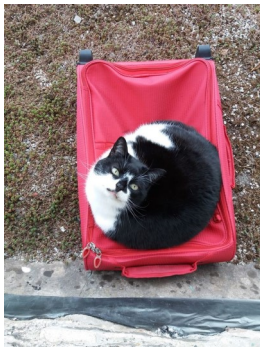


Embracing Life

Welcome...

...to this second edition of *Embracing Life*. Thank you for your kind comments about the first edition and for all your contributions for this one. It is remarkable how uplifting it is to hear about even the small ways people are spending their time. So do please keep sending your bits of church family news (including photos) or interesting / inspiring prayers, poems and jokes for us to share with everyone.



Next week Jonathan and I were due to be spending a week in Siracusa, Sicily (following Paul who visited in AD59 - see Acts 28) roaming the ancient sites and reading books in the sunshine in between delicious meals and bottles of wine overlooking the Ionian sea. I shall do my best to recreate this in Kendal - if the glorious weather holds for a little longer that will help. One of our cats (see photo) has taken possession of my suitcase so perhaps it is a good thing that we're not going anywhere!

Blessings to you all

Lucy

Pastoral News

We need to remember in our prayers all our friends, families and members of our congregation who are finding life very difficult at the moment, coping with the virus. For those unable to leave their homes, not even for a daily walk, as they are in the at-risk category and have received a letter from the government telling them to stay at home. For those recently bereaved, have had surgery cancelled, those who are sick and in pain. For those unable to see their loved ones. For those who are anxious and worried.

Many of you have said how grateful you are that you have a garden and really feel for people without one. Several people have had holidays cancelled, some people are celebrating significant birthdays and will not be able to have their family and friends near. We were very pleased to hear that our minister Martyn has now started to recover from the virus and is on the road to recovery.

Since the Government has introduced the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme Martyn, Lucy and the Elders have discussed the role of our Pioneer & Development Worker at this current very difficult time. With Lucy's agreement it has been decided to place her on furlough. This will mean that Lucy will cease doing any work for us, her work mobile & work email will not be on. We will be asking Lucy to come back to work as soon as it becomes clear that lockdown is lifting. Carver have done a similar thing with one of their two paid workers. Lucy however remains very much part of our church and we remember her in our prayers at this unsettling time.

Reform magazine: for as long as people are shut up indoors, **Reform is free online.** Please tell anyone who might like to know about this. Free, online copies of Reform can be accessed via the webpage at <http://ow.ly/IBUW50yT73A>.

Family news

From Bert Suttie: “I feel nearer to heaven when I am in the garden. Veronica says I will be if I fall off (the ladder) [Bert has been pruning a tree in their garden] I have taken up a new career while detained. I am now an ornithological midwife - watching new life while warding off evil spirits - cats and magpies.”



Cumbria Missional Partnership

This week we received a letter from the Synod Moderator, the Revd. Brian Jolly, concerning news from the Cumbria Missional Partnership (of which we are a part).



“Rev Lis Mullen has agreed to come out of retirement and serve one-third time in a stipendiary capacity in the partnership. As in all missional partnerships in the synod, stipendiary ministers are ministers of all of the churches; but in Cumbria, because of mountains and distances, the arrangements are such that ministers have primary oversight of certain churches. In the south of the partnership, until now, Martyn Coe has had primary oversight of Grange, Windermere and Kendal. With Lis returning to stipendiary ministry and living in Windermere, we have agreed that she will have primary oversight of Grange and Windermere, and that Martyn will retain primary oversight of Kendal, give oversight to the South West Cumbria United Area, convene the Cumbria Area Pastoral Committee and provide URC representation on some ecumenical meetings. In addition to her work in the Cumbria Missional Partnership, Lis convenes the Steering Groups of the Lancashire North and Lancashire East Missional Partnerships.

The Synod Executive Committee has also agreed in principle to the recruitment of a full-time Mission & Discipleship Mentor for Cumbria, to work alongside our stipendiary ministers in helping churches to discern and develop their mission opportunities. Also, two new opportunities for stipendiary ministry [one with primary oversight within the South West Cumbria United Area, the other with primary oversight of churches in the north east of the partnership] remain on the national vacancy list, and we hope for interest to be shown in them soon. I ask you to pray for Lis and Martyn in their new responsibilities, for Dave Harkison and Alistair Smeaton as they continue to support our churches in the north west of the partnership, for our ecumenical partners, for those who will oversee the recruitment of a mission & discipleship mentor, and ministers who may be interested in serving in Cumbria in the future.

If you have any news that you would like to share in the next newsletter, please send to John Costello: johnxcostello@btinternet.com

Bible reflection

Read Luke 24: 13-35 the Emmaus road

- ♦ Luke's resurrected Jesus is still so physical - he walks on a real road, he talks at length, he eats food and breaks bread. This is not a ghost or even a spiritual being but a human person, flesh and blood, skin and bone, body and brain. Then why do his own disciples not recognise him? Do we recognise Jesus in our own journeys through life?
- ♦ From stock-piling and shortages to the over-due recognition of those who work in food production & distribution; from the real anxiety and hunger some people are experiencing to the comfort others are rediscovering in baking and in sharing simple meals, food has become a key feature of this crisis. How is Jesus present 'in the breaking of the bread' in the middle of all this?
- ♦ From sausage rolls and cheese scones at coffee mornings, to congregational lunches and Jacob's Joins, KURC is great at loving and caring for each other through food. When we are at 106 in what ways could we use those wonderful gifts of nurturing, nourishing and hospitality in the service of the people of Kendal so they might encounter Jesus in the sharing of food?

Worship resources:

- BBC Radio Cumbria Sunday mornings 95.2 FM (Kendal) & online
- Kendal URC website: video Sunday & mid-week local reflections <https://kendalurc.org.uk/>
- Daily devotions from the national URC: <https://kendalurc.org.uk/daily-devotions/>



Poem: provided by Anne Handley via her sister Hazel:

No one's told the daffodils about the pause to Spring
And no one's told the birds to roost and asked them not to sing
No one's asked the lazy bee to cease his bumbling round
And no one's stopped the bright green shoots emerging through
the ground

No one's told the sap to rest, deep within the wood
And stop the sleepy trees from waking, wreathed about in bud

No one's told the sky to douse its brightest shades of blue
And stop the scudding clouds from puffing headlong into view
No one's asked the lambs to still the springs beneath their feet,
To stop their rapid rush and quell each joyful bleat
No one's told the stream to halt its gurgle or its flow
And warned the playful breezes, not to gust and blow
No one's asked the raindrops not to fall upon the earth
And fail to quench the soil in the season of rebirth

No one's locked the sun down, or dimmed the shimmer of the moon
And even in the darkest night, the stars are still immune
Remember what you value, remember who is dear
Close the doors to danger and keep your family near
In the quiet all around us take the time to sit and stare
And wonder at the glory unfurling everywhere
Look towards the future, after the ordeal
And keep faith in Mother Nature's power and the will to heal

By Alexa Barber

Helm Mission Community news

Hilary Borthwick (Salvation Army) and Angela Whittaker (Vicar of Natland, Old Hutton & New Hutton) are now the joint leaders of the Helm Mission Community. We hope to all join together to officially launch the Helm Mission with a wonderful joint service on the morning of Sunday 29 November at the Parish Church.

From Pauline G: I mentioned in the last magazine that I was sending the latest batch of twiddle muffs to the organisation *Knit for Peace* in London as our local care homes were starting to not admit visitors due to the coronavirus. I have received a very appreciative email communication from a lady by the name of Jenny in the organisation. She writes:

Dear Kendal United Reformed Church and the Prayer Shawl Group,

I am delighted to say that we have received your wonderful knitted donations. We look forward to delivering the knitted items, as they will undoubtedly make a big difference to those in need. Thank you for your support, we truly appreciate it.

Warm wishes from the whole team,

We are so glad that you found us and we love your little notes. it makes the twiddle muff very personal. We still have care homes who need the twiddle muffs and are happy to receive a parcel of them.

*Stay safe,
Jenny.*



Family news

From Neil Wilson: “when I opened the door on Good Friday morning to pick up our milk and eggs, imagine my surprise to find in addition a bag wishing us a happy Easter, containing a delicious fruit cake. This was from a near neighbour whom we know only to greet when we meet. She runs a cake making business, which at the moment has had to stop operation.

We were really touched! Anne and I have started to come to the conclusion that we are the oldest inhabitants of Thorny Hills and its continuation in Castle Crescent (bar a possible one whose age we don't know). And we don't even feel old!”

From Anne Thompson: This is my Easter Tree in my front garden with knitted flowers:



Kendal United Reformed Church

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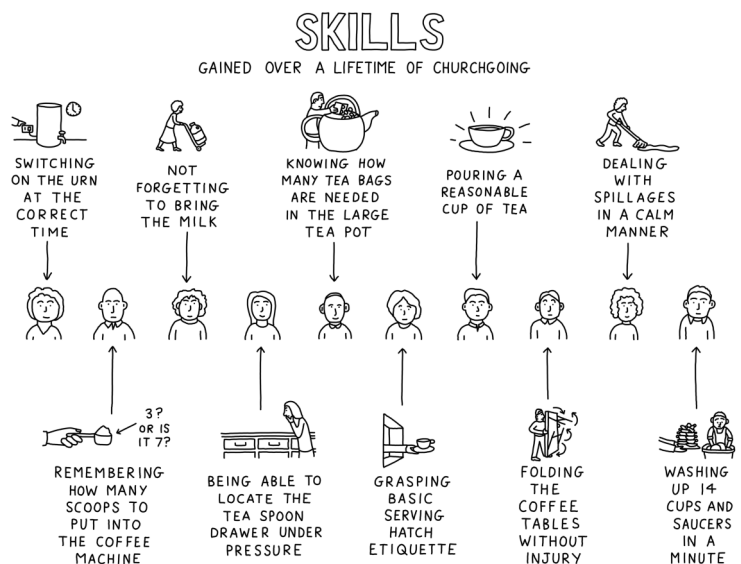
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We're on the web: find us on Facebook and Twitter and on our website:

<https://kendalurc.org.uk/>



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