



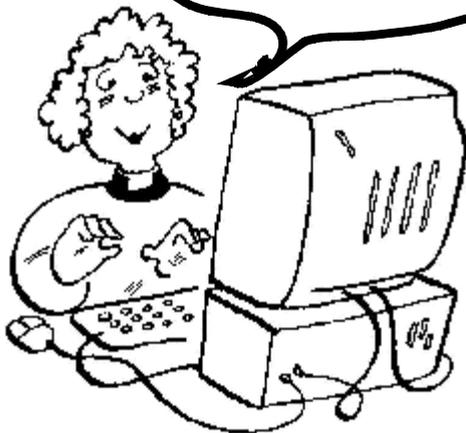
# Newslink

**SOUTH WEST GUMBRIA UNITED AREA**

Charity Registration Number 1141404

**Methodist and United Reformed Churches Working Together**

## The Minister Writes



Dear Friends,  
I hope you don't think we finished celebrating the Queen's 90 years on her birthday in April, because another whole raft of events will take place over the weekend of June 10/11/12 to coincide with her 'official birthday' alongside the usual Trooping the Colour at Horse Guards Parade in London on that day. Out of many books published to coincide with the Queen being 90 years old, one might be of particular interest to us as Christians. This book is called *The Servant Queen and the King she serves*.

## ISSUE 112 JUNE 2016

This glossy book, illustrated with lots of colour pictures, has been produced by the Bible Society, HOPE, and the London Institute for Contemporary Christianity as a tribute to Her Majesty. It contains much information about her, but the main focus is on how her Christian faith has sustained her throughout her long life, often looked at through quotes from her Christmas Day broadcasts.

Not coming from a family background where the Queen's speech was listened to without fail every Christmas Day, I was quite surprised to see just how specifically Christian parts of her speeches are. For instance, one year she said:

*Even in our very material age the impact of Christ's life is all around us. If you want to see an expression of Christian faith you only have to look at our awe-inspiring cathedrals and abbeys, listen to their music, or look at*

**Area Website [www.swcumbriaunitedarea.urch.org.uk](http://www.swcumbriaunitedarea.urch.org.uk)**

*their stained glass windows, their books and their pictures.*

*But the true measure of Christ's influence is not only in the lives of the saints but also in the good works quietly done by millions of men and women day in and day out throughout the centuries.*

*Many will have been inspired by Jesus' simple but powerful teaching: love God and love thy neighbour as thyself - in other words, treat others as you would like to them to treat you. His great emphasis was to give spirituality a practical purpose.*

The main idea behind the book is that it could be given out as a gift to members of our communities - this is what Dalton Community Church is hoping to do over several events this summer whilst interest in the Queen is at a high level. The book could be a good starting point for a conversation - about how you came to be a Christian perhaps, or simply telling about where you go to worship each week and giving an invitation to join you.

The current publicity about the Queen and this book offer us an opportunity to tell the Good News of Jesus in a very natural way - so let's take it!

Blessings,

*Ann*

(If you would like a copy (copies) of *The Servant Queen and the King she serves* go to the website <https://www.cpo.org.uk/>)

## **URC Cumbria Area Day**

This will be held on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> July, 10 am - 4 pm, in St George's United Reformed Church, Carlisle. Details of the programme can be found elsewhere in Newslink. This event is open to anyone in the United Area, whether Methodist or URC by tradition. URC church secretaries have a booking form, so please contact one of them if you wish to attend. Please note that bookings have to be made by **June 13<sup>th</sup>**.

*Ann Hafton*

## **REGIONAL & NATIONAL WEBSITES**

[www.cumbriamethodistsdistrict.org.uk](http://www.cumbriamethodistsdistrict.org.uk)

North West Synod: [www.nwsynod.org.uk](http://www.nwsynod.org.uk)

Connexional: [www.methodist.org.uk](http://www.methodist.org.uk)

National: [www.urc.org.uk](http://www.urc.org.uk)

Jul/Aug issue No 113 of *Newslink* will be published at the end of June.

Please send all material to reach Lilian Wood, 89 Risedale Road, Barrow, LA13 9QY by Sunday June 5<sup>th</sup>. Items can also be passed on by

☎ **01229 825986** or ✉ [lilian.wood4@gmail.com](mailto:lilian.wood4@gmail.com)

# **Cumbria Methodist District Spring Synod Meeting On Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> May 2016**

As we gathered together at Penrith Methodist Church, our worship was led by Rev Tim Cooke. We sang modern worship songs and shared together in prayer. Rev Richard Teal welcomed new members and visitors. We were asked if Bob Mantle and Janet Ladds should have Authorisations to Preside at Holy Communion. This was approved by the members of Synod and is now subject to Conference. We were reminded of the Pre-ordination Testimony Service which takes place on 21st May in Penrith Methodist Church at 7pm. The Accounts were presented by Glynis Hayton, the District Treasurer. We heard that Stephen Radford, who will (subject to Stationing) be the Superintendent in Kirkby Stephen, Appleby and Tebay Circuit, has been nominated as Cumbria District Synod Secretary. Rev Nicola Reynolds asked Synod for approval of the Constitution for Dalton LEP in the South West Cumbria United Area. This was unanimously approved.

Following this, we heard Rev Jeff Thomas concerning Spirituality and Healing. He is available to find out more about personal spirituality especially through the Nourishing the Soul course. Rev Jo Rand spoke about 'Journey to Christmas' run by Grange Methodist and URC, which allowed people to explore the Christmas Story. This was followed by information regarding the Holy Land Ecumenical Pilgrimage, which is being coordinated by Rev Rob Jackson. Rev Rachel Williams gave feedback on the Marriage and Relationships Workshops which were run in the District between November and February, followed by Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Resources from Irene McKay. Some of these resources South West Cumbria United Area has already experienced during a workshop held at Beacon Hill.

Good news stories were given by Deacon Melanie Beaven, who told us about the Yurt which has been funded through Circuit, District and Council Grants and is used to develop work both inside and outside the church; Rev Phil Jackson, who mentioned two of the chapels in the Wigton Circuit, one with a small congregation needing a smaller space to meet and another needing a larger meeting venue; and Katrina McEwan, a youth worker in Whitehaven, who shared insights she has found in her work and life. Most lively were the excerpts we heard from the Candidating Presentation given by Moses John about Connexionalism using a Biryani Curry. Before lunch we went into workshops for which there are other reports below. After lunch we heard about the Cumbria Ecumenical County. We agreed to the intention to establish the Covenanted Partnership in an Extended Area. We accepted the Salvation Army into the existing partnership with the Church of England and the URC. We were introduced to the REACH team who are looking at Mission across the county. Our closing worship included a time to remember those ministers and local preachers who had died. We finished in song followed by tea and biscuits.

*Rachel Williams*

## **Eco-church**

The workshop centred on highlighting the ‘up-grading/nourishing’ the former “Eco-Congregation” status, and moving on to the newly formed (January 2016) “Eco-Church” project, to help churches ‘care for God’s earth’. This takes the form of individual churches trying to ‘go green’ in all areas of church life, from church to building management, outreach to personal lifestyle. All the work done by churches counts towards one of three levels of achievement - bronze, silver or the prestigious Gold Eco Church Award.

As a workshop, we spent most of the time looking at (and having a go at) the new preliminary Questionnaire that now supersedes the previous version, to get churches into thinking and looking at what they are currently doing and how to achieve and gain a high level of ‘green’ status. The questionnaire covers 5 basic areas of church life: Worship & Teaching; Buildings; Land; Community and Global Engagement and Lifestyle.

Website to find out more: [ecochurch.arocha.org.uk](http://ecochurch.arocha.org.uk)

*Ron Wilson*

## **Dementia-friendly Church**

The room was crowded for the seminar on dementia, and everyone present was saddened to learn that our expected leader had not been able to be with us in Penrith. Having travelled with both of her parents through the journey of dementia over a number of years, she was now at her mother’s bedside to share the final hours of that journey. Even under those circumstances she had provided a colleague with full notes of what she would have said. There were some startling statistics about the growing prevalence of the condition. There was also content detailing four different types of dementia. One of those four was ‘violent dementia’ for which we learned that there is presently no provision in Cumbria, resulting in people having to make the journey to a facility in Lancashire to visit their relatives.

Much was said which would have struck a chord immediately with those who’ve seen loved ones ravaged by a disease for which there is presently no cure. And the very honesty with which the topic was addressed - not in hushed tones, but frankly and openly - will have come as a relief to some. The good news is that there is hope. Mention was made of the former bank manager who could no longer recognise a fifty pence piece; but there was also the story of an architect who appeared to have become completely disconnected from the world, until he was provided with paper and pencil, at which point his old skills re-surfaced, and he started producing precise and detailed drawings of the buildings around him.

Given the elderly demographic in many churches, we need to be prepared to deal compassionately and well with people who have dementia. So we asked ourselves what a dementia-friendly church might look like. It seemed very clear that such a congregation would be welcoming and inclusive, to patient and carer alike; it would seek to provide an environment in which people with dementia could both be and feel secure. A dementia-friendly church would be a listening church, and it would stay alongside its faithful people to the end.

*Martin Williams*

## Is Methodist History Relevant Today?

The answer to that question, not surprisingly, turned out to be 'yes'. The workshop was led by 3 gentlemen from the Cumbria Methodist History Society. Part of the session involved a quiz; I knew quite a few of the answers (although I think Jennet knew more) but this one defeated me - Which Cumbrian town was the only one in which the Methodist New Connexion had a presence? How many of you knew that the answer is Barrow? I discovered afterwards that the church was Christ Church on Abbey Road, which was almost totally destroyed in an air raid in 1941. The assets were later used for the building of Beacon Hill, whose official name includes the words Christ Church.

The quiz had a serious purpose, as the leaders of the workshop enlarged on the answers to show the relevance of the past to many of today's issues, such as how to reach various groups within the community, the environment, social action, working with other denominations and Fresh Expressions of church. They felt that people would have more understanding of the structure and workings of the Methodist church if they knew more of its history; to this end they have produced a booklet "What is Methodism? A Brief Guide". The society does not appear to have a website, but is affiliated to the Wesley Historical Society ([www.wesleyhistoricalsociety.org.uk](http://www.wesleyhistoricalsociety.org.uk)).

*Lilian Wood*

## Christian Aid

'This is the week we love every neighbour' may be the theme for the 2016 collection week but, as Laura Jones of Christian Aid explained, the ethos of the organization is about loving every neighbour 365 days a year. There are currently two ongoing campaigns - climate change and tax justice, with the refugee crisis soon to become the third. As Laura pointed out, the taxation avoided in developed countries is one and a half times as much as the entire global aid budget. Meanwhile, in Africa, countries are being devastated by extreme weather conditions. In 2015, Malawi - one of the poorest countries in the world - suffered drought followed by severe floods, killing 200 and leaving 170,000 homeless. Entire villages and all their crops were destroyed. Christian Aid was able to provide evacuation centres and help the locals to rebuild their lives, adapting traditional farming methods to 'climate smart' techniques that will be sustainable in the future. They provided sweet potato vines so that people could feed their children, planted trees, started irrigation projects and even introduced fuel-efficient stoves (they use less wood, which helps to reduce deforestation). They also set up a 'village savings and loans' scheme, like a small bank, where people can save for the future and borrow in times of crisis, a project which has been particularly empowering for women. Laura encouraged everybody, both as individuals and within their churches, to support Christian Aid and to Give, Act and Pray. She reminded us of the message in James 2 verses 14 - 18, that practical Christianity can transform lives.

*Kathryn Aldred*

## **Everyone Welcome**

The workshop I attended was led by Brec Seaton, who stepped in at the last minute due to bereavement. We spent the session looking at some sections from a course called 'First Impressions Count' which looks at how welcoming we are as a Church. We started by discussing in small groups what things make us feel welcome and unwelcome when visiting somebody's house. It was particularly interesting that not everybody agreed as to what would make them feel welcome.

We then watched a video of Ram Gidoomal, who I believe is a Hindu, who spoke about his first time attending a Church service. It really struck me how big an impact some of the cultural differences had on him - he found it really strange that everybody kept their shoes on, he automatically went to sit on the floor. He said he felt very uncomfortable in the Church setting as it was so different to everything he had experienced previously. We discussed that this is the case for many who have had no Church experience, even if they are not members of a different religion. We then discussed what the Church could have done to make things easier for him - to make him feel more welcome - and also discussed different groups who may not find Church very welcoming (LGBT, Homeless, Young Families).

There are many resources on the website to help Churches to think about just how welcoming they are and they can also be used as a three-session course. For more info, visit [www.methodist.org.uk/mission/welcome-and-invitation](http://www.methodist.org.uk/mission/welcome-and-invitation)

*Lynne Pearce*

## **Jack Marsh Tribute**

It was with great sadness that we heard of the death of Jack Marsh recently. Although born in Yorkshire, he came with his family to live in Barrow as a child, along with his sister Dorothy.

Having attended Barrow Grammar School, he went on to train as a navigator with the RAF, later working in the local Town Hall, before moving on to employment with the Health Authority Finance Department. Meeting and marrying Doreen, they had a daughter in Margaret who was to be a very caring and devoted carer for her dad for many years when his health problems escalated, including his loss of sight. Jack was very active over many years in the former Circuit and more recently within the United Area, serving for some years as the Circuit Finance Officer, as well as fulfilling his calling to preach, having been accredited as a Local Preacher way back in 1952 (well over 60 years of faithful service to God's Kingdom!)

We extend our sincere sympathies and prayers to Margaret and all of Jack's remaining relatives during this sad time.

*Ron*

# Fruitful Congregations

By now you may have had one or two of the series of services based on Five Practices for Fruitful Congregations which has been planned for every church in the United Area.

The five practices are:

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

They have been developed by Bishop Robert Schnase. He writes “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.”

Last month radical hospitality was highlighted in Newslink, and this month it is passionate worship.

The following is taken from

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

**Read:** Colossians 3:12-17

## Reflection

Red carpet or blue,  
Organ or worship band,  
Chairs or pews,  
Sermon or meditation,  
Liturgy or extempore,  
Hymns or songs?

It’s easy to get passionate about these things,  
How we worship,  
How we meet God,  
How we enable that.

But sometimes, just sometimes,  
Are we more passionate about how than why we worship?  
Paul urges a heart-inspired spirit of gratitude  
Where God is central to our worship  
So everything we are, everything we do

Is in the name of Jesus Christ.  
As for the rest,  
Can we 'bear with each other'?

### **For further thought as individuals**

What are the things you are passionate about?  
In what ways do you recognise passion in your own worship?

### **For further thought as Church groups**

Why do we worship and what is worship?  
What are your experiences of passionate worship?  
Do you also have experiences of worship that didn't feel that way?  
What prevents us from experiencing or enabling passionate worship?  
What might passionate worship look like in the future for your context?

## **A Prayer**

Worthy God,  
help us to keep our hearts focussed on you in our worship.  
May we recognise ways  
in which we can find unity that does not require uniformity,  
but enables all to participate in your kingdom.  
Inspire us parental God by the Holy Spirit  
to passionate worship in the name of Jesus Christ.  
Amen.

## **Tales by the Tarn:**

### **SW CUMBRIA AREA CAMP 2016 PROGRAMME**

Here is the detailed programme for the United Area camp at the Scout Campsite at Urswick from Friday, July 15<sup>th</sup> to Sunday, July 17<sup>th</sup>, which will look at the Parables of Jesus using Godly Play.

If you are planning to come and stay overnight please fill in a booking form. If you don't have one already send me an email ([rachel.williams@methodist.org.uk](mailto:rachel.williams@methodist.org.uk)). If you don't do email give me a ring (770071) and I'll get one to you somehow. As last year, day visitors will be welcome - please let me know if you will be joining us for lunch and/or the barbecue.

#### **Friday 15<sup>th</sup> July**

- 5:00 (onwards): Arrival
- 6:30 Evening Meal
- 7:30 Tales by the Tarn
- 9:00 Drinks
- 9:30 Bedtime Bible story
- 10:00 Night prayer

#### **Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> July**

- 8:00 Breakfast
- 9:00 Morning 'Breakfast' worship
- 9:10 Godly Play Parable - Lost Sheep
- 10:15 Tea/Coffee
- 10:45 Godly Play Parable - The Pearl
- 12:15 Lunch
- 1:30 Walk to the Tarn (Wet weather plan: create an indoor tarn)
- 3:30 Return to camp site
- 4:00 Godly Play Parable - The Sower
- 6:00 BBQ
- 7:00 Camp Fire
- 8:00 Preparing for worship - The Parables
- 9:00 Drinks
- 9:30 Bedtime Bible story
- 10:00 Night prayer

#### **Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> July**

- 8:00 Breakfast
- 9:00 Preparing Worship
- 12:45 Lunch
- 2:00 Leave

*Rachel Williams*

## **Methodist Prayer Handbooks**

The current number of Prayer Handbooks ordered for each church in the Area is as follows:

Askam	2
Beacon Hill	4
Broughton	4
Dalton	4
Hartington Street	7
Kirkby	3
Millom	6 (4 + 2 large print)
Ramsden Street	1
Trinity	7 (6 + 1 large print)
Urswick	1
Vickerstown	7

To enable an update of United Area requirements, please contact me on 827199 by the end of June should any of these figures need amendment. Large print copies are available.

*Daphne Watkinson*

## **Community Outreach Group**

The next COG meeting will be held on Thursday 16 June at Market Street, Dalton, 6:45 for 7 pm.

There will be a COG coffee morning on Saturday 18 June, also at Market Street, 9:45 - 11:15 am.

Please bring any items for stalls etc to the meeting on Thursday, or the following day (Friday) from 2 pm - 3 pm.

### **COG Slog**

The COG Slog will be based at Market Street on Sunday June 26<sup>th</sup>. It will commence with a leisurely walk (about 2 miles) starting at 3.30 pm followed by a Bring and Share tea at 5 pm and a service at 6 pm. Praise Group have been asked to help out with the service. I am sure that the elements will be in our favour and that it will be an enjoyable afternoon /evening.

*Bob Mantle*

## **United Area Meeting**

The next United Area meeting will be on Thursday 9 June at 7 pm at the Parish Room at Urswick. 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.

## **First Tuesday Ladies**

We will meet on Tuesday 7 June at 7.30 pm at 59 Croslands Park to study the Bible and enjoy a time of prayer and fellowship.

*Janet Ladds*

## **Summer Series - Esther**

For our summer series of meetings at Beacon Hill we will be looking at the story of Esther, with Bible-based discussion, hymns, prayers and activities. We will meet in our newly named Wesley Room (the old choir vestry) at 7 pm on 4 consecutive Monday evenings, beginning on 6<sup>th</sup> June. Anyone who wishes to join us will be made very welcome.

*Lilian Wood*

## **Local Preachers / Worship Leaders**

The next meeting will be held at Millom on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> June at 7:30 pm. This will be Rachel and Steve's last meeting, so we will share a farewell supper.

Two study sessions have been arranged - on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> June and Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> July, both at Kirkby at 7:30 pm. The topics are still to be confirmed, but will be taken from the new training programme.

*Janet Ladds*

## **Network**

Network Summer Celebration will be held at Trinity on June 29<sup>th</sup> @ 7:30 pm. Once again the ever popular Steelworks Band will entertain us. Tickets priced £3 will be in the churches and include light refreshments.

Cumbria District Methodist Women in Britain - Garden Party, Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> June. This will be held at Raise House, Gilsland, Brampton CA8 7BS, 2-5 pm, and is to raise money for the Dalit Solidarity project. If you wish to attend please phone Margaret Newrick on 016977 47269.

*Elaine Pears*

## **Youth spot**

“Flashbacks to times with Jesus”

On Monday 25<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> April over 100 children from Victoria Academy, Cambridge Street and St Paul's schools enjoyed “Flashbacks to times with Jesus” at Trinity Church. Pupils made a wristband which told of the life of Jesus, and then they heard of his time with the fishermen and the days prior to his crucifixion. They made ‘fish’ pictures and a cross made of matchsticks. They also attended a Synagogue, played a game, and had a meal after which they attended a Jewish wedding followed by a dance. All of these activities were great fun and the children left with a number of keepsakes and lots of memories.

These events could not take place without the help of members from the various churches throughout the area. If you have never helped out, look out for dates of the next “Flashbacks” - your help will be greatly appreciated and you will have a most enjoyable time too, whether it is for one session or more.

God Bless.

*Cheryl Draper*

United Reformed Church

# CUMBRIA AREA DAY

**Saturday July 16th**

**10am - 4pm**

in

St. George's United Reformed Church

West Walls Carlisle CA3 8UF



"Being a Church in a brave new  
Mission Community World."

Revd Sarah Moore



Music  
Workshop

Military Museum  
Carlisle Castle  
Guided Tour  
£4.50 per head

Workshop - Making  
Harvest Decorations



Cathedral  
Tours

Presentation -  
"Dementia  
Friends"



Activities for accompanied Children

**Please bring your own lunch -Tea and Coffee will be  
provided**

Bookings by JUNE 13th Please to.

Mrs Rosalind Fearon, Phone 016973 44892

[rosrayfearon@talktalk.net](mailto:rosrayfearon@talktalk.net)

Area Day programme  
Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> July 10am to 4pm Carlisle

<b>Morning &amp; Afternoon St George's (upstairs) Activities for accompanied children</b>		<b>Carole Marsden</b>
<b>10.00am</b>	<b>Tithe Barn</b> <b>Tea and coffee, welcome and introduction</b>	<b>Nick Mark</b>
<b>10.30am – 12noon</b>	<b>Tithe Barn (far end) Music workshop</b> <b>Tithe Barn (door end) Harvest decorations</b>	<b>Alison Adam</b> <b>Ann Wills</b>
<b>10.30am – 12noon</b>	<b>St George's (library) 'Dementia Friends'</b> <b>St George's (worship area) 'Belong Church In a brave new MIssion Community World'</b> <b>Cathedral Tour</b>	<b>David Richardson</b>  <b>Sarah Moore</b>
<b>12.15 – 1.30pm</b>	<b>Tithe Barn lunch (bring own) – tea and coffee and tray bakes.</b>	
<b>1.45pm – 3.15pm</b>	<b>Tithe Barn (far end) Music workshop</b> <b>Tithe Barn (door end) Harvest decorations</b>	<b>Allison Adam</b> <b>Ann Wills</b>
<b>1.45pm – 3.15pm</b>	<b>St George's (library) 'Dementia Friends'</b>	<b>David Richardson</b>
<b>2.00pm</b>	<b>Tour of Military Museum at Carlisle Castle</b>	
<b>2.00pm</b>	<b>Cathedral Tour</b>	
<b>3.30pm</b>	<b>St George's</b> <b>Closing worship incorporating music</b> <b>from the workshops</b>	<b>Nick Mark and</b> <b>Alison Adam</b>

# Christian Aid Community Partnership

We have not quite reached our target of £5000, but I am confident that we will do so before the deadline at the end of June.

*Lilian Wood*

## **Some facts and figures about the project in Kenya taken from the latest update from Christian Aid.**

Project updates:

- ‘Skilled’ deliveries (i.e. those accompanied by trained midwives) increased to more than 12,000 in 2015, a 22% increase since the start of the project.
- Two 4x4 ambulances and three ambulance motorcycles have helped save the lives of mothers and their babies as they have been transported to clinics for emergency procedures including caesarean section.
- Thirteen health facilities have seen significant improvement in their facilities, including delivery beds and infant warmers.
- Through 73 mother-to-mother groups, 3,973 women of reproductive age have been reached with information on nutrition and the importance of exclusive breast feeding. As a result 7,464 babies were placed on exclusive breast feeding for the first six months of their lives.
- More mothers accessed health services for their malnourished children with 339 children issued with food supplements to treat severe or moderate malnutrition.
- The project has trained 450 community health workers and equipped them with mobile phones and solar kits. With the phones, community health workers will send reminders to pregnant mothers to attend antenatal health services and take their babies for all immunisations at the nearest health facilities.

Continue to pray:

There is much to be thankful for, and two years into the project the impact of community health workers, trained midwives and hospital deliveries is being felt by mothers and their babies.

Please continue to pray for this work:

- Praise God for the safe delivery of babies, and pray that mothers who are unable to access ‘skilled’ deliveries give birth to healthy babies.
- Give thanks that your contribution has meant a real shift in how babies are born in Narok County, with more and more mums seeking out hospital births, despite entrenched cultural practices.
- Give thanks for mother-to-mother groups who support pregnant women and mums as they return home with their newborns.

## Individual Churches

### Trinity

On 8<sup>th</sup> May, we welcomed Theodore Terence Blackburn along with his parents, Robert and Disa-Jayne, for Baptism. Theo brought some friends with him to be part of the service, during which he slept peacefully.

It was good to host the schools Bible Stories exhibition and Flashbacks, which were appreciated by the staff and children alike. As a result of the former, those who helped were invited by the children of St. Paul's School to join them for refreshments and some entertainment on 17<sup>th</sup> May, which we all enjoyed. Good to have made this connection and to strengthen it.

Our usual monthly Coffee Morning will be on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> June starting at 10:00 am and on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> Audrey and Debbie Jackson will be 'At Home' at 40 Glenridding Drive, from 2:00-4:00 pm. Donations for Church Funds.

*Margaret Manuell*

**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.

5/06	Vickerstown	T
12/06	Hartington St	U
19/06	Beacon Hill	V
26/06	Ramsden St	W

*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 - 2<sup>nd</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> June.

*Ellen Powell*

### Dalton

A recent coffee morning at Market Street raised £250 for the Thursday Club and the Bible Society coffee morning at Ulverston Coronation Hall raised approximately £249 for Bible Society projects. Many thanks to everyone who supported these events.

*R Willock*

Christian Women's Fellowship. Our June meeting on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> will be a Summer Special and will begin at 6.30 pm. The CWF will then take a break until September.

*D Zazi*

# Beacon Hill

Like many churches, Beacon Hill suffered some damage from torrential rain last winter, and as a result, our minister's vestry became a sponge as the walls turned black. This has now dried out and Payback have been in to decorate for us. Payback is the scheme run by the probation service. Folk who are given community service orders are put to many types of work, both indoors and out, properly supervised and generally making a good job. We pay only for materials, thus cutting out any labour costs. If your church could use this service, try ringing 03000473950 which is the probation service and they will put you in touch with the right people.

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

*Elaine Pears*

The Leprosy Mission - we have decided not to hold our Afternoon Tea this year, but to try a Strawberry Party instead. This will be on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> June at 2 pm and will involve food and activities with a strawberry theme. Everyone will be welcome as we raise money for this worthwhile cause; for catering purposes please phone me on 825986 or email [lilian.wood4@gmail.com](mailto:lilian.wood4@gmail.com) to let me know that you wish to attend.

*Lilian Wood*

# Millom

On Friday 29<sup>th</sup> of April we held a Royal Tea at Queen Street to celebrate Her Majesty's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday which was on the 21<sup>st</sup> of April. Sixty people enjoyed the delicious sandwiches, scones, cakes and other items which were prepared by the church ladies. The proceeds from the tea of £321 have been sent to Canaan Heights School in Jamaica. We are extremely grateful to all the willing helpers including the gentlemen who helped with the decorations and tables. On the previous "royal" occasions (Jubilee and wedding of William and Catherine) the proceeds went to our churches in New Zealand following the devastating earthquakes there. This meant we had an abundance of red, white and blue items to re-use which were stored in the church garage! We will continue to store these items for the next big event .....

The annual Strawberry Tea in aid of Action for Children (formerly National Children's Home) will take place on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> of June, 3 pm - 5 pm. Do come and join us if you can.

Millom is holding a town Carnival Parade on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> of July to celebrate the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Millom New Town. Another chance for people to visit this part of the United Area especially if you are interested in the classic vehicle parade of cars, motor-bikes etc.

We continue our links with the Salvation Army with a number of people regularly attending their evening services each week. There will be a "Praise on the Lake" on the first Sunday in July with the Army band and Carnforth band leading the worship. More details next month.

*Margaret Riley*

# Askam

On Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> May, a bright sunny day, a congregation of 20 people, members of the Askam Sisterhood and invited guests, were treated to an afternoon of song and friendship. The entertainers were 13 members of Praise Group. The concert was led by Bob Mantle, acting as MC, and Martin Williams accompanied the singing on the piano.

The Concert started with a beautiful old hymn, In the Garden - chosen by Mrs Beryl Allonby, which had a good response. The guests were invited to join in with singing favourite hymns, and some of the 'old' rousing songs - such as Knees up Mother Brown, Cockles and Mussels, and My Bonnie.

We had the Return of Albert (and the Lion), read by Norma and Ellen, and how Mr Ramsbottom thwarted the insurance man. Land of Hope and Glory, with the necessary Union Jacks flag waving, was followed by the beautiful hymn Great is thy Faithfulness. The Praise Group sang 'I am a small part of the world' unaccompanied, a moving end to the concert - but not the afternoon as we all then tucked into afternoon tea. 'I am a small part of the world' is very special to the Praise Group members, and they always sing it with great feeling as it was one of Gill Heels' favourites. A lovely anniversary of the Centenary Party held in May last year. Sisterhood now has finished until September - dates later.

Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> May we had a very moving morning service lead by Mrs Sheila Huck, with 'Living Stones' as her theme. Very moving for all as it was the last time she will preach at Askam - retiring after 50 years as a lay Preacher. Sheila, we will all miss your wonderful services, your lovely smile, and greetings from Broughton - which you always started the service with - and of course your beautiful singing voice, which raised the roof with its lovely tones. We thank you for all the wonderful years of service and do hope you have a well-earned rest.

Askam Garden Party will be held on Saturday, 16<sup>th</sup> July, from 2:00 - 4:00 p.m. There will be stalls, tombola and raffle with of course a good Methodist tea. Hopefully the weather will be kind and we can use the Church garden which is looking good, thanks to the work of Fiona and Gary Thomas. Everyone is welcome to join us, and tickets will be in your Churches before the day.

*Dorothy Gleaves*

# Kirkby-in-Furness

Our annual plant sale took place on the 14<sup>th</sup> May but at the time of writing we haven't yet got a total figure. We thank everyone who supported us on this occasion as it is our main fundraising event of the year. The cold weather at the end of April was a surprise to both us and all the plants. Although we celebrate harvest in September it was a timely reminder of how dependent we are on God's goodness regarding the weather at all times of year. Coffee and Company will be on the 1<sup>st</sup> June, 9:45-11:30 am. All welcome.

*Mary Wilkinson*

## Ramsden Street

We have had two very positive and helpful meetings with our Companions (URC self assessment system). Rev Pam Noonan and Mrs Ruth Clarke from Kendal received our draft report (produced by the Elders and circulated to all church members for comments) and then came to discuss it with the Elders and Minister. A few amendments and additions were made and then Pam and Ruth came to talk to the whole congregation about the report and to ask for it to be formally accepted. Our morning worship on May 8<sup>th</sup> was conducted by Pam and Ruth and was very much appreciated by us. After the service we shared in a faith lunch together before our 'companions' left for home.

Ramsden Street participated in the 'Wave of Prayer' and the Church was open for prayer on Tuesday May 10<sup>th</sup> from 2pm.

Tickets are now available for our celebration evening for the Queen's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday. This is being held on June 10<sup>th</sup> from 6pm to 8pm.

*Anne Stevenson*

## Vickerstown

There will be no coffee morning at Vickerstown in June but we will have our usual summer afternoon tea on the first Saturday in July (July 2<sup>nd</sup>) - full details to follow in the July Newslink but it is likely to be quite similar to last year! Please put the date in your diaries now if you would like to come.

*Karen Edmondson*



### Green Tip

Friends of the Earth are encouraging people to create bee-friendly gardens by taking the following steps:  
buy pollen-rich plants, especially ones with purple flowers which bees can see more easily  
leave some dandelions and clover in your lawn  
provide water in a shallow bowl with a few pebbles for bees to land on.

*Lilian Wood*

# Regular Sunday Services

## ***Morning service times are as follows:***

Askam	(Duddon Road) 9:30 am (except 5 <sup>th</sup> 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 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday – 6pm 5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday – 10 am at St Cuthbert's)
Millom	(Queen Street) 11:00 am
Ramsden Street	Barrow 11:00 am (except 1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday– 10:30am & 5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday – 11:00 am at Trinity)
Trinity Church Centre	(Warwick Street, Barrow) 11:00 am
Urswick	(Tarn Close) 11:00 am (except 1 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> 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 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday

United Area joint evening services as arranged. For details, please consult the Plan or the website: [www.swcumbriaunitedarea.unc.org.uk](http://www.swcumbriaunitedarea.unc.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