

# HOLY TRINITY

## KENDAL PARISH CHURCH



Image Derek Stafford (Roofing)

### Parish Profile 2021



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# 'A Welcoming Christian community serving the people of Kendal'

## Where we are now - Church Life



As a church family we are resourceful, resilient, and yet realistic. Although the Covid-19 pandemic has brought disruption, uncertainty and anxiety to our church community over the past year, we have learnt much through being attentive to God's word in all things around us.



Our previous Priest-in-Charge, who had been with us for 10 years, moved to a promoted post in March 2020 which led to an interregnum from March 2020 to November 2020, as the appointment process was halted due to the 'Stay at home' order issued by the government in March 2020. The Diocese decided to appoint an interim Priest-in-Charge who was Licensed here on Advent Sunday, this was on a part-time basis as he was already the vicar of a nearby church. We all thought that he would be with us longer than it has turned out but this is because he is married to the current Bishop of Penrith who has recently been appointed as Bishop to the Archbishops of Canterbury and York, so they will both be moving to Lambeth Palace.

The majority of this profile was written in preparation for appointing a new priest in 2020, but now includes a few updates in light of changing circumstances.



As in all church communities, Covid-19 has caused considerable disruption to our common life, leading both to much uncertainty and anxiety but also to new forms of worship and better ways of communication. Most of our 8 staff were furloughed during lockdown and 2 still are. Most children's activities remain suspended and our music is severely curtailed. However, we are gradually increasing our services and other activities as regulations allow. We now have 3 services every Sunday in church plus a midweek Communion and are opening the building for private prayer and visitors once more.

We thought we knew where we were going in the spring of 2020. Now we are less certain, yet the desire for growth remains strong, with great opportunities to look again at how we approach Witness, Worship, Welcome and Word. A perceptive and energetic priest is required to help us begin afresh.

# 'A Welcoming Christian community serving the people of Kendal'

## Church Life - pre pandemic and as we hope it will be again

This is a busy and active church with a great deal going on. There is something happening almost every day here, with worship on Sundays and weekdays complemented by social gatherings, house groups, pastoral care, schools and youth work, community service, and a particular ministry to those affected by dementia.

We seek to be a parish church for all, and celebrate the fact that we can worship across a breadth of styles, from the Book of Common Prayer, to our 'God Outdoors' service out on the fell side for those who might never come within the church building. We love that we cherish both our choral tradition and the informality of The Gathering.

We are a truly broad church, with people from every tradition finding their church family here. This, too, is something which we celebrate and seek to nurture. We feel that this is the sort of community which God has called us to be.

Our church has an open-door policy. We welcome everyone to come in and share this wonderful, vast, tranquil space. Whether visitors come for prayer, worship, history, or to escape the vagaries of the Lake District weather – all are welcome. Our main focus though is on prayer, worship, witness and welcome.



O God,  
Make the door of this house  
wide enough to receive  
all who need  
human love and fellowship,  
and a heavenly Father's care;  
and narrow enough to shut out  
all envy, pride, and hate.  
Make its threshold smooth  
enough to be no stumbling-block  
to children, nor to straying feet,  
but rugged enough to turn back  
the tempter's power;  
make it a gateway  
to thine eternal kingdom.  
*Thomas Kea*





***“Firmly rooted in God, faithful in prayer, grounded in Scripture and alive to the Holy Spirit.”***

Holy Trinity, Kendal Parish Church, aspires to grow into the phrase above and has developed in many exciting ways over the last decade: maintaining traditional styles of worship while establishing new ones, retaining long standing members while attracting new ones; that’s a balance we want to keep. We have begun to deepen our prayer life, develop house groups, youth work, community service and pioneer work. We have seen people come to faith, explore and grow in ministry, and we have improved our welcome to those visiting us for worship or heritage. We have undertaken significant building projects and have plans to further adapt our building for 21st Century use in partnership with other local organisations. We are committed to developing Pioneer Ministry and beginning to make active connections within our Mission Community.

We are looking for a priest who can help us build much further on all of this, who will help us to deepen our worship and discipleship and to engage actively within our wider community.

S/he will be committed to:

- ◆ working collaboratively and prayerfully within a variety of teams
- ◆ developing a range of callings within the church community
- ◆ maintaining varied styles of liturgy and worship and supportive of the role of music within them
- ◆ having a civic role and excited to use that to further our mission within and outside the church walls
- ◆ positively engaging all our members with current changes and diocesan initiatives

# What sort of priest are we looking for?

Are you?

- ◆ someone with a gift and passion for growing the church and developing leaders.
- ◆ able to lead strategically with a vision for the future
- ◆ a team player to help us continue our growth as disciples and able to accept the support we offer
- ◆ able to delegate and enjoy working collaboratively whilst keeping a discerning overview of the many facets of church life
- ◆ keen to maintain the momentum of our developments, both spiritual and organisational
- ◆ comfortable with our different styles of liturgy and worship, including virtual ones, and supportive of our rich musical traditions
- ◆ able to bring godly imagination and enthusiasm in supporting and developing new work including Pioneer Ministry and Fresh Expressions
- ◆ able to face the challenges of our extensive building programme
- ◆ committed to your own spiritual learning and development
- ◆ a confident and engaging speaker
- ◆ a vicar whose vision is as broad as our church is wide!



## Church support

**Ministerial support team.** We have two Assistant non-stipendiary licensed priests. One takes special responsibility for pastoral care and bereavement within Kendal Parish Church, in addition to working closely with the Priest-in-Charge. The other is responsible for the support and development of ecumenical pioneer work and a 24/7 prayer initiative across the town. We also have five retired clergy, two active lay Readers, a reader in training and a reader emeritus as well as others exploring their vocations within the church. This team actively supports our services and ministry and assists elsewhere within the Deanery as requested. In addition we employ two church administrators.

**Lay support.** There are numerous people including Welcomers who help out in many ways supporting services and doing other tasks.

# Worship - is central to our mission

## ♦ Sunday -

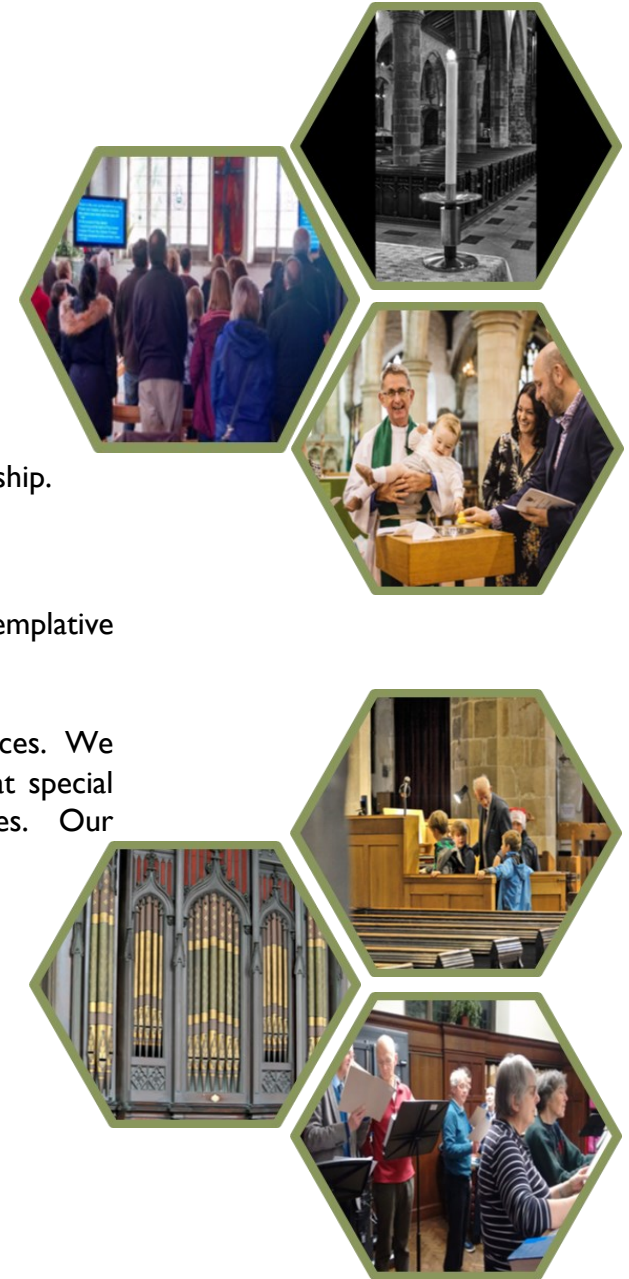
Holy Communion (BCP)	8.00am
Parish Communion (Common Worship) (most 1st Sundays BCP Communion)	9.30am
The Gathering	11.15am
Evensong (currently suspended)	

Each are of equal importance, tradition is precious and many are willing to try different and new ways to worship.

- ♦ During the Covid-19 pandemic we have successfully developed online services.

- ♦ **Weekdays** - Worshipping opportunities include Morning prayer, BCP Communion and Contemplative Meditation.

- ♦ **Music** - This has a long history within our church and has a special and integral part in almost all our services. We employ a Music Director who is responsible for our robed choir, which sings regularly on Sundays and at special services, and for our music group which plays at the Gathering and in some Parish Communion services. Our services are enriched by our Church Organist on one of the two organs and grand piano.



# Other Services

**Civic Services.** Our church building holds town services such as Remembrance Sunday and Mayor's Sunday, which attract large congregations.

**Major festivals.** We celebrate all major festivals with special services attended by the wider community.

**School Services.** We host many different services and events for a number of schools.

# Charities we support

Church Mission Society - supporting Andrew and Maria Leake in northern Argentina

Christian Aid

Manna House – a local charity for homeless and vulnerably housed

Springfield House – a local shelter for women affected by domestic abuse

Kings Food Bank

Children's Society

Charities Christmas Tree Festival - 40 trees representing 40 charities





# Children & Young People

- ◆ The work with this group of church members is led by our Children and Young People's worker.

There are;

- ◆ **Sunday Morning Kids Club** during The Gathering service, held in the Parish Hall. Numbers vary, 10-20 children.
- ◆ **God Outdoors** monthly. The children and families spend time outdoors experiencing God's creation, returning to church in time for the usual Kids Club. Children have a lot of fun and enjoy their time, our challenge with this group is how to move them on and introduce them to a more formal adult style of worship in a timely way.
- ◆ **Toddler Group.** Babies, young children, parents and or carers meet weekly. All our baptism families are invited to this group, a number take this offer up.
- ◆ **Messy Church** happens monthly in the Parish Hall. Church and non-church families have lots of fun, "mess", a time of worship, food and company. Volunteers from church have a big role here. Numbers vary but we usually serve about 40 meals.
- ◆ **Messy Vintage** happens every couple of weeks. The Toddler group, or small group of children from one of the schools, visit a care home and play or do crafts (with a Christian theme) with the residents.
- ◆ **Detached Youth Work** is in the early stages of being developed within Kendal



**You're Invited**  
To Our Family Christmas Celebrations

**Messy Church**  
3pm to 5pm Saturday 24th November  
The Parish Hall, Kirkland

**Family Christingle Service**  
4pm Sunday 2nd December  
Kendal Parish Church

**Messy Church**  
3pm to 5pm Saturday 15th December  
The Parish Hall, Kirkland

**Crib Service**  
4pm Christmas Eve  
Kendal Parish Church

**Charity Christmas Tree Festival**  
From 7th to 20th December:  
Fridays: 3:30pm to 5:30pm    Saturdays: 11am to 4pm  
Then  
Friday 21st: 1pm to 5:30pm    Saturday 22nd: 11am to 4pm    Sunday 23rd: 11am to 4pm

# Pastoral Care

A small team of clergy and lay people, led by one of the Assistant Priests, provide support for the sick and housebound and administer Holy Communion as requested. They regularly visit the local hospital and care homes within the parish.

- ◆ **Anna Chaplaincy** - Our newly commissioned Anna Chaplain supports older people in the church and community, increasing the provision of spiritual care and services we can offer them. This has continued to develop during the various phases of lockdown, in particular recording services for use in care homes and beyond when visiting was not possible.
- ◆ **Kendal Tea Service** which is dementia embracing, is hosted in church.

# Vicarage Park CofE Primary School



Vicarage Park is a voluntary controlled school within our parish. It is a relatively small primary set in within spacious grounds. It is a happy, caring school that nurtures self worth, confidence and a life-long love of learning. The core values the children are taught are compassion, responsibility and courage, all based around the curriculum.

Under normal circumstances our Children’s Worker runs a weekly club in school during term time. The Incumbent is an ‘ex officio’ governor and would be expected to nurture positive links with the school through assemblies etc.



# Finance

Our most recent accounts show an improved financial footing which fully funds our day to day life and witness as a church, yet we are far from complacent: We currently pay our Parish Offer that covers the direct costs of ministry in the Parish, but are unable to contribute any additional funding at this time.

It is thanks to the generosity of our church family and associated Trusts for their considerable donations that we have not had to draw on reserves. A great deal of work has gone into growth in our stewardship and we recognise that this will be an ongoing challenge.

We wish to achieve a sustainable financial future by continuing to build a generous culture, by running regular stewardship campaigns, and by nurturing holistically generous disciples.

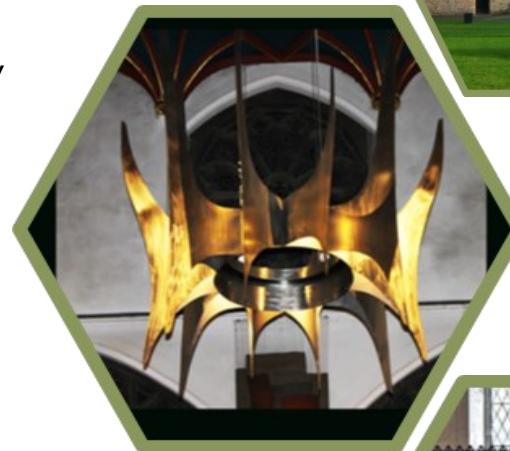
The proposed building works will necessitate unprecedented fundraising.

## Friends of KPC

Founded in 2012, the Friends of Kendal Parish Church provide funds to support a variety of church projects both large and small. Their social events are open to everyone and include trips/visits to other churches and places of interest, talks, short services and afternoon teas.

## Major Churches

We are part of the Major Churches Network (formerly The Greater Churches Network).



# Where next?

## Our vision

We have come a long way in the last 10 years, becoming a more open, warm and welcoming church; yet there is far more to be achieved and most of us are keener on some forms of further change than others!

Recognising this vision, we seek guidance and encouragement on our Christian journey.

## Our mission

- ◆ to continue to provide a welcoming Christian Community, further building on our varied pattern of meaningful, engaging worship
- ◆ to develop a greater understanding of, and commitment to, Pioneer Ministry and Fresh Expressions, in order to reach out to more people around us
- ◆ to move Kendal Parish Church more firmly into working in our Mission Community and develop greater understanding of this amongst our congregation
- ◆ to develop our use of social media to engage further with our local community
- ◆ to approach the next parts of our building projects with prayerful imagination and energy
- ◆ to make full use of the proposed Heritage Quarter bid, to open up the building further for the community and visitors, as well as for ourselves

## Growth in discipleship

- ◆ build links between our different congregations
- ◆ seek growth in faith, understanding and spiritual maturity in people at every stage of life
- ◆ encourage involvement in House groups, courses, quiet days and specific responsibilities around the church
- ◆ develop further lay involvement in services and encourage the exploration of particular callings
- ◆ continue building towards a more firmly secure financial position.

We seek a person who is patient and generous in spirit to help us move on.



# Mission



an excerpt from the Diocesan website...  
*Carlisle Diocese has undertaken a Mission Communities initiative.*

**Follow Daily** **Care Deeply**  
**Speak Boldly** **Tread Gently**

## God for all

*God for All is the ecumenical vision for our county - four partner denominations and other companion churches are working towards that bold aim.*

*God for All builds on the prayers, planning and work across churches in Cumbria over the past five years, emphasising mission at the heart of what we do. As part of the vision, new strategies for future ministry, outreach and buildings have been developed.*

**Central to our vision are four emerging key themes: follow daily, care deeply, speak boldly, tread gently.**

*More than 30 mission communities are being created across the county, dozens of fresh expressions of church are growing and new and exciting ways are being realised to empower everyone's missional gifts.*

## Pioneer Ministry

*This is a really exciting time in Cumbria. We are working together in mission like no other area in the UK. Under God for All (see [godforall.org.uk](http://godforall.org.uk)) different denominations have joined together in order that every person in Cumbria, of all ages and backgrounds, will have an opportunity to discover more of God and God's purpose for their lives, so that they will discover more of Jesus and the good news and become followers of Jesus within a Christian community.*

For further information: [www.carlisle-diocese.org.uk](http://www.carlisle-diocese.org.uk)

### ... Holy Trinity, Kendal Parish Church is:

- ♦ committed to supporting God for All
- ♦ is continuing to develop Pioneer Ministry in our Mission Communities led by our Pioneer Minister
- ♦ is taking an active part in both the Helm Mission Community, and the Kendal Mission Area, as well as Churches Together in Kendal

These initiatives are only just beginning at Kendal Parish Church. There is much work to be done to help the wider church understand, support and participate in these challenging ventures.

# Mission Communities

## The Helm Mission Community

Holy Trinity Kendal Parish Church is part of the Helm Mission Community alongside the Anglican churches in the parishes of Natland, Crosscrake, Old Hutton & New Hutton and our ecumenical partners the Salvation Army and Kendal United Reformed Church in Kendal. The Anglican churches in the Mission Community, known as the Helm Group, were grouped together in an informal way back in 2003 as part of the Kendal Deanery Strategy. Similarly, the other two Anglican town centre churches were grouped with their geographical rural neighbours to form the Beacon Team and the Two Valleys Team.

Since then, as the Helm Group and more recently as the Helm Mission Community, we have discovered ways to work, worship, reach out, support and grow together as churches, whilst also maintaining a focus on the work we are called to in our specific parishes and communities. Sometimes the working together has occurred quite naturally but on other occasions we have had to work hard to achieve it.

Ministers from across the Mission Community meet regularly to talk, to plan and to pray. Recent highlights in the life of our Mission Community have been the pre-recorded Helm Mission Community Nativity involving each of the different churches in the Mission Community, Lent Groups focusing on the four themes of the Vision Refresh, and worship together during Holy Week. Out of the Lent groups we hope to form four Mission Community wide focus groups based on the different themes of the Vision Refresh, to help us grow and flourish in these four areas. We also plan to start a Mission Community Home Group and are in the process of developing a Mission Community Steering Group.

The Mission Community is co-led by Captain Hilary Borthwick and The Rev'd Canon Angela Whittaker. Our Mission Community Ministers' meetings are usually filled with laughter, hope, support for one another and a genuine desire to see the Kingdom grow.

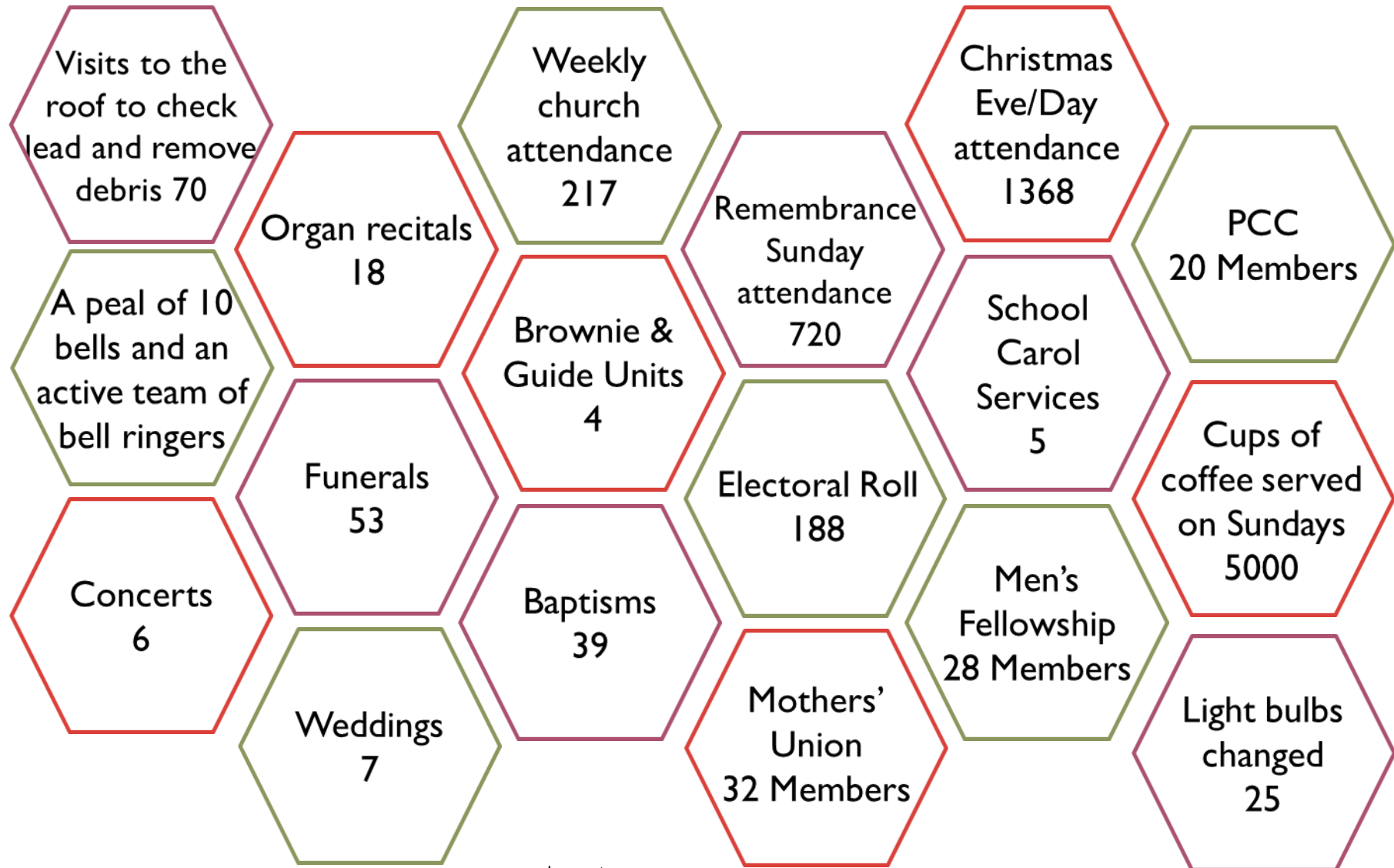
## Kendal Mission Area

As part of the ecumenical vision 'God for All,' and our being encouraged to form ecumenical Mission Communities, we were part of a Kendal-wide consultation of churches in 2017 (town centre and outlying districts). Since that date further conversations have been held with church ministers across the town leading to the formation of an informal network of church ministers to encourage mission partnership. This Kendal Mission Area includes most of the churches in the town and surrounding area. Kendal Parish Church is part of this evolving, overarching initiative and the previous incumbent was the facilitator of this network

Recent work and mission in the Kendal Mission Area includes setting up a CAP Debt Centre, establishing ecumenical detached youth work in Kendal Town Centre, online Alpha, The Bible Course, strengthening chaplaincy ministry in and across the town, getting involved in the 'As One' initiative and planning for a Kendal Mission in 2022.



## You maybe interested to know that in 2019 ...



# Building Development

Our Grade I listed historic building, beautiful though it is, is in urgent need of repair. We are working to adapt our building to meet current needs and to leave it in good order for future generations.

## Projects Completed in the last 15 years

- ◆ complete re-roofing of the south aisles
- ◆ kitchenette at back of church
- ◆ additional meeting room
- ◆ extensive repairs to porch roof
- ◆ new lighting, re-wiring and PA system
- ◆ six new toilets including accessible
- ◆ new boilers
- ◆ improvements to Welcome with new church publicity materials

## Current Projects

Work is about to commence on significant repairs to two stained glass windows and the associated stone work, grant assisted funding secured.

## Future Projects

The new church architect has carried out a most thorough Quinquennial Inspection, and reported on the enormous range of repairs that will need doing over the next five to fifteen years.

- The tower needs to be stripped out and both pointed and grouted against driving rain. In order to carry out this work the main organ, a Willis, will need to be taken out; the organ itself needs a major overhaul, fund raising for which is ongoing.
- The Bellingham Chapel roof will need urgent repairs to specific large timbers and replacement lead covering, as well as having ventilation installed.
- Other parts of the roof, stone and leadwork, will also need replacing over time, a separate survey of the pinnacles is in hand.
- Some of the porch roof work requires redoing due to internal rot.
- The heating system is reliant on Victorian cast iron piping which will need refurbishment in the medium term.
- The vestry roof is only felt covered and requires work imminently.
- Work will be needed on our Green Strategy to reduce our carbon footprint.

Repairs to Grade I listed buildings, especially those at height, will be very expensive. It can safely be said that as a church body we are looking at fund raising on a scale not seen in this church for many years. All of this whilst we, of course, continue to develop our outward-looking vision as a Christian community.





# Statement by the Rural Dean

Kendal Deanery is a geographically varied Deanery centred on Kendal but stretching from Garsdale in the east to the Winster Valley in the west, Kirkby Lonsdale in the south to Longsleddale in the north, from deeply rural dales and valleys, villages and scattered farming communities to smaller towns and the larger ancient market town of Kendal. It is a great place in which to live and work, with all the local services to hand including good schools and easily accessible road and rail links to London and Scotland, but with amazing countryside and seaside on the doorstep. Parts of the Deanery are in the Lake District National Park, others in the Yorkshire Dales National Park and others in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty bordering Morecambe Bay and all are within easy reach of Kendal!

The churches in the area are grouped into ecumenical mission communities as part of the county-wide God For All vision and these are important in enabling effective mission in the local areas and in providing mutual support in terms of both mission and ministry. The Clergy Chapter is a friendly and supportive group of colleagues who meet together on a monthly basis for fellowship, prayer and support, and this has continued via Zoom throughout the pandemic. Kendal Parish Church is part of the Helm Mission Community, one of six across the area of the Deanery, which is currently jointly led by Captain Hilary Borthwick and The Rev'd Canon Angela Whittaker as well as being one of the churches in the Kendal Mission Area. This brings together the majority of the churches that serve the town and creates a forum for deepening relationships and cooperation between the churches and discerning and developing a range of mission initiatives in the town.

Rev'd Anne Pettifor



## Comments from ...

### Archdeacon

Holy Trinity Kendal is a church of exciting prospects at a critical juncture. We are looking for an inspiring leader who is committed to gospel and the 'God For All Vision' of the Diocese under the themes of Follow Daily, Care Deeply, Speak Boldly, Tread Gently.

The Ven Vernon Ross

### Bishop of Carlisle

Holy Trinity Kendal is, in every sense, one of the largest churches in Carlisle Diocese. As will be apparent from this profile, there is a great deal already happening in terms of mission and ministry – but with real opportunities for further growth and development.

We are looking for someone who will be excited by the possibilities this opening presents, and who will not be daunted by the scale of the challenge. S/he will be keen to discern and foster the gifts of others; will be enthusiastic about our ecumenical 'God for All' vision; and will be happy to engage with the church's significant civic role in Kendal. Above all, the successful candidate will be passionate about the Gospel, and about making it known to this generation.

+ James Newcome



# Vicarage

- ◆ detached 4 bedroomed house with large study
- ◆ quiet residential area with mature gardens, parking and garage
- ◆ less than half a mile from church
- ◆ ground floor – entrance, cloakroom, study, dining room, lounge, kitchen, utility room
- ◆ first floor – 4 good sized bedrooms, shower room and bathroom



# The Town of Kendal

Kendal is an attractive market town and the administrative centre of South Lakeland, variously described as “The Auld Grey Town” and “Gateway to the Lakes”. Sitting just outside the National Parks of the Lake District and Yorkshire Dales, it is a centre for light industry and housing development. With a population of over 30,000 and growing, it is the third largest centre in Cumbria after Carlisle and Barrow. Nearly 25% of people are 65 or over.

There are two secondary schools and a College of Further Education. Abbot Hall Art Gallery and Museum are neighbours of the church. The Brewery Arts Centre is also near, with a theatre and cinemas; it offers a wide range of activities for all. The Kendal Leisure Centre offers indoor sports and swimming, and hosts a regular programme of concerts and events. Outdoor activities are catered for by numerous clubs and societies across the local area.

The attractiveness of the surrounding area and the wide range of cultural, sporting and leisure activities that thrive here mean that house prices are high. This, combined with relatively low average income levels, and competition from more affluent ‘off-comers’, creates a serious shortage of affordable housing for local people. Use of the local Food Bank, homelessness and drug use continue to rise.

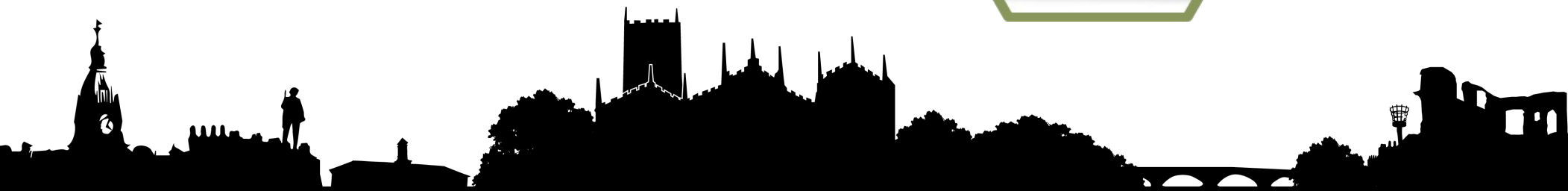


# The Parish

Holy Trinity is a mainly urban parish of over 17,000 people: it includes part of the town centre and the southern and eastern parts of Kendal. The area includes services premises and light industrial buildings. Nearly two thirds of the town population lies within the parish. Housing ranges from large housing association to 'executive housing' estates, making it a socially and economically mixed parish: most parts are well above national averages, but in Kirkland 17% of children are in families below the poverty line, unemployment is relatively high and half the population fall into the lowest education Decile; Highgate, the area along the main road into central Kendal, falls in the second lowest Decile for quality of environment.

Kendal Parish Church is the civic church with a wider ministry towards the town: large numbers come to occasional services, especially at Christmas (800 plus to the 2019 Crib Service), we are a regular concert venue and Mayor's Sunday in July and Remembrance Sunday in November are formal events. The building is very much in the public eye and the Town Council would like us re-designated as a Minster.

Kendal College and one of the two comprehensive schools lies within the parish, as well as four primary schools, one of which is Vicarage Park Church of England Primary School where the priest is an 'ex officio' governor. S/he also chairs two Charitable Trusts which support the work of the church.



# Are you the person we're looking for?



HOLY TRINITY  
KENDAL PARISH CHURCH