

The North Cumbria Pastorate of United Reformed Churches

BRIDGE



March 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,

I write this on Transfiguration Sunday having delivered a Sermon in which I talked about there being an essential link between the divinity of Christ and his suffering. March of course this year sees us continue to work through Lent to Maundy Thursday and Good Friday. We struggle in the nonconformist denominations with this period of the religious year. Struggle because it makes us face in so many ways our own frailty. How could humanity treat the Son of God who had come to save us in such a way? How could a loyal disciple suddenly change into a betrayer? How could the loyal disciples show cowardice and abandon the cause? This season of the Christian Year is one we find difficult to explain to the non-Christian and we would much sooner skip it and rush to the joy of Easter morning.

Other denominations make much more of this season with such services as the Stations of the Cross which really delve deeply into Christ's suffering in human hands. I think though this is a season we should embrace and examine because it is not by any means all doom and gloom. For we see how Christ bears his suffering with great dignity despite all that he is subjected to. We need to see the whole picture to understand why God sent Jesus to die for us.

Without Maundy Thursday how would we have our very important sacrament of Holy Communion? The Last Supper is far from being only a symbol. The idea of eating together is something that forms a key part of the life of most successful churches. This year Mothering Sunday is particularly important to us here in Cumbria because it marks the final day of Archbishop Sentamu's Mission. It will be a wonderful opportunity for different denominations to work together to bring the part of the Christian Year we so often find difficult to talk about to those very non-believers or lapsed believers.

We are being assisted in our communities by teams of skilled missionaries from our own denomination, Anglicans, Methodists and Salvation Army. I am sure we will learn new insights into how we can reach out into the wider community.

We often see Lent as a period in the wilderness on our own but it is a great opportunity to engage with others in studying all that was behind God's thinking in the plan to sacrifice his only Son to a horrible death at the hands of humanity. It makes us face truths that we may well not want to think about. However being a Christian is not something we can do isolated from the world. Understanding the sacrifice Jesus made for us can and should help us in the way we react to some of the cruel situations we see going on around us in the world.

If you can do try and experience some of the many Lent discussions and talks that are taking place.

With every Blessing
Nick Mark

Moving Mountains

What some people might ask has a mission headed up by the Archbishop of York got to do with us in the North Cumbria Pastorate? More than we might at first think. Our own Moderator, the Moderator of Scotland along with Methodist Chairs of District and Salvation Army officers are all joining mission teams because Bishop James Newcome is determined to give the Ecumenical County a real boost and to share in this drive to reach out to people who are either lapsed Christians or who have never heard of the love of God.

The event starts with a launch at the Penrith Auction Mart on the 8th of March and ends with services held in Churches on Mothering Sunday 11th March.

All three Churches in the Pastorate are doing something to make this opportunity a success. Bewcastle are sending a contingent to visit the Diaspora exhibition at the Church of Scotland. Brampton URC are holding a public coffee morning on Friday 9th March. St George's have contributed towards the purchase of a Marquee for Saturday 10th in which there will be a messy church and will be asked to provide cakes, spare chairs etc. The main event though for St George's will be a special afternoon tea to which former members of the Sunday Schools of the Churches that all joined together to comprise what is now St George's are being invited to share reminiscences and see how our Church has moved on since they left Sunday School.

Mission is very different to what it used to be. Now the view is taken that door knocking is not the way forward but the best method is our own people inviting non church friends to see what belonging to a Christian community is about. We have a hidden world to so many people that can help so many folk if only they try. We see so much in the media about the problems of loneliness and isolation and this is not just an issue for the older generations.

There is no need for churches to be closing if only they share the secret of being a part of a caring Christian community with others. Please support this initiative led by the Elders of our Churches. I have always believed Rome was not built in a day and that this initiative should be the first of many. Why? Well few people in our modern world come to join something at the first invite. They will want to try us out.

If anybody wants to know more about this venture do speak to me or your own Elder.

Nick Mark



From The Churches

Bewcastle

March Service

The March Service led by Revd Nick Mark at 2.15pm on Sunday 4th March will mark our return to the Knowe Church.

Now that there are signs of spring we hope we will not have to rely on gritters to get us to church.



Brampton

Services at Brampton in March

Our quarterly Communion service on 11th March at 9.30am will be led by the Revd Nick Mark, it is also Mothering Sunday this year. Our Minister will also lead our service on 25th March at 9.30am.

Women's World Day of Prayer Friday 2nd March at 2pm

The 2018 service prepared by the women of the Suriname has the theme "All God's creation is very good". The service is taking place in St Martin's this year. All welcome.

Ecumenical Coffee Morning on Friday 9th March in Church Hall

This Coffee Morning part of the Moving Mountains Mission events begins at 9.30am until 12 noon.

Ecumenical Lent Lunches

Being held on each Wednesday in Lent from 12 noon to 1.00pm in the Methodist Church Hall. Lunch will be followed by a short talk on the theme 'Living Faith - Invitations from the Cross'. Donations are going to Christian Aid or Cafod.

Speakers at the Lent Lunches

7th March: Bill Kirkley on Invitation to Adoption

14th March: Huw Iley on Invitation to Empathy

21st March: Revd Edward Johnsen on Invitation to Trust

Fundraising

Our monthly coffee morning on 31st January raised £118. Many thanks to all who contributed in any way.

News of the Fellowship

Our Congratulations to Heather and Rob Gorst on the birth of their third child, a son on February 10th, a fourth grandchild for Margaret and Brian Holland and seventh great grandchild for Florence Scott and John Salton.

In our thoughts and prayers

We remember those who are not so well, those who are anxious or sad at this time, and those not able to get out and about so easily.



Brampton Duty Rotas for March

Stewarding: Don Hill & Martin Baker

Dates in March for your Diary

2nd 2pm Women's World Day of Prayer Service (St Martin's)

7th 12 noon Lent Lunch (Brampton Methodist Church)

9th 9.30am Ecumenical Coffee Morning at Brampton URC
for Moving Mountains Mission

11th 9.30am Communion Service (Brampton URC)

14th 12 noon Lent Lunch (Brampton Methodist Church)

21st 12 noon Lent Lunch (Brampton Methodist Church)

28th 9.30am Coffee Morning in church (Brampton URC)

Shirley Brown

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN BRAMPTON



WHY NOT JOIN US FOR ONE OR MORE OF OUR **LENT LUNCHES**

This year's theme –
Living Faith - Invitations from the Cross

To be held on **WEDNESDAYS** at 12 noon in the Methodist Hall,
Brampton (behind the church)
- Home- made soup, bread, tea or coffee, a talk
and good fellowship

- Ash Wednesday, February 14th - Rev. Steve Collis, C.of E.
Invitation to Forgiveness
- February 21st – Rev. Nick Mark, U.R.C.
Invitation to Service
- February 28th. – Rev. Gilbert Hall, Methodist
Invitation to Hope
- March 7th. – Rev. Bill Kirkley, R.C.,
Invitation to Adoption
- March 14th. – Pastor Huw Iley, Bethesda Church
Invitation to Empathy
- March 21st. – Rev. Edward Johnsen, C. of E.
Invitation to Trust

Donations to Christian Aid or Cafod

Carlisle

St George's Services

Mar	4th	10.45am	(Revd Sarah Moore)
Mar	11th	10.45am	(NM)
Mar	18th	10.45am	(Daryll Hall)
Mar	25th	10.45am	Palm Sunday (at Cathedral) (NM)
Mar	29th	10.30am	Maundy Thursday Communion (NM)
Mar	30th		Good Friday United Service (TBA)
Apr	1st	10.45am	Easter Communion (Revd Iain Mackenzie)

Communion Duty

	<u>Preparation</u>	<u>Serving</u>
Mar 25th	Tony Wiseman	Rosalind Fearon Marjorie Lawson
Apr 1st	George Murrin	George Murrin Moira Wales

Readers

Mar 4th	Maureen Bewley
Mar 11th	Ian Moonie
Mar 18th	Trevor Irwin
Mar 25th	Kathleen Murrin
Apr 1st	Elizabeth Mackenzie

Duty Rota

	<u>Elder</u>	<u>Steward</u>
Mar 4th	Ian Moonie	Valerie Barlow
Mar 11th	George Murrin	Pamela Martin
Mar 18th	Tony Wiseman	Jessie Overs
Mar 25th	Trevor Irwin	Deborah Usher
Apr 1st	Moira Wales	Kathleen Harris

Flowers

Mar 4th	Connie Humphrey
Mar 11th	Olive Cronie
Mar 18th	Brian Walker
Mar 25th	Palm Sunday Service at Cathedral
Apr 1st	Ian Moonie

April Edition Magazine Photocopying and Collation

Week commencing Monday 19th March
Kathleen & John Harris

Saturday Coffee Morning

Mar 3rd Elizabeth & Iain Mackenzie
Mar 10th NO COFFEE MORNING
Mar 17th NO COFFEE MORNING
Mar 24th Valerie Barlow & Pamela Martin
Mar 31st Jessie & Michael Overs

Cleaning - Week Commencing Dates

Mar 2nd Elizabeth & Iain Mackenzie
Mar 9th Valerie Barlow & Pamela Martin
Mar 16th MUSIC FESTIVAL
Mar 23rd Jessie & Michael Overs
Mar 30th Mavis Hall & Maureen Bewley

From St George's Secretary

Moving Mountains Weekend

By the time you read this we hope to have received some acceptances to our invitation to afternoon tea on Saturday 10th March at 3pm. Olive Cronie has done a lot of research to find the names and addresses of past Junior Church members in our parent churches, Fisher Street, Warwick Road, Charlotte Street and Wigton. We hope many of our own members will be there to welcome them and serve refreshments. It will be a good opportunity to renew friendships and to tell people how St George's has developed in recent years.

Please note that we will be asked to provide cakes etc for this tea as well as a contribution of cakes for the Messy Church event in the City centre! Also, we have decided to cancel the normal Saturday coffee morning on March 10th.

Lent Bible Studies

We will be holding Joint Bible Studies in March on the 6th, 13th and 20th. These will commence at 2.30pm and will be at St George's

on the 6th, a venue to be arranged on the 13th and in the Prior's Room at the Cathedral on the 20th. Please do come along if you are able, it would be nice to see some new faces!

News of members

Please remember Muriel Drinkall, Amy Lambert, Alan and Jennifer Burgess, Betty and Ron Anderson and Jean Graham in our prayers.

Dementia Tea Service 2pm Tuesday 27th March at St George's

The Border Kirk will be leading this service and we hope some of our congregation will attend to welcome and chat to our guests and perhaps help with the singing! Unfortunately the contingent from Amy's Care will not be coming on 27th March due to a prior booking, so if you are able please come along to swell the numbers.

Palm Sunday 25th March

This year we will be joining the Cathedral for the Palm Sunday service. The service commences at 10.30am and is preceded by a procession around the Cathedral precincts. There will be no service at St George's.

AGM 18th April

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?

St George's Gift Days *(Pamela Martin, Gift Aid Secretary)*

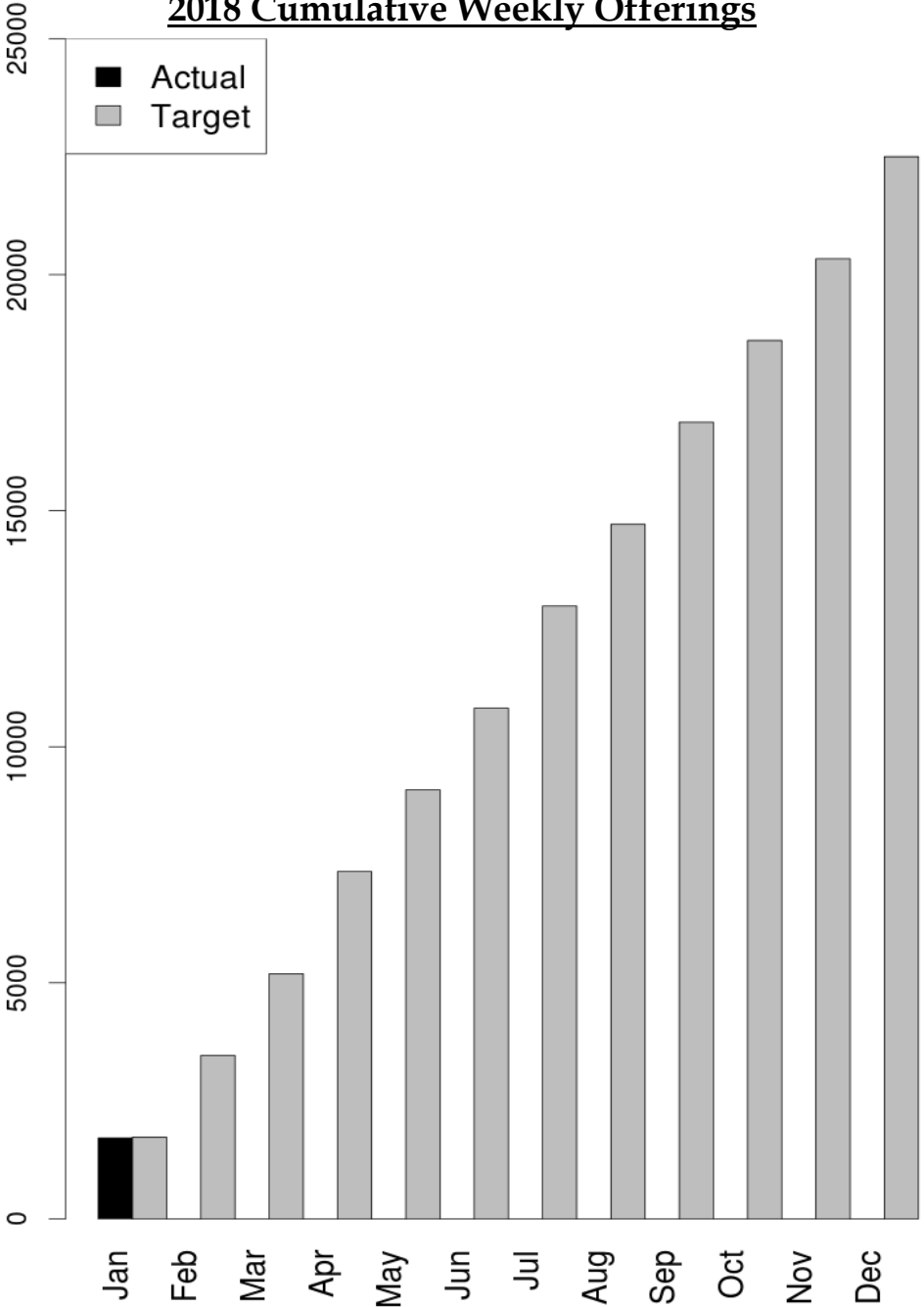
Our two Gift Days will be held this year on Sunday 18th March and Sunday 30th September.

With regard to the Spring event on 18th March, envelopes are enclosed for contributions, when it is hoped Members may once again feel able to give generously. In addition, if those registered under the Gift Aid Scheme could donate by cheque, this would be really appreciated. Thank you.

Rosalind Fearon

St George's URC Carlisle

2018 Cumulative Weekly Offerings



St George's URC Carlisle

2018 Cumulative Total Income/Expenditure



St George's Women's Guild Programme

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

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'*

March

Generous God,

Sometimes we find it hard to give.

To be generous with our time and money,

To be willing to do what you have called us to do.

The world's problems engulf us,

It's so easy to make excuses.

But you call us to find the time and the will to give.

To slow down long enough to see why.

It is not to ease our hearts or lighten our wallets.

It is to say thank you. Thank you,

For all you have done for us

For today, yesterday and tomorrow.

For the living, the love and the energy you desire.

We pray, for patience and strength to

love others the way you love us.

In your name, we ask this.

Amen

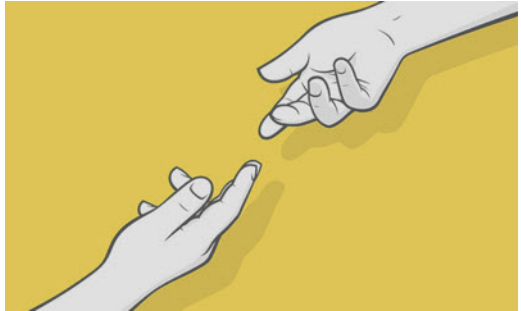
© *Commitment for Life*

I am... an ex-rough sleeper

After having my own place and starting my own business, I had to move back in with my parents. There was a family bereavement, which had a massive effect. I was very dedicated to my business but my parents did not support the lifestyle I had got myself into. They said: 'Get a real job or pack your bags.' I chose to pack my bags.

I slept rough. I thought: 'I don't want to do this' but it was that or nothing. You wake up with frost on your blanket and think: 'What has life come to?' My friend took me to the council, who referred me to the Salvation Army. A lot of people are sceptical about the Salvation Army, but their team was outstanding. They sent me to

Arc Light, a homelessness centre in York. I spent three months on their crash pad, a room of ten or 12 camp beds where you can sleep if you need to. I arrived clueless but they have an outstanding team. Arc Light has a stigma and it's not perfect, but it



taught me a lot and has given me so much insight into how things work. The staff have access to all the services you could need. I would not be here now without it.

I met with someone from Restore, a local housing project for homeless people, and got a room through them. If they see something they can help you with, they give you that option and help set things up. It's like having a friend or a mentor really. Anne, one of the staff, said: 'Don't win the battle to lose the war,' and I have started living by that. Now, a friend and I say that to each other all the time...

*This is an extract from an article published in
the February 2018 edition of Reform.
This month's 'I am...' is anonymous.*

West End Refugee Service

Imran's story

'I try to find a peaceful place where I can be myself. I sit on the ground so that I can feel the earth. I place my hands on my chest and bend my legs and keep them close to my chest. I look up at the sky and then recall the memories.'

The programme of repatriation of some 650,000 Rohingya refugees has now been agreed between Bangladesh and Myanmar, but there are huge concerns about the impossibly short timeframe that is planned and what perils the refugees will face on returning home. Surely refugees must not be forced to go back and those choosing to return voluntarily must be assured of a safe resettlement.



I have been inspired recently by some writing by a young Rohingya refugee called Imran Mohammad. Imran, who is in his early twenties, fled the horror in Myanmar, ended up in Australia and was held for a number of years on Papua New Guinea's infamous Manus Island. Here he taught himself to read and write English and became a prolific writer. In 2016 he entered and won Amnesty International Australia's Blogging Competition, writing a powerful description of his life in Myanmar.

The above quote is taken from an oral history book, 'They Cannot Take the Sky', made up of the stories of 35 people in Australian immigration detention. Imran describes how he takes time to think about the time spent with his girlfriend before he was forced to flee Myanmar at the age of 16.

Here is an extract from his winning blog:

'For the Rohingya ethnic group, creating a sense of identity is a difficult task. My ancestors have lived in Rakhine, Myanmar for generations. However, our country won't acknowledge our existence. We're known as illegal migrants in our own land, stateless people. Many people in this world take for granted that they can get a passport, but we are denied this right.'

'We are not even given a birth certificate or any other documentation to prove our citizenship. Rohingya people are denied freedom of movement, access to social services and more importantly, education. Tragically we are victims of unprovoked violence, spread by fear, ignorance and hate. When a government doesn't allow media or international visitors, the world should question this. They would be horrified; women and girls are raped, brothers buried alive and young boys killed.'

News stories come and go and continuing atrocities of persecution and ethnic cleansing may fade from our consciousness if we are not being constantly reminded on our TV and computer screens.

Each refugee who comes to WERS has a story. Many, alongside the trauma, pain and sadness associated with events in their home countries, retain an affection for and a longing for their homeland - their family and friends, their house, their job, the countryside - everything that made their life there.

Unlike Imran, many do not have a voice, but each of those individual stories is important. Each of those experiences has made an indelible mark on the lives of the men and women forced to flee.

We must always remember that.



Dates for your Diary

March

2nd	2.00pm	Women's World Day of Prayer Service St Martin's Church, Brampton
2nd	2.30pm	Women's World Day of Prayer Service St Cuthbert's Church, Carlisle
6th	2.30pm	Lent Course at St Georges's
7th	12.00pm	Lent Lunch, Brampton Methodist Church
9th	9.30am	Ecumenical Coffee Morning at Brampton URC for Moving Mountains Mission
10th	3.00pm	Moving Mountains Afternoon Tea at St George's
11th	9.30am	Quarterly Communion at Brampton URC
12th	2.00pm	St George's Women's Guild (Diaspora Tapestry)
13th	2.30pm	St George's Lent Course, venue TBA
14th	12.00pm	Lent Lunch, Brampton Methodist Church
19th	2.00pm	St George's Elders Meeting
20th	2.30pm	St George's Lent Course at Cathedral Prior's Room
21st	12.00pm	Lent Lunch, Brampton Methodist Church
21st	7.00pm	Daffodil Service, Newtown Methodist Church
25th	10.30am	Join with Cathedral Palm Sunday Service
27th	2.00pm	Dementia Tea Service at St George's
28th	9.30am	Coffee Morning in Brampton URC
30th		Good Friday United Service

April

1st	10.45am	Easter Communion Service at St George's
9th	2.00pm	St George's Women's Guild (Songs & Comedy)
18th	2.30pm	St George's Annual General Meeting
30th	2.00pm	St George's Women's Guild (Blood Bikers)

Access

Please note that owing to other events taking place in our church premises, there will be no Coffee Mornings or Prayer Meetings on the 10th and 17th of March.

Also, because of the Music Festival, we will have no access to our church premises from the 12th to the 17th of March.

North Cumbria Pastorate Services

The Knowe Church, Bewcastle

Mar 4th 2.15pm Service in the Knowe Church (NM)
Apr 1st 2.15pm Easter Communion (NM)

Brampton URC, Main Street, Brampton

Mar 11th 9.30am Mothering Sunday Communion (NM)
Mar 25th 9.30am Palm Sunday (NM)

St George's URC, West Walls, Carlisle

Mar 4th 10.45am (Revd Sarah Moore)
Mar 11th 10.45am (NM)
Mar 18th 10.45am (Daryll Hall)
Mar 25th 10.30am Palm Sunday Service at Cathedral
Mar 29th 10.30am Maundy Thursday Communion (NM)
Mar 30th Good Friday United Service (TBA)
Apr 1st 10.45am Easter Communion (Revd Iain Mackenzie)

Annual Daffodil Service

Wednesday 21st March, 7.00pm at Newtown Methodist Church.
Would anyone wishing to go to this service please see Elizabeth
before 14th March.

Elizabeth Mackenzie

Bridge

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

Sunday 11th March

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: deepray@btinternet.com



BISHOP HENDERSON SPEAKING AT DEANERY BREAKFAST

The Bishop of Blackburn will be talking about his life and faith at Carlisle Golf Club as part of the Diocesan 'Moving Mountains' weekend.

The parishes in the west of the Brampton Deanery invite people from the remainder of the Deanery to join them at Carlisle Golf Club.

Bishop Henderson has not minced his words over the future of the Church of England. He said that

"Unless the Church reinvented itself, it would disappear like Lancashire's textile industry." He has launched a plan to attract younger people otherwise "There may be no Church of England by 2050." Almost five years into that plan for change we can ask Bishop Henderson how it's going and what we can learn from the experience of the Diocese of Blackburn.

The Breakfast - open to all

Saturday 10 March

Carlisle Golf Club

Please arrive between 8.15-8.30 am.

There will be a cooked breakfast for which the cost is £8.

The talk and questions will run from about 9.15 am.

If you would like to join us please contact

David Johnson - d.e.johnson@btinternet.com or 01228 562383 by Wed 7 March