

# Cumbria Connect

Cumbria Methodist Circuit Magazine



Spring 2026



## Revd David Newlove

revdavidnewlove@gmail.com

Office:  
Penrith Methodist Church (PMC),  
Wordsworth Street,  
Penrith CA11 7QY

**LIVING**  
*Good News*

Dear Friends,

Our theme for this year is Living Good News. We take our inspiration from our nativity story where, in Luke 2:10 an angel proclaims to the shepherds on the hillside that the birth of Jesus is good news and great joy for all people. This is something that we are each invited to believe, share and live out in our daily lives. In our God for All parlance that's to speak boldly and follow daily.

Paul in Romans 10:15 quotes Isaiah when he writes "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!" This second edition of Cumbria Connect is full of the good news of our colleagues, around the Circuit who are engaging with their local community in many innovative and exciting ways, caring deeply for both community and people.

It is a joy to hear how our lay staff are extending our mission beyond the traditional church setting and structure, and it is exciting that we can all be a part of supporting this. There are times when it needs those who are not stationed and invited to a traditional, time-honoured role to achieve these new things and we are glad that our Cumbria Circuit sees this as a priority - not that traditional and time-honoured isn't important (it is) and we are called to extend both.

It's good news too that in February we recognise Anne Pater as a Local Preacher, having travelled through our training programme and that we can celebrate the many years of service all our Local Preachers have given, marking significant milestones for some.

I hope that you enjoy reading this edition and that through it you are inspired in your own calling.

To the glory of God  
David Newlove

## Meet the Lay Team:

### Allan Armstrong

Property Co-ordinator



Allan lives in Penrith close to the circuit office at Penrith Methodist Church (PMC). He attends there as well as at Gamblesby MC where he is a member.

He has an extensive computer background with a particular emphasis on applications software. This, combined with project management and facilities management experience, gives him the knowledge and background for the Cumbria Circuit Property Coordinator role. His former posts include Kirkoswald & Alston Moor Circuit Treasurer, East Cumbria Treasurer and Property Steward.

He is also a keen musician and sound engineer, and has been involved with the East of Eden Mission Community for several years at many events, as well as doing the sound at Penrith Methodist Church on a regular basis.

#### Contact:

[property@cumbriamethodists.org.uk](mailto:property@cumbriamethodists.org.uk)

### Lynne Pearce

Circuit Treasurer



Lynne is the treasurer for the combined Cumbria Methodist Circuit. Basically, she oversees the day to day running of the financial side of the Circuit as well as working with the CLT and a small finance group to look at how we can use our reserves to further the work of God in the county of Cumbria.

Before the formation of the new Circuit, she was treasurer of the South West Cumbria United Area - a role which she held for 11 years. She is excited about the opportunity to continue to serve God in this capacity - she was a little reticent to take on the role initially but she strongly believes that the gifts she has in this area are God given and she sees the work of treasurer as a calling. She is married to Stuart, who provides invaluable IT support.

Outside of work with the Methodist Circuit, she is the Accounts Manager for a small family run car dealership. This means that it is best to contact her in the evening - although, be warned, she has a very enthusiastic dog who likes to get involved in any phone calls and tries to help her type emails!

#### Contact:

[treasurer@cumbriamethodists.org.uk](mailto:treasurer@cumbriamethodists.org.uk)

## Celia Ramnath

Local Lay Pastor



Celia was welcomed to the Cumbria Methodist Circuit as a Local Lay-Pastor in September 2025. She has a professional background in health care, started in the 1990's in the UK. She grew up in the Caribbean, a multi-cultural nation. She lived in a multi-faith rural village. Her dream is to live in our world where God's creation is cared for with love. Just a bit on personal interests, she loves quiet time at home, enjoys local theatres and music society. For a low impact but active lifestyle, she indulges in casual walks and gardening. She focuses on ministerial support and pastoral responsibilities in East Fellside church communities in, Alston Moor, Kirkoswald, Gamblesby, Langwathby, Warcop, Dufton with Knock, Kings Meaburn, and Appleby.

### Contact:

[celia.ramnath@cumbriamethodists.org.uk](mailto:celia.ramnath@cumbriamethodists.org.uk)

## Dean Lawson

Lay Pastoral Worker



Dean is based in East Cumbria and works pastorally with 8 churches in and around Penrith. He grew up in and around Pendle, and found his faith as a teenager thanks to various churches in the area. Before moving to Cumbria, he was a Youth and Young Adults Worker in Cumbria.

He is passionate about sharing faith through telling stories, and exploring the Bible stories through the eyes of those in them. In his spare time, he enjoys reading, playing games with friends, and being as colourful as he can be!

### Contact:

[dean.lawson@cumbriamethodists.org.uk](mailto:dean.lawson@cumbriamethodists.org.uk)

## Morgan Tebb-Roger

Pioneer Enabler



Morgan works as the pioneer enabler, covering the area of Penrith. His focus is on Pioneering new communities that are accessible to those who don't feel comfortable attending a traditional church.

He then works with local churches to help them engage with their communities in new and creative ways.

Whenever he is off work, you can often find him on some kind of mini outdoor adventure.

### Contact:

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

## Tim Jeffries

Re:New Community Shop



Tim is one of the Lay workers in the Circuit and is based down in Barrow in Furness in the south of the Circuit. His main job is to manage the re:new Community Charity Shop which is located on the high street in the town centre. However, they are not just a charity shop, but they are also now more of a community hub since moving to larger premises.

Before moving to Barrow, he had worked for 4 years in charity retail. He is also a trained chef who loves to cook but hates being stuck behind the scenes in a kitchen.

Outside of work he loves to craft in not just the kitchen but also with sewing and crochet. Those who were at the last Cumbria synod might just remember that he was the one that produced what he refers to as the Synod blanket. Started and finished in one day at synod!

### Contact:

[timjeffries11@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:timjeffries11@yahoo.co.uk)

## Su Davis

Youth & Young People's Coordinator



Su's role is to support, encourage and equip churches in their Youth Work in her home county of Cumbria. She loves finding new resources and ways of engaging with young people in their faith journeys. She is passionate about seeing more young people in our churches. She enjoys taking our young people to 3Generate, which is a privilege.

Previously, she managed a Young Carers services for Eden Carers and she has also worked with Young Homeless People in London and here in Cumbria. She always said if she wrote her biography, it would be called from Penrith to Peckham and back again!

When she is not hanging out with Young People you can find her with the beautiful herd of Fell Ponies that her daughter breeds.

### Contact:

cumbriamethodstyouth@gmail.com

## Leagh Wilkinson

Youth & Children's Worker



Leagh is the Youth and Children's Worker in the Heart of Westmorland area. She is busy working as part of several amazing teams with young people, children, families and schools. She is originally from East Lancashire and moved to Appleby in 2019 after living in Cyprus for 2 years with her husband and two children.

She loves being outside, appreciating God's wonderful world and exploring new places. Her background is in education and she is thrilled that this role enables her to use her gifts and talents to share her faith with others - and have a lot of fun doing it too!

### Contact:

ksatyouth@gmail.com

## Jennie Crawley

Children's & Families' Worker



Jennie is based at Cornerstone Methodist Church in Wigton, she gets to have lots of fun with young people of all ages, usually involving mess of some sort: her role involves running Messy Church and Messy Lite sessions every month; Friday Films, monthly free family film showing; coordinating All-Age Sunday morning Services, and her current favourite, their weekly Hot Chocolate Church for children from all 4 schools in our local area. She also drops into lunch-clubs at the secondary school and leads assemblies at the junior school.

She is passionate about telling young people about Jesus, but likes to do it in novel and engaging ways – she's an out-of-the-box thinker and loves to reframe Bible stories for a younger audience, rephrasing using simple, easy to understand terms. God has taken her on a journey of careers to equip her with the skills she needs for this role – She's been a secondary school teacher, a food bank manager and a community liaison officer. It's also helped being a parent to two now teen/tweens, being a Guide leader for 20 years, and being a military spouse!

As you might expect, life is always busy, but when she gets a spare moment, you'll find her in the kitchen baking a cake!

### Contact:

families@cornerstonemethodist.org.uk

## Katrina MacEwan

Children's & Families' Worker



Katrina has been in post for 11 years and started as employed by the Whitehaven Circuit, which became Western Fells, then expanded to Cumbria!

She works part time and divides her time between schools and community, her main interest being working in the more deprived areas. She has two jobs, the other is as a benefits advisor, and they tend to link. Her main skill is engaging with those who are difficult to engage with.

In her own life her leisure time is spent with her retired racing dogs, and 5 horses . She rehabilitates horses with psychological issues, training them to be ridden 'iron free', no bits, shoes or saddles.

### Contact:

katrina118@live.com

## Margie McVoy

Circuit Steward



Margie has worshipped in the same Methodist Church in south Cumbria for most of her life, being baptised, confirmed and married there.

Having been brought up on a farm, Margie studied Agriculture at the University of Newcastle where she was an active member of MethSoc and has many life long friends as a result. She now works in a senior administrative position in a school, alongside being a Circuit Steward for the new Cumbria Circuit, worship leader and team member for Messy Church and a recently started Youth Service.

Outside of work and church, Margie loves to be out on the fells with Riley the dog, gardening, reading, baking or spending time with family and friends.

### Contact:

[circuit.stewards@cumbriamethodists.org.uk](mailto:circuit.stewards@cumbriamethodists.org.uk)

## Michelle Amato

Re:New Employee



After volunteering for over 12 months, Michelle has now become employed at the re:new community charity shop in Barrow in Furness. She is a mother, a vegan and the proud owner of her handsome cat Riley. In the past she has studied numerous subjects including psychology for 3 years.

She has also worked as a volunteer support worker for Mind in Furness. She is a highly sociable chatterbox who loves and feels privileged to be part of a fantastic organisation. She adores animals, nature and the simple pleasures in life. She believes laughter is the best medicine.

## Meet the Admin Team:

### Sarah Mulheron-Summers

Operations Manager



Sarah leads and line manages the Circuit Administrative Team, overseas HR functions, and collaborates with colleagues across the Circuit to support its day-to-day functioning.

She began working with the Penrith Circuit/Penrith Methodist Church in 2022 as Circuit Administrative Manager. Outside of work, she enjoys time at the gym, out running, and doing a variety of creative hobbies.

**Contact:**

[sarah.mulheron-summers@cumbriamethodists.org.uk](mailto:sarah.mulheron-summers@cumbriamethodists.org.uk)

### Vicky Logan

Administrator:  
Circuit Preaching Plan



Vicky is based at the office at Carlisle Methodist Church, Upperby (CMC, Upperby) on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursdays. As well as working on the Preaching Plan/Chrestos and General Admin for the Cumbria Circuit she continues to assist local churches in North Cumbria.

She started her work in August 2005 while completing IT and Business courses at Carlisle College, followed by a Business degree.

She has a large family with 4 siblings (plus 10 nieces & nephews, 6 great nieces & nephews) in Carlisle, the North East and Glasgow so she tends to do a lot of day trips. One of their favourite meeting places is Beamish Museum in Durham. They also enjoy taking all the dogs on walks around Keswick, Kielder Forest, Derwentwater etc.

When she is not working, she is out with her two dogs, catching up with friends or helping someone in the family with whatever is needed.

**Contact:**

[vicky.logan@cumbriamethodists.org.uk](mailto:vicky.logan@cumbriamethodists.org.uk)



## Juliana Caukwell

Administrator:  
Circuit Communications Team

Juliana started working for the Methodist Church in 2016 her roles included church administrator, bookings secretary and circuit administrator. She used to work for Nidd Valley Circuit, where she met Rev Grace Cauldwell and now currently works for Wharfedale & Aireborough Methodist Circuit (as Circuit Manager), Tadcaster Circuit (as Circuit administrator) and the Cumbria Circuit as the administrator with the communications team.

She lives in Knaresborough with her husband, an architect, and their 2 teenage girls.

Juliana also runs a small dog boarding business and enjoys snuggling up to her canine guests whilst she watches movies at night. She is also dabbling as a travel agent, but mainly joined to get discounts for her own holidays. So, you could say her passions include animals, movies and holidays!

### Contact:

[juliana.caukwell@cumbriamethodists.org.uk](mailto:juliana.caukwell@cumbriamethodists.org.uk)



## Avril Swinbank

Administrator:  
Circuit Finance Team

Avril previously worked in a High Street bank for a number of years. Alongside her responsibilities to the Finance Team, she continues to provide administrative support for the churches in her local area.

Before joining the Cumbria Circuit Admin Team, she was the Administrator for the Kirkby Stephen, Appleby and Tebay Circuit for over 18 years. Over that time, she has gained a wide range of knowledge about many areas of the Methodist Church's structure, which she continues to draw on in her current role.

Avril has lived with Multiple Sclerosis for more than 25 years, and is now unable to walk or use her arms or hands. However, thanks to voice-activated technology, she is able to carry out all her work on the computer – proof that technology really can be a wonderful thing!

When they are not working Avril and her husband love getting out and about, especially spending time with their daughter and son-in-law who live near Cockermouth. They are also rather fond of visiting places that serve lovely coffee and cakes – it's one of life's simple pleasures!

### Contact:

[avril.swinbank@cumbriamethodists.org.uk](mailto:avril.swinbank@cumbriamethodists.org.uk)

## Mykola Joyce

Administrator:  
Circuit Property Team



Mykola is the newly appointed Property Circuit Administrator.

She is an enthusiastic, friendly person who has worked in administrative roles and previously being a dental nurse.

She was born and raised in Whitehaven, Cumbria and is a mammy to 2 children, which keeps her in a busy lifestyle including school and Rugby activities for both her little boy and girl.

Her name comes from the Ukraine in which she is named after her Grandad who got evacuated here within the Russian War but unfortunately passed away before she was born.

She is looking forward to this new opportunity to working with all and widening her knowledge of the new Circuit. Her working pattern is Wednesday to Friday 9.30am to 2.30pm but can be subject to change to complete tasks.

### Contact:

[mykola.joyce@cumbriamethodists.org.uk](mailto:mykola.joyce@cumbriamethodists.org.uk)

## Chris Palmer

Administrator:  
Circuit Safeguarding Team



Chris helps the local churches and ministry team in Cumbria with administrative tasks as well as the specific role of supporting the safeguarding work that goes on across the circuit.

She was circuit administrator in the Kendal circuit for 8 years prior to the circuits' merging. She also works for a speech and language therapist producing visual resources for students with additional needs.

Previously, she has worked in banking, for an engineering firm and volunteered with a sight loss charity.

Chris and her husband have 2 adult children and 3 grandchildren and they love to go visit them at their homes in Yorkshire and the Isle of Man whenever they get chance.

### Contact:

[chris.palmer@cumbriamethodists.org.uk](mailto:chris.palmer@cumbriamethodists.org.uk)

## Niamh Ryan

Administrator:  
Circuit GDPR & EDI Training



Niamh works as part of the Cumbria admin team and her focus is GDPR and EDI within the Circuit. She also works as an Administrator at a small charity, which keeps her busy!

Outside of work, she enjoys walking and spending time with family (including a lovely cat and dog).

Contact: [niamh.ryan@cumbriamethodists.org.uk](mailto:niamh.ryan@cumbriamethodists.org.uk)

## The Cumbria Methodist Compass

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. We would love to hear your ideas for this.

If you would like further information or to contribute to the development of the Cumbria Methodist Compass, please contact Rev'd Hayley Edmondson on:  
[hayley.edmondson@methodist.org.uk](mailto:hayley.edmondson@methodist.org.uk)  
or 07889 475768.

This forms the core of the Methodist Church's evangelism strategy, but it is more than just sharing the good news. Through this material we will think about it means to be a Christian (and a Methodist), using the following themes:



Each theme will help us look at part of our journey with Jesus, and help us to understand God, faith and church better. They will also help us to look at how we let others know about the power of Jesus in their lives.

Each theme is explored a little deeper below, giving us a flavour of what we can expect in the next year:



### We PRAY daily

God wants to communicate with you. Praying is a bit like breathing: like the air around you, every second of every day you are in God's presence.

It is also good to make a space in your day when you focus on praying. You can share what's on your heart, pray for others, and listen to God.

There are lots of ways to pray, and it's good to experiment to find a way that suits you. The core point is to spend time with God, as you are, like you would spend time with a friend.



### We WORSHIP with others regularly

It's good to gather worship with other people - we receive forgiveness and mercy, and become a supportive community. We also worship God through our everyday activities – at work, at home, wherever we find ourselves.

Methodist churches have a huge range of styles of worship, normally with these shared elements:

**Reading the Bible**, and reflecting on it to help us to know more of God.

**Participating in prayers** of praise, adoration, confession, thanksgiving and intercession, which helps us explore different dimensions of prayer.

**Singing, and saying words together** which reminds us of our shared journey, as well as the poetic nature of trying to express truths about God.



## We NOTICE God in Scripture, and the world

God is invisible. But we can still notice God.

The Bible is an ancient collection of writings in different styles. The authors recorded how they experienced God at work in their lives. It helps us to understand and experience God for ourselves.

It is also possible to notice God in nature, in family, in work, in books, in films, in leisure, in our local community and in world events.



## We CARE for ourselves and those around us

Jesus made it clear: his followers should love their neighbour as themselves. Loving each other is at the centre of this journey.

Take care of yourself, rest when you are tired, enjoy the things you like doing, get a good balance of work and leisure. This will help you to care for other people.



## We LEARN more about our faith

Jesus calls us to be disciples, which is a like being an **apprentice**. We need to learn, grow, change, be surprised by the master.

There are lots of things that can block learning. We might be over-nostalgic and skeptical of the unknown. Or get stuck in an ideology that limits curiosity. Or just get distracted. But disciples are learners, by definition, so stay open-minded!



## We PRACTICE hospitality and generosity

It's good to be open-hearted and open-minded, generous and hospitable. And we come to realise that God is like that, too.

**Hospitality** is an attitude of openness to others, to learn about them and from them, to widen our understanding and perhaps to be changed by the encounter. It's not always us being hospitable to someone else - it's a blessing to receive it, too.

**Generosity** is also a basic Christian practice. As we have freely received, so we are to give freely.



## We will HELP people in our communities and beyond

Helping other people is good for the soul. It's a win-win situation. When you help someone who needs you at that moment it that feels amazing; you realise that you have encountered God in them.

And when you accept help from another person, it makes them feel good too. Service and kindness is mutual: both sides always give and receive.



## We CARE for creation and all God's gifts

The earth is a gift from God and we are called to look after it. We are part of the earth too, shaped out of the same fabric.

As Christians, we believe that God doesn't just promise life, but life in all of its fullness. We want all of God's created Kingdom not just to survive, but to flourish.



## We CHALLENGE injustice

We long for God's justice in the world. Around the globe and in their own local communities, Methodists are working for justice through responding to needs and campaigning for change.

Challenging injustice is never easy – it is rare for a challenge to be welcome. This can be something you do as an individual, but it can be better to work together as a small group or a congregation.



## We TELL of the love of God

It's natural to want to pass on good news - a new baby or grandchild, a new job, passing an exam, getting on a team.

Evangelism is about passing on good news, and it flows out of our excitement about what we have discovered. You've got a story to share about how God's love has affected you, a story that might make all the difference to another person.

Evangelism is something many Christians think is difficult and scary. But once you try, you might be pleasantly surprised by how good it makes you feel.



## We LIVE in a way that draws people to Jesus

You have great power to influence and affect other people by the way you live your life.

The best way is to live authentically as a whole self the self God made you to be. **You be you!**

Living **a Methodist Way of Life** through these twelve actions will root us in God, and allow God to shine out of us.

That's not to say that any of us are perfect. But there is something luminously attractive about people open to God making us more holy and loving each day.



## We SHARE our faith

We get to be God's partners in bringing love and restoration to the world.

There are lots of ways to share your faith. Sometimes it's fun to join with other people and put on a community event that has a presentation of the good news and space for conversation. Or you can be creative, using crafts to let people know that God loves them.

