



## Weekly Bulletin Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> May

### Playing at Religion?



**LS Lowry – “The Pond” (1950) The Tate Gallery**

<https://www.tate.org.uk/art/artworks/lowry-the-pond-n06032>

It's a Bank Holiday weekend – perhaps the one in late May. People are out enjoying some rest and relaxation. From the top of the hill, we can look down on the panorama of a Northern mill town. How do you choose to spend your leisure time, a day off? What will you do with a long bank-holiday weekend?

In Lowry's painting, people are out appreciating some time off together and some fresh(-ish) air. For the most part the factories and the chimneys, the railway and the warehouses,

are all off in the distance. Most of the middle-ground of the picture is taken up by (as the painting's title suggests) a boating lake with some rowing boats out on it. It isn't much of a park though. No grass, no trees... The water of the boating lake is not blue, but reflects the grey skies.

Elsewhere there are people gathering outside the corner pub. Some children are playing a game of cricket using orange crates as wickets. There are some churches, and is that a non-conformist chapel to the left with a bell, or is it a school? Either way, it doesn't seem to be doing much business today. No one hanging around that door.

In the foreground there's a line of young children. At the front a boy is carrying some sort of banner. There are some girls dressed in white; one is pushing a pram. And they're all being followed by two match-stalk dogs.

“Let's play a game,” someone has said. “I know. Let's pretend it's a Whit Walk. I'll carry the banner in the front, and you can all follow on behind.”

Whit walks were a tradition in the towns around Manchester, where at Whitsun churches and Sunday Schools would process through the streets.

(So, for example:

<https://saddleworthwhitfriday.co.uk/the-contests/>)

It was a big occasion, and children would often be bought new clothes. Comedian, Mike Harding, remembers that times were tough for his family, and all that could be afforded for him one year was a new cap. So, he had to sit at an upstairs window wearing his cap and waving to the crowd passing by below!



But I'm not sure how much fun is being had in this particular game, heads bent downwards. Are they all having a good time, or would they prefer to choose another pastime?

We live in a society where faith and religion have become more and more "privatised". Secularisation means that faith no longer plays a central role in the whole of life. At one time perhaps, not so long ago, the whole of life – including health-care, education, social care, and entertainment – all revolved around the church.

Nowadays, church has become marginalised and it's the secular state who provide hospitals, schools and social services. Going to church becomes seen as simply another leisure-time choice, something to do in your spare time. The church is like a club or society that some people choose to belong to. Some join the Working Men's Club, others join the National Trust, and some choose to join a Church.

Is this how the Church is now viewed in Britain today? Has God simply become a hobby, a form of entertainment, that a few people decide to pursue in their leisure time? Or... is it actually much more than a game we are playing?

*Rev. Dave*



**Penrith**

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

Reading: Romans 8:12-17

**7pm** ~ Encounter

**Skelton**

**10.30am** ~ Morning Worship ~ Miss Kathleen Williamson

**Stainton**

**10.30am** ~ Morning Worship ~ Mrs Ruth Combellack

**Cottage Wood Centre**

**5pm** ~ Early Evening Worship ~ Mr Michael Boone

**Alston Moor**

**11am** ~ Morning Worship ~ Rev Dr James N Tebbutt

**Kirkoswald**

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

**Gamblesby**

**2pm** ~ Chapel Anniversary & Communion – Rev Dr James N Tebbutt

**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)***

**Sad News**

We are sad to announce that Catherine Jackson, a member at Stainton Methodist Church, sadly passed away suddenly on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> May.

Please hold Catherine's family in your prayers during this time.



# Weekly Notices

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**1.30pm** ~ Prayer Meeting – Church/PMC

**7pm** ~ Omega House Group – Sunningdale, Stainton

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

**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.*)

**7.30pm** ~ Living Room HG, contact Morgan or Sarah for details

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

**11am** ~ 4F – Ullswater/PMC

## **Friday 31<sup>st</sup> May**

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

## **Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> June**

<b>Penrith: 10.30am</b>	Social Justice Service ~ Rev Tim Cooke
<b>12 noon</b>	Lunch
<b>Skelton: 10.30am</b>	Morning Worship ~ Rev David Milner
<b>Stainton: 10.30am</b>	Morning Worship ~ Mrs Lois Morton
<b>Cottage Wood: 5pm</b>	Early Evening Worship ~ Rev David Milner
<b>Alston Moor: 11am</b>	Morning Worship ~ Rev Mary Elliot
<b>Nenthead: 5pm</b>	Pennine Praise
<b>Langwathby: 11am</b>	Morning Worship ~ Peter and Hazel Bowes



## **NO Monday Zoom Prayer – 27<sup>th</sup> May**

Due to the bank holiday, there will be no meeting on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> May.



**Cumbria**  
Methodist District

## **DISTRICT TESTIMONY SERVICE**

**Rev Tiras Dainty- Share**

**3pm Saturday May 25<sup>th</sup>**  
**Stricklandgate Methodist Church,**  
**Kendal**  
**LA9 4QJ**



**1864 -2024**

### **Gamblesby Chapel Anniversary**

**Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> May at 2pm**

Please join us as we celebrate our 160<sup>th</sup> anniversary at a service which will be held by Rev Dr James Tebbutt.



### **Encounter – Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> May**

A reminder that Encounter is on this week at PMC, 7pm.



YOU'RE INVITED TO

# PMC'S 4F

THURSDAY  
30TH MAY AT 11AM

A FAMILY EVENT INCLUDING:

**CRAFTS  
GAMES  
FOOD**

HOSTED BY:  
**PENRITH METHODIST CHURCH,  
WORDSWORTH ST.**

TO BOOK CONTACT:  
**ADMIN@PENRITHMETHODIST.CO.UK**

JOIN US FOR SOME FUN KIDS ACTIVITIES AS WE  
EXPLORE HOW WE CAN CARE FOR GOD'S WORLD  
AND HELP STOP CLIMATE CHANGE!



CARING FOR GOD'S PLANET

JUNE 2ND

10:30AM @ PMC

FOLLOWED BY CHURCH LUNCH

PLEASE JOIN US FOR

# ★ SUNDAY LUNCH ★

JUNE 2ND | AFTER THE SERVICE | PMC

Serving Ploughmans and Crumble

Please can you let Ange know if you can provide a crumble (with list of allergens, but no nuts) or help beforehand.



# “ Endings and Beginnings: What was, and is, and is to come ”

An online 2 hour session to;  
Equip ourselves to understand endings & beginnings  
Enable others to navigate through endings & beginnings  
Hosted by the Learning Network

Weds 5th June 1.30-3.30pm  
OR Tues 18th June 7-9 pm

Book here:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/cc/endings-and-beginnings-3193429>

The **Methodist** Church 



SAVE THE DATE

## CTIC ANNUAL GATHERING & AGM



**15th June 2024**  
10:00am - 3:30pm  
Newbiggin Village Hall  
CA11 0HT





# 'Born in Song'

Come and relive our Methodist inheritance with an afternoon of Musical Nostalgia in the hymns of yesteryear, and a 'good old sing' – with tea and cake to follow!

Date: June 18th

Place: Sands Methodist Church Appleby

Time: 2pm

Contact: Linda Taylor, ([ljtaylor900@gmail.com](mailto:ljtaylor900@gmail.com) or Mob. 07969 555773) if you need more info or have an 'old favourite' you would like included.

*If you lead, or know of, a music group or choir, that might be interested, please invite them to come along.*



Donations for church renovation fund

## **New Faith Podcast**

The Revd Richard Corrie, a former BBC Radio Cumbria presenter, has created a new faith podcast for the county. He plans to put out a half-hourly podcast each month which features faith stories from across the county as well as offering a chance to Pause for Thought and reflection, church events on the church noticeboard and hearing how God is calling people to all kinds of jobs and ministries. The first podcast features the Ven Stewart Fyfe, who was caught up in the unrest in the Holy Land last October, the *Rest Under the Stars* installation and curate Hannah Wallace.

Listen here <https://cumbrianfaithpodcast.podbean.com/>

Congratulations to Alec Thwaites, who is

# 100 years old

on 2nd June 2024

Alec and Eileen have been members of PMC and then Stainton Methodist Church for many years, and have served in a number of different ways - Alec being the organist at Stainton until just a few years ago!

Alec - well done on reaching such a milestone! We wish you and your family a fabulous celebration and every blessing!

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Please join us in sending  
love and congratulations  
to Katie & Loren.

Katie & Loren were  
married at PMC in  
December 2023, and  
on Saturday 25th May  
Rev. Tim Thorpe will  
conduct a Blessing  
Ceremony for their family  
& friends.



### **Birthday wishes**

We send warm wishes to Maureen Thomas who celebrates her 80<sup>th</sup> birthday on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> May.

**Please could you save any plastic bottle tops for the PMC Social Justice Service on Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> June, these can be left with the Circuit Office.**



### **Stainton Methodist Church**

are looking to hire someone to be their **treasurer**

If you can spare 1 – 1 ½ hours a week, working from home, and are able to do basic book-work, then this could be for you. Generous hourly rate paid.

For more details, contact Rev Tim.

## 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)

**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**

**Circuit Administrative Assistant: Niamh Ryan**

**Premises Manager: Lindsay Wilson**

**Eden Debt Centre Manager (CAP): Jen Dixon:** 07799 271710  
or email: [jendixon@capuk.org](mailto:jendixon@capuk.org)

**Debt Coach:** tbc

**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!**

