

FRESH EXPRESSIONS at St. Luke's, Torver

Bikers Breakfast

The Story...

"In the beginning God created" — Genesis 1:1

In the beginning there were four ladies (the PCC) creatively trying to encourage local involvement in the Church and community. During an interregnum (no vicar) they met each week with others in a beautiful, old but cold church, St. Luke's in Torver near Coniston in the Lake District; sharing their faith in a warm and loving Father with locals and visitors. There was a 9.00am service, giving the largest portion of the day to go out and enjoy the hills, lake and time with family and friends.

One especially cold day, they decided to meet in the old but warmer Schoolroom next to the church and serve a hot breakfast. This more informal time of being with the Father, gave a warmer, comfortable sharing time together. It was a welcome change and visitors thoroughly enjoyed the good food, company and new way of "doing church".

An electrical problem (damp walls and old wiring!!) really focussed the ladies on the hall's safety and décor. With no men in the church this became a major time of prayer and questioning as to what God was wanting!! And how were they to move forward with their Father.

Within two days God answered... one of the ladies; having been a biker all her life, enjoyed riding out to meet other bikers, sharing stories over mugs of tea and bacon butties...

The God moment came. And a ride to Knowle Green Bikers Breakfast confirmed the way forward... Great company, food and friendship and time to ask questions about the Father if you wanted to.

The bikers, with the white cross on their backs, (CMA) were enthusiastic about God, bikes, biking and the tough questions life can throw at you. So our lady biker brought the idea back to Torver, six years ago, with five CMA Bikers coming to the 1st Breakfast!!

The four ladies agreed with the help of volunteers, to extend the time they served breakfast to 11.30am. The informal village service still at 9.00am, now has the hall filled with leather clad Guys and Gals, singing and praising. The 1st Sunday each month from April to October, 9.00 to 11.30am means the bikers could enjoy a ride out to this beautiful and sometimes wet part of Cumbria knowing they would get a warm welcome, breakfast and fellowship with bikers from all over the North of England, whatever time they arrived.

The 'word' has spread, and at the October breakfast, 150 breakfasts were served with Fairtrade and award winning, locally supplied sausages, bacon and free-range eggs. From November to March they continue to meet for informal worship and a 'lighter' warm breakfast together from 9.00-10.00am.

Hard work, volunteers and grants have brought the Schoolroom into full operation and 2019 sees the hall as a letting venue — which with the '100 club' and car park donations will give longevity to the outreach and continual growth of God at work in this place.

This year God has moved us further into life and outreach with Him. "Torver Junction" is St. Luke's 4th Sunday in each month's service, an informal time of worship, prayer and time with God in the Schoolroom at 7.00pm.

A five-year vision of one of the ladies became real this Easter with a 15ft. Cross being erected on a Torver hill — overlooking the village and valley down the lake towards the sea, along to Millom and Black Comb. In the other direction, into the Fells and mountains towards Keswick.

The running of the two "Winter Warmers" last Winter for bikers (in their cars) is moving forward for those wishing to know more of a "Real" life to be lived. Targeted mission towards the lost with one to one sharing, prayers of healing and expanding the love of our God and His grace into our family of Bikers.

So, if you're in the area, come and join us for a "Fresh" Expression of church; like everyone at Bikers Breakfast, just come and enjoy the 'BUZZ' of meeting one another and God, in a new way!!

THE END... or is it the beginning?

God's in charge...