



Newslink

SOUTH WEST CUMBRIA UNITED AREA

Charity Registration Number 1141404

Methodist and United Reformed Churches Working Together

The
Minister Writes



The beginning of June sees the annual celebration of Pentecost - a day when a small group of followers of Jesus became empowered to proclaim the news that Jesus was alive, and that all could share in his risen life. A life that death could not threaten, and in which we would be united in love with God. That small group of disciples, despite their many shortcomings, grew to become the worldwide Church of the 21st century. Whilst the world we know is very different, the Holy Spirit and the Good News remain the same. A few of the people present on the first "Day of Pentecost" became well known: most

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(presumably because they were less extraordinary) are now unknown to us as individuals. I don't suppose even those now regarded as Saints particularly wanted to be leaders: it was more dangerous, apart from anything else. It must have felt a little absurd, too: all their friends knew them, their families, and the various skeletons in their cupboards, and yet they found themselves expected to speak to the crowds, defend their viewpoint in front of the authorities, and to guide those who wanted to know about Jesus. Thank goodness they took on the challenge. If that first group of people had hung around until somebody else arrived to take the place at their head that Jesus had occupied until recently, how long would they have waited? But God called, and empowered, some of their own number to do the job. On a much humbler level, I see my own contribution to the life of the Church in SW Cumbria as another example of God raising a leader (of sorts) from within a group of people. It is well over two decades since the Sunday morning when the assembled

Area Website www.swcumbriaunitedarea.urch.org.uk

congregation of Vickerstown (about 12 of us, as it happens) looked up to the heavens and saw what looked like huge toadstools growing from one of the main roof timbers. I'd just got a new job (without applying for it) which had flexible hours and which was ideally suited to combining with the role of a minister, the role of "Minister in Local Appointment" had recently been created (enabling people to serve as ministers without having to be paid for it), and it just became very clear to me that this was something God intended me to do something about. I think I rather hoped that if I did a decent job, I might single-handedly turn the rising tide of opinion which overwhelmingly linked service with money. Perhaps I could prove that quality of ministry had nothing to do with how much cash you invested in it? Perhaps this would play a part in the emergence of all sorts of Christians volunteering to use their gifts - unpaid - to meet the needs of local churches as they tried to connect with their communities? I haven't been very successful in such grand aims! However, I've had a wonderful time along the way. The good folk at Vickerstown were heart-warmingly gracious in accepting that one of their number was intending to call himself their minister. I've been given the chance to serve as minister to Millom and Hartington St churches, and I've stood in for a few months at Broughton and Kirkby, too. All the Area's churches have made an indelible impression upon me, and I'm immensely grateful to you all.

But all good things (good for me, at least) come to an end, and now it is time for Hazel and I to move on. Not till mid-August, but Martin is writing his farewell message in next month's "Newslink", so you're getting mine early! I expect our journey of discipleship in Pendle will feel very different - largely because I'll be going in as a newcomer. I never quite got over the oddness of preaching to those who long ago taught me so much - my parents, other relatives, my baby-sitter, Akela, Skip, school teachers, Sunday school teachers, and numerous others who watched me grow up. I still can't quite believe that I had the nerve to attempt to offer guidance to you all, but I'm pretty certain it had much to do with that same Holy Spirit which we will celebrate on the 2nd Sunday of this month. My heartfelt thanks for so much that I have received, and for so many good memories. And please don't forget that God does pick people from within congregations - however busy they may feel - and empowers us to tackle ourselves those roles that we've been waiting hopefully for someone else to come and take on. If you get that call, please do trust in God's Spirit and follow!

David Edmondson

July/Aug issue No 93 of *Newslink* will be published at the end of June
Please send all material to reach Lilian Wood, 89 Risedale Road, Barrow,
LA13 9QY by Sunday June 8th. Items can also be passed on by
 **01229 825986** or  [**lilian.wood4@gmail.com**](mailto:lilian.wood4@gmail.com)

Community Outreach Group:

Please try to ensure that your church is represented at the next meeting of the Community Outreach Group, which will be at Dalton Market St at 6:45 for 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, June 10th. Please bring any contributions for the COG coffee morning stalls.

The agenda for the meeting will be:

Welcome/Devotions/Apologies

Minutes of the last meeting (05-02-14) and Matters arising

Notice of any other business

Appointment of committee officers from September

Treasurer's report

Review:

“Flashbacks” - February 2014

“Living for Now, Preparing for the Future” - 26-04-14

“Share Jesus” evenings - May 2014

Abbot Hall Weekend - June 6-8 2014

Updates:

Fairtrade: Barrow Fairtrade Town renewal

Environmental Issues/Recycling

Food Banks - Barrow and Millom

Hartington St: Family worker

You, Me and Afternoon Tea

Future events:

COG coffee morning - 14-06-14

BibleWorld visit - 16-20 June 2014

COG Slog - 29-06-14

Knitted Bible 5-15 July 2014

Area Camp - 18-20 July 2014

Invitation to Alison Adam: Autumn 2014/Spring 2015?

Lebone event/Willem and Avril visit?

Any other ideas

Any other business (as notified at start of meeting)

Date/venue for next meeting: Thursday, 02-10-14 at Dalton URC at 6:45 for 7:00 p.m.

Hazel Edmondson

Forthcoming Worship Opportunity

Churches Together in Barrow are holding “Pentecost in the Park” in Barrow Park at 3:00 p.m. on Sunday, June 8th.

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

United Area Camp

The Urswick Scout camp site has now been booked for our fourth United Area camp for the weekend of July 18th to 20th. The cost will remain at £25 per adult, £10 per child or £60 per family. Accommodation is either in your own tent or in the dormitory bunks. Please contact me for a booking form on 474601 or edmo@twtw.freeseve.co.uk if you would like to come.

David Edmondson

COG Events

We have our annual COG coffee morning on Saturday, 14th June at Dalton Market Street from 9:45; advance contributions to be taken to the COG meeting on June 10th. Please look out for posters and tickets at your church.

COG Slog, Sunday, June 29th: This year we will be based at Trinity (please see below for details of the walk). People who wish to join in the walk are asked to meet in the Games Hall for a 2:30 p.m. start. When we get back to the church, there will be a Faith Tea at 5:00 p.m. - please bring food to share; drinks will be provided. Non walkers are welcome to join us then. We will then share in a service at 6:00 p.m. in the coffee lounge; this will be café style worship led by "Pew2" from Hartington St. There will be a collection for the Afghanistan Community Partnership Project.

Hazel Edmondson

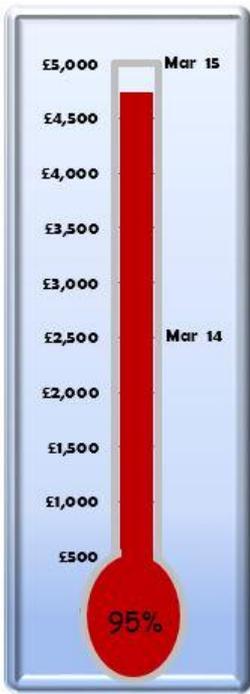
The walk is just over 2.5 miles. It begins with a gradual uphill path until How Tun Wood is reached. There is no need to rush as, on a clear day, there will be plenty to see and many points of interest. The 'History of Barrow' tells you that the built up area between the church and the wood was once nothing but fields. 'Hawcoat' means cottage or farm surrounded by a hedge, from the Old English cot and haga. It is recorded in the Domesday Book as meaning 'High Village', Heitun. Under the Cistercian monks of Furness Abbey cotes were established as sheep farms.

'How' = hill, 'Howgill' = hill with ravine. 'Ormsgill' is Old Norse and means worm, serpent or dragon. How Tun Wood was established to celebrate the millennium in 2000. Our Alan Garnett was one of the volunteers who planted the trees.

Hazel Charlesworth

United Area Meeting

The June United Area meeting will be on Thursday, June 12th at 7:00 p.m. at Trinity. 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

Thanks to Millom church for raising money for the Afghanistan appeal through their Lent lunches, and to Beacon Hill for their contribution from the “Count your Blessings” Lent calendars - we now have £4,745 towards the £5000 total, plus the proceeds from Askam’s coffee morning in May. We have reached this amazing total so quickly (and people have been so motivated by the thought of getting £3 of EU money for every £1 raised!) that the United Area trustees will bring to the June UA meeting the suggestion that we should sign up for another community partnership, this time for maternal and child health care in Kenya. This would commit us to raising another £5000 by June 2016.

Hazel Edmondson

Local Preachers/worship Leaders

The next LP/WL meeting will be held on Tuesday 1st July at 7:30 pm at Vickerstown. Worship Leaders in particular are encouraged to attend.

LP/WL Development:

There are two meetings remaining of the series ‘Carrying theology forward’, looking at hymns/words in Singing the Faith relating to Father, Son and Holy Spirit. All meetings will commence at 7 pm. Everyone is invited to attend.

Wednesday 4th June - Kirkby led by Janet & Alan Ladds - ‘Son’

Tuesday 15th July - Dalton (Market St) led by David & Hazel Edmondson - ‘Holy Spirit’

Janet Ladds

First Tuesday Ladies

We will meet at 59 Croslands Park at 7:30 pm on Tuesday 3rd June and Tuesday 8th July to study the Bible and enjoy a time of prayer and fellowship.

Janet Ladds

Summer Series - Gardens

Join us at Beacon Hill for a series of meetings on the subject of gardens, based on the Biblical account of the Garden of Eden. We will meet at 7 pm on 4 consecutive Wednesday evenings, beginning on 11th June. You can expect a garden visit, easy artwork, prayers, hymns and light refreshments.

Lilian Wood

Living For Now: Preparing For The Future

This event was held at St Paul's on 26th April and was a very interesting and useful day. Here is a summary of what went on for those who weren't able to attend. I hope you find this report useful.

The day began with a summary of the Mental Capacity Act where it was pointed out that it is for all of us because we need to think ahead to a time when our own mental capacity may be less. The act requires carers to start by assuming that a person can make a decision and as long as that is the case the person should be involved as much as possible. It requires that if a decision has to be taken it should be in their best interests and the least restrictive option. There is much more but that is a good starting point.

There were talks by given by Age UK, Furness Carers and a rep. from Alzheimers society. Then a very good presentation by Andrew Parker from the Office of the Public Guardian on 'Lasting Power of Attorney'. We were encouraged to make this provision if we had not already done so, while we still could make decisions, for many reasons.

- 1) It makes life easier for any relative or friend who has to act on our behalf.
- 2) We can give precise instructions which must be followed.
- 3) We are in control - our nominated person can only take over if/when we are no longer able to do so.
- 4) Their power ceases with our death, when our designated executor takes over.

Although creating 'Lasting Power of Attorney' costs £110 and takes about six weeks to become operational, a relative has to start from scratch, it costs more than £1,000 as they will have to go through all the legal processes and can take more than three months before it is operational and the authority has to be renewed annually. So the message is do it now and set your mind at rest that what you want to happen will happen.

If you are interested you can find all the information you need at:-

<https://www.gov.uk/lasting-power-of-attorney> or contact The Office of the Public Guardian telephone 0300 456 0300.

Margaret Manwell

Sellafield Chaplaincy

Do you work or know someone who works at Sellafield or one of the branch offices? If you do the Chaplains the Rev Dr Lindsay Gray and the Rev David Opie would like to hear from you or them. They are eager to build up the network of Christians on the site and to see the Christian faith groups grow. They can be contacted on extension 74036 or found in Room 43 of B423 or through their email david.opie@sellafieldsites.com or lindsay.gray@sellafieldsites.com

Individual Churches

Trinity

Monthly Coffee Morning - Saturday 7th June, 9:30 - 11:30 a.m.

Audrey Jackson's 'At Home' is on 12th June at 40 Glenridding Drive from 2:00 - 4:00 p.m.

On Sunday 27th April we joined with friends at the Baptist Church for morning worship, which was led by Ron Turner and had musical items by a joint music singing group. The preacher was their Interim Moderator, Rev. Bill Ives. After the service we enjoyed a tasty 'Faith Lunch' which was well attended.

Family News

On Sunday 13th April Casey James Millington brought his parents Allan and Gemma and many friends to his baptism, which Martin conducted. A joyful Palm Sunday Service.

Over the weekend of 3rd /4th May we held our Monthly Coffee Morning which coincided with Ella Sharp's 90th birthday when Martin paid a tribute to all she has done and continues to do for Trinity and other Churches in Barrow, Rita presented her with a big bouquet of flowers and then all present enjoyed some birthday cake.

On that day and on the Sunday we had a display with suggestions of what we could be doing in the way of outreach. People were asked to put stickers on the ones they thought we should be aiming to contact. Data will be collected and discussed at our Trustees meeting on 14th May.

At our Invitation Service on 4th we had just a few people in the congregation who responded to our invitation, but it was good to have quite a few members of the Steelworks band accompanying some of the hymns and playing before and after the service.

Margaret Manvell

Trinity Prayer - We meet in the lower meeting room at Trinity each Friday 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.

6/06	Broughton	'P'
13/06	Millom	'Q'
20/06	Trinity	'R'
27/06	Vickerstown	'S'

Janet Ladds

Hartington Street

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 alternate Thursdays. Tea is served at 4:00pm. 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: June 12th, 26th - speakers to be arranged.

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

Bible Study: Thursday at 4:00pm led by Rev Martin Williams. Date: June 19th.

Ellen Powell

Notes from the Hub:

April was an excellent month as far as the Hub project was concerned. The highlights were the Easter holiday club which took place on the 17th & 18th. We saw a good number of children come through the doors and enjoy the two mornings we had prepared for them. Over the two mornings we portrayed the simple Easter message through crafts and short story/song times. The icing on the cake for the team was to see most of our holiday club children return with their families to the Easter Sunday family celebration service. This was an excellent opportunity for the children to show their families their two large crafts which were Calvary and the empty tomb. May I say a huge thanks to all who helped run the club and we look forward to building on this success in the summer. Looking forward, May without a doubt won't have been quite as hectic as April but that's certainly no reason to slow things down. Preparations are now well underway for the coming visit of Bibleworld to Barrow. This will now be placed at the top end of the Tesco Extra car park from June 16th to the 20th. Schools will visit the site, which is an articulated lorry, and experience the Bible in a new fresh way in the space of an hour. If you have a spare few hours on any of those days to volunteer do please get in touch with either myself or David Edmondson.

Please pray for the upcoming Bibleworld visit, that our local schools will use this facility and engage with the Bible in a new way. Pray for our weekly and monthly groups and events that they continue to flourish and relationships with our community deepen.

Mike Little

Broughton

Tuesday 8th July - ART EXHIBITION and STRAWBERRY TEAS 10am - 4pm. Drink and homemade biscuits followed by Soup lunch and Strawberry Teas in the afternoon. Please come and join us.

Beryl Hollowell

Beacon Hill

We have raised £127 for Christian Aid by means of the “Count your Blessings” Lent calendars. £17 of this was given by the Sunday School children who donated from the offerings which they bring each week.

We are making plans to commemorate the centenary of the start of the First World War, hoping to have the church open for quiet prayer and reflection on the morning of Saturday 2nd August and possibly a display of memorabilia in the hall. Further details later.

Elaine Pears

Dalton

According to the Bible Society website thousands of people watched the Wintershall Players perform “The Passion of Jesus” at Trafalgar Square on Good Friday.

The Bible Society have launched a campaign to open up the Bible to 20 million children around the world by 2020. As part of this, the Bible bedtime challenge includes a free app. Apparently a third of British children don't know why we celebrate Good Friday.

R Willock

Christian Women's Fellowship: The next meeting of the CWF is on Wednesday June 18th at 7 pm when we will have our “Summer Special” after which we will take a break until September.

D Zazi

Askam

Askam's Coffee Mornings began again on Easter Saturday. It was great to welcome our 'Saturday Church' (as I think of them) the faithful people who have supported these Coffee Mornings regularly in the past. Also how lovely to see Rachel (our new Minister in September) with Steve and baby David, along with Rachel's parents that morning, and during conversation to get to know them better. David is such a bonny baby and obviously knows he is very special. Askam's Coffee Mornings will run weekly on Saturdays from 10:00 - 11:30 a.m - so if you have to travel along the estuary why not pop in for a 'cuppa'.

By the time you read this we will have had our soup lunch for Christian Aid, and we are hoping there will have been a good response to our invitation to share together that day. The proceeds will go towards the CA Partnership, and hopefully help to push the amount over the targeted £5,000.

Our next outreach will be on Saturday, 7th June - Askam Parade Day - as mentioned last month, when we hopefully make Duddon Road Church known to everyone passing that day. Again cuppas will be served and there will be stalls.

Dorothy Gleaves

Kirkby-in-Furness

Saturday 10th May was blustery, cool and dull with heavy showers but that did not stop our friends from the village and further afield turning out to support us for our big fund-raising event of the calendar. Mary Wilkinson had grown masses of annuals and bedding plants which had filled her greenhouses, and those of other chapel members, and Gwyneth Grisedale contributed more perennials than ever. Her knowledge of plants is invaluable at our sale and what she does not already know, she looks up in one of her books. It was a pleasure to be able to give a table to Megan Cragg and friends to help them in their fundraising for medical supplies for Syria. As usual it was a good morning, with lots of catching up over coffee and lots of satisfied customers. All we need now is some good growing weather. The total at the first count was £850, but there is more to come in. There will still be plants, jam and marmalade for sale at Mary's gate. We would like to thank everyone who has supported us at this event and throughout the year.

Janet Sheldon

Millom

The annual Millom Churches Fun Day took place on Saturday May 3rd at Millom Network Centre. Various activities including face painting, clown show, bouncy castle, treasure hunt, plate smashing and barbeque were very popular and we mustn't forget our own Stephen Williams' contribution he was in charge of splat the rat!!! Churches Together in Millom contribute £150 each so that everyone attending has nothing to pay for four hours of fun, food, and fellowship together. All ages are welcome so children, parents and grandparents come along and it gets bigger and busier each year.

We are hoping to have a church outing shortly and the suggested plan is Swarthmoor Hall followed by a venue for afternoon tea.

Rachel has begun a new Bible Study session on Friday evenings for members who can't come on Tuesday afternoons to Meeting Point. On Sunday May 18th "Generous Life Sunday" the congregation were invited to take part in the £5 Challenge as described in the parable of the talents. The £5 challenge is to take your own money and increase it through creating items to sell in order to give the proceeds (plus the £5 hopefully) to help the work of the church. There will be a sale of items during the coffee morning on Friday 23rd June so giving us all time to think of ways and means of increasing our money. Some suggestions on the weekly notice sheet are plants, jams and home made cards but there may be many more ideas. We shall let you know the result in the Newslink!

Margaret Riley

Ramsden Street

We now have tickets available for our concert on Saturday June 7th. The New Abbey Singers will sing for us at 4pm and afternoon tea will follow. Tickets are £4 and can be obtained by ringing 825662.

Anne Stevenson

Vickerstown

On Saturday 26th April we celebrated receiving our second Eco-Congregation award at our regular monthly coffee morning. The award is intended to recognise a commitment towards showing the link between Christian faith and environmental concerns, taking practical action in the church and grounds and extending the impact to church members' homes and the wider community. Joan Milburn, joint Citizen of the Year at the recent 'Love Barrow' awards and a long-standing member of the church congregation, presented the new award plaque to the church and addressed over 40 people, speaking of her own awareness of environmental concerns and the importance, for her, of looking after God's creation.

Joan spoke of the wind farms springing up off Walney's coast and the green energy they provide (jokingly saying that though some call them an eyesore that isn't a problem for her as she can't see them!) and her concerns about the pollution that can be caused to the beautiful countryside around us by rubbish being carelessly thrown away and pesticides, herbicides and fertilisers leaking into the rivers and lakes. Vickerstown does what it can, in a small way, to tackle these big issues: our power comes from an electricity firm which uses only renewable sources, recycling is encouraged, no chemicals are used in the garden and Eco-friendly versions of cleaning products are used. There is a permanent display in the church about the Eco-Congregation work so that all users of the building are aware of it and encouraged to make some small changes in their own lives - it all adds up. Joan also mentioned the church's efforts to help people in other parts of the world, with a popular FairTrade stall at every coffee morning and a series of small projects funded by donations from the church's monthly 'Food and Fellowship' group which she is part of. A couple of years ago both of the building's toilets were 'twinned' with new safe facilities in Burundi that the group had funded, and last year five solar cookers were sent to families in Chad to reduce their need for firewood, which causes both environmental damage and tensions between locals and refugees as it is a limited resource. This year the group plans to support a project providing safe water.

During the coffee morning there was a display about Vickerstown's Eco-Congregation projects and a rolling slideshow of photographs illustrating the work done. Flowers from the garden were used to decorate the tables and there were prayer cards for people to take home if they wanted, with a short prayer praising the beauty of creation and asking God's help in looking after our planet. It was a lovely morning and we thank Joan for her starring role; we are pleased and proud to have retained our Eco-Congregation status and are

already looking forward to a third award in future! If any other church is interested in the scheme, further information is available at www.arocha.org.uk (the award is overseen by the environmental organisation A Rocha) or from Hazel or Karen Edmondson.

Karen Edmondson

On Sunday, June 1st the morning service will be followed by lunch, and then we will have our General Church meeting.

Our regular monthly coffee morning will be from 10:00 on Saturday, June 28th with the usual range of stalls including the opportunity to stock up on Fairtrade items.

Many of you like to attend our annual afternoon tea; you may like to note now in your diaries that it will be on Saturday July 12th this year.

Hazel Edmondson

Urswick

We will be holding a weekend of Centenary celebrations on the 21st and 22nd of June. On the Saturday, the church will be open for visitors to enjoy a Flower festival, pore over a small display of our Church's history, and have the opportunity to enjoy a cream tea. The church will be open between 10 am and 4 pm, and refreshments will be available at The Willows (next door to the church) throughout that time. The church will also remain open on the Sunday for the period between the close of the morning service and the beginning of the evening service. The morning service, at the usual time of 10:45 am, will be conducted by our present Minister, Ron Wilson. In the evening at 6 pm, we are having a commemorative service, which will be conducted by the Rev George Sharpe; this will be an Area service. Everyone is most welcome to join us at any or all of the above events.

Gareth Lester

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
Askam -	Saturdays from	10:00 till 11:30



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



Green Tip

This article is taken from the Christian Ecology Link website: www.greenchristian.org.uk

Use your LOAF!

What criteria do you use when you go food shopping? Cost and quality probably come into it. But what about the ethics of your shopping sprees? The charity Christian Ecology Link suggests we use the acronym LOAF to help us remember how to eat in a way that is kinder to the earth and its inhabitants. You probably follow some of these principles already - why not see which other ones you can use next time you shop?

Local: Try to eat mostly seasonal vegetables and fruit from the UK. We are now in the British growing season - let's indulge in the bounty from our land! Vary your diet over the year so you can really savour that first tomato or strawberry of the summer and those first apples of the autumn. Pick your own and, for the really local, grow your own!

Organic: Organic agriculture, so long as it is grown in the UK and not transported from afar, uses less chemicals and produces fewer climate changing gases than intensive farming. It's also the best scheme for animal welfare. The meat will be more expensive, but let that be a reason to eat less of it - for the sake of your health, and that of the planet.

Animal friendly: For some this means going vegan; for some, eating less factory-farmed produce. At least buy British - we have better animal welfare standards than other countries.

Fairtrade: For the things we can't grow here, coffee, tea, bananas, and, of course, chocolate, go Fairtrade for exploitation-free eating!

Here are some examples of LOAF ingredients:

Local, free-range eggs (A, L); British beet sugar (L); Organic, UK flour (O, L); Fairtrade chocolate, cocoa or bananas (F); Dairy-free margarine (A) or organic butter (O)

LOAFing-it is easy!

Lilian Wood

Update On The Christian Aid Afghanistan Project

We Are Supporting

The project, with Christian Aid partner Afghanistan Women's Education Centre (AWEC), has now been working with women and young people in communities across Afghanistan for a year. One person who has been part of the project is Zebinsa Sulimanqul. She is 47, is from Faryab province and has three children: a son called Sakhi Muhammed who is 21, and two daughters, Norya aged 15 and Zahra aged 18. Although all her children are studying, she fears for the younger generation as continued instability has led to a weak economy with high levels of unemployment across the country. The lack of opportunities for young people means day-to-day existence is about survival, rather than enjoying life. Young people, particularly men, are travelling to Iran, Pakistan and other nearby countries to seek work. The journey can be dangerous and Zebinsa explains that many become addicted to drugs and die prematurely, leaving their families alone and vulnerable. Zebinsa's dream is to see Afghanistan rescued from war and a decrease in the economic problems this has caused.

Being a member of a women's *shura* is helping her to realise this dream. She describes the personal journey she has been on: 'This project has changed me - from a calm, inactive woman to an active woman.' She now encourages other parents in her community to send their children to school. By attending workshops Zebinsa has learned about peacebuilding, problem-solving and women's rights from an Islamic perspective. This has improved her relationship with her husband, children and community because she is able to find solutions to problems that she once felt powerless to resolve. Her message to us is this: 'God bless you. Thank you so much for your free and honest help. Please continue your support for the Afghan people - the women, widows, children and students.'

Argentina Partnership - Special Collection 1st June 2014

During their visit to Argentina last year, Rev Richard Teal and Rev Kim Hurst were taken to see the Nicolás Lowe Children's Home in Buenos Aires. Reflecting on their visit afterwards, Richard said that out of the whole of their time in Argentina, it was this visit to the children's home which stuck in his mind. "I was greatly moved" he said later, "it will continue to live with me".

More information about the Children's home is available from anyone who went to the recent Methodist Synod.

All churches in Cumbria District are encouraged to hold a retiring collection on June 1st - the Methodist Churches in Argentina will also be holding a special collection on the same day

Do you feel **Called to Serve** God in your everyday life and in your church?

Join



What is it ? It's an opportunity for you to

- Explore God's special calling to you
- Grow to serve God more fully and confidently
- Discover what God wants for his church and world

It will be exciting, stimulating, friendly and enjoyable!

When? 18 meetings
(3 Saturdays and
15 weekday evenings,
fortnightly, in term time)
spread between 27th Sept.
2014 and 4th July 2015

Where: Choose between:
Carlisle on Mondays
Gosforth on Thursdays
Kendal on Thursdays



Cost: Only £150 for the full year
(In addition you could gain a Certificate in Christian Calling and Service, awarded thro' the University of Cumbria, by doing some optional written work alongside the course).

Called to Serve :

open to Christians of any denomination
(a joint Anglican and Methodist initiative)

Don't Delay - Places are limited! For information, contact:

Canon Amiel Osmaston
Church House, West Walls, Carlisle CA3 8UE
01228 815406
ministry.dev@carlisle-diocese.org.uk

**Come to a Taster Evening,
7.30pm -9.15pm at:**

Kendal: Thursday 12th June, The Gate, 128
Stricklandgate, Kendal. LA9 4QG

Carlisle: Monday 23rd June, University,
Fusehill Street, Carlisle.

Gosforth : Thursday 3rd July, St. Mary's
Church Room, Wasdale Road, Gosforth.