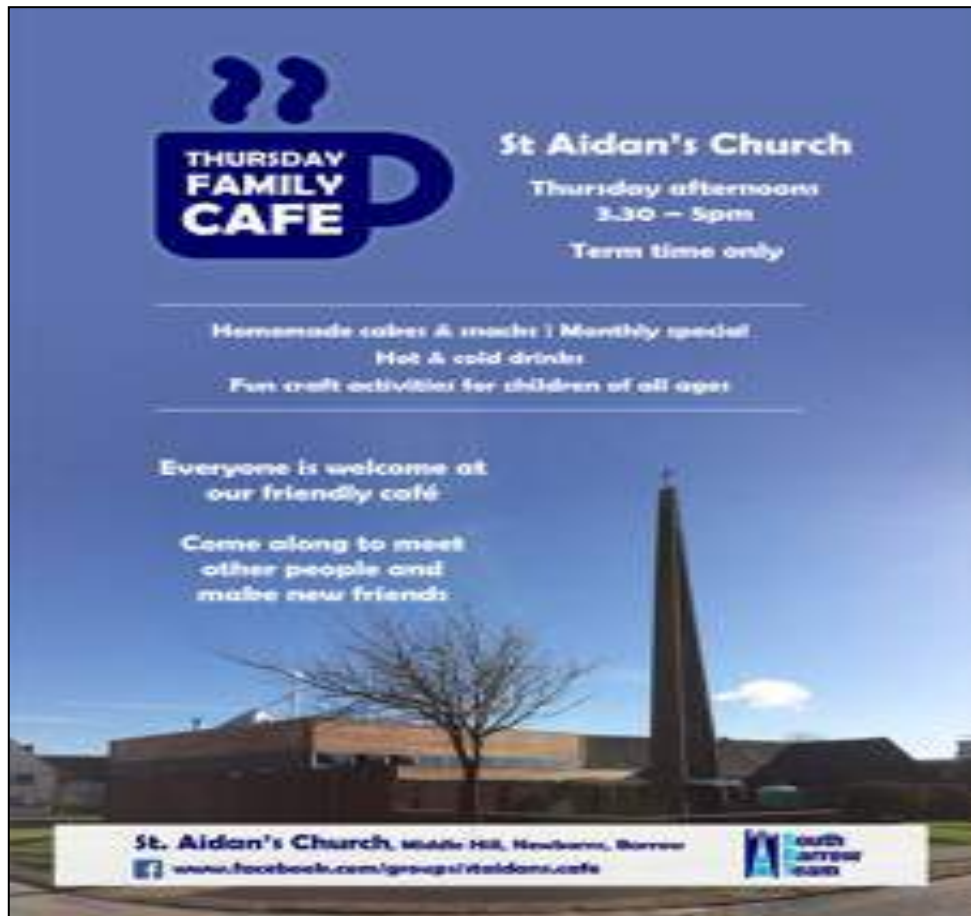




The Magazine of the Parishes of St Aidan's,
 St George's with St Luke's and Grace Church,
 Barrow-in-Furness

TEAM TALK



October & November 2017

Team website: www.sbtchurches.co.uk



50p



The South Barrow Team - Useful Contacts

Team Rector & Rural Dean of Barrow: Revd Canon Gary M. Cregeen, The Rectory, 98 Roose Road, Barrow-in-Furness, LA13 9RL. Tel. 01229 877367
Email: Gary@GandJCregeen.co.uk

Team Vicar: VACANT

Pioneer Curate Revd Robin Ham, 33 Holebeck Road, Barrow-in-Furness, LA13 OHR. Tel. 07828 333106
Email: robinpeterham@gmail.com

Local Lay Minister & Safeguarding Officer: Mrs Jean Mease 01229 829923

Churchwardens:

Mr Ted Fenton (St George's w. St Luke's) 01229 820408
Mr Peter Gardner (St Aidan's) 01229 825870
Mrs Geraldine Southam (St George's w. St Luke's) 01229 466327

PCC Treasurers:

VACANT (St George's w. St Luke's)
Mrs Sheila Simpson (St Aidan's) 01229 839563

PCC Secretaries:

Miss Alison Otto (St George's w. St Luke's) 01229 825802
Mrs Carole Williamson (St Aidan's) 01229 826017

Vergers:

Mrs Geraldine Southam (St George's w. St Luke's) 01229 466327
Mr Keith Cockburn (St Aidan's) 01229 826692

Hall Lettings Secretaries:

Mr Ted & Mrs Ruth Fenton (St George's) 01229 820408
Mr Keith Cockburn (St Aidan's) 01229 826692

Weekly Team Newsletter: Judy Cowsill 01229 829710

Team Website: Stuart Rogers Email: sturogers22@gmail.com

PAUSE FOR THOUGHT : "Christ did not come to make us nice people, He came to make us new people."

TEAM TALK

The next edition of TEAM TALK will be the December 2017/ January 2018 copy. News items and articles should be forwarded to ALISON OTTO by SUNDAY 19 NOVEMBER 2017 at the latest.

Please email:

*alison.otto@cumbria.ac.uk OR alisonotto15@gmail.com or deliver to
42 Devon Street, LA13 9PX*

The annual subscription for Team Talk is only £3 for the year (if posted, please add £4). Cheques should be made payable to 'St George with St Luke PCC' and forwarded to Miss Pat Hughes, 24 Kent Street, Barrow-in-Furness, LA13 9 QT. If you pay UK Income tax please consider making your subscription into a donation and Gift Aid it.

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ADVERTISING IN TEAM TALK

Do you know of a local business or organisation who would consider advertising in TEAM TALK? While providing publicity for the advertiser, the income would support the local church in South Barrow. Please put prospective advertisers in touch with the Team Rector. Thank you!



'Imagine Church' Cumbria Hub 2018

Do you ever feel like church seems disconnected from the rest of your life? Do you ever imagine that there must be a way of doing church differently so that faith is more connected to everything else in your life?

Back in the Spring a few of us from the South Barrow Team went to Ulverston for an 'Imagine Church' Day put on by Carlisle Diocese. The idea was to be inspired as to how our church services could better equip us for living out our faith the rest of the week.

Here's what Marek Mozdzyński from St George's said, "In the past I've tended to be enthusiastic about church and enthusiastic about so-called 'mission' work, but I'd almost disregarded my workplace as a place where God might use me. I've tended to keep a low-profile, just get the job done and get my money. It's not that I wasn't kind or thoughtful as you might expect of a Christian employee, but I was pretty passive about it all. But work is a really significant part of our lives, and our approach to church needs to encourage us in that."

"The Imagine day helped me to start thinking of myself as a tool for God, and gave me loads of ideas. As a church it's also helped us start thinking about how what we do on a Sunday can support us the other six days, rather than being disconnected."

Off the back of attending that taster day, as a Team we were invited to explore this further by being part of a Cumbria based 'Imagine Church' Hub in 2018. The idea is that anyone from the church is able to attend three days of input & discussion in Penrith, as well as then committing to reflecting on this together as PCCs to embed what we've heard.

So why not put the following dates in your diary and get in touch with Gary or Robin if you'd like to be part of them. We will arrange travel to Penrith together, and lunch will be provided. It'd be great if a few from St George's, St Aidan's & Grace Church were able to commit to going together. Listen out for more details later in the year!

10th February 2018

16th June 2018

6th October 2018

Sunday Worship during October & November 2017

- 1 October** *9.30 am Harvest Communion at St Aidan's
*10.30 am Holy Communion at St George's
- 8 October** *9.30 am All-age Worship at St Aidan's
*10.30 am Holy Communion at St George's
11.30 am Baptism at St Aidan's
*4 pm Grace Church meets at Yarlside School
- 15 October** *10.30 am TEAM SERVICE with Communion at St Aidan's
*4 pm Grace Church meets at Yarlside School
- 22 October** *9.30 am Holy Communion at St Aidan's
*10.30 am Holy Communion at St George's
12 noon Baptisms @ St George's
*4 pm Grace Church meets at Yarlside School
- 29 October** *9.30 am Holy Communion at St Aidan's
*10.30 am Morning Worship at St George's
12 noon Baptisms @ St George's
*4 pm Grace Church meets at Yarlside School
*4 pm MEMORIAL SERVICE @ St George's
- 5 November** *9.30 am Holy Communion at St Aidan's
*10.30 am Holy Communion at St George's
*4 pm Grace Church meets at Yarlside School
- 12 November** *9.30 am REMEMBRANCE SERVICE at St Aidan's
*10.30 am REMEMBRANCE COMMUNION at St George's
11 AM CIVIC REMEMBRANCE SERVICE at The Cenotaph
*4 pm Grace Church meets at Yarlside School
- 19 November** *10.30 am TEAM COMMUNION SERVICE at St George's
*4 pm Grace Church meets at Yarlside School
- 26 November** *9.30 am Holy Communion at St Aidan's
*10.30 am Morning Worship at St George's
12 noon Baptisms @ St George's
*4 pm Grace Church meets at Yarlside School

**Refreshments will be served after these services.*

The South Barrow Team Register

Baptisms

- 23 July Dakota Isabelle Mai Shannon (B:8/5/16) at St George's
Damian William Howard Shannon (B:8/5/16) at St George's
- 27 August Macie Stefanda Gorbik (B:2/12/14) at St George's
Iris Faith MacDonald (B:28/5/17) at St George's
Grace Sophia Benzie (B:12/12/16) at St George's
Tommy Kenneth Strikis (B:8/11/12) at St George's
Leighton Darren Eric Allen (B:1/4/17) at St George's
- 3 September Raia Lilly Coulhurst (B:8/10/16) at St Aidan's
- 24 September Betsy Anne Parkinson (B:19/1/17) at St George's
Isaac John Moss (B:16/5/16) at St George's
Thomas Hunter Mitchell (B:18/6/16) at St George's

Weddings

- Saturday 15 July Daniel Wilson & Hayley Caine @ St George's
- Saturday 29 July Michael Smith & Elaine Robinson @ St George's
- Saturday 19 August David Clegg & Victoria Calvert @ St Aidan's
- Saturday 18 August David Lee & Joanne Foster @ St George's
- Saturday 19 August Marc Wilson & Nicola Charnley @ St Georges
- Saturday 26 August Stephen Cutcliffe & Cheryl Murray @ St George's

Funerals

We extend our sympathy to the family and friends of:

- 15 September Harry Charnley (93) at Thorncliffe Crematorium
- 18 September Margaret Lomas (71) at Thorncliffe Crematorium

Enquiries about Thanksgiving for the Birth of a Child, Baptism, Weddings, Renewal of Marriage Vows and Funerals should be directed to any of the clergy (see page 2 for contact details) Thank you

St Luke's Mother's Union

We held our opening service on 7 September. This was followed by tea and biscuits and a presentation of flowers to Pat Crookes to celebrate her 80th birthday.

On 21 September Barbara Irwin gave an entertaining talk on her life and her progress in the church leading to being a Churchwarden at Dalton and Furness Deanery Treasurer. This was followed by tea and cream cakes given by Pat Crookes as a continued celebration of her 80th birthday. *Doreen Finch*

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**PIE, PEAS,
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Saturday 21 October
at 6 pm at St Aidan's.
Tickets £6 available from
Carole Williamson (826017),
Geraldine Southam (466327)
or Gary Cregeen (877367)

Old £1 coins

Old £1 coins will go out of
circulation on 15th October 2017,
so don't forget to check your
piggy banks and spend them
before that date!



'REAL LIFE' BREAKFASTS

**Saturday 7 October &
Saturday 4 November**

10 am until 11.15 am at St George's Church Hall

Join us for delicious breakfast buns (contain bacon, sausage or both!), good company and the opportunity to be encouraged and inspired by a 'real life' story of someone living out their Christian faith.

NB Food will be served between 10 am and 10.45 am (Donations, if desired)

Barrow Foodbank News

The recent Tonne of Tins Appeal launched by The Mail to help replenish stocks was extremely successful. Tesco, the Co-op, In-Step Dance and several schools were amongst those donating food. Barrow Raiders organised a Bake Off competition, and a Summer Soul In The Park event was held to raise funds and donations of food. It is vital to keep stocks up because one in five families in Barrow live below the poverty line, 7251 people were fed last year by Barrow Foodbank, and demand for food has risen by 30% this year because of changes to benefit payments.

Donations of money are always welcome, and can also be given online at www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/barrowfoodbank

The Foodbank will soon be preparing Christmas hampers, and also gifts for children, and would welcome wrapping paper and small gifts.

Items always needed are: UHT or powdered milk, soup, UHT fruit juice, pasta sauces, tinned sponge puddings and rice pudding, tinned tomatoes, meat, fish and vegetables, cereals, tea bags, instant coffee, instant mashed potato, rice, pasta, jam, biscuits or snack bars, toiletries, nappies and ladies' hygiene products. Please NO sugar, as the Trussell Trust has decided to no longer issue sugar.

Volunteers are always needed to work in the drop-in centre and warehouse, so if you could give 2 hours a week or more to help in any of these roles, please contact 01229 343436, or email volunteer@barrowfoodbank.co.uk for information, or to arrange a visit.

There are permanent collection points at Morrisons, Asda and Roose Road Co-op as well as all Tesco stores.

Thank you again for your support, it is very much appreciated.

Sheila Simpson



Sundays @4 / Grace Church Barrow Update

This autumn sees the launch of Grace Church Barrow, the latest step in our efforts to plant a new church in the Holbeck & Roose area of the St George's parish.

As you'll know if you're a regular reader of Team Talk, a few of us started getting together in September 2015 (often over brunch or tea!) to pray for that area, with the hope that God might grow a new church to serve that part of town. Right from the start we'd come from different churches, but most of us lived in the Holbeck & Roose area and had hopes to see a church there once again. The creation of the Pioneer Curate role was intended to be a means to make these hopes and prayers a possibility. Just over a year later we started running Sundays @4, an informal family-friendly event at Yarlside Academy, taking place every two or three weeks. We also ran our first All Age Carols event for the local community during Christmas 2016.

But the plan has always been for these to be more than one-off or irregular events - and instead to work towards having a committed community of Christians gathering together and supporting each other to live out our faith in those neighbourhoods. And so here we are - about to launch as Grace Church Barrow, and with a mix of excitement and trepidation at the start of a new adventure.

The new name, Grace Church, reflects that the message of God's grace, his undeserved love for us in sending Jesus Christ to live and die for us, is at the heart of Christianity. As the apostle Paul says, "it is by grace you have been saved". And it's that same message of outrageous grace that we want to share with our community.

Grace Church will meet on Sunday afternoons at Yarlside Academy, as well as informally through the week as Christians share life together. Although we are beginning to meet in October, this is a 'soft launch' to allow us to get into the rhythm of meeting, and we hope to be more visible after Christmas 2017. It is my pleasure and privilege to lead this new initiative, and I'm grateful for the support of the St George's PCC in getting Sundays @4 off the ground, as well as to Gary, and to the Diocese in creating this role that allows my time to be increasingly focused on the new church. Whilst it inevitably feels fragile, we trust that it is through our weakness that God will display His power - and ultimately that He will bring people to discover that He is a God of overwhelming grace. *Robin*

www.facebook.com/gracechurchbarrow

After months of preparation, Barrow has a new project on the horizon that will be supporting its night-time economy every Saturday night. Street Angels are safe people who patrol a community hub 'typically town and city centres' on weekends. There are 130 projects within the CNI Network[www.cninetwork.org] family, working on the streets, in clubs, at festivals, etc. Street Angels is an exciting ministry. It shows that the church cares about the community it serves and about the problems associated with the night-time economy since so many of our town and city centres change character on weekend nights.

Street Angels is about offering safe people and a safe place within this culture. We want the town of Barrow to continue to have a thriving night-time economy and for people to enjoy their night out, but also to stay safe and be responsible. Therefore, we would want to support the police and businesses in the town at peak times each month to show that the church cares about its community. The project aims to start on **Saturday 7th October**, then every Saturday thereafter between the hours of midnight and 5am. Groups of individuals will be supporting people along Cavendish Street with, flips flops, lollipops, foil blankets and a listening ear. There have been over 24 volunteers who have pledged their support in being involved on a regular basis. Barrow Street Angels Coordinator, Rev Sophie Carnaby commented, *"It's amazing to have so many people who want to volunteer on the streets during a Saturday night. It's a real opportunity to show Barrow that there are many who care for the welfare of people in our town"*.

Barrow Street Angels recently commissioned their first set of volunteers at a service at Trinity Church Centre, Barrow. The service provided an opportunity to hear more about the project or support its volunteers. Mr Paul Blakey MBE, the founder of Street Angels, spoke at the service which was attended by Police representatives including Cumbria Police and Crime Commissioner, Mr Peter McCall. Mr McCall commented on the project, *"We know lots of people get into difficulty after having too much to drink. These people need help and a kind ear and someone who can point them in the right direction and make sure they get home safely. This is a great way to work WITH the Police and WITH the community,*

Introducing DAPHNE... NMS Intern based in South Barrow

What is your name and where do you come from?

I'm Daphne and I come from Taiwan.

What family do you have in Taiwan?

I have dad, mom, and two sisters (one is older, the other is younger)

Before coming to Barrow what profession (work) did you do?

I graduated from university in 2016 and I was a practice teacher for half year and a substitute teacher for half year. I teach in junior high school. (students from 13-15 years old.)

How and when did you become a Christian?

When I was 8 years old, my dad had a tumour in his head and he had to do two surgeries. During those days, neighbours (who were Christians) who lived on the second floor, always helped by taking care of my sisters and I. They invited my parents to go to church when my dad got better. I remember that I always felt sad and worried when I didn't know what would happen to my family, but Jesus' love comforted me. When we went to Sunday school, I was not only singing songs and to listening stories about Jesus, I knew that He loves me and always protects me. Through praying and reading Bible, I know Him more and more. I was touched by the Holy Spirit when I went to a conference, and I decided to follow Jesus!

What has brought you to Barrow?

I want to train myself, while living in a different country, to become more independent and trust myself more fully to Jesus. I want to grow stronger in Jesus. I want to love His way and follow Him all my life - to be His disciple! I applied to this programme and God overcame all the difficulties and brought me here.

What will you be doing as an Intern?

I'll serve the people through music (playing keyboard) and also do something with families and young children here. I will also serve alongside Robin and Zoe and those involved in Grace Church.

REFORMATION - 500 YEARS

The Protestant Reformation of the 16th century changed Christianity forever. Roused to action by the corruption and abuses they saw in the Roman Catholic church of the time, visionary pastors and leaders like Martin Luther and John Calvin spearheaded a movement that transformed Christianity and eventually led to the emergence of the Protestant denominations that exist today.

The Reformers were guided by the conviction that the church of their day had drifted away from the essential, original teachings of Christianity, especially in regard to what it was teaching about salvation - how people can be forgiven of sin through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ and receive eternal life with God. The Reformation sought to re-orient Christianity on the original message of Jesus and the early church.

Central to the Reformer's message are what are known as 'The Five Solas' - five Latin phrases (or slogans) that emerged during the Reformation to summarize their theological convictions about the essentials of Christianity.

The Five Solas are:

1. Sola Scriptura ("Scripture alone"): The Bible alone is our highest authority.
2. Sola Fide ("faith alone"): We are saved through faith alone in Jesus Christ.
3. Sola Gratia ("grace alone"): We are saved by the grace of God alone.
4. Solus Christus ("Christ alone"): Jesus Christ alone is our Lord, Saviour, and King.
5. Soli Deo Gloria ("to the glory of God alone"): We live for the glory of God alone.

Along with many Christian churches across the world SBT will be observing the 500-year anniversary of the Reformation in our sermon series throughout October and early November. It was on the 31st October 1617 that Martin Luther, a devoted monk, questioned the practices of the Church to which he had committed his life, especially in relation to indulgences advocated by the Roman Catholic Church as a means of releasing people from sin and raising funds for its coffers. Luther's bold challenge would bring about a reformation which he could never have imagined but then God's Spirit was at work!

that's the really important thing. My mantra is 'we not they', we shouldn't expect other people to pick up the pieces. The police and others haven't got those resources. We've seen around the country, Street Pastors and Street Angels save the time of the Police and NHS A&Es get blocked up with those who don't need to be there. They just need someone to point them in the right direction and give them a hand. I really welcome Street Angels to Barrow".

© Making City Streets Like New Again

Rob O' Connor, Superintendent for Policing in Cumbria has also welcomed the new project, "I am extremely grateful to the volunteers who have formed Barrow Street Angels and will give up their own time on Saturday nights, and some Bank Holiday weekends and festive Fridays". They will be a fantastic addition to assist other partners and licensees in ensuring those who visit Barrow Town Centre can enjoy the night time economy. The Barrow Street Angels will assist the Police by reducing some of our demand i.e. they will support people who have lost their friends, are struggling to get home, or just need a friendly face to talk to. They are independent of the Police, but I am really looking forward to my officers working alongside them, as we all want the Town Centre to be safe from trouble where those on a night out can enjoy themselves with friends"

So over the next few months look out for small groups of volunteers who are giving up their time and sleep to support those enjoying themselves on a Saturday night. Volunteers will be easily identifiable with their orange coats on. Please do say hello to them if you're out on a night. If you're interested in giving your time to become a volunteer, or you'd like to donate flip flops or make a donation for the ongoing work, please contact Rev Sophie Carnaby through their Facebook Page, 'Barrow Street Angels'.

BARROW
STREET ANGELS

SABBATICAL SNAPSHOT

Dear Friends, on the 9th September I returned from a three month sabbatical which provided me with space for personal prayer & reflection, reading, study and an opportunity to meet some incredible people visit some amazing places both at 'home' & 'away'.

The 'home' element included time spent at the theological college where I trained to be a Vicar, Oak Hill in London. As well as the opportunity to be 'reacquainted' with good memories of our time at Oak Hill it was a thrill to see how the college has developed and grown while remaining committed to training & equipping men & women for gospel ministry & to sharing their knowledge of God & His Word with others.

While at Oak Hill I attended 'Leaders Who Last' - a conference for pastors & teachers about resilience in ministry. 'How do you deal with conflict and stress in church life and ministry? How can you grow and flourish under pressure rather than be overwhelmed by it? How do you keep going in the face of disapproval from the wider world?' These were just some of the questions used to explore a wide range of pressure points which exist in ministry today, including: crises and emotional traumas in church life; dealing with disagreement; the danger of being overwhelmed by too many tasks; the inner pressure of living a life of holiness while in ministry and facing conflict with the wider world in a culture

which is becoming more hostile to the gospel. The conference was a great reminder that as Christians our identity is found in Jesus Christ and that our security is in Him also—in some ways it's so simple and yet so often we get bogged down in things that are not important or distracted by pride or ambition. Thus, this time was a great opportunity to evaluate my personal relationship with Jesus and His purposes for my life, as well as the wider scope of lessons we could learn as a church family and members of Barrow Mission Community.

During my sabbatical I also spent time visiting a church plant near Skelmersdale. 'Oaks' was formed in 2004 when a group of people moved into the Tanhouse area of Skelmersdale to begin a church plant. Located at the heart of a vast social housing estate is Oak House which has become a community hub, a place where a variety of groups meet, and where community based projects are based or managed. Tanhouse could be described as a 'tough' area and though the numbers of those who belong to Oaks is not huge there is real evidence of the transforming love of Christ, both in the lives of individuals and in the 'atmosphere' across in the community - it feels better, safer, than it did a few years ago. I sure some of this is down to Christians living out their lives in the community in love and service. In visiting Oaks I was both humbled and inspired by the commitment and faith of the



MEMORIAL SERVICE

SUNDAY 29 OCTOBER 2017

at 4 pm at ST GEORGE'S CHURCH

Followed by light refreshments in the Hall



If you would like a loved one to be remembered or know someone who has been bereaved who could be helped by this service please contact: Alison Otto by Wednesday 18 October. All welcome.

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

Sunday 12th November 2017

9.30 am Remembrance Service at St Aidan's
with Revd Elaine Bates

10.30 am Holy Communion at St George's
with Revd Robin Ham

Join us as we remember with gratitude those who have given their lives in past and present conflicts, and those who are currently serving.

God will remember them... will you?

As Chaplain to Barrow Borough Council Gary will be officiating at the Civic Remembrance Service at the Cenotaph in Barrow Park

THE COFFEE CLUB

The COFFEE CLUB has resumed for the autumn and happens fortnightly at Roose School, North Row, on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of each month between 9.30 am and 10.30 am. Children in Year 6 will be provide cakes, so come along for a coffee and meet up with friends old and new!



Christmas Shoe Box Appeal 2017

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD sends a message of hope to children in desperate situations around the world through gift-filled boxes & Christian literature. The programme provides an opportunity for individuals of all ages to be involved in a simple hands-on project that reaches out to suffering children while focusing on the true meaning of Christmas – Jesus Christ, God’s greatest gift.

A leaflet providing information about the project, including a list of items which can be included, is available at the back of church. ALSO, empty shoe-boxes available from Julie Cregeen (50p donation suggested)

You are invited to bring your gift-filled shoe boxes to church on SUNDAY 5 NOVEMBER or deliver them to the Rectory, 98 Roose Road



SOUTH BARROW CHRISTMAS FAIR

**Saturday 2 December between 1 pm and 3 pm
At St George’s Church Hall - more details to follow!**

There will be a range of stalls containing a variety of special Christmas gifts! Book the date and invite your family and friends!

Harvest Thanksgiving 2017

THANK YOU to those who gave so generously at the recent Harvest Thanksgivings at St George’s and St Aidan’s - which had both a LOCAL & GLOBAL dimension. Items provided for Barrow Foodbank were much appreciated, along with the donations to the Bishop’s Harvest Appeal.

Well done everyone!

minister and his wife, who chose to buy a house on the estate 13 years ago and have laboured for the sake of the gospel so faithfully during that time.

Only a few miles away I had the opportunity to spend time with the **‘Transforming Wigan’** Team. *Transforming Wigan* is a Church movement with a vision to enable one-in-ten people in Wigan to be on the journey of following Jesus by 2022. This is a movement of renewed faith and hope rooted in the love of God. It is all about making and growing followers of Jesus who live life to the full in every dimension. The focus on the things of the heart... where life begins.

Interestingly, the local Council's strap line calls us to *‘Believe in Wigan’* and sets out a better deal for everyone. Through the years, the Church in Wigan has played a key role in the life of the community but weekly Sunday attendance at the old traditional church services is in rapid decline and the average age of those attending these services is only rising.

Tim Montgomery (who some of you will know) is the Director of Transforming Wigan and he says, “The Church - the people of God - in Wigan needs a renewed understanding and practice of ‘worship’ to make the Christian faith accessible and engaging in this generation. The *Transforming Wigan* movement addresses this challenge and seeks to help everyone encounter God in a new and relevant way so that many people

can be connected again with the vital journey of life with Jesus & his followers.”

For my part it was a thrill to meet with the Team and to visit different places where local Christians are growing confident in their faith in Christ and energised to actively share His Good News with others—in both word and deed.

In visiting ‘Oaks’ & ‘Transforming Wigan (and in putting this article together) I have begun to see a connection with the ‘Leaders Who Last’ Conference. Sometimes we lose sight of what it means to be the people of God, as His Church (not ours). As members of Barrow Mission Community we aim to be *‘A series of connected, vibrant, life giving, worshiping communities...who share responsibility for loving and caring for one another... whilst making and growing wholehearted followers of Jesus in Barrow, so that the whole town might be renewed and experience fullness of life in Christ.’*

While thankful for where this vision is being implemented I hope that in the coming months we can explore together how we can engage with it more fully. In the meantime, a lack of space means I haven’t shared anything about the **‘away’** aspect of the sabbatical - an amazing trip to Peru! We’ll save that for the ‘Pie, Pea and Peru Evening’ on 21 October!

I am deeply grateful for the sabbatical and for those who prayed for us during our travels and to those who provided cover in my absence - thank you! **Gary**

REAL LIVES



Believe in Barrow 2017 - 8th-17th September 2017
Sharing life in all its fullness as we seek to make Jesus Christ better known in our town.

Unless you've been on holiday to Mars during the last month, then you'll have probably picked up that Believe in Barrow 2017 has been happening - and hopefully you've been able to make the most of it too!

Believe in Barrow 2017 Real Lives was a ten-day series of events across Barrow "with live music, good news & real life stories". Our aim was to introduce people to Jesus Christ and the life-changing difference he makes.

Over eighteen different churches worked together to put on a whole range of different local events. Here in the South Barrow Team we hosted a popular Real Lives Big Brekkie on the Saturday morning, as well as a special 'High Tea' Family Cafe on the Thursday, which even featured a special appearance from illusionist Todd Alexander ahead of his Real Lives event that evening - with Julie Cregeen as his glamorous assistant!

These different local events then led into a series of special 'central' events, each featuring a 'Real Lives' interview with a special guest:

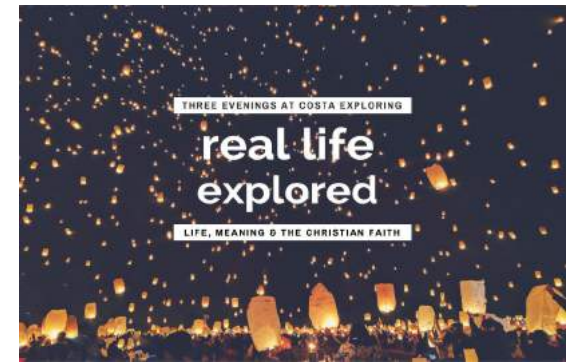
There was Leeds Rhinos' rugby star Jamie Jones-Buchanan, who spoke powerfully about his Christian faith as the most important thing in his life.

Illusionist Todd Alexander put on amazing show and then described how he'd discovered the claims of Jesus were not fabrications or illusions but



were something he could base his life on.

Retired police chief Robin Oake movingly unpacked how knowing he'd been forgiven by God had led him to be able to forgive, even when his son was brutally murdered by a terrorist. The talented Liv Chapman also performed some of her own songs.



Olympic rower Debbie Flood shared how through the highs and lows of sporting life, it was only knowing and trusting Jesus that truly satisfied. Alongside her guitarist Paul Bell gave us a taste of his trade mark warmth & wit.

And at our special Real Lives Celebration at The Forum on Sunday morning, former UVF terrorist David Hamilton described how he'd come to know he too could be forgiven by God through Jesus, and we had a special Believe in Barrow choir (featuring some SBT faces!) lead us in sung worship.

During the main week we also publicised a series of three evenings at Costa Coffee on the Hindpool Retail Park on Wednesday evenings, called Real Life Explored. This is a chance for those who want to find out more about Christianity, or to ask questions, to come along and do so in a warm atmosphere.

I know a lot of folk have been very supportive and got behind Believe in Barrow, especially in inviting friends. We hope it's been an encouragement to you - both for your own faith and as you've sought to share the good news of Jesus with others.

Robin Ham
on behalf of the BiB 2017 Planning Team