

WESTERN DALES BENEFICE

Loving Jesus, Serving the Community, Growing Disciples

**The Parishes
of Sedbergh
and Lune,
and Dent
with Cowgill
in the
Western
Dales
Mission
Community**



www.godforall.org.uk



Diocese of Carlisle

WELCOME

This is an exciting opportunity to join a group of diverse churches who have a passion and vision to see God's kingdom grow in this stunning part of the Yorkshire Dales National Park. Sedbergh, the largest town in the Park, nestles in the leafy dales overlooked by the Howgill Hills described by Wainwright as Sleeping Elephants. It is an area of many contrasts as are the people who live here.

We are looking for someone who can empathise with this glorious mixture of the land and the living, and who will enjoy working closely with our Pioneer Minister and our ecumenical partners. We seek a person who has a flexible approach to life, who is adaptable and will be enthused by the challenges that ministry in this widespread Benefice offers.

As part of the Western Dales Mission Community the newly formed Benefice's aim is to be the leading light in the ecumenical designs of the Diocese. A wish that needs a strong and determined leader with boundless enthusiasm.

As you read on please know that we are praying for you as you discern whether God is calling you to the Western Dales Benefice.



**A prayer walk below
Cautley Spout**

WESTERN DALES BENEFICE

The Western Dales Benefice, which came into being on 1 July 2020, consists of the Parishes of Sedbergh and Lune, and Dent with Cowgill.

Prior to the amalgamation there were three benefices. The Benefice of Sedbergh, Cautley and Garsdale, the Benefice of Firbank, Howgill and Killington and the Benefice of Dent with Cowgill.

Within the new Benefice there is a certain amount of autonomy and the two Parishes continue distinct. In the Parish of Sedbergh and Lune all six constituent churches; St Andrew, Sedbergh, St Mark, Cautley, St John the Baptist, Garsdale, St John the Evangelist, Firbank, the church of the Holy Trinity, Howgill and the church of All Saints, Killington remain as parish churches. In the Parish of Dent with Cowgill both churches remain as parish churches.

A Benefice Council is being formed to consider Benefice concerns. The two Parochial Church Councils will meet to consider major issues such as the annual parish offer. Decisions affecting individual churches will be taken by elected Vestry Committees

All the churches will maintain their own accounts and financial independence. For the time being the two parishes will present their own consolidated accounts at the end of the financial year.

There is still work in progress to define the exact structure of the new Benefice but we are confident that robust foundations have been laid for proper representation and governance not least in the provision of a Special Patronage Board which consists of the Bishop of Carlisle, the Master, Fellows and Scholars of the Trinity College, Cambridge and the Twenty-four Sidesmen of Dent

WESTERN DALES MISSION COMMUNITY

In the Western Dales we have an active and dynamic Mission Community. The Methodist, Anglican and United Reformed Churches are committed to working together wherever possible. We share some Worship, Children's Holiday Club, Grief Share, Messy Church and a multiplicity of other activities.

Our Steering Group meets monthly and there are Full Council Meeting four times a year. The Methodist minister, the Rev David Crouchley is the local Mission Community Leader. There is a good relationship between the various Denominations.

We have recently appointed Becca Gilbert, an Anglican Priest, to the role of Rural Pioneer Minister with specific responsibilities for evangelism in the farming community. Her post is jointly funded between the Anglican, Methodist and United Reformed Churches.



The Holiday Club Living Cross

OUR CHURCHES



St Andrew Sebergh

The church dates from 1130 and is Grade 1 listed. It has a fine ring of eight bells which are rung every Sunday. A major restoration took place in 1886. In the early 1980s a Parish Room with a kitchen and toilets was built. Refurbishment was carried out between 1995 and 2005, and in 2012 the chancel was extended to provide a platform for a new altar table and a podium for concerts. Plans are in hand to re-order the West end of the nave.



St Mark Cautley

Built in 1847 the church, which is an early Butterfield commission, was rescued from redundancy in 1987 and restored in 1997. It is an excellent place for silent prayer and reflection.



St John the Baptist Garsdale

The centre of a thriving ecumenical community in the Parish of Garsdale. Major restoration work was carried out in 2009.



St John the Evangelist Firbank

A rather isolated church built by Bateman of Dent in 1842. It has an interesting bell turret and lancet windows.. It serves a widely dispersed community in the upper reaches of the valley of the River Lune



Holy Trinity Howgill

The church, built in 1838, nestles on the banks of Chapel Beck on the edge of the hamlet of Howgill which is on a minor road from Sedbergh to Tebay and also on the Dales Way



All Saints Killington

A medieval church with a continuous nave and chancel and a bell tower. Stained glass windows in the North wall are 14th or 15th century and in the South wall 17th century



St Andrew Dent

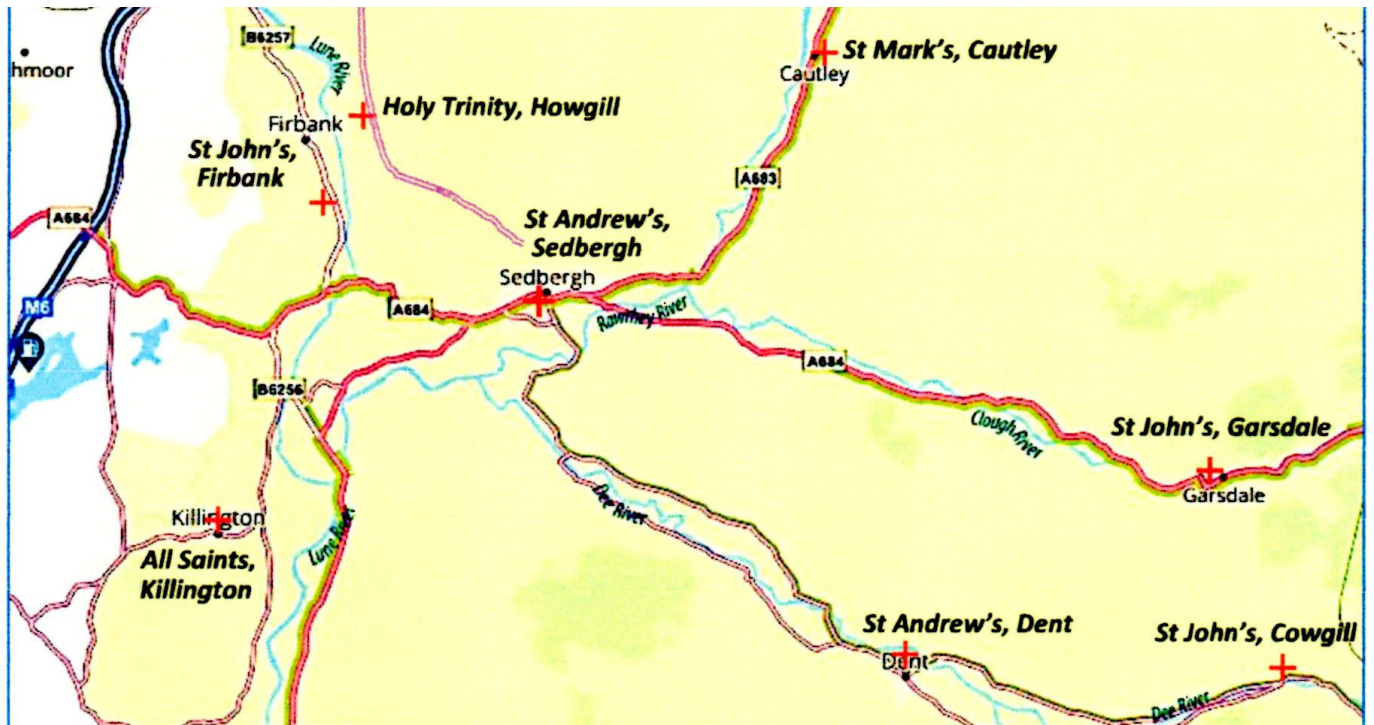
The Grade 1 listed church dating from the 12th century was rebuilt in 1417 and restored in 1889. More recently the ring of six bells has been recast, the organ rebuilt and a lavatory and kitchen installed in the West end of the nave. Plans are in hand to improve the heating of the church which dominates the village of Dent and is a centre for concerts and other gatherings.



St John the Evangelist Cowgill

Remotely situated on the road from Dent to Dent Station the church was built in 1838 to serve the community building the Settle to Carlisle railway line. A memorial to the 27 navvies who lost their lives during the construction has recently been installed.. There is an exhibition in the church and it is planned to develop a heritage trail.

THE AREA



The Benefice is situated at the western edge of the Yorkshire Dales National Park in a spectacular landscape of fells and valleys. It covers an area of 73.7 square miles, with a population of 3538 (2018 figures). Sedbergh, nestling at the foot of the Howgills and five miles east of the M6, is the largest town in the National Park. The Dales Way runs down Dentdale, through the picturesque Dent village, and on to Sedbergh. The area attracts many fell walkers and cyclists.

The proximity of the M6, the West Coast Main Line at Oxenholme/Kendal and the Leeds-Settle-Carlisle line at Garsdale and Dent is a major bonus for this rural community. There is a regular, but limited, bus service to Kendal. Lancaster, Penrith, Carlisle and the Lake District are within an hour's drive. Hyper-fast broadband (1000 Mbps) is available in Dent and the rural areas and will be arriving at Sedbergh town in the near future.

Sedbergh still retains many traditional shops including a butcher, greengrocer, sweet shop, a hardware shop and large bookshop. The weekly market has been held since 1251. Other services include a library, post office, pharmacy and vet, as well as a Medical Centre and supermarket. There are two pubs, a hotel and two cafes. Dent has a village shop, two pubs, a Heritage Centre and a Meditation Centre.

Farming, tourism, local businesses, services and education are the main forms of employment. According to the 2011 census, approximately 68% of properties in the area are privately owned; 16% are privately rented; 16% are socially rented.

There are two primary schools within the Benefice: Dent C of E voluntary aided primary school and Sedbergh primary school, both of which have Good OFSTED ratings. Settlebeck School is Sedbergh's mixed 11-16 comprehensive school with Specialist Technology and Science status. Settlebeck also has a Good OFSTED rating. For post-16 education students successfully transfer to schools in Kirkby Lonsdale and Kendal or Kendal College. Sedbergh School, founded in 1525 is a co-educational independent boarding school, with many different buildings and playing fields around the town. The school has its own chaplaincy and chapel.

Both Sedbergh and Dent are vibrant and caring communities. As soon as the Covid-19 lockdown was announced a team of local volunteers was set up to deliver food and necessities to vulnerable residents. The monthly 'Sedbergh & District Lookaround' magazine lists the many clubs and societies in the town, which cater for a wide range of interests, including art, history and various sports. The local hall in Sedbergh houses a community gym.

Music is quite outstanding in the area, with a biennial Music Festival, an annual Beer and Music Festival in Dent, Sedbergh Brass Band, Sedbergh Orchestra and the Dentdale Choir. For children there is a training band and the Pepperpot children's orchestra.



The Cottontown Chorus in concert

Our church congregations do not reflect the local demographic, being mostly retired people over 60. However, many members of our church family are very active in the community, helping to run the Tourist Information Centre and the town charity shop in Sedbergh and the library in Dent.

WORSHIP AND PRAYER

Our style of worship is sacramental and liturgical but each church in the Benefice has a distinct character. Common Worship is used for Communion services, although St Andrew Sedbergh holds a BCP Communion service each Wednesday at noon.

The normal pattern of worship revolves around weekly Sunday morning services at St Andrew Sedbergh and St Andrew Dent. St John Garsdale also holds weekly Sunday morning services in conjunction with the Methodist community. The other churches have an afternoon Communion service once a month.

There is a robed choir at St Andrew Sedbergh, which sings at Communion services and occasional choral evensongs for church festivals. Music at the monthly family service is provided by the Music Group. A laptop, digital projector and screen are available for use at Sedbergh and normally used for the family service.

Dent and Cowgill churches come together quarterly for an ecumenical service with the local Methodist congregation. A Mission Community united service is held in Sedbergh on the first Sunday of each month, alternating between St Andrew's and Cornerstone, the Methodist church.

Both Dent and Sedbergh churches have lay members who assist with the chalice and others who read the lessons and lead the intercessions. The non-eucharistic services at the smaller churches are usually lay-led.

During the winter months the three Lune churches (Firbank, Howgill and Killington) go into hibernation, usually resuming for services again at Easter. St Mark Cautley holds a Taize service when there is a 5th Sunday of the month.

Average Sunday attendance: St Andrew Sedbergh 40
St Andrew Dent 20
St John Garsdale 18 ecumenical

Numbers are below 10 at the smaller rural churches

A short ecumenical prayer meeting is held each week in a different church or chapel in the Mission Community. Twice a month there is a prayer meeting at St Andrew Sedbergh. An ecumenical prayer breakfast is held on the first Saturday of each month to support the work of NISCU - Northern Inter-Schools Christian Union.

There is a thriving Cursillo group in Sedbergh, which meets twice a month. A Bible Study group has been meeting for years, and both Sedbergh and Dent hold a Lent course.

OUTREACH

The Mission Community runs the following activities:

Messy Church - monthly

Holiday Club - annually with an average attendance of 65 children

School Assemblies - weekly in the two Primary Schools

Open the Book - in the process of being set up

Griefshare - twice a month coffee get-together for the bereaved

CAMEO - Come and meet each other - monthly

Communion service at the hospital in Kendal - quarterly

Walk of Witness - Good Friday

We have organised 'Experience Easter' and 'Experience Pentecost' for the local schools.

Dent and Sedbergh both have teams of bellringers, several of whom are not church-goers.

Weekly Coffee Mornings are community events, as are the Lent lunches in Sedbergh.

Most of the churches host events such as concerts, fairs and flower festivals. St Andrew's Sedbergh is the venue for 'Flicks in the Fells' - our monthly cinema. Sedbergh Orchestra rehearses in the church and together with the Town Band holds regular concerts.



OUR NEW INCUMBENT

The opportunities for the incumbent of the Benefice are many and varied. A strong sense of mission and vision for the future of the Church within the communities of Sedbergh and Dent and the surrounding rural area is needed.

What we are looking for:

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A team player to work alongside the local denominations to encourage the Mission Community. We are blessed with a pioneer minister for the Western Dales who has recently joined the Ministry Team. She is helping to minister to families and the farming community.

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An innovator to encourage and support the vision as we move forward. Also to bring together and share liturgical traditions and music as we worship together.

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A person of prayer who will encourage us all to pray and hear what God has for our Church in the future

Someone with a grasp of the way forward for the Church in this modern society.

Personal Skills:

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A person who can motivate those who work within the Community.

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A person who can work with the elderly, with families, young people and children.

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Who has a listening ear and can give guidance and encouragement through the preaching of the gospel

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An interest in fostering talents, gifts and spiritual development.

SUPPORT IN THE BENEFICE

The Ministry Team is:

Rev Becca Gilbert, the recently appointed Pioneer minister to the Western Dales Mission Community

Rev Lindsay Gray retired priest

Rev Christine Brown self financing priest

Judith Bush Lay reader

They are supported by a limited but experienced group of enthusiastic lay people who have been loyal supporters of the Benefice and its churches for many years. Our main concern is that we have not identified sufficient successors for them and there are not enough new members joining our churches to maintain the current level of activity.



THE VICARAGE

The vicarage, built in 2012, is situated on the edge of Sedbergh backing onto the fells. It has magnificent views and is 5 minutes walk away from the church.



It is a beautifully appointed four bedroom detached eco-friendly house. The master bedroom is ensuite and the other three bedrooms are served by a family bathroom. The very spacious sitting room has a wood-burning stove. There is a separate dining room, study, and large utility room that adjoins the integral garage. The kitchen is equipped with a built in hob and cooker, fridgefreezer and dishwasher. There are fitted carpets throughout.

MOVING ON

We hope you have enjoyed this introduction to the Western Dales Benefice. Should you wish to find out more and would like to visit us please contact: Tony Reed Screen on 015396 21081 or <a865@btinternet.com> who will arrange a visit.

A Prayer

Heavenly Father,

Be with all those who use this Profile and help them as they reflect on whether this is the right place for them to serve you.

Be with our Benefice through this time of vacancy and may your Holy Spirit guide all those involved in the selection process as we endeavour to discern who you are calling to serve alongside us in this place.

Amen