

Dates for your Diary

Date	Event	Venue	Start Time	Finish Time
Dec 1	Coffee morning	Trinity	10:00 am	11:30 am
Dec 3	Advent meeting	Bacon Hill	7:30 pm	
Dec 4	First Tuesday Ladies	59 Crosslands Park	7:30 pm	
Dec 4	LP/WL meeting	Kirkby	7:30 pm	
Dec 5	Coffee and Company	Kirkby	9:45 am	11:30 am
Dec 10	Advent meeting	Bacon Hill	7:30 pm	
Dec 13	Coffee morning	Bacon Hill	10:00 am	11:15 am
Dec 13	Simeon	Dalton Wellington Street	7:30 pm	
Dec 17	Advent meeting	Bacon Hill	7:30 pm	
Dec 19	Christian Women's Fellowship	Dalton Market Street	6:30 pm	
Dec 22	Coffee & carols	Dalton Market Street	9:45 am	11:15 am
Jan 5	Coffee morning	Trinity	10:00 am	
Jan 16	Area Trustees meeting	29 Hill Road, Barrow	7:00 pm	
Jan 19	Soup and quiz	Dalton Market Street	6:00 pm	
Jan 24	CTB Agape meal	Baptist church	12 noon	
Jan 24	CTB Agape meal	St Mary's, Walney	TBC	
Jan 25	Burns night ceilidh	Broughton	7:00 pm	
Jan 26	Coffee morning	Vickerstown	10:00 am	11:30 am
Jan 31	Coffee morning	Bacon Hill	10:00 am	11:15 am

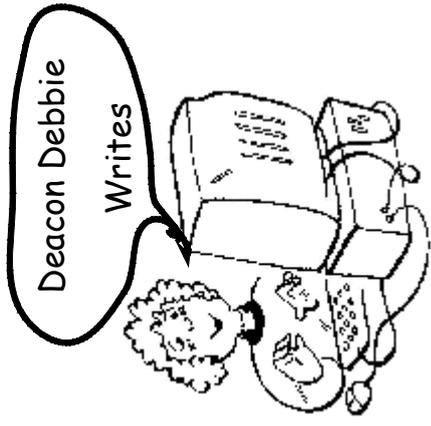


NewsLink

SOUTH WEST CUMBRIA UNITED AREA

Charity Registration Number 1141404

Methodist and United Reformed Churches Working Together



ISSUE 137 DEC 18/JAN 19

beginnings of the King of Kings. As we prepare to sing those familiar carols and read the Christmas story once more I guess we begin to wonder and ask ourselves how can we tell this story through fresh eyes, how can we bring something new to this familiar story?? Well maybe that is the wrong question; perhaps we should be asking ourselves, what new gift can I bring to Jesus this Christmas? What do I need to do to see the unfamiliar in the familiar? Has Christmas become too familiar to us? How much time do we actually give to Jesus on His birthday? Are we so busy with the family around us that we forget the God who created us? Remember the gifts the wise men brought to Jesus? They all told part of His life story: Gold for a King, Frankincense for a Priest and Myrrh for His death. So then what gifts do we bring and what do the gifts we bring say about how we see His life story?

The Gift of Christmas

Can you believe how quickly the year passes? It doesn't seem five minutes since we were last planning Christmas services, then we shared in the sorrow and hope of Easter, said farewell to Ron and welcomed Zena. And here we are once again in the midst of the story that is the foundation to our faith, for without the birth of Jesus, there can be no teaching of the life of Jesus. With the life of Jesus comes the death and with His death comes the resurrection. And so at this time of Advent we begin again with the humble

Do we give Him the gift of life? Really give Him our whole life, not just a small part if it? Do we give Him the gift of love? The same unconditional love He showed us on the Cross?

Do we give Him the gift of time? Or do we just fit Him in around the rest of our busy lives?

Whatever gift we bring to Jesus this Christmas, may it be one deserving of the greatest gift He gave to us, unconditional love and grace. As we bring our gifts to the manger child may we do so with open hands and as we give the gift to Him may we be open to the gifts He wants to give us. So that it is in the giving that we receive.

May we all receive the gift of the Holy Spirit afresh this Christmas time and may the birth of the Christ Child bring with Him lots of new birth within His Church, starting with Me and You. Let us go into 2019 with open hands and hearts, with expectation and trust.

Have a happy Christmas and a blessed New Year.

Delia



Green Tip

With all the packaging and wrapping associated with Christmas we need to be aware of exactly how we should recycle it. An article in The Mail on October 30th stated that people are putting items for recycling into plastic bags, which are then classed as contaminated waste as the contents cannot be examined by the contractors for safety reasons. So please remember to put your recycling items loose into your bin.

Lillian Wood

REGIONAL & NATIONAL WEBSITES

www.cumbriamethodistsdistrict.org.uk

North West Synod: www.nwsynod.org.uk

Connexional: www.methodist.org.uk

National: www.urch.org.uk

February issue No 138 of *Newslink* will be published at the end of January. Please send all material to reach Lillian Wood, 89 Risedale Road, Barrow, LA13 9QY by Sunday January 6th. Items can also be passed on by ☎ **01229 825986** or ✉ lilian.wood4@gmail.com

Regular Sunday Services

Morning service times are as follows:

Askam	(Duddon Road) 11:00 am fortnightly (alternate weeks at St Peter's, Ireleth at 11:15 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 service 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
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.swcumbriaunitedareaurc.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:

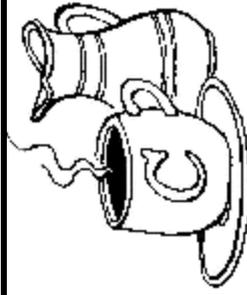
at the Square Café from 10:30 to 12 noon

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



Ramsden Street

Our Harvest supper and service on Friday October 26th was very enjoyable. Pie and peas were served first then the service, led by Jennet, was very much appreciated. Gifts of tinned food have been donated to Furness Homeless Support Group and the offering of £120 was for Christian Aid.

The Autumn Fair on November 3rd raised £614 for Church funds. Thank you to everyone who supported this event.

The URQ quiz winners were announced at the Fair and the winner was from Kirkby Lonsdale and the runner up was from Walney. Entries were received from all over the country - including Somerset, Oxfordshire, London, Isle of Man, Preston and Manchester areas. £306 was raised for Church funds. The correct answers are available if anyone would like them.

Anne Stevenson

Vickerstown

Vickerstown will be open for worship on Christmas Day, at the usual time of 11 a.m., followed by a buffet lunch for anyone who wishes to stay. We will again support the Methodist charity 'All we Can' through a shared Christmas card arrangement and the Christmas Day offering.

There will be a Scout Christmas Post on Walney as usual, to support the Beaver, Cub and Scout groups - full details not confirmed at the time of writing, please contact Karen (474601) if you want to know more, or find a collection point at one of Walney's three churches or elsewhere on the island. The price per card to be delivered is usually 20p, certainly well below the price of a stamp these days! The final deadline is likely to be Friday December 14th.

Vickerstown's next coffee morning will be on Saturday January 26th from 10-11:30 a.m. - free entry, all drinks 50p, all welcome. There will be stalls selling homemade cakes, Fairtrade goods and books, as well as a bring-and-buy stall.

Karen Edmondson



Team ministry in the United Area

The Area meeting has agreed that we develop team ministry in the United Area. The number of Trustee meetings will reduce to allow Trustees and staff to put more time and energy into providing support for individual churches. The teams are available to encourage and assist churches in making the most effective use of their resources and in pursuing the priorities set out in their mission and discipleship policies and will shortly let you have information about the ways in which they can help you.

How will the teams work?

We have identified the relevant heading/s for each team from our Mission & Discipleship policy and have noted which Trustees and staff are leading each team.

The teams will intentionally gather together expertise that lies within all the SWCUA churches so please prayerfully consider whether God might be calling you to contribute, either appointed for a fixed period as a full member of the team or on a short-term basis to help with a particular task or project (eg leading a specific small group study).

The teams are:

- The Finance and Facilities Team - admin, communication, annual returns, GDPR, website, property (Extravagant Generosity)
Lead staff/trustees - Lynne Pearce, Karen Edmondson
- The Worship and Teaching Team - worship, faith development, plan making, study groups, study days, quiet days, lay ministry development (Passionate Worship and Intentional Faith Development)
Lead staff/trustees - Jennet McLeod, Janet Ladds
- The Pastoral Team - visiting, support and care of church family and local community, communication between churches, hospital visiting, safeguarding; eg team could help churches develop their baptism and funeral follow-up (Radical Hospitality)
Lead staff/trustees - Zena Smith, Kathryn Aldred
- The Mission and Outreach Team - church & communities, church mission events, faith sharing, mission communities for each church, re:new, Street Angels, etc (Risk-taking Mission and Service)
Lead staff/trustees - Debbie Harkness, Sophie Carnaby

Update on Broughton Methodist Church

Over the past eighteen months we have been working with T.C.C. (Transforming Church and Communities) and the local residents of Broughton to discern the way forward. After much consultation we have drawn up a five year plan. There is a lot in the document and I would be more than happy to come along to your churches to share with you our vision for Broughton.

Messy Church:

In the meantime here are some pictures of our second Messy Church. We did one around a picnic on the beach in the summer holidays and one around Light and dark in the October school holidays.



Pet Service:

Here are some pictures of the Pet Service I led at the Anglican Church at their Follow Me service at the beginning of November.



Broughton

Saturday 8th December 3pm Nativity with the young people and Guides. Please meet us in Broughton square.

Friday 25th January 7 pm Burns night ceilidh at Broughton Methodist church. Various soups with homemade bread, haggis with savoury crackers followed by shortbread and endless tea, coffee or water. Adults £4.00, children £2.00, under 5s free, family £6.00. Hope to see you all there and bring back happy memories of the Burns night ceilidhs we have had in the past.

Beryl Hollowell

Millom

As I write this in early November our church is waiting for 150 shoeboxes to be collected for transporting to Romania. At Queen Street we collect items throughout the year which culminates in a packing afternoon in time for the Barrow ladies to pick up and take to the warehouse for checking. A special prayer was spoken last Sunday morning by Rev Ann Hufton to bless the boxes and pray for the Romanian children who will receive them. At our harvest service Teddy Mark Tothill was christened and welcomed into our church family. With his family and friends attending the church was full. There were several children in the group who enjoyed doing some crafts in the coffee room during the service. It was lovely to see them as we sadly have no young people since the Shell Club and Girls' Brigade have both finished.

At Cafe Worship the following week we concentrated on Remembrance and made poppy wreaths to display in our prayer corner.

There is a special Christmas Market in Millom this year and the crib will be blessed and carols sung in the square. Our Christingle service will be held on 16th December - another Cafe Worship service - and on the same evening the Salvation Army are holding their annual carol service which is always a well-attended event and all the other churches take part.

We have been invited to the Baptist Church to see their Christian pantomime and we are sharing worship with them on Christmas Day as well. They are coming to us on Christmas Eve for an extended communion service at 7 pm. On 31st December there will be a united service at St George's church for all the Millom churches so we are working together with other Christian denominations in the closing month of the year. We wish all the readers a peaceful and blessed Christmas and a happy and healthy new year.

Margaret Riley

Askam

It's good to know that one of Askam's members who lives at Risedale Care Home (on Abbey Road, Barrow) is so well cared for as well as kept busy and happy. Many of you will remember Margaret Frankland, especially as organiser of the Women's Day of Prayer for many years and Chairman of Askam Sisterhood. The last time I visited her she reported her good news - she is now a member of the Risedale choir, and has been invited to sing a solo at their Christmas Show. Well done Margaret - despite your many health problems you can still enjoy life and contribute to giving pleasure to others. Sisterhood's last meeting in October was a very musical afternoon. We were entertained by our local Askam Celeb - Graham Standing. He brought all his gear including two very tall speakers, and I didn't need my hearing aids that afternoon (only joking). He is a very pleasant singer, and led us through a selection of 40s, 50s, 60s music, so we all knew the words!! which gives away our ages, and Graham encouraged us to sing along with him. I was delighted to see all the members joining in, and was to learn that he often sings at our Askam Pensioners Club, so most of the ladies were his 'backing group'. If your group needs a good sing song Graham is your man.

I have included two events which take place at the end of November, in the hope that people will be able to read about them before they take place.

On Saturday 24th November Darren, the Askam Co-op Manager, has asked us to hold a Coffee Morning at Duddon Road, when he will present cheques to the groups who have received the Community Fund for the last twelve months - which includes Duddon Road Church and Keppleway School at Broughton. He also hopes the new recipients for the next 12 months for the Co-op Fund will be there. Everyone is welcome; the event runs from 10:30 - 11:30 a.m. If you think your Church could benefit please come along to hear how to apply.

On Wednesday 28th November we will hold our Sisterhood Christmas Party from 2:30 p.m. - 3:45 p.m., when the children of St. Peter's Ireleth School will entertain us. Afterwards we will share party food together.

Our Christingle Service will be held on Sunday 16th December commencing at 4:00 p.m. and led by Rev Jennet McLeod. We will be joined by children from Askam Village School and they will take part in the Service, and also in making their own Christingle oranges. Always a pleasure to work with young children and especially to see their faces when the Christingles are lit (and we dim the lights).

Dorothy Gleaves

Agricultural Chaplain:

I am also the Agricultural Chaplain for Broughton and I go to the Auction Mart mainly on a Tuesday morning. They have finished now until December when it will be on Monday 3rd in the evening and there will be a charity Auction on Saturday 8th December in the morning. I have also had the pleasure of having a placement with the local Vet for several days which has been really useful in learning more about farming and rural ministry as well as highlighting my profile as a local Agricultural Chaplain for the local area.

Nativity in the Square:

This year we are planning a Journeying Nativity in Broughton Square at 3.00pm on Saturday 8th December. We plan to make the bus shelter into a stable and have booked the Auction Mart just in case it rains!!

New Monthly Service:

I am also planning on starting a monthly Taize service in the evening of the third Sunday of the month starting on Sunday 20th January 2019 at 16:00. A few members still meet in the Café on the square on Tuesday mornings from 10:30 to around 12:00.

Debbie Harbess



TEN QUESTIONS TO ASK AT THE START OF A NEW YEAR

BY DON WHITNEY

Even those most faithful to God occasionally need to pause and think about the direction of their lives. It's so easy to bump along from one busy week to another without ever stopping to ponder where we're going and where we should be going.

The beginning of a new year is an ideal time to stop, look up, and get our bearings. To that end, here are some questions to ask prayerfully in the presence of God.

1. What's one thing you could do this year to increase your enjoyment of God?
2. What's the most humanly impossible thing you will ask God to do this year?
3. What's the single most important thing you could do to improve the quality of your family life this year?
4. In which spiritual discipline do you most want to make progress this year, and what will you do about it?
5. What is the single biggest time-waster in your life, and what will you do about it this year?
6. What is the most helpful new way you could strengthen your church?
7. For whose salvation will you pray most fervently this year?
8. What's the most important way you will, by God's grace, try to make this year different from last year?
9. What one thing could you do to improve your prayer life this year?
10. What single thing that you plan to do this year will matter most in 10 years? In eternity?

Taken from

<https://www.christianity.com/christian-life/spiritual-growth/ten-questions-to-ask-at-the-start-of-a-new-year-11643580.html>

Dalton

Advance notice: We are holding another hymn-singing workshop led by Deborah Milledge on the afternoon of Saturday 23rd February 2019 at Wellington St Church. Last February's workshop was well received, and we hope to see many attendees coming back again, but it will be equally suitable for those who didn't attend the first one. Further details about how to register for this workshop will be in February's Newslink.

Margaret Harrison

Soup and Quiz Night: 6 pm Saturday January 19th at Market Street. The evening begins with soup before the quiz starts. Teams are formed on the night so come even if you are by yourself.

For catering purposes, please let us know if you are coming (tel Ann on 812439).

No fixed charge but donations appreciated for our Refurbishment Fund. There will also be a Raffle on the night.

Ann Hepton

Despite the weather (Storm Desmond) our first prize bingo night was a real success. Thanks to the attendees and to the many who donated prizes.

The Bible Society Action Group raised £1055 in the year ending 18th October 2018.

Thanks for your support.

Brooklynn brought her family and friends along to her baptism on 21st October.

We had a very busy Coffee Morning and Craft Fair on Saturday 3rd November.

A polite reminder - Double Trouble quiz sheets are due in on November 30th.

Future Events:

Dec 2nd at 3 pm Bible Society Advent Praise Market St

Dec 11th at 2:30 pm Midweek communion service Market St

Dec 13th at 7:30 pm Furness Churches United Choir "Simeon" Wellington Street

Dec 16th at 10:30 am Nativity Service, then at 5 pm Community Meal followed by

Carol Service at 6 pm at Market Street

Dec 22nd at 9:45-11:15 am Coffee and Carols at Market St with Dalton Town Band

Jan 8th at 2:30 pm Midweek Communion Service Market St

R Willock

Christian Women's Fellowship meets for a Festive Meal and Carol Service on

Wednesday 19th December at 6:30 pm. There will be no meeting of the CWF in January.

D Zajt

Hartington Street

Mondays Toddlers 1-2:30 pm in The Hub. The last meeting before Christmas will be on 17th December and we will begin again on 7th January.
Tuesdays Knit and Natter 10-11:30 am in The Hub. After the meeting on 18th December we will break for Christmas and begin again on 8th January.

Chris Mills

Beacon Hill

The first of our 4 Advent meetings will be held on Monday 26th November at 7:30 pm in the Wesley Room. We will look at the different Gospel accounts of the Christmas story with hymns, prayers, activities and food. Everyone is welcome to join us.
We will welcome our friends from Trinity to a joint service at 4 pm on Sunday 2nd December, when Furness Chorale will present a programme of Christmas music. All are welcome.

On Sunday 16th December at 3 pm we will hold our Family Carol Service, led by the uniformed organisations. On Christmas Eve at 6 pm we have a reflective carol service led by Rev Zena Smith, and then a service on Christmas Day at 10 am led by Charlie Mills.

Our Mince Pie coffee morning will be held on Thursday 13th December, 10 am-11:15 am, with mince pies replacing the usual cake stall.
Our usual monthly coffee mornings resume on Thursday 31st January, with stalls selling cakes, handmade cards, books and Fairtrade items.

Lillian Wood

Kirkby-in-Furness

Sunday 9th December 3pm Service led by Praise Group.
Sunday 16th December 3pm Carol service with Holborn Hill Royal Brass Band.
Please come and join us for these services. You will be made most welcome.
Wednesday 5th 9:45 am Coffee and company.
Wednesday 19th 9:45am Craft and chat.
Thursday 20th December Carols round the Christmas tree from 6pm followed by coffee and mince pies at the Burlington. All Kirkby churches and others are involved. Please come and join us.

Beryl Hollowell

Two training days at Trinity Church Centre

Growing through Change and Conflict.

For leaders in our churches, to raise awareness and offer skills in recognising and responding to conflict in the church, and exploring a faith-based response.

Thursday 17th January 2019

Growing through Change and Conflict Foundation

This session explores your 'conflict style', how you respond in difficult or tense situations, and the different levels of conflict as they are experienced in church contexts.

Thursday 7th February 2019

Growing through Change and Conflict Further Skills

This session offers an opportunity to those who have attended the Foundation Day to practise skills learned on day 1 and to begin to apply these skills to your own situations.

What's the timing of the day?

Both days run from 10:00 - 16:00 with refreshments from 09:30.

Who is the training for?

All are welcome, although the Further Skills day (max 12/day) is only open to those who have attended the Foundation Day. The Foundation Day is designed for any in leadership (lay, ordained, stipendiary, paid or voluntary) in our churches (max 20/day).

What do I need to bring?

Tea, coffee, cake and fruit will be provided throughout the day. You are asked to bring your own lunch. You will be asked to complete a short questionnaire in advance of the Foundation Day to identify your own style of responding to conflict.

How much will it cost?

Each day will cost £15 per person. Your local church may be able to support you in paying.

Who will facilitate the day?

The days will be facilitated by members of the Cumbria Growing Through Conflict Network in conjunction with Place for Hope (www.placeforhope.org.uk).

How do I sign up?

To book please email info@placeforhope.org.uk

News from re:new

Season's greetings to you all!

Here at re:new we are fully in the Christmas spirit! With Christmas jumpers being worn, dancing along to all the Christmas classics, reading out the awful Christmas cracker jokes (Who delivers presents to the baby sharks at Christmas? SANTA JAWS) and having a good old munch on the mince pies. We still have plenty of Christmas goodies for sale so if you're still looking for that perfect Christmas addition to your house then why not come on down and grab a bargain. With special offers on napkins and cards you're sure to find yourself a bargain somewhere!

We are still on the lookout for more wonderful people to come and join our team of amazing volunteers. If you or any one you know is looking for something to fill a few hours in the week then why not come along and have a chat. We have started now to do taster days, so you can come along and try it out before committing long term. It's a great way to meet new people, share your faith and have fun whilst doing it.

Please don't forget that we are hoping to get a small group of people together for the Barrow Churches together Christmas carol flash mob on Saturday 15th December. We will leave from the shop and gather with the rest of the town churches at the statue by McDonalds around midday. Refreshments will be provided!

Ladies, we are currently very short of ladies' tops, shirts, jumpers etc so if you have any that no longer cut the mustard then please consider donating them to our wonderful shop! As some of you might be aware ladies clothing is the biggest seller in charity shops especially the tops and I am running out of suitable winter tops. I'm sorry I'm nagging AGAIN but please if you could spread the word then I would be eternally grateful. Don't forget we can also arrange collections to make it easier for you to get your goods to the shop!

Over the Christmas period we will be closed from the 22nd of December right up until the 3rd of January. If you need anything during this time, then please don't hesitate to get in contact with either myself or Sophie Carnaby. For those of you who don't have the shop number here it is: 01229 230859.

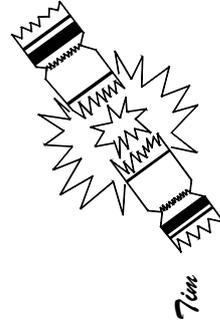
Sophie has recently found a way to make use of any old/foreign currency. If you have any that you no longer want/need then please send them our way and I'll make sure she gets them.

I'll finish here with another classic cracker joke!

Why did the turkey join the band?

Because he had the drumsticks!

Christmas blessings to you all



Individual Churches

Trinity

We will be holding a joint Advent Course at the Baptist church from 6:45 p.m. on Thursdays beginning on 29th November and continuing until 20th December. In January we will resume on a Monday evening at Trinity. Usual Coffee mornings on December 1st and January 5th, both from 10:00-11:30 a.m. The midweek communion service will be held on December 4th and on January 8th (note this month it will be on the second Tuesday).

Messy Church on December 8th and January 12th at 3:00 p.m.

There will be no 2 for 'T' in December but on January 23rd the speaker will be Irene Cannon, speaking about her work caring for hedgehogs.

Our Nativity Service will be on December 16th at 10:30 a.m. and we will be helped by children from Victoria Infant School. The earlier start is to allow us to have refreshments after the service when everyone will have time to relax and chat.

Victoria infants spent a happy morning at Trinity on Tuesday 30th October, when we thought about 'light' as opposed to the darkness of Hallowe'en, and they want to bring two classes at the beginning of December for a Christingle type morning.

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.

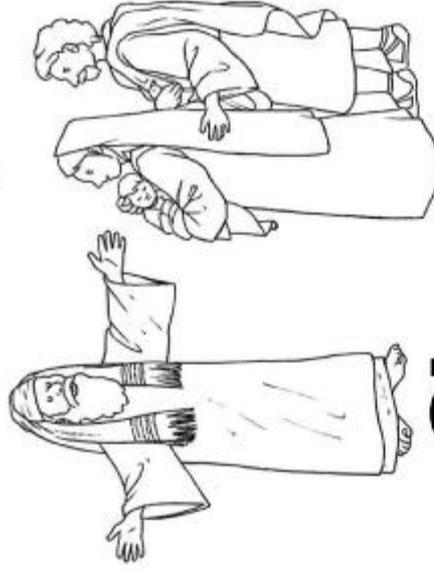
Week commencing

Dec	2 nd	Mission in UA	Y
	9 th	Trinity	A
	16 th	Vickerstown	B
	23 rd	Hartington Street	C
	30 th	Ramsden Street	D
2019	Jan	Beacon Hill	E
	13 th	Dalton Comm Church	F
	20 th	Urswick community	G
	27 th	Askam	H

Janet Ladds

Furness Churches United Choir **A Feast of Christmas Music and Words**

featuring



Simeon

A Christmas Musical

by Roger Jones

Thursday December 13th
7.30pm

Dalton Community Church

Wellington Street, Dalton, LA15 8AN

admission free

donations to church refurbishment fund appreciated

Dalton Community Church Co-op Local Cause

Our Thursday Club has been accepted as a local cause within Dalton and District for the coming 12 months. This means that any members of the Co-op (people holding Co-op cards) can nominate us as their preferred Local Cause and we will then receive the 1% they would receive from buying Co-op brand products and services. All money received through this will go to Thursday Club funds and help keep this lively group going. We hope that as our friends you will feel that you want to help us in this way. The following text should help you to do this.

If you are a Co-op member

Choose us as your local cause by either going on line at www.coop.co.uk/membership and following the 'Choose your Local Cause' link (you will first have to create an account if you do not have one).

Alternatively phone 0800 068 6727 and choose option 1. This will then direct you to another choice. Choose option 1 again. You will need your card number and preferably a bill that you have recently paid.

If you are not a Co-op member

Consider becoming a Co-op member. In addition to supporting your Local Cause you also attract 5% dividend on some items of your shopping. Although for new members there is a £1 joining fee this will soon be repaid by your 5% Dividend building up. Joining can either be done online at www.coop.co.uk/membership or in a local Co-op shop.

Once you are a member please choose us as your local cause as detailed above. You will be able to donate to Thursday Club until 26th October 2019.

If you would like any help with all this please talk to Bob Mantle or Ann Hufton. We respectfully hope that you can see your way to helping us in this exciting venture.

Bob Mantle

Advance notice - Bible Stories exhibition

This exhibition is being held at Trinity from 18th-23rd March 2019. Whilst we get wonderful support from the schools (already 9 schools have signed up for next year), it is not exclusively for schools. We would welcome any Church or Church organisation to engage with this exhibition and depict a Bible story(ies) using whatever materials you wish.

Also you are invited to visit the exhibition. If you belong to an organisation, why not arrange to come along as a group? We can organise morning coffee, lunches, afternoon teas - all we would require is the number attending.

For further information please contact Brian on 584602.

Brian Whittaker

Did you know?

If churches find they are paying 20% VAT on gas or electricity bills, it may be worth trying for a reduction as we are registered as a charity under the Places of Worship Act, which should entitle us to exemption from paying the full rate of VAT on these utilities.

Elaine Pears

Churches Together in Barrow and Dalton

The Agape meal will take place on Thursday 24th January 2019 at 2 venues: the Baptist church at 12 noon and St Mary's, Walney in the evening (time to be confirmed but probably 6:30 pm). There will be the same 3 speakers at both events.

Local Preachers/Worship Leaders

The next Local Preachers/Worship Leaders meeting will be held on Tuesday 4 December at Kirkby at 7:30 pm. All worship leaders and preachers are encouraged to attend.

Janet Ladds

First Tuesday Ladies

Our Christmas meeting will be held on Tuesday 4th December at 7:30 pm at 59 Croslands Park, when we will share food and fellowship. There will be no meeting in January; our next meeting will be on 5th February.

Elaine Pears

Youth spot

Flashbacks...to times with Jesus

At the end of October more than 120 children from 3 Dalton schools once again had the "Flashbacks Experience". Thanks to Ann Hufton and her great team of helpers, they were led through some of the events in the life of Jesus. An innovation this year was to act out the story of Zaccheus, which proved to be a great success. After a wedding meal, ceremony and hectic final dance, the children were able to leave with bracelets, booklets, fish pictures, matchstick crosses or a scroll from the synagogue, all of which they had made during their visit. This event is hard work for those who organise it but a wonderful outreach to these young people and hopefully even into their homes and is one which should be encouraged.

Elaine Pears

Christian Aid project

Thank you very much to Askam and Vickerstown for their contributions to the project to help children in Kenya affected by HIV and AIDS; the total is now £1944.19.

Lillian Wood

All in a Good Cause

This is the third in a series of articles highlighting the charities and causes supported by churches and individuals throughout the Area.

Barrow Food Bank

Barrow Food Bank was established by Barrow churches in 2012 to respond to the need to help those we know who are struggling in our community. It seeks to show God's love by providing food, support and advice to those in need. The Food Bank is based in the cellars below the Baptist Church in Barrow which supplies the storage space needed as well as a room where the food can be given out. As well as serving Barrow, the centre also supplies boxes of food for additional distribution points in Ulverston and Millom.

The Barrow Food Bank is one of a national chain of Food Banks operated by the Trussell Trust which provides us with advice and training about how we should operate. The Food Bank prepares boxes of canned and packaged food which is intended to provide the recipient individual or family with three days of emergency food. The Food Bank partners with a range of care professionals such as doctors, health workers, social workers and police. These care professionals give those they identify as being in need of food a voucher which the person in crisis brings to the Food Bank to collect their food. The Food Bank relies on donations to make up the Food Boxes. A lot of these come direct from churches; we at Beacon Hill have a box in the porch for donations. Others come from workplaces where workers are encouraged to make donations. Some come from schools, especially at Harvest time. For example the Food Bank recently received nearly one ton of food from St Bernard's. Tesco support the Food Bank by allowing us to periodically canvas shoppers at Flass Lane and Tesco Extra to donate items of food as they leave the store. Other supermarkets have trolleys where donations can be left.

Unfortunately the need for the Food Bank continues to grow. During the six months to the end of September the Food Bank supplied 4489 people with three days supplies, a third more than last year. Over 40% of the food was destined for children. The need to use the Food Bank arises from benefit changes and delays; the introduction of the Universal Credit contributes to this. Family breakdowns, illness or an unexpected bill can all be a cause of crisis as can low wages or insecure employment. The Food Bank tries to offer advice and signpost people to other services to help them break their cycle of poverty. The Food Bank will be particularly busy in the run up to Christmas. It always tries to supply each family in December with an extra hamper of Christmas foods; mince pies, cakes, puddings, tinned meats etc as well as presents for children under 16 (target value £10-15). If you would like to support this please take your donations to your nearest collection point before the end of November, or as soon as possible after this.

Most of the work at the Food Bank is done by volunteers - several Beacon Hill members are involved in helping at the warehouse or at supermarket collections. If you want to find out more about the Food Bank, it has its own website barrow.foodbank.org.uk. New volunteers and additional donations are always very welcome.

Paul Feels