



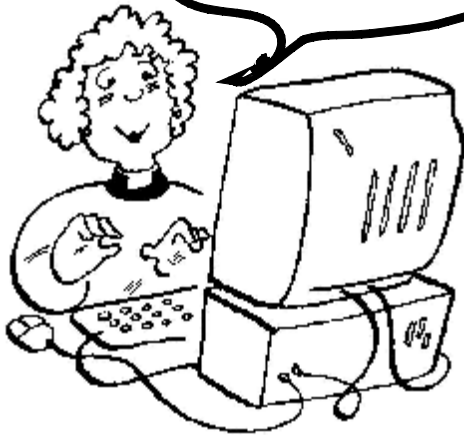
Newslink

SOUTH WEST CUMBRIA UNITED AREA

Charity Registration Number 1141404

Methodist and United Reformed Churches Working Together

The Minister Writes



Dear Friends,
As I am sure most of you will know by now, my 7 year term of appointment with the United Area (which started in September 2010) will come to an end this August. I decided that this was an appropriate time to retire from the staff team.

Some of you will remember that my journey into ordained ministry started in 1999 when I was accepted for training by the URC and, from 2000-2004, I attended Northern College in Manchester (part-time) before being ordained in September 2004. At that time I was inducted to the

ISSUE 123 July/Aug 2017

Furness URC Pastorate and South West Cumbria Methodist Circuit as an Associate minister in Dalton. Since then I have ministered both in Dalton and around what has now become the United Area - such as leading worship, doing pastoral visiting, taking funerals, and attending meetings of every sort imaginable! I have been particularly pleased also to take part in events which had community involvement - for example, Rainbow Roundabout and its successors; You, Me and Afternoon Tea; and, in Dalton, in various Christmas events, the latest of which was the Community Advent Calendar.

In some ways I will be sad to be taking more of a back seat in the Area (that's probably because I'm nosey and like to be in the know about what's going on!), but I am not giving up ministering altogether - so you'll still see me around at all sorts of services and events.

I want to end this short piece firstly with a thank you for your support and

Area Website www.swcumbriaunitedarea.unc.org.uk

encouragement over these past years - to my family, especially Graham, who has been a great and loyal pillar of strength throughout this time, to the other members of the staff team, and to all those who have helped me in ways too many to mention and especially those who have prayed for me at one time or another - it has been a privilege to serve the churches in the Furness and Duddon area.

And secondly, below are the words of a hymn by a URC minister, Kate Compston, which was sung at my ordination. If there has been one hymn that has been the underlying basis of my ministry, this is it. The words of this hymn have not fully come true yet but I still dream of a vibrant church that will a beacon of light in our world - and trying to play a small part in bringing that vision about has been the aim of my ministry.

Blessings,

Ana

I dream of a church that joins in with God's laughing
as she rocks in her rapture, enjoying her art:
she's glad of her world, in its risking and growing:
'tis the child she has borne and holds close to her heart.

I dream of a church that joins in with God's weeping
as she crouches, weighed down by the sorrow she sees:
she cries for the hostile, the cold and no-hoping,
for she bears in herself our despair and disease.

I dream of a church that joins in with God's dancing
as she moves like the wind and the wave and the fire:
a church that can pick up its skirts, pirouetting,
with the steps that can signal God's deepest desire.

I dream of a church that joins in with God's loving
as she bends to embrace the unlovely and lost,
a church that can free by its sharing and daring,
the imprisoned and poor, and then shoulder the cost.

God, make us a church that joins in with your living,
as you cherish and challenge, rein in and release,
a church that is winsome, impassioned, inspiring;
lioness of your justice and lamb of your peace.

© Kate Compston (Tune: Bard of Armagh)

Thanksgiving for Ann's Ministry

In August this year, Ann's formal ministry with us comes to a close when, 13 years after her ordination to Ministry of Word and Sacrament within the United Reformed Church, serving both the Furness Pastorate churches and then in the United Area since its formation in 2010, she 'retires'. During that time she has faithfully carried out her ministry particularly within the Dalton Community: leading worship; offering a listening ear in a pastoral sense; and in being part of the respective leadership bodies instigating outreach in the town. Alongside Janet Calderley she brought about the first children's outreach group "Rainbow Roundabout" that continues annually, in various developed forms, to serve the local junior schools, both in Dalton and the United Area, and at the other end of the age-spectrum, following the initial "You, Me and Afternoon Tea", she still has a leadership role in Dalton's "Thursday Club". Ann's talents have been recognised and put to good use beyond the U.A. in her role as Interim Moderator at other URCs in the Cumbria Area. Whilst we will miss Ann's input within the formal United Area, we are delighted to know that her ministry 'in retirement' will still be maintained in a less formal way. So, for now, thank you Ann for all that you have done, both in Dalton and in the wider church, and we look forward to expressing this more fully in an Area Service of Thanksgiving on the evening of 13th August. God's Blessing continue to be upon you.

Ron, on behalf of the United Area Staff Team

Open House

Ann and Graham Hufton invite you to their home (1 Egremont Gardens, Barrow) on Saturday August 12th, from 2-4pm. Outside if the weather is good enough! Come for light refreshments and a good chat! For catering purposes please let Ann know (tel 812439) by Sunday August 6th if you intend to come. (Donations invited for Dalton Community Church's Refurbishment Fund.)

REGIONAL & NATIONAL WEBSITES

www.cumbriamethodistsdistrict.org.uk

Connexional: www.methodist.org.uk

North West Synod: www.nwsynod.org.uk

National: www.urc.org.uk

September issue No 124 of *Newslink* will be published at the end of August. Please send all material to reach Lilian Wood, 89 Risedale Road, Barrow, LA13 9QY by Sunday August 6th. Items can also be passed on by

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

Pat Jones & Lila Briggs

We have lost two very special members of Duddon Road Church recently - Pat Jones and Lila Briggs.

Pat's sudden death was such a shock to all who knew her, but especially to Alan and her lovely family. It was comforting to know that the family were all around her bed at the hospital when she died.

Her funeral at Trinity Church Centre was a wonderful celebration of her life, and Alan must have been so proud of his son, who told us the story of his Mum. Also Dan the eldest (and the tallest) grandson very bravely talked through what a wonderful Grandma Pat had been to all of them - taking a couple of seconds occasionally to fight back the tears - before carrying on. All the other grandchildren were there as his 'backing' and I believe had intended to say 'thank you Grandma' at the end of Dan's speech, but this was blotted out by the applause from the congregation.

Alan had requested that the Roger Jones choir and the Praise Group should take part in the service, and thanks to the conductor Sharon we were all so privileged to sing for Pat, as she was brought into the Church.

Pat and Alan have been part of life in Askam for so many years, and I was proud to call them both my friends. Pat's cookery skills were amazing and she was so very generous. The Church Garden Party was always held in their garden and one particular time, I decided to have a food tombola. On seeing the stall Pat went indoors and came out laden with tins and packets of foods for this - I think she must have cleared her cupboards but that was the way she was. When this event got too much for Alan and was transferred to the Church Garden, Pat would always be there in the kitchen once again preparing and generously donating food.

As a Praise Group member I spent a lot of time with Pat and Alan, and she will be missed for her lovely smile and understanding nature.

Pat, you were a devoted wife, a loving Mum and Grandma and you were so proud of the two newest members of the family your great-granddaughters. We know you will be singing with the angels. We all miss you Pat, but as Alan has told us, you always had such a strong faith, and are now in Heaven. Sleep peacefully.

Lila must be one of the oldest members of Askam Methodist, and her gentle presence will be very much missed.

Born in Askam, she has lived there all her life, looking after 'the boys' her older brothers, and always there to help anyone in need. She was a loving Mum to Gordon and a grandma. She was always so willing to be involved at Church events (but just quietly in the background), and would be found in the kitchen whenever there was a need of a 'washer upperer'.

She and her late sister Muriel were members of Askam Sisterhood for many many years, and were always willing to help whenever needed. Lila made sure that every

member received a birthday card on their special day - which was really appreciated. Lila loved the Pensioner outings, and the mystery trips on the Dave New coaches. She also enjoyed travelling to Millom on the train to attend the Salvation Army events - where she joined in the fellowship of worship with them, and their lovely afternoon teas. Lila, we will miss you in Askam at so many events. You were a special friend to so many people - rest peacefully. I was privileged to call you my friend.

Dorothy Gleaves

Keswick Convention 2017

Three separate weeks from 15th July - 5th August.

Year on year the convention continues to grow with “Conventioners” coming from all parts of the UK as well as from abroad. Last year the numbers over three weeks were around 15,000. Keswick, as it tends to be referred to, is unique amongst the numerous Christian “big events” which take place from Easter to summer in as much as all events are free. There is no site charge but rather free will offerings. It’s also unique because it has existed for so much longer than others. This year will be the 142nd convention. As in past years the speakers will be drawn not only from Britain but also across the world and a wide spectrum of traditions. In the tradition of Keswick there will be an emphasis on Bible teaching in the morning, with seminars in the afternoon and worship in the evening.

In keeping with the 500th anniversary of the Protestant Reformation there will be a strong focus on justification by grace alone through faith alone. The full programme can be found on line at “Keswick Convention”.

Charlie Mills

Agape Meal

6pm Saturday July 22nd at Dalton Community Church, Wellington Street. Evening will include pie and peas and a talk by Rev Martin Williams on a visit to Oberammergau. Cost £5 - for catering purposes, please contact Kate Hughes (tel 463885) by Sunday July 16th if you intend to come.

Local Preachers/worship Leaders

A training session has been arranged for Thursday 13th July at Ramsden Street at 7:30pm when Sophie will lead a discussion on different preaching genres.

Janet Ladds

First Tuesday Ladies

We will meet on Tuesday 4th July at 7:30 pm at 59 Croslands Park to study the Bible and enjoy a time of prayer and fellowship. There will be no meeting in August.

Elaine Pears

Appeal for Nicolas Lowe children's home, Argentina

A final thank you to everyone who contributed to the United Area total of £1357.11, a very good amount which will help to make a difference to children's lives.

Lilian Wood

Youth spot

The members of Beacon Hill Sunday School have been putting on their dancing shoes. On 19th March we had our Anniversary, when we led a service of worship in the afternoon. The theme was dance, as some of our girls attend classes, and have already performed on stage. Mabel, Ebony, Penny and Katya danced during some of the hymns, particularly "Lord of the dance" (which says a lot about Jesus' life in a few verses) and "Teach me to dance to the beat of your heart" (a lovely modern hymn). Elaine and I did our bit in the back row, but we opted out of the gymnastic movements. The congregation, as usual, was pleased to see the younger ones taking part, the girls enjoyed themselves, and God was praised in a different way.

In May, during the evening service on Ladies' Sunday, the girls were joined by Alfie (aged 3) in dancing to "Brothers and sisters" by Roger Jones, and they will all be taking part in the Harvest Family and Parade service in September.

Lilian Wood



Green Tip

From the Royal Horticultural Society website
rhs.org.uk

"Flying insects such as bees and hoverflies which visit flowers for their nectar and pollen perform a vitally important pollination service.... Our wild bees and other pollinators are considered to be in decline. By planting nectar and pollen rich flowers over a long season, gardeners can help reduce this trend." These flowers include Sweet William, common jasmine and English lavender. The RHS also asks gardeners to avoid plants with double or multi-petalled flowers, as they may lack nectar and pollen, or insects may have difficulty in gaining access. Also never use pesticides on plants when they are in flower.

Lilian Wood

Individual Churches

Trinity

Usual monthly Coffee Mornings, 1st July and 5th August from 10:00-11:30 am.
Midweek Communion 4th July and 1st August at 10:30 am.

Margaret Maxwell

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

July	2 nd	Vickerstown	B
	9 th	Hartington Street	C
	16 th	Ramsden Street	D
	23 rd	Beacon Hill	E
	30 th	Dalton Comm Church	F
Aug	6 th	Urswick	G
	13 th	Askam	H
	20 th	Kirkby	I
	27 th	Broughton	J

Janet Ladds

Hartington Street

May Messy Church focused on Pentecost with crafts exploring wind, fire and languages. Perhaps the most “messy” involved covering palms and fingers with red paint and placing them on white paper and sliding them down to create flames. These were then enhanced by orange and yellow being spread on the palms and dragged down the red paint. It was a definite hit with the children but the following morning at “Messy More” it proved to be a big hit with a number of older members of the congregation.

“Messy More” has grown out of Saturday’s “Messy Church” and instead of the traditional Sunday morning service involves all the congregation being involved in a big craft activity which then becomes a focal point for the church. During the past year creative talent has been unlocked as members of the congregation have worked along with children and one or two parents who have joined us from Messy Church.

Mondays Toddlers 1-2:30 pm in The Hub. Our last meeting before the summer holidays will be on 17th July - we will return in September.

Tuesdays Knit and Natter 10-11:30 am in The Hub. After the meeting on 18th July we will have a summer break until September.

Chris Mills

Beacon Hill

Our monthly coffee mornings will be held on Thursday 27th July (in aid of Network) and Thursday 31st August, 10 am-11:15 am, with stalls selling cakes, handmade cards, books and Fairtrade items.

Lilian Wood

Dalton

Saturday July 1st - Church Coffee Morning at Market Street 9:45 - 11:15 am.

Tuesday July 11th - Midweek Communion service 2:30 pm at Market Street.

Sunday July 16th - Songs of Praise with Dalton Town Band at 3 pm. On the lawn at Market Street, weather permitting, otherwise in church.

Tuesday 8th August - Midweek Communion service 2:30 pm Market Street.

R Willock

Askam

I was invited to take part in an 'away day' at Abbot Hall, Kents Bank by Rev Ruth Crossley. I travelled in Ron Wilson's car with David Hughes and Elsie Hillman. We were warmly welcomed by Ruth, and the day course was led by Mike Talbot. It was a challenging day, but with much laughter, as we explored how things have always been done in Church; why they are done; and if changing them would bring the 'God for All' policy into South Cumbria. I look forward to hearing more of the subjects we discussed, and also meeting with Ruth, Ron and Beverley Lowe from St Peter's Ireleth, as we discuss the ways we at Duddon Road Church can share in worship and fellowship together with our Anglican friends.

Askam Sisterhood will start again on Wednesday September 13th when we will welcome Rev Canon Ruth Crossley to speak to us.

Dorothy Gleaves

Ramsden Street

The Tea & Chat afternoon is being held on Wednesday June 28th. There will be various stalls open from 2:30 and afternoon tea will be served from 3 pm. Tickets are £3.50.

There will be a concert by The New Abbey Singers on Friday July 21st at 6:30 pm.

Tickets will be available shortly.

We are holding a Coffee Morning at Dalton on Saturday July 29th.

The Prayer Shawl group meets at Ramsden Street on Wednesday September 13th at 1pm

There are no midweek meetings during July and August. The next meeting will be on Wednesday September 13th at 2:15 pm.

Anne Stevenson

Millom

We now have a designated area at Queen Street for Dementia Friendly worship - thanks to Debbie for organising this and to our friend Carol for providing a settee and armchair. Following our first service on Tuesday 20th June there will be a short service on the third Tuesday of each month at 2 pm. Anyone who would like to join us will be made welcome. Refreshments to follow.

Also on 20th June Debbie led another new initiative - a Prayer Walk. This is Ecumenical and open to all. The plan is to start from a different Church at 7 pm each Tuesday and go round local streets in pairs for half an hour then meet up to have further prayer together if people wish.

June has been a busy month in Millom, because on Thursday 22nd June at 7 pm another new fortnightly Prayer and Praise ecumenical project began. Please pray that these new ways of worship will be blessed by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Our Summer Special event for Church funds will be held on Saturday 19th August from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm. £3.50 a ticket for coffee and barbecue. We are hoping to have stalls, raffle and a few table tops at a cost of £5. Please join us if you are in the area.

We had a very special service recently when a lovely lady, Julip, from Thailand was baptised by Debbie. She is currently here in England on holiday and staying with her daughter Suree who is a regular worshipper at Queen Street. Several family members and friends joined us for worship and it was a joy to welcome them.

Following all the recent tragic events in London and Manchester we hope that everyone going away during the school holidays will have safe journeys and a peaceful and relaxing time.

Margaret Riley

Vickerstown

Vickerstown Church will be holding its annual afternoon tea on Saturday July 22nd - please gather from 3 p.m. to eat at 3:30. All welcome; admission £4. Please either buy a ticket in advance or let Karen know you are coming on 474601 or aberkle1@yahoo.co.uk, for catering purposes.

There is likely to be a coffee morning in August with the usual stalls. The date is not yet confirmed, though it is most likely to be Saturday August 19th, 10 a.m. to 11:30 - please check at the afternoon tea or by contacting Karen.

Karen Edmondson

Kirkby-in-Furness

Coffee and Company carries on through the summer. Please do join us on the 5th July and 2nd August. Those from Millom who may be travelling to Barrow, it would be lovely to see you. You can enjoy a drink and our home made eats. People from the south could make it a very enjoyable outing, why not bring a car full and have a day up North for a change.

By now we will have held the Community Praise Group Service in the Gala Tent with all 3 churches represented including the Quakers. Everyone joining together is so positive, we hope we can continue with this event each year and bring the LOVE of GOD to all the community.

Sunday 9th July 6 pm SONGS of PRAISE Service, led by our own Deacon Debbie Buckley. Please join us for a Wonderful Evening of Celebration.

Sunday 16th July 10:30 am. Our service will be to remember our Methodist Child Care Charity ACTION for CHILDREN which started in 1869 as THE NATIONAL CHILDREN'S HOME. Do you remember SUNNY SMILES? Come and join us to hear of their work today plus so many interesting stories from the people who have been helped over the years. Anyone who has been involved with the charity in any way please let us know your story.

Beryl Hollowell

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