

Issue 31  
December 2022 and  
January 2023



## Kendal United Reformed Church



### Welcome

For many of us (me included) Christmas is a time of remembering.

We remember those who are no longer with us round the table. We remember Christmases past—both good and bad.

And that's no bad thing. We are shaped by our experiences and the people we have travelled with. The biblical story of Christmas is built on the remembered experience of the nation. The people felt they had been promised much, and yet little seemed to have happened to make things better. Into a time of oppression and fear, God steps into the world. The stories of Jesus's birth make clear how vulnerable the child Jesus was and how easily things might not have worked out well. But Mary knew, she looked back and she looked forward. She knew what God was doing and the joy and pain that Jesus would bring into her life.



This Christmas and New Year, let us look back giving thanks for those we have loved and now miss. Some of us will give thanks that bad times are in the past, and some of us will miss people who won't be round the table with us this year. All these memories we share with God who has been with us in all our life.

At this time of year we rightly look back, sometimes with joy, sometimes with sadness, sometimes with anger and sometimes with love. Looking back is important, but we can't stay in the past. We might not make new year resolutions, but many of us wonder what the next year will bring. We don't know what will happen. Some things will bring joy and some sadness, but in amongst all this the Christmas story helps us to realise that God is with us in all things. God in Christ came into our world and understands what it is to be human. The story of Christmas is of God with us in all things showing us love in unexpected ways.

My hope and prayer for all of us this Christmas and New Year is that we will be aware of Christ's transforming love shared with us and all people.

May blessings and peace be with you.

### Martyn

The 10.30 Christmas Day service at 106 will be shared on You Tube: look for Cumbria URC. We hope also to make it available as a link from our Facebook page. If you are not going to church, do join us online.

### 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)

### Next issue of Embracing Life

Please send any contributions for the next issue of this newsletter by Monday 23 January 2023, to John Costello,  
2 Hawesmead Drive, Kendal LA9 5HD,  
or email [johnxcostello@btinternet.com](mailto:johnxcostello@btinternet.com)

# Worship With Us

## Sunday Morning at 10.30 am

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)
8 January	John Costello (followed by Church Meeting at 12.30 pm)
15 January	Brian Stabler
22 January	Revd Pam Noonan
29 January	Joint Helm Mission Community Service at Salvation Army (Jacob's Join lunch - no service in 106)
5 February	Mark Hamblett (Communion)
12 February 10.45 am	URC Moderator at Carver Church (no service in 106)
19 February	Michael Pickles
25 February	Revd Martyn Coe

## From the Secretary

Hello everyone

It seems too soon to start this report with Christmas greetings, but by the time you read it we will have reached the season of Advent.



Regular church activities continue, although sadly we have lost two of our regular bookings. MND and Sight Advice no longer use our premises. They enjoyed being with us and really appreciated the facilities we offer but they were both struggling with numbers (of participants and helpers) and therefore have cancelled their bookings for now.

We are looking forward to the Knitted Bible exhibition. Sheila has been working very hard to make sure all runs smoothly. Many thanks to her and to all those who have volunteered to help. Thanks also to all who packed shoe boxes for the Boxes of Hope appeal. Particular thanks (again) to Ann and John for all their hard work—and for their bacon butties on Mountain Festival Sunday.

After the Knitted Bible exhibition, on 17 December, we will be joined by other members of the Helm Mission Community in singing Carols outside 106 at 11.00 am. This was very successful last year and we hope again for a dry day. Any donations will go to Manna House.

You will see elsewhere in this issue information about Sunday services in the coming months. We are very grateful to Hilary and all at the Salvation Army for inviting us to join them in Gillinggate while we have the Knitted Bible exhibition. (They will join us in 106 on 1 January)

The Mission Community has organised a joint service on 29 January at the Salvation Army. This will be followed by a Jacob's Join lunch. We will join Grange URC and Carver on 12 February for a service led by Rev Fiona Bennett, Moderator of the General Assembly. There will be a lunch after that service too. There will be no service in 106 on either of those dates, but there will be more information later.

Don't forget our Church Meeting after worship on 8 January. This will be chaired by Martyn who is leading worship at Carver that day. We expect the meeting to begin about 12.30 pm, to give him time to get from Windermere, so feel free to bring a sandwich or a snack to keep you going. Tea and coffee will be served as usual.

I will finish by wishing everyone a happy and peaceful Christmas and a good 2023.

**Anne**

## From Rita Hogarth

A bespoke stained glass window is being made to replace the large glass window in 106. I feel it will reflect the history of the Church and remind us of Alan Hogarth who passed away in April 2020. It is a gift from Alan and me.

Alan, an only child, was 12 years old when his father died, and the Garnet family were very kind to him. Peter, their son, took Alan to Sunday School at Zion church, and so a lifetime connection with Zion began. There were over 100 children at Sunday School, and later Alan became a Sunday School teacher under the leadership of Dorothy Howie.

A large house that had been commandeered by the army during the war had a lot of land and Dorothy's father said that, if the church people cleared the land, they could have a tennis court there. Alan's love of racquet sports began.

I had been a member of St John's Presbyterian church on Sandes Avenue, and Alan and I were married there in 1960. Nationally the Presbyterian and Congregational churches merged. In Kendal the St John's church and church hall were sold and Zion buildings used.

In the early 1960s Alan was instrumental in getting the new hall built at the rear of Zion church, large enough for a badminton court, with a stage for dramatics and side rooms for meetings.

Alan won the Westmorland County tennis singles and with his partner Dorothy Howie won the Westmorland badminton mixed doubles.

In 1965, Alan gave the church two wooden staircases (still used) which he was taking out of the jewellers: these were perfect to access the upper floor over the lecture hall (now 106). This floor was used by Frank and Margaret Armitage to develop the youth group.

In May 2023, it will be 100 years since Alan's father bought the jeweller's shop on Branthwaite Brow. The new stained glass window will hopefully be ready for then. I am sure Alan would be pleased.

*Rita*

## North West Synod meeting 15 October 2022

Representatives of churches met at Oasis Academy, Salford and online. The meeting was chaired by Revd Dave Herbert, Moderator of the Northern Synod. Three new ministers to the region were welcomed: Kate Hunt and Lisa Wilson to Cumbria and a third to South Manchester churches.

The three churches that had closed in Cumbria were mentioned.

Voting took place on the following motions:

- It was agreed to support the development of YOUR church, an online church offering online worship to people in the NW and elsewhere;
- NW Synod decided to affiliate itself with Church Action on Poverty;
- Churches are encouraged to take practical action in response to the cost of living crisis

Breakout sessions considered the questions:

- Are local churches supporting one another?
- For what purpose should Synod resources be used? What are the priorities ?

The main suggestions answering the latter question were:

- Organise community projects;
- Support community organisations;
- Projects to build faith, employing experts;
- Practical support: youth work, training;
- Repairing older church buildings.

We were informed of the close links of NW Synod with the Taiwan Presbyterian Church; the Waldensian Church in Sicily; and the Palatinate Evangelical Church in Germany.

*Pauline Goodridge*

## A Prayer Diary

(contributed by Revd Pam Noonan)

### Week beginning 4 December

As we give thanks for different opportunities to join in worship during Advent and Christmas, we pray for Christians who are persecuted, thinking of those in Afghanistan, North Korea, Somalia, Libya, Yemen and Eritrea to name a few places where the threat of persecution is “extreme”.



### 11 December

As the weather begins to deteriorate, let us remember those who have nowhere to call home, are “sofa surfing”, “on the road” or sleeping rough. As we give thanks for “Warm Places”, we also think of those who have insufficient resources to heat their homes

### 18 December

We give thanks for those who seek to serve through national and local government, praying for them strength, wisdom and integrity as they seek to address the ever-new issues of the day.

### 25 December

At this Christmas season, remember all those who find this time particularly difficult - the bereaved, the lonely, those living within fractured relationships, those with dependency problems or insufficient financial resources.

### 1 January

As we enter a New Year, we pray for that the elders might have a clear vision for the future and that each one of us might know the enabling of God’s Holy Spirit as we recommit ourselves to Christ’s service through 106.

### 8 January

We pray for an end to modern forms of slavery, remembering those caught up in sexual exploitation, human trafficking, debt bondage, forced labour, forced marriage and recruiting children for armed conflict.

### 15 January

We give thanks for the advances in “green” energy and pray that, in our own small, seemingly insignificant way, we might play our part in halting global warming.

### 22 January

We continue to pray for Ukraine and Russia, for Israel and Palestine and all other countries where warfare is taking lives and destroying their infrastructure that peace come again to those lands.

### 29 January

We give thanks for our Mission Community and the different opportunities we have of worshipping and working together.



### Some opportunities to sing carols

**Saturday 10 December** 1.00 pm to 3.00 pm at the birdcage, top of Finkle Street (Churches Together in Kendal District)

**Sunday 11 December** about 7.00 pm at The Punchbowl at Barrows Green (St Thomas' Crosscrake)

**Saturday 17 December** 11.00am to 12noon (ish) at Kendal URC 106 Highgate (URC / Helm Mission Community) supporting Manna House

**Friday 22 December** 5.30pm to 7.00pm on Oxenholme Station platform (Helm Mission Community welcome commuters home for the holiday)