



Newslink

SOUTH WEST CUMBRIA UNITED AREA

Charity Registration Number 1141404

Methodist and United Reformed Churches Working Together

ISSUE 111 May 2016

The
Minister Writes



“We’re in this together”, so read the headline of an article in the current national URC “Reform” magazine, and although it was highlighting the ‘togetherness’ expressed by Ruth Hunt, the Chief Executive of ‘Stonewall’ as she hopes to overcome the “them and us” relationship between the LGBT community (Lesbian, Gay, Bi & Trans) and the church and other faith communities (a subject high on the agenda of a number of the major denominations at the moment, particularly so as the Methodist church

looks at ‘Marriage and Relationships’), it is however a title that encompasses our relationship with our fellow Christians in sharing the Good News of the gospel. The setting up of Mission Communities in Cumbria has been discussed at length for almost 2 years, and whilst nothing seems to have been happening on the ground during that period, we are now reaching the point where they are becoming a reality. Indeed, the first formal Mission Community has been launched and commissioned (up in the north of the county in Binsey). In Barrow we are endeavouring to get much of the ground work and structures in place before formally going ahead, but in Low Furness, without too much structure in place, our commitment is such we feel ready to launch our M.C. with the official service taking place on Ascension Day evening. Meetings of

Area Website www.swcumbriaunitedarea.urch.org.uk

representatives from the 3 denominations of the churches involved within the context of the United Area are being planned as I write. These are challenging but exciting times, as more formal links are being made that we may participate and be “..... in this together” in extolling that “God for All” is a reality and that we share that passion and help everyone in Cumbria to discover more about Jesus and the Good News he brings, and (we pray) bring them into the Christian community in the county.

With every blessing

Ron

Churches Together in Barrow

Pentecost in the Park - Sunday 15th May at 3pm. The speaker will be the Right Rev James Newcome, the Bishop of Carlisle. If wet the service will be held in the Baptist Church.

First Tuesday Ladies

We will meet on Tuesday 3rd May at 7:30 pm at 59 Croslands Park to study the Bible and enjoy a time of prayer and fellowship.

Janet Ladds



Green Tip

From Love Food Hate Waste:

‘Brew’ a used tea bag in cold water, then use the liquid to clean mirrors and other glass.

Lilian Wood

REGIONAL & NATIONAL WEBSITES

www.cumbriamethodistsdistrict.org.uk

Connexional: www.methodist.org.uk

North West Synod: www.nwsynod.org.uk

National: www.urc.org.uk

June issue No 112 of *Newslink* will be published at the end of May

Please send all material to reach Lilian Wood, 89 Risedale Road, Barrow,

LA13 9QY by Sunday May 8th. Items can also be passed on by

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

Youth spot

Dalton Easter Holiday Club Afternoon

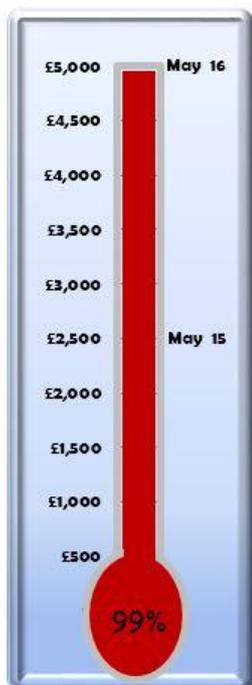
On Tuesday 5th April at 2pm children arrived for the Easter session of our series of half day events. As usual we started with an Easter Treasure Hunt during which the children had to find 20 eggs with letters on them. When they had found all the letters they could then spell out 'Jesus rose from the dead'. The choice of activities were An Easter Garden, Polystyrene eggs decorated with beads and sequins and hung on a branch, Cardboard Crosses, Easter Wristbands and Woven wool crosses. After this they had refreshments and played games at tables. These were jigsaws involving throwing dice and a Bunny Drive (same as Beetle but different). The finale was a Holy Conga and watching the Resurrection story on a Matthew's gospel DVD. Although the numbers were slightly less than usual the children appeared to enjoy themselves. Most of the children who attend come back time after time. The Summer Holiday Club will be five mornings starting on August 1st on the theme 'Guardians of Ancora'. Any helpers would be most welcome.

Hilary Mantle

On Easter Sunday, one of the 8 year olds at Beacon Hill said "I'm not sure about Jesus - it's a bit like Father Christmas or the Tooth Fairy". I take hope from Jenet's sermon on Thomas, that doubt can lead to faith.

Elaine Pears

Christian Aid Community Partnership



We are very grateful to Vickerstown, who have raised £155 so far from their Food & Fellowship meetings, and to Askam Sisterhood for their donation of £75. Once all this is paid in it will give us £4949.82, so our final total of £5000 is now well within reach.

Lilian Wood

The following information is taken from the latest update from Christian Aid.

Two years on from the launch of the maternal and child health project in Narok County, Kenya, the situation for mothers and their babies has improved considerably.

A few years ago, Joyce Kaka gave birth to her daughter Damaris. It was a home birth - as is traditional for Maasai women - and thankfully there were no complications. Because of their

experience of this safe delivery, Joyce's husband didn't see any reason for her to go to hospital for the birth of their twins, Dakton and Justin, when they were born 18 months ago. Plus, it would have meant selling one of their goats in order to hire a car

to take them there: a decision that her husband would have to make as the one in control of their finances.

Sadly, the birth of her twins was not plain sailing. Dakton was delivered safely by the traditional birth attendant at their home, but Justin's delivery was more complicated. Only after an agonising and frightening labour did she give birth to him, during which she had to be transferred to hospital. This was an arduous four hour journey. Eventually Justin arrived safely, and appropriately, his middle name means 'lucky'.

Joyce's story is just one example of the importance of 'skilled' deliveries in hospital, with trained midwives. Because of her experience, Joyce has now become an advocate for hospital births in her community. She is part of her local mother-to-mother group - introduced by Christian Aid partners - where she supports pregnant women and other mothers. She explains: 'We discuss matters on family planning, the need for certain foods that are good for our children and development programmes that allow us to earn some income. We also support each other. We come to support the woman and help her with her work so that she does not have to do strenuous chores before the birth.'

Joyce's mother-to-mother group also has a start-up fund to loan small amounts to women to help them start small businesses. Women use the funds to set up a small kitchen garden (buying seeds and pesticides) or to purchase their own goats, selling on the kids when they are born. Susan Paranai, the group secretary, says, 'We have never had anything like this in our village. With this project, we have seen even our husbands allowing women to buy and keep sheep! It's unbelievable.'

Training around nutrition has changed the way the community eats. Since members have learnt the benefits of including vegetables in their diet, the health of children has improved and husbands are on board too. The group's chairperson, Elizabeth Ntiae, adds: 'We are receiving training about nutrition practices and learning things that we never used to think were important. Maasai people traditionally eat mainly meat and milk. Having a balanced diet with vegetables is very important for the health of our children. We used to say that vegetables are food for our animals, but now even our husbands want to eat vegetables.'

The mother-to-mother support groups are just one way that Christian Aid is working to ensure women and babies have access to all basic, life-saving services.

Individual Churches

Trinity

Monthly Coffee Morning and table top sale Saturday 7th May from 9:30 am.

Family News

It is with great sadness and a sense of great loss that we report the death of Ella Sharp. Her death was very sudden and a huge shock to all, having been at church on Easter Sunday evening and in top form, then to hear on the Tuesday that she had been found dead. Ella had been a member of Emmanuel and of course Trinity when we came together, she played the organ there but also helped out at other churches, and played regularly at the crematorium. She was well known and loved and she will be sorely missed by all of us and of course by her family. We send them our heartfelt sympathy and assure them of our prayers and support.

We have also heard of the death of Tom Barber, who was a member at Hawcoat Methodist Church and then Trinity. Tom hadn't been well for quite some time and was in and out of hospital. He never really got over the death of his beloved wife Betty, but now his suffering is over and he is at peace. Our thoughts are with Michael and the family at this time.

Margaret Manwell

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.

| | | |
|-------|-----------|---|
| 1/05 | Askam | O |
| 8/05 | Kirkby | P |
| 15/05 | Broughton | Q |
| 22/05 | Millom | R |
| 29/05 | Trinity | S |

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 - 5th and 19th May.

Ellen Powell

Beacon Hill

Our usual monthly coffee morning will be held on Thursday 26th May, 10-11:15 am, with stalls selling cakes, handmade cards, books and Fairtrade items.

Lilian Wood

Dalton

Our recent 'Taste of India' evening was very much enjoyed by those who attended. There was much to see and lovely Indian food to taste. The evening raised £142.50 for our refurbishment fund.

R Willock

Christian Women's Fellowship. The next meeting of the CWF will be on Wednesday 18th May at 7:30 pm. The speaker for the evening will be Sue Millard who will be bringing us up to date on Christian Aid.

D Zazi

Saturday 14th May 9:45 to 11:15 am Church coffee morning at Market Street.

Askam

Mrs Valerie Hall and members were delighted to welcome Mr Dare Holland, a Christian Aid worker, on Wednesday 6th April to the Askam Sisterhood meeting. He was a very interesting speaker and the ladies enjoyed the images of the Christian Aid projects which have happened during the last twelve months. The collection that day amounted to £75.00 which is being donated to the SW Cumbria United Area CA Partnership. The ladies are so generous having filled Christian Aid envelopes prior to this meeting. For any group wanting a speaker Mr Holland can be contacted on Tel: 01539 441594.

The Sisterhood finishes for their summer break on Wednesday 4th May - with an Anniversary Party.

The first Askam Coffee Morning was held on Saturday, 2nd April, and we were delighted to welcome our dedicated Coffee Morning followers once again. We hope they will continue to support the Church on the 1st Saturday of each month.

Dorothy Gleaves

Kirkby-in-Furness

Our Easter breakfast was well attended with sixteen people from different churches all celebrating the joy of the risen Lord while sharing breakfast together. This was a very special occasion. People then went off to celebrate Easter in their own churches including our own service at 10:30am. All monetary donations given for breakfast were donated to the Barrow Food Bank.

We were privileged to have the Easter Offering Service at Kirkby this year.

Coffee and Company will be on the 4th May, 9:45-11:30am. All welcome. This is followed on the 14th May by our annual Plant Sale, 10am-12noon. We will have our usual wide variety of plants including annuals, perennials, vegetable plants and some house plants which are all at reasonable prices. Most of these plants have been grown by local people so are used to the climate in this area so thrive well. Tea, coffee, cake and biscuits are also available. This is our main fundraising event and we are currently working towards insulating the ceiling in the main room to reduce the cost of heating for all users.

Mary Wilkinson

Broughton

May Coffee Mornings - Church will only be open for Coffee Mornings on Tuesday 3rd & Tuesday 31st May. Bryan and I will be visiting our daughter and her husband in Canada, our yearly trip. Unfortunately, due to Margaret's commitments with Andrew she never knows if she can attend or not and it is too much to ask Sheila to take on the responsibility of setting up, clearing away and all that a coffee morning entails. Andrew is expected to go to Wrightington for another hip op. so we wish him well and keep him in our prayers, which we have done since his first op. last August.

Due to me being away and Margaret unavailable we feel we also need to close Church for the last 4 Sundays in May as Sheila also has Preaching commitments.

Beryl Hollowell

Ramsden Street

At the Church AGM on Sunday March 20th we elected our officers; decided which charities to support; arranged future events including a special event on Friday June 10th to celebrate the Queen's 90th birthday; accepted the annual accounts and expressed our appreciation to Ena Crawford, who is retiring, for all the work she has done as Treasurer for many years.

We were pleased to host the Maundy Thursday service led by Ron Wilson and we enjoyed a Fairtrade breakfast together on Easter Sunday and raised £80 for the Lily Foundation.

Anne Stevenson

Vickerstown

There will be a coffee morning on Saturday May 21st with the usual stalls - Fairtrade goods, home-made cakes and bring and buy. All welcome to come along for a chat, a cuppa and a browse. Our Fairtrade coffee morning in March (in Fairtrade fortnight) raised £100, £50 of which will be donated to the Fairtrade Foundation to support their work. There were information sheets on each table and free samples to taste.

Members of Vickerstown's congregation again joined with our friends from St. Mary's and St. Columba's on Walney for a Walk of Witness on Palm Sunday, singing hymns and carrying our palm crosses from Walney library, down Central Drive and along to Church Lane. We then worshipped at St. Mary's. On Easter Sunday it was lovely to be able to decorate what had been our Lent cross with daffodils from our own garden - they were out at just the right time!

Karen Edmondson

Dalton Community Church
(Methodist/United Reformed Church)
invite you to

 *Springtime Serenade* 

with

The New Abbey Singers



At the Methodist Church

Wellington St, Dalton

Saturday May 21st

4.00 pm

Tickets £5 including Afternoon Tea

For Tickets contact Iva tel 465159

Fruitful congregations

At the last United Area meeting (in February) a new mission and discipleship policy was agreed on, part of which is printed below:

The people of South West Cumbria United Area are committed to proclaiming in word and action that we have a 'God for All' and to giving everyone we have contact with the opportunity to discover more of God and God's purpose for their lives, by:

- *offering worship, in different styles and places, which is the best we can offer God*
- *growing disciples of Jesus*
- *being churches where people love and value each other and are encouraged and equipped to develop and use their gifts and experience both within and outside the church*
- *renewing confidence in recognizing and proclaiming God's presence and action in the world and in the church*
- *being churches that provide a safe, accessible and hospitable space for all*
- *being churches which work for the well-being of their members, their communities and the wider world*
- *doing all of this ecumenically wherever possible and appropriate.*

To that end, the United Area will support and encourage its churches to be places where their people practise:

- *radical hospitality*
- *passionate worship*
- *intentional faith development*
- *risk-taking mission and service*
- *extravagant generosity.*

These last five bullet points are said, by Robert Schnase, a Bishop in America, to be the Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations, taken from a book he has written by the same name. To help us all understand what is meant by these phrases it has been arranged that, over the months of April to August, each church in the Area will receive five services to cover each of the practices in turn. These will be led by Ron Wilson, Bob Mantle, Charlie Mills, Rachel Williams and Jennet McLeod. The Area Trustees hope that this will lead to each congregation to examine how far they practice these five skills. Bishop Schnase writes:

*“The purpose of the church is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. But how do we do that? The most visible way God knits people into the community of Christ and draws people into the relationship with God is through congregations that fulfil the ministry of Christ in the world. Fruitful congregations repeat and improve on these five basic practices: *Radical Hospitality, Passionate Worship, Intentional Faith Development, Risk-Taking Mission and Service, and Extravagant Generosity.**

The practices are basic and fundamental. But it's the adjectives that make these words come alive, because they stretch us and cause us to ask ourselves, "How are we doing in practicing these qualities of ministry in our congregation? How might we do better?" These are practices— they're not qualities that some churches have and some don't. They're not phases that, once we get them done, we can move on to something else. These are practices that we have to learn and improve upon constantly. These are the activities that are so critical to the mission of the church that failure to perform them in an exemplary way leads to congregational decline and deterioration".

Over the coming months, Newslink will feature a reflection on each of the five practices produced by the East Central Learning Network of the Methodist Church from the website

<http://www.methodist.org.uk/learning/network-regions/east-central-region/news/five-practices-of-fruitful-congregations>

This month we are featuring Radical Hospitality:

Read: Luke 7:36-50

Reflection

It seemed over the top to those watching,
Perhaps even obscene?
The kiss of hospitality brought down to the
Reality of the grit and dust of the road.
Perfume and tears to wash away the grime,
No thought for what 'they' might think.
And 'they' were not best pleased,
Challenged the character of this giver of hospitality
And the receiver...
'If this man were a prophet',
If he knew the status of the hospitality offered.
Truth is he did know, but in his eyes
This hospitality-giver had a different status.
Suddenly the rebuke was turned around,
The challenge given -
Where was your own hospitality?
Where was your love?
See this for what it is - Radical hospitality
Given and received in love,
Characterised by faith and forgiveness,
Life-changing, uninhibited, radical hospitality.

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 |
| 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) |
| 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 |