



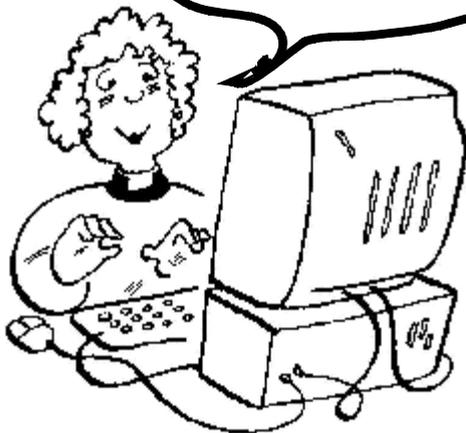
Newslink

SOUTH WEST GUMBRIA UNITED AREA

Charity Registration Number 1141404

Methodist and United Reformed Churches Working Together

The Minister Writes



I'm writing this on New Year's Eve, deluged by TV, radio and newspaper items looking back over the past twelve months and reflecting on what the coming New Year might hold. We seem to be no closer to understanding what Brexit will mean for us, and as a seeming diversion from the chaotic process of trying to find agreement on the terms of our exit, the fact that a few desperate Iraqi refugees (many of them children) are facing the perils of crossing the Channel in small and unsuitable boats has been decreed to be a 'state of emergency' and an 'immigration crisis'. Such talk will no doubt further inflame the

ISSUE 138 Feb 2019

hostility towards those who are simply trying to find a place of safety and a secure future for themselves and their families. And why do we seem to believe it's perfectly OK for us Brits to live, travel and work anywhere in the world while denying that freedom to others? Nor apparently does it matter that we in Britain are at least partially responsible for the plight of many of them in the first place. Perhaps we should pause and reflect on the fact that Mary and Joseph had to flee their home along with their infant son to escape a tyrannical ruler who believed his power to be under threat - would we have happily seen them forcibly sent back to where they came from because Joseph just might have taken a carpenter's job unwanted by a local Egyptian?

The question underlying all that surrounds us today, however, goes much deeper. It takes us to the roots of the kind of society, the kind of world we want to be part of. The beginning of a New Year

Area Website www.swcumbriaunitedareaurc.org.uk

is an apt time to ask ourselves those questions as we reflect on the wonder of the Incarnation and just what God was seeking to do in sending his own Son to live and work, to die and to be resurrected in our midst. Mary 'got it' - we know because she sang out powerfully in what is known as 'The Magnificat' about the great reversal that her unborn child would bring about - 'he has brought down the powerful from their thrones and lifted up the lowly,' she proclaimed. She was confident that through her child, God would achieve his purposes. In Jesus' life and work we can see that proclamation begin to be realised. And over the last two thousand years, there is no doubt that progress has been made - millions have been lifted out of absolute poverty across the world in the last ten years, for example. But many of the mighty are still kept on their thrones by exploiting the poor, driven by the pursuit of personal advantage - we still have so far to go....

Over the next couple of Sundays, many of us will participate in our annual Covenant services in which we celebrate God's everlasting commitment to us, his people. His commitment to bring about a world where every single individual and community might know the fullness of life Jesus declared to be his mission. May we accept the challenge the words of the Covenant prayer offer to us and reflect on the role God is calling each of us to play in building that upside down world Mary envisaged by our words, our prayers and our actions.

Every blessing for 2019.

Jennet

Churches Together in Barrow and District - change of date

Please note that the Agape meal originally arranged for Thursday 24th January will now take place on Thursday 31st January. See the poster elsewhere in Newslink for further details.

REGIONAL & NATIONAL WEBSITES

www.cumbriamethodistsdistrict.org.uk

North West Synod: www.nwsynod.org.uk

Connexional: www.methodist.org.uk

National: www.urc.org.uk

February issue No 139 of *Newslink* will be published at the end of February
Please send all material to reach Lilian Wood, 89 Risedale Road, Barrow,
LA13 9QY by Sunday February 3rd. Items can also be passed on by

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



Boxes of Hope Cumbria Shoebox Appeal 2018 Thank you

I would just like to say a massive Thank you to all of you who wrapped and filled a shoebox, donated money or items to go into a shoebox and for those who spent time knitting hats, scarves and gloves for this year's Boxes of Hope Cumbria Shoebox Appeal. Special thanks especially to Askam Sisterhood, Trinity Brownies/Uniformed organisations and Dalton Community Church for the large quantity of filled shoeboxes they donated to this year's appeal. I collected a total of 199 shoeboxes from around the Area, which was fantastic.

The total number of shoeboxes received at the Barrow Warehouse was 3,173 and the overall total shoeboxes taken to Romania was 9,363. The distribution team flew to Romania on 2nd December 2018 to give out the shoeboxes.

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

Pam x (Mills)

News from re:new

Happy New Year to you all.

And what a year 2018 turned out to be! We finally managed to open our shop after a long wait and it has gone from strength to strength, hitting targets most weeks and getting many amazing comments. This month we will be celebrating our 1st birthday as we opened a year ago on the 14th. We will be holding a small celebration so why not come along and join in! There will be cake!!

As always, we are still in desperate need of more volunteers; you don't have to have set hours a week, just come in whenever you can, any help is appreciated.

The following quote is from one of my volunteers, Jane Hunton:

"I just want to say how pleased I am that I found this place to come and volunteer as I have worked in other voluntary positions, but I feel very happy and appreciated in re:new. Tim the manager has become a very good friend and I appreciate everything that he has done for me both in work and at home. I also want to take this opportunity to wish you all a happy and blessed new year."

Tim Jeffries

Global Warming In 1868? Good Heavens!

On Sunday August 16th 1868 the Rev Francis Evans, 56, walked down to the docks at Barrow in order to get the ferry boat to Walney. It was around 8 pm. He had taken part in the afternoon and evening services at the Welsh Chapel, Church Street. He was looking forward to getting back to Biggar where he was taking a holiday in order to write a short history of Ulverston Congregational Church (the 1777 building still stands today at the top of Soutergate).

1868 had been an extraordinarily hot summer - 90°F at Tonbridge on May 19th, with excessive heat and drought in June and July (temperatures reached 100.5°F on July 22nd). On the Monday and Tuesday of that August week there had been particularly violent thunderstorms but the temperature remained high. As Francis walked to the docks around 8 pm he no doubt thought that the two mile walk back to Biggar would be more bearable. His thoughts would also be with his wife and two children who were having a holiday at Lytham - the children would have all kinds of things to tell him when they were all back home in Ulverston. Also the new buildings springing up everywhere would remind him of the new Dalton Congregational School/Chapel that was in the offing. The Rev Francis Evans and Ulverston Congregational Chapel were keen on mission work. By that time negotiations to buy the land had been completed, the Dalton architect's plans accepted and soon the foundation stone would be laid....

Francis had served as minister at Ulverston Congregational Chapel for twenty five years. The first term had been between 1835 and 1852 and then he had been invited back in 1858. The intervening years were spent at Long Buckby, Northamptonshire, where he had met and married his wife.

Sadly, Francis never reached Walney that evening. He collapsed and died on the boat within twenty yards of Walney shore. At the inquest held at the Hindpool Hotel a verdict 'Died from natural causes' was reached. In the 'Lancaster Guardian' he was described as a man 'who was greatly beloved for the kind manner he always evinced and respected by all classes of society for his eminently Christian character.'

Although born in Aberayron in Cardiganshire, Francis became a keen Furness historian. In 1842 D Atkinson of King Street, Ulverston published his book 'Furness and Furness Abbey or A Companion through the Lancashire part of the Lake District'. It is a very readable book. Amongst the many facts recorded Francis wanted the reader to know he shared the same name as the first Abbot of Furness Abbey 'Ewan or Evan de Albrenu (Ewanus, Evanus or Evans)' p 232. Good Evans!

Dalton Congregational Church became Dalton United Reformed Church in 1972 and is now a URC/Methodist place of worship, Dalton Community Church. A service celebrating the 150th Anniversary of the first service will be held at Market Street on 24th March 2019 at 10:30 am. There will also be an Anniversary Exhibition which will open on 2nd March and be available to view until 24th. If you have any photos relating to the church that you would be prepared to lend, eg weddings, baptisms etc please contact Margaret Harrison (tel 466069).

John Coward

Bible Stories Exhibition

This exhibition is being held at Trinity from 18th-23rd March. Whilst we get wonderful support from the schools, it is not exclusively for them. We would welcome any Church or Church organisation to engage with this exhibition and depict a Bible story or stories 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 me on 584602.

Brian Whittaker

United Area Meeting

The next United Area meeting will be on Tuesday 5th March at 7 pm at Ramsden Street. 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.

First Tuesday Ladies

We will meet on Tuesday 5th February at 7:30 pm at 59 Croslands Park to study the Bible and enjoy a time of prayer and fellowship.

Elaine Pears

Youth Spot

At Beacon Hill, we felt our small Sunday School was nearing the end of its days. As a result we decided to change the format to try to generate a little more interest and enthusiasm from the children. We now have Sunday School only on the Second Sunday in the month and try to make it as interesting and varied as possible whilst still emphasising the Christian message. Each session has used a "Messy Church" type approach with craft, eating, playing, listening and prayer. We have had 4 sessions so far and are still assessing the results, but certainly we have been asked "When is the next one?" so Lilian and I go forth in faith!

Elaine Pears

All In A Good Cause

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

Gideons UK

Hilary and I are members of Gideons UK. The Gideons started in 1899 when a commercial traveller was spending every night in a different hotel. It was a lonely life and, as he was a Christian, he set to with some of his friends to place a Bible in hotel rooms. They called themselves the Gideons. The organisation came to the UK in 1949 and now exists in over 200 countries throughout the world.

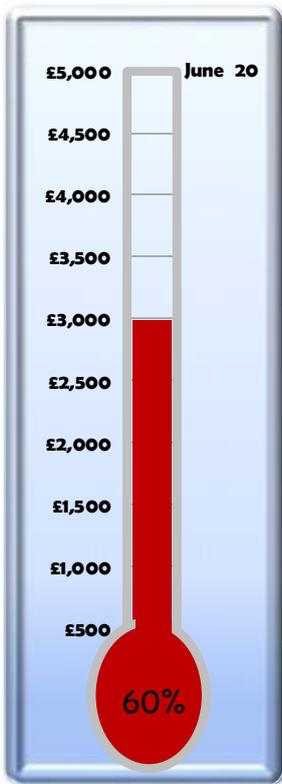
The membership rules were that it was an organisation for men of good standing in an evangelical church from a professional or business background. This made it somewhat elitist and definitely sexist and in 2017 the Charities Commission gave notice that it was not lawful in this country. After much negotiation new rules were drafted opening up to ladies and easing the professional and business qualifications. This was not to the liking of Gideons International in America and resulted in Gideons UK being set up.

Under the banner of headquarters local groups operate and we are members of the Furness Branch. We are a small group of just 9 people from various Churches here in Furness. As well as hotels we work with the Chaplains in Furness General Hospital, place Bibles in Residential Homes and Doctors' and Dentists' waiting rooms, and offer Bibles to the crew of submarines built in Barrow and to Year 7 pupils in the local schools. Our particular areas of specialism at the moment are schools work and acting as the Branch Treasurer. It is a great privilege to be able to talk to groups of young people from less than 50 in the smaller schools to over 200 in the largest.

We are an ageing group who would welcome new blood.

Bob Mantle

	<p>Guarantees a better deal for Third World Producers</p>	<p>® Fairtrade Fortnight Keep a look out for information about events being held to mark Fairtrade Fortnight, which this year is from February 25th to March 10th.</p>
---	--	---



Christian Aid Project

Since the last edition of Newlink contributions totalling £1043.86 have been received for the project to help children in Kenya affected by HIV and AIDS. Many thanks to Beacon Hill, Dalton, Hartington Street and Ramsden Street for their efforts. The total is now £2988.05, so we are well on the way towards our target of £5000 by June 2020.

Lilian Wood



Green Tip

A reader who wishes to remain anonymous has sent in this idea:

“Recycle the odd bits of soap which you`re left with at the end of each bar by gathering a few together and leave to stand in warm water (you can use a recycled plastic pot for this). Once they are soft and malleable simply squeeze them all together then leave to harden off to make another usable bar.”

I have been on several websites to see whether it is better to use a bar of soap or liquid soap. The following is an extract from

www.care2.com/greenliving:

“According to a 2009 Swiss study, the carbon footprint of liquid soaps is 25 percent greater per wash than bar soaps. Liquid soaps require 5 times more energy to create and 20 times more energy to package in a plastic bottle (compared to bar soaps wrapped in paper or cardboard). Plus, we have a tendency to use more liquid soap per wash than we would if it were a bar.

However, most bar soaps have a fatty base, some of which are more environmentally destructive than others. Take palm oil, for example. The palm oil industry is single-handedly destroying global rainforests and decimating orangutan populations. So, buying a palm oil-based bar of soap isn` t so eco either, unless you find fair-trade, orangutan-safe options.”

Lilian Wood

Hymns and Worship Songs from around the World



Saturday 23 February 2019

from 2.00 to 4.30pm

at

Dalton Community Church, Wellington St,
Dalton, LA15 8AN

A Singing Workshop for all ages and abilities, led by local
singing teacher and conductor
Deborah Milledge.

Come and sing a range of different styles of hymns and
worship songs, traditional and modern, brushing up on
your singing skills as you go.

Please apply by completing the form overleaf or
contacting Margaret Harrison on 01229 466069.

Cost: £5.00 per person. £2.00 for under 18s.

After expenses, proceeds will go to Dalton Community
Church's Refurbishment Fund. Refreshments included.

Closing date for applications: Tuesday 19 Feb 2019

Please complete the application form below and forward to Margaret Harrison, 1 Church St, Dalton-in-Furness, LA15 8BA together with the fee: £5.00 (adults) / £2.00 (under 18s).

Or

Ring Margaret on 01229 466069 to register your application and pay the fee on the day.

Deadline for applications: Tuesday 19 February

✂-----

Name

Contact Number

I enclose £ fee for the Singing Workshop on Saturday 23 February 2019.

Churches Together in Barrow and District

Agape Meal

On Thursday 31st January 2019

This year a choice of two events

Abbey Rd Baptist Church 12.00 noon for Meal at 12.30 pm

Alternative at Walney St Mary's Church 6.00 pm for 6.30 pm



**Please let Paul Burden on 01229 823299 or
paulbrdn@btinternet.com know your numbers by 28th January
at the latest. Please pay on the night.**

Individual Churches

Trinity

Usual monthly Coffee Morning 2nd February, 10:00-11:30 a.m.

Midweek Communion Tuesday 5th 10:30 a.m.

2 for 'T' Wednesday 27th 2:00 p.m.

Our Bible studies continue on Monday evenings at 7:00 p.m.

Margaret Manwell

Trinity Prayer - We meet in the lower meeting room at Trinity each Thursday morning between 8:50 and 9:30 am to pray; each week we give time to one of the United Area churches, and a set of streets, as well as other prayer concerns. If you have any prayer concerns or things you wish to be prayed for, please contact Janet/Alan Ladds (833882) so we can add them to the prayer book.

Week commencing

Feb	3 rd	Kirkby	I
	10 th	Broughton	J
	17 th	Millom	K
	24 th	Mission in UA	L

Janet Ladds

Hartington Street

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

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

Bible Studies alternate Thursdays, 7th February, 21st February at 1.30 pm.

Chris Mills

Ramsden Street

We were delighted to have 18 Year 3 children come along to read some of their favourite story books to us. Nine volunteers listened to the children and then chatted with them, shared refreshments and listened to the children singing a WW1 song for us before they left. Another Year 3 class will come along before Easter 2019.

The Greengate choir came to sing for us at our Coffee Morning on Friday December 14th and on Friday December 21st we decided to cancel our Coffee Morning and accept the invitation to attend the Nativity service at Greengate School.

Our Carol Service was held on Sunday December 23rd at 2.30pm and was followed by afternoon tea. The offering was donated to Christian Aid.

Instead of sending each other Christmas cards we, once again, decided to make donations to a charity. In this way we raised £85 for Help for Heroes.

We look forward to a series of themed services based on Jonah during February.

Anne Stevenson

Dalton

Since our last Newslink we have had quite a few events. These included our Christmas Bazaar, Bible Society Advent Praise and our entries in the Christmas Tree Festival; our church tree raised £160 for the Furness Homeless Christmas Shelter. The performance of 'Simeon' was well attended and very much enjoyed as was our Community meal and carol service. Collections from our Christmas services and Coffee and Carols and a donation from the Christian Women's Fellowship were sent to the Area Christian Aid Appeal. The winner of our Double Trouble Quiz was the sister of one of our members who lives in Guernsey.

The Advent Calendar in David Atkinson's window showed how much talent there is in the various churches, schools and clubs in Dalton who took part again this year. Our thanks to Mr and Mrs Atkinson, especially Mrs Atkinson who changed the page each day.

At our Covenant Service on Sunday 6th January we were pleased to welcome four of our worshipping friends into full membership of our church. This was a very happy occasion which was celebrated in true Dalton style with Cake.

Future Events:

Friday 8th Feb Elvis Presley Tribute evening, Dalton Cricket Club, 7:30pm including pie and peas. Tickets £6 needed for catering purposes, available from Ann Hufton (tel 812439 or ann@hufton.co.uk)

Tuesday 12th Feb at 2:30 pm Midweek Communion Service, Market Street

Saturday 23rd Feb 2 pm to 4:30 pm at Wellington Street 'Hymns and Worship Songs from around the World' led by Deborah Milledge

Feb 25th Start of Fair Trade Fortnight.

R Willock

Christian Women's Fellowship. The next meeting of the CWF is on Wednesday 20th February at 7:30 pm. Ann Hufton is the speaker and all are welcome.

D Zazi

Kirkby and Broughton

On Tuesday 19th February a coffee morning will be held in Broughton Methodist church. It is half term and, as in the past, we will serve pancakes. It will be 2 weeks early but as it is half term we will hold our very popular pancake race, down the drive to St Mary's, for safety reasons. All ages can take part and enjoy the fun. Lots of goodies to win. The morning will begin at 10am with activities for children, young and old celebrating the meaning of Lent. Followed by pancake races at 11am. Please come and join in the fun, also bring your own pan (we can share) - the lighter the pan the better.

At Kirkby on the third Wednesday of the month, when it is our Craft and Chat, some of us will be knitting baby clothes to help with funds for Furness General Hospital. We have also heard about mitts for the dementia unit; if anyone can help us as to where we can obtain the pattern could you please ring me on 716640. Thanks in anticipation.

Also at Kirkby, our Coffee and Company on the first Wednesday of the month is going strong, and looking ahead to April we will have a visit and presentation from Rhona Teale on the delivery of the shoeboxes to Romania.

Beryl Hollowell

Askam

First let me wish all Newslink readers a Very Happy New Year - a little late maybe but very sincere.

On Saturday 29th November we had a special Coffee Morning, when Darren, the Manager of Askam Co-op, presented a cheque for £3,328.63 to Duddon Road Church. Askam Methodist had been one of the three recipients of the Co-op Community Fund for twelve months, and this massive amount was our share. The Co-op nationally has now raised £19M for local causes. The Co-op also donated Fair Trade teabags and coffee for the morning and many other gifts. Goods on a stall with a Christmas theme were offered for donations and this raised £55.00 for Children in Need.

Askam finished the Sisterhood programme with a lovely party and the children of Ireleth St Peter's School sang beautifully. They stayed for a Christmas tea, and one or two of the girls kept busy offering extra food to everyone. The boys tucked in, but so did the girls - and wow could they eat, which was a joy to see. We stuck to the traditional food, nothing too fancy, so it may have been a novelty to them all.

Sisterhood meetings start again on Wednesday 6th February at 2:30 p.m. when we will welcome the Barrow Island Singers, followed by our own Mrs Beryl Allonby on 20th February with her talk entitled HATS. On 6th March Mrs Eileen Belshaw will speak about the Life of a Midwife and on 20th March we will have news and photographs of the winter Cumbria Shoebox delivery to children in N.W. Rumania from Shirley Waters assisted by Rhona Teal. Join us if you can, you will be very welcome.

The Exercise Class members, who had supported us loyally throughout the year, had a finishing party on Thursday, 13th December - working out first and then sharing great party food. The members have been supportive during the year, helping out at the Garden Party in July, and also decorating Christmas trees in the Hall, for everyone's enjoyment. Classes started back on Thursday, 10th January, at the new time of 9:30 a.m. Exercise for 3/4 hour followed by a cuppa and fellowship.

Our Annual Christingle Service led by Rev Jennet McLeod, was held on Sunday, 16th December, at 4:00 p.m. We were delighted to welcome the 25 strong children's choir from Askam Village School, who led the carol singing and also performed on their own. The Christingle oranges were made during the service and lit in the Church, when the lights were turned off - always a magical sight. The Church was full with the children and family members. A collection was taken for All We Can.

On the following Wednesday, 18th December, we welcomed Rev Zena Smith, who led us through the Christmas story with narrations, readings and carols - a lovely thoughtful service.

On Sunday 23rd we held our Christmas Service and were delighted to welcome back Alan and Ann Park, after their periods of hospital treatment and recovery.

Dorothy Gleaves

Beacon Hill

Once again the Uniformed Organisations, led by Carol Brannon, took our Carol Service. The children took each letter of the word Christmas to show the true meaning and had made beautiful decorations for the church which they put up as the service went along. It was a truly inclusive service which everyone thoroughly enjoyed. The church was very festive with all the wreaths made by the children from Newbarns school as well as candles, holly, angels, stars and even a snowman made by the Cubs.

Our monthly coffee morning will be held on Thursday 28th February, 10 am-11:15 am, with stalls selling cakes, handmade cards, books and Fairtrade items.

Elaine Pears

Vickerstown

Vickerstown again encouraged congregation members to write a single Christmas card to all their church friends, displayed in church, and make a donation to the Methodist development charity 'All we Can'. The total reached an impressive £158, including £30 from an impromptu collection at The Crown in North Scale when a few people from Walney's churches went carol-singing before Christmas (a new idea which seemed to go down well in all three pubs we visited)! Thanks to all who contributed. This total is enough to purchase one of each of the several gifts which more than one person had ticked in the catalogue left out with the donation plate, apart from building a toilet which would have cost £73....perhaps the next project for the Food & Fellowship group? This means we will be funding accessible clean water for a family in Zimbabwe, materials and training for a beekeeping business in Ethiopia, help for vulnerable girls to access rights and education in India, irrigation systems for community harvests in rural Malawi, fruit tree seedlings and training in Ethiopia, new stoves to keep harmful smoke out of family houses and drought-tolerant bean seeds for arid areas (also both in Ethiopia).

Though it seems a while ago, we have also sent £150 to the Methodist Fund for World Mission following this year's Bonfire Party (held the day after the deadline for the Dec/Jan double issue). Thanks to all who attended and especially those who helped in any way. We had an enjoyable evening and discovered a new use for carrots - apparently a radio programme had advised using half a carrot as an extra handle to make sparklers safer! The unlit ends can be stuck into the cut face, and you can even have multiple sparklers at once (yes, we did try it - 5 was the record).

There will be no coffee morning at Vickerstown in February as January's is on the last weekend (Saturday 26th) and there will also be a coffee morning on Saturday March 2nd with all the usual stalls - all welcome. This will be in Fairtrade Fortnight (25th February to 10th March) so we will make Fairtrade a theme with some extra information and probably some free samples.

Karen Edmondson

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:

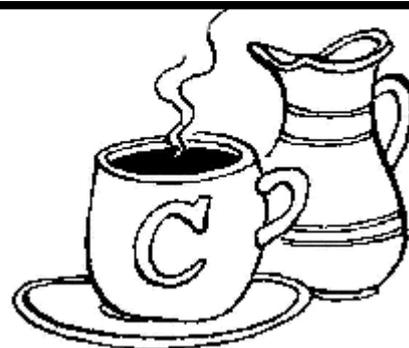
Beacon Hill	4 pm every week
Trinity Church Centre	4 pm every week
Kirkby	6 pm on the 2 nd Sunday

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