



Cumbria Methodist East Cumbria Area Circuit

Sunday 21st & 28th December

Christmas



However you feel about it, Christmas Day is almost upon us. Maybe you look forward to every aspect of the Festivities or maybe the sometimes forced enjoyment is just too much. There are so many aspects of Christmas, many experienced by a secular world in which we find ourselves and many which we appreciate as Christians. We compare and contrast below:

C – Crackers and Cards
H – Holly
R – Reindeer
I – Ivy and Icicles
S – Santa
T – Turkey and Tinsel
M – Mince Pies
A – Anxiety
S – Stuffing and Stockings

Christ Child and Carols
Hope
Rejoicing
Incarnation
Shepherds
Turning point of History
Magi
Angels
Star - Sharing of Joy and Love

None of the above are necessarily wrong (though Anxiety is not good for us) but the list on the right gives us positives of our Faith. Our longing is that many others will come to realize the best celebration is the birth of a baby who changed the world by becoming its Saviour.

Our carols tell of the true meaning of Christmas and StF 192 sums up this message.

Beneath the paper wrappings, there's an open
stable door
Beneath the fir tree trappings, there's a
welcome and there's more
Beyond the tinsel fairy is a presence that's
divine
There's a child to change the future, turning
water into wine.



*Look inside, look above, look beyond and see the love
Look inside and you will see*

Look inside, look below, look beyond, and you will know

The one who came to give his life for you and me.

The miracle of childbirth now reveals God's only Son

A miracle beginning that continues on and on.

The stable holds the echo of a tomb that's yet to be,

On the manger lies the shadow of the cross he's yet to see.

A Very Happy, Peaceful and God Filled Christmas to You All.



Lois Morton

Please note there will be no notices on the week of Sunday 6th January - they will return for Sunday 11th January. Happy Christmas to all and a Happy New Year!

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### **Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> December**

#### **Penrith**

**10.30am** ~ Carols in Town

#### **Skelton**

**10.30am** ~ Carol Service at St Michael's

#### **Stainton**

**10.30am** ~ Carol Service – Mr Dean Lawson

#### **Cottage Wood Centre**

**3pm** ~ United Carol Service – Rev Julia Reid

#### **Alston Moor**

**3pm** ~ Carol Service/Local Arrangement

#### **Gamblesby**

**2pm** ~ Carol Service – Mr Dean Lawson

#### **Langwathby**

**11am** ~ Carol Service – Ray and Joan Wager

## **Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> December**

### **Penrith**

**10.30am** ~ Morning Worship – Mr Michael Boone

### **Skelton**

**10.30am** ~ Morning Worship – Mrs Lois Morton

### **Stainton**

**10.30am** ~ Morning Worship – Rev Julia Reid

### **Cottage Wood Centre**

**3pm** ~ Local Arrangement (Social)

### **Alston Moor**

**11am** ~ Local Arrangement

***There are alternative Anglican services available.***

***For details, please see the EEMC website: [www.eastofedenmc.org.uk](http://www.eastofedenmc.org.uk)***

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Monday 22nd December

11.30am ~ Funeral Service – Church/PMC

7.30pm ~ Zoom Prayer Meeting –

All are welcome to join, please use the Meeting ID below,

Meeting ID: 955 474 1253

Password: 2YaB4F

Wednesday 24th December – CHRISTMAS EVE

Penrith: 4pm Crib Service (Refreshments at 3.15pm)

11.30pm Midnight Communion – Rev Julia Reid

Kirkoswald: 10am Morning Worship – Celia Ramnath

6pm: Evening Worship – Celia Ramnath

Thursday 25th December – CHRISTMAS DAY

Penrith: 10am Christmas Day Service – Rev Julia Reid

Skelton: 10am Christmas Day Members Service

Stainton: 9.30am United Christmas Day Service at Dacre

Langwathby: 10am Christmas Day Service – Celia Ramnath

Sunday 28th December

SUNDAY SERVICES – PLEASE SEE PREVIOUS PAGE

Tuesday 30th December

11.45am ~ 4F – Ullswater/PMC

Sunday 4th January

Penrith: 10.30am

Skelton: 10.30am

Stainton: 10.30am

Cottage Wood: 3pm

Nenthead: 5pm

Alston Moor: 11am

Langwathby: 11am

5pm

Morning Worship – Mrs Carolyn Dickinson

Members Service

Morning Covenant/Communion – Rev Julia Reid

Afternoon Worship – Rev Julia Reid

Pennine Praise

Morning Worship – Mrs Jan Blackshaw

Morning Worship – Celia Ramnath

Taizé

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### **Time to Celebrate!**

We would like to wish Margaret Gore a Happy 80<sup>th</sup> Birthday, which she is celebrating on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> December.

We hope you have a great day Margaret! 😊



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Alpha Course

Alpha restarts **Thursday 8th January 7pm to 9pm** at Chris and June's house Tea Rose Cottage Edenhall.

The autumn Alpha had to be rescheduled owing to illness.

Please pray for guests, helpers and leaders and ask the Lord who you might invite!

Contact 07748988033 or chris.swift443@btinternet.com

Thank you.



AT GAMBLESBY METHODIST CHURCH

HE BREWS COFFEE CLUB

EVERY TUESDAY 10am - 1pm

Except 23 & 30 December

Enjoy games, crafts or just a chat only £2

Stay for soup and a roll £3 (until 24 March)



COMMUNITY NATIVITY SERVICE

SUNDAY 21 DECEMBER at 4 pm

A magical start to the Christmas weekend

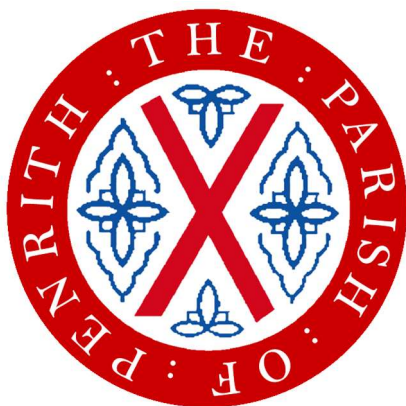
Everyone Welcome

followed by light refreshments



*For further information, please contact Claire
on 07756932116 or email: gamblesbymethodist@gmail.com*

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### Job Opportunity

The (Church of England) Parish of Penrith are recruiting for a Children and Families Ministry Team Leader. The details are on their website

at <https://www.parishofpenrith.org.uk/jobs.htm>

Please pass this on to anyone who might be interested.





At Langwathby Methodist  
Church

**Langwathby Community Fellowship**

**Christmas Party**

**2pm Wednesday, 17 Dec**

**CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE**

**Sunday 21 Dec**

**at 11am**

(Coffee and mince pies from 10.30)

With Christmas tree decorations by Pennine  
Patchers

**Christmas Day Worship at 10**

**Led by Pastor Celia Ramnath**

**All are welcome**

**(No Meeting Point this month)**

## Carol Singing in town with Penrith Town Band

Come and join others from Churches Together in Penrith with our Penrith Town Band for carol singing on **Saturday 20th December at 1.30pm**. The band will be in the town centre so just come and find them! *David*



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Cumbria Circuit Newsletter

For anyone who has not yet signed up for the new Cumbria Circuit Newsletter, please feel free to do so using the following link:

<https://gbr01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fcumbriamethodists.us17.list-manage.com%2Fsubscribe%3Fu%3D1adb68eefa5e5f77f766477bb%26id%3Dba945e09e2&data=05%7C02%7Csarah.mulheron-summers%40cumbriamethodists.org.uk%7Cbdc40b8f63824b3037ff08de317f19e3%7Cce9713ccc677419faa4c380eb12b515f%7C0%7C0%7C639002619134534666%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMm8iLCJSb2R0eU1hcGkiOiJldUljoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=sR83PnkCe%2BI5H8jMzgFGcA%2FZ1EC7%2BjHcJFWWaj%2Fgc2Q%3D&reserved=0>

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# An extra reflection for you all, intended for the week of 30<sup>th</sup> November 2025:



We are about to celebrate the First Sunday of Advent and so we officially start the Christmas season. And as Lois pointed out last week the start of a new liturgical year.

It is not known, so says Wikipedia, when the period of preparation for Christmas that is now called Advent began, though it was certainly in existence from about 480. The word comes from the Latin *adventus* which means 'coming; arrival' so it's long

been Christian practice to observe the season by waiting and anticipating 'the coming of Christ', with Luke providing us two exemplars in Simeon and Anna (Luke 2:25-38).

Like many churches, it's been PMC's tradition to display and light the outer Christmas wreath candles according to the specific Advent Sunday and the central candle on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

This year we have available to us, courtesy of the North West England District, a candle-lighting liturgy for each of the Sundays – the themes being what the four candles represent, a Christian understanding of hope, peace, joy, and love – as well as a set of reflections for each day in Advent, which can be downloaded from <https://nwedmethodists.org.uk/advent/>. Do take a look if you don't already have something to help you focus as you 'wait and anticipate'.

As a help with the oncoming busyness, and for some an emotionally difficult time of the year, here's a lovely prayer written by Henri J.M. Nouwen specifically for the Advent season:

Lord Jesus, Master of both light and darkness, send your Holy Spirit upon our preparation for Christmas.

We who have so much to do seek quiet spaces to hear Your voice each day.

We who are anxious over many things look forward to your coming among us.

We who are blessed in so many ways long for the complete joy of Your Kingdom.

We whose hearts are heavy seek the joy of Your presence.

We are Your people, walking in darkness yet seeking the light. To You, we say, "Come, Lord Jesus!"



Shane McNicol



## Easy Eco Tip – December:

### **Celebrate a simpler and greener Christmas.**

As Advent begins, let us turn our gaze to the true meaning of Christmas - God with us, Emmanuel. The humble birth of a child in a stable may seem distant from the way we celebrate today, but it offers a profound reminder of simplicity. This season, let's reflect on the story that we wish our actions and choices to tell. Consider A Rocha UK's blog on [journeying towards a zero-waste Christmas](http://www.arocha.org.uk/journeyingtowards-a-zero-waste-christmas) [www.arocha.org.uk/journeyingtowards-a-zero-waste-christmas](http://www.arocha.org.uk/journeyingtowards-a-zero-waste-christmas). May our hearts and our celebrations align with the simplicity and beauty of the Christmas story.



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Ukraine



In spite of hopes and promises, Ukraine still desperately needs our help. Some of the urgent and ongoing needs are:

- Soap
- Shampoo
- Toothpaste
- Toothbrushes
- Paracetamol
- Washing Powder
- Nappies for babies
- Sanitary Towels
- As always, CANDLES (Preferably plain wax ones, either new or partly used)

If you can give just one of these items you will be making someone's life a little bit easier.

Many thanks.

Thought for the week...



Contact Details:

Circuit Superintendent Minister: Rev David Newlove: 07989 198487
or email: revdavidnewlove@gmail.com

Ministers in Pastoral Charge:

Rev Julia Reid: 07483 932647 or email: julia.reid@methodist.org.uk

Rev Ros Watson: 07923 044709 or email: ros.watson@methodist.org.uk

Pioneer Enabler: Morgan Tebb-Roger: 07949 156051
or email: outreach@penrithmethodist.co.uk

East Fellside Local Lay-Pastor: Celia Ramnath: 01768 639971
or email: celia.ramnath@cumbriamethodists.org.uk

Circuit Pastoral Worker: Dean Lawson: 07897 736024
or email: dean.lawson@cumbriamethodists.org.uk

Circuit Office: 01768 862787 or email: admin@penrithmethodist.co.uk
(Open 9am - 1pm, Monday to Friday)

Circuit Operations and Administrative Manager: Sarah Mulheron-Summers

Circuit Administrative Assistant: Niamh Ryan

Premises Manager: Lindsay Wilson

Eden Debt Centre Manager (CAP): Jen Dixon: 07799 271710
or email: jendixon@capuk.org

Debt Coach: Jo Varley: 07464 939138
or email: jovarley@capuk.org

Cottage Wood Centre - Please send a request to join our Facebook group.

East of Eden Mission Community Website: www.eastofedenmc.org.uk

PMC Website: www.penrithmethodist.co.uk

Find our Sunday services on YouTube

Follow us on Twitter @PMCMethodists and on Facebook

Let's stay connected with one another!

