

Annual Church Meeting



JOIN US ON
SUNDAY 23RD JUNE,
10.30AM IN ULLSWATER

Current Statistics

Membership - 177

Friends - 73

We remember with love, and give thanks for members and friends who have passed away over the last year,

Keith Scott & Grattan Bowen

ACM Welcome message

Dear Friends,

Welcome to this year's Annual Church Meeting booklet!

In here you will discover much about the life of PMC over the last year! You will see what goes on, and what we have done as a church family to worship, serve, and grow as disciples of Jesus over the last 12 months.

The ACM is an annual event where we meet to enjoy being together, and celebrate all God is doing in us and through us. We will reflect on the last year, and also look forward to where God might be leading us next. We will review our finances, our Office Holders, and all areas of church life - including how we worship, and how we grow in our faith. And really importantly to us – we will reflect on how we reach out and serve our community, sharing the love of Jesus with them, and introducing them to the amazing God we worship!

So, do come and join us if you can for our ACM on Sunday 23 June at 10:30am.

As I look back over the last 12 months, I am reminded of God's faithfulness, and of the many blessings God gives. We celebrated our 150th anniversary last October – remembering and giving thanks for all God has been doing these last 150 years at PMC! It was amazing to recount all God's blessings!

This last year – in common with many other years - has not always been easy. We still struggle to find enough volunteers to help in our worship and service, and we'd love to see more people coming to find the hope, and the new life God gives us through Jesus. Of course, finance is always a real challenge, and we'd love to be able to engage with more families, children and young people.

But God is good, and we are being shown God's heart and purposes for us. We have a mantra we use a lot now at PMC:-

'You are Loved; You are Valued; You Belong'.

It's a message we want to live out and share with all. In fact, we believe it's what God wants us to make known in all our community. God really does love us all – whoever we are – and each of us is valued by God, and belong in God's family.

Jesus once shared a metaphor of a wedding banquet where all – absolutely everyone - was invited and had a seat at the table. PMC seeks to be a church that lives out that parable. We want to love all too, valuing and welcoming all people into our family. Everyone has a place at this table!

So, thank you to all of you for being part of this amazing family, as together, we seek to journey in the wild adventure of life and faith - where all are loved, valued and belong!

Rev. Tim

Finance Report

A year ago we were looking at a bleak position financially. We forecast that, without some intervention, we would be losing more than £40,000 last year and predicting that this year those losses would be doubled. This was clearly an unsustainable position.

I am pleased to say that there has been some better news since then and a series of measures including additional giving, increased income from renting our rooms and an amazing job by the property team to manage within a very tight budget, helped to reduce last year's loss. Further help came from the circuit to cover some of the costs which we include in our budget that can be seen to support work at a circuit level. Together, this meant we just about broke even financially.

It is great that many of these steps help to contribute on a regular basis to help improve income and manage our costs, but sadly we remain in a difficult financial position. There have been many new people giving regularly and also many who already give and increased their giving in the last year. We are tremendously encouraged by that and thank everyone who has considered their giving both in time and money. Unfortunately, the overall giving has suffered from the loss of other donors and our giving income overall is therefore still down on previous years. This is also worse because of, on the expenditure side, the large increases in salary in response to inflation and the extraordinary increase in energy costs

Short term we are helped this year by the generous offer, that was announced nearly a year ago, to double the increased regular giving by all donors. Together, these initiatives will help move towards balancing the books again. For those who have not yet done so, please examine your giving and, if you are able, please consider giving to church if you are not already doing so and, if you are, please consider whether you are able to increase this at all. All such increases will be included in the offer to match all new regular giving before the end of June when the initiative closes.

We should also benefit from some further support from Circuit to reflect their benefit from the office and Morgan's work across the circuit, which should improve the position slightly from that shown in these figures. Looking ahead, we need to look at grant funding to support our work and our larger projects. These would cover both larger building projects, like the one we are running to replace the boilers, together with those to support our mission projects. These will remain an important source of support to all that the church does and involve dedicated effort over many years to make this work.

Our thanks to all those who have contributed to the financial well-being of all that goes on at PMC, in so many and varied ways. Your prayers for wisdom and guidance as we navigate the road ahead are sought and welcomed.

	22/23	23/24 latest budget
income		
giving	97,365	89,459
gift aid	22,868	20,182
grants	40,000	20,000
lettings	37,373	41,342
other	8,900	15,000
total	206,506	185,983
expenditure		
assessment	68,900	68,900
salaries & expenses	71,700	80,614
rent	8,700	8,700
utilities etc	29,900	50,000
church/office	10,700	11,600
property	14,000	30,900
total	203,900	250,714
balance/deficit	2,606	-64,731



PROPERTY REPORT

We have an amazing Building and Campus here at PMC, representing both a wonderful blessing and a source of challenge!

Blessing. Our Property offers so much potential and opportunity for us to function well as a church in so many different ways. We have a great worship space, and other rooms that lend themselves to alternative patterns of worship. Our Building gives many options for reaching out to our community, and we successfully let out our rooms to other users. Sarah and Lindsay do an amazing job in managing these lettings – which cover the basic running costs of our PMC property.

Challenge. This is a large, 150yr old, listed building which takes a lot of effort and money to maintain! A bit like painting the Forth road Bridge, it never ends! Rising utility costs, and an ageing heating system, all add to the challenges.

But, we have an amazing team of volunteers that form our Property team. They not only give wise counsel and wisdom in managing our property, but do so much work themselves – saving us money that would otherwise be paid to get work done. The team is 'led' by Don Agus – who works tirelessly maintaining our building, assisted by Bryan Gardner, Ian Mutch, Mike Wicker, Dave Fortey, Jim Irving, Steve Clements, Lindsay Wilson, and Tracey Cooke. My huge thanks to them.

Just a few things to highlight:

Property Steward - we still need a named Property Steward to head up our Property Team and be the 'go-to' person to manage our premises. Please pray whether God may be calling you to fulfil this role.

Quinquennial - we had a quinquennial inspection on our property completed last year, which didn't identify any areas for investment outside of those we already knew.

Windows - our contractor finished a major project repairing or replacing the windows throughout our building, and the Property Team are on track to complete consequent internal redecoration before AGM. This will prevent water ingress, and dampness, save on heat loss, and drafts, and provide many years of service.

Utility costs - continue to rise exponentially. However, we fitted smart thermostats to each room 2 years ago, and have now fitted additional insulation over Tarn, Beacon and the office rooms. This, together with isolating the heating for separate rooms, has meant we have reduced the amount of electricity and gas – saving the church many hundreds of pounds in utility costs.

A new Welcome Board - has been fitted outside the front of PMC providing a welcome and information to visitors and new folk.

Ullswater Room - has just had the floor sanded and re-varnished with sports court markings laid.

Boiler replacement - we have formed a small working group to investigate options for replacing our ageing boiler system with a greener, carbon-neutral solution. This group will consider different options, along with exploring grants and funding.

Budget - I've mentioned the work done by many to manage work on our property ourselves, and the Property Team is looking to save money on some of the actual expenses. The diligence in managing our energy costs despite the increased use of the building, has meant we have stayed within our extremely ambitious budget.

Rev. Tim

Worship life at PMC

Worship remains at the core of what we do as a gathered church here at PMC.

Each Sunday, we have met to worship together as a Church family – trying to provide a blend of both traditional and more contemporary worship styles.

I am indebted to those who help each week.

We have fabulous local preachers and other clergy who share teaching and help us think about living out our faith.

Shane heads up a great team of Stewards and Welcomers who work to open and prepare the church for worship, count and safely store the weekly offering, lock-up afterwards, and provide a warm welcome to everyone attending.

Gareth, John, Lawrence, Heather and Helen serve fantastically as organists, and Graham, Sarah, Michael and Nicola lead a wonderful diverse group of musicians and singers leading our worship.

There are so many others who make and serve coffee and tea, manage the sound, projection and live-stream, read and lead prayers, and do so much more in helping us praise and encounter God in our times together.

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!

But we still need more people to help – especially in making coffee, and doing sound or projection. If you could help – even occasionally - please let us know!

We try and mix Sunday mornings up a bit with alternative styles of worship and learning – sometimes sitting in a circle, sometimes having discussions and congregational participation, sometimes using liturgy, and trying a variety of other things to keep things fresh.

As well as Sunday mornings, each Tuesday morning we hold a time of quiet, more traditional worship which offers a great chance for fellowship and reflection during the week.

Each month, we also hold our Encounter service – a more contemporary, spirit-led time of engaging with God – often done in café-style with discussion, coffee and cake!

In all of this, we continue to seek to offer our praise and worship to our amazing God, and to learn more about how we can serve and live as disciples of Jesus.

Rev. Tim



I say it every year, but I feel so honoured to be a part of a community who puts such a heavy emphasis on reaching out to those less fortunate than themselves.

You will read so many wonderful and encouraging reports in this booklet that highlight the work of so many amazing people who wish to share the love of God with those in our community.

I simply want to say a huge thank you to all those that have given their time and energy to play a part in PMC's outreach. From 4F that provides a safe space and a hot meal for families over the school holidays, to our annual Holiday Club that provides a fun filled week for children in our community during the summer. Not to mention our two youth clubs, Friday Lunch club, secondary school lunch club (Recharge) and everything in between, you've all been amazing and I'm so excited to see how God is moving and will continue to move through our outreach projects in the years to come.

*Morgan Tebb-Roger
Pioneer Lay Minister*



Toddler Group has been busy this year.

Most weeks 12 to 15 adults, and all their little ones, join us for the play session. It's such a privilege to be able to draw alongside families, getting to know them and offer them support and friendship. Some of the families joined us in church at Christmas and Easter and many go along to our youth groups, Holiday Club and 4F sessions.

The Toddler group can only exist if we have helpers - this year several sessions have had to be cancelled due to a lack of volunteers. So, if anyone has a couple of hours free on a Thursday between 1pm & 3pm to help welcome the families, make coffees and snacks, and help to clear the hall at the end that would be great! You don't need to come every week, even the offer of one Thursday a month would be really helpful.

Thanks for all your continued prayer.

Trace Cooke

PMC YOUTH CLUBS

Weekly - Tuesday - Junior Youth Club

Monthly - Friday - Senior Youth Club

Our **Junior Youth Club** has continued to meet on a Tuesday evening under the amazing coordination of Gareth, Helen and Alan.

It's been consistently attended by 25 to 30 young people aged between 7 and 11. They've enjoyed a Christmas party and easter open evening, a trip to Fusion trampoline park, sports at St Catherines field and are now looking forward to the annual trip to Walby Farm Park.

I cannot say a big enough thank you to Gareth, Helen and Alan who continue to host an amazing youth club for these young people, putting in an incredible amount of work and building relationships with families in our community.

In September we made the difficult decision to reduce the frequency of our Friday night **Senior Youth Club** from weekly to monthly.

I personally was quite worried that this would see a decrease in numbers but in fact, our numbers have grown. We now see a consistent group of around 15 young people that attend these monthly sessions and it's been a real blessing to build relationships with this group.

We recently joined with Appleby Youth Club and took 23 of our young people on a trip to Fusion's Friday Night session in Carlisle. Everyone had a great time and it's something we will definitely look into doing again.

Over the past few months, I have been speaking with various people about joining with the Gathering as a joint youth project in Penrith in order to address the issue of a lack of volunteers we both have. This unfortunately, will not be going ahead as the Trustees of Ignite, for a couple of reasons, don't want to work with us. However, all is not lost! The Network Youth Church worker, Emily Milburn, and myself are keen to build a Friday night Youth project that bridges the gap between the different denominations in Penrith and offers a safe, welcoming environment for young people. There's still a lot of work to do on this front but I'm hopeful that by September we will have a consistent youth project taking place.

Once again, a huge thank you has to go out to Paul, Mark, Kath, Tracey, Sophie, Gareth and Averil for helping out at various points throughout the year. These leaders have been wonderful with the young people, and I know their work is really appreciated by them.

Holiday Club

Our 2023 Holiday Club took place last August and was 'baking' themed. Always a huge undertaking with around 25 volunteers needed each day to make it happen, Holiday Club serves the families in our community by giving a fun filled week to the children, and free childcare for their parents/carers!

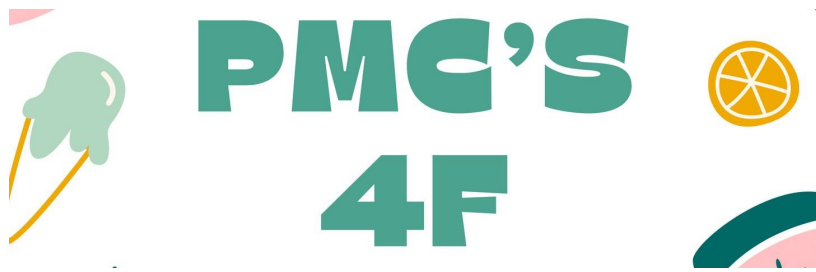
We were slightly lower on numbers this year with only 50 children attending due to the timing of the event. However, this created much more space for the leaders to form quality relationships with their teams, something that was found to be really valuable.

As always, the team of people that made this happen (of which there are too many to list) were amazing and I can't thank them enough for all that they did! I would like to give a shout out to the likes of PJ and Bea who put in an incredible amount of work behind the scenes and up front when delivering the sessions!

Holiday Club 2024 is taking place between 22nd and 25th July this year and will be titled 'Planet Protectors'. I'm excited to see what this year holds, how God wants to move through this event, and how the team will come together to deliver an amazing few days for all those involved

*Morgan Tebb-Roger
Pioneer Lay Minister*





We continue to offer, food, friendship and fun to families with a regular attendance of up to 80 people each session during the school holidays.

With the grant we now get from HAF we have been able to enhance the service we offer. Over the last year we have visited North Lakes Gymnastics, Walby Farm Park and Woggle Goggle Swimming Pool. Action Ants have also joined our Easter session at PMC.

We look forward to visiting Walby Farm Park and having Action Ants join us again over the summer break. We are also collaborating with Euphoric Circus, who will join us for an 'in-house' session at PMC.

In the midst of all that we still offer delicious family friendly food, and a raft of crafts and light hearted physical entertainment. We have recently been able to recruit five new volunteers who will make a vast difference to the day's activities and lesson the load of our very faithful and generous existing volunteers.

God is Good.



The last year has been a time of growth, good fortune and recognition.

The number of guests coming along to Lunch Club has reached a regular attendance of 45-50 people each week. All enjoying a well prepared nutritious meal, fellowship and the care of others.

We have been fortunate to attract a number of new volunteers, including a new driver, helpers for the kitchen and three new faces who come along each Friday at lunch time to help with service and tidying up at the end - the lift that this has given the team members is immeasurable. The new volunteers in the kitchen have allowed a new one in four week rota, which has made a huge difference.

Thirdly, we were very pleased to be recognised in September 2023 for 30 years' service to the community, by the Radio Cumbria Make a Difference Awards.

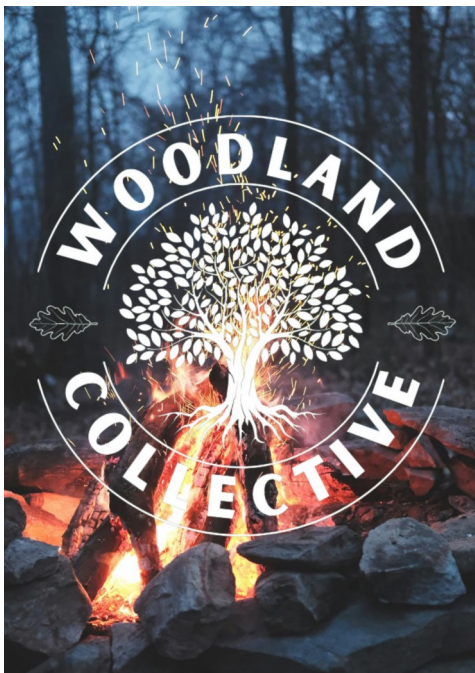
Anne MacDonald



Encounter continues to meet on the last Sunday of the month although it's started to look a bit different.

We've begun meeting in the Sandgate room for a short time of worship which is then followed by a reflection and discussion around tables. Meaning we look more like a café church.

We've found this to be a really fruitful time and invite anyone who's curious to come along and check it out for themselves.



Woodland Collective was started in January 2024 as a space hosted in a way that promotes healing, growth and community in the amazing creation that surrounds us.

It is for those seeking to grow in their faith, those seeking healing from hurtful experiences with religion, and those wanting to build community with others. During this time, we spend a short time individually connecting to the place we're in whilst reflecting on what is on our minds and hearts.

The group then gathers around a fire and, if we feel able to, share what is going on for us, as we roast marshmallows and sip on a warm drink. This tends to naturally flow into various discussions, deepening the friendships we share with one another. Since it started, Woodland Collective has seen a consistent group form that meet regardless of how poor the weather might be.

It's early days but I'm excited to see what the future holds for this project. We usually meet one Friday night a month outside PMC at 7pm, and carpool to the selected woodland. So, if you would like to get involved please get in touch.

*Morgan Tebb-Roger
Pioneer Lay Minister*

PMC

JUSTICE

TEAM

At PMC, we believe that it is our responsibility to stand for justice in the name of Jesus.

The PMC Justice Team was created in January 2024 and is committed to bringing social justice issues to the forefront of our focus as a church, challenging ourselves when it comes to how we actively engage with these topics.

We have committed to hosting a Justice Service once a quarter that will aim to focus on an area of social justice and highlight ways Christians can engage with it. As a team, we also want to engage with different projects that focus on justice both through PMC and in our community.

This is not an exclusive group, but a team that all are encouraged to engage with. So, don't hesitate to ask about what we do and how you can take part in a 2000 year-old movement of justice.

Morgan Tebb-Roger



Our now-annual church weekend "Be Boulder" returned in 2023.

We had a full weekend, including new for this year, a quiz night on the Friday. Saturday saw morning prayers, eating together, worship,

prayer spaces, discussions, and workshops, and was capped off with a concert.

The concert was supposed to be a "PMC's Got Talent" but PMC's talent is apparently pretty shy, so as well as our own skills, we brought in the wonderful Katie Feltham to sing us into the evening. To quote Katie "I had no idea what to expect singing in a church, but PMC brought the energy!"

Sunday featured more worship, more food, and Encounter capped off the weekend. We were delighted to be joined for the weekend by Annie Deche, first female ordained in the Kenyan Methodist Church, to be our guest speaker. Annie got stuck into everything, preached at pretty much every service possible, and brought some great wisdom into our sessions together.

As a result of the positivity around the quiz night and concert, we have decided to host more social events. We've already had one, the ceilidh, but watch this space for more!

And also save the date for this year's Be Boulder - 18th to the 20th October 2024.

PJ Summers

The Alpha Course

We held Alpha in September again at the Restore shop and had a great time as usual with a wonderful day away at Melmerby where two of our guests made commitments to the Lord.

Both had been invited by church members so that's the way to get people to come!

In one case the inviter came for the first couple of weeks and in the other the inviter was there for the whole course as a helper.

We didn't quite have enough guests in January so we only met for a couple of weeks - lots of folk available and keen to help though! So, we plan to start again in September in a church room this time. Fred and Debs are on board to help Kath and myself with the leadership which is great.

We are keen to raise the profile of Alpha and if you haven't been before it is a brilliant way to refresh or renew your faith and to be challenged by the issues and questions raised.

PLEASE ask God how you can be involved- as a guest, or even better invite a non-church friend/colleague/family member along and see God at work. It really is awesome and exciting to be involved.

Thank you for your support and ongoing prayers which are much needed and appreciated.

Chris Swift





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

We work very much as a team, meeting monthly to pray and discuss the needs and celebrations of PMC church family, but we also have a specific role within the team.

Rev. Tim - oversees the pastoral work at PMC, along with numerous visits/phone calls throughout the year to the sick, housebound, grieving, etc. He facilitates home communion, meets with couples for marriage preparation and works with families to organise and deliver funerals.

Ange (*Pastoral secretary*) – arranges monthly meetings and sets a brief agenda for the meeting. Co-ordinating visits and phone calls to folks whose names have been brought to our attention (returning to those names at the next meeting to update on progress). Help with follow up visits and organises the Monthly Sunday Lunch.

Morgan – keeps us informed of the work he does with young people at UCC and members of the 'Living Room' group (where appropriate).

Lucy – looks out for young people in transition stages of their education. Sending cards of congratulations and blessings, as they go on to their next stage.

Marion – co-ordinates flower distribution and represents the Tuesday morning congregation.

David and Karen – arranges the sending of cards at a time of sadness, loss and special celebrations. They arrange and attend home communions each month.

Ruth – Keeps us informed of folk who we may not have seen so regularly in the building for a variety of reasons, but we want to show that they still belong to PMC's family. Ruth also works closely with Marion and the flower team.

An important part of the pastoral work are the 19 **Pastoral contacts**, who look out regularly for folk on their lists who are not associated with a small group.

We have 9 **Small group leaders** who keep us informed of any changes within their group, feeding back to the team of any information which may need additional support (when appropriate) *Please see small group individual reports*

Please continue to pray for all the pastoral work at PMC that is listed above, but there are many additional hours each week that are practised informally, which makes us such a caring church family. Please keep us informed, so no one is left out or feels alone.

Annual Pastoral Meeting - Monday 30th September, 7.30pm at PMC

*Angela Wicker
Pastoral Secretary*

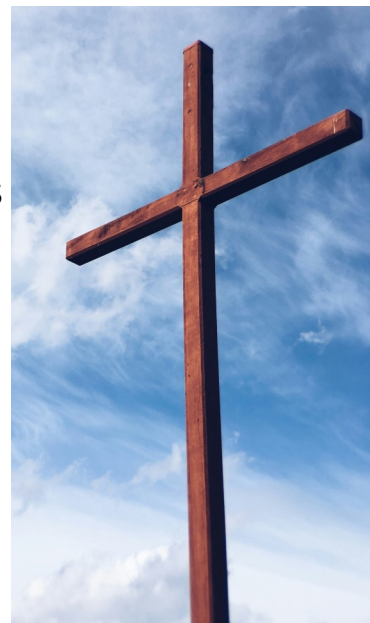
Stewarding

Take a look next time you sit down for a service and count how many folk it takes to make it happen. And that's just people on the day. Although the steward isn't responsible for scheduling all this activity, they are there to help things run smoothly in-so-far as they are able. It's a practical role and an act of service which facilitates us worshipping together.

We currently have three stewards and ten welcomers for Sundays and three 'teams' for the Tuesday services. It would be helpful if one or two more people came forward to help, particularly with the stewarding role. Morgan also helps out when he can but he has quite enough on his plate without doing this too.

Training is provided and I'd be happy to discuss the role with you.

Shane McNicol



PMC House Groups



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

Fellside House Group

Fellside house group is a friendly, relaxed place to meet and explore ideas as well as learn more about Christian faith. We meet in different homes between 7.30pm and 9pm, roughly once a fortnight. Lifts are often available!

This year we have been watching the more up to date Alpha videos which aim to give answers to the questions most of us have asked, at some point about life and God. These have been our springboards for discussions.

Alan and I can't meet with the group as regularly as we'd like but enjoy the warmth and humour of the group when we can meet. It has helped us to get to know people and feel a part of PMC.

Annette Sibley

Parklands House Group

Parklands House Group meets fortnightly on a Thursday afternoon in member's homes.

Members take turns to lead the meeting on a topic that is in the news or part of the church calendar. For special occasions we often go to Take Tea Out at Cottage Wood and enjoy the fellowship there.

Our meeting concludes with tea and chat.

Graham & Thelma Allan

Omega House Group

We are a small group meeting weekly each Tuesday evening, usually in Stainton. Most of this year has been taken up with studies of Romans and Nehemiah, but we are easing toward our summer feast and break by sharing some favourite Psalms.

However, the heart of our meetings is always our prayer time. This ranges from personal family/friends stuff, through people and going-ons in our PMC family, to an eclectic mix of problems in the wider world.

And sometimes we enjoy home baking too! Surely everyone should be in a House Group?

Don Agus

Living Room (formerly Hodge Lodge)

'Hodge Lodge' made the controversial decision to change our name this year, given we haven't had a "Hodge" in the group for about four years. We settled on the name 'Living Room', for both obvious and metaphorical reasons.

We meet on Wednesdays, though it's usually a case of sending a message around on the day to see who's available, as (especially given our demographic, late teens to thirty-somethings) life gets busy sometimes! There can be anywhere between two and about ten people at any particular meeting, though the group probably still has a wider reach than that, of people that are more than welcome to come whenever they want (even if that's only a couple times a year). We've recently started including a meal in our sessions, when time and budgets allow, which has given an extra dimension to our gatherings.

The last few months have seen us "on and off again" going through the Sanctuary Course, a house group resource that explores the intersection of faith and mental health. This has been a great resource and has led to some honest, vulnerable, but life-giving conversations.

PJ Summers

Blencow HG

Blencow House Group continues to meet a couple of times a month on Wednesday evenings.

We are a mixed Methodist/Anglican group who all have links with Blencow or Greystoke. Ages range from early twenties to well over 70!

We gather at 7pm for a drink and a catch up (plus some cake these days too, as our lovely Ukranian guest insists on bringing some home for us from Bell's cake factory, where she works, if she knows it's a house group night!).

We had been finishing Brian McLaren's book "We Make the Road by Walking" - keeping the chapters in time with the liturgical year, but we were still surprised to realise a year had passed since we started it!

Since then we have been watching Brian Draper's latest Friday reflection series on YouTube, pausing to add our own thoughts when he asks for contributions on chat in his virtual session. The sessions are not long or complicated but rich in food for thought.

We will soon be planning our Summer social before a Summer break and restarting again with something new (and as yet undecided!) in the Autumn.

Steve & Laura Clements



CHRISTIANS AGAINST POVERTY

Eden Cap Services

Overview

We have been running our CAP Eden Debt Centre for 8 ½ years now! In that time, the Centre has managed over £1.4 million worth of debt, with over £1 million of debt cleared!

There are around 20 volunteers serving as befrienders, and we have a passionate and dedicated management team and so many others praying for our work and helping in many different ways.

In addition to the Debt Centre, we run an effective CAP Job Club headed by Michelle Pierce, and have just launched a new, re-modelled CAP Money program run by Alan Sibley

CAP Debt Centre – Jen Dixon (Manager)

We have recently had a change to the team. Jon Cook left the Debt Centre in May and I have had the great privilege of stepping into the position of Debt Centre Manager. We have recruited a new Debt Coach who is currently completing their training and will be ready to start working with clients later in the summer.

The Debt Centre continues to be fully subscribed with new clients. Sadly the ongoing impact of The Cost of Living Crisis and increased household bills, means that the overall picture is tough, we regularly see unsustainable budgets. Accessing pots of funding to help with basic necessities such as food, is a regular part of the support we offer.

We are continuing to grow and build referral pathways with local agencies and have recently received referrals from a number of different places including the Job Centre, Health and Wellbeing Coaches and Addiction Services. The Debt Centre also works collaboratively with the Job Club and Money Coaching so that our clients can also receive ongoing support in budgeting and employment to help prevent debt building up in the future.

CAP Job Club – Michelle Pierce (Manager)

Our CAP Job Club is the only one currently operating in Cumbria. It continues to run on Tuesday mornings and since January 2024 we have had 13 people attend. We have found that the piloted rolling nature of the course has been very

successful, allowing participants to commence the course anytime after the official start date. This means that all sessions are modified and adjusted to suit individual needs.

In addition to the Tuesday course, a lot of support is provided by telephone and email. The requirement for CV's, references, other work related issues and assistance with many general problems is ongoing throughout the week.

Overall, we are running at a 50% success rate in finding clients suitable work. It became apparent at the recent Northern CAP Conference in Burnley that this percentage is above all but one (which has the same percentage) other CAP Job Clubs operating in the North West of England.

In addition to providing employment support, the Job Club is often the first step in clients hearing about and talking about Christianity. Every Tuesday session commences with a short bible reading and reflection, testimony or prayer.

It is a privilege to help people both in their job seeking and faith journey.

CAP Money

The Cap Money Coaching course provides help with budgeting and money management. It can be useful for anyone whose financial situation has changed, anyone who is worried about money or anyone who wants to be better at managing their finances.

Liz Johnson, Dave Johnson and Alan Sibley have just run their first course together and are now looking for opportunities to run further courses.

Please let Alan know if you would like to attend a course or have any ideas for publicising the course.

The email address is Capmoney@penrithmethodist.co.uk



christians
against
poverty



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 a programme of Christmas music at

Woodlands MHA. In June 2024 we sang a programme of music on the Theme of Praise and Creation at the All Together Fellowship.

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 once again successfully organised the much anticipated Carols by Candlelight event on December 17th, 2023. Continuing the tradition of bringing the community together, this year's theme was "Out of the Ordinary," celebrating our church's remarkable 150 years of service with a nostalgic journey back in time through a unique old-time radio show experience.



Preparations and Practices

The choir began their weekly practices in November, with around 24 enthusiastic members participating this year. An initial gathering was held on November 6th, where members familiarized themselves with the script, indulged in a heartwarming sing-a-long session featuring traditional standards, and walked through some dramatic enactments. Subsequent rehearsals took place every Thursday evening starting November 16th, ensuring focused and productive practice sessions.

To assist with preparations, practice videos were made available to the choir members through a dedicated YouTube playlist. This ensured that everyone was well-prepared and confident for the event.

Volunteers and Contributions

We are immensely grateful for the numerous volunteers who played a pivotal role in the success of the event. Their tireless efforts in various capacities, from setting up the

venue to coordinating activities, ensured a seamless and enjoyable experience for all attendees. The event featured several unexpected moments of surprise and delight, which added to the overall charm and memorability of the evening.

Looking Ahead

While we are still awaiting the Methodist's directive for Advent and Christmas for 2024, plans are already underway for Carols by Candlelight 2024, tentatively scheduled for December 15th, with the possibility of adding an additional 'Encounter' style contemporary Christmas worship. We invite everyone interested in joining the choir or volunteering to make the next events even more special to reach out to Michael at cumbriaentertainment@gmail.com.

Thank you for your unwavering support and participation. We look forward to celebrating another joyous Carols by Candlelight together this December.

Michael D. Boone



Prior to the onset of Covid in March 2020, 3M's & Women's Fellowship ran successfully. After the lifting of restrictions, it became clear that there was enthusiasm to set up a group, effectively combining the previous two.

'All Together Fellowship' was formed in the autumn of 2023. The launch was in December and took the form of a Christmas miscellany which included the nativity story in verse, accompanied by a visual display which was interspersed with readings and carols.

We have had six get-togethers between January and June this year, and we have been very grateful for the support and appreciation expressed by many people. There has been an average of 50 coming to each of these meetings. The sessions begin with a short act of worship and end with refreshments.

We've had a variety of interesting talks and visual presentations over the months, from a cruise of the Norwegian Fjords to walking the Camino pilgrimage trail, we've even been given an insight into the future of radio broadcasting.

In March Andy Airey, one of the 'Three Dads Walking', spoke to us about how the suicide of his daughter Sophie changed his life. He talked about the other two dads, their long walks, raising awareness, and their campaign to get suicide prevention on the school curriculum. At this gathering all donations were given to Papyrus, and amounted to £320.

Thank you also to everyone who has supported this initiative.

John & Margaret Gore

Flower Team

During the past year nine flower arrangers have continued to use their talents to provide flower arrangements to enhance and bless the Sunday and Tuesday services. After the Tuesday service the flowers are distributed to those who are ill, in need of prayer or celebrating a special occasion. A big 'thank you' to those who distribute the flowers each week. Also thanks to the donors who give money to allow the team to use flowers and foliage to express the wonder of God's creation.



We have held Workshops at Easter and Harvest to arrange baskets of flowers for the church windows. These are distributed after the services and are much appreciated. A workshop was also held in March to provide posies for Mother's Day.

Once again many thanks to all those donors and distributors who enable the Flower Team to continue with their Ministry of Flowers.

PMC Flower Team

Supper Club

Supper club had run for many years prior to the onset of Covid but, as with many groups, it was not possible to continue during the pandemic.

There had been a lot of interest in getting Supper Club up & running again, and in February 2023 we held a launch event at our house in Morland. The monthly meet ups began in March and continued until June, restarting in the September.



A social get-together had always been arranged for the summer, and deciding not to break with tradition we hosted an afternoon tea and village walk for those who had taken part that year.

The group ran from September to November, restarting in March 2024. During the February break, we took the opportunity to host a Games Evening at PMC.

Currently we have 39 people in our Supper Club family, but it would be really good to have more! If anyone would like to join us, please get in touch and we can tell you how it works.

It really is an excellent way of getting to know people in a homely setting and enjoying a meal together.

John & Margaret Gore

Monday Morning Walks

Every Monday morning irrespective of the weather, come wind, sun or rain, walkers either meet at the Methodist 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.

The walks are varied and usually up to 4 miles in length and are usually within half an hour's 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 1 pm.

Numbers vary as people are free to join in at any time and some walkers bring their friendly dogs as well. We usually have about 10 people attending depending on the weather. We are a friendly group who have a lovely time, good exercise and enjoy breathtaking scenery as well as each other's company.

All are very welcome to join in whether or not associated with the Church.

A reminder to anyone joining us, to bring a drink, snack and to wear suitable footwear and clothing for the varied weather conditions. Feel free to just turn up any Monday about 9.15am just outside the Methodist Church.

Please contact Andrew Chatfield if you require further information on 07761 842 709



Andrew Chatfield

The Tech Team

The PMC tech team, covering sound, projection and live stream, is now a rather small but very committed bunch of volunteers. The Tuesday service has its own rota of wonderful people who cover the sound desk, while Sunday's team has shrunk somewhat, with now less than 10 people managing to just about (but not always) cover all three technical positions for the 15ish Sunday services a quarter. Behind the scenes, work continues to both maintain and improve our systems, as well as make things as easy as possible for our volunteers.

We could really use some more people to volunteer to take the pressure off our current roster. The three roles have varying complexities, with live stream and projection being the easiest, and sound needing just a bit more experience. If you think you can help with any of these things, please speak to PJ or Tim. Training, including opportunities to shadow others, will be provided!

PJ Summers

Minutes of PMC ACM 2nd July 2023

Present: see the attached list

Apologies: David & Gillian Belford, Gareth Brolly, Kath Davidson, Graham Frost, David & Karen Lee, Marion Todd

Rev. Tim opened the meeting with prayers and gave an overview of the last year. It has continued to be one of transition following Covid and GILUU – around 30 people have left the church as a result – and the last 12 months have been a time of healing.

The hybrid Sunday services were also mentioned, they are not everyone's cup of tea but we still come together as a family regardless – different ages and worship styles, a journey which we are all on together. Tuesday morning & Encounter also offer something different to church family.

We are still in need of volunteers throughout all aspects of the church – notably a Property Steward, livestream/sound/projection, coffee/lunches. Church doesn't happen on its own – prayers for how we can make it work.

God is challenging us, the status quo and what we look to in the future. Where do we go from here?

Highlights from the last 12 months

- The relationships we are building with people, and connections being made through Toddlers, 4F, Youth Clubs, Lunch Club, etc.
- The way we are a real family as church (worship together, Lunches, Supper Club, Ceilidh, Church Council)
- Christmas and Easter
- 'Be Boulder' weekend
- Four baptised in Ullswater
- Sarah as our Circuit administrator
- Morgan as our Pioneer and Community Lay Pastor
- Practical blessing we are giving to community – individuals helped, CAP, 4F, Lunch Club, Youth and Children's work

All reports can be found in the ACM booklet

Outreach – see ACM booklet for full report

Morgan finds it a privilege to work and lead outreach and gave thanks to all who help and put the work in to make things happen – they all form the roots of this church.

- Holiday Club – 2022 was the first Holiday Club since Covid, with 70 young people attending throughout the week. More volunteers for this year would be appreciated.
- School Chaplaincy at UCC – relationship with school has solidified, engaging with both staff (70ish) & young people (1800ish). Morgan has spent time in year 7 and GCSE classes, he also provides a listening service for students who are having a tough time. This work is something which you don't see unless it is spoken about.
- Friday evening – Senior Youth Club – conversations are being had with all the children who attend, helping to build relationships - conversations are happening and it's a privilege to be a part of it.

Take encouragement! Outreach will continue to happen, we will continue to spread God's love throughout the community, but we do need people to help and get involved. Let's move forward together.

Finance - see ACM booklet for full report

Steve spoke on behalf of treasurers (Chris, Shane & Steve).

There have been challenging times for many years, this isn't the first and won't be the last when it comes to finances. It was noted that the building isn't what is costing the money, this is balanced by the income from conferencing. Our mission and ministry covers the majority of our expenditure – our want to provide and reach out to the community.

Last year we had a loss of £30k and this year it is looking to be closer to £40k – if we do nothing, this is likely to be £90k next year. Our 'rainy day' reserves have been used and we seriously need to look at what we do in the future.

Thanks was given to the property team for the work that they have done in previous years which has meant that some of our bills are not as high as they could have been following the increases. We have also done work ourselves, which means that we have been able to keep costs lower. £10k less spend this year by doing things ourselves.

Thanks was also given to the office & Lindsay for their work bringing groups into the building and letting the rooms out, making £40k this year (double that before Covid).

Times are tough with the cost of living increasing, however we need to look at an increase in our Direct Giving. Without it, we will need to reduce our expenditure. Without it, something will have to stop. Without it, our ministry will be reduced.

An appeal was given for someone to help apply for available grants.

Despite everything we are not discouraged. There is a lot going for us! There is a way ahead!

Tim gave thanks to the three treasurers for taking on the role and stepping up and asked everyone to reflect on their giving.

Ambition is limitless, finance isn't.

Election of officers

Re-elected

Alison Birkett - Safeguarding

Kath Davidson - Church Council Secretary

Unanimous vote from members for both to continue their roles on Church Council

New Congregational Rep voted in

Sue Graham

Unanimous vote by members for Sue to be a representative to Church Council

We have some serious questions to ask ourselves over the coming months, as well as some difficult and challenging decisions to make.

There is a cost to discipleship, to being part of God's church. Maybe this is what it means to be followers of Jesus.

Rev. Tim closed with prayers.