



East Cumbria **Methodist** Circuit



## Weekly Bulletin Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup> December

### Peace



If you look at the Christmas cards you have received so far, amongst them you may have some that carry the words 'Peace on Earth'. Perhaps, like me, you may be tempted to be slightly dismissive of such a naïve notion given the harsh realities of the world, but 'peace' is actually a significant theme of the New Testament and is at the heart of the Gospel message.

As I write this, I have Handel's Messiah playing through my headphones awaiting the chorus which quotes Isaiah's famous prophetic words in chapter 9 verse 6: 'For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given'. As earworms go, I don't think you can have a better one.

I find it interesting where Isaiah's list of attributes of this promised child lands: *And he will be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, **Prince of Peace***

Do take a moment to absorb that verse!

I have to confess to being a bit Grinch-like and not embracing Christmas as enthusiastically as I used to, or as others think I ought. But in my defence, I think it's because all the razzmatazz and activity are, for me, obstacles to focusing on and enjoying the message of peace that my soul craves.

I could quote lots of verses on 'peace' but shall leave it to you to see if you can remember any (or look them up) apart from two:

*Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid. John 14:27*



*Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. Matt 5:9*

The final one reminds us that peace is not only something to receive but to practice and pass on; many who are meeting family this Christmas may have good opportunity to do just that.

May you be blessed with a renewed acquaintance with peace this Christmas.

*Shane McNicol*



**Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> December – Advent 4**

**Penrith**

**10.30am** ~ Family Crib Service – Mr Morgan Tebb-Roger

**Skelton**

**10.30am** ~ Morning Worship – Rev Tim Cooke

**Stainton**

**10.30am** ~ Joint Service with Skelton

**Cottage Wood Centre**

**3pm** ~ Afternoon Crib Service – Mr Morgan Tebb-Roger

**Alston Moor**

**11am** ~ Morning Worship – Mr Dean Lawson

**Kirkoswald**

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

**Gamblesby**

**4pm** ~ Little Acorn Community Carol Service

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

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



**Christmas Day**

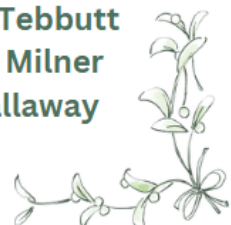
**10am** - Penrith Methodist Church - Rev. Tim Cooke

**10am** - Skelton Methodist Chapel - Mrs Lois Morton

**10am** - Stainton Methodist Chapel - Rev. Dr. James Tebbutt

**10am** - Langwathby Methodist Chapel - Rev. David Milner

**10.30am** - St Patricks, Patterdale - Rev. Andrew Callaway



## **Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> December – Fifth Sunday**

### **Penrith**

**10.30am** ~ Morning Worship – Mr Michael Boone

### **Patterdale**

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

### **Skelton**

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

### **Stainton**

**10.30am** ~ Morning Worship – Mrs Lois Morton

### **Cottage Wood Centre**

**3pm** ~ Bring & Share Social

### **Alston Moor**

**11am** ~ Local Arrangement

### **Langwathby**

**11am** ~ Mission Community

*Please note that the service at Langwathby is a joint EEMC Mission Community 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Celebration - "The Late, Late Christmas Carol Service: Your last chance to sing some favourite Christmas tunes!"*



## **Twelve tips for a greener Christmas**

- 1) Start with your advent calendar. Support overseas farmers by ensuring that your advent calendar, and any Christmas chocolate, is [Fairtrade](#).
- 2) Rent a tree. Did you know that, in the UK, 6-8 million real Christmas trees go to landfill every year?
- 3) Go for a natural wreath and decorations.
- 4) Re-use cards and wrapping.
- 5) Create homemade gifts.
- 6) Make sure your gifts don't cost the earth.
- 7) Give the gift of time - just make a 'gift of time gift voucher' and put it in a card for them.
- 8) Dim the lights but not the joy! LED Christmas lights help to save energy and money.
- 9) Remember the reason for the season. Practising generosity and hospitality is a great way to show Christ's love at Christmas.
- 10) Try a meat-free Christmas meal.
- 11) Recycle right. More waste ends up in landfill over Christmas than during the rest of the year.
- 12) Carry on caring for God's earth throughout the year.

For more in depth tips over Christmas take a look at

[www.arocha.org.uk/our-twelve-tips-for-a-greener-christmas/](http://www.arocha.org.uk/our-twelve-tips-for-a-greener-christmas/)



# Weekly Diary

## Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> December

**CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES – SEE PREVIOUS PAGES**

## Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> December

**CHRISTMAS SERVICES – SEE PREVIOUS PAGES**

## Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> December

**SUNDAY SERVICES – SEE PREVIOUS PAGE**

## Monday 30<sup>th</sup> December

**12 noon – 4F – Ullswater/PMC**

## Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> January

**10am ~ Coffee Morning – Skelton Methodist Church**

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

## Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> January

**10.15am ~ Meeting Point – Langwathby Methodist Chapel**

## Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> January

<b>Penrith: 10.30am</b>	Covenant – Rev Tim Cooke
<b>Skelton: 10.30am</b>	Members Service
<b>Stainton: 10.30am</b>	Covenant – Rev Gillian Belford
<b>Cottage Wood: 3pm</b>	Covenant – Rev David Milner
<b>Alston Moor: 11am</b>	Covenant – Rev Mary Elliot
<b>Culgaith: 11am</b>	Covenant – Dr Peter Bowes
<b>Langwathby: 11am</b>	Covenant – Rev David Milner



## **Encounter – NOT ON**

A reminder that Encounter is **not on this month (December)**.

## **Reminder**

**Please note that the Circuit Office will close on the 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2024 and reopen on the 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2025.**







# UPDATE 2

## *Preparing for the Cumbria Circuit*

Our Implementation Group are working hard to keep the process on track and are now at the stage where we want to step up consultation and engagement with all our congregations and partners across Cumbria. We are building our communications strategy so an Update and a mailchimp post should come out monthly on the first Tuesday. Alongside this we are planning some zoom meetings for a Tuesday evening at 5:00pm for Superintendents in week 2 (from 11th Feb) and all Ministers in week 4 (from 25th Feb).

The Strategy and Vision Group want to give everyone across the new circuit the opportunity to engage in creating a vision for the future up to and beyond Sept 2025. This will include:

- Opportunity to complete and return postcards
- Campfire discussions in January
- Zoom conversations with the implementation group
- A Creative art project

We are hoping to have a first draft of a vision statement ready during February. This isn't the end of the process, but a starter for ongoing consultation. To inform the process, it is hoped that as many people as possible will also attend campfire discussions, but for those who can't, ideas can be written on postcards to ensure we reach more people.

The Group are producing opening worship, and discussion questions, to guide the sessions, intended to last for 1-1.5 hours. **Look out for details of where and when your local Campfires are being held.** Some will be outside, others inside.

On the 21<sup>st</sup> November a joint Invitation Committee met and appointed David Newlove as the Superintendent of our new Cumbria Circuit from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2025.

David is currently a Co-Superintendent of the North Cumbria Circuit. He came to Cumbria from Lincolnshire 6 years ago and has fallen in love with the County. As part of his ministry here he has developed chaplancy roles at the Borderway Auction Mart in Carlisle and at Carlisle Infirmary. Alongside Superintendency David is the Mission Area Lead for Cumbria and a Deputy Chair for the North West England District. As he takes up his new role David will have served as a Superintendent for 26 years.



A number of legal decisions will need to be approved at Church Councils and Circuit Meetings in Feb/March so look out for local dates.

Finally, as we continue to pray for patience and understanding as we develop this exciting initiative, we wish you a peaceful, happy and blessed Christmas.

**The Implementation Group**

**18 December 2024**

# PMC Coffee

It would be appreciated if folks can please sign up on the Sunday morning coffee rota, 29th December to the end of March is currently empty!

Perhaps it could be a New Year resolution to take a regular slot on the rota, as it facilitates an important part of PMC's caring nature.



# JOIN OUR TEAM !

Centre  
Development  
Manager

Organised?

Motivated?

Leader?

Full Time permanent contract,  
£32-34K job share considered  
for the right person  
Closing date 19th January 2025



**AMBLESIDE  
PARISH CENTRE**

*For the community  
and churches of Ambleside*

For more info or an application pack  
contact  
grace.cauldwell@methodist.org.uk  
07341960506





## **A massive Thank You!!!**

At Christmas time, will you all give a virtual round of applause and join me in saying a huge thank you to the incredible team working here in our Circuit.

We have the most brilliant staff who undertake loads of different roles that all add to the rich tapestry of our expression of being Church.

So, Sarah, Niamh, Lindsay, Morgan, Dean, Jen, and Jo – thank you for being the superstars you are! You continue to be a massive blessing to the church, and to the people of our community.

Can we also say thank you too, to our Circuit and chapel stewards, leadership teams and the unbelievable army of people who volunteer and get involved in so many different areas of church life. Your commitment and passion is very much appreciated, and makes us who we are.

Happy Christmas to you all, and please know how grateful we are for all you do.



Rev. Tim and Rev. Dave.





## AT GAMBLESBY METHODIST CHURCH

### HE BREWS COFFEE CLUB

EVERY TUESDAY 10am - 1pm

Except 26 and 31 December

Enjoy coffee and a biscuit, games, crafts or just a chat only £2

During the winter - soup and a roll at lunchtime only £2.50



### COMMUNITY NATIVITY SERVICE

SUNDAY 22 DECEMBER at 4 pm

*A magical start to the Christmas weekend*

Everyone Welcome

followed by light refreshments



For further information, please contact Claire  
on 07756932116 or email: [gamblesbymethodist@gmail.com](mailto:gamblesbymethodist@gmail.com)

## Circuit HR Team

We are looking for someone to join the Circuit HR Team. If you may be interested in this role please speak to Rev. Tim Cooke



**Easy Eco Tips, DECEMBER: -**

- Celebrate a Greener Christmas - Find ways to make your Christmas festivities both a joyous celebration of Christ's coming and environmentally conscious.
- Explore A Rocha UK's twelve tips for a greener Christmas at [arocha.org.uk/our-twelve-tips-for-a-greener-christmas](http://arocha.org.uk/our-twelve-tips-for-a-greener-christmas).



**Help for Ukrainian Family – Looking for Host**

Hi, I'm seeking hosts for 3 Christians in Cumbria. They are in UK already so they don't need to go through the visa system. They need to come from Norfolk to Penrith, Kendal or elsewhere nearby.

The family is made up of Victor, who is an amputee wounded in Mariupol, his wife Inna, who has some trauma, and daughter Lidia.

The Homes for Ukraine system pays the host and this family can be housed separately (husband and wife separately from daughter). They are Christian on the evangelical side.

Can you think of people around here that might offer a "Homes for Ukraine" place - perhaps friends might?

I can talk people through this process – here is my phone number: 07973112046

Frank Chalmers

**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!



# Restore on the Road 2024–2026 and Beyond...



**Are you interested in connecting up people and places in our local villages, and finding a way to encourage sustainable community groups? If so, this project for people of all ages, all faiths and no faith may be for you. It won't cost the earth or all your time.**

Restore is taking the community space beyond the shops onto the road to connect Penrith with local villages through this project.

We have funds to invest in an electric van and we are looking for people to volunteer to be part of this project.



## Can you be a...

- Team leader on the van, supported by the project leader; caring for the community around the van.
- Member of the community on the van; working together and encouraging community wherever the van stops.
- Van driver: an essential role but still part of the community.
- Event diary organiser; not necessarily going out on the van.

OPPORTUNITIES

If you're interested in getting involved then we want to hear from you!

Please contact Beth Honey on:

[beth.honey@restorecumbria.co.uk](mailto:beth.honey@restorecumbria.co.uk)  
or  
07831 991076

Or drop into the shop & speak to her (Tues-Thurs).





## PMC Church Windows

A huge thank you to anyone that has been involved in decorating the Church for Advent and the Christmas period.

I hope you will agree it looks superb and delivers a strong message!

Almost every item has been previously used or was growing in people's gardens, with little or no cost to PMC.

All decorations should be removed by the 6th January, but preferably after the Morning Service on the 5th January.

Thank you again .



### *East Cumbrian Methodist Circuit Christmas Services*

#### Sunday 22nd December

- 10am - Kirkoswald Methodist Chapel
- 10.30am - Penrith Methodist Church - Family Crib Service
- 10.30am - Skelton Methodist Church - Lessons & Carols
- 10.30am - Stainton Methodist Church  
(joint service with Skelton)
- 11am - Alston Moor Methodist
- 3pm - Cottage Wood Centre - Nativity Service
- 3.15pm - St Patricks, Patterdale - Carol Service
- 4pm - Gamblesby Methodist Chapel -  
Little Acorns Carol Service

#### Christmas Eve

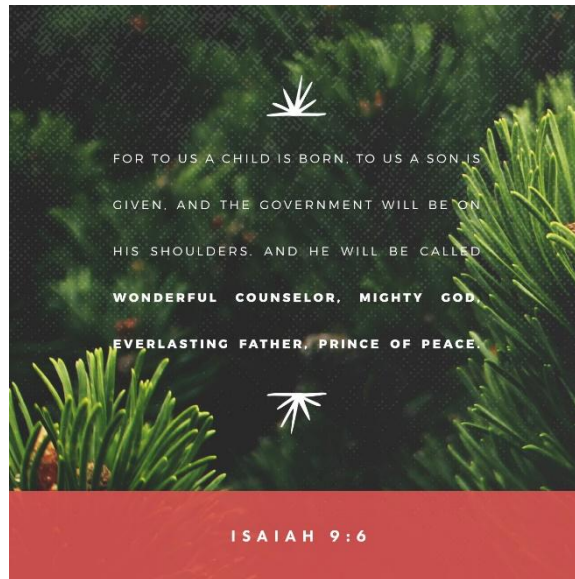
- 3pm - St Patricks, Patterdale - Crib Service
- 6pm - Kirkoswald - Nativity Service, meet at Lace's Garage
- 11.15pm - St Patricks, Patterdale - Midnight Communion
- 11.30pm - Penrith Methodist Church - Midnight  
Communion

#### Christmas Day

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



## 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)

**Pioneer Enabler: Morgan Tebb-Roger:** 07949 156051

or email: [outreach@penrithmethodist.co.uk](mailto:outreach@penrithmethodist.co.uk)

**Circuit Pastoral Worker: Dean Lawson:** [laypastor@penrithmethodist.co.uk](mailto:laypastor@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-Summers**

**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: Jo Varley:** 07464 939138

or email: [jovarley@capuk.org](mailto: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](http://www.eastofedenmc.org.uk)

**PMC Website:** [www.penrithmethodist.co.uk](http://www.penrithmethodist.co.uk)

**Find our Sunday services on YouTube**

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**Let's stay connected with one another!**

