



East Cumbria **Methodist** Circuit



## Weekly Bulletin Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> December 2023

### **A Day for the Least. Not the Most.**

Let's state the obvious: the reason this season is so special to us is because we believe that Jesus' birth was God taking on human form to walk among us. This was something so out of the ordinary, and yet it was done in such an ordinary way. God didn't come as someone born into a noble or rich family; he didn't just materialise on earth. Jesus' birth was just as messy and painful as yours or mine.

When Jesus was born, He brought with Him a light to shine in the darkness and a hope to lift the hearts of those in despair. He came to show us that peace and love are the only things that can change this dark world and it doesn't necessarily take someone who is rich and powerful to achieve this. In fact, it's usually those who are rich and powerful who contribute to the darkness most. It takes someone who has faith. Someone who is brave enough to stand up and say something needs to change.

Christmas has become a season for those who have it all. It's been overrun by consumerism. It's turned into an annual holiday where people spend scary amounts of money and see it as an excuse to eat and drink all they like. This day was never meant to be a day where the rich and powerful celebrate as they see how much profit they've made in the festive season. It wasn't meant for us to thoughtlessly eat and drink ourselves silly in front of 'Love Actually'. Christmas is a day where those who are in darkness see a light. Where refugees find hope as they are reminded of how the refugee called Jesus stood up against the oppressive empire, and created a movement of love, peace, and justice.

Christmas should be a day where soldiers put down their weapons, where the missiles cease to fire, and another way to peace is found. So, as we draw closer to Christmas, may we not be blindfolded by the capitalist society in which we live. But open our eyes to the hope that is Jesus.



\* Image generated by AI.

*Morgan Tebb-Roger  
Pioneer Lay Minister*



**Penrith**

**10.30am** ~ Morning Worship ~ Rev. Andrew Callaway

**Reading:** 2 Peter 3: 8 – 15a

**Patterdale**

**10.30am** ~ Morning Worship ~ Mr. Lawrence Tomlinson

**Skelton**

**10.30am** ~ Morning Worship ~ Mrs Carolyn Dickinson

**Stainton**

**10.30am** ~ Morning Communion ~ Rev. Tim Cooke

**Cottage Wood Centre**

**3pm** ~ Afternoon Worship ~ Mr. Michael Boone

**Alston Moor**

**11am** ~ Morning Worship ~ Mr. David Pepin

**Langwathby**

**11am** ~ Morning Worship ~ Mrs Lois Morton

**Kirkoswald**

**10am** ~ Morning Worship ~ Rev. David Milner

**Gamblesby**

**2pm** ~ Afternoon Worship ~ Rev. David Milner

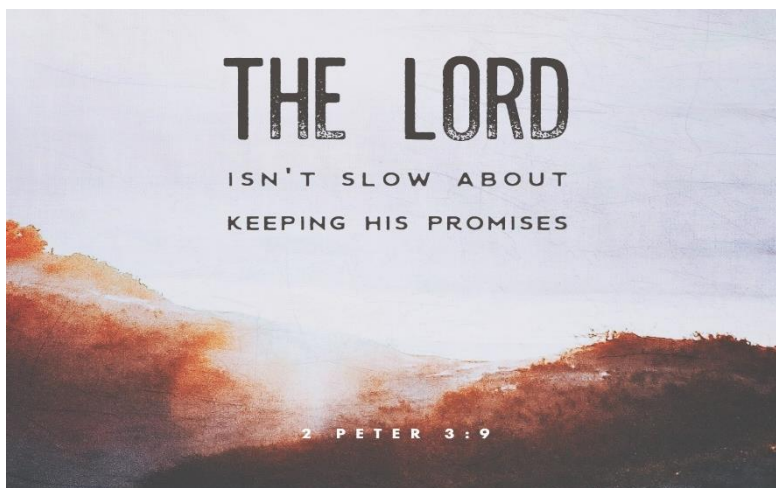
**Renwick**

**5pm** ~ Afternoon 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)***

**Thought for the Week**



# Weekly Diary

## **Monday 11<sup>th</sup> December**

**9.30am** ~ Monday Walks – Meet outside PMC

**2pm** ~ All Together Fellowship – Sandgate/PMC

**2pm** ~ Bible Fellowship – Skelton Methodist Church

**6.30pm** ~ Choral Group – Carol Singing at Woodlands MHA, Penrith

**6.30pm** ~ Carols by Candlelight Practice – Church/PMC

**7.30pm** ~ Monday Zoom Prayer

## **Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> December**

**10am** ~ Midweek Service ~ Mr. Lawrence Tomlinson – Church/PMC

**10am** ~ 'He Brews' Coffee Club – Gamblesby Methodist Chapel

**10.30am** ~ CAP Job Club Christmas Celebration – Beacon/PMC

**7.30pm** ~ Junior Youth Club - Ullswater/PMC

## **Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December**

**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 14<sup>th</sup> December**

**1pm** ~ Thursday Tots - Ullswater/PMC

Take Tea Out Christmas Lunch – Cottage Wood Centre (*Fully booked*)

**7.30pm** ~ Eden Singers Christmas Concert – Church/PMC

## **Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December**

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

## **Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> December – Advent Week 3**

**Penrith: 10.30am** ~ Lessons & Carols ~ Rev. Tim Cooke

**7pm** ~ Carols by Candlelight – 'Yuletide Radio Hour'

**Skelton: 11am** ~ Carols at St. Michael's Church

**Stainton: 10.30am** ~ Morning Worship ~ Mrs Carolyn Dickinson

**Cottage Wood: 3pm** ~ Afternoon Communion ~ Rev. David Milner

**Alston Moor: 3pm** ~ Carol Service ~ Rev. Keith Speck

**Gamblesby: 10am** ~ Little Acorns ~ Mrs Claire Slee

**Salkeld Dykes: 6pm** ~ Carol Service



Skelton Methodist Church invite you to

## **A Bring and Share Christmas Lunch**

(Please just bring one item)

Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> December 2023 at 12.30pm

Any donations are for Church Funds for new windows

Everyone Welcome

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Women's Fellowship and 3Ms were for many years groups which were well supported and much appreciated by a lot of people. Sadly, with the onset of Covid in 2020, they like other such bodies, ceased to meet. We recently talked to a goodly number of folk about the possibility of merging Women's Fellowship with 3Ms, and we were encouraged by the response, which was both positive and enthusiastic.

The decision was made and we are going to be called:-

The **"ALL TOGETHER FELLOWSHIP"** Group

You are very welcome to the launch meeting.

**WHEN:- MONDAY DECEMBER 11th at 2pm**

**WHERE:- SANDGATE ROOM AT PMC**

This first get-together will take the form of a Christmas miscellany. There will be readings, poems, etc, which include the Christmas story in verse accompanied by a visual display, and interspersed with carols.

Afterwards we will enjoy some light seasonal refreshments.

Please note that the group will meet on a regular basis starting in January.

A programme of meetings with dates is currently being prepared.

John & Margaret (Gore)



**THANK YOU!**

Samaritan's Purse sends special thanks to

*Penrith Methodist Church*

for packing Operation Christmas Child shoebox gifts and sending Good News and great joy to precious children around the world!

*Nick Cole*

Nick Cole, Director of Operation Christmas Child UK



Operation Christmas Child is a project of Samaritan's Purse.  
Franklin Graham, President | 0208 559 1180 | [samaritans-purse.org.uk/occ](http://samaritans-purse.org.uk/occ)  
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UK Charity No. 1001349, Scotland SC039251,  
Company No. 2462257.

**We received the above thank you from the team who collected the shoeboxes from PMC.**

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### Thank You

A huge thank you to everybody who supported the Little Acorns Christmas Fair last Saturday. Despite the snowy weather affecting attendance, £617 was raised which will go to provide resources for this group.

A reminder that Little Acorns will be leading the Gamblesby Community Nativity at 4pm on Friday 22nd December in the chapel. The service will also be broadcast on Eden FM 107.5.



## Thank You

Grattan Bowen thanks you all for your prayers and good wishes. He is now back at home and making good progress in his recovery.

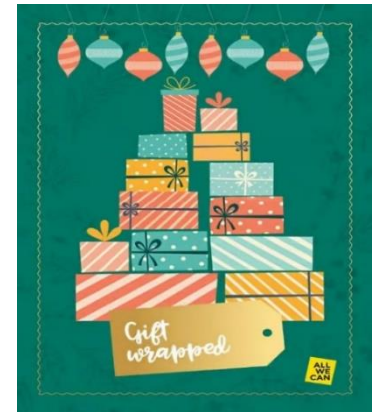


## Communal Christmas card

Instead of sending individual cards to members of our Church family, we invite you to sign our large card and put a donation to All We Can into the globe. The card will be in the crush hall at the back of church.

The Extraordinary Gifts catalogue is on-line at [allwecan.org.uk](http://allwecan.org.uk) if you want to do your own shopping.

Thank you.



## Christmas Time With Eden Singers

Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> December, 7.30pm at PMC

Enjoy a seasonal selection of music by John Rutter, Philip Stopford, David Wilcocks & Sir Paul McCartney.

Tickets £8 available from Styleline or on the door.

Proceeds in aid of 3 Dads Walking



**PAPYRUS**  
PREVENTION OF YOUNG SUICIDE



## Carol Singing with the Town Band

Churches Together in Penrith have been invited to join the town Band in singing Christmas Carols on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> December. If you are free that day, please come and add your voice to bless our community! Details of times and where we will be sent soon.

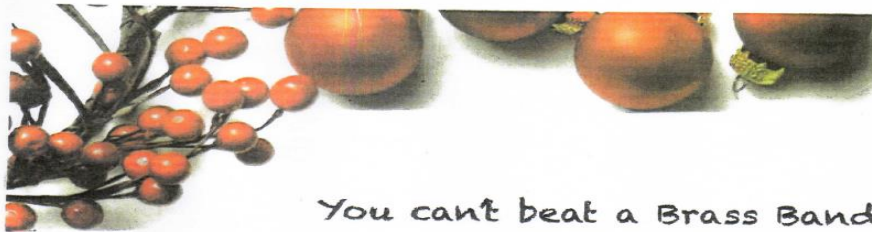
Penrith Methodist Church  
Presents...

# YULETIDE RADIO HOUR

17 December  
at 7pm

Journey back in time taking  
part in a 'live' radio show  
enjoying carols by candlelight!

Admission Free - All Welcomed  
Wordsworth Street, Penrith, Cumbria CA11 7QY



You can't beat a Brass Band  
at Christmas!

***Carlisle St. Stephen's Band***

**Christmas  
Concert**

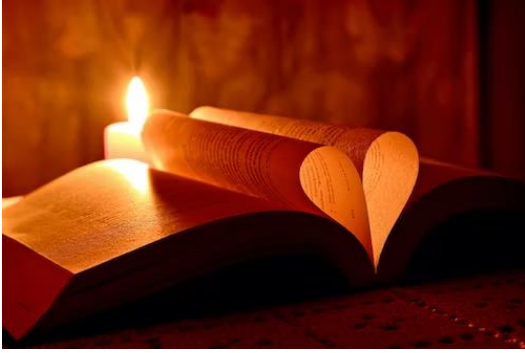
*introducing*

**'Belle Vue School Ukuleles'**

***Carlisle Methodist Church @ Wigton Road***

***Wednesday 20th December at 7.00pm***

***Tickets £5 or pay at the door  
(festive refreshment included)***



## Advent Prayer Space

Please do visit and engage with the Advent prayer space at PMC, which is under the stairs in the reception area.

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## NEEDED – URGENTLY!

### CANDLES

New candles - - - - Old candles  
Ends of candles - - - - ANY candles!

These will be taken to an orphanage and refugee centre in UKRAINE where they will be made into TRENCH CANDLES, which are used for light, heat and even cooking.

Thank you!



Any candles can be left in the blue box in the glasshouse at PMC.

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## Monday Walks

Please Note: There will be no Monday walk on Christmas day, but there will be one on New Year's Day.







**Do you enjoy building relationships and reaching deeper into local neighbourhoods?**

**Do you have a heart for rural communities ?**

**Do you want a new challenge?**

The East of Eden Mission Community is looking for a Pioneer Minister,  
who will:

- Listen to the needs of the local community and identify areas where we can work in partnership with local agencies and churches to tend to spiritual, social, mental and physical wellbeing in the local communities
- Develop and strengthen church initiatives and develop appropriate Fresh Expressions and worshipping communities.
- Recruit, inspire, equip and support volunteers and build teams engaged in this work of making and growing disciples.
- Be passionate about working ecumenically in our rurally disparate and disconnected communities to ensure good relationships and connections are built through a ministry of presence in the local area.

This is a full-time position, 37.5 hours a week.

Salary: £28,825

This post is subject to an occupational requirement that the post holder be a practicing Christian under Part 1 of Schedule 9 of the Equality Act 2010.

Closing date for applications: 9am 18th January 2024.

Interviews: 31st January.

Please return completed applications to: [cumbriamethodistnnpn@outlook.com](mailto:cumbriamethodistnnpn@outlook.com)

For full Job Application Pack click [here](#)



## **Congratulations!!**



We are delighted to send our congratulations to Bea Hulme, who has been elected Methodist Youth President for 2024/25.

Most of you will know that Bea is a member here at PMC, and is currently studying Theology at Chester University. The Youth President is a full-time one year post, as part of the Methodist Connexional Team from the 1 August 2024, serving the children and young people of the Methodist Church in Britain.

The role involves meeting and representing young people to ensure that their voices are heard and to helping them be involved in every aspect of Church life.

For someone from Cumbria to be elected to this role, and someone from our own church family, is quite amazing. But we are not at all surprised knowing Bea's passion and energy for making life with God relevant, meaningful and fun for everyone!

Bea - we are super-proud of you, and pray that God richly blesses your ministry in this role! Well done from everyone at PMC and East Cumbria Methodist Circuit!

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### **Advance Notice The Christmas Circuit Bulletin**

As the Circuit Office will be closed between Christmas and New Year, there will be a double edition of the Circuit Bulletin for Sundays 24<sup>th</sup> & 31<sup>st</sup> December.



Please can any items for that period, up to 7<sup>th</sup> January, be sent to the Circuit Office by 9am on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> December, at the latest.

## 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:** 07464 939138  
or email: [joncook@capuk.org](mailto:joncook@capuk.org)

**Debt Coach:** Jen Dixon: 07799 271710 or 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!**

