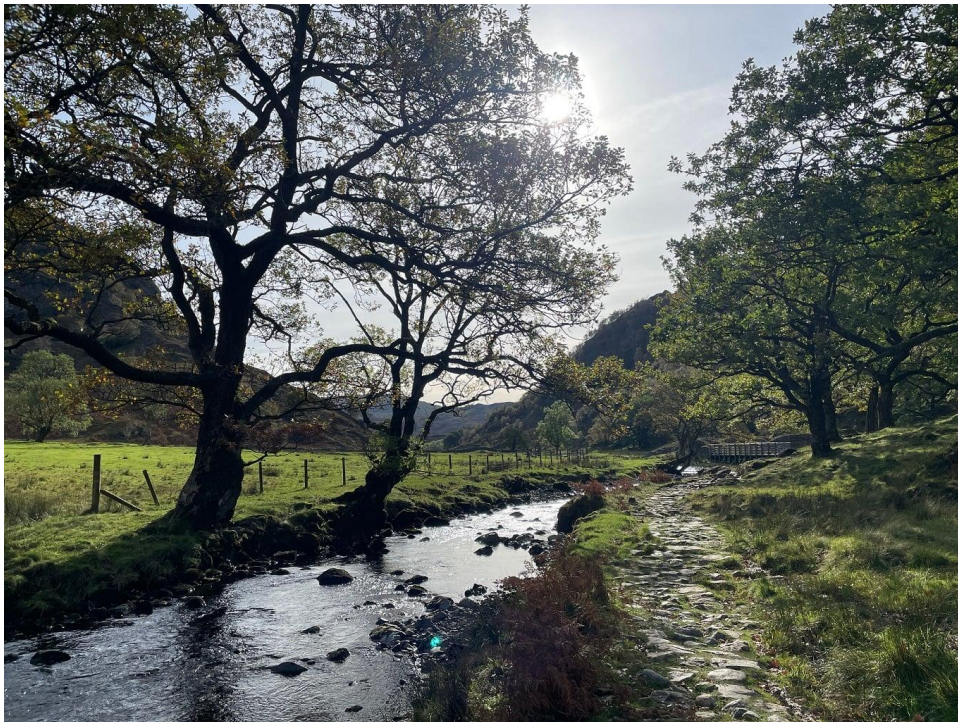




Churches Together in Cumbria

October 2026 Newsletter

Actively Promoting God's Love for Everyone



Watendlath Beck, with thanks to Lois Sparling.

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 November Newsletter submissions: Friday 23rd October 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

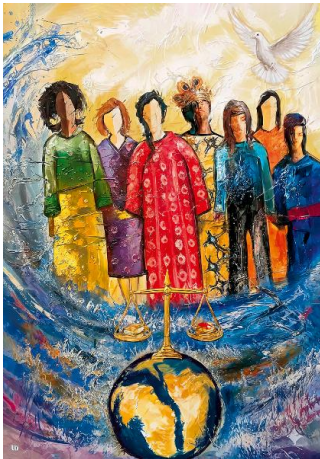
Love in Action: Save the Date!

Saturday 9th October 2027

**Love in Action - Serving our Communities
Together Social Action Conference**

More details to follow!

Image below: (L-R) Sam Pester - Anna Chaplaincy Lead, together with the Community Social Action Team: Jo Phillips, Jonny Gios and Lois Sparling, as they met at Rheged recently to begin planning Love in Action.



World Day of Prayer 2027: Preparation Day, Langwathby – Tuesday 22 October

On 5 March 2027 the WDP movement celebrates 100 years and this year's service reflects its international character, taking the theme: 'United in Prayer for Justice and Peace'. It promises to be a time of celebration, reflection and thanksgiving.

Cumbria's Preparation Day will be on Tuesday 22 October 2026 at Langwathby Methodist Chapel, Langwathby. Anyone involved in organising a local WDP service is warmly invited to join Margaret Clark and Maureen Colbert, both members of the National Committee, to explore this year's theme.



Please contact Rev Mary Elliot to register your interest at maryeinbox@gmail.com (or call her on 01434 381350).

The day runs from 10am to 3pm. Please bring your own lunch, but refreshments will be provided and a nominal contribution of £5 would be welcome.

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2027

18th - 25th January



‘Do not be afraid’

The prayers and reflections for this year’s Week of Prayer for Christian Unity have been prepared by representatives of the churches in Ireland. Although the island of Ireland is

divided between two political jurisdictions, the churches represented by the Irish Council of Churches and the Irish Catholic Bishops’ Conference are organised on an all-island basis. The leaders of the churches meet regularly and, as a Church Leaders Group, engage with governments, public bodies and communities in order to bring the voice of the gospel into shared public discourse.

Jesus is our Good Shepherd, the one who can be trusted to lead us on the good path of life towards lifegiving waters of abundance. As the Good Shepherd, Jesus models sacrificial leadership that moves towards the one sheep that has lost its way. In Luke 12:22-34, Jesus calls his followers out of fear and towards this life of radical trust, vigilant hope and responsible service. These teachings aren’t meant for lone disciples but for a gathered community: a ‘little flock’ called to live, pray and work together. This year’s Week of Prayer for Christian Unity invites us to explore what it means to be followers of the Good Shepherd: how letting go of fear and keeping watchful hearts become powerful catalysts for reconciliation and shared witness.

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 Carlisle

City Harvest Festival Service



City Harvest Festival Service

A celebration of thanksgiving, community, and sharing

Friday 16th October • 6pm

Borderway Mart, Rosehill, Carlisle, CA1 2RS



Join us as we give thanks for the harvest season recognising the hard work of our local farming communities with hymns, prayers, readings, and shared worship in the Borderway Mart auction ring

Arrivals, tea & coffee from 5.30pm, Service 6.00pm

This event is kindly hosted by Harrison & Hetherington

Further information from lisa.wilson@nwsynod.org.uk

Christians Together in Coniston

Re-Opening the Book in Coniston



This July Christians Together in Coniston finished our second lot of sessions of Open the Book Bible story enactments for the Primary School children in Coniston. Actually, It should be 'for and with' the children – as a few are always more than willing to be dressed up and take supporting roles.

We used to have Open the Book in Coniston but it came to an end and we are all delighted that last year some new Christians with fresh enthusiasm coming to the village have got it going again. We were given a half-day training, help from the Methodist Church in obtaining DBS certification and helpful advice and very generous gifts of costumes and props from the Liverpool group.

The Primary School has been very supportive and we and the children have had tremendous fun and learned a lot from enacting these engaging stories so important to our Faith.

We started again, with great pleasure, in September and recommend any Christians who want to start something worthwhile for their community and have local Primary School support, to start an Open the Book group. As you can see, there is lots of support to draw on.

Magdalen Gee

We are sad to report that the Chair of Christians Together in Coniston, Alex Stewart, died in late August and our thoughts and prayers are with his widow Ruth and family.



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](#)

Pied Beauty

A Poem by Gerard Manley Hopkins

Glory be to God for dappled things –
For skies of couple-colour as a brindled cow;
For rose-moles all in stipple upon trout that swim;
Fresh-firecoal chestnut-falls; finches' wings;
Landscape plotted and pieced – fold, fallow, and plough;
And áll trádes, their gear and tackle and trim.

All things counter, original, spare, strange;
Whatever is fickle, freckled (who knows how?)
With swift, slow; sweet, sour; adazzle, dim;
He fathers-forth whose beauty is past change:
Praise him.

<https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poems/44399/pied-beauty>

Spiritual Accompaniment



You, Me and God - journeying together

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

Cumbria Ecumenical Spirituality Group



Church Action on Poverty Sunday -

Resources now available.

Resources for Church Action on Poverty Sunday on 18th October are now available. The theme this year is Food, Faith and Fellowship, and more than 120 churches have registered so far. Available resources include art resources; suggested hymns, prayers and sermon notes; posters; and tabletop conversation cards and placemats for churches hosting lunches. Resources can be accessed at:

Gavin Aitchison from Church Action on Poverty says:
"It's been fantastic seeing so many churches signing up this year, including many taking part for the first time. It is shaping up to be an enjoyable and really thought-provoking day of worship, reflection and fellowship."

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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