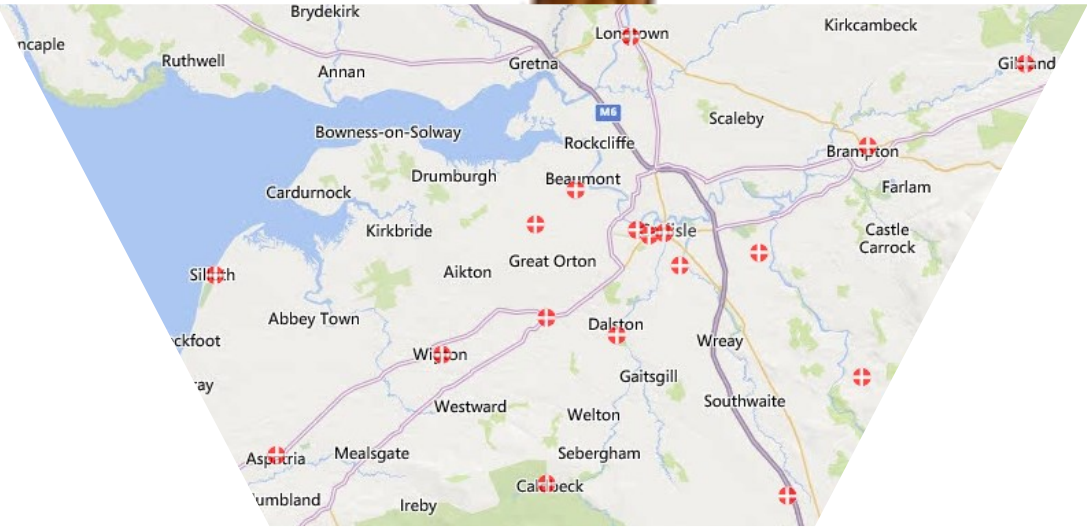




# THE CANOPY

## the North Cumbria Circuit



Happy December,

As Christmas fast approaches, I wonder what is on your Christmas list this year. A new car? A new knee? World peace? Just the small things in life then.

There is a cartoon I love (which I haven't included due to copyright) where Jesus is given a church for Christmas/his birthday, but he is complaining to his father that he can't get it out of the box. I realise that this year, it may feel as though the church has well and truly been shaken out of the box with a whole load of new things that weren't necessarily on your Christmas list - a new district, a new circuit on the way, half time ministry. And of course, the one thing that was on the list, a new minister, didn't seem to have been in the sticking.

First of all, we want you to know that we, as a staff team, are not oblivious to these challenges, and know that these are not easy times for our churches. We are so grateful for how people have responded to these challenges, and how much change you have coped with – thank you.

There are a couple of gifts that we can give you to try and help us all to manage the changes that are ahead of us. The first is a “campfire” which I realise means nothing to some people and is a trendy way of saying a cup of tea and a chat. You never know, we may have one of them around an actual fire, but the idea is that we get together and talk informally – in this instance about what we want from the new larger circuit. We will get the dates for these to you as soon as we can.

The second thing is a session called Moving Forward Together which the connexional team are kindly running for us. The theme of this is “Collaborative Ministry”, another trendy term for how we can all work together, ordained or not, to lead the church into the future. Patterns of ministry have already changed in our circuit and this will be a great opportunity that we hope to come away from with a clear plan as to how we will all take our churches forward.

As we enter this Christmas period, with a lot of uncertainty and change, in the world and the church, may we do so together, in the presence of the one who brought the light of heaven to a dusty manger, and from there into our hearts and the heart of the church.



With love, Phil

## **Circuit Meeting Update** **3rd December CMC @ Wigton Road**

Stationing—Unfortunately we were unsuccessful in the first round to match a Minister for Rev David's Churches. The second round is in early January. The meeting was informed that the Circuit Leadership Team are starting to look at other options but are awaiting the round two matching before looking in depth. Please pray for all the ministers in stationing.

Encouraging news from all churches with many examples of coming together, supporting each other and developing the multisite churches.

Mission Communities—most are still in talks about removing boundaries like Three Rivers Mission Community which covers the whole of Borders Methodist Church area. Please pray for the Mission Communities in moving forward. Dcn Mark asks people to think about engaging in the mission communities to help develop them and support the ministers.

Chris Mitchelson (LP Secretary) expressed his Thanks and encouragement of Isaac Moore's progress which is heading towards the concluding stages to become a Full Local Preacher. Well Done Isaac.

The Circuit Safeguarding Policy 2024/2025 was Agreed and signed. The Vision & Mission Statement for 2024/2025 was also agreed.

Rev Phil on behalf of the meeting expressed thanks and appreciation to George Denholm for all he has done with property sales and finance for the circuit.

Cumbria Methodist Circuit Update (see pages 22 & 23) David explained what has been happening with the Cumbria Circuit and hopes to send regular update letters. If anyone would like to join the groups please get in touch.

**Celebration Service for the new Cumbria Circuit is Sunday 31st August 2025, 11.00am at Penrith Methodist Church.** It would be lovely to have lots of people from North Cumbria to support David as he is welcomed as the new superintendent of Cumbria.

**Moving Forwards Together—Saturday 22nd February** at CMC, Wigton Road a day to reflect on our shared ministry and our future pattern in the new Cumbria Circuit. Facilitated by members of the Connexional Team.

## Circuit Steward Letter

It was a beautiful day when I set off to climb Helvellyn, no need to use a map or guide book. A good path you can follow even in the dark but halfway up a thick mist came up the valley, not only I couldn't see the summit but I couldn't see the path. In thick mist you lose your sense of direction and awareness of where you are. Looking into the mist everything is exaggerated and distorted; I once thought I had discovered a major new valley in the lake district only to find it was just a shallow gully, another time it was a boulder that looked like a cliff face. Walking in the mist, it's easy to give up, thinking what is the point in going on when there is no view and it's wet and cold, the temptation is to go back down the hill to a safe comfortable place.

With all the change that is happening in our churches it's easy to take our eyes off the summit and get lost in the day to day stuff of keeping our buildings open. When you don't know where you are going and can't see the way ahead its easy to get discouraged and exhausted by the effort of dealing with change. I was rescued by a breath of wind that blew the mist away and I could stride ahead to the summit to enjoy blue skies and breath taking views. God works and leads us in unexpected ways, we need the breath of God to blow away a few cobwebs and lead us on the way ahead to fulfil our calling and mission.



What do you think is the summit that we should aim for?

We will all have our answers but the important thing is that we follow Jesus and seek the glory of God in transformed lives and His presence in our communities.

Every Blessing  
Alan F.

## Borders Methodist Church, Brampton

Not sure where this year has gone but we seem to be going at an alarming rate to Christmas and 2025.

We held a great cake /bake sale in aid of Hospice at Home in September. This was arranged by two ladies from our church in memory of their parents. Over £500 was raised.

On the 5th Sunday of September a Mission Communities Service was held at our church. This was led by the Rev. Tricia Rodgers and was very well attended. Our next MC service will be on the 5th Sunday of December at St. Martins C of E Church in Brampton. It is lovely to meet together and share fellowship.

One welcome thing happening in Brampton church is the reforming of Junior Church. There is usually between 5-6 young people who enjoy a variety of activities. It is run by two people each week with a rota of helpers. Thank you to everyone.

Our organising committee have arranged a craft fair on November 30th towards church funds. Let's hope there is no snow and we have a successful day.

Members of Churches Together in Brampton organised a stall at the town light switch on. This included activities for the children and handing out leaflets for the Christmas Services.

It is the turn of St. Martins to hold the town Carol Service this year. Our annual **Candlelight Service will be at 7pm on Christmas Eve** followed on **Christmas Day with a family service at 10.30am.**

Finally we were very sorry to hear of the death of Ray Bloxham a very faithful and hard working member of our church family. We thank him for his years of service to us and MHA where he worked for many years. We send our love and prayers to Olive and all his family.

We also remember with love and prayers the family of Violet Dobson who's funeral service was held on December 2nd.

*Nancy Simpson*

## Borders Methodist Church, Longtown

Longtown Community Church held its Harvest Service, on October 13th, this was led by Rev. Colin Harbach. It was good to have Colin back with us, as we have fond memories of Colin and his late wife Pam, who were members of our church fellowship, when they lived in Longtown. Colin's message was taken from Matthew 6 v25-34, which teaches that people should trust God to provide for their needs and not worry about the future, and that they should be focussed on serving God, not storing up material possessions. His second reading taken from Psalm 50, which tells us about the cattle on a thousand hills, and that we are in fact, only stewards of this land. We had a beautiful floral arrangement, designed by Anna, some baskets of fresh fruit, and a table laden with dried tins/packets of food.



*Good to display the Harvest Loaf donated from Monkhill Chapel, Thank you.*

The food was donated, and greatly received by The Cornerstone Cafe in Denton Holme, which is run by St James's Church. The baskets of fresh fruit were taken to housebound, or bereaved friends.

This was followed by a return visit from Caroline Hetherington on October 20th. We raised funds for her charity "Safe Families", by selling quiz sheets, compiled by Jane and Val. This proved very successful, raising £150, and we were able to present Caroline with a cheque after the service. Linda from our fellowship, took part in the service, in the form of an interview, which gave us an insight into the role of being a volunteer for this charity.

On November 10th we came together at our local Parish Church for a "Remembrance Service", which was led by Rev'd Tokunbo and Melvyn Redgers, then we met at the Community Centre for the role call, and laying of the wreaths at the Cenotaph.



This was followed by an exhibition of memorabilia from WW1 and WW2, which was superbly displayed by Jane, and an unveiling of a plaque to mark the 100th Anniversary of the erection of The Memorial Hall.

Pauline & Malcolm are regularly making trips to “New Start Recycle” a Scottish charity which takes donated items of clothing, toiletries and medicines on humanitarian trips to Ukraine. Thank you to all who have donated to this worthy charity

*Dorothy Lamb*

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## Thurstonfield

**Carol Service 22nd December 2024 at 6.30pm.** All are welcome to come along for an evening of carols and readings with refreshments afterwards.



Our usual services are held each Sunday at 6.30pm and as always we welcome all who come along.

Our **monthly coffee/tea afternoon** with home baked fare is held the **first Monday of each month** unless it is a Bank Holiday and is between **2.15 and 3.15** although often goes on a little longer. During these cold months it is a nice warm space to come and have a chat with friends and make new ones.

May we say **thankyou** to all those who came along to our special toy service taken by the Salvation Army on the 17th November. It raised £500 for the toy appeal plus some toys were donated.

*Christine Kelly*

## 4Front Theatre Update

4Front Theatre's recent visit to Carlisle with their Christmas show: 'Not Getting Inn' went very well. Thank you for your prayers and support. They performed for a few local schools, including Newlaithes Juniors, Caldew Lea, Stoneraise, Fell View, Rosley & Raughton Head, Robert Ferguson, Newtown, Upperby and Stanwix Juniors and then on Friday evening at a public show at St Michael's Church, Stanwix. The children thoroughly enjoyed the show, which was full of jokes, slapstick silliness, fantastic song and dance alongside the real message of Christmas.

*Annmarie Pattinson*



## **North Cumbria Methodist Circuit Christmas Services in December 2024**

Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> 9.30am Monkhill United Carol Service  
at St Mary's, Beaumont

Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> 10.00am United Carol Service with Rev Tokunbo Asogbon  
at Borders Methodist Church, Longtown

Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> 3.00pm Churches Together Town Carol Service  
at St Mary's, Wigton

Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> 4.00pm Quieter Christmas at  
Carlisle Methodist Church, Wigton Road

Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> 6.00pm Carlisle South Mission Community Carol Service  
at Carlisle Methodist Church, Uppery

Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> 7.00pm Carol Singing  
at Port Carlisle Community Chapel

Friday 20<sup>th</sup> 7.00pm Carol Singing at The Drovers Rest, Monkhill

Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> 2.00pm Christmas Concert  
at Borders Methodist Church, Gilsland

Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> 7.30pm Carols by Candlelight with  
Rev Phil Jackson at Cornerstone@Wigton

Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> 10.30am Carol Service with Rev Janice Faris  
at Dalston Methodist Church

Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> 10.45am Carol Service with Rev Tokunbo Asogbon  
at Borders Methodist Church, Wetheral

Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> 10.45am Carol Service with Mr Ian Stewart  
at Carlisle Methodist Church, Uppery

Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> 4.00pm Carol Service  
at Carlisle Methodist Church, Wigton Road

Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> 6.00pm Carol Service with  
Rev Phil Jackson at Cornerstone@Aspatria

Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> 6.30pm Carol Service with  
Mr Nathan Pattinson at Thurstonfield Methodist Church







Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> 7.30pm Carols by Candlelight with  
Rev Tokunbo Asogbon at Borders Methodist Church, Brampton

Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> 9.30pm Christmas Eve Service with  
Rev Dr James Tebbutt (District Chair)  
at Carlisle Methodist Church, Wigton Road

Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> 9.30am Christmas Day service with  
Dcn Mark Attwood at Borders Methodist Church, Wetheral

Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> 10.00am Christmas Day Service with  
Rev David Newlove at Carlisle Methodist Church, Wigton Road

Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> 10.30am Christmas Day Family Service with  
Rev Tokunbo Asogbon at Borders Methodist Church, Brampton

Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> 10.30am Christmas Day Family Service with  
Rev Phil Jackson at Cornerstone@Wigton

*This service will also be live streamed on Cornerstone Methodist Church  
Facebook page and CornerstoneMethodist on Youtube.*

**All Welcome**



You are invited to  
**Port Carlisle Community Chapel**

**Carol Singing**

**Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> December**

**7.00pm**

with Rev David Newlove &  
The Port Carlisle Ladies Choir.

*Mulled Wine & Mince Pies*

**All Welcome**



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*Christmas Day*

**Hear The Angels Sing**

**Bible Readings:    Isaiah 9:2-7    Luke 2:1-20**

**Songs and hymns:**

- Born in the night, Mary's child (StF 193)
- Child of Joy and peace (StF 194)    Glory be to God on high (StF 199)
- I had a dream that I was standing on a hillside (StF 203)
- It was on a starry night when the hills were bright (StF 206)
- Love came down at Christmas (StF 210)
- Sent by the Lord I am (StF 239)

## **Opening Liturgy**

Light in our darkness, joy in our sorrow,  
Our saviour is born, the Prince of Peace,  
The King of all, Emmanuel, God with us.

Let's share the song,  
**With angels let us sing.**

Glory to God, revealed among us,  
Given for us, offered for us,  
Living within, one with us.

Let's share the song,  
**With angels let us sing.**

The day is here, the time is now.  
Promised long ago and promised still.

Within the laughter and the chat,  
Let's share the song,  
**With angels let us sing.**

## **The good news to get across**

Christmas is loud, isn't it? So much expectation. So many voices.  
Telling us how to celebrate, what to wear, what to eat and drink, what  
to watch and what to buy.

Instead, this Christmas we're inviting everyone to hush the noise. To  
listen for the love song that the angels bring this and every year. They  
sang it for the first time more than 2,000 years ago, on the midnight  
clear. They're just waiting for us to join in.

## **Prayer of blessing**

The angels are still singing.  
Hush the noise, hear them sing, repeat the song.  
And the blessing of God,  
The Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,  
Be yours/ours, now and always. **Amen.**

## **For more Advent and Christmas Resources:**

<https://www.methodist.org.uk/for-churches/christmasresources/>

## REGULAR EVENTS

this list includes anything that happens weekly, fortnightly or monthly. If I have missed anything please let the Circuit Administrator know, Thank you,  
(TT represents term time only)

|                  |                |                          |                      |  |
|------------------|----------------|--------------------------|----------------------|--|
| <b>Monday</b>    | 10.00am        | Dementia Café            | 1st                  | Cornerstone: Wigton                          |
|                  | 1.00pm         | Walking Football         | Weekly               | Silloth Green                                |
|                  | 2.15pm         | Oasis                    | 1st                  | Thurstonfield                                |
|                  | 5.15pm         | Beavers                  | Weekly TT            | CMC: Wigton Road                             |
| <b>Tuesday</b>   | 9.00am         | Men's Breakfast          | Last                 | Auction Mart, Rosehill                       |
|                  | 9:30am         | Coffee Morning           | Weekly               | Cornerstone: Wigton                          |
|                  | 10.00am        | Food Bank in Church      | Weekly               | Cornerstone: Wigton                          |
|                  | 10.00am        | Dementia Café            | 3rd                  | Dalston                                      |
|                  | 10.00am        | Knit & Natter            | Weekly               | Longtown                                     |
|                  | 10.00am        | Parent & Toddler Group   | Weekly               | Thurstonfield                                |
|                  | 12 noon        | Meet to Eat              | 1st                  | Dalston                                      |
|                  | 1.00pm         | Lunch Club               | 1st & 3rd            | CMC: Wigton Road                             |
|                  | 1.30pm         | Toddler Group & Stitches | Weekly               | CMC: Newtown                                 |
|                  | 2.00pm         | Short Mat Bowls          | Weekly               | CMC: Upperby                                 |
|                  | 2.30pm         | Tuesday Fellowship       | 1st & 3rd            | CMC: Wigton Road                             |
|                  | 4.30pm         | Rainbows                 | Weekly TT            | CMC: Wigton Road                             |
|                  | 5.30pm         | Brownies                 | Weekly TT            | CMC: Wigton Road                             |
| 7.00pm           | Guides         | Weekly TT                | CMC: Wigton Road     |  |
| 7.00pm           | House Group    | 2nd & 4th                | Cornerstone: Silloth |  |
| <b>Wednesday</b> | 10.00am        | Buggy Brigade            | Weekly TT            | Dalston                                      |
|                  | 10.30am        | Prayer Service           | Weekly               | Brampton                                     |
|                  | 2.00pm         | Bible Study              | 1st & 3rd            | Cornerstone: Wigton                          |
|                  | 6.30pm         | Cubs                     | Weekly TT            | CMC: Wigton Road                             |
|                  | 7.30pm         | Wives' Group             | Fortnightly          | CMC: Wigton Road                             |
| <b>Thursday</b>  | 10.00am        | Alpha Course             | Weekly               | The Fearon's House                           |
|                  | 10.00am        | Parent & Toddler Group   | Weekly TT            | CMC: Wigton Road                             |
|                  | 10.00am        | House Group              | Weekly               | Cornerstone: Caldbeck                        |
|                  | 10.00am        | Bible Study              | Weekly               | Cornerstone: Abbeytown                       |
|                  | 10.30am        | Coffee Break             | Weekly               | Gilsland                                     |
|                  | 12 noon        | Lunch with Us            | Last                 | Monkhill                                     |
|                  | 3.30pm—5       | The Youth Hub            | Weekly TT            | Longtown                                     |
|                  | 7.00pm         | Scouts                   | Weekly TT            | CMC: Wigton Road                             |
|                  | 7.30pm         | Revive                   | 3rd                  | CMC, Wigton Road                             |
| <b>Friday</b>    | 9.30am—11.30am | Food Larder              | Weekly               | Brampton                                     |
|                  | 10.00am        | Food Bank in Church      | Weekly               | Cornerstone: Wigton                          |
| <b>Sunday</b>    | 10:30am        | Sunday Morning Worship   | Weekly               | Cornerstone Facebook, YouTube and Phone line |
|                  | 4.00pm         | Messy Sunday             | 2nd & 4th            | Cornerstone: Wigton                          |

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

*These are all great opportunities to meet together, support each other and get to know one another better. Please make a note of them and try to support these events.*

### DECEMBER *(Full list of Christmas Services on pages 8 & 9)*

|         |         |  |                        |
|---------|---------|--|------------------------|
| Wed. 11 | 2.00pm  | Christmas Musical Afternoon with Local Vocals  | CMC, Upperby           |
| Sun. 15 | 9.30am  | Monkhill United Carol Service                  | St Mary's, Beaumont    |
| Sun. 15 | 3.00pm  | Churches Together Town Carol Service           | St Mary's, Wigton      |
| Sun. 15 | 6.00pm  | Carlisle South Mission Community Carol Service | CMC, Upperby           |
| Wed. 18 | 7.00pm  | Carol Singing                                  | Port Carlisle          |
| Fri. 20 | 7.00pm  | Carol Singing                                  | Drovers Rest, Monkhill |
| Sat. 21 | 2.00pm  | Christmas Concert                              | BMC, Gilsland          |
| Sat. 21 | 7.30pm  | Carols by Candlelight                          | Cornerstone@Wigton     |
| Sun. 22 | 6.00pm  | Carol Service with Rev Phil Jackson            | Cornerstone@Aspatria   |
| Tue. 24 | 7.00pm  | Carols by Candlelight                          | BMC, Brampton          |
| Tue. 24 | 9.30pm  | Christmas Eve Service -Rev Dr James Tebbutt    | CMC, Wigton Road       |
| Wed. 25 | 9.30am  | Christmas Day Service                          | BMC, Wetheral          |
| Wed. 25 | 10.00am | Christmas Day Service                          | CMC, Wigton Road       |
| Wed. 25 | 10.30am | Christmas Day Family Service                   | BMC, Brampton          |
| Wed. 25 | 10.30am | Christmas Day Family Service                   | Cornerstone@Wigton     |

### JANUARY 2025

|         |        |                       |                  |
|---------|--------|-----------------------|------------------|
| Thu. 23 | 7.30pm | Circuit Meeting       | CMC, Wigton Road |
| Sat. 25 |        | Burns Supper (Soiree) | CMC, Wigton Road |

### FEBRUARY

|         |        |                                |                  |
|---------|--------|--------------------------------|------------------|
| Wed. 19 | 7.30pm | Circuit LP & WL Meeting        | CMC, Wigton Road |
| Sat. 22 |        | Moving Forward Together        | CMC, Wigton Road |
| Tue. 25 | 1.00pm | Foundation Safeguarding Course | CMC, Wigton Road |

### MARCH

|         |          |   |                  |
|---------|----------|---|------------------|
| Sat. 01 | 12nn-2pm | Pancake Lunch (In aid of Circuit Charity 2024/25) | Monkhill         |
| Tue. 04 | 10.00am  | Quiet Time  | Port Carlisle    |
| Fri. 07 | 6.30pm   | Connect Gathering                                 | CMC, Newtown     |
| Thu. 13 | 12.00nn  | Lent Lunch  | Dalston          |
| Thu. 20 | 12.00nn  | Lent Lunch  | Dalston          |
| Wed. 26 | 7.30pm   | Circuit Meeting                                   | CMC, Wigton Road |
| Thu. 27 | 12.00nn  | Lent Lunch  | Dalston          |

# Sanctuary and Soul

Since the digital project started in September we have been getting ready to launch, which we achieved at the start of Advent, meaning the last few weeks have been rather frantic.

The project is split into two halves, one seeking to offer an online space for spiritual conversations, open to any kind of spirituality and aiming to be a neutral space. Within this space there will be a clear push towards social action and loving our neighbour.

The other half is an intentionally Christian space, aiming to build an online Christian community with the same goal of loving our neighbour, but being quite clear that we do it because Jesus asked us to do it.

The vision for the Sanctuary and Soul project revolved around an old ruined abbey, where people who wouldn't come through the church door would be happy wandering in this spiritual space (a little like Fountains Abbey or any other such ruin). Alongside this, one of the side chapels is still standing, and this is where we still hold Christian worship. Trying to create this feel and image online will be one of the challenges, but a fun one to try and overcome.

Our ultimate hope is that everyone will, one day, go through the door from the ruin to the chapel. We know from the real world that this is not always the case, and so a community of people who believe that we share a spiritual existence, and who end up living out Jesus command of loving one another, and ultimately making the world a better, and more just, place, can only be a good thing.

So far we have gone live on Facebook and Instagram for the abbey ruins and Facebook and TikTok for the chapel. The easiest way to check these out is through the website [www.sanctuaryandsoul.org](http://www.sanctuaryandsoul.org)

Now that we have the content, the next challenge will be to start building the community.

Rev Phil Jackson  
District Digital Pioneer



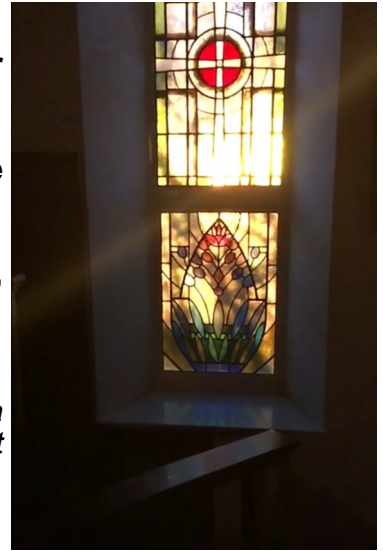
**Port Carlisle Community Church**  
**Upcoming Events, Services & Meetings**  
**at Port Carlisle Community Church. All Welcome**

**Carol Singing Wednesday 18th December**  
**7.00pm . All Welcome.**

**29th December—No Service -See above**  
**Carol Singing**

**Quiet Time—Tuesday 4th March 2025,**  
**time: 10.00am—12.00nn**

*Photograph taken by Kathleen Brough of a*  
*November sunset through the window at Port*  
*Carlisle Chapel*



## **Lent Lunches 2025**

Thursday's at

**Dalston Methodist Church**

**12.00nn** Talk followed by

Soup & Fruit Lunch

*13th March, 20th March,*

*27th March, 3rd April,*

*10th April*



# **LENT**

**All Welcome**

# Monkhill

Since our last contribution to The Canopy, we have held our summer Strawberry Tea and Cake Stall that raised £268 for Chapel Funds. Many thanks to all for your support.

In September we joined St Mary's Beaumont for their Harvest Festival which was reciprocated by an invite to ours in October. Another Joint Harvest Supper was held in Beaumont Parish Hall with steak pie & peas and puddings and a fun table quiz. This raised £480 split between St Mary's Beaumont, St Michael's Burgh and Monkhill Chapel. A great example of the enjoyment and rewards of working together rather than "going it alone".

The United Remembrance Day service was held at St Mary's Beaumont with the Roll Call of those fallen in the two wars followed by Brunch (bacon butties and tea/coffee) with the 2 minute silence at 11.00am.

We have had 2 Own Arrangements over the last couple of Plans. In July we held our own service at Monkhill and in October we returned to Aspatria who have made us feel so welcome.

Once again we are pleased and proud to have been able to participate in the Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Appeal in November. This year a total of 141 shoeboxes were sent from Monkhill including 78 from Stoneraise School via Annmarie Pattinson. We are so grateful for support from Chapel members and supporters, Annmarie, Christine Phillips and friends from Wigton Road, those who supported us in prayer, donated filled shoeboxes, helped at the packing sessions or gave financially (meaning we were able to cover the postage costs of 35 boxes). We will hear about the destination of our boxes in due course.

The Christmas Lunch with Us is nearly here taking place on the 1st Thursday in December and is enjoyed by all. The next lunch reverts back to the usual last Thursday (30th January)

On Saturday 14th between 10am and 12.30pm, a kind invitation has been extended to all within the Solway Hub of Churches to join a get-together at Cardew Lodge Dalston with seasonal refreshments.



Christmas events continue locally with the United Parish Carol Service on Sunday 15th December at St Mary's Beaumont. The Carol Service at Port Carlisle Community Chapel takes place on Wednesday 18th December at 7.00pm and folk from around the Circuit are invited to join.

The annual Carols in the Drovers at Monkhill is on Friday 20th December, 7.00pm for 7.30pm with delicious home baked mince pies provided and a guaranteed evening of warm fellowship and friendship with a sing-song of familiar Carols.

May we wish you all a very happy and peaceful Christmas and New Year.

**Forthcoming event**

**Pancake Lunch** in the School-room on **Saturday 1 March 2025** from **12 noon to 2.00pm**. Proceeds in aid of North Cumbria Methodist Circuit Project 2024/25 – Cumbria Agricultural Chaplaincy – supporting and networking with the farming community in Cumbria.

*Lynne Graham*

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**Dalston**

**Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> December, 10.30am -**  
Carol Service with Rev Janice Faris, All Welcome.

**Sunday 12th January 2025, 10.30am—**  
Covenant Service with Rev David Newlove



Hub Christmas Meal planned for the 24th January at Greenhill. Names to Margery Little as soon as possible please.

On the 3rd Sunday of each month we will be having a Fellowship Service where we will socialise after the service with refreshments.

*Ann Oldman*

**Gilsland Methodist Church**

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# **Carol Concert**

**Sing and listen to  
Christmas carols & readings  
with festive music from  
the Amici Choir**

on

Saturday 21st December at 2.30pm

Seasonal Refreshments

A collection will be taken for  
the **Salvation Army**



**MOVING**

**FORWARDS**

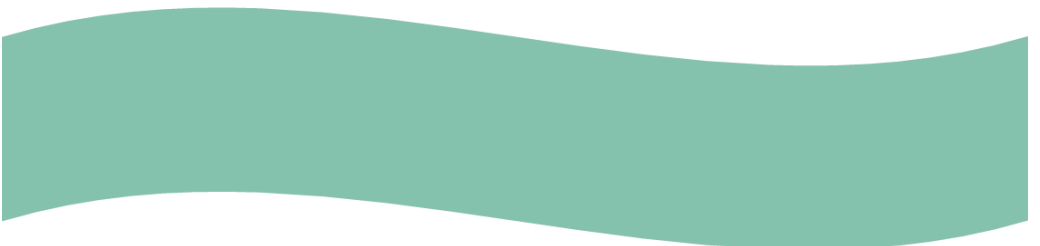
**TOGETHER**

***Collaborative Ministry***

A day to reflect on our shared ministry  
and our future pattern  
as part of the new Cumbria Circuit.

Facilitated by members of  
the Connexional Team

**Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> February**  
**At Wigton Road**



## Carlisle Methodist Church, Wigton Road

The Family Parade Service on the third Sunday in the month has for the past year been held in the less formal setting of the hall and this has encouraged the children from the youth organisations and their parents to join us in a relaxing Christian time together. The service lasts about three quarters of an hour with modern and occasionally traditional hymns on the screen, some craft, quizzes, the Word and refreshments, perhaps a bacon roll, croissants, toast, and this month mince pies with a drink.

During the week we have a full complement of Rainbows, Brownies, Guides, Beavers, Cubs and Scouts and with their leaders we are working hard to encourage them to come along to the Parade Service—it is not always easy, but we continue to try.

Our Annual Toy service is always a joy. Lots of presents and case donations were brought along and given to the representative from Family Action Group at Morton Manor who explained what they do and how much they appreciate our support.

The Harvest Festival is always a wonderful occasion, plenty of Harvest hymns to sing our praises out (there is always a good message and good singing at Harvest.) Whilst we support the Foodbank weekly, we also make a special effort at Harvest encouraged by the youth organisations.



At the eleventh hour on Remembrance Sunday two minutes silence was observed in a really moving service when we remembered the sacrifice so many people made for us to have a better life and as we try to come to terms with increasing changes. Rev David Newlove read the roll call of the members of Caldewgate and Wigton Road congregations who died in World Wars 1 and 2. It was a sobering thought to realise the many members who had died. Gordon Kydd sounded the last post and reveille on the trumpet.

*At the going down of the sun  
and in the morning  
we will remember them*

Over time we have welcomed families from abroad who now worship with us on a regular basis and we have been well pleased to meet them—we hope they like us. They have also formed their own small group who meet in the church parlour every Friday evening.

As we near Christmas and all churches have their own wonderful services, if you can fit us in, may we just let you know what is happening here. Well we have a new slogan 'Come and bring a friend'

**Sunday 15th December, 4.00pm                      A Quieter Christmas**

A carol service with an opportunity to light a candle to remember those who are no longer with us.

**Sunday 15th December, 10.30am Christingle and Family Parade Service**—A fun, interactive morning in the Church Hall making our Christingles & telling the story. With Coffee and mince pies.

**Sunday 22nd December, 4.00pm**

**Our traditional Carol Service** with familiar readings and carols all telling the Christmas story. Followed by tea and mince pies.

**Christmas Eve 9.30pm Communion Service**

A traditional Christmas Eve Communion which is timed to cross over midnight in Bethlehem.

**Christmas Day 10.00am**

A short celebration of Christmas for all the family.

Feel free to bring a present along to show everyone.

One more word, may we encourage you to come along to the Quieter Christmas Service. This is a time we have shared together for the last two years. Some people have said afterwards they wished they had come but did not know what to expect. It is for people who just want a quiet time to think and remember people and times gone by, away from the business of the season. It does not necessarily need to be about a person who died, it could be for illness, a situation, loneliness, an animal, indeed anything. It is just a lovely service which brings peace.

***May good fortune and good health be yours  
a merry Christmas  
and a happy new year everybody.***

*Moira Wilson*

## ***Preparing for the Cumbria Circuit***

The implantation Group have been hard at work during the autumn and are making good progress in both identifying the work required and making a start at gathering information.

An overall project plan has been developed against which progress will be monitored. The work has been divided into a number of areas mirroring the proposed functional structure of the new Circuit, Each Superintendent had been asked to initially lead one of the following groups:

- Strategy and Vision
- Mission
- Ministry
- Communication
- Governance and Legal
- Finance
- Central Support (Administration)
- Personnel
- Property

These groups consist of lay and ordained people from across the county who we feel have the appropriate skills – if however you'd like to get involved in any of the groups or have any queries, please contact Carolyn Dickinson who is providing administrative support to the Implementation Group

[carolyndickinson3@gmail.com](mailto:carolyndickinson3@gmail.com)

or your local Superintendent.

The Groups meet both virtually and in person and refer back to the implementation group for advice and any decisions required. We want to involve as many people as possible, so over the next six months we will be consulting on important uses such as creating and owning a vision for the new circuit. We will also be asking the

Spring Circuit Meetings to agree legal matters that will be required to progress the preparation. The intention is to have as much as possible in place for 1 September 2025.

A date for your diary is the formal welcome service for new ministers and a **celebration of the start of the One Cumbria Circuit**. This will be held on **Sunday 31 August 2025 at 11am in Penrith Methodist Church followed by a lunch.**

We are very conscious that this is a period of intense change and wish to ensure we communicate progress and provide further details on a regular basis. As well as monthly bulletins during 2025, after each Implementation group meeting, the Communications Group have been tasked with developing both interactive and more traditional methods of communication with the opportunity for feedback and discussion.

We pray for understanding and patience as we work through the establishment of this new and exciting phase of Methodism in Cumbria.

### **The Implementation Group**

Carolyn Dickinson, Helen Hooley, David Milner, David Newlove, Stephen Radford, Brec Seaton, John Slee

3 December 2024



# MINISTRY TEAM



**Rev. David Newlove** (Co-Superintendent)  
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**Pastoral oversight of:** Carlisle Methodist Church (Newtown,  
Re:Fresh, Upperby, Wigton Rd.)  
Solway Methodists: Dalston, Monkhill, Thurstonfield  
along with our work at Port Carlisle

**Rev. Philip Jackson** (Co-Superintendent)  
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**Pastoral oversight of:** Cornerstone (Abbeytown, Aspatria,  
Caldbeck, Silloth & Wigton)

**Rev. Tokunbo Asogbon**  
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**Pastoral oversight of:** Borders Methodist Church (Brampton,  
Gilsland, Longtown, Walton, Wetheral)

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**The Canopy** is the magazine of the North Cumbria Circuit of the Methodist Church and is distributed free as a service to its members and community.

## Editor

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*Items for the next Circuit Magazine should reach the editor **no later than 3rd February 2025** .*

*The dates it will cover are: 1st March 2025 — 15th June 2025*

## North Cumbria Methodist Circuit Online:

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For details to join Zoom Meetings online or over the phone please contact the Circuit Administrator during office hours or the Ministers.

**To listen to Recorded Services call 01228 588208**