

Newsletter and Plan

March to May 2025



Photograph courtesy of Matthew & Amy Emmott

**KIRKBY STEPHEN, APPLEBY
& TEBAY METHODIST CIRCUIT**



North West England District (01/17)

'Our mission is to know Jesus and make him known'

From the Manse

This isn't goodbye.....

This is my last letter in the Kirkby Stephen, Appleby and Tebay Circuit Plan, and indeed after Easter day my name stops appearing in the grid as I go on Sabbatical.

Already people have started to say goodbye, which feels very strange given I still have another 6 months here at the time of writing. Nevertheless, the time is coming where I will be restationed in Ponteland near Newcastle, and I really do have to say goodbye.

I don't find goodbye easy. There feels like there is something final about it all, despite our world being more connected than ever. Living in Appleby has shaped me, and moving from here will shape me again. The relationships that have been formed will inevitably change, even if I pray that they won't end. I will of course come back to visit, but it will no longer be home. With this move comes great joy, but also sadness and frustrations. I still want to be part of what is going on and what God is doing here!

For the Apostle Paul, he also was an itinerant preacher, travelling from place to place, never really being able to be where he wanted to be, but always going where he was called to be. We can occasionally see these frustrations in his letters. When he writes to the Galatians, Paul is noticing a conflict going on and wants to be there to sort it out, put everything right again. He writes 'I wish I could be present with you now and change my tone, because I am perplexed by you!' (Gal 4:20). Of course I may feel less perplexed than Paul did but will still care for all that is going on in people's lives here and in the church communities.

I find it important to remember that in Christ there really is no such thing as goodbye. The community of Christ we are baptised into is a one of unity, not just within local communities but across the world. This is a present reality and a future hope, which we will experience with all God's people, past and future, as we look forward to the day when all will be well.

Of course, our present reality and belief don't always feel matched up, whether that is because of the reality of distant relationships or fractured ones. Indeed, the prayer of Christ for us and the "God for All" initiative across Cumbria is for the Church to more fully embody the Kingdom reality in a church which has too often been corrupted by the world's and humanities divisive ways. When we start healing those relationships and putting God first, then it may be that we see the reality of a united Church in Christ, which even death cannot separate.

I pray that as these changes take place, changes of which Cumbria is at the prophetic front line, we will see God glorified through our churches as we all more beautifully reflect the kingdom of God.

God Bless you all.

Rev Andrew Sterling



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Staff Rest Days**Ministers**

Rev Stephen Radford	Friday
Rev Andrew Sterling	Saturday

Circuit Administrator

Mrs Avril Swinbank	Friday, Saturday, Sunday
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Circuit Connexion Services

9th March	6.30pm	Compassion Service at Appleby Parish Church
13th April	6.30pm	Connexion Service at Kirkby Stephen
11th May	6.30pm	Easter Offering Service at Appleby

Please look out for notices nearer the time giving more details of these services.

Website Addresses**Circuit Website**

Methodist Church Website
NW England District Methodist Website

www.ksaandtcircuit.org.uk

www.methodist.org.uk
www.nwedmethodists.org.uk

HOW link <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC6iZVadGymIBC04aEEOJryw>



Please look at the website for latest news.
If you are on Facebook please "Like" our Kirkby Stephen, Appleby & Tebay Methodist Circuit page and keep up to date with our latest news!

Report from Eve

Hello all,

I am happy to report that youth work in the Circuit is going well and both Appleby Youth Group and Recharge (the lunch club in Appleby Grammar) are still going strong. We definitely have our regulars but seem to get new visitors quite often at both events, which is really lovely.

We also have a smaller youth group that meets on a Sunday in the Sands which is more discipleship orientated. One thing that has been really rewarding to see is the continued connection between the teens in Appleby and the teens from other parts of Cumbria who they went to 3Gen with. I am looking forward to seeing how we can connect together in the future and continue to build relationships with other youth groups.

I am excited to report that we have started a new project in Kirkby Stephen, practising journalling as a way to explore wellbeing and mindfulness with teens. This was Pam Carter's brilliant idea, as a way of giving teens a creative outlet to explore things that they might be struggling with. We have been given the go ahead by Appleby Grammar School to set one up there as well as an after-school club. I am excited about the promise that these projects hold. I have recently had a meeting with the Head Teacher at Kirkby Stephen Grammar School and am looking forward to building more connections there.

I am looking forward to the future and continuing to set up new projects and to support and grow the already existing ones.

As of January, my hours have been increased and I will now be getting involved with children's work as well as young people's work, which is really exciting and I am looking forward to Primary School assemblies and all of the Messy Churches to come!

The things to keep in your prayers would be: the teens that we already have connection with, that they might be positively challenged and start to explore faith in their own way and have fun! For the new projects, that we would reach the right people and build meaningful relationships with them. And finally, wisdom for the future on when and where to start new things.

All the best,
Eve

**O Lord, I trust in you. I declare, 'You are my God.' My times are in
your hands.**

Psalm 31:14, 15

Eternal flame,
before all, beyond all –
Lord not just of the day, the week, the month, the year,
but of centuries,
millennia,
aeons defying comprehension:
of time itself –
I put my past, my present, my future, into your hands,
for there alone it truly belongs.
You are my origin ... and my goal,
my start ... and finish,
my beginning ... and ending,
my journey ... and destination,
my history ... and expectation,
my seedtime ... and harvest,
my blossom ... and fruit,
my potential ... and fulfilment,
my life ... and death.
Always you are with me;
always I will be with you;
no place,
no person,
no era,
no moment,
being outside of your love.
In that assurance I commit myself and my loved ones,
this and every day,
into your hands,
your everlasting care.
Amen.



Prayer courtesy of Nick Fawcett

Regular events/meetings at Chapel's

Orton – drop in Coffee Morning every Wednesday 10.30 – 12.00 run by the community in association with the Chapel.

Bible study – share with N on L

Appleby – Monthly prayer meeting on the first Wednesday of the month at 10.15am then at 11.00am we have the monthly midweek communion service.

Ladies Friendship Group meet monthly normally on the third Thursday at 1.30pm.

Noah's Boat (0-4 year olds) meet every Monday in term time from 9am-10.30am

Messy Church meets about every 5/6 weeks... see Facebook page for more details.

Little Songbirds

We meet Tuesday 9.30 ish -11a.m (term time only) at Kirkby Stephen Methodist Church Hall.

Singing and musical activities for children from birth to preschool age.

Voluntary contribution of £1.00 up to 6 months, £2.00 per child OR £2.50 per family.

No problem if you can't pay as no one is checking!!

Contact Margaret Harris 07854155142 for more details.

Newbiggin on Lune

"Little Lambs" is held at Newbiggin Chapel every Monday morning in term time from 10 – 11.30 a.m.

It is for any children under school age (we currently have quite a few regulars with children under 1 years old).

It's £2 entry (plus 50p per extra child).



Anyone interested in coming can contact Debra Capstick on 07739865043 or find our Facebook page for updates.

Come together.....

For "Worship and the Word"

Praise, Worship & exploring the Bible

On Sunday, 27th April at 6.30pm

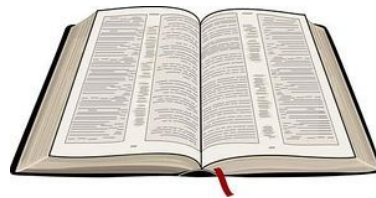
Newbiggin On Lune Methodist Church

Speaker: Angela Mills
(Capernwray)

For further details contact Rowland and Rachel Woof - 015396 24372
Or Wilf Capstick on 015396 23600

Lectionary

2 Mar	Exodus 34:29-35, Psalm 99, 2 Cor 3:12-4:2, Luke 9:28-36, (37-43a)
9 Mar	Deut 26:1-11, Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16, Romans 10:8b-13, Luke 4:1-13
16 Mar	Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18, Psalm 27, Philippians 3:17-4:1, Luke 13:31-35 or Luke 9:28-36, (37-43a)
23 Mar	Isaiah 55:1-9, Psalm 63:1-8, 1 Corinthians 10:1-13, Luke 13:1-9
30 Mar	Joshua 5:9-12, Psalm 32, 2 Corinthians 5:16-21, Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32
6 Apr	Isaiah 43:16-21, Psalm 126, Philippians 3:4b-14, John 12:1-8
13 Apr	Isaiah 50:4-9a, Psalm 31:9-16, Philippians 2:5-11, Luke 22:14-23:56 or Luke 23:1-49
20 Apr	Acts 10:34-43 or Isaiah 65:17-25, Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24, 1 Corinthians 15:19-26 or Acts 10:34-43, John 20:1-18 or Luke 24:1-12
27 Apr	Acts 5:27-32, Psalm 118:14-29 or Psalm 150, Revelation 1:4-8, John 20:19-31
4 May	Acts 9:1-6, (7-20), Psalm 30, Revelation 5:11-14, John 21:1-19
11 May	Acts 9:36-43, Psalm 23, Revelation 7:9-17, John 10:22-30
18 May	Acts 11:1-18, Psalm 148, Revelation 21:1-6, John 13:31-35
25 May	Acts 16:9-15, Psalm 67, Revelation 21:10, 22-22:5, John 14:23-29 or John 5:1-9



Circuit Calendar

March

1st 10.00 - 11.30am K S - Coffee Morning
2nd 10.30am Orton - Visit of Sam Stockill, Leprosy Mission

April

5th 10.00 - 11.30am K S - Coffee Morning
17th 7.00pm K S - Maundy Thursday Service
18th 10.00am K S - Good Friday Svce & Walk of Witness
18th Appleby - Good Friday Service
27th 6.30pm N on Lune - Worship & the Word

May

3rd 10.00 - 11.30am K S - Coffee Morning
3rd 7.30pm N on Lune - Chapel Anniversary - D Bennett
10th 2.00 - 4.00pm Soulby - Crafts & Cream Teas in V Hall
17th 10.00 - 11.30am B Sowerby - Charity Coffee Morning

Mid-week Services and Prayer Meetings

Appleby Monthly Communion Service on 1st Wed each month.

B Sowerby Fortnightly Bible Study Tuesday Evening 7pm
Information Available from David on 017683 41223

K Stephen Fortnightly Bible Study Wednesday Morning 10.30am
Information from Heather on 017683 71202
Tuesday Weekly Prayer Meeting at 12.00pm

Kirkby Stephen section prayer meeting
First Wednesday of each month at 6.45pm at Kirkby Stephen

N on Lune, Ravenstonedale & Orton Bible Study
Information from Wilf on 015396 23600

PRAYER POINTS



Where is God in the world today?

The world is racked with wars, fires devour cities and destroy homes, schools and hospitals. So many people are lost and afraid. There are floods, tornados, sickness and pain and yet... there is so much love, so much kindness and hope comes afresh with every sunrise. God **is** here in every place.

As we prepare to celebrate Easter once more let us rejoice in the closeness of our mighty God who is both Father and Mother to us. In Hosea he speaks of being, *'Like a mother bear being robbed of her cubs'* and in Deuteronomy of being *'Like an eagle that stirs up its nest and hovers over its young.'* In the words of Jesus in Matt 23:39 we read.

*'How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings and **you were not willing**'*

There is such tenderness and compassion in these words, such a longing for people to stop trying to do it all under their own steam and to trust in Him our Creator, Father, Mother and friend. A longing for us to invite Him into every aspect of our lives.

Let us come into His presence now and in a few moments of silence open ourselves to enjoy that love and feel his incomparable peace... *Be still silent and feel His presence.*

Prayer.

Father God, almighty King, saviour and friend it is so good to be here and to spend time with You, to break away for a while from all that deprives us from coming close to You. Oh Lord, how we need to feel your presence, how we crave your Holy Spirit to wash over us and fill us to the brim. Without You we are so feeble and frail. Without you we lose our confidence in our abilities. Without You we can become lost, afraid or confused. We KNOW that You fill us with confidence, strength and power yet, so often, we bumble along trying to do things in our own strength, attempting to think and to act with our own might.

*We ask your forgiveness, Lord, Help us to seek throughout our busy days and sleepless nights to make quality time for you, to create space for you to enter every part of our lives. Help us Father, to show and tell of your wonderful love, power and grace. Help us to go out into the world filled with kindness. **Amen***

Joyce Worsfold