



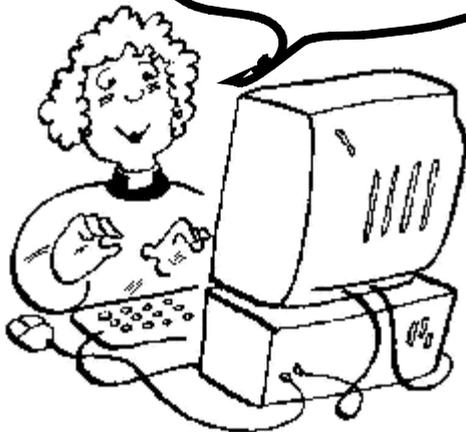
Newslink

SOUTH WEST GUMBRIA UNITED AREA

Charity Registration Number 1141404

Methodist and United Reformed Churches Working Together

The Minister Writes



Dear Friends,

When I last wrote the minister's letter for Newslink I was just about to go on sabbatical - now I am well and truly back and trying to share some of the things I learned or discovered in services or articles such as this!

One topic within the spirituality course I attended as part of my sabbatical was Images of God. We thought about some of the many images of God which are found in the Bible such as Guide (John 16:13) and Friend (John 15:12-15) and I am wondering what images or titles we might have for God or Jesus during the period of Lent,

ISSUE 108 February 2016

which starts very early this year, on February 10th.

You are almost certain to hear the account of Jesus being tempted by the devil on the first Sunday of Lent - Satan tries to get Jesus to take on the title of Miracle Worker - turn these stones to bread, throw yourself off the very top of the temple and land unhurt on the ground, enjoy ruling over all the world without lifting a finger (just by worshipping me). But all these 'miracles' would have needed Jesus to stop trusting in God. In each case, Jesus rejects the temptation and lodges his identity, future, and fortunes on God's character and trustworthiness. Jesus *would* become a Miracle Worker as his ministry progressed but in all of these later miracles he would be fulfilling God's plan and giving God the glory rather than taking power and glory to himself.

Towards the end of Lent we are more likely to be using the image of Suffering Servant (from Isaiah) or Sacrificial Lamb for Jesus as he is falsely condemned, treated cruelly and then humbled by death

Area Website www.swcumbriaunitedarea.urch.org.uk

on a cross. How hard must it have been for Jesus to keep trusting in God in those last hours - we only have to remember his anguish in the Garden of Gethsemane, where he asks that the cup of suffering might not be his, to realise this.

Trust in God when we are being tempted or we are going through hard times is never going to be easy. But perhaps the images in this verse from Psalm 18 will help us.

*The LORD is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer;
my God, my strength, in whom I will trust. (Psalm 18:2)*

Blessings,

Ann

Lent Meetings

Askam Methodist Ash Wednesday Quiet Day 10th February 11am-4pm

Millom manse Ash Wednesday Reflection 10th February 7:30pm

Millom manse Lent Reflection 16th March 7:30pm

Broughton Ecumenical Lent Group at the Methodist church Thursdays at 2pm. Please note the dates: 11th and 25th February, 3rd, 10th, 17th March (no group 18th February due to school holiday.)

Rachel Williams

Trinity will be holding a Lent Course jointly with the Baptist church, starting on 11th February at 6:45pm. This will be preceded by a meal (optional).

Margaret Manwell

Beacon Hill Mondays 22nd February-21st March 7pm-9pm approx

This year we are running a Lent Group entitled Finding a Voice which is based on the film The King's Speech. The course explores the ways in which fear holds us back and examines how we can face and overcome our fears and begin to find our authentic voice. The course will consist of 5 weekly sessions - the first will be just to view the whole film together and the subsequent 4 sessions will include extracts from the film, Bible readings, group discussion and exercises. All are welcome to come and share their voice with us!

Yvonne Blackley

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

March issue No 109 of *Newslink* will be published at the end of February
Please send all material to reach Lilian Wood, 89 Risedale Road, Barrow,
LA13 9QY by Sunday February 7th. Items can also be passed on by

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

Fairtrade - The Start Of The Slippery Slope?

A number of Area members have commented recently that their preferred supermarket no longer stocks the fair trade products they want to buy. For me, this is Café Direct instant coffee, which I've been buying from Tesco. Bulk buying quite often. I've even bought five jars at a time to top up the 500g coffee canister at church. Since the summer, however, this has not been possible, as Tesco no longer stocks it. They have one other fair trade instant coffee. I tried it, but didn't much like it. You may have had a similar experience with other items and are wondering whether this trend will continue, with more fairly traded products disappearing.

Why is it happening? After a long run of bumper years, the 'Big 4' supermarkets have been under pressure from discounters like Aldi and Lidl. It was great when the supermarkets seemed to embrace fair trade in the mid 2000's, with more products coming on to their shelves; but let's not pretend they were doing it out of the goodness of their hearts.

Supermarkets are hard-nosed, ruthless, money making machines. Ten or so years ago, they sensed that the consumer wanted to feel that they were doing some good with their shopping, helping poorer people in other countries - and they were prepared to pay a bit more to do so. This was a purely commercial decision on the part of the supermarkets. If they're feeling under pressure at the moment, they will be looking at other ways to attract shoppers, which may mean slashing their fair trade offering.

What can we do? Supposing that we do still want to buy a range of fair trade products - because the very good reasons for doing so in the first place haven't changed - we need to take action. Businesses do respond to consumer pressure; so, if enough people make their wishes known, we may be successful. Here are 3 suggestions:

Don't be fobbed off. Supermarkets count on customer loyalty (or apathy). If they don't stock the desired fair trade product, they hope you'll think "Oh, well ..." and pick up the next item on the shelf, fair trade or not. And, as they track our shopping habits by computer, they know that you've done it (one - nil to them). Don't give them the victory! Check out other shops for the item you want (I found my coffee at Booths - same price) or switch to another fair trade product.

Speak up. Supermarkets claim to welcome our feedback and have customer service desks where you can fill out a card to be passed on to management. Tell them how disappointed you are. Of course, the local manager does not decide which products are stocked; but, if he or she receives enough feedback on the topic, the message may be passed on to head office.

Shout a bit louder. Contact head office directly to express your dismay. Go online if you have the necessary gadgets, or write to the Customer Service Department at:

- Tesco Customer Service Centre, Baird Avenue, Dundee DD1 9NF

- Customer Service Department, Wm. Morrison Supermarkets PLC, Hilmore House, Gain Lane, Bradford BD3 7DL

- Asda House, Great Wilson Street, Leeds, West Yorkshire, LS11 5AD

Remember, the customer is king (or queen in many households!). Good luck.

Kathryn Aldred

Fairtrade Fortnight this year is 28th February - 13th March. Please take the opportunity, as churches and as individuals, to raise awareness and perhaps try some new products.

Community Outreach Group

Dalton Market Street at 6:45 for 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday 3rd February 2016

AGENDA

Welcome/Devotions/Apologies

Minutes of the last meeting (Thursday 8th October 2015)

Matters arising:

Christians Against Poverty - update

Notice of any other business

Treasurer's report

Review: Flashbacks - Ramsden Street Nov.'15

Updates: Environmental Issues/Recycling
Credit Union/Food Banks - Barrow and Millom
Family worker

You, Me and Afternoon Tea - 'spin-offs'

Future events: Fairtrade Fortnight events planned

COG coffee morning 18th June 2016

COG Slog 26th June Dalton 2.00 p.m. Walk

5.00 p.m. Faith Tea

6.00 p.m. Service leader?

Area Camp July '16 dates - bookings

Keswick Convention - interest?

Next big event? Bobby Ball possibility?

Any other ideas

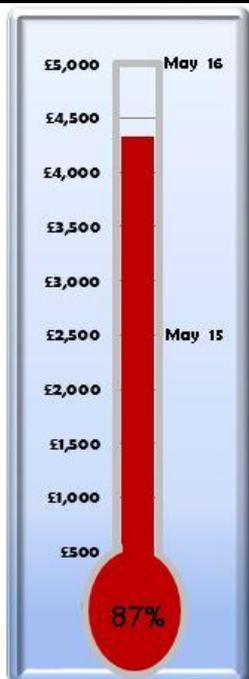
Education & Youth - Newslink Reports 'active'?

Any other business (as notified at start of meeting)

Date/venue for next meeting: Thursday 16th June @ Dalton Market Street at 6:45 for 7p.m

NOTE Please don't wait until the night of the meeting to ponder 'new ideas', but bring them along to share on the night!

Ron Wilson



Christian Aid Community Partnership

We have received a donation and contributions from the Fanny Crosby evening at Hartington Street and Dalton's Coffee and Carols; many thanks to everyone. The total now stand's at £4,330.72.

Please see under Ramsden Street for details of their jigsaw event on 5 March.

Lilian Wood

United Area Meeting

The February United Area meeting will be on Wednesday 24th February at 7 pm at Ramsden Street. Each church has at least two representatives and each committee has at least one representative. Please could all members of the Area meeting (or, for churches, the agreed substitutes if necessary) come to share in the planning of the life and witness of our United Area.

Local Preachers / Worship Leaders

The next LP/WL meeting will be held on Thursday 10th March at 7:30 pm at Wellington Street, Dalton. All leaders of worship are encouraged to attend.

Janet Ladds

First Tuesday Ladies

We will meet on Tuesday 2nd February at 7:30 pm at 59 Croslands Park to study the Bible and enjoy a time of prayer and fellowship.

Janet Ladds

Women's World Day Of Prayer

A service will be held at Wellington Street, Dalton at 2 pm on Friday 4th March. The service has been prepared by the Christian women of Cuba and the theme is "Receive Children, Receive Me". Everyone is most welcome to attend.

Margaret Frankland

Praise Group

We are a small friendly group who enjoy the fellowship of singing together, learning new songs, hymns and choruses and looking back at the oldies too. We meet at Askam Church every Monday, 7:30pm start.

We have sung at welcome and special services, Guild and Mothers Union fellowship meetings of other denominations and Hawcoat Friendship Club, singing a mixture of Christian and secular songs as well as carols at FGH and Staveley House. As you see we keep busy, but we are always open to invitations to share God's word with you in this way, or maybe others we haven't yet thought of.

If you would like to join us, please don't hesitate to contact any Praise Group member or phone me on 834704. We meet again on Monday February 29th 2016. It will be an open evening and we will share light refreshments. Please join us.

Ellen Powell

Lebone

Dorothy Gleaves and her husband are revisiting South Africa and Lebone Village and will be able to present £1000 from the Area's Lebone account to Avril and Willem as we continue to support their work. Thanks to you all who continue to give so generously to this fund.

Elaine Pears

HIGHS & LOWS IN THE HOLY LAND



travels in Israel & the West Bank
with Rev Clive Shaw



MILLOM METHODIST CHURCH
Queen Street

Weds 16th March at 6.30pm

Tickets £3.00 including a meal

Donations welcome
towards the project
'Plant an Olive Tree
for Peace'



Individual Churches

Trinity

Monthly Coffee Morning Saturday 6th February 10:00a.m. - 11:30a.m. sponsored by the Choir.

Family News

On 22nd December Jennet conducted the funeral of Mrs I Carr. Irene was a member at Trinity but due to ill health didn't get to church much, especially latterly. She was a resident in Ostley House and appreciated the visits made and flowers given and although she did not recognise us when we visited she was always very pleased to see us. Our thoughts are with her two daughters and their families at this time.

On a brighter note, on 13th December Jennet baptised Theodore Terence Blackburn. Theodore brought lots of family and friends to be part of the service and we hope they found it a special time with happy memories. On that date toys and gifts were brought to be shared between Furness Shelter for the homeless and the Foodbank. We enjoyed a happy Carol Service on 20th at the Baptist Church followed by a cuppa.

Margaret Manuell

Friday February 19th from 6:00pm Pie & Pea Supper and Quiz. The evening will commence at 6:00pm with the meal followed by the Quiz, the questions on this occasion being set by Sue Dower. Tickets are £3.50 each. Contact 584602.

Saturday March 5th from 2:00pm Easter Fayre.

Monday 7th to Saturday 12th March Schools Bible story exhibition. 6 schools have so far expressed an interest in this year's exhibition. However should a youth group in your Church wish to submit a Bible story(ies) in the exhibition, using whatever medium they like, please contact me on the following email address: brian@whittaker9.plus.com

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.

1/02	Urswick	B
8/02	Dalton	C
15/02	Askam	D
22/02	Kirkby	E
29/02	Broughton	F

Janet Ladds

Hartington Street

All are welcome to join our Care and Share fellowship/Knit and Natter. We meet weekly on Tuesdays at 10:00 - 11:30 am. Fellowship, Prayer, a cuppa & bring your knitting.

Bible studies are held fortnightly as follows:

Thursdays at 2 pm - 11th and 25th February.

Ellen Powell

Beacon Hill

Our usual monthly coffee morning will be held on Thursday 25th February, 10 am-11:15 am, with stalls selling cakes, handmade cards, books and Fairtrade items.

We have collected over 1,000 Christmas cards from members of the congregation; these have been taken to Marks & Spencer for recycling and will enable the Woodland Trust to plant a tree.

Lilian Wood

Dalton

The Christmas Bazaar at the end of November raised £405 for church funds.

Advent Praise made approximately £115 for Bible Society work.

Coffee and Carols at Market Street raised £83 which was donated to the Area Christian Aid Project.

Our tree at the Dalton Christmas Tree Festival received £208 in donations; this was divided between the Furness Homeless Christmas shelter and MacMillan nurses.

A very big thank you to everybody who supported all our events in some awful wet and windy weather.

R Willock

On Sunday 20th December around 40 people met and enjoyed a community meal of pie and peas which was followed by our Christmas carol service led by our minister Rev'd Ron Wilson. It was a lovely evening of fellowship and preparation for Christmas.

Christian Women's Fellowship. The CWF will meet on 17th February at 7:30 pm. Our speaker for that evening will be the Rev'd Ann Hufton. All are welcome.

D Zazi

Friday 26th February, Wellington Street, 6 - 7:30 pm.

A Taste of India, a social evening by Mrs Kath Bill from Morecambe who has been to India several times. The evening will comprise a talk about various aspects of Indian life, hearing about the work of Sangam (a World Centre of Girl guiding), some Asian snacks and a raffle. There will be no fixed charge but donations towards the refurbishment of Market Street would be appreciated. Please tell us if you intend to come for catering purposes - contact Ann Hufton (tel 812439).

Ann Hufton

Askam

Thank you to Kirkby Methodist members for inviting Askam congregation to join them on Sunday, 22nd November to listen to Rev. Richard Teal preach. Seven members from Askam travelled to Kirkby and enjoyed a wonderful service and a sumptuous lunch afterwards.

Askam's Saturday morning Christmas decoration day on 28th November was a busy one, and the Church was beautiful after everyone's efforts. It was good to have so many people helping and to share different talents and ideas.

The Christingle Service on Sunday, 6th December was a very very busy one. The children's choir from Askam Village School came to take part in the Service, which Rachel led, as a messy Church.

The children of the choir, plus younger and older members of their families, plus parents and grandparents, filled the Church. 48 children made their own Christingle oranges, and then the choir sang to us, and played their flutes - they are so talented. At the end of the service, lots of juice was drunk, tea and coffee, plus the inevitable mince pies were consumed. It was a great Service, very busy but lots of love and laughter.

At the Sisterhood Christmas party the following week, we were again entertained by the Askam Village School children - when they performed 7 carols for us, and played beautifully. Thirty children then served the members and guests with party food, before sitting down to join the 'oldies' and enjoy very welcome sandwiches, etc. We had a wonderful - and extremely lively - afternoon, and I have never seen the food platters empty so fast!! As Rachel has often said, food seems to be the centre of so many social events in the Church life.

The children visited a third time just before they broke up for Christmas, when Alan Jones led them on an Angel trail.

The last of our social events, the Chair based exercise class Christmas party, was held on Thursday, 16th December, when once again lots of sumptuous food was consumed (after our work out!!). This class has now resumed after the Christmas break, meeting on Thursdays, 10:30-11:15 a.m. If you are feeling a bit low after all the Christmas activities, and maybe have eaten too many mince pies, please come along and enjoy a great but gentle work out with Christine Pearce. I'm sure you will feel uplifted afterwards.

The Sisterhood starts again on Wednesday 10th February, at 2:30 p.m. with a talk by Mel Dixon from St. Mary's Hospice. At the next meeting on Wednesday 24th February we will have a talk by Mr John Mills about his involvement in TWAM (Tools with a Mission). On 9th March we will welcome representatives from Wiltshire Farm Foods. Everyone is welcome to join us at any time.

Dorothy Gleaves

Kirkby-in-Furness

It has now been officially declared that December 2015 saw the highest monthly rainfall on record but thankfully our chapel saw no damage from flooding as it did in 2009. However the plight of people all over Cumbria was naturally of great concern and so we decided to donate money from our Christmas Card collection to the Flood Relief Fund as well as a donation from church funds. Individuals also contributed and to date we have sent almost £500.

Our Coffee and Company on Wednesday 3rd February will be on the theme of Fairtrade. As a Fairtrade church, we always serve fairly traded tea, coffee and sugar, and also Fairtrade biscuits (the Coop has a good selection), where possible, but the purpose of the coffee morning is to try and highlight other fairly traded products and to promote awareness of how easily they can be bought. Most people know that Booths and Asda only sell fairly traded bananas, but the Coop and Tesco offer a choice. If we really felt passionate about the returns growers receive on their crop we would only choose the fairly traded fruit, and all growers would receive the same remuneration. Fairtrade tea and coffee used to have a bad reputation but there are so many varieties on the market, it is worth trying a few to find one you like. Last year some people were surprised to find out that the chocolate in Kit Kat comes from a Fairtrade source, so this year's challenge is to find something readily available on supermarket shelves which you have discovered to bear the Fairtrade logo. My favourite to date are facial wipes from M & S.

We look forward to seeing you for Coffee and Company on Wednesday February 3rd at the usual time of 9:45 until 11:30am.

Next month we invite you to join us for a Lent Lunch after Coffee and Company.

Janet Sheldon

Ramsden Street

Two very enjoyable events took place over the Christmas period - the first one was when Greengate junior school choir (Greengate Voice) came to entertain us at our Friday coffee morning and then on Sunday December 20th our Carol Service, led by Ron Wilson, was enjoyed and appreciated. The offering of £150 was donated to the Cumbria Flood victims and another £110 was raised for the Alzheimer's society by donations in lieu of Christmas cards.

On Saturday March 5th from 2pm to 4pm we have arranged a jigsaw event to raise funds for the United Area Christian Aid appeal. Teams of **not more than four people** will be given a 500 piece jigsaw to complete. There will be refreshments and the cost is £2 per person. We can accommodate up to ten teams so book in early if you enjoy doing jigsaws and fancy a fun afternoon.

Anne Stevenson

Vickerstown

Vickerstown's Christmas Card scheme (asking members of the congregation to write one card to all their church friends, and make a donation) raised an impressive £247 this year. This has been sent to the Methodist charity 'All we Can' who will be able to use it to fund the following: 20 chicks, feed and training for Indian women to set up in business; business training to allow a widow in Cameroon to support her family; training for 30 community-based disaster response workers in Nepal; a goat to provide milk, manure and therefore a better diet for a family in Burundi; a sheep for an Ethiopian farmer, to breed from and make leather for income; materials and training for 285 households in Burundi to build fuel efficient stoves, reducing the need for collecting firewood; a bicycle for Ugandan farmers to take produce to market while fresh, and training for 20 Indian women on the law on violence against women so they can stand up for themselves and others in their community. The cards themselves, with others brought in by members of the congregation, will be recycled through M&S as suggested in the last Newslink - there may not be enough of us to achieve a whole tree, but we are up to a quarter already! There will be a coffee morning at Vickerstown on Saturday 13th February, with the usual stalls (cakes, Fairtrade and bring and buy/bric-a-brac), from 10 a.m. until around 11:30. All welcome.

Karen Edmondson



Green Tip

From the Energy Saving Trust: Washing clothes at 30 degrees rather than at higher temperatures uses around 40% less energy. Modern washing powders and detergents work just as effectively at lower temperatures, so unless you have very dirty washing bear this in mind.

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



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