



Weekly Bulletin Sunday 24th November

I wish it could be Christmas everyday...



Piero della Francesca - "The Nativity"
(1470 -75) National Gallery, London

Piero really liked his home-town of Tuscany. It's in the background of many of his paintings, like his famous "Resurrection" – the one with Jesus stepping purposefully out of the tomb. And here it is again: a lean-to shed on a hill above the river, with Tuscany (not Bethlehem) behind.

The painting, though, looks incomplete somehow. There is bare canvas showing through. Is it unfinished? Or did some over-enthusiastic restorer long ago, in trying to remove all the layers of dark grime, get rather carried away and scrub a little too hard with the Nitromors?

And yet, with its home-town background and its incomplete look, it (even if accidentally) makes the point that the Nativity is actually an on-going process rather than a one-off, finished historical event. "Be born in us, today", we sing. The nativity is never complete, and it can happen in our lives, our town, right now. Here. Today. As Wizzard sing each year: "I wish it could be Christmas everyday". Well... in some ways it can be!

Next Sunday is Advent Sunday, and we begin to look forward to the coming of the Christ amongst us. We also look forward to the Second Coming, when he will return in glory. And yet, it always seems strange to say that he's coming again, when he has never truly ever left us. Where can we meet with Jesus today, in our own home-town? Where do we see him, in our daily lives, right here and now?

In the painting, the angels, who appear without wings or halo, begin to open their mouths in praise, and the donkey behind them lifts back its head and

opens its mouth too, joining in. If an ass can worship, why not me? Let all creation participate in worship!

A shepherd points upwards. Is he pointing to the star guiding the magi right now? Or is he saying to Joseph, "Up there... That's where we saw a host of angels." Or is he actually making a theological point? "From heaven you came, helpless babe..."

Meanwhile, Joseph sits on a saddle and massages his aching feet. It's been a long journey to get here. More piously, Mary kneels to adore. The baby, however, doesn't rest in a manger but has been laid on the folds of her draped blue cloak. He has certainly been brought down to earth.

The magpie on the roof is not joining in though. Right now, it is silent. The magpie is a sign of bad luck and ill-fortune. As the old rhyme puts it, "One for sorrow...". In other words, it's an indication that this story might not have a happy ending. And, just to reinforce the point, hidden in the patch of foliage towards the bottom left, there's a goldfinch with its red face reminding us of Jesus' blood and the cross.

Rev David Milner

80th Birthday

We'd like to take a moment to celebrate Lois Morton, whose 80th Birthday falls on the 28th of November 2024.

Happy Birthday Lois!



Encounter – Sunday 24th November

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



Penrith

10.30am ~ Morning Worship – Social Justice Group
7pm ~ Encounter

Skelton

10.30am ~ Morning Worship – Rev David Milner

Stainton

10.30am ~ Morning Communion – Rev Tim Cooke

Cottage Wood Centre

3pm ~ Afternoon Worship – Rev Tim Cooke

Alston Moor

11am ~ Morning Worship – Mr David Pepin

Kirkoswald

10am ~ Morning Worship – Rev Beth Honey

Gamblesby

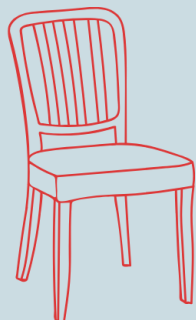
2pm ~ Afternoon Communion – Rev David Milner

Great Salkeld

6pm ~ Evening Worship – Mr Dean Lawson

***There are alternative Anglican services available.
For details, please see the EEMC website: www.eastofedenmc.org.uk***

PMC SOCIAL JUSTICE SERVICE
Sunday 24th November 10.30am



Content Warning

Our Social Justice service this week has a focus on domestic violence.

A support team will be available during the service

The international campaign
'The 16 Days of Action Against Domestic Violence'
runs from 25th November - 10th December



Weekly Diary

Monday 25th November

9.30am ~ Monday Walks – Meet outside PMC

6pm ~ Choral Group – Sandgate/PMC

7pm ~ Carols by Candlelight Rehearsal – Beacon/PMC

7.30pm ~ Zoom Prayer Meeting –

All are welcome to join, please follow the link and use the Meeting ID below,

<https://zoom.us/j/97436321089>

Meeting ID: 974 3632 1089

Tuesday 26th November

10am ~ Midweek Service – Mr Dean Lawson – Church/PMC

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

10.30am ~ CAP Job Club – Beacon/PMC

1.30pm ~ Prayer Meeting – Church/PMC

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

7pm ~ Omega House Group – Sunningdale, Stainton

7.30pm ~ Junior Youth Club – Ullswater/PMC

Wednesday 27th November

10am ~ 3C's – Cottage Wood Centre

1.30pm ~ Wednesday Get Together - Skelton Methodist Church

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

Thursday 28th November

3pm ~ Afternoon Worship – Miss Kathleen Williamson - Woodlands

Friday 29th November

12 noon ~ Lunch Club – Ullswater/PMC

Sunday 1st December

Penrith: 10.30am	Blessing Ceremony – Rev Tim Cooke
Skelton: 10.30am	Morning Communion – Rev Gillian Belford
Stainton: 10.30am	Morning Worship – Miss Kathleen Williamson
Alston Moor: 11am	Morning Worship – Rev Mary Elliot
Culgaith: 11am	Morning Worship – Rev David Milner
Langwathby: 11am	Morning Worship – Mr Bryan Gray
Cottage Wood: 3pm	Afternoon Worship – Rev David Milner
Nenthead: 5pm	Pennine Praise

GAMBLESBY METHODIST CHAPEL

HE BREWS COFFEE CLUB

EVERY TUESDAY 10am to 12pm +

Enjoy games, crafts or just a chat only £2

Soup and a roll from November only £2.50



Dates for your diary

Saturday 7th December, 10am-1pm
Little Acorns Christmas coffee & stalls
fundraiser

Sunday 22nd December, 4pm
Community Carol Service



Easy Eco Tips, NOVEMBER: -

- Green your home. Combat climate change and reduce heating costs by identifying and sealing drafts around your home. Find the gaps that let the cold air in and warm air out and fix these gaps using the correct materials and online tutorials.
- Additionally, place foil or radiator panels to reflect heat into your room.
- Pray for those who might be experiencing the cold this winter.

Gardening Team



At PMC the church garden, and one flower bed in the Coronation Garden in Portland Place, are cared for by a group of volunteers on a weekly rota. We could do with a few more volunteers - if you are interested please speak to Eileen Jennison, David Belford, John Gore or Sarah in the church office.

Thank you.

RESTORE

WE HELP RESTORE HOPE, FAITH
AND HAPPINESS IN OUR COMMUNITY.

RESTORE ON THE ROAD IS SUPPORTING US AS WE

Knit Together!

Join us as we share our skills to knit & crochet angels for the local community, drink coffee, chat and enjoy being community together!

Beginners are welcome - lots of help will be on hand!
Bring your own supplies or use the ones from Restore

EVERY THURSDAY IN NOVEMBER

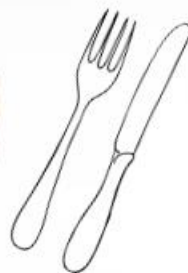
7TH - 14TH - 21ST - 28TH

10:30 TO 11:30AM

STANTON METHODIST CHURCH

FOR MORE INFO CONTACT TRACE - 07891532979
OR POP IN ON A THURSDAY

Let's do **LUNCH**
SUNDAY 1ST DECEMBER
Following the PMC Service



Serving Baked Potatoes, Festive Trimmings and Mince Pies!

Donations are welcomed and much appreciated.

Donations of mince pies would be welcomed

PMC Christmas Windows

As has become our tradition, we would like to decorate the church windows at PMC ready for Christmas.

In line with our Eco Church ethos, this year's theme is **Sustainability & Social Justice**. The Flower Team will take responsibility for decorating the windowsills, and we will use responsibly sourced greenery etc. for this.

We are looking for some groups, e.g. house groups, social justice team, toddlers, etc. to get involved and help decorate a window on the above theme with a Christmas message - ***the windows need to be prepared and decorated before Sunday 8th December.***

If you would like to get involved please contact the Anne MacDonald or the Church Office.



**Our next "All Together Fellowship" gathering is on
MONDAY, DECEMBER 9th, at 2pm in the Church.**



**Come and join us, and enjoy
an afternoon of Christmas cheer.
There will be readings, poems, etc,**



**interspersed with carols, and also
a magical representation of the nativity story.**

**As usual, there will be refreshments before you leave.
Stay for a chat and enjoy a selection of seasonal goodies.**

**PLEASE NOTE that we meet next on Monday, January 20th.
The programmes for January to June, 2025, will be available soon.**

John & Margaret



PENRITH METHODIST CHURCH
CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT

'All Things New'

SUNDAY 15TH
DECEMBER, 7PM

We warmly invite anyone interested in participating in our Carols by Candlelight event to join us for rehearsals on Monday evenings at 7pm, Penrith Methodist Church.

Rehearsals are flexible, lasting no more than an hour, and you are welcome to arrive at any point during that time. We will also offer a practice-at-home feature to ensure everyone has the opportunity to participate.

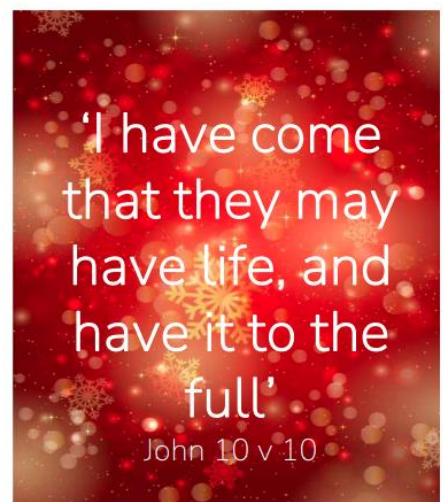
For more details or to express interest, please email Michael at cumbriaentertainment@gmail.com.

Can you give a financial donation to the CAP Eden District Services Christmas Appeal 2024?

Christmas Gift Bag

Giving our clients a Christmas gift of vouchers for groceries, an Argos gift card for children's presents and Christmas treats.

Donations will help support clients who attend the Job Club and who are working with the Debt Centre.



'I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full'

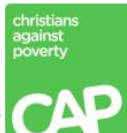
John 10 v 10

GIVING INSTRUCTIONS:

Please can donations be received by Sunday 1st December Please use Reference: "CAP Blessings 2024"

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



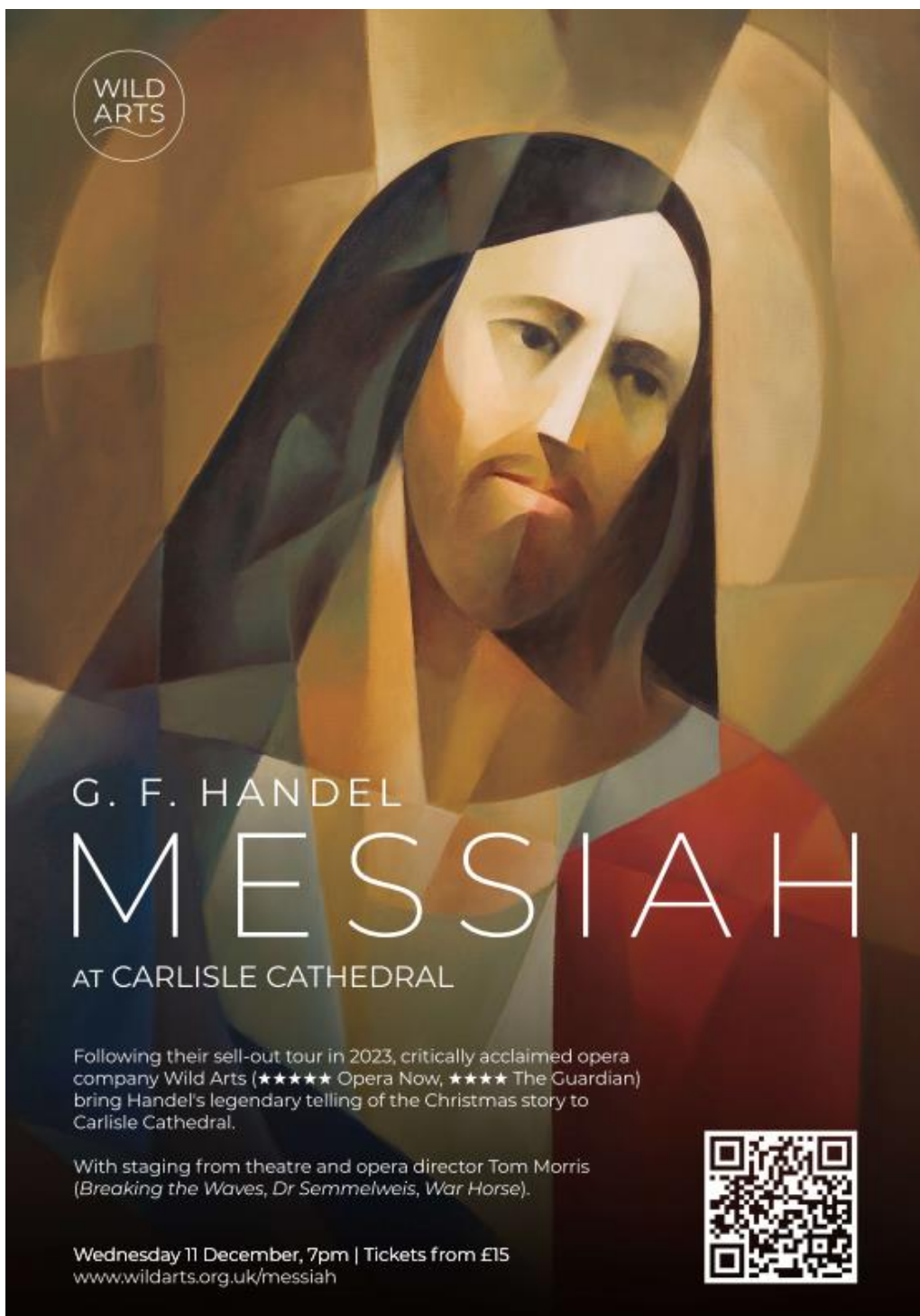
PMC Communal Christmas Card

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 in church from Sunday 1st December. On the card are examples of gifts from their Extraordinary Gifts catalogue.

The catalogue is on-line at

<https://www.allwecan.org.uk/gifts/#tve-jump-188720ccb3f> if you want to do your own shopping!




WILD ARTS

G. F. HANDEL
MESSIAH
AT CARLISLE CATHEDRAL

Following their sell-out tour in 2023, critically acclaimed opera company Wild Arts (★★★★★ Opera Now, ★★★★ The Guardian) bring Handel's legendary telling of the Christmas story to Carlisle Cathedral.

With staging from theatre and opera director Tom Morris (*Breaking the Waves*, *Dr Semmelweis*, *War Horse*).

Wednesday 11 December, 7pm | Tickets from £15
www.wildarts.org.uk/messiah





East Cumbrian Methodist Circuit Christmas Services

Sunday 15th December

- 9.30am** - Cottage Wood Centre -
Carol service at All Saints, Calthwaite
- 10.30am** - Penrith Methodist Church - Carols in Town
- 10.30am** - Skelton Methodist Church - Carol Service
- 11am** - Alston Moor - Community Carols at Town Hall
- 11am** - Langwathby - Carol Service
- 7pm** - Penrith Methodist Church - Carols By Candlelight

Tuesday 17th December

- 10am** - Penrith Methodist Church - Rev. Tim Cooke,
Lessons & Carols

Sunday 22nd December

- 10.30am** - Penrith Methodist Church - Family Crib Service
- 3.15pm** - St Patricks, Patterdale - Carol Service
- 4pm** - Gamblesby Methodist Chapel -
Little Acorns Carol Service

Chirstmas Eve

- 3pm** - St Patricks, Patterdale - Crib Srevice
- 6pm** - Kirkoswald - Nativity Service, meet at Lace's Garage
- 11.15pm** - St Patricks, Patterdale - Midnight Communion
- 11.30pm** - Penrith Methodist Church - Midnight Communion

Christmas Day

- 10am** - Penrith Methodist Church - Rev. Tim Cooke
- 10am** - Skelton Methodist Chapel - Mrs Lois Morton
- 10am** - Stainton Methodist Chapel - Rev. Dr. James Tebbutt
- 10.30am** - St Patricks, Patterdale - Rev. Andrew Callaway
- 11am** - Langwathby Methodist Chapel - Rev. David Milner



Please let the Circuit Office know if there are any Christmas Services missing from the above and we will add them in.



Festive Lunch & Circus Fun!

Monday 30th December,
12noon Lunch  1.30pm Euphoric Circus

Booking is essential

contact:

admin@penrithmethodist.co.uk

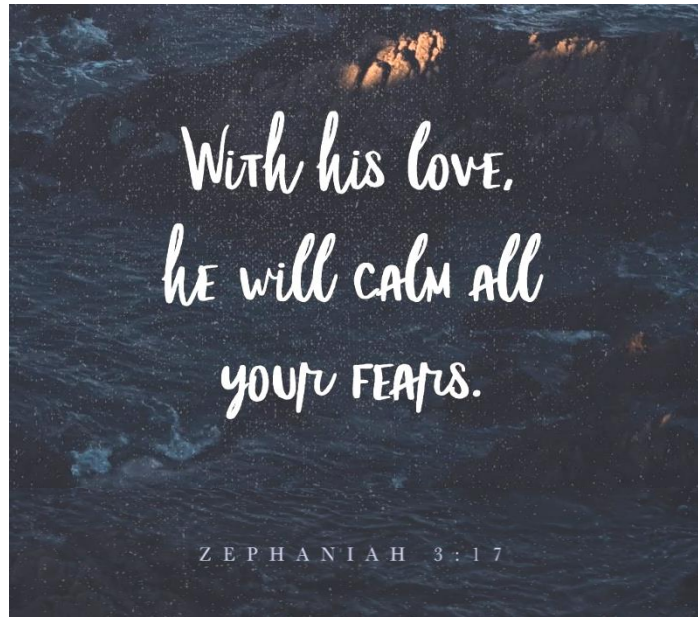
Penrith Methodist Church
Wordsworth Street,
Penrith, CA11 7QY


Department
for Education

 Westmorland
& Furness
Council

#HAF2024

Thought for the week...



Contact Details:

Co-Superintendent Ministers

Rev. Tim Cooke: 01768 890465 or email: tim.cooke@methodist.org.uk

Rev. David Milner: 01768 863209 or email: dave@revmilner.plus.com

Pioneer Enabler: Morgan Tebb-Roger: 07949 156051

or email: outreach@penrithmethodist.co.uk

Circuit Pastoral Worker: Dean Lawson: laypastor@penrithmethodist.co.uk

Stainton Outreach Worker: Trace Cooke: 01768 890465

or email: tracecooke1@gmail.com

Circuit Office: 01768 862787 or email: admin@penrithmethodist.co.uk

(Open 9am - 1pm, Monday to Friday)

Circuit Administrative Manager: Sarah Mulheron-Summers

Circuit Administrative Assistant: Niamh Ryan

Premises Manager: Lindsay Wilson

Eden Debt Centre Manager (CAP): Jen Dixon: 07799 271710

or email: jendixon@capuk.org

Debt Coach: Jo Varley: 07464 939138

or email: jovarley@capuk.org

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

East of Eden Mission Community Website: www.eastofedenmc.org.uk

PMC Website: 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!

