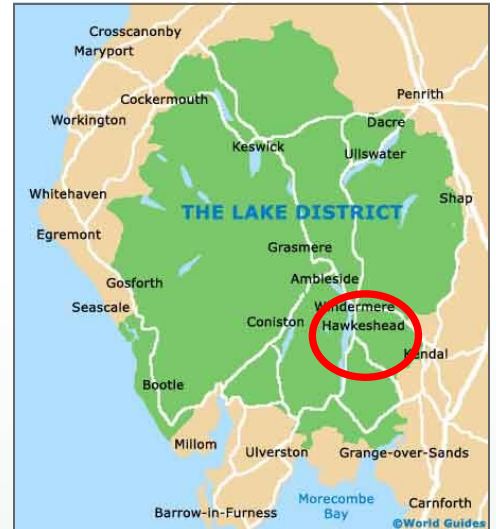


Hawkshead Hill Baptist Chapel, Cumbria

Hawkshead Hill Baptist Chapel is surrounded by the natural beauty of the Lake District, between Coniston and Hawkshead. Andrew and Kath Dodd have been ministers there since 1992 and seek for the church to be a blessing to both the local community, and those passing through. As an area renowned for tourism, the chapel serves many visitors to the Lakes, as well as hosting a retreat venue for those who want to get away for spiritual refreshment. Kath shares the story of their annual Good Friday walk, just one of many aspects to the church's ministry within the community...



"Each year I lead a (Churches Together) Good Friday Walk. This isn't the usual walk of witness through a town or village. Instead it is a meditative walk through the local countryside. On this particular occasion the plan was to read John's account of the Passion en route and so, having carefully marking out the readings so that a number of people could take part – we set off. The group consisted of a mixture of church, and non-church, folk: some who had been each year, and some who had come along for the first time. As usual, it was deeply moving to share together in the story of the crucifixion of Jesus. Somehow, hearing it 'outside' seemed to give it greater reality.



I usually have a rough idea of where each of the readings will take place and, after some thought, had decided that the story of the actual crucifixion (split into 3 readings) would be read along the edge of Esthwaite Water. I chose the exact location for each at the time. As we approached a small peninsula, jutting out into the Water, it seemed to lend itself for the reading of the moment when Jesus 'bowed his head and gave up his spirit'.

Only later did I realise how significant that decision had been. Simon, who happened to be the reader at that point, came to me soon afterwards. That was the very spot that he had thrown his father's ashes a few years previously. And now, in that same place, he had been asked to read of the death of

Jesus. He was deeply moved. Simon and his son never attend a church service, but they come together on this walk each year. I am left in no doubt that God is quietly at work in their hearts and minds."

When the centurion and those with him who were guarding Jesus saw the earthquake and all that had happened, they were terrified, and exclaimed, 'Surely he was the Son of God!' Matt 27: 54

For your thoughts and prayers:

- How could you involve the community in your context in and around sharing the Easter story?
- Do you need to 'get away from it all' and find refreshing and renewal in a place like Hawkshead Hill? Will we make time in our diaries to be refreshed?

