

Parish Profile

Natland St Mark

Old Hutton St John the Baptist

New Hutton St Stephen



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Welcome to our parishes

Welcome! We are delighted that you are looking at what we have to say about our parishes, and we are excited and looking forward to discovering who God is calling to lead us on this next stage of our journey.

Our parishes bring an exciting opportunity to grow new disciples and develop our congregations in the area southeast of the market town of Kendal, in the beautiful south of Carlisle Diocese.

The parishes of Natland, Old and New Hutton form part of the Helm Mission Community along with the Anglican parishes of Crosscrake St Thomas and Kendal Holy Trinity together with our ecumenical partners at the United Reformed Church and the Salvation Army in Kendal. The Helm Mission Community is one of six Mission Communities in the Kendal Deanery.

The three parishes take in a small part of Kendal, extending across open countryside towards the Pennines and just 20 miles from the heart of the Lake District. The land is generally given over to pasture with livestock rearing. Many of the people who live in the parishes work in either the market town of Kendal or further afield. There are also many active retired folk who live in the area. The parishes lie between the Lake District and the Yorkshire Dales National Parks. Kendal offers many essential services including shops, superstores, an art centre and cinema, museums and excellent schools. The large parishes of Old and New Hutton are predominately rural.

There are good transport links, Oxenholme is on the West Coast mainline linking Glasgow (2 hours) and London (3 hours). The A65 road goes through Natland parish linking Kendal to the M6 being only ten minutes away from junction 36. New Hutton is located just five minutes away from junction 37.

Whoever joins us will be living in the Diocese's first Net Zero Carbon Vicarage in Natland village in the beautiful South Lakes.

We are looking and praying for a Priest who.....

- FAITH** Is a person of deep faith, prayerful and energetic in sharing the Gospel.
- LEADER** Is an inspiring leader of worship, sympathetic to the traditions of the parishes and encourages us to be open, welcome and accessible to all and take risks for God, making the most of everyone's gifts.
- GROWTH** Will reach out to children, young people and families so that they discover God's love for them and in turn our congregation might grow more diverse, as well as being numerically and spiritually enriched.
- CARING** Is compassionate, caring, a good listener and is committed to pastoral care. Will rejoice with us in our joys and good fortune and comfort us in our sorrows.
- MISSION COMMUNITY** Will engage with all the churches and ministers in our Mission Community, believing that we work 'Better Together'.
- WIDER COMMUNITY** Actively engages with the wider community including the two busy Church of England schools, the local hospital, care home and retirement complex.



A welcome message from the 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,



The Rt Reverend Rob Saner-Haigh

Bishop of Penrith and Acting Bishop of Carlisle



Ecclesiastical Parish of Natland

The parish incorporates the villages of Oxenholme and Natland, and three large housing estates at The Oaks, Strawberry Fields and the Beeches on the edge of Kendal. There are approximately 1200 houses within the parish.

Within the parish are Westmorland General Hospital, Castlestead View (a modern retirement housing complex) and the large Kendal Care Home (where we hold regular worship)

Natland contains the Parish Church dedicated to St Mark, St Mark's Church Aided Primary School, Appletree (a residential special needs school) and the Village Hall located just off the village green. There is no shop within the village.

Like Natland, the village of Oxenholme is primarily residential, and it has a filling station, a children's play area and a food hall next to the station. A travelling Post Office attends the Railway Station two mornings a week.

The age profile of Oxenholme shows a younger population than Natland.

The Beeches housing estate is on the northern edge of the parish. Like Oxenholme, The Oaks and Strawberry Fields estates are in the civil township of Kendal and form the town's southern boundary.



The Parish Church

The church stands in the middle of Natland village, by the village green. It was consecrated in 1910 and is a grade II* listed building. It has seating for 225 people.

The building is in very good repair. Our next quinquennial inspection is due at the end of 2025.

In 2023 the church was awarded the A Rocha UK Eco church silver award, and we are working towards our gold award and drawing up plans to be carbon net zero by 2030.

The church is open daily for private prayer and reflection, the creche area is often used during the week by parents and toddlers.



The church has excellent acoustics and is used by a local choral society and frequently hosts other musical events. The church is blessed with an excellent organ, and organist and has a sound system with a hearing loop. The church has facilities to produce refreshments and a toilet which is available for the community when the church is open (daily between 9am and 5pm).

We host various other activities including regular coffee mornings and seasonal events such as Lent lunches, Agape meal and a Harvest supper.

At St Mark's we work hard to maintain a healthy, compassionate and safe environment for all. We are committed to implementing the House of Bishops' safeguarding policies and good practice guidance.

We are in the process of setting up an Anna Chaplaincy in Natland.

Worship

- 1st & 4th Sunday** **10am Sung Common Worship Holy Communion.**
- 2nd Sunday** **10am Sung Common Worship Holy Communion. 4pm Informal family friendly service (Families@4).**
- 3rd Sunday** **8am Said Common Worship Holy Communion. 10am Sung Common Worship Morning Prayer**
- 5th Sunday** **Joint Service in one of the Mission Community churches.**

We have a weekly said service of Common Worship Holy Communion at 10am on Thursday.

During Lent and Advent, we have a weekly Compline service at 6pm every Friday. We worship at the Kendal Care Home, alternating Holy Communion with a service of hymns and readings on the first and third Thursdays. We have a monthly family-friendly service. Several members of our congregation now receive Home Communion by Communion Assistants on a regular basis.

We have regular Sunday School and a Study Group twice a month.

St Mark's School and Nursery staff, children, and their families come and worship in church on a termly basis. Appletree School also attend church for services.

We communicate by a church website, a monthly magazine and weekly printed news-sheets. A weekly email is sent out to a large mailing list which enables housebound parishioners to participate at home.

Average Church Attendance 2023

Sunday	8am: 8, 10am: 56, Families @ 4: 16
Other days	Thursday Communion 10am: 16. Compline: 15, Kendal Care Home: 24.
Easter Communicants in church:	81 - (134 attended Easter Eve/Day)
Christmas Communicants in church:	111 - (424 attended Christmas Eve/Day)



During 2023 there were 9 baptisms, 5 weddings, 5 funerals in church, 3 funerals at the crematorium, and 4 burials of ashes.

The congregation is a mixture of age groups, with the majority being retired. There is a lack of representation in the younger age groups despite the population showing a good proportion in that age range.

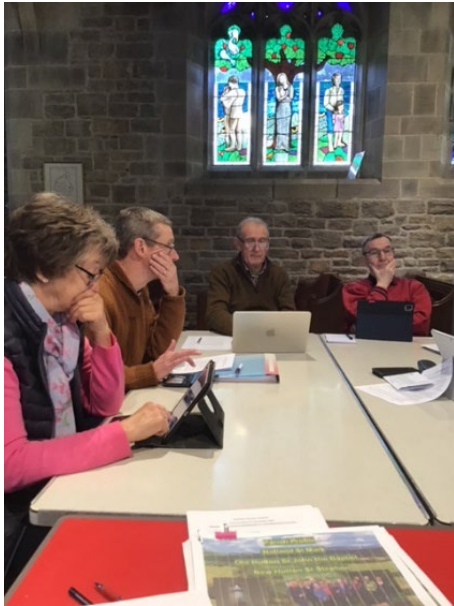
We have a wide range of lay participation in our services, administration of Holy Communion, reading the lessons, leading prayers and sides people – we have over 60 active volunteers. We serve refreshments after our 10am services on Sundays and Thursdays.

We have 96 people on the electoral roll, 21 of which live outside the parish.

The churchmanship of our church is middle of the road, but we have a full range from High Church down. Several of the congregation come from the Methodist, URC and Baptist traditions who have found a home in our congregation. All churches in the Mission Community work well together and have several joint events and monthly meetings.

Finance

The latest examined accounts show that we had a surplus of income of £51k due to three legacies totalling £54K. We have 70 people who are members of our stewardship scheme. We are members of the national Parish Giving Scheme and full advantage is taken of the Gift Aid Tax reclaim. 2024 income is budgeted to be in the order of £76,194 against the projected expenditure of £80,246. Natland St Mark is responsible for 2/3rds of the ministry offer for the three parishes (2024: £45,226 of the £67,839) and the PCC agreed that for 2024 we would actually pay £47,840. Our parish share has always been paid in full along with all parochial expenses. The parish donates the equivalent of 13% of our Budgeted Stewardship Income to support charities. In 2023 we gave £5,508 to charity.



The PCC

The Parochial Church Council comprises of 11 members, all Church Officer posts are filled. The PCC meets bimonthly with work done mainly in sub committees. The PCC at present employs secretarial help for the clergy working four hours a week, but the PCC is willing to increase this to a full day.

www.stmarkschurchnatland.co.uk

www.facebook.com/churchofstmark

<https://natlandnews.blogspot.com/>

Natland St Mark's Voluntary Aided Primary School

The school is on a spacious site near the centre of the village and close to the church. The building is in good structural order. On the same site is the Natland and Oxenholme Pre-school and during the last academic year a toddler group, Mini Marks has started which meets on a Wednesday morning in the school hall. At present there are 174 children in school, there is space for 210 children and 17 in the nursery.

On a weekly basis the incumbent leads worship in St Mark's CE School, and on another day of the week a parent from school (and member of a Kendal church) leads Key Stage 2 Worship.

There is a Collective Worship Team (two children from each class except for Reception Class) at school who, along with the Incumbent, are responsible for planning and delivering school worship in church on a regular basis.

St Mark's school regularly comes into church to worship, especially for the major festivals and for the leavers' service. Individual classes come to the church as part of their studies.

Members of the church congregation serve as school governors, help with reading in school and the Priest in charge is an ex officio Foundation governor.



www.stmarksschoolnatland.co.uk

www.facebook.com/StMarksSchoolNatland

Ecclesiastical Parish of Old Hutton



Old Hutton, situated approximately four miles southeast of Kendal, encompasses the five quaint hamlets of Middleshaw, St John's, Bridge End, Eskrigg End and Holmescales which are set in a rolling drumlin landscape.

The population of the rural parish of Old Hutton at the 2021 census was 393, in 162 households.

The community is made up of a mixed age group of people, some in their thirties with young children, a significant proportion of people 40–65-year-olds with teenage or young adults who have left home, and a smaller group of older people in their seventies, eighties and nineties, some of whom have lived in the village most of their life. There is a significant number of hybrid workers who benefit from good transport links to the north and south, and commute part time to work. We also have many people who work in the NHS due to our proximity to the Westmorland Hospital.

The village still has a farming community at its core, an activity centre, a residential activity centre specialising in high quality courses for people with physical and learning disabilities and several Airbnbs in the village.

Parts of the community are involved in Village Hall life, which has a regular event such as monthly quiz nights, and fish and chip Friday Quiz Nights and other themed events throughout the year. The Parish Hall also hosts a local library, open every weekday. There is also a WI, indoor bowling group and Yoga group which use the Hall.

The busy Church of England School is situated alongside the Public Hall with the Church next door situated in the hamlet of St John's. The highly regarded and successful primary school (voluntary controlled) has over 80 pupils with children from Old Hutton, New Hutton, Kendal and surrounding villages.

Residents require their own car to move around the district as there is no public transport in the village. The village has a website, with lots of information about the history and details of the village.

The Parish Church of St John the Baptist

The Church was rebuilt in 1873 and celebrated its 150th anniversary last year. The church owns a very rare medieval chalice dating back to 1495, which is now on display in Carlisle Cathedral.

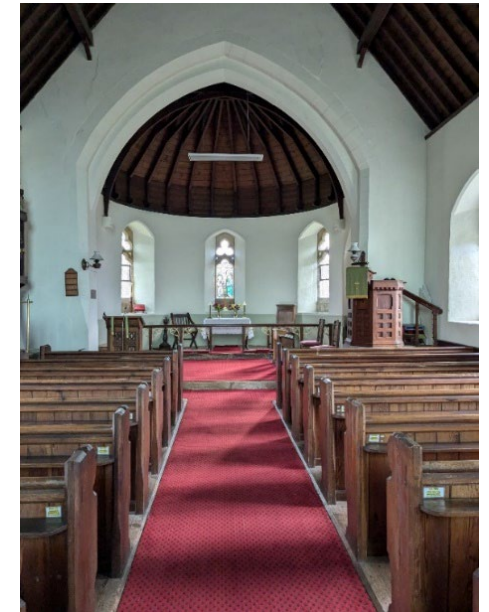


The building is in a good state of repair, has a modern kitchen/vestry (no running water), a modern heating system and has a warmth and welcome feel to the building. The church has a sound system, which includes a hearing loop. The sunshine shines through the windows on sunny days and is a lovely place to seek solace.

A magnificent tapestry known as the 'Fabric of Old Hutton' hangs in the church for all to see. This Millennium project encouraged a collective interest to show the talents and skills within the parish. The fabric consists of 484,000 embroidery stitches in 72 squares and worked on by more than 100 people aged from 3 to 98.

Major repair works to the Northwest gable end of the church are due to be undertaken winter 2024/spring 2025. The Parish held a Giving Day in June 2024, and with further on-line donations have been received around £9k towards the cost of the building work. The estimate is £15,000 plus the weekly cost of Haras Fencing. A Quinquennial report was undertaken in 2022 and there are further building works to be considered.

The congregation is made up of a committed group of people in their late seventies to mid-80s, with occasional younger congregational goers in their 50s and 60s. The school also use the Church for festivals, leavers' services, end of term services and regular assemblies, when the building is accessible.



Worship

The usual pattern of Sunday worship is Holy Communion on the first Sunday of the month at 4pm. On the third Sunday there is Evening Prayer at 4pm.

Harvest Festival 22/09/24: 11 people,

School Harvest Festival 23/09/24: 86 children with 36 adults,

Sunday service 29/09/24: 7 people

Christmas Carol Service: 17 people,

Christmas Eve 4pm: 50 adults and 26 Children,

Christmas Eve, First Communion of Christmas: 8 people, Easter: 10 people



During the last twelve months there was one funeral with a burial and one burial of ashes. There are 16 people on the Electoral roll.

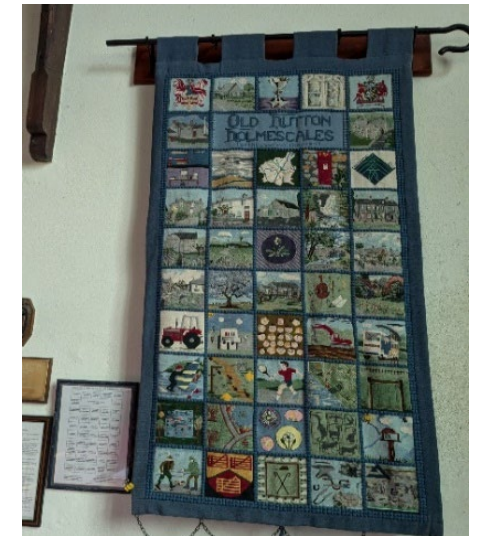
Old Hutton pays their Ministry offer in full and for 2024 offered and paid £6000.

The latest examined accounts show that we had an income of £8060 and expenditure of £11821

At present both Church wardens' posts are vacant, but we do have a Secretary and a Treasurer.

The church raises funds for the Good Samaritan Orphanage in India.

Priest's other commitments in the parish: The Priest in Charge is an ex officio Foundation governor. A trustee of the Old Hutton and Holmescales Poor Relief Committee (meet once per year), and the Milner Educational Trust (once per year). The monthly online village news 'The Grapevine' serves both Old and New Hutton and is available through the Parish Council e-circular, or the Community WhatsApp group. The Priest in Charge contributes significantly to the content of this.



Ecclesiastical Parish of New Hutton

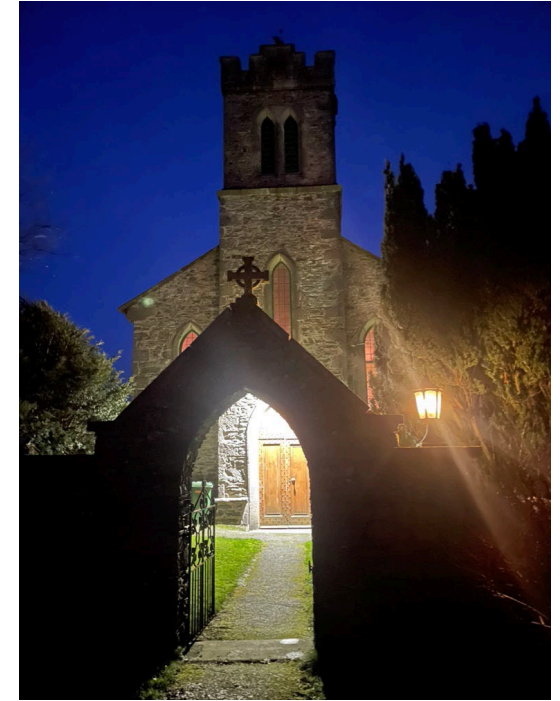
St Stephen's Church serves the parish of New Hutton in Cumbria. The population of the parish was 328 in the 2021 census. 183 people said they were Christian. 37 are on the parish electoral roll. 72 were aged 65 or above. Only 10 of the population were born outside the UK and only 3 are non-white.

Traditionally, the parish economy was based on livestock farming (which still predominantly shapes the culture of the parish) but recent years have seen many farm buildings converted into homes for non-agricultural professional families and retirees. There is a small industrial estate and a campsite. The M6 motorway is five minutes from the centre of the village. We have B4RN internet in the church.

The Parish Church of St Stephen's

The church is a light and attractive open chapel, carpeted with an upstairs balcony and a room behind. There is no water or toilet in the church but the village Hall, which is nearby, is available if facilities are needed.

St Stephen's is the only religious building in the parish. It is a Grade II listed building built in 1828-29 to replace an original 1739 chapel of ease of the Kendal Parish church. It contains historic reminders of its origins with funerary monuments of the Fisher and Sleddale families, notices of charitable donations to the poor of the parish and a set of fine stained-glass windows by Gustave Giller in memory of Queen Victoria. The building is in a serviceable condition but requires regular attention to control damp from condensation. In the last two years the stonework and windows of the east end have been repaired. New ventilators are being installed on the north side windows and a protective Perspex cover for the exterior of the stained-glass windows will be put in place. This work was enabled by grants from local wind farm community funds.





The building is open every day for visitors and for prayer and reflection. It has a book exchange and is a focus for food bank and “bags for school” donations. There are now only two regular services each month. The average attendance is 10 but this reflects large attendances at certain festival services or Helm Community events. The parish participates in Kendal Churches Together and The Helm Mission Community.

Although congregations at services are small, the church remains a central part of the parish community. Its physical appearance characterises the village. Villagers demonstrate their support for and interest in the church through regular voluntary maintenance of the church yard and support for regular charity fund raising events such as the hospice coffee morning and our festival events of Harvest Supper and Spring lunch. We also have a yearly luxury afternoon tea in November which raises over £600. There is an annual lambing service.

The usual pattern of services is Holy Communion on the second Sunday of the month and Evening Prayer on the fourth Sunday of the month. From November to March the services take place at 4pm but from April to October the services start at 6pm. The church’s role in the continuity of village life is reflected in its function in landmark events such as baptisms, marriages and funerals.

The size of congregations means that the financial status of the PCC is always a challenge. We have always met our parish offer but we have had to reduce our contribution.

St Stephen’s offered £4420 as their Ministry offer for 2024.



New Hutton Village Facebook

www.facebook.com/newhutton

Old Hutton Voluntary Controlled C of E Primary School

The school has a mixture of modernized older buildings and newer additions. With 4 well-equipped, spacious classrooms, a purpose-built library, and an outdoor learning pod. The school also makes use of the village hall and the community tennis court which are situated next to the school.

The extensive outdoor area includes tarmac playgrounds, an early-years area, adventure playground, large field and a wildlife/forest schools' area with its own small wood, pond and stream.

The school is organised into 4 classes:

The school has a daily act of Collective Worship with the pupil-run Collective Worship Committee helping to organise this. The Priest in charge leads the worship once a week and is an ex officio Foundation governor.

Most of the pupils from the parishes progress to Queen Elizabeth School, Kirkby Lonsdale, Kirkbie Kendal and Queen Katherine's schools in Kendal.

www.oldhuttonschool.org.uk

www.facebook.com/OldHuttonPrimary

Ministry Team



Marion Mashiter Assistant Priest
with a Bishop's license.

Lucy Foster is a self-supporting Curate
for the Helm Mission Community.



Graham Day is a Licensed Lay Reader.
He mainly serves the congregation of Natland,
but also leads services in both Old and New Hutton.

Norene Robinson commissioned Lay Minister,
whose ministry is to the families in Old Hutton.



David Walker commissioned Lay Minister,
whose ministry is of welcome, outreach and of sacristan in Natland.

During the last three years the Mission Community has provided a base for the practical training of an ordinand.
We have also recently been the first posting of a stipendiary Curate.

The Vicarage



In 2023 the Diocese, as part of its path to net zero carbon, replaced a Victorian six-bedroom house that was hard to heat with a property that was built in 2002.

It has been converted into the Diocese's first net zero carbon Vicarage. An air source heat pump, solar panels and increased insulation were installed. There is battery storage in the garage that is charged from the solar panels or from cheap overnight electricity and any excess electricity is exported to the grid.

The new vicarage is now warm, it has a large study, kitchen diner and a large sitting room. Upstairs there are four bedrooms, a family bathroom and an en-suite in the main bedroom. For more information about the house use the link below.

<https://www.carlisle-diocese.org.uk/news/2024/01/09/diocese-completes-work-first-net-carbon-zero-vicarage/>

Map of the Parishes

OS Map Landranger Map 97

