



GOOD NEWS FROM AROUND THE CIRCUIT, as shared at February's Circuit Meeting.

At the recent Circuit meeting representatives were invited to share what has been going on in their churches.

Circuit: Anne Pater, from Stricklandgate, has been given a 'Note to Preach'. Tiras Dainty-Share, a probationary presbyter, will be joining the circuit in September, subject to Conference. He will be working in the Kent Estuary section. Following requests at the listening sessions held in August/September 2021 a meeting of anyone using AV equipment during worship was held in November. Thanks to Rev David Stretton for facilitating this.

Thanks were expressed to Amanda Deaville, who has stood down as a circuit steward after nearly 10 years in post. The meeting was very pleased to learn that Sue Gardner, who attends Arnside Methodist Church, has agreed to become a circuit steward.

Arnside: Messy church is attracting more youngsters and the volunteers are growing in confidence. User groups are coming back into the building, which is good for the church's finances. A refurbishment of the church hall is planned, to make it a more welcoming and user-friendly space.

Cowan Bridge: Although unable to meet in their building members of the congregation are worshipping in Barbon with St Bartholomew's or attending Kirkby Lonsdale Methodist church.

Kirkby Lonsdale: During the Advent and Christmas period there was an stained glass window trail around the town; a lantern parade; Father Christmas and some real reindeer appeared in St Mary's churchyard; 'Unwrapping Advent' took place; around 100 people from the town gathered in the churchyard for the Crib Service; and carols were sung, inside and outside. A 'Donut Day' was held where church life was discussed and fellowship was shared; more Donut Days are in the pipeline. Afternoon tea was taken at Ireby Farm tea rooms. Meet 2 Eat offer lunches to 20/22 people per week. See & Know, the weekly mums and toddlers group, is back meeting together. The Community Hub continues to be available where people can find help with a variety of issues. There are on-going discussions seeking ways to continue to finance the work of the Family Project. Following a break in January Messy Church will be back in March.

Levens: Is rejoicing in how the building is being used following its big refurbishment. The lunch club is up and running, meeting once a month. Many local groups are using the building. The church is excited that Rev Richard Teal will be preaching at their Anniversary service on April 3rd. There is a monthly joint ecumenical service with St Johns and a number of Anglican friends have commented on how much they have valued Rev David Stretton's ministry

Stricklandgate: The Tuesday Communion will now be held at 11am followed by coffee and chat. The church is exploring ways in which the 'Drop-in' sessions could be re-started. The Women's World Day of Prayer service will be held at Stricklandgate on Friday 4th March.

Other news

After prayerful deliberation and much heart-searching amongst the two congregations, the respective church councils of Cowan Bridge Methodist Church and Fellside Methodist Church have decided to start the process of ceasing to meet for public worship. Our thoughts and prayers will be with them as they move through this process.

and finally, with sadness it was acknowledged that this would be Rev. David Stretton's last circuit meeting in this circuit. He, Katie and Libby are moving to Alderney where David will continue his ministry. He was thanked for his contribution to the life and work of the Kendal circuit. His leaving service will take place at Arnside Methodist Church on Sunday 24th April at 4pm.