

Kendal

United Reformed Church



February and March 2017

# *Kendal United Reformed Church*

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## **Kendal United Reformed Church**

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**From Revd Carole Marsden**

As a travelling music teacher I used to try and track the seasons as closely as possible to enable the children to perform in assemblies and concerts. Christmas was the easiest, Harvest and Easter not far behind. The emergence of Spring from Winter was trickier!

As a result the main song we used was “Spring has sprung, the grass is riz, I wonder where the birdie is?”. The language always needed explaining and often any humour spelt out because of its old language or abbreviations from a quite different generation.



Despite the song, I love Spring. The flowers outside Hannah’s classroom are just peeking through and last night I overheard a lovely conversation between Hannah and Eleanor about how exciting it was that the daffodils (and dandelions) will soon be out. As a participant in Anchors Aweigh, a URC youth event of yesteryear based on boats on the Norfolk Broads at Easter, I remember putting food colouring into the water of daffodils and watching it travel to edge of the flower, highlighting the veins and edges beautifully.

I personally love snowdrops as they bring memories of Candlemas and that first glimpse of new life after the bleakness and darkness of winter.

That peeking of new life, colour and contrast seems a very relevant symbol at this time across all of our churches in the South Lakes Group. After the busy-ness of Christmas before the journey to Easter we pause. We look back. We look around. We look forward.

And what do we find? Well it’s a whole mix of old traditions, familiar routines and expectant hopes. Just as we expect it to be, just as it always has been and always will be.

So I invite you to join with me. Not in that song! But in the recognising of the New Life that is emerging in your own place. Of ecumenical journeying, of new initiatives, of hopes for future buildings and of our re-packaging of the story of God for those who are around us who have yet to hear.

As “Spring is sprung” may you enjoy the colours and the shapes of God’s world anew and be filled with the joy of new life that God offers to us each and every day.

With love and best wishes

**Carole x**

### **Ramblings from the Church Secretary**

Happy New Year to you all.

To keep you up to date with church business I list below some of the points raised recently at our Elders’ and Church meetings.

At our January Church Meeting the Elders proposed to change the frequency of our Church Meetings from 6 to 4 per year. This was approved by the Church Meeting so the new dates for our Church Meetings this year will be 23<sup>rd</sup> April, 16<sup>th</sup> July and 15<sup>th</sup> October. The Annual Church Meeting will also be held on the 15<sup>th</sup> October. They are all to be held after morning worship. Should an extra meeting be needed due notice will be given.

The Elders’ election papers will be going out in June, the same procedure as last year. Any member may be approached to consider becoming an Elder, and if they agree they need to sign the election paper, along with two people who nominated them. The Elders also proposed that if an Elder has served for 3 years, and wishes to continue serving for a further 3 year term, this can be done without re-election or re-induction. This was approved by the January Church meeting.

Car parking has always been a problem at certain times and currently the halls are being used fairly frequently. Could I therefore ask members to park in the church yard only if they are using the church premises or are on church business. Also there is now no car park space available outside Milne Moser. Please do not park there, even on a Sunday: they require 24 hour access.

A couple of dates for your diary – Firstly there will be a Big Day Out at Southport on 8<sup>th</sup> July. It is hoped that there will be a coach going from the South Lakes. More details to follow. We will be having a joint South Lakes Group service at Grange URC on 4<sup>th</sup> June at 4pm.

**Sheila Andrews**

## **Women's World Day of Prayer**

This annual event takes place, world-wide, on the first Friday in March. The 2017 Kendal service is at Sandylands Methodist Church at 2.00 pm on Friday March 3<sup>rd</sup>. WWDoP is an international ecumenical organisation going back many decades. This year's service has been compiled by women in the Philippines.



Everyone is welcome at this service be they women or (despite the name) men. It is a good opportunity to meet our friends from other denominations.

At KURC we are looking for a new church representative. It is not an arduous task: each year there is one preparation meeting and the one service at which the representatives help. The service is prepared by the women of a different country each year and presented in a booklet, so there is very little preparation left to be done. We now need a new representative. If you feel you could take over this task I can promise that you will enjoy the camaraderie and find the job worthwhile – please see me if you are interested.

## **Anne D Wilson**



In December, I closed my Great China Trek account, with a final balance of £6,700. It was wonderful that people were so generous in supporting my efforts to raise funds for the hospice; so a big thank you to all who contributed.

However, I have continued with some fund raising activity; and on Sunday 15 January we had a very pleasant lunch at the Windermere Centre, which produced a profit of £323.50 for the hospice. Once more, thank you to those who came and took part in this event with such enthusiasm, and to those who made donations even when they were not able to come. All this support is very much appreciated.

## **Alvene**

## **Finance**

We have now received details of our Ministry and Mission Fund Assessment for 2017. The Synod base this on the number of members a church has, and also the number of regular worshippers who are not members. As well as this there is a charge based upon the value of investments a church holds.

Using the return sent to Synod at the beginning of last year, we said we had 64 members and 16 regular worshippers who are not members, and we have been asked for £298 per person, making a total of £23,840.

As a wealthy church with investments at the end of our financial year ending in March 2015 of £247,032, we have been asked for 2% of this, or £4,941.

We have also been asked to pay the Synod levy, at £15.50 per person, which equates to £1,236.

In total, allowing for a minor adjustment to round down the overall total to a sum which divides exactly by twelve for the direct debit, we have been asked for £30,012 for 2017. In 2016 we were asked for £24,852, and this increase of £5,160 is equivalent to 15.8%.

This amounts to £375 per person, worshipping at Kendal URC.

This money, with the exception of the Synod levy, actually goes to the national church. It is used to pay the stipends of ministers, the expenses of running the church, including the salaries of lay staff employed by the church, and to fund the training of new ministers at colleges.

Usually the amount given by the membership, and Gift Aid reclaimed on it, has covered the amount of our M&M Assessment. It looks as though we will be able to do this during our current financial year which ends on 31 March, as well.

May I ask you all to consider whether you are in a position to review your own personal giving to the church. Also, if you are not a member of the Gift Aid scheme, but are a taxpayer and wish to join, this will help our income. If you would like to talk to me about any aspect of this please seek me out!

**Nick Andrews,**

**Treasurer**

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## Church Diary

### February

Wednesday	1	9.30 am	Coffee Morning in aid of the Kaloko Trust
Sunday	5	10.30 am	Worship in the Main Hall, led by Revd Carole Marsden
Tuesday	7	10.00 am 2.00 pm	Prayer Shawl group in the Lecture Hall Short Mat Bowls in the Main Hall
Wednesday	8	10.00 am	Mid-week Communion in the Minister's Office
Sunday	12	10.30 am	Worship in the Main Hall (café style), led by Revd Pam Noonan
Monday	13	2.00 pm	Friendship Group in the Lecture Hall
Tuesday	14	2.00 pm	Short Mat Bowls in the Main Hall
Sunday	19	10.30 am	Worship in the Main Hall, led by Revd Sarah Moore
Tuesday	21	10.00 am 2.00 pm	Craft group in the Lecture Hall Short Mat Bowls in the Main Hall
Wednesday	22	10.00 am	Discussion Group in the Minister's Office
Sunday	26	10.30 am	Joint Worship at Stricklandgate Methodist Church
Monday	27	2.00 pm	Friendship Group in the Lecture Hall
Tuesday	28	2.00 pm 3.00 pm	Short Mat Bowls in the Main Hall Pancakes in the Lecture Hall

Lent begins on  
Ash Wednesday 1 March



**March**

Wednesday	1	9.30 am	Coffee Morning in aid of the Bible Society
Sunday	5	10.30 am	Worship in the Main Hall, led by Revd Pam Noonan
Tuesday	7	10.00 am	Prayer Shawl group in the Lecture Hall
		2.00 pm	Short Mat Bowls in the Main Hall
Wednesday	8	10.00 am	Mid-week Communion in the Minister's Office
Sunday	12	10.30 am	Worship in the Main Hall, led by Gina Dennison
Monday	13	2.00 pm	Friendship Group in the Lecture Hall
Tuesday	14	2.00 pm	Short Mat Bowls in the Main Hall
Sunday	19	10.30 am	Worship in the Main Hall, led by Revd Pam Noonan
Tuesday	21	10.00 am	Craft Group in the Lecture Hall
		2.00 pm	Short Mat Bowls in the Main Hall
Wednesday	22	10.00 am	Discussion Group in the Minister's Office
Sunday	26	10.30 am	Worship in the URC Main Hall (café style), jointly with Stricklandgate Methodists, led by Revd Carole Marsden
Monday	27	2.00 pm	Friendship Group in the Lecture Hall
Tuesday	28	2.00 pm	Short Mat Bowls in the Main Hall

## **Friendship Group**

The Friendship Club at Kendal URC meets on alternate Mondays from 2.00 pm to about 3.30 pm. We have meetings in Spring, from February to May; and in Autumn, from September until early December. Also, we have meals in May and December.

Our programme for Spring 2017 includes:

13 February	Days for girls	Mrs V Fishwick
27 February	An oboist's odyssey	Mr E Lawton
13 March	AGM	
27 March	Cumbria's weather	Mr P Johnson

In April, we are going to have someone tell us about the work of the Mountain Rescue, and in May we will have a meal at Kendal Golf Club.

The club has been active in one way or another since September 1955. In the charmingly formal minutes of early meetings, we read, for example, that "Mrs So-and-so provided refreshments": it shows how times have changed.

We have members from other churches and none, but we believe we are able to live up to our title.

## **Pat Taylor**

### **Pancake Afternoon**

On Shrove Tuesday 28 February, we will be serving pancakes in the Lecture Hall from 3.00 pm to 4.30 pm. Do come and join us, and bring your friends and neighbours.

### **Advance Notices for Easter**

The service on Maundy Thursday 13 April will be at Kendal United Reformed Church at 7.00 pm.

The Good Friday Service on 14 April will be at Stricklandgate Methodist Church at 10.30 am.

**Coffee Morning charities  
in February and March**



 **Kaloko Trust UK** 

*Helping Rural Zambian Communities To Help Themselves*

**Kaloko Trust** is a UK-based charity which works to relieve poverty and raise livelihoods in rural communities in Zambia, southern Africa.

It does this by helping to develop local agriculture and income generation, through self-help programmes, and by encouraging the environmentally sustainable use of natural resources.

Kaloko Trust also works to advance education and promote healthcare in rural communities through improving access to schools, health clinics and clean drinking water.



Working in over 200 countries, the Bible Society is a charity on a global mission to bring the Bible to life for every man, woman and child.

We believe that when people engage with the Bible, lives can change – for good.

## **The Launch of “God for All” and “Moving Mountains”**

On Monday 6 February Carver Uniting Church hosts one of the launch meetings for this Joint Mission Initiative, supported by Anglican, Methodist and URC churches across Cumbria.

The meeting has an open invitation to any of us who would like to know more. It starts at 7.30pm. There are simple refreshments from 7.00 pm.

### **Background**

The Diocese of Carlisle, the Cumbria Methodist District and the United Reformed Church in Cumbria have worked together in developing and agreeing joint strategies for ministry, for outreach and for our buildings with the themes of Growing Disciples and Growing Together.

It is hoped that by 2020 every person in Cumbria of all ages and backgrounds will have had an opportunity to discover more of God and God’s purpose for their lives, so that they will discover more of Jesus and the Good News and become part of Mission and Outreach.

### **Mission and outreach**

Mission and outreach are the responsibility of all Christians and our church communities, singly and together. There are, accordingly, several threads to our strategy for outreach:

- as individuals, sharing our faith through events, encounters and opportunities of everyday life,
- as church communities, supporting, strengthening and innovating what our churches are already doing (or might be doing) to become more welcoming and draw people in,
- reaching out into our communities, circles of friendship and others to share the Good News outside the sphere of activity of the existing church, including ‘fresh expressions’, Messy Church, social and community action and Network Youth Church,
- across all three denominations, Cumbria-wide marketing, initiatives and projects that stimulate people to think about where God is in their life, and encourage them to explore further.

Lots more information is available from the “God for All” website.

**Andrew Wood**

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### **Time to give thanks**

It is official: the world's happiest people are the Danes. Every year, the *World Happiness Index* surveys numerous people from various countries around the world in search of, as the name implies, which country has the happiest population. In 2013, 2014 and 2016 the winner was Denmark, in 2015 they came third. While there is no one reason that can explain their positive outlook on life, gratitude and appreciation are among their key traits: they believe in saying "thank you."

Unfortunately as we move in to the New Year our media consistently paint a picture of doom and gloom. They tell us that a consensus of opinion maintains that 2016 was a disastrous year, but was it really so bad? Just think of some of the good news stories of 2016:

- In Colombia a peace deal ended a war that has killed or displaced seven million people
- Sri Lanka is free of malaria, HIV is falling in Malawi and measles have been eradicated from North and South America.
- In the wild, tiger numbers are rising and pandas are no longer endangered.
- Fossil fuel emissions have flat lined, acid pollution has dropped to pre-industrial levels and Costa Rica ran entirely on renewable energy for half of the year.
- World hunger is at its lowest level for a quarter of a century, air travel is safer than ever and there are new treatments for melanoma, ebola and radiation sickness.
- As I write there are strong hopes that peace talks may lead eventually to the reunification of Cyprus after forty years of division.

At home we are fortunate to live in a beautiful area where we enjoyed a mild autumn and some of the best autumn colours for years. We share good news of events in our own families. 2017 will bring many more stories of achievements and progress in the world, births and hope.

There is still much need and injustice in the world, and I know we will continue to work and pray for peace and a better world. But sometimes I need reminding to thank God a little more often for all that is good and, like the Danes, thank those around me too.

**Barbara Crompton** (Carver Uniting Church)

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# Cafe Jam

“spread some song across your heart”

Would you like to learn some new songs, and revisit some not so new, in a relaxed and informal setting? Lots of drinks and cakes. Meet friends and make new friends.

All those who love to sing, of ANY ability, are invited and welcomed to join in this enjoyable worship event - or just come to listen!

Everyone is welcome to sing along with the Cafe Jam band!



Join us at....

*Carver Uniting Church, Lake Road, Windermere,  
LA23 2BY*

*Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> April, at 7.30pm*

Please contact Rita (07838 103310) for more information.

[www.urcmerseysynod.org.uk](http://www.urcmerseysynod.org.uk)

A MERSEY SYNOD WORSHIP EVENT

This evening event is part of a 24-hour course at the Windermere Centre led by Café Jam, exploring using music in worship. To find out more about the Music in Worship course, contact the Windermere Centre.

(<http://windermereurc.org.uk>, 015394 44902)

**Revd Sarah Moore**

Revd Sarah Moore has been appointed Honorary Ecumenical Canon of Carlisle Cathedral. Her Licensing Service will take place on **Sunday 12 February at 3pm** at Carlisle Cathedral. The Bishop of Carlisle will officiate.

For your diary

**Monday 6 February**

Prayers for Kendal

5:30pm-6:00pm, Market Place Bookshop, Kendal

Praying for Kendal district and God's world, monthly at Kendal Market Place Bookshop, either 5.30pm or 8.30am

***From the editor:***

Once again, it has been good to receive contributions for this magazine, covering various aspects of church life; so thank you to all who have sent material.

This is your magazine. Any contributions to future issues will be welcome, and are very much needed. This might mean articles on matters of interest to members, news of church activities which have taken place, plans for future events, and indeed anything which you would like to bring to a wider readership.

It would be good if someone were able to write a "personal view" of the life and faith of the church, or perhaps an account of a personal journey of faith. Also, we could include a "family news" section, with news which you would like to share or information about family situations which need the support and prayers of friends.

Please let me have any items for the April/May issue as early as you can and preferably before Monday 13 March.

**John Costello**

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