

Kendal

United Reformed Church



June and July 2017

Kendal United Reformed Church

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From Revd Pam Noonan

I love this time of year – the signs of new growth with buds appearing and beginning to bloom, the variety of flowers, the brighter skies and warmer weather dispelling the dark winter days, but most of all the celebration and hope of Easter and the birth of the Church at Pentecost.



I have been thinking through how those realities mould and shape our daily living and church life. It is all too easy to be caught in the all-pervasive winter gloom and not allow them to impact on our expectations of what God might or might not long to do in and through us. Too often we fail to allow the lasting messages of Easter and Pentecost transform our thinking and fill us with vision and hope.

So what hope fills my heart and soul as I write this?

The belief that Jesus rose from the dead and is alive and with us through his Holy Spirit – leading, guiding, and helping us to live for him day by day.

The times when I can see God at work in people`s lives, perhaps only in a small, but unmistakable way, drawing them to himself or sustaining them through challenging situations.

The knowledge that God is in the business of building his Church, that he is the master architect who asks us to follow his plans, so that I do not need to despair or panic, because he is in charge.

And the very real blessing of having five new members join us over the last few months in Kendal URC.

Yes, I am filled with lasting Easter hope and Pentecostal energy. I trust you are also.

Your friend,

Pam

A Prayer Gathering

Do you lead prayers in church?

Would you like to have a go but aren't sure how to get started?

Do you have creative ideas you could share with others?

If the answer is yes to any of those you are invited to a "Prayer Gathering" on Tuesday 20 June at Kendal URC from 1.00 to 2.30 pm.

This is a chance to consider, chat about and create prayers for use in worship. Hope to see you there!

Please could you let Carole or Pam know if you are coming so we can plan accordingly.

Mid-week Communion Service

For the past two years, a short informal communion service has been held on the morning of the second Wednesday of the month in the ministers` office. The elders are conscious that the time and the place may not be the most convenient.

From September, the elders are thinking of moving the service to 2.30 in the afternoon and to the Lecture Hall which should be more accessible. The format would be a short service followed by some refreshments. We are anxious to arrange this at a time which is most convenient to those who would like to attend and would value your feedback on whether it should be held on a Sunday or Thursday afternoon.

Please let me or your elder know.

Pam Noonan

Ramblings from the Church Secretary

We have had a change in membership over the past few months. Sadly two of our members have died, David Robertson and John Warner. Norman and Mildred Burnell will be leaving us to move nearer their family. But we have had five people recently come into membership. They are Lis Mullen, Brenda Powell, Ian Pattison, and Joachim and Meredith Greiling. This is really good news, we are very glad that they have chosen Kendal URC as their spiritual home.



The elders' election papers will be available in July. This is a month later than normal as our Annual Church Meeting is now in October. Please prayerfully consider the role of Eldership in Kendal URC and who God may be calling to serve in this way. If you wish to discuss the role of Eldership please speak to one of our ministers or elders.

During our Sunday Service on 11 June we will be having a very short one-item church meeting to approve the cost of painting the outside of the manse. This work needs to be done during the summer so we do not want to wait for the next regular church meeting. As the estimate is over £1,000 this needs approval from the Church Meeting as well as the South Lakes Group.

We are holding a training session on Tuesday 20 June from 1.00 pm to 2.30 pm in the lecture hall for anyone who is interested in leading the prayers of intercession during a Sunday service. Do come along and see what resources are available.

We have received a message from Carole concerning her future. Please pray for Carole and her family at this unsettled time.

Sheila Andrews

News from the Marsden Family

You may have heard some rumours and stories around that the Marsden family are on the move from Sedbergh. I have heard some too! It seemed appropriate therefore to set the record straight so the whole church family know what is happening and why.



The Methodist stationing system requires eighteen months to be in the system for ministerial changeovers whereas the URC system is carried out in secret till a new job is found. They are very different ways of working. Therefore I have indeed had to give notice that it is our intention to seek a move before August 2018, when the current arrangements for my post end. This enables a much needed discussion about settled future ministry to begin.

This decision has been made prayerfully and after much thought, for we feel that Sedbergh is our home and where we belong, and that the churches of the South Lakes Group are our wider family. But as ministers we always know there will be a move and it has become clear that God's hand is at work in the timing of this. Having to be so public so many months in advance is not my preferred process and feels awkward, but it has sadly become unavoidable.

The URC Synod Moderators will begin to suggest churches and jobs I could consider and I will work through that process confidentially as and when it feels appropriate. When I have accepted a post I will inform the URC Churches, Sedbergh Circuit and wider church friends at the same time to avoid confusion and rumour. There is no timescale for this and I don't know when it will be: God's timing once again.

I hope this clears up any confusion and ensures that you are aware it is business as usual from my point of view as we live out our lives together. I ask for your continued prayers for the elders and ministry team at this time and assure you of my prayers.

Carole Marsden

Church Diary

June

Sunday	4	10.30 am 4.00 pm	Worship in the Church, led by Pam Dent South Lakes Group Service at Grange
Tuesday	6	10.00 am	Prayer Shawl Group in the Lecture Hall
Wednesday	7	9.30 am	Coffee Morning in aid of Action for Children
Sunday	11	10.30 am	Worship in the Main Hall, led by Revd Carole Marsden (with one-item Church Meeting)
Sunday	18	10.30 am	Worship in the Church, led by Revd Sarah Moore
Tuesday	20	10.00 am 1.00 pm	Craft Group in the Lecture Hall Prayer Gathering in the Lecture Hall
Sunday	25	10.30 am	Joint service at Stricklandgate Methodist Church

How Action for Children works

From before they are born until they are into their twenties, we help disadvantaged children across the UK. We help them through fostering or adoption – and by intervening early to stop neglect and abuse. We make life better for children with disabilities. We influence policy and advocate for change. Our 7,000 staff and volunteers operate over 600 services, improving the lives of 390,000 children, teenagers, parents and carers every year. We succeed by doing what's right, doing what's needed, and doing what works for children.



July

Sunday	2	10.30 am	Worship in the Church, led by Revd Pam Noonan
Tuesday	4	10.00 am	Prayer Shawl Group in the Lecture Hall
Wednesday	5	9.30 am	Coffee Morning in aid of Mind
Sunday	9	10.30 am	Worship in the Church, led by Revd Lis Mullen
Wednesday	12	10.00 am	Mid-week Communion in the Minister's Office
Sunday	16	10.30 am	Worship in the Church, led by Joachim Greiling Church Meeting after coffee
Tuesday	18	10.00 pm	Craft Group in the Lecture Hall
Sunday	23	10.30 am	Worship in the Church, led by Revd Pam Noonan
Sunday	30	10.30 am	Worship at Kendal URC, in the Church, jointly with Stricklandgate Methodists, led by Judith and Andrew Wood



About us

We won't give up until everyone experiencing a mental health problem gets **support and respect**.

What we do

We provide advice and support to empower anyone experiencing a mental health problem.

We campaign to improve services, raise awareness and promote understanding.



Mission Communities – sharing with other local churches

We live in exciting times – the churches in England, including the URCh, are undergoing very significant changes due to the changing world in which we live. Also, as Cumbria is the first ecumenical county, we have the added factor of working together and sharing with other denominations. In order that these changes are pleasantly positive and relatively seamless a lot of careful planning is going on.

Much time has been spent trying to work out how to set up the Kendal area; should there be one mission community, or three or two or what? This is administrative and organisational, and has proved too difficult to solve as we yoyo between the various options. So we are now looking at some of the activities and projects we should do, and expect that once we have worked together it will be obvious how we should be organised.

There have been two workshops with very positive outcomes. Firstly a half day led by Charles Hobson, a professional in leading teams to decision making: the decisions were ours but the process of making them was his. The outcome was a series of aspirations all starting with the words "*Wouldn't it be nice if...*". Charles and Rob Saner-Haigh took the results of our deliberations and organised them all ready for the full day workshop some weeks later. Six of these were democratically, prayerfully and thoughtfully chosen. Working in teams we developed them as "*We must...*", i.e. if we are to succeed as a mission community we must succeed if these projects are chosen. All six were partly developed, with the beginnings of proper project plans, under the headings: *Project Name, Objective, Leader and team, Deliverables, Milestones, Risks, Management System, Costs and Benefits*.

The project names and objectives of the six are:-

- *Identifying isolation and loneliness in our communities* - To address the needs of isolated people
 - *Celebrating diversity in Christian worship* – Awareness of other styles of worship, service times etc.
 - *God for All* – Equip the Saints - To empower Christians to be confident in sharing faith
 - *Network Youth Church* - To establish a network youth church
 - *Prayer Hubs* - To establish ecumenical prayer hubs to pray for the emerging Mission Communities etc.
 - *New congregations* - To see at least three new congregations by 2020
-

Sarah Moore and I were both in the *Prayer Hub* group. If you would like to see a more detailed report just ask me for a copy; or come and discuss it with me. I do feel very privileged to be involved in this decision making which will shape the future of our Christian churches for the next few years.

These projects are for real and they will be done! We are on the move!

Anne D Wilson

Rainbow Roundabout 2017 at Kendal URC

Our annual Rainbow Roundabout event has been arranged for the last week in June – 26 to 29 June inclusive. Are you able to help us?

Children from local primary schools attend for a morning or afternoon session. They take part in activities and games to help with their awareness of Church; faith; music from around the world; clean water supply and endangered species problems.

Volunteers are needed to add to our team to help with the activities and other roles such as refreshments.

It is not necessary to attend every day. If you are interested please contact Bert Suttie (015395 63977) or Anne Wilson (01539 731205).

Springs Dance Company at Carver Church, Windermere

I attended the performance by a small, young company in the evening of Wednesday 19 April. The event had the title of *Bread of Life* and was about the invitation of Jesus to take communion with him. It was a spirited and energetic performance. There was tremendous co-operation demonstrated between the different dancers; three dancers were new to the company in 2017 and learnt the movements in eight days! The magnetism and strength of Jesus came across. Altogether a very good contemporary dance entertainment.

Pauline Goodridge, Kendal URC

This small company of professional dancers came to Carver in April. The church was transformed into a depiction of the Eucharist with the dancers portraying their various responses to Jesus. Their beauty and fluidity of movement was both meaningful and sincere. A great evening!

Gina Dennison, Carver Church

A Prayer Diary for June and July

(contributed by Joan Ratcliffe)

What a privilege to carry everything to God in prayer.

These are some suggested topics that we might pray about during our daily quiet times, adding them to our own prayers and so linking together all the prayers offered to God in the privacy of our own homes.

Week beginning 4 June (the Day of Pentecost)

Pray that we may be willing to be led by the Holy Spirit, both individually and as a Church.

11 June

Pray for our country and the government that has been elected to lead us.

18 June (Fathers' Day)

Pray especially for fathers who, for whatever reason, are bringing up their children alone, and for those fathers who seldom see their children.

25 June (Rainbow Roundabout Week)

Pray for all who prepare and present the activities to the children, and for all who attend.

2 July

Pray for all who are planning and leading the "Big Day Out" on Saturday.

9 July (There's a full moon tonight!)

Praise God for the wonders of space, and use the words of Psalm 8: 3—4, to thank him for his care.

16 July (Local Food Banks)

Give thanks for all who contribute willingly, collect and distribute the food, and ask for God's blessing on those who receive it.

23 July (School holidays have started)

Pray for the safety of children — wherever they may be.

30 July

Pray for all people living in war-torn areas of our world, who do not enjoy one day's peace, let alone a few days holiday.

Goodbye to The Windermere Centre

Revd Lis Mullen writes

It is a sad day....

It has been a difficult six months since the staff heard in October that Mission Council had a mind to close the Windermere Centre but would listen and consider opinions until the following meeting in May. At that May



Mission Council, after much debate, the meeting decided that after 30 years of service, the Centre should close. The staff held hands with each other as the Transitional Director gave them the news. Tears and hugs gave way to a need to get on with their work for another ten days and some small relief that at least the waiting was over. The Centre would finally close its doors on 25 May. An air of real sadness pervaded the house while each person coped with their own thoughts about what the future would hold and Diane - who has managed the Centre for the last year and not only established a wonderful relationship with the staff but has learned to love the place and the visitors - got on with fielding phone calls and cancelling courses. I helped where I could.

The Windermere Centre has been an amazing place of fellowship, spiritual renewal, learning, and growth for many people. Not only have friendships been forged, a few have even resulted in marriage! Visitors have stories to tell of visions, healing, celebrations, love and adventure. It is truly a sad day, but let us be thankful for all that the Windermere Centre has contributed to church life over the past 30 years. A service of thanksgiving will take place in Carver at a date to be arranged.

Lis Mullen

15 May 2017

(This is a shortened version of an article written by Lis for the Carver Calendar. If you would like a copy of the full article, please contact the editor)



From Revd Martyn Coe

What do ministers do with their time and why are they not about more? It's a reasonable question when asked by our churches. We can look back and wonder why we don't see our minister 'like we used to'. The URC has fewer members than it used to and on average they are older and with increased support needs, we have closed some churches but not by the same percentage that members have dropped and we have fewer ministers to share round. In 1996, the URC had 774 ministers serving

102,000 members in 1,768 churches in 2016, 438 stipendiary ministers served 52060 members in 1426 churches so 56% of the ministers serving 51% of the members in 81% of the churches. We have a similar percentage of ministers to member but at the moment 40% more churches per minister and as large numbers of colleagues retire and are not replaced we will have even more churches per minister.

In 1996 Grange, Kendal and Carver had 354 members looked after by three ministers, in 2016 the numbers were 181 members looked after by 1½ stipendiary and one self-supporting minister. The number of members per minister remains similar but the number of churches per minister has increased and will continue to do so. By 2025 the county will probably have three stipendiary ministers. If we don't do some radical things we will have ministers in day to day responsibility for seven churches widely stretched across the county.

In Cumbria, we are working hard to support the churches and our mission by working in Mission Communities so that ministers and local leaders can work sensibly together in geographic areas. In some places that will mean a URC minister caring for several churches in a town regardless of their denomination. In other areas a Methodist or Church of England minister will care for a URC. Every church will be able to get the support of its own tradition's leaders but day to day care, worship and mission will see one minister caring for a mission community.

We continue to encourage sharing of buildings and joint congregations so that resources of time, money and buildings are used to their best effect. Alongside reductions in member numbers we have increased in age and the elders, stewards and ministers not only have to keep the show on the road they have new tasks of good practice, safeguarding and charity governance to deal with. For us all time seems precious and yet we want our churches to thrive and to be special parts of the life of our towns. We do need to do more to share faith, we do need to make sure our buildings are safe for those who use them, and we do need to care for those who are frail in body or spirit. What we must be is honest about our limitations and enthusiastic about the ways we discern as opening possibilities of sharing our faith with those around us.

Mission communities, the Moving Mountains initiative and the work of the Reach team in the county can seem remote or additional burdens on already busy people. We must continue to think about what we are doing and continually change our focus in the things we do, so that we can thrive over the next few years. The church of the future will not be like the church of now but the church of now is not like the church of the past. If we keep our hearts and minds open to God's calling, a light and sanctuary will remain in every corner of our county.

Martyn



From the editor:

Thank you again to all who have contributed to this magazine.

All contributions are welcome, whether in the form of articles, letters, prayers or news of events.

Please let me have any items for the August/September issue as early as you can and no later than Monday 17 July.

John Costello

Praise on the Lake



Sunday 2 July

**Enjoy singing hymns the length of
Lake Windermere**

Board the boat at Lakeside at 6.30pm

Ticket price £6.50

Free Parking

Tickets from 01539 737305