



Grasmoor Mission Community

NEWSLETTER – MAY 2019



*Working together to grow God's
kingdom in Cumbria*

A 'Thy Kingdom Come' Special Edition!



www.thykingdomcome.global

'God for All' website: www.godforall.org.uk

Mission Community Website:
cockermouthareachurches.org.uk/mc/

From Canon Godfrey Butland – Mission Community Leader

Dear Friends in Christ,

I am writing this shortly before departing for Liverpool to prepare for my younger daughter's wedding. For this, and other reasons, the word 'together' is on my mind! 'Better Together' was a slogan coined to describe ecumenical cooperation in Liverpool in the 1980s, and was the title of a book co-written by Anglican bishop David Sheppard and his Roman Catholic counterpart, Derek Worlock.

Reading the post-Easter narratives in the Bible, I am struck by the number of times the word 'together' is used. The disciples were *together* in an upper room and on the beach; *they were together in one place* when the Spirit came at Pentecost. They prayed *together*.

So it is natural that we should think of praying *together* in that critical time of waiting between Ascension Day and Pentecost – this year, between 30th May and 9th June. In 2016, the Archbishops of Canterbury and York launched *Thy Kingdom Come*: a time of dedicated prayer 'for more people to come to know Jesus.' The movement has gone global! Christians in more than 100 countries now participate. How about us? Will we meet *together* to pray? Our nation and our world need our prayers more than ever! Details of some of the things we are offering can be found on the facing page. You can also pray alone at home, or with family and friends. Just go to www.thykingdomcome.global for plenty of resources.

Yours in Christ, Godfrey



**Praying 'Thy Kingdom Come' in our 'little, local and ordinary churches.'
On Ascension Day (30th May).**

There will be a special 'Gathering' for prayer at All Saints church at 7.30pm. From 6pm that evening until 6pm the

next day, we hope to have an unbroken prayer chain as people take turns to pray in the lady chapel there by day and night. We suggest that maybe a different church group takes an hour at a time, so noone is praying alone, especially during the night. And maybe some of us could fast for that period – from food, TV or social media? – in order to be more focussed in our prayer.

At 6pm on **Friday, 31st** there will be a 'praise party' at All Saints as we share food and drink together, and talk about what we may have heard from God during the 24 hours.

We are producing **individual prayer cards**, which we hope will be widely used, *especially at midday each day*. Imagine: a large number of Christians pausing to pray wherever they are at the same time each day for 10 days!

At **Lorton, Loweswater & Buttermere**, there will be a service at one of their churches at 7pm every night during this period.

Churches of the **Cockermouth Area Team** will focus their weekly prayer meetings on *Thy Kingdom Come*. All Saints meet at 10am on Mondays; Christ Church Great Broughton at 7pm on Mondays; Christ Church, Cockermouth at 9am on Wednesdays and Bridekirk at 4.30pm on Wednesdays.

'Discovering the Joy of Giving'.

This was the title of an evening at Broughton recently with



Sophie Hodge, Diocesan Stewardship Enabler. Sophie is new to her post, but has a background in fund-raising for charities. We are all facing financial challenges in our churches: how do we meet them, in such a way that the mission of God is accomplished right where we are? She suggested 3 core principles: 1) Define your

vision. We need to *inspire* people to give, so that they feel part of what is happening. 2) Budget. Not the treasurer's job, but to be 'owned' by the leadership or council; it expresses the church's priorities. 3) Stewardship – which requires both a vision and a budget. It is rooted in God's extravagance, but is also a response to a defined need. Need help with any of this? Sophie is willing to come to *your* church to help with your financial challenges.

Resourcing the Mission Community

Our Mission Community Council meets again on Wednesday, 5th June. On the agenda will be a couple of items to do with developing our Community's resources: the appointment of a Network Youth Church worker (salary paid for by the diocese; we find expenses) and a part-time Communications Officer. Do we sense that these posts may be God's priorities for us right now?

Future Dates

Sunday, **21st July**, 3pm Farewell service for Revd Sue Edwards, at Lorton St Methodist church.

Sunday, **1st September** (Time and place tba) Welcome service for Revds Paul & Kina Saunders (new Methodist ministers)

Advent Sunday, **1st December** Joint Service for the Mission Community. Time and place to be announced.