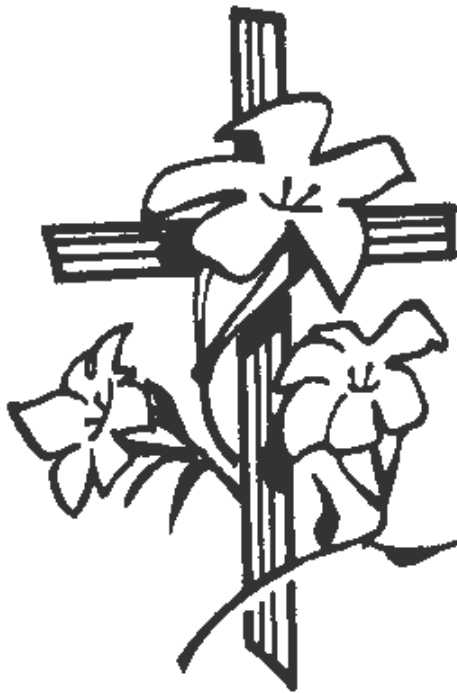


Kendal

United Reformed Church



April and May 2019

**Kendal United Reformed Church**

Highgate, Kendal LA9 4HE

Web: kendalurc.org.uk

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

**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

**Administrator:**

**Jenny Andrews**

The office will be based at the Salvation Army, Gillinggate

Tel (office): 07487 734495

Email: admin.kendalurc@protonmail.com

**Editor:**

**John Costello**

2 Hawesmead Drive, Kendal LA9 5HD

Tel: 01539 730524

Email: johnxcostello@btinternet.com

**In this issue:**

**Minister's letter (1)**

Revd Martyn Coe writes 4

**Minister's letter (2)**

Revd Pam Noonan writes 6

**Mission Community**

Revd Pam Noonan explains what the Mission Community is 7

**Secretary's Ramblings**

From Sheila Andrews 8

**Boxes of Hope 2019**

Ann Hindle reports on the Shoe Box appeal 9

**Diary dates: special events, services and worship leaders 10**

**Freewill Giving for 2019**

Nick Andrews writes 12

**Winter Shelter 2018/19**

Revd Lis Mullen reports 13

**King's Food Bank**

Information from the Food Bank Newsletter 14

**Christian Aid 2019**

A note from Anne Handley 15

**Food for Thought**

Brenda Walling writes 15

**Caring for our Common Home**

Peter Farrand and Neil Wilson report 16

**Where are we now?**

Anne Wilson writes about Cumbria as an ecumenical county 18

**Prayer Diary**

Contributed by Joan Ratcliffe 19

**Minister's letter**

***Revd Martyn Coe writes***

In the Gospel stories, it is clear that the resurrected Jesus is not easily identifiable to his friends. Not just, I suspect, because they would not have been expecting to see him but because he was indeed changed. It seems to be the way that he spoke and the things he knew about them that mean that he is recognised by the women who go to his tomb or the men who he visits in their hiding place or when he meets them once more on the beach where he first called them. The story of Easter is clear: the resurrection of Jesus is about a new part of the story of God and God's people. In no way is it just Jesus and the disciples picking up where they left off. Things have been broken, and even restoration leaves them changed.



If we delve further back, the Old Testament story of Job ends with all seeming well with Job. He has remained loyal to his understanding of God and has gone through great suffering. In the end, he seems to be blessed by God. Yet, although he lives well in the end, Job has still suffered: his children are dead and his animals and lands are destroyed. In the end it is blessings from God through friends and relatives which give Job a new start.

Neither for Job nor for the disciples, does restoration bring things back to how they were. If anything they are more challenging now they know God fully.

The story of Easter is of the resurrection of the dead becoming alive. The story of Pentecost is of the Holy Spirit giving to those who are close to God the comfort and the disturbance needed to get on with the tasks in front of them.

However we experience Easter resurrection and Pentecost blessing, there is no turning back on the journey of faith. We pray and plan for the resurrection or restoration of the life of our church fellowship. We need to do so believing that this is possible but also knowing that what is not possible is a return to things as they were.

We plan for new people to be drawn to the life of faith. We work on our own and in Mission Communities (the churches in our area) to help everyone in our neighbourhood to have the chance of hearing the Gospel message.

When our prayers are answered, it won't be simply to see what we have done in the past restored. Just as Jesus was not recognisable even to his closest friends, just as Job was blessed in later life but must have carried the sorrow of his earlier losses with him, the answer to our prayers will not be what we imagine – it rarely is!

To know resurrection or restoration in answer to prayer, we have to hold on to our relationship with God and give up much that has been dear to us.

In Kendal, we are spending £500,000 (from reserves, church sale, and manse fund grant) on resurrection for our church building and on a development and pioneer worker. We hope our new space and our mission priorities will help people encounter faith - but even if the church grows it will not be anything like it was before. Like Job we have lost, forever, the good things we had before – we look for the new blessings from God.

At Carver, we are spending £80,000 on staff over the next three years to support the life of the church. The administrator releases members to give more time for mission, and the pastoral worker will support those connected to the church and seek new ways of sharing faith in our community. Even as we do this, we know that new ways of worship are needed; and, even if our prayers are answered, our church will change.

In Grange, the emotional and monetary cost of coming together in one building will be huge (the lowest suggestion so far is £700,000 to resurrect the Methodist building). Like Job, we will be distraught at the destruction of much we have loved and now lost, but like Job and like the disciples we look for a new resurrection story empowered by the Holy Spirit. Neither the building nor our church life and worship will be restored to what they were – but we pray, and we hope that with God's blessing there are new riches to be shared.

To look for the past to return is a fool's errand. To look to the future, open to the guidance of the Spirit, is a faithful journey. As we remember the struggles and death of Jesus in Jerusalem, let us, like him anticipate resurrection which changes us and refreshes the life of all God's people. The story is not over, we might not recognise what the church is to become, but the journey is faithful, and we hear the voice of Christ calling us forward.

May the blessing of God and the stirring of the Holy Spirit be with us all this Easter.

***Martyn***

---

Minister's Letter

**Revd Pam Noonan writes**



The first signs of spring with flowers bringing colour to our gardens and hedgerows and lambs cavorting in the fields fill my heart with a sense of anticipation and joy. However, it is not just the physical signs of new birth that speak to me, but also the sense that we are journeying towards Easter, that time when our Lord's death on the cross and rising again is not only celebrated but also remembered for its life-giving and changing power for all who believe in him and seek to walk his way. Yes, spring speaks and fills my heart with joy and a sense of looking to the future.

Spring also speaks to me of change - not just to the physical environment around but also of new opportunities. I had hoped to be able to write of the change that completing the sale of the church has brought but, as I write, this has not yet happened. However, I do have a sense that our move to Abbot Hall Community Centre for our worship and some of our outreach activities has been well received. Please do ask others to join with us.

The elders had hoped that the lay worker post with Carver would be filled. However, following the advertisement late last year for a full-time post with little interest being shown, it was decided to re-advertise the post as part-time for ourselves. The post-holder will not only help to lead the congregation in its worship and existing outreach but will also develop new initiatives from 106 and other appropriate places.

In recent months, we have been supported by the Salvation Army and the Parish Church. The Salvation Army have offered space for our administrator, Jenny, to work and also for some of our meetings. The Parish Church has welcomed our midweek communion service. We look forward to seeing these relationships with our Mission Community partners develop further.

With that in mind, the elders discussed the future of our joint services with our Methodist friends. They were aware that our focus should be with our Mission Community Partners and developing our own vision for the future. Likewise, the ministry team at Stricklandgate were acutely conscious of the challenges faced when the joint service was with us. With that in mind, and following discussion with their minister, it was decided that our last joint service this year would be at Stricklandgate in March. Both churches have undertaken to revisit the decision at the end of the year.

As I travel through Lent to Easter, I am acutely conscious of the challenging journey that our Lord undertook for the salvation of the world and humanity. I am equally conscious that the journey to complete on our sale has not been easy and has delayed beginning our actual redevelopment. As a new spiritual era came into being with Christ's resurrection, I look forward in faith to all that God has in store for Kendal United Reformed Church in the future as we continue to walk his way in faith.

May I wish you all a very blessed and happy Easter.

**Pam**

### **Mission Community**

At the Elders' recent away day, it was suggested that some may be confused by the term "Mission Community".

We are part of the emerging Helm Mission Community in town. There are three in Kendal, to help the various denominations work more closely together and share their resources. Both Anne Wilson and I meet with the other clergy within our Mission Community on a regular basis

We are becoming more familiar with those in our Mission Community through the Jacob's Join lunches. Our partners are the Parish Church, Natland, Crosscraze, Old and New Hutton on the Anglican side, the Salvation Army. These are the churches with which we are in a covenant relationship through the God for All initiative.

As an aside, both the Parish church and the Salvation Army have been most helpful and supportive to us over the past months, with the Salvation Army offering office and other space, and the Parish Church welcoming the Midweek Communion Service.

We will have another Jacob's Join lunch on Sunday 26 May at the Salvation Army, which I hope as many as possible will attend.

**Pam**

### **Secretary's Ramblings**

Firstly, it is with great sadness that I have to report the death of one of our members, Barry Barnes, who died on 5 March. Barry will be greatly missed, having served the Church so faithfully for many years. Please keep June and her family in your prayers.



It is also with great sadness on a personal note, that my mother-in-law Gwen died on 3 February. Gwen mainly worshipped at Stricklandgate Methodist Church, as it was so convenient for Wainwright Court, where she lived. She did however love coming to all our coffee mornings and social events and knew many people at KURC. Nick, I and Jenny thank you all for your condolences and for the many people who came to her funeral, led so thoughtfully by Pam.

We still await the completion of the sale of the church: it's been a very frustrating time over the last few months and we have been in frequent and continuous contact with our solicitor and estate agent. Our purchaser, despite having made an "unconditional" offer nearly 11 months ago has still not signed the contract. We do know that he has put in an application for planning permission with SLDC and that this has not yet been approved at the time of writing this note. This has of course held up all our plans for our redevelopment, as we are reliant on the proceeds of the sale of the church to proceed. We do have a regular church meeting scheduled for Sunday 14 April, and unless things have progressed by then we will be bringing a resolution that the property is put back on the market. However, the move to Abbot Hall Social Centre has been fairly smooth. There have been one or two hiccups with sound systems but overall most people are finding that Abbot Hall is very welcoming. The Salvation Army, one of our Mission Community partners, has been excellent in providing us with office accommodation and space to hold our Elder's Meetings. The Parish Church, another Mission Community partner, has offered us space for our monthly mid-week communion services and has made us very welcome. You will see from the diary insert that on 26 May Abbot Hall is not available to us, so we are going to have a joint service with the Salvation Army and then have a Mission Community lunch afterwards. One of the conditions of hiring Abbot Hall is that we must have a fire drill twice a year. This has been discussed at Elders and will happen soon, hopefully on a dry day!



Your Elders have been very busy recently with training sessions. At our February Elders' Meeting we had a visit from the Synod's Safeguarding Officer and then most of us attended a training session at Carver on the new General Data Protection Regulations. We held our annual Away Day at Rydal Hall recently and reviewed the past year, also deciding on new courses of action. One of these will be more regular opportunities to share and eat together following worship. Brenda Walling has agreed to co-ordinate this and you can see her article in this magazine giving you details and dates. Also, if you have any suggestions for social activities or outings please let me know. We also revised the job description for our part-time Pioneer and Development Worker. This was originally going to be a post shared with Carver but when it was advertised there was little success. It is now being re-advertised as a part-time post solely to work on our behalf. We are very conscious that Pam will be retiring at the end of July and have been looking at the implications of this.

**Sheila Andrews**

Several people have been asking what we are doing about Shoeboxes this year.

We do want to continue to support this worthy cause but think a "low key" approach may be best whilst we have no permanent base. The suggestion is that individuals collect for their own box then we will gather them together later in the year. We will provide a list of items that should go into boxes and also we have several hats (about 50) left over from last year.

If you feel that would like to help but are unable to seek out items and pack a box, I am happy to collect small financial contributions to enable us to pack a box or two extra.

Hopefully, we will gather about 50 boxes this way. Next year we should be back to normal!

Thank you for your continuing support.

**Ann Hindle**



Please let the editor have any material for the next issue of this magazine by Monday 13 May. Thank you for your contributions.

## Church Diary

**Please note that the dates for Coffee Mornings and the Prayer Shawl Group vary from month to month, as Abbot Hall is not always available.**

### April

Sunday	7	10.30 am	Worship, at Abbot Hall Social Centre, led by Revd Pam Noonan
Tuesday	9	10.00 am	Prayer Shawl Group at Abbot Hall Social Centre
Wednesday	10	9.30 am	Coffee Morning at Abbot Hall Social Centre, in aid of St Mary's Hospice, Ulverston
Thursday	11	2.00 pm	Afternoon Communion in the Parish Church, followed by tea/coffee and chat
Sunday	14	10.30 am	Palm Sunday Worship, at Abbot Hall Social Centre, led by Revd Sarah Moore
		12.00 noon	Church Meeting after Worship
Monday	15	10.30 am	Friendship Group meeting, for coffee and chat: venue to be confirmed
Thursday	18	7.00 pm	Maundy Thursday Worship, at the Salvation Army, Gillingate, led by Revd Pam Noonan
Friday	19	10.30 am	Good Friday Walk of Witness, starting at Stricklandgate Methodist Church
Sunday	21	6.00 am	Churches Together Sunrise Service at Kendal Castle
		10.30 am	Easter Day Worship, at Abbot Hall Social Centre, led by Revd Pam Noonan
Sunday	28	10.30 am	Worship, at Abbot Hall Social Centre, led by Revd Lis Mullen

**May**

Sunday	5	10.30 am	Worship, at Abbot Hall Social Centre, led by Revd Martyn Coe
Tuesday	7	10.00 am	Prayer Shawl Group at Abbot Hall Social Centre
Wednesday	8	9.30 am	Coffee Morning at Abbot Hall Social Centre, in aid of Christian Aid
Thursday	9	2.00 pm	Afternoon Communion in the Parish Church, followed by tea/coffee and chat
Sunday	12	10.30 am	Worship, at Abbot Hall Social Centre, led by Revd Pam Noonan
Sunday	19	9.00 am	Church with Coffee and Croissants, at Abbot Hall Social Centre
		10.30 am	Worship, at Abbot Hall Social Centre, led by Revd Pam Noonan
Monday	20	10.30 am	Friendship Group meeting, for coffee and chat: venue to be confirmed
Sunday	26	10.30 am	Joint Worship, at Salvation Army, led by Revd Pam Noonan and Hilary Borthwick, at Salvation Army, Gillingate. Mission Community bring-and-share lunch after Worship

**June**

Sunday	2	10.30 am	Worship at Abbot Hall Social Centre, led by Judith Bartlett and Revd Lis Mullen
--------	---	----------	---



Our coffee morning charity for April is St Mary's Hospice, Ulverston.



In May, we support Christian Aid.

## **Freewill Giving for 2019**

### ***From the Treasurer***

As I'm writing this the church's annual financial year is coming to its end on 31 March. For the first time since I have been your treasurer, it looks as though the amount of offertory money and associated Gift Aid will not be enough to cover the Ministry and Mission assessment, and the shortfall will have been made up from other income.

The URC's financial year is different from our own, so we have been paying the 2019 M&M since January. Our assessment for 2019 is £26,568. With our current membership of 55, and 6 regular worshippers, this equates to £435 per person per year. As is usual at this time, I would ask you all to consider your own giving, and whether you are in the fortunate position of being able to increase the amount that you give. For monthly givers, this figure works out at £36 per month. If you're working on a weekly basis, this amounts to about £8 per week.

If you're able to increase what you can give that would be good. I know that some of our members do pay their M&M by standing order, which makes administration easier. Please do also consider, if you're one of these people, whether you can change the amount of your payment. If you use internet banking, it's quite simple to do this, just a few key strokes. If that's a bit complicated, I have prepared some traditional paper standing order mandate forms for you to use and take or post to your bank branch. I will have copies of these documents on me when I'm around in April, and Edward Irvine will also have a supply of these. Alternatively, we can email to you a copy of the standing order form if you would prefer that.

If you don't currently pay by standing order I would be delighted if you would take one of the standing order forms and change to this method. I would also make my usual request relating to Gift Aid. If you are a UK tax payer and the tax you pay is equal to or more than the amount you are giving to KURC, we can reclaim 25% of this amount back if you sign the declaration. You will need to speak to Edward Irvine, our Gift Aid secretary who will organize this for you.

A last thing for you to consider is whether you would be prepared to leave a legacy to the Church in your will. Please think about this as well.

***Nick Andrews***

---

## **Night Shelter**

### **Winter 2018-19**

#### ***From Revd Lis Mullen***

Kendal URC was linked this year with the Monday night shelter that took place at the Salvation Army. Bert and Veronica, myself and John plus four other volunteers took it in turns to be there for the first part of the evening or the overnight sleep-in duty. We were also helped with the cooking by Anne T, Anne H and Brenda W. The men said they hadn't been so well-fed for ages! Alvene was also involved, providing Monday morning breakfast at Stricklandgate Methodist Church.

At first, there were no takers, so we had the first couple of weeks in December off, but, as the winter grew colder, I think we were more necessary and there were some very cold and wet nights. A number of guests spent about five days over Christmas at Rydal Hall.

The numbers of guests varied from one to five and there was quite a few who only stayed one or two nights and then moved on or found some accommodation. Manna House are very good at helping guests access alternatives.

As the numbers varied, so did the atmosphere. We had a few quite difficult weeks during January, but some stern words from the Manna House staff – who are wonderfully supportive – made a difference and we all settled down to some friendly, chatty evenings. Dominoes was the primary entertainment on Salvation Army night, but it is surprising how many individual guests want to stay up late chatting and sharing their troubles and life stories. We learned such a lot and we feel it is such a privilege to be able to share for a short time the disrupted and often sad lives of men we wouldn't normally meet.

Thank you Kendal URC for your financial support in providing most of the meals.

***Lis***

**king's  
foodbank**

*providing emergency food boxes  
in the Kendal Community*

King's Food Bank provides emergency food support to people in Kendal and its nearby districts in Cumbria. In the present tough economic times, with spiralling energy and food prices, the household budgets of those on low incomes come under considerable pressure. In the event of a crisis situation such as redundancy, many people do not have the resources to provide for themselves. King's Food Bank is a community project delivering food donations given by local people to others in our community that are experiencing difficulties.

We are continually amazed at the generous donations of food collected each week and thank you for each item, but equally thankful for the financial donations as they allow us to buy other items needed. We have sufficient stocks of baked beans, soup and pasta, some dated as far ahead as 2021 which is amazing. If you are thinking of donating to us, can we suggest tins of fruit, meat in sauce, fruit squash, custard or rice pudding as stocks are very low. If you would like to make regular financial donations rather than go shopping, standing order and gift-aid forms are available: just contact us for details.

Do join us at our coffee morning in Kendal Town Hall on Saturday 13 April. We look forward to having a busy morning and seeing you there!

Our address: King's Food Bank, Shakespeare Centre, Yard 76, Highgate, Kendal LA9 4HE

Telephone: 07534 609179

Email: [kingsfoodbank@gmail.com](mailto:kingsfoodbank@gmail.com)

Website: [www.kingsfoodbank.org.uk](http://www.kingsfoodbank.org.uk)

Opening hours: Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday, 12 noon to 3 pm

***(from the Food Bank Newsletter, submitted by Anne Handley)***

---



**Christian Aid Week**

12—18 May 2019

“All mums should live” - Sierra Leone is the world’s most dangerous place to give birth. Loans given by the International Monetary Fund to Sierra Leone to tackle the 2014 Ebola crisis have saddled the country with debt, preventing the funding of healthcare desperately needed to tackle death in childbirth. This is why we are enclosing an envelope with this magazine.

Your gift this Christian Aid Week could help build more healthcare clinics, and provide health training and improve hygiene so that mothers and babies can live long and happy lives.

Thank you for your support.

**Anne Handley**

**Food for thought**

At our recent Elders Away Day we discussed ways of keeping the congregation together during this time of change. It was suggested that we might start a Sunday Lunch club on the last Sunday of each month. This would take the format of alternating between a hotel/pub meal out, a Jacob’s Join, or having Cracking Spread bring in a buffet style meal. The cost would vary for the meals out depending on the venue. Cracking Spread charge from £5 per head depending on what we ask for. This would not only include the congregation: you could also invite a friend along if you wished. It was also suggested that on the third Sunday of the month we would open up early (9.00 am) and serve coffee and croissants and have a “Thought for Today” before our usual Sunday worship.

The plan was to start the lunches with a meal out on 28 April and the coffee and croissants on 19 May.

If anyone is interested in either of these events and has suggestions on where to eat out please let me know as soon as possible.

**Brenda Walling**

## **Caring for our Common Home**

Keswick 2 February 2019

(Peter Farrand and Neil Wilson attended)

The day was organised by, among other groups, Cumbria Theological Society, with more than 120 attenders.

The morning started with an act of simple and thoughtful worship and, after a welcome from Revd Sarah Moore, a talk by Keith Ward, theologian, philosopher and ordained priest. The subject was **Deep Ecology: Creation and the Environment**. This lasted for about 45 minutes, followed by questions.

It was well presented, informative and humorous. Keith started with the secular approach that natural things have value in their own right and that humans are no more valuable than anything else – opposing the Genesis idea of man’s “dominion”: Earth is primary, humans, derivative. He contrasted this with an extreme Christian view that all things were created for the sake of humanity.

He then mused about evolution: is it accidental or has it a purpose? Nothing has value unless you value it, and why should you value what was an accident?

This led on to Huxley’s view of ethics – in effect “Ethics tells you to do what evolution doesn’t do and evolution does what ethics tells you not to do.”

Is the Universe rational? “In the beginning was Thought”. Evolution, controlled by the environment through myriads of processes, led eventually to consciousness, this led to purpose, and this in turn to value. Persons are of value and should be treated with compassion.

The Universe is the expression of Mind (Thought) – God has chosen. Divinity expressed itself in the physical world: **Incarnation**, then **Atonement**, re-uniting a disordered world with Divinity, and finally, **Resurrection**, a mystical union with God that proceeds through a person’s life. (Apologies to Keith Ward for any misquotations or misunderstandings)

A series of workshops followed.

We chose two from a selection of ten – one in the morning and one after a lunch break.



Neil selected “Standing together with those most vulnerable to climate change” led by Laura Jones from Christian Aid; and “Green Journey: the five easiest ways of reducing your church’s and your own Carbon Footprint” led by Jemima Parker, Environmental Officer of the Leeds Diocese. Peter chose “Eco church: Getting started and being successful”, led by Pam Martin from St John’s Church, Levens – which has been awarded a gold standard as an eco church; and “The Cry of the Earth and the Cry of the Poor”, an introduction to Pope Francis’s 2015 encyclical ‘Laudato Si’, which has the subtitle ‘Care for our Common Home’.

The afternoon’s workshop was preceded by a second talk by an academic theologian, Peter Scott: **“Sharing our Common Home”**. This covered many points – here are just a couple:

- The present geological age is sometimes known as the Anthropocene, because of humanity’s influence on the environment through industry in the widest sense of the word, including for example agriculture and forestry.
- Astro-biology studies life in a cosmic context. The world continues to meet our needs: we are guests not hosts.

To be fair, the postprandial slot was not the most favourable time for what was not the most engaging lecture and the lady in front of us had the greatest difficulty in staying awake!

The whole event was, however, most worthwhile, held in Keswick School and punctuated with a fairly continuous supply of free coffee, tea, and biscuits. We may find in the future some spin-offs, particularly from the hour-long workshop sessions.

There was much we heard and learned that may be pertinent to Kendal United Reformed Church as it looks to its future:- developing an environmental policy, aiming for an eco-church award and considering toilet twinning, amongst others. One question stood out “To whom does the Church listen, to whom does the church speak, whom does the church love?”

The day closed with further short worship. Needless to say, we also worshipped the beauty of the snow-clad fells seen through the windows, against a perfect blue sky!

***Peter and Neil***

---

### **Where are we now?**

How time flies – it is more than seven years since Cumbria became the first ecumenical county and a lot has happened since then as the churches all work out how it affects us, and how to make it effective. The biggest effect we are feeling is our own developing *mission community* – the Helm group. "So what is the purpose of a *mission community*" you may ask – quite simply it is forming groups of local Christian churches to make them more effective in worship and spreading the Christian message to those around by sharing resources of time, talent, buildings and people. Sounds like a no-brainer!

Some people will be afraid that they will lose the church they know and love in all the changes, but that will not happen because there are two important guidelines which are being strictly followed.

Individual churches must keep their own identity – you will never be expected to have ash on your forehead on Ash Wednesday, nor genuflect at the altar. Anglicans will not drop their PCCs in favour of decision making by the whole church membership. Nothing changes for you here.

Equally importantly - churches may keep up their existing ties and relationships with others, both churches and organisations, whether or not they are part of the same *mission community*. One obvious example for KURC is the many connections that have grown up in the past with Stricklandgate Methodist: their Tuesday lunches, our prayer shawl group, and the joint Sunday services. A parable to illustrate this might involve Sam (our grandson) who married Emily last month; neither lost their own family but acquired an extra set of relations (their in-laws); Emily now has Neil and me as grandparents-in-law. Yes, we will keep what we had and build up new friendships and relationships.

Back in 2011 several groups, including one led by Sarah Moore, produced the concept of *God for all*, that by 2020 everyone in Cumbria should have had the opportunity of learning of God's purpose for their lives. There are five "strategies" in all:-

- Outreach – includes the aim of reaching everyone in Cumbria by 2020
- Ministry – all groups have to optimise their use of ministers
- Buildings – well we know all about them!
- Discipleship – this is helping you and me to grow in our religious lives
- Mission Communities

Things are not being rushed, but allowed to develop slowly and organically. Many of us at KURC have already joined with the other churches in bring-and-share lunches as a way of getting to know the other congregations better. Do not expect any sudden changes, just small moves towards church communities fit for the rest of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. I heard of one new Anglican priest who moved to a Cumbrian church because he had heard of the exciting things happening here!

**Anne D Wilson**

**A Prayer Diary for April and May** (contributed by Joan Ratcliffe)

**Week beginning 7 April**

Let us pray for our ministers, elders and members, and for next week's Church Meeting.

**14 April Palm Sunday**

*Hosanna to the Son of David.*

We focus our thoughts and prayers around the events of Holy Week.

**21 April Easter Day**

*Hallelujah! What a Saviour!*

**28 April**

Polling Day falls this week. Pray for our local councillors, our MP, and our government, that wisdom may prevail.

**5 May**

The first cuckoo is often heard in May. Thank God for the wonder and beauty of all bird life, which he created.

**12 May**

Think of and pray for the people we see around our town selling the Big Issue magazine.

**19 May**

Give thanks for all who attend the Prayer Shawl Group; and for the love and prayers that go into the knitting of the shawls. Pray for all who receive a shawl, sent and given with such love.

**26 May**

Ascension Day falls on Thursday of this week. We read the story in Acts 1: 1—11.





**Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> April**  
**10.00-12pm**

Kendal Town Hall

Cake Stall and Raffle

Everyone Welcome

All proceeds for

