



Newslink

SOUTH WEST CUMBRIA UNITED AREA

Charity Registration Number 1141404

Methodist and United Reformed Churches Working Together

The Minister Writes



I'm writing this at the beginning of Lent, when we hear the familiar story of Jesus being tempted in the desert. We read that the devil came and went, each time he came back he had another trial for Jesus and each time Jesus refused the temptation. We also read at the beginning of Matthew chapter 4 that Jesus was led by the Holy Spirit; this is so important to remember, because nowhere does it then say that the Holy Spirit left him. God's spirit was with Jesus all through the forty days and nights, never did he leave him. We need to hold onto those words, because just like Jesus the devil comes and goes in

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our life, but the Holy Spirit never leaves us. We make bad choices because we don't always include God in our decisions.

At the beginning of March Fair Trade fortnight gave us a wonderful opportunity to promote Fair Trade products in homes, churches, schools and workplaces. Did you know that tea pickers in Malawi earn less than £1.46 per day? Not enough to provide decent food, education or healthcare for their families.

Like Jesus during his forty days and nights in the desert, we too have the Holy Spirit to guide us. We too like Jesus will be tempted and distracted by the devil who tries to cause havoc in our lives and the world we live in. But let me pose a question to you: is the world full of evil, does evil really exist or is evil just about the lack of God in people's lives? Does darkness really exist or is it just a name we have created to explain the absence of light? Is evil a manmade word for the absence of God?

Area Website www.swcumbriaunitedarea.unc.org.uk

As we continue through Lent may this be a time of questioning and wrestling as we actively engage deeper with God on our journey. As we listen to the news and read the papers, as we challenge the injustice of unequal trade and pay let us remember the words from Micah 6:8, What does the Lord require of us: to act justly, love mercy and walk humbly with our God.

God Bless

Deacon Debbie

Holy Week Services

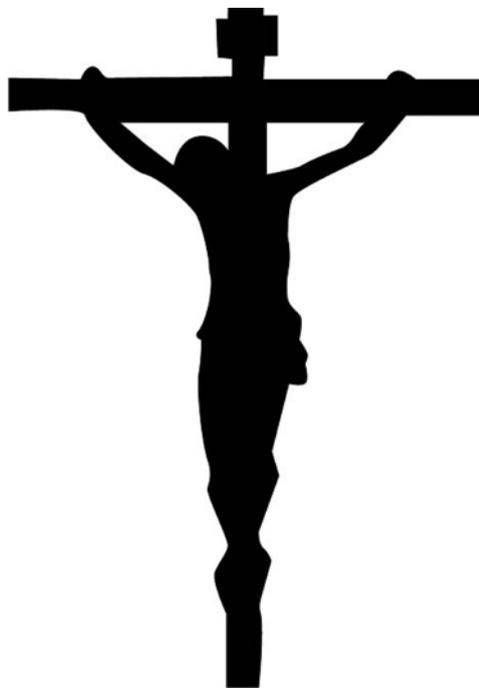
Monday 10 April at 7 pm at Market Street, Dalton, led by Rev Ann Hufton.

Tuesday 11 April at 7 pm at Market Street, Dalton, led by Rev Ron Wilson.

Maundy Thursday service at 7 pm at Trinity, led by Rev Jennet McLeod.

Maundy Thursday Passover meal at 7 pm at Broughton.

Good Friday service for the Barrow Free Churches at 10:30 am at the Salvation Army.



REGIONAL & NATIONAL WEBSITES

www.cumbriamethodistsdistrict.org.uk

Connexional: www.methodist.org.uk

North West Synod: www.nwsynod.org.uk

National: www.urc.org.uk

May issue No 121 of *Newslink* will be published at the end of April.

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

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

News From United Area Meeting - 21st February 2017

The budget, presented for 2017/2018, was discussed. It is important that congregations are aware of the true cost of running not only their individual church, but also the United Area and our contribution to the District and the URC.

We are pleased to have welcomed Rev Ruth Crossley to the Anglican Churches in Dalton and Askam, and look forward to working together ecumenically.

All those who did their Safeguarding training in 2012 are now due to attend a renewal meeting. Jennet and Mary are planning to offer a choice of date and time. Those who need the basic course will be invited to a different training. Each church needs to have a named safeguarding officer.

It was great to hear of so many good news stories from all the churches, and of events planned for the coming months. Please watch Newslink for details of these.

Also, look out for details of the various mission opportunities in the next eighteen months:

Thy Kingdom come - a national prayer initiative from 4th - 11th June;

Believe in Barrow - lots of preparation meetings and services leading up to the mission from 13th - 17th September;

Moving Mountains - where teams of Anglican, Methodist, URC and Salvation Army clergy and lay people are to visit Cumbria on Mothering Sunday weekend 2018, and join in with mission activities in our churches.

Janet Ladds

Action For Children

Eight people in our United Area have home collecting boxes which are emptied every July. Every penny helps towards the work of Action for Children, helping children and parents to a better life. If you feel you would like to help please give me a ring on 716640.

Action for Children Sunday is on 9th July. If any church would like me to give a talk on our children's charity, again please give me a ring. Thank you.

Beryl Hollowell

First Tuesday Ladies

There will be no meeting in April. We will next meet on Tuesday 7 May 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

Many thanks to Kirkby and Vickerstown for their recent contributions. Added to the offering at the Area service at Trinity in February this makes the Area total £1357.16.

Lilian Wood

Methodist Homes For The Aged

MHA Sunday takes place on June 11th and is entitled “Best Sunday for Ages”.

In 1933 Abe Lyman sang that we must “Keep young and beautiful if you want to be loved”. He was wrong! The challenge of the Gospel is to celebrate and to recognise the differing needs of each generation. To seek the thriving and enable and encourage spiritual flourishing of men and women of every age. Just as our young people are not the church of tomorrow, so our older people are not the church of yesterday - we are all the church of today. In our youth most of us feel ourselves to be indestructible. It’s only when we get older the inevitability of death becomes more apparent.

MHA is a charity providing care, accommodation and support services for older people throughout Britain and 2017 sees the 74th anniversary of its foundation. It is now one of the most well established and well respected care providers in the sector, delivering a range of services to 17,000 individuals:

4,350 older people living in care homes - residential, nursing and specialist dementia care

2,500 older people living independently in a range of purpose-built apartments with flexible support and personalised care

10,000 older people supported via Live at Home services in the community.

The services are delivered by 7,000 dedicated staff members and enhanced by the commitment of 5,000 volunteers. MHA Sunday is an opportunity for the celebration of this work and the value of older people.

For many years Pat Jones has been our MHA area representative and secretary, and we give her our sincere thanks and appreciation for her unfailing commitment and dedication to this worthy cause. However, can all our churches please note that I have now taken over this position.

The gift envelopes and MHA’s Heart and Soul magazine, which includes useful information about their work, should be with you shortly.

From Pat’s records it would appear that last year (2016) only one church donated to MHA, although one other church has now advised me that they donated direct to MHA. From now on can you please send all church donations and any completed Gift Aid declaration envelopes to me. This will not only enable me to maintain a complete and accurate record of our churches’ giving but will also help to minimise MHA’s administration costs.

My address is 7 Woodhill Crescent, Rampside, Barrow-in-Furness LA13 0QE. Tel 827199.

Thank you in anticipation of your help and support in this matter.

Daphne Watkinson

Youth Spot

February's Messy Church at Hartington Street was based on the theme of communion and the last supper. Families came to make donkey biscuits, bread, goblets, placemats and Jesus and his disciples out of lollipop sticks. After a frantic hour of gluing and sticking we played some games, learnt about how Jesus taught his disciples that the last supper was something special to do to remember him and then shared communion together. For many at messy church this was the first time they had taken communion. On the Sunday morning messy church continued and our regular congregation were joined by 2 families from Saturday's activities. A whole church team effort produced a piece of art showing the last supper which you will see on the church walls (which is quickly becoming a gallery!) and then we shared fellowship after the service with bread and jam from the bread we made the previous day.

Rebekah Mills Strawson

"Flashbacks.... to times with Jesus" has been held once again, this time at Ramsden Street - many thanks to them for hosting. Over 3 days at the beginning of March 140 children from 4 primary schools were transported back to the first century. After an overview of the life of Jesus they were then given snapshots of certain events in His life (involving craft activities) ending with a wedding feast complete with dancing. The children and their teachers always enjoy these sessions, and we hope they learn something from them.

I would like to encourage people to go along to help - the leaders of the groups do the hard work (a big thank you to them all) and we helpers just join in and have fun. Look out for details of the next event, and please consider whether you could help out.

Lilian Wood



Green Tip

After you have enjoyed your Easter eggs please remember to recycle the packaging. Cardboard can take up to 10 years to rot down in a landfill site, and it will then produce harmful greenhouse gases. Plastic cases can be difficult to recycle in some areas and can last for hundreds of years if sent to landfill. The good news is that the amount of packaging has been reduced in recent years as manufacturers have reduced box sizes, and the cardboard used is now made from recycled materials. Also, many eggs now come without plastic cases.

(Information provided by www.recycleforcumbria.org for Easter 2016.)

Lilian Wood

Individual Churches

Trinity

On 1st April from 2:00 pm- 4:00 pm we will hold our Easter Fayre. Admission £1.00 which includes a cuppa and a hot cross bun.

Our monthly midweek communion will be on 4th April at 10:30 am preceded by a cuppa.

Our first Messy Church will be held on 15th from 3:00 pm-5:00 pm.

Our Easter Day services are:- 8:00 am early Communion followed by breakfast, then at 11:00 am Communion. At 6:30 pm we will meet at the Baptist Church for Easter Praise.

On 23rd April the folk from the Baptist Church will worship with us. This will be followed by a faith lunch.

The next session of Bible Studies begins on Monday 24th at 7:00 pm.

2 for T will meet on 26th in the lounge.

Margaret Manuell

Trinity Prayer - We meet in the lower meeting room at Trinity each Thursday morning between 8:50 and 9:30 am to pray; each week we give time to one of the United Area churches, and a set of streets, as well as other prayer concerns. If you have any prayer concerns or things you wish to be prayed for, please contact Janet/Alan Ladds (833882) so we can add them to the prayer book.

Week commencing

April 2 nd	Trinity	M
9 th	Vickerstown	N
16 th	Hartington Street	O
23 rd	Ramsden Street	P
30 th	Beacon Hill	Q

Janet Ladds

Broughton

The Pancake Party raised £123.35 for Barnado's. Our pancake race had 2 year olds to 48 year olds taking part and we took lots of photos and had lots of laughs. What a coincidence that on March 1st the Evening Mail showed 3 photos of our pancake race in 1994 - a great reminder of how long we have held this event.

We will be holding a Passover meal on Maundy Thursday, April 13th, at 7 pm. If you wish to attend could you please contact Margaret Cain on 889572 or 07551017993.

Beryl Hollowell

Dalton

More than 50 people really enjoyed our Soup and Quiz evening and £371 was raised for our refurbishment fund.

At our coffee morning on Saturday 4th March we had a stall with Fairtrade exhibits and samples of Fairtrade tea were given out. The morning raised £329 for church funds.

Future events:

Saturday 1st April at 6-8:30 pm Beetle Drive with sandwiches and scones.

Tuesday 11th April at 2:30 pm Monthly midweek Communion Service.

Both events at Market Street.

R Willock

Christian Women's Fellowship. The next meeting of the CWF will be an Easter Celebration and will take place on Wednesday 19th April at 7:30 pm. All are welcome.

D Zazi

Askam

The Sisterhood members had a pleasant surprise on 15th February for we had a visit by Mrs Chris Pearce who led them through some gentle exercises, which they all seemed to enjoy. The speaker for that meeting, Dr Jackson, was sadly unwell and not able to attend, so this was a complete change! I had no complaints so hopefully this means they were happy with the change.

Duddon Road Church is looking forward to working closely with the new Vicar, Rev Ruth Crossley, during the coming months.

We are to hold a Coffee Morning on Easter Saturday, 10 am-11:15 am - everyone welcome - lots of chocolate.

Dorothy Gleaves

Beacon Hill

The Banana Party on 4th March was a very enjoyable afternoon. With donations on the day and afterwards we raised £140.63 for The Leprosy Mission.

Our usual monthly coffee morning will be held on Thursday 27th April, 10 am-11:15 am, with stalls selling cakes, handmade cards, books and Fairtrade items.

Lilian Wood

Millom

The Lent Lunches are taking place each Thursday from 12noon to 1:30pm at Queen Street and we are grateful to Churches Together in Millom for their input and help. For £3 you can partake of a bowl of soup, bread, crackers, cheese, fruit and a mug of tea /coffee.

Proceeds are for a Middle East charity, Embrace. All welcome.

The annual Daffodil Tea for Marie Curie Cancer Care on 10th March raised a total of £320. Thanks to all who helped and those who came to support us.

The Lent Course started on 6th March for six weeks and once again is a joint effort between the churches in Millom.

Some of the ladies in the Craft and Chat group have started knitting scarves for the shoe boxes already and others continue to make blankets and hats for the premature baby units at Barrow and Whitehaven.

Numbers are down in the toddler groups as some now go to nursery school.

The Girls' Brigade are hoping to recruit more members between the ages of 4 and 14.

The Friday coffee mornings are kept busy and Debbie has managed to recruit some new helpers for the rota as some are no longer able to help due to illness.

We look forward to new ways of worship with Debbie as it is so easy to get "set in our ways" and there are many alternatives to the traditional type of service. Watch this space!

We wish all the readers a Blessed Easter.

Margaret Riley

Ramsden Street

Through personal donations and proceeds from our Lent lunch on March 1st, £120 has been sent to The Leprosy Mission.

FACTORS were busy on March 3rd working on their contribution to the Bible Stories Exhibition being held at Trinity.

Our Community Room looks nice and bright after being decorated.

Once again we were able to host Flashbacks and welcomed the children from four local junior schools. We very much appreciate the hard work that the team who put this programme together do on our behalf.

On Easter Sunday we will begin at 10:00am with an Easter breakfast followed by a Celebration Service at 11:00am.

Anne Stevenson

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 6th April and 20th April at 1.30 pm.

Ellen Powell

Kirkby-in-Furness

On Ash Wednesday we had our usual Coffee and Company and then this was followed by Lent Lunch. This was very well attended and we raised £105.05 for the Nicolas Lowe children's home in Argentina.

We had a new event in March which was our Spring Bulb and Marmalade event. Events are about raising our profile in the village and making people realise that the Methodist Church is alive and moving forward. Although we plan special events these are alongside our regular Sunday Services and our monthly Coffee and Company and midweek service. It is great to have Deacon Debbie working alongside us to encourage fellowship and friendship.

As we move into April we look forward to Easter, remembering Christ's death on Good Friday but also his resurrection to new life on Easter Sunday. This year we are celebrating this with Easter breakfast at 8:30am in which all denominations are invited to join us and then our Easter Service with Communion at 10:30am.

Mary Wilkinson

Vickerstown

There will be a coffee morning at Vickerstown on Saturday April 8th from 10am until about 11:30 with the usual stalls - homemade cakes, Fairtrade and books/bric-à-brac/bring and buy. All welcome. For those who like to plan well in advance, May's coffee morning will be on Saturday 13th.

Our February coffee morning, which had a particular emphasis on Fairtrade as it (nearly) fell in Fairtrade fortnight, raised a total of £170 including some donations given specifically in support of Fairtrade. This will be split evenly between the Fairtrade Foundation, who support and promote Fairtrade across the world, and the Cumbria District appeal for the Nicolas Lowe Children's Home in Argentina - £85 for each charity.

The Food & Fellowship group enjoyed pancakes at its February meeting, though it was officially a week early, and gave full marks to Jennet for her help in making them (though she didn't join me in actually tossing the pancakes). This group is currently raising money for St. Mary's Hospice in memory of Joan Roberts, who very much enjoyed the Food & Fellowship gatherings and was supported - with her daughter - by the 'Hospice at Home' service in her last few weeks.

Karen Edmondson



**Beetle Drive with Raffle
and refreshments of
Sandwiches and Scones**

**6 - 8.30 pm on Saturday April 1st
Dalton Community Church, Market Street**

For catering purposes, please let us know if you are coming
(tel Ron/Denice on 465061)

**No fixed charge but donations appreciated
for our Church Refurbishment Fund**

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.urc.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