



# **WARNELL PARISH PROFILE FOR PART TIME PRIEST IN CHARGE**

## MESSAGE FROM THE BISHOP OF CARLISLE THE RIGHT REVEREND ROB SANER-HAIGH



**Dear Applicant,**

This profile will give you a good picture of life and ministry in this wonderful part of Cumbria, which is in a rural location but also close to the market town of Wigton and around half 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,**

*+Rob*

**Bishop of Carlisle**





# WHO WE ARE

The group, known as the Warnell Parish has been in its existence since 2010. Its name was chosen by the parishioners as 3 of the churches sit at the foot of Warnell Fell and the other 3 are above or over the fell. The group consists of 2 Benefices namely, Westward, Rosley-with-Woodside and Welton; and Caldbeck, Castle Sowerby and Sebergham.

The area is in the Lake District northern fells and runs down to the Solway plain. It is a deeply rural area and simply stunning in its beauty.



The churches are all within a radius of 5 miles from the centre of Caldbeck. The church in Caldbeck is within the boundaries of the Lake District National Park and sits on the well known national trail of the Cumbria Way (as does our church in Sebergham).

The parishes are in a farming and agricultural area. Some diversification occurred following the outbreak of foot and mouth in 2001. As a result, there are many high quality b&b's, self catering properties and camping and caravan sites. It's an ideal area for exploring the less crowded northern fells.

There is no shortage of outdoor pursuits – idyllic for mental well-being in today's busy world. In short – it's a fabulous place to live and work !!

The Warnell Group consists of 6 churches:-



**CALDBECK**

St Kentigern's  
(or St Mungo's)



**SEBERGHAM**

St Mary's



**CASTLE SOWERBY**

St Kentigern's



**ROSLEY**

Holy Trinity



**WESTWARD**

St Hilda's



**WELTON**

St James'

During this period of vacancy we have adapted the frequency of services. There are services of Holy Communion (some by extension) in each of the two benefices, weekly .

A retired priest assists on a monthly (occasionally more) basis.



The community within the Group has a willingness to come together – often difficult in a widespread rural area as isolation and lack of access to services can present a problem. We are served very well here by the Northern Fells Rural Community Development Group (NFG). His majesty, King Charles is Patron. A snapshot of some of the services provided are benefits support, transport, support at home, dementia support, health & wellbeing...the list goes on, so we commend you to look at their website [northernfellsgroup.org.uk](http://northernfellsgroup.org.uk) One of our lay readers is chair of the board of trustees.

We have a parish magazine, with a circulation of approximately 600, which details everything going on, including all the church services in the parish. Rosley has its “Link” as well, which is a separate leaflet produced monthly highlighting different events. This is distributed to every household in Rosley and Westward.

The Warnell Group is blessed with 2 lay readers who are actively involved in all 6 churches. They are assisted by one of the churchwardens in an administrative capacity and they meet monthly to plan services and discuss any concerns within the parish. Will you be happy to work alongside them and support them in their ministry as we all take God's journey together?

#### CHURCH SERVICES IN JUNE 2025

<b>1st June</b>	<b>Easter 7</b>		
<i>Caldbeck</i>	8.15am	Lay Lead Service	
<i>Sebergham</i>	11.00am	Holy Communion	ER
<i>Westward</i>	9.30am	Holy Communion	ER
<b>8th June</b>	<b>Pentecost</b>		
<i>Caldbeck</i>	11.00am	Holy Communion	ER
<i>Rosley</i>	9.30am	Holy Communion	ER
<b>15th June</b>	<b>Trinity Sunday</b>		
<i>Caldbeck</i>	8.15am	Holy Communion	ER
<i>Castle Sowerby</i>	11.00am	Holy Communion	ER
<i>Rosley</i>	9.30am	Holy Communion by ext	CK
<b>22nd June</b>	<b>Trinity 1</b>		
<i>Sebergham</i>	11.00am	Morning Prayer	GH/CK
<b>29th June</b>	<b>Peter &amp; Paul</b>		
<i>Caldbeck</i>	11.00am	Holy Communion	ER
<i>Rosley</i>	9.30am	Holy Communion	ER
<b>6th July</b>	<b>Trinity 3</b>		
<i>Caldbeck</i>	8.15am	Holy Communion	ER
<i>Sebergham</i>	11.00am	Holy Communion	ER
<i>Westward</i>	9.30am	Holy Communion	ER

#### Is God calling you to join us in the beautiful Warnell Group?

- Do you show leadership that enables the churches you will serve to thrive and grow?
- Will you share faith in Christ and accompany others on their faith journey?
- Do you have resilience and stamina?
- Can you manage change?
- Are you able to balance the traditional with new and to value and meet the different needs of different generations.
- Are you convinced of the value of developing local lay ministry – creating a community of the faithful.
- Are you committed to developing faith with and for children, young people, families and our schools.
- Do you communicate well with young and old alike?
- Do you have a clear understanding of rural ministry or a willingness to learn?
- Are you flexible, fun, energetic and enthusiastic with a sense of humour?

# OUR CHURCHES

## HOLY TRINITY, ROSLEY

Rosley is one of the largest villages in the benefice. Next to the church is a thriving village hall which is very well patronised, particularly when award winning acts on Irish folk nights are held. Lots of the village's clubs meet here and it is used extensively by the church for fund raising activities.



Opposite church is the Church of England primary school. The church has very strong links to the school with the children attending 2 weekly assemblies in church; termly services in church and attend (and participate in) significant services with the congregation. Particular highlights are harvest, crib service and a barn nativity. The latter is held in a nearby barn and has become a highlight of Christmas.



*School and Bishop Rob dedicating the new outside prayer space*



*Children's Harvest table in church*



*Harvest with the Warnell Flock frontal*





### *Scenes from the Barn Nativity*

The retired priest in charge was closely involved with the school and was also an ex officio governor. Joint fund raising events are organised by the PCC and the school support group and these have included a family fun day, barbecue and rounders match – all of which have been well received and exceptionally well attended.



## THE SCHOOL CHILDREN WOULD LIKE SOMEONE WHO IS:-

Willing to visit  
school often

Helpful and  
understanding

Patient,  
especially with  
younger children  
when things need to  
be explained

Listening  
to our ideas

Confident  
and lead collective  
worship in an  
interactive way

Punctual and  
ready with things  
(resources)

Trustworthy

Has good  
leadership

Fun and  
have a good  
sense of  
humour

Willing to  
let children help  
with services

Organised  
and kind

Always choosing  
good songs and  
hymns - action  
songs!



The PCC are proactive in organising regular community events such as coffee mornings, bring and buy sales, music nights and quiz nights. As part of our mission community we have extended invitations to other churches in the Solway plain which have been well supported. Again, as part of mission community the PCC organised a “free clothes swap” in church for schoolchildren. This year our retiring priest in charge blessed hand made knitted crosses to give to every child (and teacher !!) at the start of school term.



*Some of the crosses knitted for the children by one of our Parishioners*

## COMMENTS MADE ABOUT SOME OF THE FUNDRAISING EVENTS:-

We felt very welcome and were struck by your collective energies, enthusiasm and teamwork

We really enjoyed last weekend, what a lovely community get together

We're just delighted to be part of such a great community

A successful day - our pleasure to be part of it

Thank you all for being so welcoming and such a support to us

The 2 churchwardens maintain the church very well. The churchyard is well kept and is extensive, thanks to the very generous donation of land and there is a separate area for cremated remains.



Weekly services are held and there is a lot going on in Rosley. The new incumbent will be treated to an excellent welcome; generous hospitality; a passionate hard working PCC and a willingness to move forward spiritually for the benefit of all.

Why wouldn't you want to join us in this beautiful area?

*A section of the graveyard*

## ST JAMES', WELTON



St James' does not have its own PCC but is managed by the PCC at Rosley. There is a treasurer and the finances are wholly independent of each other.

Welton village is in close proximity to Rosley. In recent years it has seen the closure of its post office, public house and school. There is a small congregation and services here have been held on a monthly basis. There is a very strong wish to keep the church alive and open.

The church actively needs to do more fund raising – the younger members of the community are willing to take this on board with a lead from the PCC at Rosley.

We would dearly love to increase the congregation and grow as a church.

Unfortunately, the church suffered severe damage caused by storm Eowyn in January 2025 and restoration works are now finally underway. It has resulted in the temporary closure of the church. We anticipate being able to open again for worship in the beginning of 2026.

## ST KENTIGERN'S, CALDBECK



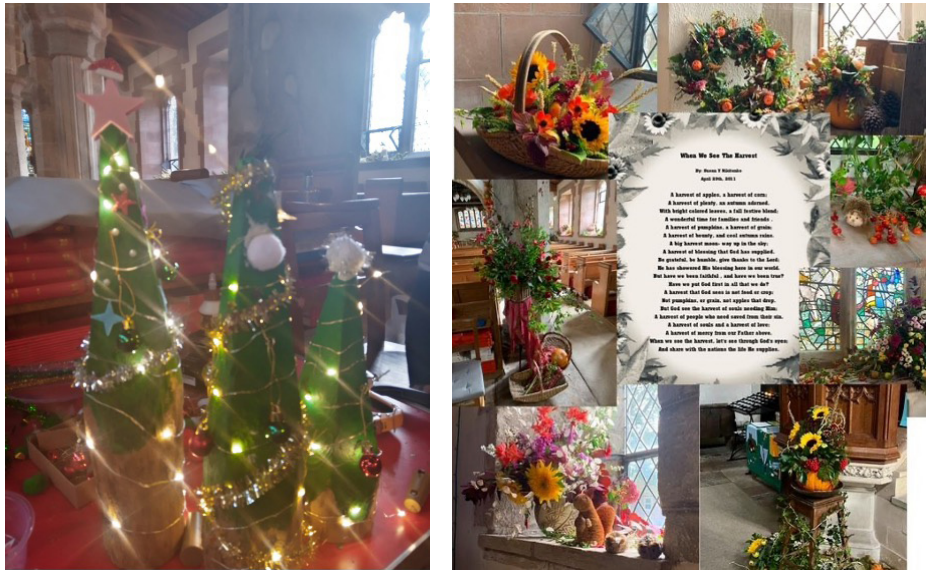
St Kentigern's (St Mungo's) Church Caldbeck is situated in the very centre of the vibrant village of Caldbeck. This is a very historic church, dating back to 1118AD. Adapted and extended over the centuries but always located on the same site by the River Caldew, the Church has been a continuous place of worship since Norman times.

Caldbeck PCC is a strong unit. We are unusual in enjoying the benefits of three proactive church wardens. We have a small, private prayer room, a modern kitchenette and disabled toilet. There is a large open space at the back of the church, offering

flexibility for different events, such as children's activity days at Christmas and Easter. The PCC regularly stages concerts, hold coffee mornings and other social events in support of social cohesion



and fund raising. Christmas Tree Festivals, held approximately every 5 years have been particularly popular, as have our flower festivals. They are an excellent means to draw in those who don't regularly attend church, but are strong supporters. They also help to raise significant funds from the wider community. Greater use of the church outside of services is an ambition we hold.



*Children's crafts at Christmas   Harvest decorations*

Parishioners in the main are a mix of the farming community, self employed business people, hospitality businesses, public sector workers and the retired. The village enjoys a variety of excellent services and social clubs.

An outstanding doctor's surgery and a good primary school are within walking distance of the church, as is the rectory, village shop and public house. Links to Fellside Primary School are excellent. Children make visits to the church and take part in concerts and our annual carol service. They provide artwork for our exhibitions and festivals. Lay members of the PCC make visits into school.

Other strong links include the Mothers Union and the Fairtrade shop, which is situated opposite the church and run by volunteers.

Caldbeck has a very good, modern parish hall which is very well used by the NFG, sports and social clubs and societies such as the history society and the amateur dramatics. Social functions such as weddings, funeral teas and celebratory dinners also take place in the hall. The popular cricket club and bowling club both have their own clubhouses.

Hesket New Market is the second village in the parish. It enjoys the benefit of a Community shop and post office and a community pub and brewery. The Hesket Newmarket Free Church is very strong in the village and runs a range of services and activities for the congregation and wider community. A joint sunrise Easter Morning outdoor service is held by the two churches annually. The church goes out into the community when possible. One example is our tent at the annual Hesket Newmarket Agricultural Show.

Situated in the Lake District National Park, the Caldbeck area is a popular destination for tourists. There is a regular stream of visitors to the church which is open daily. There were 35 entries in the visitor book, in September 2025. Visitors were from across the UK and international. Just a sample of the super comments they wrote:

*'thanks for being open..... beautiful harvest displays' - Peak District*

*'a beautiful yet simplistic place to sit and pray' - Wirral*

*'a powerful and quiet place of worship' Stockport*



The church is very fortunate to have a lot of support from parishioners. They are all invaluable and we are grateful for all who support the ministry within the parish.

This is just a snapshot of the dynamism of Caldbeck, but we hope it has tempted to you to take a closer look at the welcoming environment that awaits our next incumbent.

*Easter time*

## ST MARY'S, SEBERGHAM



St Mary's, situated on the Cumbrian Way, offers wonderful outreach to all who walk this path and break their journey and come into the building to enjoy the peace and prayerful atmosphere with tea and coffee available in the vestry. St Mary's welcomes visitors from all parts of the world which is evident from the visitors' book.

St Mary's has a small active congregation with a Holy Communion or Morning Prayer each month and after each service there are refreshments for further outreach to our congregation and visitors alike.

There is a closed churchyard surrounding it maintained by the local authority. The churchyard beyond the lych gate is maintained by the PCC and is open for burials and interment of ashes. The Old School adjacent to the church is the "church hall" with kitchen facilities, meeting rooms, WC's

## ST KENTIGERN'S, CASTLE SOWERBY



St Kentigern's is a small but beautiful church set in open countryside with stunning views of the Lake District fells. It has a walled graveyard which is very well maintained and a small car park for its own needs.

Nearby, there is the small village of Millhouse which has a village hall and is used for social events. Fund raising events hosted by the church are held here.

A monthly service of Holy Communion is usually held. The most popular services are harvest and a carol service by candlelight. Services in the winter months are held in the village hall.



## ST HILDA'S, WESTWARD



Westward has a strong community spirit and for many years an enthusiastic and active committee ran the halls organizing coffee mornings, lunches, classes, fundraisers etc. all of which unfortunately came to halt in 2022 when a fire broke out in the parish room. Since then the PCC have been working hard to try and get it up and running again.

St Hilda's church has an electric organ but no organist resident in the parish. The services are fairly traditional, mainly Holy Communion with the occasional Matins service. At the moment there is only one service a month. Children are always welcome and, while there are quite a few young families in the

parish, without a school as a focus, there is not a very high attendance rate. The church has one churchwarden and six members of the PCC.

Fundraising is usually well supported by local residents and the last event (a Gadabout supper) raised over £1000. There is also a popular, quarterly 100 Club draw.

## WHAT WE ARE HOPING FOR GOING FORWARD

### Someone who is/has:-

- A strong, compassionate leader with a deep faith
- Good communication and listening skills
- The ability to inspire and connect with a diverse community

### Key qualities include:-

- Empathy
- Spiritual maturity
- Strong administrative and technical skills
- A collaborative approach to leadership
- An effective preacher who can engage different audiences and support ongoing spiritual growth within the congregation.

### Some of our congregation would welcome someone with

A clear sense of vocation

The ability to offer comfort, reassurance, and pastoral care to people in need

A high level of emotional intelligence and a willingness to learn and grow

A sense of humour

The ability to cast vision, inspire, and empower others

Strong time management and administrative skills

Strong public speaking, preaching, and interpersonal skills

The ability to communicate effectively in a variety of settings, including online

The willingness to work well with other clergy and churches

The ability to welcome people from all walks of life and backgrounds.

Who can work well within a team

The flexibility and willingness to be open to new ideas



## WHERE YOU WOULD LIVE

You would live at the grade 2 listed 4-bedroom Brewery House in the centre of Caldbeck. Caldbeck facilities comprise village shop, doctor's surgery, occasional bus service, good village pub, tea shops, visiting post office. Hesketh Newmarket village (2 miles) has a community owned village shop and post office and brewery and pub.



The area is well served with the towns of Wigton, Dalston and Penrith and the city of Carlisle. Secondary schools are based in both Wigton and Dalston and each have an excellent reputation.

Hospitals can be found in Carlisle (with an A&E department) and Penrith. Doctors and Dentists are based in Caldbeck, Wigton and Dalston.

Bus, train and motorway links are all very close to hand.



## FURTHER INFORMATION

The Priest in Charge of neighbouring Wigton is the Mission Community Leader of our recently revised Mission Community

Network Youth Church is a new way of doing and being church with young people across Cumbria. Here in Solway we do this following the cell, congregation, and celebration models of church to:-

- support the growth of rounded young people who accept themselves and one another for who they are, enjoy exploring faith and journeying together.

“we will tell the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the lord, his power and the wonders he has done.” Psalms 78 v 2

To achieve this Solway Network Youth Church:

- **BUILDS** on existing groups meeting around a deanery (eg. confirmation groups, small youth groups, christian school based clubs)
- **OFFERS** support and training to develop youth groups and grow local leadership.
- **ENCOURAGES** churches and mission communities to grow their work with young people.
- **PROVIDES** a means of linking existing local groups of young people so they can come together to experience Christian worship and fellowship.
- **RUNS** residential and events for youth leaders and their youth groups to attend together.
- **PROVIDES** new opportunities for young people with no current church connection to explore the Christian faith.
- **ENCOURAGES** churches to support and pray for the young people in the deanery and the work of Solway NYC.

## GENERAL PARISH INFORMATION

CHURCH	POPULATION	ELEC'AL ROLL	AVERAGE ATT'NCE	BAPTISMS	WEDDINGS	FUNERALS	PARISH OFFER
ROSLEY & WOODSIDE	814	50	15	1	1	5	£8,437.50
CALDBECK	698	67	21	3	4	14	£21000
SEBERGHAM	365	49	10	0	0	1	£2600
WESTWARD	836	38	6	4	0	3	£3500
CASTLE SOWERBY	344	42	6	1	1	1	£2500
WELTON	352	15	6	0	1	1	£3360

PLEASE NOTE ABOVE FIGURES TAKEN FROM 2024 RETURNS

PLEASE NOTE PARISH OFFER FIGURES ARE FOR 2026

## WEBSITE LINKS

[warnellparishes.org.uk](http://warnellparishes.org.uk)

[www.rosley.cumbria.sch.uk](http://www.rosley.cumbria.sch.uk)

[northernfellsgroup.org.uk](http://northernfellsgroup.org.uk)

<http://www.rosley-cumbria.co.uk> (this is a very worthwhile read as it highlights what's on in Rosley and the numerous services of the Northern Fells Group, particularly the Sept/Oct 2025 issue)

[www.caldbeckvillage.co.uk](http://www.caldbeckvillage.co.uk)

[Facebook page - caldbeck and hesket being social](#)