

Profile

Mission Community Leader and Priest-in-Charge Living Waters* Benefice

(communities of Allonby, Aspatria, Crosscanonby, Dearham, Gilcrux and Hayton)



* Pastoral reorganisation is planned to unite two Benefices and the successful applicant would initially be appointed as Priest in Charge of Allonby, Crosscanonby and Dearham and Priest in Charge of Aspatria with Hayton and Gilcrux.

Introduction from the Acting Bishop of Carlisle

Thank you for your interest in this exciting role in the Diocese of Carlisle. The Diocese of Carlisle is committed to the God for All vision. Launched in 2015, it is underpinned by a commitment across four denominations in Cumbria (the Church of England, Methodist Church, The Salvation Army and the URC) to see God's Kingdom flourish across the county. The vision is based on four values:

- **Follow Daily** (helping each other to follow Jesus more closely);
- **Care Deeply** (listening to our communities to serve them and to challenge injustice);
- **Speak Boldly** (sharing our faith in Jesus in everyday ways); and
- **Tread Gently** (seeking to sustain and renew the life of the earth).

Mission Communities are the way in which the Church in Cumbria seeks to live out the God for All vision. They are deeply collaborative groupings of churches- between denominations, between clergy and laity, and between different communities- working together to proclaim afresh the gospel to each generation, faithful to its tune but improvising together to create new melodies for our place and time.

We are looking for clergy who resonate with this, who love God and love people, who will look outwards into the community in mission, help people grow in faith and who will enable the faith and gifts of all. If this stirs something in you, we'd love to hear from you.

+Rob Penrith
Acting Bishop of Carlisle



Ministry in the Diocese of Carlisle

A note from the Archdeacon

The opening pages of this profile introduce you to the distinctive way that we conduct ministry in the Diocese, through our ecumenical Mission Communities. These now shape the way we conduct all ministry in the Diocese and our stipendiary clergy are expected to take a lead in helping the transition towards this new way of being church.

At the heart of Mission Communities is a collaborative and empowering approach to ministry designed to release the full missional potential of the local Church. They aim to empower the ministry of all God's people and to release you to focus on your core

vocation as a priest, a leader and as a shepherd of God's people as, together, we share the Good News of Jesus in word and action.

Leading within a Mission Community requires you to work collaboratively and respectfully across boundaries of benefice and denomination, focussing on the priorities of Mission Communities which involves **Six Things**:

1. creating regular opportunities for **prayer** with your colleagues, lay and ordained (*Follow Daily*);
2. seeking collaborative ways to **enable mission and ministry** at local level, identifying a limited number of shared common tasks where the partner churches can achieve more together than they could individually, both for the building up of the Church and reaching those who do not yet know the love of Jesus or his call on their lives (*Speak Boldly and Care Deeply*);
3. encouraging the **discipleship and spiritual growth** of all Christians, including encouraging vocations of all kinds, lay and ordained, to make the most of the ministry gifts by which God has endowed his Church (*Follow Daily*);
4. working together to **resource** the Churches using the Partnership Agreement model - see *Appendix A (Follow Daily & Speak Boldly)*;
5. overseeing stewardship of **Church buildings**, ensuring that the Church is equipped with the building resources it needs and that sustainable plans are in place for buildings to meet our Carbon Net Zero targets, alongside the needs and desires of local communities (*Tread Gently*);
6. devising effective **ways of working together**, to enable collective decision-making, minimise inefficiencies or duplication and to release the gifts of the whole body of Christ to be "steadfast in faith and active in service" (*Speak Boldly and Care Deeply*).

The aim is to ensure that the Church in Cumbria is equipped, motivated and energised to share the redeeming work of Jesus for every person in Cumbria – God for All. I have, myself, been a leader of a similar rural Mission Community and commend it as an innovative and enabling approach to multi-parish ministry.

"God put this power to work in Christ...and has made him the head over all things for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all." (Ephesians 1.22-23)

If you would be interested in having an informal conversation, please call me on 07552 428772.

The Venerable Stewart Fyfe
Archdeacon of West Cumberland



Introducing The Mission Community And Your Role Within It

This is not your usual multi-benefice rural parish. We are pioneering new ways of being effective in rural ministry, building a team around you including a full-time pioneer curate and some dedicated youth work promoted by our Deanery Network Youth Church minister. Matt's training incumbent is a local pioneer priest, but he ministers as part of the team here. Part of your role will be to continue to build that team through an emphasis on vocational development and collaborative working. You are invited to lead us in an exciting stage in the development of our Church life as we bring together two existing benefices into a united benefice and two Mission Communities into a larger Mission Community with two operational hubs.

The post has two elements to it. You are invited to become:

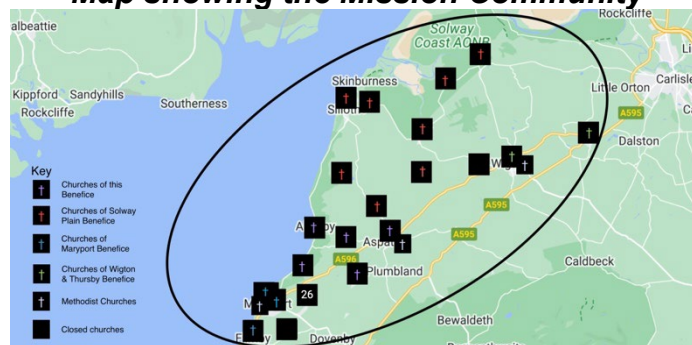
- **Mission Community Leader**; and
- **Priest-in-Charge** (expected to become incumbent upon completion of the pastoral scheme) of the combined benefice;

However, these are not so much separate jobs as ways of describing a single approach to working collaboratively to make the most of the ministry resources of the Churches and give a focus to the leadership we are inviting you to exercise.

This proposed new benefice (under the proposed title Living Waters) will consist of the villages of Allonby, Crossscanonby, Dearham, Hayton and Gilcruix, along with the small historic town of Aspatria. The parishes have already taken significant steps towards more effective co-operation (e.g. joint PCC working – see Appendix B) and have begun working effectively together. There is considerable goodwill between the parishes and you will be well supported as you help to shape the united benefice.

The new Mission Community incorporates the Anglican and Methodist Churches in Maryport and Flimby in the South, the Solway Plain group of rural parishes to the North and Wigton with Thursby in the East. Each has their own clergy leadership with responsibility for their own benefice/circuit, but you are invited to assume oversight of the Mission Community as it develops, working alongside the Assistant Mission Community Leader, Revd Philip Jackson, the Methodist Superintendent. Because of the size of the Mission Community it is expected to have two operational hubs, one covering the area of this benefice with the Maryport benefice and the other covering the Solway Plain and Wigton benefices and their Methodist congregations.

Map showing the Mission Community



Overview of the Benefice And Its Mission Opportunities

This proposed Benefice is steeped in a very rich Christian missionary heritage. Aspatria (Ash of Patrick) is reputed as the birthplace of St Patrick, a Roman Christian who converted much of this area, as well as Ireland. The Church stands on the hill where, according to tradition, Patrick converted an ash grove from a pagan to a Christian site of worship. Kentigern (or Mungo), credited as bringing Christianity to Cumberland, stayed here during his exile from Glasgow and the well in which he baptised is still visible in the churchyard at Aspatria which are dedicated to him. Gilcruix and Crosscanonby bear the marks of their Christian Viking foundations.

And today, the Church in this part of Cumberland is still held in very high esteem, which affords many mission opportunities.

Our schools are a particularly important missional opportunity, affording links with young families and the wider community. The only Church school is at Crosscanonby and the role of the vicar there is particularly important. Whilst the incumbent will have limited time for governance activities, we hope that the new incumbent will be involved in the governance of Crosscanonby. In Aspatria, a chaplaincy has been established at Beacon Hill secondary school involving all the local clergy and the Network Youth Church Leader. We have excellent links with all our other schools, including opportunities to lead Collective Worship as part of a team including our Pioneer Curate, Matt and some retired clergy.

A Mission Community Men's Breakfast is held in a hotel in Maryport.

A modern worship service for the whole Mission Community has recently begun at Aspatria Rugby Club at 4.00pm on fourth Sundays, led by Matt and Saskia Richards.

Matt and Saskia have also established a Family Church on alternate weeks in Aspatria Community Centre.

Aspatria Community Centre is owned by the Church and operates as a community asset, hosting a number of clubs and events. During the winter month it has also offered a community Warm Hub.

Dearham has a very active and well-attended Boys' Brigade and Girls' Association with strong links to the Church, and Aspatria has a very active Brownies, Guides and Rainbows group with potential for closer links and expansion into Cubs and Scouts.

Allonby offers opportunities for missional outreach to holiday makers during the summer months and some of the current congregation members come from the caravan parks, but there is little current contact with holiday makers. A summer holiday club ran very successfully, but required volunteers drafted in from elsewhere.

Allonby is also looking to run an Alpha Course in the near future. In 2023, the Saints Alive course ran during Lent in Aspatria, Hayton and Gilcruix.



The Gathering, Aspatria Rugby Club

Your Ministry Colleagues

Matt and Saskia Richards (*Matt is our Pioneer Curate*)

We've been here in Aspatria since summer 2022, having felt God guide us here for Matt's curacy. We previously lived in Stoke-on-Trent, where Matt served at the YMCA whilst training for ministry with CMS. We love being here in Cumbria, and have a strong sense of call to intentional Christian community. Our first child is on the way in March, which is very exciting!

Matt: The past two years have been a whirlwind infused with God's grace! We're very much still on the journey of learning about Cumbrian culture and how best to connect into that with the good news of Jesus. For me that's involved building relationships locally with primary & secondary schools, our local care home, our Guides group, local charities, and sports clubs. There's a lot going on here, but also a great deal of need. So we're continuing to pray that God would lead us to the right people and places.

In the meantime, many people continue to have a strong sense of connection with the traditional church, and I've found that life events play a big part in building relationships here. We're also putting real effort in at key festivals throughout the year, when people tend to be more open to expressing faith. Examples of this have included filming "A Cumbrian Nativity" which you can search on Youtube to get a flavour of the town from Mary & Joseph's perspective.

Saskia: Being from Switzerland I am still learning a lot about the culture around me but have found a lot of similarities with the Cumbrians. I have been working in town with people with learning difficulties which has been very precious and I have gotten to know a lot of local people through that. In the Church I have a real heart for older people who are lonely and children/families who are disconnected from church. I am also very passionate about the church not just calling itself family but living as such and looking after one another. We see this reflected in the local congregations, with Aspatria being the sort of place where people try to look after each other already.



You will also be working alongside:

Licensed ministers:



Yvette Ladds

Deanery Network Youth Church leader

Solway Network Youth Church (SNYC) runs a range of cell groups and youth activities for young people aged 10-18. We run small groups, discipleship groups, schools work and well-being groups. Our groups cover the whole deanery but enjoy coming together for residential and reunions.

We train and support volunteers and also work with clergy and churches across the area with mission events, schools work, confirmations and much more.



Revd Canon Geoffrey Ravalde
Licensed Associate Priest, SSM



Steve Ratcliffe
Licensed Reader

Active P.T.O. clergy:



Revd Canon David King



Revd Tom Cameron



Revd Canon Stephen Pye

Revd Neil Perkinson

Revd Susan McKendry

Person Profile

The person we are praying for will be:



...an enabler of the ministry of all Christians, making the most of everyone's gifts and appreciative of a breadth of



...a good listener, understanding, known in our communities, approachable, and



...be a team person, collaborative and forward looking, willing to share and develop ideas with others



..be an inspiring leader in mission, helping the church to grow



...inspiring and energetic, a person of conspicuous joy and deep faith.



...approachable and relational, down to earth with a good sense of humour, showing the love of God through pastoral

Job Specification

A Diocesan Job Specification accompanies this profile, but the parishes are looking for the following focus to this role:

- lead the Mission Community:
 - being a leader in mission, fulfilling the Great Commission to make disciples of all nations, working with us to spread the Gospel
 - being a strategic leader and an effective collaborator
 - not necessarily doing everything yourself, but enabling it to be done using the gifts and skills of the whole church
 - having an ecumenical focus, working alongside other denominations to present a united Christian witness in our parishes
- developing fellowship within the churches of the new benefice and generally helping them to come together
- reaching younger people, particularly through schools and youth work
- broaden the age-range of congregations, perhaps through introducing youth-friendly worship
- as part of a general support for our schools, having a particular focus on supporting the governance of Crosscanonby CE Primary School as the only Church school in the benefice
- developing a pastoral care team to address those feeling isolated
- building links with the wider Mission Community
- developing Fresh Expressions and imaginative forms of mission
- helping us to deepen our discipleship, particularly through home groups, Bible study and prayer
- Working effectively with our pioneer curate, Matt

Introducing the Parishes

ALLONBY Christ Church



ALLONBY: LOOKING SOUTH

Allonby has a famous beach and is a favourite seaside spot for folk all over Cumbria. It is a charming village with a fascinating history. According to the 2021 Census, the population of the civil parish of Allonby was 436. Although many residents would dispute this figure as a high number of properties are second or holiday homes, and that number is constantly increasing. The population of Allonby can rise to well over 2,000 when the local caravan parks are in full swing and their presence along with the many visitors we get can make this a very busy place indeed. Holidaymakers have been a feature of village life since the very early 18th Century and historically, visitors have significantly benefited society here. We are situated on the King Charles III Cycleway and Allonby Bay has just been designated as a Highly Protected Marine Area.

There is a small Primary School (Ofsted rating Good 2018) with 19 pupils which currently, although not a Church School; does have strong links with the Church. The Vicar carries out an assembly every fortnight and the children visit Church several times a year for services at Christmas, Easter and Harvest.

Allonby has a fine expanse of greens and wide sandy beaches. There are public houses, a Caravan Centre with swimming pool and leisure facilities, Tea Rooms; a Play Park and a couple of shops.

From the mid 17th C this was a largely Quaker village, which opposed the building of an Anglican Church, hence Christ Churches' position on the very edge of the village. To compensate for this perceived disadvantage a Church Hall was built in 1911, the centre of the village, in what had been a barn. Although this has now become a Village Hall, the Church has generous usage of the building, free of charge. An undoubted asset for fund raising activities and public meetings.

In recent years we have seen the demise of most of the older generation of village residents, from where much of our support was drawn. We have always enjoyed good support from village businesses and from non-church goers here. Worryingly, a high proportion of houses in the village are second homes or holiday rentals.



Christ Church is a Grade 11 listed building and is in a fair state of repair. Although initially a Chapel of Ease was Established on this site in 1744, it was rebuilt as a Church in 1845, and seats around 250 people, It has a fine organ, schoolroom, vestry and a toilet. We have a Parish Graveyard which is maintained to a high standard through the Community Payback scheme. This area has benefited in recent years from the addition of wild flowers, planted as part of the

'Let's Get Cumbria Buzzing' project, which are starting to encourage a range of insects and wildlife.

We pride ourselves on being a welcoming congregation and visitors frequently praise our warmth and hospitality. Until very recently we had a group of enthusiastic Fund Raisers and activities such as Pie and Pea Quizzes, Coffee Mornings and Afternoon Teas were frequently on the calendar. There are two Church Wardens and two other members of the PCC, one of whom is a Lay Reader. We hope to get back to a high level of engagement with the local community and resume many of the activities which were a feature of Church life here, just as we hope to encourage more frequent worshippers through our doors. We look forward to the future challenges and rewards of our Christian ministry in this beautiful place.

ASPATRIA St Kentigern



TOWN - The town of Aspatria has extensive views to Skiddaw and the western fells of the Lake District and views over the Solway Firth to Criffel and the Scottish coast. The surrounding area is agricultural. There are three main areas of modern housing, and other smaller developments, also one new estate under construction and another awaiting a start date, there is also older housing along the main through road. An industrial estate at the eastern end of the town with a further industrial area around the railway station which contains the main employers in the town, Aspatria Creamery and Sealy (bed manufacturers to the stars), along with further housing. Harriston, a former mining village which lies a mile out of town was rebuilt several years ago removing the old pit houses with more modern dwellings.

Amenities include a Primary School, a Secondary School, Doctors surgery and Chemist on the same site, Post Office, a Building Society, a park with football pitches and Bowling Green, a Gymnasium, a famous Rugby Club, and a Library currently under refurbishment. There are two supermarkets and a few independent businesses. The town is not as busy as in the past due to the influence of outside supermarkets, but those relatively newly established businesses seem to be doing well. One is the supplier of embroidered school uniforms to many of the local schools. At Brayton, within the parish, there is a 9-hole Golf Course, fishery, Restaurant and holiday lodges.

CHURCH- St Kentigern's rebuilt in 1848 'Early English' style, Grade II listed. Seats around 250, with a set of eight bells restored in 1999 but sadly now without ringers. Open churchyard which is maintained with the help of the Community Payback Scheme, without whom the task would be unaffordable. We also have one person who attends to smaller jobs withing the churchyard.

Congregation members read the lessons on a rota system, training is planned for those interested in assisting with the Chalice, leading intercessions and leading worship in the form of Morning Prayer.

Baptisms are outside service times, a trial of inviting the families to Family Church to receive their candles has just begun, contact



is kept up throughout the year by the Curate. The Mothers' Union is a very small group which may have to close in the near future, with thoughts of a Women's get together group as an idea in its place.

Church is open every day (9-5 Summer, 9-4 Winter) for quiet prayer and reflection.

SPECIAL OCCASION SERVICES - We hold services for Christingle, Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday & Good Friday as part of Holy Week services Easter Eve (last two years), Ascension Day, Remembrance Day (afternoon civic service), Mayor' Civic Service (September). We also re-started an All-Souls Service in 2023 which was well received.

ASPATRIA CHURCHES TOGETHER (AC) – The Methodist Church, with whom we have a good working relationship, is a short walk from St Kentigern's and seats about 200 is in good condition, the Minister lives in Wigton. ACT produces a joint monthly parish magazine and delivers Christmas cards to every household, as well as coffee mornings, sales, World Day of Prayer, Christmas Cards, shared Holy Week services.

LINKS WITH THE WIDER COMMUNITY - Uniformed Organisations, Rainbows, Brownies & Guides, (re launching the once thriving Cubs & Scouts would be something a new incumbent could take on board), they are always willing participants in any special events. Parade Sundays no longer take place, services were not really child friendly, and leaders had work commitments, possibly something to look into for special occasions like Easter.

Communion is held in Park Lodge residential home on first Wednesday of the Month, this has recently been re-launched after the pandemic.

Our Curate is a Governor at the local Secondary School as was our previous incumbent. Regular assemblies are taken in both schools and the schools hold services in Church such as Carol Services and Experiencing Easter

Links have been made with the Dreamscheme & Rugby Club through provision of Warm Hub & Drive in Carol Service held on the Rugby Club car park during Covid, and more recently the Mission community gathering held in the Ruby Club premises.

There are also several clubs for both children and adults on offer in the town. Dreamscheme run clubs in their premises for different age groups of youngsters and craft share groups for adults. They also run the Rainbow Pantry for anyone to purchase food items at reasonable prices. Karate & Dance classes are held in the Community Centre for youngsters with Monday Club and Mothers' Union meeting once a month. Junior football meet in the park as do the Bowlers, the Bowling Club is a significant meeting place in the town.

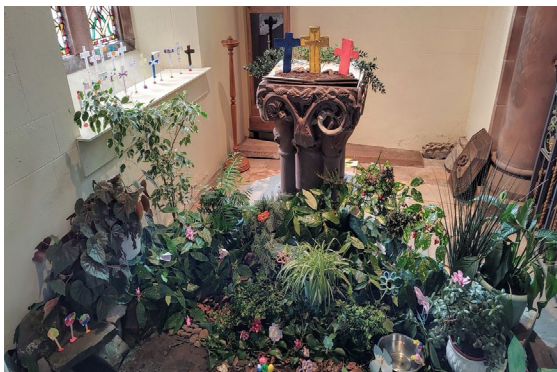
The famous Rugby Union & Rugby League Clubs have very active junior sections as well as adult teams. There is a Masonic Lodge in the town which is often used as a venue for community activities.

OUR NEXT STEPS

- Women's group, some form of meeting group for women to come together and share stories, as it seems possible the Mothers' Union group may close.
- To involve Uniformed organisations in services for special occasions i.e., Easter.

OUR CHALLENGES

- To increase our engagement with families by creating provision for children at services.
- To develop follow ups for baptism and funeral contacts by building pastoral teams.
- To continue to build relationships with schools.
- To try to start up uniformed organisations Cubs & Scouts.



CROSSCANONBY St John the Evangelist

St. John's is the parish church for the five villages/ hamlets of Crossscanonby, Crosby, Birkby, Crosby Villa and Bullgill. The church building is in Crossscanonby, three miles from the town of Maryport with magnificent views across the Solway Firth to the coast and hills of Dumfries and Galloway. The parish is on the western fringe of the Lake District. The A596 main road that runs through Crosby and Birkby provides good road/bus links to Carlisle, Workington, Maryport and Whitehaven.

Our beautiful Grade 1 listed Norman church is a peaceful place where God's presence touches many who visit. The church has Roman stones incorporated into it, including a Roman arch leading into the chancel. There is a hog's back tomb of Viking provenance, stone cross remnants and a thirteenth century alabaster font. The church seats up to 100 people and includes a choir gallery with Father Willis organ. The church is open every day during the spring and summer and is visited by locals and tourists, many of whom are interested in history. The Solway Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty has helped with planting bee-friendly species in our 'wild' old churchyard and our ashes plot and graveyard are much used by the community.



The church has a small, welcoming congregation (older demographic) with a friendly and committed PCC of five with one churchwarden. We have an organist, a rota of sides people and lesson readers. We sponsor a girl in Nepal, support the North Lakes Foodbank, the Bishop's Harvest Appeal, The Children's Society and give to other charities throughout the year.

Crosby has a small Church of England Primary School with three classes. Our previous vicar visited for weekly assemblies and the children enjoy visits to the church. The main village Crosby also has a thriving Community Centre where we held our weekly services during Covid and there is pub in Crosby village that serves food.

We hope that our new incumbent will encourage us as we learn to worship in different ways and with new communities. Sharing God's love through pastoral care and connecting with families, children and young people to share the Gospel are very important to our community.



DEARHAM St Mungo

Romans, Saxons, Vikings, Normans, Border Reivers . . . Dearham has known them all. A Roman Road, a Viking Cross, a Saxon Adam Stone, a Norman font and a 14th century pele tower acknowledge the fact. As farms became established on fertile land, the worship of Roman and Norse gods declined, and Christian beliefs prevailed. In the following centuries potteries and mines brought new employment opportunities and saw the population grow to its present 2669...and it is still growing.

The village has seen two new housing estates built in the last few years and the growing population helps support the post office, petrol station, two stores, a garage, a chippy, two pubs, a bakery, a hairdresser and a number of small businesses.

At the north of the village lies St Mungo's church – a grade one listed building with an active Boys' Brigade and Girls' Association company meeting in the Mission Room next door. The enlarged benefice should bring opportunities for youngsters to find fellowship with neighbouring youth groups and build on the work of the Solway Network Youth Church.



The Mission Room is also home to a dance group and wood turners. It provides a large and convenient venue for private parties and village events.

Links with other churches include a monthly Men's Breakfast attended by Christians from across the Mission Community and a Methodist-led service in St Mungo's every month.

The large, closed churchyard, which often sees deer grazing, has potential for conservation work with groups such as 'Caring for God's Acre'. This could further improve contact with the community and those who are visiting from far and wide to share in the delights within this peaceful sanctuary. Visitors often express their delight at discovering the many bible stories created by a local crafts worker, displayed around the church. The enlarged benefice may also lend itself to the creation of a history trail and the travels of the Celtic Saints.

In the heart of the village is a village hall where Anglicans and Methodists meet weekly with villagers in a Coffee Stop; a warm and friendly place for young and old to meet and chat. Pupils at the nearby village school are often led in morning assembly by the vicar and many join in services at Easter, Harvest, Remembrance, Advent and Christmas.

Regular seasonal fayres and individual fund-raising events have helped maintain the fabric of the church and pay the annual offering to the diocese. Generous grants together with local giving recently resulted in extensive



roof renovations, replacement of a Mission Room boiler and a main power cable to the church. Outstanding work to replace flaking plaster on interior walls offers a further challenge.

Charities supported by the congregation include North Lakes Foodbank, Childline and Children in Need.

GILCRUX St Mary

The parish has a population of approx. 350 and is made up of the village of Gilcrux and the hamlets of Greengill and Bullgill. Gilcrux can trace its history back to at least the 8th Century, the village name is possibly a corruption of the Old Welsh 'Cilcruc' which means 'a nook by a little hill' – the hill being the mound on which the church stands. Gilcrux is now a vibrant community with a wide range of inhabitants. There are a number of families with children of school age, Primary children going mainly to Plumbland or Bridekirk – both CofE Schools. Secondary pupils are generally split between Keswick, Wigton or Cockermouth.



The village has an independent pub, serving food a well used exceptional village hall, which is maintained by a core of loyal volunteers. At St Mary's we have an excellent relationship with the village hall. Together there are a number of times in the year when we try to carry out events etc together – below. In addition, the village hall has a Christmas lottery half the proceeds of which are donated to the Church. PCC meetings are also held there free of charge.

- Flower Festival – in conjunction with the village hall.
- Carol Service, with Mince Pies and Mulled Wine in the village hall to follow – a joint arrangement.

There are also families in the village who help with the Family Church and Alternative Service in Aspatria, initiated by the Pioneer Curate.

The church itself is quite small, the Grade II* building dates back to around 1100AD.



Through the centuries the church has had a tumultuous times, it was probably ransacked between 1295 and 1320 during the Scottish wars. In 1291 it was valued at £2-6s-8d but only at 10s-0d in 1318, additions have been made to the building over the centuries, many records of these are held in the county archives.

The last quinquennial inspection highlighted areas where a considerable amount of work is required. Included major works are re-roofing the nave, re-pointing all walls with lime mortar, dealing with dry rot in the roof timbers and damp in the walls. The PCC has received a faculty for these works and is looking at means of fund raising. It is estimated that the costs involved will be in excess of £100k, a considerable challenge for the parish.

Currently there are 10 people on the electoral roll for the Parish. Services are generally held at 11am on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month. Congregations are unfortunately only around 6-8 for these services. This has led to a shortfall in regular giving versus the outgoings of the church. A challenge is to raise more

regular giving to cover the outgoings. We have highlighted the problem with the wider village through the Village Post which goes to each house and in letter put through each door. However, this has not resulted in anything positive. The PCC / church have worked towards and gained the Eco Church Award to Bronze level run by A Rocha UK.

Like many places of worship St. Mary's struggles to keep going but, the PCC, along with its small group of supporters, looks to the future with prayer and hope that better times lie ahead.

HAYTON St James

VILLAGE -The parish consists of a scatter of small settlements - Allerby, Mealo, Oughterside and Prospect, as well as Hayton itself which is a conservation village. There is a primary school in Oughterside with which the church has good links, and also a pub and Village Hall in Prospect.

There is a mix of properties, farms, detached houses, cottages etc. Historically this was a farming area and this still predominates. Today's occupants are a wide mix of farmers, professionals and those working in local businesses and industry as well as those who have retired to this attractive corner of Cumbria.

CHURCH The church stands in the centre of Hayton and is approached across a large, flat village green which is owned by the Parish Council. This benefits us in two ways as the church is easily accessible and there is ample parking.

We hold a BBQ and Sports Day every summer on the green and this is well supported by the village community and gives us the opportunity to meet newcomers and lets non churchgoers see that we are open and welcoming. We get good community support for this and also for the annual harvest lunch which is held in Prospect Village Hall. Other regular annual events such as the Remembrance Service and Carol Service involving Oughterside school are also well supported. Our church is open from say 10.00am to 16.30pm during British Summer Time; in the winter months it is only open by arrangement other than for services.

At our Church services, lay members help with intercessions, readings and acting as chalice assistants. Very occasionally we have a lay led Morning Prayer.

FINANCES - We are in a fortunate position that 95% of regular giving is achieved by direct debit. Our general reserves should keep us solvent for a few more years. Sadly our plans for a major programme of work intended to enable use of the church as a community hall have been aborted by the Heritage Lottery's change of direction following the Covid pandemic, so time and money spent on architect's plans, faculty etc have been lost. It has now been decided that remaining funds raised towards the original project will be used to finance urgent fabric repairs some of which are now in hand. Our next quinquennial is due in 2024.

Our church donates regularly to various charities - a part of the funds raised from the Summer BBQ goes to Hospice at Home; all donations received at the school's Carol service go the Children's Society; and some funds ear marked by donors for the



Leprosy Mission are sent there annually.



YOUR HOME
The Vicarage, Crosscanonby, CA15 6SH

Four bed roomed detached house built in 1991, with 2 reception rooms, study, downstairs toilet, kitchen, utility rooms and garage.

Mature garden



Awe-inspiring views over the Solway Firth to Scotland, especially at sunset!
Outstanding beach walks. Cycle way and coastal path on your doorstep. We are close to the Lake District National Park and Allonby Beach is probably the best in Cumbria. Allonby Bay is a site of Special Scientific Interest and affords marvellous views across to Scotland.



Good village primary school and three miles from secondary school

Good road links (A596) and hourly bus services. Railway stations at Aspatria and Maryport

Village Community Centre and pub.



Appendix A

Finances - Explaining Ministry Offer & Partnership Agreements

Unlike Dioceses which still operate a traditional 'quota' system for parish contributions towards the cost of ministry, Carlisle Diocese operates a collaborative partnership aimed at matching ministry aspirations and ability to give with pastoral decisions about deployment of clergy.

Resourcing our ministry is achieved through a free-will offer system known as **Ministry Offer**. The system is based on dialogue between the Churches within a Mission Community and the Diocese. The first element is to discern the Mission Community's collective ambitions for mission and ministry. This leads into considering a three-year target for funding the lay and ordained ministry the Mission Community wants to deploy, including both the local churches' contribution and any financial investment from the Diocese.

Once the plan is agreed with the Diocese, the Diocese and Mission Community enter into a three-year **Partnership Agreement**, committing to a particular level of ministry, covered by agreed levels of local giving and Diocesan investment. The hope is to set ambitious targets, both for giving and for deployment, in order to maximise the missional potential of the Mission Community.

It follows, therefore, that all the parishes are meeting the Ministry Offer payments that they have set. However the real challenge is ability to offer sufficient to maintain effective levels of ministry to support the mission of the Church. Current giving levels support 4 stipendiary clergy in the Mission Community.

Giving history in the Benefice and wider Mission Community

This Benefice:

Parish	Population (2018)	Deprivation index (0 = highest deprivation)	Households	Area (Sq miles)	Parish Offer £		
					2021	2022	2023
Allonby	462	2,499	212	2.7	4,100.00	4,305.00	4,305.00
Aspatria	2,921	2,238	1,272	5.5	18,000.00	20,000.00	20,000.00
Crosscanonby	1,067	4,470	479	4.3	10,000.00	11,000.00	12,000.00
Dearham	2,685	6,557	2,134	3.3	10,200.00	10,710.00	11,000.00
Gilcrux	311	7,707	132	3.2	1,560.00	1,650.00	1,400.00
Hayton	838	3,206	829	6.7	16,000.00	15,000.00	15,000.00
Total	8,284		5,058	26	59,860	62,665	63,705

The rest of the Mission Community (for comparison)

Parish	Population (2018)	Deprivation index (0 = highest deprivation)	Households	Area (Sq miles)	Parish Offer £		
					2021	2022	2023
Maryport	2,889	1,504	1,329	1.5	1,852	15,000.00	16,000.00
Flimby	1,890	1,239	797	3.1	593	5,500.00	6,000.00
Netherton	7,260	866	3,161	4.2	1,761	27,500.00	34,305.00
Solway Plain*	6,587	2,641	2,811	77.7	85	58,844.00	58,844.00
Thursby	1,285	5,946	521	4.9	249	5,000.00	5,250.00
Wigton	6,561	4,339	2,722	12.3	520	36,000.00	37,800.00

*United parish

Appendix B

General Parish Information

Parish	Population (2021)	Electoral Role	Ave. Sunday Attendance	Average Occasional Offices p.a.*		
				Baptisms	Weddings	Funerals
Allonby	426	16	8	0	0.25	2
Aspatia	2,852	61	20	8	1	12
Crosscanonby	1,020	28	15	10	2	13
Dearham	2,648	28	25	9	2	10
Gilcruix	310	10	6-8	0	0	2
Hayton	821	30	10-15	2.5	1.5	2
Total	8,077			29.5	6.75	41

*Revd Matt Richards conducts the majority of the baptisms in Aspatia and Hayton. NSM/PTO clergy assist with funerals.

Usual Service Pattern

Day	Allonby Christ Church	Aspatia St Kentigern	Crosscanon by St John Evan.	Dearham St Mungo	Hayton St James	Gilcruix St Mary
1 st Sunday	9.00am Holy Communion	9.30am Holy Communion 4.00pm Family Church	11.00am Holy Communion	10.30am Morning Worship	11.00 am Holy Communion	
2 nd Sunday	9.00am Morning Worship	9.30am Holy Communion	11.00am Morning Worship	10.30am Holy Communion	11.00 am Morning Prayer	11.00 am Family Communion
3 rd Sunday	9.00am Holy Communion	9.30am Morning Prayer 4.00pm Family Church	11.00am Holy Communion	10.30am Methodist-led service	11.00 am Holy Communion	
4 th Sunday	9.00am Morning Worship	9.30 am Holy Communion 4.00 the Gathering (Rugby Club)	11.00am Morning Worship	10.30am Holy Communion	11.00 am Holy Communion	11.00 am Holy Communion (BCP alt. months)
5 th Sunday	10.00 United Mission Community Service					
Midweek		Wednesday 9.30am Holy Communion (week 1, 10.00am in Park Lodge Nursing Home)				

Governance

The proposed new benefice brings together two existing benefices: (1) Aspatria, Hayton and Gilcruix and (2) Allonby, Crosscanonby and Dearham. The parishes have chosen the prospective title Living Waters. The pastoral scheme is drafted and ready to be passed through the Archdeaconry Mission and Pastoral Committee immediately upon your appointment. The only reason for the delay is to avoid the legal awkwardness of a change of status part way through an appointment process. The new benefice is the result of a recent overall review of benefices and pastoral responsibilities in this part of the Mission Community and we do not anticipate any further change to the configuration of benefices for the foreseeable future.

The current existing benefices have already adopted joint PCC working. Aspatria, Hayton and Gilcruix recently created a single joint PCC through the "Joint Council" provisions under the Church Representation Rules 2020. Allonby, Crosscanonby and Dearham have also adopted an informal joint Council approach to working. It is expected that the new incumbent will attend and lead joint PCC meetings, but will not usually attend local District Church Council meetings. This has proved effective in reducing the burden of governance, both on the parishes and on the incumbent, and in making governance more effective in a multi-parish situation.

Useful websites

Diocese of Carlisle: <https://www.carlislediocese.org.uk>

God for All: <https://godforall.org.uk>

Allonby, Crosscanonby & Dearham Facebook

Page: https://www.facebook.com/groups/224437838703567/?locale=en_GB

Aspatria Churches Facebook Page:

https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100091405800679&locale=en_GB

Solway Network Youth Church Facebook Page:

https://www.facebook.com/SolwayNYC?locale=en_GB