

Parish Profile

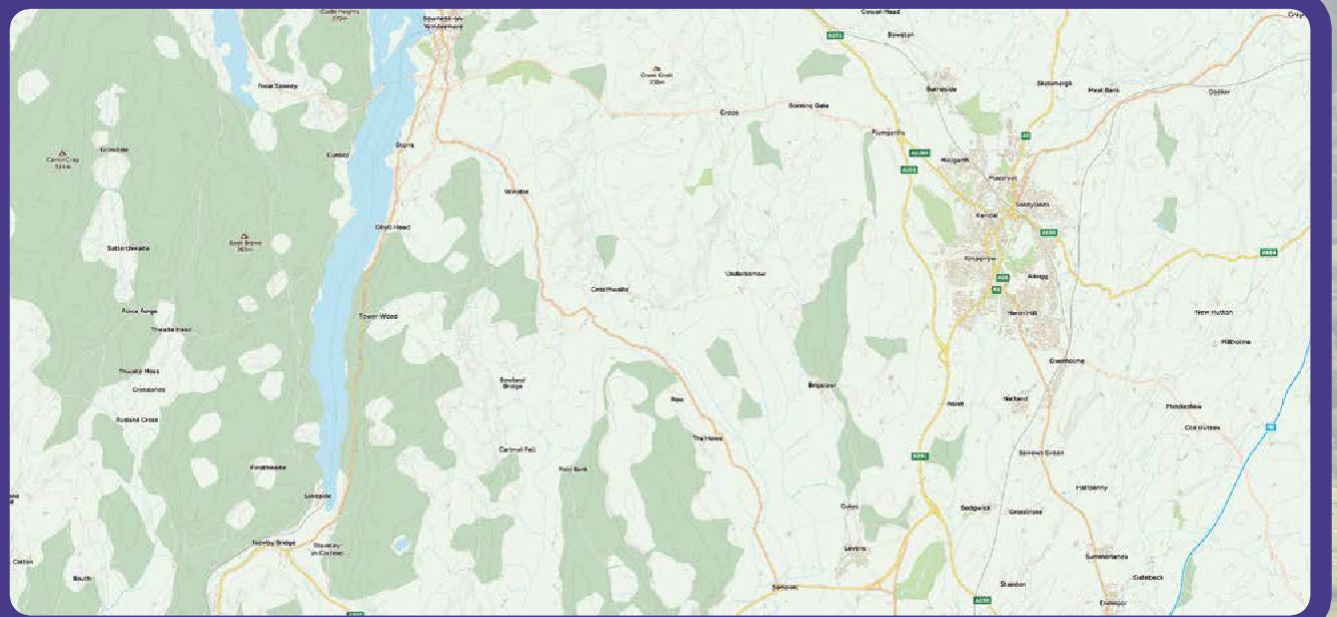
An aerial photograph of a rural landscape. The foreground and middle ground are dominated by vibrant green fields, some of which are divided by dark stone walls. There are several small clusters of buildings, likely farmhouses or small villages, scattered across the valley. The background shows rolling hills and mountains under a sky with soft, white clouds. The overall scene is peaceful and scenic.

Welcome to the Parishes of

Cartmel Fell, Crosthwaite, Underbarrow with Helsington,
Winster and Witherslack

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A message from the Bishop of Penrith / Acting Bishop of Carlisle



Dear Applicant,

This profile will give you a good picture of life and ministry in this wonderful part of Cumbria, which is deeply rural but also close to the thriving market town of Kendal.

The Diocese of Carlisle is committed to the God for All vision, a vision to share the good news of Jesus Christ with all our neighbours. Launched in 2015, it is underpinned by a commitment across four denominations in Cumbria (the Church of England, the 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 seeking to be 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. They are about enabling each local church to minister to their community.

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.

With every blessing,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read '+ Robs' with a flourish underneath.



The Rt Reverend Rob Saner-Haigh
Bishop of Penrith and Acting Bishop of Carlisle

Overview

This parish vacancy presents an exciting, yet challenging opportunity. The five parishes, which form the majority of the Two Valleys Mission Community, are situated in the stunning Lyth and Winster Valleys, between the popular market town of Kendal to the east, the gateway to the Lake District, and iconic Lake Windermere to the west. Most of the land is within the Lake District National Park, an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, recently awarded UNESCO World Heritage Site status.

Famous for its damson orchards, the Lyth Valley is described in The Lonely Planet's list of the Most Beautiful Places on Earth as *"tucked in a hidden corner of Cumbria, where trees are laden with fruit and rolling hills are the most magnificent green."*

The Parish of Crosthwaite runs north from the west side of the Lyth Valley to Crosthwaite village at the head of the valley. Underbarrow with Helsington Parish is on the opposite side of the valley with the backdrop of Scout Scar.

Witherslack Parish adjoins Crosthwaite in the Winster Valley; to the north is Winster Parish, a few miles south of Bowness-on-Windermere, a popular tourist destination on Lake Windermere. Cartmel Fell Parish lies on the westerly side of the Winster Valley, adjoining Witherslack and Winster Parishes.

Community spirit

Each parish has produced an individual profile, which provides a flavour of its community, a brief description of its church, congregation and services. Each parish has a tremendous community spirit, underpinned historically by the farming and agricultural sector, augmented by families moving into the most appealing areas of South Lakeland, either for work or for retirement. Tourists and

visitors add to the congregations, and also call in to the churches during the week as each is open daily.

Each parish has a dedicated and committed Parochial Church Council (PCC). Such loyalty is an essential element to assure the future of the parish. Most churches have at least one Church Warden, and there is a Secretary and Treasurer in each PCC to ensure the smooth running of the church facilities and services.

Spiritual appeal

Every church has its own individual spiritual appeal, enhanced by the idyllic setting and coupled with unique charm and character. Although theoretically ecumenical according to the Diocese's 'God for All' strategy, in practice, there are no other denominations in our parishes.

There are two primary schools in the parishes: Crosthwaite C of E School and Witherslack's Dean Barwick School, both of which have links with the churches. There is much potential to develop these relationships, with new ideas and approaches relevant to our situation and with support from our communities.

The Two Valleys Parish News monthly magazine is distributed to 630 households throughout the Mission



Recent joint service in St. Mary's, Crosthwaite

Community as well as postal copies sent to all four corners of the UK. This contains information about church services and events, and the many community events across the parishes. Each edition also contains a letter from one of the Mission Community leadership team members. See TVN Sept. 2024 as an example: <https://crosthwaiteandlyth.co.uk/>

We have a Two Valleys Mission Community private Facebook group to communicate with all the congregations in the Mission Community as well as others of Christian faith across the Lyth and Winster Valleys. There are also two local Facebook pages to advertise church and community events plus a Witherslack Facebook hub, all facilitating quick and easy communication with local people about church events.

The Vicar we're hoping for

Our new Vicar will be keen to experience rural village life. They will take overall pastoral responsibility for the five parishes and, as Co-leader of the Mission Community, will help us to develop and strengthen further our links with each other. They will be someone who will help us to discern God's priorities for us, and lead and support us in times of change. They will be forward thinking, proactive and inspirational, with vision and empathy to help us with the task of mission and deepening of faith.

We are looking to welcome a Vicar who:

- is a person of prayer and of strong faith, with a focus on growing and making disciples
- has broad sympathy with and respect for the diversity of our different churches
- is a good listener, able to discern the views and needs of the people they serve
- is a team player, able to work collaboratively with lay and clergy, and able to recognise and make the best use of people's strengths and abilities
- is welcoming and outgoing, with good humour and a sense of fun

- will work with us to develop a broader outreach to the local community, especially younger people and families, looking at different ways of 'doing church'
- will be a pastor with a big heart for both church members and the wider communities
- will strengthen and develop the existing links with the schools in our parishes, and increase the Christian presence in each
- will seek to share God's love for us through sacrament, prayer and preaching
- has good organisational skills

We offer:

- **supportive congregations**
- **a committed team of lay and ordained colleagues**
- **cheerful, welcoming communities**
- **a beautiful place to live and work**

Our Parishes

St Anthony's, Cartmel Fell

The Parish (Population: 322)

St Anthony's is a rural parish of scattered dwellings rather than a village. Along with 20 farms, there are a handful of holiday cottages or second homes. Along with livestock farming and hospitality providing the main forms of employment, there are many home-based professional workers. The vibrant community organises activities that are run by volunteer groups and include community BBQs, film nights, an annual bonfire and a themed woodland walk for children.

The Church

Nestled below Ravensbarrow, surrounded by bluebell-carpeted woodland on the hillside, sits St Anthony's Church <https://www.lakesguides.co.uk/html/lgaz/LK10789.htm>. It is a simple pebble-dashed stone building covered by a slate roof, with a square bell tower at the west end.

The Church was founded in 1504 as a Chapel of Ease, with various additions during the centuries that followed. In 1911 the church saw a full restoration, but many historical features were retained. It will hold c.120 people, is in good condition and is well cared for by the two Churchwardens helped by the regular congregation.

In 2009 a new roofing and lighting project was completed, while in 2014 a fitted kitchen and WC were added discreetly to the church building. In 2017 an inspirational stained-glass window was added to the



Cartmel Fell new window and font

Bell Tower which houses the Baptismal Font, which itself received a new cover made from local oak. The organ is good quality and has been upgraded in recent years; it is regularly tuned and used.

There are two interesting box pews, one of which was used as a classroom until a small school was built adjacent to the church grounds in 1872. The school closed in 1972, but the building now serves as a Parish Hall, which is used for church and community functions

such as the Harvest Lunch.

The churchyard, which in spring is a mass of wild daffodils, was extended in 2004 to include adequate burial space for years to come. We also operate a 'no mow' policy for much of the summer to allow insect life and wildflowers to flourish. The churchyard is home to three sculptures which form part of the Witherslack/ Cartmel Fell Art Trail.

The church has held two Flower Festivals over the last 10 years, showcasing the tremendously creative talent in the local area. The whole ambience of the church, and its surroundings, form a wonderful oasis of beauty and calm, attracting many visitors by car and on foot.



Cartmel Fell Flower Festival

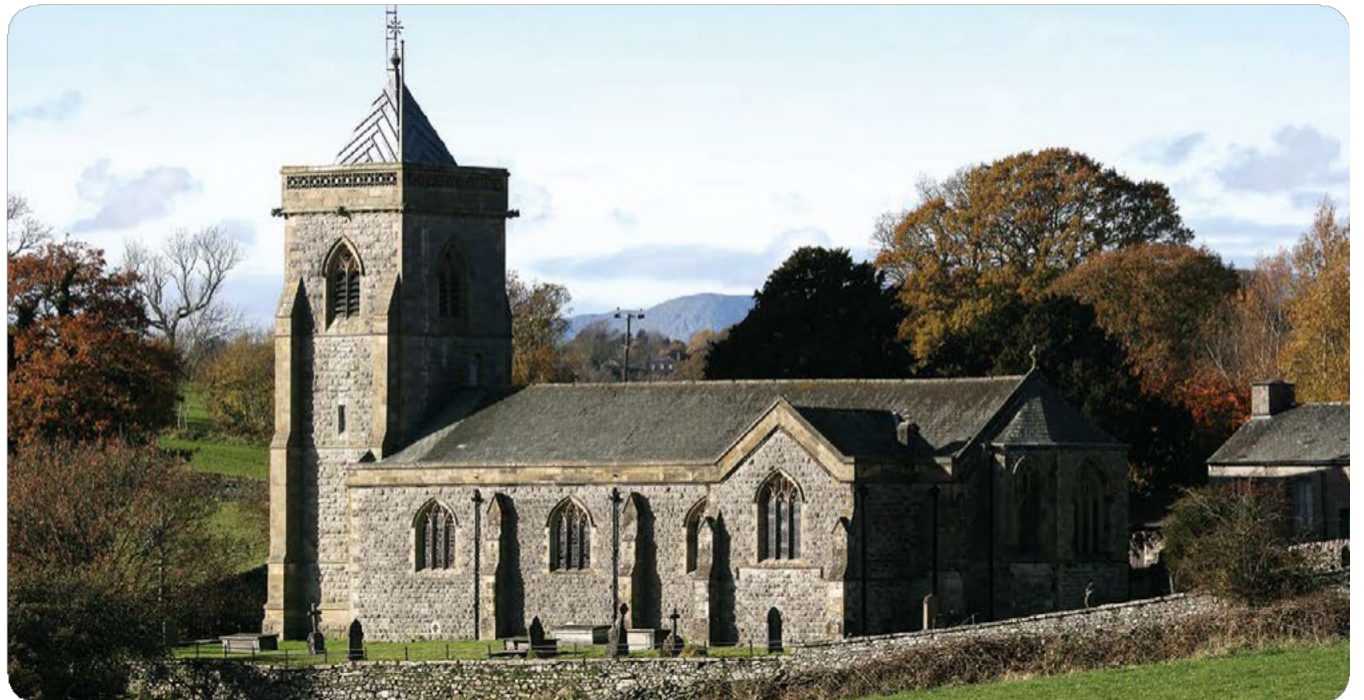
Our Congregation

The congregation tends to be older (aged 40+), with over half of regular attendees living outside the parish, although many of these originated from the area. Our numbers are often swelled by family visitors and holidaymakers. The church has close links with the very active Cartmel Fell WI, the local history society and Cartmel Fell Volunteers – all providing friendship and mutual aid amongst the community.

Our Services

Services, usually Holy Communion and Book of Common Prayer, take place at St Anthony's Church two Sundays a month (second and fourth Sundays). The congregation partners with St Paul's in Witherslack and attends their services on alternate Sundays. It joins other members of the Two Valleys Mission Community for the combined fifth Sunday services and other special events throughout the parishes.

The PCC and worshippers at St Anthony's Church rejoice in the ancient history embodied in the church building and the traditions maintained by the current congregation, which serve to create a special place of communion. The St Anthony's Church community also strives to be relevant in the modern world through its vision for pastoral ministry in the parish.



St Mary's Church, Crosthwaite

St. Mary's, Crosthwaite

The Parish (Population: 647)

The Church of St Mary's lies at the northern tip of the stunning Lyth Valley. It is a rural parish with a village centre and outlying settlements and farms. Within the village there is a Church of England School, rated excellent by Ofsted, a well-used village hall, a recreation field and play area and a bowling green used for local team matches. Adjacent to St Mary's Church

is the award-winning Punch Bowl Inn, and visitors from there sometimes attend our services. Many of the non-farming residents in the parish are retired but active in village life. Some run businesses from home, either computer-based or trades-based. Others enjoy the fells and other benefits of living in such a beautiful area.

The Church

The church is the largest in the benefice and has a rich history dating back to the 12th century, though the

current church building was constructed in the late 19th century. An extension to the north side of the church in 2011 provided much needed toilets and a separate vestry.

As part of our Eco Church initiative started in May 2023, two of our church wardens set up the Crosthwaite and Lyth Eco Action Network (CLEAN). Its objectives are to encourage a reduction in energy use, promote biodiversity and give guidance and support to enable individuals and communities to move to green solutions. CLEAN was launched in September 2023 at a meeting attended by over 150 local people. Since then, it has started several eco initiatives in the village, including a lift sharing group, recycling in church and installing swift boxes in the church belfry. All of this has led St Mary's being awarded Bronze and Silver Eco Awards.

The church is surrounded by its churchyard, with a new graveyard just a short walk away. As part of the Eco Church initiative, the graveyard has a wildflower meadow and a mowing regime has been implemented that leaves certain areas unmown to encourage wildlife and flowers to thrive.

There is a comprehensive duty rota for opening church each day, cleaning, sidespeople, Bible readers, refreshments, intercession prayers and altar servers. The church is blessed with a good organ and a digital piano, and two organists/pianists ensure there is music at every worship service, including weddings and funerals.

The three churchwardens make sure the church runs smoothly, keeping an eye on the fabric of the church, the graveyard, the car park and the bell tower. An annual Boon Day is organised by the PCC to keep the church and its surroundings in top condition, which is supported by parishioners and local villagers.

Our Congregation

As a rural parish, St Mary's congregation is made up of farming families who have lived in the Valley for generations, as well as families who have moved to enjoy all that Lake District life has to offer. Church services are held every other week, often a Common Worship Communion service. When there is no service at St Mary's the congregation worships at Holy Trinity, Winster. This has resulted in a fuller church and a more satisfying service for both congregations.

Our Services

Christmas and Easter services swell the normal congregation from around 20 or so to as many as nearly 200 at Christmas 2023. Stand-out events have been an outdoor "Big Sing" during Covid held in the church car park to sing carols and popular songs, and an afternoon tea to mark the King's Coronation at the Village Hall followed by a songs of praise service in church.

The services in St Mary's are Common Worship (CW), mainly Communion, though there has been a monthly Book of Common Prayer (BCP) Evening Prayer service for many years. The small congregation is sometimes joined by visitors and by a few from the other parishes who

appreciate this traditional service.

We would like to explore more flexible use of church as a spiritual space, not just during planned regular church services, to create opportunities for people to explore and grow in faith without having to go to a liturgically-led service. We feel there is a need for more spiritual direction and teaching in a safe and non-threatening environment – not just the house groups that are set up, but other ways of meeting church and non-church people's spiritual needs.

All Saints Underbarrow with St John Helsington

The Parish (Population: 817)

Formed in 2015 by merging two adjacent parishes, Underbarrow with Helsington lies in the Lyth Valley within the Lake District National Park. Interspersed in a landscape of livestock-pasture, fell and woodland, are farms, individual dwellings and two small villages: Underbarrow and Brigsteer. In 2021 the population of the parish was just short of 1,000, living in 310 households, and weighted towards retired people. The lack of affordable homes makes home ownership and even renting problematic for most young people. The communities in and around both villages are active and welcoming. Both villages have thriving WI's, fitness classes, sporting activities and groups fundraising for local charities. In addition, Underbarrow holds its well-known Marrow Day every year, a very popular village event which raises funds for a chosen charity, and All Saints at Underbarrow is a collection centre for Kendal Food Bank.

The Churches

Our church buildings are the parish church of All Saints, in a quiet location on the edge of Underbarrow, and the chapel of St John in Helsington, with wonderful views across the Lyth Valley to the distant Lakeland fells. Both are well maintained, open every day and surrounded by attractive country churchyards. The churchyards are carefully looked after to make them as ecologically friendly as possible.



Brigsteer village



St John's Chancel

The present All Saints Church was built in 1869. It is the third church on the same site, with the first recorded dating from 1547. Reordering in 2015 added a kitchen, toilet and new heating and lighting; comfortable chairs replaced some pews, providing a good venue for community events, such as a regular poetry group and a very successful Harvest lunch immediately following the service. St John's, built in 1726, retains its original simplicity despite changes over the years, again including a kitchen and toilet. Its stunning location, peacefulness and unique war-memorial painting attract thousands of visitors each year, giving us a strong outreach mission



Underbarrow Harvest Festival lunch

Our Congregation

With an ageing population, people lost through age have not been replaced by younger newcomers to the parish. There are now 69 on the electoral roll, of whom about 40 are regular worshippers. Although we currently have no churchwardens, their practical duties have been shared by the PCC and by others in the congregation. We also access administrative services linked to St Thomas Church, Kendal.

Our Services

A self-supporting minister leads the service on two Sundays of the month and provides pastoral care for up to one day a week; services on the remaining Sundays are led mainly by retired clergy. The historic single-manual organ at St John's is now only played for occasional services, and hymns on Sundays are accompanied either on the Clavinova or by CD. At All Saints the organ is regularly played by a rota of organists, with only occasional services relying on CDs.

Most services are Common Worship Holy Communion, with Morning Worship once a month. Besides conducting the usual administrative business, the lay-led PCC of ten elected members has re-examined the church's role in the parish and aims to focus resources on improving outreach and deepening faith within the congregation.

Holy Trinity, Winster

The Parish (Population: 70)

The small rural parish of Winster takes its name from the river running through the quiet, attractive Winster Valley in the Lake District National Park. The village consists of scattered houses and farms, together with a pub/restaurant and village hall. Farming is the main activity in the area, with a small community made up from original local families to those choosing to move into the area – covering all age ranges.

The Church

Holy Trinity Church stands on its own just outside the village, bounded by the graveyard, fields, woods and a small country lane. The church was built in 1875 in the grounds of an earlier church. The church building is in good repair; internal decoration was carried out in 2022. Together with the surrounding grounds, the building is kept in good order and lovingly cared for by volunteers from the congregation, the increasing age of which is proving to be a challenge! The pews are Arts and Craft design as is the large east window. The organ is in good working order. Our church is always kept open for visitors to find a quiet space for prayer and reflection. Although only a few minutes away from Bowness-on-Windermere, a hub of Lake District tourism, the church is a welcome oasis of peace and tranquillity.

Adjoining the churchyard is a small original school house, known as the Old School, which now belongs to the PCC. While still retaining many of the original features, it



Winster Church interior



Winster Old School picnic

provides a charming, delightful venue used for various activities. We hold a regular all-day Book and Plant event each month from April to November, which originally started 20 years ago to fund a WC for the church. The monies now raised go towards maintenance of the church, the Old School building and donations to charities. The close proximity of the church building and the Old School House could make this a beautifully peaceful place to hold half or whole-day retreats for small groups.

Our Congregation

Although not immune to declining congregations, our services are attended by loyal local residents, members from surrounding parishes and visitors to the area.

Our Services

The services are traditional BCP, delivered in a warm, friendly, relaxed way, with after-service refreshments. The services are fortnightly, so on alternate Sundays we attend services at other churches in the Mission Community. This has proved to be a great success for our church, encouraging us to make new friendships and forge enjoyable links, in particular with our neighbouring parish of Crosthwaite.



St Paul's Church, Witherslack

St Paul's, Witherslack

The Parish (Population: 735)

Witherslack is an ancient village, with records that can be traced back to the 12th century. The name 'Witherslack' is derived from the Norse meaning 'wooded valley'. Nowadays, Witherslack is a scattered but tranquil rural village sitting under the limestone hills of Yewbarrow and Whitbarrow Scar. The church and Dean Barwick School sit at the top of the village, while the local pub,

The Derby Arms and the community shop next door are down at the bottom, with houses and farms in clusters and dotted between.

The Church

There was previously a chapel near Witherslack Hall but by 1664 this St Mary's Chapel was in a ruinous state according to the will of John Barwick – who was the village's 'pious benefactor' born in Witherslack in 1612. Following his time at St John's College, Cambridge he

later became the Dean of St Paul's Cathedral in London. Dean Barwick died in 1664 at the age of 52, just before the Great Fire of London destroyed the old St Paul's Cathedral where he was buried and a tablet erected in his memory. There is also a tablet to his memory in Witherslack Church, which was built on its present site around 1669 from monies he had bequeathed, and consecrated in 1671 as St Paul's, Witherslack.



Witherslack champing

The church has this year been offered for 'Champing' through the Churches Trust. Guests have exclusive use of the facilities, and the space is set up with beds and lights to become a welcoming space. Volunteers run this, including people who attend regularly and some who do not, giving wider opportunities for developing friendships and links. Although only our first year doing this, it has proved very popular. It enables the building to

be used outside of services and provides much-needed extra funds.

Our Congregation

St Paul's is a small but increasingly active church. Tea, coffee and biscuits are now served from the very useful, purpose-built small kitchen area in the baptistry. After the services, many stay to talk and catch up and for fellowship. It is a great way to make any visitors feel welcome. We also serve tea, coffee and cake during the popular annual show by Witherslack Artists and Makers Group staged at the Hall next door. In autumn we host a Harvest Supper for the whole village at the Parish Hall. It is a great evening, with a fun auction and raffle, and has resulted in a growing connection with children and young families.

Every Monday evening since May 2024 a house group meets in the village which offers congregation members a chance to chat in more depth about biblical and life issues.

The need for work on the church tower has resulted in support and help from the local community on a recognised important and historically significant building. This enthusiasm is an opportunity for greater links into the community and mission. Building on this, on the last Thursday of every month a Quiz Night takes place in the Parish Hall, not just for church members but for the whole village and beyond and is a well-attended fun evening that also contributes to the Tower Fund.

Our Services

Services in St Paul's are fortnightly, with the aim of encouraging fellowship with St Anthony's at Cartmel Fell – resulting in one week visiting there and the next for them to join us at St Paul's. On the whole, this has worked well, giving an opportunity for larger numbers in any given service, and for each community to get to know each other better.

St Paul's also has a Café Church, which meets every other month in the Parish Hall for a more informal style of service. With tea, coffee and cake around tables and the freedom to discuss the biblical topics raised, it gives a more interactive approach to services. This attracts some people who do not regularly attend church and a few people from the other churches who appreciate the informality.



Witherslack throughout the seasons

Our Schools

Crosthwaite

Crosthwaite C of E Primary School

<https://www.crosthwaiteprimary.net/home>

This award-winning school currently has 102 pupils and a waiting list to attend. Its last Ofsted inspection in 2023 stated that it was Outstanding in all areas. In 2021 the school was awarded Edfuturists Primary School of the Year and Best Primary School in the Gold Apple Award. It has a wide catchment area, incorporating most of our parishes.

The school's Mission Statement reads:

“At Crosthwaite Church of England Primary School, in partnership with the local community and St Mary’s Church, we aim to successfully educate, inspire and enrich our future generations, giving them the skills to fulfil their potential in all aspects of life.”

The school benefits from a thriving playgroup, which meets in the village hall every Tuesday and Thursday during term times. A Communion service in St Mary’s is attended by the school once every term, and services for key festivals are held in church. The church holds a Leavers’ Service at the end of the school year and provides a Bible for each child moving on to secondary school. Until recently St Mary’s ran a Messy Church twice a term in the school hall, which was frequented by children from the village and further afield.

Witherslack

Dean Barwick Primary School

<https://www.deanbarwick.cumbria.sch.uk/>

The Dean Barwick Charity was founded by John Barwick in 1664 to build a school, and his will provided for an annual stipend for a Curate (see St Paul’s history) to ‘keep a schoole within the said hamlet, and teach the children of the inhabitants gratis’. The original school was erected in 1678, and a separate room for girls was added in 1824. A new boys’ school was built in 1874 and a new girls’ school added in 1876. The present Dean Barwick Primary School is for both boys and girls, and the schoolchildren commemorate Founders Day every year with hymns and prayers with parents, governors and trustees.

Historically, there have been strong links with the church and we are keen to see these develop and grow.

The school is rated good by Ofsted and has shown itself to be at the top of the class for providing meaningful learning outside the classroom (LOtC) by being awarded the Learning Outside the Classroom Mark (Gold).

Oversands School

<https://www.witherslackgroup.co.uk/our-locations/our-schools/oversands-school/>

Oversands School is an independent, specialist day and residential school, providing high-quality education for around 60 boys and girls aged five to 19. Based in Witherslack, the school meets the needs of a diverse group of pupils with a range of complex learning needs, social and emotional difficulties and challenging behaviours. The comprehensive curriculum allows each pupil to access subjects and courses, enabling them to develop and succeed, both academically and socially.

St Pauls’ PCC has been approached by staff at Oversands School and there are plans in place to develop church involvement.

The Wider Context: Diocese and Deanery

The boundaries of the Diocese of Carlisle closely follow that of the county of Cumbria. A vision for Growing Disciples launched across the diocese gained an ecumenical dimension and in 2015 became God for All. Carlisle Diocese is in covenanted partnership with the Methodist Church, the United Reformed Church and the Salvation Army across the county. The vision is for ecumenical Mission Communities, groupings of Anglican parishes with other covenanted churches, and with other churches locally as circumstances permit, working together for the mission and ministry of the Church in their localities. In 2020, a Vision Refresh process led to four strands in the refreshed God for All vision: Follow Daily, Speak Boldly, Care Deeply, Tread Gently. This is beginning to be fleshed out in parishes across the diocese.

Kendal Deanery is part of the Westmorland and Furness Archdeaconry with a friendly and supportive Deanery Chapter. There are good friendly relationships amongst the local clergy and between the churches. The diocese runs a Parish Offer scheme where parishes are informed of the cost of ministry and invited to make a 'generous offer' towards the cost of the ministry they receive, and where possible to support ministry elsewhere. Increasingly, this is operating on a Mission Community basis rather than parish by parish. The parishes in the Two Valleys Mission Community are being asked to make a Parish Offer based on two stipendiary clergy serving the team, and the overall Parish Offer has exceeded this request.

Two Valleys Mission Community Overview

Throughout the Diocese of Cumbria, parishes are united in Mission Communities. Our five parishes are linked to St Thomas's Church in Kendal and St Catherine's, Crook, which is held in plurality to St Thomas's. These seven parishes form the Two Valleys Mission Community which was launched in January 2021. The Mission Community

is coordinated and led by the two incumbents of which our Vicar will be one, along with a Steering Group that meets monthly. The focus has been on collegial support, and supporting one another in worship and mission in our village parishes, through shared 5th Sunday services, walks, study courses etc. St Catherine's is closely knit into this as a village church. St Thomas's is a larger town church and works both with the Two Valleys and with other churches in Kendal itself (see www.stkweb.org.uk).

There is a small Two Valleys Lay Team, members of which take non-Communion services in the different churches, and a Lay Reader licensed to the Mission Community. There are a further four Lay Readers based in the Mission Community who take services in the churches from time to time. Underbarrow with Helsington has a part-time Self-Supporting Associate Priest, supported by retired Priests who take services there.

Underbarrow with Helsington and Crook have weekly services, whereas the other four churches have fortnightly services, and the congregations are

encouraged to travel to a different church on the other Sundays. In practice, Crosthwaite and Winster congregations go to each other's 11am service, and Cartmel Fell and Witherslack congregations similarly go to each other's 9.30am service. The larger congregations mean a wider fellowship, better singing and a greater awareness of the whole Mission Community.

Regular Sunday Worship Pattern

| Sunday | 1st | 2nd | 3rd | 4th |
|------------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------------|
| Cartmel Fell 9.30am | No service | Communion (BCP) | No service | Communion (BCP) |
| Witherslack 9.30am | Morning Worship | No service | Communion (CW) | Café Church bimonthly |
| Crosthwaite 11am | No service | Communion (CW) | No service | Communion (CW) |
| Winsters 11am | Communion (BCP) | No service | Communion (BCP) | No service |
| Underbarrow with Helsington 9.30am | Communion (CW) | Communion (CW) | Communion (CW) | Morning worship |

Each 5th Sunday there is a joint service that rotates around the churches. In the summer months this may take the form of a walk and picnic.

Church attendance in all five parishes comparing 2019 and 2023

| Parish & Electoral roll | Avg Sunday | | Easter | | Carol service | | Christmas | | Baptisms | | Weddings | | Funerals | |
|---------------------------------------|------------|------|--------|------|---------------|------|-----------|------|----------|------|----------|------|----------|------|
| | 2019 | 2023 | 2019 | 2023 | 2019 | 2023 | 2019 | 2023 | 2019 | 2023 | 2019 | 2023 | 2019 | 2023 |
| Cartmel Fell 54 | 26 | 24 | 41 | 44 | 108 | 75 | 46 | 35 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 4 |
| Crosthwaite & Lyth 46 | 28 | 24 | 41 | 46 | 153 | 55 | 145 | 193 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 6 | 7 | 1 |
| Underbarrow with Helsington 69 | 25 | 18 | 52 | 37 | 167 | 120 | 44 | 32 | 3 | 1 | 6 | 1 | 6 | 8 |
| Winsters 33 | 14 | 21 | 37 | 31 | 87 | 20 | 70 | 48 | 4 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 3 | 0 |
| Witherslack 45 | 13 | 19 | 36 | 22 | 70 | 76 | 39 | 29 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 10 | 3 |

Alongside the regular services in each of our churches, there are also Mission Community-wide happenings:

- Crib and Carols service each Christmas Eve, hosted in Crosthwaite
- House Groups: three meeting weekly or fortnightly
- Refresh bi-monthly informal worship
- Messy Church twice a term, though recently put on hold
- Café Church bi-monthly in Witherslack
- 5th Sunday joint services (or a walk together in the summer)
- Annual Lambing Service held in a local farm
- Lent course, with afternoon and evening sessions
- Two Valleys Choir for special services, including carol services

Accounts

Each of the five parishes is responsible for its own finances and has a treasurer as part of its PCC team. Below is a summary of the finances for each of the parishes.

St. Anthony's, Cartmel Fell Financial Summary

| St Anthony's, Cartmel Fell PCC | | |
|---|--------------|--------------|
| | 2023£ | 2022£ |
| INCOME | | |
| regular giving (include HMRC) | 16202 | 13880 |
| other income | 5320 | 12010 |
| | <u>21522</u> | <u>25890</u> |
| EXPENDITURE | | |
| Parish Offer | 14320 | 18770 |
| Other expenditure | 7067 | 8509 |
| | <u>21387</u> | <u>27279</u> |
| Surplus (deficit) | <u>135</u> | <u>-1389</u> |
| Balances of investments (including bank account) at year end | <u>5608</u> | <u>5473</u> |

St. Mary's, Crosthwaite Financial Summary

St. Mary's, Crosthwaite PCC

| INCOME | 2023£ | 2022£ |
|--|---------------|---------------|
| Donations regular and one off | 14108 | 17816 |
| Magazine | 7028 | 7581 |
| Other | 5140 | 4315 |
| Transfer from Hoggarth Bequest | 55026 | 8189 |
| | <u>81302</u> | <u>37901</u> |
| EXPENDITURE | | |
| Parish offer | 55000* | 15000* |
| magazine | 7830 | 5585 |
| Other | 20148 | 21846 |
| Surplus (deficit) | <u>27978</u> | <u>27431</u> |
| Balance Sheet | | |
| Hoggarth bequest Land at the Howe | 0 | 0 |
| Cash and deposit | | 13389 |
| Hoggarth Bequest investments & deposit | | 296812 |
| small restricted bequests | | 7978 |
| | <u>318279</u> | <u>351856</u> |

**The final instalment (£20,000) of the parish offer for 2022 was paid after the year end, and so appears in 2023's figure.*

Underbarrow with Helsington Financial Summary

All Saints and St Johns PCC

| INCOME | 2023£ | 2022£ |
|--------------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| regular giving (include HMRC) | 21095 | 19162 |
| other income | 24909 | 38273 |
| | <u>46004</u> | <u>57435</u> |
| | | |
| EXPENDITURE | | |
| Parish Offer | 6050 | 5500 |
| Other expenditure | 27535 | 33612 |
| | <u>33585</u> | <u>39112</u> |
| | | |
| Surplus (deficit) | <u>12419</u> | <u>18323</u> |
| | | |
| Balances of investments | <u>122497</u> | <u>103418</u> |
| (including bank account) | | |
| at year end | | |

Holy Trinity, Winster Financial Summary

Holy Trinity, Winster PCC

| INCOME | 2023£ | 2022£ |
|--------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Regular Giving | 4962.00 | 5172.00 |
| Church collections | 2962.57 | 3071.70 |
| HMRC refund (Gift Aid) | 2593.71 | 1987.70 |
| Donations | 1137.00 | 600.00 |
| | <u>11655.28</u> | <u>10831.40</u> |
| Book and Plant Sales | 3642.00* | 2928.80 |
| Grants, E-on and diocese | 2304.95** | — |
| | <u>17002.23</u> | <u>13760.20</u> |
| Expenditure | | |
| Parish Offer | 7200.00 | 7200.00 |
| Insurance | 1785.10 | 1668.89 |
| Electricity | 2409.99 | 2274.69 |
| Maintenance | 2999.80 | 6511.99 |
| | <u>14394.89</u> | <u>17655.57</u> |
| School House Cash Deposit Fund | 6610.84 | |
| School House C of E | | |
| Investment Fund | 12650.37 | |

* will not continue after 2024

** one-off payments

St. Paul's, Witherslack Financial Summary

St. Paul's, Witherslack PCC

| INCOME | 2023£ | 2022£ |
|-------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Regular giving | 5157 | 6385.68 |
| Collection at Services | 2749.56 | 2411.4 |
| All other giving | 1830.1 | 1931.1 |
| Gift Aid recovered | 4380.16 | 3289.87 |
| Legacies received | 40,000.00 | 0 |
| Grants | 809.98 | 0 |
| | <u>54926.8</u> | <u>14018.05</u> |
| ACTIVITIES FOR GENERAL | | |
| Fund raising | 2824.62 | 2887.5 |
| Dividends interest | 884.39 | 272.72 |
| Fees retained by PCC | 2576 | 1651 |
| Trading activities | 1192.8 | 686.2 |
| | 7477.81 | 5497.42 |
| Total receipts | <u>62404.61</u> | <u>19515.47</u> |
| Costs of generating funds | | |
| Mission giving & donations | 912.88 | 81 |
| Parish Offer | 10,000 | 10,000 |
| Honoraria | 1620.31 | 1542.08 |
| Church running costs | 6144.43 | 3478.06 |
| Church utility bills | 1238.16 | 1505.86 |
| Magazine costs | 726.5 | 799.5 |
| Fund raising | 318.48 | 25 |
| Total expenditure | <u>20960.76</u> | <u>17431.5</u> |
| Profit | <u>41443.85</u> | <u>2083.97</u> |
| Investments | | |
| General funds | 30766 | 30624 |
| Tower/Fabric fund | 108699 | 66272 |

The Parish Offer for 2025

The Parish Offer that has been agreed for all 7 churches in the Two Valleys Mission Community for 2025 is as follows:

| | |
|-------------------|-----------------|
| Cartmel Fell | £15,340 |
| Crook | £7,713 |
| Crosthwaite | £31,000 |
| St. Thomas Kendal | £70,000 |
| Underbarrow | £6,489 |
| Witherslack | £5,150 |
| Winster | £7,725 |
| Total: | <u>£143,417</u> |

The Vicarage

The Vicarage is a modern, detached purpose-built house at Crosthwaite Green situated towards the western end of the village, about ¾ mile from Crosthwaite Church. It has four bedrooms, with bathroom and separate shower room, and has a ground-floor study. The living room and west-facing garden both afford delightful, open views down the Lyth Valley from the rear of the house. There is parking for a number of cars at the front of the property.

For shopping, medical care, entertainment and secondary education, Kendal is only a 10-minute drive away. The M6 can be reached in about 15 minutes and there is a good train service from Kendal (Oxenholme).





Does this sound like it could be your calling? If so, please get in touch:

For an informal conversation, please contact Archdeacon Vernon Ross on 07388 377105.

For more information, please visit:
www.carlisle-diocese.org.uk/vacancies

Please send completed applications to:
liz.howson@carlisle-diocese.org.uk

An Enhanced DBS disclosure is required for this post.

