



**Churches Together in  
Cumbria**

July/August 2024 Newsletter

## **Actively Promoting God's Love for Everyone**



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Deadline for Newsletter submissions: 2nd to last Friday of the month (19th July)

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## CTiC Annual Gathering & AGM Summary



Thank you to everyone who was able to attend the annual gathering and annual meeting on Saturday 15th June and represent some of the local Churches Together Groups from around our unique county.

We had an enriching morning with the Cumbria Ecumenical Spiritual Group leading the opening worship and the morning session, offering a choice of workshops on the theme: PRAYER - COMING HOME. The feedback was extremely positive; thank you to the group for their contribution to the day and for all that they do.

Lunch was provided, and along with that came the opportunity to chat together, catch up and share stories. This is such an important part of these annual gatherings; food and fellowship go hand in hand.

Freshly nourished we were ready for the business of the annual meeting in the afternoon. There are always some formal elements to this with the presentation of annual reports and accounts but this was also an opportunity to thank those who had stepped down during the year including Andrew Dodd who retired as president. Bill Bewley thanked Andrew on behalf of everyone.

Choosing a reasonably central location for the annual gathering that will be easily accessible for everyone in our county isn't easy. Things like lakes and mountains seem to get in the way. Newbiggin Village Hall was a very comfortable venue but we are always open to suggestions so please feel free to put forward ideas.

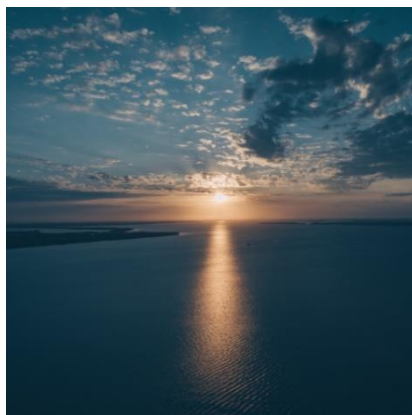
**Vice President ~ Revd Richard Snow**

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## **"Homecoming" by Jo Maybury**

To tread the accustomed path again.  
Again to turn, to recollect not where I've been  
and what I lost or gained, the ranging of my heart  
through darkened alleys, or sun-washed hills,  
but recall the womb of God where I was crafted,  
animated by Love's purest breath. To wake  
and wonder how this love is never less than all  
I need, and is more, much more,  
than life or death can ever seize.

**~ Jo Maybury**



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## Anna Chaplaincy

The Spiritual care for older people in Cumbria

Feature by Sam Pester

Anna Chaplaincy Lead Cumbria



This month we explore a beautiful and touching poem on ageing by Samuel Taylor Coleridge, one of the Lakes favourite poets. Coleridge's view of ageing says that we are only as old as we feel, he encourages us to stay young at heart, despite the fact we may struggle with disability or frailty, pain or loss. In a poignant part of the poem Coleridge says the wonderful line, 'That Youth and I are house mates still'. Coleridge still relates to his younger self and can still find his inner child. This powerful verse perhaps tells us all to keep youth and indeed God in our heart. Many of Coleridge's poems show his religious beliefs and the power of the Holy Spirit at work in our life.

### **Youth and Age**

Verse, a breeze mid blossoms straying,  
Where Hope clung feeding, like a bee—  
Both were mine! Life went a-maying

With Nature, Hope, and Poesy,  
When I was young!

When I was young Ah, woful When!  
Ah! for the change 'twixt Now and Then!  
This breathing house not built with hands,  
This body that does me grievous wrong,  
O'er aery cliffs and glittering sands,  
How lightly then it flashed along:  
Like those trim skiffs, unknown of yore,  
On winding lakes and rivers wide,  
That ask no aid of sail or oar,  
That fear no spite of wind or tide!  
Nought cared this body for wind or weather  
When Youth and I lived in't together.

Flowers are lovely; Love is flower-like  
Friendship is a sheltering tree  
O! the joys, that came down shower-like,  
Of Friendship, Love, and Liberty,  
Ere I was old!  
Ere I was old? Ah woful Ere,  
Which tells me, Youth's no longer here!  
O Youth! for years so many and sweet,  
'Tis known, that Thou and I were one,  
I'll think it but a fond conceit—  
It cannot be that Thou art gone!

Thy vesper-bell hath not yet toll'd:  
And thou wert aye a masker bold!  
What strange disguise hast now put on,  
To make believe, that thou are gone?  
I see these locks in silvery slips,  
This drooping gait, this altered size:  
But Spring-tide blossoms on thy lips,  
And tears take sunshine from thine eyes!  
Life is but thought: so think I will  
That Youth and I are house-mates still.

Dew-drops are the gems of morning,  
But the tears of mournful eve!

Where no hope is, life's a warning  
That only serves to make us grieve,  
When we are old:  
That only serves to make us grieve  
With oft and tedious taking-leave,  
Like some poor nigh-related guest,  
That may not rudely be dismiss;  
Yet hath outstay'd his welcome while,  
And tells the jest without the smile

**BY**

**SAMUEL TAYLOR COLERIDGE**

If you would like to help an older person with their garden and have even an hour a week to spare, we would love to hear from you.

As part of Anna Chaplaincy in Cumbria we are developing a special calling this summer to help an older person enjoy their garden again.

This could be cutting a lawn, weeding, planting flowers or whatever the older person would like to help their garden become a special place again. Any volunteer would be very welcome from rural to the town.

Please contact Sam Pester. Email: [ac@churchestogethercumbria.org.uk](mailto:ac@churchestogethercumbria.org.uk)



For any enquiries about Anna Chaplaincy in Cumbria do get in touch at [ac@churchestogethercumbria.org.uk](mailto:ac@churchestogethercumbria.org.uk)

Don't forget to follow us on Facebook for ongoing news.

[Anna Chaplaincy Cumbria Facebook Page](#)

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## Churches Together in England



Churches Together in England is pleased to announce the appointment of a new President, to represent our Fourth Presidency Group.

Rt Rev Paulina Hławiczka-Trotman, the head of the Lutheran Church in Great Britain has been nominated by the group's members.

CTE General Secretary, Bishop Mike Royal, said: "Churches Together in England is delighted at the appointment of Bishop Paulina Hławiczka-Trotman as a CTE President by the Fourth Presidency Group. Bishop Paulina has a proven track record of ecumenical engagement and an unswerving commitment to CTE's Racial Justice Working Group. As the first female Polish Bishop in the UK, she is a trailblazer. We are excited about the ongoing journey with our Lutheran sisters and brothers"

Bishop Paulina Hławiczka-Trotman said: "I'm honoured to have been appointed as the CTE President representing the Fourth Presidency Group, to serve God and His church across the ecumenical family. I look forward to this challenge and the opportunities it promises, particularly at a critical time in our history in Britain and beyond. Thank you for your confidence expressed in this call to mission and ministry. It is with humility and joy that I come to the task together with you!"

More about Bishop Paulina

Paulina Hławiczka-Trotman comes from the Beskid Mountains in Southern Poland. She graduated from the Faculty of Theology and Ethics at the Christian

Theological Academy in Warsaw with a thesis on the hope for universal salvation. At the same time, she graduated in opera singing and acting.

She was ordained in London by Rt Rev Dr Martin Lind to serve in the Lutheran Church in Great Britain. She took over as pastor of the parishes Trinity Leicester-Nottingham in 2014, St Paul's Corby in 2015, and Christ the King London in 2021. She has been a chaplain at the University of Nottingham since 2016. She is a Trustee of the Lutheran Church in Great Britain and the Council of Lutheran Churches.

She was consecrated Bishop of the Lutheran Church in Great Britain in January 2024.

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## Spiritual Accompaniment



### ***You, Me and God - journeying together***

For further information contact

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**Cumbria Ecumenical Spirituality Group**



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# Riding Lights Theatre Company

## Cups on a String

After the success of our 2022 tour of My Place, Riding Lights Theatre Company is pleased to announce Cups on a String by Bridget Foreman, a new play touring in partnership with Transforming Lives for Good, a Christian charity that helps churches to bring hope and a future to struggling children. Imagine that you are 9. That your home life is disrupted and chaotic. Maybe you don't have enough to eat, or your own bed, or a quiet place to do your homework. Your parents are preoccupied with their own problems. You're tired and anxious. You don't feel safe. At least when you play up, someone gives you their attention – briefly. Imagine that this daily struggle is your life - every day, every week. Now imagine that someone begins to walk alongside you. One child. One adult. One hour a week. For one year. TLG volunteer coaches offer children support when life is tough, helping them to grow and thrive. Transforming Lives for Good is partnering with Riding Lights Theatre Company to tour Cups on a String to venues across the UK for 8 weeks in autumn 2024, offering a powerful and moving evening of theatre, and we'd like to invite you to book a performance. Alongside the performance of Cups on a String, the evening will provide an opportunity to hear about the work of Transforming Lives for Good, and how each of us can play a part in supporting the lives of struggling children.

Riding Lights Theatre Company is an independent theatre company, based in York. With over 45 years of recognition for our Kingdom-centred productions, we've been reaching audiences in churches, cathedrals, theatres, schools, prisons and community centres across the UK for decades. Transforming Lives for Good (TLG) is a national Christian charity with 25 years' experience of bringing hope and a future to vulnerable children through coaching, lunch clubs and trauma informed approaches. Across the UK, the challenges that children face are escalating at an alarming rate, whether it's coping with poverty and food insecurity, or mental health crises and trauma. TLG equips a network of

over 200 churches across the UK to see over 5000 children's lives transformed for good every year.

For more information, please contact:

Celeste North

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## CTiC Trustees and Staff

### **Our Trustees:**

Revd Richard Snow - CTiC Vice President - [rector@therainbowparish.org](mailto:rector@therainbowparish.org)

Revd Kath Dodd - CTiC Treasurer - [kath.dodd@btinternet.com](mailto:kath.dodd@btinternet.com)

Derek Lacey - Social Responsibility Forum Chair

Bill Bewley - Church Leaders Representative

Revd Paul Burden - Churches Together Group Representative

### **Our Staff:**

Samantha Pester - Anna Chaplaincy Lead

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