



WHO WE ARE

Crosslacon Parish, located adjacent to the western Lake District and the Irish Sea Coast, is seeking a new pioneering team rector to support us in our mission to offer a wide variety of spiritual and social opportunities throughout the week in addition to Sunday worship.

Our benefice has shared God's love for over 1000 years and includes three beautiful old church buildings, a flexible modern church/hall, and an active community centre. It stretches from Cleator and rapidly growing Cleator Moor in the west to Arlecdon and Asby in the east, and parts of it are literally on the slopes of the Lake District mountains. The nearest town is Whitehaven, which is a historic Georgian port on the Irish Sea coast.

The church community has evolved significantly over the last 7 years and four old parishes have now merged together to support one another. Each of our innovation projects has a lay leader, there is one integrated PCC which governs the whole benefice, one team that manages all the buildings, a cross-parish fundraising team, volunteers who visit residential homes in the area and provide pastoral support, a paid parish administrator, and a combined lay ministry team.



(St Paul's, Frizington)



From the Bishop of Carlisle:

This profile will give you a good picture of life and ministry in this wonderful part of Cumbria, which is in a rural location near the lakes, fells and coast, but also close to the towns of Cleator Moor; Whitehaven and about an hour from the city of Carlisle. 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 one of the ways in which the Church in Cumbria seeks to live out the God for All vision.

They seek to be 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 fundamentally about enabling each local church to minister to their community.

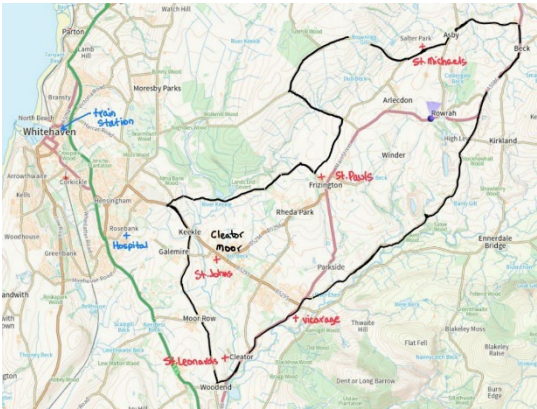
We are looking for clergy who resonate with this, who love God and love people, who will look outwards into the community in mission, help people grow in faith and who will enable the faith and gifts of all.

If this stirs something in you, we'd love to hear from you.

With every blessing,

Bishop of Carlisle

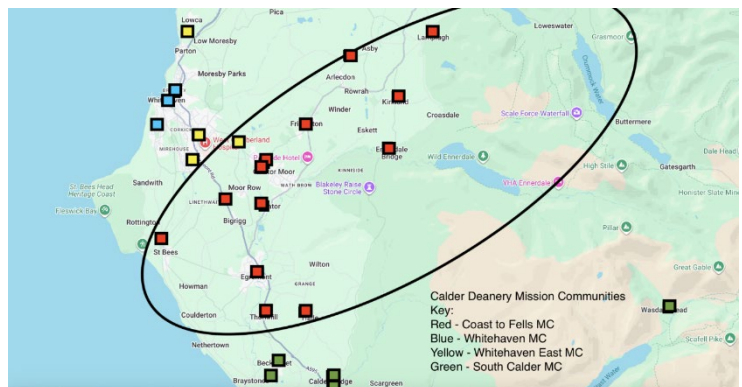




Crosslacon's four churches are all unique, and thanks to generous donations, we have been able to restore and maintain them. St Paul's has a busy café and community meeting place which is open 6 days a week. St John's is a flexible building with a worship space at one end, and is well used by community groups 7 days a week. St Michael's has recently undergone a huge refurbishment and reordering

project, and St Leonard's has a 12th Century Chancel, a community hall opposite and is located on the coast-to-coast walk. We now desire our buildings be used for the benefit of the wider community. This community is an interesting mix of urban and rural personnel, and encompasses the farming community, business and technically skilled personnel, and the long term unemployed.

Crosslacon is an open, multi-generational parish which welcomes new members from varied spiritual backgrounds and lives by an inclusive theology with an open table.



(Coast to Fells Mission Community: red squares)

Cumbria Diocese is committed to working through ecumenical Mission Communities (MCs). Crosslacon is part of the Coast to Fells MC, in partnership with 12 other churches. The MC has recently been granted funding from the Church Commissioners for a novel pilot project on "releasing new energy for mission in rural communities".

Our congregations live in an isolated, coastal area of England with limited ethnic diversity, but our populations reflect a wide diversity of family economics, education, religious heritage and gender identification. Crosslacon seeks to encourage diversity in all of its forms and offers safety and welcome to all people.



(St Michael's, Arlecdon during refurbishment)

The parish is in one of the lowest cost of living areas in England, has one of the lowest crime rates in the country, and has easy access to a major hospital with A&E facilities located approximately 5 miles away.

We currently hold two Sunday services each week which move round the parish, and in the last 12 months the following occasional services have been undertaken: 3 weddings, 10 baptisms, 7 funerals in church and 7 funerals at the local crematorium. The parish is in a sound financial position with reserves of over £300,000 and an income of £145,000 in 2024, which was above expenditure.

CHALLENGES AND INITIATIVES



(Montreal Church School)

The Crosslacon team is active within the community, but many of its key personnel are now aging. The extent of our involvement in meeting the many needs of our congregations and our community is therefore threatened as our volunteers become less able to serve. Nevertheless, we have a vision for outreach through music and environmental projects along with greater child-friendly ministry aimed at attracting young families and new generations of younger faith-based volunteers, and these initiatives are beginning to show progress.

As social media replaces more and more direct personal contact, we need to meet the companionship needs of our parishioners and others who feel isolated or left behind. Initiatives involving both clergy and laity, such as the Living Room and the Locker Room, have been initiated to meet the needs of such people.

Nationally, young people are increasingly turning to religion to make sense of the changes in our society and the world as a whole. We need to find more ways to help teens and young adults answer their questions and help with their anxieties, but we recognize Sunday services are not necessarily the way to do this.

WHAT ARE WE LOOKING FOR?

With a vision for outreach and modernisation, the parish has initiated multiple innovative projects and groups over the last 7 years which it now hopes to embed and grow, including:

- Stay and Play (babies and toddlers),
- Messy Church (children),
- Hot Chocolate (young people),
- Living Room (vulnerable and isolated adults),
- Locker room (men's group),
- And Breathe (meditation and contemplative eucharist),
- Craft, Craic and Cuppa and Jubilee Rooms (craft classes/sharing of handicraft skills).

For the future, we seek a Minister with the following attributes:

- Energetic
- Dynamic leader with skills in building teams
- Diplomatic
- Visionary
- Liberal
- Inclusive attitude
- Pioneering
- Interested in engaging with local schools and youth groups

To help us attract, grow, educate and motivate an enthusiastic team of younger volunteers and lay leadership personnel, in order to support the wider community and share Christian ideals outside of the traditional Sunday service role.

WHY COME TO CROSSLACON?



The benefice includes a light and airy four bedroomed vicarage located in the centre of the parish with open views to the Cumbrian Mountains, and easy access to the Lake District National Park, the West Cumbrian Coast, and Scotland with its mystical isles like Iona.

Crosslacon is in an attractive semi-rural environment less than an hour from a major regional city and commercial hub, so time can be spent in ministry and communing with nature, not in traffic queues.

There is a strong and welcoming bond between the church and the broader community, and successful nursery and primary schools in the parish and a selection of nearby secondary schools and colleges, such as the University of Central Lancashire's Cumbria Campus, and the University of Manchester's Dalton Cumbria Facility in Whitehaven, plus the recently opened Pears Medical School in Carlisle affiliated with Imperial College.



(Whitehaven)

There are numerous educational and employment opportunities for family members of the incumbent, and a growing high tech environmental and nuclear economy in the local area.

INTERESTED?

- Do you have a heart for discipleship, growing teams and community building?
- Are you a pioneering, prayerful and dynamic leader?
- Can you connect with people across all age groups and social demographics?

If yes, we would love to hear from you and share our plans.

If you need more information about the parish, please contact Debbie Keighley, Churchwarden on debbie.m.keighley@gmail.com or Steve Morgan, Churchwarden on srmorgan99@hotmail.com

