

TEAM RECTOR PROFILE

Loving Jesus, Serving the Community, Growing Disciples

COCKERMOUTH AREA TEAM

IN THE
GRASMOOR MISSION
COMMUNITY



www.godforall.org.uk



Diocese of Carlisle

WELCOME

Thank you for taking time to read this profile.

As you read on please know that we are praying for you as you discern whether God is calling you to the Cockerthorpe Area Team in the Grasmoor Mission Community.

This is an exciting opportunity to join a group of vibrant and diverse churches, who have a passion and vision to see God's kingdom grow.

A woman with blonde hair in a ponytail, wearing a bright blue hoodie and sunglasses on her head, is smiling and looking towards the left. She is standing at what appears to be a social gathering or event, with other people and food visible in the background.

WE'VE A PASSION
AND A VISION TO
SEE GOD'S
KINGDOM GROW

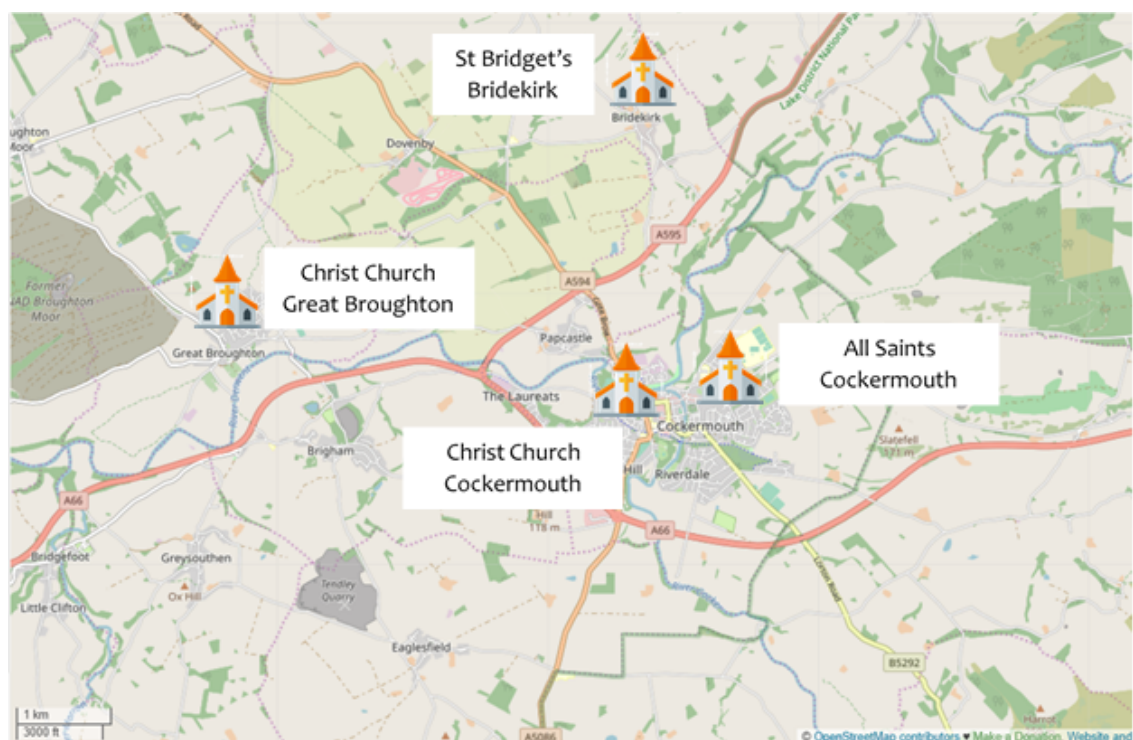
WHO ARE WE?

The Cockermouth Area Team is a benefice, consisting of 4 churches: two in the town itself (Christ Church and All Saints') and two in outlying villages, each about 3-4 miles from the centre. These are Christ Church, Great Broughton and St Bridget's, Bridekirk.

Each has its own DCC, and manages their own finances and local governance.

The PCC is the legally-established body, with representatives from each DCC. Total ER membership is approximately 250.

Although a team, each church is encouraged to grow its own mission and ministry and to discern together what their collective calling is in their own community.



WHO ARE WE?

Especially in the town, distinctiveness is encouraged with each church helping to support the other via the leadership of Team Rector and Team Vicar, and the administration of the Parish Office, located at Christ Church, Cockermouth. Here there is a part-time Parish Administrator.

The Team has 4 Readers; and there are 4 active retired clergy. All these take their place on the monthly worship rota, according to their various degrees of availability. In recent times, there has been an emphasis on personal callings to a variety of ministries..

There are a number of lay ministers of different kinds; and currently two ordinands in training, with another three who have offered for ordination and are currently going through a discernment process

You may find the following websites useful for further information:

Cockermouth & the North Lake District
<http://cockermouth.org.uk>

Cockermouth Area Team
<http://cockermouthareachurches.org.uk/>

ALL SAINTS COCKERMOUTH

This traditional parish church stands high over the town of Cockermouth, its spire seen from all around. It is known and loved as the “Wordsworth Church” and attracts many visitors.

The members enjoy traditional worship but are not afraid to leave the comfort of this to bring in other styles and types of worship when appropriate (for example: Agape, Taizé, Iona, thanksgiving, healing).

The clergy at All Saints’ are ably assisted by a team of 6 Lay Worship Leaders, two of whom are training for ordination.

Life at All Saints’ is very much underpinned by prayer. We offer confidential prayer ministry at the main service every Sunday, a small group meet every Monday morning for Morning Prayer and there is a prayer help-line available for urgent prayer requests. Members of the Pastoral Group are also available for pastoral care and visiting if required.



ALL SAINTS COCKERMOUTH

For well over a year now we have been looking outward to bring blessings and the word of God to the large nearby housing estate (Slatefell and Highfield), who associate and identify themselves with All Saints' Church. However, attendance from this part of the town seems to be mainly restricted to baptisms, funerals and occasional weddings.



In the future we hope to attract more families into the church and already offer a "Sunday School" once a month.

All Saints' Church of England primary school has strong links with the church; the whole school come in for events such as All Saints' Day and Christmas Nativity, and for Experience Easter, Christmas, Pentecost and Harvest (we try to include one of these a year).



Church members run an Afterschool Club called Awesome Saints for Years 3 and 4 and we have seen this continue to develop over the last 3 or 4 years. Church members have started to go into assemblies.

ALL SAINTS COCKERMOUTH

Recently we have formed a link with the Highfield Community Centre on the Slatefell and Highfield estate and as a church take up services such as Christingle, Pet services etc. Members of All Saints' involve themselves with a Food Pantry and Clothes Pantry run out of the community centre, and join in with other activities such as Bingo nights. Our hope for the future is that by being a regular presence within the estate people will come to know us and to show an interest in our Christian life.

This relationship continues to develop and has been added to by the planting of a church (Cockermouth Christian Centre) on the same complex.

All Saints' and the Cockermouth Christian Centre are combining resources to work more with children in such events as Messy Church. This relationship is in its infancy, but both churches are excited by the possibility of making a difference in the area by working together. We see this sharing of gifts as a very positive way forward.



ALL SAINTS COCKERMOUTH

As regards the church building of All Saints', this is in the process of being developed into a space for the 21st Century. Our vision includes the area at the back of the church being transformed into a social place of meeting rooms, kitchen and toilets. The Lady Chapel, which is used often for private prayer and smaller services of worship, is envisaged as a screened area. Heating will be zoned which hopefully will make the building both warmer and more welcoming.

The size of the building is conducive to holding community events and, in the past, we have hosted a number of concerts, exhibitions, festivals etc. It is hoped to grow this in the future with the introduction of necessary facilities and heating.

The eight-bell ringing chamber has an enthusiastic band which continues to recruit and teach new ringers. The bells ring loud and clear on Sunday mornings, Wednesday night practice and on special occasions. We are open for business, filled with passion and hope for a future where more and more people come to know Christ's presence in their lives.

Further links can be found at:
Facebook
www.facebook.com/allsaintscockermonth/

CHRIST CHURCH COCKERMOUTH

Where faith grows

Christ Church Cockermouth is an eclectic group of ordinary people bound together by our love of Jesus and commitment to serve him in Cockermouth and the surrounding area. Christ Church is a vibrant modern church which enjoys trying new ideas. Using sound, drama, video and symbols we aim to bring colour and inspiration into our faith activities making them more interactive and involving.

Our church membership includes 110 people registered on the electoral roll including an even split of men and women, over half of whom are active in serving in the life of the church.

A further 150 people are engaged in regular events, activities and services beyond our Sunday service.

Over recent years we feel blessed that more and more people have become involved in different aspects of church life.



CHRIST CHURCH COCKERMOUTH

Today there are four licenced Lay Ministers (active across the parish team and wider Mission Community), a Leadership Team, and several lay worship leaders who lead our services. In addition, 66 people regularly volunteer to help with our Sunday services.

We are working towards our vision by harnessing the skills and potential of our members by focussing on three themed areas

- Worship
- Children Families and Young People
- Pastoral, Welcome and Hospitality.

Our Vision

Over the last two years we have developed an inspiring missional vision for Christ Church linked to the tagline “Where Faith Grows”.

We believe our vision describes what Christ Church should look and feel like: its not meant to describe the detail of how we get there.

Our Vision Statement

Where our faith grows, we will be ...

more inviting of our communities,

more connected to each other,

more touched by **inspired** worship and

more involving of families and children.

We will develop buildings that provide accessible, comfortable, exciting and reflective places for all to discover God's love.

CHRIST CHURCH COCKERMOUTH

Our vision statement is supported by three mission statements which describe how we will deliver the vision and which reflect the three identified themes. These can be found on our website.

Our Worship

Our two Sunday services see an average of 80 to 100 people attending. Our early service is a quieter, more traditional, prayer book service with Holy Communion. This is followed by a time of shared refreshment and chat where our early and later congregations come together, catch up, pray and share.

Our 10.00am service style changes throughout the monthly pattern - 1st Sunday services are a more traditional service of Morning Worship, usually with the organ and hymns. 2nd and 3rd Sunday services are more creative and informal with a worship band leading more modern worship songs and might include drama, testimonies and audio/visual items. On 2nd Sunday afternoons we run Messy Church. Our 4th Sunday all-age café-style service explores bible teaching in a contemporary, creative, thought-provoking way with audio, video and modern worship.

CHRIST CHURCH COCKERMOUTH

Beyond Sunday

Beyond Sunday our members meet and share through a range of groups and events including those above and Men's and ladies' breakfasts, and a mid-week prayer group. Christ Church also supports a walking group organised and led by members of Christ Church, under the umbrella of Churches Together In the Cockermouth Area.



In 2019 we are starting the year running two Talking Jesus courses and a Start course

Each individual church member is supported in regular prayer by prayer supports and a prayer chain.



CHRIST CHURCH COCKERMOUTH

Our Building Vision

Eleven years ago we began our first phase of re-ordering our buildings by making a more flexible space in the church nave with the removal of the pews and the addition of toilets and a new kitchen. New heating and modern audio visual provision have also been installed. In response to our new vision we are a few months into a second phase of reordering aimed at ensuring our buildings can help us provide more flexible, usable spaces as a Faith Hub and for the wider community.

The Church Rooms (a separate building on the same site) are used on a daily basis by a range of community groups whilst the church hosts larger events such as concerts, U3A and theatre. This is part of our expanding vision for Christ Church. The Church Rooms are also home to the Parish Administrator's office, Linking Lives (combating loneliness and social isolation) and for NISCU (Christian schools workers).

Further links can be found at

www.christchurchcockermonth.org.uk

Facebook

www.facebook.com/ChristChurchCockermouth



CHRIST CHURCH GREAT BROUGHTON

Situation

Christ Church Great Broughton sits between the two joined up villages of Great and Little Broughton, next to the village playing field (the Welfare Field) and a short walk from the Village Hall and the Primary School. Broughton is just off the A66 less than 3 miles from Cockermouth and has a shop, bakery, hair salon and four pubs. The Vicarage is in Little Broughton. There are around 900 houses in the village, including some recent housing developments and a mixed population of older people, working adults and young families. There is currently a regular, if infrequent, bus service.

Building

The church was built in 1856, has stone walls and a slate roof and some stained- glass windows and a large churchyard which is still used for burials. The building is in good order, having been re-roofed in 2010 and had other recent repairs. In 2014 some pews were removed and a social space created, together with a new extension in keeping with the rest of the building which houses two toilets, including one for the disabled, and a kitchen area. We have a small lending library in the social area. There is disabled access.



CHRIST CHURCH GREAT BROUGHTON

People

We are a church of hardworking committed and welcoming lay people most of whom take an active part both in services and the upkeep of the church. Two members are currently seeking to train for Ordained Ministry. There are two churchwardens. Other church members and some local volunteers help with the churchyard, cleaning, flowers and general upkeep. Despite having an ageing congregation, we are currently doing our best to encourage younger people, to spread the Christian faith in our villages and to make everyone feel welcome in the church. We feel that hospitality is one of our strengths.

Pattern of Worship

We have a cycle of services at 10.45am each Sunday: - All age service, Café church, Morning Prayer and Holy Communion. Services other than Communion are usually lay led. Currently any Baptisms take place following the service of Morning Prayer. CDs are normally used for hymns but we do have an organ which is played occasionally. On Thursdays at 10 a.m. there is a said Communion, attended by an average of 8 to 12 people, followed by a coffee morning. The Sunday Communion service is the best attended and we

have felt the loss of our second Sunday Communion each month.



CHRIST CHURCH GREAT BROUGHTON

A prayer group meets at 7pm every Monday. We have an annual World day of Prayer Service jointly with Brigham, maintaining our link with St. Bridget's and Brigham Methodists. We are open to other forms and times of worship which might be more accessible to the wider community and those seeking to find out more about the Christian faith.

Community Involvement

We feel our church has gained much from the involvement of the current Team Rector and his wife in our village. In particular, local people have been more willing to provide help and support. With help from members of other CAT churches we have successfully provided "Messy Fun" days in school holidays for Primary children.

There is also a Youth Café on the second Friday of each month, attended by between 10 and 15 young people. The Rainbows use the church each Wednesday. A small music group meets fortnightly on Thursdays after Communion. Links to the school are important to us and the current Team Rector takes occasional assemblies. The School uses the church as part of the RE curriculum and to hold special services at Easter, Harvest and Christmas. The Mothers' Union meets monthly in the church. Our Christingles service on Christmas Eve has been so well attended that we now have two.



CHRIST CHURCH GREAT BROUGHTON

Finances

We have been lucky enough to have had a bequest which paid for the Church roof and to have had some money from the sale of our old church hall which set our finances onto a firm path over the last 15 years. Grants were obtained for the toilet extension. We continue to meet our obligations each year, but giving does not cover everything and we do rely on income from weddings and funerals. Sadly, the number of these in church is declining. We have occasional fundraising events, including for charity. This year we held a very successful flower festival.

Vision for the Future

We have gained from our links with the CAT, particularly in terms of support from members of the other churches and a wider range of Lay service leaders. We continue to be outward looking, but with an emphasis on what we can give to our local community in Broughton and how we can reach out to the younger families in our village.

ST. BRIDGET'S BRIDEKIRK



People of hope and love

At St. Bridget's, our mission is to reach our community with the love of God. We may be small in numbers, with around forty meeting every week, but we are mighty in God's power. As we navigate our church into modern culture, we hold tight to listening to God's voice, retaining some of our beautiful traditions, ever evolving but firmly grounded on the truth of the Word.

Our church serves approximately 500 households across four rural villages; Bridekirk, Tallentire, Papcastle (including Belle Vue) and Dovenby. We also have families attending from Cockermouth and villages further afield. Our beautiful church building has recently been fitted with a large screen and projector to aid modern worship.

We have a new fellowship room attached to the church, including kitchen and toilets. Our two wardens and group of volunteers do a wonderful job maintaining the building and its grounds. We are also blessed with a small worship band, an organist and several committed, Spirit-filled worship leaders and lay preachers - one of whom is about to begin the course to ordination. Financial stewardship is improving, but we still have work to do to ensure the upkeep of such a large and wonderful building.



ST. BRIDGET'S BRIDEKIRK



People of hope and love

So how do we reach our community? As well as church services every Sunday, we have:

- a weekly Baby Club (Mums and babies / young toddlers)
- a monthly Youth Café (Year 6 children and above)
- a Monday Friendship Group which shares lunch with the elderly in our community
- bell ringers who practice weekly, preparing to serve our church services
- house groups, locally and in Cockermouth
- Growing Disciples (Sunday School) every Sunday except All Age services.

- Youth from our Sunday School attending JUMP, the Team Youth Group and
- a mid-week prayer meeting.

Our service structure includes Holy Communion once a month, two services of Morning Prayer and the second Sunday of every month features a more contemporary All Age service. Our vibrant Growing Disciples, with children ranging from 2 to 13 years, lead aspects of the All Age services. We are also blessed to be part of the bigger Cockermouth Area Team, enjoying worship with them and sharing resources.

ST. BRIDGET'S BRIDEKIRK



People of hope and love

On the horizon we are planning an 'Explorers' course for those new to faith in addition to developing an 'Open The Book' initiative to share bible stories with schools. We have a strong relationship with our local Church Primary School, working especially closely at Celebration times of year. Events such as Experience Harvest / Easter / Church enable us to build on relationships with the younger families regularly attending All Age worship;

relationships that continue beyond Sundays through WhatsApp Messenger, Facebook and meeting informally in the week.

St Bridget's, Bridekirk, is proof that there is life in the old church. We embrace the challenge of evolving our traditional heritage whilst remaining focused on the love of God, with Christ as our example. We are ready to share the Good News with all and our hope for the future is simple; to know God more deeply and to reach more people with His love.





THE GRASMOOR MISSION COMMUNITY

Introduction

The concept of 'Mission Communities' has been in the mind and heart of our county church leaders for some years and is a major part of the 'God for All' strategy. 'A Mission Community is a cluster of ecumenical churches who commit to working together to make God for All a reality in their community.

This includes how to use their combined resources (buildings, people, established connections) for mission and outreach.' (See God for All website www.godforall.org.uk/mission-communities)





THE GRASMOOR MISSION COMMUNITY

Formation

Planning for a Mission Community (MC) based around Cockermouth began in the spring of 2016, with the formation of a Steering Group. Here, a close, prayerful fellowship has evolved, consisting of clergy and lay representatives from all the churches and/or benefices in the MC. Various conversations took place within and between the churches and some priorities were identified such as children's and youth ministry, reading groups, leadership training, office administration etc. On Advent Sunday 2016 we had our first shared worship service, where Holy Communion was jointly celebrated with a guest preacher, His Honour Judge Mark Hedley, Diocesan Chancellor of Liverpool. He preached about celebrating our differences and diversity of gifts.

Subsequently, the new Grasmoor Mission Community was launched at a special open-air service at Paddle School on Pentecost Sunday in June 2017. By this time, there was sufficient agreement within all churches that our best hopes for mission and growth lay in our shared resources. The Steering Group now became the Leadership Team, and in February 2018, the Bishop of Carlisle attended another joint service for the commissioning of Godfrey Butland as Mission Community Leader.



THE GRASMOOR MISSION COMMUNITY

Growth

Since September 2015, the Cokermonth Area Team had been developing a 'hub' model of church organization. The 'hub' of the wheel represented the leadership of the Team, including its office administration; the spokes connected the centre with the 'rim', where the local churches were to be found – the 'rubber hitting the road', in terms of the church's mission! In other words, the local church is key, rather than the central organization, which only serves to resource and enable the 'rim.' This model was now applied to the MC.

In November 2018, Kevin and Ann Roberts came to lead a weekend for the MC at Rydal Hall. Formerly an Archdeacon in this diocese, Kevin now leads ReSource – an Anglican

organisation helping 'little, local and ordinary' churches to flourish in ministry and mission, in the power of the Holy Spirit. The weekend focussed on the call of God to each individual Christian, and to churches to serve God in the church and the world. By then, Sharing God's Blessing was well under way – a tool for the renewing of the local church, through facilitated conversations, from a book by Robin Greenwood of the same name. By the spring of 2020, it is hoped that all 14 churches will have participated in this process, leading to a clearer understanding of what it means to be 'church' in their own location.



THE GRASMOOR MISSION COMMUNITY

The Future

In the first half of 2020, the Leadership Team will take part in 'Moving Forward', facilitated by Cumbria Christian Learning. This aims to help us sharpen our vision for the MC. But our hope and prayer remain for the renewal of the local church – growing in faith and in numbers, 'for the growth of God's Kingdom in Cumbria.'





THE GRASMOOR MISSION COMMUNITY

Grasmoor Mission
Community
Churches

Anglican

Cockermouth Area Team

All Saints, Cockermouth
Christ Church, Cockermouth
St Bridget's, Bridekirk
Christ Church, Great
Broughton

**Brigham, Clifton, Dean &
Mosser ***

St Bridget's, Brigham
St Luke's, Clifton
St Oswald's, Dean
St Philip's, Mosser

**Lorton, Loweswater &
Buttermere**

St. Cuthbert's, Lorton
St Bartholomew's, Loweswater
St James's, Buttermere

Methodist

Lorton Street Methodist
Church, Cockermouth
Brigham Methodist Chapel

United Reformed
Church

Cockermouth United
Reformed Church

*The role of Mission Community Leader involves some level of leadership/ responsibility for the other parishes in the Mission Community. The four Anglican churches of Brigham, Clifton, Dean and Mosser are at present in vacancy with a possibility of appointing a House for Duty or other similar post, which the new Mission Community Leader would be part of shaping and appointing.

THE COCKERMOUTH AREA

Lying just outside the boundary of the Lake District National Park, Cockermouth is an attractive market town not overwhelmed by the tourist atmosphere of Keswick and Ambleside. It is one of only 51 towns in Great Britain designated as a 'Gem' town. Today's visitors are attracted by the town's calm, its nearness to some of the more peaceful lakes and mountains, and the fact that Dorothy and William Wordsworth were born here. The large Georgian house in the Main Street where they were born, is now in the care of the National Trust.



WHAT WE ARE LOOKING FOR

WE ARE NOT LOOKING FOR THE
PERFECT PERSON, BUT WE ARE
LOOKING FOR SOMEONE WHO:

- is a good pastor and a good listener
- has energy and enthusiasm, is confident and has hope for the future
- is missional and who engages with people who do not come to church
- is spiritually mature, prayerful and grounded in Scripture
- is able to cope well with a range of worship styles and churchmanship
- is willing to listen to others, a strong collegiate leader, who can make difficult decisions where necessary; who discerns and encourages the vocations and ministry of others
- is an encourager and facilitator, enabler and nurturer, able to support and train others and grow disciples and keen to promote continued teaching across the GMC (e.g. the series of Ministry Development Days)



WHAT WE ARE LOOKING FOR

WE ARE NOT LOOKING FOR THE
PERFECT PERSON, BUT WE ARE
LOOKING FOR SOMEONE WHO:

- whilst bringing his/her insights, consolidates progress already achieved in the Cockermouth Area Team and in the Mission Community and moves forward on the foundations that have been established rather than re-inventing the wheel
- is enthusiastic about ecumenical work and keen to embrace the sharing of ministries across the covenanted denominations, whilst respecting and celebrating the distinctive character of individual congregations, acting also as the key link person between the GMC and Churches Together in the Cockermouth Area
- has a good appreciation of the difference between West Cumbrian village and town communities, is able to support those who are less strong and respects church and community identities which may evolve over time



TEAM RECTOR'S HOUSE



The vicarage is a 1980s house, which won an award for its architect at the time. It is described as 'quirky' by all who visit, because the stairs are not where you might expect!

There are 4 bedrooms, one of them en suite – 3 double and 1 single. Downstairs, there are kitchen and utility room; dining room; lounge and study. The garage is a detached building adjacent to the vicarage, across a small yard/kitchen garden from the back door.

TEAM RECTOR'S HOUSE





- **All Saints Facebook**
www.facebook.com/allsaintscockermouth/
- **Carlisle Diocese**
<https://www.carlislediocese.org.uk/>
- **Christ Church Cockermouth Facebook**
www.facebook.com/ChristChurchCockermouth
- **Christ Church Great Broughton Facebook**
<https://www.facebook.com/Christ-Church-Great-Broughton-249957012231803/>
- **Cockermouth Area Team**
<http://cockermouthareachurches.org.uk/>
- **Cockermouth & the North Lake District**
<http://cockermouth.org.uk/>
- **God For All**
godforall.org.uk/
- **Grasmoor Mission Community**
<http://cockermouthareachurches.org.uk/mc/>
- **St. Bridget's Bridekirk Facebook**
<https://www.facebook.com/stbridgetsbridekirk/>

COCKERMOUTH AREA TEAM
IN THE GRASMOOR
MISSION COMMUNITY

WOULD YOU LIKE TO ARRANGE A VISIT?

Contact:

Ordinand & PCC Secretary
Deborah Hoddinott

Email: deborah@hoddinott.me

Tel: 07795174682



www.godforall.org.uk



Diocese of Carlisle

