



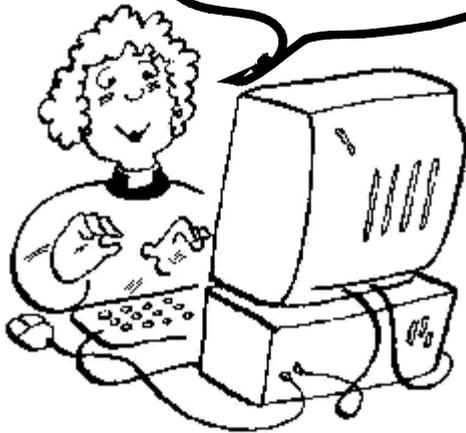
# Newslink

**SOUTH WEST CUMBRIA UNITED AREA**

Charity Registration Number 1141404

**Methodist and United Reformed Churches Working Together**

## The Minister Writes



‘There’s an opportune time to do things, a right time for everything on the earth’ begins The Message translation of Ecclesiastes 3. The Preacher, as the writer calls himself, reflects on the circular nature of life and how things end as other things start. Nonetheless, it is scary to think that it is five years since we arrived in South Cumbria. Steve and I moved into Millom on 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2011 and by the 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2016 we will be in Brampton. Back in 2011 it was Steve and I but not for long - we started our family with Sam the dog who joined us on

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Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> August at 8 weeks old. Now 5 years old Sam has not calmed down much. We have loved exploring Cumbria with Sam. No doubt we will continue to explore Cumbria with Sam from the north of the county. Sam has helped us to make friends in the community. My first few months in ministry went past in a flash with the shock that everyone feels when starting a new career. People had told me that it would be a steep learning curve. At times it felt like a vertical climb as life took unexpected turns. God is good by providing people in the United Area to encourage and assist. I think that sometimes I must have looked like a rabbit in headlights!

2013 was a celebratory year for us as a family. On 7<sup>th</sup> July I was ordained at Methodist Conference in London. It was the hottest day of the year and I was sweltering in a clerical collar being five

**Area Website [www.swcumbriaunitedarea.urch.org.uk](http://www.swcumbriaunitedarea.urch.org.uk)**

months pregnant. We had a great day surrounded by friends past and present to rejoice in the gift of ordination. Then on 17<sup>th</sup> November, David finally made an appearance after being two weeks overdue and 48 hours in labour. By this time we had celebrated with a fantastic Baby Shower at Millom Methodist Church and I was on six months of maternity leave. We finished our year beautifully with my step Dad, Roy, coming home three months early from operations in Afghanistan to celebrate Christmas with us all.

We fast forward to June 2016 as I write this in the Millom manse. I reflect on how things have changed in the five years. There have been many happy times at Afternoon Teas, Concerts, Church Outings and Walks, the Area Family Camp and many Area events. I have loved leading worship in the variety of settings and styles the United Area has to offer. Bible Studies and Midweek Communions have been an opportunity to learn in the company of other Christians. I hope those who attended learnt as much as I have! We have made good friends and will always be grateful for the care given to us by members of the United Area. I have to admit that at times things have been extremely challenging. On the other hand, I know that there are times when I have not said or done the right things. For that I am deeply sorry. The best we can all do when we do things wrong is to apologise and try to change things for the future.

‘God has made everything suitable for its time; moreover, he has put a sense of past and future into their minds, yet they cannot find out what God has done from the beginning to the end.’

Ecc 3:11.

May God richly bless every member and every church in the United Area. I pray that God will prepare everyone concerned for the changes that happen over the course of the next few months.

*Rachel*

## REGIONAL & NATIONAL WEBSITES

[www.cumbriamethodistsdistrict.org.uk](http://www.cumbriamethodistsdistrict.org.uk)

Connexional: [www.methodist.org.uk](http://www.methodist.org.uk)

North West Synod: [www.nwsynod.org.uk](http://www.nwsynod.org.uk)

National: [www.urc.org.uk](http://www.urc.org.uk)

September issue No 114 of *Newslink* will be published at the end of August

Please send all material to reach Lilian Wood, 89 Risedale Road, Barrow,

LA13 9QY by Sunday August 7<sup>th</sup>. Items can also be passed on by

☎ **01229 825986** or ✉ [lilian.wood4@gmail.com](mailto:lilian.wood4@gmail.com)

One of the great joys and privileges of being part of the ‘family’ of clergy serving the same District is the opportunity to see those coming in as probationers grow in confidence and competence through their probationary period and during their first years of ministry. What is even more of a blessing is being on the receiving end of the inspiration and challenge those fresh to ministry bring to those of us who are rather ‘longer in the tooth’ as far as ministry is concerned. As a member of the District Probationers’ Oversight Committee and more recently as part of the United Area staff team, I’ve been blessed by being on that journey with Rachel since she arrived in Cumbria. You will also have journeyed with Steve as he’s trained and grown as a local preacher. And of course we have all been delighted to walk alongside them as they became a family with the arrival of David and have loved what his presence has added to the life of the Area. (I wonder how many of us would rather like to pause our worship to play with him and his special ‘Sunday train’?)

So it’s with great sadness that we bid them farewell as they move up to Brampton - thankfully not too far away so we’ll be able to maintain contact not least when we meet up at Methodist Synods and other District events. But our loss will undoubtedly be North Cumbria’s gain and we send them on this next stage of their ministry with our love, praying that they will all find rich blessings in their new home and context just as I am sure they will themselves bless those amongst whom they live, work, worship - and play!

*Jennet*



## **Green Tip**

The following advice comes from the website [lovemybeach.org](http://lovemybeach.org)

“It’s all too easy to use our kitchen sink to get rid of cooking fats and oils and other bits of food waste. Because we can’t see what happens to it, we’re often not aware of the damage it causes. Fats, oil and grease block drains. This means raw sewage can flood streets and homes.

**What can I do?** Cooking fats and oils should be poured into a container such as a yoghurt carton and then put in the bin. It only takes a minute to do but the damage it prevents is huge - not to mention the bad smells caused by a blocked drain.”

*Lilian Wood*

# Fruitful Congregations

Intentional faith development is the aspect of Fruitful Congregations which we are featuring this month. (Remember the five practices are:

- *radical hospitality*
- *passionate worship*
- *intentional faith development*
- *risk-taking mission and service*
- *extravagant generosity*)

## Intentional Faith Development

Read: John 15:1-17

### Reflection

Good pruning is an art,  
You need to know the plant,  
Understand its place in the seasons.  
Every cut is intentional  
Whether to improve shape or strength,  
To get the best fruit, the most flowers,  
To keep the plant healthy,  
But also to keep the garden vibrant.  
There are times that involves sacrifice,  
Allowing one plant to die back  
In order that another  
May find its moment to thrive,  
Bringing its own uniqueness of  
Scent, colour, taste, texture, sound, shade  
So that the garden bears fruit in all seasons  
Whether the red dogwood stems of winter  
Or the glorious summer sunflower.  
Perhaps when we love one another,  
Intentionally enable the potential of all,  
That is when we find that together  
We 'bear fruit - fruit that will last'.

### For further thought as individuals

What has helped you most in your own faith development?

What of your own story might encourage others in their faith development?

## **For further thought as Church groups**

What are the opportunities for faith development in your context?

What has worked well for people?

What stories can you share?

What prevents us from being intentional about faith development, our own or that of others?

What might intentional faith development look like in the future for your context?

## **A prayer**

Intentional God, you remind us of the importance of relationship both with you and with one another.

Help us to develop not only our own faith, but the faith of others.

May we be hands-in-the-earth gardeners planting seeds and nurturing them so that each can reach their full potential and bear fruit that will last. Amen.

The above has been taken from

<http://www.methodist.org.uk/learning/network-regions/east-central-region/news/five-practices-of-fruitful-congregations.>

The following extract comes from an article from HMP Haverigg Independent Monitoring Board, which has been passed on to us by Churches Together in Cumbria.

## **Your jail needs you**

### **PRISON APPEALS FOR VOLUNTEERS TO SUPPORT INMATES**

Looking for a challenge this year? How about spending some time behind bars? A group of local people who form the Independent Monitoring Board at Haverigg prison are looking for new members. Their role involves ensuring standards of decency and care are met. The IMB would like to hear from anyone who may be interested and lives within 30 miles of the jail in Millom. Mick Ross, chairman of Haverigg IMB, said "It's certainly an edgier form of volunteering and it's not everyone's cup of tea, but for those looking to take on a new challenge, then this could be for them. There are few forms of voluntary service more unusual or more important and, although the work is often challenging, it is always rewarding. I joined Haverigg IMB 7 years ago, after my wife saw an article in the local magazine. I am an engineer and had just taken early retirement at the point, and was looking for a new challenge. You can help prisoners cope with their sentence and prepare for life after prison. If you can help resolve a prisoner's problem, you can get a lot of satisfaction out of it - it gives you a real feel-good factor."

The prison is on the site of an old RAF training centre and holds over 600 category C and D male prisoners. The Board monitors day-to-day prison life, such as food, healthcare, cleanliness, discipline, education and work training.

Serving as an IMB member is recognised as a public duty and employers are obliged to allow reasonable time off. You do not need any special qualifications or experience, and all the necessary training and support will be provided, but you must be open minded, caring, have effective communication skills and be good at working within the team. You'll also need to live within about 30 miles of Haverigg. It typically takes up about 4-5 visits to the prison a month, on a monthly rota basis.

Apply at [www.imb.org.uk](http://www.imb.org.uk) or call 0203 334 3265 for more information.

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## **First Tuesday Ladies**

We will meet on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> July at 7:30 pm at 59 Croslands Park to share food and fellowship. There will be no meeting in August; we will meet again on 6<sup>th</sup> September.

*Janet Ladds*

## **Keswick Convention**

With the theme Power to Change-Becoming more like God's Son this year's Keswick Convention will begin on July 16<sup>th</sup> and run for three weeks with a range of national and international speakers leading Bible Studies, seminars and worship. Unlike other Christian conventions where week or day site passes need to be purchased Keswick continues to be free (offerings are taken) which means that visitors can pick and mix and attend for a day or half day or one meeting. The full programme is available on the website under Keswick Convention 2016.

*Charlie Mills*

## **Local Preachers / Worship Leaders**

The study session on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> July will be held at 7:30 pm at Wellington Street, Dalton and not at Kirkby as previously arranged. We will share resources we have found useful and books that have inspired us.

The meeting on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> September, at 7:30 pm at Beacon Hill, will include a re-dedication Communion.

*Janet Ladds*

## **Youth Spot**

### **Hartington St Discovery Church**

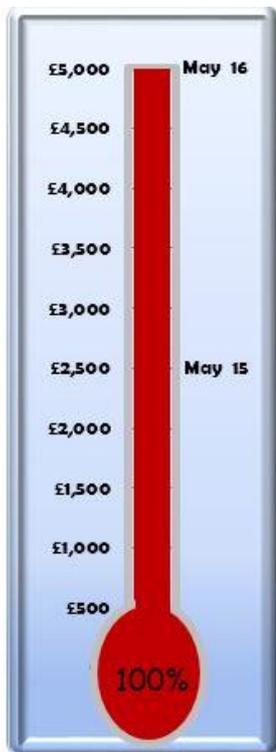
On Saturday May 28<sup>th</sup> about 30 people met to discover the meaning of Pentecost. The children completed 5 crafts, each one focusing on the disciples receiving the Holy Spirit and the change it made to their lives and the work they did for the Lord. This was followed by a talk from Jennet where she explained how the disciples were able to speak many different languages through the power of the Holy Spirit working in them. She also explained how they went on to spread God's message throughout the known world. We all then sat down together for a really good meal over which we were able to chat to the children and their parents.

### **Sunday Service - Discover More**

The next day the Pentecost theme was carried on to morning worship with the whole congregation working on a BIG craft - the creation of a hand painted banner depicting the arrival of the Holy Spirit in what looked like flames of fire landing on the heads of the disciples.

*Chris Mills*

## Christian Aid Community Partnership



We've done it! We have now reached our target of £5,000 for the Christian Aid project dealing with maternal and child healthcare in Kenya. This will attract European Union funding of £15,000. Before this, of course, we raised £5,000 for work with women in Afghanistan, which attracted another donation of £15,000 from the EU. So since February 2013 we have raised £10,000 and been responsible for a total of £40,000 being made available for these 2 projects.

This is a real achievement, and everyone who helped in any way is to be congratulated. The updates that have appeared in Newslink about both the projects give some idea of the difference that our donations have helped to make. This money has been raised in addition to the annual street collection and other events which are already supported by our churches, which makes this achievement even more remarkable.

*Lilian Wood*



## Christian Aid Sponsored Walk

Thank you to everyone who has supported me so far as I prepare to trek 25 miles along Hadrian's Wall on June 18/19 to raise money for Christian Aid. By the time you read this I'll have succeeded (I hope), but if you'd still like to support me you can give £2 if you text CAID83 £2 to 70070. Thank you again.

*Sue Millard*

# Tales by the Tarn



The Parables of Jesus told through  
individual sessions of Godly Play

Urswick Scout Camp

15<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> July

Come for the day or come for the weekend.  
Cost is £5 for the day, £60 for a family and £25 single –  
this includes meals and activities, bring your own tent or sleep inside.  
Whether you come for the day or the weekend  
come to share and have fun!

For more details contact Rev Rachel Williams  
[rachel.williams@methodist.org.uk](mailto:rachel.williams@methodist.org.uk) or tel 770071

## Individual Churches

### Trinity

Our usual monthly coffee mornings will be held on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> July and Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> August, both starting at 10:00 am.

#### Family news

On Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> May we welcomed Conor Lewis and Kate Shepherd who brought their daughter Mia Lily Lewis for baptism. Lots of family and friends joined them. A lovely service led by Jennet which was appreciated by all and where we used our digital hymnal for the full service. It was good to have the newer hymns with a beat and the traditional ones with an organ backing. We were sorry and shocked when we heard that Muriel Wakefield was found to have a brain tumour. She has had surgery to remove this and seems to be doing well; in due course she will have further treatment. We hope and pray that she will recover well and be back with us soon.

*Margaret Manuell*

**Trinity Prayer** - We meet in the lower meeting room at Trinity each Thursday morning between 8:50 and 9:30 am 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.

3/07	Urswick	Y
10/07	Dalton	CTiB
17/07	Askam	A
24/07	Kirkby	B
31/07	Broughton	C
7/08	Millom	D
14/08	Trinity	E
21/08	Vickerstown	F
28/08	Hartington St	G

*Janet Ladds*

### Hartington Street

All are welcome to join our Care and Share fellowship/Knit and Natter. We meet weekly on Tuesdays at 10:00 - 11:30 am. Fellowship, Prayer, a cuppa & bring your knitting. After our meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> July we will have a break, and begin again on 6<sup>th</sup> September.

There will be no Bible study meetings during July and August.

*Ellen Powell*

## Beacon Hill

Our monthly coffee mornings will be held on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> July (in aid of Network) and Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> August, 10 am-11:15 am, with stalls selling cakes, handmade cards, books and Fairtrade items.

*Lilian Wood*

## Dalton

Our annual collection of pennies for UNICEF Jars of Grace raised £130.15.

Our coffee morning in May raised £343. Some of the attendees at the event joined in the "Wave of Prayer" which was taking place in church.

The Summer Serenade with the Abbey Singers was very much enjoyed by around 60 people and raised £265.

*R Willock*

This year's Songs of Praise Service will take place on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> July at 3:00pm on the lawn at Market St Church in Dalton. As July 2016 sees the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the start of the Battle of the Somme - in which many of our ancestors will have participated - we will be taking this as our theme, and using material suggested by the British Legion to commemorate this event, as well as including local information. Dalton Town Band will again provide the music for us and there will be a retiring collection for their funds. You are warmly welcome to the service (which will take place in church if wet) and to stay for afternoon tea which will follow it.

*Margaret Harrison*

Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> July 9:45 to 11:15 am Church coffee morning at Market Street.

## Millom

It is hard to believe that it is nearly five years since our minister Rachel arrived at Millom but her final service is taking place on Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> July. We wish her, Stephen and David many blessings as they take up their new appointment at Brampton. Our annual barbecue will be held after the morning service and we hope that many from the United Area will join us in the evening at 6pm.

After the farewell to Rachel and family we look forward to welcoming Deacon Debbie Buckley and her family on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> September at Broughton Church at 4pm (as usual any excuse for Food and Fellowship.....)

On the first Sunday in July Queen Street members will join with the Salvation Army for "Praise on the Lake" organised by our friends Envoy Renee Palmer and Gladys Brocklebank. We will be joining them again at the Millom Fortress on 24<sup>th</sup> September when the Whitehaven Male Voice Choir will be giving a concert.

*Margaret Riley*

# Askam

As in previous years Duddon Road opened its toilets for the use of the public during Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> June, as the crowds walked along Duddon Road, and the annual Askam parade went past. It was lovely to sit outside in the sunshine with friends new and old and watch the beautiful dancers in their colourful costumes, trying to tally their outfits with the names in the programme - some obvious and others not too easily identified. We had a stall and served a few cuppas, and then Nancy McNenemy and I packed up the stalls, and went to join the crowds down on the Parade field (by Duddon Sports Club). The weather had brought out everyone, and there was a happy atmosphere. The Askam History Group had a small marquee as last year, with a wonderful display of old photographs which delighted many - especially the oldies - as they recognised themselves and their parents and grandparents. As an offcomer I was amazed to see so many changes in the views of roads and streets, which have occurred since we moved into the area. Sadly the day was marred when we discovered on Sunday that a person or persons unknown had broken one of the church toilet doors, and made an attempt to block one of the toilets!! The station waiting room had also been 'spoiled' with rubbish. Such a shame after a special community spirit had prevailed throughout the day.

At the next monthly coffee morning on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> July, our Brownies will be holding a Cake Stall. We hope to see lots of friends then to support the Church and the Brownies.

Please don't forget the Garden Party on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> July, 2:00 - 4:00 p.m. at Duddon Road Church Garden - stalls, raffle, tombola, etc with afternoon tea. Donations £2.00 - everyone will be very welcome. We hope the sun will be shining for us.

Duddon Road Church are very grateful to the Askam and Ireleth Parish Council, who have given us a large donation. This has enabled us to buy some light weight drop leg tables, to replace the heavier stacking ones. The tables will be housed in a movable stand, helping everyone move them around easily.

Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> July at 10:00 am will be Rachel's last midweek service at Askam, and we will be sorry to have to say goodbye to her, as she has been a wonderfully youthful and encouraging Minister for us during her two years at Askam. We wish her well in her new Ministry and know God will be with her, Steve and David, to guide and challenge her in Brampton.

*Dorothy Gleaves*

## **Ramsden Street**

There will be no Wednesday meetings after June 15<sup>th</sup> until September 7<sup>th</sup>. There will be no Church lunch in July and August but we will be holding a Tea & Chat afternoon at 2:30 pm on Wednesday July 13<sup>th</sup>. Our weekly Friday coffee mornings will still be held each week throughout the summer.

Several of us intend to travel to Carlisle on July 16<sup>th</sup> to join in the URC Area Day.

*Anne Stevenson*

## **Kirkby-in-Furness**

Coffee and Company will be on the 6<sup>th</sup> July, 9:45-11:30am. All welcome.

Our final total from our Plant Sale is just short of £1,000 (this includes remaining plants sold afterwards). We want to say a very big thank you to everyone who gave plants, baked for the cake stall, those who gave invaluable help on the day and all those people who bought plants and cakes, we couldn't have done it without you all.

On the 10<sup>th</sup> July we have our Songs of Praise service, which in many ways will be a sad occasion as it will be the last service taken at Kirkby by our minister Rev Rachel Williams. How the time has flown. We will be sorry to say goodbye to both Rachel and her family. Everyone is welcome to join us for the Songs of Praise Service.

*Mary Wilkinson*

## **Broughton**

Many of you will know that there will be no church services at Broughton during July and August. We are looking forward to hosting the welcome service for our new Deacon, Debbie Buckley, on 4<sup>th</sup> September.

We are also having a break from our coffee mornings over the summer. However, we are meeting at the Square Café on Tuesdays at 10:30 am. Come and join us - everyone's welcome.

*Beryl Hollowell*

# Vickerstown

Vickerstown is hosting its usual summer afternoon tea on Saturday July 2<sup>nd</sup>; we will gather from 3 pm to eat at 3:30. Tickets cost £4 and are available from Karen (474601), all welcome. We will also try to fit in anyone who just turns up on the day but please do let us know if you plan to come so that we have approximately the right amount of food.

The next coffee morning at Vickerstown will be on Saturday August 6<sup>th</sup> from 10 am until about 11:30 with the usual stalls - Cakes, Fairtrade goods and a fairly random collection of other stuff including books and marmalade. All welcome.

We were able to add a further £90 from March, April and May's Food & Fellowship meetings to the £95 already raised (in January and February) towards the Area Christian Aid project; the total of £185 was paid in after May's meeting as the project approached its June deadline. We are glad to have been able to contribute to such a worthy cause.

As Rachel, Steve and David prepare to leave the Area, we at Vickerstown would like to thank them for their ministry and fellowship during their time here - we have enjoyed seeing the whole family on their visits to us at the far end of the road! - and wish them all the best for the future.

*Karen Edmondson*

# Regular Sunday Services

## ***Morning service times are as follows:***

Askam	(Duddon Road) 9:30 am (except 5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday–11:00 am)
Beacon Hill	(Holyoake Avenue, Barrow) 9:30 am
Dalton Methodist	(Wellington Street) 9:30 am
Dalton URC	(Market Street) 9:30 am
Hartington Street	Barrow 10:30 am
Kirkby	(Marshside) 10:30 am (except 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday – 6pm 5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday – 10 am at St Cuthbert's)
Millom	(Queen Street) 11:00 am
Ramsden Street	Barrow 11:00 am (except 1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday– 10:30am & 5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday – 11:00 am at Trinity)
Trinity Church Centre	(Warwick Street, Barrow) 11:00 am
Urswick	(Tarn Close) 11:00 am (except 1 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sundays -- at Parish church)
Vickerstown	(Warren Street) 11:00 am

## ***Evening services are held as follows:***

Beacon Hill	6 pm every week (4 pm in winter)
Trinity Church Centre	6:30 pm every week (4 pm in winter)
Kirkby	6 pm on the 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday

United Area joint evening services as arranged. For details, please consult the Plan or the website: [www.swcumbriaunitedarea.unc.org.uk](http://www.swcumbriaunitedarea.unc.org.uk)

### **Regular Coffee Mornings**

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

Millom -	Fridays from	9:30 till 10:30
Ramsden St. -	Fridays from	10:30 till 12:00



Dalton - Mondays:	Tea and Chat at Wellington Street from 10 to 11:30
Hartington St - Tuesdays:	Care & Share Fellowship & Knit & Natter from 10:00 to 11:30