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**Churches Together in
Cumbria**
October 2025 Newsletter

Actively Promoting God's Love for Everyone



Loweswater in Autumn, with thanks to Tim Thornton.

Do you have a photograph of a Cumbrian landscape from your local area to share? Please send it to admin@churchestogethercumbria.org.uk for it to be included in a future edition of the newsletter. Thank you in advance.

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Deadline for November Newsletter submissions: 24th October 2025

Community Social Action Team

Introducing Jo Phillips



Over a decade ago now, I prayed that God would allow me to work for things that were closest to his heart. I couldn't have imagined the ways that the Lord has answered my prayer. I've worked with those persecuted for their Christian faith, I work with Langham Partnership, equipping Christian leaders across the Majority World, and with the Church in Cumbria as it engages in many different kinds of social action.

I began with CTiC in 2021 in a role that connected and supported churches engaged in social action and where useful linking them with those working on similar projects outside of the Church. It's a privilege to know many wonderful people working to meet the needs of those in their communities across Cumbria and beyond.

Amongst so many issues, I prioritised a few at a time. Putting on environmental training and events in partnership with others, engaging with those tackling food and fuel insecurity, domestic abuse, mental health issues and bereavement. It was in meeting people working on these frontlines that I became aware of modern slavery and exploitation. I sought advice from national organisations and networks who supported me in creating a county network. I now send out regular emails with updates, reports and training opportunities and hold training events around the county drawing folk together to be better equipped to spot the signs, report and refer, and to care for victims and survivors.

I'm excited by the opportunity to work with my new colleagues. They bring such a wealth and breadth of experience and expertise and I look forward to the things we can achieve and impact together. I hope that we'll meet you on our way, and encourage you as you bring help and comfort to those in your community.

A Window into a CT Group

Could you share something of the life and work of your Churches Together group to inform, inspire or encourage other groups around the county? If so, we would love to hear from you.

Please help us to raise the profile of the groups and encourage each other in the life and work that God has called us to, by sending in a short article. We will aim to share one 'window' a month (250-300 words, with a single photograph).

Please send your contribution to Lois Sparling from our Community Social Action Team at community.chaplain.gmc@gmail.com.

Thank you.

Working with our community

A window into Cartmel Peninsula Churches Together

The churches of the Cartmel Peninsula enjoy worshipping together, celebrating our shared faith. For several years we have met for an Advent carol service, held quiet mornings at the beginning of Advent and Lent, met at different churches during the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, enjoyed weekly lunches during Lent, and celebrated World Day of Prayer.

Whilst treasuring our own buildings and our distinctive traditions, we also engage with the wider community. Our Churches Together Youth Trust work partners with other bodies to support children and young people in our community (photos are from our annual service celebrating that work). We also try to make sure everybody knows the significance of Christmas, Easter and Pentecost, and we respond together when the community wishes to join in prayer or is faced with a particular challenge.

A summer highlight is **Praise on the Prom** – at one time 'Praise on the Rocks' held on rocks by the Lido before there was a blade of grass on the Grange-over-Sands shore. These days we meet where the bandstand once stood. About 20 of us from the local

churches meet and choose our favourite songs from *Mission Praise* with anyone welcome to join us.

We can have up to 50 at any one time. Some people only stop for a couple of songs; some stay until the end once they've joined in; and some just pause for a few moments as they cross the bridge. This year we met every Sunday during July and August for an hour and only had to cancel once because of rain! It is a lovely event, making the most of the beauty of our local situation.

David and Hazel Edmondson

Summer Club 2025

Churches Together Keswick and Neighbourhood

We all had a fabulous time at this year's Summer Club. Summer Club is held in St John's Church and is now in its third year. It runs for one morning a week throughout the holidays from 10am-1pm and it's free. We ask all children to bring a grown up with them and it has been great to meet and get to know the children as well as their parents, carers, guardians.

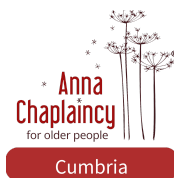
There are all sorts of crafts, activities and games to enjoy throughout the morning and plenty of tea, coffee and chat too while the children are busy having loads of fun. We have plenty of space for football, swing ball, water tables and treasure hunts and the morning ends with lunch and, of course, ice cream!

We met so many families - 'old' and new - and had too many children to count on some mornings! Thank you to St John's for hosting and to the wonderful army of volunteers who work so hard to make this happen and share Jesus's love with joy and grace.

Please pray for us as we ask God together how to

strengthen and deepen these friendships and share the Good News of the Gospel with folks in Keswick and the surrounding area.

Angus Wightman, Leader, King's Church.



For any enquiries about Anna Chaplaincy in Cumbria do get in touch at ac@churchestogethercumbria.org.uk

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

Anna Chaplaincy Cumbria Facebook Page

Cumbria Modern Slavery Champions Network Event

Born out of recognition of gaps in awareness, referral pathways and equipping of those on the frontlines, meeting those vulnerable to, or victims and survivors of, modern slavery and exploitation in our county, this network's mission statement is '*Getting to work on modern slavery in Cumbria.*' It aims:

1. To raise awareness of the situation in the region and beyond
2. To equip and inform those dealing with the issue in their various spheres
3. To encourage and support multi-agency relationships and collaborative working
4. To improve care and support of victims/survivors of modern slavery
5. To significantly reduce and prevent exploitation and modern slavery

This was our fourth event, and was held in Penrith Rugby Club.

We heard from Ruth Orange and Sarah Hunt from Causeway, an organisation that provides a range of services supporting survivors of modern slavery to recover from trauma, be protected from further harm, and develop safe and fulfilling lives.

Nick Herbert from the Human Trafficking Foundation then presented. He works with the National Network Coordinators Forum. It's so important to stay in touch with what's happening across the country for many reasons, including the opportunity to benefit from other's experience, expertise and best practice ideas.

It's a network priority to allow time for members to network and discuss the challenges and possible solutions together to see if we can't spark some new ideas and collaboration. Facilitated afternoon sessions focussed on referrals and also on victim care.

Over 30 attended, including representatives from 7 new organisations. Attendees wrote specific commitment to action notes to be carried out in their own areas of work.

If you're interested in finding out more or becoming a member do get in touch jo@churchestogethercumbria.org.uk or watch a short video taken at the May event.

[Cumbria Modern Slavery Champions Network Event May 2025 Vox Pop 2](#)

Jo Phillips

CTE North West Region CEO Meeting August 2025



This group meets 3 or 4 times a year, in different places in the NW, to find out what each of our county representatives are up to in terms of ecumenical activities and projects. It's also a time for sharing and encouragement and sometimes even sharing challenges and difficulties in what can sometimes be an isolated role.

Wardley Hall is the official residence of the Roman Catholic Bishop of Salford (currently Bishop John Arnold), which stands in a wooded estate in Worsley, six miles west of Manchester.

I was able to let them know about what's going on in Cumbria, some of our changes and strategic developments, events and projects, and of course, new members of the team.

There is a wonderful Laudato Si garden project on the grounds of Wardley Hall and it was lovely to be given a tour by the project lead there, who is doing wonderful ecological work in such a creative and accessible way. I highly recommend a visit if you get the chance.

Jo Phillips

God's Grandeur by Gerard Manley Hopkins

The world is charged with the grandeur of God.
It will flame out, like shining from shook foil;
It gathers to a greatness, like the ooze of oil
Crushed. Why do men then now not reck his rod?
Generations have trod, have trod, have trod;
And all is seared with trade; bleared, smeared with toil;
And wears man's smudge and shares man's smell: the soil

Is bare now, nor can foot feel, being shod.

And for all this, nature is never spent;
There lives the dearest freshness deep down things;
And though the last lights off the black West went
Oh, morning, at the brown brink eastward, springs —
Because the Holy Ghost over the bent
World broods with warm breast and with ah! bright wings.

Gerard Manley Hopkins

Source: www.poetryfoundation.org/poems/44395/gods-grandeur

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 or on 07458 016884.

Church Action on Poverty

Church Action on Poverty is a national ecumenical
Christian charity, committed to addressing UK poverty

by working closely with churches, community groups and people in poverty themselves. We often provide theological resources and coordinate a range of programmes that can help equip and encourage churches to take action. We also coordinate the national Your Local Pantry network of 125 community food hubs.

We would like to let you know about our upcoming

Church Action on Poverty Sunday on 19th October.

Churches that sign-up are provided with a full resource pack including discussion ideas, worship materials and prayers. Please find further details visiting

<https://www.church-poverty.org.uk/sunday/>

Carlisle & District Churches Together City Harvest Festival to Celebrate our Farming Community

**6pm, Friday 24 October at Borderway
Mart, Rosehill, Carlisle, CA1 2RS**

Light refreshments available from
5.30pm.

Please join us if you can for a brand
new Harvest Festival with a difference!

Faith on the Frontline

Come and join us for the last in 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.

Oct 19th - Faith in Politics

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

CTiC Trustees and Staff

Our Trustees:

Revd Kath Dodd - CTiC Treasurer - kath.dodd@btinternet.com

Revd Derek Lacey - Community Social Action Team

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

Charlotte Lait - Admin Support - admin@churchestogethercumbria.org.uk

(Please use this email address for general enquiries.)

Community Social Action Team:

Revd Jonny Gios - jgios@me.com

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