Churches Together in Cumbria

November 2026 Newsletter

Actively Promoting God's Love for Everyone



'Miracle Tree' in Hawkshead, with thanks to Rev Kath Dodd.

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 December/January Double Edition Newsletter submissions:

Friday 23rd November 2026

Follow us on Facebook!

Don't miss out on regular updates - follow us on Facebook to find out about what the CTiC Team are doing and to read informative and encouraging posts on our page. Simply go to www.facebook.com/ChurchesTogetherinCumbria and click follow!

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

Care of the Elderly as Winter Approaches

Our Anna Chaplains and friends across the county will be preparing for winter as the colder weather moves in. Some of our elderly folk live in residential homes, which are warm and cosy. However, those living on their own in often isolated houses, or sheltered housing or flats, concerned about the cost of heating are most at risk of hypothermia. It is sadly very common to visit an elderly person in their home and find them struggling to keep warm. They may be sitting under a blanket or have one wrapped around them. Or they may be looking very cold and have a small electric heater in one room next to them, which is not only inefficient and a fire risk if a blanket falls on the heater, it is also not an adequate form of heating. This then makes the elderly far more vulnerable to pneumonia and flu viruses.

If we find our elderly neighbour in these conditions and they are feeling more drowsy than normal, confused, pale skin or shivering, then we need to contact emergency services or their GP, as they could be starting with hypothermia. In our visits across the county we find that the elderly are stoic in nature and don’t like to bother people. They will seldom raise the alarm themselves. For those living alone and struggling with mobility issues, this can also be too difficult for them to raise the alarm and they may have to wait until a carer comes in later on, which may be too late.

If we are looking after an elderly neighbour, check if they have tinned food and UHT or dried milk in, in case of bad weather. Tinned custards and puddings and fruits, which

are softer in texture and easier to swallow if you have dentures, or dysphagia, difficulty swallowing, are often an excellent way for the elderly to keep energy levels in colder weather.

A small offer of help to someone who is struggling and a small act of kindness, can be live saving to an elderly person facing dark nights alone and a cold house. If the elderly person has a cat or a pet, consider asking if they have food in for their pet. In icy weather this might be difficult for them to be able to bring back.

I thank our Anna Chaplains and Friends for their dedicated work this winter across the county, which will make a huge difference to so many elderly who are isolated.

Sam Pester

Anna Chaplaincy Lead

Anna Chaplaincy for older people Cumbria

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

Ecumenism: Belief, identity and belonging:

A report from the All Ecumenical Representatives Conference in Autumn 2026



CTiC Vice- Chair and Treasurer, Rev Kath Dodd, attended this event and can be spotted left-of-centre on the front row of this photograph!

Almost 100 intermediate ecumenical representatives, working across English counties or cities, gathered together at The Hayes Conference Centre, Swanwick from Tuesday 29 September to Thursday 1 October 2026. These included denominational representatives from national Member churches: Assemblies of God; the Baptist Union; the Catholic Bishops Conference of England and Wales; the Church of England; Churches in Communities; the Congregational Federation; the Council of Lutheran Churches; the Methodist Church; the Oecumenical Patriarchate; the Redeemed Christian Church of God, the Quakers; the Salvation Army; the United Reformed Church and for the first time we were joined by a representative from the Wesleyan Holiness Church.

These representatives serve across England from Cumbria to Cornwall. We also welcomed ecumenical colleagues from Scotland, Wales, the Isle of Man and a visitor from the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Denmark.

The theme of the conference *Ecumenism: Belief, identity and belonging* was particularly timely with contemporary concerns about societal polarisation and the rise of Christian Nationalism. **Churches Together in England Principal Officer for Pentecostal, Charismatic and Multi-cultural Relations Min Shermara Hoyte** shared *Kingdom over Nation* which offers theological and pastoral resources to help church leaders navigate conversations around Christian Nationalism.

Use the following link to learn more about this event and to access more content related to it: https://cte.org.uk/ecumenism-belief-identity-and-belonging/

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.

Have your say: Westmorland and Furness Council Locality Working Arrangements

Westmorland and Furness Council is outlining proposed changes to their locality working arrangements, and offering you the chance to comment on these. They are inviting views on proposals to change its locality working arrangements, including how the Council works with elected Members, communities and partners to respond to local needs and priorities. The aim is to strengthen local influence and support a more community-focused and preventative approach. This engagement exercise is running until 27th November 2026.

Find out more and have your say here:

https://consult.westmorlandandfurness.gov.uk/westmorland-and...

There will also be an online briefing for Voluntary, Community, Faith and Social Enterprise (VCFSE) organisations, which can be accessed using the following link. There is no need to book onto this online meeting.

Monday 9 November 2026, 0930 - 1030 Join briefing

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.

Community Crafting in Arnside







The Craft Nest is run by folk from Arnside Christians Together (ACT) alongside friends from the village school staff team. It emerged out of a desire to combine the joys of crafting with spiritual reflection. *The Craft Nest* provides a space for people to have 'time out', to spend time enjoying being with others, to feel purposeful and creative with their hands – a place for emotional and mental wellbeing as well as spiritual. Halfway

through the evening, we all ‘down tools’ for 5-10 minutes of guided Christian meditation.

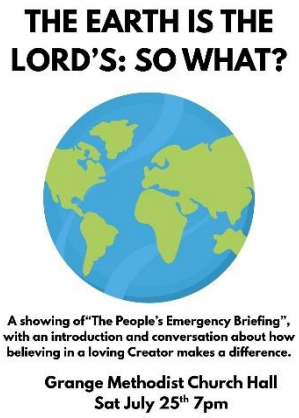
We’ve enjoyed welcoming back many regulars month after month, but it’s great to see people bring along their family and friends too. It’s lovely to see people (99% female!) from about 14 to 84 years old creating and chatting together. Someone said that they feel “able to be themselves” more so at *The Craft Nest* than at other social clubs they attend. Some have even begun attending other events and services that the church put on in the village (including the *Rest & Reset* meditation services – perhaps more on that another time).

The group is monthly and held in the evening in the school hall. Those who come pay an entrance fee (£8) which covers the materials and the refreshments (the venue is very kindly given freely, but we are able to make financial donations to the school and to the church out of what’s left each month).

These photos were taken at our October session, at which we raised over £200 for Combat Stress (an armed forces mental health charity) as we made poppy brooches for Remembrance Sunday.

Rev Hannah Wallace, Assistant Priest

Leading Discussion About Climate in Cartmel Peninsula



What kind of world are we leaving for future generations, and what is ours to do?

The **People’s Emergency Briefing** speaks directly to these questions. Bringing together leading scientists and experts, this powerful 50-minute film explains the challenges facing our planet (across a range of topics such as economy, food, nature and weather) through climate change. But it also offers hope. A different future is possible.

This film has now been shown and discussed in about 50 different communities across Cumbria, including a couple of churches. Could your church host a screening and conversation and offer an opportunity for people of faith to reflect together on what it means to care for God's creation and explore how to respond, individually and collectively? To find screenings already scheduled, have a look at the online screening map here: https://www.nebriefing.org/screening-map
In Grange-over-Sands, following a well-attended public screening, which was also attended by our supportive MP, Tim Farron, we held a further screening of the film at Grange Methodist Church at the end of July, calling it "The Earth is the Lord's – So What?". People joined us from different local churches, including a Quaker from Ulverston who was interested in organising a screening herself.

The group was a mixture of those who had been at earlier screenings, and wanted to think more about the faith angle, and those for whom it was new. The opening presentation included worship and relevant Biblical content. Everyone joined in the discussion afterwards and all agreed that there was much food for further thought and prayer, and that we had hope to offer.

If you're thinking about showing the film, you don't have to do it alone. Contact Helen Attewell at Futureproof Cumbria on helen.attewell@futureproofcumbria.org.uk to be connected with the community of people who have already shown it in Cumbria. We would also be delighted to have a chat with anyone from another church wondering about whether to do it and how to do it with a 'church angle'. Please get in touch with us on edmola11@yahoo.co.uk with any questions.

Hazel and David Edmondson, Cartmel Peninsula Churches Together

With thanks for some content to Annette Hennessy, chair of PEAT (Peninsula Environmental Action Together), with whom we work in close partnership.

Hilda of Whitby
A Poem by Malcolm Guite

Called to a conflict and a clash of cultures,

Where insults flew whilst synod was in session,

You had the gift to find the gift in others,

A woman's wisdom, deftness and discretion.

You made a space and place for poetry

When outcast Caedmon, crouching in the byre,

Was called by grace into community

And local language joined the Latin choir.

Abbess we need your help, we need your wisdom,

Your strong recourse to reconciliation,

Your power tempered by God's hidden kingdom,

Your exercise of true imagination.

Pray for our synods now, princess of peace,

That every fettered gift may find release.

The feast of St Hilda of Whitby is celebrated in mid-November, on different days depending on denomination. A short blog post about her and about the inspiration for this poem can be found here: https://malcolmguite.wordpress.com/2025/11/19/hilda-and-caed...

Spiritual Accompaniment



You, Me and God - journeying together

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

Cumbria Ecumenical Spirituality Group

ARE YOU EMERGENCY READY?

Be Ready

Use the following link to access government advice on being ready for emergency situations, supporting your community during an emergency and how to sign up for the Priority Services Register.

https://beready.campaign.gov.uk/



Help protect your community

Faith Security Training (FST) is a new **FREE** training scheme available for faith communities in England & Wales.

Learn how to help protect your place of worship from anti-social behaviour, crime and serious threats.

Where

You can attend an in-person training session, an online event, or eLearning.

Who

FST is for anyone connected with a place of worship - faith leaders, trustees, staff and volunteers.

Upcoming sessions

09:45-16:30
Monday 23rd November
Kendal Town Hall, Highgate,
Kendal, Cumbria, LA9 4DL

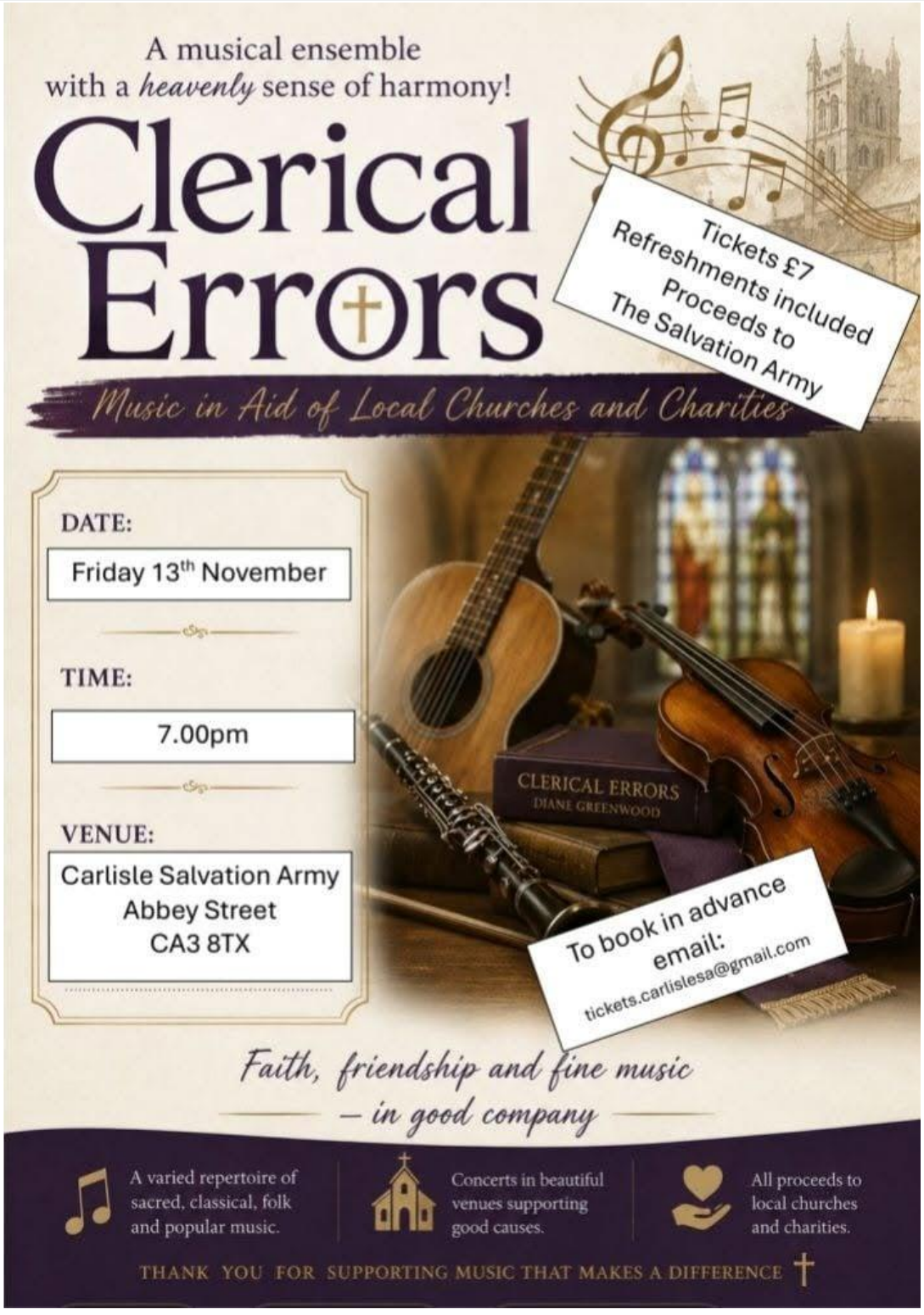
Home Office

cds Support

Sign up online or contact us

01242 542 201
contact@cdssupport.uk
www.fst.cdssupport.uk

FST is an optional resource that you can draw on and is designed to complement, not replace, existing training.



Designated Safeguarding Lead for CTiC

The Designated Safeguarding Lead can be contacted via CTiC Admin (admin@ctic.uk).

CTiC is looking for someone to take on the role of DSL for the future. If you are interested, please do get in touch.

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.)

Joanne Maybury - Cumbria Ecumenical Spirituality Group - assistantcesg@ctic.uk

Community Social Action Team:

Revd Jonny Gios - jonny@ctic.uk

Jo Phillips - jo@ctic.uk

Lois Sparling - lois@ctic.uk

Churches Together in Cumbria

Church House, 19-24 Friargate, Penrith
CA11 7XR
United Kingdom

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