



Kendal **Methodist** Circuit

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

At the recent circuit meeting representatives were invited to share what has been going on in their churches.

Arnside: The prayer group, house groups, toddler and friendship groups are now back meeting regularly. Messy Church has welcomed a couple of new families. There is a group of Ukrainian refugees in the village and Rev Barbara Fairburn has links with this community helping them improve their English language skills.

Stricklandgate: It is hoped that a recent legacy will enable the church to employ a part-time pastoral worker. The Friendship group is meeting regularly as are the 4 house groups. The lunch club is again under discussion.

Storth: The Coffee Club continues to attract people from the village, many of whom are returning after the lockdowns. An open-air service was held on Jubilee Weekend which saw people from the community attend as well as regular worshippers. The church now has a regular organist and his wife is a worship leader where they worshipped in their previous circuit.

Kirkby Lonsdale: The ecumenical Lent groups studied Embracing Justice by Rev Dr Isabelle Hamley, and recommend it to other house groups as a study series. There were various activities over the Easter weekend including a labyrinth and Easter trail as well as the usual open air service. An open air service was held at Pentecost in St Mary's churchyard. Messy church continues to meet and Muddy Church took place for the first time earlier this month. About 175 attended a Teddy Bear's picnic organised by the Family Project on the Glebe Field on a sunny day over Jubilee weekend and a wet Games in the Park took place organised by the community. Fell Pilgrims, a family friendly walk from Barbon Village Hall, has started on the last Sunday in the month.

Cowan Bridge with Barbon: Ann Bradley was welcomed to her first Circuit Meeting. Many of the folk from Cowan Bridge chapel are worshipping with the congregation of St Bartholomew's in Barbon. They have been made extremely welcome, with a celebration meal being held at Barbon Village Hall to mark this coming together. There is now a service in the church every week being led by Anglican and Methodist preachers on alternate Sundays. There was already a historical link with the church following the closure of Barbon Methodist Church some years ago.

Levens: The church has been investing time in improving the outside space behind the church to make it an accessible garden area. They rejoice in seeing all the different community groups using their refurbished rooms. Their Jubilee Meet and Eat lunch was packed out and the church premises were offered to the community for a Jubilee picnic. The MWiB Strawberry Tea will be held in Levens in August.

Sandylands: The Drop-in on Wednesdays is welcoming new people. Messy took a while to get back to the numbers physically attending previously but is now very busy. Both zoom and physical house groups meet regularly. Bumps and Babes continues to thrive. A well attended Alpha course has been run in conjunction with St George's Kendal and St Oswald's Burneside, where Rev Tricia Rogers is now the Priest in Charge. It is good the links forged whilst she worked with the Kendal Methodist churches are continuing to grow. This follows on from the 'pulpit swap' for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity and it is hoped to plan more swaps in the coming months.



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Circuit: Long service certificates were presented to three Local Preachers, Iris Diggle, Sue Bielby and Janet Hall, at the recent service to receive the Easter Offering held at Arnside. Peter McCabe, the circuit prayer champion has moved churches. A message of thanks for his contribution to the life and witness of this circuit has been sent. The Circuit Leadership Team [CLT] would very much appreciate someone stepping forward to encourage and support the churches in their prayer life, which is one of the priorities for action agreed by all churches.

We are greatly looking forward to the arrival of Rev. Tiras Dainty-Share, a probationary presbyter who will be stationed in the Kent Estuary section from 1st September, working alongside the churches in Arnside, Levens, Storth and Milnthorpe/M:HUB. His welcome service will take place on Saturday September 3rd at 4pm. Please keep an eye on your notices for further details.