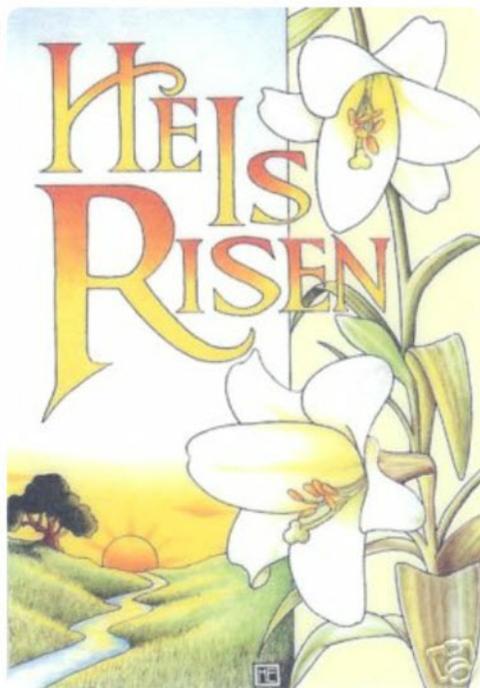


The North Cumbria Pastorate of United Reformed Churches

BRIDGE



April 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: 9.30am 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,

The month begins with celebration as we rejoice on the 1st of April that Christ is risen. Sadly not all of our churches in the pastorate have decided to hold a service that day. Whatever, Easter day is I feel a real day for celebration after going through the long period of Lent and the challenging ups and downs of Holy week.

I write this letter at the end of the Moving Mountains four day event. It was good that the churches in the pastorate have all had an opportunity to get a taster of what things could be like when the long planned Mission Communities really get going together in earnest. The concept of doing something together round the theme of Mothering Sunday gave us all food for thought. Food for thought because the denominations were able to work on something they had in common and to pool resources of people, finance and equipment. Only time will tell whether this mission has kick started something really good. A similar mission in Barrow a few years ago has resulted in a genuine Christian revival because Churches have found that they can still preserve their individuality but work together on that common theme of taking out into their local communities the message of God's love. A love so great that God was prepared to sacrifice his only Son on a cross that we might be saved. Easter Sunday remembers that even death itself can be conquered with the rising from the dead of Jesus our Saviour.

April will see us coming out of the seemingly long tough winter but even in that tough time the love of God has shone through in the work of so many people helping others in distress especially during the period of heavy snow and resulting problems caused by the thaw. We often say it is hard sometimes to see God at work in our harsh world. Yet during that period people came together with stranger helping stranger. Without that our pressurised County and local councils would have struggled to cope.

Our Lectionary readings in April focus in the main on John's Gospel. On Easter morning we look at John Chapter 20 and the amazement at the resurrection of Jesus. On the 8th Of April John's Gospel in Chapter 20 focuses very much on doubting Thomas. A theme which has a very real connection with today and that is how do we transform communities so that they become loving caring communities. On the 15th of April we look at Luke's Gospel and the two disciples meeting the risen Christ on the road to Emmaus. On the 22nd of April we study John 10 on the theme of the good Shepherd laying down his life for his sheep. A topical theme for lambing time in Cumbria. More pertinent though is its relationship to us and how we care for the needy. Colleagues in the Salvation Army keep me up to date with the desperate plight of the many people in our communities who live either on or below the breadline. God cares for each one of us through the work of those who have more sharing with those who have less. Finally we end April on the fifth Sunday of Easter looking at Jesus the true vine and trying to get to grips with the fact that God is love. Jesus helps us through the scriptures to love and care for one another.

Janet and I wish you all a happy Easter.

With every blessing

Nick Mark

Christmas Angels

Can you knit or crochet, or do you have family or friends who do? We need you as we would like to bless those who live, work or shop in our City Centre, with knitted angels this coming Christmas. Please see your Minister or Elders for the angel patterns if you can help! There is also a crochet pattern available for those who prefer to crochet rather than to knit. Watch this space for more details later in the year.

Requested by **Deacon Sarah McDowall**
*Methodist minister in the North Cumbria Circuit
and Cumbria district mission enabler.*

Moving Mountains

A Pastorate View

Congratulations to our Churches in the Pastorate for their response to this countywide initiative which came originally from our Anglican friends but has been very inclusive of as many Christian denominations as wanted to participate. Brampton URC organised a Coffee Morning and thanks to Olive at St George's for the bright idea of inviting back members of the old Sunday schools for a reunion. St George's also participated in the event in front of the Old town hall by helping erect the Marquees, supplying cakes and helping staff the Marquee for the day.

Olive is writing a separate piece on the Sunday School reunion which was really successful. Thanks go to Ian Moonie and our Secretaries at both Brampton and St George's for attending the planning meetings to organise our participation.

How do we judge the success or failure of such an epic event? That is not easy because if you were expecting our churches to be filled with new people on Mothering Sunday then you would be bitterly disappointed.

So what were the successes of the Event if any!

1. The first major success was that congregations not just the Church leaders left their comfort zones and engaged with folk outside their usual contacts.
2. Secondly the way the denominations worked together was a real positive step. I was reflecting on how Church of Scotland, Salvation army, Methodist, and URC ministers all happily worked under the direction in the City Centre of The Bishop of Southwell and Nottingham. Also our congregations had the opportunity to work with other congregations of other denominations which will really help the formation of Mission communities. Congregations were able to share their worries and found they were not in isolation.

3. The event dispelled a lot of the myths about Mission. Working together brings joy not misery and mission doesn't have to be that impossible a barrier to break. Meeting strangers is not so frightening.
4. The Mission team not only enjoyed it but found it rewarding and felt they had helped boost the morale of local churches. The URC North Western Synod team led by our Moderator Andrew felt they got a great deal out of working in the Workington area and understand far more about God For All.
5. This was a good start on which we can build. For example in Carlisle we now have a share in a Marquee and a young team available to put it up whenever we hold future mission events.

Nick Mark

Visit of the team with the Archbishop of York

Our contribution to this project was to invite former members of Junior Church/Sunday school from the inception of the United Reformed Church onwards to join us for the afternoon on Saturday 10th March.

Sixty invitations were sent. We welcomed sixteen guests and we were joined by four members of the visiting team, including a Bishop. It was a time of warm fellowship and a splendid tea and cake was provided by church members, enjoyed by all and the 'leftovers' shared at morning coffee after worship on Sunday. The good news is that several of those who were unable to join us have requested that we keep in touch for future events and we look forward to meeting them at a later date.

Our special visitors circulated, giving them, and us, the opportunity to exchange news of our church, our history and hopes for the future. One of them is now keen to borrow our idea for use in his church when he returns.

My thanks to all who helped to make this such a great success.

Olive Cronie

From the Churches

Brampton

Services at Brampton URC in April

Our service on the 8th at 9.30am will be led by Mrs Pam Dent. On the 22nd the Revd Nick Mark will be leading the service.

Pastorate Service on Sunday 29th April

Taking place at St George's at 10.45am and will be led by Mrs Daryll Hall. Please contact Barbara Laird if you require transport.

Report on Lent Lunch on Wednesday 21st February

Our minister was speaker on the theme 'Living Faith - Invitations from the Cross' and spoke on Invitation to Service. Barbara provided the soup. Barbara, Nanette Brown and Vera Kay helped serve and wash up along with our Methodist church friend Isobel Ranson. Many thanks to all involved.



Moving Mountains

Ecumenical Coffee Morning

This was held on Friday 9th March in the Church Hall when the helpers were again Barbara, Nanette and Vera. Unfortunately there were not that many folk attending, but those who were there enjoyed the fellowship.

Brampton Duty Rotas for April

Stewarding: Barbara Laird

Flowers: Barbara Laird

Dates in April for your Diary

25th 9.30am Coffee Morning in Brampton URC

Shirley Brown

Carlisle

St George's Services

Apr 1st	10.45am	Easter Communion (Revd Iain Mackenzie)
Apr 8th	10.45am	(Rosalind Fearon)
Apr 15th	10.45am	(Revd John Millard)
Apr 22nd	10.45am	Communion (NM)
Apr 29th	10.45am	Pastorate Service (Daryll Hall)
May 6th	10.45am	(Worship Group)

Communion Duty

Apr 22nd

Preparation

Marjorie Lawson

Serving

Peter Day

Tony Wiseman

Readers

Apr 1st	Elizabeth Mackenzie
Apr 8th	Peter Day
Apr 15th	Olive Cronie
Apr 22nd	Marjorie Lawson
Apr 29th	Pamela Martin

Duty Rota

	<u>Elder</u>	<u>Steward</u>
Apr 1st	Moira Wales	Kathleen Harris
Apr 8th	Marjorie Lawson	Valerie Barlow
Apr 15th	Ian Moonie	Pamela Martin
Apr 22nd	George Murrin	Jessie Overs
Apr 29th	Tony Wiseman	Deborah Usher
May 6th	Trevor Irwin	Kathleen Harris

Flowers

Apr 1st	Ian Moonie
Apr 8th	Jessie & Michael Overs
Apr 15th	Kath Milroy
Apr 22nd	Muriel & John Robinson
Apr 29th	Moira Wales
May 6th	Maureen & David Bewley

May Edition Magazine Photocopying and Collation

Week commencing

Monday 23rd April

Pamela Martin & Jessie Overs

Saturday Coffee Morning

Apr 7th	Elizabeth & Iain Mackenzie
Apr 14th	Mavis Hall & Rosalind Fearon
Apr 21st	Valerie Barlow & Pamela Martin
Apr 28th	Jessie & Michael Overs
May 5th	Kathleen Harris & Moira Wales

Cleaning - Week Commencing Dates

Apr 6th	Elizabeth & Iain Mackenzie
Apr 13th	Jessie & Michael Overs
Apr 20th	Valerie Barlow & Pamela Martin
Apr 27th	Mavis Hall & Maureen Bewley
May 4th	Jessie & Michael Overs

From St George's Secretary

News of members

Please remember Muriel Drinkall, Amy Lambert, Alan and Jennifer Burgess, Betty and Ron Anderson, Irene Paterson, Margaret Bell and Jean Graham in your prayers. We miss meeting them in church on a Sunday but we have not forgotten them.

Dementia Tea Service

2pm Tuesday 17th April at St George's. Please put this date in your diary and come along if you are able.

Annual General Meeting. Wednesday 18th April at 2.30pm

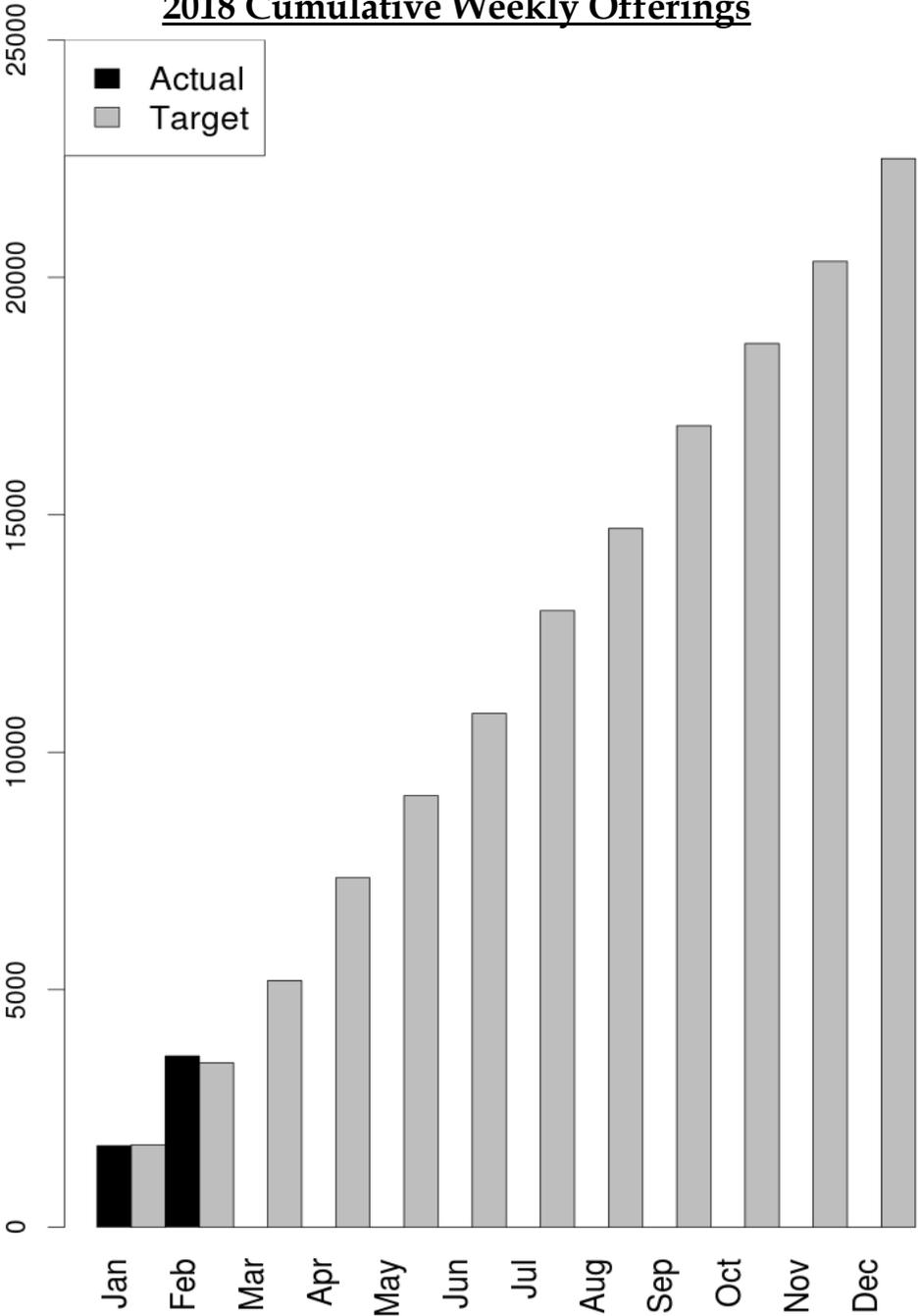
Election of Elders. The following elders will come to the end of their 3 year term in April: Olive Cronie, Marjorie Lawson, Moira Wales and Rosalind Fearon. They may be willing to serve for a further term. Please will all members prayerfully consider whether you might be willing to serve on the eldership? Please fill in the nomination slips in 'Bridge' and put them in the box provided in church.

If there are any items members would like to put on the Agenda for the AGM please let me know by 13th April.

Rosalind Fearon

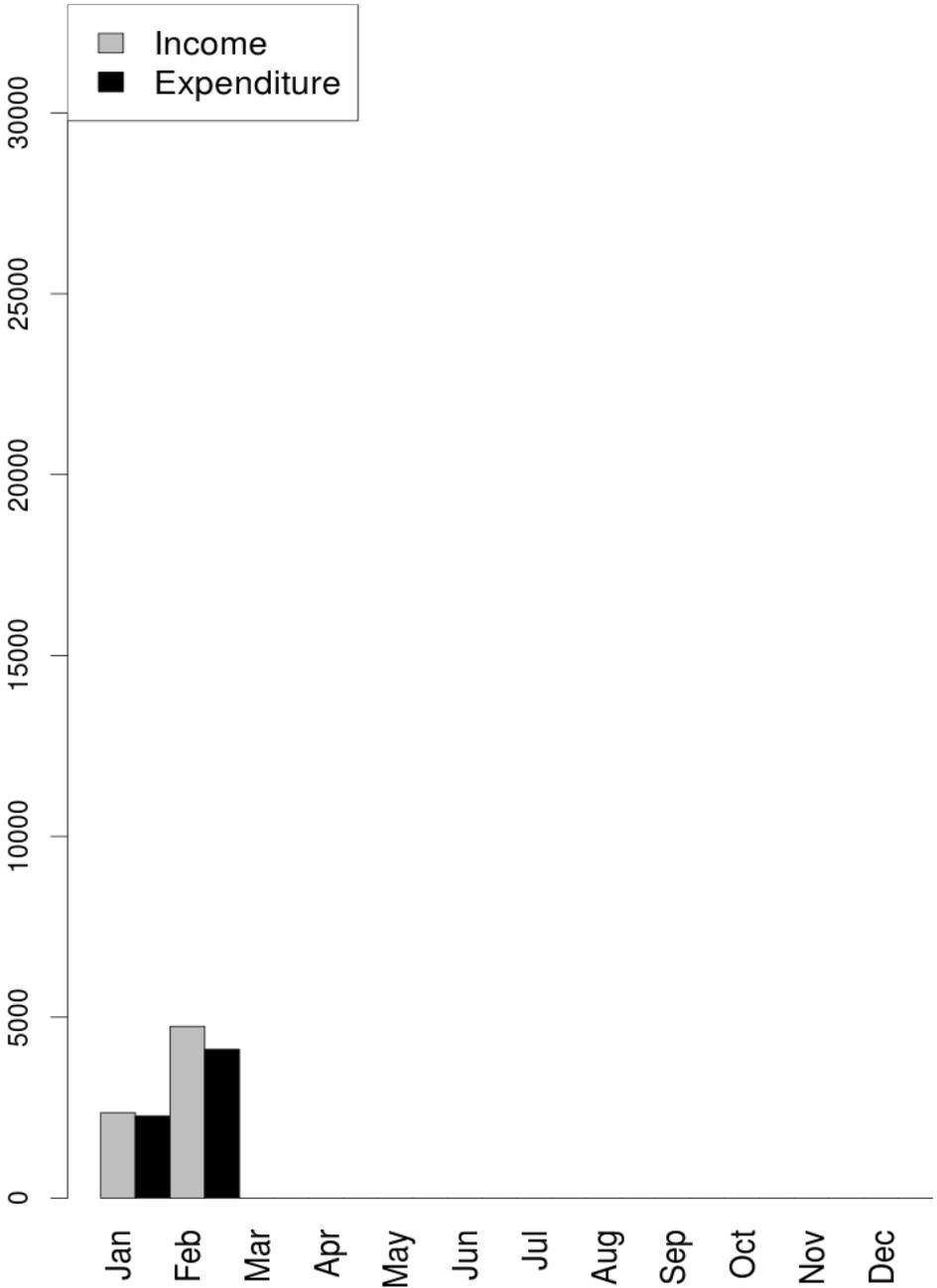
St George's URC Carlisle

2018 Cumulative Weekly Offerings



St George's URC Carlisle

2018 Cumulative Total Income/Expenditure



NOMINATION FOR ELDER

PERSON NOMINATED

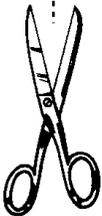
NOMINATOR

SECONDER

This form should be completed and placed in the Nomination Box at the back of the Church no later than Sunday 15th April 2018.

Those who have completed their term of office, and are willing to serve a further term must also be nominated and seconded.

Nominators and Seconders must be full communicant members of St George's United Reformed Church.



St George's Activities

Shine - Together not Alone

A Depression and Anxiety Peer Support Group meeting every Wednesday at 7.00pm started 21st March offering support through shared experience at £2 each with refreshments. To find out more about this please ask Deborah.

Afternoon Tea

Saturday 14th April 3.00pm - Afternoon Tea with singing by U3A choir. Tickets £5 from Social and Fundraising Committee members.

St George's Spring Fayre

Saturday 12th May 10.00am to 12noon - Spring Fayre. More details to follow later.

Deborah Usher

St George's Women's Guild

On 12th March, 14 members of the Guild visited the Border Kirk to view the SCOTTISH DIASPORA TAPESTRY, the most interesting and educational exhibition. The ladies received warm hospitality from the members of the Scottish Church, both in the Exhibition and the time of relaxation for a cup of tea and a chat afterwards.

Forthcoming Meetings

9th April 2018

Steve Layden - Songs and Comedy

30th April 2018

Talk by the Blood Bikers

Elizabeth Mackenzie

The Scottish Diaspora Tapestry

The Scottish Diaspora Tapestry was created under the aegis of the Prestoungrange Arts Festival which began contacting communities with Scottish roots across the globe in 2012 with what soon became an irresistible invitation. Please tell Scotland your story!

Thousands internationally volunteered. They were swiftly in action to meet the 2014 deadline busy first researching tales and images then stitching for Scotland. No other visual arts project has ever attempted to boldly bring our Scottish Diaspora together in such a manner.

Millions of stitches later this tapestry tells 305 enthralling tales from 34 countries, spanning seven centuries. Together they reflect the breadth and depth of Scotland's global legacy. This outstanding exhibition was created by more than seventy thousand hours of embroidery across the Scottish Diaspora.

From 2014/2016 a 'promise' had to be honoured. When our stitchers volunteered, we promised to do all that we could to take it back across the diaspora so they could share its magnificence most especially with their young people.

In 2017 the tapestry came 'home' to Prestonpans from where it is destined to play a vital educational role for young Scots. It will surely also forever attract the admiration of historians and embroiderers everywhere.



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'*

April

'The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field,
which someone found and hid;
then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has
and buys that field.'

Matthew 13:44

Help us to find your kingdom in the
hidden and overlooked places.

Help us to go out in joy
recognising what is of true worth.

Help us to let go of what has held us
and reinvest with hope in another possible world.

Amen

*©The Big Shift prayer resources
Christian Aid*

Bridge

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

Sunday 15th April

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

Commitment for Life - Bangladesh

Working together

Shisamondnay Forum has 17 members (10 male and 7 female) each representing a family. Both Hindu and Muslim families in Dhankhali Village where the forum is situated, live in wooden, well cared for buildings. Cyclones, flooding, drought and salinity all affect this area so Shushilan, supported by Christian Aid Bangladesh, have been helping the forum with cultivation so they are better qualified and get better crop yields. Shushilan has made them aware of the best research and ways of managing disasters as well as nutritional advice, health and sanitation. This means lives have improved as they know their crops are good quality so when they go to market they ask for a fair price for the crops. They like it that Shushilan investigates and collects other information to help them.

Shushilan has given them training for paddy field production. They gave saline tolerant seeds, provided advice e.g. It is better to store seeds in plastic not jute bags. It keeps them in a better condition and more protected. They can see the benefit of these seeds and are now collecting their own from the harvested crop which they are storing and sharing with others. They also feel they can discuss issues and resolve them together rather than going to Shushilan for advice or help. They meet every 15 days and discuss what training they feel they need. They want to be more organic in their farming methods and raise homesteads, as they have learnt of the benefits from Shushilan. The women appear to have a full voice in the forum and work together in the fields. This did not used to be the case. All are willing to learn and they want to share what they have learnt. Both Muslim and Hindus work together well here making the whole community aware of the problems related to climate change.

Shapna Shome has an air of confidence about her. She shared how life had changed through the forum.

“Earlier we could not come out of our house, now we can share and talk. The difference has been the forum. We work together and this is a real cultural change. Earlier we hid ourselves. Women feel better from the knowledge we have strength and can even go to Government offices to get our rights. No one would have done this earlier as we felt timid (shy.) Earlier we did not have the power or strength. We feel the committee is behind us to fight against any intimidation.”

Shapna explained how now both male and female children are starting to be treated the same.

“It is all for the children. We listen to advice about eating vegetables. Our children learn from us and are healthier.

They do not play in the dirty waters and they wash their hands. With all this new knowledge, I know I should send my children to school.”

This confident forum is a great example of how, through training and sharing, life for the whole family can become better.

IMAGE: ©Commitment for Life: Shapna Shome



Psalm for Easter Morning

In chill of dawn birds sing clear
After Friday's darkness,
After Saturday's numbness;
Dew on grasses sparkle
As night surrenders to rising sun,
And clear blue reigns above
Without hint of cloud.

Women travel swiftly, silently
On their pathway to the Garden,
Where martyred Messiah lies slumbering,
Lifeless on cold limestone
In a newly-chiseled tomb.

As they approach,
Guards have vanished;
Remnants of a fire smoulder
Among debris of camp
Deserted in haste.

In their place resides a new Guardian,
Harbinger of a Heavenly Army,
Resplendent in white,
Seated upon the stone of death
Now displaced forever.

The Angel speaks,
women shrink back.
"Why do you seek the living
Among the dead.
He is not here;
He is risen,
Just as he said."

Hallelujah, risen Jesus!
Praise forever, risen Lord!
We greet you at your Resurrection,
Bow before you now and always --
Lives wide open,
Cleansed and healed,
Hands uplifted,
Hearts surrendered.

Forgive our doubts,
O Risen Lord,
Calm our fears,
Renew our faith,
And lead our lives from this day on.

For we serve You,
Christ our Lord!
And we love You,
Risen King!
In your Army we will follow.
Lead us on!
Lead us on!

Dr. Ralph F. Wilson
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North Cumbria Pastorate Services

The Knowe Church, Bewcastle

Apr	1st	2.15pm	Easter Communion (NM)
Apr	29th	10.45am	Pastorate Service at St George's (Daryll Hall)
May	6th	2.15pm	(NM)

Brampton URC, Main Street, Brampton

Apr	8th	9.30am	(Pam Dent)
Apr	22nd	9.30am	(NM)
Apr	29th	10.45am	Pastorate Service at St George's (Daryll Hall)

St George's URC, West Walls, Carlisle

Apr	1st	10.45am	Easter Communion (Revd Iain Mackenzie)
Apr	8th	10.45am	(Rosalind Fearon)
Apr	15th	10.45am	(Revd John Millard)
Apr	22nd	10.45am	Communion (NM)
Apr	29th	10.45am	Pastorate Service at St George's (Daryll Hall)
May	6th	10.45am	(Worship Group)
May	13th	10.45am	With Methodists at Tithe Barn

Dates for your Diary

April

1st	10.45am	Easter Communion Service at St George's
9th	2.00pm	St George's Women's Guild (Songs & Comedy)
14th	3.00pm	St George's Afternoon Tea with U3A choir
16th	2.30pm	Croftfield Service
17th	2.00pm	Dementia Tea Service at St George's
18th	2.30pm	St George's Annual General Meeting
25th	9.30am	Coffee Morning in Brampton URC
30th	2.00pm	St George's Women's Guild (Blood Bikers)

May

12th	10.00am	St George's Spring Fayre
14th	2.00pm	St George's Elders Meeting