

The North Cumbria Pastorate of United Reformed Churches

# BRIDGE



**August 2017**

**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,**

I write this letter when Cumbria is very much in the eyes of the world for good reasons. That is the Lake District has gained Unesco World Heritage listing. You could properly say that doesn't include the Churches I have the privilege of serving because we are not situated in the actual listed area. There will though be many spin offs for our hotels and food suppliers and industries in catering for an even larger population of expected visitors.

*God For All* includes not only the regular residents of the County but also the visitors who do so much to keep the Cumbrian economy thriving. My thoughts were directed in this track by the Gospel reading for the Sunday on which I write this. It is the Parable of the Sower from Matthew 13. Why write about this you must be wondering, because surely all that can be said about this parable has been said and said by much more talented theologians than me?

Whether it has been said before or not, I want to focus on the apparently strange actions of the sower. I spent some very happy years of my life working in a small part of the Staffordshire farming community, but that makes me far from having any farming expertise. What I did observe though was that the farmer went to great pains to choose what he used his land for. Some was suitable only for grazing and some was ideal for growing crops.

The sower in the parable though seems to have lost all self control because the farmer spreads the seed quite indiscriminately over the field. The interesting result is I suppose best described as a patchwork. For it can only grow where the recipient ground wants it to. There are highly unpredictable results where there is growth in unlikely places.

*God For All* is an uncomfortable concept for three of the four denominations involved in the covenant because in the past we have tended to seek recruits from the people we know and like rather than the world at large.

I say three out of four because the fourth denomination, the Salvation Army, genuinely sets its target on the whole world and it ministers in places where our own denomination gave up years ago.

As we take summer breaks to renew our batteries and return refreshed in September the parable of the Sower asks us to consider if we can try to reach out to a much greater spectrum of people than we currently do. St George's Carlisle are much involved in the Cathedral Big Day Out in September. St George's, like Brampton URC, are seeking the advice of the Churches Trust officer on how we might use our buildings to attract people who do not normally come into our buildings. Bewcastle are finding good results from their now open Church which are mentioned later in this issue.

The Sower is of course sowing the Word of God which some hear and sadly the majority do not. We must not be discouraged because the God For All process is equipping us to reach out into areas where we have put up self imposed barriers. With the Holy Spirit there to both encourage and pick us up when we fall, the working together of the four denominations on Mission can only be beneficial and closer to the model of the Sower in the parable.

With every blessing

**Nick Mark**

### **Update on Mission Communities**

It is great to be a bearer of good news for a change here in North Cumbria on this subject! For a long time there have been many folk who have quite rightly questioned is this process going anywhere? The answer is the lack of speed has been due to the need for building up relationships and understanding between denominations. The parts of the County where Mission Communities have sprung up are areas where there was already a lot of working together. Traditionally we have all ploughed our own furrow and all has been well. Gradually it has begun to dawn upon everyone whatever their tradition that the congregations are getting older and smaller and the resources available are reducing because smaller congregations

so often means less funding available. So it has made sense to begin to think about doing something together which we often discuss but never seem to have time to do, and that is actually actively promote mission.

To that end the 12th of July marked an historic moment in the Brampton Deanery when representatives of four denominations all met together at The Parish Church in Brampton to formally agree that we set up three Mission communities to cover the vast area which the Deanery encompasses. From the point of view of our denomination we are involved in two of those Mission Communities.

Bewcastle URC will join the Longtown or Border Mission Community which will cover an interesting area for Mission. Longtown has the large Agricultural market, the possibility of a vast mine opening up and of course the large military depot which is now also used by many private companies. The plan here will be that in addition to the existing Church of Scotland Ministry, Methodist Ministry and URC Ministry, there will be one Stipendiary Priest appointed by the Anglican Church and one Anglican House for Duty Priest. The Stipendiary Priest will be based at Longtown and the House for Duty Priest at Bewcastle. Crucially in addition to those appointments an administrator will be appointed as there is a clear recognition that all Clergy of whatever denomination need to focus a great deal less on Admin and more on Mission.

In alphabetical order Brampton URC comes next! Brampton URC will become part of the Mission Community that will cover Brampton and Lanercost. The Mission Community here will have an interesting variety of churches involved in addition to Anglican Methodist and URC. We will have as much involvement as their denominations permit from the Bethesda Baptist church and our Roman Catholic friends. We already have a dynamic Rural Dean based at the Parish Church and the Anglican Church will be appointing a Stipendiary priest at Lanercost. This Mission

community wants to develop a greater contact with young people and we have the huge asset of The William Howard School available. Brampton URC will host in its halls some of the young people's meetings. The Anglican Church are also exploring the possibility of appointing a Youth worker to the new Community. Additionally the Mission Community will again appoint an Administrator to ensure clergy are freed up more to pursue their calling.

I have felt a real renewal of ministry with the new ventures in the Brampton Deanery. I completed my first school Assembly at William Howard School on the 11th of July. Mission communities do open up whole new opportunities for everyone not just ministers.

There is also even more good news in that our Area President Sarah will be taking a crucial role in kick starting the three mission communities and this reflects her enthusiasm to see positive growth of the Christian Faith in the North of our Synod.

Last but not least St George's Carlisle are continuing to develop on the points that Rosalind outlined in page 12 of our last issue. We are not as far advanced as perhaps Bewcastle and Brampton are, but where there is a will there is a way. Our new Archdeacon Lee Townend who looks after not only Anglican interests but ours as well, is now focussing his attention a great deal more on the challenging task of forming Mission Communities in a City which is very different in its multi contexts to those of rural communities or smaller towns. The Carlisle Steering Group meet again in the Autumn.

**Nick Mark**

## **Church Tourism For Nonconformist Churches**

### **Good Or Bad?**

#### **A Case Example Bewcastle URC**

Some years ago I drew the short straw so to speak to represent the East Midlands Synod at a Church Tourism Conference in York. What I learnt there both surprised me and left me wondering why with the increasing need for all churches to look at reaching a wider audience, we don't use our buildings more efficiently.

The Course shattered the myth that people only visit the ancient churches and aren't interested in plain, relatively modern, Nonconformist Churches. People are now into genealogy in a big way and one of the spin offs is a desire to try to understand and see the churches their forbears worshipped in. We often ask ourselves how do we get people to cross our thresholds and enjoy the community and spirituality we find in our buildings?

On the 15th of July an opportunity to test out this training came about when Bewcastle URC was visited by members of the Armstrong Clan. They had chosen to come to us first before going on to the more famous and historic Bewcastle Parish Church with the world famous Bewcastle Cross. We had prepared for the day with both short and long histories of the Church available. Also there were souvenir plates on sale. Questions were asked about our worship styles. Many questions were asked about previous Church buildings which no longer exist. So if your building is new or recently occupied it doesn't deter folk wanting to delve into the past history.

The visit was beneficial to both sides. We shared our faith and our worshipping life and the contact was good. Much needed donations came as well.

It is good that now our insurers are encouraging churches to be more open and welcoming, that folk are beginning to seek ways of using our beautiful buildings to further our mission and contact with the communities outside our own.

**Nick Mark**

### **From the Area Meeting at Penrith URC**

*Wednesday 3rd May 2017*

#### **Notices of Forthcoming Events**

**Saturday 7th October:** CTiC Celebrating Together, Ambleside.

**Saturday 14th October:** NW Synod Meeting, Carver, Windermere.

**Saturday 18th November:** Fresh Expressions Conference,  
Richard Passmore, speaker.

## **Ecumenical Buildings Strategy**

A letter from Richard Pratt was available to view. Alistair Smeaton and Sarah Moore emphasised a genuine and logical desire to involve others in the decision-making process. Any major building projects are referred to Area Pastorate Council anyway and should therefore be picked up by Alistair and Sarah who are on the three Archdeaconry Mission and Pastoral and Parsonage committees (Alistair for the West and Sarah for the North and South of the county).

With reducing numbers of stipendiary ministers, Richard Pratt infers that all assets, including manses, should become the responsibility of Pastorate Councils or other higher bodies, and any projects, such as alterations, sales, etc, should be considered by the whole mission community, so that valuable assets are not disposed of. With regard to our own manse, in the absence of a minister, if we wished to rent or sell it to fund the running of our church with a dwindling congregation, where would we stand?

## **Missional Discipleship / Mission Partnerships**

Sarah Moore emphasised that Missional Discipleship / Mission Partnerships is now the official North West Synod strategy and policy since all resolutions to that effect were passed at the March Synod. Cumbria remains firmly committed to the Ecumenical Covenant (2011/2016) as its primary focus.

Group discussions considered if the Area Pastorate Council is on the right lines in recommending the formation of one single Missional Partnership for the URC in Cumbria. Proposed arrangements, regarding the limited provision of ordained ministry in the future, were also considered. The discussions highlighted the need for more Local Ecumenical Partnerships and therefore more training, and that the role of ministers needs to change.

Could Cumbria operate with just three stipendiary ministers?

## From the Churches

### Bewcastle

There has now been an opportunity to reflect on the success or otherwise of the fitting of timelocks to our main doors. The church has welcomed a number of non churchgoers who have found the peace and spirituality of the building immensely helpful.

An unexpected spin off has been the success of the secondhand bookstall which has a wide range of books available and which the local community are using and, in the process, helping the income of the church and raising funds for Quinquennial repairs.

On the 15th of July a number of members of the congregation welcomed a visit from members of the Armstrong Border Clan. The article on pages 6 & 7 in this issue reflects on this.

We have our usual Service on the first Sunday of August (6th August) and advance notice is given that in September we will have two services.

Our usual one on Sunday 3rd and our traditional Harvest service on the 17th of September.



**Nick Mark**

### Brampton

#### Services at Brampton URC in August

Our services on 13th and 27th at 9.15am will be led by our Minister the Revd Nick Mark.

#### Christian Aid Coffee Morning in Church on 31st May

Nanette Brown organised this Coffee Morning with raffle. Helpers with Nanette were Barbara Laird and Mabel Irving. £95 was raised for Christian Aid. Thanks to all who supported in any way.

## **Churches Together in Brampton**

We hosted the Ecumenical Service at 3.00pm on Pentecost Sunday, 4th June, with the theme Reconciliation - The love of Christ compels us (2 Corinthians 5:14-20). It was led by Rosalind Fearon with Father Frank Osman preaching the sermon. Readers were Barbara Laird, Bill Kirkley, Margaret Ridpath, Shirley Brown, Kathleen Howell, Isobel Ranson and Olive Bloxham. Peter Day played the organ.

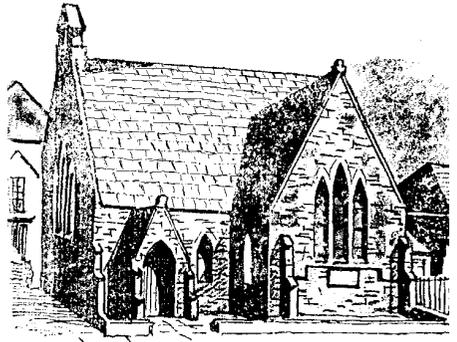
The offering for the work of Churches Together in Brampton was taken by Barbara and Martin Baker. Further fellowship followed when light refreshments were served.

## **Fundraising**

Our June coffee morning in Church raised £90. Many thanks to all who contributed.

## **News of the Fellowship**

Our Congratulations to Megan and Paul Troughton on the birth of their daughter, Maggie Florence on 4th June, a third grandchild for Margaret and Brian Holland and sixth great grandchild for Florence Scott and John Salton. It is good to hear that Florence is slowly improving nowadays following her fall a few weeks ago.



## **Duty Rota for August**

Stewarding: Barbara Laird and John Salton  
Flowers: Barbara Laird

**Shirley Brown**

## **Carlisle**

### **St George's Services**

Aug	6th	10.45am	(Rosalind Fearon)
Aug	13th	10.45am	(NM)
Aug	20th	10.45am	Service at the Tithe Barn
Aug	27th	10.45am	Communion (NM)
Sept	3rd	10.45am	Harvest (Worship Group)

## Readers

Aug 6th	Elizabeth Mackenzie
Aug 13th	Ian Moonie
Aug 20th	At the Tithe barn
Aug 27th	
Sept 3rd	Elizabeth Mackenzie

## Communion Duty

Aug 27th	<u>Preparation</u>	<u>Serving</u>
	Marjorie Lawson	George Murrin Olive Cronie

## Duty Rota

Aug 6th	<u>Elder</u>	<u>Steward</u>
Aug 13th	Ian Moonie	Valerie Barlow
Aug 20th	George Murrin	Pamela Martin
Aug 27th	Tony Wiseman	Jessie Overs
Sept 3rd	Trevor Irwin	Jennifer Burgess
	Moira Wales	Kethleen Harris

## Flowers

Aug 6th	Brian Walker
Aug 13th	
Aug 20th	At the Tithe Barn
Aug 27th	Valerie Barlow
Sept 3rd	Harvest

## Saturday Coffee Morning

Aug 5th	Elizabeth Mackenzie & Eleanor Prentice
Aug 12th	Jessie & Michael Overs
Aug 19th	Jennifer Burgess & Mavis Hall
Aug 26th	Valerie Barlow & Pamela Martin
Sept 2nd	Elizabeth Mackenzie & Marjorie Lawson

## Cleaning - Week Commencing Dates

Aug 4th	Elizabeth & Iain Mackenzie
Aug 11th	Valerie Barlow & Pamela Martin
Aug 18th	Mavis Hall & Maureen Bewley
Aug 25th	Jessie & Michael Overs
Sept 1st	Elizabeth & Iain Mackenzie

## Magazine Photocopying and Collation

September Edition	Week commencing Monday 21st August Pamela Martin & Jessie Overs
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## **From St George's Secretary**

### **News of members**

Iain Mackenzie gave us all a shock, including himself, when he was taken into hospital recently. So too did Tony Wiseman when he was admitted to hospital for a short spell. It is good to see them both back with us, and we hope they continue to improve and gradually resume what they feel comfortable in doing. Alan Burgess has been home for a trial 'run' to see how he can manage at home. We hold them all and their wives in our thoughts and prayers.

Muriel Drinkall has had two bad falls recently resulting in a spell in hospital. She is now back home but will be quite restricted in her movements until her leg heals.

### **Changes to Preaching Plan**

Please note that Rosalind is taking the service on 6th August, and a worship group will be leading the Harvest Service on 3rd September.

### **Joint Bible Studies**

There are none in August.

### **Cathedral Big Day Out - 10th September**

We will be supporting this by providing refreshments in St George's in the afternoon and some of us are going to sing in the 'scratch choir'. More details later.

### **From the Church Meeting on 19th July**

The four elders re-elected at the AGM in April will be inducted at the communion service on 27th August.

As our contribution to the Moving Mountains project next March we will explore inviting ex-Junior Church members and their families to afternoon tea on Saturday 10th March. We will also look into holding Dementia Friendly services.

Olive Cronie is going to pursue links with the Student Christian Movement here in Carlisle.

Date for your diary

Saturday 9th December, an event yet to be decided upon at home with Sue and Peter Day.

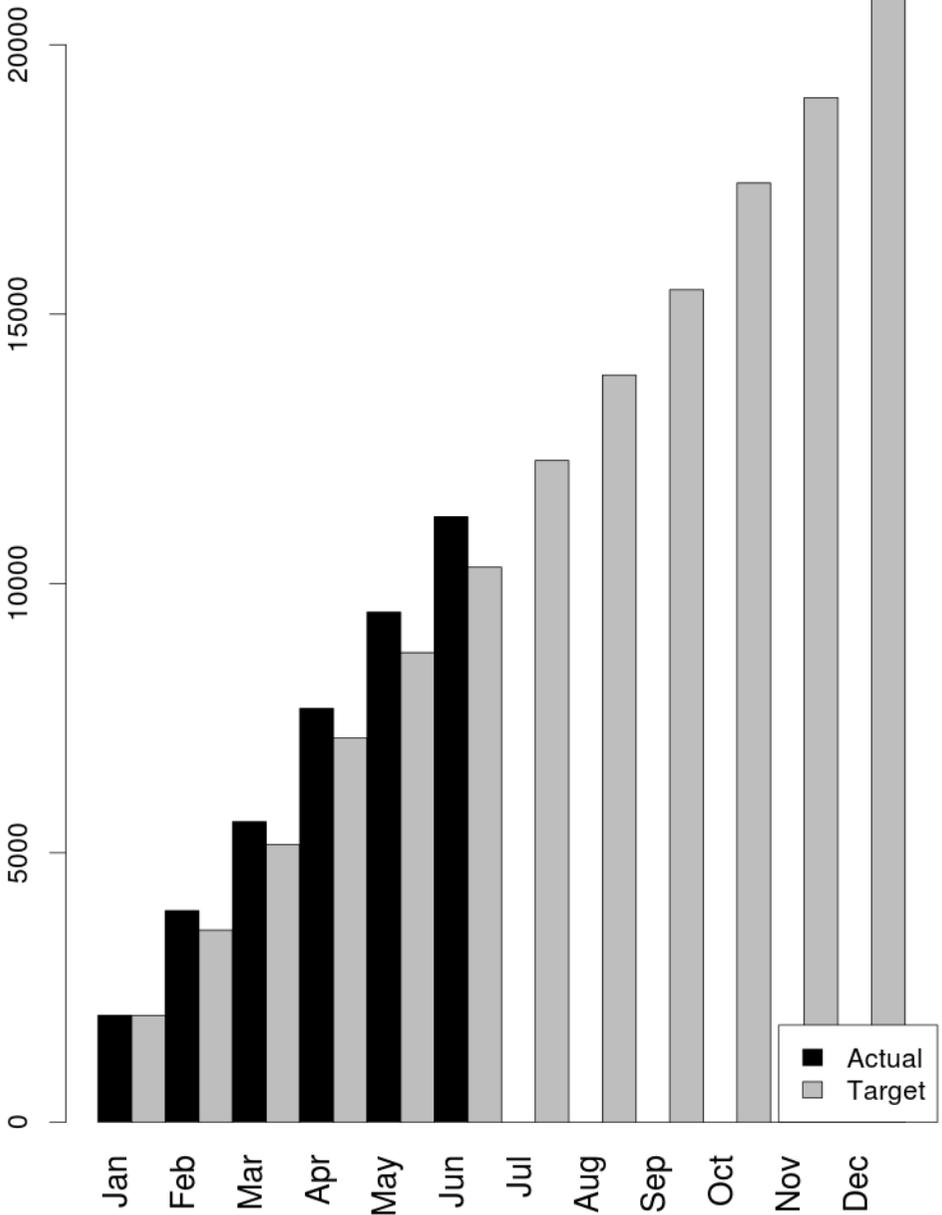
**Rosalind Fearon**

## Answers to 'Found in the Garden' Quiz

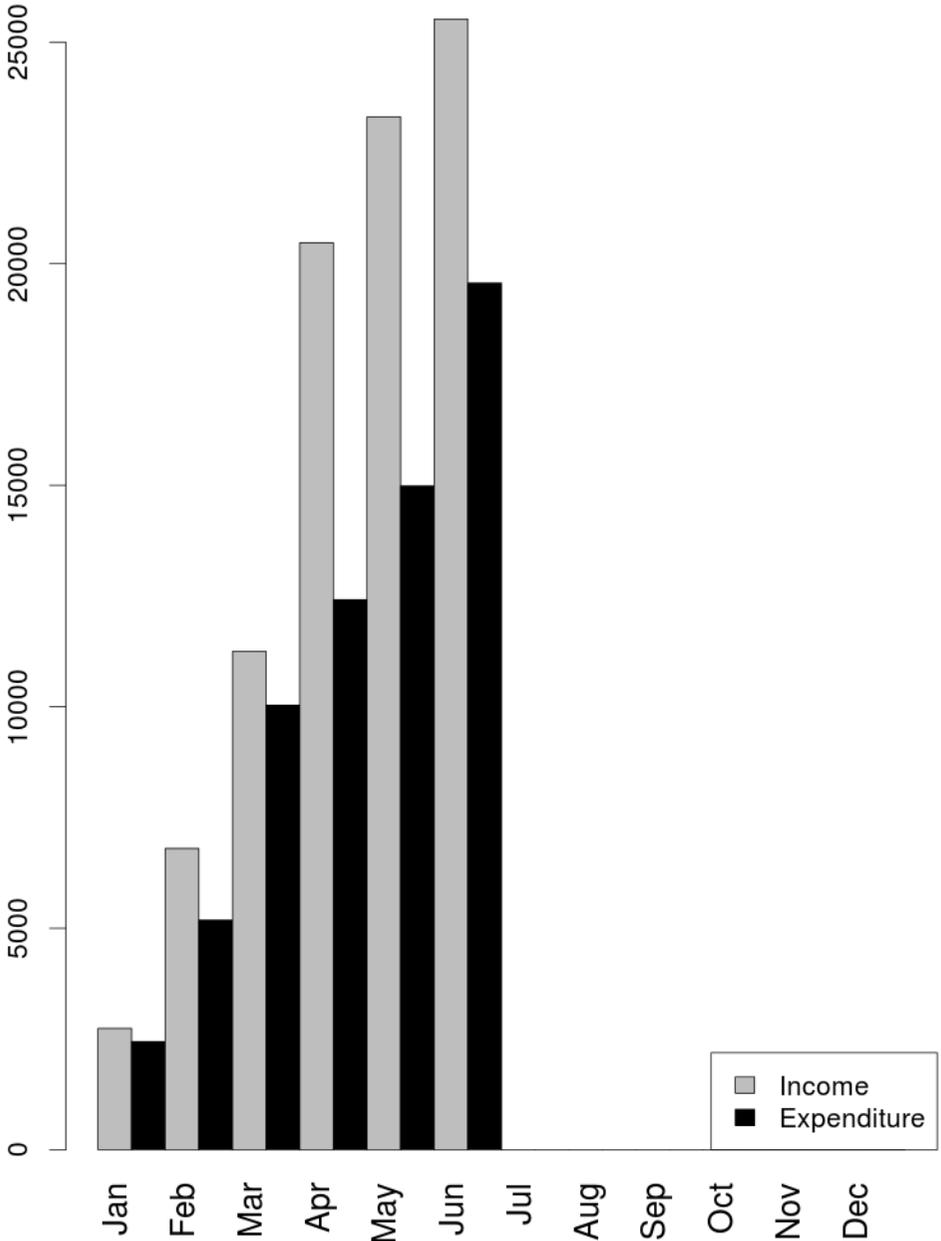
- |  |                     |
|--|---------------------|
| 1. Wed precious metal (8)                | Marigold            |
| 2. Valuable colour bar (6,3)             | Golden Rod          |
| 3. Wintry white flakes let go (8)        | Snowdrop            |
| 4. Burning card game (3,3,5)             | Red Hot Poker       |
| 5. ---- is the best policy (7)           | Honesty             |
| 6. Coloured centre of the eye (4)        | Iris                |
| 7. Remember me (6,2,3)                   | Forget me not       |
| 8. O.T. Prophet's climbing device (6,6)  | Jacob's ladder      |
| 9. Coil tavern (5)                       | Lupin               |
| 10. Dark aromatic soup base (5,7,5)      | Night scented stock |
| 11. Sugary prince (5,7)                  | Sweet William       |
| 12. Vehicle decay (6)                    | Carrot              |
| 13. Taxi years (7)                       | Cabbage             |
| 14. Brrrr' (6)                           | Chilli              |
| 15. The Lady of _____? (7)               | Shallot             |
| 16. "Sugary ""on foot"" (9)"             | Sweetcorn           |
| 17. Cumbrian pal (6)                     | Marrow              |
| 18. DRROBES (7)                          | Borders             |
| 19. MURSSETAME (10)                      | Summerseat          |
| 20. YGENFLRE (8)                         | Greenfly            |
| 21. DIRBS (5)                            | Birds               |
| 22. BGRIMICLOSEN (8,4)                   | Climbing Rose       |
| 23. Tempo beneath ground (8)             | Beetroot            |
| 24. Sugary green vegetable (5,3)         | Sweet Pea           |
| 25. Source of light blossom (9)          | Sunflower           |
| 26. Sounds like part badger part dog (8) | Broccoli            |
| 27. Sad little fruit (9)                 | Blueberry           |
| 28. A poor loser has sour ones (6)       | Grapes              |
| 29. We hear a plumber is needed (4)      | Leek                |
| 30. A seasonal bulb (6,5)                | Spring Onion        |

Out of 18 entries received, there were 10 with correct answers and the winner, drawn from a hat, is Jessie Overs from St George's. Grateful thanks to all who took part, raising £81 for Church Funds.

St George's URC Carlisle  
2017 Cumulative Weekly Offerings



St George's URC Carlisle  
2017 Cumulative Total Income/Expenditure



## **St George's Women's Guild**

**4th September at 2.00pm**

Sarah Wilson - My time in The Jungle at Calais

**2nd October at 2.00pm**

Steve Layden - My year as Mayor of Carlisle

**6th November at 2.00pm**

Kathleen Carr & Friends - Perpetual Fun

If any Church members and friends would like to join us for any one or more of these talks, we would be more than happy to see you.

### **Thank You**

Iain and Elizabeth Mackenzie would like to say thank you for all the many "Get Well" cards, 'phone calls, visits and offers of help that they received during, and after, Iain's recent stay in hospital. It was extremely kind of you all, and they are most grateful for all your thoughtfulness.

## **St George's Church Flowers**

On behalf of the Flower Group (Eleanor, Pamela, Elizabeth and Kathleen) thank you to all who contributed to the flower fund. I'm sure it is very much appreciated by the recipients.

It is lovey to see that Kathleen Wiseman has felt well enough to once more help with the flower rota and I think she is enjoying it as much as the group have enjoyed having her help again.

Please remember the board is at the back of the church for anyone who would like to add their name. Also I would appreciate it if you would let me know of any special birthdays, anniversaries, special dates etc. that I may not have a note about. It would be nice for anyone celebrating or remembering someone to receive flowers.

**Kathleen Harris**

## Congratulations to Bill MacDonald on reaching his 'century'

Here he is celebrating the event  
at Croftfield with his family and  
friends from St George's.

He (and we) greatly enjoyed the  
afternoon and he only admitted  
to being 'a bit tired'  
afterwards.

Happy  100<sup>th</sup>  
Birthday 



Apologies  
to Tony  
for what the  
photocopier will  
undoubtedly  
do to his  
super  
photograph

## Big Day Out - 8th July

This event was held in glorious sunshine in the Southport Convention Centre, hosted by the NW and Mersey Synods, not that I saw much sun, being indoors from 9.30 till after 5.00pm. My impression was there were fewer people and certainly fewer children than last year but the main auditorium was well filled at the opening and closing worship sessions. My only complaint was the lack of enough hours to attend more than four sessions and tour the numerous stalls in the main arena AND stop for lunch.

The organisation was excellent, the sessions starting and finishing on time and most of them giving the opportunity to comment, discuss and ask questions. The speakers were very good and the subject matter relevant.

My first session was 'How can the church respond to those with memory loss in your community?' given by by a team of speakers, led by the son and widow of a deceased sufferer with a contribution from a diagnosed gentleman and his carer. Their stories revolved round their Open Door Memory Cafe, run once a fortnight by an ecumenical group of volunteers. Attendance is optional and apart from tea/coffee and cake, information can be gained and numerous activities are available to stimulate and aid memory recollections. This was an excellent 'workshop' with many contributions from a crowded room and a very informative handout which will be of benefit if our church pursues the proposal to hold a 'dementia service'.

Next was Lawrence Moore, the former Director of the Windermere Centre, on 'The radical Jesus – just how subversive was he?'. Lawrence is always challenging and passionate in his presentations. He used familiar Gospel passages including the Lord's Prayer to show how Jesus called for God's kingdom to take the place of the Roman Empire. Lawrence was scheduled to lead worship in our church several months ago but had to cancel due to his father's sudden illness in South Africa. Hopefully we may have another chance to have him visit us in the near future.

Richard Church (our former Synod Moderator) led 'The Church in Action - Walking the Way'. We have to learn to live the way of Jesus, not so much by the way we talk but by the way we walk. We need to acquire the ability to move out of our comfort zone to become People of the Way - a way of compassion, humility, patience and virtue.

Richard posed two questions:

- What would people expect to see in the life of a follower of Jesus?
- What do you think church is for?

There were no questions or comments from the floor and my final notes from his talk are WORK, WORSHIP, WITNESS which seemed to me to be a fitting answer to the second question.

There are always interesting people to encounter in the minutes between the organised parts of the programme and I enjoyed talking with many of the audiences and stallholders.

I also made contact with the representative of the Student Christian Movement at her stall (with fond memories of the SCM of 70 years ago when I was the only fresher from my school in first year college in Edinburgh). I have since had correspondence with her and I think this could be an opening to offer friendship to students in our colleges/university looking forward to the new academic year with its opportunities. WATCH THIS SPACE.

One of the most interesting (and worthwhile) stalls was MAF - a Christian Aviation Charity operating with over 130 light aircraft in upwards of 25 of the poorest developing countries, bringing help and healing to the most remote communities, where no other transport is possible, with no 999 facilities, no doctors, no medicines and the nearest clinic may be three or more days trek through forest, swamp or jungle. The service also carries teachers and missionaries and further information may be found at [www.maf-uk.org](http://www.maf-uk.org)

**Olive Cronie**

## **Moving Mountains**

Moving Mountains is a county wide mission event which is to take place from 8th to 11th March 2018 and which will be attended by senior representatives from the various denominations. It is hoped that each church will put on two to three events over the weekend. Teams from outside the county will be visiting over the weekend including Archbishop John Sentamu. For further information see the booklet 'Moving Mountains 8-11 March, 2018 Mission preparation guide Part two - planning for moving mountains', which is being passed around our church members.

### **Notes of meeting held at St Elizabeth's Church Harraby on Monday 12th June 2017**

The meeting was chaired by Sue Wicks, Vicar of St Elizabeth's. Of the 16 people present all but, Canon Michael Manley representing the Cathedral, Alun Jones Vicar of St Herbert's, Sarah MacDowall, representing Upperby and Tithe Barn Methodists, two from St John's Upperby, one from the Border Kirk and Rosalind Fearon and Ian Moonie from St George's, were from St Elizabeth's.

Among local church events in planning are the following:

- St Herbert's are hoping to get a telecom van from Fred Story and show the second version of START [a beginner's course in Christianity] at various locations in the parish and to hold a barbeque at each one.
- The Cathedral is holding a big conference on agriculture and land issues (rural symposium) on the Saturday. Archbishop John will give a talk at the conference.
- The Border Kirk is hosting a tapestry display which is circulating round the churches in Scotland.
- St George's has not made any specific decisions yet but is looking at the possibility of holding a dementia friendly service and tea.

The following big events for all congregations were considered:

- A bowling evening on the Friday night to which people can be invited for a game of bowls. Each participating church could pay for a lane. Food is to be provided.

- Creation of 'prayer spaces' in local schools on the Thursday and Friday.
- A 'messy church' and a magician on the Saturday, possibly in a marquee in the city centre.

We need to plan what we are going to do as individual congregations by the end of September and report back to the next meeting which is to be held at St Elizabeth's On Monday 2nd October 2017 at 7.00pm.

We are to decide if we wish one of the visiting team to attend our event. The visiting representatives are to be allocated in September/October 2017.

Is any one in the church willing to offer a member of the visiting team a bed for the weekend? The visitors have expressed a wish to stay with lay people rather than clergy.

The meeting opened and closed with prayer.

HAS ANYONE A GOOD IDEA FOR A ST GEORGE'S EVENT?

## Carlisle One World Centre (COWC)

*A Brief Summary of Activities  
Prepared from the Annual Report  
April 2016 to March 2017*

### Rethinking Ideas of Home

COWC enjoyed a very successful collaboration with students and staff from the University of Cumbria on the photography project 'Rethinking Ideas of Home.' The exhibition of portraits, celebrating some of the men, women and children from international communities living and working in Carlisle, was displayed in the Vallum Gallery, Brampton Road, Carlisle in June. It has also been displayed at The Old Town Hall for the Unity Festival in August, Carlisle One World Centre in September, Castle Carrock Primary School and venues where public talks were held throughout the year.

## **Carlisle's first Unity Festival**

As part of the One World in Carlisle theme COWC played a part in the organisation of Carlisle's first Unity Festival in August which brought together a range of groups in Carlisle City Centre to celebrate diversity and community activity in Carlisle. COWC staff and volunteers joined forces with AWAZ, Carlisle Op Shops and other organisers to host a great day providing information and workshops with a global coffee morning in the Old Town Hall, talks and exhibitions.

## **Supporting Refugees**

Throughout the year, COWC has been working with Carlisle Refugee Action Group (CRAG) volunteers and supporting this group with local responses to the refugee crisis in Northern France, Turkey and Syria. Members of CRAG, which operates as a sub-committee of COWC, have also played a key role in the delivery of the COWC project, 'A place of Refuge' in North Cumbria, which aims to welcome the Syrian refugees to Cumbria and support them when they arrive. COWC and CRAG staff and volunteers have carried out:

- Planning and hosting several awareness raising events with the aim of preparing the local community for the arrival of refugees.
- Development of a Mythbusters leaflet, information materials, exhibitions and presentations and giving regular radio and tv interviews on the refugee crisis.
- Recruitment of language support volunteers and general preparations for the arrival of the first group of Syrian refugee families to Cumbria in Spring 2017.

## **Carlisle International Women's Group**

During the year COWC worked with a group of international women to develop the Carlisle International Women's group. This group took part in the Unity Festival and met on three occasions. The highlight of the year was a shared lunch on International Women's Day, 8th of March, at the Salvation Army Hall, where each woman brought a dish from her country.

## Fairtrade

COWC continued to promote Fairtrade in Carlisle by supporting the local partnership of Fairtrade schools, giving talks to community groups, organising more Fairtrade walks along the North Cumbrian Fairtrade Way, and promoting the brand at all COWC events. Fairtrade Fortnight 2017 activities included a coffee morning, participation in the new Saturday Farmers' Market in Carlisle Centre and a talk at a local primary school. One of the highlights of the year was an inter-schools Fairtrade Wheelchair Football tournament for five local schools in November, hosted by James Rennie School, with the certificates presented by Carlisle United team members and their manager.

## Additional COWC Activities

During the year, COWC hosted three book club meetings on topics related to the themes of refugees and women. These included 'I am Malala' by Malala Yousafzai, 'City of Thorns' by Ben Rawlence and 'This is Where I am' by Karen Campbell.

COWC worked with the charity Place for Hope to organise and promote two discussion evenings during the year on the result of the EU Referendum, hosted by the Border Kirk, and on the election of Donald Trump, co-hosted by COWC and the Quakers.

The COWC Food Voucher Scheme secured further grant funding in 2017 to keep providing emergency meal vouchers to those most in need through our partner organisations.

## Bridge

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

**Sunday 13th August**

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)**

## North Cumbria Pastorate Services

### The Knowe Church, Bewcastle

Aug 6th 2.15pm (NM)  
Sept 3rd 2.15pm (NM)  
Sept 17th 2.15pm Harvest Service (NM)

### Brampton URC, Main Street, Brampton

Aug 13th 9.15am (NM)  
Aug 27th 9.15am (NM)

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

Aug 6th 10.45am (Rosalind Fearon)  
Aug 13th 10.45am (NM)  
Aug 20th 10.45am Join with the Methodists at Tithe Barn  
Aug 27th 10.45am Communion (NM)  
Sept 3rd 10.45am Harvest Service (Worship Group)  
Sept 10th 10.45am (NM)  
Sept 17th 10.45am (Revd Sarah Moore)

## Dates for your Diary

### August

5th 2.00pm Afternoon Tea at Pooley Bridge  
14th 2.30pm Service at Croftfield Care Home  
30th 9.30am Coffee Morning at Brampton URC

### September

3rd 10.45am Harvest Service at St George's  
4th 2.00pm St George's Women's Guild meeting (see page 16)  
10th 3.00pm Carlisle Cathedral Big Day (see page 12)  
17th 10.45am Revd Sarah Moore preaching at St George's  
17th 2.15pm Harvest Service at the Knowe Church, Bewcastle

## Churches Together in Cumbria

Congregations are asked to help make every church in Cumbria dementia friendly by 2020. We are looking for funding to appoint a Dementia Project Officer to grow the project and are asking churches to arrange a collection for the project on 17th September which is the Sunday before World Alzheimer's Day.