

KESWICK METHODIST CHURCH

Southey St, CA12 4HH

NEWSLETTER



One of my favourite spots in Keswick - Joyce

Lent & Easter

2025

March, April & May

Church Family News



We were delighted to share her 100th Birthday with Margaret Shortland on 19th January and offer her our congratulations.

Margaret's family gathered to celebrate the day with her. Happy special birthday to Helen North too as she catches up with husband Richard!

It has been lovely to welcome Sue Irving and Sandra Pryor (with assistance dog Timmy) who have been worshipping with us recently and of course several of our returning visitors and those visiting us for the first time.

I am sure that I am speaking for many in our congregation in wanting to say how much we have appreciated the services that have been organised and led by the members of our leadership team. 'Local Arrangements' appear on the plan now as we do not have enough local preachers in the circuit to cover all our churches every week. I know that the leadership team have been very unsure whether they could manage this, but they definitely have. We are very fortunate to have so many people to call on.

But there are several more we have not heard from and I am sure would find it very rewarding to be involved in the planning of the services! As you will see in May we have a Christian Aid service. I have volunteered to lead a group to plan this service. Christian Aid always makes a wide range of resources to choose from and I would love to hear from any of you who would like to be involved in putting the service together – now is your chance to try it out!

As ever we would like to send our love and prayers to those of our members who are no longer able to worship with us, including Tom Fitzgibbon, Greta Grave and Nigel Barker'

Joyce

We would like to thank *Brenda Ousby* for her kind gift of beautiful nativity figures for our Christmas celebrations. It is much appreciated.



World Day of Prayer

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.

CUMBRIA---FAIRTRADE NETWORK

Spring Meeting & AGM
St Bee's Village Hall
Saturday 15th March 10.15 for
10.45
Fairtrade refreshments.
All are welcome





May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.' *Romans 15:13*

Dying crops means food stops

In Guatemala, the climate crisis is killing Amelia's precious crops. She relies on the land to feed her eight-year-old son, Lázaro, and four-year-old daughter, Yakelin.

Amelia says: 'I worry about what my children will eat.'

A river passes through Amelia's farm, but deadly heatwaves are causing it to run dangerously low. Both communities and crops stand to lose life-giving water.



The cruel injustice is that Indigenous communities like Amelia's have done the least to cause the climate crisis, yet they endure its impact the most. As their farms are devastated, the search for solutions becomes critical: 'With high heat, there is little we can do but adapt.'

Amelia's hopeful that she can combat extreme weather by changing the way she farms. With the support of specialist training from our partner, Congcoop, Amelia's planting resilient crops, conserving water and making fertiliser.

Amelia's also a leader in her community, sharing her knowledge with other households, so that one day, no family will worry about their children going without food. This is the unstoppable power of Amelia's hope in action.

Christian Aid, now in its 80th year, and its supporters are joining together once again during Christian Aid Week (11-17 May) to fundraise in all kinds of ways – from coffee mornings and craft stalls to hiking and biking for the 70k in May challenge. Every gift, act and prayer counts.

Will you demonstrate the unstoppable power of hope and help fund vital tools and training, so farmers like Amelia can push back against the climate crisis and beat hunger?

* * * * *

I do not know if any of you saw this article in the Guardian. When I read it I was appalled. It brought home to me just how necessary Aid was to so many people in the world. It made me more determined than ever to continue supporting Aid agencies, & especially Christian Aid. *Joyce*

Gordon Brown

Guardian 7th February 2025

Be clear about what Trump and Musk's aid axe will do: people will face terror and starve, many will die.

An earthquake of magnitude 7.0 or above could not have caused more carnage. Recent floods in Asia and droughts in Africa have been catastrophic, yet they have inflicted less damage and affected fewer people than the sudden withdrawal of billions of dollars of US aid from the world's most volatile hotspots and its vulnerable people.....

USAid cuts – which will see funding slashed and just 290 of the more than 10,000 employees worldwide retained, have already begun this week. We have seen the halting of the landmine-clearing work in Asia, support for war veterans and independent media in Ukraine, and assistance for Rohingya refugees on the border of Bangladesh. This week, drug deliveries to fight the current mpox and Ebola outbreaks in Africa have stopped, life-saving food lies rotting at African ports, and even initiatives targeting trafficking have been cut back. One of the world's most respected charities, Brac, says that the 90 day blanket ban on helping vulnerable people is depriving 3.5 million people of vital services.

Gordon Brown is the UN's special envoy for global education.

Thoughts from The Wednesday Group

The course 'Holy Habits' is proving to be interesting, thought-provoking and enjoyable to the members of the Wednesday Group. I quote:

We are committed to a rhythm of life which flows from 3 core values:

INNOVATION – breaking new ground and planning for the future

IMAGINATION- dreaming God's vision for what church could become

INCARNATION – immersed in our communities in the name of Christ

Plenty to think about there! The second of these core values – imagination – reminded me of the following.

I dream of a Church Kate Compton

I dream of a church that joins in with God's laughing

As she rocks in her rapture, enjoying her art:

She's glad of her world, in the risking and growing

'Tis the child she has borne and holds close to her heart.

I dream of a church that joins in with God's weeping
as she crouches, weighed down by the sorrow she sees,
she cries for the hostile, the cold and no-hoping,
for she bears in herself our despair and did-ease.

I dream of a church that joins in with God's dancing
as she moves like the wind and the wave and the fire,
a church that can pick up its skirts, pirouetting
with the steps that can signal God's deepest desire.

I dream of a church that joins in with God's loving
as she bends to embrace the unlovely and lost,
a church that can free by its sharing and daring,
the imprisoned and poor, and then shoulder the cost.

God makes us a church that joins in with your living,
as you cherish and challenge, reign in and release,
a church that is winsome, impassioned, inspiring,
lioness of your justice and lamb of your peace.

'Dare to Dream' in A Prayer & Worship Anthology from Around the World

Margaret McQueen

Keswick Convention 2025 Planning Meeting

On Thursday 6th March 7pm, at Holly bank, Thornthwaite, we'll be **holding a meeting** that we



usually have at this time of year to discuss arrangements for the Convention (Sat 12th July – Fri 1st August) and our three weeks of refreshments.

This meeting is open to any of you who would like to come and to be part of the planning group, which at the moment consists of Anne, David, Sally, Pauline and myself. There are many jobs to do during the lead

up and during the three weeks so we would value your input and involvement in any way that you can.



We would also appreciate any feedback that you might have about last year's Convention Refreshments i.e. what you felt worked well, what didn't work quite so well and any improvements you think could be made. It would be really useful to have the feedback before we meet, so please email me or have a

word with me at church. If you'd like to come to the meeting as well, please let me know. Thank you.

Helen North

Keswick Leadership Team Update

We continue to meet monthly to discuss all aspects of church life. As always we have been very busy since the last meeting organising worship, especially Local Arrangements, preparing for Christmas, keeping on top of the Eco roof work, having site meetings and having an oversight on the pastoral side of the church as well.

We are still few in number with no one coming forward to be a steward since the last CC meeting, so the appeal to everybody to think seriously about whether they are able to offer to take on a stewarding role in some form or another still stands.

We do need people who are able to lead and organise, so please have a think about what you might be able to offer, otherwise many things that we have been used to doing, may have to be reduced or even dropped. Please have a word with one of the Leadership team about any roles that you think you might be able to take on."

Worship

Local Arrangements

As you know we are having to organise several 'Local Arrangements' ourselves and are learning quite a lot in the process! (much appreciated by everyone. ed.) The opening for a small Worship group to meet regularly to organise these services still remains, allowing the leadership team time to focus on other issues!

Receiving Communion

Over the last few months, we have been trialling different styles of receiving Communion, from the traditional coming to stand at the front of the church, to coming forward and sitting on the front row, or staying in our seats and having the elements brought to us. This has been done so we can try to be inclusive of everyone's needs; however, we know that one style does not suit all. So the leadership team will be speaking with everyone to get feedback and more discussion will be had thereafter.

'Try Praying' Booklets

We have agreed to join in with a Churches Together in Keswick initiative this spring, which is being done nationwide, to have a supply of "Try Praying" booklets available to give to our congregation & visitors to our church. Each booklet is a 7 day prayer guide aimed at those who are not religious, but interested in knowing more about the Christian faith. People are encouraged to read it then, by praying for a God given opportunity, to pass it on to friends, colleagues or neighbours.

Church Life

Our Regular Activities

You will see from their pages, in this, and previous editions of the **Newsletter**, that our regular activities all seem to be well supported and appreciated.

The Prayer Group, **The Wednesday group**, **Thursday Lunch Club (T.L.C)** and **The Saturday Charity Coffee mornings**.

We also have

The Fundraising group organise events with the ongoing responsibility of raising funds for the Roof Project. Also they have organised the return of the hugely popular Knitted Bible Exhibition over Easter 25, as well as the fantastic coffee mornings .

The Gardening Group have been busy over the years, maintaining and improving the planters and the car park garden. However, with Sheila having stepped down from the role of Garden Co-ordinator, we are now very grateful to Sharon Woollard who has very recently agreed to having a go at taking this on. Please look out for messages to come along and support Sharon in making the garden areas look neat, tidy & beautiful.

The Property Committee continue to meet approx. 3 times a year to look after the building and contents at KMC.

Hospitality and Events

2025 Quiz night By the time you read this the event will have taken place. Thanks again to everyone for their support in making this event happen and raising funds for the Eco Roof appeal.

World Day of Prayer service at 11am on Friday 7th March, KMC will again host this popular service to which everyone is welcome from all the churches.

“Soup & Roll” Lent Lunch Looking forward to Lent & Easter, the Leadership team have arranged to have, a soup and roll lunch after morning worship all through Lent, starting on 9th March up to and including Palm Sunday. We will invite the preachers on each of these Sundays in Lent to stay and lead a post lunch discussion linked with the Methodist Church’s “Soul Food” campaign for Lent & Easter. Lunch sign-up sheets & more information will be available very soon.

Spring cleaning Working Party has been arranged at KMC for Saturday 5th April. We need your help to clean in and around our church and share in the workload of keeping this, our church, in good condition for all of us, our user groups and visitors.

Knitted Bible stories exhibition Also over the Easter period we will, once again, be hosting this exhibition from 16th to 26th April. Admission is free and there will be refreshments available and a programme to buy. Each exhibit will come with an information board and (we hope) an accompanying prayer/pause for thought/reflection. Volunteers will be needed to welcome our guests to this event, prepare refreshments and staff the fundraising stalls etc. Look out for sign-up sheets and more information coming out soon on this event.

KMC General Church meeting will be held on Sunday 27th April after the bring and share lunch which follows morning worship.

Fellowship Lunch The leadership team are hoping that a fellowship lunch, at the Mary Mount Hotel, will be repeated again, sometime in May or June maybe, as there have been several requests, following the success of the last get together in 2024.

Keswick Christian Convention Arrangements are in hand to co-ordinate the events at KMC supporting this annual event from 12th July to 1st August and providing refreshments as well as our much appreciated hospitality.

Church family Christmas meal Due to holiday/family/other commitments, the Leadership team will not be in a position to organise the meal at KMC in December 2025. We do hope that others in the congregation will be willing to co-ordinate this instead or volunteer to find a hotel or restaurant to go to instead. Again a more detailed request will come out via the newsletter and/or weekly notices in the future.

Sally Lunson (on behalf of the Leadership Team)

Knitted Bible Exhibition

**Keswick Methodist Church
16th – 26th April**



Update on Grange Methodist Church. "The Borrowdale Story."

Following a wet and dismal summer, the autumn and winter hasn't disappointed us with a range of tempestuous and challenging weather. "Is the roof still on Grange?" was one of my concerns!



The Chapel has continued to have many visitors, whether viewing the exhibition, sheltering from the rain and noting the wildlife spotted on their walks. Many leave pictures or notes of thanks

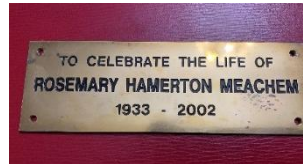
1st November: "My husband and I were married here on the 1st November 1997 by Rev. Keith Rushton. It is lovely to return here. Isabel and John from Manchester."

Emmie Mounsey now 93 years young is in good form, so Church Friend's visits are always a delight.



The Circuit is selling the Methodist Church in Distington. In amongst the items left in the Church I found the cross from the communion table. It is now on the Communion table at Grange Chapel.

On the closure of Grange MC the organ was relocated to Newlands Church which has now ceased to worship. The organ has found a new home and the memorial plate has been returned to Grange. Thank you to Dave and Ros for liaising with Pete the Church Warden.



I think this is all the news for now.

Best wishes from those up the valley,

Sharon Woollard

Ros Roberts Shares A Special Poem

Last summer I went to Kew Gardens with my daughter and granddaughter. On our exit through the inevitable gift shop, I offered to buy the 7 year old Anwen one item.

She came back with a book (yeah this is my granddaughter). It turned out to be a book of what I can only describe as motivational poems !

On the way home she really got the giggles reading this one out loud and I must admit I appreciate the sentiment as well . In later weeks she had to be persuaded not to offer this advice freely to her teacher (or any other adult !), but we do all now try to “ *face the world with grace and charm* “

Settle your Kettle



Now and then you'll meet someone who's out to test your mettle
And you might feel an anger rise and bubble like a kettle.

A surging urge to go berserk and sting them like a nettle
But wait a beat, before you pour, just let your kettle settle.

Take a walk, or count to 10.

A deep breath in ... and out again.

I know it's hard, of course it is, but all those scalding bubbles
Rarely get you anywhere, but into further trouble.

So let your kettle settle, and once your water's calm
You'll find you're better placed to face the world
with grace and charm.

CHARITY COFFEE MORNINGS

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

Saturday 29th March

10am - 12noon

This month we are raising money for the

KESWICK YOUTH CENTRE SERVICES

The KYCS is a local charity which manages the Youth club in Keswick . It aims to provide young people with somewhere to go, something to do and someone to talk to.

We had a very successful start to this year's Coffee Mornings in January. The hall was full ,the conversation lively and the cakes delicious ! A magnificent **£383.24 was raised for the Circuit Charity-Cumbria Agricultural Chaplaincy.**

Many thanks to all who contributed either with help on the day, baking or gift donations. We hope you will be able to support us in our forthcoming events.

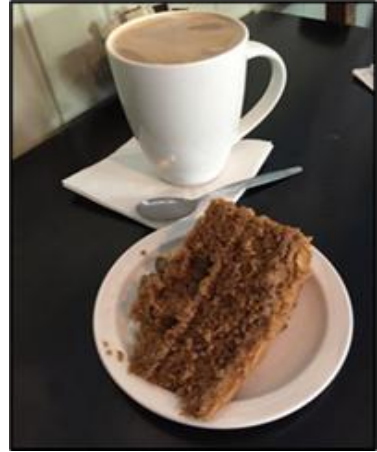
Saturday, 26th April 10am-12noon

Fundraising for
ECO CHURCH ROOF APPEAL

If you have not already had an opportunity to visit The Knitted Bible Exhibition, this is also the final day of this wonderful hand-crafted display.

Saturday, 24th May , 10am-12noon
Fundraising for
CHRISTIAN AID

Christian Aid this year will focus on the poverty in Guatemala where they have been affected by climate changes.



Talks to Complete our Mealtimes Together



In **January**, we had a very interesting talk about the 10,000 Daffodil installation at Lowther Castle sometime ago and that too was



a very well attended TLC. We were also very lucky to be gifted one of the ceramic daffodils, which, for the eagle eyed amongst you, is currently residing in the welcome area. Make sure you go and have a look at it if you've not seen it yet! This may not be the best home for it, so all suggestions welcome 😊

In February we were invited to share with Richard North his Pilgrimage Walk along St Cuthbert's Way last year. We followed him from Melrose to Lindisfarne, Holy Island where he walked the end crossing the sands (with the tide out!) in bare feet. He shared his thoughts along his pilgrimage, in fair weather and foul! Thank you Richard for a fascinating talk.



Looking forward to the rest of the year – the details below give an indication of the menus to look forward to and our booked speakers’

Menu Plan & After lunch speaker

20th March 2025 (Keswick Foodshare – Jean Murray)

Cottage Pie, peas & broccoli V= Hunters potato topped pie
Fruit Strudel & Custard

17th April 2025 (Cycling around the world – Nigel Rowe)

Chicken pasta bake & mixed vegetables V= Vegetable pasta bake
Cornetto

15th May 2025 (Under Skiddaw Ukuleles)

Quiche, New Potatoes, peas & coleslaw V= Vegetable quiche
Cornetto
Tinned Fruit & Ice Cream

A Reminder: June, July & August 2025 – No Lunch Club

Sally



This month's appeal.

- Tinned tomatoes
- Rice pudding, Custard (tinned)
- Tinned meat (e.g. stew, meatballs, bolognaise)
- UHT Milk- (semi skimmed and whole)
- UHT Fruit juice

We also accept basic toiletries such as soap and toothpaste.

Unfortunately, we cannot accept donations of infant formula or baby food.



Use the **BanktheFood** app to get updated of our latest food appeals.



Old Postcards for Mission Aviation Fellowship

Do you have any old postcards lying around that you no longer want? These can either be used or unwritten, pretty views, advertising, naughty, joking Whatever the topic or condition they can be sold to raise funds for MAF.

Mission Aviation Fellowship is a Christian mission organisation that uses planes to overcome barriers to transport, such as poor or non-existent roads.

Jungles, mountains, swamps, insecurity and dilapidated infrastructure are all barriers to people receiving physical and spiritual care and a hope for the future. MAF pilots and personnel deliver relief workers, doctors, pastors, school books, food, medicines – everything that can only be safely and speedily transported by air

Please put any any cards in the box in the entrance hall or, if you have a large bundle, give them directly to Nancy Powell Davies. Thank You.

Nancy

Dates for your Diary

Mon 3 March	1.30pm Church Council
Fri 7 March	11am World Day of Prayer Prepared by the women of the Cook Islands
Wed 12 Mar	7pm Spring Circuit Meeting at Egremont
Sat 15 Mar	10.15 for 10.45am Cumbria Fairtrade Network AGM at St Bees Village Hall.
Thu 20 Mar	12.15 pm Thursday Lunch Club
Sat 29 Mar	10 - 12noon Coffee Morning
16 – 26 Apr	Knitted Bible Exhibition
17th April	12.15 – 2pm Thursday Lunch Club (TLC)
26th April	10 - 12noon Coffee Morning 9.15 – 15.30 NWMD Representatives Synod
27th April	Lunch and General Church Meeting
15th May	12.15 – 2pm Thursday Lunch Club (TLC)
24th May	10 – 12 noon Coffee Morning
17th June	7pm Summer Circuit Meeting. Venue TBA

For all Holy Week and Easter Services, please see inside back cover.

Flower Rota for March, April and May

Mar 2 Joyce Ellis
Mar 9 Pauline Huggan
Mar 16 Alan Smith
Mar 23 Joan Boothroyd
Mar 30

April 6	May 4 Sue Graham
April 13 Margaret McQueen	May 11
April 20 Easter Day	May 18 Valerie Redpath
April 27 Margaret Shortland	May 25

We thank everyone who has helped to make our church attractive and welcoming by providing the flowers each week in church. However, you will notice that there are a few gaps in the rota. If you feel you would like to contribute in this way, please have a word with Ros Roberts. Ros will buy the flowers for you and will arrange them, though she is very happy to let you arrange them, if you prefer.

(Ed)

Keswick Methodist Church on the Internet
www.keswickmethodistchurch.org.uk

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The deadline for the next newsletter, which will be for June, July & August, is Sunday 27th April 2025

Holy Week and Easter Services

Palm Sunday 13 April Rev David Hasson
10.30am including *Distribution of Palms*

Maundy Thursday 17 April
7pm **The Last Supper & Tenebrae**
Holy Communion - Rev J Ellis

Good Friday 18 April
10am **Service & Meditation – Rev David Hasson**
11am **Churches Together Walk of Witness**
meet by Theatre Car Park

Easter Day 20 April
6.30am Sunrise Service at Crow Park
10.30am Easter Holy Communion with Rev Nick Baker

Services for March, April, May 2025

March 2	10.30am	Members	Morning Worship
Lent 1			
March 9	10.30am	Rev Wendy Kilworth-Mason	H.C.
Lent 2			
March 16	10.30am	Viv Kendall	Morning Worship
Lent 3			
March 23	10.30am	Nancy Powell-Davies	Morning Worship
Lent 4			
March 30	10.30am	Deacon Samm Morris	Mothering Sunday
Lent 5			
April 6	10.30am	John Wilson	Morning Worship
Palm Sunday			
April 13	10.30am 3pm	Rev David Hasson Circuit Service at Egremont	Morning Worship
Easter Day			
April 20	10.30am	Rev Nick Baker	Holy Communion
April 27	10.30am	Members	Morning Worship
May 4	10.30am	Deacon Anne Taylor	Morning Worship
May 11	10.30am Afternoon	Members Circuit Service – venue to be announced	Morning Worship
May 18	10.30am	Joyce Ellis + Members	Christian Aid
May 25	10.30am	Rev Nick Baker	Holy Communion

Ministers: Rev Nick Baker 01900 823273
superintendent@westernfells.uk

Deacon Samm Morris 01900381789
samm.morris@methodist.org.uk

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