



Welcome

Run the race which is before you with your eyes focussed on Jesus. That's the encouragement for the readers of the letter to the Hebrews.

Now, many of us might not do much running, but, however we are trying to travel, we know that it is best done by taking the right path for us and looking at where we are going—not on where we once were.

It's true for us as individuals and it's true for the church. As individuals, we are not who we were, but we are still people, lovingly made in the image of God. We still have our calling to be disciples of Jesus. With all God's people we gather with the cloud of witnesses which stretches far back and far ahead of us. As individuals we have changed: so has and so must the church.

Some of us will remember when churches, if not full, were busy lively places, with Sunday school organised and energetic. We can look back longingly or we can run the race which is before us—before us now not in the past—but the only one that allows us to fix our eyes on Jesus.

As we age, our spirit and mind don't seem to age the same: inside we long to be able to do the things we could manage so easily 'back then'. Sometimes when churches gather, we do the same. We long to be what once we were: we don't want to allow our new race to interfere with the one we used to run

The church is not what it once was. That's just the way it is. It is no use looking round for someone or something to blame (any more than anyone is to blame when we age). Every age of the church has unique challenges—we are not unique in being concerned about the future, but if we believe in Christ alive in every age then there remains a calling and there will remain faithful people worshipping God.

To find the race, the proper race, which is before us, to see Christ calling us on we need to discern the path together, through prayer, study, conversation. The way of the past cannot show us the way forward. Fears of the future must not stop us. We must run this race, not someone else's or the one of some other time.

I don't believe that God is done with us, I don't know what is next, but the Spirit does—and together we can listen for her calling.

Peace be with you

Martyn



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We're on the web:

find us on Facebook and
Twitter and on our website:
kendalurc.org.uk

Worship With Us

Sunday Morning at 10.30 am

25 September	Revd Lis Mullen (Harvest Service)
2 October	Revd Pam Noonan (Communion Service)
9 October	Mike Hart
16 October	Revd Martyn Coe
23 October	Revd Martyn Coe (followed by Annual Church Meeting)
30 October	Revd Pam Noonan (Shoebox Sunday)
6 November	Revd Pam Noonan (Communion service)
13 November	Revd Lis Mullen (Remembrance Sunday)
20 November	Revd Martyn Coe (Mountain Festival)
27 November	At Salvation Army (Knitted Bible exhibition at 106)
4 December	At Salvation Army (Knitted Bible exhibition at 106)
11 December	Mark Hamblett
18 December	Elders (Lessons and Carols)
25 December	Revd Martyn Coe
1 January	Revd Pam Noonan (Communion—at 106, joined by Salvation Army)

From the Secretary

Sadly, since our last issue, we have to record the death of Bill Morris who died at home at the beginning of August. Rev Pam Noonan conducted his funeral service at Beetham Crematorium. We hold his family and friends in our prayers.



Last Sunday we held our Quarterly Church Meeting. Thanks to Jenny for circulating the minutes so promptly. Our Annual Church Meeting will be on the 23 October after morning worship. Before then you will receive the annual book of reports and will, I hope, have made your nominations for new Elders.

At our last Elders' meeting we discussed pastoral visiting, which obviously didn't happen during lockdown. If you would like a visit from an Elder or the Minister please contact me or any of the Elders. I also need to remind you that you should really only park in the yard if you are at 106 on church business.

Monthly groups have been carrying on throughout the summer. Numbers aren't large but these activities are enjoyed by those who attend. It has been encouraging to see some visitors come to the drop-in sessions on the last Wednesday afternoon of the month.

We look ahead to **Shoe Box Sunday** on 30 October, when our speaker will be David Ratcliffe. On Sunday 20 November (during the Kendal Mountain Festival) John and Ann Hindle will as usual offer their excellent **bacon butties** to passers-by, who will be welcome to come in to the Front Room and have a few minutes to reflect in the warmth and quiet.

The **Knitted Bible** exhibition runs from 23 November to 7 December. All who have seen it have been very impressed, so we hope you will come and have a look. We will be asking very soon for volunteers to help with the running of this event.

On Saturday 17 December we plan to **sing carols** outside 106 as we did last year, joined by our friends from the Helm Mission Community. Fingers crossed for a dry day!

Best wishes

Anne

Next issue of Embracing Life

Please send any contributions for the next issue of this newsletter by Monday 21 November, either by post to John Costello,
2 Hawesmead Drive, Kendal LA9 5HD,
or email johnxcostello@btinternet.com.

Bill Morris

From Neil Wilson: Memories of Bill

A much loved member of the congregation, Bill died aged 97 on 2 August.

Soon after Anne and I moved to Kendal, Bill impacted on our lives as pastoral secretary, a position he occupied most diligently for many years - we were soon on his radar and it was not long before we joined the walking group which he led with great enthusiasm for years. He had led a similar group in the church he attended in Comrie, Perthshire, before moving here for his second retiral. We couldn't have had a better introduction to the local and wider Cumbrian area. Every walk was thoroughly researched, he and Eleanor having covered the route, sometimes in both directions. These walks, starting by car from the rendezvous in Ford Terrace, were an excellent way to get to know other members of the congregation.

As a fellow Scot and fellow science graduate of Edinburgh University we had much in common. I also knew Comrie well, having lived a few miles away for many years. We shared many theological beliefs resulting in our attending numerous meetings and discussions.

Bill made a significant contribution to music, standing in on many occasions as organist in church and pianist on other occasions. Mildred Burnell remembers that he always played "Brother James' Air" at the gathering of the congregation.

He was a good cook and always produced a cake (usually gingerbread, I think) for the monthly coffee mornings in the Lecture Hall and took the money at the door for a long time.

Neil

From Revd Pam Noonan: Bill's story

Born in Dunfermline, the younger of two children, Bill was immensely proud of his Scottish roots.

Following his degree in science at Edinburgh University, he began his career as a food chemist. Being too young to be conscripted he joined the home guard.

He met Elsie his first wife in Bedford and they were married in 1949. They had three children - Neil, Christine and Graham. Sadly, Elsie died prematurely aged 42.

Some years later, Bill met and married Eleanor in 1977. She had two children - David and Paul.

Following his retirement aged 57, they made Cromrie, Perthshire their home, moving to Kendal about 30 years ago to be nearer their families.

They became an important, loyal and valued part of our church family. He was one of the best pastoral secretaries the congregation ever had, and he led the then church walking group. Always available to help others, he was a quiet, determined, independent but fiercely loyal and caring husband, father, grandfather and friend.

We give thanks to God for Bill's life.

Pam

Knitted Bible

The Knitted Bible Exhibition was produced by St George's URC in Hartlepool. It consists of 36 scenes depicting the best-known stories from the Bible.

This exhibition will be in Kendal from 23 November to 5 December: it will be on display in 106, in the worship area and in the front room. We will be opening it up to schools and the general public. We will need help with stewarding and refreshments during opening times.

If you want to see some of the knitted scenes you can find illustrations on their website stgeorgesurc.co.uk (click on Knitted Bible).



Sheila Andrews

Manna House: forthcoming events

Art Exhibition and Sale

Monday 10 to Friday 14 October from 10 am to 3 pm

In the training-room-cum-art-gallery at the Stephenson Centre, Ann Street, Kendal LA9 6AA



Christmas Craft Fair

Saturday 12 November from 11 am to 3 pm

At the Shakespeare Centre, Kendal

Book Group

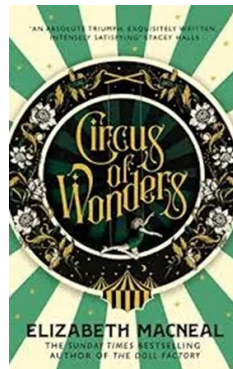
Dear friends

The next meeting of the book group will take place on Monday 24 October at 10.30 am in the Upper Room.

We will be discussing 'Circus of Wonders' by Elizabeth MacNeal, and everyone is welcome to join us.

Many thanks

Jenny



Boxes of Hope 2022

Our special service for shoeboxes is to be on Sunday 30 October. The service will be led by Revd Pam Noonan and the speaker will be David Ratcliffe.



There is still time to fill a box if you are able. A table of items to help is in the worship space: please take anything you need.

The campaign is definitely going ahead and hopefully a group will go to help distribute the boxes (the first since 2019).

Some boxes will be given to Ukrainian refugee children who are now resident in Romania.

The trustees have had to ask for £2.50 a box to cover increased transport costs. On behalf of the church, our treasurer sends a single cheque covering the costs for all our boxes; so, if you are unable to fill a box but would still like to help, small donations would be very helpful.

Thank you to everyone for your continued support of this campaign, please continue to keep the children and their families in your prayers.

Ann Hindle

king's foodbank

*providing emergency food boxes
in the Kendal Community*

Items always needed

Tins of:

- Meat in sauce
- Hot dogs
- Rice pudding
- Fruit
- Spaghetti in sauce
- Ravioli
- Macaroni cheese

Packets of:

- Instant noodles
- Instant pasta
- Cup-a-soup
- Biscuits

Other items:

- UHT semi-skimmed milk
- Sponge puddings
- Fruit squash
- Bags for life

We have large stocks of tea, breakfast cereal, soup and baked beans, and currently are not in need of further donations of these items.

We have donation points in Asda, Booths and Morrisons.

Thank you for your support.

A Prayer Diary

The elders recently discussed how to deepen the prayer life of our congregation. They decided to re-introduce the Prayer Diary that Joan Ratcliffe previously wrote for our use. I have been asked to assume this responsibility and it will be published every two months in Embracing Life.

Also, the prayer topic for the week will be shown on the PowerPoint at worship.

If you have any suggestions of what you would like included, please let me know. In the meantime, I hope you find this a helpful aid to your praying.

Pam Noonan



Week beginning 2 October

At this time of national change, let us continue to pray for our government and all who serve in it, asking that through their policy making, the needs of the poor and vulnerable, at home and overseas will be given priority.

9 October

Let us pray for the advertising for our Project Worker, asking that a person with a God-given vision for 106 might be appointed.

16 October

Let us give thanks for the support and friendship of the congregations in our Mission Community and pray that through our joint working and witness others will come to know Jesus.

23 October

As we give thanks for those who serve God through our congregation, let us continue to pray for Martyn, the elders, all our church activities and outreach. We also pray for the informal conversations which will be held regarding registering as a marriage venue.

30 October

Let us pray that our Shoe Boxes have an unhindered journey to Romania and bring joy to those who receive them.

6 November

As we celebrate the family meal at Communion, let us remember all those who are no longer able to join us in worship.

13 November

As we remember those who gave their lives in past wars, let us continue to pray for Ukraine and Russia, Israel and Palestine, the Yemen and other areas of conflict. Let us also pray for the Bacon Butty outreach next week.

20 November

Following the annual Mountain Festival, let us give thanks for all who volunteer in Mountain Rescue teams and work for NW Air Ambulance.

27 November

Let us pray that those from our town and surrounding area who come to see the Knitted Bible may be moved by its message.

URC shares nations' grief on the death of Queen Elizabeth II

The United Reformed Church shares in the grief of the nations following the death of Her Majesty the Queen, Elizabeth II.

Following the death of her father King George, Her Majesty succeeded the throne on 6 February 1952, but was officially crowned in 1953. Queen Elizabeth was the world's longest-reigning living monarch and was a much-loved and popular royal figure.

Many United Reformed churches (URCs) have been open for times of prayer and reflection over the days of mourning.



The General Assembly of the URC, the church's governing body, sends a loyal address to the Queen each time it meets. At the 2022 General Assembly, the Assembly wrote to the Queen noting that in this year both Her Majesty and the URC are marking a jubilee.

The Assembly thanked Her Majesty for her "steadfast and faithful service" over the seven decades of her reign.

Praising her example of "duty, integrity and public service", the Assembly placed on record its appreciation of Her Majesty's public witness to her Christian faith and the way in which she has sought to live her life as a servant of Christ.

The Revd Dr John Bradbury, URC General Secretary, said: "Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II lived the most remarkable life of dedicated Christian service.

"As a devout Anglican and Presbyterian her faith shone from her words and deeds. Her contribution to the life of our nations, the Commonwealth, and beyond will be remembered with gratitude for generations to come. She inspired respect from across the political spectrum and from monarchists and republicans alike.

"The United Reformed Church has always been aware that as each General Assembly presents a loyal address to the throne, we have been addressing a fellow baptised sister in Christ. We give thanks for her life and uphold in prayer all who mourn for her. May she rest in peace and rise in glory."

The State Funeral

Did you know someone attended the state funeral on our behalf?

Bishop James is the Bishop of Carlisle: he used to live in Kendal when he was Bishop of Penrith. He is a member of the House of Lords. Another post he has held is Clerk of the Closet to Her Majesty the Queen (annual salary £7 per annum); amongst its many duties he examines any theological books to be presented to the Sovereign, and preaches annually in the Chapel Royal, St James's Palace.

He says "It has been my privilege in recent days to be in London, both for the King's address to Parliament and also to welcome the Queen's coffin in Westminster Hall ahead of its lying-in-state for four days. I had the honour of walking past the coffin on Wednesday afternoon...". And writing about Monday "as the nation comes together for the state funeral, which I will attend on behalf of the Sovereign's Ecclesiastical Household as well as **the churches and people of Cumbria**". Even then Bishop James is not finished "as Her Majesty's coffin makes its final journey to St George's Chapel for a committal service in which it will also be my honour and privilege to take part."

Anne Wilson