



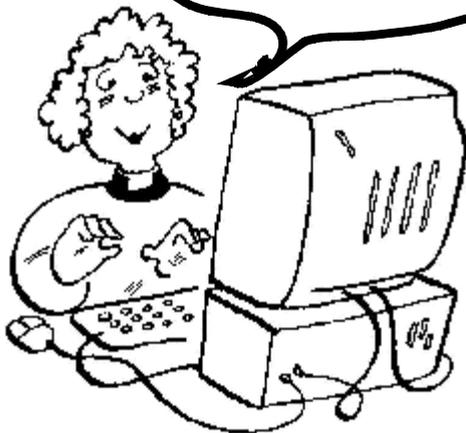
# Newslink

**SOUTH WEST GUMBRIA UNITED AREA**

Charity Registration Number 1141404

**Methodist and United Reformed Churches Working Together**

## The Minister Writes



Every time I switch on the news or pick up a newspaper, there seem to be yet more reasons to despair. All those things that once gave us a sense of security and helped us feel part of a society which was built on Christian values, even though many didn't realise that was the case, seem to be disappearing. The doors of our country, which once were open to any who were in danger through no fault of their own, are being slammed shut. Hate crime is splitting communities where people have lived together in harmony for generations. Until 'Brexit'

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we could be confident that we could move freely around Europe - for work or leisure. Whether we'll be welcome in future is in question. We used to be sure that the United States upheld the same values as us so we were natural allies. Recent events have made apparent deep divisions even within the USA in the values that shape their people. So where can we find hope and certainty in our very confusing world today? Where is the sense of responsibility we once had for one another? One of the fundamentals of our Christian faith is the conviction that God is able to bring light out of even the deepest darkness - with the death and resurrection of Jesus the clearest evidence that God can take even the most unpromising of situations and turn it round to achieve his purposes. I believe and trust that God is at work in unexpected ways even in the darkness of our present times. So when I'm tempted to despair I recall the

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

promise that ‘with God, all things are possible.’ And I see evidence that the Holy Spirit is afoot, moving in our midst. In recent days, for example, we’ve seen voices of every age and status all over the world raised rejecting the ‘me’ and ‘mine’ culture and instead proclaiming a commitment to compassion, unity and the desire to open doors rather than build walls. I cannot recall in my lifetime such a widespread rejection of the direction in which our western world in particular has been sliding. My prayer is that President Donald Trump may have unwittingly provoked a turning of the tide and we are seeing people realise that the kind of world we want for ourselves and our children is not the one he espouses but one built on the values that Jesus summed up when he commanded us to love God and to love our neighbour - whoever that neighbour might be. The challenge for us, then, is not just to love, but to find the courage to add our voices to those demanding that change of direction. Shalom,

*Jennet*

## Inspiration in Your Inbox

Every day of the year, early each morning, the URC sends out, by email, a Daily Devotion consisting of a reading, reflection and short prayer. You can read them on your computer, phone or tablet and they provide inspiration in your inbox! The Devotions are written by a team of over 90 people from a range of perspectives and places within the URC. If you would like to receive them you can sign up by going to <http://tinyurl.com/URCDailyDevotions> and filling in the form.

## 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 120 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 5<sup>th</sup>. Items can also be passed on by ☎ **01229 825986** or ✉ [lilian.wood4@gmail.com](mailto:lilian.wood4@gmail.com)

## **Invitation To Explore Becoming A Dementia Enabler**

The following is taken from the Churches Together in Cumbria February newsletter: We were delighted with the growth of Churches Together in Cumbria's dementia-friendly churches project in its first full year of operation in 2016. The first 65 Dementia Enablers are now active in making their churches dementia-friendly. Our first Cumbria Churches Dementia Conference in November attracted 75 participants. CTiC seeks to recruit Dementia Enablers in those churches that do not yet have one. With that in mind, our Dementia Reference Group has organised a programme of Saturday morning half-day events around the county in March, to be followed by a one-day workshop in Penrith in June.

The March events will run from 9:30am to 1pm at the following venues:

- 4 March Kendal Parish Church
- 11 March Sands Methodist Church, Appleby and Barrow St Aidan's
- 18 March Carlisle Border Kirk
- 25 March Crosthwaite Parish Room, Keswick

The programme will include a Dementia Friends session and information on the role of a Dementia Enabler. More information online or from Dementia Coordinator David Richardson: [dardesk@aol.com](mailto:dardesk@aol.com); 07917 668235.

If you would like to come and learn more about being a Dementia Enabler, please book with Margaret Irving: [dfc43@btinternet.com](mailto:dfc43@btinternet.com); 07540 920829, specifying the name of the church and which event you plan to attend.

## **Banana Party**

Following our Strawberry Party last summer, Beacon Hill will be holding a Banana Party on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> March at 2 pm. Donations will be invited for the work of The Leprosy Mission. There will be banana-inspired food and games, and plenty of tea and conversation. A number of people who attended the Strawberry Party dressed in shades of pink or red (either deliberately or from a subconscious impulse) so we thought we would ask people to wear something yellow for this event, although this is not compulsory. For catering purposes, if you intend to come could you please let me know - tel 825986, email [lilian.wood4@gmail.com](mailto:lilian.wood4@gmail.com)

*Lilian Wood*

## **First Tuesday Ladies**

We will meet on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> March at 7:30 pm at 59 Croslands Park to study the Bible and enjoy a time of prayer and fellowship.

*Elaine Pears*

## **Fairtrade Fortnight, Monday 27<sup>th</sup> February - Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> March 2017**

A Message From the Fairtrade Foundation:

“The food on our tables, the tea and coffee in our mugs: all from farmers who toil, sweat and slog.

However hard they work to provide the things we depend on, millions of farmers in developing countries aren't paid what they deserve. It's not a new problem. We need to amplify the voices of marginalised producers as much as ever in 2017. When we come together, we can change the way people think about trade and the products on our shelves - the Fairtrade movement is made up of ordinary people doing extraordinary things in their communities for Fairtrade. Your actions help shoppers to make choices that change the lives of farmers and workers.

Join thousands of others across the UK this Fairtrade Fortnight to help our friends, neighbours, colleagues and communities to put Fairtrade in their break and take exploitation out.”

The SWCUA remains committed to promoting Fairtrade, with many churches using fairly traded products on a weekly basis. Please support the special events taking place in individual churches during Fairtrade Fortnight!

*Barrow became a Fairtrade Town in 2007, but our FT status has never been renewed. Work is now underway to put this right and I hope that, in the future, we can work together to support and promote Fairtrade in Barrow even more effectively. In the meantime, I would be very grateful if you could let me know what you do in your church to support Fairtrade, both during FT Fortnight and throughout the year. Please email me at [kathryn@colinvaldred.plus.com](mailto:kathryn@colinvaldred.plus.com). Thank you for your help.*

*Kathryn Aldred*

## **Bible Stories Exhibition**

This will be held at Trinity from Monday 27<sup>th</sup> March until Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> April from 10 am to 5 pm daily. We are delighted with the response from the schools for this exhibition - 8 schools have responded. In addition the Brownie packs in Furness will be exhibiting and competing for the Forresters cup. The schools have been invited to attend to view all the exhibits so it promises to be a very busy week. Help will be required to show the children around the exhibition in the Church and also with refreshments and activities in the lounge. Can YOU assist?

During the exhibition refreshments will be served - morning coffee / lunches / afternoon tea.

Please call in and give your support to this major Church outreach event.

*Brian Whittaker*

## **Furness Churches United Choir**

Come and see 'ROCK', one of the musicals by the Christian composer, Roger Jones, on Saturday April 1<sup>st</sup> at 7pm at St Mark's Church (the local choir will be augmented by the 'Jubilate Praise Choir' for this performance). The musical tells the story of Simon Peter - how he is called away from his fishing nets to travel alongside Jesus. The songs recount some of Peter's triumphs and failures and show us that only in Jesus and filled with his Spirit, is Peter - and are we - on solid ground. The Moving Marks Dancers will also take part in this performance.

All welcome, no fixed charge but a retiring collection will be taken to be split between St Mary's Hospice and Christian Music Ministries (a charity run by Roger Jones)

*Ann Hufton*

## **Network**

The Cumbria District Spring Day will be held on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> March at Arnside Methodist Church, with coffee from 10:15 am followed by worship and reports at 10:45 am. Gill Dascombe will speak on "A journey to Taizé" and will lead Taizé style worship in the afternoon. Please bring a packed lunch (drinks will be provided). There will be afternoon tea at 3 pm; numbers for this should be given to Jill Morris (01768 881041) by 10<sup>th</sup> March.

*Elaine Pears*

## **Flashbacks.... to times with Jesus**

Flashbacks will be running again at Ramsden Street from the morning of Monday March 6<sup>th</sup> to the morning of Wednesday March 8<sup>th</sup>. We are hoping to have children from 4 primary schools over the six sessions: Monday morning and afternoon, Tuesday morning and afternoon and Wednesday morning. If you would like to be part of this event, either helping with the children (who are delightful and very enthusiastic) or doing the refreshments, please let one of Hilary or Bob Mantle, Kate Hughes, Joan Linney or myself know. No particular experience is needed to be part of the team and we would be very grateful for any offers of help - even for just one session.

*Ann Hufton*

## **Local Preachers/Worship Leaders**

The next LP/WL meeting will be held on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> March at 7:30 pm at Market Street, Dalton. All leaders of worship are encouraged to attend.

*Janet Ladds*

## Lent Meetings

Trinity will be holding a Lent Bible study course jointly with the Baptist church, starting on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> March at 6:45 pm. This will be led by Jennet and will be preceded at 6:00 pm by a meal (optional).

**Beacon Hill** Mondays 6<sup>th</sup> March - 3<sup>rd</sup> April beginning at 7:30 pm.

This year we will be examining the film “The Way”, the story of a group of people walking the Way of St James to Santiago de Compostela. On 6<sup>th</sup> March we will watch the whole film, and then over the next 4 weeks we will consider different aspects of the journey, and how the people making the pilgrimage are changed. Everyone welcome.

## Appeal for Nicolas Lowe children’s home, Argentina

The Cumbria Methodist District has asked churches to help to raise £4,000 during 2016/2017. This will support one child in the home for a year.

Many thanks to Trinity for their recent contribution. The Area has now raised £1123.32, which is excellent.

*Lilian Wood*

### Green Tip

The Reflection Gardens website ([www.reflectiongardens.org.uk](http://www.reflectiongardens.org.uk)) has a Lent programme suggesting a number of environmental actions for each of the 6 weeks. The idea is to choose 2 or 3 actions to carry out each week under the following headings: transport, use of water, use of energy, reducing waste, shopping thoughtfully and improving biodiversity.

There is also a daily programme for Lent with a fact, action to be taken and Bible reading or prayer.

Here is an example:

**Fact:** Some packaging is made from sub-standard potatoes and can be composted.

**Challenge:** Check the layers of packaging that your shopping has. Aim for a maximum of two layers.

**Bible/Prayer:**

Living God,  
where there is waste, let us bring recycling;  
where there is recycling, let us bring reuse;  
where there is reuse, let us bring sustainability;  
where there is sustainability, let us bring justice;  
where there is justice, let us bring love.



*Lilian Wood*

## Individual Churches

### Trinity

Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> March from 10:00 am - Monthly Coffee Morning sponsored by Audrey and Debbie.

Our Easter Services are as follows: Easter Day 8:00 am Communion, 11:00 am Communion,

6:30 pm Easter Praise at the Baptist Church.

Our Easter Fayre is on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> April from 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm. Entry £1.00 which includes refreshments (hot cross buns). There will be a decorated egg competition and Easter bonnet competition, so get thinking!

The Two for 'T' group will meet on 22<sup>nd</sup> March in the Lounge when Betty Dillon Smith will give a talk on Old Barrow.

The Prayer Group meets each Thursday morning from 8:50-9:30 am.

On 5<sup>th</sup> February we welcomed Mike and Beth Cape who brought Charlie Ben for baptism. His older sisters Darcy and Bonnie were also present along with many other family members and friends. A very meaningful service on the subject of light and Candlemas, which was appreciated by a large congregation.

*Margaret Manuwell*

**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	5th	Kirkby	I
	12th	Broughton	J
	19th	Millom	K
	26th	Mission in UA	L

*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.

Our Bible studies will be held on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> March and 23<sup>rd</sup> March at 1:30 pm.

*Ellen Powell*

### Beacon Hill

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

*Lilian Wood*

# Dalton

Our January coffee morning raised £291 for our building fund. A big thank you to those who attended this event despite the very wet morning.

Future Events:

March 4<sup>th</sup> Coffee morning at Market Street 9:45 to 11:15 am

March 14<sup>th</sup> Midweek communion service at Market Street 2:30 pm

*R Willock*

Christian Women's Fellowship. Miss Anne Stevenson will be the speaker at our next CWF meeting on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> March at 7:30 pm. All are welcome.

*D Zazi*

On January 22<sup>nd</sup> we celebrated with Janice Cooke, Moira Penhallurick, Keith Wells and Patricia Wilson as they were received into membership of Dalton Community Church. We pray they will continue to bring many blessings to our fellowship.

*Ann Hufton*

# Millom

We decided not to have a Christmas Party in December 2016 so instead we had a Faith Lunch on Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> January after the morning service led by Rev Jennet McLeod. As usual there was a wonderful selection of food to share and a good time of fellowship together. (What happened to the New Year resolution regarding dieting?)

Churches Together in Millom held a Unity Service at Our Lady and St. James's Church on Wednesday evening 25<sup>th</sup> January which was well attended and all the denominations took part. It was lovely to see so many Christians sharing worship.

St. George's Church has finally reopened after six months work and a marvellous 10 hour Musical Marathon took place on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> January with choirs, soloists, organists and groups participating in half hour slots throughout the day culminating at the end with an organist playing items from "Last Night at the Proms" accompanied by flag waving! We will miss them coming every Wednesday morning for their communion services at Queen Street.

Deacon Debbie arranged an Afternoon Tea to celebrate God's Love and Valentine's Day on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> February. This raised £200 for Hope Charity School, Kisumu, Kenya.

The annual Daffodil Tea for Marie Curie Cancer Care will be held on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> March from 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm at a cost of only £3.50. Why not come and join us? (only 6 miles from Barrow as the crow flies!)

Lent Lunches commence on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> March from 12 noon to 1:30 pm for six weeks. They will all be at Queen Street but Churches Together are helping on a rota system so this is another joint effort.

The Women's World Day of Prayer is on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> March and this year it will take place at Millom Baptist Church on Crown Street at 2:00 pm. All are welcome to attend.

*Margaret Riley*

# Askam

Sisterhood started on 1<sup>st</sup> February when the meeting was chaired by Mrs Val Hall due to Dorothy's absence. Mrs Margaret Cain led the members through an interesting programme, consisting of stories, Bible readings and references. She used hymns from the old hymn book, and Mrs Beryl Allonby used her talents, accompanying the singing with her piano playing. Margaret and Beryl joined in fellowship with the members, as they shared tea and biscuits afterwards.

This prayer was shared by all:

Dear God, help me to discover the unique person You created me to be:  
to enjoy the little things that make me so special, so 'one of a kind'.

Thank you Lord for the awesome creative work You've done and continue to do in making me who I am.

Motivate me Lord to be the blessing to someone, that only I can be.

In Jesus' name. Amen.

Sisterhood continues fortnightly on Wednesday at 2:30 pm. on the following dates:

15 <sup>th</sup> February	Rev D Jackson,
1 <sup>st</sup> March	Envoy Renee Palmer, Millom Salvation Army,
15 <sup>th</sup> March	Mr and Mrs Brennan,
29 <sup>th</sup> March	Caroline Glading from St Mary's Hospice,
12 <sup>th</sup> April	Easter Service, led by Rev Ron Wilson,
26 <sup>th</sup> April	Flower arranging by Mrs Ros Harrison, & concluding this season on
10 <sup>th</sup> May	a trip to Vietnam and Cambodia with Mrs Lesley Nix, followed by a party.

*Dorothy Gleaves*

# Ramsden Street

Great fun was had at FACTORS on February 3<sup>rd</sup> when we made a video to use in our family service the following Sunday. Thank you to Ann Hufton for making this possible. Our next FACTORS evening will be on March 3<sup>rd</sup> at 6:00 pm.

The next Church lunch will be on Wednesday March 1<sup>st</sup> and this will be a simple Lent lunch. We will be hosting FLASHBACKS once again during week beginning March 6<sup>th</sup>. We are fortunate to be located near to four junior schools who all take part in this project.

*Anne Stevenson*

# Broughton

A reflective service is held at Broughton at 10 am on the third Wednesday of the month. We will be holding a Passover meal on Maundy Thursday, April 13<sup>th</sup>, at 7 pm. If you wish to attend could you please contact me on 889572 or 07551017993.

*Margaret Cain*

## Kirkby

Although not in Fair Trade fortnight, at our Coffee and Company in February we focused on Fair Trade and challenged everyone to try to bring a Fair Trade item along. This was only moderately successful with some people stating that they thought that the major supermarkets had cut back on stocking Fair Trade; has anyone else noticed this?

The builders have started work on our new ceiling and roof in the hall; however it is great that this time we can still use the church without the kitchen, toilet and entrance all getting constantly covered in building filth. Again we are grateful to the SWCUA for supporting us in this second unexpected project, which means that the life and fellowship of the church can continue.

The first Wednesday in March is our usual Coffee and Company (9:45-11:30am) which will then be followed at 11:30 to 1pm by our Lent Lunch which will be homemade soup, beautiful homemade bread and jam, followed by a cup of tea. Proceeds to charity. We invite everyone to have a beautiful ride out to Kirkby and join us for food and fellowship over lunch.

Many of you may know that when my sister was diagnosed with bowel cancer six years ago I started to enter marmalade in the Dalmain World Marmalade event as the money goes to Hospice at Home. This year we thought that we would have our own event at Kirkby. On the 11<sup>th</sup> March we are having a Spring Bulb and Marmalade event, from 1:30-3:30pm. Refreshments, marmalade, jams, bulbs and bird boxes available to purchase on the day. Entry is open to all and we have a large children's section, entry forms available in church and in the village shop. The proceeds will be shared equally between St Mary's Hospice, the church and Kirkby Horticultural Show.

Members attended the Moving Mountains evening at Trinity on 6<sup>th</sup> February and we were all asked to put in a prayer for the Mission at the end. Mine was that the rural areas of our large county of Cumbria may feel the benefits of this Cumbria wide mission.

*Mary Wilkinson*

## Vickerstown

There won't be a coffee morning at Vickerstown in March, as the February one is late in the month (25<sup>th</sup>). We also tend to avoid the first Saturday of the month as this clashes with Ploughman's lunches at St. Mary's, so the next coffee morning will be on Saturday April 8<sup>th</sup> from 10 am to 11:30 with the usual stalls - bring-and-buy, homemade cakes and Fairtrade goods. All welcome.

*Karen Edmondson*

# 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
Dalton Community Church	(alternates between Wellington Street & Market Street) – 9:30am
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	4 pm every week
Trinity Church Centre	4 pm every week
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.urch.org.uk](http://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 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