

Kendal

United Reformed Church



December 2017 and January 2018

Kendal United Reformed Church

Highgate, Kendal LA9 4HE

Web: kendalurc.org.uk

Church email: kendal.urc@southlakeschurch.org.uk

South Lakes Group Minister: **Revd Martyn Coe**
Sherwood, Fernleigh Road,
Grange over Sands LA11 7HN
Tel: 015395 33223 Mobile: 07973 359882
Email: unitedchurch@btinternet.com

Non-stipendiary Minister: **Revd Pam Noonan**
6 Swallow Close, Kendal LA9 7SN
Tel: 01539 724711
Email: pam.noonan@btinternet.com

Secretary: **Sheila Andrews**
2 Wakefield Meadow, Sedgwick, Kendal LA8 0JD
Tel: 015395 61988
Email: sheila.andrews5@btinternet.com

Treasurer: **Nick Andrews**
2 Wakefield Meadow, Sedgwick, Kendal LA8 0JD
Tel: 015395 61988
Email: nick.andrews08@btinternet.com

Caretaker: **Andrew Neal**
104 Highgate, Kendal LA9 4HE
Tel: 01539 232567 Mobile: 07729 658645
Email: andy.neal64@gmail.com

Editor: **John Costello**
2 Hawesmead Drive, Kendal LA9 5HD
Tel: 01539 730524
Email: johnxcostello@btinternet.com

In this issue:

Minister's letter

Revd Carole Marsden writes 4

An invitation to attend Carole's induction in Shrewsbury 5

Ramblings from the Church Secretary

Sheila Andrews writes 6

Mission Communities: getting there

Anne Wilson reports on progress 7

Diary dates: special events, services and worship leaders 8

Commitment for Life

An article contributed by Peter Farrand 10

Hidden wounds in our midst

Details of a course to be provided by Cumbria Christian Learning 12

Verse from the Remembrance Day Service 13

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

Anne Wilson explains the new arrangements 13

A Prayer Diary for December and January

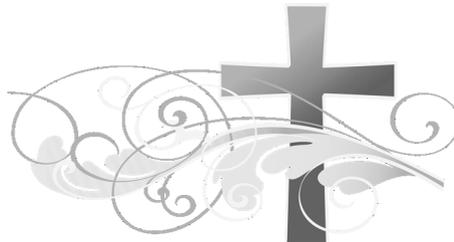
Contributed by Joan Ratcliffe 14

Let us pray

A note from Revd Pam Noonan 15

Calling all prayer writers

An invitation to contribute to the URC Prayer Handbook 15



Revd Carole Marsden writes

There is a reputation in my family that I talk too much when I am excited or under pressure and that I quite like the final word. Seeing that I sense this in Hannah and Eleanor I fear the reputation may have been well earned.



As such this is my over-excited, under pressure final word.

We have piles of boxes mounting as the cellar is tidied and the attic cleared. Most of my books are already on shelves in my new office and my stomach seems to lurch between fear and excitement with ever quickening pace.

We now have a moving-in date of Monday 18 December and know that Christmas this year will be very different from last year. I've had a few Christmases off with maternity leaves but for Rob this is his first non-working Christmas since 1975. You might be interested to know that was one month before I was born!

People keep commenting about how different Christmas will be for me, but I can't even contemplate what it might be like as I am so focused on the leaving part.

But leaving we are, and I want to take this opportunity to thank you for letting me share your journey with you. It has been a privilege to serve you whether it's been a lot or a little over the past years. There have been highs and lows and lots of in-betweeny moments that have woven together wonderfully to make ministering with you across the South Lakes a joy.

My prayer as we leave is that each fellowship will be bold and brave in faith over the coming months and years. We have a wonderful tradition of faithful worship, shared decision making and welcoming theology that convinces me we have a lot to offer into our communities and world.

I am known for repeating myself so I'd hate to disappoint! But one of my favourite sayings is "If we do nothing different nothing will be different" – life changes, society changes and we change.

My prayer is that, as our fellowships continue to care for one another and provide sustaining and thoughtful worship, we will also be able to support those engaged with that “different” in order for more and more people to experience God for themselves.

The day after my ordination in 2001 I preached from Jeremiah and these words, taken from there, have stayed with me ever since: they are nearly my final words ... “Be strong and courageous and do not be afraid, for the Lord your God is with you and will always there remain”.

Many blessings and much love always.

Carole

PS: Our new address is:

12 Woodwynd Close, Bowbrook, Shrewsbury, SY5 8PZ
and visitors are **always** welcome.

Invitation to Carole’s induction in Shrewsbury

Shrewsbury United Reformed Church invite you to the induction of Revd Carole Marsden on Saturday 6 January at 2.00 pm at the church on Coleham Head, Shrewsbury SY3 7BJ.

A soup and roll lunch will be provided from 12.30 pm for those travelling from a distance, and refreshments will be served following the service.

Please contact Margaret Franks on margaretbarnard@live.co.uk if you are intending to come; and, if you wish to have lunch, please let her know numbers for catering purposes. If you don't have access to email, please speak with Carole, who will pass numbers on.

There is a Pay and Display carpark on Abbey Foregate, where three hours costs £1.80 and up to ten hours £2.70. The train station is a ten to fifteen minute walk from the church through town.

Ramblings from the Church Secretary

It is with great sadness that I have to report the death of three of our congregation, Joan Smith, Mike Birkett and Dave Armitage. They will all be greatly missed, having served the Church faithfully for many years. Please keep their families in your prayers.



The Elders' election took place in October and Rhona Robertson has very kindly agreed to come back onto the Elders. Rhona has served for many years as an Elder in the past and we welcome her back with open arms. Pauline Goodridge and John Hindle have now both come off the Elders. Pauline has served her six years and is having a well-earned sabbatical. John has served for numerous years in various roles, latterly dealing with property matters. Thanks to both of you for all that you have done and will continue to do for the Church. An appreciation of John's long service was made during a recent Sunday worship. So this means that we now have seven serving Elders. Please prayerfully think whether you would consider becoming an Elder when we hold our next elections in October 2018.

We were delighted to welcome Anne Morrison into membership recently and are very glad that she has decided to join us. Welcome Anne.

Lastly we have to say a fond farewell to Carole as she leaves the South Lakes Group and moves to a new ministry at Shrewsbury URC. We will all miss her greatly here at Kendal, and Kendal's loss is certainly Shrewsbury's gain. She has contributed so much to the life of all the Churches in the group, but especially here at Kendal. I do hope that you will be able to get to Carole's farewell service on Sunday 3 December at 3pm.

As I explained at the last church meeting, Carole will not be replaced by another minister. Therefore this means that in the South Lakes Group (Carver, Sedbergh, Grange & Kendal) there will only be one stipendiary minister, Martyn Coe. We look forward to welcoming Martyn to more of our morning services and also seeing him at some of the Elders' and Church Meetings. We are however extremely blessed at Kendal to have the services of Pam Noonan, our non-stipendiary minister.

I wish you all a very Happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

Sheila Andrews



Mission Communities – getting there

Should the Kendal district be divided into three or work as a single entity? After many months of discussion, a good compromise has emerged – both! Some activities and administration are best done as a whole, but other events and levels of administration need smaller groupings. With that decision made we now move on to implementation. Nothing is to be "carved in stone" and all will be reviewed by September 2019.

The Anglican churches, of which there are 18, are already grouped into Helm, Beacon and Two Valleys (details are listed on the CTiKD website) so it seemed sensible to start by using this existing system - although the interaction between the churches will become stronger. As KURC and the Salvation Army are in the parish of Holy Trinity Kirkland we are initially joining the Helm group. It also contains Natland, Old and New Hutton and Crosscrake. One aim was to minimise travelling distances.

An important aspect of mission communities is getting to know each other, both person to person and church to church. It is acknowledged that Manna House, the bookshop and the food bank are already amongst joint activities. Several activities are being organised for the Helm group (us) over the next few months - communicating through magazines (which is what this article does), alterations to administration (arranged at a ministerial level), praying regularly (prayer is an absolute must), and a joint service followed by a Jacob's join early next year.

We are not there yet, but we have come a long way in the six years since that first meeting in Ambleside, when Cumbria pledged to become an ecumenical county. We have not had so far to travel as many churches, because KURC has more members who have come from other denominations and the URC is less tied to a hierarchical structure than many churches.

Exciting and historical times!

Anne Wilson

Church Diary

December

| | | | |
|-----------|----|----------|---|
| Sunday | 3 | 10.30 am | Worship in the Church, led by Revd Pam Noonan |
| | | 3.00 pm | Farewell Service in the Church for Revd Carole Marsden, followed by refreshments in the Main Hall |
| Tuesday | 5 | 10.00 am | Prayer Shawl Group in the Lecture Hall |
| | | 2.00 pm | Short Mat Bowls in the Main Hall |
| Wednesday | 6 | 9.30 am | Coffee and Chat in the Lecture Hall |
| Sunday | 10 | 10.30 am | Café style Worship in the Main Hall, led by Revd Pam Noonan |
| | | 4.00 pm | Carols by Candlelight in the Main Hall |
| Tuesday | 12 | 2.00 pm | Short Mat Bowls in the Main Hall |
| Thursday | 14 | 2.30 pm | Afternoon Communion in the Lecture Hall followed by tea/coffee and chat |
| Sunday | 17 | 10.30 am | Worship in the Main Hall led by the Elders |
| | | 4.30 pm | Carol Service at Stricklandgate Methodist Church |
| Tuesday | 19 | 10.00 am | Craft Group in the Lecture Hall |
| Sunday | 24 | 10.30 am | Christingle Service in the Main Hall, led by Revd Pam Noonan |
| Monday | 25 | 10.00 am | Christmas Day Service in the Lecture Hall, led by Revd Pam Noonan |
| Sunday | 31 | 10.30 am | Joint Worship at Stricklandgate Methodist Church |



January

| | | | |
|-----------|----|---------------------|---|
| Sunday | 7 | 10.30 am | Worship in the Main Hall, led by John |
| Tuesday | 9 | 2.00 pm | Short Mat Bowls in the Main Hall |
| Thursday | 11 | 2.30 pm | Afternoon Communion in the Lecture Hall followed by tea/coffee and chat |
| Sunday | 14 | 10.30 am | Worship in the Main Hall, led by Revd Pam Noonan |
| Tuesday | 16 | 10.00 am 2.00 pm | Craft Group in the Lecture Hall Short Mat Bowls in the Main Hall |
| Wednesday | 17 | 7.00 to 8.30 pm | Discussion Group at Pam Noonan's house— 6 Swallow Close (please park in Valley Drive) |
| Thursday | 18 | 7.00 pm | Ecumenical Service for Week of Prayer for Christian Unity at Sandylands Methodist Church |
| Sunday | 21 | 10.30 am | Worship in the Main Hall, led by an ecumenical partner Church Meeting in the Main Hall after Worship |
| Tuesday | 23 | 2.00 pm | Short Mat Bowls in the Main Hall |
| Sunday | 28 | 10.30 am | Joint service at Kendal URC, with Stricklandgate Methodists, in the Main Hall, led by Joachim Greiling |
| Tuesday | 30 | 2.00 pm | Short Mat Bowls in the Main Hall |

From the editor:

Thank you again to all who have contributed to this magazine. Please let me have any items for the February/March issue as early as you can and no later than Monday 15 January.



The following article is taken from the summer newsletter of the United Reformed Church's 'Commitment for Life' programme. Kendal URC's partner country is Zimbabwe. For further information about Commitment for Life

and its work in the four partner countries of Zimbabwe, Palestine, Central America and Bangladesh visit their website at cforl.org.uk.

Peter Farrand

Zimbabwe loses about 330,000 hectares of natural forests annually due to deforestation. This has led to the loss of more than 21% of Zimbabwe's forest cover in the last 20 years. Trees are important to the environment, preventing surface run-off during the rainy season and helping more water to be retained in the ground. This is especially important in areas like Gwanda which have suffered drought regularly and where communities are vulnerable to climate change.

The problem of what resources will be available for the next generation is one that everyone around the world is thinking about in the face of climate change. In the Gwanda district of Matabeleland South, communities are taking action to make sure their children will be able to enjoy healthy trees for years to come.

In Mzimuni, 43 members of the local community have formed a group to try to tackle the problem of their environment being depleted. They were worried that this depletion of the indigenous trees would leave their children without building materials, medicines and firewood, but also that without the trees to protect the land, vital topsoil would be washed away by rain. The Mhlangeni Woodlot is their answer to these problems, and they are being supported by Christian Aid's partner Dabane Trust.

Last year the group worked hard to fence off 175 hectares of land and prepare the ground for the tree planting. Everyone in the group shared the work of digging holes for saplings given by Gwanda Local Council. On 3 December 2016, National Planting Day, 157 saplings were planted.

Fruits for the future

Within the woodlot, the community has planted orange, wild medlar, mulberry and mahogany. Mahogany has medicinal properties and has been used by the community for eye complaints, chest pains, gonorrhoea, kidney problems, bilharzia and snake bites. The seeds can be made into necklaces, which can then be sold for additional income. When the trees have matured, the wood is hard and durable making it good for joinery and furniture.

The fruit trees, like oranges and mulberries, will provide the community with food and additional income through selling the fruit in the village or at local markets, and they are expecting their first fruit in 2018. As the area is well protected by fencing, the grass under the trees will be able to grow long and then be slashed and used to feed cattle. This project has short-term and long-term benefits as it will provide income through the fruit, cattle feed for livestock, as well as bringing back important indigenous trees which can be used for timber in the future as new trees are planted.

Water from the sand

The saplings still need regular watering, but this is possible thanks to the water pump that Dabane Trust installed in the local sand river to water the neighbouring market garden. At the moment, water has to be collected in buckets from the pump and then carried to the trees. The plan is to install a pipe directly to the woodlot with a solar powered pump to provide water much closer to the trees.

This is a pilot project and the first of its kind for Dabane Trust. They were impressed with the forward thinking shown by the community and the group members, as well as their hard work to get the project started. This woodlot will help Dabane Trust learn how to support communities to protect their local environment, and be sustainable while also generating income for families. If this project is successful, other communities could start similar woodlot schemes.

**Hidden Wounds in
Our Midst**

20 January 2018

9.30 am to 2.30 pm

St Thomas Church,
Kendal



**CUMBRIA
CHRISTIAN
LEARNING**

A day to explore how, through preaching, worship, prayer, listening and learning, we begin to discern the challenge the gospel poses for our relationships, calling us to repentance, and enabling restoration and healing. The purpose of the day is to equip those involved in pastoral care and anyone who preaches, teaches or speaks into the issue of domestic abuse.

'In Our Midst'

This is the first in a series of annual events, entitled 'In Our Midst' and organised by Cumbria Christian Learning, whose purpose it is to explore, reflect on and encourage the development of prophetic preaching. It is our hope and desire that these days may help us discern and articulate a gospel response to the manifold challenges we, as the church in Cumbria, experience in our contemporary culture and society.

In this inaugural event, we thought it appropriate to focus on prophetic preaching in relation to the challenges posed by domestic abuse, one of the key challenges facing the church today. This year's prophetic preaching day builds on the pioneering work already undertaken in this county by Churches Together in Cumbria (CTiC), who have been committed to raising awareness of domestic abuse within faith communities.

In the creation and delivery of this day, we have worked closely with our colleagues from CTiC and the other denominations that form part of our ecumenical partnership, including the Methodist Church, The Salvation Army and the United Reformed Church.

The costs are £20 per person, including booking fee, but do let us know if you require a reduced rate.

Please bring your own lunch. Tea and coffee will be provided.

You can contact us on 01768 807765

or admin@cumbriachristianlearning.org.uk

Verse from the Remembrance Day Service

Why are they selling poppies, mummy?
Selling poppies in town today.
The poppies, child, are flowers of love
For the men who marched away.

But why have they chosen a poppy, mummy?
Why not a beautiful rose?
Because, my child, men fought and died
In the fields where poppies grow.

But why are the poppies so red, mummy?
Why are the poppies so red?
Red is the colour of love, my child
The blood that our soldiers shed.

The heart of the poppy is black, mummy
Why does it have to be black?
Black, my child, is the symbol of grief
For the men who never came back.

But why, mummy, are you crying so?
Your tears are giving you pain.
My tears are my fears for you, my child
For the world is forgetting again.

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2018

18 to 25 January

In Kendal we now have pulpit exchanges, so the clergy go to the people of a different church rather than the people going to different churches.

There will be a Launch Service on Thursday 18 January at Sandylands from 7.00 to 9.30 pm led by David Cooper

The pulpit exchange will take place on Sunday 21 January.

Anne Wilson

A Prayer Diary for December and January (contributed by Joan Ratcliffe)

Week beginning 3 December

Today, we hold a farewell service for our minister Carole Marsden and her family. We thank God for her work among us and pray that she and her family will indeed know God's presence and leading as Carole takes up a new ministry in Shrewsbury.



10 December

The Winter Night Shelter is up and running. Give thanks and ask a blessing on all who volunteer, praying that the homeless people who attend may experience something of God's love for them.

17 December

In the busy build-up to Christmas, think of those for whom the season holds sad or painful memories. Pray that they may find the presence of the Prince of Peace.

24 December

Thank God for the best Christmas gift of all – his son, our saviour.

31 December

As we step into a new year, thank God for his faithfulness in the past and pray for his continued presence and guidance in all areas of our individual lives and of our church life.

7 January

Pray hard for our government and our country.

14 January

With important matters to be discussed at next Sunday's church meeting, let us bring that meeting to God in prayer throughout the week.

21 January

Use the fifth beatitude, found in Matthew, chapter 5 verse 7, in our prayers this week.

28 January

Pray for those you know who are not very well or are awaiting hospital appointments.

Let us pray

We are thankful to Joan for her prayer diary which I find really useful. It is tucked into my Bible along with my Bible daily reading notes. With it there, I am encouraged and do pray more regularly for the week's subject.

It is often said that prayer is the oil to the Church's activities, and so I ask myself as I ask you:

Do we pray regularly for the Elders' meeting particularly at this time of change?

Do we pray for one another as we seek to live out our faith day by day?

Do we pray that the church building will soon be sold?

Do we pray that others will come and join our fellowship?

And lastly, I do know that the ministry team would value your on going prayer. So, let us pray ...

Pam Noonan



Calling all prayer writers

Would you like to write a prayer for the United Reformed Church's annual prayer handbook?

The editors are inviting people from across the denomination to write prayers, hoping they'll be inspired by the theme 'Seasons of the Spirit'.

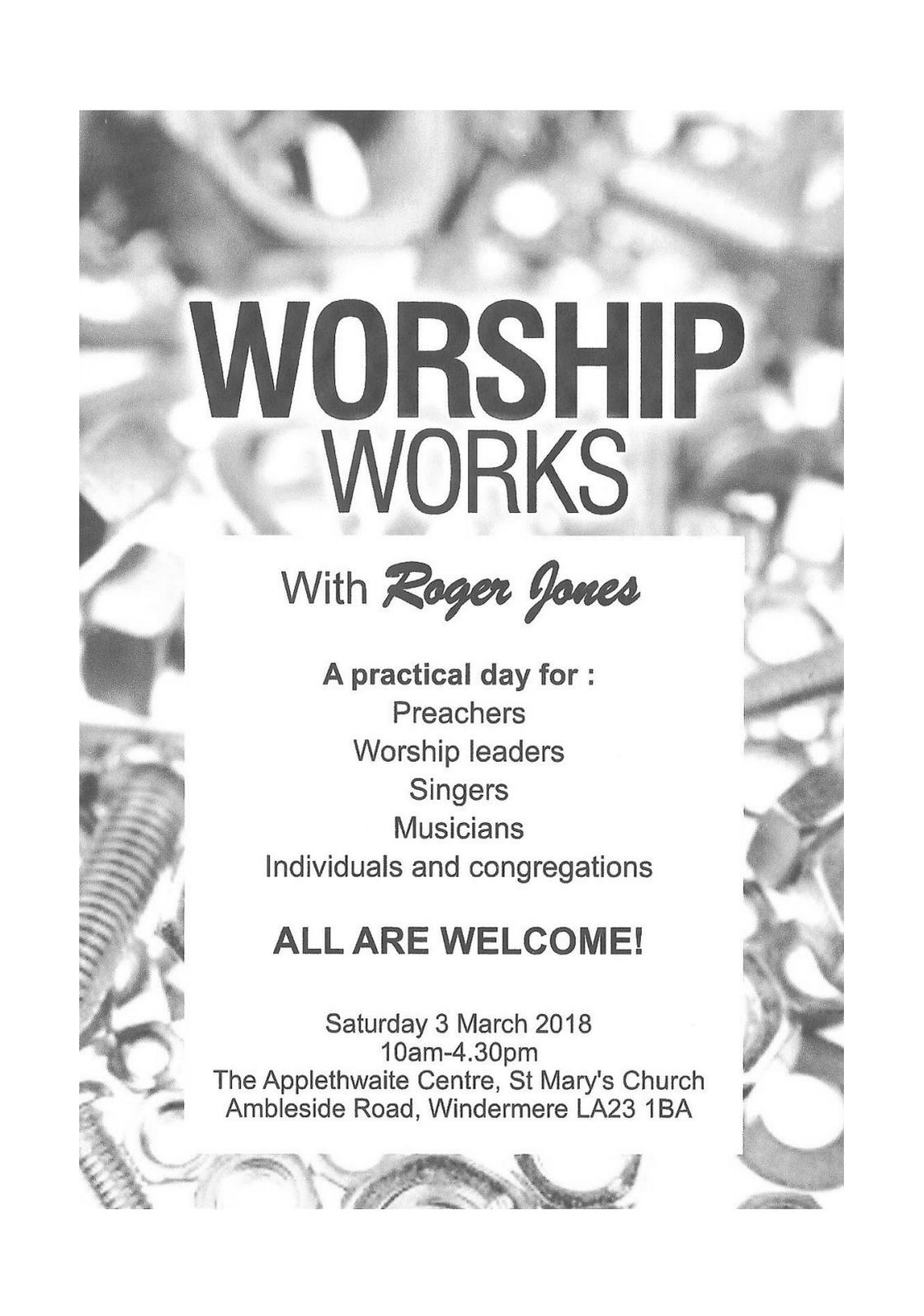
Although prayers on any lectionary reading will be considered, writers are encouraged to reflect on the dynamics of praise and lament in the lectionary Psalms in particular, to help create the URC's unique collection of provocative, prophetic, thoughtful, and beautiful prayers.

The editors – Nathan Eddy and Richard Church say: 'Our hope is to make the prayer handbook as representative of, and accessible to, as many people as possible. Therefore, we're looking for prayers from people of all ages, nationalities, and Christian traditions. If you enjoy writing prayers, write one for us!'

The deadline for submissions is Monday 4 December, and can be made by emailing phb@urc.org.uk with 'Submitted prayer' in the subject field.

To make submissions by post, send to: The Editors, The Prayer Handbook, The Communications Department, United Reformed Church House, 86 Tavistock Place, London, WC1H 9RT.

If you have any queries, email phb@urc.org.uk with 'PHB query' in the subject field.



WORSHIP WORKS

With *Roger Jones*

A practical day for :

Preachers

Worship leaders

Singers

Musicians

Individuals and congregations

ALL ARE WELCOME!

Saturday 3 March 2018

10am-4.30pm

The Applethwaite Centre, St Mary's Church
Ambleside Road, Windermere LA23 1BA