



## 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,**

I write this after a day having conducted services in all three churches in the pastorate the last of which involved a pleasant journey to Bewcastle. Looking at the grassy banks covered with snowdrops was a welcome relief from icy roads. Signs of spring are all around us with other bulbs beginning to show through. Spring of course in the Church Calendar means the run up through Lent to Holy Week and On the 3rd of March we reach Transfiguration Sunday and reflect on God's glory and Luke's Gospel emphasises particularly the importance of Prayer.

On the 10th of March is the first Sunday of Lent. Luke in Chapter 4 reflects on how after his Baptism Jesus went into the wilderness as part of his training for future ministry. The sparring with the devil toughened him up for the future. The second Sunday of Lent on the 17th sees us studying Luke 13 and how Jesus dismissed earthly pressures to give up his God given task. The Third Sunday of lent on 24th March sees us thinking about a perennial problem in Luke 13 and that is human suffering. Finally we reach on the 31st of March Mothering Sunday and the Fourth Sunday of Lent.

Lent I find is a very useful time to reflect on our personal relationship with God and how we might improve it. Fortunately in the Pastorate if you feel that you need your spiritual mind stimulating during Lent outside of normal Services there are a number of special lent meetings taking place which are listed later in this Newsletter.

As we transform as three Churches from expecting new people to come to us and instead gain the courage to go out and meet people where they are, it does seem a really sensible idea to emulate Jesus and think about how we can effect radical change, by setting aside time in Lent to challenge our own inhibitions about going out, rather than relying on welcoming those folk who choose to seek us out.

The activities that we have done already show us that meeting people outside our own communities is not half as hard as we thought and that sharing our faith with others actually strengthens our own faith.

We are in challenging times and there are great opportunities open to us because so many are seeking certainty from something. They seek it because many of the rocks that they have depended on are seemingly crumbling around them. The message of Jesus Christ as our Saviour is a wonderful message to pass on and great joy can be had from sharing our joy as Christians with non-believers. The Gospel of Christ is a certainty that is not crumbling. It is a message that comes with help for through Prayer we can let the Holy Spirit guide us through the times of test and trial we all face in our daily lives.

Lent doesn't have to be a time of deep depression because we believe as Christians that Christ suffered for us but through death and Resurrection God won through to save the human race.

With every blessing

**Nick Mark**

### **Mission Community Update**

Bewcastle URC will form part of an interesting Mission Community which will include not only Bewcastle Parish Church but also the Anglican Churches in the Longtown group, the Church of Scotland at Longtown and the Methodist Church at Longtown. This Mission Community will hopefully begin to develop now Rev Brett Murphy has been appointed.

Brampton's Mission Community will soon hopefully be able to form because on Thursday 14th February four candidates were being interviewed for the post of Mission Community Leader. Joint activities between the Churches are already happening. A very successful Quiz Night was held in the Green Door Hall on the 8th of February raising just over £230 for this mission project. Also the URC will be hosting an Ecumenical Lent Course led by retired Bishop Peter of Brampton on a world Church theme involving Mission.

St George's URC Carlisle continues to support enthusiastically the fledging City Centre Mission Community and the draft mission agreement has been approved by Anglican, Methodist, Salvation Army and ourselves and further progress was due to be made at the meeting on 12th February. Full details of that meeting will appear in our next issue of the Newsletter.

All the Churches are involved in planning for Bishop James' walk during Lent round Cumbria. There is to be a big Mission Community Event at Rheged on the 1st of March.

**Special 2019 Lent Services and Courses in the Future  
Mission Communities in the North Cumbria Pastorate  
which are open to all our congregations.**

**Brampton**

Churches Together in Brampton are running two special Lent courses.

- A. At Brampton Methodist Church Hall on Wednesdays in Lent there will be at 12 noon a Lent Lunch with proceeds going to *Christian Aid* and *Cafod* and at 12.30pm there will be a speaker from each denomination over the 5 weeks talking about Wilderness Prophets.
- B. At Brampton URC on Thursday evenings in Lent we will be hosting a Lent Course led by Bishop Peter the former Bishop of Papua New Guinea who will relate as part of the course some his experiences of mission in one of the most testing Mission fields in the world!

**Carlisle**

The Cathedral have invited the Ministers in the City centre to preach at the Wednesday Lunchtime services at the Cathedral on Lent themes. For details of these Services and Courses please look at your regular notice sheets or speak to your Church Secretary.

**Nick Mark**

## From The Churches

### Bewcastle

Grateful thanks are offered to Barbara Smith at the Studio for hosting our January and February services. Our next service on the 3rd of March at 1.45pm will be held in Church, weather permitting.

That Service will also include the Ordination and Induction of two new Elders, Heather Armstrong and Marilyn Rowan. This is welcome news and will strengthen the Church considerably.

On 31st of January the Licensing of Rev Brett Murphy by retired Bishop James of Appleby (standing in for the Bishop of Carlisle) took place at Arthuret Church. Brett will be serving Arthuret, Kirkandrews on Esk and Nicholforest, so the clergy now needed to complete the Mission Community, of which Bewcastle URC is a part, are now appointed. The Licensing included an opportunity for Church of Scotland, Methodist and URC colleagues to affirm the desire to work together on matters of Mission. Brett will add a new dynamic to the Mission Community as he is newly arrived from Australia where he did his training.



Please put in your diaries the 7th, 8th and 9th of June for a big summer event at the Knowe Church and Roadhead Hall which is at the planning stage.

**Nick Mark**

### Brampton

#### Services at Brampton in March

Our quarterly Communion service on 10th March at 9.30am will be led by the Revd Nick Mark. Our Minister will also lead our service on 24th March at 9.30am.

### **Pastorate Service 31st March**

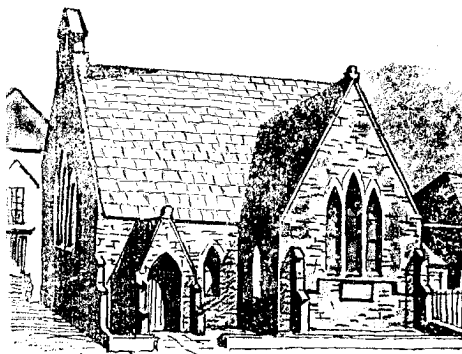
This is taking place in St George's beginning at 11am. If you would like to attend and are in need of transport please speak to Barbara Laird.

### **World Day of Prayer Service Friday 1st March at 2pm**

The 2019 service prepared by the Women of Slovenia with the theme 'Come - Everything is Ready' is held this year in Brampton Methodist Church beginning at 2pm.

### **Ecumenical Lent Lunches**

Beginning this year on Wednesday 13th March for 5 weeks and being held from 12 noon to 1.00pm in the Methodist Church Hall. Lunch will be followed by a short talk on this year's theme. Donations are going to Christian Aid and Cafod.



Speakers are as follows:

13th March	Revd Edward Johnsen
20th March	Huw Iley
27th March	Revd Nick Mark

### **Fundraising**

Our monthly coffee morning on 30th January with raffle raised £105. Many thanks to all who contributed in any way.

### **News of the Fellowship**

Nancy Wilson is going into hospital for a hip operation on the 11th of February. We send all our good wishes to her.

### **In our thoughts and prayers**

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

### **Brampton Duty Rotas for March**

Stewarding: Mr Don Hill and Mr Martin Baker

## March Dates for your Diary

1st	2pm	World Day of Prayer Service (Brampton Methodist Ch.)
10th	9.30am	Communion Service (Brampton URC)
13th	12 noon	Lent Lunch (Brampton Methodist Church)
20th	12 noon	Lent Lunch (Brampton Methodist Church)
27th	9.30am	Coffee Morning in church (Brampton URC)
27th	12 noon	Lent Lunch (Brampton Methodist Church)

**Shirley Brown**

## Carlisle

### St George's Services

Mar	3rd	11.00am	(Revd Iain Mackenzie) Followed by a Soup & Sandwich Lunch
Mar	10th	11.00am	(NM)
Mar	17th	11.00am	(Canon Michael Manley)
Mar	24th	11.00am	Communion & Gift Day (NM)
Mar	31st	11.00am	Mothering Sunday Pastorate Service (Revd Nicola Reynolds)
Apr	7th	11.00am	(Mrs Margaret Jones)
Apr	14th		Palm Sunday at Cathedral (with NM)

### Readers

Mar	3rd	Elizabeth Mackenzie
Mar	10th	Tony Wiseman
Mar	17th	Olive Cronie
Mar	24th	Rosalind Fearon
Mar	31st	Peter Day
Apr	7th	John Ware

### Duty Rota

	<u>Elder</u>	<u>Steward</u>
Mar 3rd	Ian Moonie	Jessie Overs
Mar 10th	George Murrin	Deborah Usher
Mar 17th	Tony Wiseman	Kathleen Harris
Mar 24th	Trevor Irwin	Valerie Barlow
Mar 31st	Moira Wales	Pamela Martin
Apr 7th	Olive Cronie	Jessie Overs



**Communion Duty**

Mar 24th

**Preparation**

Olive Cronie

**Serving**

Trevor Irwin  
Olive Cronie

**Flowers**

Mar 3rd

Connie Humphrey

Mar 10th

Olive Cronie

Mar 17th

Kath Milroy

Mar 24th

Jessie & Michael Overs

Mar 31st

Muriel & John Robinson

Apr 7th

Ian Moonie

**Saturday Coffee Morning**

Mar 2nd

Roalind Fearon & Kathy Craig

Mar 9th

Elizabeth & Iain Mackenzie

Mar 16th

NO COFFEE MORNING

Mar 23rd

Valerie Barlow & Pamela Martin

Mar 30th

Jessie & Michael Overs

**April Edition Magazine Photocopying and Collation**

Week commencing

Monday 25th March

Pamela Martin & Jessie Overs

**Bridge**

Please note that material for the

**April issue of Bridge**

should be in the hands of the editor by

**Sunday 17th March**

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

**Peter Day, 30 Naworth Drive**

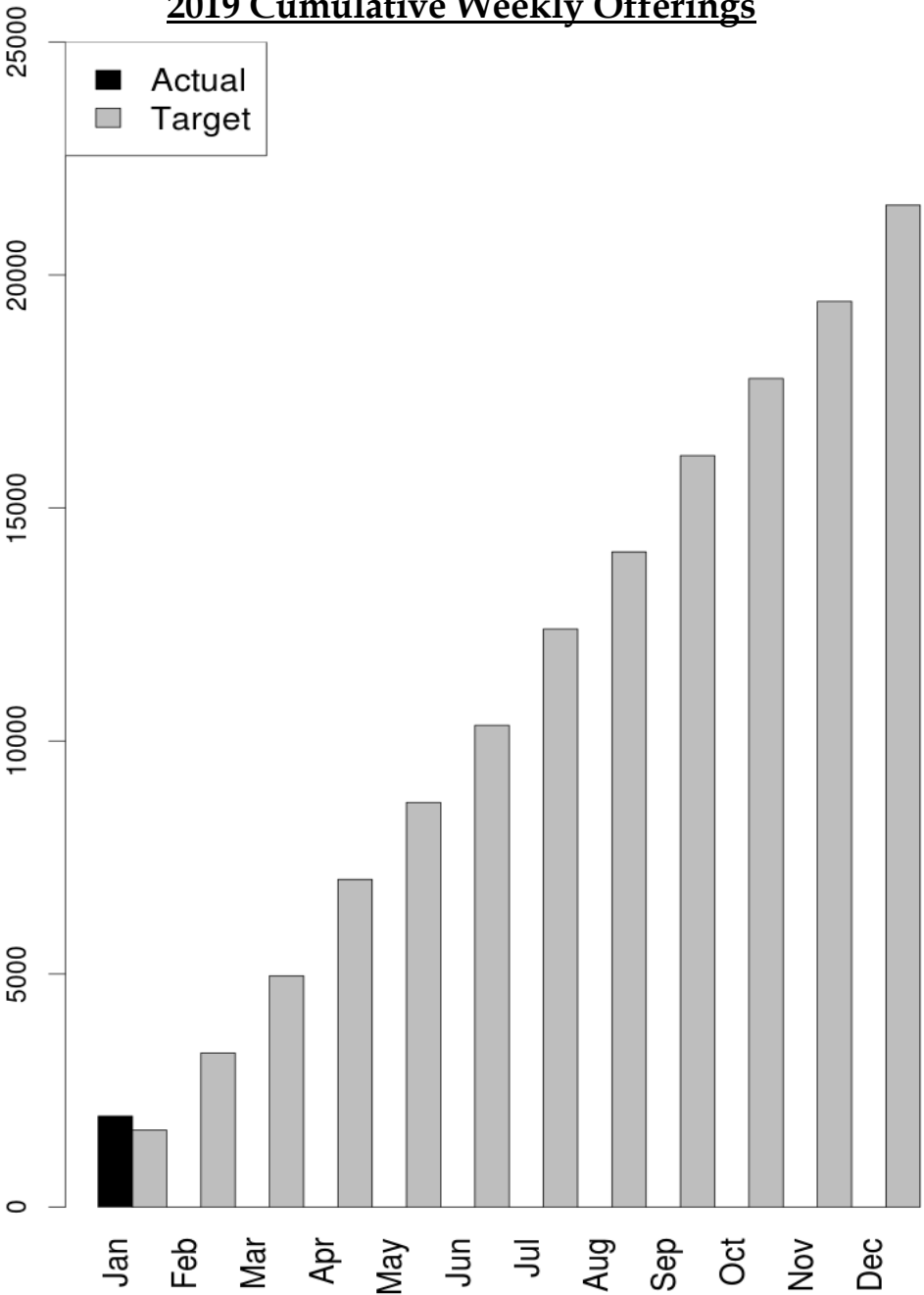
**CARLISLE, Cumbria, CA3 0DD**

**Telephone: 01228 818392**

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

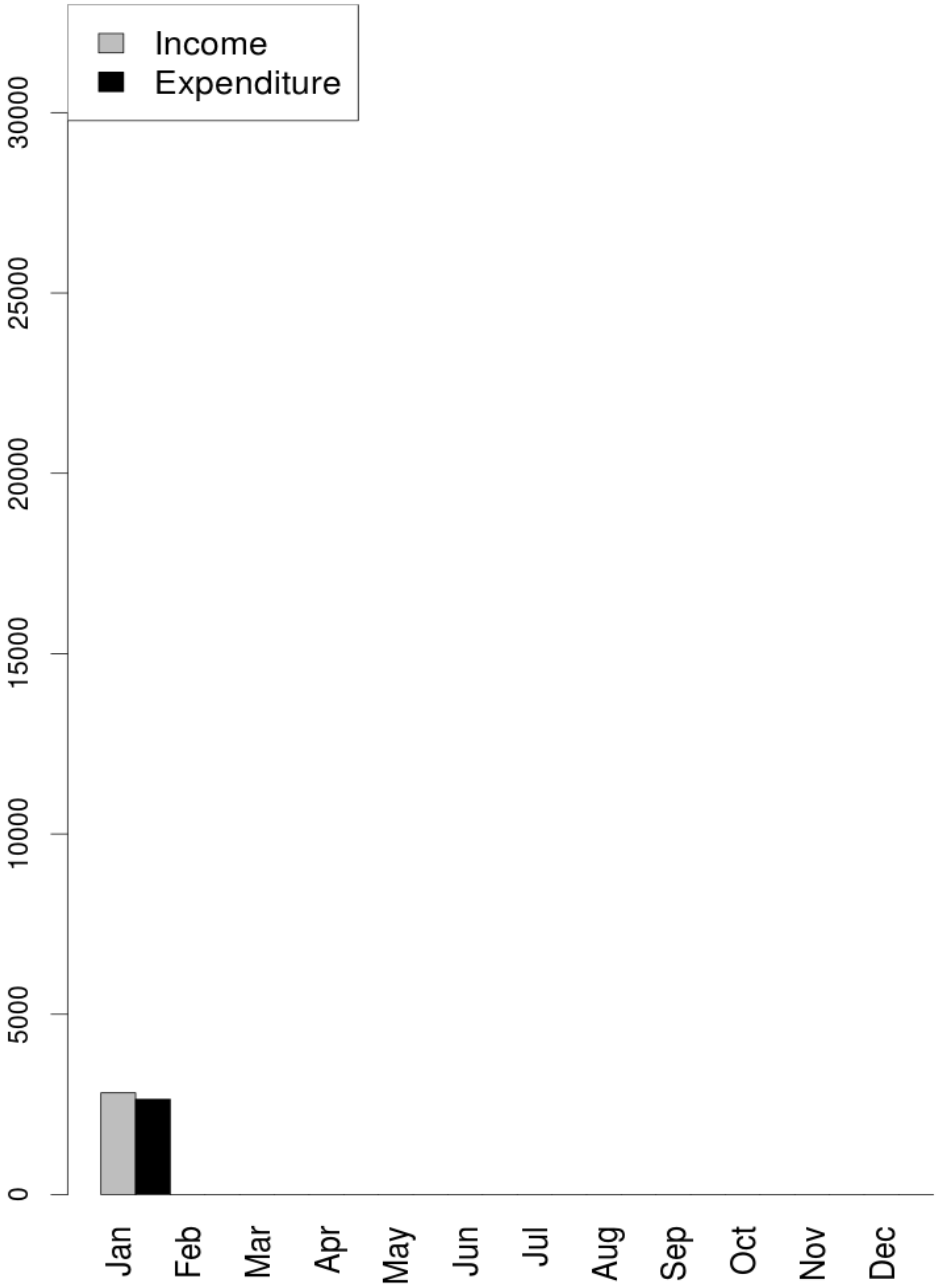
# St George's URC Carlisle

## 2019 Cumulative Weekly Offerings



# St George's URC Carlisle

## 2019 Cumulative Total Income/Expenditure



## From St George's Secretary

It just seems like yesterday that I was writing something for the February Bridge. Time rushes by, a sign of getting older, I suspect. On 10th April we will be holding our AGM, reviewing the past year and looking forward to the next. 2020 will be a significant year in our church when we face considerable changes associated with Nick's retirement in February. Almost all of our members have already retired and we wish Nick and Janet what we wish for ourselves, health, happiness and God's blessing in every part of our lives.

All churches benefit from new input to stop them getting in a rut. The elders are very conscious of their own shortcomings and I beg all members to consider how they might best serve our church, perhaps by becoming an elder. I will be retiring as church secretary in 2022 and we will need someone younger with IT skills to take over. Ideally this person would already be an elder so that they are familiar with all that is involved in being secretary. Please do prayerfully consider whether you might be able to fill this role.

We continue to hold Kathleen and Tony Wiseman, Alan and Jennifer Burgess, David and Maureen Bewley, Betty Anderson, Muriel Drinkall and Irene Paterson in our thoughts and prayers.

### Fund-Raising (*Valerie Barlow*)

About 22 of us enjoyed a bangers and mash lunch on 23rd January. This was followed by a short "Seniors' Quiz" and Olive and her team were the winners. Thank you to all who supported this event, also for donations received. The amount of £135 was raised for church funds. Our next social event will be a soup and sandwich lunch after the Service on Sunday 3rd March and we hope that all members will be able to stay for the meal.

### Spring Gift Day (*Pamela Martin Gift Aid Secretary*)

This year, our Spring Gift Day will take place on Sunday 24 March. Envelopes are enclosed in the hope Members may once again feel able to support and contribute towards this fund-raising event. If all who are registered under the Gift Aid Scheme could donate by cheque, this would be most helpful. Thank you.

# Commitment for Life

## Prayer Partners

### March

We pray for:

- The government of Zimbabwe as they start to strengthen the economy and reduce poverty
- Christian Aid, Zimbabwe staff and those partners they support with knowledge and grants, especially the Institute for Rural technologies
- Programmes that increase rural development and economic opportunities
- Their work to empower and increase the confidence of women
- The training of communities to start village banks
- For Sikhanyisiwe, for her resourcefulness, dignity and hopes for her daughters' futures.



## Zimbabwe

### *Village banks help to build small businesses*

In Masendu, change is happening. In this district of southern Zimbabwe, near the border with Botswana, the villages are remote; with limited access to markets and banks, running a business is difficult. Now, one of Christian Aid's partners is making it easier to become a business owner.

### *From savings and loans to village banks*

Many women in the villages around Masendu have long been members of a savings and loans group. This was a success for them, but they could only lend small amounts, and only within the group. Now, the Institute for Rural Technologies (IRT) has backed their skills - and trained them to run a village bank.

With a starter fund of \$3,000, the bank lends money to local people to help them start businesses. The bank's founders have learned what makes a good business plan; they know how to make loan decisions and how to monitor the business. If someone defaults, the traditional courts of the village decide whether it was due to unexpected circumstances (and the loan is written off) or lack of effort - in which case the person must repay the amount through community work.

Because access to cash is a problem in Zimbabwe, IRT has helped to provide mobile banking kiosks so that running a business doesn't mean a long journey to the local town.

### *Chickens, guinea fowl and a borehole*

Sikhanyisiwe Ndlovu's journey to being a businesswoman has been hard. As a widow with three children, Sikhanyisiwe struggled to pay for food and school fees. She saw other women starting projects through loans from the village bank and decided to try it herself.



Sikhanyisiwe raises chics in one of her outhouses and then sells them at the market after six weeks

Raising chickens allows Sikhanyisiwe to have an income every six weeks. She has branched out into rearing guinea fowl which roam around her homestead. It's a smart choice - guinea fowl need less water than chickens.

*"In Masendu, water is a big challenge. During the dry season most people wake up at 4am to fetch water. There are huge queues. Some people come back from the water points after 10am, having gone there at 5am."*

With another small loan, and some money from selling grain, Sikhanyisiwe now has her own borehole. It has allowed her to start a market garden, grow more crops and keep some goats.



Sikhanyisiwe's daughter demonstrates their family borehole

The income from these businesses has enabled Sikhanyisiwe to send her daughters to school so they can complete their secondary education - something which is unusual in Masendu. Providing food for the family is no longer the challenge it was.

## Reflection

This reflection on Christ's Transfiguration, written by Revd Jo Clare-Young, a URC minister in the North Yorkshire Coast Pastorate, comes from the URC's Daily Devotions. It seems particularly relevant to us as we face big changes in more than one aspect of our lives.

I sometimes wonder if we shy away from the Transfiguration a little; a mystical event on a mountainside, Moses and Elijah, dazzling glory, a cloud and the voice of God. It's a lot to process; all this glory, the glory of Christ. Yet there beside the glory is the reminder of the Cross, the humanity, the sacrifice, the promise.

Hills and mountains are so often places of encounter with God. This is the story of a moment; a moment linked to the past and the future by its location on a mountain. We are reminded of other 'mountain moments' by Moses and Elijah both of whom encountered God on a mountainside. We are rooted in the past but we are also pointed towards a future hillside and Jesus's departure. When we think about God as outside of time it can change our perspective on events in our own lives.

We are located within our own stories, we are rooted within our own past; we are heading towards our own future. We can remember the past, give thanks for it, take our lessons from it, but at the same time we need to look forward. We need to look to the future and to God's promises.

We should help our churches do the same. To celebrate what has gone before, to celebrate what is happening now but, most importantly, to look to the future. It is easy to understand how Peter felt; awed by the appearance of Moses and Elijah, the vision of Jesus dressed in dazzling white. It is easy, perhaps, to understand why he wanted to build three dwellings and to stay on the mountain. That wasn't the future God had planned for him; it was not what Christ was calling him to. Like Peter we are called to go out into the world, to leave our dwellings, our churches, and to shine with the dazzling hope of Christ for the people we meet.



## Prayer

Dazzling Christ, we give thanks for that which has gone before, for the people and communities that have made up our past. We give thanks for what is to come, for those we will meet and journey with. May we shine with your promise and hope for them. Amen

### **WORLD DAY OF PRAYER (A WOMEN LED, GLOBAL, ECUMENICAL MOVEMENT)**

**1st March 2019 at 2.30pm  
At St George's United Reformed Church  
ALL WELCOME**



**Come – Everything is Ready!  
SLOVENIA**

## North Cumbria Pastorate Services

### The Knowe Church, Bewcastle

Mar	3rd	1.45pm	(NM)
Mar	31st	11.00am	Mothering Sunday Pastorate Service at St George's (Revd Nicola Reynolds)
Apr	7th	1.45pm	Communion (NM)

### Brampton URC, Main Street, Brampton

Mar	10th	9.30am	(NM)
Mar	24th	9.30am	(NM)
Mar	31st	11.00am	Mothering Sunday Pastorate Service at St George's (Revd Nicola Reynolds)

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

Mar	3rd	11.00am	(Revd Iain Mackenzie) Followed by a Soup & Sandwich Lunch
Mar	10th	11.00am	(NM)
Mar	17th	11.00am	Service followed by lunch (Canon Michael Manley)
Mar	24th	11.00am	Communion & Gift Day (NM)
Mar	31st	11.00am	Mothering Sunday Pastorate Service at St George's (Revd Nicola Reynolds)
Apr	7th	11.00am	(Mrs Margaret Jones)

## St George's Women's Guild

**4th March at 2.00pm**

John & Diane Findlay

Film show of the first Great Fair in Carlisle

**1st April at 2.00pm**

Martin & Jean Nichol

Cathedral Lodge Antiques

**2nd May (Thursday) at 2.00pm**

P.C. Diane Irving

Dog Handler

**Elizabeth Mackenzie**

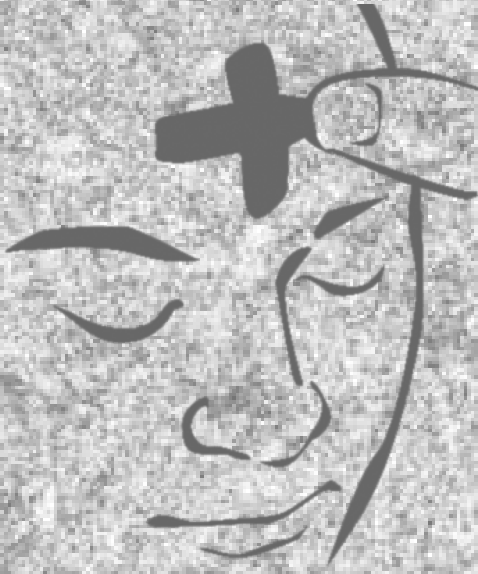
## Dates for your Diary

### March

- |      |         |  |
|------|---------|--|
| 1st  | 2.00pm  | World Day of Prayer Brampton Methodist Church  |
| 1st  | 2.30pm  | World Day of Prayer Carlisle at St George's  |
| 4th  | 2.00pm  | St George's Women's Guild. John & Diane Findlay<br>Film show of the first Great Fair in Carlisle |
| 10th | 9.30am  | Communion Service at Brampton URC  |
| 11th | 2.30pm  | Service at Croftfield Care Home  |
| 13th | 12.00pm | Lent Lunch at Brampton Methodist Church Hall   |
| 13th |         | Bishop's Walk  |
| 13th | 12.30pm | Lent Service in Cathedral followed by soup<br>(Cathedral speaker)                                |
| 16th |         | NO Coffee Morning or Prayer Meeting  |
| 19th | 2.00pm  | Dementia Tea Service at St George's  |
| 20th | 12.00pm | Lent Lunch at Brampton Methodist Church Hall   |
| 20th | 12.30pm | Lent Service in Cathedral followed by soup<br>(Revd Keith Teasdale - St Cuthbert's & St Aidan's) |
| 24th |         | St George's Gift Day   |
| 27th | 9.30am  | Coffee Morning in Brampton URC   |
| 27th | 12.00pm | Lent Lunch at Brampton Methodist Church Hall   |
| 27th | 12.30pm | Lent Service in Cathedral followed by soup<br>(Revd David Pitkeathly - The Border Kirk)          |
| 31st | 1.00am  | CLOCKS GO FORWARD ONE HOUR   |
| 31st | 11.00am | Mothering Sunday Pastorate Service<br>(Rev Nicola Reynolds)                                      |

### April

- |      |         |   |
|------|---------|---|
| 1st  | 2.00pm  | St George's Women's Guild. Martin & Jean Nichol<br>Cathedral Lodge Antiques                   |
| 3rd  | 12.30pm | Lent Service in Cathedral followed by soup<br>(Capt Mel Scoulding - The Salvation Army)       |
| 10th | 12.30pm | Lent Service in Cathedral followed by soup<br>(Revd David Newlove - Methodist Superintendent) |
| 10th | 2.30pm  | St George's Annual General Church Meeting   |
| 13th | 11.00am | Passion Play in City Centre   |
| 13th | 2.00pm  | Passion Play in City Centre   |
| 17th | 12.30pm | Lent Service in Cathedral followed by soup<br>(Revd Nick Mark - United Reformed Church)       |



Transfiguration Sunday	3rd March
Shrove Tuesday	5th March
Ash Wednesday	6th March
Mothering Sunday	31st March
Palm Sunday	14th April
Maundy Thursday	18th April
Good Friday	19th April
Easter Day	21st April