



Newslink

SOUTH WEST GUMBRIA UNITED AREA

Charity Registration Number 1141404

Methodist and United Reformed Churches Working Together



This is my first time writing the Newslink 'letter', and I'm starting to write the day before the deadline - for me that counts as early! Today I spent the morning out walking and birdwatching, in beautiful sunshine and sparkling frost with the backdrop of calm blue sea and the snow-capped Lake District hills. This set me thinking about how we appreciate (or, at times, fail to appreciate) God's wonderful world, and our treatment of His creation. This isn't something that the Bible has any specific guidance on, as far as I'm aware - I don't think climate change was really an issue in the first century. Our current

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lifestyle is very different from how people lived then, and undeniably much more of a threat to the integrity of our environment.

We can, however, consider how parts of the Bible point us to certain behaviours. From the opening verses of Genesis, we know that our world is God's creation, "and God saw that it was good". A little later we come to the one place I've so far discovered where my preferred version of the Bible is the modernised wording of 'The Message': Genesis 1 v24, concerning the relationship God gave humans to everything else. Rather than the more common 'have dominion over' or 'rule over' the other creatures, and a command to 'subdue' the earth (all of which could be argued to justify some level of exploitation), in this translation God asks humankind to 'be responsible for' them. The first verse of Psalm 24 reminds us that "The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it". When someone leaves you responsible for something of

Area Website www.swcumbriaunitedareaurcurc.org.uk

theirs, particularly something you know is precious to them, you generally try not to break or damage it. We should treat what we have been given with gratitude and respect - I'd like to invite you to read and reflect on no. 727 in Singing the Faith, a favourite of mine and set, appropriately, to a tune called 'Stewardship'. We also recognise that our God is a God of justice, and therefore we should fight against inequality, and it is generally accepted that the negative effects of climate change as it progresses will disproportionately affect those already poor and disadvantaged.

I'm not going to try and tell anyone what to do, specifically: we are generally getting more knowledgeable, at least, on what can be environmentally damaging and there is plenty of information out there for anyone who wants to know more (starting with the 'green tips' in this magazine). For anyone wanting to go further as a church, as Vickerstown and Beacon Hill have already done, please look at

<https://ecochurch.arochoa.org.uk/>. I know it isn't an easy subject, and is often full of conflicts - by all means turn your heating down a bit if you can, but not if it will make you ill, and consider reducing air travel but not at the cost of a diminished relationship with far-flung family members. I would ask you, though, to give some thought to factoring environmental considerations into your daily decision-making as part of your faith. There was a conference in Keswick today on this subject, which I thought about going to, but I would have had to drive my car with just me in it which is not a very 'green' way to travel, and I decided it wasn't worth it. In other areas we may find ourselves running against the 'norms' of our society: I've never considered it necessary to shower twice a day, or even (whisper it) every day, but I know some of my friends and colleagues would be horrified at that thought. Perhaps there are areas where we are only trying to fit in, and feel no real need ourselves to use resources, so could cut back a little without really noticing - and perhaps there are other areas where a little self-denial would do us, and the planet, some good.

I've also been enjoying 'Winterwatch' throughout this last week, which included a very moving piece on the mental health benefits of engaging with the natural world, with testimony from one man who found it more or less literally a lifeline. Government advice, no less, on improving mental wellbeing sets out 5 actions to take: connect, be active, take notice, keep learning and give. As the weather starts to improve, see how many you can tick off in one outing! In a world where mental health problems seem to be an increasing problem, especially among younger generations, we need nature and we need it to have a future. Jennet wrote last month about the 'fullness of life' Jesus spoke of bringing, and a fuller engagement with and appreciation of the world around us, for me, is part of that.

Karen Edmondson

p.s. This article may become part of my second Local Preacher training portfolio, in which case there is space on the submission form to reflect any feedback I have received - so please feel free to pass on any comments you may have, positive or negative, via aberkle1@yahoo.co.uk or 474601.

Events For Lent

Ash Wednesday Services:

St Mary's Parish Church in Dalton is holding two services on Ash Wednesday, 6th March at 10:30 am and 6:30 pm. Any members and friends from the United Area are welcome.

Church Leaders Walk:

Bishop James of Carlisle and Cumbria Area URC President Sarah Moore are taking part in a Cumbria-wide long distance walk over several days in Lent. They will be at Urswick Parish Church from 12 noon on Sunday 31st March, when Soup Lunches will be available in the Parish Hall. They are then walking to Dalton St Mary's where scones and hot drinks will be available from 4:30 pm, followed by "Experience Easter" - an interactive session based on events surrounding Good Friday and Easter. All are welcome to join in any part of the day - including the walk!

Please see under individual churches for details of Lent groups.

Bible Stories Exhibition

This exhibition is being held at Trinity Church Centre from 18th-23rd March, 10 am-4 pm. Every day during the exhibition, schools will be visiting. Are you able to help, either by showing the children around the exhibition or in the lounge where they do craft work? If you can help at any session it would be very much appreciated. Please contact Brian on 584602.

This year 10 schools are participating and many Rainbow and Brownie groups. Do call in and have a look around at the children's work. Refreshments are also available.

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.

REGIONAL & NATIONAL WEBSITES

www.cumbriamethodistsdistrict.org.uk

North West Synod: www.nwsynod.org.uk

Connexional: www.methodist.org.uk

National: www.urc.org.uk

April issue No 140 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 10th. Items can also be passed on by

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

Local Preachers/Worship Leaders

The next LP/WL meeting will be held on Thursday 21st March at 7:30 pm at Beacon Hill. All leaders of worship are encouraged to attend.

Janet Ladds

Network (Methodist Women In Britain)

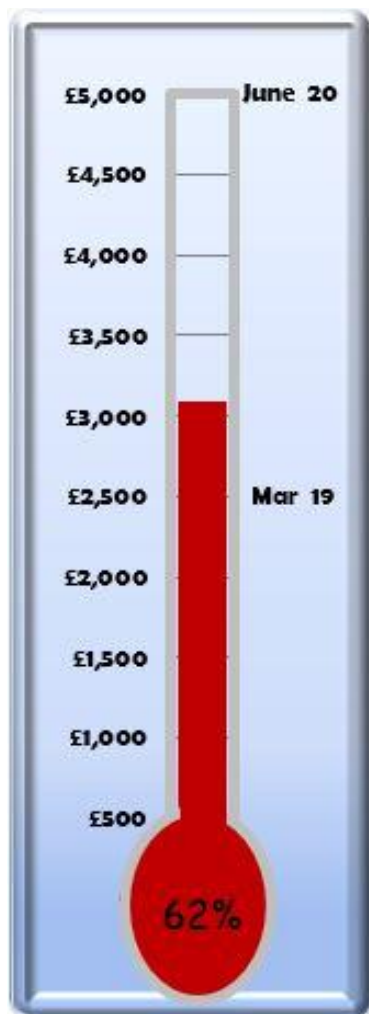
The Cumbria District Spring Day will be held at Brampton Methodist Church on Thursday 21st March, beginning at 10:15 am with coffee. The theme is 'And still stir up thy gift in me' and the speaker will be Rev Richard Teal, District Chair. He will also lead a Communion service at 1:45 pm and the day will end at 3:30 pm. Please bring a packed lunch; tea/coffee and cakes will be provided. All welcome.

Please see the poster elsewhere in Newslink about the Gender Equality day at Arnside Methodist Church on Monday 11th March.

First Tuesday Ladies

There will be no meeting in March. Our next meeting will be on 2nd April at 7:30 pm at 59 Croslands Park, when we will study the Bible and enjoy a time of prayer and fellowship.

Elaine Pears



Christian Aid Project

Thank you to Ramsden Street for donating the offering at their carol service to the project to help children in Kenya affected by HIV and AIDS. The total is now £3088.05.

Lilian Wood

Youth Spot

Beacon Hill Cubs have had a very busy time since September. We started the Autumn Term with a visit to Conishead Priory before commencing our Disability Awareness Badge. The Cubs visited Barrow Vision Centre and learnt about aspects of having poor eyesight and aids which can help. They also met a couple of guide dogs. We had a visit from a colleague of mine who is in a wheelchair. He fetched several of his wheelchairs and the Cubs went around the Church to see how accessible/inaccessible things become. For our final part of the badge we learnt our Cub Scout Promise in sign language. We also learnt how to finger spell our names.

This also coincided with a sleepover at the hall, when we played games which tested our senses. The Cubs had to taste various coloured drinks and crisps and name the flavour, listen to household sounds and recognise them and also put some different sized nuts and bolts together without looking (just using the touch sense). It was followed by them all snuggled up in their sleeping bags watching *The Jungle Book* with popcorn.

At the end of September we had a group outing to Great Tower where all the Beavers, Cubs and Scouts did various adventurous activities. Cubs did archery, crate stacking, leap of faith, climb the gauntlet and canoeing and we finished the day off by having a joint team building activity with the Beavers and Scouts. Superb fun was had by all!

In November we had a visit from Walney First Responders who taught some basic first aid:- recovery position, choking, bleeding. All great skills which everyone should learn. We also went for a visit to Barrow Lifeboat Station before we got crafty by making our Christmas decorations for home and church. The Cubs' Christmas treat was a visit to the indoor skate park (a few leaders tried it out too!)

We started 2019 off by celebrating Burns Night. We played jump the haggis, toss the caber and walk/crawl like a haggis! We had someone come and play the bagpipes (we all had a go too, not as easy as it looks!). We addressed our Haggis with a Burns poem and toasted it with Irn Bru. Everyone tried some haggis and some Cubs even came back for seconds and thirds! To finish we all joined hands and sang 'Auld Lang Syne'.

We are now moving onto our Environmental Badge and are having a talk about recycling by someone who works for the Council, so hopefully we may get some ideas for the Church on how to be more environmentally aware. Last week we made bird feeders (fat balls), which must have been very tasty, as mine were eaten within 2 days by blackbirds in my garden.

Julie Milburn. Cub Leader 'Chil'

All in a Good Cause

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

Canaan Heights School, Jamaica

Robert and Gwen Cameron, who were members of the Salvation Army in Millom and who also attended Queen Street Methodist Church, had a dear friend called Florrie McPherson who lived in Jamaica with her husband (who also had family members in England which they visited). In 2004 Bob and Gwen went to Jamaica on holiday and while they were there Florrie took them to Canaan Heights - a very poor community “in a desolate place that the world had forgotten” according to Bob. The population had no gas, electricity or water. Many of the houses were made out of old car bonnets. Florrie took them to the school - a single storey building built with concrete blocks. There was an inscription over the doorway “sponsored by the Methodist Church” (maybe from years earlier as missionaries used to go over there?) but the two teachers had no knowledge of sponsor money. The children got nothing to eat if they had no money to pay for their dinner, which consisted of boiled rice eaten with their fingers. A few old books and pencils and very little else was all the school had. Florrie used to visit the school and take little snacks with her for the children.

When Bob and Gwen returned from their holiday and told the members about the school Queen Street “adopted” the school and over the years since we have held at least one fundraising event each year to raise money for it. Several members also donate money via Florrie to sponsor individual children. Florrie regularly sends photos of the children. Many of the original children are now grownups and have gone on to colleges and universities.

I hope the members and friends here at Queen Street will support them in the years to come. God bless all the pupils and teachers at Canaan Heights.

Margaret Riley



**Kendal Circuit
Methodist Women in
Britain**



Invite you to a Day Conference on:

**GENDER EQUALITY; IT'S ABOUT TIME
(How can WE make a Difference)**

Key Speaker: Rachel Allison

**Monday 11th March
10.00am – 3.30pm**

**at Arnside Methodist Church
Chapel Lane, ARNSIDE, LA5 0AQ**

Bring a packed Lunch, Drinks provided

**Do support our
Bring and Buy Stall**

Information on Projects:

FGM

Days 4 Girls

Period Poverty – Red Box Project

Child Brides & Age of Consent

International Women's Day



150 not out!



Dalton Community Church invite you to join them in celebrations to mark 150 years of worship in their Market Street Church

Saturday 2nd March 2019: 9:30am - 12:30pm

Exhibition of photos and historical items in Market St Church

Admission free

Sunday 24th March 2019 at 10:30am

Celebration Service

led by Rev Zena Smith

Followed by Pie and Peas Lunch*

**Please ring Margaret on 01229 466069 by Sunday 17th March to book for the lunch – cost £3.00*

Dalton Community Church
(Methodist/URC)
invites you to



PHOTOS OF FURNESS



An illustrated talk by MR DAVID MARSHALL using
photographs of local scenes with hints
(not technical) about taking landscape pictures

on

Saturday March 16th

at

7pm

**Dalton Community Church,
Market Street**

No admission charge

Refreshments

donations to the church refurbishment fund appreciated

Green Tip



We are familiar with the three Rs: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle. The organisation Green Christian gives another four Rs in the leaflet 'The 7 Rs - Practical tips for respecting and protecting God's Creation'

www.greenchristian.org.uk

“Rejoice Let's take delight in Creation - God's free gift to us. This is all that we need for our own fulfilment!

Say a prayer of thanks before each meal.

Enjoy your own local patch of nature

Refuse Refuse to believe what the adverts say. You are no less a person because you don't have this gadget or haven't been to that exotic place.

Always wait at least 24 hours before buying something you have seen in an advert.

Have regular off-line days to avoid the adverts and images on social media.

Repair Let's look after our stuff and keep hold of the old skills of sewing and repairing. Find out if there are workshops near you where you can get your electronic items fixed, and donate old furniture to charities which teach young people refurbishing skills.

Invest in a sewing kit and a good tube of super-glue.

Rent, Borrow and Share Ownership is overrated. Tools in particular are often bought and used only once or twice a year. Borrowing and sharing can be a great way of bonding with neighbours, and there are organisations which will rent tools and other rarely used items such as camping equipment.

Before buying anything you won't use every day, ask your friends and neighbours, with a promise to lend them something in return.

Book lovers - remember your local library.”

Lilian Wood

Individual Churches

Trinity

Usual monthly Coffee Morning Saturday 2nd March, 10:00-11:30 a.m. Since during this weekend we will be marking our 25th Anniversary, lunches will be served from 12 noon and afternoon teas from 2:30 p.m. There will also be an exhibition of memorabilia of our journey together.

On Sunday 3rd Rev David Crouchley will be leading our Anniversary and Covenant Service assisted by Rev George Sharp; both ministers were instrumental in bringing us together so we thought it fitting that they should be invited to share this anniversary. We will also be having a church lunch after this service.

We will join the Lent group at the Baptist church - more details later.

Margaret Manvell

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	3rd	Kirkby	I
	10th	Broughton Community	J
	17th	Millom	K
	24th	Mission in UA	L
	31st	Trinity	M

Janet Ladds

Beacon Hill

We began the year with a very meaningful Covenant service led by Jennet.

On January 27th our Family and Parade service was led by Hayley Edmondson. Only 2 Cubs were present, but they did very well in answering questions and joining in activities showing the church as the body of Christ. It was also World Leprosy Sunday, and when coffee was served after the service people were very generous in supporting the cake stall in aid of The Leprosy Mission, contributing £60.

In our Lent meetings we will be looking at 7 key events in Jesus' ministry. We will meet in the Wesley room at 7:30 pm on Monday evenings for 4 weeks, beginning on March 18. Our monthly coffee morning will be held on Thursday 28th March, 10 am-11:15 am, with stalls selling cakes, handmade cards, books and Fairtrade items.

Lilian Wood

Dalton

Approximately 40 people enjoyed the Soup and Quiz evening and a very good time was had by everyone who came. Many thanks to Kathryn for arranging such a varied Quiz which gave us all a chance to shine. Thanks also to everyone who provided food and raffle prizes, to those who did all the work and to everyone who came to make it such an enjoyable evening. £221 was raised for our refurbishment fund.

Future Events:

Saturday 2nd March 9:45 to 11:15 am Church coffee morning and an exhibition to mark 150 years of worship at Market Street.

Tuesday 12th March at 2:30 pm Midweek Communion Service at Market Street.

Thursday 21st March Bible Society coffee morning at Ulverston Coronation Hall 9:30 to 11:15 am.

Sunday 24th March at 10.30 am A service celebrating the 150th Anniversary at Market Street. Clare Eccles, soprano, from Ulverston will take part as a soloist in the service.

R Willock

Christian Women's Fellowship. The next meeting of the CWF is on Wednesday 20th March at 7:30 pm. Our speaker for that evening is the Rev Zena Smith. All are welcome.

D Zazi

Lent Group

This year there will again be a Lent group organised jointly with St Mary's church. The sessions will start in Lent and, after a two week break over Easter itself, will continue for another three weeks i.e. on March 14th, 21st and 28th; April 4th, 11th; May 2nd, 9th and 16th. We will be using material produced by the Bible Society called 'The Bible Course' over the 8 sessions. Topics covered are Introducing the Bible, Creation & Covenant, Exodus & Promised Land, Judges & Kings, Exile & Prophets, Jesus & the Gospels, Acts & the Church, Revelation & Review. There will be an afternoon group meeting at Dalton Community Church 4pm-5:30pm and an evening group meeting at St Mary's vicarage at 7:15pm and you can 'mix and match' which venue you go to. The course has had good reviews so please do come and enjoy both some learning and fellowship at the same time.

Ann Hufton

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 March, 21st March at 1:30 pm.

Chris Mills

Askam

Askam's Armchair Exercise Class has had to be delayed after their teacher, Becky, was admitted to hospital for a back operation. We all wish her a complete recovery. The class will begin again on Thursday 28th February, at the new time of 9:30 a.m. Exercises for 45 minutes followed by tea and chat. All are very welcome. Charge £2.50 per session and well worth it for the benefits to the joints. Phone Dorothy on 465378 if interested.

Askam Sisterhood started after the Christmas break on 6th February and meets the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month at 2:30 p.m. March speakers are: Eileen Belshaw with 'It shouldn't happen to a District Nurse' on the 6th and Shirley Waters and Rhona Teal from the Boxes of Hope on the 20th. Just come along, you'll be made very welcome.

Dorothy Gleaves

Kirkby

We had our best Burns night yet - a full house and we raised over £200.

Saturday 16th March 1:00-3:30pm Spring bulb and marmalade event. If you enjoy baking we need a chocolate cake decorated with a Spring theme or 4 cup cakes with a Spring theme. Also any cake incorporating marmalade. Various pots of marmalade will be judged and there is a section for Mister Marmalade made by men. A beautiful display of bulbs will be judged also. Come and join us and see the talent displayed and also enjoy refreshments. Admission £1.50, which includes tea/coffee. Anyone wanting to enter please contact Mary on 889588.

At Coffee and Company on Wednesday 3rd April we will be welcoming Rhona Teal, who will be giving a presentation on the delivery of our shoeboxes to the children in Romania. Come and join us and see the smiles and joy these presents can bring to those who have so little. We hope to be able to send more this year and have already started with our Craft and Chat group, which meets on the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 9:45am. We are also knitting baby clothes for the baby unit at Furness General and have the pattern for twiddlemuffs for the dementia unit. So we are starting with a busy year ahead, but very rewarding.

Beryl Hollowell

Ramsden Street

We appreciated the series of themed services based on Jonah during February.

FACTORS are busy working on our contribution for the Bible Stories Exhibition at Trinity.

Our Wednesday afternoon meetings begin again on March 13th at 2:15pm and our first lunch of 2019 will be held on Wednesday March 6th at 12 noon.

Anne Stevenson

Millom

There have been a few changes at Millom since we last wrote.

Margaret Riley has resigned as Senior Steward and we thank her very much for all her hard work and commitment over the years. Margaret will continue as a worship leader and with her commitment to our third Friday session at Lapstone House, where Margaret and a team of volunteers go and sing hymns and give a short reflection to the residents. This is something that the residents, staff and our team of volunteers really enjoy and find very rewarding.

We are now working on a new strategy where we don't have a Senior Steward, but rather we have a team of stewards and they do a week each. We will let you know how it goes! For our Lent studies this year we will begin by watching the film 'The Greatest Showman' followed by a Lent course based on the film which looks at hope and redemption.

Our third Sunday in the month Roast Dinner for those in Millom who live alone or feel isolated is going really well.

Whilst we have said goodbye to our Thursday afternoon craft group, we have also welcomed two new craft groups, one on a Monday morning and the other on a Thursday evening.

Debbie Harkness

Vickerstown

There will be a coffee morning at Vickerstown on Saturday March 2nd from 10-11:30 a.m. with the usual stalls - all welcome; come early to find the cake stall at its best! As this will be in Fairtrade Fortnight (25th February to 10th March) we will make Fairtrade a theme with some extra information and free samples to add to the usual stall of Fairtrade products available in local shops.

There will be an ecumenical Lent course open to all three of Walney's churches hosted at Vickerstown, probably on Tuesday mornings at 11 a.m. and starting early in March - exact details are yet to be finalised; if any of our friends from the United Area would be interested in joining us please contact me nearer the time.

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.swcumbriaunitedareaorc.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