



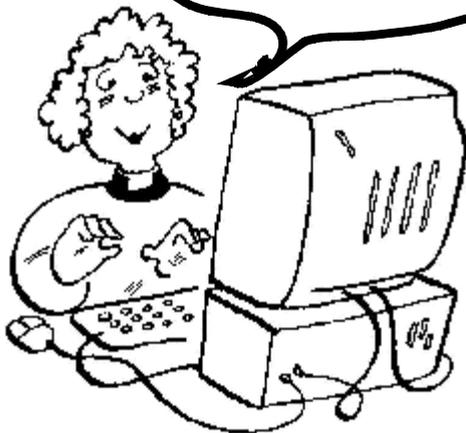
Newslink

SOUTH WEST CUMBRIA UNITED AREA

Charity Registration Number 1141404

Methodist and United Reformed Churches Working Together

The Minister Writes



I'm sure none of us can help but be shocked by the realisation that teenagers, both boys and girls, are attempting to leave the United Kingdom - and other western nations - to join the extremist group, Isis. Rather than simply try to stop them from travelling by seizing their passports, surely we should be doing our utmost to address the reasons why they feel led to make such a choice in the first place? Above all, I believe, what is happening reveals the fundamental human need to be listened to, to be valued, to believe that we MATTER and that our lives have a purpose. If young people appear to see no other legitimate way of finding these

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things, should we be surprised that they are persuaded by those voices that lure them with promises of glory. At the same time, there are many people, maybe even amongst your own neighbours, who seek through gambling, alcohol, drugs - or consumerism - freedom from all in today's culture that crushes them and prevents them from experiencing life to the full, only to find instead that they become prisoners of addiction or dissatisfaction. As Jesus approached Jerusalem he looked on the people and saw that they were 'harassed and helpless'. And he enabled them to overcome their helplessness by bringing healing and hope through the outworking of God's love. He made them see that they mattered - to the extent that he went to the Cross for them - and in doing so gave them the confidence to become the people God desired them to be. Where the church has often worked on a model that says 'convert and retain', Jesus used the principal 'transform and release'. Transformation and release are clearly

Area Website www.swcumbriaunitedarea.urch.org.uk

what those young people are seeking. Transformation and release are clearly what those in our own communities are seeking. Can we, as the body of Christ here and now, offer people a place where they - and we - can find the freedom and transformation that will enable us all, as individuals, as communities, as nations, truly to flourish as God intends?
Shalom,

Jennet

Thanks

A big 'Thank You' to those who gave of their time and energy to help at the URC Synod at Trinity on Saturday 14th March. The day was a great success and all said they felt really welcome and enjoyed the refreshments and the warmth and comfort of the premises. We've had our trial run so now we know what to do when the Methodist District Synod meets at Trinity in September.

Margaret Manwell

Fairtrade Fortnight

During these 2 weeks the churches in the Area have been awash with cake, coffee and Fairtrade Spirit! Thank you very much to all who helped out and donated so generously in our fundraising efforts for The Fairtrade Foundation. We raised an incredible £535.59 altogether, as well as providing opportunities for people to get together and enjoy a good time.

I am very pleased to see so much enthusiasm for Fairtrade in the Area and hope to continue fundraising and promoting Fairtrade, following in the footsteps of David Edmondson.

Jasmine Aldred

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

May issue No 101 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 5th. Items can also be passed on by

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

Flashbacks...to times with Jesus

Almost 130 children from the Dalton primary schools came to the last running of Flashbacks. The children first of all enthusiastically joined in with making a bead wristband which gives them an overview of Jesus' life, and then other crafts and games which focus on more specific events in Jesus' life. One of the highlights is a telling of the story of the wedding at Cana. Two children from the class are 'married', the refreshments are our wedding feast and then we do an Israeli type dance to end. Thanks to everyone who was involved in making Flashbacks successful again.

It's likely we will run Flashbacks again in the Autumn - if you would like to engage with some lively 8 and 9 years old by being on our helpers team (no particular experience needed), please ask me for more information.

Ann Hufton

First Tuesday Ladies

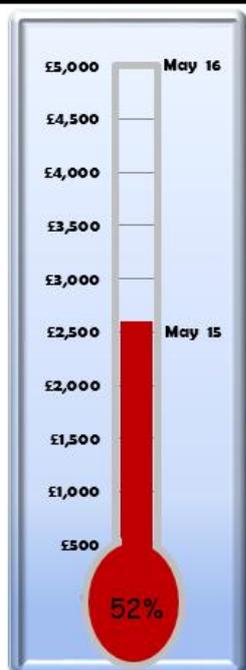
There will be no meeting in April. We will next meet on Tuesday 5th May at 7:30 pm at 60 Victoria Avenue for a time of Bible study, prayer and fellowship.

Janet Ladds

Network

This year's Easter Offering service will be held at Vickerstown on Sunday April 26th at 6 pm. The theme of the service is "The leaves of the tree". The speaker and leader on this occasion will be Rev Jennet McLeod. Everyone is welcome to come and celebrate our church's mission in the world.

Elaine Pears



Christian Aid Community Partnership

Thank you to Ramsden Street for adding the proceeds of their Lent lunch to our total, which now stands at £2601.24.

If anyone is planning any fundraising events please let me know.

Lilian Wood

Holy Week Services

Monday 30th March at 7 pm at Market Street, Dalton.

Tuesday 31st March at 7 pm at Wellington Street, Dalton.

Maundy Thursday Area service at 7 pm at Hartington Street.

Good Friday service for the Barrow Free Churches at 10:45 am at the Baptist Church, Abbey Road.

There will be no Churches Together in Barrow Good Friday evening service.

Good Friday Walk of Witness around Millom and Haverigg starting at 10 am at St Luke's, Haverigg including a Good Friday Service in the Methodist Church at 11:15 am.

Good Friday at 3 pm at Askam.

Passion Play

Riding Lights Theatre Company will perform their passion play 'Inheritance' at the Victoria Hall, Grange-over-Sands on Saturday 4th April, the day before Easter Day. The performance will begin at 7:30 pm. Tickets: £7 (£3.50 for under 16s).

Contact: 01539 533082 www.ridinglights.org/inheritance

A trailer can be downloaded at: <https://vimeo.com/88344893>

This is the last date in their tour, and the only performance in the Cumbria/Lancaster area.

Keswick Convention

This year's theme for the Keswick Convention is 'The whole of life for Christ'. It has been suggested that we should attend on Wednesday 29th July, when the Keswick Lecture will be given by Michael Ramsden, Director of the Oxford Centre for Christian Apologetics. There will also be an opportunity to visit the Earthworks Mission Exhibition, Convention bookstall etc, and to join one of the afternoon sessions on St Mark's Gospel.

If there is enough interest we will organise a coach; if you would like to attend please let me know by email lilian.wood4@gmail.com or telephone 825986.

Lilian Wood

The Digital Inclusion Project has come to SWCUA

Funding has been obtained for this exciting project. A survey has shown that only 51% of Methodists in Cumbria use computers compared to 80% of the general public.

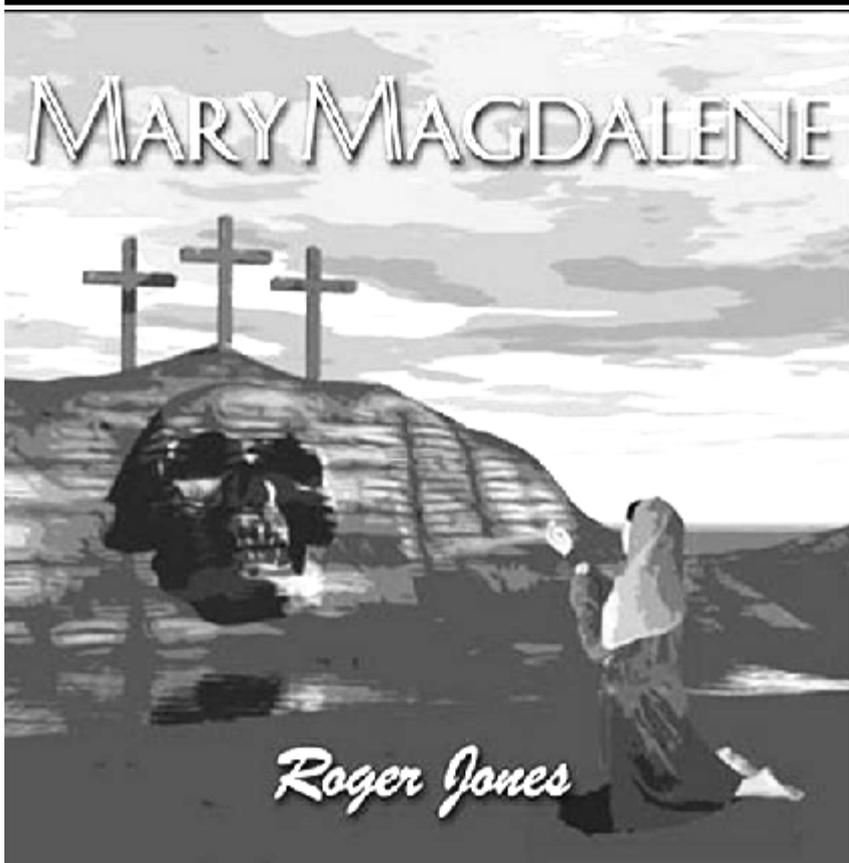
The project is designed to give help and support to use computers (or your own device) at an event in your own church during March and April.

To make the most of the project while it is in our area I need volunteers to work alongside me and for churches to contact me with events e.g. coffee mornings where the project can be available for people to use. You do not need to be a computer genius to volunteer to help; if you use the internet regularly and can send and receive emails you will have enough technical skill.

We have a laptop, a tablet and WiFi equipment giving access to the internet until the 25th April. See it on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/cumbriadiginclude?ref=hl> and watch out for it coming to an event near you.

Contact me on tel 889588 or email marywilkinson1@aol.com

Mary Wilkinson



FURNESS CHURCHES UNITED CHOIR present

‘MARY MAGDALENE’

by Roger Jones

Friday 24th April - 7:30pm
St Mark's Church,
Buckleuch Street,
(off Rawlinson Street)
Barrow-in-Furness, Cumbria

Individual Churches

Trinity

Saturday 18th April from 3 pm until approx 5 pm - "Bun Banter". For this event we are delighted to welcome Margaret Harrison and friends to provide some musical entertainment. Tickets are £3.50 and can be obtained by contacting Norma on 01229 584602. Your support will be appreciated.

Brian Whittaker

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.

5/04	Dalton	'I'
12/04	Askam	'J'
19/04	Kirkby	'K'
26/04	Broughton	'L'

Janet Ladds

Beacon Hill

We are very pleased to report that following a recent assessment visit Beacon Hill has been awarded Eco-congregation status.

Our special Fairtrade coffee morning on 7th March was well attended, and we were pleased to see friends from other churches. The cake and handmade card stalls and the Fairtrade goods table were well supported and the chocolate tombola also proved popular (we always make sure everyone wins something). We raised £200 for the Fairtrade Foundation.

Our usual monthly coffee morning will be held on Thursday 30th April, 10 am-11:15 am, with stalls selling cakes, handmade cards, books and Fairtrade items.

On Saturday 9th May between 3 pm and 5 pm we will present the Beacon Hill version of 'Tea at the Ritz', our annual event in aid of The Leprosy Mission. As usual we ask everyone attending to dress appropriately for the occasion (hats and fascinators are always much in evidence). Please note that because of the popularity of this event in previous years it is essential that you notify me if you wish to attend (email lilian.wood4@gmail.com telephone number 825986).

Lilian Wood

Dalton

In February Dalton became a Fairtrade Town in its own right.

At our church coffee morning on Saturday 7th March we had a Fairtrade stall with samples of Fairtrade goods and some tasters of banana bread and crunchy banana squares made from Fairtrade recipes and Ann showed a video of some of the work Fairtrade does. The coffee morning raised £322 for church funds, £50 of which was donated to The Fairtrade Foundation.

The Bible Society coffee morning raised £272-25 for Bible Society work. Thanks to all who helped and supported both events.

R Willock

Christian Women's Fellowship: the next meeting of the CWF will be on Wednesday 15th April at 7:30 pm. Yvonne Blackley will be the speaker on that evening. All are welcome.

D Zazi.

Ramsden Street

We now have some centenary quiz sheets and also some centenary pens for sale at £1. A small group is working on a banner and some display posters are gradually appearing around the church.

FACTORS now have their own page on our website and will provide the information themselves.

The Lent lunch on March 4th was a simple meal and the profit of £40 has been donated to the United Area Christian Aid project.

The coffee morning on March 6th raised £35 for the Fairtrade Foundation.

Our 2nd centenary event will be on Friday April 24th when the children from Greengate Junior School will be singing songs from the decades for us at 10:30am. This means that our usual Friday drop in Coffee morning will have to be held in the church. Everyone is very welcome.

Anne Stevenson

Vickerstown

We were delighted to have over 40 people at our Fairtrade Fortnight coffee morning on February 28th, which raised £130 in total of which half (£65) will be given to the Fairtrade Foundation to support their work encouraging the growth of the Fairtrade movement.

Those attending also spent over £40 on Fairtrade goods from our stall (stocked from local shops). Four products - three types of chocolate plus cereal bars - were available for free tasting and when these were taken round the tables almost everyone tried the samples, with several then coming to buy the products as they had liked them so much! There was also a display up giving some information on the benefits of Fairtrade and showing the stories of several producers in developing countries who are helped by Fairtrade.

Karen Edmondson

Askam

Askam Sisterhood this year celebrates 100 years since it was formed in 1915. To commemorate this, the Sisterhood are to have a big party on Wednesday 13th May. We are planning to spend the afternoon with music and reminiscences.

As mentioned briefly in the March issue of Newslink, 2015 is the also the 150th anniversary of the commencement of building on Ireleth Marsh which subsequently became the settlement of Askam. This was the foundations of the Ironworks and workers cottages were laid in April 1865. Within 5 years of this date two Methodist chapels had been built and another one would be built in 1871 - United Methodists - which is now the Rankin Hall. Also in 1865 St. Peter's was built, which is in complete contrast to this century when churches and chapels are closing almost as fast as the Victorians were building them then.

Mrs. Valerie Hall became a member of Duddon Road Church in October last year. We have also had two new ladies moved into Askam, who are now worshipping with us. All three ladies have joined Sisterhood and are keen to be involved with the life of the Church. The Armchair Exercise Class, now renamed The Chair based class, is meeting weekly, formerly fortnightly, and has a steady attendance. Of the 18 members, the youngest has MS, one lady is in a wheelchair, one with severe arthritis, and the others with age related problems. Our new leader, Mrs. Christine Pearce, has a wonderful way of encouraging the members to do more each meeting. I still get inquiries about the class from the article on the Askam and Dalton Community Page. Thank you Evening Mail for this service.

A recent Quiet Day run by Rachel Williams was attended by 8 people, throughout the 4 hours, and was very favourably received. We thank Rachel for her hard work for Askam so far, and know she will encourage us and challenge us in our Christian faith and work. We will start the weekly Coffee Mornings on Easter Saturday, from 10:00 - 11:30 a.m. On 11th April the Coffee Morning will be for Network funds.

We plan to have our Annual Garden Party on Saturday 20th June. The public toilets in Askam have been not in use for a long time now, and this year the building was completely demolished. We will again open Church toilets for the public use on the Askam Carnival Parade Day, as this has been valued in the past.

Dorothy Gleaves

Hartington Street

The series of Bible studies which began in Lent will continue fortnightly on Monday evenings till May and then from 19th May will continue as a regular study meeting on Tuesday evenings fortnightly. The Thursday series will continue fortnightly, starting at 1:45 pm with refreshments and finishing at 3 pm.

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.

Ellen Powell

Kirkby-in-Furness

We were very well supported at our Fairtrade Coffee Morning on Wednesday 4th March. As well as serving our usual fairly traded tea and coffee, we had homemade cakes, lemon curd and marmalade to sell and information about Fairtrade products easily available in our local supermarkets with examples of some of them. We held a prize draw with prizes of Fairtrade chocolate for everyone. The winner received an Easter Egg which contained in its box an illustrated booklet telling the story of the first Easter and Christ's death and resurrection. The proceeds from our Lent Lunch also went to the Fairtrade Foundation, and thanks to the generosity of all who came we were able to send a donation of £105.70. Mary and Ken Wilkinson once again took part in the Dalmain Marmalade Festival. In the three classes they entered they received two Silver and one Bronze Award. If you haven't tried it yet, please look on the stall outside "Ladnek" (next to the shop) where this award-winning marmalade is for sale. Please leave any spare jam jars either at Mary's, Janet's or at the chapel, open every day from 10am to 4pm.

Aware that some people still seem to be uncertain as to where we are in the village we have just erected a new noticeboard outside the chapel. It is larger, clearer and obvious as you walk down Marshside. The cost was kindly donated by Elizabeth and Richard as a thank you to everyone who worked hard to make their wedding in the summer such a happy and memorable occasion.

On Easter Sunday we are holding a "Big Breakfast" in aid of Mercy Ships, a medical charity which takes fully equipped hospital ships to some of the poorest parts of the world. We start our Easter celebrations with a communion service at 8:30am followed by breakfast at 9:15am. You will be made welcome at both the service and the breakfast, or if you prefer, just come for breakfast. Please ring Mary on 889588 or Janet on 889459 for catering purposes.

Our next Coffee and Company is on Wednesday April 1st from 9:45am to 11:30am. At this meeting Mary will introduce her plans for digital access. Her article below outlines this exciting new project.

Janet Sheldon

Digital Inclusion Project

A recent survey in Cumbria showed that we are below the national average for people, especially older people, using computers. As part of our grant from Kirkby Wind Farm, we received a small amount of money towards helping with this. For a trial period we will be providing a supported access point to a computer and to the internet. This will enable anyone who does not have a computer (or needs help to use one) to order non-grocery or bulky items online for home delivery, or to send emails to friends and family. There will also be general support to use your own computer, iPad, tablet etc. This will be available every month during our monthly Coffee and Company held on the first Wednesday, or by appointment on the morning of the 3rd Wednesday before the Over 55s Lunch Club. This service will start in April. Please ring Mary on 889588 to book an appointment or just drop in to Coffee and Company.

Mary Wilkinson



Green Tip

Many thanks to everyone who replied to my request last month for information on recycling printer cartridges.

There are a number of options.

Rymans in Dalton Road, Barrow accept cartridges, or you can send them to several charities:

Breast Cancer - put into an envelope with a note saying they are to support the Breast Cancer Campaign and send to: FREEPOST, ShP Solutions, Lancaster.

St. Mary's Hospice - will provide envelopes. Contact Corporate Fundraiser Martin Lewis by phoning 580305 or email martin.lewis@stmaryshospice.org.uk

Dogs Trust - will provide envelopes. Go to <http://www.reclaim-it.com/dogstrust.htm> and follow the link. ('Reclaim-it' carry out recycling for a number of charities.)

Great North Air Ambulance Service - they attach envelopes to their charity collection bags, which you can use to donate your cartridges.

Cumbria Wildlife Trust - send in an envelope clearly marked: In support of Cumbria Wildlife Trust: Recycling Appeal, FREEPOST NAT22768, Falkirk FK2 9BR.

Lilian Wood

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
Askam -	Saturdays from	10:00 till 11:30



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

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
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 2 nd Sunday – 4 pm service)
Kirkby	(Marshside) 10:30 am (except 2 nd Sunday – 6pm service 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 (4 pm in winter)
Trinity Church Centre	6:30 pm every week (4 pm in winter)
Hartington Street	4 pm on the 2 nd Sunday (all age service) 8 pm café worship as advertised
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