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**Churches Together in  
Cumbria**

September 2025 Newsletter

## Actively Promoting God's Love for Everyone



Sunset over the Solway Firth, taken from the shore at Workington.

With thanks to Rachel Rose.

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Deadline for October Newsletter submissions: 19th September 2025

# Community Social Action Team

## Introduction For One Of Our New Team Members - Jonny Gios



Jonny lives in Kendal with his wife Pamela, and their children Caleb and Naomi. Jonny has ministered in Cumbria for 24 years in various roles in both urban and rural ministry contexts. Jonny is an ordained minister within the Free Methodist Church of the UK and Ireland and has a heart for seeing people encounter God's love in everyday life and coming to a knowledge of Jesus Christ.

Jonny's calling is rooted in helping people grow in faith and discover belonging within the local church. Recently he led and planted Gateway Church Kendal for 7 years before it closed in June 2025. Jonny continues to preach, teaches, and helps shape opportunities for mission and discipleship. Beyond the church walls, Jonny has a strong commitment to community engagement. He is part of Cumbria Police Community Advisory Group, supporting dialogue and trust between communities and local policing.

Jonny is passionate about unity across churches and values the vision of Churches Together — encouraging collaboration, prayer, and shared mission. His life blends faith, creativity, and community, all with a focus on pointing people to the love of Jesus.

Jonny is currently working with Westmorland and Furness Council on the Faith Covenant across the area and excited about the prospects this will give for future

dialogue with other faiths and links with the local council.

Alongside his ministry, Jonny works as a freelance photographer capturing the beauty of the Lake District Landscapes and events. In 2024, Jonny was awarded the Licentiate of the Royal Photographic Society (LRPS), recognising his skill and creativity in photography. Whether behind the camera or in pastoral ministry, his work is shaped by a desire to share light, hope, and authenticity. He has recently become a A2 C of C drone pilot to add to his list of skills.

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## A Window into... Churches Together in Kendal



### Unity Festival 2025

Churches Together in Kendal & District took part in the now very popular "Unity Festival", held in Kendal Town Hall on Saturday 26th July. As seen in the picture, we had a stall full of lovely freebies to give out, including crocheted Angels, stars and flowers, and the very popular "Jesus in your Pocket" miniatures. Many folks took up the opportunity for writing prayers for the *Prayer Tree*, some of whom spoke of answered prayer from the previous year. There were also relevant Christian booklets on offer, plus sweeties - oh no!!

It was good to be able to meet and talk with the other groups there, as well as the many folks who were dropping in during the day. Captain Hilary and myself (in the picture) plus other helpers, felt it a very worthwhile day, with many special moments - PTL.

Delphine Gratrix

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# A Window into...

## Churches Together in Kirkby Stephen and Area



### **“To know Jesus and to make Jesus known”**

Gathered around the town of Kirkby Stephen in the Upper Eden Valley, our Chapels, Churches and Worship Halls work together, witnessing to God's love. Drawn from 15 different congregations, (Baptist, Anglican, Evangelical, Friends (Quakers), Catholic and Methodist), we share many activities through the seasons – Bible studies in Advent and Lent; daily times of worship and prayer during the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity and Holy Week; and prayer walks around Kirkby.

We also host many community groups including a Memory Club and various drop-ins. A highlight of our year is our annual Carol Service in the auction mart – including carols led by KS Silver Band, readings, drama and a short message - with hundreds of local people taking part. Other annual events include the 'Light up a Life' service for our local hospices, the processing of the cross to the top of Hartley Hill on Good Friday and our joint Services of Remembrance, in the Anglican Church on Remembrance Sunday and in the market place on Remembrance Day.

We have strong links with Upper Eden Food Bank and the Upper Eden Linking Lives Groups and also with local schools with local pupils exploring Easter, Pentecost and Christmas at the Anglican church and taking part in their leavers' services, and other activities, at the Methodist Chapel. Annual Christian Aid collections, World Day of Prayer events and a host of other community activities are also led jointly between our member churches.

At the centre of everything we do is a desire to serve God's Kingdom in our local communities. Through it all, we pray together 'Thy Kingdom Come' as we aim to 'know Jesus and to make Jesus known'.

With thanks to Revd Stephen Radford for this article.

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# Contribute to this Newsletter

We invite each CT group to send a short article (max 300 words) for inclusion in the CTIC newsletter to give us a window into the activity of your group. We suggest that you share something of the life and work of your group which will inform, inspire or encourage. Please also include an accompanying photograph to include alongside your article. We would like to feature one group per month, and at this point you may simply want to choose a month and inform Charlotte:

[admin@churchestogethercumbria.org.uk](mailto:admin@churchestogethercumbria.org.uk) which month you have chosen. The aim is to raise the profile of the CT groups and to encourage each other in the life and work that God has called us to.

We would also love to see your photographs of this beautiful county in all its wonderful variety for use at the beginning of this newsletter. If you'd like to, please send a landscape oriented photograph attached to an email stating where it was taken and name to credit your photography skills.

Thank you in advance!

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## Anna Chaplaincy

### A New Anna Chaplain for Barrow in Furness

I have recently been commissioned on the 11<sup>th</sup> August 2025 as an Anna Chaplain for Holy Family Church Barrow in Furness.

I have always enjoyed talking to older people and supporting them. I started with the British Red Cross. I have also supported people in the Furness General hospital for 15 years in the day care unit.

Every week for Anna Chaplaincy I go to Furness General hospital to ward 6. I see about 10 patients every week. I also visit 3 care homes, where people are glad to have a chat and have someone sit with them. I chat about their life with them and things that are meaningful to them. I spend more time with people who have no visitors as they can get very lonely. People who are of a faith enjoy a prayer and so I will sit and pray for them. You can see it lifts their spirits in what can be a very distressing situation. I find this really satisfying to do and I enjoy helping people.

Since Covid The Ladies Craft group have given over 100 blankets which have been hand knitted for older people in care homes and hospitals. We have also made and given 700 knitted hearts for Christmas with a message of hope. The children from St Bernard's school have helped and been involved with these too.

Being involved in the good works of Anna Chaplaincy is extremely rewarding. I would love to see more people enjoy our service and for more people to join the ministry. In God we serve.



For any enquiries about Anna Chaplaincy in Cumbria do get in touch at  
[ac@churchestogethercumbria.org.uk](mailto:ac@churchestogethercumbria.org.uk)

Don't forget to follow us on Facebook for ongoing news.

Anna Chaplaincy Cumbria Facebook Page

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## Cumbria Ecumenical Spirituality Group - Resource Day for Spiritual Directors



This CESG Resource Day is for Spiritual Directors who wish to explore the use of visual arts in direction. You will have the opportunity to respond creatively during the day, as well as learn from Judith's experience.

**Date:** Thursday 18th September from 1.00-5.00pm

**Venue:** Keswick Friends Meeting House, Elliott Park, CA12 5NZ

**Cost:** We suggest a minimum donation of £5 on the day to help cover accommodation and materials costs. Refreshments will be provided.

Bring your own lunch.

**To book:** please contact Jo Maybury [assistantcesg@gmail.com](mailto:assistantcesg@gmail.com)

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## This Table by Malcolm Guite

The centuries have settled on this table  
Deepened the grain beneath a clean white cloth

Which bears afresh our changing elements.  
Year after year of prayer, in hope and trouble,  
Were poured out here and blessed and broken, both  
In aching absence and in absent presence.

This table too the earth herself has given  
And human hands have made. Where candle-flame  
At corners burns and turns the air to light  
The oak once held its branches up to heaven,  
Blessing the elements which it became,  
Rooting the dew and rain, branching the light.

Because another tree can bear, unbearable,  
For us, the weight of Love, so can this table.

malcolmguite.wordpress.com

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## CTiC and Safeguarding

Churches Together in Cumbria (CTiC) are grateful to the Diocese for agreeing that Jo Van Lachterop, the Diocesan Safeguarding Officer, will be available to provide advice and support for safeguarding concerns and queries to the end of the year. This includes all who come under CTiC's umbrella:

- a. the Cumbria Ecumenical Spirituality Group (CESG) network - both directors and directees.
- b. Anna Chaplaincy

In the event of a Safeguarding concern, Jo can be contacted on:  
[safeguarding.adviser@carlisle-diocese.org.uk](mailto:safeguarding.adviser@carlisle-diocese.org.uk) or on 07458 016884.

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## Westmorland and Furness Faith Covenant



Westmorland and Furness Council are seeking to build relationships across the council area by establishing a Faith Covenant, and are inviting people to be involved in its creation.

Please do pray for the success of this venture and consider whether you, or someone you know, may be interested in participating.

For more information about this important work, click on the logo image to the left, which contains a link to the relevant page of Westmorland and Furness Council's website.

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## BBC Radio 4 Sunday Worship - Hope in the Heart of Cumbria

If you missed hearing voices from around our county on Sunday 24th August, click on the logo to the left to listen online. How wonderful to hear what God is doing in this place!

## Faith on the Frontline



Come and join us for a series of informal **Sunday evenings at Costa Coffee, Elephant Yard, Kendal 5.00 - 6.45pm**. Panellists from the local community will answer questions about how their Christian faith is experienced in their everyday working lives:

Sept 21st - Faith in the Church

Oct 19th - Faith in Politics

## ReSource - Renewing Faith

You're invited to a ReSource day

### Renewing Faith for a New Season



A day to be refreshed and resourced, whatever season of faith and ministry we are in. Led by Bishop Mark Ashcroft and ReSource Minister Dr Alison Fleetwood, this day offers an opportunity for teams and individuals to:

- Worship and encounter God afresh;
- Renew our faith in the presence and power of the Holy Spirit;
- Discern how God is calling us in this particular season;

and rooting everything we do in the reality of our contexts.

We will also pray for each other, enjoy a good quality lunch, and have the option of receiving prayer ministry and/or anointing with oil.

Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> September 2025

St Mary's Church, Ambleside, Windermere, LA23 1BA

Tickets £15 (lunch included)

To book visit [resourcingrenewal.org/events](https://resourcingrenewal.org/events)

[www.resourcingrenewal.org](https://www.resourcingrenewal.org)



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@ReSourceARM

Charity no. 1180394







## Powered by Hope

Manchester

**Saturday 4th October 2025  
10.00am-4.30pm**

Christian Aid's Powered by Hope event aims to fuel your faith, fill your cup with hope and inspire action.

**But hope can be both hard-fought and fragile. What happens when it's in short supply?**

Join us as we wonder at the deep love of God for the world around us, dig deep into Christian hope and explore the limitless ways that we can work towards a world free from poverty.

Among the speakers on the day is Ruth Valerio, who is Programmes, Partnerships and Advocacy Director at the charity Embrace the Middle East. She is also an author and canon theologian of Rochester Cathedral. Ruth says: "I'm delighted to be part of Powered by Hope because I know I need like-minded others to give me the strength to keep seeking justice and tackling poverty. So don't struggle along on your own - come and join us! I know you will leave with fresh motivation and inspiration."

For more information and to book your place, visit [Powered by Hope - Christian Aid](#).

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## Spiritual Accompaniment



***You, Me and God - journeying together***

For further information contact

Ruth Lee  
e: sd.cesg@gmail.com  
t: 01768 898604  
w: cesg.org.uk

**Cumbria Ecumenical Spirituality Group**

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## **CTiC Trustees and Staff**

### **Our Trustees:**

Revd Richard Snow - CTiC Vice President - [rector@therainbowparish.org](mailto:rector@therainbowparish.org)

Revd Kath Dodd - CTiC Treasurer - [kath.dodd@btinternet.com](mailto:kath.dodd@btinternet.com)

Revd Derek Lacey - Social Responsibility Chair

Bill Bewley - Church Leaders Representative

Paul Burden - Churches Together Group Representative

Revd Alistair Smeaton

### **Our Staff:**

Samantha Pester - Anna Chaplaincy Lead - [ac@churchestogethercumbria.org.uk](mailto:ac@churchestogethercumbria.org.uk)

Charlotte Lait - Admin Support - [admin@churchestogethercumbria.org.uk](mailto:admin@churchestogethercumbria.org.uk)  
(Please use this email address for general enquiries.)

### **Team:**

Revd Jonny Gios - [jgios@me.com](mailto:jgios@me.com)

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Lois Sparling - [community.chaplain.gmc@gmail.com](mailto:community.chaplain.gmc@gmail.com)

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