

Penrith Methodist Church Annual Church Meeting

Sunday 2nd July 2023



**Group Reports
& Minutes of Meeting
Sunday 31st July 2022**

**YOU ARE LOVED
ARE VALUED
BELONG**

Current Statistics

Membership - 180

Friends - 76

ACM Welcome message

Dear friends,

Welcome to this year's ACM booklet! I do hope you will be able to join us on Sunday 2nd July for this year's Annual Church Meeting, which will follow a time of worship, before we eat lunch together.

The ACM is an opportunity to meet for fellowship, celebrate the work and ministry of the church, review our financial position, look ahead to the next 12 months, and re-elect Church Office Holders. It might sound dull and uninteresting, but it's a vital part of our life together as church – so we need your support!

Anyone with a heart for PMC can come and take part – whether you are a member of this church or not!

As I look back, the last 12 months has had much to be thankful and to praise God for. We have had 14 people become new members and 6 baptisms! We have also continued to run Alpha with up to 13 people attending.

Unfortunately, we have also said goodbye to members who have died and are now living in glory! Michael Cannon, Elsie Stinson, Lloyd Graham and Keith Jones are all sorely missed.

Some of the highlights of the last 12 months, for me, have included:

- The relationships we are building with our community and contacts developed through Toddlers, 4F, Youth Clubs, Lunch Club and other initiatives. So many people are getting connected to PMC and finding here a place of safety, hope, belonging, and most importantly, love.
- The way we are worshipping together as one church family each week. This has not been easy for many, as we all have to compromise our preferred worship styles – but to see us worshipping and meeting God together as God's family has been amazing!
- The 'Be Boulder' weekend we ran for the whole church in October last year provided a great opportunity for us to have fun, and to seek God's will for us as a Church together.
- The four people who were baptised in Ullswater in October – giving testament to what God was doing in their lives – even though I was freezing!

- The work being done by Morgan as our Pioneer and Community Lay Pastor. We are making connections, and building relationships way outside of traditional Church – especially with Ullswater Community College students and staff

Of course, the last year has had its challenges too. Some dear friends and members have moved away or moved churches. Our finances remain in a precarious position as we will explore at our ACM, and we still need so many more volunteers to help in various really important positions of church life.

I am however, excited and hopeful about the future. God, I believe, is doing something wonderful in and through us! We will have our challenges I am sure, and Church life is never easy – but what a privilege and a calling it is for all of us to be part of what God is doing here, and part of God’s plan to share his love in our community.

As your Minister, my prayer for all of you is the same as Paul’s for the Ephesian church. I’ll leave it with you as I wish you all God’s blessings for the next year.

Rev. Tim

‘For this reason I kneel before the Father, from whom every family¹ in heaven and on earth derives its name. I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord’s holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know (experience) this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.’

Ephesians 3:14-21

Treasurer's Report

A Where are we?

In the short table of income and expenditure below, there is a summary of where we are expected to be at the end of this financial year (ending August) and how this compares to the previous year and what we are predicting for next year.

		2021/22		2022/23		2023/24
Income						
giving		107,315		96,223		97,200
gift aid		24,323		20,354		22,500
grants		15,000		5,000		0
lettings		25,300		41,974		41,100
other		19,649		16,700		0
total		191,587		180,251		160,800
Expenditure						
assessment		74,644		68,900		68,900
salaries & expenses		59,040		69,400		76,340
rent		8,700		8,700		8,700
utilities etc		25,290		32,050		51,000
church/office		9,657		12,100		13,310
property		43,619		31,400		37,873
total		220,950		222,550		256,123
Deficit		-29,363		-42,300		-95,323
reserves & capital		158,812		116,513		21,190
windows/projects		0		73,000		0
bridge funds		207,000		134,000		134,000

It makes for some bleak reading.

We know that in the last two years, partly driven by the effects of the lockdown, that we have spent more than we have received as income. We have used our reserves to address the shortfall. Many churches up and down the country have had to face similar effects and the reserves are, to a certain extent, there to cover this “rainy day” situation. But we are past this particular “rainy day” and our prediction for the future is that we will continue to eat into reserves if we cannot

change things drastically. Indeed if we cannot change, then our reserves will have been used up in the next two years.

Our current position has not been helped by a doubling in the cost of gas and a quadrupling in the price of electricity in the last year. There is no price cap for non-domestic users.

There are also large cost of living rises and we are committed to paying our staff a living wage so there have been large and unpredicted increases to payroll.

B What have we done?

In the current year there have been a number of things that have been done to help manage our situation:

- We have been careful to manage our utility contracts to minimise the effect of those rises
- Because we have invested in LED lighting some time ago our actual consumption of electricity has halved which has made a big impact on the size of electricity bills
- Last year we completed the use of remote controlled individual room thermostats, which have minimised the use of gas heating in rooms not being used
- We have increased our prices for room lettings but most especially increased the level of room lettings, so our income from lettings is double what it was before Covid. This has had a fantastic impact on our income!
- We have been very careful over our use of property budget this year. We set a budget but, by doing work ourselves wherever possible, and not spending our budget unless it is really necessary, we are currently £10,000 underspending against the budget. This also is a great help!

C What do we need to do next?

It is a simple picture: if we are to continue to fulfil our mission and ministry – we need to increase income or, if that is not possible, then we have to reduce expenditure.

To meet our current expenditure we need an extra £100/day.

In terms of raising our income:

- We can look to raise funding from pursuing grant funding. Opportunities for this may exist – but it will need someone to be prepared to put in the work of identifying and applying for possible avenues. This will be particularly relevant for ‘capital’ projects such as new heating or roof repairs.
- We have been attempting to secure support for our mission projects and are hopeful that both our Methodist Circuit and District will be supportive to help out here.
- We need to increase our giving from members and friends. Over the last few years, income from direct giving has fallen, and whilst we all acknowledge the financial strains on families, the plain fact is that the church needs to be funded, largely, by those committed to its cause. We would ask that people reflect on their regular giving by standing order, gift-aid if possible, and consider ‘one-off’ bequests and gifts
- We could look at a gift-day or campaign to attract donations from members and the wider community
- We will look to maximise income from lettings and rental of rooms to those in our local community

With regard to reducing expenditure. In the event that income is not raised substantially, as well as what is already being done, we would have to reduce expenditure through looking seriously at our mission and ministry.



PROPERTY REPORT

Our Property at PMC is an amazing asset for our church and from where we are able to live out most of our church life. With the benefit of our property we are able to:

- Meet together for Worship, teaching and fellowship each week on Sundays, Tuesdays and other times
- Do most of our Outreach and Ministry to the community – i.e. Lunch Club, 4F's, Tuesday and Friday Youth Clubs, Toddlers, Holiday Club, etc.
- Conduct meetings
- Run the administration of our church
- Provide venues for lettings of conferences/meetings/community groups which bring in much needed financial income
- Provide a venue for other initiatives like Choral Group, prayer meetings and prayer spaces
- Have a venue to offer marriages, funerals and baptisms

But it takes a lot of money and effort to run our Property and keep it in good condition.

We are blessed to have a fantastic Property team who meet regularly to oversee and facilitate the management of our property. The team currently consists of Don Agus, Steve Clements, Bryan Gardiner, Mike Wicker, Iain Mutch, Jim Irving, Dave Fortey, Tracey and Tim Cooke and Lindsay Wilson.

However, we are still without a named Property Steward to chair this group and be the 'go-to' person in the event of emergencies. Please pray about if this is something God may be calling you to.

It currently costs us about £40,000 a year to maintain our property.

We are currently in the process of having all of our windows repaired or replaced – something that desperately needed doing.

We also recently embarked on a project to 'de-clutter' our building and create better storage solutions, as well as refresh some of our rooms. This work is nearly complete.

We still have problems with our front doors, and we know that the heating system is on its last legs. We keep praying it will keep going for a while yet!

As I write, we are awaiting the results of our latest quinquennial which will inform us what work we need to budget for in the next 5 years.

In conclusion, we give thanks for our wonderful property and the opportunities it gives us to further the Kingdom of God and to share God's love in our community. Mindful of our finances, we will continue to be prudent and careful about any property spend, and do all we can to minimise capital outlay.

Rev. Tim

Worship life at PMC

The last 12 months has seemed like a year in transition for our life of worship. Since lockdowns and fear of catching viruses from one another, we have met for over a year now as a single congregation each Sunday morning, when we've attempted to combine what was the 9:00 traditional service, and the 10:45 contemporary service we used to do.

Not everyone is comfortable with this mixed bag! As such we have fewer people coming for worship than we did pre-Covid.

And whilst we might, one day, return to two separate services, for now we maintain the single service for want of volunteers to provide the facilities needed.

But many – me included – love us worshipping together as a whole family, with all our different preferences. This is how families get on, isn't it – by including all, and making compromises so that everyone feels they belong. I love the buzz over coffee after the service, when the church of all ages mixes together as family.

In addition to Sunday mornings, we run our Tuesday morning service as a time of quiet, traditional worship – which people appreciate, and also our monthly Encounter service – which is a more contemporary, spirit-led time of engaging with God.

We are blessed with many fine organists – Gareth, Lawrence, John, and Helen – along with great worship leaders – Sarah, Graham, Nicola, Carolyn and Michael. We also have a fine talented band of musicians and singers – too many to name, but you know who you are.

We are also blessed with a great Steward and welcoming team headed by Shane, and people who help each week with sound, projection and live-streaming the service. In addition, we have 3 local preachers in training – Michael, PJ and Morgan. All 3 add real depth and quality to our teaching and preaching.

I'm also indebted to those who prepare coffee and tea for us to have after the service.

I thank all these people for their ministry – we are so grateful for your gifts and willingness to use them! – You do an amazing job and we bless you for it!

We still desperately need others to help with making coffee, and operating sound, projection and live-streaming. Full training will be given, and you would be a real blessing if you could help perhaps just once a month – let me know if you can!

Over the last year, we have had several study series as we've contemplated 'There is Room' during Advent and Christmas, 'Scenes of Passion' in Lent and Easter, and recently, 'Unpacking the Bible'.

Worship lies at the heart of what it means to be church. We gather corporately together to give thanks to our great God for the great debt we have for God's love to us. So, do please join in, and be part of the family of those wanting to give praise and glory to our great God!



Outreach continues to be a key part of PMC's identity, and it remains clear to see that this Church's culture has been formed around the strong desire to reach out and make a difference in our local community.

As I go down the list of the different initiatives that are run, from Twinkly Tots to Lunch Club and 4F to Sunday Lunches, I continue to get excited when I think about all that these initiatives are doing for the people of Penrith.

The leaders continue to listen and discern the calling God has placed on their hearts, recognise what is needed, and proceed to go out and do it. These leaders do an amazing job and I want to thank them for all the wonderful work that they do.

Let's also never forget the responsibility and calling God has placed on this church. The responsibility to serve our community, and the calling to share God's love with all who we come across. I continue to be excited for all the work that goes on through PMC, projects old and new, and I can't wait to see where God is taking them next.

*Morgan Tebb-Roger
Pioneer Lay Minister*

Youth Clubs



Both the Tuesday night and Friday night Youth Clubs are doing really well.

Tuesday nights have seen between twenty-five and thirty young people attending each week with some strong relationships being formed with both young people and their parents. Whilst we saw a bit of a decline in the standard of behaviour towards the middle of the year, we made some changes which really improved things.

This year we have enjoyed a trip to the trampoline park in Carlisle where we had record numbers of young people sign up and we are looking forward to our annual trip to Walby Farm Park in July.

Fridays have seen an increase in attendance, and we now get between ten and fifteen teenagers every Friday, aged between Yr. 7 and Yr. 9.

Once again, the change in dynamics caused by some new people coming in meant we saw a brief decline in behaviour, however the leaders reacted to this really quickly and implemented changes that made a huge difference to everyone.



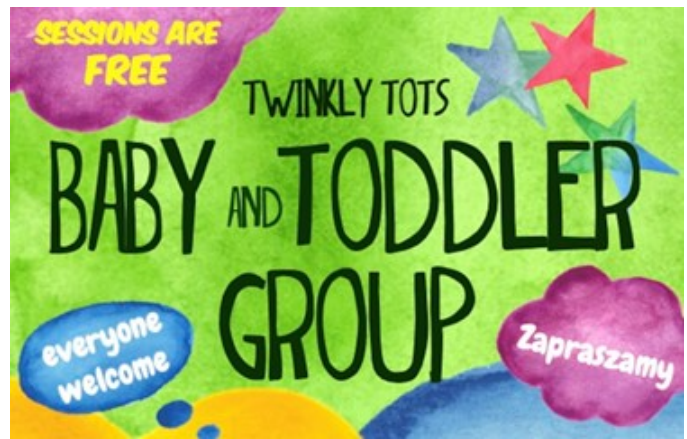
It's exciting to see the conversations being had and it is encouraging that the young people are inviting their friends along too. On Friday evenings we're going to start an 'after-hours' session once a month for the older participants to engage with. This is to give them the space to explore some deeper topics of conversation and to come together more as a group.

AFTER HOURS

We're very excited about the direction that God is taking these youth ministries and what the future holds for them both. A huge thank you must go out to all the leaders that consistently give up their time to bring something of God's joy into the lives of these young people. The work they do is amazing, and it is a real pleasure to work alongside them.

Twinkly Tots

Our Church Toddler group has been going well this year. Most weeks we have 12 to 15 adults, and all their little ones, join us for the play session.



It's a real privilege to be able to draw alongside families, getting to know them and offer them support and friendship. Lots of the families who come feed into other church events; 4F, youth groups, holiday clubs and some have come along on Sunday too.

Helpers:

We really miss the help of Keith Jones who used to sit by the door, welcoming and signing everyone in. Doti Kuchta has been a faithful mum helper for several years but her little one starts school in September, so she will be a big miss.

Recently we have had Zara join the team and also Maureen who helps organise the afternoon snacks. But we do need a couple of other people to make the group sustainable.

So, do you have a couple of hours free on a Thursday between 1 & 3pm? You don't need to come every week, even the offer of one Thursday a month would be a great help!

Thanks for all your continued prayer.

Trace Cooke



As I write this, we are about to embark on our Spring Half Term session. We never really know how many families will turn up but, so far, we have 11 family's booked .

The programme will be one of enterprising crafts and excitable yet competitive indoor games. Meanwhile, in the kitchen a team of volunteers will be preparing a meal. Each session ideally needs between 10 and 12 volunteers.

I can't explain to you how rewarding it is to watch families from very different ethnicities and backgrounds joining together to have fun.

We are fortunate to have been in receipt of a substantial grant from the County Council for the full term breaks. This has and will allow us to have outings giving families an opportunity to do things they may otherwise find difficult to find the resources for. In the summer holiday we are planning to go to Woggle Goggle (swimming) and Walby Farm Park.

We are always looking for more volunteers - particularly slightly younger people who have experience of working with young people. No training is needed just a good heart and a willingness to get involved. If you think that maybe you, please have a chat with Anne, Ruth, Morgan or Tim.

Anne MacDonald

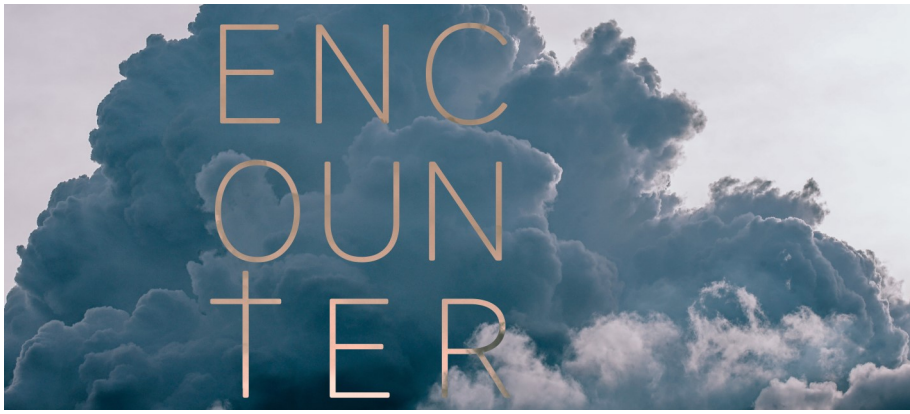


Our numbers of clients are growing which is wonderful. Unfortunately, we are victims of our own success, extra people to feed needs extra people to prepare the food and then wash up and tidy up.

Many of our volunteers are actually as old, if not older, than many of the people who attend. More help is urgently needed. We are of course delighted that we have this problem and able to serve the community in a very tangible way.

So, please if you could spare three hours or so on a Friday morning (on a three week rotation) please step forward. You'd be amazed at how much pleasure you would get out of the experience!

Anne MacDonald



From our point of view, Encounter has had a slow start to the calendar year. Every service it feels like one or more of our “core team” are away, so I don’t think we’ve had our “full force” behind it for a while.

However! The people who attend, though currently small in number, do seem to get something fresh out of the experience. We’re not too concerned on numbers - as much as it is nice to have more people there. We are more concerned that it is providing something different to a Sunday morning service, for those who prefer “that sort of thing”.

Attendance has possibly been affected by the move to the last Sunday of the month, which we had to do to provide space for the after-service meals on the first Sunday.

Expanding from our previous roster of one worship leader (Bea Hulme, before she left for uni), we have now seen Sarah, Michael and Graham all come on to our worship team, and we feel stronger because of it!

We will be taking a break over summer - the 25th June will be our last service before a bit of a break, returning for a “Be Boulder” special on the 1st October.

PJ Summers



Our first Be Boulder weekend in 2022 went very well indeed!

The intent of the weekend was twofold - to come together as a church that is increasingly “decentralised” (i.e. not everyone in our church comes to every Sunday morning service), and to have some input on the direction the church should be heading in.

A good number attended in the end, with inward-looking activities running from Saturday morning until Sunday evening, as well as a wonderful concert hosted by Michael on Saturday evening that was open to all.

The feedback we got afterwards was almost entirely positive, with people feeling like there was a really good atmosphere in everything that we did, and people enjoyed being “together” again.

As a result of the weekend and the feedback we received, we adopted our new mission statement: “You Are Loved, You are Valued, You Belong”, which will inform much of what we do going forward.

There were of course some things to improve about the weekend, which we have taken on board for our next event - Be Boulder 2023!

Make sure the dates are in your diary, 30th September & 1st October - we will be opening registration (which is really useful for organising events, to know how many people are coming!) in the coming weeks, so look out for that information and more!



The Alpha Course

We just ran the one Alpha in autumn 2022 which was great, but hard work for some reason - I suppose evangelism isn't supposed to be easy. We ran it at the 'Restore' shop in town, a good venue but no hot meals possible from our wonderful chefs!

I help run Alpha because we are called to reach out to the lost, and I believe folk are lost without Christ - I certainly was. We had several helpers from previous courses which always works well and helps encourage them in their new faith. When the church is in decline we have to either shut down the hatches or reach out to grow.

We have run Alpha at PMC for over 20 years, 1.55million people did it worldwide in the last 12 months in over 100 countries and over 100 languages! My dream is that everyone at PMC will 'own' Alpha and either come along or better still come with a non church friend, colleague, neighbour or family member. That hasn't really happened so far but there is tremendous potential - between us we must know just about everybody in the area!

So ask God what you should do, ask him who to put on your heart, and start praying for them and invite them to the next Alpha in October.

Thank you so much for your support.

Chris Swift



Stewarding

My other roles at PMC involve lots of sitting and pontificating.

Not so stewarding: it's practical, getting in early, lots of walking, greeting, making brews, checking everyone is in place for the service to run smoothly and therefore, being very thankful when everyone on the various rotas, not least the preacher, turns up.

I hope my fellow stewards and welcomers get the same reward I do from being an enabler of our communal Sunday worship experience.

We currently have three stewards and ten active welcomers for Sundays and three folk for the Tuesday services. Each time I invite responses to the rota I know there's a risk that some dates may not be covered – so far, we've been able to avoid a service being conducted in the car park!

For anyone not particularly fond of tarmac services and likes shaking hands, counting money*, and would like to light the alter candle, please let Shane know at s.mcnicol@yahoo.co.uk. (The biggest blessing is seeing the gifting and commitment of others that make church services a reality.)





Rev. Tim, Ange, Morgan, Ruth, David & Karen, Lucy and Marion

This year we have continued to meet monthly to pray and plan distribution of gifts, cards, follow up calls and visits. We also have 20 pastoral contacts and 10 small group leaders who keep in regular contact with their list of folk.

This enables us to keep in touch with everyone who has a connection with PMC.

Gareth and Averil have stepped down from the team after many loyal years of organising the 'Ministry of Flowers' for PMC. Marion has joined the team to help us with providing a link with the flower distribution, blessing folk at times of celebration as well as at times of difficulty.

Rev Tim, David and Karen have picked up the offering of home communion to those who are house bound. Gill Williams has become a regular contact person for Woodlands and Alison Stobbs has stepped into the Cradle Roll position.

We have met with 16 people who have become members, informing them of the Methodist structure and the opportunities they are given to connect with the PMC family. The majority have been able to become actively involved in supporting the work we do through small groups, e.g. flowers, youth work, property, Twinkly Tots and CAP, and have been given a pastoral contact person.

The monthly Sunday Lunches continue to prove to be popular and continue to reach a diverse group of folk. It has become a real team effort, helping with setting up the hall and clearing up, providing food and serving. With this inclusive ethos it has provided the sense of belonging to a loving church family at PMC for many.

Homegroups provide an opportunity to get to know a few folk well, build relationships, grow in faith and support each other in our daily lives.

The 8 homegroups meet on different days, times and frequency, please see their individual reports.

This report shows how much PMC is growing as a family not just in numbers, but as a community loving and supporting each other as we strive to serve the wider community.

Please don't forget to use the prayer chain, your pastoral contact, flower book or directly to Tim, if you know of anyone who is having a challenging time, a time of celebration or a time of loss. We do not need lots of personal details, keep it anonymous if you wish, but obviously a name if we can bless them with flowers or a card.

The next Annual pastoral meeting is provisionally booked for Saturday 11th November, 9am-10am.

Ange Wicker
(Pastoral Secretary)



Choral Group

We are a group who enjoy singing together on Monday of each week for about an hour. We particularly enjoy singing in harmony—soprano, alto, tenor and bass, and are blessed that we still have numbers in each part. At the beginning of each practice we sing a few hymns (often ones to be sung at the Tuesday morning service).

We contribute to the Tuesday morning worship, about once a month and aim to choose music fitting the preacher's theme.

This year we sang some anthems appropriate for the Good Friday service at Skelton. In July we are singing a varied programme, of some of our favourite music we have previously sung, at Woodlands MHA home.

Our Monday evenings close with a short reflection by different members. All who enjoy singing would be most welcome to join us.

Heather Tomlinson

Carols By Candlelight

PMC successfully organized the highly anticipated event, Carols by Candlelight, on December 18th, 2022. The event embraced the theme of 'Christmas for Everyone! There is Room.' Commencing in November, the choir began weekly practices with approximately 25 dedicated members. Their exceptional performance included the theme song 'Making Room' along with a selection of traditional hymns. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the numerous volunteers whose invaluable contributions made this event possible.

We are pleased to announce that Carols by Candlelight 2023 is tentatively scheduled for December 17th. If you are interested in participating or volunteering for this year's event, please reach out to Michael at michael.boonetraveller@gmail.com.

Thank you for your continued support and we look forward to another memorable Carols by Candlelight celebration.



Sincerely,
Michael D. Boone



Fellside House Group

Through lockdown we increased our frequency of meeting to weekly, rather than our usual fortnightly, but just for 40 mins on zoom. In the autumn of 2021 we returned to meeting in each others homes and the sharing of leading a study/discussion on a Tuesday evening.

As we grew in number, we decided to form two ecumenical Fellside groups. One group meeting, weeks 1 and 3 in the Culgaith/Skirwith area. The other group meeting, weeks 2 and 4 along the Eastern Fellside. Giving folk more flexibility as to when they could attend a House Group and the coming together for social events. For more details about Fellside House Group, please contact

Shane and Nicola McNicol (01768 879202)

Mike and Ange Wicker (01768 881357)

Parklands House Group

Parklands House Group meets fortnightly on a Thursday afternoon in member's homes. We take it in turns to lead the meeting on a topical subject often linked to our use of the Methodist Prayer Handbook and Fresh from the Word Daily Bible notes.

After a time of prayer we have refreshments and chat.

Graham & Thelma Allan

Omega House Group

We meet weekly on Tuesday evening in Stainton for most of the year. It has been a blessing to be meeting face to face again this year.

Prayer has always been a key part of our sessions but, since returning from the time restrictions of Zoom, we now tend to come to a time of intercession early in our meeting rather than as the finale.

Several of our small group of members take turns with leading our studies. This year's topics have included an in depth look at Joseph, a short study entitled "Excellence" based on Jerimiah and during Lent a study from Embrace the Middle East: "The Kingdom of God is Justice and Peace". Each 'term' ends with a feast, which has rarely been earned in the preceding Quiz!

If pressed for our demography I would say 'mature middle aged'.
If you are not already in a house group, why not give us a try?

Don Agus

Ubuntu House Group

Due mainly to various health problems we have for the past year been much reduced in numbers. An invitation to new members in the Notices failed to elicit a response. However, we have continued to meet at 2.30pm on the first Wednesday of the month, taking the week's lectionary passage as our topic each time.

We do enjoy the conversation and not least tea and biscuits.

ALL ARE WELCOME.

Contacts:

Audrey Cannon (T: 01768 866537)

Andrew Thorneley (T: 01768 863022)

Andrew Thorneley

Thornton House Group

During the last year we have met on a regular basis on Thursday evenings. Our group has recently enjoyed studying the Lectio course by Pete Greig and the Differences course led by Archbishop Justin Welby.

We have also used various resources provided by the Bible Project including video overviews of different books of the Bible.

Alongside these studies our group enjoys meeting together for fellowship meals, supporting one another on our WhatsApp group and walking in the local area.

This summer we will start looking at “Invisible Divides “ - a book looking at how we can make church accessible for people of all different backgrounds.

If anyone wishes to join our group please contact Charlie and Naomi Thornton - 07846 597163

Charlie and Naomi Thornton

Hodge Lodge

Hodge Lodge (a house group made up of late teens to 30-somethings) continues to meet regularly. We have mostly been looking at Brian McLaren’s book “We Make The Road By Walking”, although we have no problem skipping the occasional chapter for a lake day, or losing ourselves in a game of improvising presentations.

Whilst there is usually one of us at any given Sunday service, it is rare that we are all there, so this is a good connection for us that means we can still meet as a faith community, inside or outside of a church service.

PJ Summers

Blencow HG

Our House Group meets fortnightly in Blencow. We are an ecumenical group with many of our members attending St Andrew's in Greystoke.

We meet at 7pm for half an hour's tea/coffee and chat first. We study and discuss a wide range of material. Over the last year we have looked at economic and environmental issues as well as more traditional bible studies.

We are about to embark on a book by Brian McLaren called "We Make the Road by Walking".

Anyone interested in joining us is very welcome- please contact Steve on 07711088448

Steve & Laura Clements

If you aren't part of a House Group and wish to join, please do get in touch with any of the above groups or contact the Circuit Office.



CHRISTIANS AGAINST POVERTY

Eden Cap Services

CAP Debt Centre – Jon Cook (Manager)

The debt counselling service has been fully subscribed over the past twelve months. We have observed increasing numbers of unsustainable budgets and increasing debt balances.

There is clear evidence of post COVID problems such as higher mental health issues, and evidence of addiction. We have developed partnerships with local addiction support groups and continue to be supported by a great team of befrienders representing local churches.

The centre has distributed Cost of Living grants funded by Cumbria County Council and have increasing accessed emergency aid funds through CAP head office and Acts 435.

CAP Job Club – Michelle Pierce (Manager)

Our CAP Job Club runs from 10am to 12.30pm on most Tuesday mornings. The course is now run as a rolling course, so job seekers can join at any time. Each new candidate is personally interviewed to assess the support they need.

Ongoing support is provided until they find work. We have had 15 participants on our Job Club courses over the last 12 months. Of these we have found suitable work for 5 people.

70% of our job seekers have been referred to us from the Job Centre the rest have come from word of mouth (largely recommendation from others who have been on the course or from the CAP Debt Centre).

CAP Money

Money Coaches have continued to provide budgeting skills courses locally. Nationally the course is being relaunched providing greater online tools. A volunteer CAP Money service manager is currently being sought.



Small Groups

Discipleship, Fellowship & Ministry



Monday Morning Walks

Throughout the year, every Monday morning irrespective of the weather. Come wind, sun or rain, we meet either at the Church, where lifts are arranged (ready to depart by 9.30am), or go straight to where the walk starts.

People are notified by text or WhatsApp the day before where we intend walking.

This season we have been particularly blessed with having mostly good weather on Monday mornings. Long may this continue! The walks are varied, usually up to 4 miles in length and can be anywhere, usually within half an hours drive from the Church.

We walk at a leisurely pace and take a drink and a snack with us, arriving back at the Church usually around 1pm. Numbers vary as people are free to join in at any time and some walkers bring their friendly dogs as well. For the first time since these walks started 11 years ago, we have averaged double figures.

We are a friendly group who have a lovely time, good exercise and enjoy breath-taking scenery as well as each others company. All are very welcome to join in whether associated with the Church or not.

A reminder to anyone joining us - please bring a drink, snack and to wear suitable footwear and clothing for the varied weather conditions.

Andrew Chatfield



Flower Team



God's gifts of flowers and foliage are used by the flower arrangers to enhance and bless the Sunday and Tuesday services before they are distributed to those who are sick, in need of prayer or celebrating a special occasion.

A big "thank you" to the team of flower arrangers, donors and weekly distributors who carry out this ministry - we could not do this without you.

In January Averil Cozens retired from leading the Team and we are grateful to Averil (ably assisted by Gareth) for all she has done for more than 10 years. We are pleased that Averil continues to arrange church flowers and are delighted to report that three new flower arrangers have joined the team. Averil's role has been shared between various team members as we continue to use our gifts and talents to the Glory of God.

The window baskets distributed at Easter and Harvest have been very much appreciated and in May, to celebrate the King's Coronation, we provided table arrangements for the Lunch Club and special displays in church.

Once again, many thanks to all those who donate money, arrange the flowers and take them out - more volunteers are always welcome!

PMC Flower Team

Minutes of PMC ACM 31st July 2022

Present: please see attached list

Apologies: David & Gillian Belford; Alison Birkett; Irene Jones; Nigel & Rachel Smith

Tim gave an overview of where we now are. There has been so much change in the last 2 years: Covid and lockdowns; David taking on the responsibility of KOAM; GILUU; fewer members; Duncan no longer Property Steward. However, there are clear signs that God is at work in and through us! We should be encouraged by Isaiah 43:19:

'See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland.'

Please see all the reports in the ACM booklet. This is a summary of what is happening currently at PMC.

- New people are regularly attending PMC & activities have started again
- There are new people playing in the Worship team and leading worship
- Morgan is now our Missional Pioneer & Communities Lay Pastor & alongside Keith, Gareth & Helen Brunskill he has re-started the Crib Service & the Tuesday, Friday & Saturday youth groups. A badminton court has been taped out which is what the young people wanted.
- Morgan has re-established links with UCC & a 2-week prayer space was very successful. There was a Q&A session with 6th formers about various issues & Morgan & others will become the chaplaincy team from September going into assemblies, RE & Philosophy classes & being involved in Mental Health work
- Morgan said how valuable the Friday Lunch Club team is as a means for people to connect with friends who, otherwise, may not be able to get out or socialize
- Alpha was held in the General Wolfe which enabled contact with the regulars. 3 Alpha attendees made commitments to Christ
- CAP is very busy and provides a vital service in helping people caught in debt poverty. Candidates have found work by attending the CAP Job Club
- 4F are continuing to run during the school holidays. 1 Afghan family recently attended who have just moved to Penrith. We should be proud & excited as we move forward with family & outreach at the center of our church. A huge thank you to all involved in all these groups

- Holiday Club is resuming
- Worship is vibrant, House-Groups are thriving, and there are many community groups using our building as a safe space to meet

The Church Council Away Day on 12th March explored what God is calling us to be. We know God wants us to be Upward looking, Outward looking, Forward looking, and Inclusive looking. We agreed the whole church should be actively engaged and involved in determining our vision and way forward. Thoughts & verses were put on large stones to start building a cairn to mark where God has led us, and where God is taking us. A whole church vision weekend is being held 1st - 2nd October at PMC. God has amazing things in store for us.

Treasurer's report

Please see ACM booklet for Patricia's detailed report. Patricia is stepping down as treasurer at the end of August, so she has provided as much information as possible for someone to take over in this role. Nobody has come forward yet. There has been a loss of income due to regular givers leaving PMC, so it is important that we all give what we can. Malcolm said that we can claim 25% of cash gifts up to £30 in the baskets. It was raised that it would be good to have a donation box or a card device in the building if users during the week wanted to give.

Property Report

Please see Duncan's report in the ACM booklet. Duncan has stepped down as Property Steward & we haven't yet found a successor. Duncan did an amazing job, saving PMC a lot of money. Kath was asked to send him a thank you letter.

The property team is now made up of Lindsay Wilson, Lloyd Graham, Iain Much, Dave Fortey, Don Agus, Bryan Gardiner, Tracey Cooke, Steve Clements & Jim Irving. Steve and Jim are overseeing the property budget for the coming year. Dave Fortey is in the Building Industry and has trained as an architect which is very helpful to the group. Marion has stepped down as Property Secretary. She was thanked for the many years she was in that role.

Life of the church

Hebrews 12: 1-2: *Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith*

Ange referred to this scripture & spoke about the success of Toddler group, Explore, the Tuesday morning service, 4F, Woodlands services, the Lunch Club, House Groups, Youth Groups, our worship, Flower teams, Pastoral support, and many other initiatives. She thanked those who help with more 'unseen' but important things like Health & Safety, Safeguarding, sound and projection, music, administration, welcomers, and those who serve coffee and provide hospitality. She said how blessed we are to have so many talented & dedicated people at PMC.

Please see the attached list of all the organisations that use PMC.

Church Council Elections

Stepping down:

Sarah Hulme

Fred Setters

Rachel Tate (taking a break)

Retiring

Patricia Coop will be retiring

David Selby has retired

New Stewards voted in

Helen Brunskill (Children & Families)

Graham Frost (Worship)

New Congregational Reps voted in

Lauren Frost

Chris Hulme

Helen Mayo

Anne McDonald

Please see attached list of Church Council Members.