



# Newslink

**SOUTH WEST GUMBRIA UNITED AREA**

Charity Registration Number 1141404

**Methodist and United Reformed Churches Working Together**



## ISSUE 141 May 2019

### **Time to Change!! Ourselves and our ideas about 'Church'**

Another time of Lent is behind us. We have travelled through the desert with Jesus, recalled again the darkness of Good Friday and celebrated the joy of Easter Sunday. This is a pilgrimage we do each year as Christians; we do not even have to leave our homes to travel this journey. We do however need to make time and space, we do need to be open to listening afresh, we do need to be prepared to be changed. So then what, if anything, has made this Lent different? What changes have

happened within us? How have we grown closer to God? Have we stopped saying and doing those things that hurt others and Jesus? The reason for asking these questions is because the marks of a good disciple are the willingness to change, the desire to die to our sinful ways and to seek to be the best we can be for Jesus. One of the readings we had during Lent was Mark 13:1-9 and it spoke very clearly to me about the need for us to be growing and changing. The message here in Mark's gospel is very clear - if we are not producing the right fruit then we will be cut down. If our lives are not changing and we are not producing the fruits of the Spirit then we do need to be asking ourselves why that is so. If coming to Church every Sunday isn't changing the way we behave then we need to really start thinking about the consequences of this!

We live in uncertain times; our church attendance numbers may be down and yet

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

the opportunities for engagement in community are growing. Have you ever wondered why this is? This doesn't frighten me, but rather it stirs my spirit within. I wonder at what God is doing. Why is the Spirit moving in this way? Maybe it is time for us all to take a long look at what we call 'church' in our communities and ask ourselves the following questions: what will the Methodist church look like in my community in ten/fifteen years' time? And what is God asking me to do in all this?

Whilst change can be painful, it can also be very beautiful. Sometimes things have to die within and around us in order for new growth to begin. Are we ready to die to self in order to help bring new life in our building of the kingdom of God, whatever that may look like? Are we ready to let go of our old ways of thinking in order to allow God's vision to permeate our hearts and minds?

The season of Lent is behind us. He is risen, bringing new life and new hope to us all. Let us grow in the fruits of the Spirit, and let us be ready to take some risks for Jesus - after all he took the cross for us!!

God Bless

*Deacon Debbie*

## REGIONAL & NATIONAL WEBSITES

[www.cumbriamethodistsdistrict.org.uk](http://www.cumbriamethodistsdistrict.org.uk)

Connexional: [www.methodist.org.uk](http://www.methodist.org.uk)

North West Synod: [www.nwsynod.org.uk](http://www.nwsynod.org.uk)

National: [www.urc.org.uk](http://www.urc.org.uk)

June issue No 142 of *Newslink* will be published at the end of May.

Please send all material to reach Lilian Wood, 89 Risedale Road, Barrow, LA13 9QY by Sunday May 5<sup>th</sup>. Items can also be passed on by

 **01229 825986** or  [lilian.wood4@gmail.com](mailto:lilian.wood4@gmail.com)

## Chapter and verse

This month we begin a new series where people share Bible verses that are particularly meaningful to them.

The whole of the Bible is of course the foundation of our faith, drawing us in to make us part of God's story. However, there are for most of us certain verses which we turn to over and over again, for they speak God's living word into whatever situations we may find ourselves in. For me, many of those passages are from the Old Testament. When I'm having one of those days when I'm tempted to wonder why nothing seems to be going right and question what on earth is going on, for example, Isaiah 43 v1-2 offers the greatest reassurance:

'I have called you by name, you are mine. When you pass through the waters I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned and the flame shall not consume you ...'.

Jeremiah 29 v11 says:

'I know the plans I have for you,' says the Lord 'to give you a future and a hope'.

*Jennet McLeod*

## Thy Kingdom Come

The following information comes from the Methodist church website:

[www.methodist.org.uk/our-faith/prayer/thy-kingdom-come](http://www.methodist.org.uk/our-faith/prayer/thy-kingdom-come)

Thy Kingdom Come is a global prayer movement in which Christians pray that people would come to know Jesus. Taking place between Ascension and Pentecost, Thy Kingdom Come this year falls between **30 May - 9 June 2019**.

During Thy Kingdom Come

- People will commit to pray with God's world-wide family - as a church, individually or as a family
- Churches will hold prayer events, such as 24-7 prayer, prayer stations and prayer walks, across the UK and in other parts of the world
- People will be transformed through prayer by the Holy Spirit, finding new confidence to be witnesses for Jesus Christ

The invitation is simply for people to pray in whatever way they want, with whoever they want and wherever they can, that others might know Jesus Christ.

To take part, 'pledge to pray' on the Thy Kingdom Come website:

[www.thykingdomcome.global](http://www.thykingdomcome.global)

There is a huge range of Thy Kingdom Come resources for individuals, families, and churches wishing to engage with the initiative. These include materials to download on prayer, liturgical resources, Novena booklets, packs on helping families pray together, details of prayer events, and tips on organising local events. Visit

[www.thykingdomcome.global/prayerresources](http://www.thykingdomcome.global/prayerresources)

## **Dementia news**

Some news about Churches Together in Cumbria's county wide initiative to make all churches in Cumbria Dementia Friendly by 2020. A group of Dementia Enablers in Barrow have decided to follow the lead of other areas in Cumbria and organise a monthly 'Tea Service'.

A Tea Service is a short, simple, interdenominational act of worship, followed by biscuits, cake, tea, coffee and fellowship. It will be open to anyone, but will be particularly suitable for people who find full length services difficult to deal with, and their carers. Yvonne Povey, Cumbria Dementia Project Officer, Churches Together in Barrow and Dalton, and Barrow Mission Community are supporting this work.

After visiting a number of venues it was decided that Holy Family Church hall (Ostley Bank, off Harrel Lane, LA13 9LR) would be the most suitable. It has parking available, and is not far from a stop on the number 3 bus route. The Tea Service is likely to be once a month on a Monday afternoon.

To make this work, help from churches is needed. We need your prayers for this work; we need people to bake cakes, help with transport, give time at the services welcoming and talking to people; we need money to buy resources such as special hymn books, printing publicity material, refreshments, etc. Your time commitment doesn't need to be for every month. If you could commit to two or three services a year that would be most welcome.

Please let the Dementia Enabler in your church know how you and your church will help, or contact: Babs Lowes at [aprilowes55@gmail.com](mailto:aprilowes55@gmail.com)

*Sue Millard*

Anyone interested in learning more about dementia, or in becoming either a Dementia Friend or Dementia Enabler, is invited to a Development/Recruitment Day on 18 May at Cockermouth URC, 9.30 am-3.30 pm. In the morning there will be a Dementia Friends and Enabler Training session for new Enablers and a 'Magazine Forum' for existing Enablers. In the afternoon there will be two workshops: 'Lyrics and Lunch' and 'Biblical Yoga'. The day will close with a 'dementia friendly' act of worship. For more information please contact Sue Millard, tel 827095,

[sjmisme@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:sjmisme@yahoo.co.uk) or Lilian Wood, tel 825986, [lilian.wood4@gmail.com](mailto:lilian.wood4@gmail.com)

To book a place, please contact the Churches Together in Cumbria administrator, Emma Brown, [ebctic@outlook.com](mailto:ebctic@outlook.com)

## **First Tuesday Ladies**

There will be no meeting in May. We will meet again on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> June at 7:30 pm at 59 Croslands Park.

*Elaine Pears*

## **News from re:new**

Easter blessings to you all!

Thank you to everyone who responded to my last article and brought in books and handbags which have been a massive help! As you will see from our wish list this month handbags are still on it as we are experiencing a handbag rush at the moment which is amazing! We are also in need of men's wear this time - this can be men's wear in any form, although we are rather short of men's summer wear, so if last year's shorts and flipflops combo no longer does it for you then why not pass them on to us and let them have a new lease of life.

I'm hoping to get around all our amazing churches now as I became aware recently that many of you will have heard about me and read my articles in Newslink, but many of you might not have met me. This then will hopefully give you the opportunity to ask me questions about the shop, what we do, what we sell and what does volunteering in the shop consist of.

We have now been able to distribute our first four sets of grants that were applied for. The four groups that received them are: Instep school of dance, Barrow Island women's rugby club, Cando Radio & Barrow RAF Air Cadets.

We are so excited to be able to give out the grants and the fact that we could do it so soon is amazing, but that is all down to your continued support in both donating and shopping; we really could not have done it without all your support.

Our Wish List this month:

Handbags, Volunteers, Bric-a-Brac, DVDs, CDs & Men's wear.

*Tim Jeffries*

## **Youth spot**

The Bible Stories Exhibition held in Trinity Church Centre was very well supported by schools, Rainbows & Brownies and Ramsden Street Church. Some 20 Bible stories were wonderfully depicted using a variety of materials. Of the 10 schools who made exhibits, 8 schools were able to visit the exhibition. During the week over 300 children visited Trinity. They were shown around the exhibits in the Church, and then spent time doing craftwork and enjoying refreshments in the lounge.

Feedback from all the schools has been very positive. All have stated that they wish to be involved in the next exhibition. Some wonderful contacts have been made with the schools and several further events planned.

What a shame that parents do not visit to see what their child has helped create at school.

*Brian Whittaker*

## **Methodist Homes - 2019**

This year MHA Sunday takes place on June 9<sup>th</sup> and the theme is 'One Sunday'. MHA is asking churches to support them on one Sunday each year, which can be this or any other Sunday throughout the year.

Care for older people has changed over the years, but what hasn't changed at MHA is how they not only look after the physical and mental wellbeing of their residents and members, but have always considered their spiritual needs to be of the utmost importance as well.

MHA provides a range of high quality services to more than 18,200 older people. 10,580 older people are supported through 57 live at home services in the community. 2,690 older people live independently in 72 retirement living communities with flexible support and personalised care.

4,935 older people live in 90 care homes - residential, nursing and specialist dementia care.

So thank you very much to those 4 churches who supported and donated to the work of MHA during 2018. Together we raised £198 for this worthy cause.

This year's gift envelopes and MHA's 'Heart & Soul' magazine will be with you shortly. Please send all donations and any completed Gift Aid declaration envelopes directly to me at 7 Woodhill Crescent, Rampside, Barrow-in-Furness LA13 0QE (Tel 827199). This enables me to maintain a complete and accurate record of our churches' giving and also helps to minimise MHA's administration costs.

Thank you for your help and continued support.

*Daphne Watkinson*

## **All in a Good Cause**

A further article in our series highlighting the charities and causes supported by churches and individuals throughout the Area.

### **Furness Homeless Support Group**

We at Beacon Hill Church became acquainted with the homeless shelter some years ago, when we took along produce from our Harvest Festival. We were met by an enthusiastic group of people who helped us to unload the car, along with their pet cat! It was a joy to meet them and rather a humbling experience. We continue to take the Harvest produce each year. Also some people take clothing, food and gifts of money. The FHS Group began life in 1989 as a one-off Christmas Shelter offering food, warmth and shelter during the Festive Season. However, the need for this provision all year round soon became evident. In 1991 a day centre was opened, using a port-a-cabin (once used by the dog warden!). Pat Chapples, now the manager, and her late Mum worked tirelessly, raising funds by “car booting”. In 1995 the National Lottery helped to buy 27 Bath Street.

From humble beginnings run entirely by volunteers, FHSG now owns 5 properties and employs 9 qualified and experienced staff. There are 9 single rooms, a ground floor flat, a 2 bed house and a 3 bed house. The day centre, the Christmas shelter and the charity shop all continue. A team of volunteers give their time each week, totalling 4,000 hours a year.

FSHG are grateful for the help of the local community, without which they would not be able to provide this level of service.

These are truly remarkable people. God bless them all.

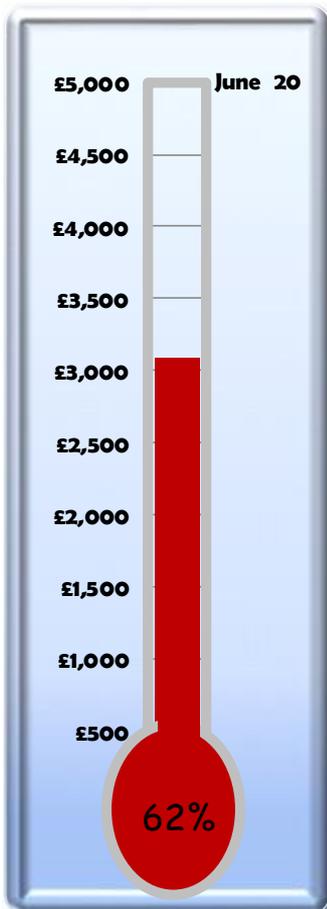
*Joan Hartley*

## Saints Alive!

This Musical by the well-known Christian composer, Roger Jones, is being performed at St Mary's Parish Church, Dalton on Thursday May 2<sup>nd</sup> at 7:30pm by Furness Churches United Choir. The musical is about the birth of the church on the day of Pentecost and Roger writes 'this is one of the most thrilling accounts in the Bible and one of the most relevant to life today. The dramatic change that took place in the apostles - from frightened and hopeless men into people who turned the world upside down - is something to sing about!'

Do come to support the choir and hear in song and drama about the amazing happenings at that first Pentecost.

## Christian Aid project



Our total still stands at £3088.05 for the project to help children in Kenya affected by HIV and AIDS.

*Lilian Wood*

## Green Tip



In the Co-op Food magazine for April I read about a new campaign from Love Food Hate Waste - Compleating, or complete eating. This involves using the leaves, stalks and skins that we usually remove from our food. For example, leave the skins on when mashing potatoes and use cauliflower leaves in stir fries and soups. You can find further information and recipes on the website

[www.lovefoodhatewaste.com/compleating](http://www.lovefoodhatewaste.com/compleating)

where it states:

“One third of the food produced globally goes to waste.... In the UK, 10 million tonnes of food are wasted every year, with around 70% of that coming from our homes. This means there is a huge opportunity for us as individuals to make a positive difference and reduce the amount of food we waste at home.... Do your bit. Don't just eat it. Compleat it.”

*Lilian Wood*



# Individual churches

## Trinity

Usual monthly Coffee Morning on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> 10:00-11:30 a.m.

2 for 'T' Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> at 2:00 p.m. TBA - see The Mail or Radio Cumbria for details.

### Family News

It is with sadness we have to report the death of two of our members. On Monday 25<sup>th</sup> March we said goodbye to Margaret Allan, who died peacefully at St George's, Risedale on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> March. Margaret had been in Risedale, Abbey Road until she needed more attention and was moved to St George's a couple of months previously. Vera Martin died a few weeks earlier and her funeral was on Friday 29<sup>th</sup>. Vera had been in Silver Howe Nursing Home in Kendal for quite some time and was well cared for and happy.

Jennet was able to conduct Margaret's funeral while Zena conducted Vera's - assisted by Jennet. Both ladies had been active in the church and filled various jobs, and regularly attended church while they were able to. Our love and prayers go out to their families and close friends. We will hold them in our prayers.

On a brighter note, on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> April we were glad to have Jennet back leading our worship, and that day she baptised Rex Wareham who was brought by his Mum Rachel and Dad Wayne along with his big sister. A really happy service in which the family all participated. We hope they felt at home and that we may see them again soon.

*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

May	5th	Beacon Hill	Q
	12th	Dalton Comm Church	R
	19th	Urswick community	S
	26th	Askam	T

*Janet Ladds*

# Hartington Street

## **Lent Action**

LENT 2019 has turned into a period of action and activity for all who attend HST!

## **Lent Lunch**

We began on Sunday 17th March when Martin Williams conducted worship and followed this service with our first ever Lent Lunch. A total of £117.70 was raised for 'The Christian Blind Mission' and this will be doubled by the British government giving a final total of £235.40. During this lunch, there was a short presentation on Lent and members were challenged to give up just 2 hours of their time during Lent and spend it on either:

- visiting church members
- praying
- attending worship more regularly
- reading the Bible

## **The Big Lent Spring Clean 2019**

This herculean event occurred on 3<sup>rd</sup> April. 10 church members came together for a morning of cleaning, scrubbing, mopping and polishing. We are endeavouring to care for our building and make it ready for Easter Celebrations. The Big Lent Spring Clean was a highly productive time of activity and hard work which concluded in a time of prayer led by Barbara Crickett.

## **2<sup>nd</sup> Lent Lunch**

Our 2<sup>nd</sup> Lent Lunch was held on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> April. Charlie Mills led the service and we followed this with another time of fellowship and sharing. Our chosen charity was The Leprosy Mission who are currently focussing their efforts on curing and treating **Leprosy in Nepal**. Again we deliberately chose a charity where the government are currently doubling the amount donated. At this particular lunch a total of £148 was raised which will become £296.

## **Toddlers @ the hub**

### **Easter Story Books**

This year, at the end of the final session before the Easter weekend, all babies, toddlers and pre-schoolers (7 in total) will receive an Easter Story Book. This is a new idea and part of our outreach work at HST.

## **Messy Church @ HST**

April Messy Church is Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> April 3pm - 5pm including tea.

*Lois Kavanagh*

## Beacon Hill

Our next fundraising event for The Leprosy Mission will be an afternoon devoted to board games, on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> June at 2:30 pm. We will have our usual quiz and wordsearch as well as a number of board games, together with appropriate refreshments. For catering purposes, could you please let me know if you wish to attend (tel 825986 or email [lilian.wood4@gmail.com](mailto:lilian.wood4@gmail.com))

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

*Lilian Wood*

## Dalton

Thanks to everyone who supported our "Photos of Furness" evening. It was an enjoyable and informative event. A special thank you to David Marshall for bringing the photos and to his family for providing delicious cakes.

The church was packed for our 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary service, when soloist Clair Eccles gave us a rendition from Handel's Messiah. Many of the congregation enjoyed a pie and pea lunch after the service.

### **Future Events:**

Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> May 9:45-11:15 am Coffee morning at Market Street

Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> May at 2:30 pm Midweek Communion at Market Street

Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> May 9:30-11:30 am Bible Society coffee morning at the Coronation Hall, Ulverston

*R Willock*

Christian Women's Fellowship. The next meeting of the CWF is on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> May at 7:30 pm. The speaker on that evening is Gail Burns from Kirkby. All are welcome.

*D Zazi*

## Kirkby

Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> May - Big plant and produce sale, 10am-12noon. Don't miss it!

The hall will be full of plants and there is always a long queue waiting to pounce, so come early or you will be disappointed. I do not know how Mary and Ken manage to accommodate them all. There will also be Mary's famous marmalade for sale and a cake stall. Admission is £1.00 which includes a drink and biscuit. See you there.

*Beryl Hollowell*

# Askam

Our church garden is looking beautiful at present thanks to our garden contractor who removed the ivy and the hard work of the Beavers and Cubs and their leader and their daffodil planting. There will be a good opportunity for everyone to admire our hidden gem of a garden in the summer when we have our annual Garden Party. Further details on this later in the year. We have also had an electrical contractor in to replace the failed exterior security lights and he has replaced most of the lighting in the church with LED lamps which should improve our carbon footprint.

On Mothering Sunday Deacon Debbie initiated us into Café Worship which was a first for Askam and proved to be a successful and enjoyable service. During May we will be having themed services for the first time and hope that this too will be successful. We are getting used to our new pattern of worship on alternate Sundays and Wednesdays and the more flexible use of the building. On the subject of the building we are hoping once again to allow limited use of our toilet facilities on the afternoon of the Askam and Ireleth Carnival on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> June and will have some stalls at the front of church as an outreach.

For our final Sisterhood session of the winter months we welcome Laura K Jones from Christian Aid on 1<sup>st</sup> May, and finish for this season on 15<sup>th</sup> May, when we will welcome the Phoenix Singers to our Birthday Party.

*Alan Mason*

# Ramsden Street

FACTORS met on Friday April 5<sup>th</sup> and prepared for the Easter Sunday Celebration Service.

The next church lunch will be on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> May at 12 noon. Midweek meetings will be held on Wednesday May 8<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday May 22<sup>nd</sup> and an afternoon service and tea will be held on Wednesday May 15<sup>th</sup>. There is no Wednesday meeting on May 29<sup>th</sup>.

We are looking forward to Sunday May 5<sup>th</sup> when we will welcome Finley William Hill for baptism during our Family Service.

*Anne Stevenson*

# Millom

Greetings from Millom and by the time this is printed a Happy Easter.

I have to apologise and point out that Margaret Riley is not actually continuing as Events Organiser, but she remains as a Worship Leader, for which we are very grateful and we all enjoy her services.

Our church continues to work with the other churches as ecumenically as possible and this week some of us attended at the Baptist Church, with members of the other congregations and community to welcome and hear Bishops James and Emma, who were in the process of walking around Cumbria and preaching at different churches. Approximately 40 people attended for shared food - of course - and a service followed by a question and answer session, which was very interesting and enjoyable. Bishop James actually said that he had not spent a night in his own bed for about three weeks and I heard him on the radio saying this.

Millom Churches Together will be holding the annual Walk of Witness on Good Friday. A group of us have been discussing the film "The Greatest Showman" during Lent, bringing up issues of racism, discrimination and equality, all issues which are relevant today in our communities and the Church.

We also continue to host Community Lunches on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month. These are technically aimed at those people who are alone, but in practice anyone can attend. Members of the church often take part and help with serving etc.

We always finish our worship with tea, and use this time as a catchup and to check on people's welfare.

Various community groups continue to use our church premises and we hope that they feel comfortable in our building.

There is a Community Fun Day, run by Churches Together, on May 4<sup>th</sup> to which everyone is invited.

Our Coffee mornings continue on Fridays. We have already sold cakes in aid of Lebone House Orphanage and we are going to use the coffee mornings occasionally as charity events.

Future event for your diaries: on 7<sup>th</sup> July we are holding a strawberry tea, 3 pm-5 pm.  
All blessings

*Liz Watson*

# Vickerstown

There will be a coffee morning at Vickerstown on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> May from 10-11:30 a.m. with the usual stalls - homemade cakes, Fairtrade goods, books and bring-and-buy. All welcome to join us for a cuppa, chat and browse (no entry charge).

*Karen Edmondson*

# Regular Sunday Services

## ***Morning service times are as follows:***

Askam	(Duddon Road) 11:00 am <b>fortnightly</b> (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 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday – 6pm service 5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday – 10 am at St Cuthbert's)
Millom	(Queen Street) 11:00 am
Ramsden Street	Barrow 11:00 am (except 1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday – 10:30am & 5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday – 11:00 am at Trinity)
Trinity Church Centre	(Warwick Street, Barrow) 11:00 am
Vickerstown	(Warren Street) 11:00 am

## ***Evening services are held as follows:***

Beacon Hill	6 pm every week
Trinity Church Centre	6:30 pm every week
Kirkby	6 pm on the 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday

United Area joint evening services as arranged. For details, please consult the Plan or the website: [www.swcumbriaunitedareaurc.org.uk](http://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