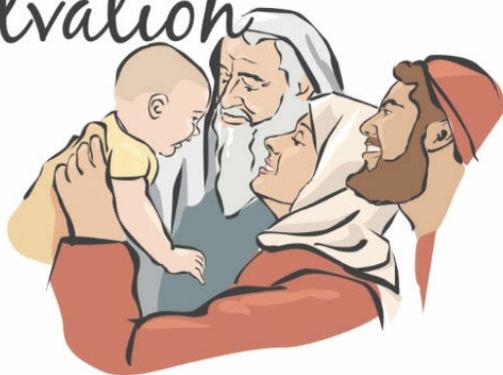


The North Cumbria Pastorate of United Reformed Churches

# BRIDGE

*Mine eyes have  
seen Thy  
Salvation*



**January 2018**

Bewcastle

Brampton

Carlisle

## Contacts and Sunday Service Pattern

### THE MINISTER

The Revd Nick Mark

156 Lowry Hill Road

CARLISLE

CA3 0ER

Telephone: 01228 526162

Email: nmark@keme.co.uk

### THE KNOWE CHURCH

BEWCASTLE

Services: 2.15pm on the first Sunday in the month

Contact: Mrs Doreen Telford

Telephone: 016977 48248

### BRAMPTON UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

13 MAIN STREET

BRAMPTON

Services: 9.15am on the 2nd and 4th Sunday of the month

Contact: Mrs Barbara Laird

Telephone: 016977 2376

### ST. GEORGE'S UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

WEST WALLS

CARLISLE

CA3 8UF

*www.urccarlisle.org*

Services: 10.45am every Sunday

Contact: Mrs Rosalind Fearon

Telephone: 016973 44892

Email: rosrayfearon@talktalk.net

When there is a fifth Sunday in the month

the Service is for the whole Pastorate

Usually at 10.45am at St George's

(Check the North Cumbria Pastorate Services list)

## From the Minister

Dear friends,

This year seems to have rushed by. The negative comment is I suppose that it is a sign of my age! The positive comment is that I am fortunate to be serving a busy group of churches and a busy Synod. We have much to celebrate. In the year when we celebrated the 500th anniversary of the Reformation and 100 years since the first woman Minister Constance Coltman was called to serve in one of the denominations now part of the URC we can certainly say far more than well, we are surviving. I never cease to be amazed by what our three congregations do manage to achieve. Since I have been your minister one of the greatest challenges has been trying to form Mission Communities in the Pastorate. There is though a very real difference between being part of Churches Together and organising joint services and actually working together on that challenging subject of mission. The waters have also been "muddied" so to speak with an issue which affects three of the four denominations in the God For All process and that is the looming prospect of the reduction in Stipendiary Ministry. The only denomination not affected by this at the moment is our Salvation Army friends. The plan is that much of the work that stipendiary ministers do will be taken over by trained lay people. The issue for Anglicans, Methodists and our own denomination is that although we have many talented people who have the required abilities physically they cannot do what their minds want them to do. There is though I feel real hope to look forward to in the way things are transpiring with more than a little help from the Holy Spirit. March 2018 sees something happening in the Pastorate which will bring back memories and that is the *Moving Mountains* Mission. Whilst this will not be a repeat of the kind of Mission Billy Graham led there is real hope of a new start. Archbishop Sentamu who will launch this mission is not trying something untested. He tried something similar in Barrow which kick started a much closer co-operation between the local churches which after just 3 years is showing real results.

The new organisation Cumbria Christian Learning is now beginning to achieve results in encouraging lay people to take up roles which were so often seen as the preserve of the ordained. Another positive sign of greater co-operation is the increasingly successful work being done by not just local churches but all the churches in Cumbria to tackle the issue of dementia. There are many myths about this disease such as it only happens to "old people" when in fact it occurs to much younger people as well. The work all the churches are doing in this area means that the world outside can see we are relevant to the wider community. Two of the three churches in the Pastorate have shown a real interest in developing a ministry to those suffering from dementia and just as important ministry to their carers and family.

What should the Pastorate be looking at in its New Year resolutions. We will all have different ideas on this but there need to be three things to really focus on I suggest. First it will be important to share ideas on how we reach out into the wider community in the respective areas we serve. No-one suggests this is easy but we are as churches making progress. Second is to continue the work all three churches are making in developing closer relations with neighbouring churches. The contacts that have been made in 2017 have shown how sharing common problems often results in an easier solution and sharing of resources brings benefits. Third all three churches need to start looking at how they propose to handle the situation when I retire. I am far from indispensable but there is a need to plan for a very different style of ministry which will involve the churches doing more for themselves than is currently the case. This won't just be for the obvious period of vacancy that occurs when a minister goes but it will be long term because throughout all the Christian denominations new ideas are being tried as less people come forward for ministry and as denominations reorganise in the face of falling numbers of Church Members.

The New Year in our Lectionary brings us after a traditional study in December of Advent and the Birth of Christ to looking at our main Gospel for 2018 namely the Gospel of Mark.

On the 7th of January we look at the Baptism of the Lord in Mark 1 and then we look at the subject of the call to follow from John 1 on the 14th of January. On the 21st of January we return to Chapter one of Mark's gospel and look at the call of the fishermen to become disciples. On the 28th of January we study in Mark 1 the style of teaching by Jesus.

Janet and I would both want to thank you for your kind greetings and wish all of you the appropriate compliments for the New Year.

With every blessing

**Nick Mark**

### **Pulpit Supply Changes and Opportunities**

As your minister I want to pay tribute as we begin a new year to the work the team from all of our churches do in achieving a wide variety of preachers over the year in all three Churches and in ensuring that there is someone there to introduce us to learning more about our Saviour. It is quite a task to achieve and one which we can easily take for granted.

In last year's Preaching Plan an option was given by the team to alter the times of services at Brampton from the current 9.15am start to 9.30am. Brampton URC decided not to alter their time because of obvious repercussions when the same Preacher appeared at both Brampton and Carlisle on the same morning. This year the Pulpit Supply Team have decided to offer the same opportunity to change again to Brampton. After due thought and consideration of the fact that our senior members prefer a later rather than earlier start Brampton URC have accepted the kind offer of the Pulpit Supply team to start their service at 9.30am and the necessary changes have been made to noticeboards and paperwork and the congregation all notified.

When the same preacher is taking services at both churches on a Sunday Morning this will leave the Preacher just 15 minutes to travel between the two Churches. This will be quite a challenge some days with road conditions and hold ups so a Plan B needs to be in place

to ensure the Service at St George's is not disrupted adversely. Members of the Worship team will be prepared to lead the service until the preacher gets there.

On the 4th Sunday in the month Brampton and Carlisle normally share the same organist who normally travels with the Preacher. This will mean on most fourth Sundays a volunteer Musician will be needed to cover the first part of the service at St George's.

If you are interested in assisting at St George's either as a Worship leader or as a Musician, possibly using the piano, for the early part of the service please have a word with Rosalind who will co-ordinate things on behalf of our Worship team.

**Nick Mark**

### **Mission Community Update**

I begin with St George's and although we have no Mission Community yet in the City Centre there has been considerable groundwork done. The contacts between the Churches are being developed not just by the ministers but very effectively by the people in the pews. The work done in setting up the regular dementia service is an example.

In Brampton and Bewcastle real tangible progress is being made. On the 11th of January a meeting takes place to start the process of appointing Mission Community Leaders. The Youth Project in the Halls at the URC is a good example of inter church cooperation and on the 31st January the URC host a Deanery Meeting. In the Third Mission community which comprises Holme Eden, Wetheral and Scotby a Mission Community leader has now been appointed and it will be really good to have our first Mission community up and running in the area covered by the North Cumbria Pastorate.

We can be accused in the North of the County of being slow to develop Mission Communities but we have in being slow been able to study the experience of other parts of the County and learn about ways forward.

**Nick Mark**

## Moving Mountains Update

The progress on this varies from the point of view of where the Church is situated. In Bewcastle and Brampton the Visiting team have made themselves known and it is a case of our churches deciding how they want to utilise this opportunity for outreach. We are not being asked to do the impossible. A coffee morning that attracts outsiders is acceptable for example.

In Carlisle we have yet to meet the visiting team and sadly the lead minister Rev Sue Wicks died and a certain amount of regrouping has taken place. Great plans are being put forward and St George's are committed to supporting the purchase of a small Marquee to supplement the one being provided by St Cuthbert's. We have secured a "Slot" in the Archbishop's programme on the Saturday afternoon and this will give a real boost.

St George's elders have come up with an interesting idea of having a tea party and inviting back members of our youth groups from years ago.

The outreach that the four days will make is seen as a starting point for future developments. Already a Passion play is being discussed as a real possibility for 2019.

**Nick Mark**

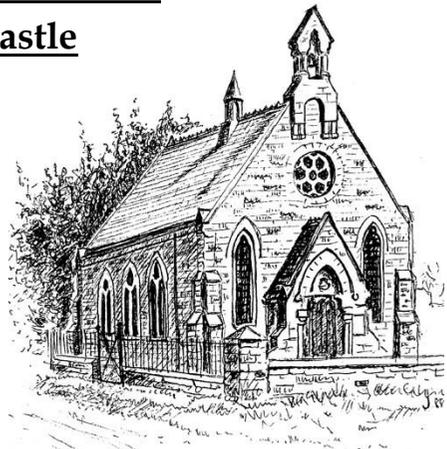
## From The Churches

### Bewcastle

#### January Service

Please note that our first service in the New Year will take place in Roadhead Studio at 2.15pm on Sunday 7th January.

It will be a Communion Service led by Revd Nick Mark.



## Brampton

### Services at Brampton in January

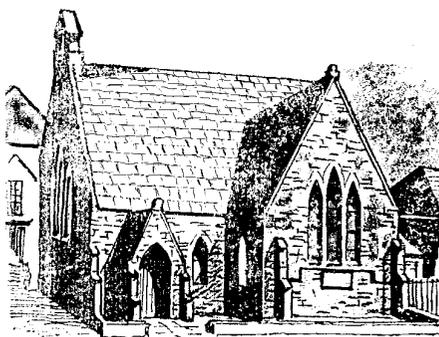
Our service at 9.30am on Sunday 14th of January will be led by the Revd Nick Mark who will also lead the service on Sunday 28th of January at 9.30am.

### Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

Brampton Churches Together

**Friday 19th of January** - there will be a Joint Service in the Methodist Church at 10am with refreshments being provided afterwards by the Roman Catholics.

**Wednesday 24th of January** - there will be a Joint Holy Communion Service at 9.30am in St Martin's with coffee being served here afterwards by us.



### Fundraising

Our coffee morning in church on 29th November with raffle raised £135. Many thanks to all who helped achieve this our best ever amount.

### The Samaritan's Purse Christmas Shoe Box Appeal

Grateful thanks go to all who made up the Operation Christmas Child shoe boxes in 2017 with a total of six boxes being contributed from our church. Two hundred and twenty five boxes, from churches and schools in Brampton are going to children in Eastern Europe. Thanks to Barbara Laird for her organisation in our church.

### Christmas Decoration in Church

Thanks go to Florence Scott for the lovely decoration of the church and to Barbara for preparing the Advent Ring.

### Brampton Duty Rotas for January

Stewarding: Barbara Laird

Flowers: There will not be a flower rota until Spring

## News of the Fellowship

David and Pat Ruddick have very recently moved to Leicester. We will miss them but are glad to know they will now be living within walking distance of their son and daughter-in-law. We wish them much happiness in their new home and hope they will soon get settled in.

## In Our Thoughts and Prayers

We remember those who are not so well, those who are anxious and those not able to get out and about so easily.

## Caretaking and Flowers

Many thanks to Sharon for keeping the church looking good throughout 2017 and to all who have arranged or contributed to the lovely displays of flowers.

## New Year Greetings

We send our good wishes for a happy, healthy, peaceful and fruitful New Year to all in our North Cumbria Pastorate.

**Shirley Brown**

## Carlisle

### St George's Services

Jan	7th	10.45am	(Revd Sarah Moore)
Jan	14th	10.45am	(NM)
Jan	21st	10.45am	(Betty Jagger)
Jan	28th	10.45am	Communion (NM)
Feb	4th	10.45am	(Revd Iain Mackenzie)

### Communion Duty

Jan	28th	<u>Preparation</u>	<u>Serving</u>
		Rosalind Fearon	Peter Day Olive Cronie

### Readers

Jan	7th	Maureen Bewley
Jan	14th	Marjorie Lawson
Jan	21st	Trevor Irwin
Jan	28th	Peter Day
Feb	4th	Olive Cronie

**Duty Rota**

Jan 7th  
 Jan 14th  
 Jan 21st  
 Jan 28th  
 Feb 4th

**Elder**

Moira Wales  
 Marjorie Lawson  
 Ian Moonie  
 George Murrin  
 Tony Wiseman

**Steward**

Jessie Overs  
 Deborah Usher  
 Kathleen Harris  
 Valerie Barlow  
 Pamela Martin

**Flowers**

Jan 7th  
 Jan 14th  
 Jan 21st  
 Jan 28th  
 Feb 4th

Connie Humphrey  
 Vacant  
 Vacant  
 Vacant  
 Vacant

**February Edition Magazine Photocopying and Collation**

Week commencing Monday 22nd January  
 Kathleen & John Harris

**Saturday Coffee Morning**

Jan 6th  
 Jan 13th  
 Jan 20th  
 Jan 27th  
 Feb 3rd

Elizabeth & Iain Mackenzie  
 Jessie & Michael Overs  
 Kathleen Harris & Moira Wales  
 Mavis Hall & Rosalind Fearon  
 Elizabeth & Iain Mackenzie

**Cleaning - Week Commencing Dates**

Jan 5th  
 Jan 12th  
 Jan 19th  
 Jan 26th  
 Feb 2nd

Elizabeth & Iain Mackenzie  
 Valerie Barlow & Pamela Martin  
 Jessie & Michael Overs  
 Mavis Hall & Maureen Bewley  
 Elizabeth & Iain Mackenzie

**From St George's Secretary**

As I write this Christmas still seems a long way off, at least I hope so because there is still a lot to prepare. But by the time you read it we will have started a New Year and we will be looking back on Olive's Carol Service and the Dementia Tea Service. So perhaps now is a good time to thank all the members for everything they

so willingly do to contribute to the well-being of our church, each in their own special way. Just a few examples that I am aware of in the past month: the church is a lot warmer since Trevor moved the curtain; the lovely Christmas cards that Tony has made; Olive's Carol Service; Moira's cakes made to order; all those who go to Croftfield; Ian ensuring that the rotas run smoothly; Elizabeth for looking after all her 'ladies'; all those who keep the church clean, arrange the flowers and decorations; John and his helpers for the vital work keeping our finances in order; those who run the Saturday coffee mornings and serve refreshments; and a special mention for Peter who not only enables us to have a good sing but also faithfully produces the Bridge each month and maintains our website. Thank you, one and all and give yourselves a pat on the back!

Thank you especially to Nick for all that he contributes to our church and the wider church. There are so many calls upon his time that we are scarcely aware of in his role as ecumenical officer. We wish Nick and Janet a peaceful and if at all possible a less stressful New Year.

A big thank you to everyone who helped to make the winter fair such a resounding success! Not only did we raise the magnificent sum of over £900 but there were many visitors and it was a good time of fellowship

### **News of members**

We still need to remember Muriel Drinkall, Amy Lambert, Alan and Jennifer Burgess, Betty and Ron Anderson and Jean Graham in our prayers. January can be a treacherous month and I hope we all take extra care to keep warm and safe.

### **Dementia Tea and Carol Service**

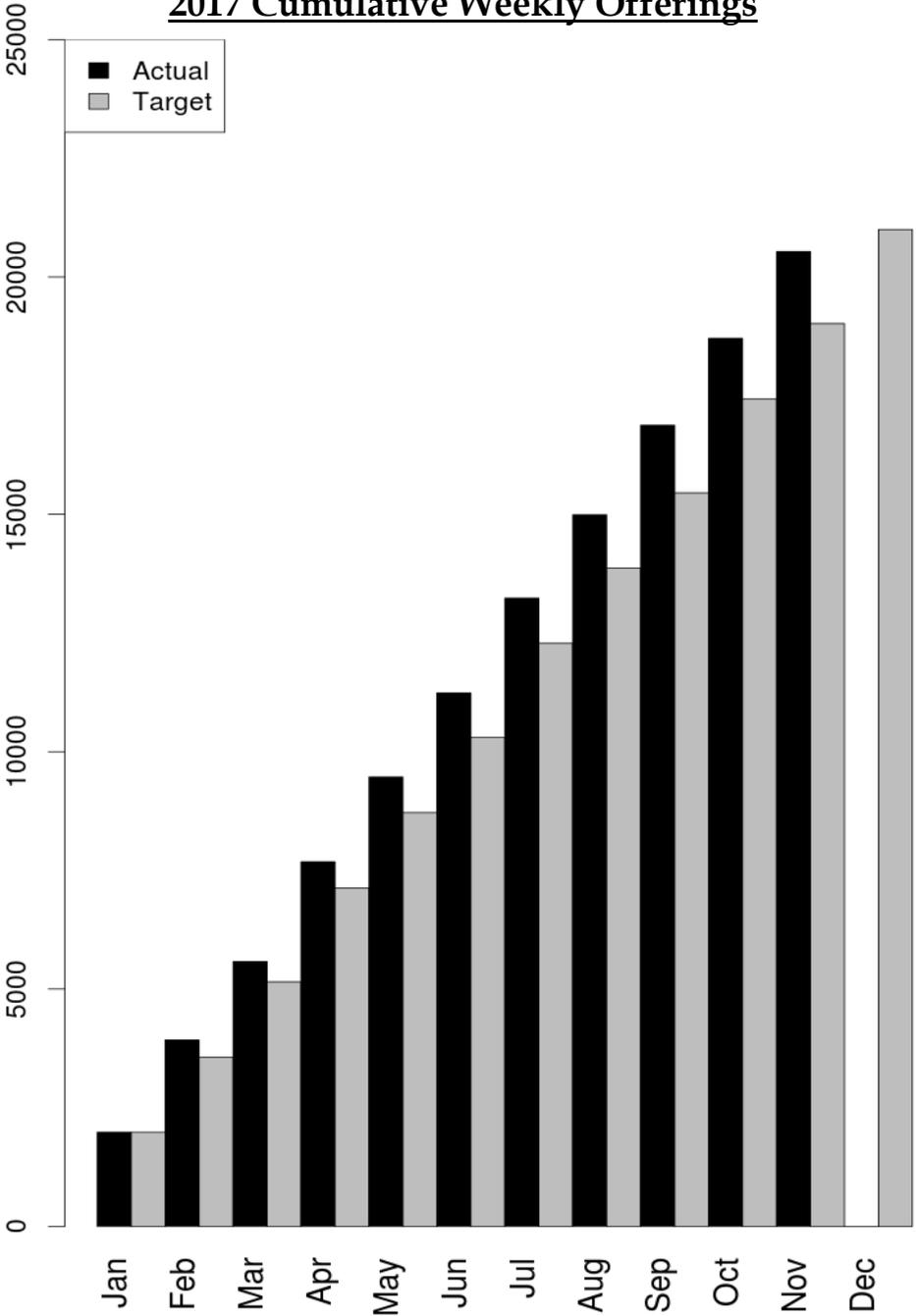
This will take place at 2pm on Tuesday 16th January at St George's and will be led by the Revd David Pitkeathly from the Border Kirk. We hope some of our congregation will attend to welcome and chat to our guests and perhaps help with the singing!

Wishing you all good health and many blessings in 2018

**Rosalind Fearon**

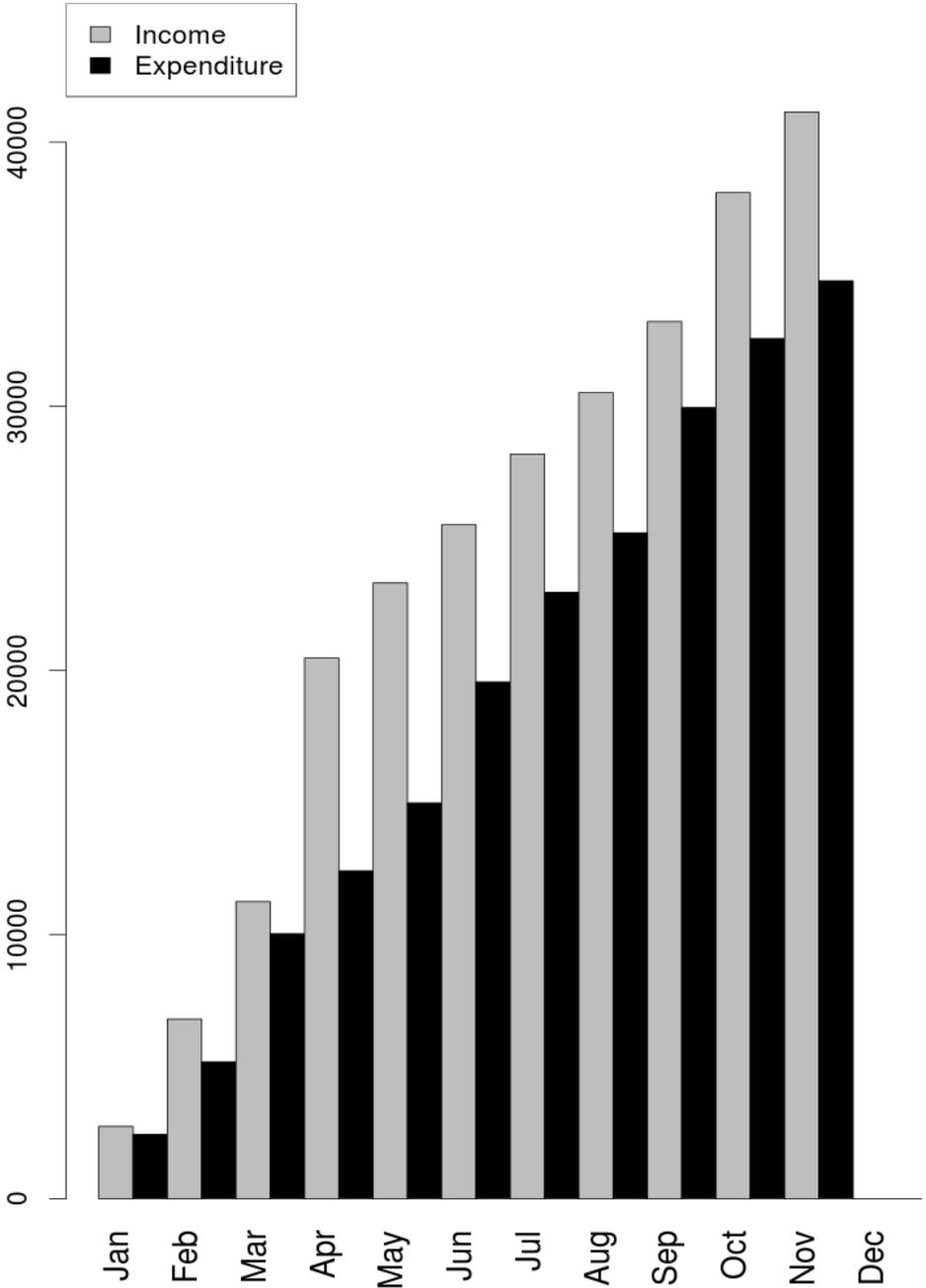
# St George's URC Carlisle

## 2017 Cumulative Weekly Offerings



# St George's URC Carlisle

## 2017 Cumulative Total Income/Expenditure



## St George's Notes

### Gift Aid Scheme (*Pamela Martin Gift Aid Secretary*)

This Scheme is greatly beneficial to the Church, with most-welcome income received annually from Her Majesty's Revenues & Customs.

Should any existing Members have changed circumstances, please let me know, and I will alter your records. Also, if any other Members now find themselves eligible to be registered (currently a UK Taxpayer), I can supply the necessary Declaration Form for completion. Thank You.

### The Book Stall (*Jessie Overs*)

A big Thank You to Eleanor for all the time, effort and hard work she has put in attending to the bookstall. This duty has now been taken over by Jessie.

### Food Bank 'Afternoon Tea Event' (*Olive Cronie*)

I'm pleased to report that the afternoon tea held in Scotby on 25th Nov raised £400 for the Foodbank as well as a car boot's worth of food donations. This brings to £700 the amount of money Melanie has helped raise this year for us. We are incredibly grateful to Melanie Pearson, Paramount Legal Costs Ltd based, who undertook to raise awareness and fundraise for us in 2017 through various initiatives and ongoing food collections all year, all in celebration of their company's 10 year anniversary. Thank you Paramount and many thanks to Jean, one of our Trustees who attended the event and collected the food for us.'

I don't know if anyone was able to attend as it was the same date as our Church Fayre but it is nice to share good news.

### Samaritan's Purse (*Elizabeth Mackenzie*)

Thank you to everyone who donated shoe boxes again this year. An excellent total of 53 boxes from St. George's was an increase of 8 boxes from last year. The total number from this area was just under 4,000, a reduction of 500 from last year. The boxes were sent to the Ukraine, where sadly there are even more orphans. It's a good feeling that our boxes will bring some joy to these children.

### **Carlisle Green Room** *(Elizabeth Mackenzie)*

26 members of St George's enjoyed the pantomime Cinderella with a Twist which was performed by the Green Room on Saturday, 2nd December.

### **'Sing for your Supper'** *(Peter Day)*

Thank you to everyone who came to our little 'do' and particularly to Sue for all the preparation. 18 members came, pretty well a houseful, and we started with a gentle quiz about Cumbria to occupy people while the food was being laid out. Sue had prepared quite an extensive supper which was enjoyed next. This was followed by the raffle which was quite hilarious because there seemed to be as many prizes as there were guests. We provided some of them and thanks are due to everyone who made it so many more. The evening finished with some quite enthusiastic traditional carol singing, carols chosen 'on the fly'. The event raised £160 for church funds.

## **Commitment for Life**

### ***Ditching Fairtrade: Not my cup of tea***

British tea drinkers account for three quarters of Fairtrade tea sales globally, with Sainsbury's the world's largest retailer of Fairtrade. So I am sure you are aware of the campaign 'Ditching Fairtrade: Not my cup of tea'. When the move by Sainsbury's to ditch the Fairtrade Mark from some of their own-brand tea and replace it with a 'Fairly Traded' label happened, churches responded. Letters were written and actions taken by individuals and churches sensing that this was something important they needed to speak out on. The main areas of concern are that tea farmers will no longer be able to decide for themselves how to spend the money that they have earned through the Fairtrade Premium - to invest in their businesses and communities as they see fit. Tea farmers will not be represented in the scheme's governance - a stark contrast to Fairtrade certification where producers are part of deciding how standards are set, monitored and reviewed.

It's estimated nearly a quarter of a million tea farmers and workers will be affected. The tea is also very likely to mislead customers who may think 'Fairly Traded' is the same as independent Fairtrade certification. It's not.

With CAFOD as the leading force, communities across the UK took part in a day of action on the 28th October. People were encouraged to take pictures at their Sainsbury's store and write letters to the manager. The protests are part of a nationwide campaign supported by CAFOD, Christian Aid, The Women's Institute, Traidcraft Exchange and Tearfund calling on the supermarket to reconsider this pilot scheme. Online petitions asking Sainsbury's to keep the Fairtrade mark have already attracted over 130,000 signatures.



The Fairtrade Foundation tell us they remain focused on finding a way forward with Sainsbury's that is in the best interests of the tea farmers and workers they represent. They are still hopeful that through discussions they can see Sainsbury's own-brand tea go back to being Fairtrade certified.

See [www.dontditchfairtrade.com](http://www.dontditchfairtrade.com) and remember Fairtrade Fortnight will be with us at the end of February

## Commitment for Life

### **Prayer Partners**

*Prayer Partners 2018 echo the words of Jesus in John 10:10  
'I have come that they may have life and have it to the full'*

### **January**

Father of life, to all who are hungry

**Give daily bread**

To all who are thirsty

**Send fresh water**

To all who are homeless

**Provide shelter**

And in all who are comfortable

**Stir up a compassion that cannot be ignored until there is no  
more poverty and injustice to feel uncomfortable about.**

**Amen**

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## St George's Women's Guild Programme

**8th January 2018**

Geoff Bird of Blue Watch - Talk on Fire Safety

**5th February 2018**

Anne Wills - Looking forward to Spring

**12th March 2018**

Visit to the Church of Scotland  
to see the Diaspora Tapestry

**9th April 2018**

Steve Layden - Songs and Comedy

**30th April 2018**

Talk by the Blood Bikers

## Commitment for Life

### *Israel and the occupied Palestinian territory*

#### **New homes bring new hope in Gaza**

Over the last two years, some of Christian Aid's work in Gaza has transitioned from humanitarian aid following the 2014 Israeli military offensive to house construction and supporting people to earn an income. Our partners have provided health and psychosocial support for trauma experienced by so many.

Over 18,000 homes were heavily damaged or destroyed in the 2014 offensive, leaving 500,000 people internally displaced.

In 2014 Bassam Abu Said's home, olive and date trees were completely destroyed. His 12 family members were left homeless and without an income. Bassam and his family had no safety or stability. They had to live in a temporary shelter made of rusty pipes and nylon sheets with no power or running water. They had to ask relatives if they could stay with them for periods when the rain and cold were too severe in the shelter. The children struggled at school, suffering from continuous illnesses caused by the conditions.

After two long years, Bassam and his family finally have a new home, constructed with support from Christian Aid's partners and the Disasters Emergency Committee. The house has provided the family with the safety and protection they need.

Bassam said, 'Finally, I have a house! For more than two years I have wished I could feel safe, surrounded by walls that protect my family from the weather changes and people's stares. This house has brought my family together again and we are as close to each other as we were before losing our home. I still dream, like any normal Gaza citizen, of safety and stability.'



Thank you for your support for families in Gaza through Commitment for Life, which has enabled many to have safe homes once again.



Bassam Abu Said outside his new home with his children

## **North Cumbria Pastorate Services**

### **The Knowe Church, Bewcastle**

Jan 7th 2.15pm Service in Roadhead Studio (NM)  
Feb 4th 2.15pm (NM)

### **Brampton URC, Main Street, Brampton**

Jan 14th 9.30am (NM)  
Jan 28th 9.30am (NM)

### **St George's URC, West Walls, Carlisle**

Jan 7th 10.45am (Revd Sarah Moore)  
Jan 14th 10.45am (NM)  
Jan 21st 10.45am (Betty Jagger)  
Jan 28th 10.45am Communion (NM)  
Feb 4th 10.45am (Revd Iain Mackenzie)

## Dates for your Diary

### January

- 7th 2.15pm Bewcastle Communion Service  
at Roadhead Studio
- 8th 2.00pm St George's Women's Guild Meeting (see page 17)
- 8th 2.30pm Service at Croftfield Care Home
- 15th 2.00pm St George's Elders Meeting
- 16th 2.00pm Dementia Tea and Carol Service at St George's  
Led by Revd David Pitkeathly
- 19th 10.00am Week of Prayer for Christian Unity (WPCU)  
Joint Service at Brampton Methodist Church
- 21st 6.00pm WPCU Service at the Salvation Army Citadel  
Led by Revd Nick Mark
- 24th 9.30am WPCU Communion Service  
at St Martin's, Brampton
- 31st 9.30am Coffee Morning at Brampton URC
- 31st 2.30pm St George's Church Meeting

### February

- 5th 2.00pm St George's Women's Guild Meeting (see page 17)
- 26th Start of Fairtrade Fortnight

## Bridge

Please note that material for the February issue of Bridge  
should be in the hands of the editor by

### **Sunday 14th January**

Articles may be handed or sent by post,  
telephone or email to

**Peter Day, 30 Naworth Drive  
CARLISLE, Cumbria, CA3 0DD**

**Telephone: 01228 818392**

**Email: [deeptray@btinternet.com](mailto:deeptray@btinternet.com)**