
News from the NW Synod 30th November 2016

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1: Moderators Snapshot On Sunday afternoon I was present at Carlisle Cathedral for “A Service of Hope and Expectation with a Celebration of Covenant and Companionship in the Ecumenical County of Cumbria” as we entered the season of Advent. What an appropriate time for such a recognition to take place. After a further five years of work since the first Agreement our Cumbria Area President, the Revd Sarah Moore, was able to sign this significant Covenant document on behalf of the Cumbria Synod Area. The other 3 signatories to the Covenant were the Anglicans, Methodists, and Salvation Army in Cumbria. Alongside this a letter of support and companionship was signed by four representatives for the Religious Society of Friends in Cumbria, the Roman Catholic Church, the North Western Baptist Association, and the Church of Scotland (Border Kirk). The continuing work and partnership in Cumbria is focused around the areas of ministry, mission, and buildings. Cumbria offers a model of working which can provide us with encouragement in seeing what is possible both at a local level and at a wider geographical area. Please pray for:

- the Cumbria Ecumenical project as it develops significantly over the next 5 years
- the formation of Mission Communities in the different local areas within Cumbria where a common ministry is shared within a locality, and ministry is provided by any of the denominations dependant on the mission needs
- each of our Synod Areas in fostering ecumenical relationships, and the opportunities in each locality of identifying ways in which we can share mission, ministry and buildings – especially while we have the vitality to do these things
- a shared vision with Cumbria for “God for all”: that every single person within our communities may be given the opportunity to hear the good news of the Gospel of Jesus



2: Homelessness This Advent we are supporting the Greater Together Churches' Night Shelter with donations from their list of essentials. We are also working with other churches in Sale to discover more about homelessness and what our involvement might be. **We would be very grateful to hear from other churches or individuals involved in any way in other parts of the synod.**

Margaret Argyle Sale margaret@penninedata.com

3: Dalton Community Advent Calendar Dalton Community Church (Methodist /URC LEP) has organised an Advent Calendar where the pictures have been made by various community groups and individuals in Dalton and Newton-in-Furness. Schools, Guides, Scouts, prayer group, Town Band etc. have all been keen to take part. The pictures will be displayed from Dec 1st to Dec 24th by kind permission of Mr David Atkinson, in the windows of David Atkinson Car Sales, Dalton.

You can also see the pictures by going to the church's Facebook page
<https://www.facebook.com/DaltonCommunityChurch/>

4: Revd John Humphreys Last week we shared the sad news of the death of the Revd John LI. Humphreys after a short illness. John died peacefully at his home in Invergowrie, Dundee with his partner John and sister Gweno with him, sadly he didn't have the chance to move back to his homeland of Wales. The news has come as a great shock to us all.

A Public Service of Thanksgiving Service at St John's Episcopal Church, Princes Street, Edinburgh, EH2 4BJ on Tuesday 13th December 2016 at 2.00pm.

Please continue to remember in your prayers his family, especially his partner John, together with his Mum and sister Gweno and her family, and more widely his many friends in the Synod of Scotland, the Synod of Wales, the wider United Reformed Church and ecumenical church communities whose hearts are aching at the news of his passing.

5: News from Grange Over Sands URC The newest member of Grange over Sands URC is Mr



David Carter. In his working life David travelled around the world eventually retiring close to his family's origins in Barrow and Kendal. Now aged 89 Mr Carter decided that after many years of attending the United Reformed Church it would complete his faith journey to become a member the Church Meeting was happy to agree. As he has been unable to attend church recently eight members of the church and the minister Martyn Coe went to him and in a service of Communion welcomed him into the membership of the local church. The church Secretary Sue Oram is pictured presenting Mr Carter with

his certificate of Membership.