

# The Link



Western Fells Methodist Circuit

## Western Fells Methodist Circuit Summer 2023

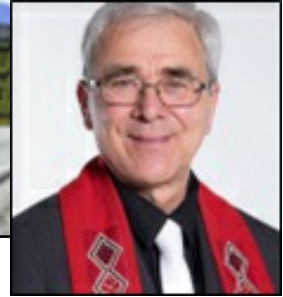


Ennerdale Fells

[www.westernfells.uk](http://www.westernfells.uk)

The **Methodist** Church 

# The first word



**We welcome Rev Peter Taylor, current President of the Methodist Church in New Zealand and ex-minister in Cockermouth, who is currently visiting family locally, to share this edition's 'First Word'.**

I was the minister in Cockermouth from 2000 to 2006, then moved to the New Zealand Methodist Church where I have now become their President. I've noticed differences between the two Churches: NZ Methodism is proportionately much smaller and more spread out, NZ Methodism accepted gay marriage and gay clergy many years ago, and voting in meetings is by consensus rather than 'majority wins'.

Some things we hold in common: ageing congregations, closure of churches and amalgamation of districts. Also despair, which sees no long-term future for a particular congregation or even the whole Church, seems increasingly common. This makes me sad and it

also questions the nature of our trust in God. Where has our hope gone?

Christian hope is not wishful thinking, or trying to fool yourself into believing what is impossible. Too often we place our hope in the wrong place. We should not put our hope in buildings, circuit structures, church councils, special programmes, hymnbooks, liturgies, or even ministers. For all





Hope forms the basis not only of our personal faith, but also how we share the gospel, which is basically explaining what drives our lives, what keeps us in this our beloved Church.

"All for Jesus – all for Jesus,  
this our song shall ever be:  
for we have no hope, nor Saviour,  
if we have not hope in thee."  
(StF 341)

*Peter Taylor*

these are fallible and can (and sadly do) let us down from time to time. Instead, as the old hymn (StF 455) says: "All my hope on God is founded".

We place our hope in God alone, not expecting some 'magic', but knowing that even though we go through pain and disappointment God is still there, still works for our good, and still supports us through life and death.



## Coronation Prayer

*from Church of Scotland*

We pray for our King, the Queen and the royal family. May your blessing be upon them in the duties that they carry out throughout our land and abroad. Grant to his Majesty, King Charles,

the gift of wise leadership and opportunities to influence the protection of our planet. Grant him clarity of vision and the strength to be self-giving and faithful. May he rule with courage and faith. *Amen*

# **Circuit Leadership Team...**

Jackie Davies: Circuit Steward

## **# New Circuit Treasurer:**

We're delighted to welcome Nancy Powell Davies to take over the role of Circuit Treasurer for Western Fells. Nancy is learning about her new role and can be contacted via email at

**[powell.davies@btinternet.com](mailto:powell.davies@btinternet.com)** or by phone 017687 73995. Church treasurers have been sent Nancy's address if you need to send her cheques or correspondence.

Our thanks go to Nancy as she begins and also thanks to Nigel and Mandy who have managed the circuit finances together for the past few years and in particular have handled the financial side of two circuit mergers. Nigel will continue to manage The Birches holiday-let on behalf of the circuit. The Birches is the former Keswick Manse.

## **# Circuit Administrator**

Mykola is settling in and hopefully you'll be getting to know her, both from her regular emails or by meeting her in person at various church events. Mykola works 16 hours per week and her current

working hours are Wednesdays and Fridays 9.30am-2.30pm in the Circuit Office at Cleator Moor Methodist Church and Thursdays from home. She can be contacted via email **[admin@westernfells.uk](mailto:admin@westernfells.uk)** or by leaving a message on the office answerphone on 01946 812880.

## **# Circuit Steward Vacancy**

Currently the former Solway churches are not represented amongst the Circuit Stewards on the Circuit Leadership Team. It would be helpful, as the CLT considers the Western Fells Circuit for someone from the Solway churches to be part of the team. If you want further information to help you consider this role please contact Philip, Jackie or Morna. We'd love to speak to you. No pressure – just an opportunity to talk through any questions you might have about the role. Our phone numbers are on the back of this magazine.

**Thank you to everyone who is involved in the life of our churches and circuit.**

# Introducing Morna

I'm a relatively new Circuit Steward for the Western Fells, having taken up the role late last year. I'm really enjoying learning more about the Circuit and how the Methodist Church is run

It's been a steep learning curve but I've been well supported by my fellow Stewards, Philip Adamson and Jackie Davies as well as Kina and the two Pauls. I'm also grateful for the background information given by various members of the different churches in the Circuit.

I'm trying to visit all the churches to share worship and fellowship as well as the business end of Church Councils. I still have a few to go but will hopefully have visited everyone soon.

Taking part in District events and Synod has allowed me to share what brilliant activity is happening in Western Fells as well as learning



more on the running of such a big organisation.

While I do admit it's taken a bit more of my time than I thought it would, I'm getting so much from doing it. Not just in my faith journey either!

I see myself as a facilitator and am so grateful that the Circuit and District are served by so many folk with skills and knowledge they're happy to share.

I'm conscious that the Circuit Leadership Team needs to be aware and hear what's happening in the whole of the Circuit and we do need further representation from some quarters. So if you feel you can spare some time to represent your area please let us know. You don't need to take on actions - just be there and share how we can live our lives as the Christians we should be.

*Morna*

# How stories speak to us...

Helen Herbert : Local Preacher

This story tells us things that can shape our minds so we never forget what it said to us and the meaning of it all.

“A Christian man had a dream one night. He dreamt he had died and gone to heaven, and was waiting to be united with his loved ones long gone. As he entered heaven, angels greeted him and told him that first of all, it was their job to show him around heaven, so that he’d become familiar with it.

The angels took the man into a very big room, full of many more angels working very busily. The angels took him around this large room and explained to him that this was the room where all the prayer requests came to and that it was always kept very busy. The man watched the angels at work putting all the prayer requests together.

Next the angels took the man into another large room, as busy as the first one. In the second room the man could see that all the prayer requests were answered and sent out. Again the man watched the angels, who

were so busy working sending out answers to people’s prayers.

Maybe by now you can imagine what is happening in the third large room where the angels now take the man. On entering this third room he finds it is empty, no working angels, nothing happening, but he notices one angel sitting in a chair in the corner with nothing to do. The man says, “What’s wrong, why are there no angels working in here?” The angels said, “Nothing happens very much in this room, as this room is where all the people send their thanks for answered prayer. This room is never as busy as the other two rooms.””

I read this story recently and it’s certainly stayed in my mind - how we sometimes forget about all the small things we should be saying ‘Thank you’ to God for each day, in what he does for each one of us.





# Circuit Round-up

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## Brigham

David Sharpe

Rather than a Lent Course, this year we had a Lent Bible Study. Over three sessions we looked at the last week or so of Jesus' life, from his entry into Jerusalem to the empty



tomb. Using Mark as our base document we compared and contrasted across the other three gospels. As well as making clearer our understanding, coffee and conversation made the sessions very enjoyable!

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## Cleator Moor

Nan Pryde & Sandra McAdam

First of all, an apology to Cleator Moor church and the circuit – imagine having a fall (nothing new there) and discovering a couple of weeks later that I had fractured my pelvis! So having missed the last issue I am having to backtrack with a shortened version of events.

### HARVEST 2022

This was a very meaningful All Age Worship service led by our District Chair, Rev Dr James Tebbutt. All

harvest goods were donated for the Food Pantry in Cleator Moor and having asked for advice on their requirements the table was overflowing. Our Harvest weekend concluded with our always popular annual Pie and Pea Supper, and it was difficult fitting everyone in!

### REMEMBRANCE DAY

An Ecumenical service was held in our church which was a very well attended service with many

uniformed organisations represented, including the Beavers who are affiliated to our church. Everyone was served with refreshments.

### **CHRISTMAS FAYRE**

This was very busy with many people from our community looking for bargains - and there were plenty. To staff this special event our friends from St Mary's RC church, as always, help us 'man' the stalls. Our 'Good as New Shop' was open as it is every Friday during our coffee mornings and as usual was buzzing. The shop is very well supported throughout the year and there are always lots of bargains to be had, including many donated items, still with labels on.

### **MEMORY TREE WEEKEND**

This annual event took place at the beginning of December. One year we didn't hold it and so many people asked about it and said how special it is to be able to place a card on the tree in memory of their loved ones.



Donations given were halved between **Hospice at Home** and **McMillan Nurses**.

### **CHURCH FAMILY PARTY**

The party was held on 7 January with our friends from Frizington Methodist Church. As always it was a lot of fun, very competitive during the quizzes and games I have to say and of course there was lovely food. (I was on my way to this party when I fell and fractured my pelvis!)

### **SPRING SPECIAL SALE**

We were awash with Easter Eggs on the chocolate tombola at our Easter Sale and again we were well supported by the community and once again helped by our friends from St Mary's who love to come and join in the fellowship.



### **LENT**

Our liturgy during Lent was very moving when we placed the symbols on the cross and then seeing it transformed with a crown of flowers on Easter Sunday. This moving service was attended by several visitors who were warmly welcomed and loved the service.

### **SOUP LUNCHES**

During Lent the Soup Lunch was hosted during the five weeks by Frizington Methodist Church, St Johns & St Leonards Anglican churches, St Marys RC Church and Cleator Moor



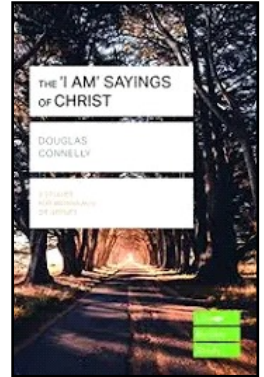
Methodist Church, each offering different homemade soups all very much appreciated by our communities. This was held in and organised by our church and an amazing sum of £832 was donated, half to **Cafod** and half to **Christian Aid**.

### **FRIDAY FELLOWSHIP**

Our Friday Fellowship is held once a month, led in turn by Deacon Kina Saunders, Jackie Davies and Rev Nan Pryde. This is well attended by 12 to

16 people and at present the group is using the book **"The 'I am' Sayings of Jesus"**.

As a church our mission is to continue working with our community in the future and we are very much looking forward to sharing our fellowship with them.



## ***Egremont***

**Gillian Bounds**

Last time we shared our news from Egremont we were reflecting on all that happened in the run up to Christmas, this time the news centres around the run up to Easter.

The first event of note was the **Songs and Sweets** evening on 18 February when people gathered for an evening of music followed by a selection of sweets. We had Tom, our regular organist on the piano, followed by Shona and friend on the violin and cello. Alistair came next, displaying a hidden talent for playing the organ before Paul

sang accompanied by Kina on the guitar. One person was heard to say after Paul's rendition of Joni Mitchell's **Big Yellow Taxi**, "I wish that man had sung another song, I could have listened to him all night." The music paused for a few minutes while Ian told us more about the



Circuit Charity **"Beginning Again"**. Tom returned to the piano for a second stint and then a spectacular end to the evening with Shona and her Dad bringing us a duet on the bagpipes. The evening was an overwhelming success and as not all our musicians were able to perform, it will be repeated again later in the year. A great way to show those outside the church that we can enjoy music of all kinds and know how to have a fun Saturday night!

A craft afternoon with afternoon tea has become something of a tradition with us for the Saturday before Mothering Sunday and this year was no exception. The theme this time was butterflies and flowers. There were cards to colour, clothes peg butterflies to make, handprint pots of flowers, painted fork flowers, and butterfly and flower mobile phone holders. We also had scratch art hearts and heart people to make and key rings to decorate with beads, feathers and ribbons. There was a lovely afternoon tea to share with sandwiches, cream scones and lots of cakes. The numbers on the day were just right, each child could do every activity, the helpers had time to chat with them while others were able to build up relationships with the parents, grandparents and other carers.

Although a lot of hard work is involved in preparing for this event, it was once again a great success and as we talked about



the love we have for our mothers, we could also share something of the love God has for us.

While the Lent Cross is in the church throughout Lent and the liturgy followed each Sunday with various items added during the service, the little cross and appropriate items only goes up outside the church during Holy Week. Each day things such as a palm branch, towel and bowl, nails and crown of thorns are added with an appropriate explanation. Then, when the main cross is decorated and taken outside on Easter Sunday we dress the little cross in a similar way.

On Maundy Thursday we opened for an Easter Experience inviting children and families to come and help decorate the church windows and make various crafts to take home. The first window was decorated with a Palm Sunday theme, the next with bread and wine as the children baked bread rolls and crushed grapes, and they moved on to making clay bowls and decorating towels thinking about Jesus washing the disciples' feet. In the fourth window a cross was made from Eucalyptus bark and the final

activity should have been preparing the Easter Garden but numbers were far higher than anticipated, and a re-think was needed. A quick raid of the craft cupboard resulted in various forms of eggs to decorate, and John's word search was



extremely popular with more grids hastily being produced. He did well to adapt his talk on the Easter Story to engage with the group of children we had attracted, and the kitchen did equally as well in making the food stretch and go round, so all were fed with baked potatoes and cake.

After an exhausting afternoon, many of us gathered again on Good Friday morning to wrap Hot Cross Buns in napkins from CPO and, after Kina had prayed over them, we went out on to the highways and byways - or Egremont Main Street - giving them out to the people we met with an invitation to join us for the Easter Services. Previously we have delivered the Hot Cross Buns to the shops too but this year, as last, John had visited them all with an Easter card and bag of mini eggs earlier in the week. Whatever the season, we hope that all the people of Egremont

know that the church cares for them, is there for them, and longs to share the love of God with them in all we do.



At the time of writing, we're looking forward to delivering coronation craft packs to our Messy Craft families, the coronation afternoon tea, the ever-popular Christian Aid Big Breakfast and much more.

It's with a sense of excitement and anticipation that we continue to pray the LyCiG Leading your Church into Growth Prayer together and as individuals, longing to catch God's vision for our church.

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## *Frizington*

Jackie Davies & Kina Saunders



### **Warm Space Drop-In at Frizington : Jackie Davies**

We've run a Warm Space on a Thursday since November with volunteers from the church. A notice board at our church gates, next to the bus stop, encourages people to come in for a warm welcome and free warm drinks. We learnt a bit from visiting the warm space in Egremont Methodist and we took



part in a webinar organised by the Methodist Church nationally to help us set up. To raise our profile, we advertised regularly on Facebook in the village and attended an advice session hosted by one of our local schools.

This led to providers coming to visit our sessions - Credit Union, Active Cumbria and Age UK amongst others and we could signpost people to services. They brought warm clothing to give out to people and gave advice for debt management and wellbeing.

Along with the chat & a cuppa we had craft, newspapers and jigsaws and sockets for people to charge phones and laptops. About 20 people have accessed the sessions in total.

Running the warm space has meant we could do something practical to try to address isolation, loneliness and the struggle to deal with the current cost of living issues that affect so many of us.

Funding from Cumbria Community Fund has meant we could keep the church warm and welcoming and provide light snacks. We've been asked to continue running the drop-in session even as the weather



improves, as people like the chance to get together.

### **Your Starter for Ten!**

**Deacon Kina Saunders**

One of the ways Frizington Methodist Church build relationships with the local community is by taking part in the local quiz. They've found it an effective way to get to know their community, and for the community to get to know them. I don't think there's anything wrong with being a Christian presence including some fun. For me it addresses some of the

misconceptions some people may have of Christians and that we're actually quite normal really!

The quiz takes place about 4–6 times a year at the Veteran's Club. It's a popular event, so much so that one of our team arrives early to grab a table for us! It's quite competitive, there's a lot of laughter and opportunities for conversations with members of the other teams who make up the community of Frizington.

There's a fee of £5 per person payable at the door and this total is given to a community venture during the evening. Our last quiz night was on St Patrick's Day and the community initiative chosen to

receive this donation was Frizington Methodist Church.

Katrina MacEwan (Church and Family Worker) received the donation on the church's behalf and delivered a short speech telling people that it would be used to finance the ongoing youth work at the Church.

It was a double blessing that night as our team – called 'Plus 1' on this occasion – also won the quiz and the £20 prize money was added to the donation made earlier in the evening.

You can see the winning team below and may just be able to see the glass trophy Gwynneth is holding up which is currently on display at Church.





## *Grange in Borrowdale*

Sharon Woollard : Brigham

Grange is a picturesque village in the Borrowdale valley at the end of Derwentwater, a few miles from Keswick. There are just two members who are now included in the Keswick congregation and the tiny chapel here is open for worship twice a year, usually a Songs of Praise in the summer and this year there was a joint Covenant service in March with some of the local Anglicans.

It was a wild, wet, windy, and cold afternoon. Remembering a quote from an Alfred Wainright book "The Lake District is the loveliest part of England, and Borrowdale is the fairest of its valleys", I ventured forth! We huddled into the warm cosy chapel and shared worship and Communion. The singing was robust



and we met old friends and made new ones. It was a lovely and memorable service - thank you Paul. These events at Grange come highly recommended, so watch out for the date of the next one!

As well as being open for prayer and reflection, both the chapel and St Andrew's, Stonethwaite are the homes of **The Borrowdale Story**, a permanent exhibition of the life and history of the Borrowdale valley. The exhibition is run by local volunteers who aim to bring the community and visitors together in appreciation of our shared past, present and future. Six hamlets are involved in the story of the valley - Grange, Lodore & Manesty; Rosthwaite; Honister, Seatoller & Seathwaite; Stonethwaite; and Watendlath & Ashness.

The exhibition is open daily and is well worth a visit. Or visit the website at **[borrowdalestory.co.uk](http://borrowdalestory.co.uk)**.



## *Great Clifton* Eva Ackerlay

Our service for the World Day of Prayer was well attended, with visitors from neighbouring churches and also circuit steward, Jackie Davies, who brought along our new circuit administrator, Mykola, to meet and greet.

For our own arrangement week we went along to the village Anglican church, St Lukes, and joined them for worship.

We all enjoyed the circuit service at St Marks, Maryport.

Our children's club on the first Friday in the month is running well, as is the Iona Service on the third Wednesday monthly.

Our next event will be our Strawberry Tea Day in June.



## *Hensingham* Philip Adamson

Whitehaven Mission Community which Hensingham is part of, met for a service held on 4 April at St Peter's Kells which included a talk by the Archdeacon for West Cumberland, the Ven Richard Pratt, and commis-

sioning of our new leader, Rev Mandy Jones, Vicar of St Peter's.

On Easter Sunday I attended the 6am sunrise service at the Candlestick overlooking the harbour and Whitehaven led by Major Steven Watson from the Salvation Army. On the Saturday after Easter we held a coffee morning and open morning for the congregations of the mission community to come together for fellowship and we invited the circuit to join us. We had a lovely morning together.



## *Keswick* Helen North & Pauline Huggan

These are very busy times for us at the moment with many things to think about, so we'd just like to highlight a few of them.

**Eco-Church:** We continue to work towards the Eco church 'Silver Award'. We include 'Eco Tips' in the weekly notices, and are looking into the possibility of having swift boxes fitted to one of our gable ends for the local colony of swifts, aiming to incorporate this into our new roof.

**Church roof:** We've commissioned an architect and are working with him to develop a project to completely rehaul the roof and to install solar panels.

**Fundraising:** Meanwhile, fundraising for the roof continues! We're going to introduce tote bags into our little 'shop' and plans are also afoot to bring back the popular puddings and a brand new calendar for 2024. We've even had photos of the Keswick area from some of our holiday visitors as well as members!

**Worship:** Making worship happen is the responsibility of the stewards. However, we have an ever-expanding agenda at our monthly meetings, and

as the number of services we're going to have to organise ourselves is ever-increasing, we're trying to get together a little worship group to talk about who we could invite to preach, organise Local Arrangement services and discuss our worship in general.

By doing this, we hope that more time will be able to be given to plan services in detail and by inviting the congregation to have more of an input our worship will benefit and become richer in the process.

**Charity Coffee Mornings:** These monthly events are always well-supported, and despite some poor weather conditions outside, we've been able to fill the hall with warmth and friendship – as well as making money for our chosen charities!

Our March event raised £386, which we forwarded to **All We Can** (the Methodist Relief &



Development Fund) to use for its Turkey & Syria Earthquake Appeal. Although we didn't have an official coffee morning in April, we invited people to share toasted hot cross buns and hot chocolate after the Good Friday service and the Churches Together Walk of Witness. Donations were welcomed and £135.50 was raised for the Church Roof Appeal.

Our next coffee mornings are 20 May for Christian Aid, 10 June for our Roof Appeal and 7 July for Cumbria Action for Sustainability (visit their website at [cafs.org.uk](http://cafs.org.uk) for information on how they're helping us Cumbrians reduce our carbon footprint and prevent climate change). Make a note of the dates and come along if you can to treat yourself to delicious homemade cakes, bric-a-brac and a raffle!



**Keswick Convention:** Talking of homemade cakes! Yes, it's that time of year already! Well, not quite, but we've already been meeting to discuss this year's refreshments, which we'll be providing to raise money for the **GNAAS** (Great North Air Ambulance Service), **Calvert Trust** and our **Church Roof Appeal**. The Convention itself starts on Saturday 15 July and our main refreshments start being served on Monday 17 July. The Bible Readings and Evening Celebrations will be relayed live from

the main tent every day, the Keswick Lecture will be relayed each Wednesday morning and we're negotiating whether a morning seminar can be relayed as well. We'll be serving refreshments for all three weeks but will be making one or two



changes this year! We won't be serving lunches but will be opening at the earlier time of 9am until 1pm. We'll be serving refreshments inside only but people will still be able to sit outside and enjoy the sunshine! Let's hope we have some this year!!



As usual we'd really appreciate any help you can give us! We need help beforehand with baking and we need help during the three weeks by serving on a rota - being part of the kitchen team, serving food in the hall, hosting (welcoming and chatting to people) and putting out (and putting away!) tables and chairs. If you'd like to be part of this - and perhaps enjoy some time in Keswick, at the Convention, by the lake or in the shops please contact Helen on 017687 78025 or [helen.north1@gmail.com](mailto:helen.north1@gmail.com).

**Baking:** We – and our customers - really appreciate the generous baking that many of you have provided for us in the past and we'd be grateful for your help again this year. Please do remember that the cost of any ingredients can be reimbursed with pleasure as they can be expensive these days. Items can be put into the church freezer at any time so you can start baking now if you like!

Some 'rules' and ideas: There will be no restrictions on ingredients this year (nuts will be allowed). Some vegan, gluten-free and dairy-free cakes would be nice. And this year, as we're not serving lunches, we're hoping you'll come up with some new ideas for savoury scones other than cheese. Cheese scones are still good though! Please label all items with a description, date baked and ingredients used, with particular reference to any allergens they contain i.e. nuts, eggs, dairy (milk, yoghurt, butter or margarine, cheese), flour or mustard. ***Please resist the temptation to pre-cut cakes and traybakes as we'll do that for you!***

**Baking ideas:**

<i>Date slice</i>	<i>Fruit cake</i>
<i>Lemon drizzle cake</i>	<i>Tiffin</i>
<i>Victoria sponge</i>	<i>Coffee cake</i>
<i>Traybakes (any variety)</i>	<i>Tea loaves</i>
<i>Scones ... using a 2.5inch cutter...</i>	
<i>fruit, cheese and other savoury flavours</i>	

**NO BISCUITS PLEASE!**



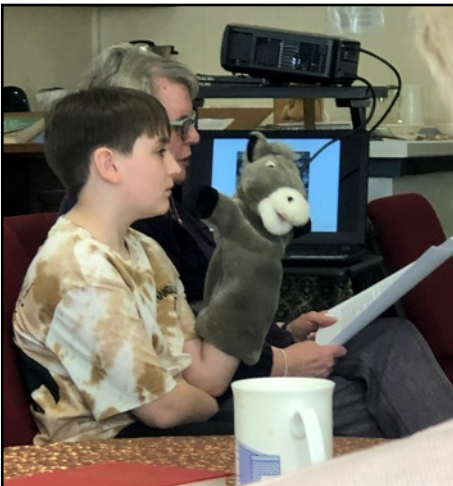
## *Maryport & Signpost*

Jennifer Holliday

The annual Pancake Day was held at Maryport Methodist Church and over 100 pancakes were made.



Good Friday at Signpost – The Easter Story was told by the Donkey that Jesus rode on Palm Sunday. This was taken from *The Donkey's Diary* by Tony Bower.



At the close the Cross was decorated as we knew "Sunday's coming" and placed in the window.



Easter Day Service and Communion at Maryport Methodist Church was taken by Rev Nicola Reynolds.



On the Sunday after Easter - 16 April- Maryport was the host for the Circuit Service. Rev Paul Harold led the service and preached on 1 Corinthians 15:12-23. He also showed the video "All Evangelists" in preparation for the course **Everyone an Evangelist** to be held later in the year. The collection raised £100 for Christian Aid.



## *Seascale*

Allison Hanshaw & Jackie Folkes

### **Seascale Tea Services**

A new venture has started in Seascale with the introduction of Tea Services which are held on a Wednesday afternoon. It was felt there was probably a need for this in Seascale as we were aware of members who find it difficult to attend church since our services altered to 9.30am on a Sunday morning. The format for a Tea Service is a short service of worship (approximately 30 minutes long) followed by a time of fellowship with refreshments.

It was decided we'd have a service once a quarter this year and then evaluate if there was a need and whether we would hold services more often in the future.

Our first service took place in February and was led by Rev Jonathan and Mrs Sheila Falkner together with their friend Andrew Murray on guitar. The service was well attended and much appreciated, the most wonderful comment came from a lady who said "Now I have my church again".

At the time of writing we look forward to our next Tea Service which will be on Wednesday 17 May at 2.30pm in Seascale Methodist church hall and will be led by Phoenix Praise and Viv Kendall. We'd be pleased to welcome any visitors who'd like to join us.

### **Easter Knitting Project**

Following on from the success of our Christmas cracker appeal we decided to knit small drawstring bags to contain Easter Eggs. This time we decided we'd hide the bags around the village over the Easter weekend. We were delighted that a lady in the village who heard of this project gave us some lovely little crocheted bags which were just the right size to hold a cream egg.

David  
Davies  
kindly



prepared some labels for the bags with the message *'Happy Easter from the local churches. Please take and enjoy.'* The bags were well received and it was gratifying that a message of thanks together with photographs on our village Facebook page received over 100 likes.



### Coming up...



All are warmly invited to join us for a **Christian**

**Aid** fundraiser which will be held on **Saturday 20 May in Seascale Methodist Church Hall 9:30–11:30am** when we'll be serving bacon butties (vegetarian option of cheese toasties on request), alongside teas and coffees. Room raffle, cake stall and handmade cards will be available to purchase.

### Fundraiser for Beginning Again, our Circuit Charity

You're all warmly invited to come along and join us on Saturday 10 June 7pm in Seascale Methodist Church Hall. Following the entertainment we'll serve a light savoury supper and enjoy a time of fellowship.

Musical entertainment will be

provided by Julie Best and Jean Corrigan on accordion. They'll have our feet tapping, and have us singing and clapping along to some well known lively tunes. If you've heard them perform you'll already know that we're in for a fabulous fun evening.



All proceeds from the raffle and donations for the evening's event will help to make a huge difference for **Beginning Again**. Ian Parker will tell us a bit more about the charity at the event and will be on hand to answer any questions.

# Ordination just round the corner

**Paul Harold**

Well, I'm soon to complete my two-year probationary period as a Methodist Minister. I am so grateful for the prayers, support and guidance of so many in the circuit. I'm very mindful of the words written by the author of the epistle to the Hebrews "Run with perseverance the race marked out for us" (Hebrews 12:1-3).

We all have a race to run and for each of us that race will take a different form, but I am mindful that the power to run the race comes from the risen Lord Jesus whose power at work in us is able to achieve far more than we could ever hope or imagine. (Ephesians 3 v 20).

The last two years has given me opportunity to consolidate and put into practice the theory of ministry gained as part of my theological training at the Queens College in Birmingham where I was situated before coming into circuit. Having been in lock down for most of that time there was little opportunity to obtain practical experience in ministry, but I feel I've had so many



opportunities to make up for this during the last two years.

I'm now feeling so much more confident with the many demands of ministry including the range of pastoral services such as baptisms, weddings and

funerals and I'm conscious of what an amazing opportunity these events have given me in contacting and building bridges with those in our communities who have no direct contact with church.

I very much have a heart for evangelism, believing it's our key calling as a church and as I move forward in ministry it's my hope to be able to facilitate ways we as churches and individuals can find new and creative ways of reaching our communities with the good news of Jesus.

## **Fresh expressions of church**

As we grapple with how to share the Good News of Jesus Christ with those who don't currently attend church, the question arises what "Church" might look like for people on the

outside. This is where new ways of doing and being church can help. A working definition of a fresh expression of Church is: new forms of church that emerge within contemporary culture and engage primarily with those who don't 'go to church.'

At the heart of this movement is an instruction from Jesus found in Matthew 28:16-20, called 'The Great Commission'. Jesus had risen from the tomb alive, showed himself to his friends and on one of those occasions said to them:

*<sup>19</sup> Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."*

Sharing all that we love and know about Jesus with people who don't yet know much about him is the key aspect of mission. But everyone is different, and every church is different and what works in one church may not be suitable or work in

another church for all sorts of reasons.

A fresh expression of church will listen to what the Holy Spirit is saying, listen to its context and dig deep into the riches of its tradition. This allows us to build on the foundations of our faith and practice and yet be challenged to develop into what the Spirit is prompting us to be and do.

A fresh expression of church might look very different from one church and community to another but worship, prayer and service to Jesus and those around us can all still happen in wonderfully different ways.

What matters is not what it may look like but that Jesus is known and loved there. A challenge for all our circuit churches is to consider how we can best be church for our communities.

As many of you are aware, my acceptance into full connection as a Methodist Minister and my ordination will take place on 25 June at Coventry Cathedral. Please pray for me as I prepare for this occasion.

Thanks again to all  
Every blessing.

*Paul Harold*



# Celebrating 70 years!

Deacon Kina Saunders

Well, this was a first for me! On the back of the preaching plan you'll see a list of all the local preachers in the circuit in order of the date of their accreditation. At the top of the list are the names of Harry Stephenson and Mavis Clark who were both accredited in 1952.

We contacted the Connexional Team at Methodist Church House to request Long Service Certificates which were presented to Harry and Mavis in their homes.

It got me thinking though – what was it like in 1952? Well, depending on the month – we had a King (George VI) or a new Queen acceded to the throne; Sir Winston Churchill was Prime Minister; tea rationing ended but sweets, eggs, butter and sugar were still on ration; the average

house price was £1,891. Why do I mention this? Well, first of all I find it interesting, but more importantly it shows how much life has changed over the years. To preach the word in an ever-changing world is a challenging responsibility, connecting with worshipping communities and being relevant without watering down the gospel. During their preaching ministries Harry and Mavis will have preached hundreds of services, encouraging congregations (and individuals) on their journey of Christian discipleship, witness and service.

Harry and Mavis, it was a joy to see you both and I was struck by your humility as you shared some of your memories. Thank you on behalf of the circuit for your faithful service in preaching the Good News of Christ.



# Sydney Special

Sharon Woollard  
Brigham



A super-duper crispy chocolate-covered biscuit.  
Sprinkles! Butter! All things good in the world!

## Ingredients

5oz - 150gm plain flour  
Pinch of salt  
1 teaspoon baking powder  
1 tablespoon drinking chocolate  
1oz - 25gm cornflakes  
2oz - 50gm coconut  
6oz - 150gm margarine  
4oz - 100gm soft brown sugar



Oven Temp: 175° C or Gas 3

## Method:

1. Mix all dry ingredients together in a bowl.
2. Melt margarine and sugar in a pan, then pour onto the dry ingredients and mix well.
3. Spread evenly in a Swiss roll tin (12" x 8") and bake for approx. 25 mins.
4. Allow to cool and then cover with a thin layer of melted chocolate.
5. Decorate with sprinkles and cut into fingers before it is cold but leave in the tin to set.





# Wellbeing...

David Sharpe : Brigham

If not quite the word of the year, wellbeing, rightly, has moved to the forefront of society's concern. Mental Health, wellbeing, is being given the attention it deserves.

For the last 84 years Harvard University has been undertaking a longitudinal study of what, broadly, makes people happy. How well they feel emotionally. Among the top three was relationships. Having someone who cares, someone to care for, someone to turn to, someone to share with.

Going back 2500 years the Greek philosopher Aristotle wrote that what mattered was, "the sense of life being meaningful and basically good".

And that's where we come in. God sent Jesus so that humankind should have life, abundantly - that life in relationship with Jesus should be enjoyable, satisfying, worthwhile, worth living. Further perhaps, that his followers should have a role, something worthwhile to do.

In God we have someone who cares, to whom we can turn, who gives us neighbours to care for. Our relationship with God makes our life meaningful, gives it a sense of purpose, makes it good.

We've a lot to contribute to the wellbeing arena. Let's not let it go by default. Secure in our relationship with God, assured of His love and support as we work towards the realisation of His Kingdom, we can provide the listening ear, the sympathetic shoulder. Through Warm Spaces and Foodbanks we help provide for physical needs, we can provide for emotional needs too. Age UK, Hospice at Home, the Samaritans are just three that could use our help. Go to it.



# Ministry Teams



The **Methodist** Church

**Superintendent Minister :**  
**Rev Paul Saunders**

45 The Parklands, Cockermouth CA13 0XJ

T: 01900 823273

E: superintendent@westernfells.uk

**Minister: Deacon Kina Saunders**

45 The Parklands, Cockermouth CA13 0XJ

T: 01900 823273 E: deacon@westernfells.uk

**Minister :**

**Rev Paul Harold**

57 Meadow Vale, Seaton, Workington

CA14 1SD

T: 01900 602214

E: paul.harold@methodist.org.uk

North West Churches

**Circuit Stewards :**

**Philip Adamson** : T 01946 695267

**Jackie Davies** : T 01946 814714

**Morna McDowell**: T 07814 447262

**Associate Minister with charge**  
**of United Church:**

**Rev Alistair Smeaton**

T: 01900 602385

E: alistair.smeaton@nwsynod.org.uk

**Supernumerary Minister with**  
**charge of Lamplugh, Kirkland &**  
**Ennerdale LEP :**

**Rev Ian Parker** T: 01946 861310

E: blacksailvicar@outlook.com

**Children's & Family Worker**  
**(West): Katrina MacEwan**

T: 01946 862810 / 07583 366960

E: katrina118@live.com

**Admin : Mykola Joyce**

T: 01946 812880

E: admin@westernfells.uk

**Wednesday-Friday 9.30am-2.30pm**

## The Link

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Editor : Anne Hasson, 149 Windebrowe Avenue Keswick CA12 4JB  
017687 75818 [annehasson@aol.com](mailto:annehasson@aol.com).

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**All contributions welcome - keep each other in touch with what you and your church are doing!**