



# Newslink

**SOUTH WEST GUMBRIA UNITED AREA**

Charity Registration Number 1141404

**Methodist and United Reformed Churches Working Together**



Sophie  
Writes

I cannot believe it's October already. It's my favourite month of the year because I love the autumnal colours, cosy nights in, new TV series that begin and because... it contains my birthday! This year there's only one present that I really want but I doubt that I'll get it. I doubt I'll be that fortunate but then again I am a doubter. And it turns out I'm not alone.

In 2007 a survey was conducted that revealed that amongst members of Christian churches 1 in 4 people had doubts about the existence of God. These

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are people like us, who belong to a Christian community. They regularly go to church. They support the church financially and in other ways. But they have doubts.

In John's Gospel (20:24-29), and only in John's Gospel, we can read the account that led to Thomas being labelled as 'Doubting' Thomas. He'd been one of the Apostles. He had walked with Jesus. He'd listened to Jesus' teachings, seen him perform many miracles. He loved Christ and walked with him wherever he went. And then he had watched him die. In Thomas we have the picture of a committed follower of Christ. He was willing to suffer and even die for Jesus. But he has some questions. He has some doubts. I don't really like hearing him referred to as 'Doubting Thomas.' We find it too easy to label Thomas based on this one incident when there was so much more to his journey with Christ than this moment of doubt.

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

If each of us were honest we would have to admit that Thomas is not alone. I would venture to suggest that every one of us has, at some point, walked side by side with Thomas in the state of doubt. It's in our nature to doubt that which we cannot see. I'm sure that for all of us there have been times when, like Thomas, we have had doubts and have wanted to see the truth for ourselves, times when no-one else's word has been good enough, times when we have pleaded with God for him to reveal himself with greater clarity. Is having doubt the same thing as not having faith? I don't think so. Which faith is greater: the faith that never doubts or the faith that asks questions and has doubts but keeps holding on in the darkness until God's light breaks through?

So when you next hear about 'Doubting' Thomas perhaps you should cut him some slack and try to think about him as a man who simply needed to find out the truth for himself, someone who, despite the testimony of others, needed to see it with his own eyes. We are so often like Thomas; we doubt what we cannot see, we struggle to hold onto a God who is sometimes silent. Let us, like Thomas, seek out the truth for ourselves and keep holding onto hope until God reveals himself to us once more.

We should not be too hard on ourselves if we question our faith or too quick to judge others who are struggling with theirs. We should give one another the benefit of the doubt!

*Sophie*

## **Important Safeguarding Notice**

If your last DBS / CRB check took place over 5 years ago (or if your 5 year marker is approaching), please contact Jennet about getting your status renewed.

## **Community Outreach Group**

Please try to ensure that your church is represented at the next COG meeting on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> October at Dalton Community Church, Market Street, 6:45 pm for 7:00 pm.

## **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)

November issue No 136 of *Newslink* will be published at the end of October  
Please send all material to reach Lilian Wood, 89 Risedale Road, Barrow,  
LA13 9QY by Sunday October 7<sup>th</sup>. Items can also be passed on by

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

## **Cumbria Methodist Synod, 8<sup>th</sup> September 2018**

Autumn Synod began with worship led by our hosts at Stricklandgate Methodist Church, based on 'Our Calling in the Kendal Circuit'. Lay Pastor Marc Jackson spoke about how God has shaped his life and we were encouraged as a District to take part in a year of testimony, sharing our faith with others and being active in the community, loving and serving people like Jesus did. (Watch the short video "Our Calling" at [methodist.org.uk](http://methodist.org.uk) or on youtube.) One way of living out God's love in our own community is the work of the relaunched Cumbria Agricultural Chaplaincy.

Co-ordinator Amanda Gorton spoke about the huge pressures faced by local farmers, including practical and financial problems caused by extreme weather conditions, worries about the consequences of Brexit and loneliness and health issues. The agricultural chaplains offer their support to farm workers at local auction marts and agricultural shows, and one current CAC project is facilitating NHS health checks at auction marts. If you are on Facebook, visit their page and like and share! Please pray for our local farmers.

In his letter of invitation to Synod, Rev Richard Teal quoted the first verse of hymn 409 in Singing the Faith, 'Let us build a house where love can dwell', which finishes: "Here the love of Christ will end divisions. All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place". The theme for the workshop sessions was 'An inclusive Church?' and was introduced by Bevan Powell, the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Officer from Methodist Church House. He encouraged us to think about inclusion within our Church, with particular reference to marriage and relationships, and whether ALL people are welcome in our Church. Reports from the four workshops appear below.

Rev Isaac Lawrence announced plans for the Carlisle Passion Play on 13th April 2019. He invited people to volunteer as actors, stewards or prayer leaders, contribute financially and, of course, attend what will hopefully be a spectacular outdoor performance, portraying the betrayal, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Watch out for news about a coach trip from our area.

In her financial report, Glynis Hayton shared the welcome news that Cumbria's assessment for 2019/20 has gone down! She also talked about reserves. Apparently, in Methodist churches and circuits around the country, there are many millions of pounds sitting in bank accounts, waiting for a rainy day that never comes. We are earnestly encouraged to think about what we want to achieve missionally and to invest our money accordingly.

Three ministers who are new to our District were introduced: probationer ministers Rev Andrew Sterling and our own Rev Zena Smith, along with Rev David Newlove. David, previously the Superintendent Minister in Lincolnshire, also shared the work he did there developing the Lay Pastoral Scheme. One of the goals of the God For All strategy is to have a lay pastor in every church, which sounds very ambitious, but would be a huge advantage for our future. Please pray for the United Area and the Cumbria District.

*Kathryn Aldred*

## Reports from workshops

The workshops were all on the theme “An inclusive Church?”, prompted by an ongoing discussion process within the Methodist Church on the subject of marriage and relationships - itself a result of, though not limited to, the questions raised for churches in general by the legalisation of same-sex marriages in 2014. The introduction to the full Synod, before we split into workshop groups, highlighted the fact that as a church if we get inclusivity wrong we lose opportunities to engage with the world around us, and to make new disciples. The workshops were intended simply as an introduction, the start of a conversation.

### Workshop 1

Bevan Powell wanted us to consider the leadership challenges, opportunities and responsibilities involved in an inclusive Church, with a focus on marriage and relationships, including same sex couples and sexual orientation. We watched a film about a 14 year old church member called Lizzie who took her own life in 2014. By all accounts, Lizzie was a bright, loving and talented girl and a committed Christian; but she was also gay and didn't know how to reconcile both aspects of her life. After the immediate shock, her church wanted to make sure that no other family would suffer like this. They realised that a culture of silence, rising out of a fear of creating division, can lead to the isolation of some. Worship and respectful discussion was their way forward, developing an atmosphere of acceptance and understanding, if not always agreement. They discovered that, by making their church ‘safe’ for one group, they also made it welcoming for other marginalized groups. It is hoped that all churches will begin their own conversations, in love and understanding.

*Kathryn Aldred*

### Workshop 2

The session started with us considering a couple of questions posed by the facilitator:

1. Have you ever felt excluded? - some examples given of reasons we have been excluded included being single individuals, childless women, disabled (both visible and invisible disabilities).
2. How did being excluded make you feel? - undervalued, diminished and angry were some of the responses given.

After a series of discussions Lizzie's church accepted the following Inclusivity Statement: “We believe in inclusive Church - church which does not discriminate on any level, on grounds of economic power, gender, mental health, physical disability, race or sexuality. We believe in Church which welcomes and serves all people in the name of Jesus Christ; which is scripturally faithful; which seeks to proclaim the Gospel afresh for each generation; and which, in the power of the Holy Spirit, allows all people to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Jesus Christ.”

Not all agreed with the inclusivity statement, and some people left the church, but those remaining agreed the church should adopt and live by the statement despite personal views being held and maintained.

We then had a few minutes to discuss 4 questions posed by the facilitator:

1. What part of this story is the most important personally?
2. What part of this story is most relevant to your church?
3. If Lizzie was a member of your church, would her story have ended differently?
4. What might prevent you from making the Inclusive Church Statement?

My group considered question 2. We considered the role of service and concluded maybe it involved speaking out on the difficult subjects and risking disagreement from some members of the church, but as long as the discussions were handled sensitively and all views were respected, we should no longer avoid talking about difficult subjects.

*Zena Smith*

### **Workshop 3**

This was titled “How does scripture help us?” We had a brief look at some Biblical verses which give definite instructions - from women being instructed to keep quiet in church, to ‘Thou shalt not steal’ and ‘Love your neighbour as you love yourself’. We were asked to consider who we felt these rules applied to when they were written, and how we now apply them in our own lives - the options here were to obey them literally, follow the spirit but not the letter of the law, know we should follow them but fail, ignore them or actively disagree with the content. Unfortunately there was little time to linger on this question, which could have prompted considerable interesting discussion, or to consider a variety of statements offering different views on the nature of Biblical authority which inevitably arose from it. The Methodist system of using a ‘quadrilateral’ of scripture, tradition, reason and experience, all interacting, to inform our views and apply our faith to contemporary issues was also mentioned. As with the other workshops we watched a video, but for us it was the second part: a conversation between Lizzie’s minister and the Iona community’s John Bell, writer of many beautiful hymns in *Singing the Faith*, who at the Greenbelt festival in 2017 publicly acknowledged for the first time that he is gay. Please do look up both videos online if you can: putting “Beyond inclusion: two films for use in churches” into a search engine should find them. John Bell speaks of realising his sexuality and his sense of call to ministry at around the same period of his life, and reconciling the two over the years without ever doubting either.

*Karen Edmondson*

### **Workshop 4**

What Lizzie’s church has learnt from this experience is that by being more open in their conversations etc, the church has now become more diverse. Whilst they have lost some people from the church, they have also welcomed people from the LGBT community, as well as people with mental ill health and others with physical disabilities. It was interesting when John Bell made the suggestion that “from the seed that died, new life is rising”.

This was a very sensitive topic and the video clip was very honest and challenging. The main thing that came from the group was the importance of informative and open conversation.

Some points suggested by the group:

- Get the information out to the churches asap
- Have the difficult conversations
- Have sermons that include marriage and relationships past and present.

*Debbie Harkness*

There will be a task group working in Cumbria this year, and Methodist Conference next summer is likely to open up a consultation to all its churches over the following twelve months. There may be difficult questions to address, but they cannot be avoided.

## **Cumbria's 2018 Christmas Shoebox Campaign Boxes of Hope**

Filling a shoebox is a simple and fun thing to do, doesn't have to cost a lot of money, and it really does make a difference to a child who has none of the basics we take for granted. For these children there is none of the commercialisation we endure for weeks leading up to Christmas. Many of them have never in their lives had a gift. Many have never had a toy.

The campaign runs from November 1<sup>st</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup>.

If you would like to get involved with this year's 2018 Christmas Shoebox Appeal by filling a shoebox of gifts then here below are some tips on how to do it:

- Find a medium-sized, empty shoebox (PLEASE NO BOOT BOXES), and cover the lid and box separately with any bright wrapping paper.
- Decide whether you want to make a box for a boy or a girl.
- An ideal box will contain: soap and facecloth, toothbrush and paste, hairbrush or comb, hat, scarf, mittens, socks, educational supplies such as paper, pens, pencils, colouring pencils, ruler, rubber and pencil sharpener, and then some sturdy toys such as ball, doll, toy car, dominoes, skipping rope, yo-yo. Add some treats - sparkly hair accessories or bracelet/necklace for a girl, football stickers for a boy, and some sweets - best before at least until the end of March 2019. And a cuddly toy will go down well with all ages. A plastic mug will be useful. You may like to add a photo or a greetings card to make the box gift more personal.
- And please add a donation of at least £2, in an envelope on top of the items inside your box. Your shoebox cannot be taken overseas unless we can pay for the transport.
- Tape a Boy or Girl label onto the outside of the lid, securing the box with a stout elastic band.

I will be collecting shoeboxes between 1<sup>st</sup> and the 12<sup>th</sup> November 2018 so if you would like me to collect your shoebox/shoeboxes I am happy to do so. Alternatively you can drop them off at my house. Many Thanks.

Pam Mills Tel: 01229 825028 or 07752455093

26 Thorncliffe Road, Barrow-in-Furness, Cumbria LA14 5PZ.

## **Visit from our friends from Lebone Village in South Africa**

We were delighted to welcome Avril and Willem Snyman on Tuesday, 28<sup>th</sup> August to Duddon Road Church. Avril and Willem had a whistle stop tour of England visiting friends and sponsors before travelling north to Askam. On the next morning they flew to Belgium, and then on to the Netherlands, before their return to South Africa.

Avril gave a very informative and often moving account of the life of Lebone, and how over the years it has grown so much, relying entirely on donations and of course the power of prayer, with God at the heart of everything they do.

The village is divided into 5 sections and is totally focussed on self-sustainability. It is home to 41 children, running a school for a further 54 children. Fruit and vegetables are grown in the grounds, bread baked, pigs and chickens raised. All this they share with outlying townships, feeding 1,476 children each month. Her talk was accompanied by photographs of the children, the grounds and the amazing building - made entirely of 'rubbish' (mainly old car tyres and empty glass bottles). As this was a completely new venture by its creator, and such a success, houses are now being built this way. This is now a centre for many activities, including services, coffee mornings, prayer meetings, shows, and only recently a wedding.

Many of the original babies are now healthy young adults, who have their own homes on the site. Those who are able are sponsored to attend university, and older boys are taught building skills, in a purpose-built workshop, and the older girls crafts.

Avril said they are totally thankful for the support they get from the churches in Cumbria, and if it wasn't for their generosity over the years, the Lebone Village wouldn't have made it to where it is today.

The United Area were once again able to donate a cheque for £2870.00 to Avril for the continued work of Lebone (made up of money donated by Standing Orders, the recent COG Coffee morning and other donations). After a lovely shared tea a collection was taken and the generous folks at the meeting gave a further £400.00 in cash to Avril and Willem. Since the United Area Churches became involved with the orphanage in 2006, initially through Tom and Jan Luke, we have donated a staggering £44,648.00. This money has made an enormous difference to so very many in Lebone Village and the surrounding needy families, from prem babies, to the old and frail. We, however, mustn't forget that there is still a great need for our continued help. If anyone feels they would like to contribute in any way, please get in touch with Elaine Pears, on 821815.

*Dorothy Gleaves*

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## **Network**

District Network Day, Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> October from 10:15am - 4 pm at Sands Methodist Church, Appleby. The Good News Singers & Rev Jackie Betts, Joan Wager & Judith James, will lead the day.

## News from re:new

Hello once again.

Just a little update on how our charity shop, re:new, is doing. We are slowly growing a fantastic reputation around the town and our customer base is growing day upon day. Our blue bucket donation stations are doing better than I could ever have imagined and this is all down to you guys, so THANK YOU!

I now have a small handful of volunteer drivers who are willing, when possible, to go out and do house collections, so this has also helped us to increase donations. If you have more than just a couple of bags to donate and you can't get to the shop or a donation station, then please let me know and I can organise a collection for you.

Recently we have been donated 35 brand new wedding/prom dresses from a local bridal shop. As a result of this we decided to set up a small wedding and prom section upstairs. Maybe this will help a young girl be able to go to her school prom or a young couple afford to get married. If you know of anyone who needs a dress, then please send them our way as we would love to be able to help. Also, if you hear of anyone else wanting to donate one of these special occasion dresses then please send them our way too!

Even with all this good news there's still just one thing on my mind: VOLUNTEERS.

The shop is currently open five days a week (Tuesday to Saturday) and over those days I only have three volunteers who work on Tuesday afternoon, Wednesday afternoon, Thursday lunchtime and Saturday morning. This leaves me feeling rather lonely on a Friday and means that it's a lot harder to run the shop. If it's possible for you to give some of your time to help me out, even if it's only an hour a week, then please do get in contact.

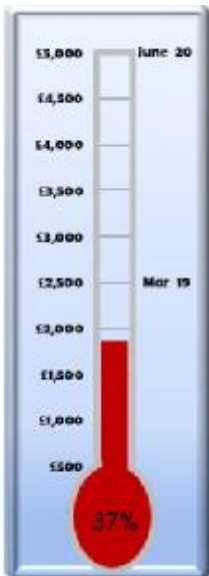
Blessings

*Tim Jeffries*

## First Tuesday Ladies

We will meet on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> October at 7:30 pm at 59 Croslands Park to watch the second in a series of television programmes on the theme 'Finding the real Jesus'.

*Elaine Pears*



## Christian Aid project

Our latest Christian Aid project will help children in Kenya affected by HIV and AIDS. The amount raised so far is £1864.69.

*Lilian Wood*

## All in a Good Cause

The current Christian Aid project is the third that we have supported as an Area. Churches and individuals also support a number of charities and causes and this month we have the first in a series of articles to highlight some of the good work going on throughout the Area. (*see page 9*)



## **Action for Children (formerly NCH)**

Thomas Bowman Stephenson in 1869

Went down to London to work for GOD DIVINE.

But when he got there what did he find?

Lots of starving children wouldn't leave his mind.

So he found for them a stable down in Church Road

And there he helped them with their heavy load.

He cared for them and loved them, and made for them a home

And that was when it started - THE NATIONAL CHILDREN'S HOME.

Thomas Stephenson decided to open a home for destitute boys. Alfred Mager and Francis Horner, his friends, opened it on 9<sup>th</sup> July 1869, a stable in Church Road where they offered two boys, George and Fred, a home. It became a home with a house mother and father, like a family with love and discipline. Within 3 years girls were also admitted. Then a large home was found at Bethnal Green, with a second home given to them at Edgeworth Farm on the Lancashire moors in 1872. (When Jack Marsh was in Canada he met a lady at Toronto railway station and she had been brought up at Edgeworth and had gone to Canada after the war. She had a really good job in a government office.) The young people learnt lots of skills helping them find good jobs. In 1878 young girls began training in childcare, and became known as the Sisterhood or Sisters of the Children.

In 1908 the Methodist Conference took the children's home under its umbrella and it became the National Children's Home. In 1918 it was the first charity to open up to Serbian refugees fleeing from World War 1. In 1926 it was the first UK charity to create a national adoption agency and was also the first to open a childcare training college. From 1935 to 1939 NCH opened its doors to refugees fleeing the Nazis. As time went by it became a family support group, realising it was better if children could live with their parents with NCH support. In 1994, reflecting its new outlook, NCH was renamed NCH Action for Children, with the name being shortened in 2008 to Action for Children. As Area Co-ordinator I collect the Home Collecting Boxes in July each year. This year I paid in £244.52 from these boxes, £200 raised by Millom's Strawberry Tea and £43 from Kirkby's collection on Action for Children Sunday. Just recently a lady in Kirkby asked if she could have a box. She had read my entry in the July/August Newslink and said she was looked after at a home they had in London when her young mum had to have her adopted. A lovely couple adopted her a few months later and she moved up North. It is lovely to hear the stories of children who were in the homes and I have met many and been so enthused by their wonderful stories.

If anyone would like to ask me any questions or find out more please give me a ring on 716640. I have a very good regional office at Warrington with staff (friends) who have been there for over 20 years.

*Beryl Hollowell*

## Trinity

Mid-week Communion will be held on 2<sup>nd</sup> October at 10:30 a.m. preceded by refreshments from 10:00 a.m. This is held in the Abbey Chapel and is a short informal service - why not give it a try?

Monthly Coffee Morning Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> October from 10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. sponsored by the Uniformed organisations. There will be a "Make your own Pizza" lunch following the coffee morning.

Then on 13<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. there will be a Charity Card & Gift Sale at which you will also be able to buy a coffee. This is an opportunity to buy your cards and some gifts and support some of the charities too. Over 10 charities have expressed an interest in this event.

Also on 13<sup>th</sup> Messy Church at 3:00 p.m. when the theme will be Creation.

Friday 12<sup>th</sup> October Quiz night with Sophie. The quiz will be preceded by Pie & Peas at 6:00 p.m. Tickets are now available at £4.

We will be leading a short service at Risedale on 17<sup>th</sup> October at 11:00 a.m.

### Family Matters

We are sad to have to report the death of one of our adherents, Mrs Eidle Rothnie. She had not been well for some time, and eventually suffered from severe dementia which made it very difficult for the family. She spent her last few weeks in St George's Risedale where she was well cared for. Her funeral was a private one. We send our love and prayers to her husband and the family.

On a more cheerful note, we were happy to welcome Jacob Brock into God's Family here at Trinity on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> August when Jennet baptised him. There was a full church on that happy occasion.

*Margaret Manuell*

**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

Oct	7 <sup>th</sup> Ramsden Street	P
	14 <sup>th</sup> Beacon Hill	Q
	21 <sup>st</sup> Dalton Comm Church	R
	28 <sup>th</sup> Urswick community	S

*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, 4<sup>th</sup> October and 18<sup>th</sup> October at 1:30 pm.

*Chris Mills*

# Beacon Hill

The amount raised at the Macmillan coffee morning in September (including Gift Aid) was £452.

Our usual monthly coffee morning will be held on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> October, 10 -11:15 am, with stalls selling cakes, handmade cards, books and Fairtrade items.

We will be holding a Soup and Quiz evening on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> November at 6 pm, with donations requested for the Area Christian Aid project, which will help children in Kenya affected by HIV and AIDS. If you intend to come could you please let me know for catering purposes (phone 825986, email [lilian.wood4@gmail.com](mailto:lilian.wood4@gmail.com))

*Lilian Wood*

# Dalton

On Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> August Amaya Belle Hill brought her family along to her baptism. The church was full and Janet led us through a lovely service which ended with most of the family staying for tea and cake.

We were pleased to welcome Zena to our coffee morning on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> September. She made herself known and chatted to our regulars.

Our Sunday Serenade was attended by a large group of people who all had a very enjoyable afternoon listening to some wonderful music played by Margaret and sung by Keith Harrison. Margaret produced a varied programme of light classics, songs from the shows, hymns and popular songs, many of them requested by members of the audience. The event raised £427.50 for our church refurbishment fund.

## **Future Events:**

Tuesday October 9<sup>th</sup> at 2:30 pm Midweek Communion Service at Market Street

Friday October 12<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm Prize Bingo at Wellington Street. £5, pay at the door.

*R Willock*

Christian Women's Fellowship. The next meeting of the CWF will be on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 pm. The speaker on that evening will be Margaret Cain who will tell us of her travels in Nicaragua. All are welcome.

*D Zazi*

# Askam

Sadly, at the beginning of September we said goodbye to one of our Sisterhood members, who spent her last days in St Mary's Hospice, where she felt at home, as she had volunteered there in the past. Hilda Williams had settled in Askam to be near her younger daughter - moving from Ulverston. She joined Sisterhood and attended Duddon Road services. She was a kind, loving and happy person, who had a great sense of fun, and we will miss her greatly. Sleep peacefully Hilda in God's loving care.

The armchair exercise class started on 6<sup>th</sup> September with nine members attending. We have fun exercising to music, keeping those joints loose and enjoying a cuppa and fellowship afterwards. Weekly on Thursdays at 10:30 - 11:15 a.m. We pay £2.50 per session. Why not it give it a go - you'd be very welcome. Contact Dorothy on 465378. Sisterhood started on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> September welcoming Rev Jennet McLeod to lead our Annual Meeting. The members heard a brief history of the previous year, and heard from Mrs Val Hall our Treasurer of the state of our finances. We had supported various charities during the year, which included Christian Aid and St Mary's Hospice, and we sent 30 completed shoeboxes to the Boxes of Hope Project in N.W. Rumania. The children of Askam Village School will visit on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> October, to lead us through a Harvest afternoon.

A Commemorative Plaque has been placed in the Church Garden - by the Sisterhood's Centenary Bush - which was bought with a legacy from one of our dear members Lila Briggs.

On Friday, 7<sup>th</sup> July we said goodbye to Lila's older brother John. The service was led by Rev Martin Williams, and Charlie Mills, his brother-in-law, gave a wonderful story of John's life in Askam, bringing tears and laughter to the service. John, or Johnny as he was known in Askam, had had a long and happy life but what came through was how caring and loving he had been throughout, not to just his extended family, but to neighbours and friends. May God bless all his family. Rest in Eternal Peace John.

On Sunday, 30<sup>th</sup> September we welcome Rev Ruth Crossley, to lead a joint Anglican/Methodist Harvest Festival at 11:00 a.m. Donations of food will be given to the Food Bank and the collection will go to Christian Aid.

*Dorothy Gleaves*

# Kirkby-in-Furness

1. Harvest service. The date has been changed due to members' holidays. It will now be held on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> October at 6pm with a shared meal before. We look forward to welcoming Zena to our Church family.
2. Autumn craft fair, Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> October 10am to 3:30pm. £1.00 entrance, which includes coffee, tea and biscuits. Soup lunch £3.50 includes homemade bread, jam and biscuits followed by endless tea. Lots of stalls including fantastic cakes and Mary's homemade marmalade and jam. Also fabulous raffle prizes. Please come and join us to buy early Christmas presents and Save the Children cards.
3. Craft and chatter, Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> October. A new project, 9:30 to 11:30am. We will be knitting or sewing items for our shoeboxes and also making poppies to celebrate 100 years since the end of World War 1 and angels for Christmas gifts. Hopefully this will become a monthly project, and anything we have over can go to Tim at the re:new shop.

*Beryl Hollowell*

## Millom

On 10<sup>th</sup> October it is World Mental Health Day. I am writing this item on 10<sup>th</sup> September which is Suicide Prevention Day. Suicide is no longer classed as a "sin" but it is a symptom of a disturbed mind. As Christians we should be aware of the major effects on people's lives who are struggling to cope with stress, depression, eating disorders, and other similar problems. Even now in 2018 there is still a stigma attached to these conditions and vulnerable people in our communities are often afraid to talk about their problems for fear of ridicule and rejection. We need to listen more and provide "shoulders to cry on".

Our oldest member Norman Bosanko died aged 94 and his funeral was at Queen Street on 30<sup>th</sup> August. He attended church for many years until ill health prevented him but several members visited him regularly and he looked forward especially to Fridays each week when Bryan and Mona called after the coffee morning. He lived at Haverigg and used to even bring younger people to church in his car. A lovely gentleman who will be greatly missed by his family and many friends.

The ladies of the craft class had a lovely meal at Cambridge House in the middle of September. We do this every three months (used to just be in December) and are grateful to John and Joy for having us. We have a colourful mound of shoeboxes ready for filling on the 24<sup>th</sup> October following our Pie and Peas Supper and Holy Beetle on the 19<sup>th</sup> where we hope to raise enough money to send them to Romania.

A new Bible Study and Prayer group is planned to commence in October at the Manse every fortnight on Wednesday evenings.

Our Autumn Fayre is on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> November from 3-5pm. This is for our church funds.

*Margaret Riley*

# Ramsden Street

The decorating and cleaning has now been completed in the Church. It all looks good - especially the outside of the front door! We are hoping that we don't have to do any more for a very long time!

Our Harvest supper and service will be held on Friday October 26<sup>th</sup> beginning with a hot meal at 6pm and followed by a short Thanksgiving service led by Jenet.

Our quiz sheets are going quite well and the result will be announced at our Autumn Fair on Saturday November 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Our next Church lunch will be on Wednesday October 3<sup>rd</sup> but there will not be a lunch on the first Wednesday in November as we will be serving lunches at our Autumn Fair on Saturday November 3<sup>rd</sup>. The December lunch will be a Christmas buffet on Wednesday December 5<sup>th</sup>.

*Anne Stevenson*

# Vickerstown

There will be a coffee morning at Vickerstown on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> October from 10-11:30 a.m. with refreshments and the usual stalls: homemade cakes, Fairtrade goods, books and bring-and-buy. No entry charge and drinks are only 50p, all welcome to join us for a cuppa, browse and chat.

*Karen Edmondson*

## Green Tip

Encouragement for us to keep recycling:

“It makes us feel better to get rid of clutter, with wardrobes and drawers full of items we haven't worn (hoping we will once again be slim enough for them to fit us - no such luck!) so your too-small items may be someone else's 'just what they want'. So how about clearing out and making ourselves and others feel better. A good place to take unwanted clothes is the re:new shop in Cavendish Street. Tim is wonderful and it is so easy to park and unload supplies. We can get rid of hardly worn items but also be tempted to buy some more. If I didn't live out at Foxfield I would love to volunteer; however, popping in when in Barrow will have to do for now. Keep up the good work Tim. (Excellent jigsaws - Christmas presents maybe?)”

*Beryl Hollowell*



# 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 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