



## **Weekly Bulletin** **Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> August** **Deserved?**



So, it was my birthday recently, and I've always struggled a little bit with celebrating my birthday. Perhaps in part due to not liking being the centre of attention and having an August birthday, when lots of people were on holiday growing up or whilst at university, being at home away from friends. But I think a large part of it is that I don't necessarily feel like I've achieved something to be celebrated. It's not like I've passed a test, or run a marathon or won a game or sports or something. I've not bought a house, or gotten married (or stayed married) or finished a big project, or got a promotion at work.

All that's happened is a year has passed since my last birthday. It doesn't matter if my last year has been a good year or a bad year, whether I've achieved anything or not, or if anything interesting has happened or not. I could have had a year of doing nothing, things going wrong and ending up in a worse place than I started and, still, my birthday will happen, people will sing happy birthday and I'll probably eat some cake. Deserved or not.

I think, this is rather our place as Christians. That, deserved or not, good or bad, God still loves us. Christ still died and came back, the Holy Spirit can still dwell within us, and we are still called citizens of heaven, beloved Child of God, a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession. That all we have to do is sit and accept that, in Jesus' name. Just like sometimes on our birthday, there is nothing we can do to stop a chorus of "Happy Birthday to You..."

God's grace is a gift, so free, so infinite, that it's difficult to really understand the full extent of it, that in some ways, it doesn't really make sense. So let's try to take a moment this week to celebrate that grace, to thank God for it, and just bask in it. I think Wesley put it best in his well loved hymn:



*And can it be that I should gain an interest in the Saviour's blood?  
Died he for me, who caused his pain? For me who him to death pursued. Amazing  
love!  
How can it be that thou my God, shouldst die for me?  
Amazing love! How can it be that thou my God, shouldst die for me?*

Charles Wesley (1707-1788)

Dean Lawson

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### Penrith

**10.30am** ~ Traditional Worship & Communion – Rev Gillian Belford  
Readings: Jeremiah 1:4-10 & Luke 13:10-17 NIV

### Skelton

**10.30am** ~ Morning Worship – Mrs Carolyn Dickinson

### Stainton

**10.30am** ~ Morning Worship – Mr Morgan Tebb-Roger

### Cottage Wood Centre

**5pm** ~ Early Evening Worship – Mr Morgan Tebb-Roger

### Alston Moor

**11am** ~ Local Arrangement

### Kirkoswald

**10am** ~ Morning Worship – Mr Dean Lawson

### Gambleby

**2pm** ~ Afternoon Worship – Mr Dean Lawson

### Great Salkeld

**6pm** ~ 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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### PMC Church Council Meeting

There will be a short PMC Church Council meeting following the service on **Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> August** to discuss and agree the 2025/2026 budget - 12.15pm in the Sandgate room.

If you are a member of PMC Church Council, it would be appreciated if you could please attend so that there is no delay to the budget being set.





### **Monday 25<sup>th</sup> August**

**9.25am** ~ Monday Walks – Meet outside PMC

**2pm** ~ Bible Fellowship – Skelton Methodist Church

### **Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> August**

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

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

### **Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> August**

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

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

### **Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> August**

**3pm** ~ Afternoon Worship – Miss Kathleen Williamson

### **Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> August**

**Penrith: 11am** Cumbria Circuit Launch Service

## **Launch and Welcome Service**

**11:00am**

**Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> August 2025**  
**At Penrith Methodist Church**



**Cumbria  
Methodist  
Circuit**

Part of the North West England Methodist District

**You are invited to celebrate the launch of the new Cumbria Circuit, welcome our new Ministers and share together in worshipping God as the people called Methodists in the County of Cumbria**

*(Please note that this service is starting at 11am, rather than the usual 10.30am.)*

We are close to our launch and looking forward to being together in Penrith to celebrate our new Circuit, welcome new staff and worship together. Please do consider who you can give a lift to when you come, especially to those who would not otherwise be able to attend. There is very limited blue badge parking at the church, but the Sandgate Car Park is only a short walk away. The postcode for the church is CA11 7QY and the car park is CA11 7UP. The service will start at 11:00am.

The new Circuit Plan is complete, and we have a draft for our first Circuit Meeting Agenda which we expect will be sent out shortly. Members are welcome to attend alongside representatives, and will be able to participate by invitation but will not be able to vote.

The Implementation Group are meeting weekly to put final things in place and as we do that, we would like to thank everyone for your support, patience and enthusiasm. It really does feel like this has been a collaborative effort. Of course, the 1<sup>st</sup> of September is not the end of the task more a marking of the official start. From then on, we work together, under the leading of the Spirit into the life of our new Circuit.

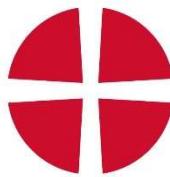
Thank you to all who have expressed an interest in Circuit roles and those already appointed. We are in the process for appointing 3 Circuit Stewards and await the end of the TUPE process so that we can talk to all our administrators about their new roles. Lynne Pearce has been appointed as our Treasurer and Allan Armstrong as our Property Secretary.

We would now like to appoint a Circuit Meeting Secretary (clerk the Circuit Meeting will be done by an administrator) and a Secretary for the Local Preachers Meeting. Alongside this if you are interested in EDI (equality, diversity and inclusion), Action for

Children, Methodist Homes or Christian Aid then please do speak to your minister.



Please do look out for our brand-new Circuit Magazine. It is a *Good Newsletter*. The 1<sup>st</sup> edition will be available at the Circuit Launch Service and will contain details of all our churches. It's a getting to know each other edition. In the future it will contain resource and devotional material alongside testimonies and good news stories. If you would like to contribute to this magazine with a prayer, devotional piece, testimony or reflection then please get in touch.



## **A CHANCE TO MEET THE NEW METHODIST TEAM**

As you already know, September brings two new Methodist members of staff to the East of Eden Mission Community. Both posts are being shared with the Appleby Section to lead mission along the East Fellside.

Ros Watson will be our part time Supernumerary Minister and Celia Ramnath with join us as Local Lay-Pastor.

Ros will live in Appleby Manse and Celia in Langwathby Manse. They have both now moved in this week.

You are therefore invited to meet them both at the HeBrews coffee morning in Gamblesby Chapel on Tuesday 9 September from 10.30am to noon.

Celia will also be leading the service at Langwathby on Sunday 7 September where you are also invited to stay for coffee after the 11 am service.

Please spread the word across the area. All are welcome.

I very much hope that you will use these opportunities to both welcome and get to know Ros and Celia.

We continue to pray for them and their ministry amongst over the coming years.

Regards John

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You are very welcome to our next "All Together Fellowship".

It is on Monday September 1st at 2pm in Church.

We will begin with a short act of worship and this will be followed by a talk and visual presentation by Morris Rodham.

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In Scotland.

## **MOUNTAIN**

Morris will tell us about his ice climbing in the USA and Canada.



## **ADVENTURES**

The picture shows him on the GBU, (The Good, the Bad and the Ugly) in an area of Alberta.



He will also share experiences while climbing in the Lake District,



After our exertions on the mountains, please join us for afternoon tea and a good chat.

Our next "All Together Fellowship" is on Monday October 6th. Jon Cook will tell us about his two visits to Ukraine in wartime.

Details of all our gatherings are in the July to December programme.

John & Margaret

## Great North Run Fundraiser

Isabella Sharrock, daughter of Kerrie and David, is once again doing the Great North Run. This time for Shelter, she says:

"Hello, I am doing the Great North Run 2025 for Shelter, a charity that defends the right to a safe place to live and supports those facing homelessness. I am very fortunate to have a place to call home and hope that doing this run will help raise funds so that more people can be supported to have a safe place to live.

Thank you for your support!"

The fundraiser can be found through the following link:

[https://www.justgiving.com/page/isabella-sharrock-6?utm\\_medium=FR&utm\\_source=CL](https://www.justgiving.com/page/isabella-sharrock-6?utm_medium=FR&utm_source=CL)



## EMERGENCY MINISTERIAL COVER IN AUGUST

Dave Milner has offered to provide emergency cover in August, so if you need a minister in an emergency then please phone him on 07597639314

If you are unable to get hold of Dave then please phone Kathleen Williamson on 01768 862641 and she will find a minister for you.

**NOTE: This is for emergencies only**



## Job Opportunity

CAP are recruiting for a new North West Area Partnership Manager, all of the info can be found in the following link:  
<https://careers.capuk.org/vacancy/area-partnership-managernorth-west-586578.html>



## Easy Eco Tip – August:

**Private gardens, churchyards and other outdoor spaces can make a significant contribution to nature.**

We can take action to care for plants, wildlife and soil in the places where we live and around our churches. Caring for the earth was the first instruction God gave to humans. This doesn't mean we all need to be professional gardeners, but perhaps try to learn one new thing this month that you can do for a garden space. Read more about nature-friendly gardening at <https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/blog/2024/04/environmentally-friendly-gardening-10-top-tips>

## Ukraine

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

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

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

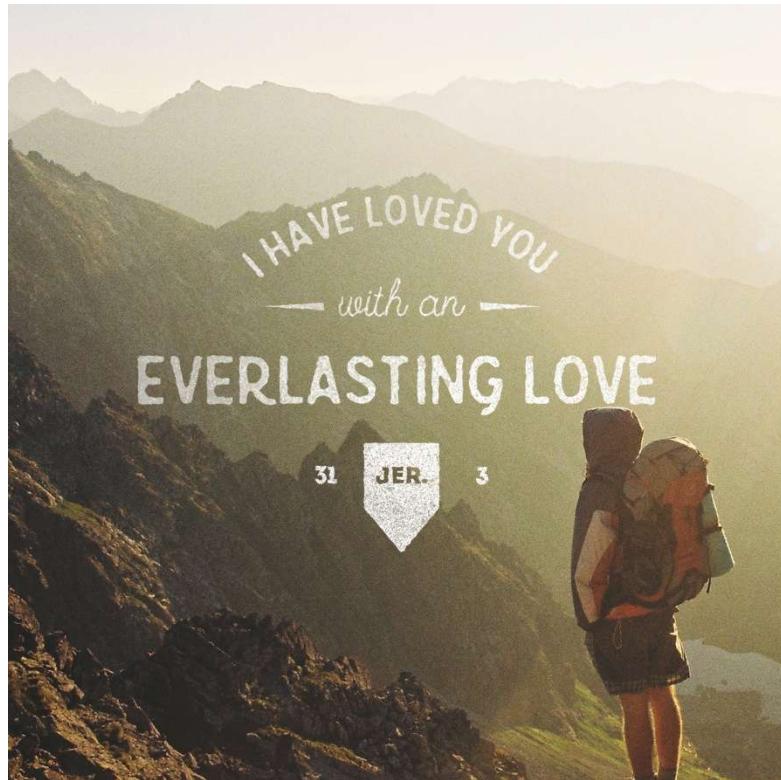
Many thanks.

***An Update from Steve:*** "We have started giving your boxes out. Don't underestimate what you give and the difference you make here. Every box is important and all your aid is invaluable."

*They still need all the basic things, especially hats, socks and underwear for the soldiers, nappies, sanitary towels, toiletries, toothbrushes and toothpaste, chocolate, sweets and dried meals (that just need the addition of hot water), plain wax candles and anything relating to children. And always cash! Please help if you can. Thank you.*



## Thought for the week...



### Contact Details:

**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

**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: joivarley@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!**

