



Keswick Methodist Church

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

www.keswickmethodistchurch.org.uk



Notices for week commencing 20 December 2020



Advent 4

Light for the Poor and Lowly!

We light our fourth Advent candle for Jesus' mother, Mary, who reminds us that God has a special concern for poor and lowly people.

Lord Jesus, as we prepare for Christmas, and the sharing of Christmas gifts, help us to remember that, like you, we must give special help to those who are not able to help themselves.

Amen

*(Let There Be Light
Advent Candle Liturgy Week 4)*

Ministers:

Rev Paul Saunders
superintendent@westernfells.uk
Deacon Kina Saunders
deacon@westernfells.uk
01900 823273

Senior Steward: Helen North
017687 78025

10.30am Carol Service led by Rev Joyce Ellis

Readings: Isaiah 40:3-5, 9 | Luke 1:26-38 | Luke 2:1-7
Luke 2:8-20 | Matthew 2:1-12 |

*Please remember we're currently in **Tier 2 High Alert** which means church is open for services and the prayer group but we cannot interact with anyone outside our household or support bubble while we're in the building. You're welcome to greet each other in the car park or away from the church door, remembering to keep 2 metres (6 feet) or 1 metre (3 feet)+ face covering apart and no more than 6 in a group. Thank you.*

This Coming Week:

Sunday 20-Wednesday 30 December:

3-7pm (5-7pm Sunday) Lighting the Way at Crosthwaite Church

Wednesday 23 December:

10.15am Funeral of Mary Jackson

Friday 25 December: Christmas Day

10am Christmas Day Worship with Rev Paul Saunders

Sunday 27 December: No Worship at church

Mary Jackson

We were sad to learn that Mary Jackson had died recently. Her funeral is in church on Wednesday, 23 December at 10.15am. Numbers attending are limited due to Covid-19 restrictions.

Christmas Day : 10am

This year our Christmas Day family worship is at 10am and will be led by Rev Paul Sanders. We look forward to seeing some of you then. If you're not able to attend we wish you a very happy Christmas and hope to see you in Church when it's safe for you to be here.

Christmas Post Box

Please pick up your Christmas cards on the table in the welcome area today or Christmas Day. Any donations for Action for Children. Joyce Ellis (73340)

Lighting the Way: 18-23 December 3-7pm (5-7pm today)

Crosthwaite Church invite you all to come and visit the Crosthwaite Christmas Lights, ***Lighting the Way***, with life size nativity scenes and light displays on **18-23 December** (3-7pm all days except 5-7pm on 20 December) and with a short outdoor carol service at **6pm on 20-23 December**. This will be an opportunity for reflection and prayer on the Christmas story as we celebrate the birth of Jesus, the light of the world.

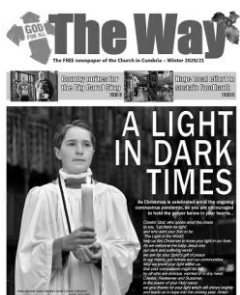


January/February Newsletter – Last call for contributions!

I hope to bring out the next Newsletter at the end of December or the first Sunday in January. Any contributions, photos etc will be most welcome.

Also I wondered in these times of lockdown, when we have all had more time to read than we normally get, whether you have read any books that you have particularly enjoyed or found interesting. If so it would be lovely to have a short account of it, what you found good about it and whether you would recommend to others. I've read one or two books that have been inspiring – what about you? Let us know. The last date to get it to me is today!

Joyce Ellis (joyce.ellis@zen.co.uk/73340)



The Way

A special edition of The Way, the newspaper of the Church in Cumbria, has been published online, reflecting on how church communities have faced up to the challenges of the coronavirus. It includes messages from our ecumenical leaders, the latest on Vision Refresh and reflections on how churches, schools, support groups (such as Foodbanks) and chaplaincy

teams have all coped during the pandemic. This edition is online only at https://cofecarlisle.contentfiles.net/media/documents/document/2020/12/The_Way_Winter_2020_Compressed.pdf.

**GOD
IS WITH
US**

The Methodist Church Christmas campaign

It's been a tough year. We never could have predicted the things that have happened. We all have our own stories of the things we've experienced in 2020 – stories of isolation, grief, anxiety and uncertainty. But we are not

without hope. Where are you finding your hope? Each day during December in the run-up to Christmas, read a new story about an individual's journey through this year at findingourhope.co.uk or follow on our Keswick Methodist Church Facebook page (around 6pm every day).

Western Fells Circuit Advent Calendar Christmas Isn't Cancelled

Every day in December around 12 noon we're sharing another window of our Circuit Advent Calendar on our Facebook page. Or look for it on the Circuit YouTube channel after 2am each morning.



Foodbank

A special request from the Foodbank for non-alcoholic Christmas pudding, Christmas treats and 1 ltr UHT fruit juice. You can leave them in the collection bin at church or at Booths. Many thanks.



Prayer Handbook

The theme for the Methodist Prayer Handbook 2021/2022 is 'A Place for All'. You can find out more and submit a prayer or photo by 11 January, just go to methodist.org.uk/prayerhandbook

Local Blood Donor Sessions

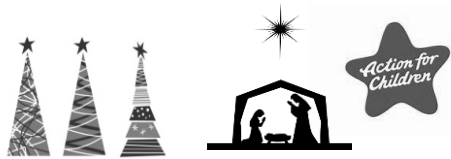
NHS Blood and Transplant are holding blood donor sessions at Braithwaite Institute on Thursday 31 December 10am-2pm and Wednesday 3 February 3-7pm and there are appointments available to register and book to donate blood. Would you kindly help support the NHS in our local area by giving blood and/or encouraging new and regular blood donors to book appointments and support NHSBT's Winter Campaign? All the latest information on blood donation can be found at www.blood.co.uk and this is where you have to book your appointment. New donors should be 17-66 and returning donors can donate up to age 70 or longer if they've donated within the last 2 years.



Christmas Tree Festival – Virtually

We hope you're enjoying seeing the Christmas trees on Facebook and our website. If you've not managed

to see them yet, please visit keswickmethodistchurch.org.uk or look on Facebook or Instagram and you'll find them there. There are some quite imaginative ones!



Prayer Tree : If you'd like a prayer to be included on our church prayer tree, you can email it to me at sheila.files@btinternet.com or put it in the post-box by the church door. I'll stick the prayer on to a bauble to go on the tree. Please say if you'd like your name added on the bauble or would prefer to remain anonymous. Baubles are available in church today, so you can write your prayer while you wait for the service to begin. They can be put in the collection basket on the way out and some of the prayers will be shared in our Christmas Day service.

Action for Children : The Christmas Tree Festival usually raises a considerable amount of money, from generous donations, for the Methodist charity for disadvantaged children, Action for Children. This year we're encouraging people to donate directly to Action for Children (see Secret Santa below). Alternatively, cheques can be made out to Action for Children and given to a steward, put in the collection basket or put into the church post-box and we'll forward them to the charity. Sheila Files (79253)

Be a Secret Santa for a Vulnerable Child

This Christmas, vulnerable children in the UK need a Secret Santa more than ever. Every child's Christmas should be full of excitement, warmth and laughter. But for many children, this year will be very different. Before coronavirus hit, more than 4 million children in the UK were locked in poverty. That's the equivalent of nine children in every school class of 30. Be a Secret Santa and you could make sure more children and young people have a hot meal, a present or a safe place to sleep. Find out more online at secretsanta.actionforchildren.org.uk.



Keswick Live Advent Trail

Don't forget the Advent Trail is still going. It's on for the rest of December and up to 4 January. Our window will be lit every evening during that time. You can pick up a Trail Map from the Moot Hall or download it from www.keswick.org and enjoy a walk round all



the businesses and organisations taking part. You can even vote for your favourite window using the QR code (on a sticker at each location) Passers-by in Southey Street can see a silhouette of the Nativity in our window, reminding everyone of the real story of Christmas.



Reset the Debt

This Christmas, over 6 million families are being weighed down by debt they were forced to take on by Covid-19. There is an opportunity to participate in the campaign at the moment with **Christmas Craftivism**.

People are invited to send their MP a *Reset The Debt* bauble, and ask them to remember those who are weighed down by debt this Christmas. You can find a template bauble and a letter to send to our MP, Trudy Harrison, here: <https://ResetTheDebt.uk/Christmas>. Churches are being encouraged to get creative and make a *Reset The Debt* bauble. So far people have made *Reset* baubles from glass, gingerbread and 3D pen - the more creative we are in getting the message across to the MPs, the better! There are other resources for churches to explore debt and jubilee here <https://reseththedebt.uk/resources/>. **Reset The Debt** is a campaign launched by the Baptist Union, the Church of Scotland, Church Action on Poverty, the Methodist Church and the United Reformed Church.





Collections for Action for Children

The collection today and on Christmas Day are both for Action for Children. Normally these collections, along with our Christmas Tree Festival donations, Christmas card box and carol singing at The Farmers Arms, raise a lot of money for this worthwhile charity. Please give what you can to help disadvantaged children at this time.



Cumbria's Big Carol Sing :

Sunday 20 December 6pm - **TODAY**

A challenge has been set to create Cumbria's biggest socially-distanced Christmas carol sing-along. BBC Radio Cumbria is working in partnership with churches across the county to run Cumbria's Big Carol Sing today, **Sunday 20 December**. The radio station is broadcasting a

special programme from 6pm, with as many people as possible being asked to sing the carol Silent Night on their doorsteps at 6.15pm.

BBC Radio Cumbria's Richard Corrie, who will present the show, said: "This is a wonderful opportunity for the whole county to come together in song and to help lift the mood for everyone after what has been an unprecedented year due to the coronavirus. My hope is that as many people as possible will tune into the programme and will sing their hearts out from their doorsteps. We'd encourage all our listeners to let your family, friends and neighbours know so as many people as possible can join in." Read more at carlisle-diocese.org.uk/news/2020/11/13/o-come-all-ye-faithful-cumbrias-big-carol-sing/

Church Christmas Card

£1.20 each or 5 for £5

Brian Moffat has produced a limited run of Christmas cards showing our nativity wall last year (card as illustrated). All proceeds for the church. Available now.



A Prayer for Coronavirus times

God of all hope we call on you today.

We pray for those who are living in fear: fear of illness, fear for loved ones,
fear of others' reactions to them.

May your spirit give us a sense of calmness and peace.

We pray for your church in this time of uncertainty.

For those people who are worried about attending worship.

For those needing to make decisions in order to care for others.

For those who will feel more isolated by not being able to attend.

Grant us your wisdom.

Holy God, we remember that you have promised that nothing will separate
us from your love – demonstrated to us in Jesus Christ.

Help us to turn our eyes, hearts and minds to you.

Amen

Covenant Service : Sunday 3 January 10.30am

Rev Paul Saunders will lead our Covenant Service at the beginning of the
New Year. A great way to start 2021!

Need help?

Please remember if you need help in any way that you can contact any
of the Leadership Team:

Helen North 78025

Richard North 78025

Anne Hasson 75818

David Hasson 75818

Nigel Barker 73818

Sheila Files 79253

Christine Metcalf 72220

Pauline Huggan 017686 06539

Fiona Crouch 07914 578945

Notice Sheet: Please email or phone any notices for next week
through to Anne Hasson by e-mail to annehasson@aol.com or phone 75818
by Wednesday evening. Please note the earlier day due to the COVID-19
mailing.