



Newslink

SOUTH WEST GUMBRIA UNITED AREA

Charity Registration Number 1141404

Methodist and United Reformed Churches Working Together

The Minister Writes



In the first few weeks of this New Year, a number of our United Area churches have celebrated their 'Covenant' or 'Reaffirmation' services, renewing our commitment we made in following God's call formally, however many years it is since we made that commitment. Whilst the actual wording in those services have changed slightly over the years, they all include something about believing in the One God, for there can only be One God, although we have described him (her) in three ways - as Father, Son and Holy Spirit, or as Creator, Saviour and

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Comforter. Also included is a word about our loyalty to the Church, sharing in all its life and relying on God's grace to cover our failings - and O how we need that grace! Then there is the promise to follow Jesus. Sometimes that's easy, sometimes it's hard, but is surely the central requirement of Christians, and is a lifelong commitment! Then finally, there is an affirmation of trust in the loving kindness of God to bring us into eternal life. We cannot trust ourselves or the Church or our friends to do that, but all can trust in Jesus, for God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that all who believe in him might not die but have eternal life. Simply put, but worth a great deal of pondering and endless praising!

As a United Area, we this year have produced a new (unique to us) 'card of reminder' of the way in which we

Area Website www.swcumbriaunitedarea.urch.org.uk

particularly as churches in the Area are endeavouring to pursue our calling of following of Christ's leading and teaching in making "God For All", as we commit ourselves to knowing God and making God known through our: Passionate worship; intentional faith development; risk-taking mission and service; radical hospitality and extravagant generosity.

May God go with us, at the beginning of a New Year and throughout, on this pilgrimage of making him (her) known to the people of the various different communities in which we are called to serve, that the love we remind ourselves particularly of in the middle of February (St. Valentine's) may be upon us always

With every Blessing

Ron

Deadline For Newslink

Could I ask everyone who contributes to Newslink to try to keep to the deadline date, which is usually the first Sunday of the month before publication (if there are 5 Sundays in the month, the deadline is the second Sunday). It takes me almost a week to get everything together, and I then send it all off to Graham Hufton, who does the clever part by putting all the information into the correct format. While I'm still working on it I will accept contributions, but once it has gone to Graham it is really too late to add anything. It can sometimes be difficult for him to fit everything into the space available and anything extra can cause problems. I'd be grateful for your help with this.

Lilian Wood

Fairtrade Fortnight, 27th February - 12th March

Please take the opportunity, as churches and as individuals, to raise awareness and perhaps try some new products.

REGIONAL & NATIONAL WEBSITES

www.cumbriamethodistsdistrict.org.uk

North West Synod: www.nwsynod.org.uk

Connexional: www.methodist.org.uk

National: www.urc.org.uk

March issue No 119 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 5th. Items can also be passed on by
☎ **01229 825986** or ✉ lilian.wood4@gmail.com

Pam and Mark (Mills) would like to thank all of you who have been praying for us over the last 9 months. We are pleased to announce the safe arrival of Levi Mills, born on the 2nd January 2017 x



Boxes of Hope Cumbria Shoebox Appeal

Thank you

I would just like to say a massive Thank you to all of you who wrapped and filled a shoebox, donated money or items to go into a shoebox and for those who spent time knitting hats and scarfs for the Boxes of Hope Cumbria Shoebox Appeal. I collected a total of 177 shoeboxes from around the Area, which was fantastic. The overall shoeboxes received at the Barrow Warehouse were 4,083 and the overall total shoeboxes being taken to Transylvania in Romania is 11,040. Thank you for bringing a smile to these children in Romania by providing them with a gift at Christmas. Your generosity and kindness has been very much appreciated.

Pam x (Mills)

Soup And Quiz Night

Dalton Community Church invite you to a Soup and Quiz Night, at 6pm on Saturday February 25th, at their Market Street premises.

This is a chance for a social evening together with a chance to put your thinking caps on for the Quiz. The event will start with soup and bread and then be followed by a quiz set by Kathryn Aldred (who has run several very successful quizzes at Beacon Hill). Teams will be formed on the night so even if you are by yourself, do come and join in! There is no fixed charge but donations towards the Church Refurbishing Fund will be appreciated. There will also be a raffle at this event.

If you are intending to come please let us know for catering purposes (tel Ann, 812439).

Ann Hufton

Banana Party

Following our Strawberry Party last summer, Beacon Hill will be holding a Banana Party on Saturday 4th March at 2 pm. Donations will be invited for the work of The Leprosy Mission. There will be banana-inspired food and games, and plenty of tea and conversation. A number of people who attended the Strawberry Party dressed in shades of pink or red (either deliberately or from a subconscious impulse) so we thought we would ask people to wear something yellow for this event, although this is not compulsory. For catering purposes, if you intend to come could you please let me know - tel 825986, email lilian.wood4@gmail.com

Lilian Wood

Bible Stories Exhibition

This will be held at Trinity from Monday 27th March until Saturday 1st April from 10 am to 5 pm daily. We are delighted with the response from the schools for this exhibition - 8 schools have responded. In addition the Brownie packs in Furness will be exhibiting and competing for the Forresters cup. The schools have been invited to attend to view all the exhibits so it promises to be a very busy week. Help will be required to show the children around the exhibition in the Church and also with refreshments and activities in the lounge. Can YOU assist?

During the exhibition refreshments will be served - morning coffee / lunches / afternoon tea.

Please call in and give your support to this major Church outreach event.

Brian Whittaker

Community Outreach Group

The next COG meeting will be held on Thursday 2nd February, 6:45 pm for 7 pm at Market Street, Dalton. It would be good to have a representative from every church.

United Area Meeting

The February United Area meeting will be on Tuesday 21st February at 7 pm 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.

First Tuesday Ladies

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

Elaine Pears

Appeal for Nicolas Lowe children's home, Argentina

The Cumbria Methodist District has asked churches to help to raise £4,000 during 2016/2017. This will support one child in the home for a year.

Many thanks to Askam, Beacon Hill, Dalton and Trinity who have recently contributed to this appeal. The Area total now stands at £832.77.

When you have money to pass over could you please make the cheque payable to South West Cumbria United Area and send it to Mrs Lynne Pearce, 60 Steel Street, Askam, LA16 7BP, clearly stating that it is for the Nicolas Lowe appeal. If you are planning an event or if you have raised any money could you please inform Lynne, so that she will know when to expect contributions and can decide on the best time to send off payments.

Lilian Wood

Flashbacks.... to times with Jesus

Flashbacks will be running again at Ramsden Street from the morning of Monday March 6th to the morning of Thursday March 9th. We are hoping to have children from 4 primary schools over the six sessions: Monday morning and afternoon, Tuesday morning and afternoon, Wednesday morning, and Thursday morning. If you would like to be part of this event, either helping with the children (who are delightful and very enthusiastic) or doing the refreshments, please let one of Hilary Mantle, Kate Hughes, Joan Linney or myself know. No particular experience is needed to be part of the team and we would be very grateful for any offers of help - even for just one session.

Ann Hufton

United Area Service

On Sunday 5th February at 4 pm there will be an Area service at Trinity. This will provide the opportunity to listen to some of Sophie Carnaby's ideas and vision for her post as Family and Community Worker within the United Area. The service will be followed by a cup of tea.

 <p>FAIRTRADE</p>	<p>Guarantees a better deal for Third World Producers</p>	<p>® Fairtrade Fortnight Keep a look out for information about events being held to mark Fairtrade Fortnight, which this year is from February 27th to March 12th.</p>
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Youth Spot

Beacon Hill uniformed organisations

Our uniformed organisations enjoyed a very busy schedule of activities last term, which included working for badges, crafts, visits, camps, learning about the world and helping the local community.

The Beavers completed their skills challenge badge and also earned their first aid and cyclist badges. They took part in a community project with the Salvation Army and enjoyed doing Christmas crafts.

The Cubs attended a District Camp to celebrate 100 years of Cub Scouting. They visited Conishead Priory, which helped them with the work needed to gain the world faith and local history badges. They cooked for Diwali, the Hindu festival of Light, and made Diwali lamps. They visited the new Police station and they, too, made Christmas crafts.

The Scouts completed their electronics badge and made Billy bags to use at camp, to hold their plates and other kit. They went camping at Ennerdale and did some night hiking. A visit to the Foodbank showed them how the system works and why it is so important, and they made their own contribution by collecting supplies. They had a day at Urswick with the Cubs, practising first aid involving accidents at camp, and did some Christmas crafting.

As always, we give a huge thank you to all of the leaders and helpers for the terrific amount of time and commitment that they devote to giving the young people such wonderful experiences and happy memories.

Kathryn Aldred

This year the Family Carol Service at Beacon Hill was led by the children from Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, Brownies and Sunday School. They were challenged by Santa to discover the true meaning of Christmas. Following much hard work by the leaders, every child had made something and by the end of the service the church was decorated with stars, holly wreaths, candles, Christmas trees, gift boxes and angels. The children were well supported by families and friends who all agreed that the service had been an excellent start to our Christmas festivities.

Thanks are also due to year 6 children from Newbarns Primary School, who made candle mobiles to hang in the church. Having been in on the making, I know they were a lot of fun to make, despite the fact that sewing isn't everyone's forte, and they were a splendid addition to our decorations.

Elaine Pears

re:new Community Charity Shop

I'm excited to tell you about one of the projects that I'm working on in my role as Family and Community Worker for the United Area.

We are looking to open a charity shop with the aim of it becoming a mission hub within its local community, Hindpool. The shop will provide people from the community with the opportunity to gain work-related skills such as till usage and customer service. There would be a deliberate emphasis on encouraging and empowering volunteers with the aim of improving their confidence and self-esteem. The shop will have a manager who would be able to provide volunteers with a reference to help them gain paid employment.

The shop will be a means of making low cost items available within this less affluent community. It would also offer people an easy way to recycle unwanted articles that might otherwise end up in landfill. Items from the shop will be given to people in need when they have been referred by a reputable agency (CAB, Foodbank, church leaders, etc). It will be able to supply clothes, shoes and basic homeware. The charity shop manager will be able to identify those in need and refer them to me for additional support, such as Foodbank vouchers and funding for larger items.

The shop will create an opportunity for Christians to work alongside and build relationships with other volunteers which will, hopefully, lead to opportunities for them to share their faith and invite them to church services or other suitable events.

In addition to its mission activities it is intended that the shop will make a profit that would be used to support ongoing work and special projects within the local community.

You can help with this exciting new venture in a number of ways:

- 1) You can donate your unwanted items to provide stock for the shop
- 2) You can volunteer for a few hours a week to work in the shop
- 3) You can help with the shop's initial set-up and advertising

If you'd like to help in any way or if you have any questions please don't hesitate to call me on 07971 639916.

I'm really hoping you'll find a way to support this venture.

Sophie



Moving Mountains is an opportunity for the churches working together across Cumbria to unite in locally organised mission, outreach and evangelism.

From 8th - 11th March 2018 we will be joined by teams led by Methodist District Chairs, URC Moderators, Bishops and Salvation Army District Commanders.

It is anticipated that about 30-35 such teams will visit the county composed of a mix of lay people, youth workers, ordinands and clergy. The essence of Moving Mountains is local churches planning and doing local mission. The events and style of the mission are decided at local church and area level, with the visiting mission team supporting what has been decided by churches.

The starting point for exploring what each church might be able to do is a series of launch evenings in early February.

It's **really important** that there's representation from your congregation at one of these meetings. The meeting on 6th Feb, 2017 will be right on our doorstep - at Trinity Church Centre, 7 for 7:30pm.

Is there someone or several people from your congregation who can attend this meeting?



Trinity

Monthly Coffee Morning Saturday 4th February from 10:00-11:30, sponsored by the Friday Badminton Group.

Monthly midweek communion Tuesday 7th February at 10:30 am, preceded by a cuppa. On Friday 17th February there will be a Pie and Peas Supper at 6 pm followed by a Quiz, with questions set by Mike from the Baptist Church. Tickets are now available for £4 from Norma or Brian.

The Prayer Group meets each Thursday morning at 8:50 am.

Bible study each Monday at 7:00 pm in the lower meeting room.

Family News

All of us were completely taken aback when we heard of the death of Clare Macfarlane, our Brown Owl of the Thursday Brownies. Her funeral service was held at Lancaster on 23rd December. A commemorative service will be held at Trinity later; meanwhile our thoughts and prayers are with all the family at this time. Clare had only been a leader for a few years but she had a great rapport with the girls and she encouraged their talents and worked hard with them. We will miss her.

On 29th December, Mabel Ismay, our oldest member (she was 101) passed away peacefully. She was just weary and slipped quietly away in Abbey View, where she had been for about a week. Mabel was a lovely lady who did lots of work and attended church regularly until her mobility, sight and deafness made it impossible for her to get there. Of course, although we will miss her, it is Marian, Tony and the family who will miss her most. To them we send our assurance that they will be in our thoughts and prayers.

On a happier note, on Sunday 1st January Jennet baptised and welcomed Connor Rutty. Connor came all the way from Texas for the occasion along with his Mum Samantha, Dad Jack and brother Jayden. Lots of friends and family were present - a very happy service and a nice start to the new year.

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

Feb	5 th	Beacon Hill	E
	12 th	Dalton Comm Church	F
	19 th	Urswick	G
	26 th	Askam	H

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.

Our Bible studies will be held on Thursday 9th February and 23rd February at 1:30pm.

Ellen Powell

Beacon Hill

Our usual monthly coffee morning will be held on Thursday 23rd February, 10 am-11:15 am, with stalls selling cakes, handmade cards, books and Fairtrade items.

Lilian Wood

Dalton

During the last 3 months of 2016 we held several fund raising events for refurbishment of our Market Street premises and raised £1465. Over the Christmas period we held our Christmas Bazaar and raised £415 for church funds. Our Coffee & Carols raised £60 and this, plus £100 from the Christian Women's Fellowship, was sent to Christian Aid. Our Christmas Tree collected £205 for the Furness Homeless Christmas Shelter.

The Bible Society Advent Praise and Christmas Tree raised approx £305 for Bible Society work. Thanks to all who contributed.

Future Events:

Feb 14th at 2:30 pm Communion Service at Market Street

Feb 25th at 6 pm Soup and Quiz at Market Street

Feb 27th to March 12th Fairtrade Fortnight

R Willock

Christian Women's Fellowship. The next meeting of the CWF will be on Wednesday 15th February at 7:30 pm when our speaker for the evening will be the Rev'd Ann Hufton. All are welcome.

D Zazi

Askam

The church was packed with children, parents, and grandparents on December 11th when Deacon Debbie Buckley ran the Christingle Service at Duddon Road Church. We were delighted to see lots of the Askam Village School children there once again, and they sang beautifully, and took part in the service by doing the Bible readings, and saying prayers. After a sketch about making a Christingle orange, 51 children went from the Church into the Church lounge and each made their own orange. It was organised chaos, but the result was magical, when all the candles were lit, and the lights dimmed in the Church. Our thanks go out to Deacon Debbie, for her service with us at Askam, and to Mrs. Jo Coates, from Askam Village school who has worked so hard to teach the children, and visit so many groups to share the joy of their singing. £80.00 was collected at the service and donated to the Nicolas Lowe Appeal. We welcomed the New Year in with our Covenant Service on January 1st at the later time of 11:00 am which meant some of our less able members could attend. Our monthly weekly Communion Services will be held on the first Wednesday of each month this year. Happy New Year to all our friends across the United Area.

Dorothy Gleaves

Broughton

We now hold our regular coffee mornings on Tuesdays in the Square Café, 10:30 - 12 noon. Some of us even stay for lunch. It is a tremendous witness to locals and visitors alike. We regularly get around 12 people; however Canon Nick and Jen have left St Mary's and they came every week, as does Deacon Debbie when she can. We will certainly miss Nick and Jen as they retire and explore Scotland with their caravan, canoes and bikes.

On Friday 23rd December we held a Carol Service in the café, with a reading, a short address and lots of carol singing. We had around 30 people. Refreshments, including mince pies, were made by Jane, who owns the café. An enormous THANK YOU to Jane for letting us use her café for our various events.

However, during half term we will move to the Parsonage Room for our Pancake Celebration on Tuesday 21st February 10am - 12 noon. The Pancake Race will be run along the old railway line. We will have pancakes with various fillings, a cake stall and craft stall to raise money for Barnado's. Dorothy Rushton uses this event to collect and count the money from the village boxes. We will also have a bookstall - proceeds will go to the Foodbank. The race is for all ages; please bring your own pan if you can. Everyone is welcome.

Beryl Hollowell

Millom

December was as usual a busy month. We had Advent Bible Studies every Tuesday afternoon led by Deacon Debbie. The children's groups had parties with presents and visits by Father Christmas. The Thursday Craft Group had a lovely evening meal at Cambridge House and we are very grateful to one of our group members Joy (who owns this establishment with husband John) for hosting this event. It was lovely to see the Christmas trees in Church beautifully decorated by Suree with angels she had made. We also have a Prayer Corner with an angel theme in the rear room which Debbie organised. On December 11th we were invited to the Baptist Church for their Christian pantomime and we invited their members to join us for the Christmas Eve and Christmas morning services at Queen Street. On the 18th we held our Carol and Christingle service. The Town Carol service was also held that evening at the Salvation Army. It is nice to have a full church on these occasions and share fellowship together. We are still holding an Anglican Communion service at 11:00 am on Wednesday mornings as the work at St. George's is not finished yet. An Ecumenical service should have taken place there on New Year's day so again we worshipped at the Baptist church. A Carol service at the Square Cafe in Broughton was also well attended led by Debbie. A lovely log fire and hot mince pies We go forward into 2017 and hope we will be blessed in all our activities led by the Holy Spirit.

Margaret Riley

Ramsden Street

Three very enjoyable and well supported events took place during the Christmas period. Firstly, a concert by the New Abbey Singers raised over £200 for Church funds and the Church was very surprised and delighted to receive a cheque for a further £300 from the choir.

Secondly, we really enjoyed and appreciated the visit of the Greengate School choir to entertain us with Christmas songs and carols at one of our weekly coffee mornings. Thirdly, our Carol Service found the whole congregation sitting around tables making banners which told the Christmas story and these were then hung around the church. After the service everyone stayed and enjoyed a Christmas tea. The offering was donated to Christian Aid.

A very meaningful Re-affirmation service was conducted by Ron Wilson on Sunday January 8th.

Sadly, we will miss both Muriel Gaffney and Bette Garnet who both died in November.

Anne Stevenson

Kirkby

We are all giving thanks at Kirkby that we are back in the church after several weeks in the hall while the roof of the church was being replaced and insulated. It was heartbreaking to see it all turned upside down and to be able to see sky through the top of the roof but now we can rejoice to have a warmer waterproof room. A big thank you to the United Area who offered us the money to pay for it so that we could book the builders and have a planned start date without waiting until we had the grant money in our bank account; it was this which enabled us to be back in the church for our Carol Service. We give thanks that we were able to raise £19,000 through three different grants and with money of our own only needed to borrow the money until the grants came through. Sadly two days after we were back in the church we went through into the hall to find that a large portion of the ceiling has come down so we are back to a building project again.

Perversely while we were down in the colder hall our numbers for services kept going up with up to fifteen people on most weeks. We now have further reasons for rejoicing as we have four new members, one of whom is now our new secretary Kim Pyle. We go forward in faith that we can continue to offer a Methodist presence in Kirkby for anyone who may want to join us and are enjoying working more closely with Broughton.

Coffee and Company is the first Wednesday (9:45-11:30 am) of February and once again this year we are going to focus on Fair Trade with a challenge to everyone to bring a Fair Trade item and to raise the profile of Fair Trade in everyday life. The second Wednesday will be our midweek service with Communion. The Over Fifty Five Lunch Club meet in the church on the third Wednesday when anyone who would like to join them for a hot meal is very welcome; however for practical reasons it needs to be booked by the third Monday (01229 889329). Coffee and Company in March will be followed by Lent Lunch at 11:30 am which will be homemade soup, beautiful homemade bread and a cup of tea.

Mary Wilkinson

Vickerstown

There will be a coffee morning at Vickerstown on Saturday 25th February from 10 am until about 11:30. This is just before Fairtrade Fortnight officially starts but there will still be a Fairtrade theme to the morning including the usual range of Fairtrade goods for sale. We will also have our cake stall and bring-and-buy stall as always. All welcome.

Vickerstown again raised money for the Methodist charity 'All we Can' in various ways around Christmas, to send off for items in their 'Extraordinary Gifts' catalogue. This year we raised an impressive total of £210 which will help to fund bee-keeping, sheep-farming and vegetable growing in Ethiopia, women's poultry and pig farming businesses in India and leadership training for marginalised women in Nepal - all helping people to earn a living, support families, stand up for their rights and improve their lives. A further £160 given in memory of Joan Roberts has been used to fund more bee-keeping, school materials for children in Nepal, a supply of sanitary towels for a school there to help girls access education, wider access to safe toilets (also in Nepal) and safe places to play and talk for refugee children in Jordan.

Joan was one of two faithful, long-standing and much loved members at Vickerstown who died late last year, the other being Hughie McGregor. Both were well into their nineties and had lived very full lives, and we give thanks for all they gave us and their peaceful passing. We will miss them both and our prayers are with their families.

Karen Edmondson

Green Tip

Food for thought from The Methodist Recorder, October 2016:

“The Ten Commandments of Food:

- I. Give thanks for the food you eat.
- II. Eat food grown as close as possible to where you live.
- III. Strive for all people to have knowledge about and access to affordable, nutritious food.
- IV. Eat mindfully and in moderation.
- V. Do not waste food.
- VI. Be grateful to those who grow and prepare food for your table.
- VII. Support fair wages for farmworkers, farmers and food workers.
- VIII. Reduce the environmental damage of land, water and air from food production and the food system.
- IX. Protect the biodiversity of seeds, soils, ecosystems and the cultures of food producers.
- X. Rejoice and share the sacred gift of food with all.”



Elaine Pears

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	4 pm every week
Trinity Church Centre	4 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 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