



## **CIRCUIT UPDATE NOVEMBER 2021**

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It has been a busy few months for the circuit leadership team who wanted to update you about some developments.

### **Rev Wendy Thornton**

Firstly the circuit leadership team were delighted when, having followed the stationing procedures laid down by Connexion, we could announce that Rev Wendy Thornton would continue to serve as a presbyter in the circuit for the next five years.

### **Rev David Stretton**

Rev David Stretton entered the stationing process earlier this year and felt that this was the right time for him to change appointments. He will be moving to Alderney in the Channel Islands and will take up his appointment in May 2022. Arrangements have been made for Rev Les Hann and Rev Barbara Fairburn to work with the churches in that section until August 2022. The Circuit Invitation Committee spent time discussing various options but decided that offering the appointment to a Probationer minister would be the most workable option. A profile has been submitted to the relevant Connexional committee which will be considered in January 2022. It was acknowledged that there will be implications for the rest of the circuit in the nurture and support of any probationary presbyter.

### **Circuit Stewards**

After 9½ years as a circuit steward Amanda Deaville intends to step down at February's circuit meeting. This means there will only be 1 circuit steward in post, Grace Whitaker. A full complement would be 4 circuit stewards. There is an **URGENT** need for you to prayerfully consider whether you could help the life and work of the circuit by becoming a circuit steward who have an important role supporting our Ministers. Please speak to your Minister or contact Amanda or Grace for more information.

### **Listening sessions**

At the end of August /beginning of September the circuit stewards invited people to one of three listening sessions, each held in a different section of the circuit. There were organised as part of the circuit's Priorities for Action update. This was a great opportunity to continue conversations between the circuit stewards and congregations; to hear hopes and concerns and for the circuit to offer support and encouragement wherever possible. As a result of these conversations the circuit prayer champion, Peter McCabe, invited anyone who would like to attend to a prayer meeting where each churches plans for Christmas were shared following which time was spend in prayer. Operating the technology available for churches, PowerPoint presentations, microphones, screens, specialist computer programmes and other audio visual equipment was also talked about in the sessions. The circuit leadership team has responded by offering anyone, whether already using the equipment or are wanting to hear what is involved, the chance to come to a zoom meeting to learn more about what happens in the various churches, how the



Kendal **Methodist** Circuit

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different systems work and to pick up tips about what works well. Facilitated by Rev David Stretton the meeting will be on zoom on Monday 29th November at 7pm.

<https://zoom.us/j/91059748853?pwd=M3E5c21odEJKYW5xZlBoMFpIdXhscz09>

Meeting ID: 910 5974 8853

Passcode: 812034

### **Cowan Bridge**

After 160 years of faithful worship, fellowship and service, the Methodist Chapel at Cowan Bridge have begun the process to seek the necessary permissions to 'cease to meet for public worship'. After much prayer and discussion over the past year, the members concluded that the time had sadly come to make this very difficult decision. The process will take many months and Cumbria Methodist District will work together with the Circuit to support the congregation through the process to enable the most appropriate outcome for all concerned. Unfortunately, due to lack of heating they will be unable to hold services in the Chapel during the winter period after 7th November. Arrangements for worship are currently being discussed and we will notify people once a decision has been made.

### **Kendal Lay Employee**

The leadership team are currently putting together a job description and person specification for a pastoral assistant to assist Rev Melanie Greenall in the Kendal section. Once finalised the information has to be agreed by the District Lay Employee advisor before the position can be advertised.

**Rev Melanie Greenall** will be on sabbatical from February 7<sup>th</sup> to May 15<sup>th</sup> 2022.

### **Circuit Service for Advent**

The reflective service for Advent 'Christ be our Light', coordinated by our Methodist Women in Britain group, is open to everyone across the circuit and will take place on **Saturday 27th November at MHUB** in Milnthorpe. Coffee will be served from 10:15 am and the service will start at 11:00.