



Newslink

SOUTH WEST CUMBRIA UNITED AREA

Charity Registration Number 1141404

Methodist and United Reformed Churches Working Together

The Minister Writes



Dear Friends,
Here's a little teaser for you... what is the most obeyed verse in the Bible? I wonder what your answer to that question would be! If you want to know the answer (at least, the answer of one particular person) then you will need to go to the session called Sharing Your Story on February 7th at Trinity (9am to 1pm, with the actual start at 9:15am). Jennet and I already know the answer (but we won't tell you!) because we went to a Sharing Your Story event back in November. The one in November and the one shortly to take place in February are being led by the Bishop of Penrith, Robert

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Freeman. They are part of the preparation for Believe in Barrow, a mission to the people in Barrow being organised by the Anglicans this coming May, but anyone from the United Area is invited to go along because sharing our faith story is something which Christians of all denominations are called to do. Sharing Your Story is based on the premise that although some Christians are incredibly confident about sharing their faith, most of us feel unsure. We would love our family and friends, and even the people we meet, to somehow get to know a little of what our Christian faith means to us, and might mean for them. But how? The morning with Bishop Robert is light-hearted, entertaining, as well as thought-provoking and looks at the whole question of sharing our faith with others in a natural way. He makes some very good points and has encouraging, down-to-earth suggestions as to how to talk about your life as a Christian. Whether you think you will be part of Believe in Barrow in May or not, it is a very worthwhile event to attend.

Area Website www.swcumbriaunitedarea.urch.org.uk

In November both Jennet and I had thought about not going to the session because we were both very busy the day it took place - but we were both so glad we made the effort! So, how about it? Could you go on February 7th? If you would like to attend, please give your name to Rev. Elaine Bates by phone 01229 822149, or eabates@live.co.uk - they'd like to know numbers because Bishop Robert is bringing cakes for everyone at the mid-morning coffee break - now there's an incentive to go if ever I heard one!!

On a more serious note, the second verse of James Seddon's hymn, *Go Forth and Tell*, reminds us that if we don't share the good news of Jesus Christ, who will?

Go forth and tell! God's love embraces all;
he will in grace respond to all who call:
how shall they call if they have never heard
the gracious invitation of his word?

Blessings,

Ann

Hymn words © The Representatives of the late James Edward Seddon/Admin by The Jubilate Group. Used By Permission.

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Local Preachers/Worship Leaders

The next LP/WL meeting will be held on Wednesday 4th March at 7:30pm at Askam. Worship Leaders in particular are encouraged to attend.

Janet Ladds



Green Tip

Two very simple ways to reduce the amount of paper we use:

1. when printing use both sides of the paper
2. before putting out paper for recycling cut off any blank areas of paper and use these for shopping lists etc.

We could also save paper if we could reduce the number of copies of 'Newslink' that are printed. If anyone would like to receive their copy by email please let me know.

Lilian

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

March issue No 99 of *Newslink* will be published at the end of February

Please send all material to reach Lilian Wood, 89 Risedale Road, Barrow, LA13 9QY by Sunday February 1st. Items can also be passed on by

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

Thank You

I would like to thank everyone in the United Area for their love, support and friendship over the last 2 years while I have been 'On Trial' as a local preacher. I would especially like to thank Hazel Edmondson who was my tutor and Yvonne Blackley who acted as my mentor as well as all of the other preachers in the area who have offered support and guidance throughout my training.

I am incredibly pleased to announce that, pending United Area agreement, I have now passed all my training and will become an accredited Methodist Local Preacher during a service of celebration on Sunday 15th March 2015 at 4pm at Beacon Hill Methodist Church. Simon and I would like to invite anyone in the United Area who would like to, to join us at this service of celebration and to then join us for pie and peas and cake in the Church hall after the service. If you would like to join us for food please can you let us know by Sunday 22nd February 2015 so that we ensure we have enough food to feed everyone. You can contact us on 01229 822285 or by email to hayleylisa@hotmail.com We really do hope that you will be able to join us in celebrating the end of my training and the start of the next step of my journey with God.

Love and Thanks

Hayley Edmondson

Flashbacks... to times with Jesus

We are again holding Flashbacks at Dalton Market Street and (as ever!) are looking for helpers. The sessions are:

- Mon Feb 23 morning (Dalton St Mary's)
- Mon Feb 23 afternoon (George Romney)
- Tues Feb 24 morning (George Romney)
- Wed Feb 25 morning (George Romney)
- Wed Feb 25 afternoon (Our Lady of the Rosary).

Over the 5 sessions about 130 children will be attending and if you would like to meet with some lively 8 and 9 year olds, and tell them something about Jesus through games and activities this is your chance. It is a bit tiring but fun! If you have never helped before there is no training required as new helpers are put with someone who is experienced with the activity. Please let me know as soon as possible if you could help at one (or more) of the sessions (tel 812439 or email ann@hufton.co.uk)

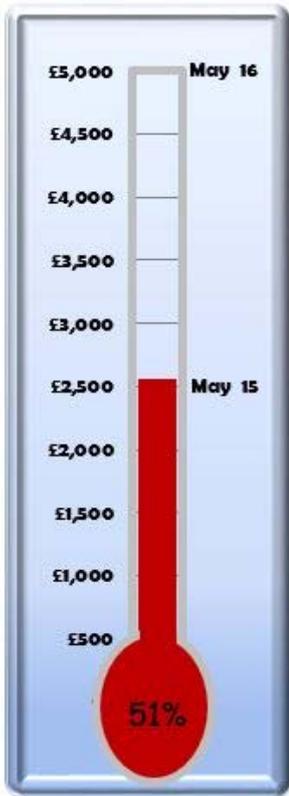
Thank you.

Ann Hufton

United Area Meeting

The February United Area meeting will be on Wednesday 25th February at 7:00 p.m. at Beacon Hill. Each church has at least two representatives and each committee has at least one representative. Please could all members of the Area meeting (or, for churches, the agreed substitutes if necessary) come to share in the planning of the life and witness of our United Area.

Christian Aid Community Partnership



We're half-way there! Thank you to Ramsden Street and Dalton for their contributions from collections at Christmas services and money given at the Carols in Flowers event at Dalton; this means we have now raised £2561.24 towards our target of £5,000 for the maternal and child healthcare project in Kenya.

Lilian Wood

The following information is taken from the latest update from Christian Aid.

The power of this project lies in its holistic and long-term outlook. In order to ensure good standards of maternal and child health long after the partners have gone, other social and economic factors have to be looked at. The mother to mother groups are a good example of this: they bring women from the community together to learn about good health practices, and are then used to empower the women socially and economically, ensuring their rights to health services will be upheld in the future. In a society where men control the money and very often direct it away from the family, this economic empowerment for women is crucial in improving maternal and child health.

Mother to mother groups: all-round empowerment and education

One such mother to mother group is the Sitoka Naretisho group, made up of pregnant women and mothers with children of all ages from Sitoka village. Initially this group were taught how to prepare for childbirth, how to breastfeed and the importance of vaccinations for young children. This group have now been taught about nutrition and hygienic practices in the home, to make sure that children get a good and varied diet and that sickness is reduced. All this contributes to healthier children.

Starting up

The group were also given a start-up fund of 25,000 Kenyan shillings (roughly £175). This was used in the first instance to help women buy seeds and pesticides, so that they can plant "kitchen gardens" and grow their own food - usually a mix of vegetables. These vegetables add much-needed nutrition and vitamins to the families' diets. Any leftover produce can then be sold, helping women to generate their own income and look after their families better. This money has also been used by the women to buy their own goats. Goats are an investment for the future, as they can be bred and then the kids sold at market. Women are not usually allowed to own livestock; it is only out of respect for the group that men are allowing their wives to buy goats and sheep for themselves. This is a great example of the value our partners add - without their input and the respect the communities have for them as part of the same culture, this initiative would fail.

Ongoing investment

To keep this fund going, women contribute 100 shillings (roughly 70p) every month. This fund is given out in loans to members of the group as capital with which to start up "income generation activities" - i.e. small businesses. The opportunities that these women are now getting to participate in the local economy means that they can support their families better.

Praise Group

Praise Group is a happy Fellowship that meets at Duddon Road Methodist Church Askam, on Monday evenings to start at 7:30pm. New Members are always welcome.

Last year we sang at the Leaving Service for Martin & David, also the Welcome Service for Jenet. We have sung at a couple of Concerts, Tea Club, Carols @ F.G.H & also Sisterhood Christmas Party. This year so far we have been asked to sing at "Hawcoat Community Centre". If you would like us to share in your Fellowship do please ask. You are very welcome to join us. Sometimes though we may be giving a performance on a Monday so it is a good idea to ask any member if we will be at Askam or ring me on 834704.

We have been exploring "Singing The Faith"; as we don't have a resident pianist we sing along to the S.T.F discs. We thank Beryl Allonby & Val Jaques for occasionally playing for us & enhancing our Praise.

Ellen Powell

Journeying With Jesus

This will be a Lent Course run by Ann Hufton and Yvonne Blackley on four Tuesday evenings, March 3rd, 10th, 17th, and 24th from 7:30 pm to 9 pm at Dalton Market Street, with refreshments at the end. This will be more of a devotional course than a discussion based course using music, images, creative activities, meditations as well as some discussion. The titles of the four sessions are: Where are we?, Surrender, Transformation and The Servant. All are welcome from any of the United Area Churches - or indeed any of the churches in our locality.

Ann Hufton

First Tuesday Ladies

We will meet at 59 Croslands Park at 7:30 pm on Tuesday 3rd February to study the Bible and enjoy a time of prayer and fellowship.

Janet Ladds

Senior Club At The Cinema

Come along to the Senior Club at Vue Cinema Barrow! Every Tuesday at 1pm there is a different film, and for just £3.05 you get entry to the film, a cup of tea and a biscuit. If you have any queries, don't hesitate to come into the cinema and ask, or contact Jasmine Aldred via email (jasminealdred@gmail.com) or phone (07846023977).

Forthcoming films:

3rd February - The Judge

10th February - My Old Lady

17th February - St Vincent

Jasmine Aldred



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Individual Churches

Trinity

Monthly Coffee Morning Saturday 7th. February from 10:00 a.m.

On Tuesday 3rd. there will be a short communion service preceded by a cup of coffee at 10:30 a.m.

Tuesday 10th Women's World Day of Prayer preparation with Coffee, Prayer & Fellowship from 10:00 a.m. - 11:15 a.m at Trinity. The actual Service will be held on Friday 6th.

March at 2:00 p.m. at the Baptist Church. All welcome, men as well as women.

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.

1/02	Kirkby	'CTiB'
8/02	Broughton	'A'
15/02	Millom	'B'
22/02	Trinity	'C'

Janet Ladds

Kirkby-in-Furness

During the autumn we applied to the United Area for a loan to cover the cost of repair to the porch which was letting in water in the hope that we would be able to find a builder to complete the work before the really bad weather set in. The scaffolding came down before Christmas, the lead has been replaced and the porch is now watertight. The cost of the work was just under £4,000 and we were delighted to receive a third of the cost from grants from CGP and from the Kirkby Wind Farm and were able to cover the rest of the cost from our own funds, and so did not need a loan. We would like to thank CGP and the Wind Farm for their help.

Kirkby members decided not to send Christmas cards to each other but to make a donation instead to Crisis at Christmas. The money from our December coffee morning also went to the same charity and we were able to send £41 in total.

We regularly receive Certificates of Appreciation for the contributions we collect for the Barrow Food Bank and they give the amount of food collected in weight. In the three months August to October, thanks to the generosity of people in the village, 82 kilograms of donations were brought to the chapel. The chapel is open every day from 10am to 4pm to receive continued donations of food.

Our Coffee and Company is on Wednesday 4th February at the usual time of 9:45 to 11:30am. We look forward to seeing you there.

Janet Sheldon

Dalton

Market Street's **Christmas Bazaar** raised £374 for church funds. Coffee and Carols raised £107.17 for Christian Aid and this plus £100 from the Christian Women's Fellowship has been sent to the Christian Aid general fund.

The **Carols in Flowers** was very successful and donations along with offerings at the Christmas Services amounted to £235.56. This amount will be sent to Christian Aid Community Partnership which the Area is supporting. Just under 300 people came to view the flower arrangements - including one class from Our Lady's School and the whole of Chapel Street infants.

The **Bible Society** Action Group raised £1,028 for Bible Society work. This was an increase of £240 (or 30%) on the previous year. The Action Group's next event is a coffee morning at Ulverston Coronation Hall on March 3rd 2015. Donations for any of the stalls and help on the day would be much appreciated.

During **Fair Trade Fortnight** (Feb 23rd to March 8th) the Foundation will highlight the difference our Fair Trade Choices make.

R Willock

Dalton Christmas Tree Festival. Our tree 'Songs of Praise' received donations of £177 which has been taken to the Furness Homeless Christmas Shelter.

F Corkish

Christian Women's Fellowship: The next meeting of the CWF is on Wednesday February 18th at 7:30 pm when we will be having an evening of "Songs Of Praise". All are welcome.

D Zazi

Ramsden Street

Several events were enjoyed over the Christmas period: December 10th The New Abbey Singers gave a programme of music for Christmas; Greengate Junior School choir entertained us at the Coffee morning on December 12th with more Christmas songs and carols; the Carol Service on December 21st was led by Ron Wilson and followed by tea. The offering was donated to the United Area Christian Aid Project and gifts of tins were sent to the Furness Homeless Support Group along with a cheque for £65 which was raised instead of sending cards to each other.

We hope to have had the church decorated by the time this newsletter goes to print so we should look smart at the beginning of our Centenary year. Details of events throughout the year will be publicised very soon.

Anne Stevenson

Askam

The Christmas festivities at Askam went very well.

The Sisterhood had a wonderful Christmas Party. The SWC Praise group entertained with a sketch and Christmas carols and the members could join in, as we projected the words onto the Church wall. The Camel Shuffle carol brought some smiles from the audience, and even applause!! If you haven't come across it, it's No. 230 in Singing the Faith. Tea was a mixture of Kath's sandwiches and sausage rolls (K & E catering) with a generous amount of cakes and mince pies provided by the members, plus lots of cuppas to follow. It was a good afternoon. It was lovely to see some old friends as guests and we are happy to always welcome back new and old members.

The Sisterhood has been meeting since 1915, so 2015 is a special centenary year. We start again on Wed. 4th February, when Jack Giles will be our guest speaker.

The Duddon Valley Brownies had a very busy Carol & Christingle Service at Duddon Road. Rachel led the service and combined activities with carol singing. She organised all the Brownie leaders to help the girls make their own Christingle oranges as part of the service, and there were also 3D Christmas trees as an alternative craft. After that we had the special time, when all the candles are lit and the lights go out, always a magical moment. Rachel did a great service and the collection went to The Children's Society.

The Chair Based exercise class held their Christmas party after their last work out on Thursday, 18th December. This has proved to be a very popular class and we are delighted that we are seeing lots of new faces in the building. Val Hall took us through a Christmas quiz that got us all concentrating and the food was an excellent way to finish for this year. The class meets on Thursdays at 10:30 - 11:15 a.m. and anyone who has mobility problems will be welcome to join us, for gentle exercise to music and a cuppa and fellowship to end. The Quiet Day of Prayer will begin at 10:00 am on Wed. 18th February, and continue until 2:00 pm. There will be a break for lunch at 12:30 pm. Please bring packed lunch, drinks will be provided. We invite you to join us for contemplative reflection and stay for a few minutes or all day.

Dorothy Gleaves

Broughton

Angel Trail £57.50 was raised for Children in Need. Thank you to everyone who took part.

Carols in the Square £61 was made for the Children's Centre in Millom. A BIG Thank You goes to the 4 Methodist friends who came up from Barrow to play for us. They continued playing even after we had gone back to Church to warm up. Also Thank You to David Roe who arranged the lighting and the Band.

Sunday 15th Feb ... Come and join us for a Valentine Breakfast after our 9:30am Service.

Tuesday 17th Feb ... PANCAKE RACE 11:30am with Activities for all ages from 10:30am.

Come and join us at our weekly Coffee Morning from 10am and enjoy a chat with memories of old Traditions. Also enjoy a Pancake with various fillings.

Beryl Hollowell

Hartington Street

All are welcome to join our Care and Share fellowship/Knit and Natter. We meet weekly on Tuesdays at 10:00 - 11:30am. Fellowship, Prayer, a cuppa & bring your knitting.

Ellen Powell

Beacon Hill

Our usual monthly coffee morning will be held on Thursday 26 February, 10 am-11.15 am, with stalls selling cakes, handmade cards, books and Fairtrade items.

Lilian Wood

Vickerstown

For the fourth year running Vickerstown Church invited all its members to send a single card to their church friends - forming a fine display at the front of the church - and make a donation towards the work of 'All We Can' (formerly MRDF). The original idea was to donate the money saved by not buying more cards, but the catalogue of Extraordinary Gifts proposed each year by the charity have really appealed to people and this year we raised the magnificent total of £277.10 which has allowed us to fund the following:

Fruit tree seedlings and training for an Ethiopian farmer - Materials for an improved beehive for a family in Ethiopia - Nutrition advice, cookery classes and support for two mothers with malnourished children in Mali - A month's training for a young carpenter in Burundi - A goat for a vulnerable family in Burundi (milk & manure) - A sheep for a farmer in Ethiopia, with training in breeding and leather production to equip the farmer to support a family - Funding and materials for 285 households in Burundi to build new fuel efficient stoves, saving time and the environment - Support for the rights of older people in Cameroon - A bicycle for a group of Ugandan farmers, so they can get their produce to market centres while it is fresh. It is amazing how far the money goes!

We had intended to also support a mental health project in Nepal, but this no longer appears to be part of the scheme.

Following December's 'Food & Fellowship' meeting we also had enough money raised from donations at that group to send off for a second 'Aquabox', providing clean water and humanitarian items where they are needed: our first one, in July, went to a camp for Syrian refugees in Turkey and we look forward to tracking this one to see where it ends up!

There will be a coffee morning at Vickerstown with the usual cake, Fairtrade and bring & buy stalls from 10 a.m. until about 11:30 on Saturday February 28th - all welcome. March's coffee morning will also be on Saturday 28th.

Karen Edmondson

Regular Sunday Services

Morning service times are as follows:

Askam	(Duddon Road) 9:30 am (except 5 th Sunday–11:00 am)
Beacon Hill	(Holyoake Avenue, Barrow) 9:30 am
Broughton	(Princes Street) 9:30 am
Dalton Methodist	(Wellington Street) 9:30 am
Dalton URC	(Market Street) 9:30 am
Hartington Street	Barrow 10:30 am (except 2 nd Sunday – 4 pm service)
Kirkby	(Marshside) 10:30 am (except 2 nd Sunday – 6pm service 5 th Sunday – 10 am at St Cuthbert's)
Millom	(Queen Street) 11:00 am
Ramsden Street	Barrow 11:00 am (except 1 st Sunday– 10:30am + 5 th Sunday – 11:00 am at Trinity)
Trinity Church Centre	(Warwick Street, Barrow) 11:00 am
Urswick	(Tarn Close) 11:00 am (except 1 st & 3 rd 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)
Hartington Street	4 pm on the 2 nd Sunday (all age service) 8 pm café worship as advertised
Kirkby	6 pm on the 2 nd Sunday

United Area joint evening services as arranged. For details, please consult the Plan or the website: www.swcumbriaunitedarea.urch.org.uk

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 - 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

