



East Cumbria **Methodist** Circuit



## Weekly Bulletin

Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> July

### Anyone for a game of Yo-Yo?



Giovanni Bellini  
"Virgin and Child"  
(c. 1488 – 90)

The Burrell Collection, Glasgow  
<https://artuk.org/discover/artworks/virgin-and-child-83176>

Although my love of art goes way back to when I was a teenager, my interest in specifically religious art came much later. And, this was probably among the first paintings to make me really explore Christian symbolism in Art.

I first saw this particular painting about 20 years ago, and it intrigued me. What on earth is going on here?

Jesus stands on the ledge of a brown marble balustrade with Mary holding on to him. They play a kind of a game, a bit like yo-yo. There's some sort of twig with dark-coloured flowers that Jesus is dangling on a piece of nearly invisible thread.

I didn't get it! So... I sent an e-mail to the museum to ask what this was all about. They were very helpful, and this was the reply I got: **"The**

***sprig held on the end of string by the Christ Child could be myrtle, and may represent the "virga" or shoot from the tree of Jesse (Isaiah 11.1). This could be a punning reference to the Virgin 'sprouting forth' the Virgin child. It may also be a reference to the wood from the crucifix upon which Christ was hung. The faces of the figures, particularly Mary, are solemn and sombre, indicating that they know the fate of Jesus."***

I had never heard the idea that the wood for the Cross was from a myrtle tree. I can't find many other references either, but Ferguson ("Signs and Symbols in Christian Art") says that myrtle is a sign of love. It's also a reference to Zechariah 1.8 – 11, which mentions myrtle trees and is a vision of "the whole world at rest and in peace..."



Myrtle is an evergreen, so is sometimes also pictured to symbolise eternal life. "Virga" is Latin for twig, stick or staff, hence "rod of Jesse", but it sounds a bit like "Virgo" which means Virgin. A Virgo with a Virga. A pun! Ho ho... Now I got it. A 500 year old joke.

The way in which Jesus holds the thread makes the gesture of blessing. The viewer comes to the balustrade – a bit like the altar rail – to kneel and worship, and to receive Christ's blessing.

And so... after 13 years here in Penrith and the surrounding area, I come to my final article for the weekly Bulletin. I really hope that some of my passion for Art has rubbed off and that some of you may have caught some of my enthusiasm. If you ever suffer any withdrawal symptoms and want some more of my musings on art, you can always go to my blog here:

<https://theartoffaithblog.wordpress.com> and dig around a bit!

May God richly bless you...

~~~~~

*Dave Milner*

## Rev. Dave's leaving service



As you are all aware, Rev. Dave's leaving service is on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> July, 5pm at Penrith Methodist Church.

Refreshments are to be served after the service and we would like some help with this from all of the churches in the Circuit.

If you are able to bake a traybake or a cake, please get in touch with Sheila Mallinson - [sheila.mallinson@gmail.com](mailto:sheila.mallinson@gmail.com) or 01768 885362





**Penrith**

**10.30am** ~ Traditional Worship and Communion – Rev David Milner  
Reading: John 17

**Skelton**

**10.30am** ~ Morning Worship – Miss Kathleen Williamson

**Stainton**

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

**Cottage Wood Centre**

**5pm** ~ Early Evening Communion – Rev David Milner

**Alston Moor**

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

**Langwathby**

**10am** ~ Morning Worship – Mr Lawrence Tomlinson

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

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

**Alston Service Change**



Please note that the Alston Services on the 20<sup>th</sup> of July (Worship with Alex Dunstan) and the 3<sup>rd</sup> of August (Communion with Rev Mary Elliot) have been switched.

# Weekly Diary

## **Monday 21<sup>st</sup> July**

### **PMC Holiday Club**

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

**7.30pm** ~ Zoom Prayer Meeting –

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

*Meeting ID: 955 474 1253*

*Password: 2YaB4F*

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

### **PMC Holiday Club**

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

**10am** ~ Morning Worship – Mr Lawrence Tomlinson – Stainton Methodist Church

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

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

### **PMC Holiday Club**

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

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

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

### **PMC Holiday Club**

## **Friday 25<sup>th</sup> July**

**7pm** ~ Woodlands Collective – *Meet at PMC for car share*

## **Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> July**

**5pm** ~ Leaving Service for Rev David Milner – Church/PMC

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

|                           |                                               |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|
| <b>Penrith: 10.30am</b>   | Worship Group Lead Service – Mr Michael Boone |
| <b>Skelton: 10.30am</b>   | Morning Communion – Rev Gillian Belford       |
| <b>Stainton: 10.30am</b>  | Joint Service with Skelton                    |
| <b>Cottage Wood: 5pm</b>  | Early Evening Worship – Mr Dean Lawson        |
| <b>Alston Moor: 11am</b>  | Morning Worship – Mr Dean Lawson              |
| <b>Kirkoswald: 10am</b>   | Morning Worship – Mrs Jan Blackshaw           |
| <b>Gamblesby: 2pm</b>     | Afternoon Worship – Claire Slee               |
| <b>Great Salkeld: 6pm</b> | Local Arrangement                             |



There's still time to book on to the Summer Holiday Club!

PENRITH METHODIST CHURCH

# CIRCUS

= SUMMER CLUB =



**21<sup>ST</sup> - 24<sup>TH</sup> JULY // 10AM - MIDDAY**

*featuring* CRAFTS · GAMES  
SONGS · LEARNING · TEAMS  
SNACKS · COMPETITIONS

[WWW.PENRITHMETHODIST.CO.UK/HOLIDAYCLUB](http://WWW.PENRITHMETHODIST.CO.UK/HOLIDAYCLUB)



# The Methodist Church

## **Cumbria Methodist Circuit is looking for a Property Co-Ordinator**

We are looking for a Circuit Property Co-ordinator to take a lead role in managing, maintaining and supporting the effective stewardship of property across the Circuit.

The post holder will be the key contact for all Circuit Property matters, whilst also helping churches ensure their buildings are safe, compliant and well maintained. A small Circuit Property Group will be available to support you and provide additional local knowledge where necessary.

Our properties play a key part in our outreach and have an important role in our work with local communities which we hope to continue and expand where necessary.

**Salary:** £25,000-£27,000

**Start date:** September 2025

**Work base:** Home based in the Cumbria Circuit.

**Duration of contract:** Permanent

Due to the nature of the role, it is a genuine occupational requirement that the post-holder has a sympathy with the Christian faith, and is able to engage respectfully and meaningfully with its values in the course of their work.

**Closing date for applications:-** 30<sup>th</sup> July 2025

**Interviews:-** Monday 11<sup>th</sup> August at Penrith Methodist Church

**The successful applicant will require a satisfactory Enhanced DBS disclosure and successful completion of safer recruitment checks.**

**For further details and application form contact: Sarah Mulheron-Summers**  
[admin@penrithmethodist.co.uk](mailto:admin@penrithmethodist.co.uk) / 01768 862787

*Congratulations*

To Shane & Nicola McNicol on the safe arrival of their first grandchild, Esther Louisa



### **Prayer Handbook 2025/26**

'Our Story Our Song', the new Prayer Handbook, will be available to order until 27th July on the list in Reception. The handbook is a resource shared by Methodists throughout the world. It contains prayers for every day of the year, each day linking with different Christians at home and abroad. A large print edition is available if required.

The price is £4.15 per copy for a bulk order.

### **PMC Coffee Rota**

We have a lot of gaps in our PMC Sunday Tea and Coffee Rota. If you would be interested in helping out, please sign up on the rota in the kitchen – any help is much appreciated!



### **Keyboard for Sale**

Elizabeth Pearson is looking to sell an electronic Yamaha Tyros 4 Keyboard that belonged to her husband Harold. It is in great condition.

You are welcome to visit to see / play and discuss price.

Elizabeth can be contacted on 01768 867715





Keswick Convention celebrate their 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary this year, with the theme 'Transformed'. Morning Bible teaching, evening celebrations and much more.

<https://keswickministries.org/2025-convention-transformed/>



CUMBRIA METHODIST WOMEN IN BRITAIN



## Afternoon Tea

### *Cottage Wood Centre*

**THURSDAY 7<sup>th</sup> AUGUST 2025**

**2pm - 4.30pm**

**Rev Barbara Fairburn from Arnside**  
***‘Things look different from here’***  
**Stories of Life in Sweden**

**Cost £10**

*Numbers limited so book early*

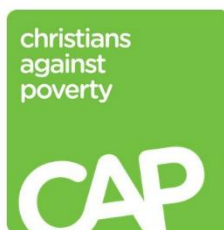
To book contact Kathleen Williamson 01768 862641  
kathleenwilliamson135@btinternet.com  
**by 25<sup>th</sup> July** including any dietary requirements

Cottage Wood Centre is on the back road from Penrith to Calthwaite  
Postcode – CA11 9PL

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#### **Diary Date**

November 10-12<sup>th</sup> 2025 - “Together at Thornleigh”,  
“One fine day” with Hilary Evans – Past President of MWiB



## **Eden CAP Debt Centre**

### **New Befriender Training**

**Monday 18th August 2025, 10am-12noon**


**at Church in the Barn, Penrith**

The Eden CAP Debt Centre delivers **free, face to face debt help** to households across the Eden Valley. Volunteers can get involved supporting our experienced coaches and befriending clients.

To book your place or get more information please contact:

**Email: jendixon@capuk.org or call/text 07799271710**

**always hope.**



CUMBRIA OPERA GROUP PRESENTS:

# THE MARRIAGE OF FIGARO

21<sup>ST</sup>-23<sup>RD</sup> AUGUST 2025, 19:30

PENRITH METHODIST CHURCH

DIRECTOR: PERSIA BABAYAN-TAYLOR  
MUSICAL DIRECTOR: MELVIN TAY

MOZART'S CLASSIC COMIC OPERA  
IN NEW ENGLISH TRANSLATION

TICKETS £25 | £10 YOUNG PERSONS

[www.cumbriaoperagroup.com](http://www.cumbriaoperagroup.com)

TICKETS ONLINE OR FROM PENRITH TIC





## Easy Eco Tip – July:

### **Plastic Free July.**

This is a great opportunity to review where you might be able to reduce single-use plastics in your life. Being part of Plastic Free July will help you find great alternatives that can become new habits forever. Paying attention to what we consume and its effect on God's earth, can lead us not into guilt, but into action and prayerful determination to see change where it's possible. Read more about the effects of plastic at [arocha.org.uk/plastic-summer](http://arocha.org.uk/plastic-summer).

## **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)

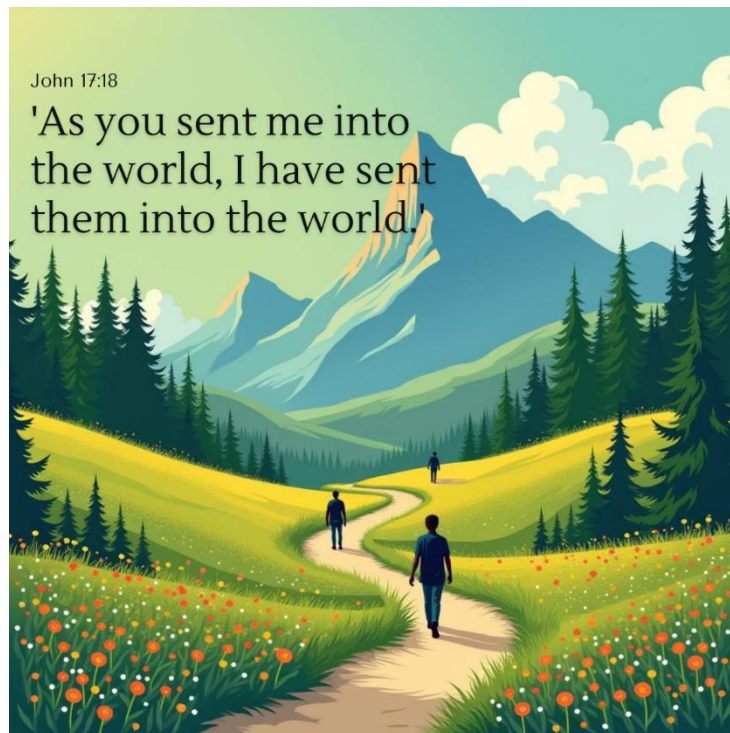
If you can give just one of these items you will be making someone's life a little bit easier.

Many thanks.





## Thought for the week...



### Contact Details:

#### Co-Superintendent Ministers

**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)

**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!

