



Newslink

SOUTH WEST CUMBRIA UNITED AREA

Charity Registration Number 1141404

Methodist and United Reformed Churches Working Together

The Minister Writes



Dear Friends

It was back in 1985 that the Methodist Church confirmed the call God had given me to serve him as a minister in his Church. At that time there was only one church that I knew really well. Although I'd visited quite a few other congregations as their preacher, Chacewater Methodist Church in the Truro Circuit of the Cornwall District was home. Not for a moment did it occur to me that the journey undertaken by this member of Mr. Wesley's band of

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travelling preachers would include serving some twenty-one congregations as their minister and overseeing a further eighteen as their superintendent.

The Christian churches in these islands have lived, worked and witnessed during these past thirty years or so against a background of rapid and accelerating change. Just as a single example, to minister in 2014 without the benefit of an internet connection and an email address would feel rather like working with one hand tied behind my back. Yet as a probationer minister I'd barely heard of either, and certainly didn't have access to them. Some changes have given us privileges undreamed of by previous generations; others, frankly, have felt like steps backward. The Christian's task - today as always - is first to discern where is God is leading us by the Holy Spirit and then faithfully and obediently to follow.

One of the joyful changes I've witnessed

Area Website www.swcumbriaunitedarea.urc.org.uk

as I've travelled from Cambridgeshire to Buckinghamshire, then on to Derbyshire and more recently to Cumbria has been an explosion of new hymns and worship songs. It might seem a little ironic, then, for me to quote some words which vanished from Methodism's stock with the publication of that gem of a book 'Singing the Faith'. Thankfully we're still reminded in the pages of 'Rejoice and Sing' that we belong to the God 'by whom all change is wrought' but 'in whom no change is known'. So constantly as new challenges arise we must ask ourselves in each fresh situation what action or attitude represents faithfulness to the God who 'is the same yesterday and today and forever'. As the President of the Methodist Conference and other leaders have said in a response to the government's consultation on 'Equal Civil Marriage', "We would not wish to find ourselves counter-cultural merely by default."

Rita's and my next change, just weeks after you read this, will see us disappearing from the life of the United Area, at least for a year. I'm delighted to have a very gifted successor, and have no wish to risk hindering the new thing our Lord will do through her among our congregations. Many people have suggested that I'll be retiring, but 53 seems like a very early age at which to settle down in the rocking chair, and I never was drawn to smoking a pipe anyway. God has yet to make it clear what part I'll be playing in the work of his kingdom. Even so, as I look at the Blackpool Tower out of my new living room window I'm sure I'll be reminded that this corner of the world was once in the same county, so as a resident of 'Lancashire across the water' I'll claim for my own those words first published in 'Lancashire Sunday School Songs' - "This, this is the God we adore... we'll praise him for all that is past, and trust him for all that's to come."

Every blessing,

Martin

REGIONAL & NATIONAL WEBSITES

District: www.cumbriamethodists.org.uk

North West Synod: www.nwsynod.org.uk

Connexional: www.methodist.org.uk

National: www.urc.org.uk

September issue No 94 of *Newslink* will be published at the end of August. Please send all material to reach Lilian Wood, 89 Risedale Road, Barrow, LA13 9QY by Sunday August 10th. Items can also be passed on by ☎ **01229 825986** or ✉ lilian.wood4@gmail.com

Thanks

We would like to thank everyone in the United Area for your friendship and fellowship over the many years we have been here. People are asking when we are actually going; our last Sunday will be August 17th. We go on tour in Devon with the National Methodist Youth Brass Band from 18th-24th, and then do the final packing on the Bank Holiday Monday ready to move on Tuesday, August 26th. Our address will be 2 Green Walk, Earby, Lancashire, BB18 6XZ and the phone number is 01282 843064. We have changed to a web-based email address too:

edmola11@yahoo.co.uk (though the old one does still work at the moment). Our welcome service is to be at St Andrew's church in Barnoldswick (postcode BB18 5BP) on Saturday, September 6th at 2:30 p.m. We don't really expect anyone from the United Area to make the trip that day, but one or two folk have said that they might, so we would like to invite anyone who does to lunch at the new manse between 12 and 1:30 - please let us know if you want to take up the offer.

David and Hazel Edmondson

The Area's ministers are always grateful to be told of people who might value a visit - especially if they are ill, if they have suffered a loss, or if something unexpected has happened. In this day and age, those really valuable people who seemed to know everything there was to know about everyone connected with their church (and rang us if anything was wrong) are something of a rarity, and we are finding that on occasions we don't know something that people expect us to be aware of. If you know of someone we need to be calling on, do please pick up the phone and let your minister know (or any other minister if yours happens not to be available). Remember that from September Jennet will have pastoral charge of Trinity, Hartington St and Vickerstown. Ron will be looking after Dalton Community Church, Urswick, Ramsden St, Beacon Hill and Roose. Rachel will have responsibility for Millom, Broughton, Kirkby and Askam. We'd far rather be told 10 times about something than not at all. It is also sometimes helpful to be prompted if a visit is expected but hasn't happened. We are only human! Thanks.

The Area Staff

Network

The Summer Effort will take place at Beacon Hill on Wednesday July 9th at 7:30 p.m. when the Steelworks Brass Band will perform. Tickets priced £3 are available in the churches or pay at the door.

Elaine Pears

United Area Camp

As you know, the Urswick Scout camp site has been booked for our fourth United Area camp for the weekend of July 18th to 20th. The cost remains at £25 per adult, £10 per child or £60 per family. Accommodation is either in your own tent or in the dormitory bunks. Please contact me for a booking form on 474601 or edmola11@yahoo.co.uk if you would like to come for the whole weekend - it's not too late to book in now. As in previous years, we particularly welcome day visitors on the Saturday - please let me know if you are able to join us for lunch and/or the barbecue.

The theme for the weekend is "Seeking and Finding" and the detailed programme is as follows:

Friday 18th July

- 5:00 (onwards): Arrive
- 6:30 Evening Meal
- 7:30 *What are we looking for?*
- 9:00 Drinks
- 9:30 Bedtime bible story
- 11:00 Night prayer

Saturday 19th July

- 8:00 Breakfast
- 9:00 Morning worship
- 9:10 *"Ask and it shall be given unto you?"* - Prayer
- 10:15 Tea/Coffee
- 10:45 *"Seek and you shall find"* - Study
- 12:15 Lunch
- 1:30 *"I spy with my little eye...."* (on the shore and in the woods)
- 3:30 Return to camp site
- 4:00 *"Knock and the door will be opened unto you"* - Barriers
- 6:00 BBQ
- 7:00 Camp Fire
- 8:00 *Alleluia!* - Joy
- 9:00 Drinks
- 9:30 Bedtime bible story
- 11:00 Night prayer

Sunday 20th July

- 8:00 Breakfast

We will join Urswick Parish Church for morning worship (it was early last year) and do any final preparation/concluding reflection necessary.

- 12:45: Lunch

- 2:00: Leave

Friends who have previously visited us will be relieved to hear that the track up to the campsite has been improved somewhat since last year, or you can park on the road at the bottom and do the half mile up on foot.

David Edmondson

Farewell And Welcome Services

The farewell service for Martin and Rita Williams and David and Hazel Edmondson will be held on Sunday 3rd August at 6 pm at Trinity.

The welcome service for Jennet McLeod will be held at Trinity on Saturday 30th August at 4 pm followed by a faith tea.

Flashbacks... To Times With Jesus

Advance notice that we will be running Flashbacks at Trinity during the week beginning October 13th. We shall (of course!) be looking for helpers nearer the time so look out for news in the autumn for which morning and afternoon sessions will actually be used. If you have never helped with Flashbacks before but would like to know more, please get in touch with me.

Ann Hufton

Local Preachers/worship Leaders

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

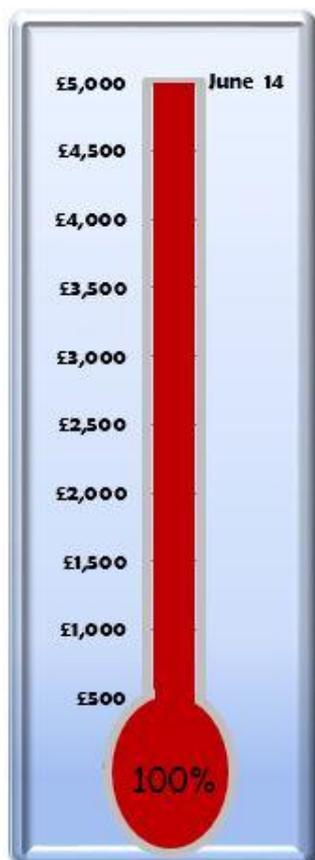
LP/WL Development:

There is one meeting remaining of the series 'Carrying theology forward', looking at hymns/ words in Singing the Faith relating to Father, Son and Holy Spirit:

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

The meeting will commence at 7 pm and everyone is invited to attend.

Janet Ladds



Christian Aid Community Partnership

Thanks to Vickerstown Brownies for raising money for the Afghanistan appeal through a coffee evening, and to Askam for the £120 raised by their coffee morning. We have now reached our £5,000 target. Many thanks to everyone who has contributed to this wonderful effort. At the Area meeting on 12 June it was agreed that we should support another project, dealing with maternal and child health in Kenya. This requires us to raise a further £5,000 by June 2016, which will attract EU funding of £15,000. If people continue to show the same enthusiasm this target should be achievable. Keep up the good work!

Hazel Edmondson

Abbot Hall Weekend June 6/7/8th

On Friday ten of us from the United Area met at Abbot Hall for a weekend entitled "Discovering Pentecost". There was also a large group of fifty from a Bury church, a group of walkers from Germany and several others so the hotel was quite full. After settling in to our various rooms we met for our evening dinner at 6.30 (the larger group had to wait until 7:30!!) and had our first session led by Rev. David Edmondson. The topic was "Discovery Church". For those in the Area who aren't familiar with this it is a Christ-centred family-oriented activity aimed at all ages which normally consists of creative crafts, a Bible story, singing and then a simple meal where everyone sits together and enjoys the hospitality at the host church. Run on parallel lines to "Messy Church".

After a good night's sleep and a quite substantial breakfast we had our next session. Two ladies joined us for the day and we also welcomed Mike Little, the United Area's children and families worker who runs activities at Hartington Street and Neville Street. We indulged in various craft activities which caused some friendly rivalry and some trepidation in the three groups each consisting of four participants. Our endeavours resulted in a mixture of amazement and astonishment - remembering that some of us are past the first flush of youth (even if we are "young at heart") - so lunch was a welcome distraction for some of us. Having said that it was an interesting experience and very thought provoking. The inclement weather meant that our outing to Grange ended up at a coffee shop and it must have been the quietest afternoon in Grange as there weren't many people passing the cafe window for us to observe. Another lovely dinner was followed by a social gathering led by Rev. and Mrs Wilson.

Sunday breakfast was followed by our final discussion and preparation for worship. We had a very moving communion service led by David and several of the group participated by reading the lessons. After a delicious and substantial lunch we went our different ways home or in the case of seven a rushed journey to Barrow park for a Pentecost event.

We are very grateful to Hazel Edmondson who organised the weekend as usual. Thanks Hazel for all the hard work.

Margaret Riley

Community Outreach Group

The COG coffee morning held at Market Street, Dalton on 14th June raised £230. Thank you to everyone who supported and helped in any way.

Daphne Watkinson

Cumbria Area Day

Every two years the URC churches in Cumbria come together for a time of fun and fellowship. This year the Cumbria Area Day is to be at Carver United Reformed Church in Windermere on Saturday August 2nd (see poster on page 13 for more details of the event). As we are a United Area, anyone from our 13 churches can attend whether URC or Methodist - you just need to reply to Judith Wood (details on poster) to say you are going by July 13th.

It is about 10-15 minutes walk from Windermere Station to the church or there is a reasonable bus service. But a few cars will probably be going so get in touch with me if you don't have transport but would like to go.

Ann Hufton

Knitted Bible

This exhibition of 33 of the best known Bible stories will be at Trinity Church Centre from 5th to 15th July from 10:00 am until 4:00 pm daily (Sunday from 12 noon until 4:00 pm). Refreshments will be available. We would welcome any offers of help in the kitchen or in welcoming people to the exhibition; please phone 584602.

Brian Whittaker

First Tuesday Ladies

We will meet at 59 Croslands Park at 7:30 pm on Tuesday 8th July to share food and fellowship. There will be no meeting in August.

Janet Ladds



Green Tip

This idea comes from Irene Vernon, and is a way to encourage birds to visit your garden.

Half fill a rectangular washing up bowl with small stones or pieces of pebble dashing. Push the stones almost up to the height of the bowl at one end, to make a bank, then fill the bowl with water. Small birds can stand on the bank and drink or bathe, while larger birds can enjoy themselves in the deep end.

If anyone else has any ideas we could include here please let me know. I would be particularly interested in ways to help wildlife in the garden or in green household hints, but any ideas will be welcome.

Lilian Wood

Individual Churches

Trinity

Monthly Coffee Morning - Saturday 5th July, 10:00 - 11:30 am. sponsored by Sue Millard.
Knitted Bible Exhibition - 5th - 15th July, 10:00 am. - 4:00 pm. daily (Sun 12noon - 4:00pm.)

Coffee Afternoon - Wednesday 16th July, 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. sponsored by Muriel.

Monthly Coffee Morning - Saturday 2nd August, 10:00 - 11:30a.m. sponsored by Ella & Wendy.

Fruit Frolic - Friday 15th August, 3:00 - 5:00 p.m.

Family News

On Sunday 11th May Janet baptised Emilia Grace Jefferson - Sandra Proctor's granddaughter. Emilia brought her Mum Helen and Dad Stephen as well as many family and friends. It was a very happy and meaningful service which we hope everyone enjoyed.

On Sunday 8th June Martin baptised William Fredrick Smith and Lucas Harry Brunton. Both boys brought lots of family and friends to be part of their big day, so there was a very full church, and a very happy service. We hope to see them again at some time.

On a sad note we have to report the sudden death of Catherine Smith, who had a massive stroke on 26th May and died on Tuesday 27th. Catherine was a faithful member who attended regularly until she could no longer drive, had to give up her home and finally go into a nursing home. Our thoughts and prayers are with the family - Moira, Albert and grandchildren Ann and Alex.

Margaret Manuell

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

4/07	Beacon Hill	'T'
11/07	Hartington St	'U'
18/07	Roose	'V'
25/07	Ramsden St	'W'
2/08	Urswick	'Y'
9/08	Dalton	'CTiB'
16/08	Askam	'A'
23/08	Kirkby	'B'
30/08	Broughton	'C'

Janet Ladds

Hartington Street

All are welcome to our mid week Fellowship meetings:

You are invited to join us for our Tea Club, which starts at 4:00 pm & ends around 5:30 pm on alternate Thursdays. Tea is served at 4:00 pm. It's a great opportunity to enjoy fellowship over a light meal, and listen to a guest speaker, a lovely gentle way to introduce new people to the church family (or re-introduce those who've been away for a while). More details from Val & Jim (831035). All are welcome! Date: July 10th - speaker to be arranged.

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

Bible Study: Thursday at 4:00 pm led by Rev Martin Williams. Date: July 3rd.

Ellen Powell

Notes from the Hub:

Our groups continue much the same. Parent & Toddlers has fluctuating numbers but it is always a good session. At the after school club X-Cite we have a few new faces on the back of our session up on the play park which is great and all children are enjoying it! Chat N Play is always a busy morning which is fabulous in which we discussed the morality behind abortion at one of the sessions plus how the view is from the church's perspective. Discovery Church is always a great session albeit a little low in numbers. We may alter our session day/time in September if this fits in better with the community's timetables. By the time you read this the Bibleworld visit will be history, and will hopefully have made a big impact. The garden party will have taken place, too, and the summer holidays will be almost upon us.

Please continue to pray for all our regular groups. May they continue to develop and flourish.

Pray that all who came to our garden party will come to feel part of the church family.

Pray for our family worship services on the 27th July and 24th August. That whoever comes can engage with God in a fresh new way and they see that Christ is at the heart of our worship.

Have a great summer everyone!!

Mike Little

Beacon Hill

On Saturday 2nd August we will be commemorating the centenary of the start of the First World War. The church will be open for quiet prayer and reflection from 10 am to 12 noon and there will be a display of memorabilia. Coffee will be available.

All are welcome.

Elaine Pears

Askam

Thanks to everyone who supported the soup lunch for the Christian Aid Partnership - especially the travellers who were on their way home from the Kirkby plant sale. £45.00 was raised for the CA Partnership, and along with money from the sale of CA Quiz sheets, Count your blessings challenge and a donation from Sisterhood - this totalled £120.00.

Sadly due to the weather the Askam Parade stall was a wash out, but the Church toilets were still available to any brave souls who ventured out that afternoon.

The Askam Church Garden party will take place on Saturday, 12th July, at 2:00 - 4:00 p.m. Afternoon tea will be served and there will be an opportunity to browse our stalls. Tickets will be available at all the Churches before the event. We look forward to seeing you there, you will be very welcome, as will the sunshine on that day.

Dorothy Gleaves

Kirkby-in-Furness

We are delighted to announce that the total from our Plant and Produce Sale has now reached £930. Since then we have had some excellent growing weather with plenty of sun and just enough rain to keep all those new plants happy and thriving.

Donations of £30 from the June coffee morning were sent to the special collection for the work the Methodist Church in Cumbria is doing in Argentina in partnership with Methodist churches there.

Coffee and Company will be as usual on the first Wednesday in each month from 9:45 to 11:30am on Wednesday 2nd July and Wednesday 6th August.

Our annual Summer Songs of Praise will be on Sunday 13th July at 6pm led by Rachel Williams. A warm invitation is extended to all for this informal service with plenty of favourite hymns both old and new. Refreshments will be served afterwards.

On Saturday 2nd August the wedding of Elizabeth Sheldon and Richard Bullett will take place at the chapel at 3:30pm and the service will be taken by David Edmondson.

We are pleased to welcome the Horticultural Society for their annual show on Saturday August 9th.

Janet Sheldon

Broughton

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

Beryl Hollowell

Ramsden Street

We were pleased that we were able to deliver and collect Christian Aid envelopes to our usual streets - raising just a little more than last year.

The Ascension Day service, led by Ron at Ramsden Street, was very much appreciated by the (small) congregation.

The church was full to capacity for the concert by the New Abbey Singers on June 7th. Everyone enjoyed the programme and the refreshments afterwards.

On Wednesday July 9th a group of us will be going to visit the Bible Stories Exhibition at Trinity and will stay for Afternoon Tea. FACTORS will be visiting the exhibition on Friday July 11th.

A Tea and Chat afternoon will be held on Wednesday August 13th between 2 & 4pm. There will be various stalls and Afternoon Tea will be provided. Tickets will be available in July.

Anne Stevenson

Vickerstown

On Sea Sunday, July 6th, we will not have a service at Vickerstown in the morning. Instead we will share along with the congregation from St Mary's in a united service at St John's, Barrow Island at 10:00 a.m. to celebrate the occasion.

Our annual afternoon tea will be at 3:00 for 3:30 on Saturday, July 12th. Tickets are £3-50 and are now available, or let us know (474601) you are coming and pay on the day.

Joan Milburn and friends will be holding a fundraising event for Guide Dogs for the Blind and the Barrow Blind Society at Vickerstown from 10:00 till 3:00 on Saturday, July 19th. Refreshments will be available including soup at lunchtime.

Messy Church continues ecumenically at St Mary's; it has now settled on the third Sunday in the month from 3 to 5 p.m. On July 20th the theme is Moses and on August 17th it will be Joshua.

Our regular monthly coffee morning will be from 10:00 on Saturday, August 16th with the usual range of stalls including the opportunity to stock up on Fairtrade items. Karen has agreed to deal with any bookings for the church once we have left, so please contact her on 474601.

Hazel Edmondson

Urswick

Our annual Songs of Praise will be held on July 13th at 6 pm, on the lawn if fine and in the Parish church if wet. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Richard Wood

Millom

We welcomed a new member to Queen Street in May - David Hatton - in a well-attended service led by our minister Rachel. This was followed by a Faith lunch. During the half-term holiday members of the Girls' Brigade with their leaders Teresa and Hayley went to Walney for a day out which they all enjoyed. Thanks to David for his involvement in this event.

Quite a number of our members went with our Salvation Army friends to Lakeside on 1st June for "Praise on the Lake". A coachload left Millom to join with friends from the Ulverston and Grange areas for this annual fellowship.

Because of holidays we have nothing extra planned for July except the outing to Swarthmoor Hall on the 2nd which we think will be very interesting.

We look forward to the Barbecue after the morning service on 10th August. Donations from this event will go to Lebone House.

The ladies from the Craft Class went to Cambridge House for dinner on 19th June (a quarterly treat!) Several of the ladies are busy crocheting squares for Blind Veterans along with groups all over the country. The aim is to crochet or knit enough squares to cover a tank at the Shoreham Air Show at the end of August then they will be made into blankets for orphans in Africa.

The regular Friday coffee mornings will continue during the summer and as always we welcome any visitors who might be in the area.

We still worship with the Salvation Army on Sunday evenings and again a welcome is extended to all who wish to join at the regular time of 5:30 p.m.

We send our best wishes to Martin, Rita, David and Hazel who are leaving us shortly and hopefully a few of us will be at the special "farewell" service at Trinity on 3rd August.

Margaret Riley

Dalton

Our May coffee morning raised £322 for church funds. Thanks to all who helped and supported it.

R Willock

To commemorate the start of World War 1, the Market Street Church will be open between 10am and 12 noon on Monday 4th August for reflection and prayer.

Cumbria Area Day 2014

Discussions, crafts,
shawls, Bible time,
flashbacks, walks,
worship, fellowship.



Saturday 2nd August

10.30am-4pm

Refreshments served from 10am

Carver United Reformed Church, Windermere.

All welcome

Please contact Judith Woods on 01229 861732 or
judith_andrew@btinternet.com to indicate numbers by July 13th.

LIGHTS OUT

“The lamps are going out all over Europe, we shall not see them lit again in our lifetime”



Sir Edward Grey, Foreign Secretary, uttered these words on the eve of Britain officially entering the First World War. Exactly 100 years later the Royal British Legion are inviting millions of individuals, households and companies to join together in a national moment of reflection.

They are encouraging everyone in the UK to turn off their lights between 10pm and 11pm on 4 August 2014 - leaving only a single light or candle for this symbolic act of reflection and hope. On that night The Royal British Legion will remember more than a million Commonwealth Service personnel who lost their lives in the First World War. They hope to light one million candles across the UK to remember each and every one of those Service men and women who gave their lives in the war

to end all wars. They invite us to join with them to create a unique national moment for the United Kingdom and The Royal British Legion.

A limited edition Centenary candle will be available from M&S stores from 4 July 2014 for £4, with all profit going to The Royal British Legion.

Regular Sunday Services

You are welcome at any of these churches at the following times:

Askam	(Duddon Road) 9:30 am
Beacon Hill	(Holyoake Avenue, Barrow) 10:00 am & 6:00pm
Broughton	(Princes Street) 9:30 am
Dalton Methodist	(Wellington Street) 10:30 am
Dalton URC	(Market Street) 10:30 am
Hartington Street	Barrow 10:30 am
Kirkby	(Marshside) 10:30 am (on 1st, 3rd & 4th Sundays) (6pm on 2nd Sunday) (St Cuthberts 10 am on 5th Sunday in any month)
Millom	(Queen Street) 11:00 am
Ramsden Street	Barrow 11:00 am (except 1st Sunday, 10:30am)
Roose	(North Row, Barrow) 11:00 am
Trinity Church Centre	(Warwick Street, Barrow) 10:30 am & 6:30pm
Urswick	(Tarn Close) 10:45 am (2nd, 4th & 5th Sundays)
Vickerstown	(Warren Street) 11:00 am

For times of the evening services, special services and postcodes, please ask one of the church members, or look at our website:

www.swcumbriaunitedarea.urch.org.uk

Regular Coffee Mornings

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

Broughton -	Tuesdays from	10:00 till 11:30
Roose -	Thursdays from	9:30 till 10:45
Millom -	Fridays from	9:30 till 10:30
Ramsden St. -	Fridays from	10:30 till 12:00
Askam -	Saturdays from	10:00 till 11:30



Dalton - Tea and Chat every Monday at Wellington Street from 10:00 to 11:30
Hartington St - Care & Share Fellowship & Knit & Natter every Tuesday from 10:00 to 11:30