or worrying about what we should do, and Jesus' disciples were no different. They had plans for what Jesus should do and shouldn't do, plans for what they should and shouldn't do, and no doubt plenty of ideas for what the government of the day should do! Yet, in the end, when Jesus was arrested and taken off to face trial, they did nothing except scatter like frightened rabbits. Events overtook their plans.

Even the women coming to the tomb early on the Sunday morning had vague ideas about 'doing', arriving in the hope that they would reach Jesus' body to embalm it - only to find that others had apparently already been busy before them. The stone had been removed and his body gone!

When the other women rushed away ('doing' again!) Mary remained, still and

Area Website www.swcumbriaunitedarea.urch.org.uk

weeping, and then (and only then), is Jesus able to reach her, to show that it is God, and not any human agency, who has acted.

All human plans to 'be good' and somehow to put ourselves right with God are made redundant in an instant, as through his death and resurrection, Jesus breaks the power of sin and death, and opens the way for us to come freely and fearlessly before God, our father and his!

An amazing, wonderful truth!

Stop and think about it. Stop and let the risen Jesus speak to YOU, whether in a quiet moment at home, or through any of our services in the final run-up to this Easter Day, as we recall the Last Supper; the Garden of Gethsemane; Jesus' trial; his crucifixion; his resurrection - hear him speak YOUR name, to assure you of his love and forgiveness.

So..... what ARE you doing this Easter?

May the love and joy of the risen Saviour fill your lives with his peace.

Blessings to you all,

Ron Wilson

New Fairtrade Steering Group Members Needed

Fairtrade fortnight saw a very well organised Co-op led Fairtrade wine-tasting event with the headmistress of an Argentinian school in a wine-producing area as special guest. It also highlighted for me the fact that despite the appeal in the last Newslink, we still have nobody coming forward to volunteer to participate in Barrow's Fairtrade steering group. Please give this some more thought! If you have an interest in economic justice, or if the poverty of so many producers makes you feel sad and/or angry, and you could give a few hours a month to promoting Fairtrade in the borough, then please contact me.

David Edmondson

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

May issue No 91 of *Newslink* will be published at the end of April

Please send all material to reach Lilian Wood, 89 Risedale Road, Barrow, LA13 9QY by Sunday April 6th. Items can also be passed on by

☎ **01229 825986** or ✉ lilian.wood4@gmail.com

“Newslink”

I am delighted to say that Lilian Wood has agreed to take on the editorship of the Newslink. She will start from the May issue, so please could you all send information to her in future? Contact details: Lilian Wood, 89 Risedale Road, Barrow-in-Furness LA13 9QY, tel: 825986, email: lilian.wood4@gmail.com

My thanks to everyone who has contributed to past issues, and especially to Graham Hufton who does all the clever IT work to make the information I send him fit into the pages, worked out how to do the Christian Aid “thermometer” and sends out the print and screen versions. He has done this for all 90 issues of the “Newslink”, and for the “Link” before that. We are grateful that he is happy to continue to work in this way with Lilian.

This may be a good moment to remind you that you can get your copy of the “Newslink” by email. Some people find it easier to locate an electronic rather than a paper copy, there are one or two people who no longer live in the United Area who keep up to date with our news by this means, and there are also a couple of community police officers who like to be kept informed of what we are doing in this way. I will pass on my current list of those who receive the “Newslink” by email to Lilian; please contact her direct if you would like to be added to the list.

Hazel Edmondson

Sharing Jesus

We have planned a couple of evenings to explore the “Sharing Jesus” material which was circulated following the visit of the Share Jesus International team to Trinity. It seemed that Thursday evenings best suited the people who responded to the enquiry in the last “Newslink”, so I have accepted a generous invitation from Janet and Alan Ladds to meet at their home, 60 Victoria Avenue, at 7:30 on the 1st and 22nd May. I will have copies of the material for anyone who hasn’t already got it which you are welcome to have a look at in advance. The first session will look at how to go beyond everyday topics of conversation so that we can start sharing our faith, and at the language and stories which may connect with the people we are talking to. The second will look at preparing for and responding to difficult questions which non-Christians might ask us. All welcome: the more the merrier!

David Edmondson

CAMEO and Reflections

There will not be a CAMEO meeting in April, so that we do not clash with the many Lent groups, Holy Week and Easter services. We will meet again in May.

The “Reflections” evenings continue on the third Sunday of the month at Vickerstown; the April gathering on 20th (Easter Sunday) will be on the theme of “New Life”. 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

Abbot Hall Weekend

It is not too late to book in for the next Abbot Hall weekend, which will be from 6th - 8th June on the theme of “Discovering Pentecost”. Please look out for a booking form in your church, or contact me for one (474601). It will be possible to come for the day on the Saturday - the day delegate cost of £15 includes the sessions, morning coffee, a cooked lunch and access to the swimming pool. Please contact me if you will be coming on the Saturday as we have to book those places in advance, too.

Hazel Edmondson

Living For Now: Preparing For The Future

10:30am -1 pm, Saturday April 26th, St Paul’s Church, Barrow

This event will spend time looking at ways of preparing for the future whilst living fully today - in particular looking at Lasting Powers of Attorney. How can we prepare for possibly being incapacitated in the future - or help family and friends in this situation? What help is available so that we can live as full a life as possible even if we have some disability?

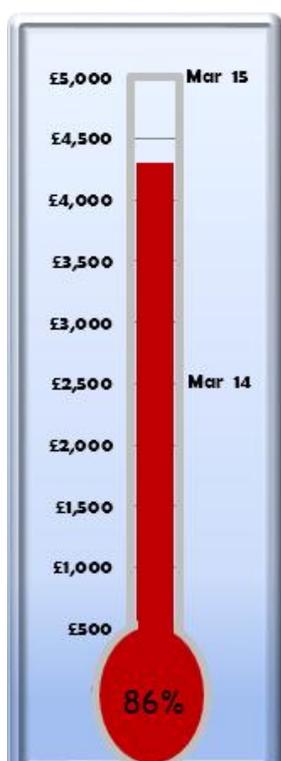
The event is organised by Churches Together in Cumbria Social Responsibility Forum. Similar events have already been held very successfully in Keswick, Lancaster and Kendal.

The main speaker will be Andrew Parker from the Office of The Public Guardian (in Birmingham) and other speakers from relevant local organisations. The event will be chaired by experienced solicitor, Gary Rycroft, from Lancaster.

Anyone can attend, it is not limited to those who are connected with a church, but booking is needed. To book please contact Elaine Bates via email at

eabates@live.co.uk or phone 01229 822149.

Ann Hufton



Christian Aid Community Partnership

We have now passed the £4000 mark! The collection at the February United Area service and the “Evening of B’s” at Dalton each added around £200, with a further £60 from the Lent Lunch at Ramsden St. The total is now a fantastic £4296-50. By the time you read this, the total will have gone up again as the proceeds from Kirkby’s Lent Lunch will have been added to the appeal.

Hazel Edmondson

Holy Week Services

Monday April 14th at 7:00 p.m. at Dalton Market St, led by Rev Ron Wilson

Tuesday April 15th at 7:00 p.m. at Dalton Wellington St, led by Rev Ann Hufton

Maundy Thursday service at 7:00 p.m. in Abbey Chapel at Trinity, led by Rev David Edmondson

Good Friday Free Churches service at 10:30 a.m. at Trinity led by Rev Martin Williams

Churches together in Barrow Good Friday service at 7:00 p.m. at St John's Church, Barrow Island. This will be a reflective service led by Rev Sheila Hughes.

You may also like to note in your diaries now that there will be an Ascension Day service at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, May 29th at Ramsden St, led by Rev Ron Wilson

Flashbacks

How do you get 130 children in Ramsden Street Church? - Invite them to Flashbacks... to times with Jesus, of course! Over three days in February this is the number of 8 and 9 year old children, from four different schools, who enthusiastically participated in all kinds of activities which we hope will have enabled them to know more about Jesus. They made a bead wristband to tell his life story, coloured in Jesus' name written in Hebrew to remind them of the time Jesus was in the Temple teaching adults, played a large floor game with themselves as the 'counters' to remember times when Jesus was out and about with his friends and followers, made a matchstick cross to think about his crucifixion and made a fish collage to represent the huge catch of fish at Jesus' resurrection appearance to the disciples on the shores of Lake Galilee. The story of the wedding at Cana was the finale with a mock wedding, a wedding feast and dancing. Many thanks to Ramsden Street for hosting this event and to all who helped or supported in any way.

We are hoping to run Flashbacks again in the autumn - so keep your eye out for more details nearer the time if you would like to help. Any new volunteers willing to offer a couple of hours in a morning or afternoon would be greatly appreciated - no particular skills required except a desire to tell the story of Jesus to children who may not know very much about him.

Ann Hufton

First Tuesday Ladies

For our April meeting on the 1st, we will join the Lent group at Beacon Hill; please note that this is a 7:00 start. In May we will be back to meeting at Elaine Pears' house, 59 Croslands Park, to study the Bible and enjoy a time of prayer and fellowship. The dates for the coming months are 6th May, 3rd June and 8th July. These meetings begin at 7:30pm.

Janet Ladds

Individual Churches

Trinity

Easter Fayre - Saturday 5th April from 2:00 - 4:00 p.m. Admission £1.00 - includes a cuppa & a hot cross bun. There will be the usual stalls and an Easter Bonnet competition.

On **Wednesday 9th April** Women - on - Wednesday are sponsoring a fund raising event - A Concert by the Steelworks Band. The concert starts at 7:30 p.m. and tickets are £3.50 which includes light refreshments.

Family News It is with sadness we report the death of Margaret Crossland's husband, who had been unwell for a long time. Although he did not attend church so was not known to many of us, yet he will be missed by his family, so our thoughts are with them at this time.

It was an immense shock to hear of the sudden death of Callum - Sue & Ray Millard's youngest son. We want to assure the family that they will be in our prayers at this terrible time.

Margaret Manwell

Trinity Prayer - We meet in the lower meeting room at Trinity each Friday morning between 8:50 and 9:30am to pray; each week we give time to one of the United Area churches, and a set of streets, as well as other prayer concerns. If you have any prayer concerns or things you wish to be prayed for, please contact Janet/Alan Ladds (833882) so we can add them to the prayer book.

04/04	Vickerstown	'G'
11/04	Beacon Hill	'H'
18/04	Hartington St	'I'
25/04	Roose	'J'

Janet Ladds

Beacon Hill

It's time once again for our annual afternoon tea in aid of The Leprosy Mission. On Saturday 17th May between 3 pm and 5 pm we will present the Beacon Hill version of 'Tea at the Ritz'. With waitress service and music from our resident pianist, this will be an experience to savour. Please dress appropriately for the occasion (hats and fascinators are encouraged).

Please note that because of the popularity of this event in previous years we will be operating a strict admission policy. It is essential that you notify me if you wish to attend (telephone number 825986). We are not selling tickets, but we will be inviting donations for the work of The Leprosy Mission.

Lilian Wood

Hartington St

All are welcome to our mid week Fellowship meetings:

You are invited to join us for our **Tea Club**, which starts at 4:00pm & ends around 5:30pm on (most) alternate Thursdays. Tea is served at 4 pm. 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: 3rd April, 1st May: **Praise Group**.

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

Friends of Knit & Natter have contributed over 40 knitted vests for the "Fish & chips" babies (babies born, who have nothing to go home in, are wrapped in Newspapers), if you would like the pattern & to contribute, please talk to a Church member.

Bible Study: Thursday at 4:00 p.m. led by Rev Martin Williams. Date: April 10th.

Ellen Powell

Notes from the Hub:

2014 is certainly flying through so far. February was a bit of an 'ongoing' month with our groups continuing to grow and flourish. As previously stated I am now beginning to develop deeper understandings with some of our families. The outcome is that we will see people becoming more involved with what we do and feel much more at home than when they began coming along to the various groups. It's about finding that right balance between community and church. We saw a little bit of this when one of the mums came to the front to help with an action song at our latest Discovery Church session. The DadZone group unfortunately has not seemed to have worked for us.....yet. But in the mean time it has been agreed to pop this on ice whilst we look at other alternatives. If we begin having many dads that mould well together I may introduce the group again.

By the time you read this, we will have received an initial visit from Bibleworld to look at the possibilities for siting the project, I will have done another assembly in Ramsden Infants School, planning will be well advanced for a holiday club at Easter, and a "Mothers Day" Discovery Church celebration will have been held.

Please continue to pray for the Hub: for our groups and their development, and for the upcoming Easter holiday club.

Mike Little

Dalton

The B's evening was very successful raising £195.64 for the United Area Christian Aid Community Project in Afghanistan; with additional EU funding this increases to £782.41.

The attendees at our church coffee morning tasted banana bread and crumbly banana squares made with Fairtrade bananas and took home recipes to try them out at home. The coffee morning raised £303 for church funds. Thanks to everyone who helped and supported the event.

The Bible Society coffee morning raised £288 for Bible Society projects. Thanks to everyone who helped and supported this event.

R Willock

Christian Women's Fellowship: The next meeting of the CWF will be on Wednesday 16th April. The theme for the evening is 'Approaching Easter' All are welcome.

D Zazi

Thursday Club: A warm welcome for older people, 2-4pm, at Wellington Street. Each week includes a short chair-based exercise session, the activities shown below, table games/jigsaws/chat and refreshments.

April 3: Slides: Kilimanjaro or bust!

April 10: (no meeting)

April 17: (no meeting)

April 24: Bingo and table games

Ann Hufton

On Friday April 25th we are hosting 'An evening of Antiques' with Bob Wheatley. Bob is a self taught expert on antiques and is also a very entertaining and amusing speaker who will keep you entertained while also enlightening you. Bob is a leading light on the Fund Raising Committee of Aldingham Parish Church and any proceeds raised from the evening will be shared with Aldingham Church. The evening is to be held at the Methodist premises in Wellington Street and will commence at 7:30 pm. A cuppa and biscuits will be served at the end of proceedings. A charge of £5 will be taken at the door. Come along and be thoroughly entertained, everybody most welcome.

Bob Mantle

Broughton

Please note now the date of our next event: we are holding a traditional Egyptian Dance with supper at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, 23rd May - Adults £4-00, Family £10-00.

Margaret Cain

Askam

The speaker at Askam Sisterhood meeting at 2:30 p.m. on Wednesday, April 9th will be Judith Myers from "Boxes of Hope" (shoe box appeal). Please come along if you would be interested to hear what happens to the boxes.

Askam will hold a Coffee Morning for Network funds on Saturday, 26th April - 10:00 - 11:30 a.m. Please join us if you can.

Dorothy Gleaves

Kirkby-in-Furness

After much thought and talking to those who come to our monthly coffee mornings, we have decided to move the day back to the first Wednesday in the month, which is much easier for us all to remember. In April Coffee and Company will therefore be on Wednesday 2nd which is in the week following the March one on Tuesday 25th and our Lent Lunch.

We have also decided to have a regular pattern for our Midweek Services on the second Wednesday in every month with a Communion Service one month and a less formal service the next. We are pleased Ron could lead Holy Communion in March and then on April 9th we shall meet for an informal service at 10:30am for about half an hour.

As usual we shall be holding an early service at 8:30am on Easter Sunday morning, followed by breakfast. All are welcome for toast, homemade marmalade, hot-cross buns, tea and coffee and, to complete the meal, a chocolate egg. Please give Janet a ring if you are thinking of coming.

Just a reminder that our annual Plant and Produce sale will be on Saturday 10th May from 10am until 12 noon. We look forward to seeing you.

Janet Sheldon

Ramsden Street

We were pleased to host Flashbacks once again for four junior schools. This project is appreciated by the staff as well as the pupils. Thanks must go to the organising group who obviously put in a lot of preparation work so that things run so smoothly. Our lunch on March 5th was a simple Lent Lunch and the proceeds of £60 are for the United Area Christian Aid project.

It was good to meet up with Janet Calderley when she popped through to Barrow from the Windermere Centre where she was staying for the week-end.

Anne Stevenson

Millom

Our oldest member Sarah Shelton was 96 on February 18th. She attends all the activities with her daughter Mona - Church on Sunday, Meeting Point, Craft Class (as an observer as her eyesight isn't as good as it used to be), Coffee Mornings on Fridays and all the fund raising events we hold. What an example for the rest of us!!! We offer our congratulations and best wishes. On March 9th she was present when the newest addition to our Church Family was dedicated in a lovely service led by our Chairman of the District Rev. Richard Teal — David Edward Williams whose proud parents are Rachel and Stephen. More than sixty were at the service, family, friends and church members - another opportunity to convey congratulations and best wishes.

Thanks to all those who came to the Daffodil Tea; the total raised was £320 which will help in some small way to give support to the wonderful job the Marie Curie nurses do.

The first Lent Lunch took place on Thursday March 6th to be continued for another five weeks. Please pop in if you are in the area: Thursdays from 12 to 1:30pm. As usual half the proceeds from the lunches will be for Christian Aid. June Paterson is doing a flower display on Tuesday 8th April entitled "Sunshine and Showers" at 7:00 p.m. in aid of Church funds.

Margaret Riley

Vickerstown

Following the visit in February from two assessors, Karen has now received a very encouraging letter and plaque to confirm that we have been given our second Eco-Congregation award. We were particularly pleased with the part that said: "The assessors were especially impressed that the church had taken on board all the suggestions made at the first award assessment, and by the level of community service and outreach. They also noted the generosity and hospitality of the church in terms of the people they draw in, and their willingness to explain their environmental philosophy to those who use the church building". We were also pleased to be able to welcome Lilian and Kathryn from Beacon Hill church to that assessment and wish them well on their journey to become an Eco-congregation too. Our thanks to Karen for the lead she takes in this area of our work and witness.

The Walney churches are once again holding a Passover meal and service, at St Mary's Parish Centre at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday April 16th (booking essential). St Mary's are looking to develop "Messy Church" sessions and we hope to work with them; the first session is "Messy Easter" at St Mary's from 11:00 on Good Friday. Our regular coffee morning with the usual stalls will be from 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, April 26th.

Hazel Edmondson

Green Tip

At our recent Eco-Congregation assessment the assessors made the point that though some of the practical aspects of 'green living' may not be an option for everybody, one thing that all members of all our churches can do is to include creation and sustainability in their private prayers. It was suggested that we encourage this, through our prayer group and perhaps through having themed prayer cards on the tables at coffee mornings. I then received an e-mail newsletter just a couple of days later with the following information: "Each month Christian Ecology Link (CEL) publishes a

Prayer Guide for the Care of Creation. It is a great free resource that can be used for private prayer, services, assemblies, workshops and can be shared with your church. The guide includes a daily thought, quote or event to help focus prayer and reflection. Visit the CEL website to see the latest Prayer Guide:

<http://www.greenchristian.org.uk/faith/prayer-guide>" This is just one possibility - you could also try <http://www.operationnoah.org/> for ideas, or use your imagination!

Karen 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
Hartington St - Care & Share Fellowship & Knit & Natter every Tuesday from 10:00 to 11:30

On the first Wednesday of each month Kirkby have "Coffee and Company" from 9:45 till 11:30.