

For a PDF version of this newsletter, please click [here](#).



## Churches Together in Cumbria

March 2026 Newsletter

### Actively Promoting God's Love for Everyone



The Langdale Pikes from Skelwith, with thanks to Kath Dodd.

Do you have a photograph of a Cumbrian landscape from your local area to share? Please send it to [admin@churchestogethercumbria.org.uk](mailto:admin@churchestogethercumbria.org.uk) for it to be included

in a future edition of the newsletter. Thank you in advance.

---

## Index: In this month's newsletter

- Dates for your diary: Churches Together in Cumbria Annual Gathering - 4 June 2026
- Cumbria Modern Slavery Champions Network Training - 7 May 2026
- Give a Day to Kendal
- Volunteer Roles Available
- Contribute to this newsletter
- "Call over the other boats" - Churches Together in Cockermouth Area
- One Congregation, two styles of service, in Dent
- Faith Security Training
- All the Kingdoms of the World: A poem by Malcolm Guite
- Anna Chaplaincy
- Spiritual Accompaniment
- CTiC and Safeguarding Statement
- CTiC Trustees & Staff

**Deadline for April Newsletter submissions: 20th March 2026**

---

## Dates for your Diaries

### **Churches Together in Cumbria Annual Gathering 2026**

This year's Annual Gathering will be on **Thursday 4th June** at **St Michael's Church, Falcon Place, Workington**. Details of how to book your place will be made available

soon.

**Theme: Difficult Conversations**

What issues, in your churches and community, lead to difficult conversations?

Email [admin@churchestogethercumbria.org.uk](mailto:admin@churchestogethercumbria.org.uk) with your answers!!

**About the venue:** St Michael's Church is within easy walking distance of bus and rail links, and also has parking available on site. There is step free access throughout the building and an accessible toilet for those who require it.

**GETTING TO WORK ON MODERN SLAVERY IN CUMBRIA**  
A Modern Slavery network building event for  
frontline workers in Cumbria

**THURSDAY 7TH MAY 2026**  
**9:30 - 3:30PM**  
St Michael's Church, Workington

**KEYNOTE PRESENTATION FROM STREETLIGHT UK**

**TO CONFIRM YOUR PLACE CONTACT [JO@CHURCHESTOGETHERCUMBRIA.ORG.UK](mailto:JO@CHURCHESTOGETHERCUMBRIA.ORG.UK)**



**Give a Day to Kendal**

# Save the dates!

People across Kendal are being invited to share what they're "bothered about" in their community – and to help do something about it. **Give a Day to Kendal 2026** will bring together residents with ideas for positive change and volunteers willing to roll up their sleeves during the first week of June 2026, as part of national Volunteers' Week.

Projects must be community-led and community-focused, delivering tangible and lasting benefits for neighbourhoods in Kendal and surrounding villages within a three-mile radius of the Town Hall, including Oxenholme, Natland, Brigsteer and Burneside. Ideas could include improving community spaces, supporting schools, enhancing cultural or sports facilities, boosting biodiversity, or increasing accessibility and wellbeing. Each project will be supported by a Community Champion and the Give a Day to Kendal team.

There is no central funding available. Instead, projects will rely on donated time, skills, materials and equipment from local people, organisations and businesses. Employers with corporate volunteering schemes are encouraged to get involved, whether through workforce volunteering or sponsoring materials. Wherever possible, resources should be sourced locally to strengthen community connections and minimise environmental impact.

Previous projects have included the transformation of outdoor space at Eskdale House, creating vegetable and raised bed gardens for adults with learning disabilities—made possible entirely through donated expertise and materials.

Give a Day to Kendal 2026 is coordinated by Churches Together in Cumbria, Cumbria CVS, Kendal Town Council and Westmorland and Furness Council.

To nominate a project or find out more, visit:

<https://cumbriacvs.org.uk/news/give-a-day-to-kendal/>

If you care about Kendal, this is your opportunity to help shape its future—one generous day at a time.

For more information contact [Jonny@ctic.uk](mailto:Jonny@ctic.uk)

Jonny Gios - Community Social Action Team

Give a Day YouTube Video - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JnkKiSNZW8A>

# GIVE A DAY TO KENDAL

1-7th JUNE 2026



## Volunteer Roles

Churches Together in Cumbria is currently looking for volunteers to help in a couple of areas. If you are interested and would like more information, email [admin@churchestogethercumbria.org.uk](mailto:admin@churchestogethercumbria.org.uk).

1. Treasurer and Trustee
2. Designated Safeguarding Lead

## Please let us know what you're up to!

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. We aim to share a couple of articles a month - it could be a brief mention of some new shared ministry that's gone well (c150 words), or a longer reflection on how ecumenical work is going in your area (c300) and we would like at least one photograph, please.

Please send your contribution to Lois Sparling from our Community Social Action Team at [community.chaplain.gmc@gmail.com](mailto:community.chaplain.gmc@gmail.com). Thank you.

---

**“Call over the other boats”**

## Churches Together in Cockermonth Area



Churches Together groups all over the county mark the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity every year – with joint services at the beginning, middle or end of the week, daily services or prayer meetings around the churches through the week or in other ways and this year was no exception, as the CTiC Facebook page this year was proud to share.

In Cockermonth, the churches plumped for a celebration in shared worship in the afternoon of Sunday 25 January. The service was hosted by Cockermonth Methodist Church and took its theme from Luke's account of the calling of Simon, James and John – with preacher John Freeman using the story to explain that if we are to gather in all those who are searching for God in our local community, all our churches will need to work together – we will need to 'call over the other boats'.

Over a hundred people from across our 19 churches joined together, including quite a few children and young people who had their own activities to take part in and to share with us afterwards, and we sang hymns and songs from across many of our traditions, led by a joint choir who gather and practise annually for this service.

At the end of our worship, the children lit candles held by representatives of each church to be taken back to each church as a symbol of our common cause in service of the one, true light of the world. Proceedings concluded with a good crack as ever, over tea, coffee and some delicious home-made cakes and bakes.

Since then, we've been busy, like other churches, planning our Friday Lent Lunches for Christian Aid (with speakers from different churches each week) and also the World

Day of Prayer service, this year hosted at St Joseph's RC Church. And it'll be the Walk of Witness before we know it!

We thank God for all these opportunities to work together and witness to our unity in Christ.

Lois Sparling, Reader, Lorton and Loweswater with Buttermere, Grasmoor Mission Community

---

## One congregation, two styles of service, in Dent



In Dent, the two Church congregations share services on alternate weeks. On the first and third Sundays of each month, we hold a Methodist service in 'the chapel' and on the second and fourth Sunday, we hold an Anglican service at St Andrew's. We are one congregation and we worship one God, but we honour and enjoy two traditions of worship.

This year our Methodist Schoolroom has also been transformed into a bright, airy, warm versatile space, with a fully-equipped kitchen and revamped accessible toilet – a great resource for us and for our community. It's now a comfortable, versatile bookable venue for community groups such as the toddler group and our local First Responders.

On Advent Sunday, our Circuit Superintendent, Rev David Newlove, took the service in 'the chapel' assisted by Rev Sally Pickering, Associate Minister for the Western Dales Mission Community (WDMC). We always share coffee and tea after our services in a time of fellowship together, but on this occasion we also served a hot lunch for the first time!

We look forward to all God has for us as we continue to reach out in His Name.

Sarah E Woof, Steward and Local Preacher in the Western Dales

(and particularly Dent)



## Faith Security Training

The Home Office recently launched Faith Security Training (FST) – a free scheme designed to help faith communities in England and Wales strengthen their security awareness and preparedness.

Delivered by CDS Support (a specialist defence and security consultancy), this training provides practical guidance to keep places of worship safe and resilient.

The event is targeted at faith leaders, trustees, volunteers, and anyone responsible for, or interested in, security at places of worship.

Please register for a virtual or face-to-face session with security experts.

Digital e-Learning will be available soon via [ProtectUK](#).

For further information, please visit the [click here](#) <https://email.cdssds.uk/en-gb/faith-security-training>, or email [contact@cdssupport.uk](mailto:contact@cdssupport.uk)

---

## **All the Kingdoms of the World**

### **A poem by Malcolm Guite**

'So here's the deal and this is what you get:

The penthouse suite with world-commanding views,

The banker's bonus and the private jet

Control and ownership of all the news

An 'in' to that exclusive one percent,

Who know the score, who really run the show

With interest on every penny lent

And sweeteners for cronies in the know.

A straight arrangement between me and you

No hell below or heaven high above

You just admit it, and give me my due

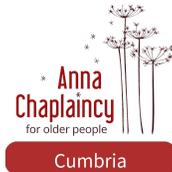
And wake up from this foolish dream of love...'

But Jesus laughed, 'You are not what you seem.

Love is the waking life, you are the dream.'

By Malcolm Guite

<https://malcolmguite.wordpress.com/2015/02/19/word-in-the-wi...>



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](#)

## Spiritual Accompaniment



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

For further information contact

Ruth Lee

**e:** [sd.cesg@gmail.com](mailto:sd.cesg@gmail.com)

**t:** 01768 898604

**w:** [cesg.org.uk](http://cesg.org.uk)

**Cumbria Ecumenical Spirituality Group**

---

## **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 until Easter. 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.

# 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

## **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

Jo Phillips - jo@churchestogethercumbria.org.uk

Lois Sparling - community.chaplain.gmc@gmail.com

## **Churches Together in Cumbria**

Church House, 19-24 Friargate, Penrith

CA11 7XR

United Kingdom

[Unsubscribe](#)

Registered Charity Number: 119358

