

# Dates for your Diary

Date	Event	Venue	Start Time	Finish Time
Nov 30	Bible study	Trinity	6 : 45 pm	
Nov 30	Walney Churches Choir concert	St Columba's	7 : 30 pm	
Dec 2	Coffee morning	Vickerstown	10 : 00 am	11 : 30 am
Dec 2	Christmas concert	Trinity	10 : 00 am	11 : 30 am
Dec 2	Walney Churches Choir concert	St Columba's	7 : 30 pm	
Dec 4	Advent meeting	Beacon Hill	7 : 30 pm	
Dec 5	Midweek Communion service	Trinity	10 : 00 am	
Dec 5	First Tuesday Ladies	59 Crosslands Park	7 : 30 pm	
Dec 6	Coffee and Company	Kirby	9 : 45 am	11 : 30 am
Dec 6	Midweek service	Askam	10 : 00 am	
Dec 7	Bible study	Trinity	6 : 45 pm	
Dec 11	Advent meeting	Beacon Hill	7 : 30 pm	
Dec 12	Midweek Communion service	Dalton Market Street	2 : 30 pm	
Dec 13	Midweek service	Kirby	10 : 30 am	
Dec 14	Coffee morning	Beacon Hill	10 : 00 am	11 : 15 am
Dec 14	Bible study	Hartington Street	1 : 30 pm	
Dec 14	LP/WL meeting	Trinity	6 : 45 pm	
Dec 14	White Shepherds Watched	Dalton Wellington Street	7 : 30 pm	
Dec 18	Advent meeting	Beacon Hill	7 : 30 pm	
Dec 20	Midweek service	Ramsden Street	2 : 15 pm	
Dec 20	Christian Women's Fellowship	Dalton Market Street	6 : 30 pm	
Dec 21	Bible study	Trinity	6 : 45 pm	
Dec 23	Coffee & carols	Dalton Market Street	9 : 45 am	
Jan 3	Coffee and Company	Kirby	9 : 45 am	11 : 30 am
Jan 3	Midweek service	Askam	10 : 00 am	
Jan 6	Coffee morning	Trinity	10 : 00 am	11 : 30 am
Jan 9	Midweek Communion service	Trinity	10 : 00 am	
Jan 9	Midweek Communion service	Dalton Market Street	2 : 30 pm	
Jan 9	Area Trustees meeting	Hartington Street	7 : 30 pm	
Jan 10	Midweek service	Kirby	10 : 30 am	
Jan 11	Bible study	Hartington Street	1 : 30 pm	
Jan 13	Coffee morning	Vickerstown	10 : 00 am	11 : 30 am
Jan 17	Midweek service	Ramsden Street	2 : 15 pm	
Jan 25	Coffee morning	Beacon Hill	10 : 00 am	11 : 15 am
Jan 25	Bible study	Hartington Street	1 : 30 pm	
Jan 25	CTIB Agape meal	St Mary's, Walney	6 : 00 pm	



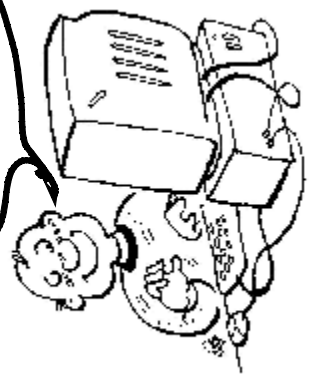
# Newslink

**SOUTH WEST CUMBRIA UNITED AREA**

Charity Registration Number 1141404

**Methodist and United Reformed Churches Working Together**

## The Minister Writes



## ISSUE 127 DEC 17/JAN 18

of Jesus today', the national URC's umbrella term for this focus on lifelong Christian discipleship and mission, is now very much alive, and there are now resources available to help deepen our understanding of what being a Christian disciple truly means.

Although we in Cumbria have been developing something similar for a few years now, starting with 'Growing Together' and resulting in the now more familiar title of 'God for All', hopefully bringing about a very practical way of bringing the gospel message to those 'outside' the church, by forming local 'Mission Communities' of different denominations, we should nevertheless not ignore what one of our 'parent' denominations is doing nationally, and especially being aware of the added resources which we can dip into to help us get the Good News of Jesus Christ to the outside world. The 'Introductory Leaflet' and 'Bookmark' outline in more

You'll hopefully recall my 'Minister's Letter' in the Newslink of May earlier this year, when I outlined the initial thoughts of the way in which our URC North West Synod is engaging with the National Churches initiative of being 'more intentional in mission'. Having given his first disciples the Great Commission (Matt 28:16-20), Jesus continues to call and send all those who are his disciples today, and when our discipleship is 'Jesus shaped' it will also be mission orientated, or simply missional, in its nature. Well, 'Walking the Way: Living the life

detail what ‘Walking the Way’ is all about, and offer the whereabouts of various resources to help us be more effective in being true disciples of Christ, with, amongst others: an Advent Liturgy; a number of prayers; a ten-module study guide looking at the ten ‘Holy Habits’ of discipleship based on the book of that name by Andrew Roberts. This is an exciting time within the church. Challenging yes, even scary at times, but exciting nevertheless, as we continue our own journeys of faith ‘Walking the Way of Jesus’ and being better equipped and inspired to tell others of that joy in our lives, following on nicely from our own (in Barrow at least) very successful ‘Believe in Barrow’ Mission in recent weeks, in which a number of the United Area’s churches in Barrow played a part.

This is a special time of the year in the Christian calendar, as we (as well as the secular world) look forward to celebrating the coming of Jesus in the world. May we capture the vision of what Missional Discipleship may mean for us, and with God’s help, may we become more Jesus-shaped and trust more deeply in the way of Jesus in the times we live, and bring others to know that joy.

Have a fun-filled and joyous Christmas.

With every Blessing.

*Rou*

## Area Directory

The South West Cumbria United Area Directory will be updated in January 2018 and in order that this can be completed would individuals and churches please check their entries in the current copy and email any changes, additions, deletions etc to [km.aldred@icloud.com](mailto:km.aldred@icloud.com) by Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2018 (or phone 430842). If no changes are necessary then an email stating ‘no change’ would be appreciated.

*Kathryn Aldred*

## REGIONAL & NATIONAL WEBSITES

**www.cumbriamethodistsdistrict.org.uk**

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

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

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

**February** issue No 128 of *Newslink* will be published at the end of January. Please send all material to reach Lilian Wood, 89 Risedale Road, Barrow, LA13 9QY by Sunday January 7<sup>th</sup>. Items can also be passed on by ☎ **01229 825986** or ✉ **[lilian.wood4@gmail.com](mailto:lilian.wood4@gmail.com)**

## 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 Community Church	(Market Street) – 9:30am
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
Vickerstown	(except 1 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sundays – at Parish church) (Warren Street) 11:00 am

### Evening services are held as follows:

Beacon Hill	4 pm every week
Trinity Church Centre	4 pm every week
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.urch.org.uk](http://www.swcumbriaunitedarea.urch.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

Broughton - Tuesdays:

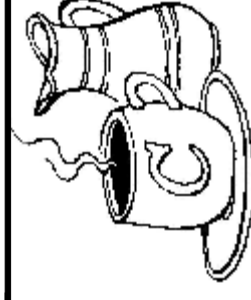
at the Square Café from 10:30 to 12 noon

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



# while shepherds watched



## A Christmas Musical by Roger Jones

Thursday December 14th

7.30pm

at Dalton Community Church,  
Wellington Street, Dalton

no tickets

donations to church refurbishment fund appreciated

## Luther and the Protestant Reformation 1517

*During a British conference on comparative religions, experts from around the world debated what, if any, belief was unique to the Christian faith. They began eliminating possibilities. Incarnation? Other religions had different versions of gods appearing in human form. Resurrection? Again, other religions had accounts of return from death. The debate went on for some time until C. S. Lewis wandered into the room. "What's the rumpus about?" he asked, and heard in reply that his colleagues were discussing Christianity's unique contribution among world religions. Lewis responded, "Oh, that's easy. It's grace."*

*After some discussion, the conferees had to agree. The notion of God's love coming to us free of charge, no strings attached, seems to go against every instinct of humanity. The Buddhist eight-fold path, the Hindu doctrine of karma, the Jewish covenant, and the Muslim code of law — each of these offers a way to earn approval. Only Christianity dares to make God's love unconditional. (Philip Yancey, *What's So Amazing About Grace?*)*

As Christians in the twenty-first century we accept this as Biblically true and join with Charles Wesley when he says: *My chains fell off, my heart was free and rejoice in the promise of Romans 6:23 The wages of sin is death but the gift of God is eternal life.* Sadly this was not always the case. By the sixteenth century the teaching of the church was very much focused on the need to do penance for sins committed and the doctrine of purgatory (a place for the dead to prepare for entry into heaven at some later date). Prayers could be said for the dead by a priest who generally received payment for it and indulgences could be bought, at a price, to cancel sins for the living and/or the dead to enable what can only be regarded as a fast track to heaven. It was primarily against the latter practice that Martin Luther spoke out and challenged the church's teaching. He had hoped to encourage the Church to review corrupt practice and reform but sadly he met with stiff opposition and was invited to recant. He was also condemned as a heretic. Undaunted he took on the might of the Church and its figurehead in Rome and with the aid of what was then the modern printing press produced articles, sermons, books and pamphlets based on what the Bible teaches. The letter to the Romans was a prime source for his discovery that salvation was through faith not works and in John 3:16 he saw the gospel in miniature whereby a loving God reached out to fallen men and women in saving grace. The challenge to the establishment was such that Luther had to go into hiding for a number of years but through his writings the momentum of the Reformation rapidly gathered pace and Protestantism gained a strong foothold in Europe.

When asked to recant Luther is reported to have said that he would only if it could be shown to him, on the basis of the Bible and the Bible alone, that he was wrong. Otherwise, his conscience was captive to the Word of God. For the academics this heralded a new way of doing theology which has defined Protestantism ever since. In essence the word of God as recorded in the Bible is the starting point.

Five hundred years on we remember the Reformation not because it was a call to do better and for a corrupt church to change its ways but because it was the recovery of a message which had over time been buried for a thousand years - a world changing message - that God loves sinners and in his love has reached out to each one of us through his son, Jesus Christ who as John puts it God did not send his Son into the world to be its judge, but to be its saviour. John 3:17

*Charlie Mills*

## NW Synod of URC held at Carver Uniting Church Windermere on Saturday October 14<sup>th</sup>

Opening worship was led by Alison Adams who used material she had used when she led opening worship at the recent World Council of Churches. This was interspersed with a welcome for guests, a presentation and remembrance of Ministers who had died since the last Synod - including Rev David Robinson.

A Bible Study by Dr Karl Moller, Principal of Initial Ministerial Education, Cumbria Christian Learning, had the theme of 'Discipleship' - a theme that ran through most of the Synod.

The usual minutes, matters arising, annual accounts, reports from various committees and area pastoral committees.

Report of the Introduction of the Northern Synods Listening service.

Good News reports from Ramsden Street and Wilmslow Churches.

Closing worship was led by the recently appointed Mission & Discipleship Mentors for the Lancashire, Central and South areas.

Further information will appear on the URC website.

*Margaret Maxwell and Anne Stevenson*

## Life And Faith Musings

This is the new blog of Rev Jennet McLeod. It covers the ups and downs of life and its spiritual dimensions, as experienced by a Methodist minister, along with some short reviews of books that people may find helpful. Typing [lifeandfaithmusings.wordpress.com](http://lifeandfaithmusings.wordpress.com) into your computer will take you there.

## Dalton's Giant Community Advent Calendar 2017

Following on from the success of last year's advent calendar, groups from Dalton, Newton and Askam have produced pictures on the theme of Christmas Carols or Christmas Songs for this year's calendar. The pictures will be displayed, by kind permission of Mr and Mrs Atkinson, in the window of David Atkinson Car Sales. The first picture will be displayed in a special frame on December 1<sup>st</sup> and then there will be a new Advent picture every day until December 24<sup>th</sup>. Worth a visit to Dalton in Advent to see the Calendar!

*Anne Hulton*

## Churches Together in Barrow

There will be carol singing in the town centre on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> December. More details later.

The Agape meal will take place on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> January at 6 pm at St Mary's, Walney. The speaker will be Martin Cooper, the Baptist minister.

## Vickerstown

The Area Bonfire at Vickerstown on November 4<sup>th</sup> raised £150 for the Methodist Fund for World Mission; despite a showery forecast it stayed dry for us and was an enjoyable evening. There were fewer fireworks than usual going off across town, probably because it wasn't actually bonfire night, but we had a lovely full moon to admire instead as well as our own fireworks and fire. Thanks to all those who helped out in various ways.

Vickerstown's Christmas Coffee Morning will be held on Saturday December 2<sup>nd</sup>, from 10 a.m. to about 11:30, with our usual stalls (cakes, Fairtrade, books and bric-a-brac) and hopefully a few seasonal extras. All welcome, no entry charge. January's coffee morning will be on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup>, at the same time.

We will again have a postbox at Vickerstown for the Walney Scout Christmas Post - full details have not yet been finalised but if you have any cards for the island please feel free to pass them to me, as I should know the prices and deadline by the time people start sending cards! It will definitely be cheaper than buying a stamp, and all for a good cause.

This year's Walney Churches Choir Christmas concerts will be held on Thursday November 30<sup>th</sup> and Friday December 1<sup>st</sup> in St. Columba's Church, starting at 7:30 p.m. and followed by hot drinks and mince pies. All welcome; no fixed charge but there will be a retiring collection for local charities.

*Karen Edmondson*



## Green Tip

Once again there is an opportunity to recycle your Christmas cards at Marks & Spencer, who are working with the Woodland Trust and will plant a tree in the UK for every 1,000 cards they receive. They will accept cards between 2<sup>nd</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> of January. The Woodland Trust began working with M&S in 2012, but they started this recycling scheme 19 years ago, since when half a billion cards have been collected and 245,000 trees have been planted. At Beacon Hill we will be asking the congregation to bring all their cards to church so that they can be counted before being recycled; our aim is to be responsible for planting 2 trees.

*Lillian Wood*

## Kirkby-in-Furness

A big Thank you to

1. Those who supported and helped us to raise £525.00 at our Autumn Fair in October. It was a huge help towards the cost of replacing the church and hall roof.
2. Those who have helped prepare and fill shoeboxes for the Christmas appeal. Also a big thank you to Rosemary for co-ordinating it all.

### Christmas Angels.

Here at Kirkby we have been busy knitting angels. They will be given out at Christmas along with a jar of Mary's gorgeous homemade jam to various residents in the area.

There is also an appeal going out for people to send an Angel to Theresa May at Downing Street and your local MP asking them to suspend and review the universal credit system.

On December 10<sup>th</sup> at 6pm we will be holding a Christmas celebration service with the Praise Group. Please come along and join us.  
December 24<sup>th</sup> at 10:30am will be our carols and communion with Deacon Debbie Buckley.

*Beryl Hollowell*

## Ramsden Street

Our Autumn Fair held on November 4<sup>th</sup> was a very enjoyable and successful day when £725 was raised for Church funds. Another £665 was raised through the Penny Boxes and both amounts will just about cover the bill we have had for some electrical work! Our next Church lunch will be a Christmas buffet on Wednesday December 6<sup>th</sup>. On Friday December 8<sup>th</sup> at 10:30am the children from Greengate School will be coming to sing Christmas songs and carols for us at our coffee morning. This will be held in the Church to accommodate everyone.

The Carol Service will be held on Sunday December 17<sup>th</sup> at 2:30pm and will be led by Ron Wilson. The service will be followed by a Christmas tea to which everyone is invited.

A date for new diaries is Friday February 16<sup>th</sup> when Ian Wardlaw will give an organ recital at 2:30pm and refreshments will be served afterwards. Tickets will be available in the New Year.

*Anne Stevenson*

## Christian Aid Community Partnership

The United Area Trustees would like to encourage churches to raise funds for a new Christian Aid project.

Across Kenya, orphans and children affected by HIV and AIDS are missing out on quality health, education and social services. The traditional support systems of extended families have buckled under the strain of the epidemic and the basic needs of children are not being met. Of the 160,000 children under 15 years living with HIV, less than half get the lifesaving antiretroviral drugs they need to survive.

This project is part-funded by USAid, so for every £1 you donate, USAid will give £17 to the project, helping to provide lifesaving healthcare, education and vital support to orphans and vulnerable children in Kenya. Unlike the last project we supported, there is no minimum amount that has to be raised.

How does HIV and AIDS affect children in Kenya?

- They often miss out on critical immunisations
- They're less likely to enrol at school
- They suffer malnutrition and stunted growth
- Girls are more likely to fall pregnant as teenagers and suffer gender-based violence
- They can be exploited, neglected, displaced, left destitute or left for dead

This project will reach 170,000 children across Kenya, using new approaches to build skills and capacities to strengthen local services. The project will also promote innovations like the Jua Mtoto Wako (Swahili for 'Know your Child') system which will use mobile phone technology to identify, track and match the health and social services needed by every individual child.

If your church holds an event to raise money for this project and you have money to pass over could you please make the cheque payable to South West Cumbria United Area and send it to Bob Mantle, 14 Romney Park, Dalton, LA15 8BL, clearly stating that it is for the Christian Aid project.

## Local Preachers/worship Leaders

The next Local Preachers/Worship Leaders meeting will be held on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> December at Trinity, 7 for 7:30 pm. South Lakes Circuit LP/WL are joining us for a session on technology/media in church. Everyone is welcome to attend.

*Janet Ladds*

## First Tuesday Ladies

Our Christmas meeting will be held on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> December at 7:30 pm at 59 Croslands Park, when we will share food and fellowship. There will be no meeting in January; our next meeting will be on 6<sup>th</sup> February.

*Elaine Pears*

## When did your Church and users last have a fire safety talk?

Recently at Askam Duddon Road Church we invited Mr Mick McGuirk, a Fire Safety Prevention Officer, to talk to us. All users of the Hall were asked to be represented at this meeting, as we were to learn that every group/team leader has a personal responsibility for the safety of its members in the case of a fire on the premises. Sadly not all groups responded.

Question: Mick asked the audience "How many of you have been in a fire?" A few people said yes, and all agreed how very frightening this can be.

Reasons for Fire:

1. Arson - 39%
2. Electrical equipment - 30%
3. Fixed electrical equipment - 8%
4. Cigarettes - 4%

There are 2000 arson attacks a week.  
60 people injured a week.

360 businesses and public buildings damaged - and 80% of businesses never recover, meaning jobs lost.

Legislation starting in 1911 has been brought about after fatal accidents caused by fire.

The first in a Yorkshire mill, then offices and shops, for Furniture Safety (remember the foam used in settees), Safety of Sports Grounds, workplace safety, halls etc. etc.

Companies usually employ a competent person to do fire risk assessment.

**Public buildings (which includes Churches and church halls) need to do a fire risk assessment and also hold regular fire drills.**

Causes and Prevention of Fire.

1. Escape routes - highlight these.
2. Sources of ignition.
3. Good housekeeping - keep places tidy.
4. Area awareness (keep away from the burning building after evacuation).
5. Building maintenance.
6. Flammable liquids - store safely.
7. Passive fire protection.
8. Active fire protection.

Prevention is better than cure.

Shut doors at night.

Unplug sockets.

Smoke alarms - test regularly. Are they clearly visible in place - in good working order?

Kitchen safety: Simple measures:

Do not use toaster under overhead cupboard.

Do not cover microwave.

## Dalton

The concert given by Dalton Town Band was well attended and very much enjoyed. Thanks to all who helped and supported the Thursday Club coffee morning and the Craft Fair.

After worship on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> we celebrated "Auntie Nellie's" 101<sup>st</sup> birthday in the usual manner - with a lovely cake - we don't need much excuse for a cake!

Both the Church and Bible Society will have a tree in the Dalton Tree Festival.

### Future Events:

Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> December Bible Society Advent Praise 3 pm Market Street

Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> December Midweek Communion Service 2:30 pm Market Street

Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> December Christmas Musical 'While Shepherds Watched' 7:30 pm Wellington Street

Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> December Coffee and Carols 9:45 am Market Street

Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2018 Midweek Communion Service 2:30 pm Market Street

*R Willock*

**Christian Women's Fellowship.** The next meeting of the CWF will be on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> December at 6:30 pm. We will be having a Festive Meal and Carol Service. All are welcome. There will be no meeting in January.

*D Zage*

## Askam

Dementia Friendly meeting at Duddon Road Church, now to be run by Furness Carers.

We have been pleased to have a group using Askam Church to help people with dementia problems. They will meet once a month at a new time and day, now on the second Tuesday of each month from 11:00 - 12:30 p.m. The group is led by Mrs.

Angela Hampshire, and I was pleased to hear that at the last meeting, she encouraged the group to sing as she played the piano. As many of you will appreciate, music is so very special to anyone with memory problems, often the last thing to go.

On Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> December we will hold our Christingle Service at 4:00 p.m. with

Deacon Debbie Buckley. This will be a Messy Church, with the children making their own Christingle oranges - if it follows last year's service it will be a very busy time - but very enjoyable and meaningful.

We will hold our Carol Service on Sunday, 17<sup>th</sup> December, led by Rev. Ron Wilson.

On Sunday, 7<sup>th</sup> January, 2018 we will hold our Covenant Service.

*Dorothy Gleaves*

**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.

Week commencing

Dec	3 <sup>rd</sup>	Mission in UA	Y
	10 <sup>th</sup>	Trinity	A
	17 <sup>th</sup>	Vickerstown	B
	24 <sup>th</sup>	Hartington Street	C
	31 <sup>st</sup>	Ramsden Street	D
2018	7 <sup>th</sup>	Beacon Hill	E
	14 <sup>th</sup>	Dalton Comm Church	F
	21 <sup>st</sup>	Urswick	G
	28 <sup>th</sup>	Askam	H

*Janet Ladds*

## Hartington Street

Mondays Toddlers 1-2:30 pm in The Hub. The last meeting before Christmas will be on 18<sup>th</sup> December and we will begin again on 8<sup>th</sup> January.  
 Tuesdays Knit and Natter 10-11:30 am in The Hub. After the meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> December we will break for Christmas and begin again on 9<sup>th</sup> January.  
 Our Bible studies will be held on Thursdays at 1:30 pm on the following dates:  
 14<sup>th</sup> December, 11<sup>th</sup> January and 25<sup>th</sup> January.

*Chris Mills*

## Beacon Hill

The first of our 4 Advent meetings will be held on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> November at 7:30 pm. There will be an international theme this year as we tell the Christmas story with Bible readings, hymns, prayers, activities and food. Everyone is welcome to join us.  
 On Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> December at 3 pm we will hold our Family Carol Service, led by the uniformed organisations. On Christmas Eve at 6 pm we have a reflective carol service, and then a service on Christmas Day at 10 am, both led by Rev Ron Wilson.  
 Our Mince Pie coffee morning will be held on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> December, 10 am-11:15 am, with mince pies replacing the usual cake stall.  
 Our usual monthly coffee mornings resume on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> January, with stalls selling cakes, handmade cards, books and Fairtrade items.

*Allian Wood*

Only use equipment for what it is designed for (don't dry teatowels over open flame, drape over toaster or other heated equipment).  
 Water hydrants: found outside building - ensure these are not blocked by vehicles.  
 A few simple preventative measures:  
 Never store paper near an electric light bulb.  
 Bad housekeeping - put stuff away.  
 Store combustible material safely.  
 Remove anything putting pressure on cables.  
 Have a PEEPS: Personal Emergency Evacuation Plan.  
 This means how to get individuals out of the building  
**Have an emergency Plan:**  
 Fire Warden (this is the person responsible) - in Church circumstances.  
 Assist disabled or aged to leave premises (if possible get someone to phone the Fire Brigade).  
 DO NOT COLLECT personal belongings.  
 Check all rooms.  
 Go to Assembly Point - roll call.  
 Close all doors and windows, if safe to do so. (The less oxygen there is the slower the fire will burn).  
 IMPORTANT: ensure no one re-enters the building before the Senior Fire Officer gives the ok.  
 Remember people will panic - which is understandable. Panic is an irrational behaviour, but human. They will freeze. This could cause a delayed evacuation as no wants to be the first to move - people may die because of this.  
 So it is important to **Hold a Fire drill** - this is a legal requirement - once a year. People will then remember the drill and not panic.  
 Have a Test by closing one of the main exits - use an observer to record result.  
 The evening finished with a video of a simple waste paper fire in a lounge and within 2 1/2 minutes the whole room was alight. The fire plume rose to the ceiling and radiation from the hot smoke descended (the toxic fumes are the killer). It was a frightening scenario.  
 Mr McGuirk was thanked for his visit to the Church and his well-informed talk.  
 We all left the talk having learnt a great deal. I would appeal to all Churches to consider a Fire Prevention Talk in your Church as it is a very important part of our duty to any users of our buildings.  
**If you need help with this Mick McGuirk would be pleased to give you advice.**  
 He can be contacted on 01229 462510. As the talk needs two visits to the property, first a preliminary visit to the building to draw up a plan and then the talk, he cannot guarantee covering all the United Area Churches.

*Dorothy Gleaves*

## Youth spot

*Flashbacks ...to times with Jesus* was held at Trinity Church Centre at the beginning of November. This time we only had 2 afternoon sessions, which was a pity considering how much time it must take to set up the church for the various activities. I just turn up on the day to help with the children, but a number of people spend a lot of time preparing for this event. However, we were able to spend time with around 60 children and their teachers. The children were aged 8 and 9 and came from St James' and St Paul's, and as usual they were well behaved and interested in everything that went on. On the Area website there are photographs of the 3 craft activities: wristbands made of beads and other objects representing the events of Jesus' life, crosses made from matchsticks and fish pictures as a reminder of the story of Jesus appearing to His disciples on the beach after the Resurrection. The children also visited a synagogue, played a game and ended by celebrating a wedding, which included food and dancing. It is heartening to see how much they already know and how willing they are to discuss what they believe.

We were pleased to welcome 2 new helpers this time, who both thoroughly enjoyed themselves. I can certainly recommend it to anyone who likes children - look out for information about the next session of Flashbacks and consider whether you could volunteer to help.

*Lillian Wood*

Thanks to a grant from "Speaking Volumes" Beacon Hill has been able to donate almost £300 worth of Christian books to Newbarns School. Many of the children from there know us from their association with our Beavers, Cubs and Scouts. Year 6 will once again be making Christmas decorations for the church. It is good to have these links with the children.

*Elaine Pears*

## Individual Churches

### Trinity

Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> December Monthly Coffee Morning 10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. On the same day in the afternoon at 4:00 p.m. there will be a Christmas Concert given by Come Sing (the U3A Choir).

On Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> at our 4:00 p.m. service Furness Chorale will be presenting music for Advent and Christmas. We look forward to Beacon Hill folk joining us for this service. Our Toy Service will also be our Nativity service and will take place on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> December at 11:00 a.m. It is hoped that some families who come to Messy Church will join us. After that service there will be a Christmas Dinner. It is essential that you sign the notice if you wish to attend.

Our Midweek Communion will be held on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> December at 10:00 a.m. in the Abbey Chapel. This is a short informal Communion Service.

The January Coffee Morning will take place on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. Midweek Communion on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> January at 10:00 a.m.

2 for 'T' meets on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> January at 2:00 p.m. when Bill Jenks and his friend Christine will be encouraging us to work off some excess fat with chair exercises.

Advent Bible Studies will be held jointly with the Baptist Church for 4 weeks on Thursdays beginning on 30<sup>th</sup> November. These will be led by Jennet and will begin at 6:45 p.m., preceded by an optional meal at 6:00 p.m.

### Family Matters

In December Jennet will welcome Stanley Wareing into our family at Trinity, by transfer, in a short Communion Service at Ostley House, where he is now a resident and happily settled, having moved from Grange recently. Paul Williams.

Paul died peacefully in FGH on 14<sup>th</sup> October with his family by his bedside. He had been bravely battling his illness for well over a year, but now his suffering is over. Paul was a true gentleman and a faithful servant of Christ who served in Bradford on Avon, and on moving to Barrow became a member at Abbey Methodist, playing his part there as steward and also as chairman of the badminton club. He was a keen badminton and tennis player. When the three churches, Abbey and Hawcoat Methodist and Emmanuel URC, united to become Trinity, Paul served as our first Co-ordinator, bringing all his organisational skills to the post. He also served faithfully as an Elder and Trustee.

Space does not permit me to detail all his work, much unseen, which he gave to the church. He will be greatly missed by us all but of course particularly by Linda, Caroline and Victoria and their respective husband and partner and our prayers are with them all at this time and will continue in the coming days.

*Margaret Maxwell*