

Kendal

United Reformed Church



April and May 2018

Kendal United Reformed Church

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Revd Pam Noonan writes

I love this time of year. I eagerly look for the first lambs, the snowdrops, crocuses, daffodils. It hardly seems a week has passed since the New Year and here we are at Easter.



Easter is the Christian Season that I prize most of all, for it profoundly speaks to my heart and soul of all that God through his Son has done for each one of us through faith in him. It speaks of hope, salvation, new spiritual birth, new beginnings and a new direction as we nail our allegiance to following Christ's path and seek to build his kingdom here on earth.

Easter seems to speak of all that is happening to us as a congregation. The church building and large hall are visibly up for sale; and, as I write, one or two parties have indicated a wish to view. 106 is again available to us and we hope to move some of our activities there over the next few months and be a more visible presence on Highgate. We pray that, as we make greater use of 106 and the Lecture Hall, God will open up new opportunities for us.

Also, there will be a tea and cake afternoon on Saturday 21 April from 2.00 to 3.30pm. We hope that as many of you as possible will make time to drop into 106 even for a short time. It will be an opportunity to relax with friends but also to share together what you, the congregation, would like to do in 106 and also what alterations you feel need to be made there. It will be a time of "Imagining" together.

The disciples were down-hearted as they approached the Passover. They did not like what their Lord was saying nor what was happening around them. But they were to learn that God's purposes were being fulfilled and that soon, they would be rejoicing in their risen Lord. May we not become despondent but rather look forward in faith this Eastertime, trusting in the purposes that God has for us at Kendal United Reformed Church.

Wishing you all a very blessed Easter

Pam



Moving Mountains

Revd Martyn Coe writes

As I write, we have just concluded the Moving Mountains weekend. This has certainly made an impact on our churches and hopefully on our towns as well. Across Cumbria groups led by Bishops, Moderators of Synod and District Chairs have given impetus to the churches working together in each mission community. From larger events, such as united services (we had about 200 folk at the one in Grange) to smaller gatherings where friends invite neighbours for tea and conversation, from the enthusiasm of the gospel choir in Kendal to the reflective photographs in Carver, from repair café in Grange to flower festival in Windermere, all of our churches have played a part.

Of course, churches won't suddenly be full and that was never the objective. The intention behind Moving Mountains was (I think) three-fold. Firstly it encouraged each Mission Community to focus on a task and not just on organisation. Secondly it raised the profile of the churches and Christ's message across the county. Thirdly it encouraged all our churches to take part in activity with the intention of mission and evangelism.

It is possible to get caught up in organising the church, keeping the show on the road and worrying about the future. What Moving Mountains has reminded us is that foremost in the purpose of the church and the Christian life is to share the good news of Christ with others. What Moving Mountains has shown us is that all of us can find ways to share with others.

We do need to do the things which keep the church going and support one another but let's also keep looking outward. If we think our faith is important, we will want to share it with others and find new ways of being church. Following this weekend, we know that all of us can find way of making new disciples.

Martyn

P.S. Many thanks to all those who made the activities such a success. Special thanks are due, from us all, to those who spent months in planning groups working on arrangements and getting everything ready so that the rest of us could do our bit.

Imagine a thriving Church....

The Church is vulnerable. Traditional churches are getting much smaller, with mainly older members, and there's a pressure and emphasis across the nation on 'discipleship-making'. Across our nation, several denominations are thinking in different ways to address this concern. The URC nationally is calling their focus: 'Walking the Way' – being 'Missional Disciples'.

As part of this general movement and emphasis, we in Kendal URC are one of a group of Cumbrian churches who are thinking about how we might be enabled to grow in our own discipleship. In February, six of us took part in a day conference where we were encouraged and challenged to 'imagine' our church membership growing stronger in our discipleship.

A disciple is someone who is:

- learning to LIVE - in a more Christ-like way
- in their CONTEXT – at home, at work, in clubs, in society
- at this MOMENT – every minute of every day.

A suggested framework for thinking about what our discipleship might mean is the '6Ms':

- modelling godly character
- making good work (does our work reflect God's work?)
- ministering grace and love
- moulding culture
- mouthpiece for truth and justice
- messenger of the gospel

We thought together in our group about whether these were a good measure for us to see how fruitful we are being as disciples and how we might be able to use the 6Ms in Kendal URC. We also listed the many examples of things that we do already, as well as more we could perhaps begin to think about together.

The emphasis on thinking about 'whole-life' discipleship as opposed to a 'just on a Sunday' or 'just for the church' means that if we each know more about one another outside the church walls we can support one another through prayer more easily and so we were encouraged to tell each other more about ourselves and our lives in other contexts besides the church one. We wondered if Family Time was a good place to try this?

To bring about any kind of movement in any church is a real challenge, but it is not just a job for the minister.' It is suggested that each church set up a 'core group' to lead us forward and we the undersigned have begun by attending the day, but we would love to have you join us. Please let any of us know if you are interested.

Pam, Lis, Rhona, Sheila, Nick and Joachim

P.S. The monthly discussion group are currently reading and discussing books about this. Do join us.

Church Keys

We are doing an audit of church keys and are trying to work out how many are in circulation.

If you are holding a key to the main church (the sort with the flat black plastic handle), will you let me know, either by email or phone.

nick.andrews08@btinternet.com 015395 61988

Thank you.

Nick

Invitation

A tea and cake afternoon in 106 Highgate

Saturday 21 April

Drop in between 2.00-3.30pm.

Come and imagine the future with others.

Also – Please put your creative hats on and suggest a name for 106. It needs to reflect what we are about as a congregation.

Pam

From your new administrator

Joachim Greiling writes

While most of you know me as Mila's dad, I did have a life before parenthood. Coming from the home of a church minister, I studied theology in Leipzig, Berlin and Glasgow. Following this I moved to London and worked as a charity fundraising administrator. It was in London that I met Meredith and a year later we decided to move to Northumberland to help Meredith's mother set up an art centre. We got married there in what was probably one of the longest marriage ceremonies ever held, with three ministers officiating and everything done in both English and in German and with organ and choir music composed by my uncle.

In addition to working at the art centre I also worked at Newcastle University as a librarian, and as co-ordinator of a multicultural arts organisation.

We moved to Aberdeen in 2006 when Meredith became Curator at the Aberdeen Maritime Museum. I worked in project or administrative roles in the oil industry and joined the board of the homelessness charity, the Cyrenians. We also became elders at St Machars Cathedral. Aberdeen will always feature fondly in our memories as this is where Mila was born.

In 2016 Meredith took the opportunity to work as curator for Windermere Jetty Museum and we to move to Kendal. We enjoy our new home very much; the friendliness of the locals as well as the weather and the hills – all things which remind me of the town where I was born in Germany. Since moving here I have been looking for the right opportunity to use my experience and combine this with my parental responsibilities. Working part time as administrator for you is the perfect fit.

I will be starting in early April and look forward to serving Kendal URC.

Joachim

B's Buttons Project: A Postscript

An anonymous donor left me a bag containing 800 buttons which I have taken into the Lakes School. This makes the total button collection from Kendal URC 5,068. The grand total from Kendal churches and schools is now 16,906 which is very commendable. Thank you to all for supporting this worthy cause.

The latest overall total for the Lakes School that I can find online is 318,005, so there is still some way to go to get to the target of 1.5 million!

Pauline Goodridge

Christian Aid in Kendal

Kendal URC has collected in the Heron Hill area for over 30 years and raised thousands of pounds for Christian Aid through their generosity. However, the collectors like everyone else are getting older and, regrettably, have decided to call it a day, so no longer will they see the familiar red bag this Christian Aid Week which is 13-19 May. We hope contributors will be able to find some alternative way of giving. It is well advertised on TV during Christian Aid Week as well as in magazines – or google it. I can get you a little red household collecting box for spare change: it's amazing how it all adds up. Our Coffee Morning on the Wednesday 2 May is for Christian Aid. Do come and support this. A "thank you" notice will be posted in the Beckside Community Centre, and in the Heron and Spar if permitted.

Finally, to all my stalwart collectors of all denominations and to Edward Irvine (Treasurer), thank you most sincerely - a job well done. We will continue with our support but in other ways.

Christian Aid works for and with people of all faiths and none, to fight injustice and pursue its vision of a world without poverty.

Anne Handley

Kendal United Reformed Church

Church Diary

April

Sunday	1	10.30 am	Easter Day Worship in the Church, led by Revd Pam Noonan
Tuesday	3	10.00 am	Prayer Shawl Group in the Lecture Hall
Wednesday	4	9.30 am	Coffee Morning in the Lecture Hall, in aid of Kendal Hydrotherapy Pool
Sunday	8	10.30 am	Worship in the Church, led by John Costello
Monday	9	2.00 pm	Friendship Club in the Lecture 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 Church, led by Revd Pam Noonan Church Meeting in Lecture Hall after Worship and Coffee
Tuesday	17	10.00 am	Craft Group in the Lecture Hall
Saturday	21	2.00 to 3.30 pm	“Imagine” Afternoon Tea in front premises
Sunday	22	10.30 am	Worship in the Church, led by Revd Martyn Coe
Monday	23	2.00 pm	Friendship Club in the Lecture Hall
Sunday	29	10.30 am	Joint Worship at Stricklandgate Methodist Church

The coffee morning in April is in aid of the Hydrotherapy Pool. Sandgate Hydrotherapy Pool was built in 1977 through donations received through public subscription for children and adults in the community with mental and physical health problems. The benefits of hydrotherapy are well known; and the Pool offers a unique service to the local population.



May

Tuesday	1	10.00 am	Prayer Shawl Group in the Lecture Hall
Wednesday	2	9.30 am	Coffee Morning in the Lecture Hall, in aid of Christian Aid
Sunday	6	10.30 am	Worship in the Church, led by Revd Pam Noonan
Monday	7	2.00 pm	Friendship Club (meal at Kendal Golf Club)
Thursday	10	2.30 pm	Afternoon Communion in the Lecture Hall followed by tea/coffee and chat
Sunday	13	10.30 am	Worship in the Church, led by Revd Pam Noonan
Tuesday	15	10.00 am	Craft Group in the Lecture Hall
Sunday	20	10.30 am	Worship in the Church, led by Revd Lis Mullen
Sunday	27	10.30 am	Joint service at Kendal URC, with Stricklandgate Methodists, in the Church, led by Revd Martyn Coe



Proceeds from the coffee morning in May will be donated to Christian Aid.

From the editor:

Thank you again to all who have contributed to this magazine. Please let me have any items for the next issue as early as you can and no later than Monday 14 May.

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

Week beginning 1 April

Easter Day

He is risen. Give thanks with a grateful heart.

8 April

Let us enjoy and give thanks for the beauty of spring-time and the new life we see all around us.

15 April

Read the eighth beatitude, found in Matthew, chapter 5 verse 16. Pray for all who are persecuted for their faith.

22 April

Give thanks that we have the freedom to worship whenever and wherever we choose.

29 April

Pray for unity amongst Christians.

6 May

Deaf Awareness Week

Give thanks for the gift of hearing, and remember those who are themselves deaf or who work with deaf people especially children.

13 May

Christian Aid Week

Pray for the safety of all who volunteer with, support and work for this charity.

20 May

Pentecost

Think about the gifts of the Spirit, found in Galatians, chapter 5, verses 22 and 23. Concentrate this week on the first gift—love.

27 May

Give thanks for the second gift of the Spirit—joy—praying that we may know joy and pass it on to those with whom we come into contact.



Anne Handley writes

This poem was recited by Bertha Hetherington, John Hetherington's mother, at the age of 80, at our Agape Supper led by Rev Ken Wadsworth in 1998. We were all moved by the poem, and I'd like to dedicate it again to her.

Pilate remembers

I wonder why my mind goes back to that scene,
that long forgotten scene of many years ago,
Maybe it is this touch of spring,
this thin new moon for spring's new moon
hung low above my garden on the night he died.

How tall and strong he stood, how calm his eyes
fronting me straight the while I questioned him.
His very soul spoke to me through his eyes.
Could I but have him for my follower, and a hundred like beside,
my way would have led to Caesar's palace
and I'd wear today the imperial purple.

But he would not move one little bit
from his wild madcap dream of seeking truth.
What wants a man with truth
when he is young and spring is in the air?
He would not listen, so he had to go.
One mad Jew less meant little to the faith,
and pleasing Annas made my task the less.

And yet, for me, he spoilt this silvering night,
remembering it was spring, and he was young.

Anne

Christian Aid Week 13-19 May 2018.

'Together we're stronger than the Storms'

Christian Aid Week this year focuses on the impact of natural disasters on Haiti and the money raised will go to fund the work that Christian Aid partners are doing there. Haiti is one of the world's poorest countries. During the earthquake which hit Haiti in 2010 Vilia lost her mother and also her home. She was forced to move back to her home town in the south of the country with her husband and children. With seven children to care for and nowhere safe to stay, life was very hard.

Thankfully, Christian Aid's local partner Koral built a new home for her



which was strong enough to withstand the storms . As well as making Vilia happy, the house was a safe haven for other people when Hurricane Matthew struck in 2016 and gave shelter to 54 of Vilia's neighbours. Despite the ferocity of the storm the only damage to the house was the loss of one roof panel. Other houses in the area were destroyed.

Another Haitian family, Marcelin and his three teenage daughters, were victims of the hurricane and lost their home and all their possessions. They now live in an old shower block, a tiny space with no windows and no doors. Their only furniture is a single bed that the girls sleep on. Marcelin can no longer afford to send them to school and despite getting up at dawn to work the land, changing weather conditions frequently destroy the food he grows and the family go hungry. He fears his daughters' hunger could lead them to be exploited by predatory men in exchange for food.



Christian Aid's local partners in Haiti help people prepare for natural disasters, which sadly occur all too frequently there. Ahead of Hurricane Matthew they warned communities, evacuated around 5000 families and provided shelter kits, hygiene kits, food seeds and cash transfers. They also built disaster-resistant houses to give people safe places to live.

£210 will pay for two days training for a local builder to learn to build a storm proof house like Vilia's.

Jean Lishman, Carver Uniting Church, Windermere



Christian Aid Exhibition 15 to 22 April 2018

Carver Church is hosting a major Christian Aid Exhibition in the church from Sunday 15 April.

The exhibition focuses on Christian Aid's work in Bolivia. The indigenous people of the Amazon have been passing their farms and homes down through families for generations. But now their inherited right to the earth on which they live and work is being endangered by big business and globalisation. Their legacy is under threat and Christian Aid is working to protect it.

Christian Aid has worked in Bolivia for more than 30 years, and in the Amazon since 1997. The Bolivian Amazon covers almost 2.5 times the size of the UK and is home to more than 30 indigenous communities. Over 20% of the world's oxygen is produced here and more than half of the world's estimated 10 million species of plants, animals and insects live here.

In the exhibition, you'll find out more about innovative and exciting work with eco-technologies – solar ovens, solar water pumps and ecological bathrooms – which are making such a difference to the ability to access clean water. In the face of climate change and floods, you'll see how aid agencies are supporting communities to develop resilient livelihoods so that they can protect their crops, identify risks and secure the safety of their communities. You'll hear about work with cocoa farmers who are now able to secure markets for the rarest of Amazonian cocoa pods they are growing, and sustain livelihoods for their families.

Our plan is to open the church to visitors throughout the week of the exhibition.

Barbara Crompton, Carver Uniting Church, Windermere



A Lenten Journey with Jesus



Attending this course has shown me just how much I did not, and still do not, know about prayer. It is led by

Cameron Butland (Diocesan Spirituality Advisor) and Jeff Thomas; both members of *Cumbrian Ecumenical Spirituality Group*; both have decades of experience in teaching, leading, expounding and practising spirituality.

Each week's session is based on a happening during Holy Week. After reading the Bible passage we are instructed in, and have a taster experience of, different types of prayer. There is a session each week where we break into four groups and discuss some aspects of the topics just taught. An oft repeated fact is that all these forms of prayer are about a two way communication with God; we need to wait for God to speak to us.

Several ways of praying use the bible: *Lectio Divina*, or *Praying the Bible*, where reflection leads to "an encounter with the living God"; *gospel contemplation* (imaginative prayer) where the prayer imagines themselves in the scene. There is *Christian Meditation* where a single word such as "Maranatha" (the Lord comes) is repeated over and over as "one becomes deeply and wonderfully non-possessive"; and *Centering Prayer* also using a single word such as *Shalom*, but this time repeated whenever distractions get in the way of the prayer. We have looked at the *Desert Fathers* and *Desert Mothers*, Ignatius and mentioned many others. And that is just a few of the aspects covered.

Those attending come from many different local churches and denominations, with different experiences of prayer both personally and within their denomination. It is a very worthwhile course fitting for our ecumenical county.

Anne D Wilson

The Bundle



On 3 March, we went to a performance of “The Bundle” by Journeyman Theatre at the Unitarian Chapel in Kendal. This show, commissioned by QARN (Quaker Asylum and Refugee Network) tells the story of a real woman and her three young children. The Bundle follows Adilah’s domestic persecution and denial of human rights in Chechnya.

Removed from her Russian homeland by her Chechen father, abducted into a forced marriage and then subjected to a life of servitude, she takes the ultimate risk in plotting her escape to the UK. Here she finds a home but also encounters the Home Office’s ‘hostile environment’ with regard to asylum seekers and refugees.

The play moves from the tradition of the folk story to that of biting satire as it charts Adilah’s bid for freedom, safety and hope.

Just two actors presented the story, in a powerful and emotional style. The play draws attention to the lack of compassion in UK immigration policy; but it also shows the short-sighted and ill-advised way in which policy is implemented. Adilah is a talented young woman, capable of making a valuable contribution to life in Britain; and yet everything is done to discourage her.

In April, two refugee families are expected to arrive in Kendal. The performance of “The Bundle” was sponsored by More in Common, Kendal, an organisation which seeks to promote forward-looking attitudes to immigration and to counter hostility and xenophobia.

More details of Journeyman Theatre productions can be found on their website www.journeymantheatre.com

More in Common, Kendal can be contacted by email moreincommonkendal@gmail.com

Alvene and John Costello

Commitment for Life—Moving Stories: 212

Responding to the crisis in the occupied Palestinian territory

“That the wall will fall into a bridge that we can use for reconciliation; that we can shake hands and say ‘Shalom’.”

This is the prayer of a Palestinian Christian lady called Clemence; she has lived in Bethlehem most of her life. Clemence was only two years old when the State of Israel was established in 1948. She tells us that her family was driven out of the city of Jaffa by Jewish forces, becoming refugees in Jordan. Her father, who was Greek Orthodox, wanted her to be educated in Bethlehem, so he sent her to a Lutheran boarding school there. Later she married a Catholic, led Sunday School in a reform church and taught for many years in the local Lutheran school. ‘Ecumenical’ would be a good way to describe her. In 2003, when Israel started building the separation barrier, Checkpoint 300 appeared right next to Clemence’s home. Land she owned on the other side of the barrier was confiscated.

She refused the nominal amount of money she was offered for it. Suddenly she was stopped from going to see family and friends in Jerusalem; even people who had previously been close neighbours were now separated. “They took our land, our freedom, our dignity; they occupied us,” says Clemence. “But I can still pray for them.”

For years now, every Friday, she meets with other campaigners to walk a section of the barrier while praying for peace and an end to the occupation. ‘Wall Prayer’ is ecumenical and it has been a privilege for Ecumenical Accompaniers to attend. People from around the world have taken part, including Messianic Jews. “There can be eight people or 80,” Clemence says. The wall severely constricts Palestinian lives, both in body and in mind. It segregates and subjugates those controlled by it, giving power to those doing the controlling.

Ecumenical Accompaniers see huge numbers of international pilgrims arrive in Bethlehem every year and have a real spiritual experience. But these pilgrims can go through the separation barrier very easily. As a result, very few appreciate how different it is for Palestinians, and what life is really like for them. In the early hours of every working day, thousands of Palestinian men across the West Bank wait to pass through the checkpoints to get to their jobs – if allowed. Despite the humiliation they must face, at least they know what to expect.

On a Friday, however, families with little children pass through. What does it teach these children? You can see the fear on their faces as they pass by the soldiers, through the turnstiles and metal detectors, while parents and grandparents encourage them to keep going. What is the future for them?

The Israeli government says the separation barrier is for the security of Israelis. In 2004, however, the International Court of Justice advised that “the construction of the wall ... and its associated regime are contrary to international law”. This is because the barrier is not always on the Israeli side of the Green Line (1967 border), or within Israel, but frequently on Palestinian land. It incorporates many Israeli settlements there, together with some precious Palestinian agricultural land and water sources.

Clemence’s own particular prayer says so much to us: “That the wall will fall into a bridge that we can use for reconciliation; that we can shake hands and say ‘Shalom’.”

By Ecumenical Accompanier Paul in Bethlehem

ACTION: If you pray, join in faith with those who stand at ‘Wall Prayer’, seeking a just peace in the context of an end to the occupation.

Permission given. EAPPI UK & Ireland, www.eyewitnessblogs.com

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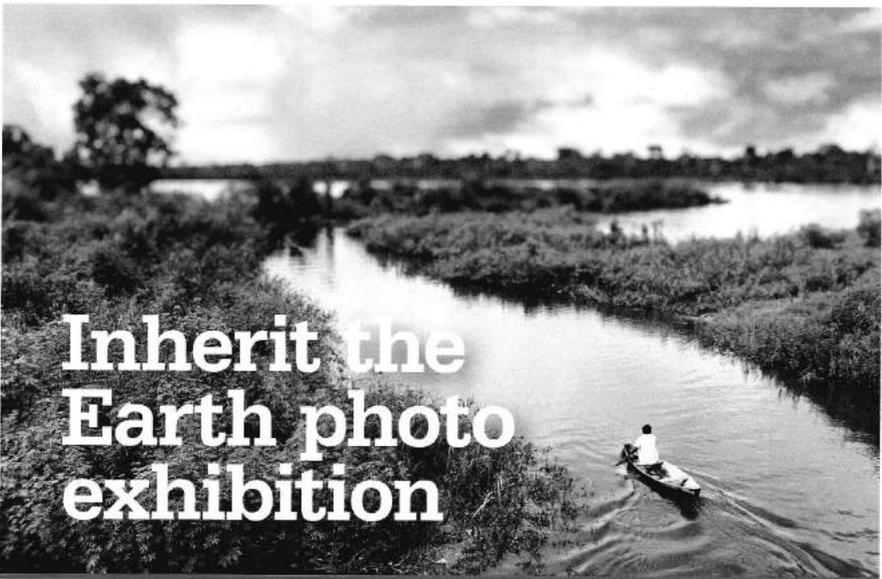
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BREAKFAST ON THE BEACH

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REFRESHMENTS AVAILABLE THROUGHOUT

Sunday 25th March 1pm until 4pm
Monday 26th to Thursday 29th March 10 until 4
Good Friday 30th March 1 until 4 and 7 – 9 in the evening
Easter Saturday 31st March 10 until 4 and 7 – 9 in the evening
Easter Sunday 1st April 1 until 4
Easter Monday 2nd April 10 until 4pm and 7 – 9 in the evening
Tuesday 3rd to Saturday 7th April 10 until 4 daily



Inherit the Earth photo exhibition

Join us on a journey to the heart of the Amazon rainforest and learn about our work with indigenous communities in Bolivia at our new legacy exhibition, Inherit the Earth.

Venue: Carver Uniting Church, Windermere, LA23 2DB

Date and time:

Sunday 15 April 10am - 5pm

Monday 16 to Saturday 21 April 2-5pm (Wednesday 10am -1pm)

Sunday 22 April 9am - 3pm.

For further information, contact: B Crompton on 015394 42120

christian
aid

We believe in life
before death

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