

The Mustard Seed



Issue 55 February 2026

*Newsletter of Grange and
Cartmel Methodist Churches*

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*We believe we are called to be a church where people of all ages
and backgrounds are supported in:*

- *loving and serving God*
- *loving and serving our neighbours, both local and global*
- *growing and sharing faith*

Dear Friends,

It feels like only a few days since I was writing to you as we were starting Advent and now here I am writing to you just a few days before the start of Lent. Since my last letter we have enjoyed the Toast Church Nativity play, held our annual carol service, celebrated the arrival of our Saviour, Jesus Christ, as a baby in Bethlehem on Christmas Day, had lots of fun at our annual family party, enjoyed a number of games of Beetle at our latest fundraiser and continued to welcome the community into our building for Baby Group, the Community Coffee morning and Repair Café as well as to our new monthly lunch event Friendly Food. We have also registered both Friendly Food and the Community Coffee Morning as Warm Spots so that people looking for warm and welcoming places in Grange can find us.

I can hardly believe that just 8 weeks from now it will be Holy Week and we will be working our way with Jesus through Jerusalem to his death on the cross and to the new life of his resurrection on Easter Day. The Easter story is such a special and important thing to celebrate that the Church decided we all need a few weeks to get ourselves ready for it and of course this time is called Lent. Lent is a time to think carefully about what it means to be a follower of Jesus and perhaps a time to sort our lives out a bit. Lent this year starts on 18th February and to mark this, we will have a Holy Communion service on Ash Wednesday (18th February) at 10am which will include the opportunity to be marked with ash as a sign of repentance and as a reminder of your Baptism. Lent is 40 days long as it mirrors the time Jesus spent in the wilderness preparing himself for his ministry. Jesus didn't get ready by reading lots of books and doing lots of homework, or talking to lots of people. He got ready by living very simply, even going without food, and letting God lead him into the areas he really needed to think about. He wanted to spend time finding out what God really wanted him to do with his life. So, as the Church, each year we do the same and to help us navigate this season, all we need is one thing – the cross. The cross is the thing that helps us to walk in God's direction. It points us always towards God's love and at the same time it points back at ourselves. When we are honest with God about who we are and how we are thinking and feeling, the cross will always point us in the direction of love.

Part of our journey through Lent this year will be to follow the course 'Women of Holy Week' by Paula Gooder in our Lent Groups. The groups will be held on four Tuesday afternoons in March and you do not need the course book to take part. Everyone is welcome to attend any or all the sessions. Please see the poster for the dates and times.

So are we, Grange Methodist Church, ready for the wilderness of Lent this year? The first step on our journey is to agree to live more simply for a while and to go wherever God takes us. We can spend Lent this year doing that, remembering to look to the cross regularly for direction and to spend time with God every day.

I pray that we will each learn more about God and grow closer to him as we journey through Lent this year.

With Prayers,

Rev Hayley Edmondson

The Methodist Church

Lent Course

This Lent we will be following Paula Gooder's course 'Women of Holy Week'.
You do not need the book to join the course.
Everyone is welcome!

Sessions will be held in Grange Methodist Church Hall on:

Tuesday 3rd March 2026 at 2pm
Tuesday 10th March 2026 at 2pm
Tuesday 24th March 2026 at 3pm
Tuesday 31st March 2026 at 2pm

Join us to explore the Easter story from a different perspective!

From our section of the Cumbria Methodist Circuit Preaching Plan

Grange 10:30 a.m.

- Feb 1 Service led by members of the congregation
- Feb 8 Rev David Edmondson
- Feb 15 Mrs Hazel Edmondson
- Feb 22 Rev Hayley Edmondson – Service includes Holy Communion

There will also be Taizé-style worship at 6:00pm on Sunday, February 1st, led by local musicians,

Cartmel 11:00 a.m.

- Feb 1 Rev David Edmondson
- Feb 8 Rev David Jackson
- Feb 15 Rev David Edmondson
- Feb 22 Mrs Hazel Edmondson

Worship: We will worship with others regularly

Bible study, fellowship and prayer opportunities at Grange

Daytime in-person Bible Study: Organised by Mick and Jean Malkin in the lounge at Grayrigge Court. Meetings now start at 11:00am, on the first and third Tuesdays. The February gatherings are on the 3rd and the 17th.

Evening in-person Bible Study: Meets at 7:00pm at the home of David and Hazel Edmondson (16, Charney Court). The next meeting is on Tuesday, February 24th.

Lunch and Pray: Stay after the coffee morning on the second Wednesday of the month or come specially for this. We share a bread and cheese lunch together from 12:00 and then a relaxed time of prayer from 1:00 to 1:30. It will be led on February 11th by Rev Sue Nicol.

Midweek Holy Communion service: In church at 10:00am on the third Wednesday in the month. The service on February 18th, which is Ash Wednesday, will be led by Rev Hayley Edmondson.

Worship: We will look and listen for God in Scripture, and the world
Learning and Caring: We will learn more about our faith

Stillness and song

This is our evening worship in the style of the Taizé community in France. It is a time of quiet reflection at the end of the day with readings, prayers, gentle music and plenty of time for silent prayer and an opportunity to light a candle if you wish. A group of musicians from local churches accompanies the singing.

We have been doing Stillness and song for a few years now and have settled into a rhythm of the first Sunday of alternate months. This works well except on cold, dark evenings in the winter – when watching on the stream from the comfort of home might be more attractive! So starting from Easter 2026 we are moving the winter Stillness and song services to the spring and the autumn instead. The 2026-7 dates will be: 5 April (Easter Sunday), 7 June, 6 September, 4 October, and 7 March 2027.

Reflective evening services (apart from Carol Service and Watchnight) will also take a break over the winter in future.

Su Lockley

Songs of Praise

The next Songs of Praise gathering at Grange will be on **Sunday, February 15th**. We meet in the church at 4:00 p.m. to sing our praise. You are invited to choose your favourite hymn, and perhaps share the stories behind your hymn choices. We then share a buffet tea together, which we will provide; there will be a plate for donations. Come and share worship and fellowship.

David and Hazel Edmondson



Worship: We will worship with others regularly
Evangelism: We will speak of the love of God

Friendly Foods

All are invited to come for a hot lunch in the Grange Methodist Church hall on the second Tuesday in the month. The February lunch will be on February 10th, at the new start time of 12:00 noon. Menu: sausage and mash and apple crumble. No need to book, and no set charge; donations for church funds are welcome. The organisers, David Khan and his daughter Kathryn, hope this initiative will be particularly welcomed by those who would otherwise be on their own, or anyone who would like a bit of company and a meal prepared for them.

Hazel Edmondson

Learning and Caring: We will care for those around us
Service: We will help people in our communities and beyond



“Cumbria Methodist Compass”

From the Cumbria Circuit Update: “The Cumbria Methodist Compass aims to become the driving tool for growing and developing the Cumbria Methodist Circuit for the future. It will document the circuit’s goals and aspirations and create a plan to achieve them. The Cumbria Compass will define who Methodists in Cumbria are and what they are working towards. Your input as members of the churches in the Cumbria Methodist Circuit is vital to this. To support this, you are invited to a workshop to help create and develop the Cumbria Compass on **Saturday 21st February 2026** from 10am - 1pm at Ulverston Methodist Church, LA12 0AN. Ulverston Methodist Church is a fully accessible building with audio visual technology. The workshop will be led by Rev’d Hayley Edmondson. It will include worship, discussion and interactive activities to allow us all to contribute to the development of the Cumbria Compass. Refreshments will be provided on arrival from 9.30am and again half way through the event. A soup lunch for a donation to Christian Aid will be available at 1pm for those who wish to stay.”

Grants team update

It is a couple of years since the Grants Team last reported to *Mustard Seed* so here is a quick whizz through what we have been doing.

Highlights of 2024-5

The number one, super-highlight has to be the £82,000 grant awarded to us by the Benefact Trust in December 2025. And it was not just a pledge but an actual transfer of money into our bank account. It is a Community Impact Grant, recognising the huge positive impact the development project will have on our community once it is completed. We are very grateful to Benefact for their support.

Another successful application of 2025 was to the Methodist Connexion who awarded us £6,600 towards a feasibility study. The money has been put to good use, seeking a way forward after the disappointment of discovering that the amount we thought was needed to carry out the project was actually nowhere near enough.

Windows

It has been a real morale booster to move forwards on some much-needed improvements to the building. The wonderful new window in the hall was funded largely by grants – from Thrive Renewables, The Hadfield Trust, The Charles Godwin Foundation and the Cumbria Community Foundation. The secondary double glazing in the church is being installed in February and March, funded in part by a grant from Westmorland and Furness Council.

Negotiating

Because of the delay in starting the project some of the grants pledged to us have now passed their expiry dates. The Grants Team has been negotiating with our funders, seeking extensions, or in some cases, switching the grant from its original purpose to something that can be tackled sooner. For example, one of the grants used to fund the hall window was originally given for the toilets. Sadly though, we have not always been successful, and one grant has had to be returned because we did not spend it in time.

What's in the pipeline for 2026?

Our latest adventure is with the Listed Places of Worship Scheme. This is a government-funded initiative, enabling listed places of worship (Grange Methodist Church is Grade 2 Listed) to claim back VAT on repairs to their buildings. We have reclaimed VAT already on the hall window and will claim for the secondary double glazing for the church as soon as we can.

The LPWS is due to end on 31 March 2026. But a replacement scheme has recently been announced by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport. It is called "The Places of Worship Renewal Fund" and it will run for 5 years. This is good news for our redevelopment project.

Other grants news

The Cumbria Circuit is awarding Small Grants of up to £500 for mission-related projects. I pass on encouragement from David Newlove (our Circuit Superintendent) to consider whether we have any new projects in mind that might benefit from this kind of funding.

And finally ...

We know that many of our congregation are keen to see us move forward with the redevelopment project, as we are too. And we are almost there now! But we need to make sure we make the best use of every penny. We will continue to seek funding from new grants, however small. With 85 applications behind us we have already tried most of the obvious funders, some more than once. But new opportunities do come up from time to time so we keep alert and ready - watching and praying and trying, trying again.

Su Lockley and Barbara Leader

Editor: With grateful thanks and appreciation from us all for all the hours of work represented here!

Giftaid

It's February. Spring is just round the corner and the end of the Tax Year is approaching fast. This is my annual prompt to talk about Giftaid - a fantastic opportunity offered to taxpayers to re-direct the tax they have paid, to a charity or charities of their choice. It's free of charge, with no strings attached. If you are a taxpayer and already signed up for Giftaid, a huge thank you for your ongoing support. Based on the donations made by all our Giftaiders in 2024-5 HMRC gave Grange Methodist Church **£15,500**.

If you are a taxpayer and not signed up for Giftaid, now as we approach the end of the tax year is a good time to think about it. The way it works is that every time you Giftaid a donation, HMRC adds 25%. So if you give £20 to the church, HMRC adds £5. You can carry on Giftaiding donations until HMRC has given the church the same amount as the tax you pay that year. So for example, if you pay £1,000 tax in 2025-6 you could give £4,000 to the church and HMRC would add 25%, i.e. £1,000. Looking at it another way, all the tax you paid would have been donated by HMRC to a really good cause!

There are two ways to Giftaid to the church. If you just want to Giftaid an occasional donation, use a Giftaid envelope from the back of the church. But if you are happy for every donation you make to be Giftaided, fill in a Giftaid declaration (available in the porch, or attached to the online update) and give it to the Giftaid Secretary, Su Lockley. Alternatively email to: su.lockley@yahoo.com or post to 20 Highfield Road, GRANGE-OVER-SANDS LA11 7JA

Let's see if we can make Giftaid 2025-6 even more successful than 2024-5!

Su Lockley, Giftaid Secretary

Church Family news

Toast Church news

On Saturday 10th January we had the annual party. Ruth Webster arranged a number of favourite games; an ice breaker, the chocolate game (much chocolate was enjoyed by all with hats and gloves on) and the ever stressful 'bring me' a random item. David Webster was quiz master with a music round enjoyed most by the 11 and under aged participants due to questions being on best songs of 2025! Much fun was had by all, especially the traditional chips added to the large spread brought by everyone. Big thanks to all that made it happen.

On Sunday 11th we met for the first Toast Church of 2026. We thought about Epiphany and the journey of the Magi or Wisemen, observing details on Christmas cards led by Rob. The importance of the star was considered as it was the common theme found in the pictures.



Rev Hayley Edmondson led on 18th Jan as we heard a lively take on the familiar story of Noah and the ark which had lots of amusing lines. We talked about the rainbow as a symbol of hope and a reminder that beauty often returns after life storms. We all took part in rainbow crafts and created lovely colourful sparkly rainbows.



Victoria Upton

Worship: We will worship with others regularly
Learning and Caring: We will learn more about our faith

New Church Crafting group

Fiona Boorman and Barbara Leader are starting up a new group. They say: "We feel an opening for a craft group, to create items for selling and display to benefit our church and our community. It will also be a social event, yes ok maybe cake! So even if you don't feel this is your forte, I'm sure you will find something to suit. Initially we aim to recycle those Christmas card gems, perhaps make new church banners and start work on a Christmas tree of hats.

It will be on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday evenings of each month, 7-9ish at 17 Highfield Road call 07731 392259 (Fiona) for more information, you don't need to commit- just turn up. We are starting on Feb 4th - don't worry if you missed it next one on the 18th."

News from the Fund raising team (Charity No. 1198002)

All are welcome to a

Ceilidh

in Grange Methodist church hall

Saturday, February 14th

6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Caller: Dave Rogers

Live music from the Sands Band

Light refreshments

Just turn up!

Dance or watch while

enjoying lively music

Donations invited for our

"Open for Community" project

Registered Charity Number: 1198002

Thanks to all who supported the Beetle Drive in January, which was very much enjoyed and raised £180.

The February event is the Ceilidh, as detailed left. No tickets, no need to book and no set charge.



Hazel Edmondson

Auction of Promises 2026

Friday 20th March at 6pm in the Church Hall

It's exactly 2 years since we held our last 'Auction of Promises', so the Fund-raising Team have decided it is time for another one!

For those who have not experienced such an event before, I will explain. We begin the evening with a hot meal – very kindly organised by Toast Church leaders. Then we work through the process of bidding for the 'Promises' that have been offered. These can range from the offer of a day out to the teaching of a new skill, from an invitation to a meal to the provision of home-made cake or chutney or jam over a set period.

Anything that you can give in the way of service

or opportunities for others. These will be listed on the programme so that we can decide what we want to bid for beforehand.

We are very grateful to Rob Martin, who has agreed to be our Auctioneer for the evening.

There is no charge for attending, as we hope you will be spending money on the bidding(!) but donations towards the meal are welcome. We just need to know numbers for catering purposes, so please sign up for the meal on the list that will be available. The closing date for this is **Sunday 15th March**.

In the meantime, please add your promise offer to the list that is around, if you haven't done so already. The closing date for offers is **Sunday 8th March**, so that we can sort them out in time!

We hope you will be able to join in this evening of fun, and help raise further funds for the Church Development Project. Posters will appear at various venues shortly! Thank you. *Sue Nicol*
Still to come:

Open Gardens 9th & 10th May

Cream Tea in August.

Fashion Show by Kitty Brown Friday 25th September

Many thanks for your ongoing support.

Green Tip:

If you're thinking of giving something up for Lent, how about making it any use of carbon that is not strictly necessary? For ideas, go to:

<https://climatestewards.org/resources/carbon-fast-for-lent/>

Hazel Edmondson



Service: We will care for creation and all God's gifts

Cartmel news

It has been a tough winter for the Cartmel congregation. We had already decided not to have a service on the Sunday after Christmas, but two services in January had to be cancelled at short notice as well, because we quite simply could not raise a congregation through a combination of illness, the winter closure of the lodge parks, other commitments, and car trouble. We do apologise if this inconvenienced anybody. Things can only get better – and I'm quite sure they will as spring approaches. We will meet for our February church council at 11am on Friday, 20th. Alongside other business, we will consider the possibility of closing in future years between Christmas and the beginning of February, as this period has proved really difficult for a couple of years now.

On a more cheerful note, we congratulate Clifford on reaching the grand old age of 90. Sheila beat him to it a few months ago – but Clifford is well ahead in the number of heart attacks survived! We wish them both well as they continue to battle with the challenges that come with long life, and thank God for the faith which has always sustained them.

David Edmondson

Cartmel Peninsula Churches Together

Do join in these events as we move into Lent together:

Cartmel Peninsula Churches Together

LENT LUNCHES

Fridays during Lent 12 noon – 1.15pm

including a short time of devotions 1.00 -1.15pm

A light Lunch will be served in one of the Local Churches: no fixed charge.

Donations to be given to
Cartmel Peninsula Youth Trust



Friday 20th February: St Mary's Allithwaite
Friday 27th February: Methodist Church, Grange
Friday 6th March: St John's Church, Flookburgh
Friday 13th March: United Reformed Church Grange
Friday 20th March: St Charles' Grange
Friday 27th March: St Paul's Church, Grange

Do come along and perhaps bring a friend, or make new ones.



Cartmel Peninsula



EVERYONE IS WELCOME

CARTMEL PENINSULA



A Quiet Morning for Lent

Saturday 28th February 2026

9.30am – 12noon

'Chosen by God'

You are welcome to come to this 'Quiet Morning' at the beginning of Lent, in preparation for Holy Week and Easter. Coffee is at 9.30am and is followed by worship at 10am. Then there is a time of quietness, with some notes for guidance if you wish to use them, before a celebration of Holy Communion, open to all, finishing at 12 noon.

Anyone who would like to stay on afterwards for lunch is welcome to do so – please bring your own food, drinks will be provided.

Grange Methodist Church,

Kents Bank Road, Grange-over-Sands LA11 7EY

Please come up the left side of the church and into the hall, unless you need slightly easier access which is up the right side and round the back.

Contact Revd Sue Nicol for further information: 015395 31044

David Edmondson

Worship: We will worship with others regularly
Learning and Caring: We will learn more about our faith

From the organisers of this year's Christmas Tree festival



Thank you once again for making this year's festival such a success. As always the trees looked fantastic and were greatly admired by all the visitors. Thank you so much to everyone who was involved in any way. Please pass on our thanks to all members of your groups and organisations.

The festival was open for just over 3 weeks, and over that period we received the fantastic amount of £1916.94 in donations. This will be shared equally between St Paul's Heating Fund Project with any surplus going towards reimbursing the building fund and North West Air Ambulance. The visitor numbers again increased from last year, with approximately 850 people visiting to view the trees. In addition, there were nearly 250 at the opening reception as well as the many other people who attended services over the Christmas period.

Thank you again for making this such a successful community event.

Gill and Annette

Thanks to all who lent decorations for the Grange Methodist tree, and to Toast church for making some decorations on the theme of "The Greatest Gift".

Hazel Edmondson

Looking wider

Warm Welcome Spaces and Warm Spot

Grange Methodist Church is now registered as a "Warm Welcome Space", as part of a national scheme, and with Westmorland and Furness Council as a "Warm Spot". We have flagged up the weekly Wednesday community coffee morning, the Friendly Food lunch and the Repair Café as places where people can find refreshments, company and conversation with free Wi-Fi access and charging facilities.



Food bank

The next collection for the food bank will take place on Sunday 22nd February between 1 and 3 pm at St Charles Church. As usual the boxes for any donations are in the hall and church porch. Cash donations will be gratefully accepted if you are unable to shop. Keep an eye on the weekly update for any specific items most required.



Carol Lamb

Shoebox update

Glenda has had a letter from Iris Diggle, thanking Grange Methodist church members for their help and support for the “Shoebox Appeal”, organised by the International Aid Trust. With our help, the Kendal group hit their target of 100 boxes – another good Shoebox year.

Service: We will help people in our communities and beyond

Useful links and details:

Services: You can join in with the services online at 10.30am each Sunday, or watch them later here: www.youtube.com/@grangemethodists

Website: The Grange page of the Circuit website is at www.cumbriamethodists.org.uk/grange.html

Facebook: Our Facebook page is “Grange Methodist Church”. Baby group has its own page, “Baby group at Grange Methodist Church” as does Toast Church at “Toast Church”.

Grange Methodist Church is a registered charity (registration number 1198002).

If you would like to give by standing order, you will need to give your bank the following details:

Account Name: Grange Methodist Church Sort Code: 08-92-99 Account No. 65894617

We also have a JustGiving page for the Development Fund, which is a user-friendly way to make donations online. Link: <https://www.justgiving.com/grangemethodistchurch>

Worship: We will pray daily

Prayer pointers for February

In addition to our ongoing prayers for our regular events, for those of our fellowship and acquaintance who are in any kind of need at present, for the redevelopment project and the prayers inspired by the daily news, please use the pointers below:



- Friday 6 All who help with or come to the Repair Café
- Saturday 7 For all who share in the men’s breakfast fellowship and prayer
- Monday 9 For Grange Pastoral Team, meeting this afternoon
- Tuesday 10 All who help with or come to the Friendly Food lunch
- Weds 11 Our prayer life together as we meet to lunch and pray
- Thursday 12 For Grange Leadership Team, meeting this afternoon
- Friday 13 For all who grieve, especially the family and friends of Ralph Wilkinson
- Saturday 14 For all who come to the Ceilidh, and for the ministry of the Sands Band
- Tuesday 17 For the Cumbria Circuit Local Preachers and Worship Leaders, meeting this evening
- Weds 18 For all who attend the Ash Wednesday communion service
- Thursday 19 For the Fundraising Team, meeting this afternoon
- Friday 20 All members of Cartmel Church Council, meeting this morning
- Saturday 21 For the Cumbria Circuit and the Cumbria Compass workshop
- Sunday 22 All who live and work at The Old Vicarage as ecumenical worship is led there
- Tuesday 24 All who live and work at Cartmel Grange as ecumenical worship is led there
- Friday 27 For all who share in the Lent Lunch at Grange today
- Saturday 28 For all who share in the Lent Quiet morning

The Methodist Way of Life Prayer: “May we be a blessing within and beyond God’s Church, for the transformation of the world.”

Please send material for the March 2026 issue by **Sunday, March 1st** to Hazel Edmondson by email (edmola11@yahoo.co.uk), telephone (36213) or post (16, Charney Court, Grange-over-Sands, LA11 6DL). Thanks to all contributors.