

GOOD NEWS FROM AROUND THE CIRCUIT, as shared at February's Circuit Meeting.

Stricklandgate: Over 2 days in December more than 200 people had come into church to see the Spirit of Christmas display of Nativity scenes and enjoy refreshments. The Church has been busy with GDPR discussions and updating records. Pastoral Visitors have been taking part in the joint training offered by Rev Tricia to the churches in Kendal. Stewards from the 3 churches had been invited to a meal at Rev Tricia's house.

Kirkby Lonsdale: Messy Church is now taking place every 2 months with all the denominations in town offering help and support. 70 guests came to the first Messy and there were 50 at the second. Thanks expressed to Sandylands who had offered a lot of useful information and support from the first planning meetings until now. The Big Vision process continues as the churches work together to see how they can use spaces more effectively. The community engagement with the process has been considerable. Graveyard Stories took place around Hallowe'en. This was a non-scary family event that started in church at St Marys and then moved into the graveyard there. A professional storyteller told stories about the lives of ordinary people. Our current President of Conference is encouraging us to tell our story to the people we meet day to day.

Sandylands: There is an Alpha course running at present, initiated by Rachel McNeill. The joint pastoral training sessions organised by Rev Tricia have been very good and have encouraged people to be more effective in their visiting. A membership course will be running soon. Some people from Who Let the Dad's Out had gone to Messy Church – an encouraging sign of crossover between the groups. An Agape Meal and fire pit Vigil have been organised for Easter. For the Year of Testimony one person per month has been sharing their testimony at morning worship.

Levens: It has been really good to have Peter McCabe working alongside Rev David – his ministry has been a gift to the churches in the Kent Estuary. Levens has been offering hospitality and some interesting talks to the community, which have been appreciated. The planning for the re-development of the building is continuing to go ahead.

Arnside: For the first time Arnside had an ecumenical Carol Service and then joined with St James for a Christingle Service. More than £500 was raised for NCH [Action for Children] during the 2 services. The café and testimony services are very well received. Minds in Tune runs twice monthly and Busy Bees toddler group is always very busy. An away day at Hyning is planned for 21st March. There will be a Sea Sunday service taking place on the beach at Arnside at the end of June, when it is also Art Trail Week.

Storth: Delivered over 500 leaflets to homes in the village giving details of all the Christmas services that would take place. A monthly prayer meeting is starting at 8:30am on the 3rd Wednesday of the month. The regular coffee morning continues to be well attended. A Café Church service has gone down well with the congregation and the next one will be advertised round the village. Open the Book continues to happen.

Fellside: Invite everyone to their Gift Day on 2nd April when Don & Sylvia Spivey will be sharing their stories.