

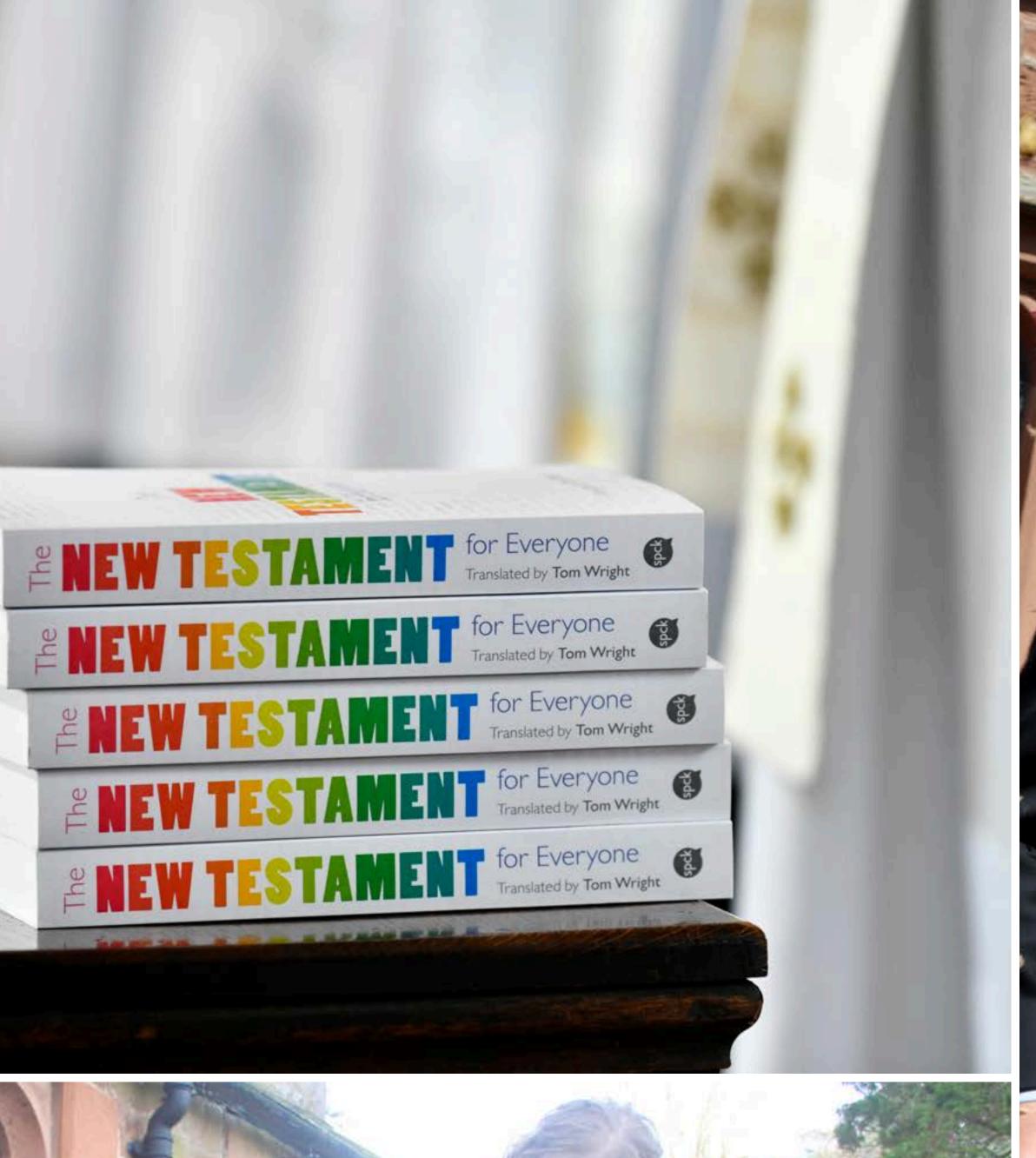








# EDEN CHURCHES BENEFICE PROFILE







Eden Churches "We are living out life in all its fullness."



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# Welcome To Our Benefice

Besides our regular worship activity, Holme Eden and Wetheral have been working together as part of the Eden Wild Goose Mission Community, bringing 'life in all its fullness' to the people of the local area through music, art, nature, and fellowship. Our parishes are home to two schools and many families, and we would like to find an incumbent skilled in children's ministry to strengthen our ties with these, building on the children's work already in place in our churches.

We are initially looking for a vicar for the churches of St Paul's Holme Eden, and Holy Trinity & St Constantine Wetheral-with Warwick, which currently form one benefice. In time, as neighbouring parishes fall into vacancy there will be some pastoral reorganisation meaning the person appointed will also become vicar of one of our neighbouring benefices or parishes.

This is a wonderful opportunity for a devout and enthusiastic person who loves parish ministry, who treasures the breadth of styles within the Church of England and who can see the extraordinary in the ordinary; to build on the strong foundations already in place in our parishes and empower our people to grow God's Church in this corner of Cumbria.

Click here to see an annotated map of our Benefice showing churches, schools and transport links.





- A prayerful and devout follower of Christ, who upholds the Bible in both their preaching and in their daily life.
- A priest who respects, enjoys and is skilled in leading a range of liturgical styles, including traditional and informal liturgies. Willing to robe up or dress down according to the setting.
- A music lover who wishes to support and grow the use of music (both contemporary and traditional) in our services and evangelism.
- A team player who is keen to nurture and support members of our congregations in their lay vocations, working with them to strengthen all they already do and enabling them (and encouraging others) to achieve even more of God's work within our communities, especially through the Eden Wild Goose initiatives.
- A teacher who will help us to deepen our faith through increased prayer and study/training
- A pioneer who can lead new initiatives to reach out to the local community and introduce them to the Good News of God's love, whilst continuing to nurture our existing worship communities and their needs.
- A figurehead who is visible and engaged in the local community, serving a pastoral role for the people of our villages and helping us as a church community to increase our pastoral care for our neighbours, especially the elderly.







## What We Can Offer

- A strong ministry team: Within our area we are well supported by our Licenced Lay Reader, Allison Lee (currently training for holy orders), several retired ministers who cover our services. As the Diocese of Carlisle is England's first ecumencial county, you will also be working alongside the local Methodist Minister, Tokunbo Asogbon, and the wonderful team running the Network Youth Church in the area.
- Effective PCCs and Churchwardens: Wetheral and Holme Eden churches both have their own Churchwardens and PCCs, who are active and engaged in the running of church life.
- An enthusiastic and engaged laity: Beside the PCCs, many members of our congregations play a part in the life of our parishes. From participation in services, to running prayer groups, pastoral visits, fundraising events, and leading the Eden Wild Goose community activities, we are blessed with a range of talents and a desire to get involved.
- A vision of who we are and what we'd like to achieve: Our benefice has recently written a Mission Action Plan, which we're happy to share with you to give you an idea of what we value and where we'd like to grow and change in the coming years.
- A warm welcome: Our parishioners will welcome you into our communities in our usual hospitable style!

## Our Diocese

The Diocese of Carlisle's boundary is virtually coterminus with that of Cumbria. Cumbria covers half the land mass of the north west of England and is the second most sparsely populated county. All land over 3,000 feet in England is in Cumbria. The main centres of population are Barrow-in-Furness, Carlisle, Kendal, Penrith, Whitehaven and Workington and around half of Cumbria's 500,000 residents live in a rural location.

In 2011 Cumbria was named as England's first ecumenical county, with the signing or commitment to a Declaration of Covenanted Partnership and a Declaration of Companionship. This was reaffirmed in 2021.

There are four partner denominations (Anglicans, Methodists, United Reformed Church and the Salvation Army) and four companion denominations (the Church of Scotland, Roman Catholic Church, the Religious Society of Friends and the North Western Baptist Association).

The Diocese's commitment to cross-denominational working is played out in our county's shared ecumenical vision and strategy, God for All (<a href="www.godforall.org.uk">www.godforall.org.uk</a>). The vision has four central themes: Follow Daily, Speak Boldly, Care Deeply and Tread Gently which undergird our parishes' associated mission action plans.

Through God for All, 34 'Mission Communities' have been created across the county – groupings of mutually supportive and collaborative churches with mission at their heart and often within ecumenical contexts. It is within this framework that for the past five years we have worked together as churches to grow the Eden Wild Goose Mission Community, reaching out to new people in new ways, taking church and our faith out into the wider community. While the make-up of our mission communities is set to change (see below – Our Deanery) we remain committed as churches to continue to reach out through our Eden Wild Goose branding.

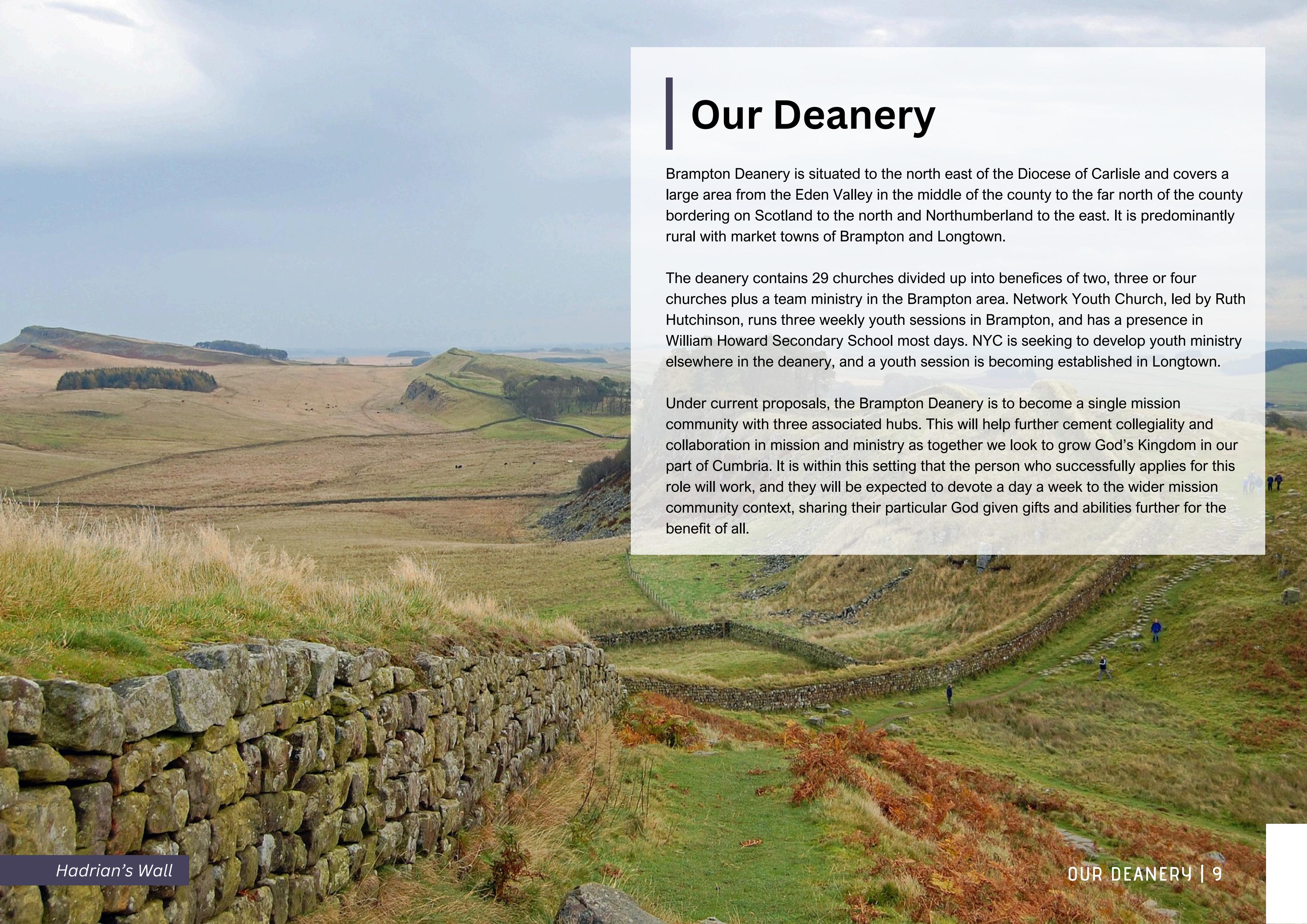








Follow Daily Care Deeply Speak Boldly Tread Gently



























# Eden Wild Goose Mission Community

There are several strands currently running:

**Eden Wild Goose Community Choir** - A community choir at Wetheral, meeting weekly in the church, with community concerts involving other local singers/musicians. The choir participates in occasional services such as the 9 Lessons and Carols at Christmas

**Crafty Gaggle** - A craft group held at Holme Eden, the Gaggle meets twice per month on Monday evenings led by Al Lee. It is a social group gathered around craft. It also made scrubs and bags for medical staff during the pandemic and knitted poppies for Remembrance Day.

**Art Colony** - An Art Group also runs at Holme Eden. A weekly session to come and draw and paint with a thought for the day to start the proceedings. There are also sessions of tuition and sharing ideas for artists. It also became a basis for a series of four lunchtime talks called 'Faith in Art' where four grand masters were discussed including Rembrandt, Leonardo and Caravaggio, on pictures of Jesus's life, death and resurrection.

**Eden Wild Goose Nature** - A Nature Group has run a series of one-off events, talks, walks, pond dipping, mindful moments, bat care day and listening evening, reptile survey, wildflower planting, pond making, and several Tree Appreciation Walks.

There are also other strands who meet regularly but less frequently:

**Eden Breakfast** - A regular series of talks at Carlisle Golf Club, given by local figures with an inspiring story to tell, usually with a Christian connection. Includes a full breakfast.

Spice - A men's curry evening, held every two months at a local restaurant.

**Infinity** - This Christian after school club is based in Scotby CE Primary school. We sing songs, give a talk and provide fun activities.

**Family Film Club** - The Film Club was run by the vicar of Scotby parish – using the Scotby Meeting room. There was a child-friendly film with a Thought for the Day.

We also have held seasonal Bible-reading book groups and themed prayer sessions.



# Eden Wild Goose Mission Community

Our mission community has also responded to new difficulties that the community experienced, for example during lockdown it developed a service helping the frailer villagers with shopping and prescriptions, and when the first Ukrainian people fleeing the invasion from Russia started to arrive, "Eden Wild Goose Sanctuary" was set up to help coordinate services, putting families in touch with potential hosts and ensuring good communications were maintained.

All these activities have raised the profile of the churches within our communities, have opened up the church buildings to community events and encouraged spreading of the Good News with short "thoughts for the day" during sessions. They are currently predominantly lay-lead activities and many have continued very successfully despite the interregnum in Wetheral and Holme Eden. Although many participants are from within our church community many more are not regular church goers and we see these activities as a great way of bringing Christ's love to as many people as we possibly can.

# Our Communities

#### Wetheral

The historic village of Wetheral lies five miles east of Carlisle, based around a picture book village green, perched above the beautiful River Eden. It is widely regarded as one of north Cumbria's most desirable places to live. It is superbly located, at the northern end of the spectacular Eden valley. It is just minutes by road or rail from Carlisle but retains a distinct rural village identity.

The locality is rich in history. Above the River Eden within the picturesque Wetheral Woods, are caves cut into the rock which may date from Roman times, and which legend holds to have been used by St. Constantine, from whom the church takes its name. Nearby is the gatehouse to the former Benedictine Priory maintained by English Heritage.

The parish includes not only Wetheral, but also Warwick-on-Eden and Aglionby a few miles to the north and the village of Great Corby which lies to the east of the River Eden, across the spectacular Grade 1 listed Wetheral railway viaduct - one of the oldest such structures in the world. The surrounding area is rural and, in the main, the population travels the few miles to Carlisle for work, although others commute to Newcastle, Penrith, Glasgow and Edinburgh. Both villages attract a good number of professionals, many of whom put down life-long roots and stay on into retirement.

The villages are well connected to public transport. There is a railway station at Wetheral with services to Carlisle (7mins) and stations east to Newcastle (and its airport) (1hr30). Wetheral is only two miles from the M6 motorway and a mile from the A69 trunk road between Carlisle and Newcastle. Carlisle Railway Station, only 10 minutes by car or train from Wetheral, has fast main-line connections to: London Euston (3hr20), Edinburgh (1hr15), Glasgow (1hr15) and Manchester and its Airport (2hrs). Wetheral and Great Corby also have local bus services.

Wetheral is well served for modern amenities. They include the Crown Hotel with its leisure club with swimming pool. There is a village shop, tea room, ice cream parlour, Doctors' surgery and a nearby dental practice. There is a large and modern community centre where many village activities take place, and which is also home to a hairdresser, nursery school and



massage therapist. There is also the well-regarded Fantails Restaurant next to the Green and the Wheatsheaf public house, both of which feature prominently in guidebooks and serve fantastic food. Great Corby also has a successful microbrewery, whilst Warwick-on-Eden also has a good pub serving food. There is a village Bowls Club, and a community sports field used for the Wetheral Cricket Club and football for all ages.

Wetheral began to expand in the 1960s with the building of new housing estates, and another new estate was added in recent years. This has brought a good number of families to the village, and there are several good facilities for children such as a recreation ground and Multi Games Area. The parish's primary school is in Great Corby, although Wetheral children also attend primary schools in Scotby, Cumwhinton and Warwick Bridge. For senior schools, the village is perfectly placed halfway (15mins) between William Howard School in Brampton and the many schools in Carlisle.

Although the area's residents are generally quite affluent, there is increasing diversification of the population and therefore our parishioners' needs are by no means homogenous.





## Our Communities

### Holme Eden

The centre of the parish is the community of Warwick Bridge, Corby Hill and Little Corby. Slightly further field are the settlements of Heads Nook, Broadwath and Burnrigg.

In total the population is no more than 2,000. Although there are wide income variations as everywhere, it has never been a wealthy area. It developed to provide homes and facilities for the mill workers and their families of Warwick Bridge.

There is a strong farming community, but many travel to work from the area or are retired. There is a potential building project on land on the outskirts of Little Corby which, if it came to fruition, would impact population size to a degree.

The former Warwick Bridge Mill - now converted and operating as Warwick Mill Business Park - houses various units including many self-employed smaller businesses. The area also has a Doctors' surgery and dispensary, garage with Spar and post office, hairdressers, café, a Co-op, butcher, B&B and pub. There is a local authority primary school with which St Paul's has had good links for many years.

Down-a-gate community centre and playing fields provide a location for village events, clubs and sporting activities and was renovated following flood damage in December 2015. Heads Nook village hall provides a focal point for Heads Nook and Broadwath events and is also used for some church events including ecumenical village services. The bus routes serving Warwick Bridge, Corby Hill and Little Corby are good, but the service through the other villages is very poor and at risk.

# Our Church Buildings

### Wetheral

Wetheral has a fine church building which traces its origins back to before the foundation of the nearby Benedictine monastery about 900 years ago, although the church also has pieces from an earlier 8th/9th century Anglian cross. Visitors comment on the evident warmth of the building, its physical beauty and stunning location in a green churchyard overlooking the River Eden. It is in an excellent state of repair and decoration with modern high-quality audio-visual system with mixing desk and projection screen.

Accessed from the chancel is the Howard Chapel which houses what is widely regarded as the finest sculpture in Cumbria, "Faith" by Joseph Nollekens. It was commissioned by Henry Howard in 1791, following the death of his wife Maria in 1788 in childbirth at Corby Castle, and it is the subject of <u>a poem by Wordsworth</u>.

There is an ongoing 'Sacred Spaces' project to provide information and interpretation about the history of the church and its surroundings, including a pyramidal interpretation board in the churchyard, and leaflets (on a number of themes) available in the church. Wetheral Church is opened daily to allow visitors access simply to look around, light a candle, or 're-charge their batteries' in a peaceful, comforting environment.

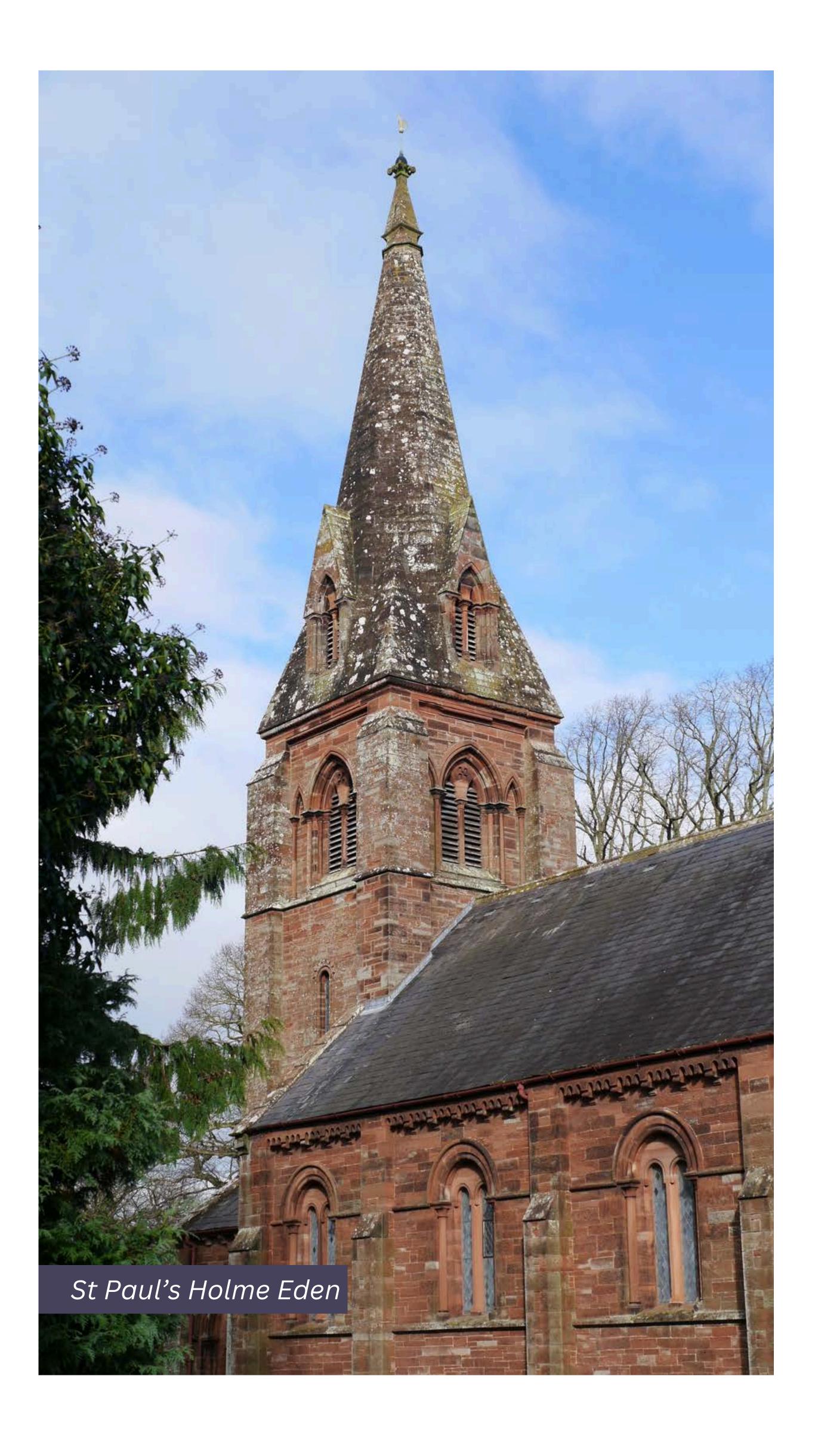
Around the font at the rear of the church is a soft area with sofas and toys for children. There is a recently decorated toilet and fully refitted kitchen leading through to the vestry where meetings are held. The very popular Tots' Cafe group for toddlers and their carers is held in the vestry and church each month mainly during school terms.

The main interior doors at the church entrance have been replaced with glazed doors of the highest quality, allowing light to flow in and providing a very welcoming entry point. A warm air curtain also helps lessen the impact of the prevailing wind, as church members and visitors enter church for services in the cooler months. The church has a very effective heating system.

Wetheral Church is very popular for weddings. The churchyard is closed and is looked after by the Parish Council. We have an ongoing project to increase the biodiversity of the churchyard. 2022 saw the installation of the Platinum Jubilee Path, which provides full step-free and wheelchair and pram-friendly access to the church, as well as being an attractive addition to our churchyard.







# Our Church Buildings

## Holme Eden

St Paul's Church Holme Eden was founded in 1845 as the result of the generosity of a local Mill owner and philanthropist, Peter Dixon. He asked the then Bishop of Carlisle to create a parish from the two surrounding parishes.

In return he would build a church and vicarage and give money to the Diocese to pay for the vicar's stipend. Having provided employment, houses, gardens etc. for his workforce he wanted them to have a church, which they could easily reach on foot – hence St Paul's.

The church was re-ordered about 10 years ago. It is fully carpeted and has comfortable seating for all. Different seating arrangements are easily accommodated, and the church can house different community groups, including a current arts group and Jelly Tots, a toddlers and carers group which previously ran with hopes that this can be reinstated. In addition, there is a meeting room adjacent to the church, which is a venue for a variety of activities and has projection and AV facilities and kitchen facilities.

## Our Church Life

#### Wetheral

**Our people**: Wetheral church has an enthusiastic and friendly congregation drawn from the villages of Wetheral and Great Corby, many of whom have been worshipping at the church for many years and who always extend a warm welcome to newcomers and visitors.

We have 12 people on the PCC, two churchwardens, and a very engaged and enthusiastic laity, who have kept all the activities of the parish and Mission Community thriving during the interregnum.

Although most of the congregation is post-retirement age, the growth of the choir and introduction of more choral services in recent years has attracted more people in their 20s-50s into our church and community, as both choir members and attendees. There are currently 62 people on the electoral role.

We currently only have one school-aged family regularly attending our church, but we have links to Great Corby School, who hold their Carol, Harvest, Easter and Summer services in our church. Children from neighbouring schools come to the church for 'Experience Days' led by members of our church community, in which they are taught about different Christian festivals and traditions. We had a good number of children at church on Easter Sunday, who participated in an Easter Egg hunt in the churchyard following the service, and the annual Crib Service always attracts more than 100 attendees!

**Our services:** Our style of liturgy is generally traditional, with a robed celebrant using either the Book of Common Prayer or Common Worship (Prayer A or B), and with most services featuring traditional hymns and choral music led by our robed choir and organist. However we pride ourselves on providing a range of services, including a monthly Morning Worship service with more contemporary music and a less formal character.

Members of the congregation arrange the flowers, act as sidespeople/welcomers, operate the sound system, read the Old Testament and New Testament lessons, lead the intercessions, and act as chalice assistants during services.

The 11.15am Holy Communions, plus some evensongs and special services, are followed by refreshments (which can get quite elaborate on special occasions!) provided and served by members of the choir.





Week	Service	Average Attendance
1st Sunday of the month	8.15am – BCP Holy Communion 6pm – BCP Choral Evensong with	10
	Robed Choir	47
2nd Sunday of the month	11.15am - Common Worship Holy Communion with Robed Choir	30
3rd Sunday of the month	11.15am - Morning Worship with Holme Eden Music Group	23
4th Sunday of the month	11.15am - Common Worship Holy Communion with Robed Choir	30
5th Sunday of the month	Joint Holy Communion with St Paul's Holme Eden (alternating churches)	



# Our Church Life

### Wetheral

**Special Services:** We have an annual Evensong for All Souls, which is always very well attended by non-churchgoers, and our 9 Lessons and Carols service (featuring Wetheral Choir and the Eden Wild Goose Community Choir) had an attendance of 120 in 2023. We have extra services such as a Crib Service, Midnight Mass, Good Friday, and the Easter Vigil.

**Music:** We are blessed with an excellent organist and an enthusiastic and talented robed choir, which was relaunched after Covid and has gone from strength to strength, now numbering about 15 people. The choir sings at three or four services per month, as well as at all the special services, and recently provided the music for Eucharist and Evensong at Carlisle Cathedral during the Cathedral Choir's holiday, to great acclaim.

Other activities: The Church hosts the weekly Eden Wild Goose Community Choir rehearsals, and the monthly Tots Café, plus various fundraising events and concerts throughout the year, including summer picnics and music nights in the churchyard. These serve the important function of introducing members of the wider community to our wonderful church and its people.

# Our Church Life

## Holme Eden

In terms of churchmanship, St Paul's Holme Eden has been evangelical since 1845 following the lead given by its founder, and this is a tradition which we wish to see continue.

The services are relaxed and relatively informal. We like to think that we give a warm welcome to all. Music is central to our services and we have an active and popular worship band of instrumentalists and singers, offering a string mixture of traditional and contemporary music.. During the year we have two Big Sing events which draw in a sizeable number of people from outside the church community.

St Paul's has strong ties with Wetheral, and we look upon our different traditions as being points of strength not weakness. We do a lot together and have established many lasting friendships across the two congregations. It has proved to be a very happy 'union'.

We are a welcoming church community which, whilst in the main is made up of older congregants, includes a young farming family (with three children) who attend once a month. The electoral roll also includes a young couple who have just had their first child who was welcomed into the church in August. A member of our singing group also regularly brings her grandchild.

We aim to have a Morning service at a set time every Sunday in both churches. Holme Eden is at 9.45 a.m with refreshments served after the service.

Week	Service	
1st Sunday of the month	Morning worship	
2nd Sunday of the month	Holy Communion	
3rd Sunday of the month	Engage (a talk given at present by members of the congregation on a wide variety of topics with a Christian content)	
4th Sunday of the month	Holy Communion	
5th Sunday of the month	Joint Holy Communion with Wetheral (alternating churches)	



Brief Financial Summary	Holme Eden		Wetheral	
	2023	2022	2023	2022
	£k	£k	£k	£k
Regular Giving	23	25	30	26
Other Giving	3	2	3	3
Gift Aid	6	7	11	9
Grants, Fund Raisers and Legacies	5	4	18	15
Fees (after Diocese share)	1	1	2	8
Bank Interest	1	0	2	0
Total	39	39	66	61
Ministry Offer	20	18	35	33
Heat Light Water & Insurance (Less Diocese	A C POC			
Grant)	5	4	7	8
Repairs and Maintenance	4	2	8	7
External Donations				5
Other Costs	4	5	8	10
	33	29	58	63
Surplus	6	10	8	-2
Retained Reserves	47	41	57	49



## Our Finances

The present Treasurer (who is also Chair of Trustees of Carlisle Diocesan Board of Finance), assumed the roles at both PCCs in March 2023.

Both PCCs are fortunate to have retained a reasonable level of General Reserves and have agreed to significantly increase their Offers to the Diocese towards Costs of Ministry as their first priority from regular Church giving. Should urgent and substantial funds be required for Buildings Maintenance, it is agreed that this should be subject to a "Whole Community" Appeal, since the Churches, while maybe not in regular use by them, is nevertheless there for them as a whole community resource when needed.

Both Wetheral and Holme Eden Churches are due to receive their Quinquennial Inspections during 2024, and all significant matters raised within the previous reports have been attended to. Recent storm damage to both Churches will be substantially covered by Ecclesiastical Insurance, with whom there are Long Term Agreements.

Both PCCs have increased their Ministry Offer for 2024 to £28k (Holme Eden) and £40k (Wetheral).

"Focus on Eden" is the Benefice Magazine, with ten editions of 570 copies annually, which generates a small surplus from advertising revenue and an annual subscription of £5 per household. Donations (currently £1k per annum per PCC) are made to PCCs from this surplus. Separate books and Banking arrangements are maintained for this magazine.

The majority of regular Church giving is by monthly Gift Aid mandated Standing Order, while a few givers still retain use of the Envelopes system.

Carlisle Diocese has very recently agreed to subscribe to the National Church "Parish Giving Scheme", given the much improved costs of membership. Our PCCs can consider joining this in due course, after an initial Diocesan trial has been achieved and it then may go on general release.

# The Rectory

In September, the Diocese of Carlisle secured a new Rectory in the village of Aglionby. The property is a superb detached family home including:

- Large Entrance Hall & Landing
- 4 Double Bedrooms, Ensuite & Family Bathroom
- Dual Aspect Lounge, Dining Room & Cosy Sitting Room
- Dining Kitchen, Utility & Boot Room
- Stunning Gardens with views across to the Scottish Fells
- Double and Single Garage (with a view to convert this to a study)
- Double Glazing & Central Heating
- Garden Store

#### **Description**

Situated in the delightful village of Aglionby within Wetheral Parish, this is a charming spacious detached house

Boasting a spacious interior, the property offers four double bedrooms, including a large ensuite and well-appointed family bathroom. The home further benefits from a welcoming hallway and three good size reception rooms - an Inviting dual aspect lounge an elegant dining room with parquet flooring and a cosy sitting room, promising comfort and relaxation for all.

The kitchen diner forms the heart of the home, linking to a convenient utility room and practical boot room. Thoughtfully designed with double glazing and gas central heating the home ensures a warm and inviting ambience all year round.

The property boasts attractive, mature landscaped gardens and with breathtaking countryside views that stretch to the Scottish Fells in the far distance. The property further boasts a Double and Single Garage, large driveway for further parking and garden storage room. It is conveniently situated with easy access to the M6 and A69.



















# Thank you for reading our Eden Churches Benefice profile.

For more information please contact:

The Ven Ruth Newton

Archdeacon of Carlisle

Email:

<u>archdeacon.north@carlislediocese.org.uk</u>
Telephone:

07919 792051

www.edenchurches.co.uk