

# Spring Mount Newsletter November 2011

[www.springmountcf.co.uk](http://www.springmountcf.co.uk)

*Spring Mount Christian  
Fellowship  
Abbey Road  
Barrow-in-Furness*

Spring Mount Christian Fellowship exists to  
Reach others for Christ;  
Teach about Christ;  
Grow in Christ;  
Send for Christ.

*Spring Mount Walney  
Amphitrite Street  
Walney Island*

Please email all notices for December to [donna@springmountcf.co.uk](mailto:donna@springmountcf.co.uk) by **Monday 21st November**.

## *Message from the Leadership Team*

Last month the church family went away for our annual weekend retreat to Blaithwaite Manor. We spent two days together as a family and Alan Garner encouraged us to live in community together. He shared with us how the parable of the Prodigal Son shows us how to live as a church community and encouraged us to do so. The two different characters are both sons of God and we can have different elements of them both in our lives and in our church community. How do we react to the returning prodigals? Are we like the “faithful” second son who refused to come into God’s lavish party and celebrate with the returning brother?

One thing I learned was that the term “Prodigal” means wasteful and it can equally be applied to God as a lavish and exceedingly generous Heavenly Father as to the wasteful son. I was reminded of God’s generosity and lavish grace and it challenged me to be generous in my response towards others within God’s community. God’s message spoken through Alan touched us all in different ways.

For those of us who went to Blaithwaite we had a great time having fellowship together and hearing God’s Word. Here are a few comments and feedback from people who went:

“I enjoyed the church weekend away because.....”

- Because of the fellowship, food and whole atmosphere.
- Particularly the praise and worship times when we were all together.
- To get to know people that I have not spoken to before.
- I was in the family of God.
- Because of the opportunity to hear what God was saying to us as a church about building church as a community, while recognising we are all at different stages.
- Because it was a good opportunity to get to know people from church outside of Sunday morning.
- The message preached by Alan touched my heart very deeply.
- I was challenged to accept others who are different.

We plan to go to Blaithwaite again next year and it would be great to see as many of you there as possible!

*Tim Baalham*



There is a loop system in all our services. Please remember to switch on.



Sunday Services	Abbey Road Speakers	Abbey Road Bible Readings 11am & 6.15pm
November 6th	Alan Garner	am: TBC pm: TBC
November 13th	Ian Ellershaw	am: Matthew 21:18-22 Cursing a fig tree pm: FELLOWSHIP MEETING
November 20th	Eddie Ainsworth	am: Matthew 8:5-13 A Roman Officer’s servant is healed pm: Forgiveness
November 27th	Daniel Randall	am: Matthew 17:24-27 A coin in a fish’s mouth pm: Joint service with BYT



Tuesday 8th November, 1.30pm Spring Mount, Abbey Road  
Barrow in the Blitz

Ladies Breakfast.....Ruth Hogg invites you to join her at the Multi-Cultural Crazy House at 02 Windsor Street, Barrow on Saturday 26th November 2011 from 8.00a.m. - 9.30a.m. This months speaker is Rachel Creighton "Colombian Experience" Relax & enjoy hot croissants, fresh melon & pineapple, yoghurt, cereal, toast, coffee/tea...etc....for further info contact Ruth on Tel. 01229 820200....see you there...



## CAFE UGANDA

Tuesday 1st November  
7.00pm—9.00pm  
Spring Mount Abbey Rd

Enjoy a drink, a slice of cake, and good company whilst raising much needed funds for projects in Uganda.



**Charity Dance Evening**  
**Led by Howard Le Roy**  
**Forum 28**  
**7.30pm until 10.30pm**  
**Friday 18th November**  
**Tickets £6 from the box office**

All styles of dancing catered for.  
Proceeds to the Christian charity, Toybox, especially to help street children in South America.  
Please support this work.



### Why I don't like church week-ends away.....

The food might not be as I usually like it, but actually it was great, including sufficient choice for fussy people like me!

The thought of a church service type of event from 9:30 to 12:30 on Saturday morning and something else in the evening is probably more than I could cope with, but actually, the "churchy" times were over all too quickly. There was a good variety of worship, talk, videos, Powerpoints, audio clips and discussion.

The teaching could potentially be quite intense, and pressure could be put on me to respond to appeals or share some experience of God speaking to me which just isn't the way it happens for me, but actually, it was all very relaxed with no pressure at all.

I might have to share a bedroom with people I didn't know, but actually I didn't have to. Even if I had had to share, it would only be 2 nights' sleep – and I would survive!

I do not like discussion groups, but actually the discussion times were quite short, there was no pressure to contribute, and it was good to hear other people's views even if I didn't agree with them all.

One and ¾ hours is a bit of a long distance to go for a week-end, but actually the drive up though the lakes was very beautiful, and giving a lift to someone else helped me to understand that person so much more. It was also good to be totally away from home, with no temptation to pop back for a breather!

I am not very sociable, and everything would be done communally. Actually, even though it was a community atmosphere, there was still space and time to be on my own or with just a few people, and I enjoyed the chat at meal times.

The cost puts me off, but actually the donation requested was pretty good value for a week-end's good food and overnight stay, and it was stressed that the requested donation shouldn't put me off coming. That should have helped families.

I would miss the usual Sunday service, but actually participating in the week-end helped me realise church is about building a community, not just attending services and staying on for a chat afterwards over tea and coffee.

There will be aspects I don't like, but actually the week-end was just as much about encouraging others as it was having a good time myself, and that felt good.

God might speak to me about things I don't want to hear, but actually.....

Anon