



Churches Together in Cumbria

September 2026 Newsletter

Actively Promoting God's Love for Everyone



Derwentwater in August, with thanks to Revd Ben Thompson.

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.

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Deadline for October Newsletter submissions: Friday 18th September 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, 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 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.

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, please email admin@ctic.uk.

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

Creating Cohesive Communities



A special conference will bring together church, civic and community leaders to explore how best we can support and celebrate our county's ethnic minority communities.

The aim of the gathering is not to offer ready-made solutions, but to create a safe and thoughtful space in which the lived experiences of ethnic minority communities can be heard, the challenges they face can be named, and the wider community can begin to reflect on what a more just, welcoming, and inclusive life together might look like in practice.

Up to 80 people are expected to attend the ***Creating Cohesive Communities*** conference which will be held at Scotby Village Hall near Carlisle

on **Saturday 14 November from 9.30am to 3pm**. The keynote speaker will be Marcia Reid Fotheringham, Deputy Lieutenant of Cumbria and Co-Chair of the Cumbria Race Equality Network, while Bishop Rob and Bishop Michael will also be among others who address delegates.

The Rev Isaac Lawrence, who has organised the conference as part of the Diocese's Racial Justice Group, said: "This conference is about bringing people together to listen, to learn and to build relationships across our communities. Real change begins when we take time to hear one another's stories with humility and respect. My hope is that everyone who attends will leave encouraged, challenged and equipped to play their part in building a more welcoming and cohesive Cumbria."

Some conference spaces are still available - offered on a first come, first served basis. Booking enquiries should please be sent to revisaac.lawrence@gmail.com.

Faith Covenant Signing and Interfaith Football Match





Faith and Football Bring Communities Together in Westmorland and Furness

More than 35 players from a wide range of backgrounds came together yesterday for a unique interfaith football match at The Lakes School in Windermere, celebrating unity, friendship and community following the signing of the Westmorland and Furness Faith Covenant earlier this week at Kendal Town Hall.

The friendly 90-minute, 11-a-side match saw players of all ages, abilities and backgrounds—including Muslims, Jews, Christians and people of no faith—representing communities from across Westmorland and Furness.

The two teams, Hope FC and Unity United, played in great spirits, with Hope FC securing a 10–6 victory. However, the result was secondary to the real purpose of the event: bringing people together through sport, conversation and shared community.

The match was the culmination of an inspiring idea by Abigail Mann, which became a reality through collaboration between **Churches Together in Cumbria**, the **Westmorland Football Association**, **Furness Multicultural Community Forum**, and **The Lakes School**, who kindly hosted the event.

The fixture followed the official signing of the Westmorland and Furness Faith Covenant, where faith leaders and representatives from Westmorland and Furness Council committed to strengthening relationships between faith communities and public services while working together for the benefit of local people.

The football match demonstrated those commitments in action, creating opportunities for people from different faiths and backgrounds to meet, play together and build lasting friendships.

Rev. Jonny Gios, who co-organised the event and took to the field as goalkeeper for Hope FC, said:

"This was a practical way of coming together after the Covenant was signed this week. People from different faiths and backgrounds came together to enjoy a friendly 11-a-side football match, and it was fantastic to see everyone encouraging one another both on and off the pitch.

"We hope that the signing of the Faith Covenant is not simply a piece of paper, but a springboard for future events that build deeper relationships, strengthen unity and enable us to support our wider communities together. Yesterday showed exactly what can happen when people choose connection over division."

The organisers hope this will be the first of many interfaith sporting and community events across Westmorland and Furness, demonstrating that shared experiences can help break down barriers, foster understanding and strengthen community cohesion.

It was great to see the signing of the Faith Covenant and Interfaith Football being covered other organisations both locally and nationally. Use the following links to find out more, and to see more photographs from the football match, [click here](#).

ITV Border News - <https://www.itv.com/news/border/2026-07-06/multi-faith-footb...>

The Jewish Chronicle - <https://www.thejc.com/community/interfaith-football-match-ac...>

Westmorland and Furness Council

- <https://www.westmorlandandfurness.gov.uk/westmorland-and-fur...>

CESG September Resource Day for Spiritual Directors



Cumbria Ecumenical
Spirituality Group

Inspiration from Science and Nature

A CESG resource day for Spiritual Directors led by Revd Dr Peter Powell.

Wednesday 23rd September, 10am-3pm, Threlkeld Village Hall, CA12 4RX.
£10, bring your own lunch.

Peter is a retired Anglican Priest and Paediatrician. He lives on the West Coast of Cumbria with his wife Frankie Ward. He has always been inspired by nature and how it speaks of the superabundance of God's love and creativity. And he finds God's loving order in the worlds of science and the beauty and patterns found in its



attempts to describe the world we experience.

He hopes that this day will offer ways of seeing and exploring our experience of God in both science and nature.

For more information and to book, please contact Jo Maybury AssistantCESG@ctic.uk

Spiritual Accompaniment



You, Me and God - journeying together

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

Cumbria Ecumenical Spirituality Group

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.

Churches Together in Seascale

'Awe and wonder' shared with the people of Seascale

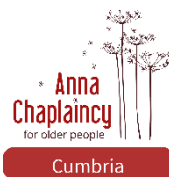
Wow! What an amazing event, attracting over 500 people to witness the solar eclipse in 'awe and wonder'. Seascale has never seen so many on the beach! We distributed 100 pairs of solar spectacles (and could have distributed more!). On the poster we had asked people to support our local shops and they did – we saw pizzas, fish & chips, Mawson's ice cream and bags of goodies from the Co-op being enjoyed.

We had 3 telescopes stationed near the beach and the astronomers included Martin Whipp FRAS from Lime Tree Observatory, Keith & Jill (Pheonix Praise) and a very keen young lad (with mum), who kept us informed from when the very first edge of the sun was nibbled. The atmosphere built gradually until eventually a stillness and a gentle quietness came over the beach as everyone – family groups, friends, work colleagues, holiday makers, and villagers – watched and shared what they had seen.

We wanted to be church without detracting from the moment of the eclipse and decided to create a prayer station on the jetty. It was also important to us to share our Eco Church values of looking after God's Creation and tell everyone that they are loved by God. So we set up a couple of craft afternoons and invited anyone to help decorate some prayer fish and wooden discs while chatting over a cuppa. Our discs had **"You are loved" Romans 5:8** on one side, and on the reverse **"Save our Seas"** all colourfully decorated. In the end we gave out 60 fish and 40 discs.

One little girl told us she was going to hang her disc on her bedroom wall with the "You are loved" side on display. We thank God for a wonderful evening and pray that this quote from the Bible will lead others to want to know more about Him.

Allison Hanshaw



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

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

[Anna Chaplaincy Cumbria Facebook Page](#)

Hildegard of Bingen: A sonnet by Malcolm Guite

A feather on the breath of God at play,
You saw the play of God in all creation.

You drew eternal light into each day,
And every living breath was inspiration.
You made a play with every virtue playing,
Made music for each sister-soul to sing,
Listened for what each herb and stone was saying,
And heard the Word of God in everything.

Mother from mother earth and Magistra,
Your song revealed God's hidden gift to us;
The verdant fire, his holy harbinger
The greening glory of *viriditas*.
'Cherish this earth that keeps us all alive'
Either we hear you, or we don't survive.

<https://malcolmguite.wordpress.com/2022/09/17/hildegard-of-b...>

(The feast day of St Hildegard of Bingen is celebrated on 17th September.)



Disability Awareness Sunday: 'One Body, Many Parts' 27th September 2026

Through the Roof are pleased to promote Disability Awareness Sunday 2026 - for which the theme is 'One Body, Many Parts' - with new resources now available for use in your church, either on Disability Awareness Sunday or on an occasion of your choice.

The church is not complete without disabled people

The theme of, '**One Body, Many Parts**', reminds us that everyone, disabled or not, has a part to play in God's kingdom. It explores **1 Corinthians 12:12-27**, which concludes: '**You are the body of Christ. Each one of you is a part of it.**'

For further information and to register for access to free resources,

visit <https://throughtheroof.org/forchurches/disability-awareness-sunday/>



Single Friendly Church Week 27th September - 4th October 2026

We are inviting everyone – from church leadership to people in the pews – to join our 8-day campaign **Single Friendly Church Week!**

For one week, churches, leaders, and individuals across the UK are coming together to say clearly: single people at every stage of life are welcomed, valued, and included here. Whether you're never married, divorced, widowed, or a single parent, you belong at the heart of this community, and not on its edges.

This is your invitation to be part of the movement. Hosting an event during Single Friendly Church Week doesn't have to be complicated, it just has to be intentional. Together, we can inspire a culture shift that helps every person in your congregation truly flourish.

Not sure where to begin?

We want to make sure you have all of the resources you need to take part in whichever way suits your church community, so have created a variety of things to help

you. Start with downloading our [SFCW Resource Pack](#), joining our [online Q&A sessions](#), or brainstorm with others how to celebrate Single Friendly Church Week.

[Start the journey here](#)

Designated Safeguarding Lead for CTiC

Charles Proctor is currently CTiC's Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL). Contact with Charles is via CTiC admin (admin@ctic.uk) who will then contact him to advise of any concerns/requests for advice.

CTiC is looking for someone to take on the role of DSL for the future. If you are interested, please email admin@ctic.uk.

CTiC Trustees and Staff

Our Trustees:

Revd Derek Lacey - Chair. Trustee with special responsibility for the Community Social Action Team and for Safeguarding & Welfare.

Revd Kath Dodd - Vice Chair and Treasurer. Trustee with special responsibility for Data Protection and for Cumbria Ecumenical Spirituality Group - treasurer@ctic.uk

Paul Burden - Trustee with special responsibility for Anna Chaplaincy.

Bill Bewley - Trustee with special responsibility for Churches Together groups.

Our Staff:

Samantha Pester - Anna Chaplaincy Lead - ac@ctic.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

Churches Together in Cumbria

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