



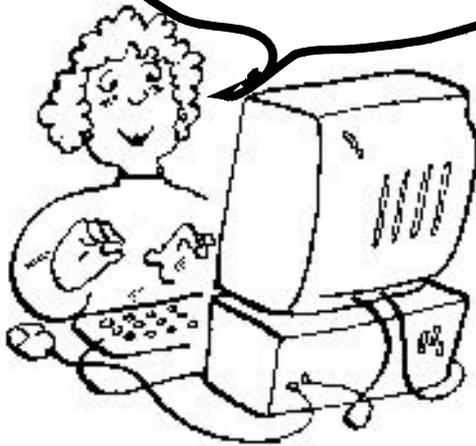
# Newslink

**SOUTH WEST CUMBRIA UNITED AREA**

Charity Registration Number 1141404

**Methodist and United Reformed Churches Working Together**

Trustees'  
News



This time of year can be quite a difficult time for a United Area treasurer. It is the time we look at our budget for the following financial year. Every year this becomes increasingly difficult with costs increasing and membership decreasing. Every year, as Trustees, we face the decision of how to divide the running costs of our United Area amongst the Churches which make up our Area. We have to examine our reserves and consider how they can best be used to further the work of God in South West Cumbria. As our membership decreases, the cost per member increases. The budget which has

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been agreed by our Trustees has been sent to all Church treasurers and I ask you all to consider the challenges it brings. As I have undertaken this difficult task I am reminded of all those who have gone before me - some known to me and some unknown - and I also think of the early Christian Church and their attitude to giving. In Paul's 2<sup>nd</sup> letter to the Corinthians, he commends the Church for their generous giving and also points to the generosity of the Macedonian Churches. He says 'Their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity. They gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability'. In chapter 9 Paul states 'each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver'. In our Church today we are reluctant to cover the topic of our giving. We are embarrassed to mention it - fearing we will be seen as money grabbing or greedy.

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

We do not want to put pressure on those who are struggling and who already give in a sacrificial manner. However, having spent much time in the last few weeks examining our financial situation, I strongly believe that we all need to examine our giving. We are not asking anyone to give more than they can but are asking each one of you to prayerfully consider how much you can give to support your Church.

One of the five practices of fruitful congregations we have been looking at over the past couple of years is that of 'extravagant generosity'. This is not purely about money. It is about our attitude to giving - both of money and our time. It is important for us to consider what we want our United Area to be doing and whether we are enabling this through our own giving. I would hate for our ministry and mission to be hampered by lack of funds and lack of 'personnel' and fear this is a real risk.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank our individual Church treasurers. I truly believe that I have been called by God to serve him in this practical way. In our Churches we see a real shortage of people coming forward who are prepared to undertake this vital role. If you feel that God is leading you in this direction, I would be happy to give any support needed. Again, I ask you to prayerfully consider if this is a way you could serve your Church.

I thank God that he still has a plan for his Church and that he continues to use us just as he used those first Churches in Macedonia and Corinth. I pray that, in the same way, we may be seen as people who give as much as we are able both financially and of our time, that we may serve our communities and further the work of God's kingdom here in South West Cumbria.

God Bless.

*Lynne Pearce*  
*Treasurer South West Cumbria United Area*

## 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)

April issue No 130 of *Newslink* will be published at the end of March  
Please send all material to reach Lilian Wood, 89 Risedale Road, Barrow,  
LA13 9QY by Sunday March 10<sup>th</sup>. Items can also be passed on by

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

## Moving Mountains In Dalton, Askam And Ireleth

Everyone is invited to come along to the Moving Mountains events shown below - and, if you can, bring someone with you who doesn't normally come to church! Each of the events will have someone telling part of their Christian story so it will be a good way to introduce your friends and family to the Christian faith.



Date	Event
Friday March 9 <sup>th</sup>	7pm Quiz Pie and Peas, Duddon Sports & Social Club, Askam, £4 <i>(BIG QUESTIONS)</i>
Friday March 9 <sup>th</sup>	7.30 pm Flower Arranging, refreshments Dalton United Football Club, Becksie Road, £5 <i>(FAITH &amp; FLOWERS)</i>
Saturday March 10 <sup>th</sup>	9.30 - 11.15am Coffee Morning, Dalton Community Church, Market Street, 50p <i>(INNER REFRESHMENT?)</i>
Saturday March 10 <sup>th</sup>	2 - 3.30 pm Messy Mother's Day - family event , St Mary's Church Centre, free <i>(ALL GOD'S CHILDREN)</i>
Saturday March 10 <sup>th</sup>	3.30 pm Tea Dance, afternoon tea, Askam Band Hall, £3 <i>(STRICTLY WONDERFUL)</i>
Saturday March 10 <sup>th</sup>	7pm, Ceilidh, Pie and Peas, Dalton Cricket Club, £5 adult, £2.50 child <i>(STORY TELLING)</i>
Sunday March 11 <sup>th</sup>	Mothering Sunday Services 9.30 am Dalton Community Church, Market Street 9.30 am St Mary's Parish Church, Dalton 11 am Askam Methodist Church, Duddon Road 11.15 am St Peter's Church, Ireleth

For more information or tickets for any of these events please contact your local church or phone Margaret on 01229 466069. Moving Mountains is part of the 'God for All' initiative. All the events are organised by your local churches for everyone in the community to enjoy.

## New arrangements for worship at Askam from March

DATE	DAY	CHURCH CALENDAR	PREACHER
7 March	W		
11 March	S	Mothering Sunday	Rev J Sinclair
18 March	S	Passion Sunday	Rev D Opie
21 March	W		
1 April	S	Easter Day	Rev R Wilson
4 April	W		
15 April	S	Vocations Sunday	at Dalton
18 April	W		
29 April	S	Easter 5	Lynne Pearce
2 May	W		
13 May	S	Sunday in Ascensiontide	John McCartney
16 May	W		
27 May	S	Trinity Sunday	Local Arrangements

From 18<sup>th</sup> March we will be adopting new arrangements for worship at Askam which include fortnightly Sunday services and midweek worship every other week. The chart above shows services in Duddon Road. Worship on Wednesdays will be at 10:30 am (half an hour later than our usual monthly Fellowship) and on Sundays the service will be at the new time of 11:00 am. On the Wednesdays not shown above Sisterhood will meet and starts at 2:30 pm. On Sundays not shown above the service will be in St Peter's, Ireleth where worship is at 11:15 am.

*Alan Mason, Senior Steward*

### Holy Week services

Monday 26<sup>th</sup> March at 7 pm at Market Street, Dalton.

Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> March at 7 pm at Market Street, Dalton.

Maundy Thursday service at 7 pm at Hartington Street.

Good Friday service for the Barrow Free Churches at 10:30 am at Trinity.

## **To all friends of Lebone Village in Blonfontein, South Africa**

I have received some wonderful news from Avril and Willem from Lebone Village. They are starting a 3-5 year exit plan as God has blessed them with a young couple, Natasha and Delan, who feel called by God to serve Him at Lebone Village. This will mean they can relieve Avril and Willem eventually of all their duties at Lebone, but that the Village will continue with its wonderful work. Avril and Willem have also just heard that they have a sponsor who will fund a trip to Europe in September 2018. She asks if they can visit their friends in Barrow and area, and speak at a midweek service or Sunday service. Please make a note of this in your diaries.

*Dorothy Gleaves*

## **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 26<sup>th</sup> Feb - Sun 11<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:km.aldred@icloud.com) or tel 430842).

*Kathryn Aldred*

## **Bible Stories Exhibition**

This will be held at Trinity from 19<sup>th</sup> - 24<sup>th</sup> 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: morning coffee, lunches and teas in the afternoon.

*Brian Whittaker*

## ***Snakes and Ladders with Furness Churches United Choir***

'Snakes and Ladders' is another musical by the well-known Christian composer, Roger Jones. It follows the ups and downs of God's people through history - slithering down in sin and disobedience, and then being lifted up through God's grace. Starting in the Garden of Eden, where the serpent lurks, the story unfolds through to the death and resurrection of Christ - the only ladder by which we can reach the end of the game. Performances by Furness Churches United Choir, led by choir director Sharon Collins, are always well received and are an enjoyable night out. There will be two chances to come along and listen to this musical:

**Saturday March 24<sup>th</sup>**, 7 pm at St Mark's Church, Barrow (when the choir will be joined by Jubilate Praise Choir from St Helens). No tickets, donations would be appreciated - to be split between St Mary's Hospice and Christian Music Ministries.

**Thursday April 19<sup>th</sup>**, 7:30 pm at Dalton Community Church, Wellington Street. Again no tickets, but donations would be appreciated - to be split between Dalton Community Church refurbishment fund and Christian Music Ministries.

## **United Area Meeting**

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

*Janet Ladd*

## **First Tuesday Ladies**

There will be no meeting in March. Our next meeting will be on 3<sup>rd</sup> April at 7:30 pm at 59 Croslands Park, when we will continue to study the letter of James.

*Elaine Pear*

## **Network**

The Cumbria District Spring Day will be held on Monday 19 March at Ulverston Methodist Church, 10.15 am to 3.30 pm. The theme is "Learning from the farming world! Ten things to do each month in our Christian walk of life" and the speakers will be Mrs Edith Gorst and Deacon Jane Gibson, President and Vice-President of the Lancashire District Methodist Women in Britain. Please bring a packed lunch (drinks will be provided). There will be a Bring & buy stall, MWiB resources and a bookstall. For further information please ring Delphine Gratix on 01539 737305.

*Elaine Pear*

## Youth spot

Beacon Hill Cubs have been busy since the new term in September. We have had a Camp at Urswick where they completed the Backwoods Cooking Badge. They had to light fires and cook something in a pan (pasta 'n' sauce), on a skewer (bread twists) and something in the embers (popcorn!!) We all had a great weekend and smelt of fire smoke when we went home.

We have also undertaken our Astronomy Badge and had a visit from the Furness Astronomy Society and learnt about the solar system and can now recognise 3 of our constellations (Orion, Cassiopeia and The Plough).

At the end of November we visited the Food Bank to see how it works by booking and marking food in, making up food boxes and Christmas Hampers. Each of our Cubs donated an Advent Calendar or a Selection Box to a child less fortunate than themselves. We also gave each six £5 to go shopping around Tesco to buy things for the Food Bank. It was great to see how savvy they were and got a lot of variety of food for their money. For our Christmas treat we went to the trampoline park where a lot of bouncing fun was had.

Since the new year we have had Hayley and Yvonne from Church to come and help us with our 'My Faith Badge'. We got shown around church and counted how many crosses we could see. We also wrote prayers for the family service.

*Julie Milburn, Cub Leader 'Chil'*

### Green Tip

Not a 'great idea', but a reminder of why we should care for the earth and its people from the Christian Aid Count Your Blessings calendar. During Lent Beacon Hill Sunday School are using the children's version; both can be ordered from Christian Aid or downloaded at [www.christianaid.org.uk/lent](http://www.christianaid.org.uk/lent)

As some of us give up chocolate or some other treat for Lent, consider this thought for the weekend of February 24 & 25: "Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen... to share your food with the hungry and to provide the poor wanderer with shelter - when you see the naked, to clothe them, and not to turn away from your own flesh and blood? Isaiah 58:6-7

Our journey through Lent is one of hope. Hope that we can grow in our discipleship, hope that our hearts will be filled with more of God's love. This weekend, take some time to reflect on your Lenten journey. Are you letting God change your heart? How are you taking action for a better world?"

*Lilian Wood*

# Trinity

Monthly Coffee Morning Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> from 10:00 a.m.-11:30 a.m.

On Monday 5<sup>th</sup> there will be a Fairtrade Coffee morning from 10:00 a.m.

On Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> our Messy Church will be part of the Moving Mountains initiative when it is hoped we might have more local families attending.

We are continuing the joint Lent Course at the Baptist Church on Thursdays at 6:45 pm

*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.

Week commencing

March	4th	Kirkby	I
	11th	Broughton	J
	18th	Millom	K
	25th	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, 8<sup>th</sup> March, 22<sup>nd</sup> March at 1:30 pm.

*Chris Mills*

## Kirkby-in-Furness

On Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> March 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 Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> March, 1:30-3:30 pm. 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.

*Beryl Hollowell*

# Beacon Hill

On January 28<sup>th</sup> our Family and Parade service was led by Hayley Edmondson. The Cubs who attended were involved in acting out the story of the feeding of the five thousand, and also read the prayers they had written. As it was World Leprosy Sunday, Hayley spoke about this disease and what can be done to help those who suffer from it. When coffee was served after the service people were very generous in supporting the cake stall in aid of The Leprosy Mission, contributing £70.85; thanks to those who made the cakes and those who bought them.

This year the title of our Lent meetings is 'Exploring Spiritual Practices', concentrating on Scripture and prayer. We will meet in the Wesley room at 7:30 pm on Monday evenings for 4 weeks, beginning on February 26<sup>th</sup>.

As part of the Moving Mountains mission our quarterly Supper Club will be held on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> March at 7 pm, when we will have an evening of Magic Moments with Rev Gwyn Murfet. We will be joined by members of St Aidan's and Holy Family churches. Then on Sunday morning Yvonne Blackley will lead our Family and Parade service. Our monthly coffee morning will be held on Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> March, 10 am-11:15 am, with stalls selling cakes, handmade cards, books and Fairtrade items.

*Lilian Wood*

# Askam

The Sisterhood had a wonderful afternoon of music when they had their first meeting on Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> January. The Royal Holborn Hill Brass Band led us in four rousing hymns interspersed with marches, dance music and popular tunes. We were delighted to share the meeting with invited guests, plus many other visitors.

Our new instructor Becky Shuttleworth is leading the armchair class with humour and a good selection of music (many of the tunes chosen by the members of the class). We meet weekly at 10:30 am on Thursday in Duddon Road Church, paying £2.50 per session which includes the exercises and light refreshments and fellowship afterwards. Everyone is most welcome to join us.

## **Moving Mountains**

Askam, Ireleth and Dalton Churches are working together during the weekend of 8<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> March towards growing in faith, and building their churches through many events at that time. You can find details elsewhere in Newlink.

Our next Sisterhood meeting will be at 2:30 pm on 14<sup>th</sup> March - Flowers with Ros Harrison - and our Easter Service will be led by Rev Ron Wilson on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> March. As always we would welcome everyone to our services and Sisterhood meetings.

At last I can report that we have seen a start on the building work which we have been awaiting for many months. The front of the Church has been rendered and dashed and we await the final work on the roof.

*Dorothy Gleaves*

# Dalton

A big thank you to everyone who supported our refurbishment fundraising coffee morning in January.

On Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> February we celebrated the 90<sup>th</sup> birthday of two of our members. One was on Sunday and the other on Monday 5<sup>th</sup>. Two cakes were enjoyed!!!

## **Future events:**

Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> March Church coffee morning at Market Street 9:45 to 11:15 am.

Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> Midweek Communion 2:30 pm at Market Street.

*R Willock*

Christian Women's Fellowship. The next meeting of the CWF will be on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> March at 7:30 pm when we will be having a Lenten service. All are welcome.

*D Zazi*

# Millom

Our annual Daffodil Tea for Marie Curie Cancer Care will take place on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> March from 3:00pm to 5:00pm at a cost of only £3.50. Why not come along for a pleasant afternoon out? (We are only six miles from Barrow according to my computer and the natives are friendly!)

Looking ahead to Easter the Churches Together in Millom are hoping to have a Good Friday Walk of Witness and Worship similar to 2017 where the participants meet in the Market Square at 11:45am and visit each church in turn for a short period of worship culminating with a longer service at Holy Trinity Church at about 2:30pm where others who can't manage the walk can join in. Also there will be a Son Rise service at 6:30am in the new cemetery led by Renee Palmer the Salvation Army Envoy on Easter Sunday morning where we celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. As part of the Fairtrade Fortnight there will be a collection at Tesco and a Biker's Breakfast at The Green Village Hall on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> March at a cost of £5.00.

*Margaret Riley*

# Ramsden Street

Several of us enjoyed the Agape meal arranged by Churches Together during the week of prayer for Christian Unity.

Our Lunch on Wednesday March 7<sup>th</sup> will be a 'Lent Lunch' with donations going to charity.

Our Moving Mountains event will be on Friday March 9<sup>th</sup> at 10:30am when the Greengate children will come to sing for us.

FACTORS worked on a 'Love' theme in February and in March they will meet on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> to work on an Easter theme.

*Anne Stevenson*

# Vickerstown

There will be a coffee morning at Vickerstown on Saturday March 10<sup>th</sup>, from 10 a.m. to 11:30 - as this is during Fairtrade Fortnight and we are proud to be a Fairtrade church, there will be a focus on Fairtrade at this coffee morning and a proportion of the proceeds will be donated to the Fairtrade Foundation. Please come along to have a look at our Fairtrade stall, as well as the usual homemade cakes and bring & buy stalls. Our monthly Food & Fellowship group has recently donated £195 to the Alzheimer's Society, after raising money towards this for a few months following a presentation on the subject - £100 was also given a few months ago to the group within Cumbria's churches working towards making our premises and congregations 'dementia-friendly'. It is good to feel we are helping, in a small way, to address such a big and growing problem. From January's meeting we will be putting any 'profits' from the group towards local homelessness support projects.

*Karen Edmondson*

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