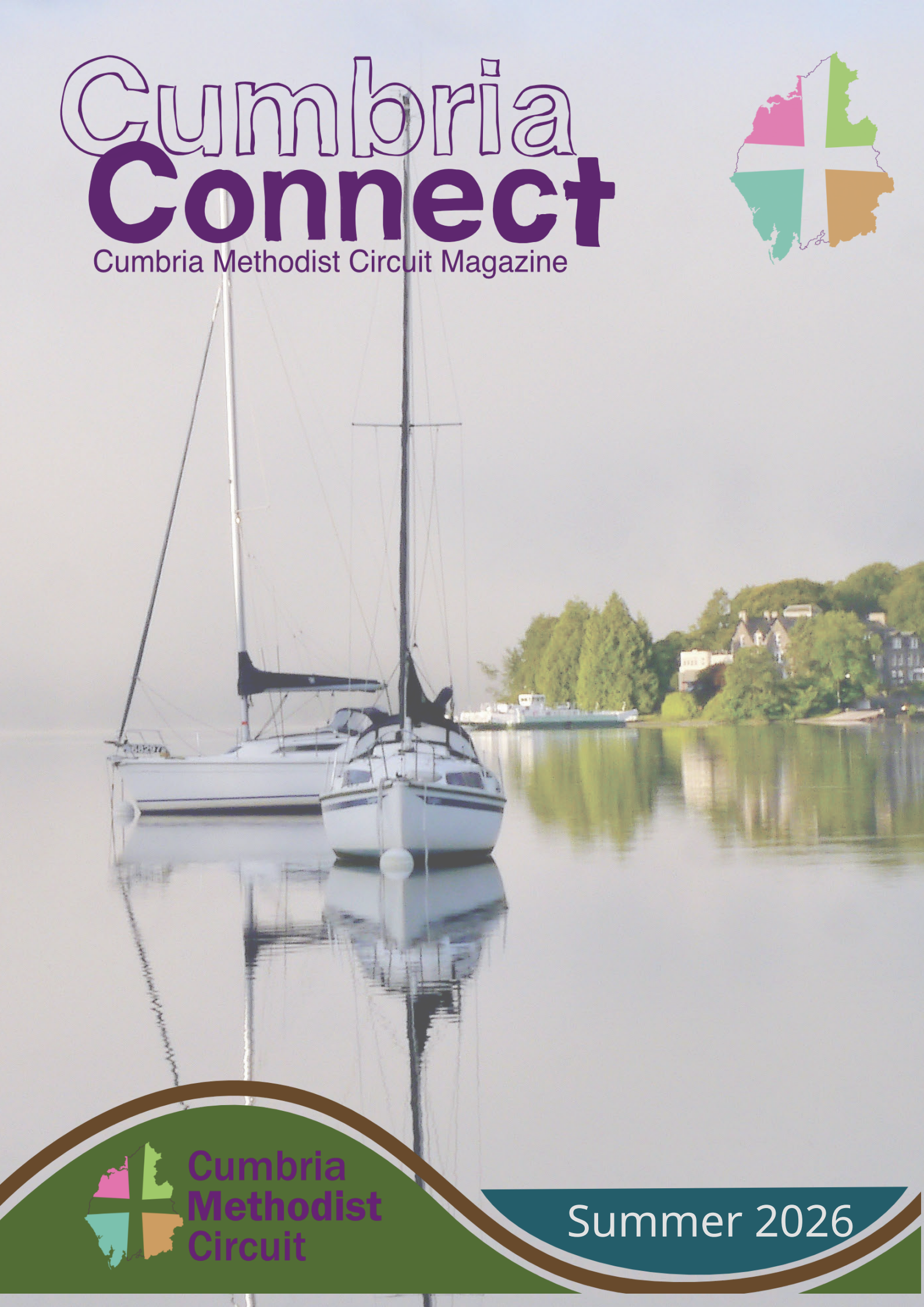


Cumbria Connect

Cumbria Methodist Circuit Magazine



Cumbria
Methodist
Circuit

Summer 2026



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LIVING
Good News

Dear Praying Friends,

I'm enjoying using a new book of daily meditations written by Henri Nouwen. These are short thoughts written to take into my day and to dwell with. I wasn't especially looking for something else to lead me and just happened across the book, but it is good and I am finding it helpful to have some fresh thoughts to ponder over.

I am still reflecting on a particular meditation around prayer and specifically the line which says: By prayer, community is created as well as expressed. I am challenged and encouraged by this. There is always the challenge to be more at prayer – to spend deep, quality time where our sole (and soul) occupation is God. And we know that maintaining a pattern of this can be difficult with all the things that busy us. What challenged me most though (apart from my needing to spend more time at this) is the truth that Nouwen shares that it is this that creates our community – prayer is not just something we do it is what marks us out and how we are.

The encouragement is that the power of praying together forges our community, shapes us as a new, kingdom community and enriches all our lives. I remember that visiting members of one Pentecostal church in hospital whenever I prayed for them they would always pray for me, no matter how poorly they were. This spoke volumes of that church fellowship and, at their bedside I would always sense the presence of God – prayer an act through which community is created.

We have opportunities in our Circuit for praying together. Whenever we see these let us remind ourselves that they are not just for our intercessions but are there also to shape and form us into the people God calls us to be.

May God bless you and enrich your prayer life,

David Newlove

The Cumbria Methodist Compass

Hayley Edmondson

Circuit Minister



The Cumbria Methodist Compass aims to become the driving tool for growing and developing the Cumbria Methodist Circuit for the future. It defines who Methodists in Cumbria are and what they are working towards by documenting the Cumbria Circuit's goals and aspirations. Issue 1 will be printed and distributed as a booklet across the Circuit shortly. It contains 50 objectives for the next few years under the headings of Youth, Worship, Evangelism, Service, and Learning and Caring, and it tries to cover all aspects of our life together. Please pray for the Circuit team as we develop more detailed plans to achieve these objectives. Progress will be reported to the Circuit meetings. If you would like to know more, please contact Rev'd Hayley Edmondson on:

hayley.edmondson@methodist.org.uk or 07889 475768.

The Cumbria Compass Prayer:

Loving God,

We pray for the Cumbria Methodist Circuit.

May we feel your presence in our lives and follow your direction.

May all who worship here feel valued and listened to.

May we demonstrate how to live in harmony with each other, even when we disagree.

Empower us to speak of and spread your love.

Strengthen our connection to each other and to you.

Deepen our faith.

Enable us to speak out against injustice.

Help us to care for your world.

Unite us as we work for you.

Lead us in your way and give us the drive and commitment to develop the Cumbria Circuit so that it flourishes in your name.

Amen

Spotlight on Scripture

Genesis 1-11

Wendy Kilworth-Mason

Supernumerary Minister in
the west of the circuit



Let's start at the very beginning...

I was challenged to 'select a book of the Bible and explain its message to me' and to that challenge, my immediate reaction was , "Genesis," and, "in particular the pre-history (Genesis 1-11)." So, how did I arrive at that response, why would I choose Genesis?

I grew up attending a Methodist Sunday School, Youth Fellowship and MAYC Youth Club and in that supportive environment I was encouraged to forge a relationship with the Bible. In those days we studied for and sat the Scripture Examinations: I can remember learning memory passages from a new translation of the New Testament, the New English Bible, memorising not only the words but the exact punctuation of the passage. I relished the challenge and was determined to do well. Today, I remember the task but I can't recall the actual passages. (In this day and age why would I memorise a passage rather than Google it?)

Our Youth Fellowship would drive to Barn Meetings on a Derbyshire farm, where 2 farming brothers, who were also Local Preachers, would, at length, expound a Bible passage. Hence, I was fascinated by certain parts of the Bible, mostly by New Testament passages. I wanted to know more.

However, in that nurturing context the Old Testament was seldom preached: it was as if it was a long boring introduction to the New Testament.

Subsequently, as an undergraduate, I enrolled in a class on 'Myth,' learning that, far from being fairy tale or untruth, myth encapsulates the deepest and most profound truths in narrative form. Among the myths we considered was the Creation story in Genesis 1.

This would be one of my first experiences of studying the Bible as literature. On reading Edmund Leach's 'Genesis as Myth' we explored the structural analysis of the passage. Even if I was not entirely convinced of the usefulness of this approach to the Scriptures, I was becoming aware of the rich complexities of beginning of Genesis.

It was at Divinity School that my interest in the Old Testament was cemented. It's not a boring introduction to the New Testament. It's the Bible of Jesus and the Apostles, it contains their sacred texts. As part of the assessment for that Old Testament class I wrote an in-depth exegesis of the creation myth in Genesis 2, a narrative that remains one of my favourite passages.

My love of the Old Testament began with the lectures on Genesis. I have subsequently taught classes on the Old Testament as part of a course on 'Western Civilisation' and at Theological College. I sometimes choose to preach on the Old Testament and have had a few of my sermons published.

Genesis contains myth and foundational stories. I suspect that most of us have read the creations stories. We've marvelled at the first family: Adam, Eve and their offspring. We have drawn pictures of the animals boarding Noah's ark and learned the colours of the rainbow. There are artistic representations of the Tower of Babel that we have probably seen. Later in Genesis (chapter 12, the point at which some would say that historically verifiable characters emerge) we learn of the migration of Abraham and then of his descendants. My generation's knowledge of the cycle of stories about Joseph, which draw the book to a close, owes much to 'Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat.' The characters we meet in Genesis may belong to a different place and time but they display human characteristics that we share. They too are imperfect human beings who, nevertheless, are called and commissioned by God. The challenge to us is not, 'be like Abraham/Jacob/Joseph,' but to realise that we are like them. So, if we are like those pioneers of the faith: what is God calling us to do and be?

Genesis contains all this and more, so, my choice, Genesis, is:

A very good place to start...

Enabled by the People of God



Matt McVoy

Presbyteral Candidate
2025-26

January 2025: “I think I need to candidate for presbyteral ministry”.

At the time, I do not think I fully understood what I was saying. There wasn't a sudden flash of certainty or a dramatic moment in which everything became clear, and no sense that I had finally arrived at an answer. It was more tentative than that and it was the beginning of giving words to something that God had been drawing out of me.

As I prepare to cease being a member of the local Methodist Church and become an accepted presbyteral candidate under the discipline of the Conference, I find myself looking back with a deep and quite overwhelming sense of gratitude. There is some sadness, because local church membership is not just an administrative status; it is a form of belonging and is the place where one is known, prayed for, encouraged, challenged, forgiven, and slowly formed.

If I am now able to offer myself for presbyteral ministry, it is because the priesthood of the people of Cumbria has enabled me to do so.

What an incredible phrase; because the priesthood of all believers is not just a Methodist doctrine to be admired or explained, it is actually something I have received. Across local churches, chapels, the Circuit (old and new), the District, and the wider Connexion, I have encountered people who have taken seriously the truth that we are all called to serve. They have encouraged my early ministry with warmth and generosity, but they have also helped to ground it in discipline, accountability, and the careful discernment of the Church. They have allowed (very!) unformed gifts and graces to begin to develop safely and prayerfully in such a way that they might serve Christ and his people.

For much of my adult life, my world was shaped by work, responsibility, outcomes, and pace. I have spent many years in education in Cumbria, including the extraordinary privilege of living and working as a Housemaster with seventy teenagers. That experience taught me a great deal about love, long before I had the language of ministry to describe it properly. I was once given some simple advice by a retired Housemaster: however much they make you laugh, however much they frustrate you, however much they disappoint you, love every boy. What he was really saying was that I had to find something in each person that allowed me to say, "this boy is loved". Over time, that has become deeply 'theological' for me, it centres my faith: if God loves each person with a love that comes before their performance, their usefulness, their success, or even their likeability, then who am I to do otherwise?

Looking back, I can see moments of God's pursuit long before I could name them in that way. I grew up in the south, left school a bit early, and entered the world of work during the dot-com boom. It was exciting, fast, financially driven, and people were not always at the centre of our decision making. This didn't feel quite right, though I was often too caught up in the pace of it all to give it proper attention.

Then came a motorbike accident which changed the direction of my life. I have described it elsewhere as something of an Old Testament moment. I broke plenty, though mercifully not my back or my neck. A contract abroad was lost, my plans collapsed, and I had to begin again. I had a ctrl-alt-delete moment...I had crashed. Pushing reset brought me north to Cumbria. It brought me to a school, to a community, to Margie, to her inspirational Methodist family, and into the life of the Methodist Church in a way I could never have planned. I did not understand it at the time, but I can now look back and see God's relentless, extravagant, persistent pursuit woven through all of it.

My call has been shaped by worship and by people. It has been shaped in the quiet gentleness of rural chapels and in the larger gatherings of the Circuit. It has been shaped on stages in town centres and pulpits that feel far too high for me to step into. It has been shaped by Palm Sunday crosses held to the heart while singing "My Song is Love Unknown".

It has been shaped by welcoming siblings into the family of Christ during baptisms and the locking of eyes as I receive the broken body of Christ in Holy Communion. It has been shaped by the singing of hymns in the front rooms of members' homes and by the unexpected grace of harvest celebrations, where the abundance of the earth becomes part of the story of God's generosity. They have all been means of grace.

The candidating process has also been a journey of grace, although not always a comfortable one. Discernment as a method of seeking clarity must ask some really searching questions: we are all called to serve, but what is my call? How shall I serve? Is it really to ordained ministry? Those questions cannot be answered alone. I have been accompanied, tested, affirmed, challenged, prayed for, and held by others. My accompanist offered reflection that was both Spirit-led and honest, enabling and testing all in equal measure. I have been given the opportunity during my candidating year to work in an ecumenical mission community that brings an exciting energy as denominational labels seem to fall away and brothers and sisters in Christ walk together. Inspirational.

The candidating process is wonderfully Methodist: precise, timetabled, framed by a criteria and structure that I thought would allow me to shine and apply my secular skillset to... I started as someone used to structure, outcomes, planning, evidence, and delivery. I knew the process, the criteria and the timetable. What I had not fully understood was how easily a desire to achieve a good outcome can become a failure to attend to the work of the Holy Spirit in the process.

Applications, accompanists, DOV1, interviews, more applications, references (at least three!), DOV2, and the contributions, prayers, advice and guidance from so many across the Circuit and beyond has been invaluable. I have two very succinct takeaways from my candidating year. I share these because I have been humbled as I've journeyed and because they may be useful to others who may be discerning a call to ordained ministry. I also share them because as of this moment, they form tangible, reflective, moments. I have no doubt that if I was to think at a different time (hour, day, week, month), then my takeaways would be different.

1) Be in receive mode. I have been given a gift in my church status; it has allowed me to approach the structures, functions, positions, people and processes of the Methodist Church without having formed a firm position, secular or spiritual, about any of them. From an outside perspective, this may be seen as naivety. So be it. It is a good and accurate word to describe my 'churching' and what it's allowed me to do is approach almost everything during my discernment with wonderment. I have been surprised, scared, joyful, confused, secure, assured, affirmed and not. And I have allowed those things to happen because I have been in receive mode.

BUT...

2) It is the process, not the outcome. I have 20 years of outcomes-based practice. I have a secular position in an organisation which demands high-intensity, results-driven, measurements of success and failure.

It is the way parts of the secular world operate, and I have invested all my adult life into it. This, perhaps naively, is incompatible with 'permitting' the Holy Spirit to feature as the dominant, governing, directing force as part of the process. By realising this, I have recognised there a significant period of formation and training required, and that through candidating I have met God.

I have met God in my encounters with people, I have heard God's voice in the words of those who have advised me both gently, and not so gently. I have met God in the wrestle of doubt and uncertainty, I have held God in an embrace with a fellow candidate, I have cried with God as I shared with a sister in Christ in what seemed to be an unclimbable mountain and I have met God in the 'sound of sheer silence', when I could no longer take the earthquake, the wind or the fire.

In testing my call from God, in receive mode, and in 'allowing' the process not the outcome to direct me, I have been truly taken to places that only God knows. It has been, awesome. Not in an over-used secular sense. But in the sense that it has inspired genuine, tangible, awe.

So, as I come to this moment of transition, I do so with gratitude. My call to ordained presbyteral ministry has been enabled and facilitated here in Cumbria. It has been enabled by the prayers of people who may never know how much they mattered. It has been enabled, by a Church full of faithfulness, by fellowship before and after worship, by quiet encouragement, by honest challenge, by cups of coffee and Zoom chats, by hymns sung with conviction, and by the Methodist discipline of testing a call carefully within the life of the Church.

Cumbria has not simply been the setting for this journey, it has helped form it. The Circuit has not simply given me opportunities; it has helped me understand what ministry is for. It is not for self-expression, self-fulfilment, or even self-improvement. It is for the glory of God and the service of God's people. It is to share the Word, to celebrate the grace of Christ, and to care for those who need to know that they are loved.

That is the testimony I offer: God is present in this place, among these people, in these chapels, in the questions we ask, in our silences, in the bread we share, in the tears we shed, in the call to which we respond, and in the sending. I am grateful beyond words, because I have been so deeply held by you, the people of God, that I can now offer myself more fully to the ministry of the Church.

For more information about candidating in the Methodist Church visit: <https://www.methodist.org.uk/for-churches/ministries/candidating-for-ministry/>



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3Generate

Su Davis

Cumbria Circuit Youth and
Young People's Coordinator



Join us on the way, for a spectacular celebration of the ever-unfolding journey of faith. Our Youth and Young People's Worker for the Circuit Su Davis has got the bus booked. Be part of the journey from the 2-4 October 2026 as we invite every young person, whatever their starting point, to take a meaningful next step with God.

This year we are planning to take more Young People from Cumbria than ever before as we would like to take 40 Young People. So please get in touch with Su if you have any Young People that want to come along as there is funding from the Cumbria Circuit and North West England District. Please pray for our Young People as we journey with them.

For more information email Su cumbriamethodistyouth@gmail.com

A spectacular celebration of
the ever-unfolding journey of faith

**JOIN US
ON
THE
WAY**

FIND OUT MORE AND BOOK TICKETS!
Friday 2 – Sunday 4 October
NEC Birmingham 3Generate.org.uk

3GENERATE
Methodist Children & Youth Assembly

The Role of a Local Lay Pastor

Dean Lawson

Local Lay-Pastor,
East Cumbria, Cumbria
Methodist Circuit.



Do you know the feeling of meeting an old friend after a long time? Do you feel happy? Joy? A sense of comfort? I remember one time, when I was at university, and it was the day after having just got back from summer, and I'd organised to meet a friend. I was meeting him outside my flat, and seeing him walk down the street I couldn't help but smile and laugh and hug him as we met again, and remember the joy I felt in seeing him again. And then we had a great big catch up, telling each other the stories of what we'd each been doing over the summer.

I wonder what it would have been like for the disciples seeing Jesus on the beach after his resurrection at the end of John's Gospel. They're at the stage of already having seen Jesus alive again, so there isn't the same fear of him being a ghost. But they're not at the stage of knowing what to do, haven't received the Holy Spirit. So, I imagine it's a confusing time. Not knowing where to go or what to do. Which I think is why they probably just go back to fishing.

And then they see Jesus from the shore, and after he tells them to throw their net to the other side, John and Peter know that it is Jesus on the shore, and Peter rushes to join Jesus.

John 21:7 That disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, 'It is the Lord!' When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on some clothes, for he was naked, and jumped into the lake.

I can only imagine the joy and euphoria that Peter would have felt knowing that Jesus was there on the shore again. The friend he thought he had lost. The friend that he loved and trusted so much. And I wonder what conversations they had over the campfire. What stories they would have told? Would they have been reminiscing over their time together over the last three years? Telling Jesus of what they'd been doing over the last couple of weeks after his death and resurrection? Would Jesus have told them of what he'd been doing? Or would he be telling them of what they would be doing? To be a fly on that wall...love stories. If you know me, or have heard me preach, you might already know that by now. I love telling stories, I think they're so powerful in getting a message across, or getting us to think in different ways or from a different point of view. And I love listening to stories too. Which is good news, since I probably get to listen to more stories in a week than I might tell. Whether it might be at coffee mornings, or other church events, or when visiting someone.

I love listening to the stories that people are keen to tell of their history, a part of who they are, or to the mundanities of the week; telling of a passion, a hobby or a topic they care deeply about or trying to figure out what comes next in the week. What a blessing to be able to share a part in who somebody is, and to listen to their stories!

And then I also get the great privilege of working with churches to explore how we as the church can share our story with others, how we tell THE great story, or how we enable those outside our walls to share their stories.

I love stories. I think they make up a great part of being human, and sharing the story, and our stories with each other is so important, so I'm very grateful to be able to do that as a job.

Shackles Off: Helping Young People Become the Best Version of Themselves



Across the communities of Seascale, Millom and Hensingham, Shackles Off Youth & Community Project continues to make a profound difference in the lives of young people and their families. The charity, which began in Seascale eighteen years ago and expanded into Millom five years ago, has now completed its first full year of work in Hensingham.

Throughout 2025–26, Shackles Off worked with 364 young people, providing safe spaces, positive relationships and opportunities for personal growth in some of Cumbria's rural communities. At the heart of Shackles Off's work is a simple but powerful mission: helping young people become the best versions of themselves.

The project runs a wide range of youth clubs for children and young people aged 6 to 18. These sessions provide much more than recreation. Alongside games, activities and friendship, young people take part in life-skills workshops covering topics such as cooking, budgeting, CV writing, communication and teamwork. The charity places particular emphasis on youth-led activities, encouraging young people to take ownership of projects and develop confidence, creativity and leadership skills.

In Millom, Seascale and Hensingham, youth clubs provide a welcoming and supportive environment where young people can socialise, learn new skills and receive encouragement from trusted adults. The organisation also continues to support young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND), ensuring that its programmes are accessible and inclusive.

One of the highlights of the year has been the continued success of the Youth Development Fund (YDF) programme. Through YDF, young people plan and organise their own fully funded trips, learning valuable skills in budgeting, decision-making, public speaking and project management. Recent trips have included visits to Glasgow and Manchester, where young people explored museums, cultural attractions and educational experiences while building confidence and independence.

Shackles Off also recognises the importance of creating memorable experiences. Throughout the year, young people enjoyed trips to Walby Farm Park, Blackpool Pleasure Beach and Manchester's Snow Centre. Residential experiences at the Keppleway Centre offered opportunities for adventure, teamwork and personal challenge through activities such as archery, ghyll scrambling and outdoor problem-solving.

The organisation's work extends beyond young people. The popular Youth Again Club in Seascale continues to bring together local residents aged over 50, helping to reduce social isolation and promote wellbeing. The intergenerational links fostered through this programme create valuable opportunities for different generations to learn from one another and strengthen community connections.

Looking ahead, there is great excitement surrounding the new youth and community centre currently under construction in Seascale. Despite some early challenges requiring redesign of the foundations, construction has now reached roof level, with completion anticipated in 2026. Once finished, the centre will provide a modern, welcoming hub for young people and the wider community for many years to come.

As churches across Cumbria continue to seek ways of supporting younger generations and strengthening communities, Shackles Off stands as a powerful example of what can be achieved through commitment, partnership and a belief in the potential of every young person. Through practical support, encouragement and genuine care, the charity continues to transform lives and build hope for the future.

New Places for New People (NPNP)

Grace Cauldwell

Circuit/District Minister



New Places for New People (NPNP) is part of our strategy for growth across the country, and here in Cumbria. We know lots of people who would love to know Jesus, but for whom the way we “do church” simply doesn’t work. It sits alongside our plans to help our current churches grow, and engage in mission with people who might come to a similar sort of church experience to what we enjoy. Church has been different across the centuries, and NPNP is about recapturing that early Methodist desire to reach people where they are, in ways that are relevant to them, but that encourage us all to follow Jesus.

In Cumbria we have three major ways of helping everyone to ask if they are called to developing a new place for new people. Our Church at the Margins strand is currently in the process of recruiting a pioneer, to develop the local community from Re:New in Barrow, and to encourage learning across Cumbria about how we can be part of growing church at the economic margins. Our digital strand is developing an online community, Sanctuary and Soul, and is led by Phil Jackson, who is keen to explore what authentic church in a digital space, with a Cumbrian focus looks like. Our culture change strand is about you- what is it that you’re already engaged in that could grow into a community of Jesus followers? How would you do that? What would it look like? Where are you already noticing God at work beyond the local church? Grace Cauldwell is our lead for the circuit, and is working with Su Davis on how this connects with our commitment to youth in Cumbria

Faith In Cumbria (www.faithincumbria.co.uk) is a podcast we are developing to help us notice God at work across our county, as we begin to look at what the circuit level funding for NPNP’s might be used for here in Cumbria.

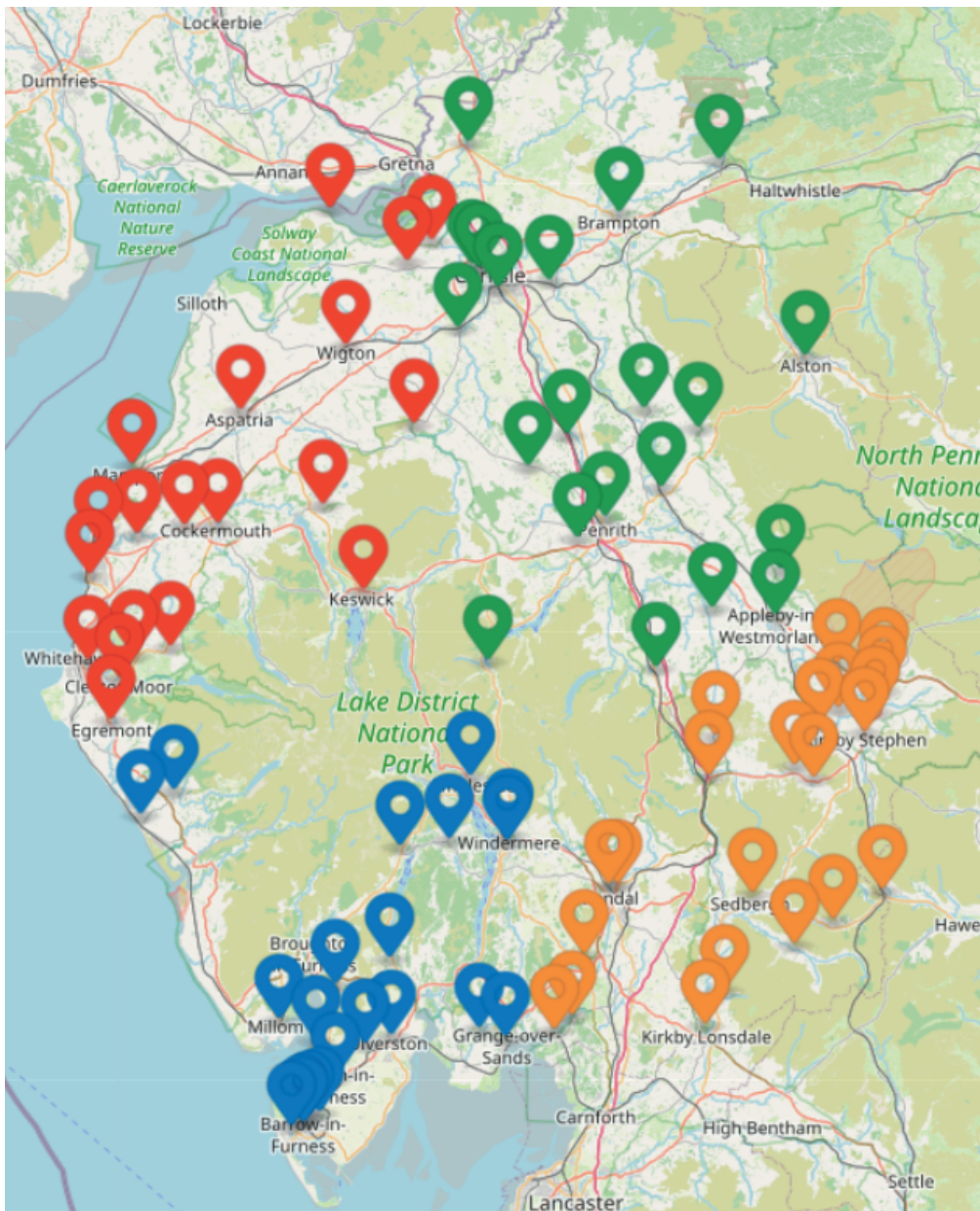
If any of this excites you please get in touch with the team.

grace.cauldwell@methodist.org.uk (lead contact)

phillip.jackson@methodist.org.uk (digital)

Please Pray for the people and the churches of the Cumbria Methodist Circuit

How many of our circuit's churches have you visited?



Please pray for:

Our people trying to maintain and run our churches;

For all our office holders and staff;

For the communities around our church buildings that through
our work they may experience the love of God;

For our ecumenical partners in this ecumenical county;

For wisdom in growing and building our Circuit.

A Methodist Way of Life

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

23

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.

26



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.

28



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.

