



Kendal **Methodist** Circuit

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

**Arnside:** The church was packed for the village carol service and the Christmas Day service was one of the best ever attended. Church based groups continue to thrive. Ecumenically, things are working well. Messy attracts 20 youngsters, plus their families; the Light Party at Halloween was successful and a Pancake Party will take place this week. More events are planned for Lent/Easter. Arnside MC will host the next Kent Estuary Mission Community service. A special service of prayers to mark the 2<sup>nd</sup> anniversary of the war in Ukraine will be held.

**Kirkby Lonsdale:** the congregation have held sessions to discuss the church's priorities for action in the context of the Mission Community and consider the building, future ministries and mission of the church in and around Kirkby Lonsdale. Further conversations are planned in the near future, including a workshop with our ecumenical partners. All the church based groups are thriving and the work of the Family Project continues to be a very important way of connecting with families outside of church and offering space to engage with faith. Half term's craft day and story-telling saw 96 people/families attending. The Men's Breakfast continues its popularity. Ecumenical Lent groups are following this year's York Course. The churches hope to run an Alpha Course after Easter. Rev Wendy would like to thank the churches, Rainbow colleagues, and circuit staff for the love and support she has received during her illness.

**Storth:** The church is growing in numbers and in faith and love. It feels blessed by all who come and lead worship in the building. Singing from the Heart [monthly evening Songs of Praise service] attracts people who don't normally come to church. Open the Book has re-started in the Primary School. The church is looking at ways of making its energy needs more sustainable. The church tithes its income using the money to support a Christian mission in India, where there is a borehole with a plaque stating 'Funded by Storth Village Church'.

**Sandylands:** There is currently an ecumenically run Bible course on Romans taking place. It is challenging and exciting. All the usual activities continue. There is a Men's Breakfast at Wetherspoon's and now a Women's Breakfast, which takes place at the Cortillo Lounge in Kendal. There are good links with Sandgate School and it was a joy to see them at Christmas. The Girls Brigade sent representatives to the Service of Remembrance celebrations in London in November. They also celebrated 20 years of Brigading in Kendal with a lively service one Sunday morning recently.

**Levens:** Villagers continue to remark how welcoming the refurbished space is at Levens, even when they have no existing church ties. Partnership relations are key to all that happens in the church which is always looking for creative ways of worship and being in community together. The Good Neighbours scheme continues to befriend the lonely. The God in Love Unites Us report has had a profound effect on some of the youngsters involved in the KEY [Kent Estuary Youth] project, who were amazed that the church would accept them for who they were. The KEY project youngsters now go into a local care home and chat with some of the residents.

**Stricklandgate:** A number of people are attending the ecumenical Bible course at Sandylands which is leading to some interesting conversations. There is a good mix of church and non-church folk attending the Friendship Group. The three house groups are flourishing. Thursday afternoon's meditation sessions are much appreciated by people of all denominations and none.