



Weekly Bulletin Sunday 7th December

The Orange in the Stocking



It is Advent Week 2! And this week, I wish to share a reflection taken from the Methodist Churches 2025 Advent series 'Gifted', reflecting on **Matthew 3:1-12**. I hope something in it speaks to you:

John the Baptist comes preaching repentance – literally calling people to change the way they think. So, what needs to change? Verse 8 gives us the

heart of his message: "Bear fruit worthy of repentance." Matthew twice later uses the metaphor of a good tree that bears good fruit.

The image of fruit might remind us of Proverbs 11:30: *The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life, and the wise capture souls.* Fruit grows out of a fundamental disposition of the heart, rather than being something that is just done. Our lives can become life-giving for others – a source of blessing, nourishment, and hope. We become, in ourselves, a gift to the world. If we're wondering what this fruit might look like, Paul's list in Galatians 5:22-23 gives us a good clue:

'The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.'

This is the kind of fruit everyone longs to receive. Like the orange at the bottom of a traditional Christmas stocking, these gifts are familiar but nevertheless fresh and joyful. The food imagery continues with John's warning about winnowing. Just as an orange must be peeled before it can be enjoyed, grain must be threshed and winnowed before it becomes useful. In the ancient world, this meant beating the wheat and tossing it into the air so the wind could carry away the chaff – leaving behind only what nourishes and sustains. This Advent, we're invited to take that image seriously. What in us needs to be cleared away? What coverings, distractions or attitudes need to be



stripped back? Can we let the wind of the Spirit move freely through us, removing all that is fruitless and leaving only what brings life?

Morgan Tebb-Roger

Sourced: <https://www.methodist.org.uk/for-churches/christmasresources/>

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### **Penrith**

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

Readings: John 1:1-8 & Isaiah 11:1-10

### **Skelton**

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

### **Stainton**

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

### **Cottage Wood Centre**

**3pm** ~ Afternoon Communion – Rev Julia Reid

### **Nenthead**

**5pm** ~ Pennine Praise

### **Alston Moor**

**11am** ~ Morning Worship – Mr Dean Lawson

### **Langwathby**

**11am** ~ Morning Worship – Mrs Jan Blackshaw

**5pm** ~ Taize

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

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

### **Update on Mary**

A number of people have expressed concern about Mary, the lady who has popped into church frequently for a cuppa or just a chat often before Sunday Morning Worship. She has been doing this for very many years, in fact Mary and her mother were members of the Church. I am pleased to report Mary has moved to Carlisle and is happy and well cared for. Please hold her in your prayers.



## **Monday 8<sup>th</sup> December**

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

**2pm** ~ All Together Fellowship – Church/PMC

**6.15pm** ~ Choral Group – Sandgate/PMC

**7pm** ~ Carols by Candlelight Rehearsal – 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*

## **Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> December**

**10am** ~ Brunswick School Service – Church/PMC

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

**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 10<sup>th</sup> December**

3C's – No session at the Centre, meeting at the Pot Place for lunch

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

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

## **Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> December**

**10am** ~ Knit Craft and Natter Group – Stainton Methodist Church

**1.30pm** ~ Take Tea Out Christmas Lunch (*Contact Sheila Mallinson for availability*)

**2pm** ~ Parklands HG – Cottage Wood Centre

**3pm** ~ Afternoon Communion – Mr Dean Lawson - Woodlands

**7.30pm** ~ Thornton HG – (*Contact Charlie for info at 07846 597163/cfthornton1@aol.com*)

**7.30pm** ~ Eden Singers Concert – Church/PMC

## **Friday 12<sup>th</sup> December**

**12 noon** ~ Lunch Club – Ullswater/PMC

## **Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> December**

**Penrith: 10.30am** Carol Service – Mr Morgan Tebb-Roger

**Skelton: 10.30am** Morning Communion – Rev Julia Reid

**Stainton: 10.30am** Morning Communion – Rev Andrew Callaway

**Cottage Wood: 3pm** NO SERVICE

**Patterdale: 10.30am** Morning Worship – Mr Dean Lawson

**Renwick: 5pm** Early Evening Worship – Mrs Jan Blackshaw

**Alston Moor: 11am** Morning Worship – Rev David Newlove

**Gamblesby: 10am** Little Acorns

**2pm** Afternoon Worship – Rev Julia Reid

**Kirkoswald: 10am** Morning Worship – Rev Gillian Belford



### Carols by Candlelight – “The Light We Carry”

Would you like to be part of this year's *Carols by Candlelight*?

Our Christmas service, **“The Light We Carry,”** will be held on **Friday, 12 December at 7pm** at Penrith Methodist Church — a beautiful evening of music, reflection, and community.

Everyone is welcome to join the choir — **no matter your vocal ability!**  
We'll be practicing on **Monday evenings, 7-8pm, starting in November.**

Come and share in the joy of the season as we celebrate the Light that shines in all of us.

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KNIT CRAFT AND NATTER GROUP – Stainton Methodist Church

We meet at the church at 10am each Thursday morning during term time. All are welcome, and there's coffee and biscuits. There is no charge. (At the moment we are making little woolly sheep for Rev Cathy at Dacre Church to give to children at Christmas. Also tiny wooden hats for premature babies.) Some bring their own craft so that they can enjoy the conversation.

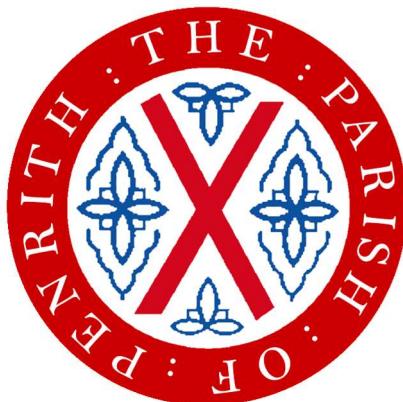


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### Job Opportunity

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 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)



### CHRISTMAS FUND RAISER

SATURDAY 6 DECEMBER 10am – 1pm

Stalls with tea/coffee refreshments

*Craft & produce stalls, fun for the children and goodies for all!*



*Funds for Little Acorns Children's Christian Creative Club*

### COMMUNITY NATIVITY SERVICE

SUNDAY 21 DECEMBER at 4 pm

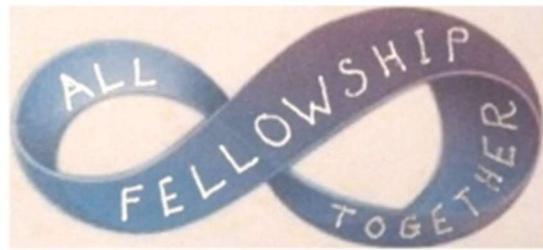
*A magical start to the Christmas weekend*

**Everyone Welcome**

**followed by light refreshments**



*For further information, please contact Claire  
on 07756932116 or email: [gamblesbymethodist@gmail.com](mailto:gamblesbymethodist@gmail.com)*



You are welcome to our final **"All Together Fellowship"** of 2025.

**Monday December 8th at 2pm in Penrith Methodist Church.**

Come along as, during Advent, we prepare for the birth of Jesus.

We have put together a programme which includes readings, poems and opportunities to sing well-known carols.



There will be humorous items and visual presentations which will focus on **JOY, PEACE, HOPE and LOVE.**

'The time draws near the birth of Christ'.



A present that cannot be priced  
Given two thousand years ago  
Yet if God had not given so  
He still would be a distant stranger  
And not the Baby in the manger.



As usual, to conclude our "All Together Fellowship" experience, you have a warm invitation to socialise and enjoy seasonal refreshments.

**PLEASE NOTE that our first meeting of 2026 is on  
Monday, January 19th at 2pm in Church.**

Julia Reid will tell us about her life as a Methodist minister.

Programmes for January to June 2026 meetings will be available soon.

John & Margaret

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Christmas Carols

CWC and All Saints, Calthwaite will join together to sing carols around the village on Tuesday 16th November. Meet at the crossroads next to the Church at 6.30pm. All carollers welcome!

You're invited to a ...

Dress-up Nativity



24 Dec

Refreshments &
costumes provided
from 3.15pm
Short child-
friendly nativity
at 4pm



All welcome!

Penrith Methodist Church, Wordsworth St, CA11 7QY

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## Health and Safety Training / Consultation - Sunday 7 December 2025 12.15

This is an essential session for all Vestry Stewards and Welcomers and will be repeated if any of you are unable to attend on this date. Our discussions will focus mainly on things you should know when helping with a worship service.

Group Leaders who are not already multi-tasking in above roles may also find this beneficial. With limited administrative support at the moment, you are at enhanced risk of finding yourself in charge of the whole building when an emergency situation occurs.

However, 'we all have a responsibility for the health and safety of ourselves and others' (Health and Safety at Work Act 1974). 'It is good practice to provide volunteers with same level of training and protection as if they were employees' (PMC H&S Policy - a copy is kept in Reception for your edification). So, this is an opportunity for other volunteers to raise their awareness of H&S stuff in the church building and perhaps contribute to 'doing it better' going forward.

My aim is that we will all be singing from the same hymn sheet if a major incident befalls us.

Don Agus  
H&S Steward etc.

# MERRY CHRISTMAS

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## Christmas Party

Tuesday 30th Dec

11.45 - 3.30

Christmas meal

followed by



Party

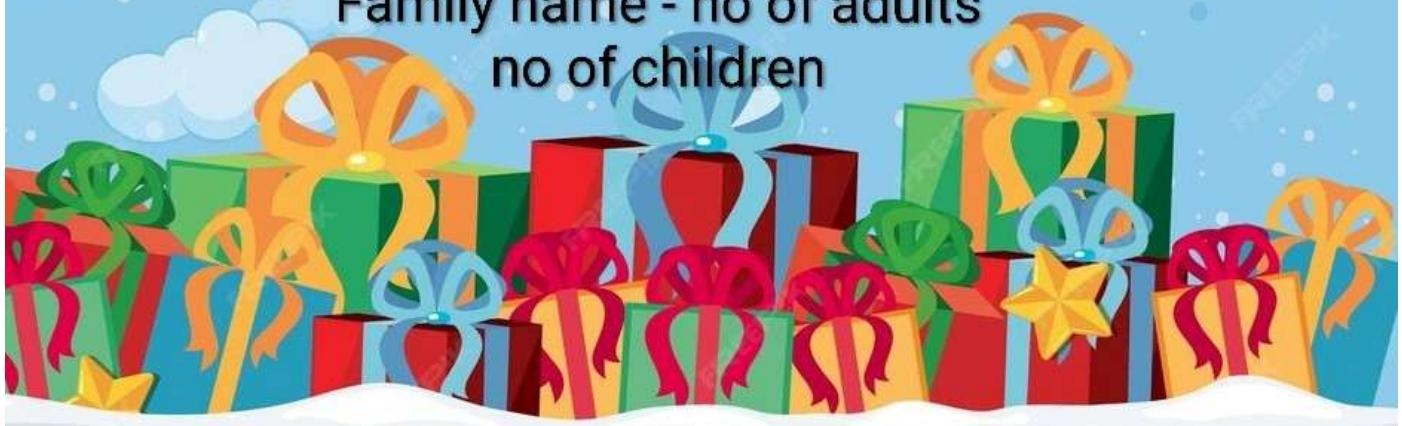


Booking essential

please email

[admin@penrithmethodist.  
co.uk](mailto:admin@penrithmethodist.co.uk)

Family name - no of adults  
no of children



# Christmas Gift Bag Appeal

**Can you give a financial donation to the CAP Eden District Christmas Appeal?**

**Give our clients a Christmas gift of vouchers for groceries, an Argos voucher for children's presents and Christmas treats**

Donations will help support clients who are working with the debt centre

Giving Instructions: Bank transfers can be made to: Sort code 20-66-97  
Account No 83540006

Please use reference 'CAP Blessing 2025'

Cheques can be paid to Penrith Methodist Church General CAP account

PMC Church Office, Wordsworth St, Penrith, CA11 7QY



**Deadline for donations Sunday 23rd November**

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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 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:

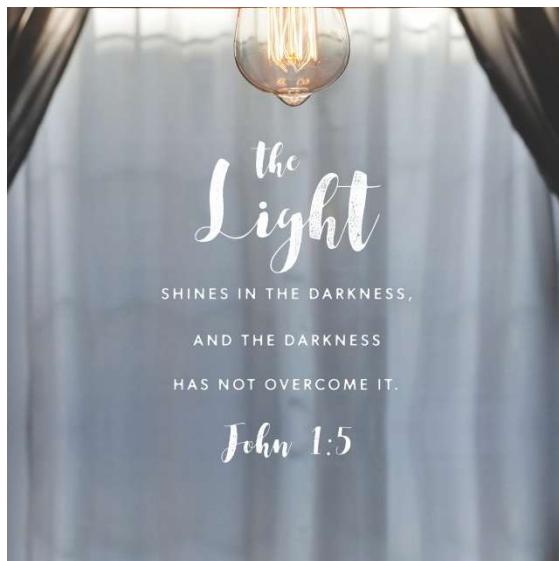
- Soap
- Toothpaste
- Paracetamol
- Nappies for babies
- As always, CANDLES (Preferably plain wax ones, either new or partly used)
- Shampoo
- Toothbrushes
- Washing Powder
- Sanitary Towels



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

Many thanks.

## Thought for the week...



## Contact Details:

**Circuit Superintendent Minister:** **Rev David Newlove:** 07989 198487

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

### **Ministers in Pastoral Charge:**

**Rev Julia Reid:** 07483 932647 or email: [julia.reid@methodist.org.uk](mailto:julia.reid@methodist.org.uk)

**Rev Ros Watson:** 07923 044709 or email: [ros.watson@methodist.org.uk](mailto:ros.watson@methodist.org.uk)

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

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

**East Fellside Local Lay-Pastor: Celia Ramnath:** 01768 639971

or email: [celia.ramnath@cumbriamethodists.org.uk](mailto:celia.ramnath@cumbriamethodists.org.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!**

