



I wonder if you've ever been really envious of someone who just seems to 'have it all'? You know the kind of person I mean - clever, witty, self-confident, successful in whatever they choose to do. I guess the rabbi Saul was one of those people. But when he met Jesus on the road to Damascus, something changed. Suddenly Saul, who had every reason for confidence in his birthright, his upbringing, his education, training and accomplishments, discovered that none of this actually mattered. He discovered that the source of real joy was in the Lord Jesus. From that point on, in many ways Saul who became

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'Paul' faced all manner of opposition, danger and even personal suffering, but he found himself able to proclaim wherever he was 'Rejoice in the Lord always! And again, I say 'Rejoice!'. But what was the reason for his rejoicing? What is this joy? It runs deeper than 'pleasure', outlasts 'fun' and is more intense and thrilling than 'happiness'. It's something that does not depend on what's happening in our lives or around us in the world. It's the assurance that despite our circumstances, we have a God who loves and cares for us - the God in whose hands ultimately everything rests. The joy we find in our relationship with God runs deep into the core of us, and radiates throughout. Joy is the response of something deep in the soul to God, who is supremely, even overpoweringly, wonderful in ways that mere words cannot express. So instead, our hearts overflow with it.

Does that sound like your experience of God at the moment? If not, perhaps you're in the midst of a crisis of some sort, mired in despair and unsure of the way ahead?

Area Website www.swcumbriaunitedarea.urc.org.uk

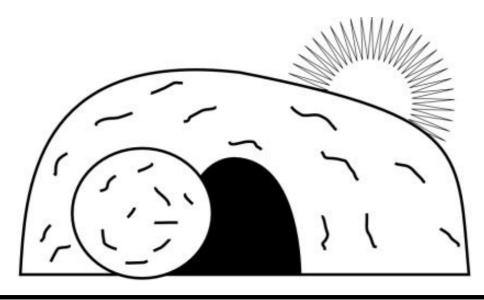
Maybe the responsibilities heaped on your head are overwhelming? Or you find yourself weighed down with 'doing' church and all that entails. If so, and if joy feels like something unattainable, then it's time to stop and invest more time in your relationship with God - read scripture, prayerfully rest in God's presence, unburden yourself to him. Talk with others about the good things God in Christ has done and continues to do. Or just go for a walk and really drink in the beauty and wonder of the world around! The joy we find in God is infectious - when people see it in someone's life, enabling them to rise above the things that get most people down, they want to discover for themselves where it comes from. May people see that deep joy in us, giving us an inner peace that radiates the light of Christ.

Every blessing, gennet

Holy Week services

Monday 21st March at 7 pm at Market Street, Dalton, led by Rev Ron Wilson. Tuesday 22nd March at 7 pm at Wellington Street, Dalton, led by Rev Ann Hufton. Maundy Thursday service at 7 pm at Ramsden Street.

Good Friday service for the Barrow Free Churches at 11 am at Beacon Hill. Easter Saturday Discovery Church at 3 pm at Hartington Street.



REGIONAL & NATIONAL WEBSITES

www.cumbriamethodistsdistrict.org.uk

Connexional: <u>www.methodist.org.uk</u>

North West Synod: www.nwsynod.org.uk

National: www.urc.org.uk

April issue No 110 of WWWW will be published at the end of March Please send all material to reach Lilian Wood, 89 Risedale Road, Barrow, LA13 9QY by Sunday March 6th. Items can also be passed on by

2 01229 825986 or ⊠ <u>lilian.wood4@gmail.com</u>

Step by Step

Step by Step (Cumbria) is a Kendal based charity that aims to support rehabilitation work with ex-offenders and people excluded from, or on the fringes of the community through a 12-step programme of Christian based teaching, practical help and activities. It is now expanding to HMP Haverigg and Millom and hopes to establish services in Barrow. Step by Step (Cumbria) relies entirely on voluntary funding. It aims:

- To reach and come alongside those struggling to live and function within society and community, especially those exhibiting addictive behaviours of any sort.
- To bring purpose and stability to life by offering Christian faith and hope to the participants.
- To establish a network of supportive relationships with local Church congregations and other support groups.
- To use the 12 steps programme to develop self-awareness, self-understanding and self-acceptance through forgiveness.
- To work closely with other agencies (e.g. housing, police, prison, probation and social services) to create a culture of accountability, safety and openness.
- To discover and nurture human and spiritual gifts, talents and abilities in order to serve others in the community and contribute positively to society.
- To restore and re-integrate broken lives safely back into community.

The **Step by Step** programme was devised by Marc Kelly in 2003 whilst serving a lengthy prison sentence. The process was so transformational and permanent for Marc that he resolved to pass on his experience to others. Marc is now employed by the Charity, which is governed by a Board of Trustees, and is supported by volunteers. Participants attend regular meetings (at least weekly) where they are helped along the path to recovery by Marc and his team.

In order to provide the Step by Step programme in Barrow, the charity is seeking the support of the churches - in the shape of prayer, finance, premises and volunteers. Contact Rev David Opie (tel 828226) for further information or to arrange a speaker.

Local Preachers/Worship Leaders

The next LP/WL meeting will be held on Thursday 10th March at 7:30 pm at Wellington Street, Dalton. All leaders of worship are encouraged to attend.

Janet Ladds

Farewell from Janet

John and I started married life in Carlisle in 1974 and after almost 42 years it is time for me to leave Cumbria. Although a southerner with an odd accent, I was welcomed and accepted and it has not been an easy decision to move. However, I came here to be with John and without him it has not been the same. Andrew and Timothy live in London and Elizabeth is now in South Yorkshire, so I have decided to move to Chesterfield which is on the M1 corridor and has excellent rail connections.

Much of our social life centred on the then Southwest Cumbria Circuit of the Methodist Church. We both held various posts of responsibility over the years and many of you will remember John as a long-standing Local Preacher. For many years I was on the District Policy Committee and enjoyed working with David Emison. As a family we worshipped regularly at Marshside Chapel and it gave me a great thrill to see Elizabeth married there. The chapel looked beautiful and the hard work of the members in renovating the building was for all to see. I shall miss everyone there, as well as the many friends I have in the area

Some of you will be interested that I made the acquaintance of Agnes Tranter (nee Marshall) when she led the service at the church I have been attending in Chesterfield. Good to know I already have a friend I can turn to.

I took possession of my new property just before Christmas and shall be moving in the middle of March, although my house in Kirkby remains unsold.

My email address and mobile phone number will remain the same, so please look me up if you are ever in Derbyshire. The Peak District has some good walking, Thank you for 35 years of friendship and fellowship.

Janet Sheldon

Flashbacks...to times with Jesus

Flashbacks will be running again at Trinity on Monday morning and afternoon of April 25th and the Tuesday morning and afternoon of April 26th. We will have children from 3 primary schools. If you would like to be part of this event, either helping with children (who are delightful and very enthusiastic) or doing the refreshments, please let one of Hilary or Bob Mantle, Kate Hughes, Joan Linney or myself know - no particular experience needed to be part of the team!

Ann Hufton

First Tuesday Ladies

We will meet on Tuesday 1st March at 7:30 pm at 59 Croslands Park to study the Bible and enjoy a time of prayer and fellowship.

Janet Ladds

Greetings from Lebone Village in Bloemfontein

As Elaine Pears mentioned in the February Newslink Cass and I have been to South Africa again. After we had been in Cape Town for about 2 weeks, I flew up to Bloemfontein - a short 1½ hour flight, with a suitcase full of gifts for the children, plus the £1,000.00 from the UA in a money belt under my top!! Avril had warned me it was over 40 degrees in Bloem and was worried I would not cope as they were finding it too hot. Fortunately during my first night there, there was a thunder storm which lightened the air - phew! Avril met me at the airport and it was good to chat - and catch up on the news of the orphanage. I asked about the health of the children, and was delighted to hear they were all well, except Sonny Boy who has been quite poorly recently, but was starting to recover. The twins they took in as babies of a few days old started school in January, as they are now 5. A lot of the original children are now in their late teens, and Avril pointed out some derelict outbuildings in the grounds, which they are intending to develop into individual houses for these children, as Lebone will always be 'home' for them. When I got to the Lebone Village I was introduced to the 'Wednesday Volunteers', a group of retired helpers who go in weekly to tend to the gardens (not an easy job in their heat) and they made me very welcome. I also met Avril's grandson who is doing some work with Willem as he considers his future options for a university course. As seems to be the norm with Lebone, they had had more 'steps' backwards. Of the three new tunnels, the covering of the middle one had been destroyed by the storm during the night - along with one of the bigger older tunnels which had only recently been repaired after a fire!! The tunnels act as greenhouses, and they grow a great variety of fresh food for the children and the staff, and the nearby township. Avril's grandson had the job of repairing these during that first day - so that the young plants would not be destroyed by the hot sun. Willem had a brand new tractor which he was 'running' in as he ploughed a huge field behind the tunnels. This had been donated by a friend from Holland, and replaced the two worn out ones which were difficult to keep going. I later saw Avril's grandson driving it - I imagine as a thank you for all his toils during the day. There was a new building in the Village. This was being constructed completely from 'waste' material - mud, old tyres, wine bottles - being built by hand by volunteers. It is built as a round, with no roof in the centre, with three sided rooms with ceilings facing into the middle of the circle, and a raised area for a stage. From the air it will look like a large mud brown polo mint. It will be used as a craft centre, and for entertainment. (I imagine it would have been great fun - smoothing the clay out and positioning the bottles into the walls at equal distances - but I was dressed in white cut offs, not the best outfit for that job, but I know it would have been a great project for 'messy church' Rachel.) I met up with the day children - these are the under 8's who have their schooling at Lebone. Sadly the headteacher who has done such wonderful work with the children, and improvements in the classrooms, has recently left, which was a big disappointment I met again Anri, who works with Avril in the office, and the lovely Lulu, who lives on the premises and is like a housemum to all the resident children. There are 42 living there,

with a new few months old baby a recent arrival (who the older children adored). Avril

was hoping to adopt her officially, as her young Mum had left her. The older Lebone children are bused out to school and 54 other underschool children are bused in daily - to be educated and fed. The 'littlies' were delightful and came to see me, and give me a 'thumbs up tap' each - which I was told meant ok.

I emptied my suitcase and the children were delighted with all the gifts, which included soft toys, toy cars and aeroplanes, knitted hand puppets, knitted hats, games, sandals and shoes, baby clothes, playing cards, jewellery, wool and knitting needles, and craft sets for the older children. One of the Lebone children was immediately wearing a pair of trainers. I met Moipone, and talked to her, explaining who I was, and wishing her a happy 5th birthday, which she had celebrated the week before. I first met her 3 years ago, when she was new to the orphanage at 2 years old, looking so lost, and 'adopted' her in my heart. Many of you will remember that my first 'child' Sipho, died whilst Avril was here visiting a few years ago, he was only 11 years old. I have kept in touch with Moipone since - and was delighted to see she is now a lovely little girl with a mop of curls and a beautiful smile - that was a special moment for me.

Sadly I had to leave Bloem earlier than planned due to an infection, and missed spending a lot of after school time with the older children. Avril and Willem once again made me very welcome into their home and I had the privilege of meeting and spending a lot of time with Avril's Mum, who at 90 is really good company, and had some wonderful tales to tell me of the places she had travelled to in the world as a child. Willem still has his many dogs, and they follow him faithfully wherever he goes, and their resident parrot is quite a character. Whilst I waited for Avril one morning the parrot came and sat by me, and I took my camera and took his photograph - then showed it to him, "that's good" says the parrot!! couldn't believe it.

Avril and Willem were on their weekend off when I left, but sadly ended up going in to Lebone, as some 'cruel people' had broken down the gates in the night and done lots of damage inside! What can you say, it just seems so destructive, for what? no one wins. I had felt so privileged to go again, and I had just a glimpse of the wonderful work that is going on all the time at Lebone Village, so I was feeling quite sad for them, but Willem was quite calm and would just get on and put things right again for that's the kind of wonderful guy he is.

God bless you Avril and Willem, and may we do our little bit for them here in England by always keeping them in our prayers, and also carrying on supporting whenever possible.

Dorothy Gleaves

We have received this message from Avril:

Thank you so very much for the £1,000 you sent us with Dorothy. What perfect timing it was too! We were confronted with sending 5 of our children to special needs schools this year & we needed to pay fees, buy uniforms, etc & then as always God provided more than needed through you all.

Please pass our heartfelt thanks & gratitude, fondest love & hugs to all our friends in the SW Cumbria United Area.

Blessings, Avril

Youth spot

In Sunday School at Beacon Hill we have spent a number of weeks working our way through the Lord's Prayer and rewriting it in our own words. We read our version in church and hope that it made the congregation think about the words that we say every week. You can read it below.

Elaine Pears

Dear God,

You are like a loving mum or dad who cares for us.

Even though we don't see you, we can still feel you.

Your name is special.

If our world was like yours, there would be no more money problems, fighting, stealing, lying or cheating.

We need to do what you say so we won't be bad or hurt anyone.

Please give us enough food to survive and help us share with those who have less food and money than us.

We are sorry for the bad things we have done, so please forgive us and help us to forgive those who bully or hurt us.

Help us not to be persuaded to do bad things.

Keep us away from danger and things that hurt us in our heart.

You are our strong and mighty king.

You are the greatest.

We agree.

So be it.

Network

The Cumbria District Spring Day will be held on Thursday 10th March at Wigton Methodist Church, with coffee from 10:15am and the Council meeting beginning at 10:45 am. In the afternoon Jon Cook will speak about Christians against Poverty.

The Easter Offering envelopes should now be in the churches. The theme of this year's Easter Offering service is "Child, get up" and deals with the plight of the Dalit girls in India. This service will be held at Kirkby church on Sunday April 17th @ 6 pm and will be led by Rev Rachel Williams. Please encourage congregations to support our world missions work; it is hoped that each church's offering will be presented during the service.

All cheques should be made payable to MCFWM.

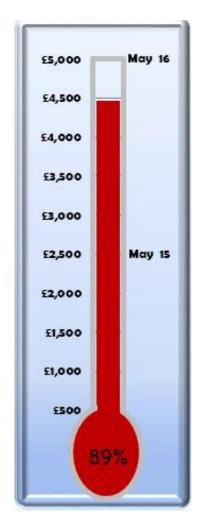
Elaine Pears

Women's World Day of Prayer

A service will be held at Wellington Street, Dalton at 2 pm on Friday 4th March. The service has been prepared by the Christian women of Cuba and the theme is "Receive Children, Receive Me". Everyone is most welcome to attend.

Margaret Frankland

Christian Aid Community Partnership



Thank you to Dalton for raising £140.60 at their Evening of Ms. We now have a total of £4471.32, so we need to raise almost £530 before June.

Please see under Ramsden Street for details of their jigsaw afternoon on 5th March.

Lilian Wood



Green Tip

When we water the plants in our gardens, do we use chlorinated water from the cold water tap or rainwater? There is room in many gardens or back yards for a slimline water butt. You need a sloping roof from the house or outhouse with an existing downpipe and the water butts come with full instructions and are quite easy to set up. Houseplants much prefer rain water to tap water too.

Janet Sheldon

HIGHS & LOWS IN THE HOLY LAND



travels in Israel & the West Bank
with Rev Clive Shaw



MILLOM METHODIST CHURCH
Queen Street

Weds 16th March at 6.30pm

Tickets £3.00 including a meal available from Rosie's Wool

Shop, the church or Rev Rachel Williams

Donations welcome towards the project 'Plant an Olive Tree for Peace'





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Individual Churches

Trinity

There is no Coffee Morning on 5th March but in the afternoon of that day we will be having our Easter Fayre, beginning at 2:00 p.m. There will be a decorated Easter Bonnet Competition and also a decorated Easter Egg Competition. There will be all the usual stalls. Admission £1.00, which includes refreshments.

Monday 7th March through to Saturday 12th The Schools Bible Stories Exhibition, 10:00 am - 4:00 pm. During the days of the Exhibition refreshments will be served.

Margaret Manvell

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.

6/03	Millom	G
13/03	Trinity	Н
20/03	Vickerstown	I
27/03	Hartington St	J

Janet Ladds

Hartington Street

All are welcome to join our Care and Share fellowship/Knit and Natter. We meet weekly on Tuesdays at 10:00 - 11:30 am. Fellowship, Prayer, a cuppa & bring your knitting. We have only one Bible study meeting this month, on Thursday 10th March at 2 pm.

Ellen Powell

Beacon Hill

Our usual monthly coffee morning will be held on Thursday 31st March, 10 am-11:15 am, with stalls selling cakes, handmade cards, books and Fairtrade items.

Lilian Wood

Dalton

Fairtrade Fortnight - there will be a Fairtrade Coffee morning at Market Street on Saturday 5th March at 9:45 to 11:15 am

R Willock

On Saturday 23rd January about 30 people gathered at Market Street for an 'Evening of Ms'. The evening began with jacket potatoes with lots of lovely fillings followed by a choice of Mini Mars bars, Maltesers or Madeira cake - lots of Ms! After our meal we did several word and picture puzzles all the answers of which began with ?? you've guessed it an M. The evening ended with the hat game which I would term the Mad Hatters game when you see 3 foot kids trying to grab hats from 6 foot men — everyone had a wonderful evening and the icing on the cake was the £140 which was donated to the Area Christian Aid Appeal.

7 Corkish

Christian Women's Fellowship. The next meeting of the CWF will be on Wednesday 16th March at 7:30 pm when we will be on an Easter Journey. All welcome.

D Zazi

Askam

The Askam Sisterhood got off to a good start on Wednesday 10th February, when 3 members of St. Mary's Hospice visited us to talk about their individual roles - Ann a member of the Community outreach group, Geoff a member of the fund raising group and lastly a very important member of the team, a community nurse. We were very interested to learn of the advances which have taken place since the Hospice celebrated its 25th anniversary and the progress in the further three years. As one of the Sisterhood member's husband was the first inpatient at St. Mary's this charity is very special to us. We were able to donate £70.00 that day - from the collection and the pennies our members collect all the year. Our next meeting was on Wednesday 24th February, when we heard about TWAM (Tools with a Mission) from Mr John Mills.

We will be holding our Coffee Mornings on the 1st Saturday of each month commencing on Saturday 2nd April at 10:00 - 11:30 am. Further Coffee Mornings will be 7th May, 4th June, 2nd July, 6th August. We would welcome any passing friends from the United Area to join us on these social mornings.

The annual Church Garden Party will be on Saturday 16th July, from 2:00 - 4:00 pm. More details later.

Dorothy Gleaves

Kirkby-in-Furness

In February we combined our Coffee and Company with a Fair Trade coffee morning to raise awareness of Fair Trade products and how many Fair Trade products can now be purchased in local supermarkets. This year we also had a particular emphasis on fair trade for British farmers.

We also had our Spring Church Council meeting in February where we presented Janet with flowers for her time as secretary as she will be moving on from Kirkby at Easter after 36 years of family involvement with Kirkby Methodist Church. We all wish her well in the next chapter of her life.

In March Coffee and Company will be on the 2nd March starting at 9:45am and then followed by Lent Lunch from 11:30am. We plan to serve a variety of home made soups, home made bread and our usual jams etc. We hope you can join us. Proceeds will go to Christian Aid.

Easter Sunday. This year we are trying something different, look out for our posters. In order that other people can join us we have moved our Easter breakfast to 8:30am when our minister Rev Rachel Williams will join us. You are all invited to come for breakfast and then either attend your own church service or stay for a leisurely coffee and join us for worship at 10:30am when Rev Roy Burley will lead the communion service.

Mary Wilkinson

Millom

By the time you read this we will be well into the season of Lent. This year for the first time Churches Together in Millom are combining and each denomination will be responsible for one of the Thursday events which will take place at Queen Street from 12 noon to 1:30pm from 11th February until 17th March. We are starting joint Lent Studies on Tuesdays throughout Lent led by Rev. Clive Shaw of St. George's Church and Rev. Rachel Williams again at Queen Street at 2pm.

On 14th February we held a special service to celebrate the tenth anniversary of our Girls' Brigade Company.

Our annual Daffodil Tea for Marie Curie Cancer Care will be held on Friday 11th March from 3 to 5pm.

The following week on Wednesday 16th March at 6:30pm the Rev. Clive Shaw will be giving a talk and visual presentation on his trip to the Holy Land commencing with a meal. Proceeds are for "Planting Olive Trees for Peace".

Friday 29th April we are having a Royal Tea from 3 to 5pm to celebrate the Queen's 90th Birthday. The proceeds from this event are for Caanan Heights School in Jamaica. Please join us for any of these events - according to my computer we are only 5 miles from Barrow (as the crow flies!)

Margaret Riley

Ramsden Street

There is still time to book in for our fun jigsaw afternoon on Saturday March 5th from 2pm - 4pm. Teams of not more than four people will make up a 500 piece jigsaw. The cost is £2 per person and the proceeds will go to the United Area Christian Aid project. Refreshments will be served.

Our Midweek Meetings begin again after the winter break on Wednesday March 9th. We begin at 2:15pm and gentlemen are welcome as well as ladies.

A Fairtrade breakfast will be served on Easter Sunday at 10am followed by worship at 11am led by Rev Ron Wilson.

Monthly church lunches will be held on Wednesday April 6th and May 4th at 12 noon.

Anne Stevenson

Vickerstown

There will be a coffee morning at Vickerstown on Saturday 12th March from 10 a.m. to about 11:30 - all welcome. As this falls within Fairtrade Fortnight we hope to have a Fairtrade display and tasting as well as the usual goods for sale, and there will still be home-made cakes and a bring and buy stall too.

The Food & Fellowship group at Vickerstown, who meet about once a month for a shared meal and chat, enjoyed jacket potatoes and pancakes (a day early!) on February 8th. The group has decided to put the profits made (once the cost of the food has been deducted from donations) towards the Area Christian Aid project until that finishes in June, to help the final push towards the target - after two meetings this year we have already raised £95 towards this.

Lent groups on Walney will again be an ecumenical effort, hosted at the Vicarage on Tuesday evenings from 7:30 p.m. starting on February 16th (details were finalised too late for the February Newslink).

Karen Edmondson

TRINITY CHURCH CENTRE WARWICK ST

7th - 12th MARCH 10.00am - 4pm daily

BIBLE STORIES EXHIBITION

OVER 40 BIBLE STORIES
RE-CREATED BY CHILDREN
FROM SCHOOLS & GROUPS
IN BARROW

DON'T MISS IT!

REFRESHMENTS AVAILABLE

Regular Sunday Services

Morning service times are as follows:

Askam (Duddon Road) 9:30 am (except 5th 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 2nd Sunday – 4 pm service) Kirkby (Marshside) 10:30 am (except 2nd Sunday – 6pm

5th Sunday – 10 am at St Cuthbert's)

Millom (Queen Street) 11:00 am

Ramsden Street Barrow 11:00 am (except 1st Sunday–10:30am &

5th Sunday – 11:00 am at Trinity)

Trinity Church Centre (Warwick Street, Barrow) 11:00 am

Urswick (Tarn Close) 11:00 am

(except 1st & 3rd Sundays -- at Parish church)

Vickerstown (Warren Street) 11:00 am

Evening services are held as follows:

Beacon Hill 6 pm every week (4 pm in winter)
Trinity Church Centre 6:30 pm every week (4 pm in winter)

Kirkby 6 pm on the 2nd Sunday

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

Regular Coffee Mornings

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

Broughton - Tuesdays from 10:00 till 11:30 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