



Welcome

“Jesus doesn’t turn anyone away, neither do we.” That was the strapline of our friends in the United Church of Christ, USA. For many years I have encouraged churches to be fully inclusive of all people, but what does this mean when there are radically different and opposing views?

Jesus didn’t turn anyone away and neither should we. However, faced with the challenge Jesus presented, the Gospels tell us of people who turned themselves away. A couple of examples might help us here. In Mark: 10 the rich young ruler went away grieving because he was one who owned much property and Jesus told him to sell all that he had and give it to the poor in order to build treasure in heaven. In Luke: 15 in what is often called the story of the Prodigal Son, the older brother is angry at the welcome given to the wandering son. We are not told if he comes round to his father’s view but he feels pushed out by the no strings welcome and celebration given to the one who’d gone away. In the Hebrew Scriptures and in the new Testament those who say one thing and do another, or use detailed law to enrich themselves and to make others feel less loved by God are denounced. Jesus says this succinctly in Mark: 12:38.

Jesus charged his followers with caring for the least loved of the people. Throughout the Bible we see God’s concern for the poorest, marginalised, and oppressed. Jesus never turned anyone away and neither should we but there will be times when those whose view of the world, of themselves, of other people and God’s call for justice will take themselves away rather than embrace God’s call to radical discipleship and inclusion.

So as a congregation and a national church we are attempting to build the kingdom values into all that we do. That means wealthy churches supporting poorer ones, locally and nationally establishing Open Table congregations and so making clear that LGBTQI+ people are not excluded but are embraced as disciples of Christ. Through national programmes like Commitment for Life we offer charitable support to people who struggle and just as importantly ask: ‘why they struggle’? Hearing God’s call for justice and challenging economic, cultural and political oppression means that some will not feel welcome. They may even go away grieving like that rich young man because they are unable to set aside their privilege.

Jesus reminds us whatever we do for the least of his children we do it to him.

God welcomes all strangers and friends, but not everybody is ready to receive that welcome. Proclaiming the faith does challenge us and those around us to look out for anything we might do which hurts others and to build the kingdom of God following Christ’s teaching.

Yours, **Martyn**



Church Contacts

Martyn Coe (07973 359882) unitedchurch@btinternet.com
 Kevin Huggett (07957 222047) kurc106outreach@outlook.com
 Anne Morrison (015395 60849) kurc106secretary@outlook.com
 Jenny Andrews (01539 727812) kurc106ad@outlook.com
 Nick Andrews (015395 61988) kurc106treasurer@outlook.com

We’re on the web: find us on Facebook and Twitter and on our website: kendalurc.org.uk

Worship With Us

Sundays at 10.30 am

Aug 3rd	Richard Jurd inc Communion
Aug 10th	Revd Lucy Foster
Aug 17th	Revd Martyn Coe
Aug 24th	Revd Lis Mullen
Aug 31st	Revd Lucy Foster
Sept 7th	Revd Martyn Coe inc Communion
Sept 14th	Mark Hamblett
Sept 21st	Mark Hamblett
Sept 28th	Mark Hamblett
Oct 5th	Revd Martyn Coe inc Communion
Oct 12th	Revd Lis Mullen
Oct 19th	Revd Martyn Coe
Oct 26th	Revd Kevin Huggett

Next Embracing Life

Please send any contributions for the next issue of this newsletter by Tuesday 30 September 2025, to

Jenny Andrews:

kurc106ad@outlook.com

Most needed
items:

King's Food Bank

- Teabags (80)
- Small jars of Coffee
- Small tins Tuna/Mackerel
- Cup-a-soup
- Baked Beans & Sausages
- Instant Pasta/Noodles
- Microwave Rice
- Meat in sauce
- Small pots of Pasta sauce
- Fruit Squash
- Tinned Rice Pudding
- Tinned Fruit
- Tinned Carrots
- Tinned Mixed Veg
- Tinned Sweetcorn
- Small Tins of Potatoes

Prayer Shawl & Craft Group

Our Prayer Shawl and Craft group continues to meet on the third Tuesday in the month, from 10am-12 noon in the front room of 106.

We continue to make prayer shawls for those in need as well as doing many other crafts. Everyone is welcome to pop in for a chat and to have tea/coffee/biscuits.

We also have a supply of larger knee blankets if you know of anyone who would benefit from one. Just let me know.

The dates for this coming year are:-
19 August, 16 Sept, 21 Oct, 18 Nov and 16 Dec.

Sheila Andrews



From the Secretary

Hello everybody!

Gillian, Pauline and I went to Carver at the end of June to meet other Cumbria URC Elders and members to hear about the plans to reduce the number of ministers in the county. This is not just going to affect Cumbria. All Synods will be affected one way or another. As I said at the July Church Meeting, Scoping for Cumbria will probably reduce from 4 ministers to 3 but the Synod Moderator was at pains to point out that nothing would happen too soon or too quickly and that there would be more consultation.



As you will probably know by now, Geleza is returning to Zimbabwe for a holiday in September. His home area struggles with a lot of poverty and he would love to be able to take some clothes back to help people there. There is a box in the Worship Space on Sunday. Please put your donations in there. The response has been excellent so far. Thanks to everyone!

We have all been very sorry to hear of Nick's decision to give up the Treasurership, but we understand his reasons. He has been doing the job for a long time and has certainly earned a break! We thank him for what he has done over the years. Martyn and the Elders will be looking at ways of filling the gap!

Elsewhere in this edition of EL you will find some dates for your diaries. Some are KURC events and some are arranged by the Helm Mission Community, but I hope you will be able to attend at least some of them.

See you there!

Anne

Dates for your diary

Friday 15th August: 'chippy tea' in 106 at 6.00pm Please sign the list in the Worship Space if you are going to be there.

Sunday 31st August: Songs of Praise on Natland Village Green at 4.00pm

Sunday 7th September: Congregation Chat Meeting after morning worship.

Sunday 28th September: Harvest.

Sunday 12th October: Shoebox Sunday

Sunday 19th October: Annual and quarterly Church Meetings (*Please note the change of date)

Saturday 22nd November: Tool Sale at 106

Sunday 30th November: Advent Carol service at Kendal Parish Church at 4.00pm

Saturday 6th December: CTiKD carols at the Birdcage (1.00-3.00)

Saturday 13th December: Carol singing outside 106 (11.00-13.00)

Thursday 25th December: Morning Worship at 106 (time to be confirmed!)

Sunday 28th December: Joint HMC service at 10.30 at the Salvation Army

A Prayer Diary

In your prayers, please remember especially during the coming weeks:



- 3 August** **The peoples of Ukraine** in their struggle for freedom in an increasingly bleak and desperate war; those who have lost family members and friends and colleagues in the conflict; those who have lost or fled their homes and their livings; refugees whose visas are expiring. Those from Russia caught up in a conflict not of their making and are fearful to speak out; all who work for peace.
- 10 August** **Those struggling with changing, adverse financial circumstances;** those for whom high interest rates, increased energy costs, the costs of food are posing real hardship; those who are making huge sacrifices to keep their families clothed and fed. The work of food, toy and clothing banks.
- 17 August** **Refugees, asylum seekers, prisoners of conscience;** those who fear for their lives and their livelihoods in their home countries; those whose existences are shattered by war and rebellions; those who flee because they are victims of prejudice because of their ethnicity, their language and culture, their age, their nationality, their gender, their sexuality, and are fearful for their lives.
- 24 August** **For a deepening of personal faith,** for a resolve to put concerns for self to one side and prayerfully to seek a deeper commitment as disciples of Christ to follow Jesus's two Great Commandments to love God with our whole being and to love our neighbours as ourselves.
- 31 August** **Schools and colleges** at the start of a new academic year. For pupils, students, teachers, lecturers, support staff. That opportunities may be given to all, and those opportunities may be seized. That education may equip, enhance, and enrich lives, and lead to fuller, happier citizenship in God's world.
- 7 Sept** **Members of Parliament** in the House of Commons, of every political party, at the start of a new Sitting of Parliament; members of the House of Lords; those in Local Government; the Civil Service and the Judiciary; all involved in the Administration of the affairs of our Nation.
- 14 Sept** **Those involved in health and healing** in hospitals, hospices, care-homes, in the community. Doctors, nurses, other health professionals; family and friends who care for those at home. Those involved in medical research. Those involved in administration of healthcare.
- 21 Sept** **The ancient town of Kendal** and its citizens of every age, background, interest, outlook, belief. Their work and livelihoods; their leisure activities and recreation. The many activities and associations within the town and its neighbourhood. For its Arts and Cultural life. For charities such as Manna House, Waste Into Well-Being and the Foodbank and those who work for them in the town, serving the local and wider community.
- 28 Sept** **Harvest Festival** For a celebration of God's gifts in Creation, especially the bounty of the land and the sea. For 'Seedtime and Harvest' and all who enable us to lay our tables: farmers, market gardeners and horticulturalists; distributors and delivery staff; shopkeepers and marketeers. For wise and fair sharing of resources across the world, and for a responsible approach to the conservation of the world's limited resources.

Prepared by Richard and Elizabeth Jurd

News from Windermere

Our friends in Windermere are now one church in 2 buildings. Worship on the 1st Sunday of the month continues in the Carver building, Lake Road, with most other Sundays worship will be in the chapel on main road. The congregation's hope is that by the end of the year minor improvements would have been completed and they can move completely to Main Road.

As with our own journey in Kendal, the large traditional building is expensive and difficult to maintain by smaller congregation who have different needs than when it was even last altered.

Martyn



Refugees - A Poem

Refugees, a powerful reverse poem is being published as a thought provoking picture book. It explores fear and suspicion versus compassion and empathy, and encourages us to consider the opposing views and prejudices about refugees that we may encounter in our daily lives.

Anne Handley

Refugees by Brian Bilston

They have no need of our help
 So do not tell me
 These haggard faces could belong to you
 or me,
 Should life have dealt a different hand
 We need to see them for who they really
 are,
 Chancers and scroungers
 Layabouts and loungers
 With bombs up their sleeves
 Cut-throats and thieves
 They are not
 Welcome here
 We should make them
 Go back to where they came from
 They cannot
 Share our food
 Share our homes
 Share our countries
 Instead let us
 Build a wall to keep them out
 It is not okay to say
 These are people just like us
 A place should only belong to those who
 are born there,
 Do not be so stupid to think that
 The world can be looked at another way

(now read from bottom to top)

Helm Mission Community Environment Group News

In June 17 of us (including one new member) gathered at 106 to worship and to welcome our guest speaker Craig Russell from Natural Kendal (NK). Thank you for hosting us and providing delicious refreshments (especially the cheese scones, Brenda!)

Craig told us about NK's work to support and improve biodiversity in and around Kendal with partners such as Kendal Conservation Volunteers, Cumbria Wildlife Trust and Fellside Forum. They're doing this by engaging with the planning system, doing practical nature enhancement work and community engagement, such as the recent Nature Restoration Festival.

In July we met outside at Crosscrake Church to reflect and pray in the beautiful churchyard. Over a cuppa, fresh strawberries and home-made flapjack we took part in the national Big Butterfly Count, spotting seven species: large white, small white, green veined white, small copper, speckled wood, red admiral and peacock. You can take part in the count in your own garden, local park or any outside space before Sunday 10 August - it takes just 15 minutes, details at:

<https://bigbutterflycount.butterfly-conservation.org/>

Our August meeting (23rd) is a social in a member's garden, and on 27 September we'll be running a cake stall at Kendal Parish Church fund-raising for the Fairtrade Foundation. Members also take part in the monthly climate justice vigil organised by the Quakers on the first Monday of each month at 10.30am at the birdcage in the town centre.

Please contact Rev Lucy revlucyfoster@gmail.com if you'd like more info about the group - or drop into any meeting.

Lucy Foster

