

Criffel View

Profile - Priest in Charge



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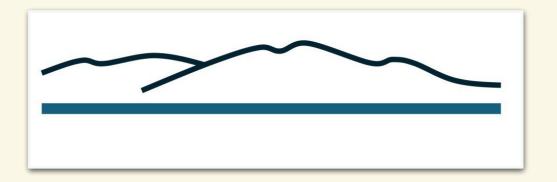
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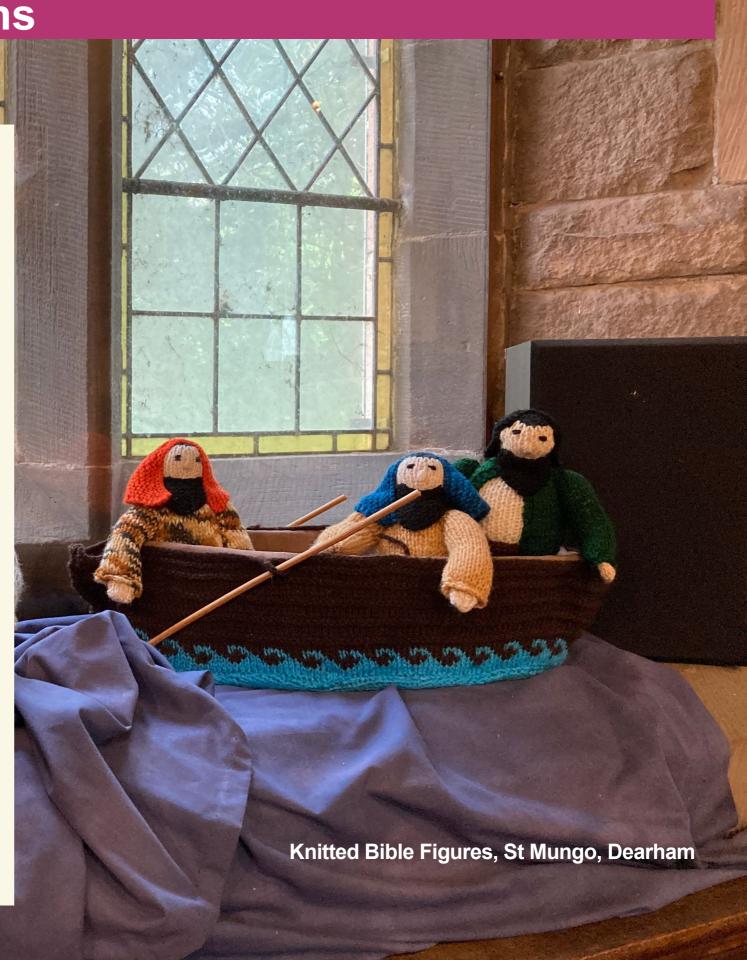
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Section 01 Introduction

A Message 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 (serving our communities and challenging 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



Section 02 Who we are

A pen portrait of us

We are 6 parishes each sharing a view across the beautiful Solway to the Criffel mountain in Scotland (which is also the view from the Vicarage window!). During the vacancy, we have enjoyed getting to know each other and experiencing a range of preachers and worship leaders, each with different styles. We are in the process of pastoral reorganisation, at the final consultation stage, hoping to become one Benefice (to be known as Criffel View). It is hoped that this will be complete before licensing and the person appointed would then be Rector of our new Benefice.

This is a place with ancient Christian roots, having direct links to St Patrick and St Kentigern (Mungo) and our Viking forebears. We're proud of our heritage and traditions, but we are also stepping out into new and exciting forms of worship and mission. There is a sense that God is still very much at work here.

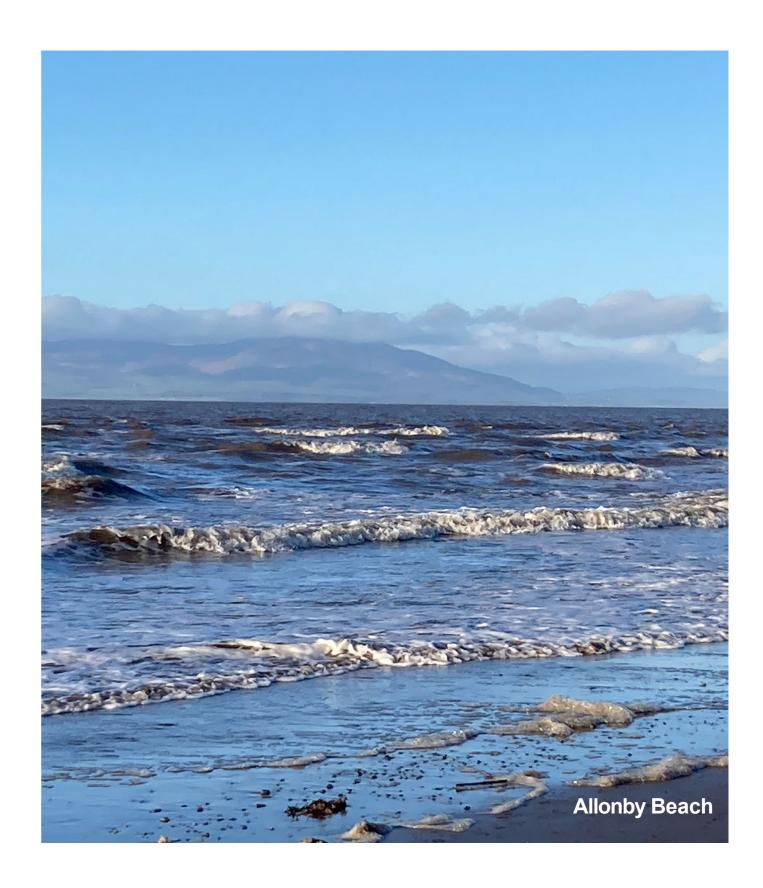
It is also a fabulous place to live, with breathtaking coasts and easy access to the Lakes and the Scottish Borders, without the disruption of transient populations, seasonal traffic or high prices. Few people who come here ever want to leave.

Our Parishes:

Allonby: Christ Church Aspatria: St Kentigern

Crosscanonby: St John the Evangelist

Dearham: St Mungo Gilcrux: St Mary **Hayton: St James**

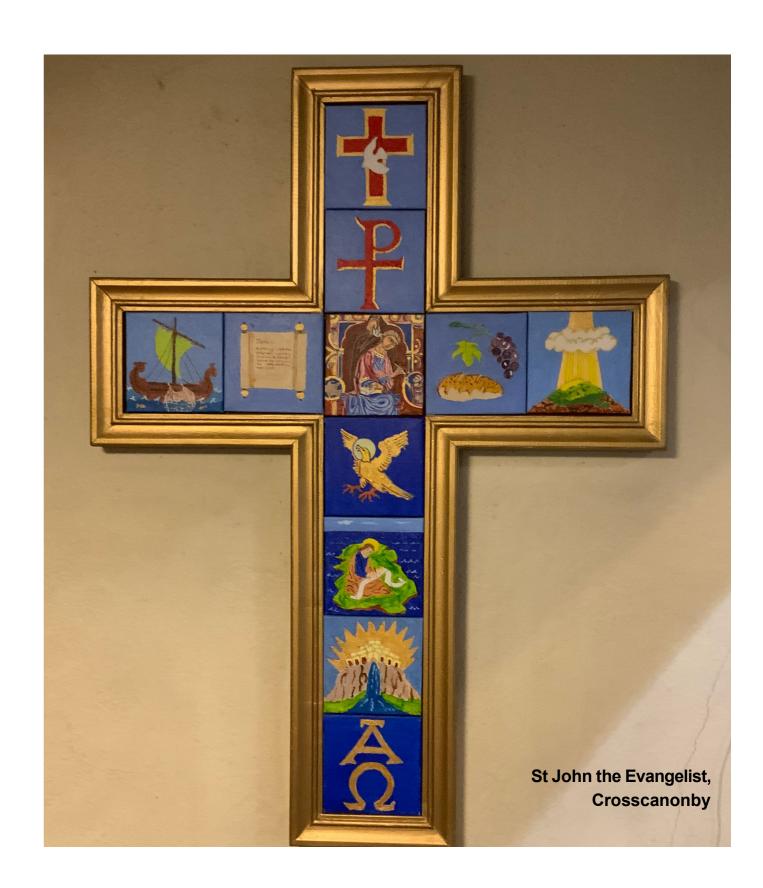


Our story in brief

Our spiritual history is remarkable. This was the birthplace of Patrick (Aspatria Church still stands on the site of the ash grove where he first preached) and the missional home of Kentigern, who later went on to found the city of Glasgow. The Viking foundations of Gilcrux and Crosscanonby are still evident. This place was formed by a Christian mission that continues today.

More recently, like most churches, we are feeling our way in a post-Covid world. All of our parishes lost regular attenders during lockdown and recovery has been patchy. Numbers at Allonby and Gilcrux are now very small and those parishes are looking at simpler, humbler, bolder ways of maintaining a Christian witness with fewer people and fewer acts of worship. Our four other parishes have been finding new ways to grow, whether it is through innovative forms of mission, increasing lay leadership (including lay-led services), or engaging with younger members of our community, we see some green shoots of growth.

We are enjoying coming together as a benefice, establishing a worship pattern that is more sustainable, joined-up and missional, and finding ways to streamline our governance to maximise time and energy for our mission. We have great links with our schools, particularly our Church school at Crosscanonby, and our Network Youth Church, as well as an extremely popular Boys Brigade and Girls Association in Dearham with close links to Church.



Our Mission Community

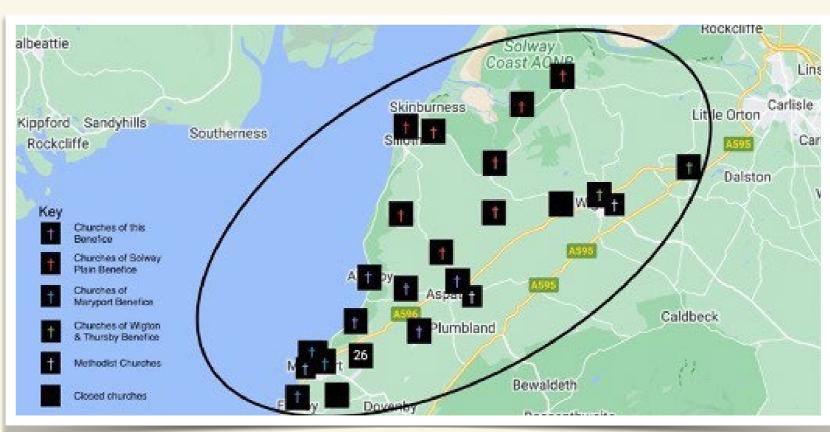
Mission Communities are a new way of conducting ministry in a context where multi-parish ministry is now the norm. They help us to navigate away from a model of ministry where a resident stipendiary vicar did everything, to a collaborative form of ministry where the whole church conducts the mission and ministry of a parish. Operating collaboratively across traditional boundaries of parish, benefice and denomination a Mission Community is intended to maximise the gifts God has given to his Church and enable us all to fulfil our vocation better: allowing you to focus on the ordained role of a priest, and releasing our gifts and passions in active service.

They are designed to be ecumenical, recognising that we increasingly need to pull together as a single Christian presence in each community. They are also designed to be collegiate, so that we work more closely together with a common purpose.

Our ecumenical Mission Community includes the Methodist and Anglican Churches of Maryport (to the West), Wigton (to the East) and the Solway Plain (to the North). Relationships within the Mission Community are still developing, but the essential functions of Mission Community are

to:

- **Pray** together;
- Encourage discipleship;
- Promote vocations for all Christians;
- Oversee stewardship of our gifts (including money and buildings) to resource the Church's mission.
- Find ways of operating effectively together without creating additional layers of governance;
- and enable collaborative **mission** at local level.



A map of the Mission Community

Section 03

Where we are going

Where we are going

We are already very active in mission, both through the ministry of our Pioneer curate and the commitment of the Church Community. There are still things to develop, but here is a brief overview of some of the mission opportunities we would like to develop further.

Solway Network Youth Church

Family Church in Aspatria

Soulway

Boys' Brigade and Girls' Association in Dearham and other uniformed organisations in Aspatria

Men's Breakfast Monthly gathering at Maryport

Warm Hub, Coffee Stop and other community gatherings

Schools

Building on our wide-ranging ministry across the six schools in the benefice, including your ex officio governor role at Crosscanonby CE Primary school (see below)



Family Church

Family Church is an emergent community of faith that meets twice a month in Aspatria Community Centre.

It was started in early 2023 out of a desire to create a welcoming and accessible form of Church for people of all ages. Christenings remain a strong tradition in this part of Cumbria, and we wanted to take seriously our promise to welcome and encourage those we are baptizing into the family of Christ.

Our gatherings are therefore geared especially around families with young Children, though we encompass the whole spectrum of ages!

We are currently working through the story of Jesus through Mark's gospel, and worship typically includes games, crafts, and songs. We always eat together afterwards too, when the best conversations are usually had!



Soulway

Soulway was born out of a desire to hold more regular gatherings as a Mission Community. After a time of prayer and discernment we decided to set this up as a monthly meeting in Aspatria Rugby Club.

The theme of 'encounter' has been a central focus for us so far. Firstly, a desire to encounter one another in a meaningful way, with time to enjoy drinks, cakes and conversation.

Secondly, a desire to encounter God, particularly through extended times of contemporary worship. We are currently having a season of sharing a testimony each time we meet.

And lastly, we hope to gather in a way that enables others to encounter God too. We have held several exciting mission events, from Quiz & Carols at Christmas, to a week-long town spring clean, and an Easter Curry night where over 100 people gathered to hear the Easter story.



Crosscanonby CE Primary School

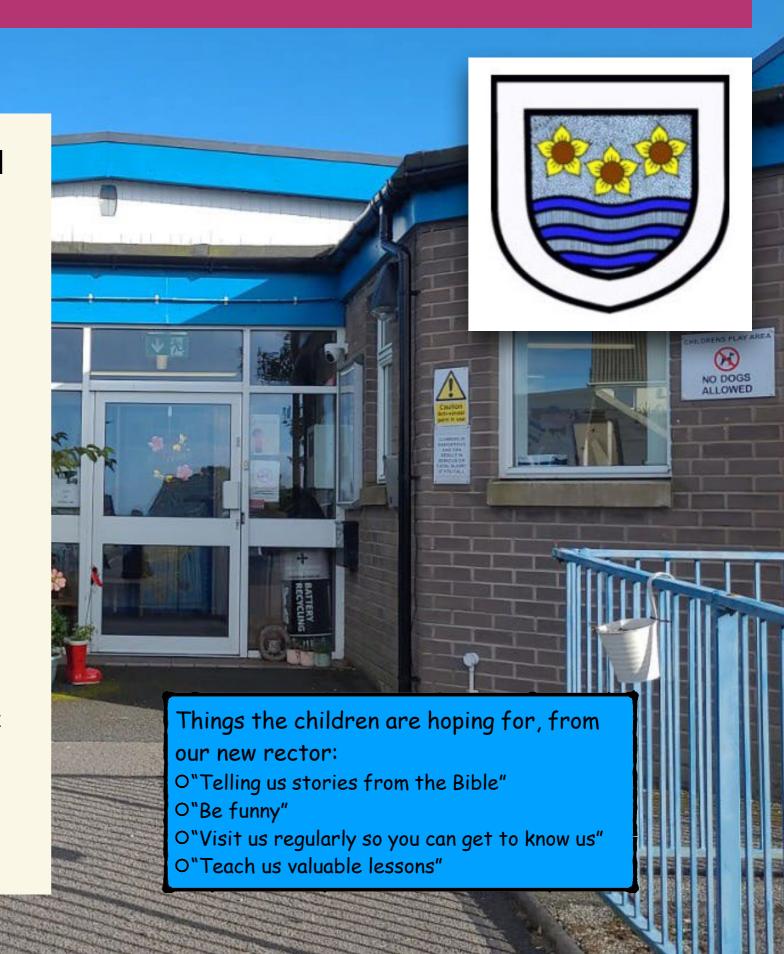
Our previous rector was closely involved in the school, taking weekly assemblies, supporting the staff and taking a lead role in the governing body.

The school is supported by a number of active Christians on the staff.

Christian theology is at the heart of the school's Christian vision. It is rooted in 3 key principles:

- Taking advantage of every opportunity to do good and be helpful to all people (Galatians 6:10)
- O Being kind and tender-hearted to one another, and forgive one another, as God has forgiven you through Christ. (Ephesians 4:3
- O Setting an example for other followers by what you say and do, as well as by your love, faith, and purity (1 Timothy 4:12)

"A friend loves at all times" Proverbs 17:17



Solway Network Youth Church

Solway Network Youth Church (SNYC) is a church in its own right within the Mission Community, designed for young people aged 10-18, made up of a networked group of cells, who enjoy coming together for residentials and reunions.

It runs small groups, discipleship groups, schools work and well-being groups.

SNYC also trains and supports volunteers, works with clergy and churches across the area with mission events, schools work, confirmations and much more.

SNYC is networked to the Diocesan Network Youth Church and is led by Yvette Ladds, who would be a close colleague.



Section 04

You and your role

04 You and your role

A profile of the person we are praying for...



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



...an inspiring leader in mission, helping the church to grow and reach a wider range of ages.



...a good listener, understanding, willing to get to know us and be known in our communities.



...a person of deep faith and conspicuous joy; prayerful, inspiring and energetic in sharing the Gospel.



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



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

Key areas for focus

We expect you come with your own vision and strategic approach, but we have also been praying and thinking about core priorities for our common life and mission together. We see these as to:

- · develop fellowship within the churches of the planned new benefice
- connect in new and deeper ways with our communities
- reach younger people, particularly through schools and the Network Youth Church
- develop a pastoral care team to connect with those feeling isolated
- build links with the wider Mission Community
- further develop Fresh Expressions and imaginative forms of mission, working effectively with our pioneer curate, Matt
- deepen our discipleship, particularly through home groups, Bible study and prayer
- Develop our online presence and outreach through digital media

A fuller Diocesan job description accompanies this profile.



Our Commitment to You

We are looking forward to you coming and we will be looking to you for leadership. At the same time, we are conscious that we have responsibilities to collaborate with you and support you in your ministry. We are still in the early stages of this, but we are committed to the following ways of making your ministry here both manageable and fruitful:

Exploring a joint PCC

Putting in place a sustainable pattern of worship

Develop the active vocations of all Christians, including lay leadership

Openness to new ideas and recognition of the need to try new things

A desire to see new people come to faith

Supporting you to have a healthy and joyous work-life balance



04 You and your role

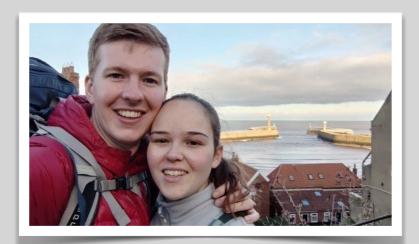
Ministry Colleagues

Licensed Ministers

Matt and Saskia Richards (Matt is our Full Time Pioneer Curate)

We moved to Aspatria in 2022, having previously lived in Stokeon-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. Levi, our first child, arrived in March so we're currently embracing all the joys and challenges that a new baby brings!



Steve Ratcliffe

Canon Geoffrey Ravalde

Geoffrey retired as vicar of Wigton after 32 years and is now licensed as an SSOM minister. He is a chaplain to **HM King**

Charles III.



PTO clergy

We are also blessed by the ministry of a number of PTO clergy who remain active in ministry and mission in the benefice:

Revd Susan McKendrey retired as vicar of Maryport in 2022.



Revd Neil Perkinson served in the Anglican Church in New Zealand prior to retiring to Dearham

Revd Tom Cameron was a verger at St Paul's Cathedral before serving as Associate Priest in Chichester Diocese





Canon David King served in many parishes in the Diocese before retiring to Aspatria in 2007

Canon Stephen Pye is a former Fell-Runner and Cumbrian Vicar, now a Butterfly Conservationist. He retired to Hayton in 2021.



Section 05 The Parishes

Allonby

If you were to tell anyone in Cumbria that you were vicar of Allonby, they would almost certainly mention one thing - the best beach in Cumbria! We are famous for it. We hope you will come to enjoy our miles of golden sand and spectacular views across to Dumfries and the Isle of Man, but we hope you would also share our desire to see it used in mission to our many visitors during the summer months.

Sadly, in recent years, our small, welcoming congregation has dwindled significantly, but we are finding new ways to adapt and reach out. We have recently started a benefice Bible Study group which meets on alternate Thursdays. This is generally well attended. During the winter months, we hold our worship in the small 'school room' attached to the church, which allows us a more intimate, informal style of worship. We are looking to reduce the number of services





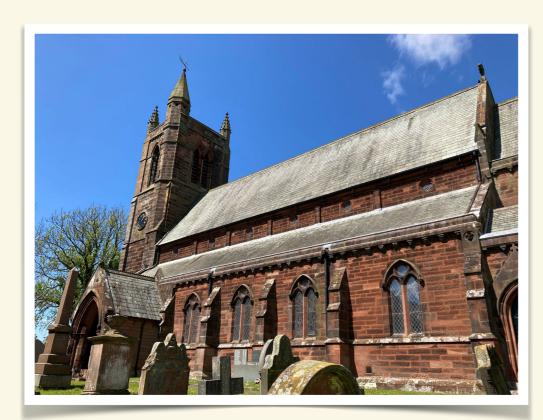
which rely on the presence of a priest and are fortunate to have our Reader, Steve Ratcliffe and a number of others who can help us run lay-led services.

We do not, however, want to abandon our mission. We have a village school with around 20 pupils giving us contact with a number of local families. In summer our population soars from 436 to over 2,000. We already engage in regular prayer walks, and would love to develop ways to reach out to our families and summer visitors - maybe a beach mission or a more informal style of worship service?

Aspatria

Aspatria (Ash of Patrick), the reputed birthplace of St Patrick, is a busy, active market town with a railway station, doctor's surgery, shops, cafes and businesses, as well as a number of meeting places, including the Community Centre owned by the parish Church. A former mining town, most of the employment now centres around the business park. An excellent charity shop supports many local causes, including a number of local churches. We also have close links with the Dreamscheme youth and community project

There are long-established close links with the Methodist Church and together we produce a parish magazine. Our church occupies a historic and prominent site visible across much of the Solway Plain, but in winter, we hold our regular



worship in the Community Centre, which is easier to heat and provides a more intimate style of worship. We have recently developed a number of pioneering approaches for outreach, giving rise to Family Church, Soulway and a warm hub community gathering. We also hold a regular midweek communion service which once a month moves into the Park Lodge residential home.

In the wider community there are two schools (primary and secondary) with good links to the



Church, a nursery, a number of clubs and societies, including uniformed organisations, a bowls club, a famous rugby club and a well-supported park run.

Our close-knit friendly church family is very active and everyone supports in practical ways with a warm welcome, intercessors, reading lessons, and providing refreshments. We are also able to conduct our own lay-led services. Community links with church are very good, but we would love to see more people engage more deeply with church and are working at new ways to achieve this.

Crosscanonby

For the size of our parish (1,020 made up of five local hamlets) we have a pretty good size of congregation made up of warm, friendly, hardworking Christians including an organist, a committed PCC and a number of welcomers/ sidespeople. We are active and outward-looking in mission, sponsoring a girl in Nepal through World Vision, supporting the North Lakes Foodbank, the Bishop's Harvest Appeal, The Children's Society and other charities throughout the year.

The parish has a Church of England primary school which has always had close links to church including weekly assemblies taken by the vicar and regular special events. We are both keen to do more together. The parish also boasts an excellent pub and a thriving community centre.

Our beautiful Grade 1 listed church is rich in history, with a Roman arch leading into the chancel, a hogsback tomb of Viking provenance, and the main structure is largely Norman.





The Solway Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty has helped with planting bee-friendly species in our 'wild' old churchyard, which is much visited by the community. 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's is a very active village church with strong community links. We have a sizeable Boys' Brigade and Girls' Association who meet in the Mission Room adjacent to Church. They have strong links to St Mungo's and to the Solway Network Youth Church and our former vicar was heavily involved with them.

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.

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.

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. Regular seasonal fayres and individual fundraising events have helped maintain the church fabric and contribute to our ministry costs. 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.

There is a lot of potential here. We would love to develop Coffee Stop further, explore using the large, closed churchyard as a nature conservation space, strengthen our links with the school, develop follow-up services, particularly from occasional offices and make the most of the outreach potential of the Mission Room.



Prize-winners from the Boys' Brigade

Our beautiful St Mary's church is at something of a crossroads in our long history. Although the church is still well supported at Christmas (as our photo shows) and on some other occasions, our regular congregation has dwindled to a small handful and we are facing significant structural issues with the building which would cost in the region of £250,000 to repair.

Recently, we have had to face the reality that we do not currently have the finances or human resources to keep the

church running as it has been. We are looking at reducing our service pattern and have already conducted a community consultation to establish whether the community wishes to support the church in having some kind of future or perhaps needs to close.

The excellent village hall, adjacent to the church provides an alternative worship space and we are shortly going to have to make some difficult decisions about whether we can justify the significant expense of repair or whether we need to look at an alternative way of maintaining a Christian presence without our historic church building.

The building itself dates back to Viking times (Gilcrux was initially a Christian Viking settlement), though the presence of a holy well suggests it was a sacred site long before then. Our Viking and Border Reiver heritage offer possibilities for some kind of imaginative future for the church if sufficient support can be found for a renovation project.

The village has a caravan park, a post office, a good pub and several local businesses.



St James' parish church is a small, but active community of Christians engaged with our local community. 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. We donate 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 we donate to the Leprosy Mission annually.

We have conducted occasional lay-led services, and we have the capacity for this to be as often as bi-monthly. Most of our congregation is involved in worship, through readings, leading intercessions, welcoming and other acts of practical service.





Oughterside Primary School is in our parish and they are keen to maintain the pattern of regular collective worship that we have been able to establish in recent years.

The Village Sports and BBQ, run by the Church each year, is a major event in the life of the community. We are also good at putting on large special celebrations (most recently for the late Queen's Platinum Jubilee). Remembrance Sunday is a big event here and our regular social events (including our Harvest Lunch) are very popular in the village.

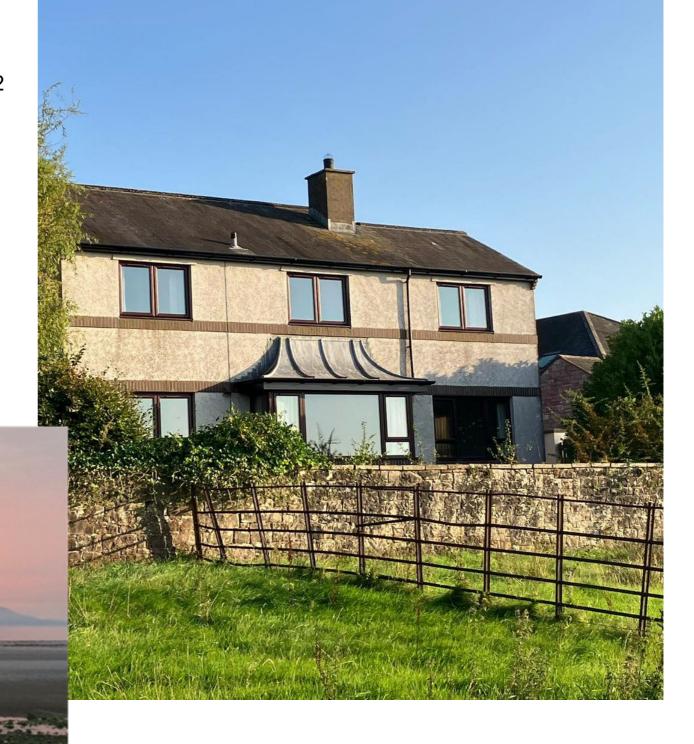
Our lovely building is in good order. Before Covid, we had an imaginative plan for developing it for multi-purpose use, but sadly, the change of Lottery funding criteria post-Covid meant that the re-ordering was no longer possible, so we have put our efforts and the money raised into the necessary repairs so that we are at least in a good position structurally.

Section 06 Living here

Your home

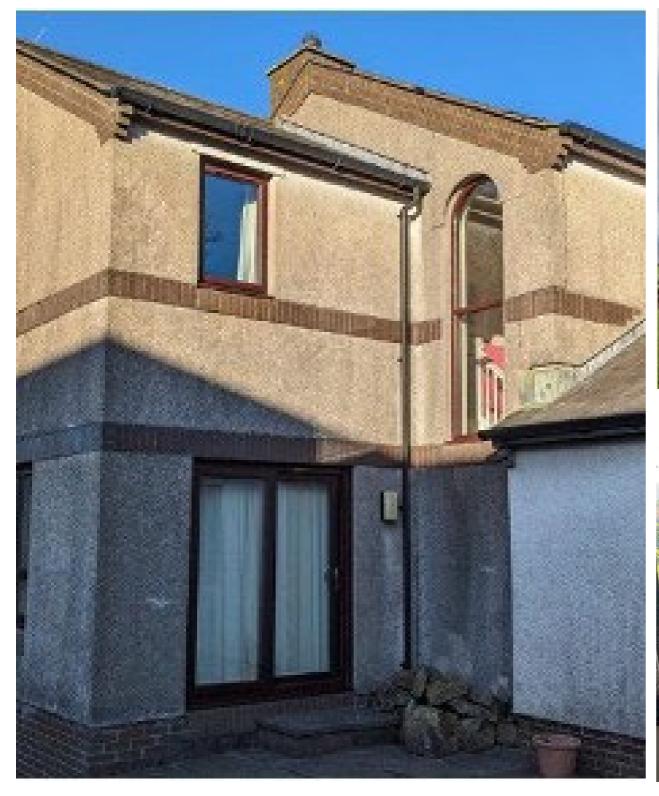
The Vicarage, Crosscanonby, CA15 6SH

- A four bedroomed 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 Allonby Beach is probably the best in Cumbria!
- Cycle way and coastal path on your doorstep. We are close to the Lake District National Park. Allonby Bay is a site of Special Scientific Interest and affords marvellous views across to Scotland.



06 Living here

Your home







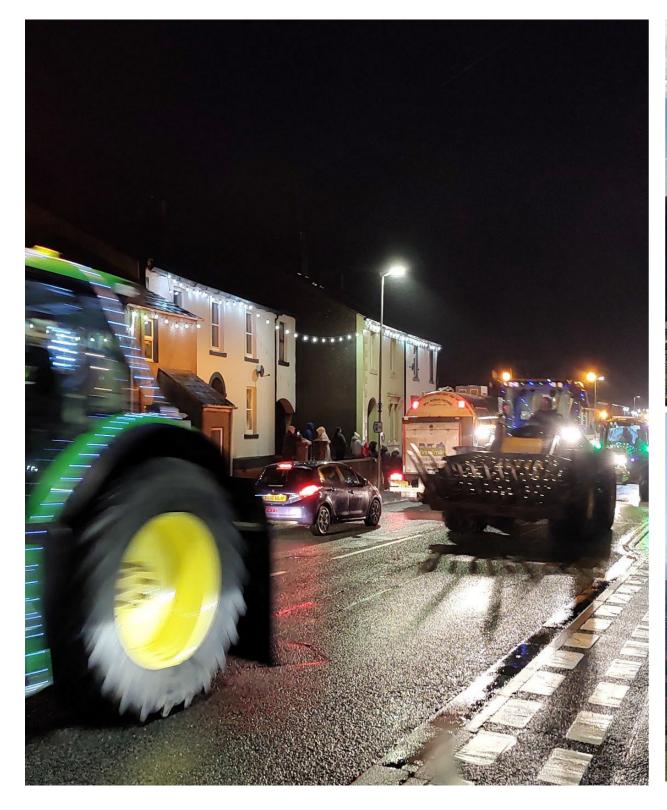
Schools: Crosscanonby CE Primary School is within a short walk of the Vicarage. Secondary schools are within easy reach at Aspatria, Cockermouth and Maryport.

Local Towns: Maryport is just three miles away, and has received significant investment in recent years, with the high street completely repaved and a smart new boardwalk connecting the harbour to the promenade. Maryport aquarium and the Wave Centre are both great fun for families, and the selection of teateries include outstanding fish & chip shops, the Golden Lion Hotel and the nationally award-winning Maryport Tandori. Aspatria, Wigton and Cockermouth, all of which have a brilliant range of independent shops and cafes. Further afield, Workington or Carlisle provide excellent shopping, plus a great choice of cultural destinations.

Socialising: there is an excellent pub in the village, a short walk from the Vicarage. Allonby beach is visited by folk from across Cumbria and beyond, with its renowned ice cream shop open year round. Drive south just 20 minutes and you'll found yourself surrounded by the stunning Lakeland fells. We'll leave it to locally-lad William Wordsworth to do them justice.

Transport links: there are good road links (A596) and hourly bus services. There are railway stations at Aspatria and Maryport on the West Coast line, which connects at Carlisle to fast services running across the UK.

Healthcare: there are excellent surgeries in Aspatria and Maryport and local hospitals are excellent.







Section 07

Further information

General Parish Information

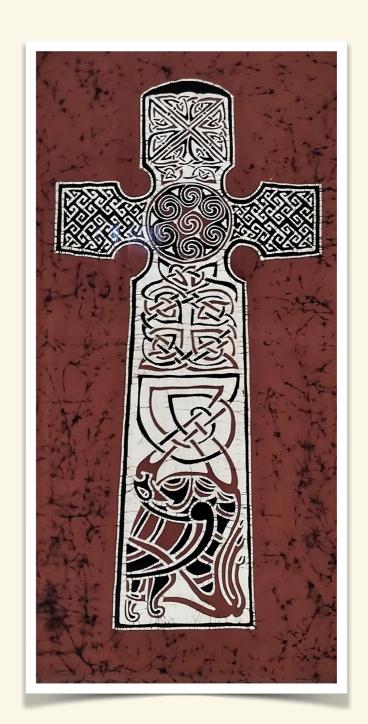
Pa	Po	ш	Ave. Atte	Average Occasional Offices p.a.*				
Parish	Population (2021)	Electoral Role	Ave. Sunday Attendance	Baptisms	Weddings	Funerals		
Allonby	426	16	8	0	0.25	2		
Aspatria	2,852	61	20	8	1	12		
Crosscanonby	1,020	28	15	10	2	13		
Dearham	2,648	28	25	9	2	10		
Gilcrux	310	10	6-8	0	0	2		
Hayton	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 Aspatria and Hayton. NSM/PTO clergy assist with funerals.

Current Service Pattern

October	Aspatria	Hayton	Gilcrux	Allonby	Crosscanonby	Dearham
Wed 2	10.00am HC Park Lodge					
Sun 6	9.30am MP 4.00pm FC			9.00am MP	11.00am HC	10.30am MP (Harvest)
Wed 9	9.30am HC					
Sun 13	9.30 HC (Harvest)	(Harvest Lunch)	11.00am HC (Harvest)	9.00am MP	11.00am MP	10.30am HC
Wed 16	9.30am HC					
Sun 20	9.30am MP 4.00pm FC (Harvest)	11.00 HC (Harvest)		9.00am HC		10.30am MP Methodist
Wed 23	9.30am HC					
Sun 27	9.30 HC 4.00pm S	11.00am MP		9.00am MP		10.30am HC
Wed 30	9.30am HC					





NB this is the service rota for October 2024 and represents our working so far towards a service pattern that will be more sustainable for us and more manageable for a single incumbent. In a month with a fifth Sunday, it would also include a joint benefice service. This is a work in progress and there is room for you to shape it further.

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	2	de (0 De	픙	Area(Sq miles)	Parish Offer £		
	Population (2018)	Deprivation index (0 = highest deprivation)	Households		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

Useful websites for further research

Diocesan Website:

www.carlislediocese.org.uk

God for All: godforall.org.uk

Solway Network Youth Church:

www.facebook.com/SolwayNYC

Aspatria Churches:

www.facebook.com/profile.php?

id=100091405800679

and

www.youtube.com/@aspatriachurches

Crosscanonby church:

www.facebook.com/p/Crosscanonby-

St-John-the-Evangelist-

Church-100066778736300/

Crosscanonby CE School: https://

crosscanonby.cumbria.sch.uk/

Community Sites: www.facebook.com/

<u>AsapatriaDreamscheme</u>

