



East Cumbria **Methodist** Circuit



Weekly Bulletin Sunday 20th April

Choose Life



"Today I have given you the choice between life and death, between blessings and curses... Oh, that you would choose life, so that you and your descendants might live!"

Deuteronomy 30:19 (NLT)

I'm writing this as we go into Holy week. Depending on when you read it, it could be anytime between Maundy Thursday and Easter – or later!

So, what to reflect on? The awful events of Good Friday and Jesus' crucifixion? The waiting of the Saturday when all was numb, and dead? Or the joy of Easter Sunday, and the celebration of new life in the risen Jesus!

I believe Jesus gave his life so that we might know life. He went to the cross to show there is nothing we can do, no amount of evil we can do to each other, that will be able to stop God loving us; nothing we can do to separate us from God. In fact, Jesus proves his love to us by taking us at our very lowest and worst point and saying "Yes, you do this to me, but as the forgiving victim, I'm showing you a new way to live – a new way to inhabit love".

Easter Sunday was the victory of God's love! The proof that love wins!

So, here's the point. Our world seems in a crazy place right now. Financial markets are tumbling. Putin, Trump, Netanyahu, and all are on some power fuelled drive to build their empires – all at the cost of the neediest. Thousands are dying in wars. Humanitarian aid to the least and the poorest is reducing, while money spent on arms is increasing. And we are slowly destroying our planet through our destruction of creation.

Life seems more like Good Friday than Easter Sunday.

And yet – there is a choice we can make. It's the same choice Moses gives the people of Israel in the verse above. It's the choice Jesus died to make possible.

But it's up to us to choose it.

The theologian Matthew Fox says this: *"To know Resurrection I need to be Resurrection myself. That means I cannot dwell in despair and death and anger and oppression and submission and resentment and pain forever. I need to wake up, get up, rise up, put on life even when days are dark and my soul is down and shadows surround me everywhere.... I have to listen to the voice that says: "Be Resurrection. Be born again, and again, and again. Rise up and be counted. Rise up and inhabit the good news deeply—that death does not conquer, that life, not death, has the last word...."*

To live the life that Jesus died and rose again to bring us, means intentionally choosing to speak hope into hopelessness and to bring love where there is hate. To be fully alive means knowing that God is alive, and is with us, and for us – and for the whole world – and wants to bring redemption, and freedom, and new life.

We are Resurrection people! We can bring aliveness and rebirth and hope into the world, however distressing the news becomes. That is what it means to believe in Easter Sunday and the Resurrection.

This is what it means to choose life!

Rev. Tim

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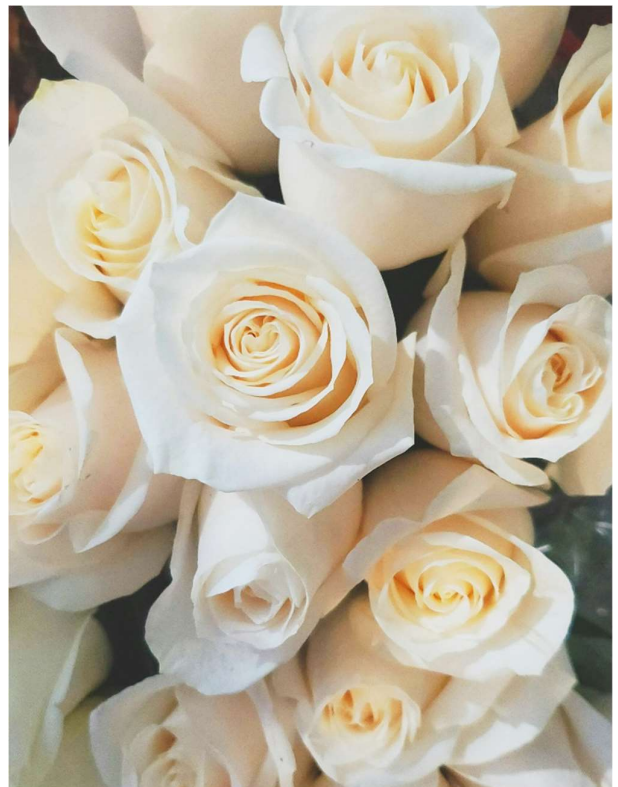
### **Sad News**

We are sad to announce the passing away of two of our PMC family.

Alan Thompson, of Tudor Court, Brunswick Terrace, Penrith, and Lorna Turner, of Winters Park (formerly at Woodlands) both died last week, and their funerals will be held at PMC in due course.

May they rest in peace and rise in glory.

Please remember their families in your prayers at this time





**Penrith**

**10.30am** ~ Easter Day Communion – Rev Tim Cooke  
Reading: John 20:11-18

**Skelton**

**10.30am** ~ Morning Communion – Rev David Milner

**Stainton**

**10.30am** ~ Morning Communion – Rev Gillian Belford

**Cottage Wood Centre**

**6am** ~ Easter Sunrise Service – Rev David Milner

**Alston Moor**

**11am** ~ Morning Communion – Rev Mary Elliot

**Langwathby**

**11am** ~ Morning Communion – Dr Peter Bowes

***There are alternative Anglican services available.  
For details, please see the EEMC website: [www.eastofedenmc.org.uk](http://www.eastofedenmc.org.uk)***



**Bank Holiday Reminder**

Just a reminder that the Circuit Office will be closed on  
Good Friday and Easter Monday.

## Weekly Diary

### **Monday 21<sup>st</sup> April – Easter Monday**

**9.30am** ~ Monday Walks – Meet outside PMC

### **Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> April**

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

**10am** ~ Morning Communion – Rev David Milner - Church/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.*)

**7.30pm** ~ Junior Youth Club – Ullswater/PMC

### **Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> April**

**10am** ~ 3C's – Cottage Wood Centre

**1.30pm** ~ Wednesday Get Together - Skelton Methodist Church

**7.30pm** ~ Living Room HG, contact Morgan for details

### **Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> April**

**7pm** ~ Penrith Lions Concert – Church/PMC

### **Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> April**

**Penrith: 10.30am**

Morning Worship – Mr Michael Boone

**7pm**

Encounter

**Skelton: 10.30am**

Morning Worship – Mr Lawrence Tomlinson

**Stainton: 10.30am**

Morning Worship – Miss Kathleen Williamson

**Cottage Wood: 10.30am**

Joint Service with Skelton

**Alston Moor: 11am**

Morning Worship – Rev David Milner

**Kirkoswald: 10am**

Morning Worship – Mrs Lois Morton

**Gamblesby: 10am**

Little Acorns

**2pm**

Afternoon Communion – Rev David Milner

**Great Salkeld: 6pm**

Evening Worship100 – Mr Dean Lawson



# HOLY WEEK

## CALENDAR OF SERVICES

**APR  
14**

**HOLY  
MONDAY**

Saint John's, Melmerby  
**7pm**  
Taize Worship

Saint Cuthbert's, Great  
Salkeld  
**7pm**  
Celtic Worship

**HOLY  
TUESDAY**

**APR  
15**

**APR  
16**

**HOLY  
WEDNESDAY**

Gamblesby Chapel  
**7pm**

Penrith Methodist  
Church  
**7.30pm**  
Rev Tim Cooke & Others

**MAUNDY  
THURSDAY**

**APR  
17**

**APR  
18**

**GOOD  
FRIDAY**

Skelton Methodist  
Church  
**7.30pm**  
Mrs Lois Morton

**Join us on Maundy Thursday for**

# **A last evening with Jesus**

**We will reflect on events of the last supper and the Garden of Gethsemane over bread, wine and Taize music, as Jesus' life nears its end.**

**Penrith Methodist Church  
Thursday 17 April 7:30PM**





## Easter Flower Workshop

**Saturday 19th April - 9am to 12 noon**

Join us to create Easter Flower Baskets which will be used to decorate the church windows and then distributed into the community following the service.

There are various ways to be involved in the workshop:

1. Come along and make up a basket - tea, coffee & biscuits provided!
2. Donations of flowers, foliage or cash would be very welcome
3. If you have any suitable baskets available please leave them in the reception area before the workshop



## **Penrith Music Club – Junior RNCM** **Concert**

***Saturday 19th April at 2.30pm at PMC***

The season ends with our annual afternoon concert by musicians from the Junior Department of the Royal Northern College of Music in Manchester, showcasing some of the most promising musical talent of the future – an uplifting and enjoyable end to our season.

Tickets are £10 in advance or at the door (Free for students)





We'd love you to join us, at PMC, for our  
Easter Sunday Celebration!

# Absence to Encounter

Celebrate New Life!

Decorate the empty cross with flowers!

Share Communion together!



Sunday April 20<sup>th</sup> at 10:30am  
Penrith Methodist Church  
Wordsworth Street, Penrith





### **Beacon Edge Blessings**

Please note that, for Holy Week only, the blessings will be happening on Friday – please meet at 7.45am at Beacon Edge by the footpath to the top.

In subsequent weeks the blessings will be on Wednesdays.

### **Help needed please!**

We could do with a couple of people being willing to help as welcomers and stewards at day-time events such as funerals. It would only be very occasional for an hour or two.

If you would be willing to help, please let Niamh know. Thanks!

Rev Tim



### **Easy Eco Tip – April:**

#### **Spend time in nature.**

Spending time appreciating God's creation can be an act of worship. Nature can be experienced when we notice an insect, hear a bird sing, feel the earth beneath our hands or even when we watch a documentary. There is strong evidence that nature is also good for our mental health. Try to immerse yourself in nature every day, even for just a few minutes and give thanks to God for His good creation.

Further ideas can be found at  
[www.arocha.org.uk/ideas-to-enjoy-nature/](http://www.arocha.org.uk/ideas-to-enjoy-nature/)





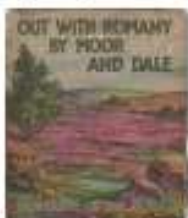
As always, you are most welcome to our "All Together Fellowship"  
at 2 pm in church on **MONDAY, APRIL 28th.**



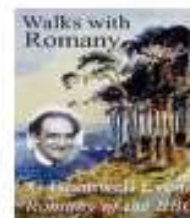
The Reverend George Bramwell Evens was a Minister in the Methodist Church and a writer on the countryside and natural history matters.



He was, under the pseudonym "Romany", a British radio broadcaster, and was famous for his "Out with Romany" radio programmes which commenced in 1933 on the BBC's "Children's Hour".



As a writer, he based his children's books on the sights and sounds of nature and was often seen as the precursor of the likes of David Attenborough and David Bellamy.



He travelled the countryside in his caravan and enjoyed visiting and walking in the Glassonby area.



We are happy that Sheila Fletcher is coming to give a talk and visual presentation about Romany.

Our gathering will begin with a short act of worship followed by the presentation.

The fellowship always ends with opportunities to meet others, have a good chat and enjoy drinks and homemade cakes.

PLEASE NOTE that we meet again on **MONDAY, JUNE 2nd.**

The presentation "Cornish Gems" will comprise still pictures and movie sequences.

These, in addition to brief descriptions, will I hope reveal the beauty of the coastal scenery, the quaint fishing villages and many of the lovely gardens.

You can also join us live at the Minack Theatre to hear the Fishermen's Friends.

John & Margaret



### **Please keep helping Ukraine**

Steve is now safely back in Ukraine. He is very grateful to everyone who donated in any way to his Penrith Trip. He has asked that we don't collect any men's clothes for now, but he still wants hats, socks and underwear for the soldiers.

For his next visit no ladies' winter clothes, just summer ones.

Thank you again for all your contributions.





## Thought for the week...



### Contact Details:

#### Co-Superintendent Ministers

**Rev. Tim Cooke:** 01768 890465 or email: [tim.cooke@methodist.org.uk](mailto:tim.cooke@methodist.org.uk)

**Rev. David Milner:** 07597 639314 or email: [dave@revmilner.plus.com](mailto:dave@revmilner.plus.com)

**Pioneer Enabler: Morgan Tebb-Roger:** 07949 156051

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

**Circuit Pastoral Worker: Dean Lawson:** 07897 736024

or email: [laypastor@penrithmethodist.co.uk](mailto:laypastor@penrithmethodist.co.uk)

**Stainton Outreach Worker: Trace Cooke:** 01768 890465

or email: [tracecooke1@gmail.com](mailto:tracecooke1@gmail.com)

**Circuit Office:** 01768 862787 or email: [admin@penrithmethodist.co.uk](mailto: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](mailto:jendixon@capuk.org)

**Debt Coach: Jo Varley:** 07464 939138

or email: [jovarley@capuk.org](mailto: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](http://www.eastofedenmc.org.uk)

**PMC Website:** [www.penrithmethodist.co.uk](http://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!**

