

THE BOYS BRIGADE AND GIRLS ASSOCIATION

Congratulations to Ben McDougall who received the Williamson Trophy and to Bart Wren who was awarded the Chaplain's Cup.

A special mention must be made of the first award of the Audrey Lewis Trophy to Beth Fitchett and Megan McDougall. The company are most grateful to Mr Stan Lewis for his donation of this trophy to our newly formed Girls' Association, which continues to grow, as does the company - it now spans all the ages from 6 - 18+.

We continue to thank John Bentley and Karen Wells for the help and support that they give on parade nights, not forgetting the wives of the company officers. We are also most appreciative of the encouragement from church members, and especially for the support of all the parents.



Enrolment



Colour Party at Parade Service

CARE AND SHARE GROUP

A number of groups with this title were started twenty-two years ago by our then Minister Rev. Bill Hewison. He was concerned that we maintained a close contact with each other, within the family of the Church, at a time when Church life was liable to some disruption due to the building refurbishment. However, having enjoyed our new premises for many years now, our group still survives and of course the need remains for fellowship at a more intimate level than formal services.

Our fellowship is very informal and largely unstructured. Raising prayer concerns and causes for rejoicing about people and situations which are on our minds is an important part of our time together. We also usually spend much of most meeting times in either listening to recorded bible teaching or undertaking our own bible study.

We normally meet at 7.45 pm on the second Monday of the month at 6, Windsor Crescent where Trevor and Pauline Beeby offer warm hospitality to our group led by Edna Callanan.

CHILDREN AND FAMILY WORKER

Over the last few months, progress has been made in the following areas of outreach to children & families.

Parent and Toddler: Good, strong relationships have been built with the parents and leaders of the toddlers' group. A new, 'Mini Messy', session has been introduced where the children have the opportunity to experience a 'toddler' friendly version of the Messy Church activities. This has been popular with parents and children alike and we aim to provide this session monthly from September.

Schools' Work: Regular assemblies are now taking place in both Sir John Barrow and Croftlands Junior Schools. These are shared on a rota basis with Tony Wells; during special events in the church calendar, (i.e. Christmas and Easter), assemblies are taken jointly. In the near future I am hoping to start lunchtime or after school clubs, depending on the volunteers available and the preference of the schools. If anyone would like to be involved in this, please let me know.

Messy Church: This is now up and running and the months of planning and preparation proved really worthwhile as 65 people attended our first session. We have seen a fantastic group come together ecumenically to run this ministry and their dedication and gifts will see this project grow and grow over the next few months. The next session is on May 19th to which we warmly invite any other people wishing to volunteer or simply come along to soak in the atmosphere.



Youth Fellowship: Youth Fellowship is an exciting part of my work within the church as strong relationships have been developed with the currently attending young people. In the future I am aiming to broaden the experiences for the youth by taking them on trips and joining in with events with other local youth groups.

Youth Worship Band: An ecumenical youth band has been established where young people from our church lead worship alongside young people from other churches playing in venues across Cumbria.

CHOIR

Our numbers have remained pretty static over the past year or two, Lately we have been delighted to welcome four new members and we still welcome the 'occasionals' who join us for the major church festivals when our hard-working minister, Tony, tries to guide us towards perfection in the singing of the forthcoming anthem. We do our best to sing to the glory of God. NEW MEMBERS ALWAYS WELCOME.

CHURCH BAND



The band continues to flourish. We usually play for all age worship at Neville Street but sometimes for other services. We also provide the music for one of the holiday-maker services at Coniston, for the Easter Songs of Praise, the Circuit Day and this last couple of years we have helped out with Praise on the Lake. We have welcomed one or two new members, and we would be glad to see more - especially woodwind players. If you can play a brass or woodwind instrument - or indeed percussion, please contact us.

COFFEE AND CHAT



We started this venture about 18 months ago with 5 regular teams of volunteers and a list of reserves. Numbers were small at the beginning, but we have reached 24/25 on occasion. Those who come, come quite regularly, so we know they enjoy the opportunity to sit and talk over their coffee and biscuits, but there is always room for more. Some people pop in for 10 minutes, others stay for an hour - that is their choice.

Why not come and join us any Wednesday between 10am and 11.30am? On the second Wednesday of each month there is an informal service of Holy Communion led by our minister at 9.45am, which has added an extra dimension to Coffee and Chat.

CRÈCHE

The crèche is available every Sunday morning and is staffed by a dedicated team of church members. This facility is greatly appreciated by the very young members of our congregation and their 'grown ups'! We are happy to accommodate parents and carers who wish to remain in the crèche with their children if they would prefer to do so, otherwise children may be left in the care of the two staff responsible for the crèche during the service.

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN THE DISTRICT OF ULVERSTON

Membership of the CTU has remained steady over the year and the leadership group met quarterly at the Methodist Church.

As well as making plans for services and other events the group received regular reports on the work of Christian Aid, Cornerstone



and St. Mary's Hospice. An ongoing topic for review has been the setting up of local Credit Unions.

Worship together is the main focus of Churches Together activities and united services are held throughout the year. Three of these are out of doors, at the Market Cross on Good Friday and at Christmas and on Birkrigg Common at sunrise on Easter Day. We are grateful to Ichthus Brass who come along to provide the music for these services.



Easter Sunrise 2012



Good Friday 2012

Other services are the Covenant Service in January, a Maundy Thursday communion, the Civic service in June, Remembrance Service and Dickensian Songs of Praise in November.

Alongside the Easter services, we give Hot Cross Buns to shoppers in the town centre on Maundy Thursday, with a message about the true meaning of the festival. Another successful outreach is the distribution of Christmas messages to those attending the Dickensian Festival. This is done in conjunction with the Cornerstone bookshop and is well received.

Most Churches take part in door-to-door collections during Christian Aid week and in June we join our counterparts from Grange-over-Sands in "Praise on the Lake".

A coffee morning is held in the Coronation Hall in October giving opportunity to meet one another socially. The Parish and Vineyard Churches continue their monthly Prayer and Healing Ministries in Ulverston which have had a very positive response from the local community. The Library prayer group meets on the first Monday of each month at Ulverston Library with a regular attendance of 12-15 people, who take it in turn to lead the prayers.

EVENTS

The big event recently was the ZimPro appeal where money raised by Ulverston Circuit up to £5000 would be multiplied tenfold by the EU and used to support projects in southern Zimbabwe. Various events were organised by different parts of the church including a coffee morning at the Coro and a garden party at the Manse. The circuit met its target, our contribution being £1818 once tax rebates from Gift Aid were added in.

The church's 110th anniversary was celebrated by a weekend of events in June 2011 including a display of memorabilia and a very enjoyable 'home-grown' concert.



We continue to use the Community minibus to provide convenient transport to events outside Ulverston, especially for those without transport of their own. We used it for the Partnership Carol Service at Rydal Hall in December. Another Partnership event at Rydal was the away weekend in February, this year led by Rev Richard Teal chair of the Cumbria District. A number of people from Ulverston went and found it very uplifting.

FELLOWSHIP GROUP

Our monthly Fellowship Group, usually meeting on the last Tuesday of the month, was originally set up to cater for people in Baycliff - and still does! We do, of course, welcome people from Ulverston and hereabouts as well.

Numbers vary, but whether there are 3 of us or 9 we enjoy an informal time of discussion and fellowship around God's word.

We derive encouragement and hopefully inspiration from our time together and we would welcome anyone who is interested to come and join us.

GRAPEVINE

The print run for our monthly magazine **The Grapevine** is 400 even though it is now available to download from the Circuit website - this has been because of outreach needed for the Parent and Toddler Group and for Messy Church as well as an increase in individual requests. Feedback continues to be very good and recent initiatives have been very well received; new ideas are always welcome. Unfortunately, for technical reasons, 28 pages is our maximum size and we are limited to the number of photographs printed each month - so more pages and more photos cannot be achieved!

LUNCHLINK



The lunches are as popular as ever and we usually have 45-50 customers who are appreciative of the excellent meals and their superb value.

Our first meal was held on October 13th 1992 for 30 customers, so this October we will be celebrating 20 years of Lunchlink which is remarkable, and due to the many and willing volunteers who cook and serve the meals.

During the year we are able to give donations to a number of charities which recently have included Boys Brigade; Duddon and Furness Mountain Rescue; Lake District Cheshire Home; Methodist Ministers' Housing Association; Methodist Homes for the Aged; North West Air Ambulance; The Alzheimers Society; Osterley House; Methodist Home Missions and Ulverston Methodist Church.

PARENT AND TODDLER GROUP

There have been rather fewer people at Parent and Toddler this last few months, but numbers do fluctuate because of children leaving to go to nursery school and so on. However, the last few weeks has shown signs of renewed growth. Lately we have had a "Mini-Messy" which has been to enable children and their parents to explore some aspect of the Christian Faith through craft. As usual we held a Teddy Bear's Picnic in July and a Christmas party in December. We have also had Christian stories on some Monday mornings.

If you know of any parents and toddlers, we should be pleased to see them any Monday morning between 10.00am and 11.30am whenever the schools are in session.

WEDNESDAY GROUP

The Wednesday Group has enjoyed a very varied programme of speakers and events during the past year. We have had several lively interactive talks, and some more quiet thought provoking ones. In December we had our Christmas meal in the local restaurant Rustique where we didn't need a speaker as we all (21 of us) did the talking! Janice and Tony again made us very welcome at the Manse in January for our New Year Party. The planned speakers for February and March were unable to attend and we are grateful to Eric Ward and Barrie Thornley for stepping into the breach and giving us two very entertaining evenings at short notice.

We have two outside visits planned for the lighter evenings, one to see the site of an ancient village settlement, and one to have a guided walk round Grange followed by refreshments at Thornleigh Hotel. Our AGM this year will be on 20th June followed by a "Regal Supper" to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee.



As you can see we have a varied programme - and this year are pleased to welcome several new members who have joined us. The average number attending meetings is about 20. We are always pleased to see new people, either to join us, or come as a guest. We don't discourage husbands if there are topics they think may interest them.

WOMEN'S FRIENDLY



We had a very sad year this year, as since the beginning of last year, no less than five of our members have passed away. (Only two of whom had not been able to attend for some time.) We were very sorry to lose them all, but as I said in my report for the February 2011 Church Council Meeting, we have gained three or four members and also one other since, so this is heartening. Of course our members are depleted and we are always glad to welcome new members.

Apart from that we have had some interesting and enjoyable meetings including slide shows and talks. We have also had an outing to Beetham Garden Centre and a Christmas Meal at the Lancastrian. Altogether we have a very friendly series of meetings.

YOUNG CHURCH REPORT

Although small in numbers, Young Church meets each Sunday morning (apart from Family/Parade Services).

We look forward to the future as the church explores ways of working with children, young people and their families (Messy Church).

YOUTH FELLOWSHIP



The Youth Fellowship meets on Sunday evenings throughout the year. We have great discussions and also some fun. This year for the first time we have a Facebook page.