

KESWICK METHODIST CHURCH

# *NEWSLETTER*



*January & February*  
2025

# Church Family News



*A very Happy New Year to everyone!*

I chose the picture of Snowdrops for our cover this New Year as I find it is always a symbol of hope for me that Spring and new life is on the way. The last year has been a cause for much anxiety about our world and the amount of suffering experienced by those who live in those war-torn countries. We are reminded once again that the incarnation that we have just been celebrating is a reminder and symbol of hope, that God is with us always, bringing us hope for the world.

We have been happy to see some new faces in our congregation recently, as well as some regular Lake District visitors. We welcome you all and we look forward to getting to know you.

We were very saddened during December to hear that Paul Grout, our architect for our Vision21 redevelopment, had died suddenly and unexpectedly. We value his work tremendously as we have enjoyed worshipping and working in our refurbished premises. We send our condolences to his family and friends.

We continue to remember in our prayers those members of our congregation who are receiving ongoing medical treatment, all those with continuing conditions that give them concern, and those suffering from the many seasonal illnesses. We pray that we all may be comforted and supported by the presence of God and God's healing love.

Our special Season's Greetings and love we send to those unable to worship with us at this time including Tom Fitzgibbon, Greta Graves and Nigel Barker.

*Joyce*

## *Mary's Guest* - Rosemary Wakelin

*Several people have commented on the following meditation that I used in the service on 15<sup>th</sup> December. It was in fact written by a Methodist Minister who was part of a group of early female ministers, of which I was a part. Ed*

The pain being over, now I feel the loss.  
To see, to touch, caress and kiss can never be the same as when my  
body was your home.  
Then you were mine, and yet not mine.

For when you stirred, (although that was our secret)  
I knew the life contained within me was not me.  
You were my guest, my body housed your need until it grew too great.  
And though, a little while, I sustain you.  
The first painful partings done, from now it is all partings.

From me you learn to walk,  
that you may be the Way that I may learn to tread.  
From me you learn the words,  
that you can speak the Truth that I may comprehend.  
From me you suck the Life, that you can be the Living Bread  
that I may feed upon and live.  
From me you learn the love  
which is the sword that pierces my heart through,  
and nails you to the cross.

In your necessity my dearest dear, you were the guest I entertained.  
Now you are the host and at your table I shall be sustained.



# *A Letter from Sheila Files*



Dear KMC Friends

I apologise for not sending cards individually. Time is running out fast; as always, I am behind with everything!

The church here is very welcoming, though it's hard to remember all the names. At least there are more people to do all the jobs! It has an average congregation of about 100 and there are eight housegroups to choose from! Seeing the Facebook pictures of Keswick's Christmas Tree Festival and the TLC made me feel rather homesick for KMC!

I have included a photo of the house front and back. The front is the one with the patio doors; weird I know! The house needed a lot of work done to it, and it still is not quite finished, but it will be lovely! .....It's such an ideal situation, in a quiet close, with a lovely garden, and very near to Oughton Head Common, so Barney is very happy too! The photo of him shows him behind the gate to the back garden. There is an old sign on it saying "Beware of the Dog"!

I miss the Lake District, both the area and my friends, but I'm very happy to be here. I have a spare bedroom, so visitors will be very welcome when all the boxes are unpacked!

Wishing you all a peaceful Christmas and a happy New Year,  
With much love,  
*Sheila* xx



The front of Sheila's new home

Barney at the gate into the back garden



\* \* \* \* \*

# ***World Day of Prayer International***



**Friday 7th March at 11am**  
**at**  
**Keswick Methodist Church**

Each year women from a different country write the service materials. This year the writing committee is from the **COOK ISLANDS**..

Although prepared and presented by women the service is open to everyone. Women, men and children are all welcome.  
More details to follow.

# Christmas Celebrations



We celebrated Christmas in many ways and with many people. All donations were in aid of **Action for Children**.

Christmas Tree Festival	£1277
Christmas Post Box	£ 31
Christmas Day Offering	£ 118
Total	£ 1426

The **Christmas Tree Festival** seemed as popular as ever, with amazing creativity from the community groups and churches entering the festival. On the Saturday afternoon we were joined by the Keswick Training Brass Band.



The **Thursday Lunch Club Christmas Dinner** was a full house serving 60 people or more. Congratulations to Sally and her team who produced such a wonderful meal.



**The Church Christmas Lunch.** The Church congregation already knew what to expect as we had our Christmas lunch together on the previous Sunday. We had a lovely time of sharing our meal together plus of course including deciphering Helen's Christmas Quiz!



### **Our Christmas Services**

At no time did we forget what it was we were celebrating as we met together for our services on the Sundays during Advent.

#### ***The Christmas Tree Festival***

We had a special service on the Sunday of our Christmas Tree Festival. During the service we heard more of the work of our Christmas Charity *Action for Children*.

#### ***Meditation and Communion***

On the 15<sup>th</sup> December we took time, during all our busyness of preparations for Christmas to pause for a quiet time of reflection and meditation. We read the scriptures telling the story of the birth of Jesus, listened to appropriate music and meditations. This was followed by a simple sharing of Communion together.

#### ***Carol Service***

The following week, 3 days before Christmas, we had our traditional Carol Service of 9 Readings and Carols. It gave us the opportunity to rejoice together at the birth of Jesus and the hope it gave to a war-torn world, both then and now.

#### ***Christmas Day***

A simple service of joy and exultation, giving thanks to God for God's coming in Jesus Christ.



## ***The joys of meeting and greeting at the Christmas Tree Festival***

Dr. Paul Burton and Maria Demaria Pasariba visited our Christmas Tree Festival on the 6<sup>th</sup> December 2024, and as usual it was a wild, wet and windy day.

Maria was from Medan in Sumatra, Indonesia and Paul was born in Bolton

and now lives in Norfolk. Maria is a member of the Christian Protestant Church of Indonesia. While admiring the Christmas Trees, Maria spoke with the wife of her Priest in Medan via a video call. It was very heart-warming to see how much pleasure and excitement our festival of decorated trees and nativity scenes brought to people from across the world but especially in Medan. Paul had met Maria when he worked in Java and Sumatra doing research in Seismology for the University of East Anglia. They have been good friends for many years and were enjoying a short holiday in the Lake District.

Like many other visitors, Maria left hugging a selection of knitted sheep she had bought.

*Sharon Woollard*

*Paul Burton has given his permission for the photograph and text.*



# The Wednesday Group

We meet every 1st & 3rd Wednesdays, 7pm  
at the home of Margaret McQueen.

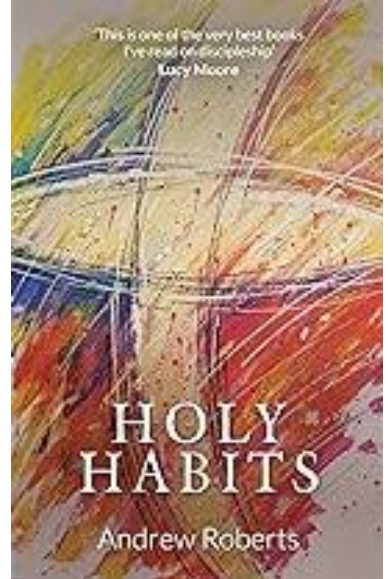
Our next course will start on  
**8<sup>th</sup> January 2025**

when we look forward to exploring  
the book by Andrew Roberts called

## **HOLY HABITS.**

**Please join us if you can**

@ Margaret McQueen's home  
Broad Oaks, Springs Road,  
Keswick, CA12 4AN.  
(the very last house before the farm!)



\* \* \* \* \*



## **Flower Rota**

You are probably aware that I have taken over from Sheila in organising the flowers at church.

If you were on last year's rota, please confirm with me that you are happy to continue, giving me the date you would prefer.

If you would like to join the rota, there are Sundays that are free. Please have a word with me. Unless you prefer otherwise, if you let me have the money I will buy and arrange the flowers for you.

*Ros Roberts*



**Keswick Methodist Church**

I lift up my eyes to the hills....



## **You are invited to come to Thursday Lunch Club (T.L.C)**

A warm welcome awaits you at our  
Thursday Lunch Club at Keswick Methodist Church,  
Southey Street which will take place on  
the third Thursday of every month (except June, July & August)

*Come and enjoy some company, meet some  
new friends and have a two-course hot meal  
followed with entertainment*



**12 noon until 2pm**  
**Lunch served at 12.15pm**  
**Cost £6**



Please call Sally on 07514 687141  
or Anne on 07788 990515  
for more information and to leave  
your name to say you're coming

**Looking forward to seeing you!**

## Lunch Club Dates

Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> January 2025

Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> February 2025

Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2025

Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> April 2025

Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> May 2025

No meeting in June

No meeting in July

No meeting in August

Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> September 2025

Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> October 2025

Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> November 2025

Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> December 2025

*Sally Lunson*

## Thursday Prayer Meeting

Thursdays at 9.30am in the worship area with Jill Sturges and team. All are welcome.



## Some Thoughts for the New Year

- from Margaret's Collection

1. You have made us for yourself and our hearts are restless until they rest in You.  
*St Augustine*
2. The past is memory; the future is hope;  
Today – the present – now is a gift.
3. In simplicity and joy there is great peace.

*And finally:*

4. You never know the strength of the tea bag until you pour boiling water on it !  
*Eleanor Roosevelt*

# CHARITY COFFEE MORNINGS

It's wonderful to be able to invite you back to our Monthly Coffee Mornings in 2025 which are held on the FOURTH Saturday of the month.

**Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> January**  
**10am - 12noon**

This month we are raising money for the Circuit Charity

## CUMBRIA AGRICULTURAL CHAPLAINCY

Agriculture is a large and important part of our community in Cumbria and encompasses many people . The Cumbria Agricultural Chaplaincy is there to value , help and support EVERYONE in the agricultural community

Do join us for delicious treats, cakes, bric a brac and raffle in a cosy atmosphere, amongst friends !

\* \* \* \* \*

In FEBRUARY our Coffee Morning will be on

**Saturday 22nd February**  
**10am-12noon**

We will be raising money for our **CHURCH ROOF APPEAL**

Any offers of help ( see Church Notice Board or Pauline) , baking or regifted items will be very much appreciated for both events .

We look forward to seeing you there!

*Pauline Huggan* 😊





# *Knitted Bible Exhibition*



## **At Keswick Methodist Church Easter 2025**

Provisional dates to  
be confirmed,  
but definitely  
some time during  
**16<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> April**



Please put the dates in your diary and help us in whatever way you can. It really is an "all hands on deck" event. More details will follow shortly. It will be a super exciting opportunity for us all at KMC to share the bible stories with our visitors and to be witnesses to our faith.



## Dates for your Diary

<b>Wed</b>	<b>8 Jan</b>	<b>7pm</b> Wednesday Group
<b>Thurs</b>	<b>16 Jan</b>	<b>12.15 – 2pm</b> Thursday Lunch Club
<b>Sun</b>	<b>19 Jan</b>	<b>10.30am</b> Covenant Service
<b>Sat</b>	<b>25 Jan</b>	<b>10am – 12 noon</b> Coffee Morning for <b>CUMBRIA AGRICULTURAL CHAPLAINCY</b>
<b>Sun</b>	<b>16 Feb</b>	<b>2pm</b> Circuit Service at the United Church, Workington
<b>Thu</b>	<b>20 Feb</b>	<b>12.15 – 2pm</b> Thursday Lunch Club
<b>Sat</b>	<b>22 Feb</b>	<b>10am – 12noon</b> Coffee Morning for <b>CHURCH ROOF FUND</b>
<b>Mon</b>	<b>3 March</b>	<b>1.30pm</b> (to be confirmed) Church Council
<b>Fri</b>	<b>7 March</b>	<b>11.00am</b> World Day of Prayer Prepared by the women of the Cook Islands

## Campfire Conversations

As part of the preparations for the new Cumbria Circuit, conversations are being held around the circuits to chat about what people are hoping to see in the new Circuit. There are 2 opportunities in Western Fells:

**25th January: Keswick beginning at midday**

1st February: Seascale beginning at midday

All welcome to share the conversation.

More details to follow in the new year.

*Nick*

# Services for January & February

## 10.30am

Jan 5	Helen Herbert	Morning Worship
Jan 12	Church Members	Taize Worship
Jan 19	Rev Nick Baker	Covenant Service + Communion
Jan 26	Church Members	Morning Worship
Feb 2	Brian Pateman	Morning Worship
Feb 9	Rev David Hasson	Holy Communion
Feb 16	10.30am Church Members 2pm at United Church Workington	Morning Worship
Feb 23	Lilian Dixon	Morning Worship



**Minister:** Rev Nick Baker 01900823273  
[nicholas.baker@methodist.org.uk](mailto:nicholas.baker@methodist.org.uk)

**Deacon :** Deacon Samm Morris  
[Samm.morris@methodist.org.uk](mailto:Samm.morris@methodist.org.uk)

**Contact Steward:** Anne Hasson 017687 75818  
[annehasson@aol.com](mailto:annehasson@aol.com)

**Editor:** Rev Joyce Ellis 017687 73340  
[joyce.ellis@zen.co.uk](mailto:joyce.ellis@zen.co.uk)

The deadline for the next newsletter, which will be for March & April, (Lent & Easter), is Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> February 2024