



## Churches Together in Cumbria

June 2026 Newsletter

### Actively Promoting God's Love for Everyone



Windermere from Claife Heights, 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@ctic.uk](mailto:admin@ctic.uk) for it to be included in a future edition of the newsletter. Thank you in advance.

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**Deadline for July/August Double Edition Newsletter submissions:**

**Friday 19 June 2026**

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## **Updates to our Contact Details**

**Churches Together in Cumbria has a new website! Please head to [www.ctic.uk](http://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](mailto:admin@ctic.uk), and the newsletter will now 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.

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# 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@ctic.uk](mailto:admin@ctic.uk).

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

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## Dates for your Diaries!



# Annual Gathering

## Including AGM

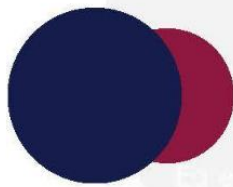


**Thursday 4th June, 10-3pm**

St Michael's Church, Falcon Place

**Workington**

CA14 2EZ



Meet the team and trustees  
and hear about the work that has  
been taking place in the last year!

**Theme**  
Difficult  
Conversations



**There's still time to book your place!**

There is still time to book your place at this year's Annual Gathering and AGM - please click the booking link [here](#) or email [admin@ctic.uk](mailto:admin@ctic.uk) to let Charlotte know for catering numbers by the end of **Monday 1st June**. If you're concerned that you haven't booked your place after 1st June, or become available to attend at short notice, just email [admin@ctic.uk](mailto:admin@ctic.uk). We're looking forward to seeing lots of people there!

# GIVE A DAY TO KENDAL

1-7th JUNE 2026



For more information about Give a Day to Kendal,  
please visit: <https://cumbriacvs.org.uk/news/give-a-day-to-kendal/>

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

## Rural Voices - May 2026



In one week in May, our Community Social Action Team had several great opportunities to support vulnerable people in rural areas – and with a population of only half a million and one of the lowest population densities in the county, I think we can call most, if not all, of Cumbria 'rural'!

On 19 May, Lois led a session for Anglican and Methodist ministers at the Arthur Rank Centre's Rural Ministry and Mission course at Yarnfield Park in Staffordshire. She shared her experience of work across Cumbria with people facing homelessness, addiction and poverty and also her current role supporting local communities as a Community Chaplain in and around Cockermouth. Her session has led to an invitation for CTiC to take part in a national steering group, led by Dr Stephanie Denning in

partnership with the Arthur Rank Centre, working on resources to help churches tackle rural racism and support community cohesion. If you'd like to find out more about this work as it progresses, please contact [lois@ctic.uk](mailto:lois@ctic.uk).

A couple of days later, Jonny and Lois were part of the team hosting a national online roundtable aimed at building partnerships between churches and Christian charities to take action with and for people in hardship in rural areas. We heard about the **Hidden Hardships** research carried out in the Cotswolds, the **Pretty Poverty** research in Cornwall, the findings of the **South Lakes Poverty Truth Commission** and had a graphic glimpse into the realities of farming life in Cumbria from Jim Webster, farmer, churchwarden and volunteer with ACRE, the Farming Community Network and Barrow Food Bank. After the speakers about 60 participants shared their experiences of the extra challenges vulnerable people face in remote areas – from Durham to Devon and Norfolk to Cumbria. If you'd like to contribute to future work (or find out more about any of the research), please contact [lois@ctic.uk](mailto:lois@ctic.uk). You can find the link to the recording of the session on the CTiC Facebook page and Church Action on Poverty YouTube channel.

Lois Sparling

Community Social Action Team



## Manifesto for Hope

Remember Faith in the City, published in 1985, and subtitled 'A call for action by Church and Nation'? It stirred up quite a bit of controversy at the time but the issues

that it was drawing attention to have by no means gone away in the intervening forty years.

At our May meeting at the RC Archdiocesan venue St Margaret Clitherow Centre in Liverpool, some of the northern Churches Together CEOs (County Ecumenical Officers) heard all about how Liverpool has been marking the anniversary of the report's publication. For Churches Together and Together Liverpool, a charity that supports faith and community groups to carry out social action, Fran D'Arcy (centre) has been leading a process of consultation, reflection and celebration which has resulted in a new 'manifesto' with nine priority areas for action. The document was first launched in November 2025 and signed by the Mayor, the Leader of Liverpool City Council and local MPs, and organisations signed up to the priority areas were set to have stalls at the city's annual Pentecost march between its two cathedrals.

To find out more, follow the link on our Facebook page, go to the What's New page on the Together Liverpool website ([togetherliverpool.org.uk](http://togetherliverpool.org.uk)) or contact [lois@ctic.uk](mailto:lois@ctic.uk).

Lois Sparling

Community Social Action Team

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## 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](mailto:lois@ctic.uk). Thank you.

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## Preparing for Pentecost



As we went to print, CT groups in Cumbria were preparing to mark the birthday of the Christian church in many different ways – shared worship with live music at Seascale, a picnic on Cartmel peninsula, reading poetry together in Cockermouth and Pentecost Praise on the Helm in Kendal (this is Captain Hilary Borthwick carrying out her risk assessment with a very, very big windmill).

Surely Pentecost is one of the quintessential ecumenical moments in the Bible - Jews from every nation speaking and understanding one another and enabling the Gospel to spread like wildfire from that moment – and a festival for the current moment too. This Pentecost Prayer from Jake Morrill, a Unitarian minister in Tennessee, puts it beautifully:

*God of wind and fire,  
when fear hardens us against one another,  
breathe through us again.*

*Where we have settled for slogans,  
give us understanding.*

*Where we have chosen certainty over compassion,  
give us courage.*

*Where we have closed the windows of the soul,  
throw them open.*

*Make us people who can carry holy fire  
without burning one another down.*

*Teach us to listen deeply,  
love widely,  
and stand tenderly in this aching world.*

*And when the noise of empire grows loud,  
help us hear beneath it  
the quiet, stubborn song  
of your Spirit still making us one.*

*Amen*

*Poem Copyright © 2026 Unitarian Universalist Christian Fellowship*

Article by Lois Sparling

Community Social Action Team



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](#)

## **Spring Teas in the People's Hall, Sedbergh**



Anna Chaplain and Anna Friends decided to organise another afternoon tea with entertainment for the people throughout the Western Dales. The event was free, enabling all to attend, and was held on 30<sup>th</sup> April at 2pm.

Delicious cakes, baked by many Friends and supporters, sandwiches, teas and coffees were prepared and laid out, tables and chairs set out, all ready for a friendly afternoon.

There were thirty people in the Sedbergh Songsters, conducted by Claire Pope. This choir is a mixture of people with dementia and others who simply enjoy singing together. Around eighty people in all attended, some brought along by partners and friends. The atmosphere was most friendly and all awaited to see the entertainment.

The afternoon began with a short welcome and opening prayer, given by Revd, Christine Brown the Anna Chaplain. The Sedbergh songsters followed by singing six well-chosen songs, which were beautifully introduced by Claire and sung by the choir.

This was followed by a story by Oscar Wilde, 'The Selfish Giant' read by Dr. Janet Skublics. The entertainment continued with the Handbell Ringers of Sedbergh, led by Nicola Crawford. Next came the familiar poem 'Warning', by Jenny Joseph, which was adapted and read by Revd. Christine Brown. 'When I am an old woman, I shall wear purple...' Not quite what was expected but possibly even more funny than the original. The Sedbergh Songsters rounded off the entertainment for the afternoon.

The teas, coffees, sandwiches and cakes were served and enjoyed by all who attended. There was enough food for everyone and very little left over. The afternoon closed with a blessing for the journey of life.

Although there was no cost for those who attended, they insisted on making a donation, and £151. 06 was given to Dementia UK.

Thank you to all who supported the afternoon with sandwiches, cakes, attendance, help and entertainment - in particular to the Sedbergh Songsters and the Handbell Ringers.

Revd Christine Brown



## **Spiritual Accompaniment**



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

For further information, contact Marjorie Arnold by emailing [sd.cesg@ctic.uk](mailto:sd.cesg@ctic.uk).

**Cumbria Ecumenical Spirituality Group**

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## 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](mailto: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.

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## CTiC Trustees and Staff

### **Our Trustees:**

Revd Derek Lacey - Chair, Community Social Action Team Facilitator

Revd Kath Dodd - Vice-Chair, Treasurer - [treasurer@ctic.uk](mailto: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](mailto:ac@churchestogethercumbria.org.uk)

Charlotte Lait - Admin Support - [admin@ctic.uk](mailto:admin@ctic.uk)

(Please use this email address for general enquiries.)

### **Community Social Action Team:**

Revd Jonny Gios - [jonny@ctic.uk](mailto:jonny@ctic.uk)

Jo Phillips - [jo@ctic.uk](mailto:jo@ctic.uk)

Lois Sparling - [lois@ctic.uk](mailto:lois@ctic.uk)

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[Unsubscribe](#)

Registered Charity Number: 119358

