



Newslink

SOUTH WEST GUMBRIA UNITED AREA

Charity Registration Number 1141404

Methodist and United Reformed Churches Working Together

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The Minister Writes



With Christmas fast approaching, for many in the secular world thoughts turn towards the possibility of it being a 'white' Christmas - certainly the weather forecasters (and bookmakers) are keen to share their opinions! But let's not excuse ourselves from this 'debate' because, as well as Bing Crosby 'dreaming of a White Christmas' and James Stewart running happily through the falling snow in "It's a Wonderful Life", one of our most popular Christmas Carols contains scenes of the white stuff, trying to persuade us that it played a part in the birth of our Lord. A carol by Christina Rossetti extols that:

"In the bleak mid-winter, frosty wind made moan, earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone.

Snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow. In the bleak mid-winter, long ago." So where IS the snow in the Christmas Story? I haven't found it, so why do many try to include it? There are a number of 'theories' as to why, the one I go with being that, just like the love of God 'envelops' everything it embraces, so does the snow - the imperfections and flaws of the earth (physically), when covered by freshly fallen snow, leave the landscape smooth, clear and pure (until human footprints, representing our sin, come along) and the onlooker overcome with the 'awe' of the 'perfect' scene.

God's love is like that, all consuming, all embracing, perfect in every way, a love that "came upon the midnight clear" bringing, through the birth of Christ our Lord, "Peace on the earth, good will to men, from heaven's all-gracious King!" as another carol puts it.

No-one is pretending that the world is

Area Website www.swcumbriaunitedarea.urch.org.uk

perfect; that all human beings treat each other with the love God wishes us to do; but in the rejoicing of our reminder each year of the birth of Jesus, may we continue to strive to know and embrace God's love even deeper in our hearts, and share it with those whom we come across in our lives.

May you all have a Joyful, Peaceful and Blessed Christmas.

Ron, Denise & Family

Flashbacks.....to times with Jesus

On Wednesday November 11th I arrived slightly nervously at Ramsden Street for my first experience of 'Flashbacks'. The nerves proved needless - the children were very well-behaved and enthusiastic, engaging with all the activities and observing the 11 a.m. silence impeccably, and the team of experienced volunteers had everything in hand and operating very smoothly. We all helped the children start off by making bracelets with beads representing various parts of the Bible story, in order, then split into four groups. I helped Ann Hufton tell the story of Jesus' appearance to his disciples on the beach after his death and resurrection, with the children then making a fish picture (ingeniously made from cut-up cake cases) to help remind them of the tale. In the other areas they were hearing about the crucifixion and making matchstick crosses to take home, experiencing the Jewish synagogue and playing a game leading them through several biblical events. The morning ended with the story of the wedding at Cana with fully costumed bridal parties, and a dance and feast. I thoroughly enjoyed the experience and will certainly try to be involved again in the next Flashbacks - why not have a go yourself?

Karen Edmondson

Area Directory

The South West Cumbria United Area Directory will be updated in January 2016 and in order that this can be completed would individuals and churches please check their entries in the current copy and email any changes, additions, deletions etc to secretary@ramsdenstreeturc.org.uk by Monday 11 January 2016 (or phone 825662). If no changes are necessary then an email stating 'no change' would be appreciated.

Anne Stevenson

REGIONAL & NATIONAL WEBSITES

www.cumbriamethodistsdistrict.org.uk

North West Synod: www.nwsynod.org.uk

Connexional: www.methodist.org.uk

National: www.urc.org.uk

February issue No 108 of *Newslink* will be published at the end of January. Please send all material to reach Lilian Wood, 89 Risedale Road, Barrow, LA13 9QY by Sunday January 10th. Items can also be passed on by ☎ **01229 825986** or ✉ lilian.wood4@gmail.com

URC Synod report

The North Western Synod gathered in Greenmount URC on Saturday 10th October. The church is a listed building which has just been refurbished and is the only church in the village. The minister and elders use this context well and have a vibrant outreach in the village. We enjoyed their warm hospitality as we spent the day in prayer and worship, reflection and study, and discernment and business.

Desert Island Moderator

The Synod Executive Committee had agreed to ask our new Moderator, Andrew Mills, to produce a selection of music for an interview with Andy Braunston, our Clerk, based on the Radio 4 Desert Island Discs format. Andrew chose a variety of tracks: Verdi's Requiem, Meatloaf's Bat Out of Hell, Vale Decem from Dr Who, Gabriel's Oboe from The Mission, and Switchfoot's This is Home. Andrew spoke movingly about being adopted and finding his identity, coming to faith, meeting Ruth, his wife, ministry in various Synods, a struggle, 20 years ago, with mental illness, and his hopes for his ministry within the Synod. A recording of this will shortly appear on our website.

Bible Study

The Rev Dr Kathy White led us in a Bible study based on the command "Hear O Israel" from Deuteronomy 6: 4-9. Mrs White showed how it is hard to get an accurate translation from the Hebrew, the fact that the Hebrews saw the seat of emotion as being in the gut, the command to repeat the Laws of God, and left us with a challenge to see how our rituals in church life either distract or help us hear God's commands. Lively discussion in small groups followed and ideas were shared about how to rebalance the time we spend together in Synod between small group discussion and Area meetings and how we could spend more time in Bible study together.

Reports

Reports which had been previously circulated from the: Synod Executive, Learning and Ministries, Cumbria, Lancashire, Central and South Area Pastoral Committees as well as from the Woodward Trust were adopted. Finlay Galloway and the Rev John Piper addressed Synod about the work of the Synod Resources Committee and on our finances. All the reports were received and the Moderator thanked all those who played a part in our common life together through the work of these committees. In particular Andrew thanked those who had done so much to ensure a smooth transition between Richard Church's departure and his arrival.

Matters Referred from General Assembly

Various matters had been referred to the Synods from General Assembly. Some were changes to the Structure, one was a resolution from General Assembly on Same Sex Marriage - the effect of which would be to say that the URC would offer no view on this but declared that the competent Council to decide on whether to offer marriage to lesbian and gay couples would be the local Church Meeting. The Clerk had sent details of these four matters to members of Synod and no one had indicated that they wished to propose that "this matter be not proceed with" (if five or more Synods propose this then the matter would not go back to General Assembly for a final vote). Consequently Andy has written to the General Secretary saying that the NW Synod has not raised any objection to these matters.

Refugees

The Clerk introduced an emergency resolution calling on the government to do more to help the refugees who are coming to Europe to escape war, oppression and persecution. The resolution was drafted by the East Midlands Synod who asked the other Synods to consider it. The resolution noted that the command to 'love the stranger' is an essential part of our faith and this command comes always with a reminder, that we were once strangers ourselves. The whole biblical story is of a people called, or driven, to leave a settled existence and move on and out to a strange land. Andy noted that the Holy Family were refugees who fled Herod's murderous pogrom and that within our own tradition we look back to stories of ejection from the established church, and for some that meant travelling across the Atlantic in a tiny ship to find a safe place to live and worship. It is because we ourselves are strangers that Christians are glad to offer true hospitality and welcome to those who come to us as strangers, and especially those who come because they are fleeing war and persecution.

As hundreds of thousands flee war zones and travel across the Mediterranean in leaky boats and walk thousands of miles across one European country after another seeking security, as Christians we need to respond with the open arms of welcome, generosity and compassion. Andy also noted that our churches already work with asylum seekers and refugees and noted the work of the churches in Moss Side, Oldham and Darwen in particular. He mentioned that half the members of the Metropolitan Congregation of Wilbraham St Ninian's are refugees or asylum seekers. Andy also praised the work of the Rev Fleur Houston in this area. The resolution called on the government to do more, noting that we are a very rich country, noting that far from being a burden on the state, refugees bring much needed skills and experience which will enrich and not impoverish us. Synod, therefore, unanimously called upon the Government to: recognise its responsibility to help protect re processing centres at key borders; accept its fair share of refugees who have arrived in Europe, in cooperation with other member states of the European Union; make necessary arrangements to provide immediate shelter and support for refugees and longer term to arrange for full resettlement for those wishing to remain; and to provide local authorities who are taking refugees with additional financial resources to help meet the costs. Andy will now write to the government to express our concern.

Worship

As always we balanced our day between study, reports, fellowship, and worship. The Rev Andrew Lonsdale led opening worship with a reflection on our business, skilfully blending the hymns Be Still for the Presence of the Lord and Christ Be Our Light as he helped us reflect on our purpose for the day.

Our Moderator led us in a celebration of Holy Communion using material which had been devised by the Moderators. The hymns represented a variety of traditions and included: Lord Thy Church on Earth is Seeking, The Servant King, In Christ Alone and We Have a Gospel to Proclaim. Andrew reflected on mission in his sermon and, after we had used the responsive version of the Statement of the Nature, Faith and Order of the URC, the Rev Jane Rowell was inducted as Mission Enabler for the North Western and Northern Synods.

Barrow Mission Community Update

There was an open meeting on Monday 9th November at Trinity to discuss the Barrow Mission Community - its origins, developments so far and what the future might hold. Roughly 60 people attended from a variety of churches across Barrow, including some outside the formal Methodist/URC/Anglican partnership behind the 'God for All' initiative (www.godforall.org.uk). The evening began with shared worship and the biblical context for what we are trying to do - Christ's 'great commission' to his disciples to reach out to all with God's love. Mission is at the heart of the Mission Community and we seek to work together to achieve things we could not manage alone, as well as to support and encourage one another. It was emphasised that each separate worshipping community within the wider mission community still has its place and the aim is to see them all thriving and serving their communities. In addition to this the vision is to have a central 'Hub' in the Town Centre, allowing all the churches to work together in outreach to the people of Barrow, providing services which are needed - in particular we are exploring the possibility of working with Christians Against Poverty to offer some of the services they provide such as debt management and help finding work. In small group sessions those attending were asked to think about ways in which co-operation between churches has already been a blessing to them, and what their priorities would be for mission work in the town if unlimited resources were available. There was also a time of shared prayer and the overall feel of the evening was very positive.

The 'first fruit' of the Barrow Mission Community discussions is the 'Christmas pop-up shop', using the same premises as the 'Believe in Barrow' mission used in May - on Portland Walk opposite the outdoor market stalls. This will be open every Saturday from November 14th to December 19th and also Wednesday 23rd December, from 11 a.m. until 4 p.m., providing a café and seating area, craft activities for children, Christian books and gifts from Cornerstone in Ulverston, a prayer tent, storytelling and a nativity photoshoot area. Churches are encouraged to provide posters/leaflets for any Christmas events they have and/or any courses or meetings planned for 2016.

Volunteers are also needed for each day the shop is open - split into two sessions, 11-1:30 and 1:30-4. Please contact Barbara Lowes on 07854 185053 if you can help at all with this fantastic opportunity to keep Christ in Christmas. This is open to members of churches outside Barrow too - we recognise that the churches of the United Area are not all in the same potential Mission Community, but we hope all will have the opportunity to engage more closely with the other churches around them as well as continuing to support each other.

Karen Edmondson

Advent Groups

Everyone is welcome to attend the following Advent meetings:

Beacon Hill: on Mondays 23rd and 30th November and 7th and 14th December at 7 pm. The theme is The Names of Jesus. As usual the meetings will include hymns, prayers, food and fellowship.

Trinity will join with the Baptist church on Thursdays 26th November and 3rd, 10th and 17th December at 6:30 pm at the Baptist Church. There will be a meal at 6 pm for any who wish to participate, so come for that or just for the Bible Study.

Walney churches: 3 ecumenical meetings will be held on Tuesdays 1st, 8th and 15th December at 2 pm at St Columba's.

Network

It has been decided that the Network Committee will not meet as planned on January 15th as their work is now to be included in the agenda of the Community Outreach Group. We ask all churches to host their annual "Network" coffee morning for the work of the Methodist Church Fund for World Mission as usual and we shall continue to plan the Easter Offering service and the Summer Effort.

Elaine Pears

Education And Youth

COG will now include the work of the Education and Youth Committee in its agenda but we urge all churches to send news of their association with children to Newslink. It will be interesting to see how many of our churches have youth activities taking place in some form or other as this can be both surprising and encouraging so let's have your information for Newslink's "Youth Spot".

We begin with news from Beacon Hill and Askam:

At Beacon Hill we have 7 members in Sunday School ranging from 4 to 15 years old. We are currently working our way through the Lord's Prayer to try and make it more meaningful to the younger ones. Ebony assumed that "hallowed" meant that God comes in and says "hallo" to everyone, which is a lovely thought but it did make me wonder how often we speak to children in words which they don't understand. This exercise is certainly making us all think!!

Elaine Pears

What a lot of fun some of us 'oldies' had with the Brownies in October and November. Michelle the Brownie leader wanted to teach the girls to knit so asked for volunteers from the Church, Sisterhood and W.I. to help with this. They were two great evenings, and a lot of the Brownies picked up the skill of knitting fairly quickly whereas the others produced some very lacy creations. It was special to have time to chat with the girls as they knitted, and for me personally it filled a big gap, since my Aussie granddaughters returned home to Oz in August.

Dorothy Gleaves

First Tuesday Ladies

We will meet on Tuesday 1 December at 7:30 pm at 59 Croslands Park, when Jennet will lead a short Communion service, which will be followed by a faith supper. There will be no meeting in January; our next meeting will be on 2nd February.

Janet Ladds

Churches Together In Barrow

On Saturday 19th December we will be joining with the Salvation Army Band to sing carols in the town centre. Meet near Thornton's at 2:00 pm.

The Agape Meal will take place on Thursday 21st January at St. Mary's Walney, starting at 6:00 pm. The cost is £4.00. More details later.

Margaret Maxwell

Forthcoming Meetings

The next Local Preachers/Worship Leaders meeting will be held on Tuesday 8th December at 7:30 pm at Trinity. All leaders of worship are encouraged to attend.

The meeting of the Community Outreach Group will be held on Wednesday 3rd February, 6:45 pm for 7 pm at Market Street, Dalton. It would be good to have a representative from every church.

Walney Churches Together Choir

The Christmas Concert will be held on Thursday 3rd and Friday 4th December in St. Columba's Church at 7:30 p.m. followed by tea/coffee and mince pies. The choir will be joined on the Friday by George Hastwell School Signing Choir who always perform a few numbers and are always amazing. There is no door charge but donations are appreciated for Furness Homeless Christmas Shelter and George Hastwell School. The concert makes a really lovely start to the Christmas celebrations and the choir hope this year will prove to be as popular as ever.

RNLI Carol Concert

This will be held at St. Mary's, Walney at 2 pm on Sunday 6th December to raise funds to support the work of Lifeboat crews. There will be music by Barrow Steelworks Band, refreshments and a stall selling RNLI items. Tickets (available on the door) cost £3.00, with no charge for children under 12.

Christian Aid Community Partnership

We have broken the £4,000 barrier! Contributions from Hartington Street's Harvest Gift Day and the soup and quiz evening at Beacon Hill have increased the total to £4,115.01; thank you to everyone who contributed to those events. We now have until June to reach our target of £5,000.

Dalton (Market Street) have arranged a family event called 'An evening of M's' on Saturday January 23rd, at 5:45pm. For catering purposes please phone Ann (812439) if you are thinking of coming.

Lilian Wood

New Year's Resolution

January is traditionally a time when people make a New Year's Resolution. Usually, people give up smoking or start a new diet, some people might try to learn a new skill. Often we discover that in February our New Year's Resolution has gone by the wayside as we return to the business of work, retirement or life in general. We realise that life is busy enough without the new thing that we are trying to do.

Perhaps, this New Year you could try to make a different resolution. Regular giving to the church helps church treasurers to budget better for the year ahead. This means that better plans can be made about the activities that will run in the church. Keeping your new resolution is easy as you can set up a standing order which will pay your gift into the church every month.

As Christians we are reminded every time that we participate in a Holy Communion or Sacrament service that Jesus gave everything in order for us to have a relationship with God. We acknowledge that the Holy Spirit is at work in us and through us. If Jesus gave everything for us then how difficult would it be for us to follow the Biblical pattern of tithing our money and time as a gift to God. A tithe is a tenth of the things that you have. You could give a tenth of your money or a tenth of your time or both. We know that we live in an area of the country where not everyone can afford to give a tenth of their money and meet the household bills. Instead you could take the pattern of first fruits which the festival of Harvest is based around. You could give the first hour of your wages for the week. This would mean that if you earn £250 a week then you would give £6.25 in the weekly collection. (That is 250 divided by 40 which assumes a 40 hour week.)

Traditionally, Methodists have given to MRDF (now All We Can) and NCH (now Action for Children) as well as the World Mission and Home Mission Funds. Commitment for Life is the world development programme of the United Reformed Church. It encourages participating churches to take action, pray and give for people across the world. Commitment for Life works in partnership with Christian Aid and Global Justice Now (formerly The World Development Movement). Further as a United Area we have been raising money for maternal and child healthcare in Kenya. Finally, we all have time, gifts and skills that we can use to serve God's kingdom. Our time is given to us by God so why not give it by joining the coffee rota after church or volunteering to help in the many groups that are run by our churches. We have gifts and skills that could be shared with others through selling the things that you have made or teaching your skills to someone else. Above all the best thing that you can contribute to the United Area is your prayers; through prayer meetings or your time alone with God. Pray for the ministers, local preachers, trustees, church secretaries, stewards and each other.

Rachel Williams

Askam

We welcomed a congregation of 50 on Sunday, 25th October, when Penny was Christened. The congregation were welcomed to join the two families of the baby after the service when we all enjoyed each other's company and tea and cake!! The baby was so good during the service and Rachel led a wonderful welcoming service for Penny.

The talk by Mel Dixon from St. Mary's Hospice didn't take place as planned at the Sisterhood, as one of her fundraising staff was in a bad motor car accident during that bad foggy day on Monday, 2nd October. This meant the staff were stretched at St. Mary's at that time. We hope and pray that by the time you read this, the young lady in the accident will have made a complete recovery.

On 28th November we hoped for a happy morning when we planned to decorate the Church and lounge for Christmas - with lots of volunteers. It always heralds the start of the wonderful season of Christmas, and will set the scene for the Christingle Service on 6th December and the Sisterhood Christmas Party on 9th December, when we will welcome the Askam Village School children to both events. Sisterhood finishes after the party until the Spring season. Alan Jones is planning an 'Angel Trail' through Askam and hopes to involve Ireleth and Askam school children in this event.

The Chair Based Class finishes on Thursday, 17th December, with a party lunch after the exercises.

Duddon Road congregation have been invited to join with the Dalton Churches for the Christmas Day service.

The generosity of the Sisterhood members and congregation was overwhelming again this year, as bagfuls of goods for the Boxes of Hope poured in during the year. We were able to fill 30 boxes and had several sacks of extras to send to the warehouse. Well done to everyone who donated; this will make a lot of children in N.W. Rumania (and their families) happy.

Forthcoming Events:

Christingle Service at 6:00 p.m. on 6th December.

Sisterhood Christmas Party at 2:30 p.m. on 9th December.

Askam's Covenant Service: Sunday, 10th January, 2016 at 11.a.m.

The Chair Based Exercise Class starts on Thursday, 14th January, 2016 at 10:30 - 11:15 a.m.

The Sisterhood starts again on Wednesday 10th February 2016 at 2:30 p.m. when we will welcome Mel Dixon to talk about the work of St. Mary's Hospice.

Dorothy Gleaves

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.

Bible studies are held fortnightly as follows:

Thursdays at 2 pm - 10th December, then 14th and 28th January.

Ellen Powell

Trinity

Monthly Coffee mornings:

Saturday 5th December from 10:00 a.m.

Saturday 9th January from 10:00 a.m., sponsored by the Friday Badminton Group.

Also on 5th December from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. there will be a concert by U3A Come Sing Group. Tickets from Norma and Brian Tel. 584602.

Mid week communion 1st December and 5th January beginning at 10:30 a.m. preceded by a 'cuppa'.

Bible Study 3rd December last of the current series. Details of the next course will be available soon.

Family News

It is with sadness that we have to mention the deaths of Dean Smith, Janet's Dad, on 14th October and, very suddenly, Ron Preston on 1st November. Dean had only been part of our fellowship for a few years, but in that time had become a great friend to many and up until a few months ago was a regular attender. Ron on the other hand had been a member of Trinity since we came together as an LEP. He worked tirelessly, often behind the scenes, latterly taking over the organising of the Christmas Post and setting the heating - no mean task. He also supported Sheila in all she did. Our thoughts and prayers are with Sheila and her daughters, Valerie, Joan and Shona.

On a more cheerful note: On 1st November Cathie and James Fiddler brought their son Jonah to be baptised. Big sister Darcy, one of our Rainbows, was also present. A very happy service with lots of Jonah's family and friends there to help celebrate the event. On that same morning loads of shoe boxes were brought and blessed before being collected by Pam Mills after the service to be taken to the centre for the next stage in the process. Some people who didn't make up a box, gave donations to be sent to be used locally. A big 'Thank You' to Hazel and Ian who did all the background administration on our behalf and to all who filled boxes.

Margaret Manvell

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

7/12	Kirkby	'S'
14/12	Broughton	'T'
21/12	Millom	'U'
28/12	Trinity	'V'
4/01/16	Vickerstown	'W'
11/01	Hartington St	'Y'
18/01	Beacon Hill	'CTiB'
25/01	Ramsden St	'A'

Janet Ladds

Beacon Hill

Our Mince Pie coffee morning will be held on Thursday 10th December, 10 am-11:15 am, with mince pies replacing the usual cake stall.

Our usual monthly coffee mornings resume on Thursday 28th January, with stalls selling cakes, handmade cards, books and Fairtrade items.

Lilian Wood

Dalton

Sadly, we have had two deaths of faithful members of our fellowship in recent weeks: Beth Wilson and Nora Lewis. Our condolences and continuing prayers go especially to Beth's children, Malcolm, Shaun and Alison alongside Nora's children Janet, Maureen, Ian, Elaine and Steven, and their respective families.

Ann Hufton

The Bible Society Action Group raised £951.60 in the financial year ending in October 2015. Thanks for all your continuing support.

Advent Praise will be at Market Street church on Sunday December 6th at 2:30 pm. There will be a retiring collection.

Dalton Community Church and the Bible Society will both be having a tree in the Dalton Christmas Tree Festival which is on from November 27th to December 27th.

R Willock

Christian Women's Fellowship. The CWF will meet on Wednesday 16th December at 6:30 pm for a Festive Meal and Carol Service. All are welcome. There will be no meeting in January 2016.

D Zazi

Coffee and Carols at Market Street Saturday 19th December 9:45 to 11:15 am.

An Evening of M's

Come for an evening of **M** mayhem at Dalton Market Street on Saturday January 23rd. Family fun including **M**azes, **M**emory Game and **M** listeners. Come for 5:45pm to be ready to eat at 6pm - food will be **M**outhwatering baked potatoes (with various fillings) and probably **M**ini **M**uffins and **M**ars bars!

For catering purposes, please let us know if you intend to come (tel Ann on 812439). No fixed charge, but donations towards the United Area's Christian Aid community project (helping mothers and babies in Kenya) would be appreciated.

Ann Hufton

Broughton

At our HARVEST SERVICE we were joined by members of the Anglican Church and I was invited up to the School Harvest Service to collect all the Gifts for the Food Bank. We had a full Church with members from Kirkby also. We raised £200.00 to go to the Refugees through "All we Can" and sent 87.4kgms of items to the Food Bank. We finished the Service with a breakfast of Pancakes topped with harvest Fruits and Cream. Unfortunately Rachel missed out as she had to go straight to Millom to take their Service.

Future events:

Sunday 13th December 3pm CAROL SERVICE

We will have readings by members of our User Groups and hopefully a Brass Band. Please come and join us for a warm welcome and hot drink with mince pies or homemade biscuits.

Wednesday 16th December 7pm CAROLS IN THE SQUARE

Come and join us in Broughton Square as we Sing Carols and collect for a Charity. The children of the village will receive their prizes from our DONKEY'S JOURNEY. We will then proceed to the Methodist Church to warm up and eat Mince pies.

DONKEY'S JOURNEY

Pictures of Donkeys, made by young ones, have been placed in windows with letters in a corner. The letters spell out the name of a Christmas Carol or Song. These will be put in a hat and drawn at Carols in the Square. When I spoke with the young ones they knew Mary rode a donkey to Bethlehem but not that a donkey had a Cross on its back. Quite a talking point, as some of the adults didn't know either.

Beryl Hollowell

Kirkby-in-Furness

Our Craft Fair held at the end of October was a great success and £440 was raised for Chapel Funds. It was a horrible wet morning and we did not seem to be as busy as some years, but those who came bought generously and most of the stall-holders said they had enjoyed the day and would come again. If you have walked past the chapel recently you will see that the money has been spent on upgrading the car-parking area.

We are looking forward to two special services in Advent. On Sunday 13th December Rachel will lead our Carol Service at 6pm. This will be an informal time of worship and we welcome all who enjoy singing carols both traditional and some less familiar and who would like to hear again the story of the birth of Christ. On Sunday 20th Martin will lead our Christmas service of Holy Communion at 10.30am.

Coffee and Company will be held as usual on Wednesdays 2nd December and 6th January, 9.45 to 11.30am.

Donations to the Food Bank from the collecting box in the chapel raised a record of 40kgs in November. Thank you to all those people who give so generously and who take advantage of the chapel being open each day between 10am and 4pm and leave their groceries anonymously.

Our building is not only a collection venue for food throughout the year and shoe boxes in the run-up to Christmas, but a quiet space where anyone is welcome to come and pray, think or simply take a few moments for themselves out of very busy lives.

Janet Sheldon

Ramsden Street

Thank you to everyone who has supported us throughout the events during our Centenary year which is now drawing to a close.

We were very pleased to welcome Jean and Reg Ashton into membership at Ramsden Street on Sunday November 1st during our Family Service which was led by Ron Wilson.

Our Autumn Fair on Saturday November 7th turned out to be a good occasion (despite the dreadful weather) raising £634 for church funds.

We were pleased once again to host Flashbacks from November 9th - 12th with four of our local junior schools coming along.

We are looking forward to the choir from Greengate school (Greengate Voice) coming to our coffee morning on Friday December 11th at 10:30am. We always enjoy their singing and they like coming to visit us. We meet in the church so that we can accommodate more people so if you have not heard these children sing then there is room for you!

Our Carol Service will be held on Sunday December 20th at 2:30pm and will be led by Ron Wilson. This will be followed by a Christmas tea to which everyone is invited.

Anne Stevenson

Millom

Delighted to report that yet again Queen Street have increased the number of shoe boxes for Romania (Boxes of Hope, Cumbria) this year. We packed 115 boxes last Wednesday and on Sunday our local preacher Hayley said a special prayer for the givers and receivers of the gifts. It is wonderful that so many people help us year on year and we are really blessed at Millom with such generosity - too many people to thank by name individually but special thanks in particular to the ladies of the Thursday craft group who have knitted and crocheted scarves and hats and to Julie and Claire and Judith who decorated all the boxes which is a mammoth task in itself. It was like a factory production line on Wednesday and we hope the children will have fun opening the boxes - we had fun packing them! (We raised most of the money to send the boxes at our Holy Beetle and Pie and Peas Supper, so again thanks to all who helped at this annual event.)

Margaret Riley

Millom hosted two Deacons from North Cumbria Circuit. Deacon Melanie and Deacon Sarah joined us for afternoon tea and cakes to discuss their roles within the circuit that they belong to. It was interesting to hear their passion for community engagement and for working with churches to discover the mission of the congregation in the community that they find themselves. An informative event which many found helpful.

Rachel Williams

Vickerstown

We enjoyed an excellent Area Bonfire Party at Vickerstown on November 5th - fortunately the rain eased off just in time for the lighting of the fire! £130 was raised for the World Mission Fund and a good time was had by all. Thanks to all those who helped out or contributed fireworks or cake.

Vickerstown's Christmas Coffee Morning will be on Saturday December 5th from 10 to around 11:30 a.m. - all welcome. All the usual stalls plus a few extras! There will be a service at 11 a.m. on Christmas Day and a carol service on Walney at St. Mary's Church at 6 p.m. on Sunday December 20th.

There will also be a coffee morning in January, on Saturday 9th from 10 a.m. with Fairtrade goods, cakes and bring-and-buy stall.

Walney Churches Scout Group will again be raising funds by running a Christmas post service (for delivery to Walney and Barrow Island only). The cost will be 25p per card; please ensure that names and full addresses are clearly marked - preferably in capitals. There will be post boxes (please package cards and monies together) in each of the Walney churches and also at Hair Flair, Walney Co-op (Amphitrite St), Douglas Street stores, Murrays chemist (Central Drive) and the Spar shop on Mill Lane/Duddon Drive; cards can also be given to me. Final posting date is noon on Sunday December 13th; cards will be sorted that afternoon and delivered over the next few days.

Karen Edmondson



Green Tip

Recycle your Christmas cards at Marks & Spencer, who are working with the Woodland Trust and will plant a tree in the UK for every 1,000 cards they receive. They will accept cards between 2nd and 31st of January.

At Beacon Hill we will be asking the congregation to bring all their cards to church so that they can be counted before being recycled. We hope to be responsible for planting at least one tree.

Lilian Wood

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 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

Regular Coffee Mornings

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

Broughton -	Tuesdays from	10:00 till 11:30
Millom -	Fridays from	9:30 till 10:30
Ramsden St. -	Fridays from	10:30 till 12:00



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