



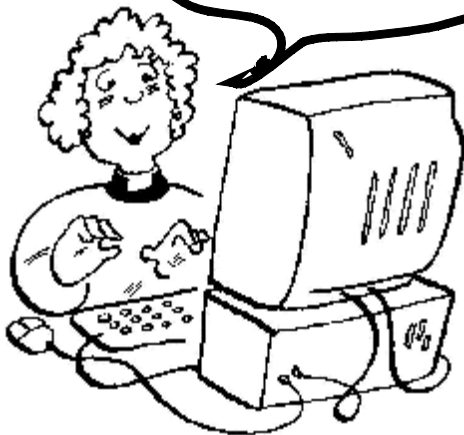
Newslink

SOUTH WEST GUMBRIA UNITED AREA

Charity Registration Number 1141404

Methodist and United Reformed Churches Working Together

The Minister Writes



WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE?

I use for my prayer time the Northumbria Community's Celtic Daily Prayer. A recent reflection related to Roland Walls, a monk who lived at the Community of the Transfiguration in Roslin, just outside Edinburgh, of whom it was said that his love of God was contagious as was his laughter and down to earthness. As I read the brief comments about his life and character, I became intrigued which led me to find out more. As I did, I found myself wishing I could be a bit more like him as it seemed that he had the ability to be all those things I wish I was - like being able

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to 'get us laughing at ourselves', cracking people open and enabling them to see truths about themselves in a gentle and kindly way, which seems to me the kind of gift possessed by the very best of observational comedians. Then all of a sudden I was brought up short by an inner voice chastising me: 'I didn't create you to be a clone or even a pale imitation of someone else! I created you to be YOU.' In a flash, I realised just how much of our attention is focused on our own shortcomings when we compare ourselves with others. You've only got to see how the advertising industry uses celebrity endorsement to sell its products to realise the extent to which most of us long to be a little bit more like someone else - someone famous, clever, witty, better looking, funnier, more talented, rich ... none of which in reality we will ever be. But the truth is that all of us are created to be unique and special in God's sight and every one of us is loved by God as if, St Augustine reminds us, 'we were the only

Area Website www.swcumbriaunitedarea.urch.org.uk

one' to be loved. My task is to be more like ME. Your task is to be more like YOU. And when we discover and release our true selves we can find that sense of fulfilment which is so often lacking in our lives today. So as the New Year begins, I guess the challenge for us all, instead of envying what other people are, is to begin or to continue that voyage of self-discovery in the company of Jesus who was and is supremely able to release within each of us the person God did create us to be.

Happy New Year!

Jennet

Safeguarding

Jennet and Mary will be offering a new round of Foundation Safeguarding training this Spring. We already know of some people who would like to take the course very soon, so we plan to offer training opportunities in late February / early March. The national leadership of our churches is keen that everyone whose duties bring them into contact with children, young people and / or vulnerable adults should be trained. This includes church stewards, for example, as well as the more obvious Sunday school teachers and people running youth activities. If this applies to you, please contact me as soon as possible (email km.aldred@icloud.com or tel 430842) and we will endeavour to pick dates that suit everyone.

Kathryn Aldred

 <p>FAIRTRADE</p>	<p>Guarantees a better deal for Third World Producers</p>	<p>® Fairtrade Fortnight Keep a look out for information about events being held to mark Fairtrade Fortnight, which this year is from February 26th to March 11th.</p>
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REGIONAL & NATIONAL WEBSITES

www.cumbriamethodistsdistrict.org.uk

North West Synod: www.nwsynod.org.uk

Connexional: www.methodist.org.uk

National: www.urc.org.uk

March issue No 129 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 3rd. Items can also be passed on by

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

A MODEL FOR TEAM MINISTRY IN SOUTH WEST CUMBRIA UNITED AREA

The United Area trustees are keen that over the coming months we explore how we might best develop Team ministry across the United Area. This would mean all of us - lay and ordained - working together for the spiritual, missional and numerical growth and wellbeing of our congregations and to develop a clear direction and purpose for our churches in line with our Area Mission & Discipleship policy. We should work with ecumenical partners wherever appropriate. One model for such ministry is outlined below - PLEASE DISCUSS THIS AT CHURCH MEETINGS AND LET THE TRUSTEES HAVE YOUR THOUGHTS, AS CHURCHES OR INDIVIDUALS, IN TIME FOR OUR MEETING ON 27 FEBRUARY WHEN WE WILL DISCUSS THE RESPONSES WE'VE RECEIVED.

HOW MIGHT TEAM MINISTRY WORK?

Our Teams might be:

- *Pastoral team:* Supporting pastoral care and the social life of our congregations, and encouraging churches to develop caring ministries outside of the church, eg funeral ministry, baptism follow up. (Radical Hospitality)
- *Finance Team:* Raising and overseeing the budget of the United Area and encouraging good financial stewardship within its churches, assisting with the drawing up of church accounts where necessary. (Extravagant generosity)
- *Worship Team:* Bringing creative ideas to worship, planning themed preaching etc. (Passionate worship)
- *Facilities Team:* Overseeing the maintenance of our premises, helping churches explore and develop the extended use of our buildings as we seek to work ecumenically and in partnership with external organisations.
- *Church and Community Team:* Help churches identify ways in which they can better serve their neighbourhoods. (Risk-taking Mission and Service)
- *Communication Team:* Ensuring the website is kept up to date and encouraging use of Facebook, Twitter, local media etc.
- *Faith Development Team:* Advising on and where necessary leading Bible study, discussion groups, book groups etc. (Intentional Faith Development)
- *Faith Sharing Team:* Advising and encouraging churches to be intentional in their sharing of their faith with those beyond the church walls and leading 'seekers' courses, for example. (Risk-taking Mission and Service)

Each team will be co-ordinated by a member of staff or a lay leader and will draw on the gifts and skills of our lay people. Teams will meet at they see fit and will identify their own priorities on an annual basis, in response to the needs of the churches. They will be accountable to the Area meeting.

Fairtrade Furness

Work on the application to become a Fairtrade Borough has started in earnest, so I would like your help with evidence gathering. Could you please:

- let me know if your church conducts ongoing Fairtrade activities (e.g. a FT display board, a regular FT stall at coffee mornings etc.)
- send me a brief report (with photos if you have them) of any special event that you organize for this year's Fairtrade Fortnight (Mon 26th Feb - Sun 11th March)

It would be great to involve more people in the application process; so, if you are interested in helping, please let me have your contact details (email km.aldred@icloud.com or tel 430842).

Kathryn Aldred



Boxes of Hope Cumbria Shoebox Appeal Thank you

I would just like to say a massive Thank you to all of you who wrapped and filled a shoebox, donated money or items to go into a shoebox and for those who spent time knitting hats and scarves for the Boxes of Hope Cumbria Shoebox Appeal.

I collected a total of 187 shoeboxes from around the Area, which was fantastic. The overall shoeboxes received at the Barrow Warehouse was 3566 and the overall total shoeboxes being taken to Southeast Romania was 9671.

Thank you for bringing a smile to these children in Romania by providing them with a gift at Christmas. Your generosity and kindness has been very much appreciated.

Pam x (Mills)

First Tuesday Ladies

We will meet on Tuesday 6th February at 7:30 pm at 59 Croslands Park to study the Bible and enjoy a time of prayer and fellowship.

Elaine Pears

Bible Stories Exhibition

This will be held at Trinity from 19th - 24th March and will be open to view between 10:00am and 4:00pm daily. The support from the schools has been very encouraging. However the exhibition is open to any Church group to participate. You are required to depict a Bible story(ies) using your choice of materials and to write a short summary of the story depicted to help visitors. For further details, contact me on 584602.

During the exhibition, schools will be attending, so if you are able to help show the children around it would be appreciated.

During the exhibition week, refreshments will be served in the lounge.

Brian Whittaker

Worship Works

This is an event being run by Christian Music Ministries (Roger Jones and co) at Windermere on Saturday March 3rd, 10 am to 4:30 pm.

It is a **practical day** for: Preachers, Worship leaders, Singers, Musicians, Individuals and congregations, ie **ALL ARE WELCOME!** at The Applethwaite Centre, St Mary's Church, Ambleside Road, Windermere LA23 1BA.

The day is designed for all who love praising Jesus. Each session will be a lot of fun, with worship, teaching and musical illustrations. The aim is to think together about our worship-relationship with God, and also how worship works in our churches. The cost is £5, and you need to take your own lunch. You are asked to fill in a booking form BY SATURDAY FEBRUARY 3rd if you intend going. For more information please contact Ann Hufton (812439) or go straight to

<https://www.cumbriachristianlearning.org.uk/event/worship-works-jones> to see the full programme and to book online.

Ann Hufton

Christian Aid Project

The United Area has agreed to support a new Christian Aid project, which will help children in Kenya affected by HIV and AIDS. We are hoping to arrange a visit from Laura Jones from Christian Aid to speak about this. When details have been finalised I will send the information to each church.

Thank you to those churches who have already held or are planning events. If your church holds an event and you have money to pass over could you please make the cheque payable to South West Cumbria United Area and send it to

Bob Mantle,

14 Romney Park,

Dalton, LA15 8BL,

clearly stating that it is for the Christian Aid project.

Lillian Wood

Easter Offering

I shall be shortly sending away for the Easter Offering material. Please let me know if your church needs more envelopes (tel 821815). It is important that we maintain our support of the Church Overseas.

Elaine Pears

Co-op Local Community Fund

Are you a member of the Co-op? Have you chosen a charity to support this year? If not could I ask you to select Duddon Road Methodist Church as your charity. Askam has been chosen to receive the 1% on purchases made by members up to September 2018. It does not cost the shopper anything, only you have to make it clear that this is the charity you have chosen. You can do this on the computer by looking up Local Community Fund <https://membership.coop.co.uk/causes/12657/>

or if you do not have access to a computer please ring this free number - 0800 023 4708. You will need to have your Co-op card handy when you ring to confirm your membership number (it's as simple as that). You will still receive your 5% on your purchases.

Thank you for your future help.

Dorothy Gleaves

Community Outreach Group

The next COG meeting will be held on Thursday 15th February, 6:45 pm for 7 pm at Dalton Community Church, Market Street. It would be good to have a representative from every church.

United Area Meeting

The next United Area meeting will be on Tuesday 6th March at 7 pm at Beacon Hill. 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 Tuesday 13th March at 7:30 pm at Wellington Street, Dalton. All leaders of worship are encouraged to attend.

Janet Ladds

Youth Spot

This Christmas, Beacon Hill's theme of light was used by all our young people in their craft displays. Newbarns School Year 6 children made lanterns and candles which hung from our walls and the Sunday School children made 5 large advent candles for our board in the back porch with the message "Jesus, light of the world". This is almost our "wayside pulpit" as we have many folk who come and wait for children or who hang about waiting for their event to begin (too good an opportunity to miss!)

Our family Carol Service was led by Scout leader Ian. As he took us through the meaning of the Christingle service the children from Cubs and Scouts built up Christingles using paper plates, cardboard candles, sticks with sweets threaded through and red electrician's tape and these all hung from the ends of the pews. It was a lovely service, enjoyed by the many who came to share in this event.

Elaine Pears



Green Tip

In the November edition of 'Newslink' I gave details of items that can be placed in the dark red recycling bins in the Barrow Borough Council area. I have found the following information for other areas. From the **South Lakeland District Council** website www.southlakeland.gov.uk

Blue boxes

For recycling paper and card, glass bottles and jars.

Please ensure that paper and card is put in a separate box from glass bottles and jars. We will not collect any boxes that have a mix of card paper and glass in them. If your recycling is not collected for this reason you can re-sort it and we will pick it up at the next collection date.

Paper and card should be clean and dry. Glass bottles and jars should be rinsed.

No thanks

Tetra Pak drink cartons, coffee cups, paper towels or tissues.

Sheet glass, broken glass or light bulbs.

Blue bag

For recycling plastics, cans and aluminium foil.

Please rise and squash your plastic containers, cans and foil. Containers must be empty.

No thanks

Plastic bags, flower pots.

There was very little on the **Copeland Borough Council** website, but I have read that they will be introducing a new recycling service in April.

Lilian Wood

Calling? Me!

Come and explore a morning on how God uses each one of us –
yes even you.

Saturday 3rd February 9.45 - 1.00 at St Mary's Parish Centre,
Dalton in Furness LA15 8AZ

with Revd. Canon Ruth Crossley, Revd. Elaine Bates and
Maureen Stevens

Featuring:

Question and answer - what's vocation all about?
Worship and drama

What's my Line?

Interviews with people who serve in many different ways

The Vocation Advice service - how does it work?

Time to talk, ask questions, look at information displays

We'll conclude by exploring possibilities more personally as we
munch our lunch.

Drinks (tea, coffee, juice) will be available at beginning, middle
and end. Please bring lunch if you can stay.

It will help us if you book via Elaine Bates

elaine.bates@cumbriachristianlearning.org.uk

Or contact Revd Ruth 01229462526



Individual Churches

Trinity

Usual monthly Coffee Morning Saturday 3rd February, 10:00 a.m.-11:30 a.m.

Short Midweek Communion, Tuesday 6th, 10:30a.m, preceded by a cuppa from 10 a.m.

On Friday 9th Norma and Brian are having an open afternoon at 9 West Hills Drive, Ulverston from 2:00 p.m.

Our Bible studies have resumed on Mondays at 7 p.m., based on the book 'Holy Habits'. The meetings will stop during Lent when we will attend a 6 week joint Lent Course at the Baptist Church; the first meeting will be on Thursday 15th at 6:45 p.m.

On Friday 16th at 6:00 p.m there will be a Pie and Peas Supper followed by a Quiz.

It was a great shock and sadness when we heard of Alan Garnett's death on 11th December. He had been at church the day before and didn't seem unwell. He will be greatly missed. He was a true gentleman and did much for Trinity as a member of the finance and property committee and as treasurer. His expertise in legal matters made him invaluable when drawing up our constitution. He also was one of our organists and worked closely with Ella and on her death took on the mantle of leading the choir when we had joint event praise services with the Baptist Church. The fact that there was such a huge turnout for his funeral service is evidence of the impact he had on many people and how much he was valued. Above all he will be missed as a friend and colleague. Our thoughts and prayers go to his remaining relatives.

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.

Week commencing

Feb	4 th Kirkby	I
	11 th Broughton	J
	18 th Millom	K
	25 th Mission in UA	L

Janet Ladds

Hartington Street

Mondays Toddlers 1-2:30 pm in The Hub.

Tuesdays Knit and Natter 10-11:30 am in The Hub.

Bible Studies alternate Thursdays, 8th February, 22nd February at 1:30 pm.

Chris Mills

Beacon Hill

We were very pleased to welcome the two youngest members of the Vernon-Charles family into the church during the evening service on 8th October. Alison and Mike, with older sister Eloise and other members of the family, brought Beatrix and Theodore (better known to us as Ted) to be baptised by Martin Williams. We all enjoyed the happy service, which began with a very appropriate hymn, "Brothers and Sisters". Later in the service Mabel, Ebony, Penny and Alfie danced to the hymn "All around me, Lord, I see Your goodness". Beatrix and Ted are already used to coming to church, as they attend Toddlers and coffee mornings, and we look forward to welcoming them to Sunday School in a few years to join their older sisters and brother. Our monthly coffee morning will be held on Thursday 22nd February, 10 am-11:15 am, with stalls selling cakes, handmade cards, books and Fairtrade items.

Lilian Wood

Dalton

The Bible Society Advent Praise raised £160 for the work of the Society. 'While Shepherds Watched' was well attended and very much appreciated. The money raised at our Coffee and Carols was donated to the new Area Christian Aid Project and £100 was sent direct to Christian Aid from the Christian Women's Fellowship. The church tree in the Dalton Christmas Tree Festival raised £195 for the Furness Homeless Christmas Shelter.

Future events:

Tuesday February 13th at 2:30 pm Midweek communion service.
February 26th to March 11th Fairtrade Fortnight.

R Willock

Christian Women's Fellowship. The next meeting of the CWF will be on Wednesday 21st February at 7:30 pm. We will be having a Songs of Praise evening. All are welcome.

D Zazi

Askam

From all at Duddon Road Church: We do hope everyone has had a joyful and peaceful Christmas and we wish you a Very Happy New Year.

Furness Carers

For anyone who is lonely and/or having memory problems - You are welcome to come along to Askam Methodist Church on the 2nd Friday of each month at 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. when Furness Carers are holding a Drop in Cafe. Next Cafe Friday 9th February, when Mrs A Hannen will make you very welcome. Drinks are served and you are encouraged to listen or sing along to the piano.

Askam Sisterhood

Looking back, we had a lovely Christmas Party at Sisterhood at the end of November, when the children of Ireleth St Peter's School came to sing to us. They were delightful and we all enjoyed a lovely shared tea afterwards. The Sisterhood meetings finished then for the Christmas break and will begin again on Wednesday 31st January, when we will welcome the Royal Holborn Hill Band - we look forward to their wonderful music. On Sunday, 17th December the congregation of St Peter's joined us at Duddon Road, for a Carol Service led by Rev Ron Wilson. A continued reminder of the wonderful season of Advent. Mince pies and drinks were shared afterwards. We were pleased to include Alan Jones in our congregation that day. Sadly our Christingle Service didn't draw the crowds this year, but the few who did attend enjoyed a lovely service. The extra oranges, etc were taken to the WI Christmas party, when Dorothy talked their members through the significance of the Christingle orange.

The armchair exercise class began on Thursday, 11th January, with our new instructor Mrs Becky Shuttleworth. Commencing at 10:30 a.m. there are exercises for 45 minutes, followed by a shared time of fellowship and a cuppa.

We will continue with a midweek communion service on the first Wednesday of each month at 10:00 - 10:30 a.m. followed by a cuppa.

My personal thanks to everyone who contributed to the Christmas festivities at Duddon Road Church.

Dorothy Gleaves

Kirkby-in-Furness

Looking ahead to the beginning of March, on Wednesday 7th we will be holding a Lent Lunch. This will follow on from our monthly Coffee & Company. We will be serving soup and home-made bread from 11:30 am. Please come and join us.

The annual Bulb and Marmalade Festival will take place on a Saturday afternoon in March, 1-4 pm, on a date to be confirmed. So get prepared to plant your bulbs and make your marmalade. We would also love to welcome you along to see the wonderful display while enjoying a warm welcome and refreshments.

Our monthly Midweek Service, which is held at 10:30 am on the second Wednesday of each month will still be held even though Deacon Debbie is on Sabbatical, so please join us and enjoy the fellowship.

Beryl Hollowell

Millom

Wishing everyone a Peaceful, Blessed and Healthy 2018.

At Queen Street we had a busy December including a Carol Service, a family Christingle Service and a late night service on Christmas Eve. We also joined in with the Salvation Army Civic Carol Service, the Baptist Christian Pantomime, Christmas morning at the Baptist Church and a New Year's Eve united service at St George's Church of England, so a very ecumenical finish to the year.

We look forward to joining with other Churches in Millom for more events in the future starting with a united service at Crown Street on 25th January for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.

We are hoping to hold an Afternoon Tea for Valentine's Day on 14th February and then the Lent Lunches will commence on Thursday 15th for six weeks. Different churches will again be taking turns to host the lunches like last year but they will all take place at Queen Street.

We hold a regular Prayer Meeting every Tuesday evening and hope to carry this on during Debbie's sabbatical. On the third Friday of each month we have a short Dementia Friendly service at Lapstone House (a residential home) at 10:30am. The residents enjoy singing the well-known hymns and especially enjoyed the carols last month!! It is good for us to go out into the community and share worship with those who can no longer attend a church.

As soon as the shoeboxes went to Romania some of our craft class ladies began knitting scarves for this year's effort - we don't let the grass grow under our feet at Millom.

So 2018 looks like another busy and productive year already..... we will keep updating you each month with our activities.

Margaret Riley

Ramsden Street

We enjoyed several events over the Christmas period including a Christmas buffet on December 6th; a visit to Greengate School on December 15th to join in their Nativity and Christingle Service (they were unable to come to our coffee morning the week before as planned); we joined in the flash-mob carols in the town centre on Saturday December 16th; our Carol Service and tea on December 17th was led by Ron Wilson and included a video from Christian Aid. The offering of £120 was sent to Christian Aid; £85, raised from donations instead of us sending Christmas cards to each other, was donated to the Salvation Army.

We are holding an organ recital on Friday February 16th at 2:30pm when Ian Wardlaw will entertain us with a wide selection of music. Ian accompanied the New Abbey Singers and offered to come and play for us. Tickets are £4 and include refreshments.

Anne Stevenson

Vickerstown

On Sunday 19th November Jennet received Christine, Ruth and Anna into formal membership at Vickerstown. All have been attending worship with us for some time, but we are delighted that they chose to take this extra step and that they feel truly part of our church family.

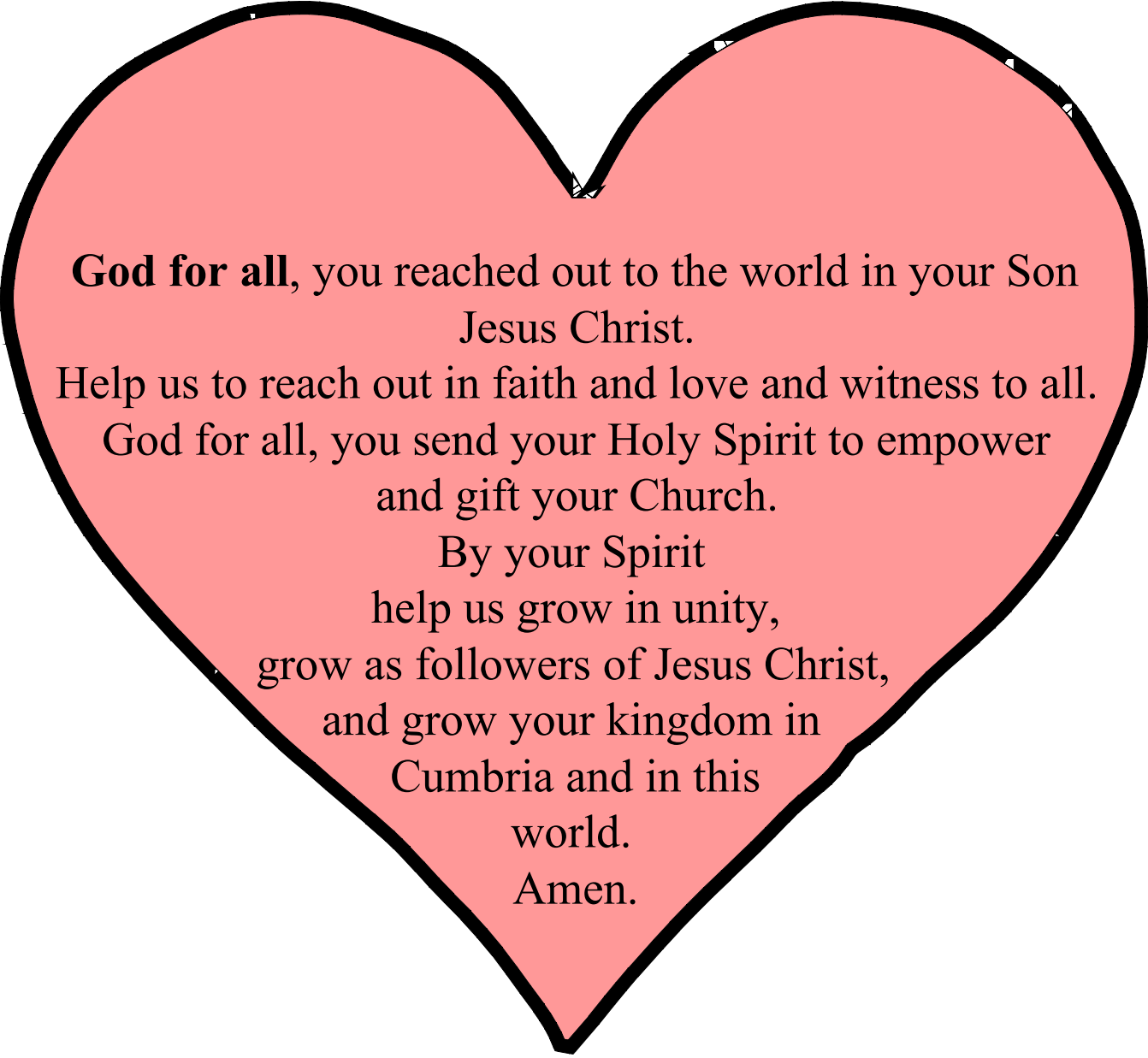
There will be a coffee morning at Vickerstown on Saturday February 10th, from 10 a.m. to about 11:30 with our usual stalls - homemade cakes, Fairtrade goods and bring & buy. There is no entry charge; hot drinks are 50p each. All are welcome to share in a cuppa, chat and browse.

It was with great sadness that we learned of the death, in November, of church member John Freestone - he had been ill for some time and absent from church for several months, but was always in our thoughts. John moved to the area with his wife Mary after retirement and they both involved themselves fully and enthusiastically with Vickerstown's life and work. After Mary's death John continued to be a willing worker for the church, representing Vickerstown at Area meetings and serving as senior steward for many years. There was rarely an event at which he was not present, usually in the kitchen or otherwise making himself useful, and he will be very much missed. £175 was raised from donations at his funeral, held at Vickerstown, and donated to Macmillan Cancer Support at the family's request.

Karen Edmondson

Moving Mountains Mission, March 8-11th

Look out for the events which will be happening in your church/area for Moving Mountains. You could start thinking now whom you might invite to come along with you to the events so that they could meet with Christians and perhaps find out more about the Christian faith. Could you pray the God for All prayer (below) once a day between now and Moving Mountains?



**God for all, you reached out to the world in your Son
Jesus Christ.**

Help us to reach out in faith and love and witness to all.

**God for all, you send your Holy Spirit to empower
and gift your Church.**

**By your Spirit
help us grow in unity,
grow as followers of Jesus Christ,
and grow your kingdom in
Cumbria and in this
world.
Amen.**

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
Dalton Community Church	(Market Street) 9:30am
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	4 pm every week
Trinity Church Centre	4 pm every week
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:

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



Broughton - Tuesdays:	at the Square Café from 10:30 to 12 noon
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