



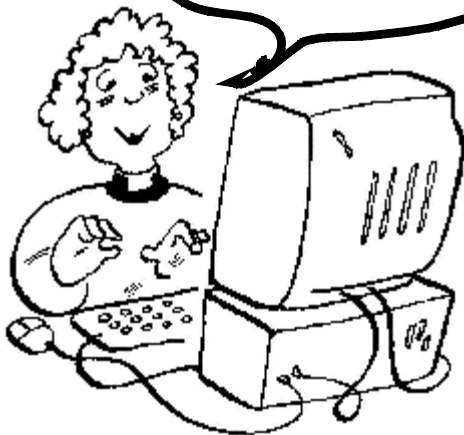
# Newslink

**SOUTH WEST CUMBRIA UNITED AREA**

Charity Registration Number 1141404

**Methodist and United Reformed Churches Working Together**

## The Minister Writes



It's New Year's Eve as I write, and that means we're just a month away from withdrawing from the European Union. Whatever our view of the outcome of the Referendum, the general election result appears to have been a clear statement that the country now just wants to get on with it. I find it interesting that the areas of England that have benefitted most from European investment are those where the majority voted both for leaving the EU and for the party leader who promised to ensure it went ahead by the given date. This suggests that there is something more going on than disenchantment with the EU and it seems

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that this might be more to do with feelings of powerlessness and disillusionment with a democratic political system that hasn't done much to address the inequalities in our own society, even though that system justifies itself by claiming that we all have the power through our vote to shape the world we live in. Somehow that seems to work better for some than it does for others. Prescriptions of anti-depressants soar in the UK. We work five hours each week longer than in any other European country, and we have the highest alcoholism, drug abuse, teenage pregnancy and youth crime rates. We are not a happy or healthy society. So, putting political structures on one side, what lessons can we take from what has been happening here in the UK and in one guise or another in many other countries - the hopelessness and discontentment that seem to blight so many lives? Above all, I believe, what has happened has revealed the fundamental human need to be listened to, to be valued, to believe that we MATTER and that our

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

lives have a purpose. In the incarnation, God came to dwell among his people to show us that each and every one of us does matter. Thirty or so years later, Jesus looked on the people and saw that they were 'harassed and helpless' - sounds familiar doesn't it? And he enabled those whose lives he touched to overcome their helplessness by bringing healing and hope through the outworking of God's love. He made them see that they did matter - and in doing so gave them the confidence to become the people and the communities God intended them to be. Where the church has often worked on a model that says 'convert and retain', Jesus used the principal 'transform and release'. Transformation and release would seem to be exactly what those who are desperate for the change they think Brexit will bring are looking for. Transformation and release are clearly what those who are consumed by addiction to alcohol, drugs - or consumerism - are seeking. How can we, as the body of Christ here and now, invite those around us to be part of God's story in which they - we - can find freedom truly to flourish as God intends and in doing so be agents for change in the world around us?

Shalom,

*Jennet*

## Safeguarding Training

We plan to offer the Foundation Safeguarding course in the first half of May 2020. When we know who wishes to take part, we will chose the date and time which is most convenient for everyone. If you are interested, please contact Kathryn Aldred on 01229 430842 or [km.aldred@icloud.com](mailto:km.aldred@icloud.com)

## United Area Meeting

The next United Area meeting will be on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March at 7 pm at Vickerstown. 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](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)

March issue No 149 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 2<sup>nd</sup>. Items can also be passed on by

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

## Chapter And Verse

The latest in our series where people share Bible verses that are particularly meaningful to them.

When everything is going well, I do well to remind myself of words from Deuteronomy chapter 8: 'Take care that you do not forget the Lord your God ... when you have eaten your fill and have built fine houses... for he brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery,' and that quickly keeps me from feeling any false sense of pride or arrogance. When it seems that the inner life of the church is consuming all my energy and attention, words from Jeremiah spring to mind: 'Seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you and pray to the Lord on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare,' reminding me that our calling lies, as it did for the people of Israel, beyond the mere maintenance of the Church, 'to be a light to the nations, that my salvation might reach to the ends of the earth' (Isaiah 49:6).

*Jennet McLeod*

If anyone would like to contribute to this section of Newslink please contact Lilian by email [lilian.wood4@gmail.com](mailto:lilian.wood4@gmail.com) or phone 825986.

## Fairtrade Fortnight



® Fairtrade Fortnight runs from Monday 24<sup>th</sup> February until Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> March. The Fairtrade Foundation will be continuing to focus on cocoa, the special role women farmers play in the journey to living incomes and sharing new stories and tools to get more people choosing Fairtrade chocolate. For more info and resources, visit <http://www.fairtrade.org.uk/en/get-involved/current-campaigns/Fairtrade-Fortnight>

It would be excellent if every church in the SWCUA could hold an event to support Fairtrade during that period, so please get your thinking caps on! It could be a special, one-off event or a regularly occurring event like a coffee morning with some added activities for Fairtrade Fortnight. Whether or not you raise money for the Fairtrade Foundation or just have some fun raising awareness about the importance of supporting Fairtrade, it would be good to hear your plans. My email address is [km.aldred@icloud.com](mailto:km.aldred@icloud.com)

*Kathryn Aldred*

## Thinking Allowed Thursday group

We meet on the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of the month, 7-8 pm, at Costa Drive Thru, Barrow. The next meetings will be on 27<sup>th</sup> February and 26<sup>th</sup> March. We are an eclectic mix of Christians and faith explorers who meet for an hour to discuss life and God, explore types of spirituality and ask questions of Scripture that puzzle or baffle us. It's a very relaxed and informal meeting and no-one is pressured to contribute.

*Zena Smith*

## First Tuesday Ladies

We have decided to change our meeting time from evening to afternoon. We will meet on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> February at **1:30 pm** at 59 Croslands Park to study the Bible and enjoy a time of prayer and fellowship.

*Elaine Pears*

## Network (Methodist Women In Britain) Year ending 31 August 2019

Receipts		Payments	
Cash in hand/brought forward	7.20	Banked: World Mission Fund	379.36
Easter offerings	379.36	Banked: MWiB	141.00
Coffee morning (1)	141.00	Cash in hand/carried forward	7.20
<b>Total</b>	<b>£527.56</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>£527.56</b>

*Muriel Dawson*

## Methodist Mission Funds

Details for the 12 month period ended 31 August 2019 are as follows:

### World Mission Fund

6 out of 8 churches made a contribution, with a total amount of £1288.53 being paid into this fund (JMA £702.83 and General Fund £585.70).

This is a total reduction of £88.45 on the previous year's figures (JMA increased by £40.35 but General Fund reduced by £128.80).

### Mission in Britain Fund

5 out of 8 churches made a contribution, with a total amount of £680.00 being paid into this fund.

This is a reduction of £35.92 on the previous year's figure.

*Bob and Daphne Watkinson*

## Christian Aid Project

We began fundraising for this project to help children in Kenya affected by HIV and AIDS 2 years ago, when we set a target of raising £5000 by June 2020. Our total is now £4383.75. The most recent contributions have come from Beacon Hill, Dalton and Ramsden Street, who raised £514 between them. Many thanks to them.

Can I encourage everyone to make a final effort so that we are able to achieve our target by the date agreed. You will remember that the project is part-funded by USAID, who will give £17 for every £1 raised, so we will be responsible for raising a considerable sum of money.

*Lilian Wood*

## Lebone

We sent £2,000 to Lebone Village before Christmas and received the following reply from Avril.

Our dear Friends

On behalf of ALL at Lebone Village I would like to express our grateful thanks to you for the incredible amount of R37000 received from you, your generosity is overwhelming and such a blessing to us, your support, love and friendship over many years is what keeps our “light” shining brightly despite all the challenges.

Yet again the same old words and once again the same struggle to try to find a new way to express our feelings and thankfulness to you for your support which helps “carry us” in this work we are called to do at Lebone Village. Thank you just does not seem to express exactly how we feel but I pray that you will have a new understanding of the passage in Luke 14:14 when we say to you “**...and you will be blessed. Although (WE) cannot repay you, you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.**”

One sure thing though is that we have an even greater, quite overwhelming feeling of awe and humbleness at the faithfulness and abundance of our mighty God and how He has once again provided for our needs through you! This time of the year would be intimidating if we did not have HIM and His people at SW Cumbria United Area helping us. I can assure you each one here at Lebone Village joins me in saying ‘thank you.’ I pray that you will catch a glimpse of our hearts and how much it means to us - thank you just does not seem to say it enough, but thank you, thank you, thank you!

May you all have a blessed Christmas and may He bless you abundantly in 2020.

Yours in His Service

*Avril*

## **Farewell Sermon - Sarah Moore**

Rev Sarah Moore has left her post as URC Cumbria Area President for a new role as the URC's transitional champion in Scotland. The following has been adapted from the sermon Sarah gave at her farewell service on 15 December 2019.

“We believe that we are being called by God to realise more deeply our common life and mission, to share and respect the distinctive contributions of our traditions, and to bring about closer collaboration in all areas of witness and service.”

We've come a long long way together! As I think back to how we worked together when I first came into post almost eight years ago in 2012, it is indeed amazing to recognise what has been achieved here in Cumbria. Eight years ago Bishop James, Richard Church and Richard Teal had just signed the covenant that included the commitment I have just quoted. We had a covenant, a lot of good will, and I believe we have had God's blessing on this journey so far. We had the support and prayers of many other Christian people here in Cumbria and beyond.

After much prayer and work the God for All vision and strategy emerged. There have been all sorts of bumps on the way; it has not always been plain sailing. One question that I get asked from time to time is: what is at the core of the ecumenical journey together? Why is this working when churches working together in other places has stalled? There are probably a lot of answers to that question, and locally the answer will vary considerably between communities. Overall, I think that there are three reasons God for All has fared better than ecumenical work elsewhere.

Firstly, the strength of relationship between church leaders across the county. I am very aware that I am able to genuinely call the people who I have worked with, the Bishops of Carlisle and Penrith, the District Chairs, the Commanders of the Salvation Army and other county leaders my friends, and not only my colleagues. That does not happen everywhere. Secondly, because this work has been prayed for for a lot of years stretching back into the past before many of our times. Thirdly, because we have not just played ecumenical window dressing. We took the hard step of taking our covenant and making it mean something. History is littered with stories of groups of churches who have worked hard to agree and sign a covenant which has then found its way into filing cabinets and never been looked at again. We have not done that. Here in Cumbria ecumenical commitment and relationship has been a tool for mission. To perhaps misuse a saying, it has been our servant rather than our master. We have accepted a shared focus that is beyond ourselves. The shared focus is nothing less than loving God with all our hearts, minds, souls, and collective strength, and loving our neighbour as ourselves. Following on from that we are participating in God's mission to disciple one another and to disciple the communities in which we find ourselves.


Together we have been in a period of Vision Refresh as we discern again how God is calling his people in Cumbria to witness and service. I wonder if Mary's song in the Magnificat is giving a huge clue as to the kind of communities we are called to be. The vision of the Magnificat is nothing less than a glimpse of heaven. It is a picture of the Kingdom of God. That is the crux of the Good News lived and preached by Jesus.

My prayer for the churches of Cumbria and for the Church in Cumbria is that you will keep the faith. We have indeed come a long long way together. But the journey is onwards and maybe even upwards. Keep the faith. Keep joining in with Christ's mission. Remember that this journey is Christ's. As we started with some words from our covenant, I wonder if we might end with some too. Words that remind us that this journey is Christ's and that he will choose the route and guide our feet.

"We also affirm our intention to go on praying and working, with all our fellow Christians, for the visible unity of the Church in the way Christ chooses, so that people may be led to love and serve God more and more."

Sarah Moore

If you would like to read the full text of the sermon please email [lilian.wood4@gmail.com](mailto:lilian.wood4@gmail.com)



### Green Tip

Living right out on the edge of the United Area, looking out over Morecambe Bay from my study window and taking a daily cycle ride along the coast road, I see those few miles of shoreline very frequently. It's scarcely ever possible to get to Newbiggin and back without encountering discarded plastic - sometimes quite a lot of it. That rubbish is unsightly, of course, and nobody wants to see it. The problem is that it's also lethal to wildlife.

I'm grateful to see a local resident who goes out each day and fills a carrier bag of discarded plastic before taking it home and recycling it. Sometimes Rita and I do the same. The trouble is that not everyone is fit enough, well enough or blessed with enough leisure time to be able to do that. However, there is something that anyone with an internet connection can do. It's even fun.

If you log on to [www.freetheseocean.com](http://www.freetheseocean.com) you'll find a daily trivia question. It usually has some kind of environmental twist, but it isn't long-faced. The really good bit is that every time you answer the day's question your involvement (and seeing the adverts, of course) enables a piece of plastic to be removed from the ocean. At the time of writing the Free the Ocean community has facilitated the removal of 1,759,698 pieces of plastic. There's even a leaderboard to enable competitive types to see how well they're doing in their campaign against plastic. I'm currently lying joint 56th in the world, but I'd love to have some local people to race with! Wouldn't it be great if we could all do a tiny bit to stop the incoming tide of plastic before it chokes the life out of the fabulous marine habitat on all our doorsteps?

Looking forward to seeing you on the leaderboard

*Martin Williams*

# Individual Churches

## Trinity

Monthly Coffee Morning, Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> February, 10:00-11:30 a.m.

The Bible Stories Exhibition will be held from 16<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> March, 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

There has been a good response from the schools but if your church would like to send an exhibit of a story of your choice, using any medium, all we ask is that you add a few words of explanation for any non-churchgoers. If anyone is willing to give some time to help that would be appreciated.

On Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> February, 2:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m. there will be an afternoon of Jigsaw Puzzles. Why not come along and play jigsaws, enjoy an afternoon tea and help raise some funds for the Church. Tickets will be on sale soon. Either see Margaret or phone 826053 or 827925.

### Family Matters

It is good to be able to report that Bob Watkinson has been able to get to Church and he is making progress. Alan Ladds is also progressing but he has been hampered by the weather, as he can't always get out for his walk and with Janet now incapacitated, having broken a bone in her foot and in plaster up to her knee, things are quite difficult for them. Linda Williams fell down the stairs just before Christmas and at present is in Abbey View.

Some people are having a very hard time, but we trust that by the time you read this things will be much better for everyone. We can assure them all that they will be constantly in our prayers.

*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	2nd Beacon Hill	E
9th	Dalton Comm Church	F
16th	Urswick Community	G
23rd	Askam	H

*Janet Ladds*



# Hartington Street

## ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS AT HSt

**Running throughout the Advent season** was a series of Bible studies hosted and led by Chris and Charlie. The material, Talking Jesus, is part of the Methodist Church's resource package designed to equip members to speak more comfortably about Jesus. Each session had two short film clips that prompted discussion around the theme of sharing and showing God's love in today's world. It's a resource which was recommended by the Connexion in 2019 and is well worth exploring.

**The Messy Church Advent/Christmas Party** was held on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> December and was attended by 38 people in total. Those there enjoyed Christmas crafts including a Mary, Joseph and Baby Jesus to hang on their own Christmas tree at home. The children, together with their parents, also watched a Bible Society YouTube version of the Christmas Story which was followed by the singing of two carols, Little Donkey and It Was on a Starry Night. Party games followed and included a massive game of musical chairs with about 20 chairs lined up down the middle of the church. A Christmas dinner of roast turkey, pigs in blankets, roast potatoes and all the trimmings was served at 4:15pm and our thanks go to Peter Mills for this. The dinner was followed by our signature pudding of chocolate sponge and custard. To conclude this fabulous afternoon, all children were given the gift of a book of the Nativity Story. These were sourced from "Ten of These" and act as part of our continued outreach programme.

**The 'Come in Costume' Nativity and Carol Service** at HSt was held on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> December and was led by Ellen Powell who acted as the "Bethlehem Late Night News Anchorwoman" while Charlie Mills interviewed people in the crowds at Bethlehem - shepherds, wise men, Mary, Joseph, innkeeper etc. This lively, impromptu, interactive service was photographed and uploaded onto Facebook as it went along. Attendance was extremely encouraging and we were delighted to welcome all 3 generations of Glenys Farrer's family and all 4 generations of Muriel Kitto's family. Mince pies and freshly brewed tea followed this unpredictable but very meaningful act of worship!

**The Toddlers @ the Hub Christmas Party** was held on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> December and attended by members of the group. The children enjoyed playing with balloons and an extended snack time with Christmas treats. The party concluded with story time and a 'touch and feel' version of the nativity was read to the children. Each toddler was gifted a book of the Nativity Story (but one also sourced from "Ten of These") to take home.

**Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> December saw the knitters' Christmas Party**, and all knitters stayed on after the session to enjoy a sit down lunch of pie, peas and gravy followed by a vanilla slice. This was a great time of fellowship! Our thanks go to Pat who has connections at the Bath Street Pie shop and her husband Dave who cooked the mushy peas.

**Christmas Morning Worship** was again well attended with numbers reaching almost 40. The congregation was welcomed to worship on the street by the HSt Brass Quintet with carols being played from 10:15am. Charlie's address focussed on the greed and avarice we sometimes see today juxtaposed with the humility of Christ's entry into the world as a baby. Carols were led by the Brass Quintet and worship was followed by an extended time of

sharing and fellowship.

**The Sunday School Christmas Party** was held on the afternoon of Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> December with all 6 members, their parents and the Sunday School Superintendent in attendance. The children enjoyed an afternoon of games, quizzes and a hunt to find the many hidden snowmen! Pizza, hot sausages and the Sunday School signature jam sandwiches formed the basis of the party tea which was followed by a viewing of “The Snowman” by Raymond Briggs to restore some order! The children had a great time and some even discovered that they have very competitive parents!

### **The HSt Messy Church Away Day**

By the time this newsletter reaches you, the second Messy Church Away Day will have taken place. At the time of writing, preparations are well underway and this time the HSt team are eagerly looking forward to going to the Community Hall at Grizebeck for a day of crafting, teaching, preparing and learning! The day will begin with interactive and creative devotions led by Rebekah Mills-Strawson, who is coming home from Huddersfield especially to lead the event. This time the teaching/crafting sessions will be delivered by the HSt Sunday School Team. The day promises to be a fantastic time of preparation as we think about sharing Jesus’ love with the children and their parents who come to Messy Church. Please pray for the HSt Messy Church Team!

*Lois Kavanagh*

## **Beacon Hill**

We were well blessed at Beacon Hill this Christmas when the uniformed organisations, led by Pat and Julie (Cub leaders) took our Family Carol Service. What the mouse in the manger saw was related to us in the Bible passages, read by the junior leaders, and the whole congregation was invited to join in the carol singing and actions, ably demonstrated by the younger children. They and their parents all stayed for coffee and mince pies following this very happy service. The offering of £118 was donated to the Foodbank. Newbarns Year 3 children once again made our church decorations so we had a host of beautiful angels above us throughout the Christmas season. We thank all the children for sharing in the life of our church in this way.

During Advent we raised money for All We Can by sending only one card for the whole church congregation and donating the saved cash to AWC. With donations from the MY Group carol service and the Christmas Eve offering we raised a total of £217.

The Soup and Quiz evening in November raised £170 for the Area Christian Aid project. Our monthly coffee morning will be held on Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> February, 10 am-11:15 am, with stalls selling cakes, handmade cards, books and Fairtrade items.

*Elaine Pears*

# Dalton

Since the last Newslink we have had quite a few events. These include an evening of games with a lovely faith meal, our Christmas Bazaar, a messy church event with our Anglican friends, our Christmas Nativity and a lovely community meal.

Thanks to Mr and Mrs Atkinson for once again displaying our Advent Calendars and revealing a new picture each day.

The Bible Society Advent Praise raised £193 for Society work. The 'Stargazers' concert raised £412 for the Furness Homeless Christmas Shelter and the church Christmas tree raised a further £190 for that charity. Coffee and Carols with Dalton Town Band and collections from all our Christmas services have been given to the Area Christian Aid Appeal.

On Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> January Sue Christian was welcomed as a member of Dalton Community Church.

## **Future Events:**

Tuesday February 11<sup>th</sup> at 2:30 pm Midweek Communion service at Market Street.

Monday February 24<sup>th</sup> to Sunday March 2<sup>nd</sup> Fairtrade Fortnight.

*R Willock*

## **Buy a Block!**

As part of our redevelopment plans we will have a new wall covering about 90m<sup>2</sup> along the back of the church building. We will need approx. 900 concrete blocks for this.

Will you help build our wall? We are asking for donations of £2 per block. If you would like to make a donation please contact Margaret Harrison, Ann Hufton or Bob Mantle.

For every £2 donation a paper block will be added to a wall inside the worship area so that we can see how our new wall is growing. So far we have had 93 blocks in our wall so a little way to go to meet our target yet!

## **Lent Groups**

Lent begins at the end of February and it hoped once again to run joint Lent Groups with St

Mary's Parish Church. Look out for details in the church notices nearer the time. *Ann Hufton*

## **Marjorie Wall (née Nowell)**

Marjorie died in November 2019. It is thought she was born in Wellington Street and she lived all her life in Dalton, for many years at 'The Haven', Beckside Road with her husband Jack. He died in 1986 so she lived alone for many years but she had plenty of interests: a love of dogs and going walking with her pet dogs, playing the piano, knitting and crocheting and going out in her car - she was very proud of passing the driving test at her first attempt when she was 59.

She went as a child to Sunday School at Wellington Street and later on her love of playing the piano came into good use when, as an adult, she started playing for the Sunday School and for hymns at the beginning of Sunday services. She formally became a member of Wellington Street Methodist Church in 1983. From 1994 through to 2003 she organised the programme and trips out for the Network women's group and was church secretary for a time. Although she had been unable to attend church for a number of years, she was always interested in what was going on at church.

Marjorie was a person with a strong faith and positive outlook. We send our condolences to those who will miss her, especially Val and Eric and Elaine.

# Askam

As I write this we are just into a New Year and I would like to pass on my Best Wishes to all our readers (even though it will be a few weeks older before you get this greeting). As we all are challenged with things new and old in the coming year, we look to each other and our faith to progress in our outreach to our communities.

We sadly said goodbye to a very dear friend Betty Pilkington in December, at the wonderful age of 93. Betty was a member of Askam Sisterhood for many years, and loved by us all for her caring nature. Although housebound for the last few years, she took a keen interest in all that went on at Duddon Road. Always kind and thoughtful, she was a joy to visit, when we discussed books we were reading. She also took an interest in current affairs, and was keen to post her vote in the last elections, even when she was very frail. I will miss you Betty and am proud to have been your friend. God bless you and your family.

On Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> December there was a bad car crash near Askam Village School just as the children were heading to school that morning. Air ambulances landed in the school grounds, and there was lots of police activity near the school, and a lot of the school children were in shock as the Head decided to keep the children in school. Consequently their choir was unable to entertain the Sisterhood that afternoon, so in respect to the schoolchildren the party was cancelled. Thankfully none of the children or parents were harmed and we thank God for that.

On the following Sunday, 15<sup>th</sup> December, we held our Christingle Service in the evening led by Rev Ron Wilson. It was a delight to see the Church full - 20 children sang in the choir, and took part in the service. We started with the children making their own Christingle oranges. These they patiently held until the end of the service when the candles were lit and the lights dimmed -always a moving scene.

Lots of parents and grandparents came with the children and were encouraged by Ron to help him tell the Nativity Story. One side of the church was encouraged to sing out Hallelujah every time Ron said the word Angel and the other side to wail every time he said the word baby. It was a huge success, especially with the Dads who joined in with gusto - my side (the wailers) sounded more like a flock of sheep, but the atmosphere was joyous. Thank you to Ron for standing in at short notice to lead the Service and a special thank you to Mrs Jo Coates from Askam Village School who brought along her wonderful choir. The Cubs had their annual sleepover at the end of the winter term, and hopefully had a great time; as expected with lads they seem to eat a lot of food.

We started the Armchair Exercise Class on Thursday, 9<sup>th</sup> January, at 9:30 a.m. This will continue to run weekly and we would welcome new members. Details from Dorothy 465378.

Sisterhood starts on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> February and meets at 2:30 p.m. fortnightly - again we would welcome new members.

We thank Rev Jennet McLeod for her continued support to the members of Duddon Road Church, as we are challenged by our ageing congregation.

*Dorothy Gleaves*

## Ramsden Street

Christmas was a busy but very happy time with a buffet lunch, visit from Greengate Choir and our Carol Service and tea. Donations of food were taken to the Homeless Support Group and the Foodbank and money raised through not sending each other Christmas cards was split between Barrow Blind Society and Commitment for Life. The offering at the carol service was donated to the United Area Christian Aid project. We look forward to two events early in 2020 involving the children from local schools - 'sharing stories' probably in February/March time and Flashbacks in April. Our Wednesday meetings do not begin again until March and Church lunches also begin in March after a break during January and February.

*Anne Stevenson*

It is with great sadness that we report the death of Ena Crawford on December 1st 2019. Her funeral service was conducted by Rev Jennet McLeod at Ramsden Street and the Church was filled to capacity with family, friends, Church family and work colleagues. Ena was an Elder at Ramsden Street and served as our treasurer for over twenty years. You could often find her in the Church kitchen preparing lunches or making afternoon teas and in her own kitchen at home she spent many hours making jam for the Church Fairs.

Although Ena did not keep in the best of health in the last few years, she never complained and was often present at Church when she really wasn't fit to be there. Her answer to the question 'how are you today?' was nearly always 'I'm OK - got to keep going'!

We will all miss Ena very much and especially we will miss her wise thoughts and suggestions in our Church and Elders meetings.

We extend our sympathy to David, Ena's son, and Margaret, her sister, and to all the family who are going to miss her so much.

*Anne, Maureen, Heather*

## Kirkby

After a very busy and successful 2019 we will be getting our knitting needles out again to begin projects for 2020. Along with our Craft and Chat on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month we continue with Coffee and Company on the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday.

Coffee and Company on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> March will be followed by a LENT LUNCH. Our very popular homemade Soup and Bread will be served from 12 noon. Please come and join us - you will be made most welcome.

A very HAPPY, HEALTHY and PEACEFUL New Year is wished to you all from Kirkby.

*Beryl Hollowell*

# Millom

We sent 128 shoeboxes to Romania from Queen Street. Thank you to all contributors. We also put a Christmas tree into the festival at St George's, with the theme of Home and Away. Our tree used symbols relating to the boxes and contents and people knitted miniature scarves and hats to decorate the tree. It looked really effective and hopefully provided a talking point.

The community lunches continue to be a success, open to anyone on their own or vulnerable. The weekly food pantry is also being run from Millom, in which the shops donate excess food, which is then packed up by local volunteers and members pay a fixed amount for their parcel, which will contain all sorts of items.

We met with the Baptist church for our Christmas services, which was good, and also gave both Debbie and Rachel a break.

Margaret Riley took her last service as a worship leader in December prior to her leaving to go to Rochdale. Keith is already down there and we wish them both well.

We're sorry to announce Sue Giles died suddenly in December after a short illness; she will be greatly missed. We send condolences to Jack and to Ruth and Susie and their families and we think of them in our prayers.

*Liz Watson*

# Vickerstown

There will be a coffee morning at Vickerstown on Saturday February 22<sup>nd</sup> from 10-11:30 am, with stalls selling books, homemade cakes, bring-and-buy and Fairtrade goods. It's not quite in Fairtrade fortnight but is only a day before the official start, so there will be a special focus on Fairtrade at this coffee morning. All welcome; refreshments on offer will include toasted teacakes.

Our Christmas card donations for Methodist charity 'All we Can', together with contributions at our Christmas morning service and December's Food & Fellowship gathering, raised over £200 to spend on their catalogue of alternative gifts, seeking to improve lives in developing countries. The Food & Fellowship group also received a lovely letter of thanks from Sightsavers, after sending the previous £140 raised to them - under a matched funding arrangement to double its value - to help fight preventable childhood blindness.

The fortnightly Thursday morning Bible Study at Vickerstown (10-11 a.m., come a little early for a cuppa) restarted on January 23<sup>rd</sup>, continuing with the study of Revelation we were working through before Advent. This will continue on Thursdays 6<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> February, then from 27<sup>th</sup> February this will become a weekly Lent study (content yet to be decided). Anyone is welcome to join us at any time.

*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 11:00 am
Kirkby	(Marshside) 11:00 am (except 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday – 6pm service)
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	4 pm every week
Trinity Church Centre	4 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 11:30



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