



East Cumbria **Methodist** Circuit



## Weekly Bulletin Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> December 2023

Dear Friends,

In 1971 John Lennon wrote...*'So this is Christmas, and what have you done?'*

The Opening Lyrics to the Song itself, asking the question of us.

What is the Church's message at Christmas?

To some it might seem obvious, but in the smoke and confusion of our present world situation I am not so sure if the Church understands its role and message any longer, let's just put the shouting voices, the bangles, bells and Bojangles to one side and think about it...Mary the Mother of Jesus points us in the right direction I feel.

**A few weeks back I felt the Holy Spirit nudge me in this direction, on numerous occasions the Bible shows Mary simply presenting Jesus...offering him up if you will, to Shepherds, to the Magi, to Simeon and Anna in the Temple, to the Servants at Cana in Galilee....HERE IS JESUS THE CHRIST...**

This is not a complicated thing, it's not convoluted or difficult or wrapped in crackly foil and tinsel, its simple saving truth and so totally the best we can bring and give to our world, our neighbours, our friends and family. This IS our message, this our Song...EMMANUEL...'THE CHRIST COME TO US'

Through the season of advent and into Christmas we MUST simply present Jesus the Christ, not hide behind the Church itself, its trappings and adornments, its traditions, and its décor, nor hide behind our own embellishments and persuasions, our own fine tunings and trimmings which we are apt to do so often.



For sure, people out there are searching for something, or someone to really believe in, there is a real vacuum in people's lives, who do we now trust, who do we now believe in?

The very basis and foundations of many people's lives are being shaken, so much is unstable and rocking, whether its employment, careers, housing, food,

energy, family values or the future itself, so much is registering on the richer scale of life...the needle is off the graph paper.

'And we have this treasure in our earthen vessels' this message of HOPE and PEACE through the living Christ Jesus, May the Holy Spirit Inspire us and give us openings to 'PRESENT JESUS' this advent season and on into the New Year 'this is NOT a drill' this is the real thing, what an opportunity to reveal God's grace to a troubled world.

*Keith Speck  
Kirkoswald*



**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 Centre**

**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

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

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

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**Midweek Service**

Please note: There will be no service on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> December at PMC.

# Weekly Diary

## **Monday 18<sup>th</sup> December**

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

**6.15pm** ~ Choral Group – Sandgate/PMC

**7.30pm** ~ Monday Zoom Prayer

## **Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> December**

**10am** ~ Midweek Service ~ Miss Kathleen Williamson – Church/PMC

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

## **Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> December**

**1.30pm** ~ Wednesday Get Together - Skelton Methodist Church

**3pm** ~ Carol Service – Woodlands MHA, Bridge Lane, Penrith

**7pm** ~ Blencow HG – The Hollies, Blencow (*We meet twice monthly at 7pm on a Wednesday. Contact Steve on 07711 088448 for further details.*)

## **Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> December**

**12 noon** ~ 4F – Ullswater/PMC

**3pm** ~ Crib Service – Church/PMC

**4pm** ~ Community Nativity – Gamblesby Methodist Church

## **Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> December – Christmas Eve - Advent 4**

**Penrith: 10.30am** ~ Carols in Town – Meet at PMC at 10.30am

**11.30pm** ~ Midnight Communion ~ Rev. Tim Cooke

**Alston Moor: 11am** ~ Morning Communion ~ Rev. David Milner

**Langwathby: 11am** ~ Carols & Coffee ~ Local Arrangement

**Kirkoswald: 6pm** ~ Nativity Walk

**Renwick: 4pm** ~ Christingle ~ Rev. David Milner

**Great Salkeld: 6pm** ~ Christingle at St. Cuthberts Church

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## **'On the 7th day God rested' (Genesis 2:2)**

Just a quick note to ask everyone to please respect our wonderful staff when they come to worship on a Sunday.

They come to worship, not work, so please save any work-related matter for office hours.

Thank you all!

Rev. Tim.





## **Carol Singing with the Town Band**

Churches Together in Penrith have been invited to join the Town Band in singing Christmas Carols in Penrith on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> December at 2pm - just look for the band. If you are free that day, please come and add your voice to bless our community!

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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

**Seasonal refreshments will be served at the end and any offers of help or donations of mince pies would be much appreciated.**

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## **Gamblesby Community Nativity**

A reminder that Little Acorns will be leading the Gamblesby Community Nativity at 4pm on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> December in the chapel.

The service will also be broadcast on Eden FM 107.5.







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**Christmas Eve**  
A service for all the family to celebrate Christmas  
Langwathby Methodist Church  
Coffee and mince pies from 10.45  
Service starting at 11.00 approx.  
*All are welcome*

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### 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.

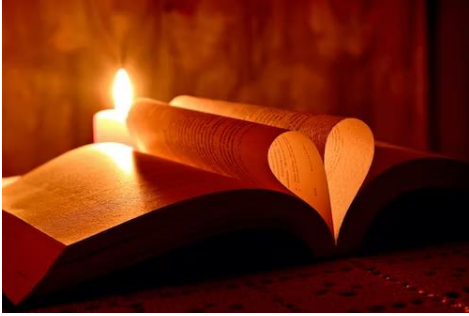


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### Christmas Cards - PMC

A reminder to please check the pigeon-holes in the glasshouse at PMC, there are a number of Christmas cards waiting to be collected.



### Advent Prayer Space

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



### Monday Walks

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



### Sad news

Many of you may remember William (Billy) Jackson who was a local preacher in the Penrith Circuit for many years. Sadly, William passed away at the Cumberland infirmary on Tuesday. Please remember Edith, Helen, Robert and all his family & friends in your prayers.



### ECLAS Exhibition

An immersive online event for Advent which 'explores the intersection of science and spirituality in the context of climate change'.



Climate Cathedral can be viewed via the [www.eclasproject.org/climate-cathedral/](http://www.eclasproject.org/climate-cathedral/)







**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.***



THE  
*Freedom*  
CHALLENGE

AN **ESCAPE ROOM** STYLE ADVENTURE

Come and test your escaping  
abilities as you and your team face  
The Freedom Challenge!

 January 27th

 3pm

 Penrith Methodist Church

*For more info please contact Su Davis on  
[cumbriamethodistyouth@gmail.com](mailto:cumbriamethodistyouth@gmail.com)*

**An event for young people in the District arranged by Su Davis, District Young People's Work Coordinator. This is for anyone aged between 11 and 21 years of age and will take place at 3 pm on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> January at Penrith Methodist Church. Those under 18 must have a signed consent form.**





**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](#)





We held our first meeting of the “All Together Fellowship” group last Monday and it turned out to be a lovely occasion.

We have been really encouraged by the help and support that people have given us in the lead up to this launch event, and to all of those who came on the day.

In return, we want to thank them and everyone who, in various ways, contributed to the success of our first gathering.

The programme of meetings for the first six months of 2024, has almost been completed. This will give dates and further details, Please ask us if you would like one of these programmes.

John & Margaret (Gore)



### **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:** 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!**

