



East Cumbria **Methodist** Circuit



## Weekly Bulletin Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> November 2023

### From the East

I know it's not yet Advent and I'm aware that closer to 6<sup>th</sup> January (Epiphany) might be a better time to share these thoughts. But at around this time each year I tend to think about the story of Matthew's account of the 'wise men' simply because they, along with Simeon and Anna in Luke, are clearly active in anticipating the birth of someone special, probably for a long time before the narratives we collectively consider to be 'the Nativity'.

If you read the first 12 verses of Matthew 2 with an inquisitive mind, one can't help but come away with a few questions.

Who were these 'wise men'? Where from the east did they come? Why were they looking for a significant event in a distant land in the first place? How could they conclude just by looking at the night sky that a significant Jewish king would be born? What compelled them to find and worship him? How did they know to follow 'his star' and astronomically, how does that work?

Interesting questions, but the reality is we can never be absolutely certain and an internet search session will send you in many different directions. Our caricature Christmas card image of three camel-riding kings is pure speculation. (There were three gifts not necessarily three men and no mention of camels.) Many embellished stories, songs and artwork over the centuries have created for us a colourful mythology to enjoy.



I find a possible connection to the story of Daniel compelling: "King Nebuchadnezzar appointed him chief of the magicians, enchanters, astrologers and diviners" (Dan 5:11). Historically, Magi were associated with both Babylonian astrologers and Persian priests and their wisdom contained a mix of astrology, astronomy, interpreting dreams, and practicing magic.

Matthew shows they knew scripture too - they quoted Micah 5:2 to Herod and his entourage. This makes me think they were familiar with Daniel's story too, perhaps even tracing their lineage back to that period - which would help

answer a couple of the questions above. No doubt they were impressed with his ability to interpret visions/dreams as well as his and other prophets' statements about the future.

Whoever they were, their presence and message were taken with utmost seriousness and Herod was deeply disturbed. I wonder if Matthew is emphasising that the birth of Jesus is so much bigger than the prevailing Jewish worldview – it's truly global news. Are we willing to discern, follow and share this news with the same commitment that they did?

*Shane McNichol*



**Penrith**

**10.30am** ~ Morning Worship ~ Rev. Beth Honey

**Reading:** Ephesians 1: 15 - 23

**7pm** ~ Encounter ~ Café Style Service

**Skelton**

**10.30am** ~ Morning Communion ~ Rev. David Milner

**Stainton**

**10.30am** ~ Morning Worship ~ Mrs Jan Blackshaw

**Cottage Wood Centre**

**3pm** ~ Afternoon Communion ~ Rev Tim Cooke

**Alston Moor**

**11am** ~ Morning Worship ~ Rev. Mary Elliot

**Kirkoswald**

**10am** ~ Morning Worship ~ Rev. Tim Cooke

**Gamblesby**

**2pm** ~ Afternoon Worship ~ Mr. Lawrence Tomlinson

**Renwick**

**3pm** ~ Baptism – Rev. David Milner

**Salkeld Dykes**

**6pm** ~ Evening Worship ~ Rev. David Milner

***There are alternative Anglican services available.***

***For details, please see the EEMC website: [www.eastofedenmc.org.uk](http://www.eastofedenmc.org.uk)***

# Weekly Diary

## **Monday 27<sup>th</sup> November**

- 9.30am** ~ Monday Walks – Meet outside PMC  
**2pm** ~ Bible Fellowship ~ Skelton Methodist Church  
**6.15pm** ~ Choral Group – Sandgate/PMC  
**7.30pm** ~ Monday Zoom Prayer

## **Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> November**

- 10am** ~ Midweek Service ~ Miss Kathleen Williamson – Church/PMC  
**NO** 'He Brews' Coffee Club – *Cancelled in respect to the late Tony Jackson whose funeral is being held at 11am in Addingham Church.*  
**10.30am** ~ CAP Job Club – Beacon/PMC  
**7pm** ~ Omega HG – Sunningdale, Stainton  
**7.30pm** ~ Junior Youth Club - Ullswater/PMC

## **Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> November**

- 10am** ~ 3Cs – Cottage Wood Centre  
**1.30pm** ~ Wednesday Get Together - Skelton Methodist Church  
**7pm** ~ Blencow HG – The Hollies, Blencow (*We meet twice monthly at 7pm on a Wednesday. Contact Steve on 07711 088448 for further details.*)

## **Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> November**

- 1pm** ~ Thursday Tots - Ullswater/PMC  
**2pm** ~ Parklands HG – PMC (*Decorating Christmas window.*)  
**6.30pm** ~ Carols by Candlelight Practice – Church/PMC  
**7.30pm** ~ Alpha Course – Restore Shop, New Squares, Penrith

## **Friday 1<sup>st</sup> December**

- 12 noon** ~ Lunch Club - Ullswater/PMC

## **Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> December**

- 11am – 2pm** ~ Christmas Fair – Gamblesby Methodist Church

## **Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> December – Advent Week 1**

- Penrith: 10.30am** ~ Morning Communion ~ Rev. Tim Cooke  
**Skelton: 10.30am** ~ Morning Communion ~ Rev. Gillian Belford  
**Stainton: 10.30am** ~ Morning Worship ~ Miss Kathleen Williamson  
**Cottage Wood: 3pm** ~ Afternoon Worship ~ Mr. Morgan Tebb-Roger  
**Alston Moor: 11am** ~ Local Arrangement ~ Mrs Pauline de la Mare  
**Nenthead: 5pm** ~ Pennine Praise  
**Culgaith: 11am** ~ Morning Worship ~ Rev. David Milner  
**Langwathby: 5pm** ~ Taize Service



Encounter

Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> November, 7pm at PMC.

This will be a Café Style Service.

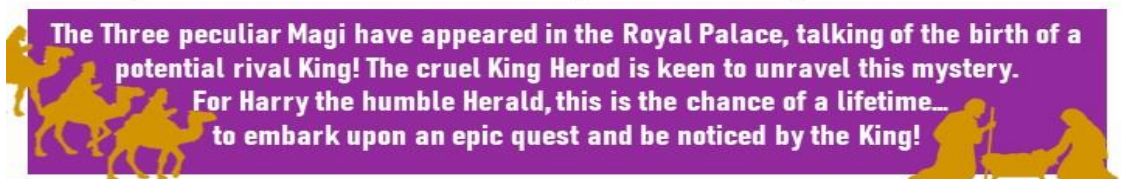
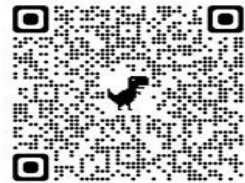
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Monday 27<sup>th</sup> November 2023 6 p.m.

Wigton Road Methodist Church,  
Carlisle CA2 7BJ

Reserve your free ticket at [eventbrite.co.uk](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk) or just come on the night!



*Explore the nativity like never before with plenty of songs, plenty of laughs and a very boo-able baddie!*

**A 1 hour show suitable for families and children of all ages!**

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### Sad News

We are sad to announce that Keith Scott passed away on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> November. Please hold the family - especially Jeannette, Helen, Graham, Lauren and Joe, Rebecca and Naomi in your prayers.

We will advise on the arrangements for a Service of Thanksgiving in due course.



WWW.WCCM.ORG

# RESPONDING TO THE CRY OF THE EARTH



Online meditation on the eve of COP28

November 28th, 14.00 - 14.45 (London)  
(9.00 New York; 18.00 Dubai)

*At this critical moment in human history we need to cultivate a transformational "ecology of the heart"*

A time of silent meditation introduced by  
Laurence Freeman OSB (Director of the World Community for  
Christian Meditation)  
and Kaveh Guilanpour (Former Senior Advisor, UN Secretary-  
General's climate team)

Those of all faith traditions - or none - are warmly invited to  
participate in this vital global event

<https://wccm.org/events/cop28>

## Can you give a financial donation to our 2023 "Bags of Hope" Christmas Appeal

*Eden CAP Debt Centre will supply "Bag's of Hope" to each client household. These will contain a groceries voucher for food shopping, credit towards gas & electric for the home, Argos gift cards for child presents, along with invites to carol services and a magazine full of hope-filled scriptures.*



### GIVING INSTRUCTIONS:

Please can donations be received by Monday 11<sup>th</sup> December.  
Please use Reference: "CAP Blessings 2023"

Bank Transfers can be made to  
Sort Code: 20-66-97, Account Number: 83540006

Cheques can be paid to:  
"Penrith Methodist Church General CAP Account"  
PMC Church office, Wordsworth St, Penrith. CA11 7QY

## AT GAMBLESBY METHODIST CHURCH

### HE BREWS COFFEE CLUB

EVERY TUESDAY 10am - 12pm

Except 26 December

Enjoy games, crafts or just a chat only £1



### CHRISTMAS FAIR

SATURDAY 2 DECEMBER 11am – 2pm

Stalls with tea/coffee refreshments

*Craft & produce stalls, fun for the children and goodies for all!*



*Funds for Little Acorns Children's Christian Creative Club*

### COMMUNITY NATIVITY SERVICE

FRIDAY 22 DECEMBER at 4 pm

*A magical start to the Christmas weekend*

Everyone Welcome

followed by light refreshments



*For further information, please contact Claire  
on 07756932116 or email: gamblesbymethodist@gmail.com*

**\*Please Note there is no 'He Brews' Coffee Club this Tuesday.** It has been cancelled in respect to the late Tony Jackson whose funeral is being held at 11am in Addingham Church.

## Cards in the PMC Glasshouse

I filled up the box of cards in the glasshouse for the last time last week. Many thanks to those who contributed material for me to use. Thank you also to everyone who bought the cards over the last 13 years and by doing so helped PMC.

Vera Scott.



*May we also express our thanks to you, Vera, for all the lovely cards you have made over the years. They have been very much appreciated by so many people, in addition to the funds they have raised for the church.*

***If anyone else would like to take over supplying handmade cards, please contact the Circuit Office.***

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## Operation Christmas Child

A big thank you to everyone for their shoe boxes. PMC has been one of the Penrith collection centres this year and we have received 277 boxes so far!

Judith was ably assisted by Dave (pictured) to pack them all into the boxes ready to be dispatched.

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## PMC Sunday Lunch

The next Church Lunch will be on Sunday 3rd December after the 10.30am service.

Pasta Bake or Maccaroni Cheese  
Donations of homemade cakes (no fresh cream) will be much appreciated for dessert.





## Saltmine Theatre Group

Please note, this is a Christian touring theatre company with a new take on the traditional story. It is not 'a Christmas Panto'!

Children's tickets are free, but they must be accompanied by adults.

We would be grateful if you would encourage families to make use of this opportunity.

For any further information please contact Rev. Andrew Gardner. (See poster details for contact details.)

**Join us and find fellowship.**

Taking inspiration from the Wesley's Holy Club, join us in an online fellowship group for Young Adults within the Methodist Church. Check the caption on how to join!

## Methodist Young Adults Fellowship

"Taking inspiration from the Wesley's Holy Club, Methodist Young Adult Fellowship (MYAF) has been formed by a group of Young Adults within the Methodist Church as a group to offer fellowship to one another. Comprising of a WhatsApp group and monthly Zoom gatherings, MYAF hopes to be a safe and inclusive space for young adults to meet, chat, pray and get to know one another in a church which can sometimes feel very grey.

The group is for 18-30 year olds who have connections with the Methodist Church and would like to spend time connecting with other young adult Methodists."

To find out more email Naomi Prince from the Yorkshire North East District: [admin@yorkshirenemethodist.org](mailto:admin@yorkshirenemethodist.org).





If you have school-age young people in your life, you may have heard of NISCU – Northern Inter-Schools Christian Union.

NISCU is a charity covering most of Cumbria, North Lancashire and the Craven area. NISCU workers help schools with their R.E. provision from a Christian perspective. This might take the form of supporting the RE teaching with lessons or workshops, helping to provide Collective Worship, leading clubs, encouraging and training volunteers, providing a listening service or any other way NISCU can support if asked.

Here in the Eden Valley there are currently two part-time staff; Andi Taylor, who mostly works with schools in Upper Eden, and Ruth Evans, who works with schools in the Penrith area – including the many rural primary schools. Andi is particularly skilled in encouraging children to create artworks (you may see them on display in schools) or you may have heard of Fajita the chicken – a puppet who often accompanies Ruth!

During the festive season you will often find Andi & Ruth involved with 'Christmas walkthrough' events. These are opportunities to invite children of different ages to come and 'meet' some of the key characters involved in the Biblical nativity, and find out the reason for the season – that Jesus came to earth as a baby, as a part of God's big story of bringing love and salvation to a world in need. They love to tell children of the hope that Jesus brings. This year, in our smaller schools, this will also involve children making their own 'Christmas story cards' with fingerprint pictures for each aspect of the story.

We value the prayerful support of local Christians, and prayers we would really appreciate are ...

Giving thanks for all those who work in our area to support, care for and encourage children and young people.

Asking that the festive season for families throughout Eden will be filled with joy and hope.

*If you want to know more, contact [ruth.evans@niscu.org.uk](mailto:ruth.evans@niscu.org.uk)*

# CHRISTMAS SERVICES

## SUNDAY 17TH DECEMBER

7PM - PMC, CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT

## FRIDAY 22ND DECEMBER

3PM - PMC, CRIB SERVICE

4PM - GAMBLESBY, NATIVITY

## CHRISTMAS EVE

10.30AM - PMC, CAROLS IN TOWN

11AM - LANGWATHBY, CAROLS & COFFEE

4PM - RENWICK, CHRISTINGLE

6PM - KIRKOSWALD, NATIVITY WALK

6PM - SALKELD DYKES, CHRISTINGLE

11.30PM - PMC, MIDNIGHT COMMUNION

## CHRISTMAS DAY

10AM - SKELTON, MRS. LOIS MORTON

10.30AM - PMC, MR. MORGAN TEBB-ROGER

10.30AM - STAINTON, REV. TIM COOKE



### **Lessons & Carols Service at PMC**

If anyone would like to do a reading at the Lessons & Carols service on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> December at 10.30am, please contact the Circuit Office.

**Out  
of the  
Ordinary**

## Christmas at PMC

### Sunday 17th December

10.30am  
Traditional Lessons  
& Carols

7pm  
Carols by Candlelight

### Friday 22nd December

3pm  
Crib Service  
inc. Dress Up Nativity!

### Sunday 24th December

10.30am  
Carols in Town  
11.30pm  
Midnight Communion

### Christmas Day

10.30am  
Christmas Celebration!

### Sunday 31st December

10.30am  
End of Year Praise



*Scratch Beneath The  
Surface This Christmas*

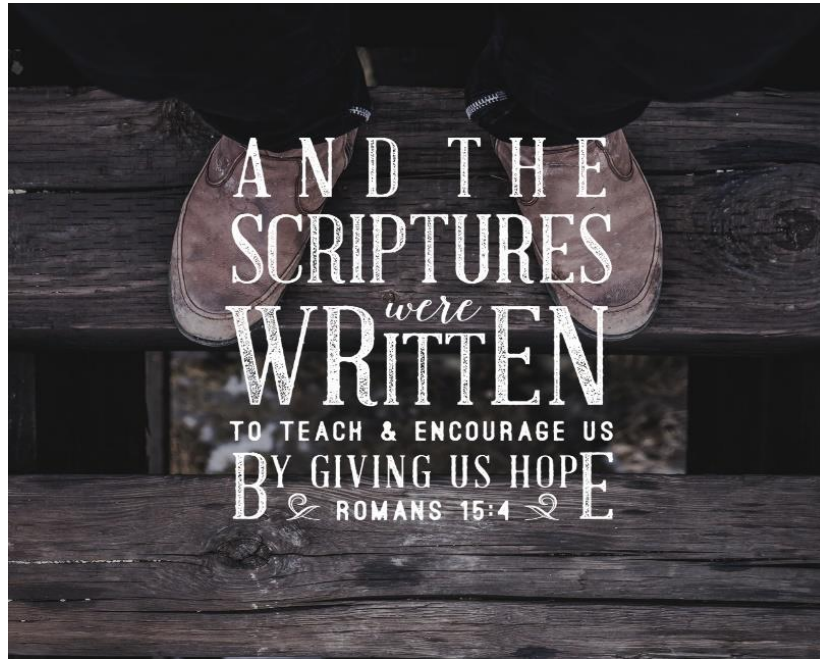
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### PMC Christmas Charities

Thank you for your charity nominations. The Leadership Team have agreed to support the CAP Eden Debt Centre and Unicef Palestine/Gaza Appeal.



## Thought for the Week



## Contact Details:

### Co-Superintendent Ministers

**Rev. Tim Cooke:** 01768 890465 or email: [tim.cooke@methodist.org.uk](mailto:tim.cooke@methodist.org.uk)

**Rev. David Milner:** 01768 863209 or email: [dave@revmilner.plus.com](mailto:dave@revmilner.plus.com)

**Circuit Pastor: Rev. Keith Speck:** 01768 898257 or email: [keithspck1@googlemail.com](mailto:keithspck1@googlemail.com)

**Missional Pioneer & Communities Lay Pastor: Morgan Tebb-Roger:** 07949 156051  
or email: [outreach@penrithmethodist.co.uk](mailto:outreach@penrithmethodist.co.uk)

**Stainton Outreach Worker: Trace Cooke:** 01768 890465  
or email: [tracecooke1@gmail.com](mailto:tracecooke1@gmail.com)

**Circuit Office:** 01768 862787 or email: [admin@penrithmethodist.co.uk](mailto:admin@penrithmethodist.co.uk)  
(Open 9am - 1pm, Monday to Friday)

**Circuit Administrative Manager: Sarah Mulheron**

**Administrative Assistant: Maureen Brunskill**

**Premises Manager: Lindsay Wilson**

**Eden Debt Centre Manager (CAP): Jon Cook** (currently on Sabbatical)

**Contact:** Jen Dixon, email: [jendixon@capuk.org](mailto:jendixon@capuk.org)

**Cottage Wood Centre - Please send a request to join our Facebook group.**

**East of Eden Mission Community Website:** [www.eastofedenmc.org.uk](http://www.eastofedenmc.org.uk)

**PMC Website:** [www.penrithmethodist.co.uk](http://www.penrithmethodist.co.uk)

**Find our Sunday services on YouTube**

**Follow us on Twitter @PMCmethodists and on Facebook**

**Let's stay connected with one another!**

