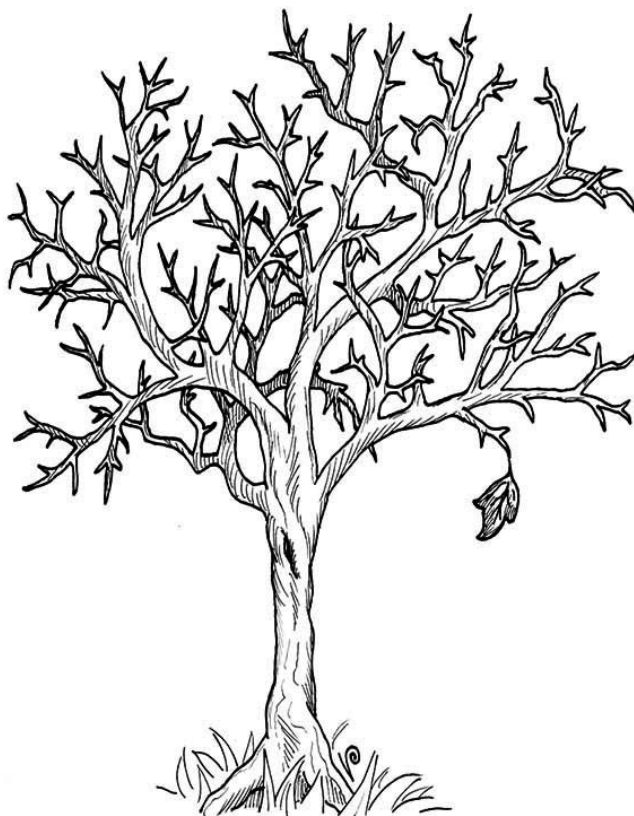


Kendal

United Reformed Church



October and November 2017

## *Kendal United Reformed Church*

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## **Messing about on the river**

Well the holidays feel like an age ago and the reality of life has kicked back in to the Marsden household. But what a summer! It has quite simply zoomed by. We spent a week on our own little hired boat pottering about on the Norfolk Broads and we had a fabulous time. To be fair this was helped by lovely weather.



Being left in charge of a boat after a 15-minute demo seemed very extreme and was, literally, in at the deep end. Our first mooring was more like a slow speed crash and the swan, whose home we commandeered, circled us threateningly all night.

So we chugged along at five miles an hour, gradually panicking less and relaxing more as the week went on.

In the calm and still of the mornings and evenings we saw some amazing birds and experienced water shining like a mirror, it was so still.

A real highlight for me was watching a heron fish for supper. It sat absolutely still for what seemed like an age, before crouching menacingly and then finally, swifter than I'd imagined, pounced – then emerging with fish in mouth before a mighty gulp and it was gone.

I was astonished with the huge skies in Norfolk: I always am in flat places. And flat it was, as far as the eye could see. Both Rob and I found that we couldn't read the skies for changing weather because the skies didn't do and react as we are used to around here.

You may not be astonished to hear that it was me who fell off the boat – on to land thankfully though it was rather painful at the time.

In all it was a fascinating week of family time and resting and certainly set me up for the new-start feel of September. I feel God has reminded me to sometimes sit and watch, to sense God around me. Like the waiting heron, the swaying reed-beds and the many hidden gems we found on the way.

As we celebrate harvest, it's certainly a wake up to the variety of God's world and how fortunate we are to live in such a bountiful and abundant place. Our prayers and gifts go to those who are less fortunate; and the stillness of the Broads in the morning sunrise whilst hearing of hurricanes and devastation provided a prompt to prayer both then and now.

***Carole***

### **Thank you**

You may recall that last year a fall prevented me from completing the 28-mile walk along the Lancaster Canal that many of you had sponsored my friends and me to do. They went ahead without me. Well a year on and I can officially say I have now earned your sponsor money as on 2 September I did it – 28 miles leaving Glasson Dock at 7.30am and getting back there at 5.30pm. We did it so thank you for your sponsorship last year. We raised money for Tommy's baby charity this year. Many thanks once again, and in case you wondered ... it really hurt!

### ***Carole***

### **Midweek Communion Service**

As I write this we are still to hold our first afternoon Communion service on the second Thursday afternoon of the month at 2.30 pm. It is hoped that the change in time will make it easier for more people to come and to share in this informal worship together. Parking should not be a problem as no one else should be in the yard. Also we hope to finish at about 3.00 pm with that ever welcome cup of tea and a chat together.

If you were unable to come in September, do join us in October or whenever you are able, and yes, do ask others to come along with you.



### ***Pam Noonan***

### **Discussion Group**

The discussion group has embraced an entirely new format. On the third Wednesday evening of the month at 7.00 pm we meet to discuss a chapter of a book by Neil Hudson entitled "Imagine Church".

The group meets in Pam Noonan's home, 6 Swallow Close, off Valley Drive. It is an informal sharing of ideas and reflecting together of what it means to be a follower of Jesus and how we can share our faith in a meaningful way with others. There are no correct answers, just a listening to and learning from others and their experiences.

A warm welcome awaits you at all or any of the evenings you are able to come to. Why not come and join with us? For Further information or a copy of the book (very readable), please contact Pam Noonan.

### ***Pam Noonan***

## *Kendal United Reformed Church*

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### **Church Diary**

#### **October**

Sunday	1	10.30 am	Worship in the Church, led by Revd Pam Noonan
Tuesday	3	10.00 am 2.00 pm	Prayer Shawl Group in the Lecture Hall Short Mat Bowls in the Main Hall
Wednesday	4	9.30 am	Charity Coffee Morning
Sunday	8	10.30 am	Shoe Box Sunday Worship in the Church, led by Pam Dent Lunch and shoe box packing after the service
Monday	9	2.00 pm	Friendship Group in the Lecture Hall
Tuesday	10	2.00 pm	Short Mat Bowls in the Main Hall
Thursday	12	2.30 pm	Afternoon Communion in the Lecture Hall followed by tea/coffee and chat
Sunday	15	10.30 am	Worship in the Main Hall led by Revd Carole Marsden Annual Church Meeting and Church Meeting after worship
Tuesday	17	10.00 am 2.00 pm	Craft Group in the Lecture Hall Short Mat Bowls in the Main Hall
Thursday	18	7.00 to 8.30 pm	Discussion Group at Pam Noonan's house— 6 Swallow Close (please park in Valley Drive)
Sunday	22	10.30 am	Worship in the Main Hall, led by Revd Pam Noonan
Monday	23	2.00 pm	Friendship Group in the Lecture Hall
Tuesday	24	2.00 pm	Short Mat Bowls in the Main Hall
Sunday	29	10.30 am	Joint Worship at Stricklandgate Methodist Church

**November**

Wednesday	1	9.30 am	Coffee and chat in the Lecture Hall
Sunday	5	10.30 am	Worship in the Main Hall, led by Revd Pam Noonan
Monday	6	2.00 pm	Friendship Group in the Lecture Hall
Tuesday	7	10.00 am	Prayer Shawl Group in the Lecture Hall
		2.00 pm	Short Mat Bowls in the Main Hall
Thursday	9	2.30 pm	Afternoon Communion in the Lecture Hall followed by tea/coffee and chat
Sunday	12	10.30 am	Remembrance Day Worship in the Church, led by Revd Pam Noonan
Tuesday	14	2.00 pm	Short Mat Bowls in the Main Hall
Wednesday	15	7.00 to 8.30 pm	Discussion Group at Pam Noonan's house—6 Swallow Close (please park in Valley Drive)
Sunday	19	9.30 am	Bacon Butty Service in the Lecture Hall (for Mountain Festival)
		10.30 am	Worship in the Church, led by Revd Carole Marsden
Monday	20	2.00 pm	Friendship Group in the Lecture Hall
Tuesday	21	10.00 am	Craft Group in the Lecture Hall
		2.00 pm	Short Mat Bowls in the Main Hall
Friday	24		Manna House Auction in the Church (time to be confirmed)
Saturday	25	9.30 am	Christmas Fair in the Lecture Hall
Sunday	26	10.30 am	Joint service at Kendal URC, with Stricklandgate Methodists, in the Lecture Hall, led by Revd Lis Mullen
Tuesday	28	2.00 pm	Short Mat Bowls in the Main Hall

**GREENBELT**



**ACTS OF THE  
IMAGINATION**

**24 – 27 AUGUST 2018 • BOUGHTON HOUSE • NORTHAMPTONSHIRE • NN14 3AG**

Nick and I, along with our family, attended the Greenbelt Christian Arts festival, held over the August bank holiday weekend. It was very well organised and a great festival atmosphere. The morning worship on the Sunday attracted nearly 4,000 people and it was a very moving experience, sharing communion with so many friends.

The URC's 'More than Welcome' theme for 2017 proved to be fertile ground for conversation and action during the festival of arts, faith and justice. From a knitted food treasure hunt through to intentional conversations, cake and debate, poetry, story-telling, a panel discussion and much more; the URC based its programme on the question posed in Luke 14:15-24: 'Who's missing from the banquet?' This led to further questions: 'Who's missing from our conversations, our communities, our churches?' The challenge was then thrown down: 'Jesus invites everyone. Do you? What will you do to fully include others – and allow them to replenish and change you?'

Hundreds of adults and children responded to the challenge in various ways during the weekend. One of the most popular of activities was the knitted food treasure hunt; all made possible by the hard work of knitting and crochet fans in 80 churches from Fraserburgh to Southampton – all of whom contributed a staggering 2,800 items for the event. We at Kendal played our part and provided some of the knitted food.

The treasure hunt saw ten large picnic hampers hidden on site, each filled with an abundance of knitted food. Children keen to take part in the hunt came to the URC tent where they were given a smaller picnic basket and a form to complete during the search. Each of the hampers dotted around Greenbelt revealed the name of a Fruit of the Spirit under the lid and treasure-hunters had to list it on their respective form.

The youngsters also had to choose one piece of knitted food from the hampers and collect them all in their own baskets.



After naming all the Fruits of the Spirit, and collecting ten items of knitted food, they returned to the tent in the festivals' 'Takeaway' area to add their food to the banqueting table and claim their prize of fruit-shaped medals. The knitted items, and cards describing them as gifts from the URC, were given away to festival-goers at the end of Greenbelt.

The URC tent was a hive of industry with visitors writing their own personal stories of welcome in a book, colouring, and listening to stories and poetry at The Big Storytelling Chair. There was also a chance to knit, crochet and make pom-poms, which proved very popular. There were giant U, R and C letters and these were decorated with art and pom-poms during the week-end.

The Big Banqueting Table hosted several conversations during the weekend centred on Jesus being a guest at a banquet where he told a story about another banquet. But how relevant is the parable today for our Church? Who gets invited, who gets left out; and, who ignores the invitation altogether?

The conversations focused on :-

***Who is missing from the banquet?*** (A conversation specifically for those who want to engage with people who don't go to church).

***A banquet for those wishing to make their banquets better*** (How can churches build on their own experience, celebrate what is good and design ways to be even more welcoming?)

***A banquet for those who might forget they're invited*** (Aimed at people living with dementia)

***A banquet for those already welcoming the stranger*** (A conversation specifically for those who already make asylum seekers and refugees more than welcome in their church).

***A banquet where the host is "lame, crippled and blind"*** (This conversation explored the reality of disability, and how to engage creatively with making a difference).

***A banquet for those celebrating women in church leadership*** (Constance Coltman's story about her ordination 100 years ago)

***A banquet reimaged*** (Conversations for those inspired by creativity, drawing together the learning from the weekend's conversations).

***Sheila Andrews***

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**A Prayer Diary for October and November** (contributed by Joan Ratcliffe)

*More things are wrought by prayer than this world dreams of*  
(Alfred Lord Tennyson)



**Week beginning 1 October**

Red and yellow, pink and green, purple, orange and blue. Lets  
"Sing a Rainbow" as we give thanks for the wonderful colours  
and beauty of autumn time.

**8 October**

Today is Shoe Box Sunday. We give thanks for all who support and work for  
this amazing charity. We must also pray this week in preparation for our  
Annual Church Meeting next Sunday.

**15 October**

Pray that the decisions made at our Annual Church Meeting today will lead  
us with hope into the future, as we trust God for all that it holds.

**22 October**

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

**29 October**

As daylight hours shorten, we pray for the elderly and all who live alone,  
that they may know God's presence with them at all times.

**5 November**

Give thanks and pray for all men and women who willingly risk their own  
lives for the sake of others.

**12 November**

Remembrance Sunday: "We will remember them". We also look forward to  
the Mountain Festival to be held in Kendal this week. Many people will use  
our large and small halls, and some will enjoy free coffee and bacon butties!  
Pray that they may see something of Christ in our witness.

**19 November**

Give thanks for all the volunteers busily checking shoe boxes and loading  
the wagon due to leave Kendal on 21 November. Pray for its safe arrival in  
Romania, for all who travel there in December to distribute the boxes, and  
for all who will receive a Box of Hope.

## **26 November**

Use the fourth beatitude, found in Matthew chapter 5 verse 6, not only for ourselves but for all world leaders, that justice may prevail.

### **A prayer from Cumbria for flood victims in South Asia**

O God, our refuge and strength,

We ask you to look with loving mercy on all who are victims of floods, both near and far away.

Be with them in their loss of home, livelihood, even of loved ones.

Save them from despair and hopelessness.

Give them patience and determination to rebuild their lives.

Bless all who bring relief with gifts of aid, food, shelter, and friendship.

And as the dove brought news of new creation to Noah, so may we, your church, bring hope of a new beginning to those who need our help. Through Jesus Christ, who stilled the storm, our Lord and Saviour. Amen.

***Revd Godfrey Butland, Cockermouth***

### **Bite-sized theology**

Cumbria Christian Learning believes that theology is for everyone.

One a month from September to November, Revd Dr Roger Laytham is coming to Café Nero in Kendal to share his thoughts and lead thinking on various subjects.

On 11 October, the topic is “Lenses for looking at the Cross – Why did Jesus die?”

On 8 November, the topic is “Christ is risen – So What”

The sessions start at 6.30 for 7.00 – 8.30 and everyone is welcome to come and enjoy a bite of his theological teaching.

### **From the editor:**

Thank you again to all who have contributed to this magazine. Please let me have any items for the December/January issue as early as you can and no later than Monday 13 November.



This year we gathered together enough to fill at least 220 boxes. A HUGE THANK YOU to all who have given so generously of their time, money, knitting , box wrapping skills and LOVE that make this possible. We still need to raise more money towards transport costs then we are good to go!

All we need to fill 220 boxes are:-

75 Scarves

28 Tennis balls (or similar)

28 Small packets of sweets

12 Small gifts

11 Pencil sharpeners.

6 Soft toys.

Our Shoe Box service is on Sunday 8 October led by Pam Dent and Jonathan Robb (Chairman of Boxes of Hope Cumbria). As usual this will be followed by lunch and box packing.

Invite your friends and family to come along and enjoy the fun. The more packers the better.

A happy occasion, make sure that you don't miss it!

Thank you for all you do to make some children smile.

***Ann Hindle***