



St Michael and All Angels

Arthuret Parish Profile



Contents

3. Who we are
What we offer
4. The broader context in the Deanery
Our vision for the future
What we would like from you
5. The Rector we would like
6. Areas we would like addressed
7. About Arthuret Parish
Social History
8. Community
9. Employment in the Area
10. The living Church
12. The church's history
Building and Resources
13. Churchyard
Magazine
Moot Hall
Church Finances
14. Letter from Longtown Community Church
16. Address and website



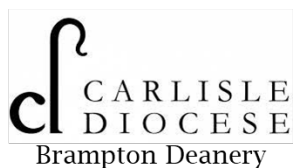
Who we are:

Arthuret Church is a historic building and whilst one of the largest in the Deanery offers a friendly and inclusive welcome to all. The church plays an important role in Arthuret Parish and market town of Longtown, with families tracing their ancestors back over several generations to graves in Arthuret churchyard. Arthuret is part of the Esk Parishes benefice along with Kirkandrews and Nicholforest. We each have our own distinct identity and our own Patron. We share our Rector and ministry team; regularly share services, the Esk Parishes Magazine and other activities. Arthuret has an open churchyard, that parishioners are very proud of, and offers mainline Anglican churchmanship. We have close links with Longtown Community Church with whom we share services and the Network Youth Church.

A previous incumbent said of his time as Priest in Charge at Arthuret "The ancient parish of Arthuret, a mix of urban and rural life, provides rich and productive soil for ministry. The faithful and hard-working parishioners provide invaluable support for the parish priest. It has been my privilege to serve the parish and its people on two occasions. Whoever is called to future ministry here will find great blessing and fulfilment."

What we offer:

- A parish with many enthusiastic and hard-working volunteers,
- A ministry team,
- Well established ecumenical links with Longtown Community Church,
- Great church and community support,
- A historic well-maintained church with modern heating and AV system,
- Sound church finances.



Borders Methodist Church
Brampton | Gilsland | Longtown | Wetheral



The broader context

Arthuret Church is part of the Brampton Deanery which is within the Carlisle Diocese. The Deanery is currently in the process of consulting with parishes to reorganise its 31 churches, with Methodist and URC colleagues, into a single Mission Community with three Hubs or areas; one of which could be based around Longtown and the Esk Parishes together with the neighbouring parishes of Blackford and Rockcliffe. Arthuret and the Esk Parishes works closely with Longtown Community Church which is made up of Methodist and Border Kirk members who meet at the Longtown Community Centre.

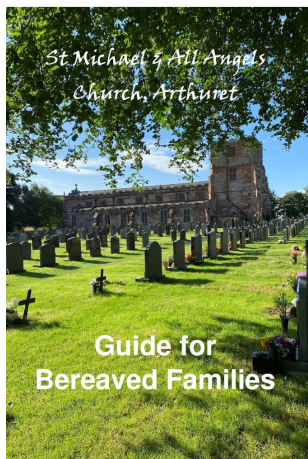
Our vision for the future:

The Esk Parishes Benefice Mission Statement:

With the help of God, these churches will be places where Christian people joyfully worship and pray together. Places of learning, growth and fun. Communities where everyone is encouraged to use their gifts and to live out the Christian faith in the whole of their lives.

What we would like from you:

- The ability to listen; to get to know the church and wider community and work with us,
- The ability, experience and desire to minister to rural and market town communities,
- A desire to minister to a wide range of ages and people with flexibility and openness,
- A love of Common Worship and the Book of Common Prayer and acceptance of local customs and services.



The Rector we would like:

- A person of prayer led by God but who will be open to testing their discernment with others
- A person with good interpersonal skills who can minister to a wide range of people and ages
- Can work collaboratively with the churches and organisations in the parish and wider area, particularly with Longtown Community Church
- A willingness to listen, learn and to value local traditions, while developing ways to introduce and develop new ways to reach out to the wider community
- The ability to minister to a broad range of people and ages across a diverse community,
- A person who will understand the values in each parish and to develop the gifts of all our members and volunteers to enable greater outreach into the community
- Work with the support of the ministry team
- Flexibility and openness.



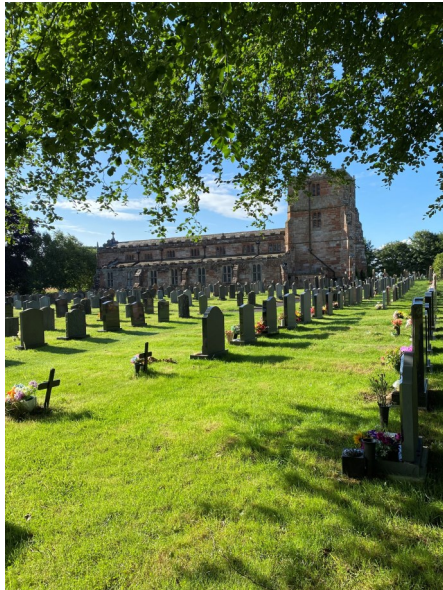


Youth Group

🕒 Every Thursday at 3:30 p.m. for 1 hour, 30 mins

📍 [Longtown Family Centre](#)
Longtown Family Centre, longtown family Centre Mary Street Longtown

📌 The Longtown Youth Group meets on Thursdays at the Longtown Family Centre (next to the school)



Areas we would like addressed:

- Continue on-going discussions with the Deanery on their future plans while retaining the parishes distinct identities; respecting local culture and setting realistic goals.
- Continue ecumenical links with Longtown Community Church and the wider community.
- Out-reach to the wider community including:
- continuing close links with Longtown Primary School, the Youth Hub and developing ways to create links to young people who attend school outside the area.
- Develop and participate in pastoral visiting including but not limited to home communion, occasional offices and creating links with families
- Develop how unused physical resources within the town can become a part of the church and its wider reach into the community
- Create ways of linking families visiting Arthuret churchyard with the church
- Review clergy and the ministry team's service schedules and availability within the resources of the whole ministry team
- Develop the use of Common Worship and the Book of Common Prayer and acceptance of local customs and services.





About Arthuret Parish

The parish of Arthuret is located in the most northern part of Cumbria some 8 miles north of the city of Carlisle close to the England/Scotland border. Until recent years Longtown had three churches of other denominations that have since closed and Arthuret is the only church building and burial ground in the Parish. Longtown Community Church holds services at the Community Centre where members of the Methodist and Church of Scotland worship. A letter from the Community Church is at the end of this Profile.

The 2021 census showed a parish population of 2551 an increase of 3% on the 2011 census and in 2011 74.8% of the population were Christian.

Social History

In previous times this area was known as the “Debateable Lands” being the March country separating the Kingdoms of England and Scotland. Although nominally ruled over by the Lord of the Marches from Carlisle Castle, the area was very much in the hands of the Reiver Families, whose descendants still people the area today.

Longtown was established as a town following the granting of a local weekly cattle market and annual fair in 1306; the market has expanded and retains an important place in the agricultural industry. In what is a relatively small market town there are many amenities and local shops including a post office within the newsagents, supermarket, hotel, B&Bs, fuel station, building society, butcher, baker, hardware shop, hairdresser and beauty salons, cafes, horse tackle shop, pharmacy, opticians, garden centre, market garden, various fast food outlets and public houses.

New housing developments have recently been constructed and more are planned. Longtown primary school draws 213 pupils from Longtown and the surrounding area and while not being a church school, holds their end of year presentations: Harvest Festival, Easter Service and School Carol Service at Arthuret Church. Longtown has a library, Medical Centre; two residential care homes and two veterinary practices.



**WE CORDIALLY INVITE YOU
TO OUR COMMUNITY
CHRISTMAS TREE
FESTIVAL of LIGHT**

1st, 2nd & 3rd December 2023
daily 10.30am till 5pm
in
**The Historic
Arthuret Church
Longtown**

Festive Refreshments

Organ & Accordion...Fri...11.30am
Esk Valley Jazz band...Fri. 2.30pm
Organ Recital...Sat...12noon
Gretna Accordion...Sat. 1pm
Ukulele Band...Sat. 3.30pm
Organ Recital...11.45 - 1pm
Esk Singers...Sun. 3.30pm
Raffle Draw...Sun. pm

**Advent Service
Sunday 3rd at 10.30am**
Free Entry Throughout

Community

There are numerous local organisations in Longtown including WI, Bowls Club, Horticultural Society and annual Flower Show; Singers, Young Farmers Club, football teams, Brownies, Youth Hub, First Responders Group, and fitness groups. The Longtown Memorial Hall Community Centre provides sports and social facilities and events throughout the year.

In 2023 with the support of Arthuret Parish Council and Carlisle City Council, a Community Christmas Tree Festival was held in church attended by several hundred people.





Employment in the Area

There are a substantial number of farms within the parish and together with the livestock market employs a number of local people. C&D Auction Mart attracts farmers' stock from Northern England, and from the South and West of Scotland with sales between two and four times per week, renowned throughout North Cumbria. The industrial estates at Townfoot, Brampton Road, Sandysikes, MOD, and businesses in Carlisle provide employment for local people. Longtown has a wide range of local trades people providing services to the local community and farther afield in Carlisle and surrounding area. Longtown businesses draw customers and employees from the local area both sides of the border. Many people in the parish travel to Carlisle and surrounding area; and to towns in Cumbria and Dumfriesshire to work.



The Living Church

Arthuret's Electoral Roll numbers 122.

The attendance at Sunday services is up to 30 and can be up to 150 on certain occasions e.g. baptisms. Children's services at Easter (150) and Christingle (100-120) have large attendances and Longtown Primary School attend church for their Harvest, Christmas, Easter, and end of year services (up to 300). Festivals and other special services are an important part of the life of the church and coupled with the large number of occasional offices, can mean that a larger number of the parish and surrounding area will be part of the worship of the church at some time during the year. Two ecumenical Bible study groups meet mid-week, throughout the year. Annual Lent courses, held in Longtown Community Centre, are well attended by all denominations from the wider area.

We believe in being open and welcoming to all in Christ's name, not believing gender to be a barrier to ministry, divorce a preventative to remarriage, or that any child or adult believer should be denied baptism. We use Common Worship booklets; the BCP once a month and Common Praise and Mission Praise in our services.

Currently we have a weekly Sunday service at 10.30am with Holy Communion (Common Worship) on three Sundays of the month, and Morning Worship on the fourth Sunday with BCP Holy Communion at 9am. On the fifth Sundays we have a joint benefice service, revolving between the churches of the benefice. Refreshments and an opportunity to chat and mingle are provided after each Sunday service.

There are around up to five weddings, 20 baptisms, and 20-30 funerals a year. Baptisms are preferred during the Sunday Service but may take place at a separate time. Funerals can either be a burial in the churchyard or interment of ashes in a family grave or in the Garden of Remembrance for Cremated Remains.





Special services which are well attended and are part of local tradition include:

- Mothering Sunday with the distribution of flowers
- Easter week services
- Children's Service and Pasche Egg Rolling - attendance can be 150
- Harvest Festival is followed by a Harvest Lunch and auction at the Memorial Hall, normally attended by around 100
- The All-Soul's Service to remember our loved ones who have passed is attended by over 100
- The Remembrance Day service is attended by 100 people followed by an ecumenical service at the Community Centre.
- Christmas services include Carol service, Christingle attended by up to 120 parents and children, Christmas Eve Midnight Eucharist and a Christmas Day Service at 9.30am. [\(20+\) longtown primary school donkey - search results | Facebook](#)
- We are served by a dedicated ministry team which includes a retired ordained minister able to take baptisms, weddings, funerals and communion; a licensed reader able to take funerals and give communion by extension; an authorised minister who is undergoing training to become licenced as a reader able to take funerals and give communion by extension; five lay ministers, and two ecumenical lay ministers. We have four churchwardens and an assistant churchwarden who is also vergers and members of the congregation take part in bible readings and intercessions.

The Carlisle Diocesan Safeguarding policy is in place and we have a Safeguarding Officer.



The church's history

Arthuret Church is associated by legend with the Arthurian tradition and St Kentigern. In 1606 James I wrote to the Archbishop of Canterbury pointing out the poor state of the church and the parish. It was directed that a collection be made in all churches one Sunday in every three months for four quarters to build a new church at Arthuret. To celebrate its 400th anniversary the church installed a commemorative window. The porch is on the site where it is claimed “Blak Meale” (blackmail) was collected from 1526, and near to the west side of the church is St Michael’s Well, a Grade 2 listed site.

The building and resources

Arthuret is a 17th century church of exceptional significance; built in pre-reformation style in a post reformation era, it represents the conjoining of England and Scotland by James I of England (VI of Scotland). The east window contains medieval 16th century glass with a dove and a heavy lead lining believed to represent the joining of the Kingdoms over the Solway border line.

The last quinquennial inspection took place in July 2023 when no major issues were raised. The church holds 300 people in the pews and is made comfortable for visitors with an efficient heating system with new boilers installed in 2018. The church has a good quality organ, fully restored in 2008 and has organists available at each service. In 2016 an audio-visual system and wi-fi has been installed in a non-intrusive way to support worship for those attending and the hearing loop was renewed in 2024.

The church has toilets, including a disabled toilet; level disabled access; an open churchyard and a garden of remembrance for cremated remains.

A parishioner tested his drone providing a beautiful arial video of the church
Ctrl+click to view [Drone Test Run 2](#)





Churchyard

Arthuret churchyard is a Christian burial ground and is open for burials and the burial of cremated remains following the PCC's Churchyard Policy. A Guide for Bereaved Families is available on the churches' website. [Guide for Bereaved Families - Arthuret Church - A Church Near You](#)

Upkeep of the churchyard is supported from parish finances and an annual grant from Arthuret Parish Council.

Magazine

For many decades the Esk Parishes of Arthuret, Kirkandrews and Nicholforest have produced and distributed a monthly magazine (10 issues pa). The magazine is run and operated by volunteers and contributes to the finances of the three parishes.

Moot Hall

The Moot Hall is located in Esk Street, Longtown and is the upper storey of a two-storey building, the ground floor of which is owned by Arthuret Parish Council. The Moot Hall is currently not in use and the PCC is exploring ways to bring this resource into use for the benefit of the church and community.

Church Finances

All funds raised within the parish through regular giving, occasional offices and social events pays the annual running costs of the church. There is some money put aside for future capital expenditure.

Social events are a very important part of parish life and provide income and the opportunity for social interaction and community out-reach. Regular events include a monthly Lunch Club, Pancake Day, Car Boot Sale, Harvest Lunch, Gad-a-bout Suppers, Cheese and Wine Evenings, Christmas Fayres and Car Treasure Hunts all of which are organised by an active and hard-working Social Committee. In December 2023 a community Christmas tree festival was held in church and was attended by several hundred visitors.



A letter from Longtown Community Church

Having a good relationship with Arthuret and Esk Parishes is very important to Longtown Community Church. In a small community, good relations between churches and doing some things together, really seems essential.

Longtown Community Church is by nature ecumenical. A building sharing arrangement already existed between Methodists and Church of Scotland in Longtown, but since 2019 we've met for worship together in the Community Centre. Our members come from a range of church backgrounds. On 1st Sunday of each month, we're led by Rev Wes Brandon, Minister for the Border Kirk, while Community Church as a whole functions under the Methodist umbrella for church governance. We're on the Preaching Plan and we're part of the Borders Methodist Hub, along with Brampton, Wetheral and Gilsland.

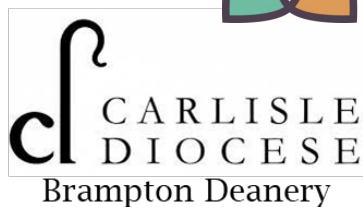
Rev Eric went above and beyond to encourage the existing connection between Community Church and Arthuret/Esk Parishes and hope that a new incumbent will continue where he left off.

These are some of the more obvious ways in which we connect – but this isn't everything, by any means.

With Rev Tokunbo Asogbon, (our Methodist minister, based in Brampton) we look forward to joining the Remembrance services and the Carol Service at Arthuret this year, as we've done for several years now - and Arthuret is invited to join us in the Community Centre for our Methodist Covenant service in February, again.

Ladies from Kirkandrews, Arthuret, Border Kirk and other churches, always take part in the World Day of Prayer service which we organise and host on the first Friday in March at 2pm. (All are invited to that service.)

Esk Parishes has been running ecumenical Lent Talks and an ecumenical Bible study, which runs throughout the year, apart from breaks between subjects. Some of us



Borders Methodist Church
Brampton | Gilsland | Longtown | Wetheral





have attended both of those regularly, over several years now. And a couple of years ago, we approached Ruth Hutchinson, the Pioneer Network Youth Church Worker for Brampton Deanery, (employed by Carlisle Diocese), who now runs Longtown Youth Hub, which has been attracting up to 10 young people at a time, with volunteers from Community Church, Esk Parishes, Carlisle Vineyard and also Methodist clergy. NYC's expenses are funded by all the parish churches in the Deanery (eg hiring equipment; providing materials for all the year sixes in 10 primary schools to transition to secondary school; giving Advent “calendars” to all the young people who've ever come to an NYC group... etc) and Community Church gives funding towards the weekly pizzas for Longtown's Youth Hub.

Thanks to support and advice from Ruth, especially with things like safeguarding and risk assessments, Community Church was able to offer a short Holiday Club in August, in the Community Centre, for the first time since 2019, with volunteers from the Border Kirk and other churches. 10 children came on the first day and 13 on the second day, mostly aged 7 to 10 and we also held activities for families on the Sunday, which our congregation joined - after a church service led by Rev Wes, which referred to our Holiday Club and included our songs. So all the youth/children's work is ecumenical and is looking hopeful for the future.

We warmly welcome you to your new post and pray that you will be happy living here and find your ministry among us to be fulfilling and fruitful.

Wishing you every blessing, on behalf of Longtown Community Church,

Jane Rutherford

Member of Longtown Community Church



St Michael & All Angels

Arthuret Church

Arthuret Road

Longtown

Carlisle

CA6 5SJ

What3words = describes.poppy.violinist

[Arthuret Church - A Church Near You](#)