



Newslink

SOUTH WEST GUMBRIA UNITED AREA

Charity Registration Number 1141404

Methodist and United Reformed Churches Working Together



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order, prayer for the wider world and the Church, and ourselves.

I have been pondering on what the future is for the United Area, as I am sure many of you have also have been pondering the very same thing. I do believe that the Church Universal has lost its identity and its way a bit. This week my devotional material took me to the book of Acts.

Chapter one to be precise and verses 1-14. The material challenges us to think about what the early church was! Was it a Church as many understand Church to be today or was it something else?

I agree with Armin Gesswein, founder of the Revival Prayer Fellowship, who once said that “when Christ ascended into heaven all he left behind was a prayer meeting!! The early Church didn’t have a prayer meeting; the early Church was a prayer meeting.”

In my experience I have noticed that prayer meetings are the least attended gatherings of our churches, so that makes

I’m not sure about you, but I cannot believe that I have been here for a year already. So it is true what my mum use to tell me, “Time goes quicker as you get older”. I have spent a lot of time during the last year reflecting on what Ministry/ Church is like in such a beautiful rural setting. As a Deacon in the Methodist Church we are not only under the Methodist Connexion but we are also part of a Religious Order. Being in a Religious Order means that we follow a rule of life; a very important part of that rule of life is prayer. Prayer for other members of the

Area Website www.swcumbriaunitedarea.urch.org.uk

me think that we have gone off track somewhat over the centuries.

Acts 1: 9-14 tells us that after Jesus ascended the Apostles returned to Jerusalem; when they arrived they went upstairs to the room where they were staying and they joined all together constantly in prayer.

I wonder then what can we as a United Area learn from this reading and the reflections I have shared with you?

When reading the text from Acts, we can pick up that the Apostles had a passion, that prayer was real, it was something that played an integral part in their daily lives. They joined together constantly! It wasn't wishy washy prayer, it was passionate life changing prayer. This makes me wonder, how are our prayer meetings? Are they passionate and open, or are they more like a shopping list? Are we creative with our prayer? Or do we clam up and feel awkward? Do we put more time and effort into organizing our Churches (ie buildings) than we do our prayer lives? Have we got our priorities wrong or do we misunderstand what we mean by "Church"? Let me ask you, "What did the early church look like? What were its priorities?"

I am sure that we are all good at chatting to members of our family or our friends, "YES?" And yet we often feel uncomfortable praying! Prayer is only a conversation with God. There is nothing to fear, God already knows what's in our hearts, he knows what we are going to say before we say it. God delights to sit with us; just as our friends and family enjoy our company, so does God.

So may I be bold and ask that as we seek the way forward for the United Area, may we increase our prayer lives both individually and corporately so that we can seek the will of God and go the way he has planned. If we let Prayer, not buildings be a priority in our ministry, then things can turn around. If we seek God's will rather than our own, if we trust the Holy Spirit to guide us rather than getting anxious because we cannot see the way, then I am sure the future will be bright. Let's get the prayer mats out, and let us see God at work.

Every Blessing

Deacon Debbie

REGIONAL & NATIONAL WEBSITES

www.cumbriamethodistsdistrict.org.uk

Connexional: www.methodist.org.uk

North West Synod: www.nwsynod.org.uk

National: www.urc.org.uk

November issue No 126 of *Newslink* will be published at the end of October
Please send all material to reach Lilian Wood, 89 Risedale Road, Barrow,
LA13 9QY by Sunday October 8th. Items can also be passed on by

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

Lebone

We have recently sent off £3,000 to Lebone. Thanks to all of you who donate money regularly or who have efforts to raise these funds. I let Tom know of your continued efforts for this project and he is delighted that something he initiated here continues to thrive.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

All who donate by standing order to the CFB Lebone Account must now change their instructions to the bank. Up to September 22nd the CFB Deposit Fund sort code was 40 02 06 but from September 23rd it changed to **40 05 30**. Similarly, up to September 22nd the CFB Deposit Fund account number was 30012599 but from September 23rd this also changed, to **84594010**. This is a directive from the bank and whilst CFB are not too happy about it they must comply.

I hope that you will continue to support the work of Lebone in this way as this is where the majority of our donations are raised. Anyone who usually gives their donation directly to me can continue to do so just the same.

Elaine Pears

Praise Group

Praise Group meet at Askam Methodist Church on Monday evenings, 7:30pm-9pm. All are welcome.

We are practising for a Christmas Service "Carols & readings". It follows our Easter Service, put together by Denise Jackson. We are already booked to present this at Kirkby Methodist Church on Sunday 10th December at 6pm & Ramsden Street URC on Wednesday afternoon on 13th December. If you would like us to share at your meeting, please contact me on 834704.

Ellen Powell



North West Air Ambulance

£177.21 has been sent to this charity from the offering at the United Area service on August 13th

Cumbria's 2017 Christmas Shoebox Campaign Boxes of Hope

Filling a shoebox is a simple and fun thing to do, doesn't have to cost a lot of money, and it really does make a difference to a child who has none of the basics we take for granted. For these children there is none of the commercialisation we endure for weeks leading up to Christmas. Many of them have never in their lives had a gift. Many have never had a toy.

The campaign runs from November 1st - 12th.

If you would like to get involved with this year's 2017 Christmas Shoebox Appeal by filling a shoebox of gifts then here below are some tips on how to do it:

- Find a medium-sized, empty shoebox (PLEASE NO BOOT BOXES), and cover the lid and box separately with any bright wrapping paper.
- Decide whether you want to make a box for a boy or a girl.
- An ideal box will contain: soap and facecloth, toothbrush and paste, hairbrush or comb, hat, scarf, mittens, socks, educational supplies such as paper, pens, pencils, colouring pencils, ruler, rubber and pencil sharpener, and then some sturdy toys such as ball, doll, toy car, dominoes, skipping rope, yo-yo. Add some treats - sparkly hair accessories or bracelet/necklace for a girl, football stickers for a boy, and some sweets - best before at least until the end of March 2018. And a cuddly toy will go down well with all ages. A plastic mug will be useful. You may like to add a photo or a greetings card to make the box gift more personal.
- And please add a donation of at least £2, in an envelope on top of the items inside your box. Your shoebox cannot be taken overseas unless we can pay for the transport.
- Tape a Boy or Girl label onto the outside of the lid, securing the box with a stout elastic band.

I will be collecting shoeboxes between 1st and the 12th November 2017 so if you would like me to collect your shoebox/shoeboxes I am happy to do so. Alternatively you can drop them off at my house. Many Thanks.

Pam Mills

Tel: 01229 825028 or 07752455093

26 Thorncliffe Road, Barrow-in-Furness, Cumbria LA14 5PZ.



Flashbacks...to times with Jesus

We are hoping to hold the Flashbacks...to times with Jesus event again in November at Trinity Church Centre, and would like to invite you to be a helper! This could be with one of the activities (no training required), be the person who keeps an eye on the clock so we know when to move on to the next activity, or someone who helps with the refreshments - all equally important jobs. It will run from the morning of Monday November 6th to the morning of Thursday November 9th in seven half day sessions. In September, once the new term settles down, four schools will be sent letters inviting them to take part - so we don't know as yet precisely which sessions they will choose. If you are interested in working with children aged 8/9 (who are inevitably great fun) - just for one of the half day sessions, or more, please get in touch with me, Hilary Mantle, Joan Linney or Kate Hughes for further details - (for me, tel 812439 or email ann@hufton.co.uk)

Ann Hufton

Community Outreach Group

Please try to ensure that your church is represented at the next COG meeting on Wednesday 4th October at Dalton Market Street, 6:45 pm for 7:00 pm.

Christian Aid Meeting

There will be an evening with Laura Jones from Christian Aid at Ramsden Street Church on Wednesday 11th October. Please come along at 7:00 pm for a cuppa before the talk at 7:30 pm.

Laura will be speaking about the maternal and child health project in Kenya for which the United Area raised £5,000, and what the money has been specifically used for. You will remember this total attracted a further £15,000 from the European Union, so we were actually responsible for sending £20,000.

Laura will also be speaking to the Askam Sisterhood at Duddon Road Church in the afternoon at 2:30 pm, so anyone unable to attend the evening meeting would be welcome to join us then.

Dorothy Gleaves

Local Preachers/Worship Leaders

On Saturday 7th October there will be a Discovery Day at Ulverston Methodist Church, 10 am - 3 pm. This is to look at the new preaching course and training for all, and is not just for Local Preachers and Worship Leaders but for anyone who is interested in attending. It is a joint venture between the United Area and South Lakes Methodist Circuit. Bring a packed lunch, drinks will be provided.

Janet Ladds

First Tuesday Ladies

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

Elaine Pears

Youth spot

We have been running Messy Church at Trinity for the last 5 months. We meet on the first Saturday of the month, 3 pm-5 pm. We have been pleasantly surprised by the number of families attending and new people we are meeting. They have been doing a number of different crafts including decorating biscuits, card making, painting, making shepherds and sheep and candle holders. The group have listened and interacted with a Bible story before sharing a meal together.

Our most recent Messy Church was on Saturday 9th September, when the subject was Friendship. A lot of the children have been moving classes and meeting new friends. We talked about The Good Samaritan and how he helped a stranger without any hesitation or needing any reward. Our crafts included making friendship bracelets, making cards, creating a friendship flower and decorating a biscuit to look like their friend.

Debbie Jackson

Network (Methodist Women in Britain)

The Cumbria District MWiB autumn meeting will be held on Tuesday 10th October, 10:45 am- 4 pm at Penrith Methodist Church.

The meeting is entitled "A Market Place of Care" and will include speakers, stalls, questions, conversation, resources - on issues you said you wanted to know more about. Please bring a packed lunch - drinks will be provided. Please let Jill Morris know numbers attending by 3rd October on tel 01768 881 041.



Green Tip

23rd-29th October has been designated Wild about Gardens Week. Information can be found on the website www.wildaboutgardensweek.org.uk, which gives suggestions for garden activities to benefit wildlife all year round.

Lilian Wood

Trinity

TCC are once again holding their annual Charity Christmas card/Gift Sale Coffee Morning. It is on Saturday October 14th from 9:30 - 11:30 am. Admission is free (coffee £1). There will be several charities selling cards, wrap, calendars and gifts. Please come along to support them, bring your friends and enjoy coffee and chat. Thank you.

Yvonne Farrow

The short monthly midweek Communion will be on Tuesday 3rd October at 10:30 am preceded by a cuppa.

Monthly Coffee Morning Saturday 7th 10:00 am - 11:30 am sponsored by the Uniformed Organisations.

Friday 20th 6:00 pm Pie & Peas supper followed by a Quiz. Tickets £4.00.

The weekly Bible study takes place each Monday evening at 7:00 pm.

Family news

We have had two baptisms since the last magazine was published. On 13th August we welcomed Freya Jefferson into God's Family at Trinity when Janet baptised her. She was brought by her Mum Helen and Dad Steven and accompanied by her siblings, along with many family members and friends. Freya is Sandra Proctor's Granddaughter. A happy service with many smiles as Freya splashed the baptismal water about.

On 20th Sophie conducted the other baptism, another happy service when Sophie reminded us all and the parents and godparents of our responsibilities and the fact that we often mess things up but that shouldn't stop us from trying to carry them out.

Another service with many family and friends present as she baptised Harry Joseph Comish who was accompanied by older brother George and Mother Jennifer and Father Michael.

Sad news

It is with regret that we record the passing of Olwyn Kirk - one of our oldest members. Olwyn died on Saturday 26th August after struggling with ill health for quite some time. She was a regular attender until illness made it difficult for her to get out and about. Our thoughts and prayers are with her family and her close friend Jessie Perry.

It was with much sadness we heard of the death of David Robinson. David did much to bind us together as one congregation as we the three churches, Abbey, Emmanuel and Hawcoat, came together to form Trinity Church Centre. Those who were part of the Church at that time have much to be grateful for in that ministry. His gentleness and strong faith and gentle leadership left its mark. Also Pauline's quiet support and for the Wednesday Lunch Box which she inspired us to set up and which unfortunately had to close a few years ago due to lack of able volunteers. Our prayers are with Pauline and the family at this time.

Margaret Manwell

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

Oct	1st Hartington Street	O
	8th Ramsden Street	P
	15th Beacon Hill	Q
	22nd Dalton Comm Church	R
	29th Urswick	S

Janet Ladds

Hartington Street

Mondays Toddlers 1-2:30 pm in The Hub.

Tuesdays Knit and Natter 10-11:30 am in The Hub.

Chris Mills

Beacon Hill

Our monthly coffee morning will be held on Thursday 26th October, 10 am-11:15 am, with stalls selling cakes, handmade cards, books and Fairtrade items.

The Teddy Bears' Picnic in August was attended by a good number of bears and children, as well as some grownups. We had an enjoyable afternoon with food and games and raised £180 for The Leprosy Mission.

Our next event to raise money for The Leprosy Mission will be on Saturday 7th October at 6 pm, when soup will be served, followed by a quiz set by Kathryn. If you intend to come could you please let me know for catering purposes (phone 825986, email lilian.wood4@gmail.com)

Lilian Wood

Dalton

Many thanks to everyone who helped and supported our church coffee morning.

Future events:

Tuesday October 10th at 2:30 pm Midweek communion service at Market Street.

Saturday October 28th 9:45 am to 11:15 am at Market Street Coffee morning for the Thursday Club.

R Willock

Christian Women's Fellowship. The next meeting of the CWF will be on Wednesday 18th October at 7:30 pm. The subject for that evening is 'One World Week'. All are welcome.

D Zazi

Askam

We plan to join with St Peter's congregation on Sunday, 8th October to celebrate a joint Harvest Festival at 11:15 am.

We have already had two meetings of the Askam Sisterhood this term, and will be joining together in October, first on Wednesday 11th, when we look forward to meeting Laura Jones from Christian Aid, and again on the 25th, when Deacon Debbie Buckley will be visiting us for the first time; we all look forward to her talk.

Our Chair Based class which started at the beginning of September will be held each Thursday morning at our new time of 10:20 am and we welcome anyone wishing to join us for a gentle workout to music, helping with mobility and balance.

We have welcomed a new group to meet at Duddon Road, the Alzheimer's Support Group, which will meet at 10:00 am on the last Friday of each month. We hope they will find a welcome in our Church Hall and give support and help to those in need.

On 22nd October we welcome Delphine Ruth Cooper and Mum and Dad, Harriet and Daniel, for a Baptismal Service at 11:30 am.

Hopefully when you read this our building work on the front of Church will be completed satisfactorily. We are grateful to the United Area Trustees for their financial help which has made these repairs possible.

Dorothy Gleaves

Kirkby-in-Furness

Autumn craft fair, Saturday 28th October, 10am-3:30pm. Refreshments all day with a soup lunch from 12 noon. Entrance £1.00 which includes your first drink. Please come and join us and maybe start your Christmas shopping with some wonderful craft gifts. Also Christmas cards for charity.

Harvest - members decorated the windows with flowers and fruit. Further produce was received along with items for the food bank. Our August donations provided 106 meals. A big thank you to everyone who contributed.

Beryl Hollowell

Ramsden Street

On Wednesday October 18th at 2:15 we will be holding our monthly midweek meeting followed by afternoon tea and we are hoping that the ladies from the Salhouse churches will join us.

FACTORS meets at 6:30 on Friday October 27th.

There will not be a church lunch on Wednesday November 1st but we will be serving light lunches at our Autumn Fair on the Saturday of that week (4th). There will be various stalls including homemade cakes and pies and we will be open from 10am to 1pm.

Anne Stevenson

Millom

We held our special fundraising effort on 19th August which included a coffee morning with stalls and raffle followed by a barbecue. £539 was raised for church funds. It was nice to see some new people attending and we appreciated Adrian's cooking and were delighted that two ladies from our craft group "volunteered" to help on the stalls as some of our regular helpers were on holiday.

On Saturday 2nd September Robert and Elizabeth Watson renewed their wedding vows on the occasion of their Ruby Anniversary. The service was conducted by Deacon Debbie and our former minister Rev David Edmondson who came with his wife Hazel specially to take part. The happy couple had lunch with family and friends at Millom's Clock Tower restaurant then arrived at church for the service in a horse drawn carriage. A lovely service was followed by light refreshments and there was another celebration in the evening at Haverigg Rugby club. (I hear the pie and pea supper was good!)

Our next event is an evening on Friday 27th October at 6:30pm when we will have a supper followed by an illustrated talk on the Romanian shoe box appeal by Mrs Rhona Teale from Barrow who travelled to Romania with the boxes in 2016. We hope to make sufficient money to cover the cost of sending our boxes this year.

Our Autumn Fayre will be held on Wednesday 1st November this year from 2:00pm to 4:30pm, a departure from our usual Saturday morning as it is early closing day in Millom so we will see how it goes.

All the usual activities have restarted after the summer break, so we will be having our ecumenical Prayer and Praise on the third Tuesday of the month at 7:00pm and a Dementia Friendly service at Lapstone House residential home on the third Friday morning at 10:30am.

The Tuesday evening Prayer meetings and Friday coffee mornings have continued during the summer, also the Thursday Craft Group where many of the ladies are busy knitting scarves and gloves for the shoe boxes.

Margaret Riley

Vickerstown

There will be a coffee morning at Vickerstown on Saturday 28th October from 10 am until about 11:30 with the usual stalls: homemade cakes, Fairtrade items and books/bring-and-buy. No entry charge, all welcome to join us for a cuppa and chat. As November 5th is a Sunday this year, it is likely that the Area bonfire (if there is going to be one, which is probably the case) will be on the evening of Saturday 4th. If you have any views on this, please contact Karen (474601) before the deadline date for the November Newslink which will have full details.

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
Dalton Community Church	(alternates between Wellington Street & Market Street) – 9:30am
Hartington Street	Barrow 10:30 am
Kirkby	(Marshside) 10:30 am (except 2 nd Sunday – 6pm 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
Trinity Church Centre	6:30 pm every week
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:

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