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Churches Together in Cumbria

April 2026 Newsletter

Actively Promoting God's Love for Everyone



Morecambe Bay, with thanks to Penny Ward.

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 May Newsletter submissions: Friday 17th April 2026

Dates for your Diaries!



*A view across Workington
to the fells from Shore Hills,
by Rev Dominic de Mattos.*



**CHURCHES
TOGETHER**
IN CUMBRIA

ANNUAL GATHERING 2026

INCLUDING AGM

Thursday 4th June

10am-3pm

St Michael's Church

Falcon Place, Workington, CA14 2EZ

Theme: Difficult
Conversations



Annual Gathering

Booking and further information

The Annual Gathering will begin with refreshments at 10am and a time of worship at 10.30am. As well as spending time on our theme of Difficult Conversations, during the day there will be opportunity to meet the CTiC Trustees, members of the Anna Chaplaincy Team, Cumbria Ecumenical Spirituality Group and the Community Social Action Team, as well as the opportunity to spend time in prayer and fellowship together.

Question: Considering our theme of Difficult Conversations; what issues, in your churches and community, lead to difficult conversations?

Email admin@churchestogethercumbria.org.uk with your answers!!

Annual General Meeting: The Churches Together in Cumbria Annual General Meeting will be incorporated into the morning programme.

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.

Lunch and Refreshments: Lunch and hot and cold drinks will be provided for all those attending. Please inform us of any dietary requirements when you book your place.

Book your place: Use the following link to book your place before Monday 1st June:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScqL91w8BIGMc2apWs6...>

GETTING TO WORK ON MODERN SLAVERY IN CUMBRIA

A Modern Slavery network building event for
frontline workers in Cumbria



TO CONFIRM YOUR PLACE CONTACT JO@CHURCHES TOGETHER CUMBRIA.ORG.UK



CTiC to Co-Host Roundtable on Rural Poverty in May

Following discussions between Church Action on Poverty, the Diocese of Truro and Jonny and Lois from our Community Social Action Team, we are delighted to announce a preliminary online roundtable event on poverty in rural areas coming up next month. 'Connecting and strengthening rural voices on poverty' – at 10.30am on Thursday 21 May – aims to begin a shared national discussion on church and community approaches to rural poverty and start to build partnerships to explore more deeply what the churches can do to tackle the issues and support those affected better. Speakers will bring research and lived experience from Cornwall, the Cotswolds and the South Lakes to spark discussion and inspire new approaches to the long-overlooked issues of rural poverty. To find out more and sign up to join the meeting, go to:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/connecting-strengthening-rura...>

GIVE A DAY TO KENDAL

1-7th JUNE 2026



For more information about Give a Day to Kendal, and how you can get involved or nominate a project, please visit: <https://cumbriacvs.org.uk/news/give-a-day-to-kendal/>

For more information contact Jonny@ctic.uk

Volunteer Roles

Churches Together in Cumbria is currently looking for volunteers to help in a few areas.

If you are interested and would like more information, email

admin@churchestogethercumbria.org.uk.

1. Treasurer and Trustee
2. Designated Safeguarding Lead
3. Fundraising and Grants Officer

Communities Together Durham Food Summit



It was a real pleasure to attend the excellent Food Summit event in Framwellgate, County Durham last weekend. The CTiC Community Social Action Team met with their team a few weeks ago to find out more about the work that they do in their region; they cover similar issues and it was good to learn from each other.

There were lots of amazing people, organisations and projects in the room, with tons of expertise and experience. Trussell Trust, Feeding Britain Food Pantry, Co-op, Citizens UK, Theatre Space, amongst many others. Church-led food projects like St Aidan's Kitchen in Hartlepool and Christ Church in Felling shared their stories about how they started and developed their work, addressing some of the needs of their local community, and sharing the love of Christ.

I learned a lot, and gave myself lots of new connections and learning to follow up on.

Jo Phillips - Community Social Action Team

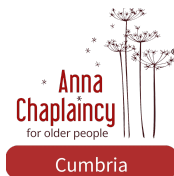
Anna Chaplaincy



A photo of our superb Chair, Paul Burden and Lois Maguire, who was commissioned as an Anna Chaplain for the Barrow team on the 11th August 2025 at the Holy Family Catholic Church in Barrow.

This is the only team in the county who work intergenerationally with the young people at the local schools, who are proud to support the work we do with the spiritual care of the elderly. The young people help to write gift tags at Christmas for the 700 Christmas hearts that go out to the care homes and hospitals. The young people have also delivered them. This wonderful work is the inspiration of the dedicated Barrow team.

Sam Pester - Anna Chaplaincy Lead



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](#)

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. Thank you.

Breaking Bread Together through Lent in Brampton



Many of our Churches Together groups round the county take the season of Lent as an opportunity to meet and break bread together – some for 4 or 5 weeks and some only once - some with reflections and some without. (I understand there are often discussions as to whether or not cheese is an appropriate addition to a 'soup and roll' lunch during Lent - and, this year, someone told me there had once been ructions when stilton was on offer, rather than simple squares of cheddar!)

Most Lent Lunches take donations for Christian Aid, whose theme for Lent this year was Act on Poverty and they typically raise hundreds of thousands of pounds for the charity nationwide every year.

This year, Churches Together in Brampton held weekly lunches for four weeks, with different speakers each week invited to address the theme: 'Who is my neighbour?'. Pastor Huw from Bethesda Evangelical Church in Brampton was the first to give a talk, on his experience of living and working in London, followed by Caroline Hetherington, Church and Community Relationships Team Leader for Safe Families in Cumbria, and then our own Jo Phillips, from the CTiC Community Social Action Team, who spoke about Modern Slavery. Rev Tokunbo Asogbon from Borders Methodist Church gave the final talk, sharing some experiences from his life in Nigeria.

All the lunches were held at Brampton Methodist Church and ably managed by a team of volunteers from all the local churches (as you can see!). All those who took part enjoyed hearing the different speakers and range of topics and the lunches were well supported by all the churches in the Brampton area who appreciated this time in Lent to pause, reflect and pray together.



Praying Together for Peace



In these ever-more turbulent times many of our Churches Together groups around the county are responding in shared, public prayer. We have always prayed together for peace - particularly with acts of witness around Remembrance Day, such as the open-air peace vigil held by the Quakers and Churches Together in Penrith last November. As the conflict in the Middle East enters its fourth week, we thought we would share examples inspired by conflict at home and abroad in recent times.

Quaker Vigil for Peace, Cockermouth

Since the Russian invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, the Quaker Meeting in Cockermouth have held a half-hour prayer vigil for peace on Main Street at 11am on a Friday morning - missing only once in the past four years because of very severe weather. Recently they have decided that the first vigil of the month will take place on the Saturday, instead of the Friday, to give more people an opportunity to join in, or just be aware of this act of faith and compassion. Naturally, the vigil is open for anyone to join and members of other churches do so from time to time.

Prayers for Peace, Seascale

On Thursday 19 March Churches Together in Seascale and District invited people to gather at Seascale Methodist Church to pray for peace in our troubled world. In the course of about half an hour, periods of silence were interspersed with open prayer, set prayers and verses of scripture. It was felt to be a very worthwhile effort and they hope to repeat it from time to time, when possible. Their first Prayers for Peace was attended by 19 people, representing five villages and six different congregations.

Standing in solidarity, Dalton-in-Furness

On Saturday 20 March, ministers and lay people from the Methodist Church, United Reformed Church, Quakers, Salvation Army and Baptists joined in supporting the local

Christians in Dalton-in-Furness who are welcoming their neighbours at the new South Lakes Islamic Centre, which has been the subject of organised protests from far right groups over recent months. As they prayed for peace, for welcome and for belonging, they were proclaiming the gospel message that Jesus taught us: "Love your neighbour as yourself".

Easter Prayer

Attributed to Saint Hippolytus of Rome

Christ is Risen: The world below lies desolate
Christ is Risen: The spirits of evil are fallen
Christ is Risen: The angels of God are rejoicing
Christ is Risen: The tombs of the dead are empty
Christ is Risen indeed from the dead,
the first of the sleepers,
Glory and power are his forever and ever.

Job Vacancy

The Cumbria Methodist Circuit seeks to appoint a **Personal Assistant** to provide support to the Circuit Superintendent Minister.

18hrs per week | Rate of pay £15 per hour

Hybrid working: from home and the Circuit Office based at Penrith Methodist Church

The Personal Assistant to the Superintendent Minister will provide high-level administrative support, ensuring efficiency, organisation and confidentiality across all aspects of the role.

The ideal candidate will help to manage schedules and correspondence, demonstrating excellent organisational and communication skills, will work with sensitivity within a faith-based environment, and act as a point of contact, enabling the Superintendent Minister to focus on vision, leadership, and ministry within the Circuit and Mission Area.

A satisfactory disclosure from the Disclosure and Barring Service will be required.

For further information and an application pack please contact Sarah Mulheron-Summers
sarah.mulheron-summers@cumbriamethodists.org.uk

Closing date: Sunday 5th April
Interviews: week beginning 20th April

The Cumbria Methodist Circuit are seeking to appoint a part-time Personal Assistant. Please do forward the details of this post to anyone you think may be a suitable candidate.

Spiritual Accompaniment



You, Me and God - journeying together

For further information, email sd.cesg@gmail.com

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 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 - jonny@ctic.uk

Jo Phillips - jo@churchestogethercumbria.org.uk

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

Churches Together in Cumbria

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