



Weekly Bulletin Sunday 23rd February

Excuses



How good are you at making excuses?

You would rather not attend an event to which you have been invited; you do not (or cannot) do the task you have been asked to do; an outfit is not to your liking. To soften the blow you offer an excuse as to why such situations are not possible. Hopefully these reasons will be accepted by the other party.

Excuses are nothing new, particularly if God is calling someone to work for him.

- “I’m too young” was the excuse of Jeremiah when God called him to be a Prophet. (Jeremiah Ch 1). God told him not to make that excuse and not to be afraid. He had been chosen before he was born and would be given the words he must speak.
- “I’m too old” could have been the excuse of Abraham as he was 75 years old when called to go to an unknown land which God would show him. (Genesis Ch 12). Later he was promised a son to carry on the family line and again he said “I’m too old”, (Genesis Ch 18) but God assured him that the impossible would happen so that the divine purpose would be carried out.
- “I can’t speak” was the excuse of Moses when he was called to lead his people out of slavery in Egypt. (Genesis Ch 4). Moses asked God to send someone else but he was promised the help of Aaron who was more eloquent and together they approached Pharaoh who eventually let the people leave.
- “I’m too bad” could have been the response of Saul when God called to him as he travelled to Damascus to persecute the early Christians. (Acts Ch 9). With all that he had done to harm the followers of Jesus how could he respond to God’s voice calling him to change? Yet we know that change took place as he became the Missionary to many places and wrote letters of encouragement and challenge.

In all these situations God knew best and whatever human frailties existed he could enable the excuses to be overcome. To what does God call us, both as

individuals and churches? We may have heard his call long ago or in more recent times and yet we waver with our own form of excuse. God will not stop calling people of all ages and abilities so that his work can continue and grow. How do we respond?

'Have you heard God's voice; has your heart been stirred?

Are you still prepared to follow?

Have you made a choice to remain and serve, though the way be rough and narrow?

Will you walk the path that will cost you much and embrace the pain and sorrow?

Will you trust in God who entrusts to us the disciples of tomorrow?

(StF 662)

Lois Morton



Penrith

10.30am ~ Café Church – Rev Tim Cooke – Ullswater/PMC

Reading: Matthew 5: 13–16

7pm ~ Encounter

Skelton

10.30am ~ Morning Worship – Miss Kathleen Williamson

Stainton

10.30am ~ Morning Worship – Mrs Lois Morton

Cottage Wood Centre

3pm ~ Bible Study – Rev Tim Cooke

Alston Moor

11am ~ Morning Communion – Rev David Milner

Kirkoswald

10am ~ Morning Worship – Mrs Jan Blackshaw

Gamblesby

2pm ~ Afternoon Worship – Mrs Claire Slee

Great Salkeld

6pm ~ Evening Worship – Mr Dean Lawson

There are alternative Anglican services available.

For details, please see the EEMC website: www.eastofedenmc.org.uk



Monday 24th February

9.30am ~ Monday Walks – Meet outside PMC

3.30pm ~ Youth Event – Ullswater/PMC

6.15pm ~ Choral Group – Sandgate/PMC

7.30pm ~ Zoom Prayer Meeting –

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

<https://zoom.us/j/97958259742?pwd=oiRL9sKL0a5HLaFltJwuT09krXA7Ug.1>

Meeting ID: 979 5825 9742

Password: 585914

Tuesday 25th February

10am ~ 'He Brews' Coffee Club – Gamblesby Methodist Chapel

10am ~ Midweek Service – Mrs Lois Morton – Church/PMC

11.30am ~ PMC Pastoral Meeting – Sandgate/PMC

1.30pm ~ Prayer Meeting – Church/PMC

7pm ~ Blencow HG – The Hollies, Blencow (*We meet twice monthly at 7pm on a Tuesday. Contact Steve on 07711 088448 for further details.*)

7pm ~ Omega House Group – Sunningdale, Stainton

7.30pm ~ Junior Youth Club – Ullswater/PMC

Wednesday 26th February

10am ~ 3C's – Cottage Wood Centre

1.30pm ~ Wednesday Get Together - Skelton Methodist Church

7.30pm ~ Living Room HG, contact Morgan or Sarah for details

Thursday 27th February

3pm ~ Afternoon Communion – Rev Tim Cooke - Woodlands

Friday 28th February

12 noon ~ Lunch Club – Ullswater/PMC

Sunday 1st March

Penrith: 10.30am

Morning Worship – Mr Dean Lawson

Skelton: 10.30am

Morning Communion – Ven Morris Rodham

Stainton: 10.30am

Joint Service with Skelton

Cottage Wood: 5pm

Early Evening Worship – Miss Kathleen Williamson

Alston Moor: 11am

Local Arrangement

Nenthead: 5pm

Pennine Praise

Langwathby: 11am

Church Action on Poverty – Hazel Bowes



BIBLE STUDY, FOOD & FUN FOR 11-18s

**THURSDAYS 4-6PM @ HULMES' HOUSE
CONTACT SU FOR INFO: 07475957194**



Eden CAP Service



Are looking for a new Secretary

The CAP Services Management Team are looking to appoint a new secretary who will assist with running of the Management Team meetings.

This is a voluntary position

If you are interested or would like more information please contact

Fred Setters, Chair of the Eden CAP Services Management Team

fsetters@suremail.gg

Closing date: Friday 28th February 2025

OVERVIEW

Christians Against Poverty is a national award-winning charity on a mission to end UK poverty. CAP equips the local church to work effectively in their community combining the provision of services to alleviate poverty and the hope of the gospel. The Eden CAP Services Management Team oversees the work of the CAP Debt Centre, CAP Job Club and CAP Money Coaching budgeting course. These services provide free help to the residents of Penrith and the Eden District. The Debt Centre works in partnership with, and is supported by, a network of churches around Eden.

The successful candidate will be expected to attend four meetings per year.

Essential duties will include taking minutes at the meetings.

Desirable applicants will also be open to and have experience of:

- Looking for suitable grant applications
- Assisting in the writing of grant applications
- As part of the wider management team, provide wisdom, support and accountability to the Eden CAP Services



You are very welcome to join us for our next
"All Together Fellowship" gathering.

MONDAY, MARCH 3rd
in church at 2pm

**CUMBRIA'S
RED SQUIRRELS**



When Beatrix Potter wrote "Squirrel Nutkin" in 1903, many red squirrels were found in the wild in the UK, along with the occasional grey. Come along to hear about the red's struggle for survival and the work of the "Penrith and District Red Squirrel Group" in helping to protect them.



Talk and visual
presentation
by Rachel Smith



As always, the session will begin with a short act of worship followed by the presentation.
Our fellowship always ends with opportunities to meet others,
have a good chat and enjoy drinks and homemade cakes.

PLEASE NOTE

**All donations received at this meeting will be given to the
"PENRITH and DISTRICT RED SQUIRREL GROUP"**

John & Margaret

**SKELTON
METHODIST CHAPEL**



PANCAKE LUNCH

TUESDAY MARCH 4th at 12:30pm

**COME AND JOIN US
FOR SWEET AND
SAVOURY PANCAKES
Tea and Coffee**



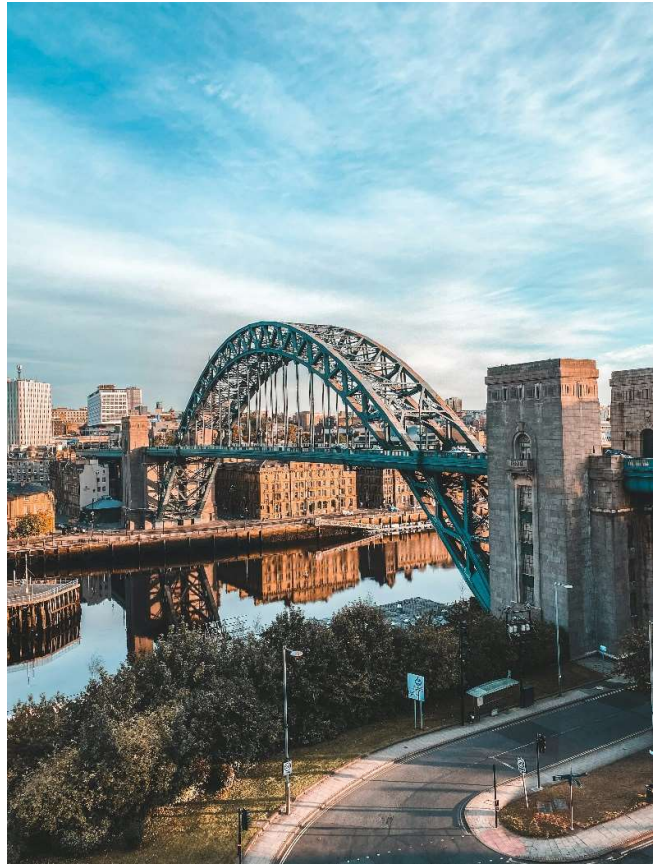
Donations for Chapel Funds

Farewell Blessings!

We have been so moved to receive the many cards and messages of goodwill on our move to Newcastle upon Tyne. Hopefully, by the time you read this message we will be sorting ourselves out at Kenton Bank Foot and looking around for a new church.

We'd like to thank so many people in our Penrith church community and beyond for the blessings given through so many years of friendship, worship and support. You'll be so missed. We feel though, for several reasons, that we must now move our lives on a little and the call to an area we know so well, closer to family, looks quite exciting if not a little challenging.

Graham & Thelma Allan



Penrith Music Club – Solem String Quartet

Monday 10th March at 7.30pm at PMC

Praised for their “immaculate precision and spirit” (The Strad) and “cultured tone” (Arts Desk), the Solem Quartet has established itself as one of the most innovative and adventurous quartets of its generation. A 2020 awardee of the Jerwood Arts Live Work Fund, one of 33 artists selected from more than 1200 applicants, the Solem Quartet takes its place amongst some of the UK’s brightest artistic voices.

Tickets are £20 in advance or at the door (£5 for students)



Lent Lunches 2025



Thursday 13th March – Church in the Barn,
12pm - 1pm (Newton Road, Penrith, CA11
0FP)

Friday, 21st March – St Andrews Church,
12pm - 1pm (St Andrews Place, Penrith,
CA11 7XX)

Tuesday 25th March – Penrith Methodist
Church, 12pm - 1pm (Wordsworth Street,
Penrith, CA11 7QY)

Friday 4th April – St Catherine's Church,
1pm - 2pm (Haydock Centre, Drovers Lane,
Penrith, CA11 9EL)

Wednesday 9th April – Quakers, 12pm -
1pm, Friends Meeting House (Meeting House
Lane, Penrith, CA11 7TR)



Join the Biggest Hour for Earth

8.30pm 22nd March 2025

Earth Hour is a worldwide annual event ran by the World Wildlife Fund (WWF). The event is designed to encourage individuals, communities, and businesses to give an hour for Earth, landmarks and businesses also switching off non-essential electric lights for one hour between 8:30pm and 9:30pm (usually on the last Saturday of March). Originating from a lights-off event in Sydney, Australia, in 2007, the event has been run every year since 2008, with more and more countries joining the tradition every year.

Below are some of the ways you can participate:

- **Switch off** – take an hour away from your screens, put your phone on do not disturb and spend some time with loved ones or by yourself
- **Spend some time outside** – if you have access to a safe outdoor space, spend some time reconnecting with the world around you (warmly wrapped up of course!)
- **Restore nature** – find ways to make your garden/local allotment more friendly for local wildlife. A list of suggestions can be found at the following link: <https://www.wwf.org.uk/updates/5-tips-turning-your-garden-wildlife-haven>

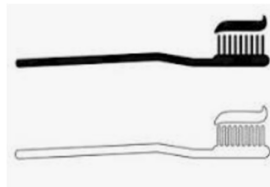
To find out more, please visit <https://www.wwf.org.uk/earth-hour>

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## Ukraine

Many thanks for your continuing support for Ukraine. Everything (candles, toiletries, clothes) is so much appreciated. Money gifts are more than welcome as each trip Steve makes to collect costs £3500.

His next collection will be early March.





## **The Green Heart of Mission**

Do you see caring for creation as an integral part of your faith, and core to the mission of the Church? Perhaps you do, but meet others who are less convinced that caring for the earth is a key part of the Gospel and missional work.

Join us as we discuss these themes, with Paul Kunert, author of 'Jesus Died to Save the Planet', stories from Eco Churches and others. We'll explore how creation care is at the heart of mission and how a newly refreshed Eco Church survey helps put this into practice.

Book your place via Eventbrite at the following link:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/the-green-heart-of-mission-tickets-1242375441389?aff=oddtcreator>

**Please note, that you need to register via Eventbrite in order to receive the joining information, which is a Zoom link sent via email nearer to the event date.**

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Easy Eco Tip – FEBRUARY:

Plan this year's holidays, with creation in mind. At this time of year, our thoughts can often turn to the hope of warmer weather and planning a summer holiday. Visiting new places and seeing God's creation is a great way to be refreshed and rested. Yet how we travel and where we stay, can either be positive or negative for the very environment we care about.

Use these simple prompts to help you plan a greener break this year: wwf.panda.org/act/live_green/travel/on_vacation.

Telephone Notice

From March 1st Rev Dave Milner will no longer be available on 01768 863209. Please use his mobile number instead (07597 639314).



Important Gift Aid Reminder FOR PMC MEMBERS

giftaid it

The Income Tax Year ends on 5th April 2025 and it is important that we know if you have signed a Gift Aid declaration and are either no longer paying Income Tax, or consider that the amount of tax you have paid in the current year is less than will be reclaimed on your total donations (currently £25.00 can be reclaimed for every £100 donated).

Any taxpayers who may be interested in helping the church by Gift Aiding their donations but do not currently do so, please contact the Office for further information. There is no additional cost to you and it is completely confidential.

If you have signed a Gift Aid declaration and changed your name or address, please advise the Church Office.

Thank you.

ADVANCE NOTICE – Tim and Dave’s leaving services

Please put these dates in your diaries.

Tim and Trace’s leaving service will be held on **Sunday June 29th at 10:30am** at PMC.

There will be no other services in the circuit that morning.

This will be followed by lunch.

Dave’s leaving service will be held on **Saturday July 26th at 5pm** at PMC.

This will be followed by refreshments.



Thought for the week...



Contact Details:

Co-Superintendent Ministers

Rev. Tim Cooke: 01768 890465 or email: tim.cooke@methodist.org.uk

Rev. David Milner: 01768 863209 or email: dave@revmilner.plus.com

Pioneer Enabler: Morgan Tebb-Roger: 07949 156051

or email: outreach@penrithmethodist.co.uk

Circuit Pastoral Worker: Dean Lawson: 07897 736024

or email: laypastor@penrithmethodist.co.uk

Stainton Outreach Worker: Trace Cooke: 01768 890465

or email: tracecooke1@gmail.com

Circuit Office: 01768 862787 or email: admin@penrithmethodist.co.uk

(Open 9am - 1pm, Monday to Friday)

Circuit 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!

