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**Churches Together in
Cumbria**

July/August 2026 Newsletter

Actively Promoting God's Love for Everyone



Grasmere, with thanks to Lol Wood.

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

Index: In this month's newsletter

- New website and email addresses for Churches Together in Cumbria
- Volunteer roles available
- 2026 Annual Gathering Review
- A new Anna Chaplain for Longsleddale
- Anna Chaplaincy
- Modern Slavery Review piece
- Inspiration from Science and Nature
- Spiritual Accompaniment
- Give a Day To Kendal Review Piece
- Contribute to this newsletter
- An 'Ecumenial' Churchwarden Inducted in West Cumbria
- As Kingfishers Catch Fire - A Poem by Gerard Manley Hopkins
- CTiC and Safeguarding Statement
- CTiC Trustees & Staff

Deadline for September Newsletter submissions: Friday 21 August 2026

Updates to our Contact Details

Churches Together in Cumbria has a new website! Please head to www.ctic.uk and take a look!

With our new web domain name, lots of the CTiC Team have new email addresses, so please do update your email contacts where appropriate. The new admin email address is admin@ctic.uk, and the newsletter will come from this address. There will be a changeover time whilst these addresses are established and we move from the old ones, so for the time being both will run concurrently.

We're also on social media -

Check out our YouTube here: <https://www.youtube.com/@churchestogethercumbria>

Follow us on Facebook here: <https://www.facebook.com/ChurchesTogetherinCumbria>

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

2026 Annual Gathering Review



This was my first time at the Churches Together in Cumbria Annual Gathering, this time at St Michael's Workington.

As the URC minister in Grange, I've been Chair of Cartmel Peninsula Churches Together for just over a year, but I also work in Barrow, Dalton and Askam – so I have a view of the ecumenism there. I really valued meeting up with people from across the

county and the denominations, as well as bumping into my own denominational colleagues – all appreciating the work we do together.

Following worship, we completed the usual business of an AGM and listened to reports including Anna Chaplaincy, the Cumbria Ecumenical Spirituality Group, and the Community Social Action Team (CSAT). Members of the CSAT highlighted more exciting work going on across the county. I have been particularly inspired by work done concerning modern slavery, faith covenants - with our commitment to social cohesion - and community development. With my churches, I completed the Cinnamon Trust audits, alongside many others, and look forward to a greater recognition of the church's commitment and contribution to communities.

In the afternoon, we listened to Becky and Lois' work on 'Difficult Conversations' then tried some of their exercises. We moved around the space representing our different points of view and then we tried to represent the views of those who were placed diametrically opposite from us – not easy – but it meant you had to listen well and step into another's shoes.

We developed this idea in groups of three but with subjects that may create difficult conversations in our churches. Worryingly, I found it very easy to demonise my opponent. But through this process – even in this quick introduction – we began to understand the need for finding common purpose and ground.

Thank you to everyone who led and encouraged and inspired!

Kate Hunt

URC Minister Cumbria Missional Partnership

A New Anna Chaplain for Longsleddale

Anna Chaplaincy is delighted to welcome Ian Wilson as an Anna Chaplain. Ian's commissioning service was held on Sunday 31st May at St Mary's Church Longsleddale. Longsleddale is in a very remote part of Cumbria, by Kendal. It was a very special service very kindly taken by Reverend Michelle Woodcock. Ian has shown his suitability to the ministry by his continuing service and kindness to those in his parish. Sam Pester, Anna Chaplaincy Lead for Cumbria, took the vows of commitment and welcomed Ian into the ministry.

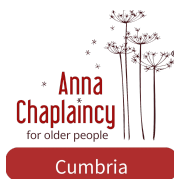


Photo from left to right:

Sam Pester - Anna
Chaplaincy Lead
Cumbria,

Ian Wilson - Anna
Chaplain

Reverend Michelle
Woodcock.



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

CTiC's Cumbria Modern Slavery Champions Network Training Event

7 May 2026, Hosted by St Michael's Church, Workington



CTiC were delighted to organise their 5th Cumbria Modern Slavery Champions Network training event in Workington last month. 50 people gathered together to learn and discuss challenging issues together. Over half of those were new to the network, which is really encouraging as we try to equip and encourage those coming across this issue in our county.

We heard from various people during the day: myself as I gave an introduction to the **story so far of the network**, Helena Croft MBE, Cherry Harris and DS Sarah Story presented on the work of **Streetlight UK** and particularly **what they have been doing in Cumbria** to reach out to support sex workers and to offer exit assistance if

requested. Lois Bosatta is the new Director of **The Clewer Initiative**, and she presented on **Modern Slavery Basics** and research she has been involved with on **perinatal care for those affected by exploitation and modern slavery**.

There were facilitated workshop discussions in the afternoon to enable network members to grapple with the challenges and possible ways to address the issues and care for those affected. All were encouraged to think about specific next steps they would take as a result of attending the training.

It was challenging to hear about some of the women affected by Sex Exploitation in our region, but so encouraging to learn more about the excellent work being carried out to reach and help women. It was certainly a call for all of us to be more vigilant and creative about how to care those who need help or would like to exit sex work. I look forward to hearing from the network members, more about ways that new partnerships and collaborations develop.

You can watch a short video with input from the speakers and attendees here: [MDS HIGHLIGHTS 2026](#)

Do get in touch if you want to learn more, or join the network. jo@ctic.uk

Jo Phillips

CTiC Modern Slavery Project Lead & Community Social Action Team Member

The Clewer Initiative have also written a fantastic piece on this event, which can be read here: [Getting to work on Modern Slavery in Cumbria | The Clewer Initiative](#)

Inspiration from Science and Nature

A CESG resource day for spiritual directors, held at Holy Trinity Church, Brathay, 5th May.

I enjoy participating in resource days for Spiritual Directors, facilitated by the CESG (Cumbria Ecumenical Spirituality Group) which are varied and allow space to connect with God.

Inspiration from Science and Nature was a day led by Revd Dr Peter Powell. I have always loved spending time outside in God's "Book of Nature" but it was fascinating to

hear details of how connected and communicative created life is. The day was spent immersed in the mysteries of nature and science. Peter explained that more was being discovered about their complexities, beauty and symbiotic relationships. I particularly enjoyed hearing details of the Monarch butterflies who migrate from Canada to Mexico and back over six generations.

As well as his talks, with great related images, we spent time in a guided contemplation in which we were led on a nature walk in our imagination, as well as a contemplation outside. We were blessed by the fact that the abundance of Spring was evident to us all on our journeys and all around us. At the end of the day we shared how God gave us insights from our contemplations outside which were all wonderfully individual and different.

I am an enthusiast of Pilgrimage because of its simplicity, ability to hold you in the present moment and the intentionality of faith walking where many others of faith have gone before. But at the end of this day it also struck me that another reason is that it is an immersion in the "Book of Nature" too!

Coralie Stangroom

Spiritual Director

The photo is from a bluebell wood nearby where I walked during lunch.



Spiritual Accompaniment/Direction



You, Me and God - journeying together

For further information, contact Marjorie Arnold by emailing sd.cesg@ctic.uk.

Cumbria Ecumenical Spirituality Group

Give a Day to Kendal Brings Community Together

What a fantastic week it has been for Give a Day to Kendal 2026! Volunteers from local businesses, community groups, churches and charities came together to make a real difference through a variety of practical projects. From improving community facilities and green spaces to supporting local charities, hundreds of volunteer hours were given to help make Kendal an even better place to live, work and enjoy. A particular highlight was the involvement of local businesses, many of whom released staff to volunteer during the working week.

This year's event saw teams working at a range of locations, including Netherfield Cricket Club, where volunteers helped improve the changing facilities, and Growing Well, where teams supported the charity's valuable work helping people improve their mental health through horticulture and community.

Give a Day to Kendal is built around a simple idea: that everyone has something they can offer. Whether it's practical skills, enthusiasm, leadership, or simply a willingness to help, every contribution makes a difference.

Matt Little, Furness Building Society, said:

"We were delighted to support Give a Day to Kendal 2026 on behalf of Furness Building Society. As a proud part of the Kendal community, we believe in bringing people together and supporting the places our members call home. It was inspiring to see local people, businesses, and organisations unite with a shared commitment to making a positive difference. At Furness, we know that strong communities are built through collaboration, and we're proud to play our part in supporting the people, places and community spirit that helps Kendal thrive."

Give a Day to Kendal is delivered through a partnership between Churches Together in Cumbria, Westmorland and Furness Council, Cumbria CVS and Kendal Town Council.

Another organisation that was helped during our Give a Day to Kendal week was Kendal BID. Four Kendal yards were identified by the BID that are well used but looking grotty and unloved. Two teams of volunteers took to the yards on the 1st & 2nd June to clear and clean each of the yards to make them more appealing.

The organisers would like to thank every volunteer, project host and partner organisation who made this year's event possible. The enthusiasm, generosity and community spirit has been truly inspiring.

Together, we have demonstrated what can happen when people give just one day to the town they love. We look forward to building on this success and welcoming even more volunteers to future Give a Day projects.

Jonny Gios

Community Social Action Team

To watch the highlights video from Give a Day to Kendal, click here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HjSkvuQQ3ow>

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 lois@ctic.uk. Thank you.



An 'Ecumenical' Churchwarden Inducted in West Cumbria

In a historic move, and with encouragement from both denominations, Morna McDowell, Church Steward of Brigham Methodist Church, was admitted along with Brian Furness, as Churchwarden of the Parish Church of St Bridget's, Brigham, on Wednesday 17 June 2026 at St Michael & All Angels, Torpenhow by Archdeacon Stewart Fyfe.

Brigham is a small village and relations between church and chapel have always been cordial. For a number of years Morna has been the Methodist representative on the Parochial Church Council at St Bridget's and Brian the Anglican representative on the Brigham Methodist Church Council.

Bishop of Carlisle, Rt Revd Rob Saner-Haigh, and Superintendent of Cumbria Circuit, Rev David Newlove, continue to encourage the churches to work together following the creation of the Ecumenical County of Cumbria in 2011 in support of our shared mission of God for all.

Morna's election and admission will further strengthen the relationship between Brigham Methodist Church and St Bridget's, who meet for worship twice a month, are in the Grasmoor Mission Community which is a partnership of seven church parishes to the north, south and west of Cockermouth.

As Kingfishers Catch Fire

A Poem by Gerard Manley Hopkins

As kingfishers catch fire, dragonflies draw flame;
As tumbled over rim in roundy wells
Stones ring; like each tucked string tells, each hung bell's
Bow swung finds tongue to fling out broad its name;
Each mortal thing does one thing and the same:
Deals out that being indoors each one dwells;
Selves — goes itself; *myself* it speaks and spells,
Crying *Whát I dó is me: for that I came.*

I say móre: the just man justices;
Keeps grace: thát keeps all his goings graces;
Acts in God's eye what in God's eye he is —
Chríst — for Christ plays in ten thousand places,
Lovely in limbs, and lovely in eyes not his
To the Father through the features of men's faces.

<https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poems/44389/as-kingfishers-...>

CTiC and Safeguarding

CTiC is grateful to Charles Proctor for holding the Designated Safeguarding Lead role for six months to the end of September 2026. Contact with Charles will be via CTiC admin (admin@ctic.uk) who will then contact him to advise of any concerns/requests for advice.

Charles is a qualified social worker and former manager in Children's Services. Following his retirement he was independent chair of the safeguarding arrangements in the Lancaster (Catholic) Diocese, and Carlisle (Church of England) Diocese, before becoming Safeguarding Adviser to the Bishop of Carlisle & Carlisle Cathedral.

CTiC Trustees and Staff

Our Trustees:

Revd Derek Lacey - Chair, Community Social Action Team Facilitator

Revd Kath Dodd - Vice-Chair, Treasurer - treasurer@ctic.uk

Paul Burden - Anna Chaplaincy Chair

Bill Bewley - Churches Together Group Representative

Our Staff:

Samantha Pester - Anna Chaplaincy Lead - ac@churchestogethercumbria.org.uk

Charlotte Lait - Admin Support - admin@ctic.uk
(Please use this email address for general enquiries.)

Community Social Action Team:

Revd Jonny Gios - jonny@ctic.uk

Jo Phillips - jo@ctic.uk

Lois Sparling - lois@ctic.uk

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