

Kendal

United Reformed Church



October and November 2018

Kendal United Reformed Church

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Pastoral Letter

Revd Martyn Coe writes

St Martin of Tours helped a beggar by sharing his cloak with the poor man. Only later did he realise that the beggar was Christ!

The way we see the stranger or even just the other person affects how we treat them. How we think of ourselves affects the way we behave towards others.



I really enjoy the hymn 'Brother, sister let me serve you, let me be as Christ to you' because it reminds us of the way that Christ set out to help others and it encourages us to play our part. While it does talk of mutual caring (we must both give and receive care and support), it too easily leaves us thinking that we are particularly acting as Christ. That way of thinking would reverse the story of St Martin. If, when we meet others, we think of ourselves as being like Christ then this will affect how we relate to the other person.

The language we use both reflects who we are and shapes our collective thinking.

I wish to emulate Christ—but I cannot be Christ. I am uniquely made in the image of God—but so is everyone else! It is easy to want to be Christ to others and that does have value in our journey of faith.

But....

What if we start behaving as if the next person we meet, the next person who comes to seek help or simply comes to ask questions or comes along to one of our events is not just like Christ but actually Christ himself?

How would things change if, as a nation, we see the possibility that the struggling person or the beggar in the doorway might actually be Christ?

In times past, the religious houses used to offer hospitality both because it was needed in times when travel was hard and because they lived out the belief that the next request might come from Christ standing at the door and knocking!

It can be salutary to us to step back and think whether the way we behave to friend or stranger, to someone we get on with or someone we find it hard to get on with, is the way we would have behaved if we had realised that they were indeed Christ himself.

And the King will say: "Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of my family you did it to me" (Matt 25.40)

Maybe the hymn would helpfully expand our imagery if it also read:

*Brother, sister let me serve you,
May you be as Christ to me.*

Yours in Christ

Martyn

Discussion Group

The first meeting of the Discussion Group of the season will be on Wednesday 17 October from 7.00 to 8.30 pm at 6 Swallow Close. (Please park on Valley Drive)

We will be looking at the book "Fruitfulness on the Frontline" by Mark Greene. The chapters cover a framework for fruitful living as a Christian and set out a 6M model:

- Modelling Godly Character
- Making good work
- Ministering grace and love
- Moulding Culture
- Being a mouthpiece for truth and justice; and
- Being a messenger of the Gospel.

It would be good to have your there.

For further information please contact me.

Pam Noonan

Secretary's Ramblings

At the time of writing this, we still do not have a firm date for the sale of the church and hall and the redevelopment of our lecture hall and 106. As anybody who has recently moved will know, dealing with solicitors can be very frustrating, as they seem to move at their own pace. Therefore, planning the venues for our activities will be a bit fluid for the moment. We will try and give you as much notice as possible once we know we are moving off site and into Abbot Hall Social Centre. The bottom line is that until we have the money in our bank account from the sale of the church we cannot go out to tender for the redevelopment. We will put notices on our front noticeboard, hand out flyers at services and put a notice on our website as things become more apparent.



In preparation for our move off site, we have been clearing out rooms, under the stage, and many other nooks and crannies. A big thank you to the team who have worked so tirelessly to make this happen. We will be engaging a local removal firm to put into storage items we want to keep. As with any move we will have to downsize: we cannot possibly keep all the heavy church furniture that we currently have. Therefore, we have spoken to the local auctioneers 1818 and they will be selling some of our ecclesiastical furniture and church artefacts, the proceeds of which will all go towards our redevelopment.

Once we do move off site, we will not have any access to 106 and the lecture hall. However, we are hoping to set up an office in the flat once our caretaker leaves. We will also be able to use this space for elders' meetings and possibly other meetings as well.

This month we say goodbye to our caretaker Andy and his wife Kathryn. We thank Andy for all the service he has given to this church. We also say goodbye to the Greiling family, who are moving to Edinburgh because of Meredith's work.

We will hold our Annual Church Meeting on Sunday 21 October, and then our normal church meeting after that. Do try and attend. Our annual Book of Reports will be available a week before the meeting.

Sheila Andrews

Some thoughts from Pam

Every year I debate with myself, “Is spring or autumn my favourite season?” I can only conclude that I love them equally but differently.

I love spring with the burst of colour and new life after the darkness of winter.

I also love the sense of satisfaction that autumn brings – the maturing of colours, the gathering in and taking stock after the activity of the summer months and yes, I even think of plants that will burst into life and colour the following spring.



This autumn, I am challenged by the thought, “What spiritual fruit have grown and developed in our lives over the last months, during spring and summer?” Paul lists the fruits of the Spirit in his letter to the church in Galatia – love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, humility and self-control.

As I reflect on them, I ask myself if our fruit of the Spirit is evident to others.

Out and about, I also see bulbs in garden centres and elsewhere waiting to be planted. I stop to ponder what new thing does God want to see planted, to grow in our soon-to-be-renovated space at 106. We will undoubtedly have some of our usual perennial activities but there will be the opportunity to “plant” new ones. Yes, I am beginning to feel excited about what next spring and year holds.

Pam Noonan

Midweek Communion Service

It has been encouraging to see the numbers at our midweek communion service grow.

We meet on the second Thursday of the month at 2.30 pm for a half-hour informal service followed by tea and chat, in the Lecture Hall. (During the renovations, we will meet in the Church Flat)

It would be good to have others join us.

For more information, please speak to Pam Noonan.

Church Diary

October

All services at Kendal United Reformed Church will be in either the church or the hall, but this is subject to change

Tuesday	2	10.00 am	Prayer Shawl Group in the Lecture Hall
Wednesday	3	9.30 am	Coffee Morning in the Lecture Hall, in aid of the Food Bank
Sunday	7	10.30 am	Worship, led by Revd Pam Noonan
Thursday	11	2.30 pm	Afternoon Communion in the Lecture Hall followed by tea/coffee and chat
Sunday	14	10.30 am 12.30 pm	Worship , led by Revd Martyn Coe Jacob's Join (bring and share lunch) at the Salvation Army, with our Mission Community friends
Wednesday	17	7.00 pm	Discussion Group at 6 Swallow Close (Please park in Valley Drive)
Sunday	21	10.30 am 12.00 noon	Worship, led by Peter Farrand Annual Church Meeting and Church Meeting
Sunday	28	10.30 am	Joint Worship at Kendal United Reformed Church, led by Revd Pam Noonan

From the editor:

Thank you again to all who have contributed to this magazine. All contributions are welcome—news of events, reflections on current concerns, prayers, photographs or any items which might be of interest to church members. Please let me have any material for the next issue by Monday 12 November.

November

All services at Kendal United Reformed Church will be in either the church or the hall, but this is subject to change

Sunday	4	10.30 am	Worship, led by Revd Pam Noonan, to include Ordination of Elders
Tuesday	6	10.00 am	Prayer Shawl Group in the Lecture Hall
Wednesday	7	9.30 am	Coffee Morning in the Lecture Hall (charity to be confirmed)
Thursday	8	2.30 pm	Afternoon Communion in the Lecture Hall followed by tea/coffee and chat
Sunday	11	10.30 am	Remembrance Service, led by Revd Pam Noonan
Sunday	18	10.30 am	Worship, led by John Costello
Wednesday	21	7.00 pm	Discussion Group at 6 Swallow Close (Please park in Valley Drive)
Sunday	25	10.30 am	Joint Worship at Kendal United Reformed Church, led by Revd Martyn Coe, with the Caledonian Society in attendance



Mission Community Lunch

Sunday 14 October

There will be a bring and share lunch with the other churches in our Mission Community at 12.30 pm on Sunday 14 October. This will be held at the Salvation Army. Do come along, bring some food to share, and meet other people in our Mission Community Group

Sheila

Ann Hindle writes

A huge thank you to everyone who gave of their time, money and gifts to make our early “Shoebox Sunday” so successful.



It did feel a little strange to be packing Christmas presents in July, but pack we did! 150 boxes in 24 minutes and 57 seconds!

The amazing response to the appeal to be ready three months earlier than planned was fantastic. Items bought, made and sorted, boxes wrapped and lunch ordered, and we were ready to go.

Revd Sarah Moore led a very appropriate service and it was good to share worship with Stricklandgate friends too. (Many of them stayed to help pack)

After a good lunch prepared by Andy and Kathryn we were ready enthusiastically to meet the challenge. This was the last time that this event was to take place in the church buildings and we look forward to working out how it can be organised in our new home.

Thank you and a Happy Christmas from the children of Romania.

Ann

Noah's Ark in the Torchlight

Anne Wilson writes

This year Churches Together in Kendal and District had a float in the Torchlight Procession. As the theme was books it obviously had to be the Bible, and Noah's Ark was our choice. Starting with a 40ft lorry given to us by Gibsons, the Mintsfeet Hauliers, we had to think large. A 23ft ark filled much of the space, a seven piece Salvation Army band and a pianist on a keyboard took up some more room. Eight or nine workshops produced fish, animals, clouds, booklets and the ark; which supplemented the many fish, birds and butterflies made in the homes of Kendal. The fish and other marine life swam on an 80 ft. length of sea, and yards of bunting floated round the top. At one workshop there were 16 people from ten churches of five denominations all working together – truly ecumenical.

Then there were all the people dressed up as animals waving to the crowds as we passed. Hopefully the thousands who watched got the message that Christians are an active fun lot of people.

Anne (chicken)



Old Testament Live

Saturday 17 November at Carver Uniting Church Windermere

10.00 am to 4.30 pm

with plenty of breaks for coffee and time for lunch

The Bible has a wonderfully rich, life-changing message. We aim to help people by **Bringing the Bible to life** through our unique, fun, live events. Experiencing the **Big Picture of the Bible** will help you make sense of the storyline and encourage you to keep digging deeper into God's Word and to read the Bible with fresh understanding and greater enthusiasm

Tea and coffee provided: please bring a packed lunch

**For more information and to book your place
contact**

**Pam Carpenter 015394 46286
email carversecretary24@gmail.com**

As hosts the event costs us £14 per person: there will be no charge to attend but donations towards the costs would be appreciated

**Zion Chapel and
Kendal United
Reformed Church**

**Anne Thompson
writes**

How we have moved on from this photograph, taken at the opening of Zion on 5 October 1898, with Revd James Patterson in the pulpit. It is something of a



relief not to be wearing the kind of clothes worn on that occasion. Apparently, we struggled to find anyone prepared to go up to the ceiling to decorate with garlands. I might mention that, in 1923, part of the ceiling came down and was replaced with wood panelling.

I am the third generation of my family to worship here; and my children, as the fourth generation, did so until they moved away. My grandparents appear in the photograph. They had a large family, living in Belle Vue Yard opposite the church; and at that time five of my aunts and uncles were choir members.

The first minister I remember was Revd H O Evans, known as Bunny: this was in the 1940s. I remember Sunday School—with a sandpit—in our previous building in New Inn Yard. This was a rambling building, used for badminton, school dinners, a drama group, and sales of work. Sunday School outings were to Burneside cricket field or to Arnside; and tea was provided on large wooden trays filled with brown paper bags, containing delicious food from Dodds Corner Café. The Dodds were church members, and their former café is now a ladies' clothes shop on the corner of Branthwaite Brow.

Church events were Anniversaries, Missionary Sundays, Flower Festivals and Harvest; and I have memories of various ministers—Revd Litherland and Revd MacDougall—coming to preach.

In the 1950s, we had a wonderful organist, Leslie Powell. A number of BBC recordings were made from the church, because of the good acoustics, with services conducted by Revd R T Brookes. John Hopkins, the conductor of the BBC Philharmonic Orchestra, brought soloists to perform concerts in the church: he was a friend of Leslie Powell.

Revd George Williams came as our minister. He was a larger than life character, with an enormous presence in the pulpit and a hearty laugh. At this time, we also had Jo and Margaret Reid as our Youth Club Leaders, and they brought humour and laughter into our worship. All these people had a great influence on our lives and many of us are still in contact.

Revd Stanley Hodgson followed. He was a gentle, quiet man; and he officiated when Geoff and I were married in 1965—as well as conducting weddings of several others who had been members of the Youth Club. It was a happy time, as we all began to bring our children to be christened.

Revd Andrew Hodgson then came, with his wife, Joy, and their sons, Mark and Paul. A Youth Club was formed for the next generation, and I was one of the leaders. During this time too, I became an elder: this was a bit daunting, as I was very young compared with the other elders. It was especially challenging because the church seemed to be run by very old men. During Andrew's time as minister, we became part of the United Reformed Church, and then joined with the former Presbyterian Church, St John's.

Our next minister was Revd Brenda Willis. Brenda introduced another social aspect into church life—church holidays. We went to Crieff, Iona, Llandudno, and several times to Arran. A group of fit ladies was formed, known as the House Committee. This group undertook much fund-raising as well as all sorts of practical work, painting and decorating manses (twice), and some plumbing and joinery. The work was supported and sustained by Marnie, who kept the teapot going.

After Brenda, Revd Dave Harkison came as minister. More recently, we have become part of the South Lakes Group of churches, with Revd Martyn Coe as group minister; and we are fortunate also to have Revd Pam Noonan as a local minister here in Kendal.

The church has been my anchor for almost 78 years, caring for and supporting me during the ups and downs of life. I thank those no longer here as well as those involved in the church now for their love and support.

The time has come—after much thought and prayer—to move again. I would like to thank Pam and Nick and Sheila for their care and leadership, and I ask for God’s blessing on them and on all of us for the next part of our journey.

Anne

The Prayer Shawl Group

Kay Pritchard (a member of Stricklandgate Methodist Church) writes

I have been part of the Prayer Shawl Group since it started five years ago. It is always a very enjoyable ‘get together’ with chat, tea/coffee and biscuits, a thought, a prayer and, of course, knitting.



Each month some of the group bring beautiful completed shawls, some are still working on the first one, and a few (me included) plod on providing a finished shawl every few months, while others make scarves and twiddle muffs.

I enjoy trying out new patterns and most recently have tackled a more difficult one (see photo). This involved using a large circular needle, casting on 304 stitches which increased to 604 every sixth row.



I think the next one will be back to straight needles!

Over the last five years we have given out over 170 shawls with a message of love and concern. I hope – I know – that these have provided comfort to so many.

Thank you for welcoming me into your group.

Kay

A Prayer Diary for October and November

(contributed by Joan Ratcliffe)

Week beginning 7 October

As autumn sets in, we give thanks for the rich colours and the beauty of nature that we see all around us at this time of year.

14 October

In Galatians 5 verses 22 and 23, we read that the eighth gift of the Spirit is *humility*. In more modern translations of the Bible, the word *gentleness* is used. We pray that we may grow to be more humble and gentle in our dealings with other people.

21 October

We give thanks for and pray for our families.

28 October

We pray that the final gift of the Spirit, self-control, may be ours. We read Galatians 5 verses 22 and 23 and thank God for all the gifts of his Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, humility and self-control.

4 November

As daylight hours shorten, we remember all who live alone.

11 November Remembrance Sunday

As “we remember them”, we also pray for peace in so many war-torn areas of our world.

18 November

Shoe Box checking and packing has begun, and the wagon is due to leave Kendal later this week. We pray for its safe arrival in Romania.

25 November

As this year has marked 70 years since the National Health Service was introduced in our country, we give thanks that we are so fortunate to have it and pray for all who work within it.





**A Service of Thanksgiving for the
life of
Sedbergh United Reformed Church
Saturday 6 October 2018
2.00 pm
at Cornerstone Community Church
(URC) Main Street**



**Refreshments to follow
All are welcome**