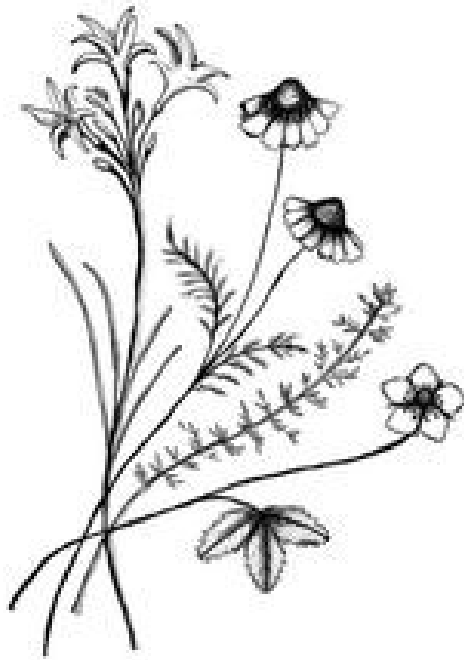


Kendal

United Reformed Church



August and September 2017

Kendal United Reformed Church

Kendal United Reformed Church

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Revd Carole Marsden writes:

At the end of last year I began a course linked to the Ecumenical Rural studies centre, The Arthur Rank Centre, as part of my continued ministerial education. It is called Germinate Leadership and is aimed at equipping and resourcing ministers who are working in rural settings. It has been fascinating, informative and encouraging so far and there are still a few input days to go.



We have covered topics about leadership styles and team working, shared stories of rural initiatives and, through smaller peer groups, been able to share more details of the churches we serve.

Our last input day certainly got my grey matter whirling. It was all about working together in the church, deciding together, discerning God's path together and using the skills and gifts of each and every person so that together we are fully and wholly the church. Some of my fellow students were fascinated by the idea – it seemed to surprise them that it could really be possible to hold the idea at the core of Church.

So why has my mind been whirling? Well to me, a born and bred member of the URC, it seems really obvious. It is at the heart of all the fellowships I have belonged to, and it is at the core of the gospel message I see being lived out each and every day in care and love.

But it struck me that if other traditions are less familiar with the idea in practice then we, in the URC, have a really important role to play ecumenically. We can show the practical outpouring of our conviction that together we are the body, the servants, the decision makers and the leaders of our fellowship.

As we have been talking about Elders elections it struck me that perhaps we all have moments when we forget this part of our relationship with God. The part that values each and every one of us no matter who we are or where our journey of faith has taken us. The part that we play in the jigsaw of church life here and now.

So we need new Elders yes! Please consider how God is calling you to bring your gifts and skills at this time. Joining the ranks of prayers, knitters, talkers, listeners, readers, card writers, loiterers, welcomers, friends, encouragers....the list could go on.

But what struck me as I contemplated the idea is that we aren't always able to acknowledge fully those roles we appreciate others are doing and can even miss them in our busyness as people are simply getting on, being themselves, in life.

I feel blessed to have seen, and still see, the outpourings of this core conviction that we together are the church. We shouldn't assume other traditions feel as strongly as we do that each one of us has a meaningful voice and ability to share in making big decisions about our future life together. So let's be the example and let's rejoice in the gift our tradition gives us.

I look forward to the rest of the course. I hope it continues to equip me with new ideas but also helps me rethink the very fundamental tenets of our tradition and those elements we hold dear.

Carole

Midweek Communion Service

Conscious that mornings may not be the best time for some people, the Elders have decided to move our informal midweek Communion service to the afternoon.

It will be held in the Lecture Hall, on the second Thursday afternoon of the month at 2.30, beginning on Thursday 14 September.

It is hoped that many will come to this short informal service. It will last no longer than 30 minutes and will be followed by refreshments. Do come and also invite your friends and neighbours.

Car parking will be available; and, for those needing a lift, please let Pam Noonan or Sheila Andrews know.

Looking forward to seeing you there.

Pam Noonan

Ramblings from the Church Secretary

We will be continuing our joint worship sessions with our friends from the Methodist Church for the foreseeable future. This is always on the last Sunday in the month at alternate venues. If you find it a struggle to get to Stricklandgate Methodist Church and would like a lift, please let me or one of the elders or ministers know and we can arrange something for you.



A couple of people have expressed interest in membership at our church. If you think you would like to join us do have a word with Pam. We were also very sad recently to hear of the death of Marion Just, who had been a member at Kendal for a very long time.

I seem to have been to several URC related events recently. There is a report on the Big Day Out at Southport elsewhere in this magazine. Nick and I attended and thought it a really positive experience. It was well organised and there were so many workshops that you could attend. This was a very worthwhile and thought provoking “Big Day Out”, and certainly worth attending if another one is planned in the future.

I also attended a course called “Craft Heaven”. This should have been held at the Windermere Centre but we had to transfer it to Abbot Hall at Kents Bank, a Christian Guild Hotel, because of the closure of the Windermere Centre. This course has been running for many years, so we are pleased that we have been able to find an alternative venue.

I then attended the thanksgiving service at Carver for the Windermere Centre. I have a long association with the Windermere Centre, having first gone there in 1995 for a walking course. It’s very sad to see it close: Lis Mullen did a report on this in our last magazine. Finally my last URC related event is a trip to Greenbelt during the August bank holiday. All the knitted fruit and vegetables that we have made in our knitting group will be going to be part of a food themed treasure hunt! This year it is being held at Boughton House, Northamptonshire. Greenbelt is a festival of arts, faith and justice, held annually since 1974: the URC is an associate partner for two years. I will report back on it in the next magazine, and am just praying for fine weather as we are taking all the family camping there.

Sheila Andrews

From Mildred and Norman Burnell

45 Acorn Bank, West Bridgford, Nottingham NG2 7SH

30 June 2017

Dear Friends

Can you believe that we are both lost for words, as we have received the most beautiful bouquet of flowers from Kendal URC? The only thing we can say is a huge and most sincere thank-you, not only for the flowers but also for the cards and good wishes we have received

The wishes and prayers have been answered. The actual removal took place without trouble; and, after little more than two weeks, we feel quite at home here – although all boxes are not yet emptied! Our daughter has been a great help, and, living so close by, is able to drop in frequently for a chat and cuppa – and no doubt to keep an eye on us – which we very much enjoy. Our next-door neighbours are friendly and helpful. So far, we have not ventured far from home (the bungalow is a delight); but we look forward to becoming more familiar with West Bridgford and Nottingham in the near future.

We seem to have taken a step into the unknown, which seems to have been the right thing to do. Kendal URC is also taking similar steps, which we trust and pray will lead to many blessings in the future. The church is not a building, the church is the people. That has been proved by all the friends we have made in Kendal URC. God bless you all.

Many thanks, much love.

Mildred and Norman

A Bit of a Jam

Recently there have been a few minor problems with the photocopier. According to the service engineer, who came to check and clean it, the problem of crinkled and jammed sheets would be overcome if the Duplex Scan method of copying was always used for double sided printing. If you use the printer and are not familiar with Duplex Scan copying, could you please contact me. Thank you.

Peter Farrand

Rainbow Roundabout - the child's view

There was bunting and windmills outside. When we went into the church there was happy music playing, and footsteps to step on down the aisle. Then we saw two cheeky puppets waving from the pulpit, and we told them which school we came from. We were divided into small groups then did five different activities. In the middle of the morning/afternoon we had squash and a biscuit.

(1) We learnt about different things in the church, like the font, the pulpit, lectern and the communion table; and then we tried to count the number of crosses but there were too many to count. (2) There were a lot of musical instruments on which we played music from different countries, and learnt a little about these countries. (3) Some children in foreign countries have to walk a long way to collect water (possibly dirty water) before going to school; so we played a giant game like snakes and ladders, with us as the moving pieces, and with water at the centre. (4) We had heard about endangered species before, but here we had puzzles about local animals, such as the red squirrel. (5) Our creation bracelets follow through the story of the creation and the flood; there are 15 fun things on them from shiny suns to furry caterpillars; then we learnt about the solar system. (6) At the end we all stood round an enormous rainbow coloured parachute and acted out the story of Noah and the flood; we even made a wonderful rainbow when the parachute rose to the ceiling and floated about like a cloud.

At the end we went back into the church to say good bye to the puppets, thank everyone and then we walked back to school with all the bits and pieces we had acquired. A quote *"It's been awesome; it's been my favourite [school] trip."*

Rainbow Roundabout – the (KURC) adults' view

This is an outreach activity which we have run every year since 2009. It was originally devised by Ann Hufton and over the years it has slowly evolved, although always endeavouring to fit into the changing school curriculum. The logo is the rainbow of God's promise after the Flood; but it is also the colours of the parachute. Approximately a third of the KURC congregation are involved, each wearing a rainbow scarf to show that we are legitimate helpers. In February we send personalised invitations to all local primary school head teachers inviting the 9/10 year old children to attend for one morning or afternoon session, and many of the schools return every year. This year there were seven sessions.

We design the children's "church experience" to be enjoyable: jolly music playing as they arrive; cardboard footsteps to walk on in the aisle and through to the hall, designed to show the way but perceived by the children as a game; the puppets who welcome and bid them farewell are a hilarious sideshow; when *discovering* the church they are encouraged to run (literally) as children normally do. The volunteers are a happy bunch of people, not a miserable lot of oldies!

Different topics include culture and creative music from different countries; culture and faith are present in the *discovering church* activity; environmental issues are present in the *snakes and ladders*, endangered species and creation bracelets; fairness and poverty in the water game and endangered species; bible stories in the creation bracelets and the parachute game. Each child is given a certificate which shows each of the topics covered.

Five times each session each activity gets a new group of children, and in 15 minutes we have to do the activity and actively engage with the children, because it is important to have personal contact with both children and staff; however, because of modern legislation, we are not told their names or any details about them. The mid-session coffee break is very welcome, although by the end of the session one can be asking "Is this the fourth or the fifth lot?". We make an excellent team, with people just stepping in to help where ever they see help is needed.

Some things are challenging. We absolutely must not proselytise, which can be tricky as God is involved in the creation! We can tell facts about our religion, in the context that this is our personal view, but not that we are right. The Noah's ark parachute game is being played with children who experienced storm Desmond floods; so it needs careful editing to involve their experience while showing God as a caring God looking after everyone, which is not how it appears in Genesis.

And will we do it again? The teachers expect to see us again next year and for many of the children this is their first experience of churchy things. The helpers do enjoy it despite the hard work, and we enjoy working together. We will never know what effect this outreach has, but it feels a good thing to do. As one child said "*When we got the letter at school we thought "churchy" things (miserable voice) But it wasn't! It was brilliant! (excited voice)*"

Anne Wilson

The History of Christian Aid at Kendal URC

As a Youth Group at Zion Chapel under Joe and Margaret Reid in the late 1950's, we were encouraged to deliver envelopes on Kirkbarrow for the older members of the congregation to collect. This was Zion's 'patch' within the Kendal area. In 1977, I took over organising the church collection on Kirkbarrow from Jimmy Mills. When Zion and St John's amalgamated in 1980 to form Kendal URC, we became responsible for both Kirkbarrow and Heron Hill. However, after two of our members were bitten by dogs on Kirkbarrow in 2001, we decided it was safer to concentrate on Heron Hill (an open plan area) and this we have done to 2017. Paul and Elizabeth Goodwin were our Treasurers until they moved to Cornwall; John and I took on the 'count' as did Neil Wilson, David Billington, and subsequently Edward Irvine and Allen Crossley.

During these years, I was privileged to spend three weeks in Uganda visiting sustainable projects. Muriel Wilkinson and Revd Irene Bligh and I attended St Paul's Cathedral for the Service to mark the 60th Anniversary of Christian Aid. We went on protest marches to Birmingham, Edinburgh and Cologne, to the G8 Summits, under the banner of Christian Aid's "Make Poverty History".

We, along with other Kendal Churches, are part of 32 churches (now about 24) in the Deanery of Kentdale, which included Staveley to Arnsdale, Holme, Milnthorpe, Old and New Hutton, Grayrigg, Longsleddale, Burneside, Crosthwaite and churches in between. This group of churches formed the Christian Aid Kentdale Committee, and 23,000 envelopes, posters and so on were delivered to me, as distribution secretary, for all the churches. On the resignation of Gordon Hay as treasurer, Edward Irvine succeeded him, which he has done with great efficiency and we are indebted to him. I resigned as distribution Secretary for the Christian Aid Kentdale Committee in 2016 and Lorraine Brierley from Crosthwaite is my successor.

We have all had heartening experiences whilst collecting, and I am indeed grateful to all our collectors – it's not an easy task, but I think it is time to consider other ways to raise as much money as we can for Christian Aid – although nothing we do will raise as much as house to house collecting. Questionnaires about future plans are available: I would be grateful if you could complete one and return it to me.

Anne Handley



Christian Aid 2017

In 2017, the Kentdale District has produced a total of over £18,500 which is around £1,700 in excess of what was collected in 2016.

Kendal URC's total amounted to £1,461.16 which was our best

total for a number of years, and this despite the fact that the amount received from house to house in Heron Hill was probably the lowest it has ever been. The reason our total was so good (over £500 more than last year) was in no small measure thanks to Anne Handley's idea of handing out Christian Aid envelopes to our members (many of whom do not live in an area now covered by any of the Kendal churches) with the service sheet on the Sunday at the commencement of Christian Aid Week instead of simply announcing that envelopes would be available at the back of the church if members wished to make a donation. The response was extremely encouraging, and Kendal URC actually produced more from donations by members and friends together with the proceeds of the coffee morning than the response from the Heron Hill estate.

The task of collecting has become increasingly difficult, particularly in the current era when people no longer have cash as readily available as they once did. A man jokingly said to my wife that perhaps she ought to call equipped with a machine into which he could put his bank card, and as I said at church a few weeks ago, even charities have to give way where the "no cold calling" notices are displayed.

As Anne said in her "history", I became treasurer of the Kentdale Committee following the end of Christian Aid Week 2010. However prior to that, I had been the organiser for St John's URC back in the 1970s. When I first became involved, there were approximately 1,000 houses on the Heron Hill estate, and for a number of years the Irvine family (two adults and two children) put out every single envelope. The collectors only "collected". I retired from being organiser for Heron Hill shortly after I became treasurer of Kendal URC following the amalgamation, but continued to be a collector for a further 30 years, and in later years became a counter for our church as well as treasurer for the District.

Edward Irvine

Church Diary

August

Tuesday	1	10.00 am	Prayer Shawl Group in the Lecture Hall
Wednesday	2	9.30 am	Coffee Morning in aid of Tearfund
Sunday	6	10.30 am	Worship in the Church, led by Revd Pam Noonan and Revd Carole Marsden
Wednesday	9	10.00 am	Mid-week Communion in the Lecture Hall
Sunday	13	10.30 am	Worship in the Church, led by Revd Pam Noonan, including the Baptism of Dominic Thomas Buckler
Tuesday	15	10.00 am	Craft Group in the Lecture Hall
Sunday	20	10.30 am	Worship in the Church, led by Moira Rose
Sunday	27	10.30 am	Joint Worship at Stricklandgate Methodist Church

Men's Coffee Morning.

By tradition the August coffee morning (Wednesday 2 August) is organised by the men of the church. This year it will be in aid of TEARFUND, following on from the church service a few months ago when we were told about their work

Men - Please come and help.

Ladies - The men would be most grateful if their meagre culinary efforts could be supplemented by your professional contributions.

Rest of the congregation - Please come and support this deserving cause!

Neil Wilson

The logo for Tearfund, featuring the word "tearfund" in a white, lowercase, sans-serif font. The "t" is stylized with a long horizontal bar that extends to the left, creating a cross-like shape. The logo is set against a dark grey rectangular background.

September

Sunday	3	10.30 am	Worship in the Church, led by Revd Lis Mullen
Tuesday	5	10.00 am	Prayer Shawl Group in the Lecture Hall
Wednesday	6	9.30 am	Coffee Morning in aid of WaterAid
Sunday	10	10.30 am	Worship in the Church, led by Revd Pam Noonan
Monday	11	2.00 pm	Friendship Group in the Lecture Hall
Thursday	14	2.30 to 3.30 pm	Afternoon Communion in the Lecture Hall
Sunday	17	10.30 am	Worship in the Church, led by Revd Pam Noonan Harvest Lunch in the Main Hall after Worship
Tuesday	19	10.00 pm	Craft Group in the Lecture Hall
Wednesday	20	7.00 to 8.30 pm	Discussion Group at Pam Noonan's house— 6 Swallow Close (please park in Valley Drive)
Sunday	24	10.30 am	Worship at Kendal URC, in the Church, jointly with Stricklandgate Methodists, led by Revd Dr R Selby
Monday	25	2.00 pm	Friendship Group in the Lecture Hall

WaterAid is an international organisation whose mission is to transform the lives of the poorest and most marginalised people by improving access to safe water, sanitation and hygiene.





Big Day Out

The Big Day Out was held in Southport on Saturday 8 July. These are personal responses from some of those who attended.

From the Marsden family

2017's Big Day Out was the first opportunity the Marsden family as a whole had to enjoy the day together. At the first Eleanor was very nearly with us, we stayed the whole weekend in Blackpool for the next one and enjoyed a bus journey last time. But this time we had Rob with us and a steely determination that we were off for fun and fellowship and a visit to the beach.

Apart from being late because of the need for breakfast and Carole's bad call on the route we really enjoyed the day. It was lovely to see familiar faces and also meet some new folks as we worked our way around the craft and science room. There were many activities and also games which delighted the girls and they came home with copious amounts of artwork, icing fruit and veg and sparkly butterflies.

The only workshop we attended was the puppet show. This told the story of Peter with various puppets pretending to stage a "this is your life" style show. The girls were enthralled and really enjoyed the show. I will give the puppeteers their due on speed, arm strength and enthusiasm.

After a trip to the carousel on the lake side and the compulsory (it would seem) blue ice cream it was time for the final worship. In such a large theatre it was hard not to notice many empty seats but still wonderful to chat with those around us who were from Mersey Synod and the south area of our own Synod.

We managed the trip to the beach in the delightful sunshine and headed home on the edge of happy and over tired. A good day indeed.

From Revd Pam Noonan

I wondered if it would be worth getting up early and travelling to Southport for the day. I was not disappointed.

Each one of the seminars I attended was of the highest standard.

I was

...encouraged in my use of art in worship

...challenged by the story of a church labelled for closure radically changing to becoming a community resources and place where a growing number come to worship

...and by the power of prayer in building the Kingdom of God

...helped to learn of the role of the Communications Department in engaging in local and national media

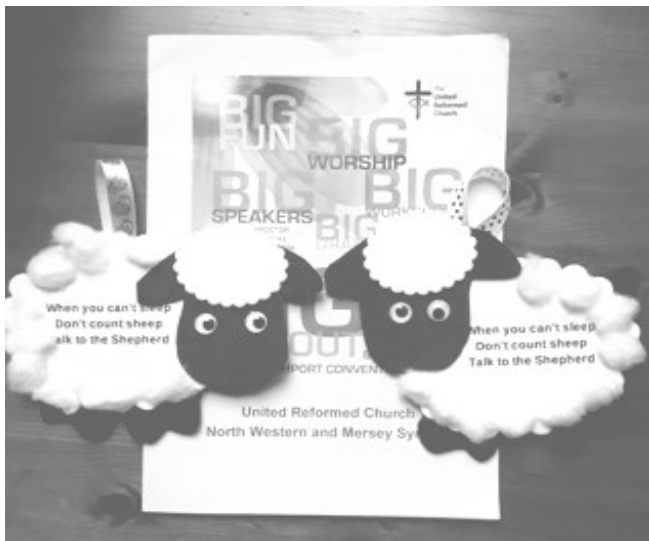
...and I heard the Good News Stories of other congregations as they learnt about our Bacon Butty service.

During worship we sang a selection of hymns and songs giving me the opportunity to widen my repertoire.

Yes, it was a very good day out!

From Ann and John Hindle

We made these sheep at the Big Day Out.



From Pauline Goodridge

It was a lovely bright, sunny day with little wind this time. We had clear views on the way across the Ribble Estuary to the Fylde Coast and to the Lakeland Hills beyond on the distant horizon so we didn't feel too far from home.

I was particularly seeking to know about people's experiences of reaching out and spreading the Gospel into the communities. After all, with nearly 400 people from URC congregations all over Merseyside and the North West present there should be plenty of experience to draw on!

Mike Walsh, as an SCM and Minister for Contemporary Spirituality, seemed to have a lot of patience and confidence. He is not attached to a church so mainly spends time in cafes and pubs, talking to people and answering questions. After six months of being in one pub a few nights a week he found that customers came up with more searching questions, though not technical questions. There was a preference for stories about the work of Jesus. From having no congregation, he is now holding meetings for up to 40 people so he has managed to make contact and communicate with the 'unchurched'.

I was interested in the advice given by Karen Carter, a journalist in charge of URC communications at Church House on what makes newsworthy items to a general readership. There is much advice on the URC website on 'dealing with the media'. She advised that we should develop links with local radio and newspapers to communicate new initiatives and celebrations. This has been followed up since returning home.

The session from the churches about developing new initiatives with communities was illuminating. One Wirral church opened a Breakfast Club but was disappointed that no fathers attended with their children. A Warrington church very successfully engaged in outreach activities with an informal choir. A Congleton church was overwhelmed by gifts of clothes which it intended to give to the needy. Pam Noonan's talk about our Bacon Butty service at Kendal Mountain Festival must have come across as an unusual initiative, and one which certainly met a heartfelt need prior to a scheduled Festival film being shown.

I ventured into the craft room and found a profusion of activities under way which I was invited to participate in, whether it was making a rainbow elephant or a funny face on a plate!

There was plenty on offer including games to play and pictures to colour.

The day went by quickly. It was a busy, interesting day with a great variety of stimulating speakers. The drama incorporated in the final service caused amusement and added a lighter touch. All ages took part in it including Andrew Wood as an angel. A day to be recommended for 2019!

From Pam Carpenter, Carver Church, Windermere

In July I was at the Big Day Out. What's great about the day is the fellowship, and I particularly enjoy the worship at the beginning and end of the day: there is something special about a large number of people worshipping together.

This year one of the speakers was Steve Chalke who was there to talk to us about growing churches. He is the senior minister of Oasis Church Waterloo where they get upwards of 300 people worshipping each week. Oasis also serves its local community through a children's centre, a primary school, a secondary school, various adult education opportunities, a foodbank, a debt advice centre, a community farm, a coffee house, the local public library, a higher education college, a range of youth work schemes, football teams, choirs, yoga classes and circuit training, reading groups and language courses and more. And straight away I confessed the sin of envy and I thought yes but that's in Waterloo, massive amount of opportunities, you would expect the churches to be full in Waterloo. When Steve took over that church, though, there were 10 people worshipping every Sunday and he pointed out at the start that all churches even ones that are apparently successful have their big challenges but all churches also have their great opportunities.

Steve talked about the Wild Goose as the symbol of the Holy Spirit, it soars and circumnavigates the globe. By contrast the farm goose lives in security and never flies. Which one are we? The talk drew to a close with an instruction to reflect and respond not rest and regret.

The talk was nearly an hour but it flew by and I was inspired by him, I can see how a church under his leadership would grow. But he also pointed out that a church fellowship should not depend on one particular person, that leaders should do things with people not to or for people. I attended two other sessions which were also excellent and inspiring but the highlight of the day for me was Steve Chalke.

Thanksgiving for the Windermere Centre

Revd Lis Mullen writes

On Saturday 15 July we held a funeral service—or, as they are more often called these days—a service of thanksgiving for the life of the Windermere Centre.

Martyn and I agreed to organise matters locally for the Education and Learning Committee of the URC who had been asked by Mission Council to ensure a service took place—but it was never going to be easy.

There were a lot of ‘politics’: too many different emotions and opinions and a great deal of anger, sorrow and frustration running through the Church. Somehow we had to listen to folk, incorporate their different needs and give thanks to God for the 31 years the Centre and its staff had served the denomination.

I had agreed to be the point of contact for folk to register they were coming (for catering purposes, of course) but what I hadn’t realised was that that made me the recipient of every emotion people could throw at me! I listened to angry outbursts; read of deep sorrow at the end of such good times; heard about folk not coming because they wouldn’t be able to cope; received emails telling me that the Centre had meant so much to them (and I had to restrain myself from replying: ‘Why didn’t you come more often then?’); listened to tales of injustice and unfairness; heard about conspiracy theories and complaints about the preacher not being the right choice! But I realised this was a great privilege. I felt that at least I was perhaps being useful in the midst of such grief and despair.

The day of the service dawned as every funeral day should – wet and miserable – but about 140 people travelled from as far away as Sussex, Scotland, Wales and many places in between, to pay their last respects to their Home in the Lakes.

As usual, Carver members turned out in force and some of the stalwarts spent much time in preparation for the event, and clearing up afterwards. Thank you so much.

Revd Stephen Thornton – without whom the Centre would not have happened – read the lessons and the sermon was preached by Revd Tony Burnham, who was the NW Moderator when the Centre was set up. He helped us look back at all the Centre had offered and named those people who had been involved over the years.

He used that familiar reading from Ecclesiastes which reminds us that there is a time for everything – a time to plant and a time to pluck up what is planted. He quoted statistics which state clearly the difference 31 years has made to the population and age profile of the URC and spoke of the teaching trends these days that rely more on the internet than the conference centre or classroom.

We sang two of Revd Alan Gaunt's hymns and one that Revd Dr Jan Berry had written specially:

Praise God for a place of endeavour and vision,
off'ring a space for encounter and call,
the peace of the valleys, the awe of the mountains,
- a home in the Lakes with a welcome for all.

Praise God for a place of discussion and learning,
meeting with others to share what we know;
exploring hard questions and probing the mystery,
- a home in the Lakes where our trust and faith grow.

Praise God for a place of communion and feasting,
sitting at table with stranger and friend,
relaxing, retreating, and sharing our journeys
- a home in the Lakes that now reaches its end.

We grieve for a place where the story is ending
- doors and dreams closing on all that is lost;
in struggle and anger we hold to our memories
- a home in the Lakes that bears too high a cost.

We long for a place where new vision can flourish,
dreams and ideas springing up in dry ground,
we mourn for the passing of all that we've cherished,
and hope for a future where God can be found.

© Jan Berry June 2017

The three Directors – Revd Graham Cook, Revd Peter McIntosh and Lawrence Moore prayed in thanksgiving for Stephen and each others' contributions and Revd Kevin Watson, the Moderator of General Assembly, prayed for the future and closed the service with a blessing.

It was truly a service of thanksgiving for the past and one in which we also prayed for healing and hope in the future.

Constance Coltman centenary celebrations

On 17 September 2017, the United Reformed Church and the Congregational Federation in the UK will mark the centenary of the ordination of Constance Coltman as a Congregational minister. She was the first woman to be ordained in a mainstream British denomination – and she continued her pioneering role by remaining active in ministry as a married woman and mother.



Her courage showed from the start in the sacrificial ministry she shared with her husband in London Docklands. A committed pacifist and suffragist, she was also an early supporter of birth control. With clear views on women's history and role in the Church, Constance Coltman did much to promote women's ordination across the churches, at home and abroad.

On the URC website, you can find details of two events to mark this significant anniversary: a public lecture on Saturday 16 September, and a thanksgiving service on Sunday 17 September at the American International Church in London.

Also, through the URC website, you can access and watch (and possibly download) a short film "Constance", made to celebrate the centenary of this landmark ordination.

Harvest Service and Celebration

Strawberries, raspberries, nectarines, peaches, fresh peas and beans are some of the delights of our summer.

Each year we give thanks to God for the harvest which we have enjoyed and which will contribute to our food chain over the forthcoming months.

Our Harvest Thanksgiving Service this year is being held on Sunday 17 September at 10.30 followed by a Harvest lunch and entertainment.

It is the opportunity to stop and give God thanks for all His goodness to us and also to invite others to come and share in our celebration.

To help with catering, tickets will be available at the end of August.

Pam Noonan

Discussion Group

Our Discussion Group is taking on a new format.

It will meet monthly, starting in September, on the third Wednesday evening of the month, from 7.00 to 8.30 pm at 6 Swallow Close, Valley Drive.

The first meeting will be held on Wednesday 20 September when we will begin our exploration together of a highly recommended book on the subject of discipleship, which ties into our being accepted as an “Imagine Hub” church.

The book will be supplied by the church and will be available prior to the first meeting.

If you would like to know more and are thinking of coming, please let Pam know so we can have sufficient books.

These should be thought-provoking and interesting evenings, and so do think of coming along.

Pam Noonan

THE KINDNESS OF STRANGERS

There is a beauty that walks in the darkness,
makes its way among the bombs
and broken lives,

offers blankets and shoulders to cry on,
puts on kettles and bandages,
mends what it can,

and asks for not one thing back,
as it wraps in its arms
the troubled night,

and waits for morning
and its pale sunlight.

www.brianbilston.com

Submitted by Barbara Crompton, Carver Uniting Church

A Prayer Diary for August and September

(contributed by Joan Ratcliffe)

Week beginning **6 August**

Pray for innocent victims of recent terror attacks, and their families and friends, as they cope with physical, mental and emotional scars.

13 August

“Those who plan some evil, from their will restrain” is a line from a hymn I sang in junior school. Let’s use these words in our prayers this week.

20 August

As the holiday season draws to a close, thank God for times of rest and refreshment and for the beauty of the world around us.

27 August

Let us use the first beatitude, found in Matthew chapter 5 verse 3, in our prayers this week.

3 September

Children will go back to school this week, and “Open the Book” will be starting again. Pray for all who faithfully present bible stories week by week to children in primary schools throughout our community. Pray also that the children may be receptive to what they hear.

10 September

Pray for the different groups that will be starting up again on our Church premises after their summer break.

17 September—Harvest Festival

Thank God for his provision for us in so many ways.

24 September

Look at the second beatitude in Matthew chapter 5 verse 4, and pray for all who mourn.



Boxes of Hope, Cumbria 2017

Shoebbox Sunday is not many weeks away! Once more your generosity and love is showing as the donations increase; thank you so much.

I thought it may be helpful to let you know where there are still gaps.

	<u>We need for 200 boxes</u>	<u>We need for 250 boxes</u>
Pencil cases	120	170
Socks	113	163
Balls	161	211
Face cloths	101	151
Toothpaste	104	154
Toothbrushes	77	127
Soft Toys	83	133
Scarves	79	129
Gloves	66	116
Pencil sharpeners	39	89
Combs	20	70
Small gifts	50	100
Cars	74	124
Hats	0	0
Notebooks	6	56
Pencils	0	0
Rubbers	0	0
Coloured pencils	0	0
Pens	22	122
Plastic cups	0	36
Soap	21	71
Small packets of sweets	200	250

Transport costs remain at £2 per box and any help with this is much appreciated. We are aiming to raise £400 towards transport. Thank you again for all your continuing support.

Ann Hindle

From the editor:

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

Please let me have any items for the October/November issue as early as you can and no later than Monday 11 September.

John Costello



took part in the

Rainbow Roundabout

at KURC Highgate

Summer 2017



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