



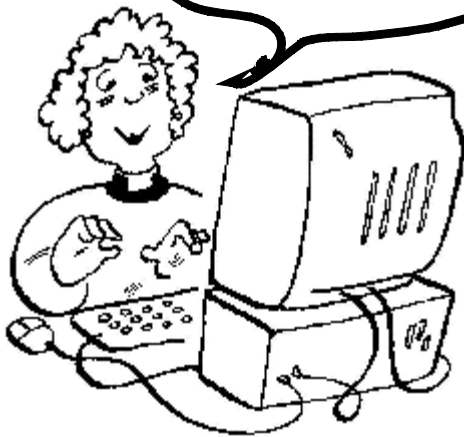
Newslink

SOUTH WEST CUMBRIA UNITED AREA

Charity Registration Number 1141404

Methodist and United Reformed Churches Working Together

The Minister Writes



It certainly doesn't seem like a year ago that I was writing the 2018 Newslink article for December/January but checking my records it has been! Most of you will know that I have now completed my first whole year as a probationary minister, and it won't be long until I am ordained in June 2020 (hopefully!). Within the Ordination Service the President reads the names of those to be ordained. Each candidate rises as his or her name is called and remains standing. The President then asks all present "Do you believe and trust that they [the candidates] are, by God's grace, worthy to be ordained?" I'm praying that the answer to

ISSUE 147 Dec 19 / Jan 20

this question will be met with a resounding "Yes", but only time will tell. But that question is now starting to play on my mind: am I really worthy to be ordained? And as we approach Advent and the Christmas time celebrations of Jesus' birth another woman must have been questioning her worthiness too. As Christians we understand that Mary, mother of Jesus, has been and continues to be a central figure in the gospel story. In fact, contemporary theologians and commentators alike have for some time been looking at the significance of women throughout Scripture. And Mary's story has all the ingredients of a fascinating if somewhat illusive story that perpetuates our interest in this intriguing woman. One of the roles that Mary fulfils is that of mother. Indeed, in Scripture she is the mother of Jesus, the Son of God, and is held up as a role model for other mothers. There has been much debate about whether this means we can give Mary the title 'Mother of God' or Theotokos in Greek (Theos meaning 'God' and tokos meaning

Area Website www.swcumbriaunitedareaurc.org.uk

‘to bring forth or give birth to’). One of the objections to giving Mary this title is to do with the implication that Mary is somehow the mother of God in eternity. God, of course, has always been. God is not created. Mary has not always been. Mary was created. Thus, some conclude that Mary ought not to be called “Mother of God.” Another objection is that “Mother of God” talk could easily lead to Mary-worship, which can be viewed as idolatrous. But the intent of the term Theotokos, certainly as it is recorded historically, is to affirm the full divinity of Jesus. It was once said ‘It’s not a case of putting Mary too high, it’s a case of putting Jesus too low!’

But whether or not we call Mary ‘Mother of God’ she plays an important role throughout Christian history in providing us with a female who’s right at the heart of events. But lest we forget - Mary was an ordinary person, just like you and me. Like most Jewish women and girls of her time, she would have spent most of her day working. Almost as soon as she could walk, she would have been helping out with the many chores it took to keep daily life going. Stoves needed to be tended, beds needed to be made, homes needed to be kept in good repair, meals needed to be prepared, animals needed to be tended whether one was on a farm or in a village. Food needed to be prepared and stored for the future, so meat and vegetables needed to be preserved. Water had to be drawn from cisterns and from wells. An incredible amount of work had to be done every day and it was done primarily by women and girls.

Mary was simply a young Jewish girl of her times. She had no special credentials or gifts, no lofty education, no family in high places to secure her a privileged future. No, she was an ordinary mother who happened to have a unique relationship with Jesus, one which we could never have because in the end he was cradled in arms that he had created.

The gospel record shows that Mary herself struggled with that unique relationship she had with Jesus and what it meant for her. We witness the typical stresses parents endure whilst raising their children: Jesus goes missing and fraught with panic Mary retraces her steps and finds Jesus in the temple, but in other ways we witness a relationship that only she has and will ever experience, for no one else was present both at Jesus’ birth and his crucifixion and death. Indeed, Mary is a fantastic example for us of holiness of heart and life.

And so back to the question of my worthiness. In the end it doesn’t really matter whether we think we are worthy or not, what matters is what God thinks, what God has said of us and to us and what others see in us as we try to live out our faith faithfully.

I’m not sure whether I will ever believe I am worthy of being ordained to serve God here on earth, and I’m not sure whether Mary thought she was worthy of becoming the mother of Jesus, God’s only Son, and this brings to mind the words of that popular Christmas song ‘Mary, did you know,’ by Pentatonix:

“Did you know that your baby boy is heaven’s perfect lamb?

That sleeping child you’re holding is the great I am.”

But thankfully it’s not up to us to make that decision.

Have a blessed Christmas and a happy New Year in Christ.

Rev Zena and Boaz

Chapter and verse

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

‘A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold’ Proverbs 25:11.

This verse is on the front sheet of a book I was given by a very dear friend of our family - ‘Auntie Rosie’. This lady was stone deaf from birth and used to lip read and missed very little - even the sermons on Sundays.

The hardback gold book was a favourite of hers and has become a favourite of mine. The book is entitled ‘Apples of Gold’ and is divided into chapters according to the fruits of the Spirit eg Love, Joy, Peace etc and contains three or four pages of quotes for each gift of the Spirit.

Some of my favourites are:

Love

We may give without loving but we cannot love without giving.

The only way to have a friend is to be one.

Joy

You can’t keep trouble from coming, but you needn’t give it a chair to sit on.

Be cheerful. Of all the things you wear, your expression is the most important.

Peace

A good memory is fine - but the ability to forget is the true test of greatness.

A minute of thought is worth more than an hour of talk.

But my favourite quote is in the ‘Faith’ section:

All I see teaches me to trust the Creator for all I do not see.

Anne Stevenson

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

REGIONAL & NATIONAL WEBSITES

www.cumbriamethodistsdistrict.org.uk

Connexional: www.methodist.org.uk

North West Synod: www.nwsynod.org.uk

National: www.urc.org.uk

February issue No 148 of *Newslink* will be published at the end of January
Please send all material to reach Lilian Wood, 89 Risedale Road, Barrow,
LA13 9QY by Sunday January 5th. Items can also be passed on by

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

Stargazers, The Story of the Wise Men by Roger Jones

This year's Christmas performance by the Furness Churches United Choir will feature Roger Jones' musical, Stargazers, as well as other Christmas music and poems. The performance will be at Dalton Community Church, Wellington Street at 7:30pm on Thursday December 12th. Admission is free with a retiring collection to support the work of Furness Homeless Support Group. All welcome.

Churches Together in Barrow

There will be carol singing in the town centre on Saturday 14th December. This will start at about 12:30 pm with small groups in different locations. Everyone will then converge on the Spirit of Barrow Statue at 1 pm for a mass singalong.

The Agape meal will take place on Thursday 16th January at 2 venues: the Baptist church at 12 noon and St Mary's, Walney at 6:30 pm. The speaker at both events will be Gill Grisedale from St Mark's.

Lebone

Well done to all who support Lebone Village. Thanks to you we are able to send off £2000 which will be a wonderful Christmas present for them all.

Elaine Pears

First Tuesday Ladies

Our Christmas meeting will be held on Tuesday 3rd December at 7:30 pm at 59 Croslands Park, when we will share food and fellowship. There will be no meeting in January; our next meeting will be on 4th February.

Elaine Pears

Local Preachers/Worship Leaders

The next Local Preachers/Worship Leaders meeting will be held on Tuesday 10th December at Kirkby at 7:30 pm. All worship leaders and preachers are encouraged to attend.

Hayley Edmondson

Advance notice - Bible Stories Exhibition

This exhibition will take place at Trinity from Monday 16th March until Saturday 21st March 2020, finishing at 12 noon on the Saturday. We have had a good response already, with 2 schools booking to visit and 8 wanting to come so far. Please put these dates in your diaries.

It would be wonderful if your Church would make an exhibit for this exhibition - it is not exclusively for schools.

For further information please contact Brian on 584602.

Brian Whittaker

Fairtrade Fortnight



As this Newslink also covers January, it isn't too early to mention Fairtrade Fortnight 2020, which runs from Monday 24th February until Sunday 8th 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

Kathryn Aldred

Youth spot

Flashbacks...to times with Jesus was held at Trinity Church Centre in the middle of October. About 120 children from 4 primary schools attended. The first activity is always the making of wristbands from beads and other objects representing the events of Jesus' life. The children then split into groups and make either matchstick crosses or fish pictures as a reminder of the story of Jesus appearing to His disciples on the beach after the Resurrection. Visiting a synagogue or acting out the story of Zacchaeus complete the group activities and the children then all join in a wedding celebration, with some of them dressing up as the wedding party and everyone enjoying fruit and juice and joining in a lively dance at the end. Although the activities are the same each day the children, of course, are different, which keeps things interesting for the helpers.

The children always respond well, and the organising team receives appreciative feedback from their teachers. The people who put in the hard work behind the scenes are Ann, Hilary, Joan and Kate, so many thanks to them, and also to Trinity for hosting this event. I can certainly recommend it to anyone who likes children - look out for information about the next session of Flashbacks and consider whether you could volunteer to help.

Lilian Wood

Christian Aid project

We have now raised £3869.75 for the project to help children in Kenya affected by HIV and AIDS. Our aim is to raise £5000 by June 2020.

Lilian Wood

The final extract from a report giving details of the work done on this project for the year ending May 2019.

Thanks to your support, some of the most vulnerable children and orphans in Kenya are receiving health care, education, and improved caregiving and protection. Thank you so much for helping us to provide such crucial care to vulnerable children over the past year through the Comprehensive Assistance, Support and Empowerment of Orphans and Vulnerable Children (CASE-OVC) project.

In this latest reporting period, the project reached **116, 692** orphans and vulnerable children, including children who are new to the programme and children that had been previously enrolled, reaching 81% of the target.

Orphans and vulnerable children were provided with assistance in health and nutrition, education, protection, psychosocial support and economic strengthening.

Redempta's Story: The project "helped my family to thrive"

To Redempta Ndinda, becoming a retail shop owner is a dream come true, as it helped her to provide for her family's basic needs. As a widowed mother of three, she often pushed her dream of owning a shop to the back of her mind as she had her family's urgent needs to think of.

Her husband had passed away from HIV. *"He had HIV and since he was the bread winner, after he died, I struggled to make ends meet. I never liked seeing my children at home for lack of money for school fees."*

Redempta saved until she was able to open a small grocery stall in her neighbourhood. *"I was very proud of my stall, and it made life a bit easier. Although I did not have the capital to acquire much stock."*

It was at this point that she met with her area case worker and was informed about the CASE-OVC project. *"She told me I could request Redeemed Gospel Church to pay school fees for my three children."*

Together, the two went to Redeemed Gospel Church, one of the 21 local implementing partners of CASE-OVC. *"Even though I had requested for school fees and uniform, after thorough assessment, the church thought it best to empower me with Household Economic Strengthening (HES) as it was more sustainable. They asked me what business I could do, and I told them my dream of owning a shop. I told them I had experience with my small grocery stall and they decided to support me to get the shop."*

Redempta received stock worth Ksh 15,000 (around £115) to start her shop. To ensure Redempta had the skills to successfully run her business, Redeemed Gospel Church also trained her in business management and record keeping. *"In my heart, I knew that God would help and bless me. There was an empty shop near my grocery stall. I spoke with the*

owner and asked for two days to pay the shop rent. This was before I even knew I would get the HES support. And God was gracious.”

Today, Redempta has grown her business to also include the sale of second-hand clothes. Her stock, that was initially worth Ksh 15,000, is now worth over Ksh 20,000 (over £150). She also sells water and groceries and now offers a mobile money transfer service in her shop. “Through all this, I now earn about Ksh 4,000 (around £30) on average every day. I am happy because my children are in school as I can afford their school fees, we have a nice place to live, we have adequate food, can afford health care and my business is growing. I am an independent woman.”

Green Tip

The following is adapted from an article on the Green Christian website: <https://greenchristian.org.uk>

Using your LOAF this Christmas!

Celebration and food go together...

At Christmas, we celebrate the birth of a baby in whom God entered our material world. And we rejoice in that birth by enjoying the gifts of the earth in our meals together.

The food we share at this special time can be wholesome, tasty and ethically sourced. Why not be guided by Green Christian’s **LOAF principles** this Christmas?

Can you try following some of these suggestions when

planning your meals?

Locally produced - helping community and neighbour. Seek out local specialities for the cheese board. At Farmers Markets you can buy chutneys, pickles and jams produced in the local area.

Organically Grown - taking care of the Earth. Organic is more expensive, but that’s if you only count the cost to your purse. Non-organic farming methods cost us all dear with sterile soils, pesticide residues and health issues. At least buy just one bag of organic carrots!

Animal-Friendly - avoiding abuse. The “A” of the LOAF principles is for vegans, vegetarians and meat-eaters. Try eating less but better meat, and look for pasture fed and free range on the labels. Free range turkeys are going to be more expensive, but with smaller portions could last over several meals. And most of the world’s classic dishes consist of plenty of variety, loads of vegetables and small amounts of meat.

Fair Trade - creating social justice. Choose Fair Trade coffee and chocolates to end your feast. Beware of phrases such as ‘fairly traded’. Look for the Fair Trade logo which ensures producers and growers get a fair price for their goods plus a little extra money to invest in their communities.

Lilian Wood

All in a Good Cause

Since October 2018 we have been running a series of articles highlighting the charities and causes supported by churches and individuals throughout the Area. Thank you to everyone who has contributed to this.

To close the series we shift the focus to the people who receive aid. Rev George Sharpe writes about his time working in India and the help received from Christian Aid.

Over the years Christian Aid has, quite rightly, altered its emphasis on aiding, now spending time, money and energy in trying to alter Government policy towards helping disadvantaged people overseas.

My experience of this charity goes back a long way to the time Audrey and I spent in India. We were there for seventeen years, returning home to the UK only twice, but it was during our first furlough that news came of the failure of the monsoon rains in northern and central India. When we returned, it was to find that for a second year the rains had failed, resulting in the worst famine in living memory.

Apart from schools and medical work, almost every aspect of the mission ceased to function as the local Church put all its energy into famine relief. It was an immense job. We were providing for some 34,000 people in our jungle area and our colleague 17 miles further south was dealing with another 32,000. Our village was the first on the route into the area and so we were receiving supplies for 66,000 people.

Before I came into the ministry I was in engineering, and so my job was to provide labour-intensive work schemes through which people in the villages could earn supplies to keep them alive. This was where Christian Aid came in. One could easily have given away the supplies which were coming through, but one can make a poor man poorer still by giving him stuff he hasn't worked for. My schemes were fivefold, each requiring physical labour. We built dams, reservoirs, dug 25' wide and 50' deep irrigation wells, terraced the hillsides for future farming and built roads (tracks really) so that the ten ton trucks could get through. One person per family, usually the father, could earn in one day enough food, cooking oil and milk powder to keep him and his family alive; in larger families two people were expected to work.

'Food for Work' schemes were salvation for our local tribespeople, and by the end of the famine we had completed 92 of these labour-intensive schemes so that when the next famine came the locals would be that much more ready to face the deprivation famine brings. During the famine we lost only four people whose death could be attributed to the famine, and I am eternally grateful to all of you who give so generously to Christian Aid and its work.

George Sharpe

Individual churches

Trinity

On Friday 6th December at 3:00 p.m. there will be an organ recital by Ian Wardlaw. Tickets are £4, including refreshments.

On Saturday 7th we will have our usual monthly Coffee Morning, 10:00-11:30 a.m., sponsored by the bowling group. The January Coffee morning will be on Saturday 11th at the usual time.

Advent Bible Study - a joint venture with the Baptist church, beginning on Thursday 28th November. The morning sessions will be at the Baptist Church at 11:00 a.m. followed at 12:00 noon with a soup lunch. The evening sessions will be held at Trinity, beginning with tea at 6:00 p.m. followed by the Bible study at 6:45 p.m. (The only change to this will be on 19th December, when the evening session will be at the Baptist Church.) We have no title at present, so look out for more details.

On Sunday 15th December at 10:30 a.m. our Nativity service will be led by Victoria Infants school. Refreshments will be served after the service. We are awaiting confirmation of Victoria Infants visiting for a "light service" and also for a Christingle service.

Family matters

At the time of writing Bob Watkinson is still in hospital. We continue to remember both Bob and Daphne 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

	Dec	1st	Mission in UA	Y
		8th	Trinity	A
		15th	Vickerstown	B
		22nd	Hartington Street	C
		29th	Ramsden Street	D
2020	Jan	5th	Beacon Hill	E
		12th	Dalton Comm Church	F
		19th	Urswick Community	G
		26th	Askam	H

Janet Ladds

Hartington Street

Toddlers @ the Hub

Mondays in Term Time, 1:00pm - 2:30pm.

This is a thriving and friendly group to which all babies, toddlers and pre-schoolers are welcome. In our final session before Christmas we hope to present all the children who attend with a gift of a book of the Nativity as part of our commitment to outreach.

Knit and Natter

In the Church from 10:00am - 11:30am.

A warm welcome awaits all who attend. Bring your own needles, tea and refreshments provided! The session ends with a short prayer session for those in need of God's love and care.

Messy Church

The October session focused on the parable of the Prodigal Son and all 5 crafts were connected to this Bible story which can be found in Luke 15:11-32. Look it up and familiarise yourself with the message. This was a great session followed by an excellent Shepherd's Pie made by Emma Briggs from Kirkby.

Saturday 23rd November 3:00pm - 5:00pm - The Good Samaritan

Saturday 14th December 3:00pm - 5:00pm - Christmas Party!

All children must be accompanied by an adult.

Messy Church Away Day 2

Due to the success and enjoyment of the first 'Away Day' in September, the HST Messy Church Team will be undertaking their second 'Away Day' on Saturday 11th January 2020 (venue to be confirmed). 10:00am - 3:00pm with lunch provided.

Christmas @ HST

Carol Service Sunday 15th December at 11:00am

This is a 'Come in Costume' Service for those who wish to (Sunday School and Adults!) Refreshments will be served after the service. Everyone is warmly invited to join us!

Christmas Morning Worship @ HST 10:30am

Christmas Morning Worship will be led by Charlie Mills. The service will last about 40 minutes and be relaxed and informal as we celebrate the birth of Jesus. Refreshments and fellowship will follow the service. Everyone is welcome and we look forward to sharing with you!

Lois Kavanagh

Dalton

Wellington Street Church was packed for a concert by the Ghyll Singers under the direction of Deborah Milledge and accompanied by Margaret Harrison on the piano. The programme also included soloist James Madden on the euphonium and piano and Mark Latimer on the organ. A very enjoyable afternoon was had by all who attended.

Future Events:

- Sunday 1st December at 3 pm Bible Society Advent Praise at Market Street. This is followed by the switching on of the Christmas Lights and opening of the Christmas Tree Festival.
- Tuesday 10th December at 2:30 pm Midweek Communion Service at Market Street.
- Thursday 12th December at 7:30 pm Furness Churches United Choir Stargazers Concert and Seasonal Music at Wellington Street.
- Saturday 21st December at 9:30 to 11:15 am Coffee and Carols at Market Street.
- Sunday 22nd December Nativity Service at 10:30 am, Community Meal at 5 pm and Carol Service at 6 pm all at Market Street.
- Saturday 11th January 9:45 to 11:15 am Coffee morning for church refurbishment fund at Market Street.
- Tuesday 14th January at 2:30 pm Midweek Communion Service.

R Willock

Soup and Quiz Night, 6 pm Saturday January 18th, Dalton Community Church, Market Street.

The evening begins with soup before the quiz starts. Teams formed on the night so come even if you are by yourself. For catering purposes, please let us know if you are coming (tel Ann on 812439 or email ann@hufton.co.uk).

No fixed charge but donations appreciated for our Refurbishment Fund. Raffle too!

Community Advent Calendar

Look out once again for our large scale Community Advent Calendar in the windows of David Atkinson Car Sales in Dalton (by kind permission of Mr and Mrs Atkinson). Every day through Advent, starting on December 1st, a new picture (made by a group in Dalton, Askam or Newton) will be displayed.

Buy a Block!

As part of our redevelopment plans we will have a new wall covering about 90m² 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. You can donate once, or as many times you would like, up until Easter Day, April 12th, 2020.

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.

Ann Hufton

Beacon Hill

The first of 4 Advent meetings will be held on Monday 25th November at 7:30 pm in the Wesley Room. We will look at visual re-tellings of the Christmas story with hymns, prayers, activities and food. Everyone is welcome to join us.

On Sunday 15th December at 3 pm we will hold our Family Carol Service, led by the uniformed organisations. On Christmas Eve at 6 pm we have a reflective carol service, and then a service on Christmas Day at 10 am, both led by Rev Zena Smith.

Our Mince Pie coffee morning will be held on Thursday 12th December, 10 am-11:15 am, with mince pies replacing the usual cake stall.

Our usual monthly coffee mornings resume on Thursday 30th January, with stalls selling cakes, handmade cards, books and Fairtrade items.

Lilian Wood

Askam

Another Methodist year passes and we have successfully managed the October Church Councils at Askam. It is a measure of how popular our church buildings are for community use at both Askam and Kirkby, that we ended up having to use Dalton Community Church as our venue for our Joint Church Council Meeting. Thank you, Zena, for hosting us, for the warm welcome and for minute taking!

As with most of our buildings in the United Area, we have recently had problems, one of which we have tried unsuccessfully to resolve, but we are taking a patient approach and hopefully our tree issue will be resolved in the coming year. 2020 will be a special year as next April will be the 150th anniversary of the laying of the foundation stone at Duddon Road. Beach Street chapel would have had its 150th anniversary in August next year.

By the time this edition goes to press we will probably have held our various Remembrance Day Services. There will have been a special service in Askam Band Hall with the town band which is another step forward for them. Our service at Askam is to be led by Hayley Edmondson on Sunday 10th followed by the Civic Service with our usual parade and service at the Cenotaph in the Memorial Garden, with refreshments afterwards in the Rankin Hall. Sisterhood's Service will be led by Rev Gwyn Murfet on Wednesday 13th November at 2:30 pm.

Readers will notice that this contribution is from me and not Dorothy, who is laid low at the moment after a bad fall when visiting family in Carlisle. This led to a spell in Carlisle hospital but I am pleased to report Dorothy is now home in time for a special birthday. Many happy returns and get well soon!

Alan Mason

Kirkby

November saw our Autumn Fair. A dreadful day weather wise, however it was very successful and we raised the grand sum of £400.00. A big Thank You to everyone who helped in any way - setting up, clearing away and supplying endless tea, coffee and of course delicious homemade soup. Most of all we couldn't have managed without our excellent crafts people who displayed and sold their goods and also the many people who came along to buy. A wonderful day was had by all.

COMMUNITY CAROL SERVICE

On Sunday 15th December at 3pm we will be holding our Community Carol Service. Playing for us will be the HOLBORN HILL ROYAL BRASS BAND. So please come along to hear your favourite Carols and enjoy fellowship and festive refreshments afterwards.

Beryl Hollowell

Millom

We have made 128 shoeboxes at Millom and have had another 28 delivered from Thwaites church. We say thank you to all involved and think of the children who will be receiving these boxes.

Four of us went to Carlisle in November and had a guided tour of the cathedral which was really interesting. While we were there we met Rev Rachel and Steve Williams and little John; it was lovely to see them. We also got Mona into a pub and out again!

The community lunches continue successfully.

Joan Munro remains in hospital. Keith has moved away after illness and Margaret is planning to follow in time. We send them all our love and best wishes.

A very happy Christmas to all.

Liz Watson

Ramsden Street

The jigsaw and craft event was a very happy occasion with people on the six tables aiming to finish their jigsaw first. Some lovely cards were made on the craft table and £90 was raised for Church funds.

The Autumn Fair was a busy day and the stalls, together with the refreshments and lunches, raised £570 for Church funds.

Greengate school choir will come to our coffee morning on December 13th at 10:30am to sing Christmas songs and carols. This is always a lovely start to our Christmas. We hold the Coffee morning in the Church on this day to accommodate children and parents.

Our Carol Service and tea is on Sunday December 22nd at 2:30pm. Jennet will lead the service and tea will be served immediately afterwards. Everyone is welcome to stay for tea.

Anne Stevenson

Vickerstown

On November 5th Vickerstown hosted the Area Bonfire party for over 30 people including a few of Walney's Scout group, as Tuesday is their usual meeting night just up the road. The bonfire burned well (it's easy to light a fire with one match when it's a gas match!) and the fireworks and food were enthusiastically received. We were lucky with the weather, which was dry and not too cold, and there were plenty of fireworks going off across Barrow which we could see much better than last year having remembered to cut the hedge back! A total of £140 was raised for the Fund for World Mission; thanks to all those who attended and especially those who brought fireworks and/or helped out in the kitchen.

Vickerstown's Christmas Coffee Morning will be held on Saturday December 7th from 10-11:30 a.m. with all the usual stalls (cakes, Fairtrade, bring-and-buy, books) as well as a few seasonal extras. No entry charge; £1 will get you a hot drink and a toasted teacake. All welcome to join us for a cuppa, chat and browse. There will also be a coffee morning at Vickerstown on Saturday January 18th, please join us then as well.

We plan to join with the other Walney churches for some carol-singing around the island's pubs again, an initiative we tried last year that was very well received, during the early evening of Saturday December 21st.

There will be a service at Vickerstown at 11 a.m. on Christmas Day followed by our usual Christmas time of fellowship over a buffet lunch for those able to stay.

During December our fortnightly Bible study is likely to become weekly and on an Advent theme; full details are not yet established but we will probably move away from our usual Thursday slot due to the December election making the church (a polling station) unavailable that Thursday. If you would like further details (or January's dates) please contact Karen or Zena nearer the time.

Karen Edmondson

Regular Sunday Services

Morning service times are as follows:

Askam	(Duddon Road) 11:00 am fortnightly (alternate weeks at St Peter's, Ireleth at 11:15 am)
Beacon Hill	(Holyoake Avenue, Barrow) 9:30 am
Dalton Community Church	(Market Street) 9:30am
Hartington Street	Barrow 11:00 am
Kirkby	(Marshside) 11:00 am (except 2 nd Sunday – 6pm service)
Millom	(Queen Street) 11:00 am
Ramsden Street	Barrow 11:00 am (except 1 st Sunday – 10:30am & 5 th Sunday – 11:00 am at Trinity)
Trinity Church Centre	(Warwick Street, Barrow) 11:00 am
Vickerstown	(Warren Street) 11:00 am

Evening services are held as follows:

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

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

Regular coffee mornings

Please note that coffee mornings are held every week as follows:

Millom -	Fridays from	9:30 till 10:30
Ramsden St. -	Fridays from	10:30 till 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