

BRIDGE

February 2024



The
**United
Reformed
Church**

**For the United Reformed Churches in
Bewcastle and Carlisle**

**Part of the
Cumbria URC Missional Partnership**

Contacts and Sunday Service Pattern

THE MINISTER

Revd Lisa Moore Wilson
Minister for North Cumbria
within the Cumbria Missional Partnership.
Telephone: 01228 642858
Email: Lisa.Wilson@nwsynod.org.uk

THE KNOWE CHURCH

BEWCASTLE

Services: 2.15pm on the first Sunday in the month
Contact: Mrs Doreen Telford
Telephone: 016977 48447

ST. GEORGE'S UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

WEST WALLS

CARLISLE

CA3 8UF

www.urccarlisle.org
Services: 10.30am every Sunday
Contact: Mrs Rosalind Fearon
Telephone: 016973 44892
Email: rosrayfearon@talktalk.net

Covid restrictions have been reviewed and relaxed.
Sanitizers are still provided in the entry porch.

From the Minister

We know when God created the world, he had a vision of humanity living in and taking care of a beautiful abundant world. Sadly, we only have to look at recent UK and global events to know that something is wrong, humans far from acting in stewardship with God, have gone their own way and the results for us and future generations are catastrophic.

But the church can be part of the solution to climate crisis. Caring for the environment is part of caring for our neighbour and shows how the bible remains relevant to lives today.

We are an eco-synod and many of our churches are now registered as eco-churches. This year, myself and the Elders would like to explore St. George's becoming an eco-church.

The first step is to take an online survey to see where we are in terms of worship, looking after our building, offering hospitality, food waste etc. as they relate to caring for the planet. Suggestions are then made on areas we can improve on to work towards the first level of award which is bronze. This isn't meant to be onerous, quite the opposite, its to get our creative ideas flowing! It's also meant to be a whole church endeavour not a solo effort! So I would like to invite anyone who is interested to join me at 11.30am on Saturday 17th February for an informal discussion to complete this first step. Often when I extend invitations I get zero response but I hope that the climate crisis we are facing may galvanise you to take part in this. If you are a Christian committed to God's request that we look after the earth, a parent or grandparent concerned for the future or someone just deeply worried about the state of the planet we call home, or maybe all of the above, I hope this will be of interest.

Darkest Hour

Father of Creation,
God of Compassion,
You created a world of wonder,
Of possibility and potential.

You declared it to be good.
For this we give thanks.
To you be praise, honour and glory.

Father of Creation,

God of Compassion,
In this time of climate breakdown
Wake us from our slumber,
Equip us afresh to be the justice-shaped people of God.

Father of Creation,

God of Compassion,
In this time of climate breakdown
Wake us from our slumber,
Equip us afresh to our priestly and prophetic calling.
That we would speak truth in a culture of denial,
That we would enact hope in a culture of despair,
That we would face what will be with love-filled action,
That in humanity's darkest hour you would enliven us so
We would bandage the wounds of those caught beneath the wheels
of climate injustice,
That in humanity's darkest hour
We would have the courage to drive a spoke into the wheel of
climate injustice itself.

Father of Creation,

God of Compassion,
You created a world of wonder,
Of possibility and potential.
You declared it to be good.
In our grief,
In our mourning,
We give thanks.
To you be praise, honour and glory.

*From 26 Prayers for the Climate and Ecological Emergency
Rev'd Jon Swales, St George's, Leeds, April 2021 Co2 PPM 416*

From St George's Secretary

News of members

We are very sorry to hear that Lilian's husband Joe died on 28th December, just 3 days after his 87th birthday. The funeral was at St Mary's church in Wigton. We extend our deepest sympathy to Lilian and her family. We have just heard that Dorothy Unwin died on 17th January. We send our loving sympathy to her family.

Betty Wood recently had a hip operation, and John Robinson is suffering from a painful back strain. We wish them both a speedy recovery. We also hope that Lisa's cold soon gets better.

Please remember in your prayers those who are no longer able to join us in church, Margaret, Jim, Kath, Ethel and Eleanor.

Church heating

The unreliable heating in the church has not helped, and if anyone is particularly susceptible to cold, please stay at home. We are enormously indebted to Pamela and to John Wales who have spent hours trying to identify and rectify the fault after the engineers failed to do so.

Church AGM

The church AGM is not until April, but please bear in mind that we are still looking for a new pulpit secretary to take over when Elizabeth retires. We also need a Synod representative. Please pray that we may find people to fill both these roles.

Dates for your diary

Elders' Away Day for all Cumbria elders on 16th March 2024.
John Bradbury General Secretary of URC will be preaching at Carver church in Windermere 30th June 2024.

Roll on Spring

As I write this the sun is shining, but the ground is still frozen. January is a harsh month, and I often feel that I would like to hibernate at this time. But the days are getting longer and soon spring will be here - new life, new growth, new hope.

Rosalind



Dust of Snow

The way a crow
Shook down on me
The dust of snow
From a hemlock tree.

Has given my heart
A change of mood
And saved some part
Of a day I had rued.

~Robert Frost

Bridge for March 2024

Please note that the claiming date for articles for the March edition of Bridge is Sunday 11th February.

St George's Services

Feb	4th	10.30am	Rev Lisa Wilson (Communion)
Feb	11th	10.30am	Rev John Millard
Feb	18th	10.30am	Rev Lisa Wilson
Feb	25th	10.30am	The Worship Group
Mar	3rd	10.30am	Rev Lisa Wilson (Communion)
Mar	10th	10.30am	Rev Lisa Wilson
Mar	17th	10.30am	Rev Janice Faris (1st Sunday in Lent)

The Guild Programme

Feb	5th	2.00pm	Organ Recital by David Shingler
Mar	4th	2.00pm	Caroline Mackenzie: Talk on 'Aprons'
Apr	8th	3.00pm	Afternoon Tea
May	13th	6.00pm	Keith Tattersall of Castle Chocolates: Chocolate making demonstration

Elizabeth

Christmas Card Box

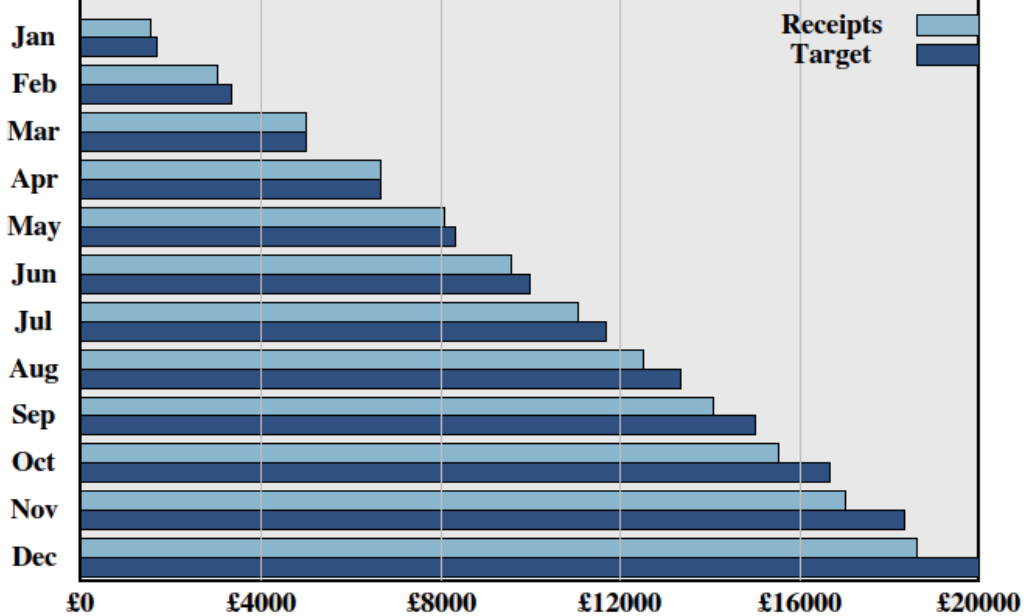
Our Christmas Card Box raised £57.20 for Church Funds, and I wish to thank all Members who kindly supported this event, it was much appreciated.

Jessie

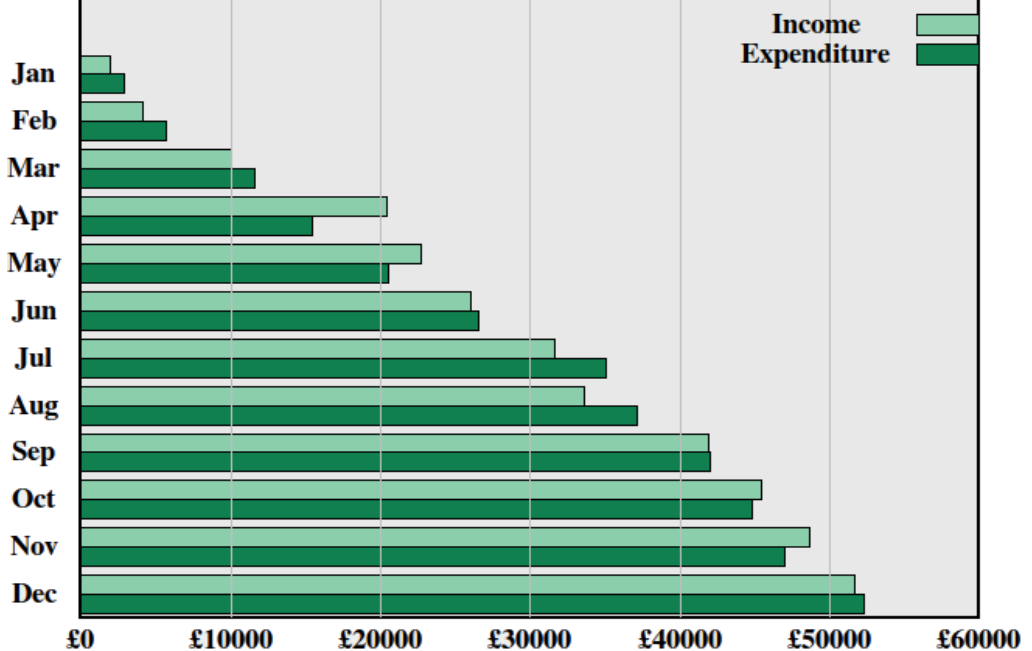
Lent and Easter Dates

Ash Wednesday	Feb	14th
Mothers Day	Mar	10th
Palm Sunday	Mar	24th
Maundy Thursday	Mar	28th
Good Friday	Mar	29th
Easter Day (also start of British Summer Time)	Mar	31st

St. George's United Reformed Church 2023 Cumulative Weekly Offerings



2023 Cumulative Total Income / Expenditure



Carlisle Eden Mind

A Letter of Thanks

Dear St Georges Church,

On behalf of everyone here at Carlisle Eden Mind, as well everyone who uses our services, I would like to say thank you for the donation that you have made to us. The £160 you have generously donated will help us continue to offer quality services across our area, improving understanding about mental health issues, challenging discrimination and campaigning for better local and national services.

£5 helps us to provide information, advice and support to a MindLine Cumbria caller for 20 minutes.

£10 helps us to train one teenager in mental health awareness and how to support their friends.

£25 helps us to provide an hour of one-to-one support at The Lighthouse for someone experiencing a mental health crisis.

Yours sincerely,
Michael Broaden
Chief Operating Officer
Carlisle Eden Mind
27 Spencer Street
Carlisle CA1 1BE



www.cemind.org

michael@cemind.org

Registered Charity No: 1113649

Background

If you or someone you know is experiencing mental ill health, you're not alone. 1 in 4 people experience mental ill-health at some point. It's important to remember you are not alone, we're here for you.

Carlisle Eden Mind designs its services with community needs at the forefront. Therefore we consult with lots of people in the community to shape our services. In doing so, it helps to make sure we represent and consider the needs of all groups in our community. With this in mind, Carlisle Eden Mind hopes that our service offering is a reflection of what is needed in the local community. As a result of our services, we want to ensure you and others you may be supporting feel supported and empowered.

You can be part of the discussion. To learn more visit:

<https://cemind.org/get-involved-carlisle-eden-mind/community-service-development/>

It can be difficult to know how to access support, what services are available and where to start. Mind has developed a guide to support and services that you can read here:

<https://www.mind.org.uk/information-support/guides-to-support-and-services/>

Cumberland Council has some useful information about local support and services that you may find useful, visit:

<https://www.cumberland.gov.uk/health-and-social-care>

The Lighthouse

Discover Support and Understanding at The Lighthouse – Crisis Support in Carlisle and Eden

OPEN 5PM – 11PM every night of the year!

In the midst of life’s challenges, The Lighthouse, operated by Carlisle Eden Mind, serves as a haven for those navigating a mental health crisis in Carlisle and Eden. We recognise the importance of having a secure and empathetic space during difficult times. The Lighthouse is your refuge, offering solace, guidance, and unwavering support.

If you or someone you know needs support, you can access The Lighthouse Cumbria in the following ways:

Call: 0300 561 0000

Email: info@mindlinecumbria.org

Text: Mind to 81066



The Lighthouse



Children of Gaza Crisis Appeal

After over 100 days of violence, children in Gaza face a lethal triple threat: disease from lack of clean water, malnutrition from food shortages and death from bombardment. UNICEF continues to call for a ceasefire and for safe, expanded access to deliver more emergency supplies to tackle this critical situation.

Clean water and sanitation: Continued denial of provision of fuel for water and sanitation facilities in the Gaza Strip, has left children and families without access to clean water. In response to this urgent need, we've provided fuel to power water wells and desalination plants producing clean water, reaching over 1.3 million people including 670,000 children. But with restricted access, fuel shortage continues to be a critical issue creating severely disrupted water supplies.



Health and nutrition: Gaza's food and health systems are facing complete collapse. Up to 90% of children under two are subject to severe food poverty, and in just one week cases of diarrhoea in children went up by 50%. Also in just one week UNICEF supplied medical kits and supplementary foods for 55,000 people. We've also provided diarrhoea kits to prevent and respond to the growing number of diarrhoea cases.

Supplies and ceasefire: Our teams are working tirelessly to bring in more supplies, however access remains a challenge and resources are dangerously low. Recently an average of just 129 trucks a day were cleared for entry resulting in vital resources becoming dangerously low. We are calling for an immediate and long-lasting ceasefire as well as secure and unrestricted humanitarian access and the safe and unconditional release of any children being held hostage.

Children in Gaza Crisis Appeal: While we continue advocating and pushing for a ceasefire, we need your help to reach more families with desperately needed aid. Will you donate today to support our Children of Gaza Crisis Appeal?

<https://www.unicef.org.uk/donate/children-in-gaza-crisis-appeal/>



An enormous Thank You for helping us to make Christmas 2023 special for so many families! We truly could not have done it without your generosity!



The Staff at The Range, Carlisle got donations off to a great start. Toy Services at our own Hall, St George's URC (West Walls) and the Methodist Church in Thurstonfield brought in many more gifts and monetary donations. Individuals brought notes and cheques to the door and donated through the Just Giving page.

Chris Bower, (Children's Book and Toy Bank), delivered three carloads to our Hall and the new Salvation Army shop in Shaddongate provided a mountain of gifts.



Referrals came in from a variety of agencies and almost 200 children received gifts they would not otherwise have had.

Our heartfelt thanks to you all.

Captains Steve and Mel Scoulding