

## Welcome

Welcome to Embracing Life. I love, and endlessly quote (for which no apologies) Kate MacIlhagga's\* poem that begins:

Lent is not for the faint-hearted.  
It demands that we, like Thomas,  
put our hand into the side of the crucified Christ...

And it ends...

Lent can be an opportunity to explore what is the nature  
of the promised kingdom of God on earth that we long for;  
a time to discern how we are called to work for it.

No, Lent is not for the faint-hearted.

I'd suggest that this year Lent has been making even more demands on us than ever. The demands have been psychological, financial, emotional and spiritual.

Psychologically, we've had to cope with the aftermath of several lockdowns, individual isolation, fear of catching Covid ourselves and an obvious reduction in confidence.

Financially, as churches we've had to face lack of income from offerings and bookings. As individuals, we have seen our shopping bills begin to increase and we know our fuel bills will and there have been more demands on us to give to those less fortunate than ourselves - especially in the light of the war in Ukraine.

The demands on our emotions have been unusually high as we struggle to come to terms with the loss of so many friends and loved ones and the growing frailty and disability amongst our members.

Spiritually, this all leads to the many questions and doubts that lead us to ask 'where is God in all this?' and 'when *will* God's kingdom 'come on earth as in heaven?' But as Kate McIlhagga suggests in her poem, Lent is the time to discern how we are called to work for it.

It would be all too easy I think, to suggest that Easter, with its brightness and joy, lightens the darkness and is the answer. For so many of God's children it will make no difference at all - death and darkness will continue to dominate their lives.

But perhaps we can continue the resurrection story ourselves. Jesus died because he stood up against the corruption and poor leadership in the system within which he was living. Not just individual wrongs but the sins of us all who fail to do the same. His resurrection tells us that death does not have the last word. His resurrection is a victory and we are commissioned to continue the resurrection story ourselves. We too can stand up against the corruption and lies that bring death and destruction. We too can offer our support to the victims of wrong values and systems. We too can stand with the poor, the oppressed, the homeless and the hungry. Each act of love is a resurrection story in itself.

No, Lent is not for the faint-hearted and I would suggest that Easter isn't either.

So let us move from April into May and the rest of the year bringing light and resurrection joy to as many folk we can in the way we spread the Good News that Christ *is* risen. He is risen indeed! Hallelujah!

**Lis**

\*The Green Heart of the Snowdrop by Kate McIlhagga. Wild Goose Publications



# Worship With Us

## Sunday Morning at 10.30 am

Mothering Sunday 27 March	Service at the Salvation Army, Gillinggate Revd Pam Noonan
3 April	Ralph Penny-Larter
Palm Sunday 10 April	Revd Lis Mullen
Maundy Thursday 14 April (2.00 pm)	Revd Pam Noonan (Communion Service)
Easter Day 17 April	Revd Martyn Coe (Communion Service)
24 April	David Lamb
1 May	Revd Martyn Coe
8 May	Revd Pam Noonan
15 May	Mark Hamblett
22 May	John Costello
29 May	John Costello
5 June	Revd Pam Noonan (Communion Service) followed by church lunch
12 June	Revd Martyn Coe
19 June	Dr Michael Pickles
26 June	Revd Pam Noonan
3 July	Revd Martyn Coe (Communion Service)
10 July	David Lamb

## From the Secretary

Hello everyone

My item this month gives you dates for some events happening in the next two months. Things must be opening up! It's almost exactly two years since we first went into lockdown. What a good thing that we didn't know what lay ahead! I hope that you continue to be well and that those of you who have had the virus have now recovered and are suffering no after effects. What a good thing that the scientists developed the vaccine!



You should already know that at their meeting this month the Elders decided to make the wearing of masks optional in 106. If you want to continue wearing a mask please do. If you would feel happier in a different space, remember that you can join in the Sunday service from the Front Room.

**Wednesday 30 March** 2.00 pm to 4.00 pm. First Drop-In session. More information elsewhere.

You will read elsewhere about the sale of the church but please note on **Sunday 3 April** the purchaser (Bruce Withington) has asked to come to meet us. After the service he will tell us of his plans.

**Wednesday 6 April** is our **monthly coffee morning**. 10.00 am to 11.30 am. Proceeds this time to the Ukraine Appeal. Please come and support this very needy cause.

On **Maundy Thursday (14 April)** Pam Noonan will conduct a **Communion** service in 106 at 2.00pm.

The **CTiKD Walk of Witness** will take place as usual on **Good Friday 15 April** starting at St Thomas's at 10.30 am with a service, leaving there at 11.15 am and walking to the Parish Church. They will stop on the way outside 106 for a Bible reading and a prayer. There will also be a video with contributions from the churches each day of Holy Week. More information about that later.

**Prayer Shawl and Craft group** will meet on **Tuesday 19 April** at 10.00am in 106.

**Sunday 24 April** after the service we will have a **picnic lunch** to celebrate the sale of the church and the beginning of a new chapter in the life of KURC.

**Monday 25 April** at 10.30 am in 106. **Reading group** meets. We have chosen 'Mao's Last Dancer' by Li Cunxin.

**Wednesday 27 April** at 2.00 Drop-In.

**Sunday 1 May** after morning worship **Quarterly Church Meeting**

**Wednesday 18 May** is our **monthly Coffee Morning**.

Donations for Christian Aid. NB: This is held during Christian Aid Week. NOT on the first Wednesday on the month.

**Sunday 5 June Church lunch** at Carus Green to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

You can see that there is quite a lot going on. We hope to see you at some of these events! In the meantime please take care and look after each other.

Best wishes

Anne

## Celebrating the Queen's Jubilee



On Sunday 5 June, after the morning Church service, you are invited to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee at Carus Green Golf Club for a two-course lunch.

If you are interested, please let Gillian Cochrane know as soon as possible.

Choice of menu and payment are needed by Sunday 8 May.

Transport can be arranged.

**Gillian**

## Together in Harmony

A beautiful evening of music from St John's Hospice Choir and Fellside Singers

Brewery Arts Centre

Friday 8 April at 7.30 pm

The programme will include:

### St John's Hospice Choir:

- \* Sing
- \* Jar of Hearts
- \* You Raise Me Up

### Fellside Singers:

- \* One Day like This
- \* Time after Time

### Both Choirs:

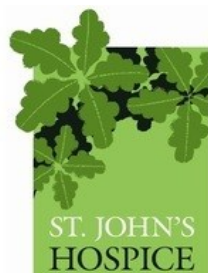
- \* Why We Sing

Tickets £12 Concessions £10

Tickets available from the Box Office:

[breweryarts.co.uk](http://breweryarts.co.uk) 01539 725133

All proceeds to St John's Hospice.



## Prayer Shawl and Craft Group

We meet on the third Tuesday morning in the month, so the next two meetings are Tuesday 19 April and Tuesday 17 May, from 10.00 am to 12.00 noon in 106.



Please let me or one of the Elders know, if you know of anybody who needs a prayer shawl.

**Sheila**

## Sale of Church Building

As this edition of Embracing Life is published the sale of the Church building, main hall and land behind is about to go through. We have been on this particular journey for almost seven years since first deciding to go this way. The road has been quite difficult with a number of false starts and withdrawal of those who were interested.

While we were doing this we have also managed the redevelopment of the rest of our site, coped with Covid and attempted to establish a normal Church life again. This next phase with new neighbours who will be crossing "our" yard will also be interesting as we see what their plans are.

**Nick**

## Drop-in at KURC

2.00 pm to 4.00 pm on the last Wednesday of the month

This is an informal get-together to talk, share, bring your knitting, play scrabble, do a quiz or crossword or just come for a chat and a cup of tea. There will be a jigsaw swap and mini library.

We tried an afternoon service which met with little support; so maybe a less formal two hours is what is needed—or tell us what you want, we are open to suggestions. We will, of course, end the afternoon with the Grace.

Our first meeting will be on Wednesday 30 March at 2.00 pm. All are welcome.

**Brenda Walling and Anne Handley**





## Christian Aid Week 15-21 May

“Turn Hunger into Hope”

From Christian Aid:

“We know that many of you have faced challenges in the last two years and understand that Coronavirus has deeply impacted your family, church and fundraising efforts, yet we still look towards the future and to this year’s Christian Aid Week.

This year your gifts could help women like Jessica in Zimbabwe, whose children often only get one bowl of porridge a day, grow drought-tolerant crops that survive in the harsh climate due to climate change.”

The URC May Charity Coffee Morning will be held in 106 in **Christian Aid Week on Wednesday 18 May**. Your support for these Charity Coffee Mornings would be greatly appreciated.

**Anne Handley**

## Family News

On 1 May 1999 Fiona and Tim were married by Revd Brenda Willis at Kendal URC. Fiona is a daughter of Neil and Anne. Roll on 23 years and what are the couple up to now?

On Thursday 17 March at eight o'clock in the morning they were standing at the highest point on the African continent, the summit of Kilimanjaro; it was a beautiful morning with hardly a cloud in the sky. They had climbed to the top of Kilimanjaro. *“Towering 19,341 feet, with a high failure rate, reaching the peak takes a hefty amount of work against significant odds”*. Fiona’s comment “Hardest thing I’ve ever done”. What an achievement for a couple in their (early) sixties.



The height, more than six times higher than Scafell Pike, means that altitude sickness is a real and dangerous possibility. By taking five days to ascend, people become more acclimatised. On the top the amount of oxygen breathed in is only about 49% of that at sea level. This has a negative affect on energy levels.

For Fiona and Tim, 17 March started just after midnight with a night time climb. By 8 o'clock they had already climbed over 4118 feet, which is not quite a Ben Nevis but more than a Snowdon, whilst coping with breathing the very rarefied air. After this they returned to the camp they had left at midnight, had a two hour rest and then climbed down another 2690 feet. What a day!

The amazing technology of 2022 meant we could follow their progress in real time with latitude and longitude given very accurately (when they were in range of whatever was monitoring the party): how ridiculous is that! Whilst these readings showed where they were I have used details from their itinerary and videos to arrive at this account. But if you want first hand information about this climb, ask Nick Andrews because in February 2005 he climbed Kilimanjaro: at one of the Sunday afternoon meetings he gave us a talk on his trip.

(Signed) A Proud Mother

**Anne D Wilson**

## Next issue of Embracing Life

The next issue of Embracing Life will include information about events in the church and the local community during June and July. It will be distributed in the week ending 27 May 2022.

Please send any contributions by Monday 23 May, either by post to John Costello, 2 Hawesmead Drive, Kendal LA9 5HD, or email [johnxcostello@btinternet.com](mailto:johnxcostello@btinternet.com).



**Easter Crafty Saturday 9 April 2022**  
**10.30 am to 12.30 pm**  
**at Carver Church Windermere**

Come and join in with young families that live in the area. Help to make Easter cards, Easter bonnets, palm trees and branches and Easter gardens.

Collaborate to make a Passion scene for display in the church during holy week.

All are welcome. Drinks, biscuits and hot cross buns will be available.



Commitment for Life celebrates its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2022.

The Autumn 2021 Update informed us about efforts by local authorities in Mutare City, Zimbabwe, to improve water provision so that women and girls would not have to gather at the unprotected, shallow wells, giving opportunities for abuse.

The Spring 2022 Update, also on Zimbabwe, mentions the work of Agnes Machona, who is a leader of a community garden project. A solar water pump has made a tremendous difference to the variety of vegetables that can now be grown. She can now grow the herb, the resurrection bush, which after harvesting and placing in water transforms into green shoots for tea to drink.

*Pauline Goodridge*

## Ordinations and inductions: a reminder

We are pleased to be welcoming Kate Hunt and Lisa Wilson into Ministry within the Cumbria Partnership.

As they will not be completing their college training until June, they will join us in the summer.

Lisa will be ordained and inducted in Carlisle on 6 August and Kate in South West Cumbria on 20 August.

*Martyn Coe*

**Kendal South Choir present :**  
 Directed by Geoffrey Field, with Organist Andy Plowman  
**and soloist Emily Robinson**

*An Evening With*  
**Haydn & Mozart**  
**Sat 14<sup>th</sup> May, 2022**

**St Thomas's Church : Kendal. 7.30pm**

## Calling artists everywhere

As Manna House celebrates 20 years of service to those in need in the South Lakes, we'll be hosting an art exhibition and sale in October this year. This is part of our year-long acknowledgement of the great effort and massive challenges faced by clients, staff and volunteers through the years.

We invite all artists to donate a piece of art on the theme "home". Your art, along with the work of dozens of other artists, will be on display for a week in October in the exhibition space at the Stephenson Centre, Ann Street, Kendal. The public will be invited to view the art and purchase items, with 100% of the profits going towards the work of Manna House.

We will acknowledge your details as artist, in an exhibition catalogue, in an accompanying press release, and on social media (unless you prefer to be anonymous). We hope that you will have a piece, or create one, which you would like to share and donate.

The art work should be ready to hang (framed or on stretched canvas board, and strung). Any two-dimensional medium will be welcome. Please attach a label on the back, giving your name, the title of the work and a suggested minimum price.

Entry forms and full terms and conditions will be available on the Manna House website: the deadline for submissions is 1 October 2022.

If you have any questions about this, please contact Andrea Aldridge on 01539 725534



## Remembering Pat Taylor

The early New Year saw us saying farewell to a long standing member of our congregation with the death of Pat Taylor. Pat Jameson was Kendal born, had married Roger Taylor from Milnthorpe in the mid 50s, and would later move to Carlisle where she would become an elder in the Church she attended.

She and Roger returned to Kendal in the early 1980s joining Kendal URC. She would become an elder here and was Church Secretary for a spell. She was also closely involved in the Friendship Club taking on the post of Secretary from Marion Nicholson until age decreased the membership, and the move away during the renovations followed by the COVID pandemic curtailed its activities. We remember with grateful appreciation Pat's years of service to the Church.

I didn't know Pat until she came to Kendal URC, and it was only a good number of years later that I discovered I had been in the same form at Kendal Grammar School as her brother, Brendan, when I started there in 1956.

The Jameson family were very involved in Kendal life—brother, Peter was in business in the Shambles, Brendan served on South Lakeland District Council, and Pat herself was the Council's Assistant Market Supervisor.

Our deepest sympathy goes to Pat's daughters, Marise and Lisa, her grandchildren and great grandchildren in their loss.

**Edward Irvine**

## Church Contacts

Martyn Coe (07973 359882) [unitedchurch@btinternet.com](mailto:unitedchurch@btinternet.com)  
 Anne Morrison (015395 60849) [kurc106secretary@outlook.com](mailto:kurc106secretary@outlook.com)  
 Jenny Andrews (01539 727812) [kurc106ad@outlook.com](mailto:kurc106ad@outlook.com)  
 Nick Andrews (015395 61988) [kurc106treasurer@outlook.com](mailto:kurc106treasurer@outlook.com)

## We're on the web:

find us on Facebook and Twitter and on our website: [kendalurc.org.uk](http://kendalurc.org.uk)