

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: 1.45pm 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: 11.00am 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 11.00am at St George's

(Check the North Cumbria Pastorate Services list)

From the Minister

Dear Friends,

April sees us continuing to work through Lent and culminating in Holy week and Easter Sunday. This year we have in the North Cumbria Pastorate tried to make things very different to enable members of all three churches to involve folk outside of the church family to get a taste of how church has changed since they last came and it is a genuine effort to attract folk as we try to do our small part in achieving the God For all vision. There is a separate article in this issue about *Doing Lent Differently* which gives you a taste of what is on offer.

Everyone knows how much effort has gone into forming Mission Communities and that quiet patient work is beginning to show through with the increasing co-operation between denominations. Palm Sunday will have just one service in the City Centre following the procession at the Cathedral, and St George's will join with folk from Brampton URC and hopefully Bewcastle URC, Tithe Barn Methodists, St Cuthbert's and the Salvation Army. This display of unity is about a lot more than just having a jolly time. For if we hope to win people to the Christian Faith we need to demonstrate that we can as churches work together on the things that we all believe in. During Holy week on we have the ecumenical service at the Cathedral on Wednesday lunchtime and on Maundy Thursday we have an ecumenical communion Service at St George's. Good Friday sees a number of different services starting with the Nonconformist service at the Border Kirk. This is followed by the normal open air service in the Market square at 11.15am. Then there will be services in the afternoon at the Salvation Army Citadel and in the evening a Taizé Service at the Cathedral.

The thrust of all these services has to be about helping not just us but many other folk to get an understanding of what this key season in the Church calendar is about. It isn't about just going through the motions and sighing with relief at the end of it all saying that's it till next year.

Lent should if we use it properly in a way that suits us personally enable us to get closer to the God we love. Palm Sunday, Holy week and Easter Sunday enable us to realise exactly what Christ did for each one of us and reminding us that Christ wanted to be a catalyst to enable his followers to develop the Church he set up under God's guidance.

I must not forget the great initiative that an Anglican Colleague Rev Isaac at Scotby has developed and is being supported by not only the City Centre Churches but by all the Brampton Deanery Churches and Brampton URC and Brampton Methodist Church and that is The Passion Play. Here is something that really explains the Easter story to the woman and man in the street. Signing up sheets are in our churches to help on the day in numerous ways and this again can only benefit Mission communities because it is pooling resources and person power that can help us reach those we have so far failed to touch with God's love.

Last but not least in April is the visit of the Venerable Lee Townend Archdeacon of Carlisle to St George's on the 28th of April. This Communion service will be a pastorate Service to which our friends at Brampton and Bewcastle have been invited because it will give the North Cumbria pastorate a real picture of where Mission Communities are and what is hoped for and how the God For all process is going. Clearly we cannot expect Archdeacon Lee to visit each of our churches when he is responsible for a huge area covering the Brampton, Carlisle and Appleby Deaneries. You may be thinking what has an Anglican Archdeacon got to do with the URC? The answer is that he is actually working for us as well as our Methodist and Salvation Army friends in implementing Mission Communities and he wants to ensure that we all understand what you all voted for when Area President Sarah described to us some years ago in a joint meeting when we were at Warwick Road. He will be be happy to answer questions after the service over coffee.

Janet and I take this opportunity to offer you all Easter Greetings.
With every blessing

Nick Mark

Doing Lent Differently?

This year has been for me the most unusual and the most interesting Lent not only of my time in ministry but also as far back as my becoming an Elder Thirty plus years ago. I am involved in three different Lent courses. One looking at the Resurrection. Another looking at World Church led by a retired Bishop of Port Moresby in Papua New Guinea, Bishop Peter Ramsden. The Third is based round Wilderness prophets from the Bible. To add to that has been the joy of being involved as a small cog in the start of the Church Leaders Lent walk around Cumbria. The idea is to bring attention to all the exciting things happening in our County in Mission Communities or areas forming Mission Communities. The Lent walk began at the Green Door Hall Brampton URC on Wednesday 13th March at 8.30am and a number of folk from the Brampton Churches were there to see Bishop James and Mike Talbot on their way to Lanercost. The City Centre Churches which will form the Heart of the City Mission Community took over responsibility in the afternoon at Walton with our ace photographer Tony present to record the event and two of us walked with Bishop James from Walton to Crosby along the Hadrian's Wall Path. Bishop James was then involved in the City Of Carlisle Civic Awards and Methodist Superintendent David Newlove launched day two of the walk on Thursday. The Church leaders of the Four key denominations will all be involved over the five weeks and the walk comes to an end in Brampton at the Methodist Church in April. Finally in Carlisle as you will see in our diary each Wednesday at the cathedral one of the Team of ministers in the heart of the city has been asked to give a reflection on a set reading. Does all this amount to gimmickry or desperation? Far from it! The aim is to show that our churches are far from dead and trying to reach out in different ways to fulfil the aims of God for all in reaching people beyond our normal membership and outside of places of worship.

Nick Mark

Mission Community Update

Much of this is covered elsewhere in this Newsletter with all that is happening but I need to highlight a few things.

First of all was the *Big Discussion* held at Rheged where we had the opportunity to hear about both Good News stories of Mission Communities and Challenges that Mission Communities face. Your Elder has a useful booklet that you can borrow to update you on this.

Second, Brampton now has a Mission Community Leader who will be moving to the area in about 3 months time. Here is the announcement:

The Bishop of Carlisle has appointed the Revd. Stephen Robertson, at present Rector of Downham with South Hanningfield and Ramsden Bellhouse, as Mission Community Leader and Team Rector of the Benefice of Eden, Gelt and Irthington Team Ministry.

Please hold Stephen and his wife Fiona in your prayers as they prepare to make the move to Brampton from Essex.

Although it doesn't directly affect North Cumbria, Penrith and Penruddock URC will soon be part of a Mission Community as the Bishop has appointed Canon Gary Cregeen as Mission Community Leader. He will be moving from Barrow in the next few months.

Nick Mark

Synod Report

On Saturday 16th March Barbara Laird, George McCrone and myself ventured out in the depressing and rather dangerous weather to travel the 114 miles to Synod being held at the huge rambling empire of St Andrew and St George URC in Bolton City Centre for what turned out to be a useful and interesting day. Our opening worship was led by a colleague of mine John Piper who I trained with and who had been appointed Moderator for the day. Thanks were expressed to all those who had "kept the show on the road" so to speak after our former Moderator Andrew stood down due to ill health.

In the news of ministers was a vital piece of news of interest to North Cumbria and that is that our much respected Iain Mackenzie celebrates 50 years of ministry this year and at our October Synod on 12th October Iain will be presented with a certificate by the Moderator. This is something to truly celebrate. Under news of ministers was the fact that my Non Stipendiary colleague at Kendal Pam Noonan retires in the summer. Also things are on track for the finding of a new Moderator to succeed Andrew. If all goes well we should have in place a new moderator before the end of the year.

We also had a Good News Story of the Tonge Moor *Building Bridges Project* where partnering with a local authority and other organisations had resulted in an old church being demolished and replaced with a modern user friendly building which was really reaching out to the community.

The morning's business consisted of a lengthy presentation by Rev David Salsbury from Wales of the URC initiative *Stepwise* which is an interesting way of helping people grow in faith and commitment. Whether or not we use it in Cumbria really depends on our commitment to Cumbria Christian learning and the packages they and the Reach team offer.

In the afternoon there was a key presentation on the Keld Centre which is about 20 minutes from Kirby Stephen. This was given by my former Principal at Northern College Rev Dr David Peel. It is an exciting project which will provide holiday accommodation and also an ideal place for retreats and Elders Away days.

The second Good News Story was of how Wilmslow Church were now using their undercroft after expensive conversion to reach out to young people at the nearby Secondary school in a way that the Church had struggled to do in conjunction with a trendy modern church called *Life* which meets in a wine bar. The project sustains two youth workers. Although this is a large scale project it bears some similarity to what Brampton URC are trying to achieve with the Green Door project.

There were many reports of which I can only highlight the most important:

Manse scheme. Letters will be going out to Churches regarding their payments shortly and explaining where sales had reached. 7 Manses are on the market. Thanks were expressed for the way churches had returned the inquiry forms and Ministers will soon receive the final version of the Guide on what to do when calamities occur in the manse!

There was a really unhappy debate about how ministers expenses should be shared by all Churches not just a select few. The total cost per minister is £7500 and if all churches paid it would be £30 per member per annum. It will mean our Pastorate expenses and those of Penrith would decrease considerably. Synod agreed negotiations could start but in the meantime North Cumbria and Penrith like many other churches would have to grin and bear it!

Tony Rutherford's successor at Synod Office David Wyke has a new email: **financeofficer@nwsynod.org.uk**

The Synod Treasurer Mike Hart presented the annual Management accounts and made the point that new strategies will have to be developed in the next few years because we are getting to the stage by using reserves for Mission that more income will need to be generated.

An appeal was made for patience from churches over inquiries as the Staff at Synod office have a big workload taking over the manses and putting in place satisfactory management schemes.

My appointment as Area Finance Officer continues till I retire. My colleague Martyn Coe was appointed to APC for three years.

Richard Teal moves on in the summer and will be replaced as Chair of the Methodist District by Rev James Tebutt.

Sedburgh URC Closed formally on 31st December and it is hoped some of the proceeds of sale of the manse will help fund a new Pioneer Minister in the area.

A serious concern is that although ministers are leaving the Synod as is normal by way of retirement and moving to new posts no new ministers were rushing forward to fill vacancies. We suffer in the same way many professions like teachers and doctors do. It is putting a strain on both elders and retired ministers and lay preachers alike.

There was a useful report from the Synod Safeguarding Officer Julie Rafferty (a former Police officer specialising in Child and Vulnerable adult Protection) and I need to **highlight the training afternoon at Penrith URC on 9th April which is for the Safeguarding folk in each of our churches and additionally retired and Serving Ministers and Lay Preachers and others who lead worship.**

Our Area President Sarah takes very seriously the future ministry situation in Cumbria with a number of retirements imminent over the next couple of years and in her written report to Synod she made it clear that she is in discussion with all three Archdeacons to see if any of our partner denominations in God For All can provide assistance.

Our next APC will look at widening its membership to take into account the fact we will also be the Missional Partnership Steering Group and there is a desperate need for more lay representation on APC. All of us Cumbria Ministers are concerned that the Congregations are changing our role considerably from servants of the people to Area Managers which is not something we particularly look to do. I know travel is an issue but all of our meetings are accessible by rail as they are held near a railway station.

There were many other matters dealt with but the above are the salient points which will be likely to be of interest to the North Cumbria Pastorate.

The Synod finished with some enlivening worship led by the Bolton Minister Mark Bates on the theme of how God shapes and changes our lives in the process of guiding us to serve God in the many ways we all do.

Nick Mark

General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)

Earlier this month a number of folk from the four Churches I have the privilege of serving attended the GDPR training sessions at either Carver or Penrith run by the Synod Treasurer Mike Hart. I have to say I expected it to be about as exciting as watching paint dry on a wall! How wrong I was as Mike made it interesting and encouraging. Above all, although none of us had got it fully right it appeared the Churches I serve were doing things reasonably well so I propose to highlight the things we need to do to comply with The General Data Protection Regulation in this article.

For those who want chapter and verse The General Data Protection Regulation 2016 number 679 was passed on 14th April 2016 and actually came into force on 25th May 2018

The main guideline is that we should only store information that we really need not store things that might be useful sometime! Things like Baptismal Rolls on the wall don't infringe the rules in any shape or form. Obvious things like praying for the sick in the service are permissible provided you don't give all the names, just a Christian name is satisfactory.

An example of what not to do has always stuck in my mind from years ago and that was highlighted in an episode of *Steptoe and Son* where it was widely known that a particular house would be empty when everybody was attending a family funeral. The house was burgled.

It is legitimate to store information required by HMRC so our Gift aid Secretaries and Treasurers need to store information for 7 years.

It is legitimate to have the names, addresses and contact details of members and adherents but these must not be widely published. For example we cannot sell lists to a third party eg the local double glazing company. For example directories should not be left lying around in Church for visitors to examine. We cannot keep details of people who leave the Church without their consent and we should really only keep details of folk who have regular contact with the Church.

The basic guideline is: *the processing of personal information must be carried out as part of the legitimate activities of a non-profit body or association which exists for religious purposes.*

We should have a church privacy notice affixed in an obvious place and also on our website. For the design of this we were recommended to look at the one provided in the Synod Data Protection Guide and adapt it for our specific purposes.

Individuals have the right to request details of what data we hold on them and we cannot charge for supplying this. We must respond within one month of receiving a request.

We can minimise data breaches by thinking about who needs to know. An obvious example is where someone calls a meeting and emails it to everyone. Clearly unless the parties have all agreed you cannot disclose all the emails. That complicates things so you can for example include in the email some identification like "I am sending this to Fred, June, John, Amy" so folk don't worry about who hasn't been invited.

Practical Steps To Take

1. Register with the INFORMATION COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE. This is done on line and is very easy provided that your church doesn't either have or decides to install CCTV
2. We need to appoint a data protection Lead person in each Church. A strong recommendation was made that **we do not appoint the Church Secretary!**
3. Elders need to know their responsibilities
4. We need to document what data we hold
5. We need to consider the security of personal data
6. Securely dispose of old data
7. Review any consents you have and see if they comply with modern standards
8. Ensure there is a privacy notice which is reviewed regularly eg annually

It would seem a very sensible idea for the Church Secretary of each Church in the pastorate and the 3 Data Protection lead persons appointed to agree on a standard procedure throughout the Pastorate and share wisdom. Also little litigation has happened yet so we would be best to follow Synod guidance because there are a huge number of interpretations available of this complex legislation.

Things To Be Aware Of And Consider Carefully

1. Photographs and Videos
2. Website Cookies
3. Prayer Lists
4. Health and Medical Data
5. People who used to be connected to the Church
6. Minimising Data

On that vexed subject Of Data Retention and Minimisation these are the key areas:

1. Membership
2. Statutory records
3. Church Minutes
4. Finance records
5. Property and Contracts
6. Insurance
7. Employment
8. Safeguarding

Care does need to be taken on this because going round destroying everything is not wise. For example on the question of safeguarding you need to keep details of your insurers etc for 75 years.

Good Practice

1. Record Keeping
2. Emails
3. Consent
4. Individual rights to see information (In other words be careful what you write down about someone!)
5. This is not just about Computer information

Last but not least we are all responsible not just the Data Protection Leads. A lot of Data protection is about commonsense. Remember, if you have a problem that cannot be answered within the wisdom of the pastorate you can always contact Synod.

Nick Mark

Wednesday 20th March 2019

From the Churches

Brampton

There will be NO services in Brampton URC during the month of April. Instead on Palm Sunday 14th of April we have been invited to join with St George's to attend the service in Carlisle Cathedral. Our congregations will be processing from St Cuthbert's to the Cathedral at 10.30am. Barbara Laird is arranging taxi transport for us for this occasion. Please contact her if you are going to attend.

On Sunday 28th April there will be a Pastorate Service at St George's at 11am. Our Minister the Revd Nick Mark will be leading this service when the preacher will be the Archdeacon of Carlisle, the Venerable Lee Townend. The purpose of the service will be to outline progress in Mission communities and it is quite important that Brampton folk go as we now have a Mission community Leader appointed and he will be starting work in about three months time. The taxi service will also be available for this service, again please contact Barbara about this.

The first of five evening Lent courses at Brampton URC took place on Thursday 14th of March, led by Bishop Peter Ramsden and was well attended.

World Day of Prayer Service

The Service, prepared by the Women of Slovenia with the theme 'Come - Everything is Ready', was held in Brampton Methodist Church on Friday 1st March and was led by the Revd Rachel Williams. Barbara took part for us and Nanette Brown and Vera Kay also attended.

Lent Lunches

12 noon to 1pm in Brampton Methodist Church Hall. A simple Lunch of home-made soup, bread, tea or coffee will be followed by a short talk on 'Wilderness Stories'. Donations will go to Christian Aid and Cafod. Speakers on 3rd April and 10th April will be given out in church notices.

Lent Course

'Into all the World - our place in God's Mission'

A Lent Course with Bishop Peter Ramsden at 7.30pm in our Church on Thursdays 4th and 11th April. Bishop Peter writes, "Lent is often described

as a journey. As we seek to follow Jesus more closely we do so in the company of Christians around the world whose insights and experiences can be a source of strength to us."

Bishop Peter, an Honorary Assistant Bishop in this diocese, has recently moved to live locally. He was formerly Bishop of Papua New Guinea.

Good Friday Walk of Witness

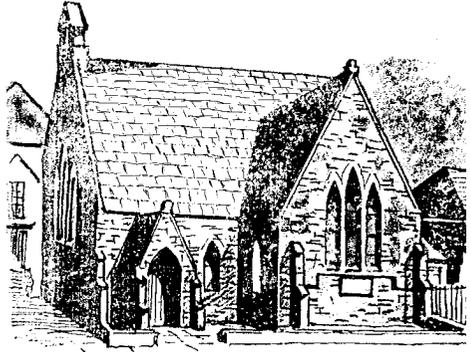
The Walk of Witness on Good Friday, 19th April, will begin this year at Brampton Methodist Church at 11am and will travel to the Market Place stopping at our Church, Bethesda Evangelical Church and St Martin's on the way. Another short service will take place outside the Moot Hall, followed by coffee and Hot Cross Buns.

Fundraising

Our monthly coffee morning on 27th February raised £114. Many thanks to all who contributed in any way and especially this time to Martin Baker for the baking of cheese scones and quiches.

News of the Fellowship

It was good to hear that Nancy Wilson had her hip operation in Newcastle on 20th February and that all went well for her and that she is now slowly improving at home.



Brampton Duty Rotas for April

Stewarding & Flowers Mrs Barbara Laird

Dates in April for your Diary

3rd	12 noon	Lent Lunch (Brampton Methodist Church)
4th	7.30pm	Lent Course (Brampton URC)
10th	12 noon	Lent Lunch (Brampton Methodist Church)
11th	7.30pm	Lent Course (Brampton URC)
14th	10.30am	Processing from St Cuthbert's to Carlisle Cathedral for Palm Sunday Service
19th	11.00am	Walk of Witness beginning at Brampton Methodist Church)
24th	9.30am	Coffee Morning in church (Brampton URC)
28th	11.00am	Pastorate Service at St George's

Shirley Brown

Carlisle

St George's Services

Apr	7th	11.00am	(Mrs Margaret Jones)
Apr	14th	10.30am	Palm Sunday at Cathedral (with NM)
Apr	18th	10.30am	Maundy Thursday Ecumenical Communion Service at St George's (NM)
Apr	19th	10.00am	Good Friday Nonconformist Service at Border Kirk, followed by City Centre Open Air Service at 11.15am
Apr	21st	11.00am	EASTER (Revd Sarah Moore)
Apr	28th	11.00am	Pastorate Communion Service (NM) (Visit by Venerable Lee Townend, Archdeacon of Carlisle)
May	5th	11.00am	Service organised by Worship Group

Readers

Apr	7th	John Ware
Apr	14th	Cathedral Service
Apr	21st	Moira Wales
Apr	28th	Olive Cronie
May	5th	Ian Moonie

Duty Rota

Apr 7th
Apr 14th
Apr 21st
Apr 28th
May 5th

Elder

Olive Cronie
Marjorie Lawson
Ian Moonie
George Murrin
Tony Wiseman

Steward

Jessie Overs
Deborah Usher
Kathleen Harris
Valerie Barlow
Pamela Martin

Communion Duty

Apr 21st

Preparation

Peter Day

Serving

Rosalind Fearon
Ian Moonie

Flowers

Apr 7th
Apr 14th
Apr 21st
Apr 28th
May 5th

Ian Moonie
Cathedral Service
Elizabeth & Iain Mackenzie
Maureen & David Bewley
Margaret Graham

Saturday Coffee Morning

Apr 6th
Apr 13th
Apr 20th
Apr 27th
May 4th

Roalind Fearon & Kathy Craig
No Coffee Morning (Passion lay)
Jessie & Michael Overs
Kathleen Harris & Moira Wales
Elizabeth & Iain Mackenzie

May Edition Magazine Photocopying and Collation

Week commencing

Monday 22nd April
Kathleen & John Harris

From St George's Secretary

A big thank you to all the ladies of the fund-raising and social committee who served lunch after the service on 3rd March. It was a very enjoyable occasion and everyone, even the servers, seemed relaxed, though there must have been a lot of preparation beforehand.

As I write we are looking forward to another after-service lunch on 17th March, this time prepared by Cathedral members as a thank-you for letting them use our church for their occasional lunch-time Sunday services. Canon Michael Manley will be conducting the service.

Easter is very late this year, hence our AGM at the earlier date of Wednesday 10th April. The next few weeks offer us many opportunities to join together with the other City Centre churches. Every Wednesday in Lent there is a short service in the Cathedral at which ministers from different churches will speak. This will be followed by a soup lunch. Nick is speaking on 17th April, so we are hoping St George's members will turn out in force to support him! Then we have the Passion Play production in the City Centre on 13th April when there will be opportunities for us to assist with stewarding if required.

On Palm Sunday 14th April there will be NO service at St George's. Instead we will be taking part in the Palm Sunday procession from the Cathedral, followed by a service at the Cathedral.

The other city churches will be invited to join us at our Maundy Thursday communion service at 10.30am on 18th April; and on Good Friday we are invited to join with the other non-conformist churches for a service at the Border Kirk at 10am followed by the open air City Centre service at 11.15am.

On 28th April the Archdeacon of Carlisle, the Venerable Lee Townend will be conducting our service together with our minister.

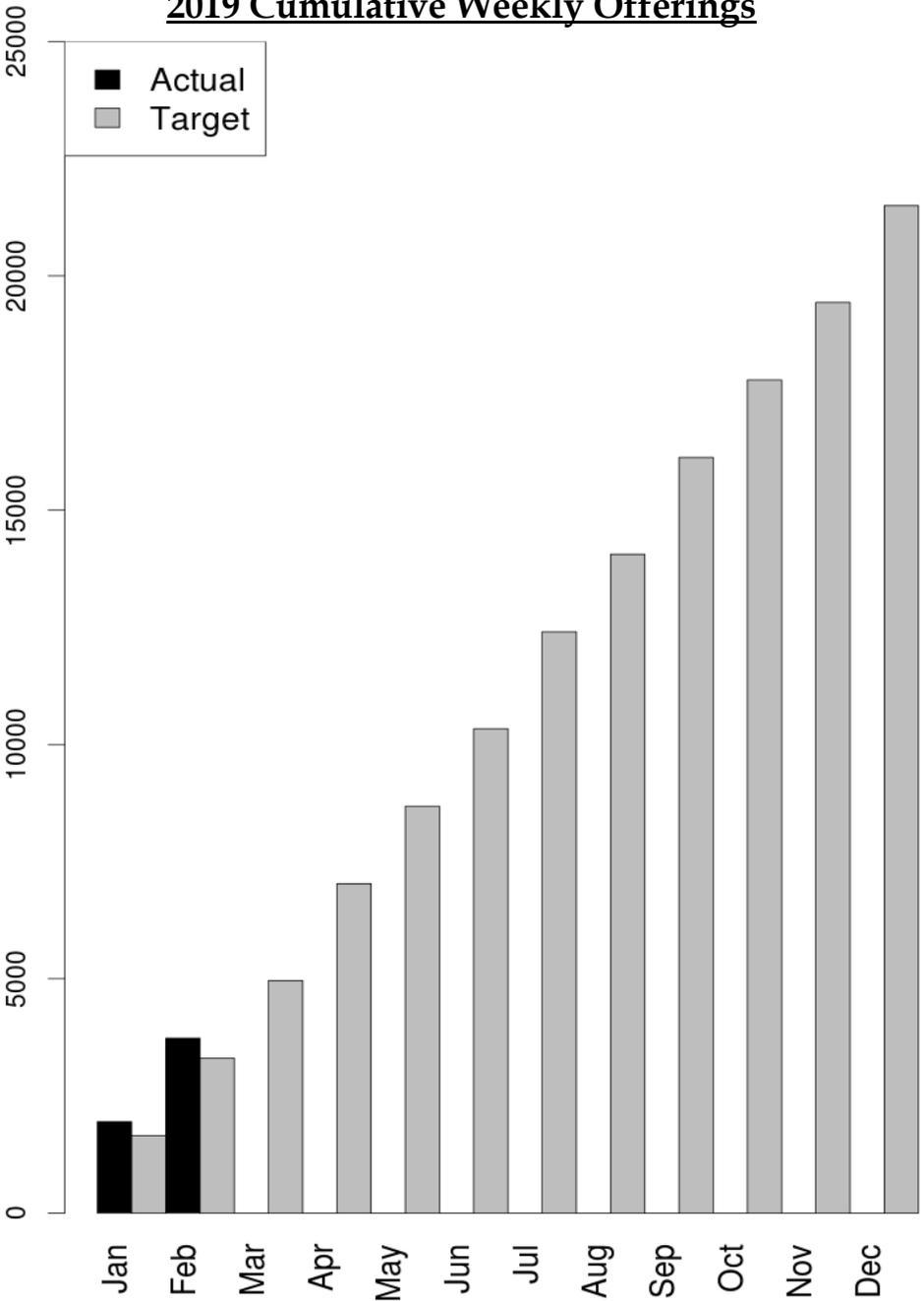
This year one of our elders, George Murrin, has reached the end of his 3 year term and he has decided not to stand for re-election. We are extremely grateful for all that George has contributed to the eldership, and we know that he will continue to share in our church life, but no longer in an official capacity. We are hoping that someone will come forward to take his place. If you would like to propose anyone, with their consent of course, please use the voting slip on page 20 and place it in the box in church.

Shortly we hope to have further large print versions of Rejoice and Sing and some extra music copies. We have also started producing large print copies of the weekly notices. If anyone has any suggestions for other ways in which we can help improve our communications please speak to one of the elders. Please remember in your prayers all those who are unwell or no longer able to attend church.

Rosalind Fearon

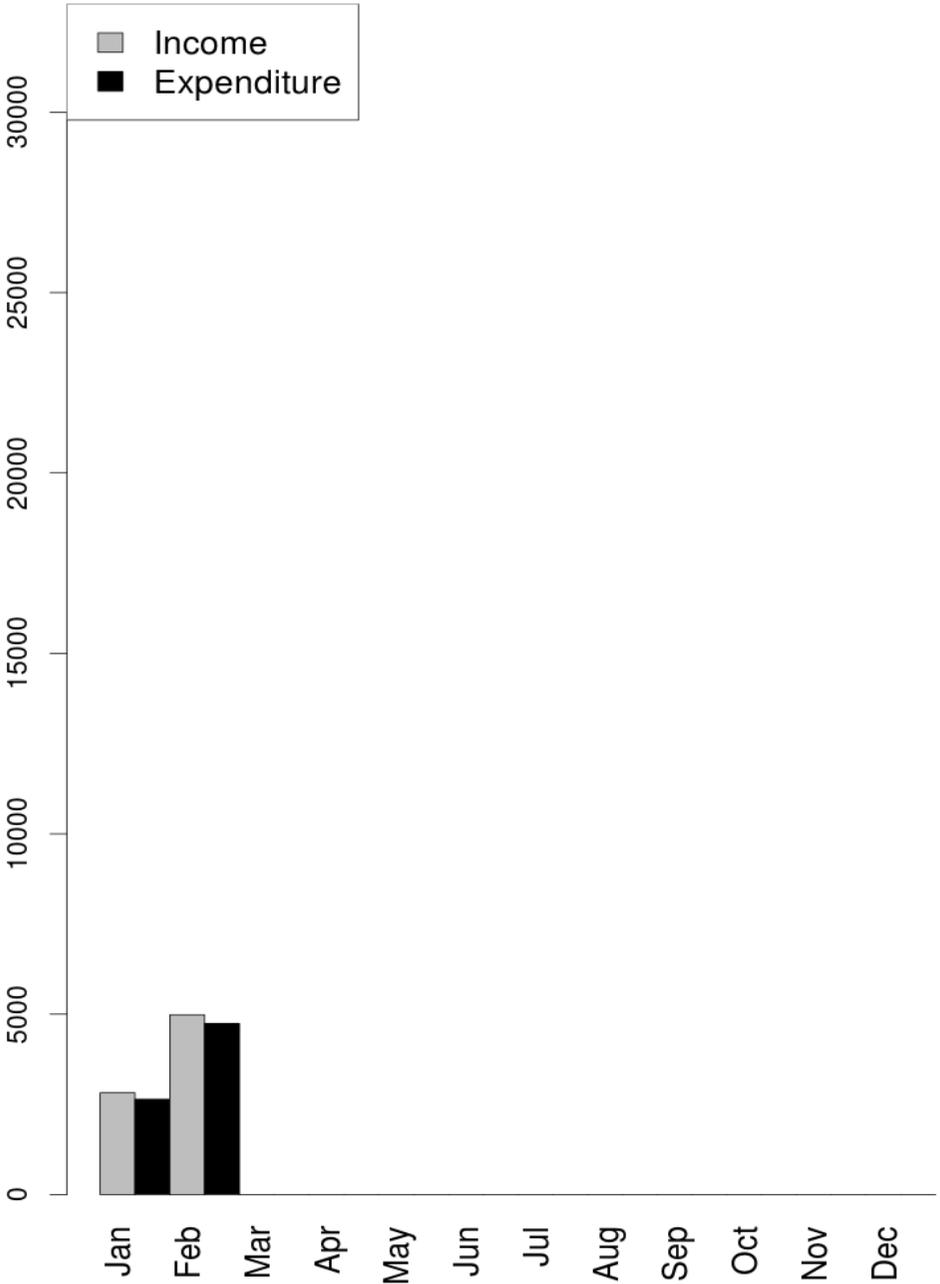
St George's URC Carlisle

2019 Cumulative Weekly Offerings



St George's URC Carlisle

2019 Cumulative Total Income/Expenditure



NOMINATION FOR ELDER

PERSON NOMINATED

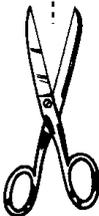
NOMINATOR

SECONDER

This form should be completed and placed in the Nomination Box at the back of the Church no later than Sunday 7th April 2019.

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.



Notices

More Good Friday Services

The Salvation army have invited us to join them for their special Good Friday service in the afternoon at 3.00pm.

'The Cross of Lights' is a short Taizé service at 9.00pm at the Cathedral where we remember how Jesus was taken from the cross for burial. A cross is laid and surrounded by candles, signs of our love and devotion.

World Day of Prayer (*Olive Cronie*)

Thanks to all who supported our church in hosting this annual observance, our first opportunity for quite a while. We were especially pleased to have several gentlemen (not only in the service but helping in the kitchen and church after the tea).

The Mayor attended and about fifty people from several of the city churches. The amount donated was £188 which, with Gift Aid, will be over 200.

We have had many compliments about the warmth and intimacy of our church and the service, prepared by the women of Slovenia was well received.

Thanks for Flowers (*Marjorie Lawson*)

It is lovely receiving flowers from Church on a birthday or other special occasion, but receiving them as I did recently for no special reason was a great surprise and gave me quite a lift. I'd like to thank the Flower Committee for all the work they do preparing and sorting out the flowers every weekend. It is much appreciated.

Soup & Sandwich Lunch (*Valerie Barlow*)

Most of the congregation on Sunday 3rd March stayed after the Service to share a lunch of soup and sandwiches followed by tea and cakes. Unfortunately, a few members couldn't be there due to illness. It was a good way to enjoy fellowship together and the meal seemed to go down very well! We raised £120 for church funds and thanks are due to all who came or made donations.

Quiz Night (*Valerie Barlow*)

We have arranged a TV Quiz & Supper Night to take place on Friday 17th May at 6.30pm. Tickets at £5 will be available soon.

Safeguarding Training

Safeguarding training Intermediate level at Penrith URC 9th April 2019 from 2.00pm to 4.30pm. To go on the course you need to book with Synod Office. The course is designed for:

- a) Church Safeguarding Co-ordinators
- b) Ministers
- c) Accredited/Synod Lay preachers
- d) Church Members with Leadership Responsibility

St George's Women's Guild (*Elizabeth Mackenzie*)

1st April at 2.00pm

Martin & Jean Nichol - Cathedral Lodge Antiques

2nd May (Thursday) at 2.00pm

P.C. Diane Irving - Dog Handler

Commitment for Life

Prayer Partners

April

Listen, can you hear the call? In still small voices,
In swishing leaves and fizzy streams,
In chattering children and angry voices,
In shuffling steps and stomping feet,
In protest songs and quiet laments,
In silent cries and raging screams,
In pleas and thanks.

Open our ears to hear and
comprehend and act as you
would have us do Through life
giving faith, defiant hope and
generous love



GOSPEL CONCERT

Wigton Rd. Methodist Church
Carlisle, England

FRIDAY 26th APRIL - 7.30pm

Guests: From Northern Ireland:

**THE MORRISONS &
KATHRYN MITCHELL**



Admission £5.00

Jesus-shaped Church: Combating Survivalism

NW Synod's Mission & Discipleship Team Lawrence, Dave, Darren & Daleen

This is the second discussion in the series. It was published in February after the March edition of 'Bridge' was prepared, so we have to run the series either delayed or out of order. (*Ed*)

Love (February 2019)

Dave Fraser writes:

In this month of February we are conditioned by retailers to turn our thoughts to love, and so I found myself re-reading Paul's great hymn to love in 1 Corinthians 13:

"Love never gives up. Love cares more for others than for self. Love doesn't want what it doesn't have. Love doesn't strut, doesn't have a swelled head, doesn't force itself on others, isn't always "me first," doesn't fly off the handle, doesn't keep score of the sins of others, doesn't revel when others grovel, takes pleasure in the flowering of truth, puts up with anything, trusts God always, always looks for the best, never looks back, but keeps going to the end."
(*Message translation*)

It seems to me that not keeping a score of others' wrongdoings is a particularly troublesome issue for our culture at the moment. Social media and the ability to trawl through someone's past remarks is a new phenomenon, and means that past wrongs don't ever seem to go away. Maybe past actions should never go away. Maybe we have always to be held to account for what we have done. But should thinking something stupid and then sharing it in a post or an interview have to stay with us for all time? Can saying something unforgiveable never be forgiven?



As I write this, Liam Neeson is contemplating potentially never again working as an actor for confessing to racist thoughts. James Gunn was sacked as Director of Guardians of the Galaxy because of posts written over ten years ago. In many universities, speakers have been banned or had invitations to speak withdrawn because of past comments. Germaine Greer, for example, tops many “no platform” lists.

Does love, does freedom of speech not mean that we have to be thicker-skinned and only take offence when real offence, real harm, real pain was meant and caused? Do words really matter? Jesus called the Pharisees “whitewashed tombs” = good-looking on the outside, but rotten on the inside. I suppose we can ask if real love would have said that. But we also have to ask, “Would real love have killed him for saying it?”

Lawrence Moore writes:

Dave’s examples of Liam Neeson and Jesus and the Pharisees raise the question of the relationship between truth and love. Does love mean glossing over the truth – either ignoring it, or at least pretending it is less ugly or serious than it is?

He rightly points out that we live in a blame culture. It’s a culture of litigation: “You’re in the wrong and I’m going to sue you!” Both love and truth are so often the casualties. Two examples: if you are involved in a road traffic accident, the legal advice is, “Do not admit responsibility – even if it’s your fault entirely!” Similarly, if a church has been involved in wrongdoing, the advice from the church’s lawyer will be, “You cannot apologise – that is to admit liability, and lay yourself open to litigation!” You see the issue, don’t you? In both cases, the priority is to avoid liability, no matter what the cost to truth and the pastoral needs of the church’s victims.

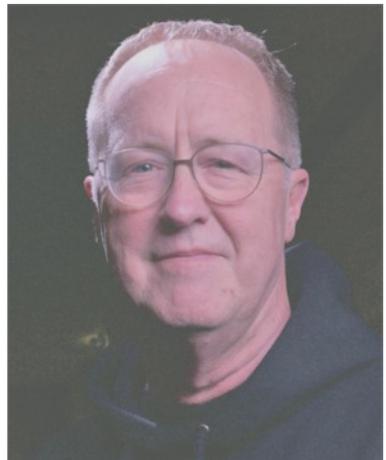
Does love make any difference to the way in which individual disciples of Jesus and the church as a community of Jesus-followers act? It ought to! John presents Jesus as “grace and truth on legs” (John 1:14). That’s grace (mercy-love) and truth rolled into one - inseparably. And it is John’s Jesus who says, “You shall know the truth, and the truth shall set you free!” (John 8:32). I passionately believe that.

I believe that churches ought to be communities that are unafraid of the truth - no matter how hard, evil or terrifying it is - because we are followers of Jesus.

But the naked truth is only bearable in the context of love. If we are to face the worst and weakest in ourselves – the things we desperately try to pretend aren't part of us (as people are doing with Liam Neeson) - we can only do so when we aren't threatened with rejection and condemnation.

Love - God's love - is knowing us for who we really, really are. God is the One "to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hidden" (Prayer of Approach). And knowing us as nakedly, God opens the divine arms and welcomes us as beloved children of God.

Love means the unconditional offer of forgiveness. It means that the truth can be faced because the appalling things we do are not allowed to have the Last Word. If churches wish to be communities of truth (which churches ought to be), it is only possible to the extent that we are communities of love - which means being communities of radical forgiveness. That is a world away from a culture of blame and litigation. This is love that makes a Jesus-shaped difference.



Daleen ten Cate writes:

Following on from Lawrence's comment: the naked truth is only bearable in the context of love, I have to say that I experience it first hand, everyday with teenagers in our house. The boundaries, truth telling and critique have to come from a place of love often easier said than done. Love is not a "fluffy feeling", but a driving force that is determined to change the circumstances, regardless of the cost to the compassion-driven person. I often see love as standing in "critical-solidarity" with a person, a church or establishment. Growing up in

the Dutch Reformed Church in South Africa, the church I loved, that nourished me on my faith journey, also became the church that I had to critique for colluding with the Apartheid regime. That wasn't easy but necessary; to admit we had it wrong, to listen to the prophets in truth telling and to ask for forgiveness. So, yes I do have sympathy with Liam Neeson, because I was part of the structural sin (Apartheid) in South Africa, indirectly I colluded with racism but I was also part of a church that admitted it, condemned it, took part in truth telling and reconciliation and asked for forgiveness.



More recently I am part of an ecumenical group (No Faith in Fracking) that take part in a Peace Vigil at the Guadrilla Fracking site every last Friday of the month. Again, I saw my attendance as critical solidarity. In solidarity with God's creation and love for the earth but also in critical solidarity with the government for changing the policies and for not listening to the voice of the Lancashire people. As part of my Christian stewardship I believe that I have a responsibility to speak the truth and looking after God's creation. When I asked one of the members of the Quakers, she said: We are here to bring Love to this peace of land. It is now three months since I became part of this group and that very short sentence still recurring in my head. I am still working out what that means. Is it praying, walking along side, truth telling, forgiving, critical solidarity or is it what Dave reminded us from the Scripture reading?:

Love never gives up. Love cares more for others than for self. Love doesn't want what it doesn't have. Love doesn't strut, doesn't have a swelled head, doesn't force itself on others, isn't always "me first", doesn't fly off the handle, doesn't keep score of the sins of others, doesn't revel when others grovel, takes pleasure in the flowering of truth, puts up with anything, trusts God always, always looks for the best, never looks back, but keeps going to the end. (*Message translation*)

Darren Holland writes:

The line that has always challenged me in 1 Corinthians 13 is 'Love bears all things' or 'Put's up with anything' as The Message translates. It's a very dangerous line because it can imply, depending on the perspective, that someone suffering in an abusive relationship should keep their head down and put up with whatever comes at them.

I was challenged in the summer by hearing a speaker from Restored, a charity who work to end violence against women and also walk alongside charities that support men in similar predicaments. The speaker asked us to consider why it is we ask the question, 'Why doesn't she leave?' and rarely, if ever, 'Why doesn't he stop?'

Tragically the church has not responded well to the issues of domestic violence over the years in fact I think on the whole we would be happy simply not to know, after all these are private matters. Or are they?

Recent research by Restored showed that in one area of the UK 60% of Christian women who responded to a survey said they had been victims of domestic violence. Around 70% of those at the hands of Christian husbands.

Abuse is not done from a place of love and it is not for disciples of Jesus to turn away or suggest that a victim should just pray for the perpetrator. If anything whenever and/or wherever it is permissible, appropriate and necessary, perhaps it is more incumbent upon us as those who represent Christ's love to put ourselves in the way of any abuse. The perfect love of God revealed in Jesus is the only love that can bear all things - that can shoulder the darkness and sinfulness of humanity whilst at the same time shining a light towards freedom, hope and justice.



As followers of Jesus we are signposts to a love that bears our brokenness but we work with that love to bring freedom, hope and justice to all people, not least those who suffer abuse at the hands of those who profess to love them. If our churches are communities of love then we cannot stand idly by but with Jesus we bear the burden of injustice that our sisters and brothers endure in hope that we might walk with them into the promise of a full and free life in the here and now.

If you want to know more of Restored's work then check them out at restoredrelationships.org

North Cumbria Pastorate Services

The Knowe Church, Bewcastle

Apr	7th	1.45pm	Communion (NM)
Apr	18th	10.30am	Maundy Thursday join with St George's
Apr	28th	11.00am	Special Pastorate Service at St George's (Visit by Venerable Lee Townend)
May	5th	1.45pm	(NM)

Brampton URC, Main Street, Brampton

Apr	14th	10.30am	Join with Cathedral Procession
Apr	18th	10.30am	Maundy Thursday join with St George's
Apr	28th	11.00am	Special Pastorate Service at St George's (Visit by Venerable Lee Townend)

St George's URC, West Walls, Carlisle

Apr	7th	11.00am	(Mrs Margaret Jones)
Apr	14th	10.30am	Palm Sunday Cathedral Procession
Apr	18th	10.30am	Maundy Thursday Communion (NM)
Apr	19th	10.00am	Good Friday Service at Border Kirk
Apr	21st	11.00am	EASTER Service (Revd Sarah Moore)
Apr	28th	11.00am	Special Pastorate Service at St George's (Visit by Venerable Lee Townend)
May	5th	11.00am	Service arranged by Worship Group

Palm Sunday	14th April
Maundy Thursday	18th April
Good Friday	19th April
Easter Day	21st April



We wish all our readers a
Happy and Blessed Easter

Bridge

Please note that material for the
May issue of Bridge
should be in the hands of the editor by
Sunday 14th April

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

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Telephone: 01228 818392
Email: deeptray@btinternet.com**

Dates for your Diary

April

1st	2.00pm	St George's Women's Guild. Martin & Jean Nichol Cathedral Lodge Antiques
3rd	12.00pm	Lent Lunch at Brampton Methodist Church
3rd	12.30pm	Lent Service in Cathedral followed by soup (Capt Mel Scoulding - The Salvation Army)
4th	7.30pm	Lent Course at Brampton URC
9th	2.00pm	Safeguarding Training (see page 22)
10th	12.00pm	Lent Lunch at Brampton Methodist Church
10th	12.30pm	Lent Service in Cathedral followed by soup (Revd David Newlove - Methodist Superintendent)
10th	2.30pm	St George's Annual General Church Meeting
11th	7.30pm	Lent Course at Brampton URC
13th	11.00am	Passion Play in City Centre
13th	2.00pm	Passion Play in City Centre
14th	10.30am	Palm Sunday Cathedral Procession and Service
16th	2.00pm	Dementia Tea Service at St George's
17th	12.30pm	Lent Service in Cathedral followed by soup (Revd Nick Mark - United Reformed Church)
18th	10.30am	Maundy Thursday Ecumenical Communion Service at St George's
19th	10.00am	Nonconformist City Centre Churches Good Friday Service followed by Open Air Service at 11.15am
19th	11.00am	Walk of Witness from Brampton Methodist Church
19th	3.00pm	Good Friday Service at Salvation Army Citadel
19th	9.00pm	Cross of Light - Taizé Service in Cathedral
21st	11.00am	St George's EASTER Service (Revd Sarah Moore)
24th	9.30am	Coffee Morning in Brampton URC
28th	11.00am	Special Pastorate Service at St George's for visit by Venerable Lee Townend, Archdeacon of Carlisle
29th	2.30pm	Service at Croftfield Care Home

May

2nd	2.00pm	St George's Women's Guild. PC Diane Irving Dog Handler
5th	11.00am	Service at St George's arranged by Worship Group
17th	6.30pm	TV Quiz & Supper Night (see page 22)



The Bishop's Walk