

The Cross Fell Benefice

The eight parishes which, for the past 25 years, have formed the Cross Fell Benefice have been the central focus of Christian life and worship for centuries. We now form the southern part of the East of Eden Mission Community, together with the Methodist chapels in Gamblesby and Langwathby. We are a gathering of several communities under the shadow of the fells, and we seek to care for the people in our communities, whether they go to church regularly or not.

Let us tell you about ourselves!

Our joys ...

- We are uplifted by the spirit of friendship and good fellowship which we share most Sundays after worship, and in the course of our fund-raising activities.
- The celebration of festivals – especially Harvest, Christmas and Easter – is a great joy. We would like to explore ways of extending this, perhaps making a monthly celebration at a different church each time.
- Our churches, with one exception, are open all the time. Parishioners and visitors welcome the chance this offers to come inside for a time of quiet and contemplation.
- The local community will rally round to help the church at festival times, and when we are fund-raising. This is very encouraging for us.
- We love the fact that the church is greatly valued for the celebration of life's important turning points – especially baptisms, weddings ... and funerals!

and our hopes ...

for a new priest with a calling to rural ministry, with a love of people, who will

- Be a prayerful person of open Church of England stance, with a good sense of liturgy and a willingness to develop and foster creative worship in a dignified fashion, using a variety of traditions, taking a contemporary approach where appropriate.
- Be a man or woman who will encourage the prayer life of individuals and churches in the benefice.
- Be a man or woman able to deliver lively and enthusiastic worship based on the tradition of 'breaking bread together on the first day of the week.'
- Be someone who will develop links with other denominations locally, in line with the diocesan God For All strategy.
- Be an inspirational leader who will discern and encourage vocations to a range of ministries, and be willing and able to work collaboratively in a team with lay and ordained colleagues.

- Seek to develop courses for enquirers, and also courses to deepen the faith of the committed, so that the gospel can be seen to be lived and shared in our communities.
- Understand the importance of the pastoral care of all in our parishes, especially perhaps the elderly, the housebound, the sick and the vulnerable.
- Encourage us to support Christian Aid and other charities with our time and money.
- Be a well-organised person, with good time-management and IT skills.

The challenges we see before us ...

- The Diocese has a vision based around four themes, under the heading God for All. The themes are: Follow Daily, Care Deeply, Speak Boldly, Tread Gently. We are following these themes, either formally or informally. But we need encouragement and leadership to take this forward.
- We need to learn to live and pray together much more, looking less to one church and more to the wider Christian community.
- We want to encourage men and women to take on active roles within our churches, and we need help to discern those who can become leaders in each congregation.
- We need to develop forms and patterns of worship that appeal to a greater spread of people, without throwing away what is loved and valued in our traditional services.
- Our ancient churches are constantly in need of restoration and maintenance. This is important, though it can become all too easily the primary focus. Are there new ways of their being used?
- We're working towards reducing the administrative burden of eight separate parishes/PCCs – or even twelve within the Mission Community. We need to find ways of working together, combining our responsibilities and meetings without losing our recognizable identities
- Finding a new priest. Could this be you?

Addingham, St Michael and all Angels

Churchwarden: Bryan Gray

What we are looking for in our new incumbent

Our strengths...

This very ancient church is still at the centre of its six villages, celebrating the important times in families' lives, weddings, baptisms, funerals, and the great events of the Christian year.



It is always open, and parishioners and visitors often come in for a peaceful moment, or sit on a bench outside to enjoy the beauty of the surroundings.

We are glad to have growing links with the Methodist chapel in Gamblesby.

We receive many visitors because of the footpath to Long Meg which runs through the churchyard.

We have a wonderful setting for musical events, with good acoustics and an organ that is one of the best in the benefice.

We have, too, a large, well-used, and beautiful churchyard, which is now being managed very much with wildlife and biodiversity in mind. We are working towards the A Rocha national Eco-Church Silver award.

And challenges...

On normal Sundays, we often have very small congregations. We need to maintain contact with those who come for the family events and the major festivals.

We need to tap into the reserves of people nearby who may be willing to get involved...and get to know those who have moved into new housing in Little Salkeld and Winskill.

We need to bring more children into the church, with their parents.

We need to engage more with our visitors.

We look for creative ways to worship, to encourage people who may not be accustomed to church ritual, without losing the dignity of tradition.

We hope to encourage more active involvement in services and have the imagination to see who might be willing to take on roles that they may not have thought they were able to do.

The building itself always needs maintenance, and would be greatly enhanced by having such basic things as a toilet, a kitchen and a space for socialising after services, fund raising events, and pastoral care. It may be possible to convert the stables in the car park to this use.

We hope to get high speed broadband from B4RN when they come to Glassonby, as they offer a free connection for churches.

So, we are looking for...

Someone with a love of rural ministry, who will lead us in our services with love and enthusiasm and imagination.

Who will bring out the hidden abilities in people and help us to develop our prayer life and to express our faith in action.

Who will encourage us in our charitable giving and global outreach.

Who will develop links with the other denominations in the Mission Community and help us to widen our perspective.

Who will understand the importance of pastoral care in a parish of scattered communities where the vulnerable and elderly can become very lonely.

And someone who will not mind spending a lot of time on country roads and has a good sense of direction!

Parish Statement

The Parish of Addingham consists of five small villages: Hunsonby, Winskill, Gamblesby, Glassonby, Little Salkeld and the hamlet of Unthank. There is no Addingham village! The Parish takes its name from an earlier settlement on the banks of the Eden, which was washed away in the 12th Century. The church of St Michael was built, using some of the original stone, on its present site in the 13th Century, so has seen 9 centuries of Christian history. There are several artefacts of great historical interest, such as the Viking hogsback tombstone, in the church porch, and the stained-glass window in the North chancel wall has been recently restored.

With the assistance of lay people and retired ministers St Michaels continues to be a focus of Christian worship in the Parish, providing Sunday services, weddings, baptisms, funerals, harvest festivals, and Christmas and Easter services. Gamblesby Methodist chapel is another focus for worship within the Parish with which we are glad to be forging new links, such as the shared Mothering Sunday service we had this year.

We are keen to reduce the energy footprint of the church and to manage the churchyard so that it is a haven for wildlife while still accessible for people visiting the graves of loved ones. Some of the grass areas are left unmown to encourage wild flowers. Light fittings were replaced with LEDs and the heating (electric, and on a Green Energy tariff) is carefully timed. We are hoping to install some new and more efficient electric boilers soon. Last autumn a thousand wild daffodils were planted in the churchyard and a fungi survey carried out; there are some very rare ones. There are benches to encourage people to linger.

Services at Addingham are generally Holy Communion with the occasional Morning Service and Evensong. A small group of people assist at services by reading, leading the intercessions and helping administer communion, and we have the help of one lay minister and a retired priest. We have two regular organists. There is usually a nativity service in December which is very popular with children and their parents.

Culgaith All Saints

Churchwardens: Ann Witney and
Andrea Thompson

Our church is set in the heart of the village. The present church building is built of sandstone and dates back to 1758, although there was a Chapel-of-ease to the parish of Kirkland, prior to this. We have an average congregation



of 10/15 people. Several years ago we became an Ecumenical Church.

We have two services a month. One is Family Worship, which is Methodist led, the other being a Holy Communion Service which is Anglican led. We also run a service at the Village Hall called Café Church for anyone who would perhaps not normally attend a service in the Church. This is a relatively new Lay Led service which runs every couple of months along with a House Group approximately bi-weekly that meets in the village, which welcomes anyone Christian from other churches across the surrounding area.

We have a very good relationship with Culgaith CofE School, a recent OFSTED inspection rated them Good. The school has 50 children on its Roll including nursery. The children lead their own services in church at least once a term to which the parents are invited so we can have 60+ adults in the congregation. These services include Festivals such as Easter and Harvest but also end of term Services which have included lots of singing, storytelling and on one occasion an Oompah Band. Further outreach includes Carol Singing at the War Memorial which is appreciated and well attended by the community, plus a Service of Remembrance for the bereaved.

We are only too aware that the future of the church depends on younger people in the Parish, so ideally we would like someone who relates well to families to help us grow this valuable part of the congregation into full members of the Church. We also have an older population where pastoral care would be most welcome.

Edenhall, St Cuthbert

Churchwardens: Alan Burne and Mark Holden-Hindley

Edenhall is a rural village in a conservation area 3 miles east of Penrith. It has a population of approximately 250, which has remained steady in recent years.



St Cuthbert's is the only place of worship in the parish. It is Grade 1 listed, and has throughout its history been supported by the owners of Edenhall Estate. There is evidence of late Saxon/early Norman stonework; the chancel was extended in 12th Century. Every family living in the manor (Turp, Stapleton and Musgrave) has contributed to the enlargement and maintenance of the building, which has many late mediaeval features - the tower, which houses 3 bells, the font, brasses and a great deal of ancient glass in the windows. Beneath the chancel is a vault containing the remains of the Musgrave family and an ossuary containing bones from earlier burials. Every year descendants of the Musgrave family travel from all over the world to visit the church. We can seat about 130, with an additional 20 in the west gallery where the organ (1907) is to be found. The church and churchyard are kept in a good state of repair and decoration. In the 1980s and 1990s the windows were restored and extensive repairs to the nave and vestry were carried out. The pulpit was returned to its original position and the roof was once again renewed. Recently the organ has been restored and the heating updated.

On the approach to the church stands a Grade 2 listed plague cross.

Kirkland, St Lawrence

Churchwardens: Roy Firth and Tina Philipson

Our church stands at the foot of the pathway to the summit of Cross Fell. It is in a very quiet and peaceful setting, often visited by walkers before climbing up the fell to join the Pennine Way. The building is part late thirteenth century, or early fourteenth, but there was a rebuilding and restoration in 1768 and another in 1880. There is a pointed trefoiled piscina in the sanctuary, and an effigy of a knight that Pevsner thought dates from the thirteenth century. In the churchyard is a cross standing over eight feet high. There is also in the church a painting by the celebrated local artist Alan Stones. Sheep safely graze in our country churchyard.



Our parish includes the small settlement of Kirkland immediately around the church, and the village of Blencarn. At one time our parish included Skirwith and Culgaith, and our church too was much larger in mediaeval times. We share our services with Melmerby, Ousby and Skirwith churches on a monthly rota, and very much value the fellowship that this brings.

Langwathby, St Peter

Churchwardens: Bridget Davey
and John Doidge-Harrison

Langwathby is the largest of the villages in the Cross Fell Benefice, and St Peter's Church is in the very centre. The origins of the church building are, we have to say, somewhat obscure. The



church you see dates largely from 1718, but the north aisle is earlier, and there are some nineteenth century alterations. The churchyard is completely surrounded by roads and houses, and is now closed to further burials, though there is a municipal cemetery on the edge of the village. Part of the churchyard has been set aside as a wild life area, with tree and wild flower planting, bird and mammal nesting sites. The maintenance is in the hands of Westmorland and Furness council.

There are two places of worship in the village, St Peter's and the Methodist Chapel, and these days our services alternate between the two. The services at St Peter's are generally Holy Communion. Members of both congregations attend, and we number around 20. A small group of people from the congregation assist in the services by reading, leading intercessions and assisting with the administration of communion. We do hold other forms of service, though, and our Christingle services in particular are very well attended. We like to feel we are a very friendly and welcoming group at St Peter's - there is always chance for fellowship with a cup of coffee and biscuits after Sunday morning service. The church is always open, too, for people to pop in for a quiet moment and a time for prayer.

Strong links have been forged with the primary school in the village. A member of the clergy is a foundation governor, and regularly leads assemblies in school. Members of the congregation and clergy work with the school's Worship Council to produce regular services in church to celebrate the major festivals, and the moving onwards of the children as they progress to secondary schools.

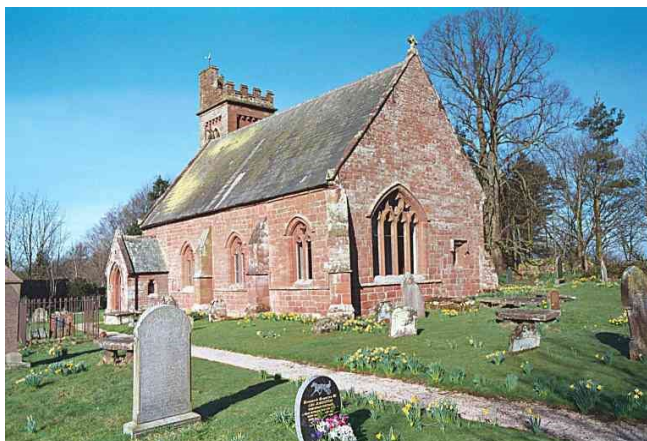
In common with all of our churches, we have on-going demands for maintenance and repair. The latest Quinquennial report raised no immediate concerns, but there are ongoing discussions about bringing our facilities up to a modern standard. Our contribution to the Parish Offer of the Mission Community is currently £10,412.

Langwathby is a 'Key Hub' in the local council plan, with new housing development evident already. The latest figures speak of 643 residents, but this is set to grow.

Melmerby, St John the Baptist

Churchwarden: John Lambert

We have had a church in Melmerby since the 13th century and the remnants of an old cross in the churchyard would indicate a Christian presence going even further back.



Melmerby is a small village tucked up against the foothills of the Pennines and central to the village is an eleven acre village green. We have a hundred households and most of the older houses are situated around the village green deliberately placed to protect against the weather and the threat of attack when the border country was unsettled. It is this feature that helps preserve Melmerby's sense of community.

In the last few years as a church we have tried to put our energies into *Caring Deeply* and worked to strengthen our ties with the community. We have a representative on most of the village groups and institutions and find we have many helping hands willing to support the church in maintaining its role in being a pleasant and welcoming space.

We need help in *Speaking Boldly* to encourage our supporters to feel comfortable to join our worshipping community.

We enjoy sharing worship with other members in the Mission Community and have a long history of working together with the other fellside churches. At present we have a monthly service which is usually a service of Holy Communion. Our congregation from Melmerby is very small and we would like guidance on which model of worship would best suit our community's needs.

We have a wide demographic in the village, with active ninety year olds and our biggest number of children for many years. We have thirty five school age children. We aim to try to make the church space inviting so that although they may not attend many formal services they are not intimidated by the environment.

As well as welcoming people into our church we like them to feel welcome to spend time for reflection in our church yard.

Treading Gently

We are just embarking on a new plan of churchyard maintenance and have applied for membership of Caring for God's Acre. We have already had an opening day to share our plans for future development and look forward to taking this plan forward in the coming years.

One of the most attractive features of our church is our east window which is made of plain glass and looks out onto the fellside reflecting each season in all its glory into the church.

The east window needs repair and this is likely to be our next challenge regarding the fabric of the church.

Ousby, St Luke

Churchwardens: Gordon Braithwaite and Sheila Whitehead

Ousby is a scattered village lying ten miles NE of Penrith in the Eden Valley between the Pennines and the Lakeland Fells. Our church, St. Luke's, is a simple fellside church at the foot of the Pennines. Its origin is ascribed to the 13th century but it was restored and to a large extent rebuilt between 1858 and 1890 and in 2003 the porch was rebuilt on new foundations. In the church there is a 13th century wooden effigy of a knight and this is only one of two in Cumbria (the other being at Millom). Being a 'Doubly Thankful Village' because all the men from the parish who went to both World Wars returned safely, there is a small memorial window in recognition of this concerning the Great War. We have a plaque and a tapestry remembering this too.



Our residents are historically from farming backgrounds. There has in recent years been housing development in the heart of the village and we have a number of residents who commute to work in Penrith and further afield. There are few holiday homes here although there is a small mobile home park attached to the village pub. We also have a village PO and a village Community Centre which was the old school. The highest fell in the Pennines, Cross Fell, towers over us and there are many stunning walks to be had in the surrounding fells.

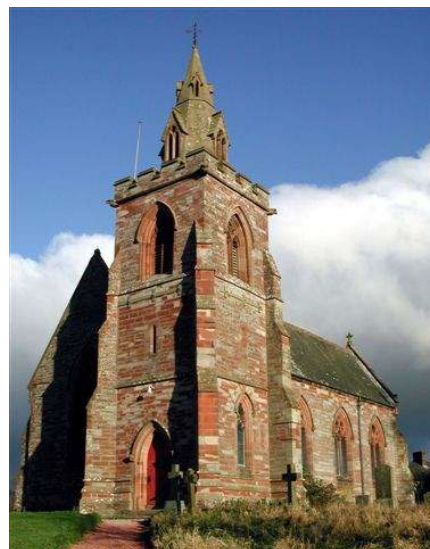
The 4 fellside parishes in the Benefice support each other with parishioners attending each other's services and we hold occasional joint PCC meetings. St Luke's usually has one Sunday service of Holy Communion on the third Sunday at 10am each month and both forms of the service, BCP and Common Worship, have been used as well as 'by extension'. On October 18th each year we celebrate St Luke our Patron Saint and we also have services for Harvest Festival, Remembrance Day and Carols. The attendance is predominantly retired people with some older children. We fund raise mainly with church fetes, craft fairs and music evenings. There is much support for the church from local farming families in particular.

The PCC is looking for a priest with some previous relevant experience who is central in faith, a good communicator of the gospel, a conciliator, and a good listener. He or she will be warmly welcomed into our parish and we hope that he or she will provide much needed pastoral support to our villagers. We believe our parish can flourish with the right priest who takes the time to get to know residents young and old.

Skirwith, St John the Evangelist

Church Warden: Vera Stockdale

Skirwith is a small rural village of some 87 houses in a conservation area characterised by much agricultural activity. The village nestles under Cross Fell, the highest point on the Pennines. A beck flows through the centre of the village and is flanked on either side by the village green which includes a modest children's play area. Today the village has no school, pub, cafe or shop. Two remaining focal community venues are the Village Hall and the Church.



The Parish Church of St John the Evangelist (St John's) is known locally as "the little cathedral of the fells". Built of local sandstone it was erected in 1856 in the decorated Gothic style. It has a nave, small south aisle with lady chapel, chancel, vestry, tower and short spire. Located on a high point in the village it has a significant churchyard. In the 1990's substantial works of repair were carried out with the benefit of grants from English Heritage and the National Heritage Lottery Fund. Today the PCC are aware of more modest repairs that require attention. The building has been well cared for over the years and is generally well maintained despite regular visitation of bats in the summer months!

St John's has a monthly Sunday morning Holy Communion Service to which a few villagers regularly attend, together with folk from other parishes. Congregations typically number between 8 and 12 souls, sometimes more. Folk are encouraged to stay on after the service for refreshments. We have occasional wedding, baptism and funeral services.

Throughout the past year, in addition to regular Holy Communion services, we have held a number of different services where we have attempted to reach out to our community and share something of the Good News of Jesus: an Easter Vigil and Service of Light, a Summer Songs of Praise with personal testimony, a Harvest Service with collection for the local Penrith Food Bank and a Service of Lessons and Carols at Christmas. Invitations for these services were given to every household in the village. The services were also advertised via the Mission Community website and the weekly Mission Community email. Attended by people from across the Mission Community, it was especially encouraging to see more local residents from Skirwith come and enjoy them.

Last year we started an initiative to better welcome villagers into the church and into the churchyard during the week. We recently provided a noticeboard in the porch, sharing news and events from across the Mission Community. We plan to create a prayer/reflection space inside the church with a small bookstall. We also hope to provide seating in the churchyard and build up a team of volunteers from the village to help with church opening and with gardening and path maintenance. To this end we have secured a MicroGrant from the Rural Mission Centre. With God's help we have started on this initiative, but whilst the harvest is plentiful the workers are few!

Skirwith hosts “Fellside Connect”, one of the Mission Community small groups that meet on a weekday evening. Meetings are held either in the Leaders’ home or in the Village Hall. Fellside Connect is a Bible Study group, open to anyone within the Mission Community, particularly folk from the Fellside villages, and provides opportunity to discover more about Jesus and share together in our Christian faith. Most recently we have followed a course entitled “Alive in Christ” with up to 9 people attending.

St John's has Anglo-Catholic heritage and is linked with the C of E Theological College of the Resurrection in Mirfield, West Yorkshire. The Church hosts two services a year organised and led by visiting groups: a Corpus Christi service and a Memorial Service for John Bradburne. John was a son of the Vicar of St John’s in the early 20th Century. He became a lay Franciscan, and in later life spent time in Rhodesia working in Mutemwa Care Centre, a home for patients with mixed illnesses including leprosy. John spent the last 10 years of his life working with leprosy patients. He was murdered in 1979. The John Bradburne Memorial Society was founded in 1995 to help support the Centre and is currently campaigning for John’s Beatification (<https://www.johnbradburne.com>). In recent years members of the Society have come on pilgrimage to Skirwith for the Memorial Service and a walk up Cross Fell.

	Addingham	Culgaith	Edenhall	Kirkland	Langwathby	Melmerby	Ousby	Skirwith
Electoral roll	22	19			28	42		10
Churchwardens	1	2			2	1		1
Baptisms	0	2			3	0		2
Weddings	1	0			0	1		0
Funerals	4	1			2	3		0
Usual Sunday congregation	12	13			20	10		10 average
Easter Day congregation	21	16			25	50		20
Harvest Festival congregation	12	93			At the Methodist Chapel	15		19
Thanksgiving and Remembrance	30				50 + more at the War Memorial			
Carol Service congregation	70	167			150	120		32
Christmas Day congregation	20	22			50	50		No service
Regular income	£16,101	£2,139			£9,649			£7,700
Fundraising Income	£700	£195			0			0
Expenditure	£16,310	£5,844			£4,450			£9,446
Benefice expenses	£600	£600	£600	£600	£600	£600	£600	£600
Parish share offered	£6,000	£2,310			£10,412			£3,450
Parish share paid	£6,000	£2,310			£10,412			£3,450
Predominant age under 18	0				1			
18-69	2				2			
70+	10				18			