

# W E L C O M E TO THE P A R I S H O F M I L L O M



***What an opportunity for our new priest but what a challenge too!***

***However, the rewards would be amazing!***

***We can offer you:***

- a small-town setting, in a rural area close to the beauties of the Lake District
- a close-knit, welcoming, safe community
- a long history of Christian worship
- three very different churches, all realising that they need your help



***What goes on in our churches:***



- a communion service every Sunday in Millom with an all-age service followed by lunch on the first Sunday.
- many baptisms and funerals
- churches used by the community for meals, concerts, fairs, exhibitions
- friendly, capable and hardworking congregations
- if a little long in the tooth!

***We need a priest who will:***

- make us younger
- help us to grow
- have the imagination and confidence to make decisions
- relish a challenge
- be part of the wider community
- support church activities



***Are you that person?***

***We hope so!***

## The person we'd like as our Priest

**We hope our new priest will bring the following qualities /experience:**

- Bible-based teaching and broad-based churchmanship
- leadership with a clear vision of how to grow God's family here
- energy and enthusiasm to make it happen
- experience of running a parish; understanding of parochial administrative and financial issues
- car and driving licence

**and be**

- a good communicator, who keeps people informed, approachable and a good listener
- well-organised with good IT and social media skills
- creative yet practical in finding solutions to problems
- committed to team work; as a team builder, a team member and a team leader who can develop the skills of lay members
- fully involved in all aspects of church and community life

**and will need**

- resilience
- imagination
- a sense of humour

**In return we will offer you**

- a good place to live
- a welcome in the church and the wider community
- an experienced team of PCC office holders
- respect for your free time. We do not own you 24/7!
- fair expenses for the day-to-day work in the parish
- time for study, retreat and personal development

and most importantly

**the opportunity to make a real difference.**

## Our Communities

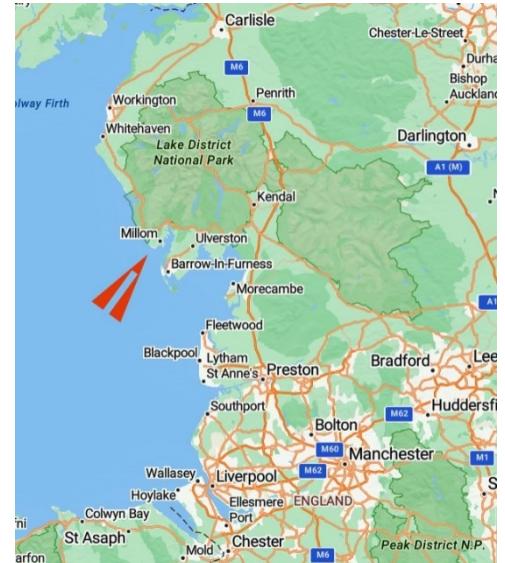


Within sight of the Lake District mountains and beside the sea stands Millom, where we hope you will join us to experience all that our community has to offer.

Millom is set on the southwestern tip of Cumbria, across the Duddon estuary from Barrow-in-Furness, our nearest town.

Without doubt, Millom, and its neighbouring village of Haverigg, punch above their weight. With a population of just over 7 thousand they have much to offer:

- a welcoming, safe and caring community
- good schools (3-18)
- many different sporting groups
- amateur dramatics and choir
- good rail links
- a useful range of shops
- medical centre, pharmacies, dentists and a cottage hospital
- a professional theatre
- a thriving local history society



and a short car journey takes you to all the delights of the Lake District.



**Millom** grew up to house the miners who came to the area when, in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century, a rich seam of haematite iron ore was discovered nearby. Prior to that date there were small agricultural settlements. The mine and ironworks closed in the late-1960s, causing people to seek employment further afield.

- As well as the 3 Anglican churches, there are Roman Catholic, Methodist, Baptist and Community churches in the town.
- Millom has a nursery school, an infant school, a junior school, an RC primary school and an 11-18 secondary school
- Employment opportunities are good. Within the immediate area, work is available in the NHS, HMP Haverigg, education, caring and the expanding tourism in the area. A little further afield, many people work at Sellafield and BAE in Barrow-in-Furness.
- Rail links north to Sellafield, Whitehaven and Carlisle and south to Barrow and on to the West Coast Main Line are good. Junction 36 on the M6 is about 45 minutes away. Our nearest hospital is situated in Barrow, 40 minutes away.
- Millom recently received £20M funding under the government Town Deal scheme which is being used to provide improved leisure facilities, including a new swimming pool and leisure centre, an arts centre with café, a historic trail commemorating Millom's industrial links and improved communications across the area.

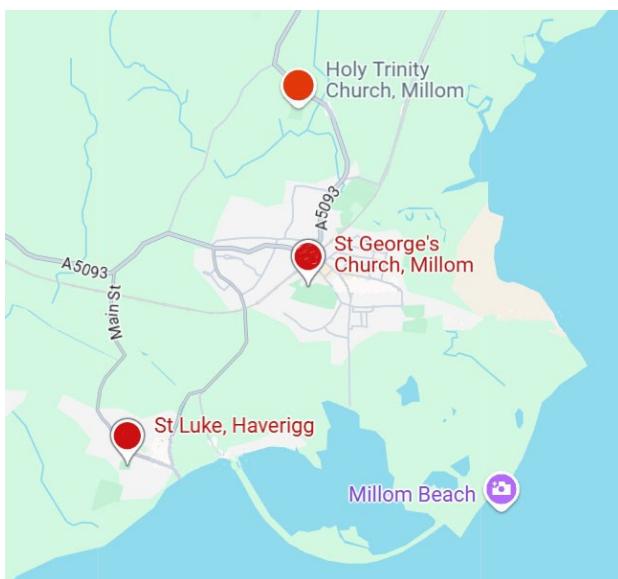
**Haverigg**'s roots are older, having once been a fishing village, until the ironstone mine attracted people away. Currently it can boast

- a clean beach, caravan and mobile home parks, pubs and restaurants, children's play area
- a popular and successful primary school adjacent to the Lighthouse Centre which provides school meals, a lunch club for the elderly, a nursery and a meeting place
- an RSPB reserve which attracts a wide variety of birds and an area where the endangered Natterjack Toad is protected
- the self-funded Haverigg Inshore Rescue team which provides rescue facilities for those who get into difficulties on the sea
- HMP Haverigg on the edge of the village



## Our Churches, their Mission and Ministry

There are three churches in the parish:



**Holy Trinity Church** is the ancient parish church and has stood next to Millom Castle for over 1000 years. The interior contains two tombs of the Huddleston family, once owners of the adjacent castle.



**St George's Church** stands on a hill in the middle of town. Built as the new town of Millom developed, it is an impressive Victorian building with a spectacular spire, visible for miles around.

**St Luke's Church** is the newest of our churches, built in 1891 as a daughter church of St George's to serve the village of Haverigg, but subsequently a parish church in its own right. St Luke's is now a Festival Church

At Haverigg, as well as the church, there is a well-equipped church institute which is licensed for worship.

St Luke's Church was on the brink of closure due to very small numbers (usually 3) attending services there. Despite efforts of the PCC, little had any effect until the Church Commissioners posted their notice about its impending closure. The village was in uproar. The PCC Standing Committee met with the villagers, where there was strong support for the church and offers of help to maintain it. The church was granted a year to prove itself and with many new enthusiastic recruits supporting the church, it is hoped that it will be viable and that the number of worshippers will grow.



## Opportunities and Challenges

Most of those who currently attended our churches did so thirty or more years ago, and though we do our best, anno domino cannot be ignored and we don't have the energy we once had.

However, since our Associate Priest retired last December, we have:

- maintained our regular service pattern, with the help of our retired priest for part of the time and with 4 lay members leading worship when necessary
- held many occasional offices with the help of the Rural Dean and visiting clergy
- continued to hold regular PCC meetings and APCM; completed the new Electoral Roll
- maintained our churches
- continued to produce our parish magazine and host monthly lunches
- held craft fairs, coffee mornings and concerts, with further events planned
- introduced a Bible study group
- held children's activities in the Easter holiday
- worked with St Luke's Church to try to secure its future
- met with the Managing Chaplain at Haverigg Prison with a view to him offering support
- arranged Confirmation for February 1<sup>st</sup> with preparation for adults and youngsters

**We do our best, but ....**

## How you could make a difference

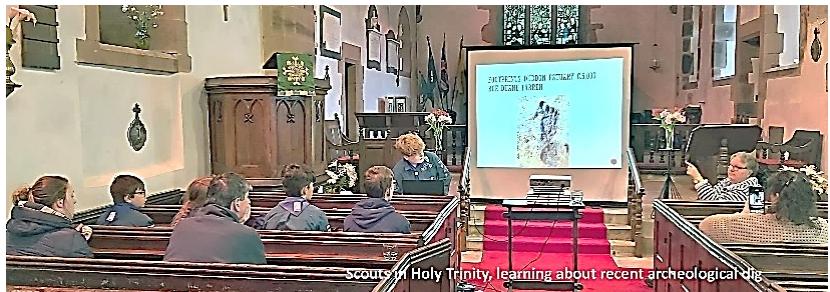
- **Our greatest need, as a congregation, is to grow younger!**

We understand that things need to change and hope that our new priest will have the insight, energy and experience to spread the gospel to those we rarely, if ever, see, while not entirely forgetting us oldies!

## Opportunities for growth are many and varied

### With children

- the churches have a high number of **baptisms**, 23 this year. Currently there is little preparation or follow-up to baptism
- no church **schools** and little involvement in other schools other than schools using churches as venues for carol services/concerts. Some classes visit churches as part of their RE curriculum. In the past there has been greater involvement in the primary schools
- scout, cub and beaver groups historically linked to Holy Trinity are led by a church member



## With adults

- the current congregation is very supportive and willing to help but more than 60% are over 70 and a significant number of those, over 80. Nearly all those in a leadership role are well over 70
- we do not have the expertise or energy to find alternative methods of recruitment

## Through events

- All three churches host a variety of community events, coffee mornings, lunches, concerts, exhibitions, craft fairs, meetings, school carol services, Warm Hub, Christingles and crib services and the month-long Christmas Tree Festival in St George's when around 60 different groups, businesses and schools across the parish decorate trees – this year's event is spread across all three churches. Recent additions have been a Bible study group led by our retired priest and a Franciscan Tertiary and children's events to celebrate Easter.



## Links with other groups

**Millom and District Local History Society** which meets in Holy Trinity Church and has carried out digs and research in the area. The findings were widely shared, including with the scouts

- **The Norman Nicholson Society** meets in St George's from time to time

## Through publications and social media



- the church magazine, distributed to nearly 180 homes each month, the churches' website and Facebook and Instagram pages

## Sunday Worship

Until Covid, each church held a service on Sunday mornings, mostly communion with the support of retired clergy, and occasional lay leaders. After Covid the congregations of St George's and Holy Trinity came together for a Parish Communion service at 10.30am on a Sunday and most people accepted this well, though a few are reluctant to make the different journey. On the first Sunday of the month, we have All Together where the format is more relaxed, though it normally includes communion, and there are activities for children, with lunch afterwards. The average congregation on a Sunday last year was 27, with 3 children attending All Together. On the 5<sup>th</sup> Sundays, the Parish Communion is held at St Luke's Church.



Morning Prayer on Wednesday mornings is held in St George's and a monthly Communion is offered to the Care Home next door to the Church, taken by a Lay Licensed Eucharist Minister.

In 2024 there were 12 Baptisms, 3 Weddings and 43 Funerals in the parish.

At their baptism, children are given a Beginner's Bible and parents and godparents receive cards.



Following the change in the marriage registration rules, couples receive a card showing the church and the date of their wedding.

Those who have been bereaved during the year are individually invited to the All Souls' Service and are also sent a card which they can return to be displayed in church.



In addition, St George's Church hosts the town's annual Remembrance Sunday service and an Act of Remembrance is held later in the day at St Luke's. Each year a Civic Service for the town mayor is held in one of our churches.

## Ministry Team

- A retired priest lives in Haverigg and is very keen to help by taking Sunday services, occasional offices, the bible study group and generally helping – but he spends half the year in his house in Spain!
- During the vacancy, a previous incumbent, now retired and living in the area, led some services, as did the Archdeacon. The Rural Dean has been a regular visitor on Sunday afternoons to officiate at baptisms.
- Talks have taken place with the leader of the Ministry Team at HMP Haverigg in the hope of developing links.
- In an isolated parish in a deanery where clergy are thin on the ground, four members of the congregation have led services on Sundays, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and All Souls when no clergy were available to maintain the service pattern

## Pastoral Care

- Though not in the first flush of youth, members of the congregation care for and support one another as far as possible. Being a small town where many have spent their entire life, the community as a whole is supportive of its members
- At the moment there is no formal parish visiting rota
- The Standing Committee and congregation do their best to support their clergy
- The churchwarden at St George's takes communion once a month to the adjacent care home.

## Schools

There are no Church of England Schools in the parish, though there is a Roman Catholic primary school. All are run by the LEA, except the infant school which has recently joined the Good Shepherd Academy.

As already mentioned, there is no regular input from the church to the schools though some visit the churches as part of the RE curriculum. The infant school and junior school hold their Nativity Play or Carol Service in St George's and the secondary school has held its Christmas Concert in Holy Trinity Church.



## Organisation

All three churches have their own District Church Councils which are subcommittees of the PCC, and are responsible for the insurance and upkeep of their church and churchyard, the finances of that church and the running of events there. Each DCC proposes a quota of members to the PCC. Individual churches contribute to the PCC account for the payment of items for the parish as a whole, including the Parish Offer and administrative costs, clergy expenses and photocopying. This account is managed by the Parish Treasurer.

The current PCC numbers 13: 3 churchwardens, one deanery synod representative, and 9 elected members. It usually meets 6 times a year.

## Staffing and Support

- As previously mentioned, we are very fortunate to have the services of a retired priest who is very willing to take services and occasional offices when
- There is administrative help available. Nominally a paid hour per week but actually considerably more than this. The following are produced: weekly notice sheets, monthly magazine, invitations to the All Souls' Service, special service booklets, annual statistical returns, APCM booklets etc
- Each church has paid vergers for weddings and funerals
- All churches have organs. St George's and Holy Trinity have regular organists.

## The wider context – Deanery and Mission Community

The parish of Millom is part of Furness Deanery, which is in turn part of the Westmorland and Furness Archdeaconry which covers most of south Cumbria. The archdeaconry is within the Diocese of Carlisle which is led by Bishop Rt Rev Rob Saner-Haigh.

The deanery consists of 7 benefices, 18 parishes and 28 places of worship. There are 3 full-time and one part-time clergypersons, plus 1 permanent deacon. Naturally, there are a number of readers, lay leaders, and retired clergy within the deanery as well.

From a geographical and tourism perspective the deanery is in a lesser known – but no less naturally beautiful – part of the Lake District known as the Peninsulas, with High Furness residing within the National Park itself. Being one of the two peninsulas, the other being Cartmel, the deanery boundary is largely coastline bringing the beauty of the sea together with the beauty of the Cumbrian hills and lakes.

Furness deanery has a number of historical sites in addition to its natural beauty. There are the ruins of Furness Abbey next to the ancient town of Dalton. The active market town of Ulverston with its proud connection to Laurel & Hardy. There are the ancient iron works and quarries surrounding the town of Millom that once provided Barrow with materials, and the deanery even has its own prehistoric stone circle at Swinside near Millom. Finally, there is

Coniston Water the venue of past water-speed records set by Donald Campbell, and the Coniston Museum housing the famous Bluebird.

The parish of Millom is also part of the Furness Mission Community which is co-terminus with the deanery. The Diocese of Carlisle has formed mission communities across the diocese to facilitate missional initiatives from the parish churches within communities in their designated mission community. The intention is to establish patterns of regular prayer across the mission community; foster means of nurturing discipleship; encourage vocations; manage resources well through shared stewardship; and to keep mission at its core and focus.

The Furness mission community has a two-pronged focus of Growing Younger and Growing in Mission. There is a full-time Children & Families Worker who promotes and teaches schools work across the mission community. And currently the mission community is seeking to appoint a Network Youth Worker to focus on promoting work with young people.

The treasurer for Millom parish is also the Lay Chair of Furness Deanery Synod and a member of the Diocesan Synod so we are kept informed of issues beyond the parish and deanery.

## Our Churches

### Holy Trinity Church



The church is Grade 1 listed. The age of the building is uncertain. It has a restored Norman chancel, perhaps representing the site of an earlier church, and the nave has a very tall doorway dating to around 1120. The south aisle was added in the 14th century and subsequently enlarged to serve as a chantry chapel for the Huddleston family who held the Lordship of Millom for five centuries and occupied the



adjacent Millom castle.

Various restorations have taken place, the last being in 1930.

Recent developments: In 2020 the font was moved from the back of the church to a plinth in front of the east window in the south aisle to provide a bright and spacious baptistry area. Several pews have been removed at the back of the church to allow the installation of a refreshment bar and toilet and to provide more flexible space for social use. Following completion of the re-ordering of the church, numerous events listed within the profile have been held throughout the year.

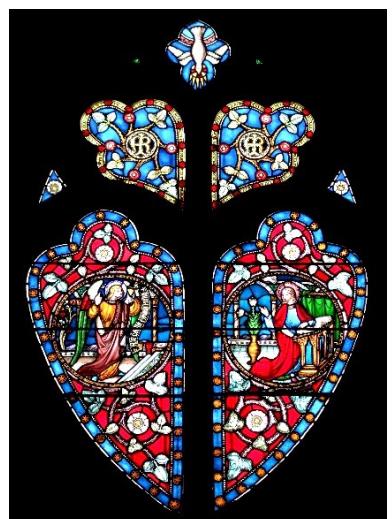
The general condition of the building is good and items identified in the last quinquennial inspection are regularly monitored by the wardens. They work hard to monitor and maintain the site. A team of volunteers act as sidespersons, chalice assistants, readers, vergers, flower arrangers, cleaners etc.

A service is held here on the second and fourth Sundays and there were around 20 occasional offices in 2024. The church is open on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays, with access possible at other times by contacting the wardens.

The churchyard is open for burials and the burial of ashes and is well maintained.

Of special historic interest are

- the charter from King Henry3 in 1251 granting permission for a fair to be held over Trinity weekend
- the alabaster tomb where Lady Margaret Neville, daughter of the Earl of Warwick, the Kingmaker, is buried with her husband, Sir Richard Huddleston (visited by Richardians)
- a copy of the letter from William Wordsworth describing his visit to Holy Trinity to attend the funeral service of his cousin John Myers, K.C. of Po House in 1821.
- Copies of sketches of Holy Trinity and Millom Castle by J.M.W. Turner.
- The Fish window, one of five in the UK, on the West wall of the Huddleston Chapel.



## St George's Church



St George the Martyr, or St George's, as it is affectionally called by the local community, was consecrated in 1877. The church was built to serve

the expanding population here involved in the mining of iron ore which was of a high quality and shipped around England. It was designed by Lancaster Architects, Paley and Austin, in Gothic Revival style (they also designed Holker Hall) and cost about £12,000 at the time (approaching £2,000,000 in 2025) and in September 1967 was given a heritage designation of Grade 2. It is usually open daily 1030 to 1730 for visitors and those wishing to pray privately.



The church is prominent in Millom due to its tall spire which can be seen from miles away. It is also famous for the beautiful Norman Nicholson window dedicated to the memory of Millom's famous poet who lived in St George's Terrace, worshipped in the church and is buried in the churchyard with his wife. Actress Felicity Kendal's grandparents were married here and singer Joan Baez's grandfather, William Bridges, was a curate at this church.

Throughout the year, there are events held at the church which it is hoped will encourage the local population to come and enjoy the church. It is the venue for the town's annual Service of Remembrance. Other events include a Local Craft Fair, an annual celebration of the poet Norman Nicholson's life, a community Warm Hub – for which funding has been obtained to run again in 2025 - and also a very popular Christmas Tree Festival with approximately 60 different groups represented.

We are keen to see more young people and families come to the church and worship and have money kept aside to offer a weekly Mother and Toddler Group, but, unfortunately, we do not have anyone able to run it

## St Luke's Church



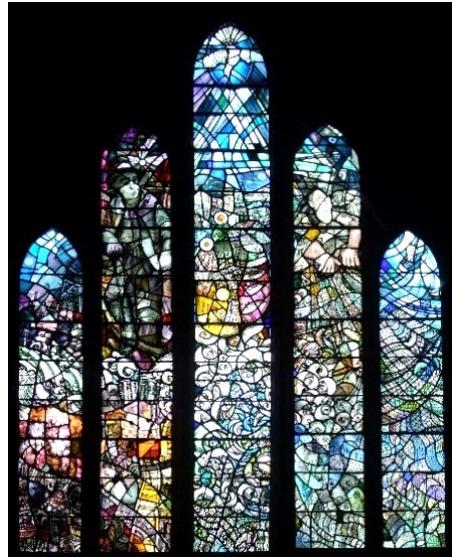
St Luke's Church was built as part of the expansion of the area in 1891. It is now recognised as a parish church and is the only place of worship in the village. The church underwent significant renovation in 2008 and in 2016 a toilet was installed in the porch and the heating boiler was replaced.



It has a wonderful modern west window by

Peter Strong, installed in 2002, which depicts the history of the village from a rural fishing port to an industrial mining community.

As mentioned earlier, St Luke's was on the brink of closing and now has a year (till Easter 2026) to prove its viability. An increased and invigorated DCC is in place together with a keen group of volunteers keen to raise the profile and organise events in support of the church. Well-attended services have taken place at Easter, on Sea Sunday and on Remembrance Sunday together with an exhibition to mark VE Day. As an additional support, the PCC has agreed to 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday services taking place at St Luke's. The last of these was very well attended by both villagers and members of the other Millom churches, with new voices from the village participating in the service. It was a joy to see the enthusiasm generated. A Christmas Tree Festival is to take place shortly and a Village Carol Service at Christmas.



## St Luke's Institute

Near the church, the Institute is a well-equipped church hall. It is the venue for the weekly Coffee and Chat groups and is hired out to community groups, adult education and for parties. It is licensed for worship.

All three churches have recently installed toilets and Holy Trinity and St George's have serveries for refreshments.

All have well-kept churchyards, though St George's is now closed. The town cemetery adjoins St George's churchyard. The upkeep of the churchyards at Holy Trinity and St George's are paid for by the DCCs and St Luke's churchyard is currently well-maintained by HMP Haverigg. All have RAF graves, with around 20 in St Luke's.

## **The Vicarage**

The vicarage was built in the mid-1980s in the grounds of St George's Church. Off the entrance hall is a study and toilet. In the main part of the house is a large, double aspect sitting room with doors to the back garden, a dining room, kitchen and utility room with access to the gardens and garage. Upstairs there are three double bedrooms and a

single bedroom, a bathroom and shower room

with toilet and hand basin. There is gas central heating throughout and the windows are hardwood double glazed. There are small gardens at the front with shrubs and lawn and a larger area at the back with a lawn and vegetable plot. There is a parking area in front of the garage with space for several cars.



## **Our Finances**

Our current parish offer is £32,000 and this has regularly been met.

Regular running costs are met from income. Individual churches manage their own finances and contribute to the Parish Account for payment of the offer and parish administrative costs. The Parish Treasurer administers this account and apportions fees from funerals to the individual churches.

The various parish accounts are accurately kept and independently examined each year.

The last quinquennial inspections took place in August 2021. All inspections identified significant expenditure in the outlook period. More immediate work has been carried out and St George's and Holy Trinity recommendations are regularly reviewed and some external funding has been obtained.

**We look forward to welcoming you to Millom!**