



Introduction

As neighbouring parishes, located on the south east side of the City of Carlisle, the Parishes of St Herbert, Elisabeth, St John are home to a mix of residential areas, springing up initially to accommodate the 19th century expansion which characterised Carlisle's industrial boom years, followed by a second phase of building in the post war years to accommodate a growing population. Together with Upperby Methodist Church they form **Carlisle South Mission Community** who have covenanted together (as part of the overarching Diocesan **God4All vision**) to work collaboratively to share leadership, resources and mission for greater local impact

Built in the interwar period to house Carlisle's growing population, Currock is a largely residential area, with easy access to the City Centre and nearby countryside (via the paths and cycleway lining the River Caldew) and is home to a population with a high proportion of families and young people which both the congregations and Bishop are keen to renew mission to.

Appointed initially for a fixed term of 5 years, the candidate appointed will be responsible for working with the Incumbent to discern opportunities for future growth across the three parishes (prioritising growing younger) whilst taking specific pastoral responsibility for the parish of St Herberts, working with the Incumbent and PCC's to discern opportunities to plant a New Worshipping Community that can appropriately serve its context in ways that connect effectively to the landscape of the surrounding community as it changes and grows.

Known locally as *St Herbert's Church*, we are situated on the main road of Blackwell Road which links the southern boundary of the City of Carlisle to the City Centre.

The congregation of St Herbert's are looking forward to welcoming a new associate priest. We want our church to thrive again as it used to, with a vibrancy that will attract new members of our community, especially families and young people. We need to develop our worship in new ways, while respecting the traditions that our church is based on. As a parish we want to work with our new priest to grow our mission in Currock.

Please join with us in praying for God to renew our mission and serve this area for the glory of Jesus, the good of the community and with the same spirit and faith as St Herbert.

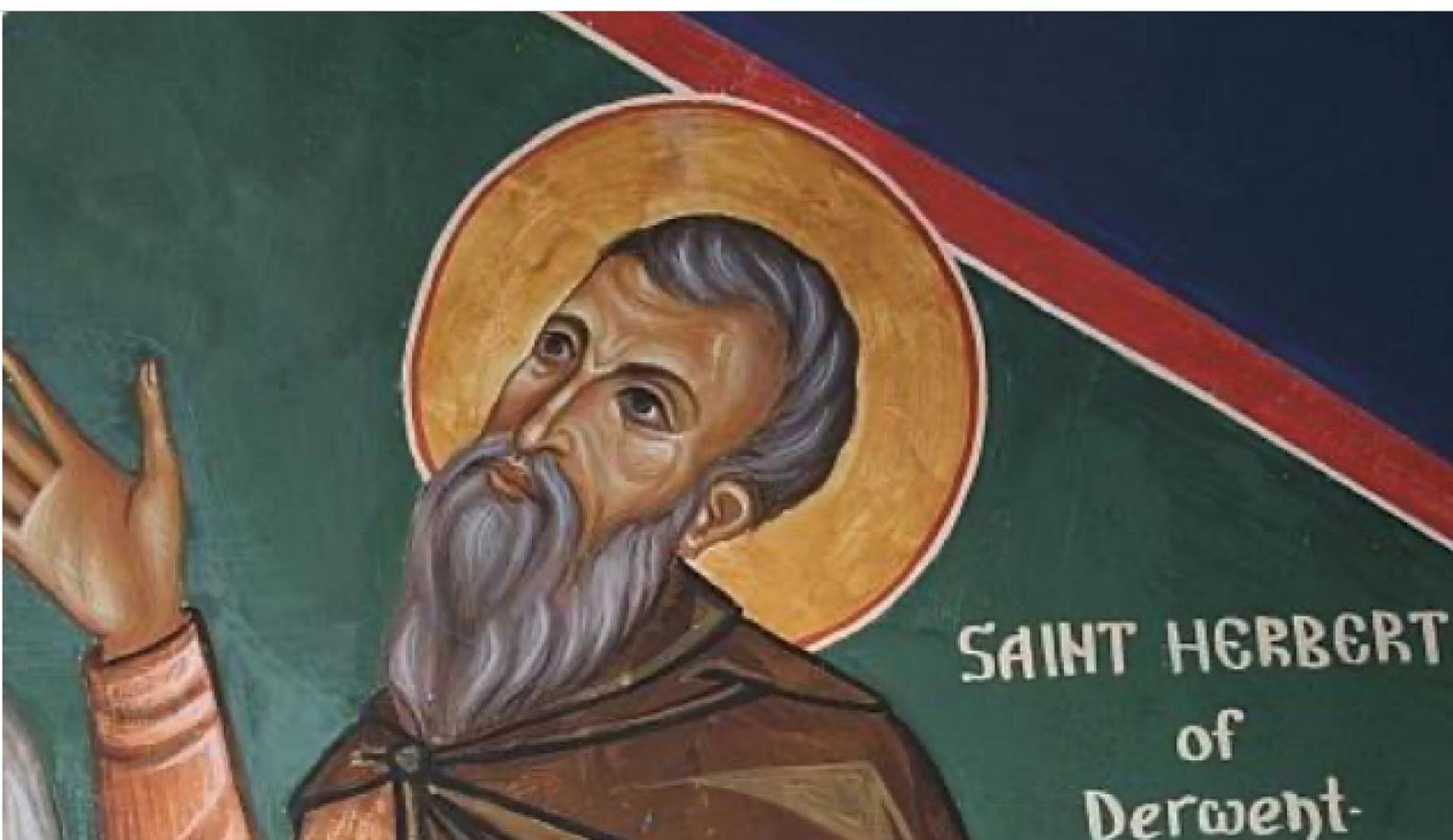
Person profile

We are looking for someone who is inspiring and energetic and with a deep faith and be able to engage and deepen the faith of existing church members as well as reach out to the wider community.

We are praying for someone who is approachable, able to relate to all types of people and with a good sense of humour. A team player who is forward looking and willing to share and develop ideas with others.

We would like someone who will (together with the incumbent) -

- Reach out to young people and their families, particularly through involvement with our connections with scouting, the local primary school and young people.
- Develop ways of caring pastorally for the older members of our community who may be housebound and no longer able to attend church.
- Build stronger links with the other churches in Carlisle South.
- Help each of us to develop our discipleship and witness as we work together to make St Herbert's an active and visible Christian presence in our area.
- Enable us to regrow through reaching new people, supporting them to grow as lifelong disciples of Jesus, through helping us revitalise our worship and mission and, working with our neighbouring churches, explore planting a new worshipping community or congregation to support this



Location

Carlisle is a 2000 year old city with two *Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty* and one *World Heritage Site*.

Known by many as the **Border City**, Carlisle is popular with visitors from around the world being home to the magnificent Carlisle Cathedral (founded in 1122 and famed for its stunning medieval stained glass including the great East Window), the imposing Carlisle Castle (a wellpreserved fortress begun by William II in 1092 that has guarded the English–Scottish border for centuries) and the remarkable Hadrian's Wall, a UNESCO World Heritage Site built by the Romans in AD 122 to mark the northern boundary of their empire.

Within easy reach of the Lake District, the Yorkshire Dales, the beautiful Solway coast and Scottish Border country, our city benefits from good transport links to Newcastle upon Tyne and Manchester (both with major airports) and by rail to Glasgow, Edinburgh and London.

Today, Carlisle stands on the brink of transformation, with a comprehensive programme to redevelop the town centre now underway, a rapidly expanding (and well recognised) university (with plans agreed for a new campus) and a major programme of housebuilding to accommodate the growth of our local population to serve the growing economy.

We are a city that is both deeply rooted and changing, and part of a church that seeks to serve this in ways that are faithful to Christ and meaningful to our communities



Our Parish

St Herbert's is a small urban parish in the Currock district within the City of Carlisle, situated just over 1 mile south west of the city centre, in a tightly knit, geographical compact area.

The current population is 5,353 and a significant proportion (40%) are older people. Currock is one of the most deprived areas in Carlisle and nationally.

With a mix of private, local authority and social housing located on two sizeable estates, the parish has expanded in recent years with the building of a new estate near Carlisle Racecourse (and further development likely in the coming years).

Local amenities are good, with a variety of small local shops; Co-op, Post Office, newsagents, butchers and chemist, as well as fast food outlets. The parish also has a GP branch surgery and a dental practice. Leisure facilities include gyms, ten-pin bowling and a snooker hall, along with Hammond's Park, which has a lake, café, miniature railway, sports ground and children's play park.

Within the parish there are two residential homes offering respite care for people with special needs and nursing care for the elderly. The Eden Valley Hospice, and Jigsaw Children's Hospice, which support all of North Cumbria are also situated in the parish. In the past our incumbents and members of the congregation have been involved in ministry to the residents. The parish also has a local authority community centre at Currock House and the Rock Youth Project works with the young people in the area.

There are no schools situated within the Parish, but we have very strong ties with the Bishop Harvey Goodwin Church of England primary school which (although situated in the neighbouring parish of St John's, Upperby), has always looked to St Herbert's for support as many of the pupils live in our parish. The incumbent of Carlisle South is a school governor, and we anticipate that the associate will be pastoral presence there.



Collaboration

Just a short walk away, **our sister churches (St John's & St Elisabeth)** serve our **neighbouring communities of Upperby and Harraby which include the** residential estates of Petteril Bank and Upperby, together with a large rural area extending southwards to Carleton, Brisco, Blackwell, and Durdar.

A new Southern Link Road is due to be completed in the autumn. A proposed *Garden Village* of approximately **10,000 new homes**, planned between the new road and Upperby which will significantly expand the parish, creating new opportunities for mission and ministry.

Schools & other services

There are several primary schools in the Upperby parish, including the Church school **Bishop Harvey Goodwin CE Primary School**. The new Roman Catholic secondary school, St John Henry Newman School, is also located within the parish, whilst the Harraby community is served by four further schools, health clinic and emergency services and a range of local shops and amenities on a compact but busy parade of shops near the church.

Our intention is that the clergy work collaboratively to grow mission across the group of parishes. With such a high number of schools and children and families locally, we would welcome someone with a call to and experience in reaching young people and families.

Carlisle South Mission Community

Launched in 2015, the Diocesan **God for All** vision is underpinned by a inter denominational commitment to grow God's Kingdom through the development of **Mission Communities** across the breadth of Cumbria, with a commitment to pray, plan, learn and work together as churches, fresh expressions and pioneers to more effectively reach the people around us with the gospel of Jesus.

St Herbert's is a founding member of the **South Carlisle Mission Community**, which includes St John's, Upperby, St Elisabeth's, Harraby and Upperby Methodist Church. Alongside this we are keen to develop other partnerships and points of mutual support and would welcome extending contact with other churches (which could in the future include the Catholic church of St Margaret Mary (also situated within our parish).

The Deanery

As well as work as a Mission Community, our clergy gather regularly to plan as a Deanery Chapter, which includes churches from every tradition within Anglicanism and leaders from a breadth of contexts including our university chaplain, two Network Youth Church Ministers and Pioneers from the Restore programme and provides a local network of mutual support and learning.

Deanery Prayer

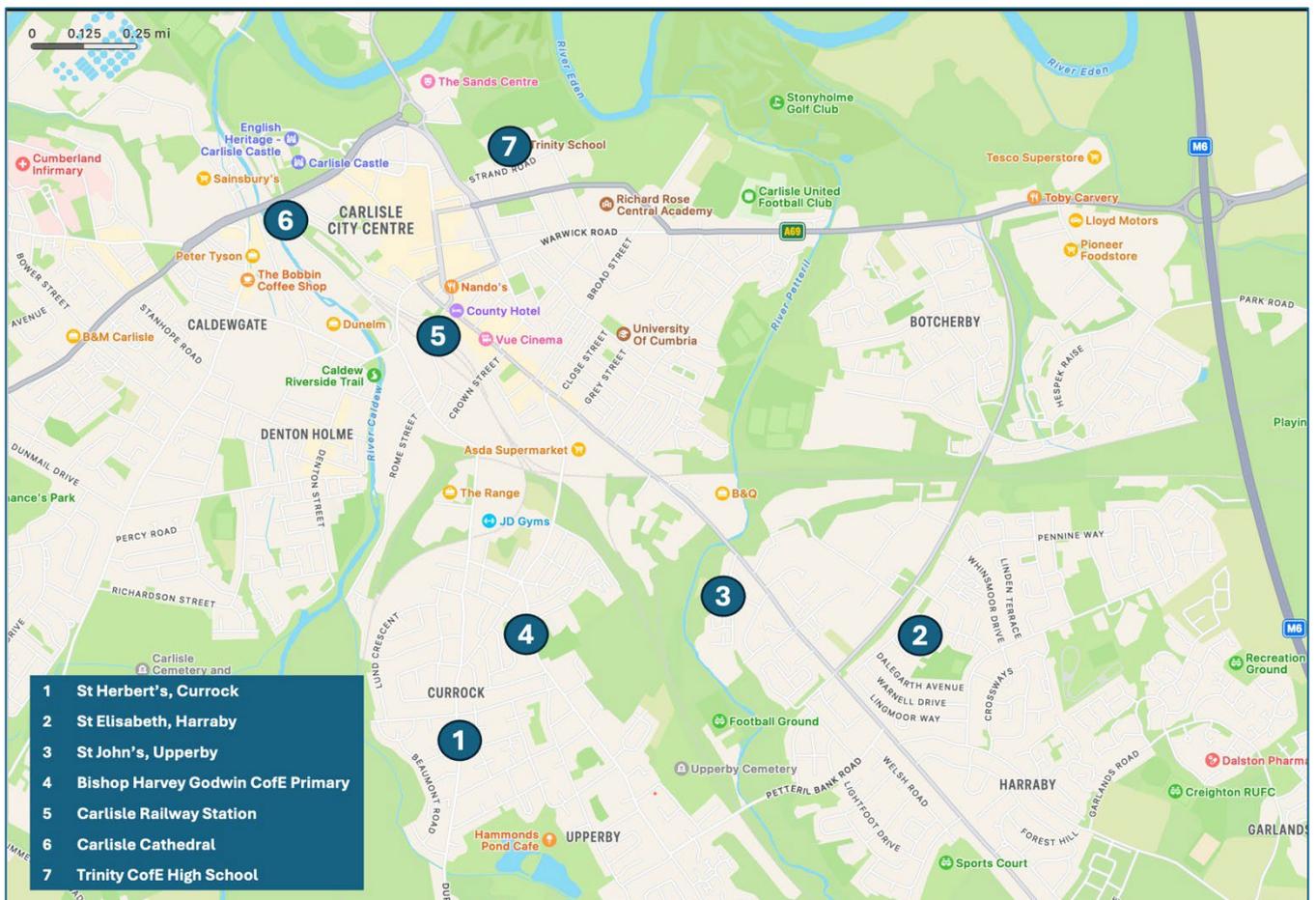
Dear Father in heaven, you give us in equal measure, twenty-four hours each day and seven days each week. Help us to walk with you day by day, so that, whether we are on our own, or in the company of others, our love for you will show.

Help us in our places of work, our times at home, and in our recreation, to always put you first. May your love for us and our love for you be seen and be used to draw others to Christ - who came not to be served but to serve and to give his life as a ransom for many. Amen.

Navigating the Area

Situated to the south west of the city centre, St Herberts is well connected to its sister parishes, to local schools and all the services of the City Centre which has excellent access via a comprehensive service, riverside cycle paths and footpaths

Fig 1. Map of the area



Letter from the Vicar

I have been Vicar of St Elisabeth's, St John's and St Herberts for a little over four months. After 19 years in multi-church rural ministry in the neighbouring Brampton Deanery, and several years latterly as Rural Dean, this present role is a return to urban ministry (having served for 9 years in two inner city Birmingham parishes).

It has been a joy to take up this post. *The warmth and the welcome from all three churches is making the process of settling feel very natural and positive. There are remarkable degrees of faith and commitment and love in many church members. The wider communities have many challenges, but there seems to be a huge potential for making connections and building relationships with individuals, groups and organisations.*

*Whilst all three churches have been through testing times over the last several years (Covid; the retirement of long-serving clergy at St Herbert's and St John's; the tragic deaths of a parish Priest and then of a Reader at St Elisabeth's and some unsettled times for St John's and St Elisabeth's pastorally), **the way that these churches have come through these challenging times gives great grounds for hope for the future.** The dedication and gifts of the Ministry Team and Church Officers, and the spiritual resilience of the congregations, are very evident. There is a widespread openness to looking outwards in mission as well as seeking spiritual growth within the church's common life.*

As we plan together for the future there is much to look forward to. St Elisabeth's is looking to the completion of a building project this year that will enable improved community use of the church. St Herbert's is looking forwards to its 'Revitalisation' and discerning opportunities to plant a new worshipping community or congregation and St John's looks to restore and build on its abiding pastoral connections with the local community, including its relationship with Bishop Harvey Goodwin School.

I am looking forward to sharing in mission and ministry with a colleague who will pray with us, who enjoys the richness of parochial ministry, team work and innovation, and who is excited by reaching out to the community and encountering God in it and who, alongside us, will share their own specialism across the three parishes (examples which might include -

- *Pioneering new work to reach children, young people and families*
- *Nurturing and teaching discipleship within the church*
- *Establishing new gatherings, courses or activities which engage those currently outside the church, helping us to engage with our thriving Scouts partnership, the Rock Youth Project, Currock Community Centre and Bishop Harvey Goodwin School.*

I look forward to sharing the journey!

Canon Edward Johnsen

Our Building



Built originally in 1932 as a mission hall to serve the new housing estates of Currock. our building was altered and extended in 1967-9, when the church hall was built. It has a plain, brick-built exterior, but the hammer-beam roof structure over the nave and the light and bright atmosphere inside gives the church character and a peaceful and prayerful atmosphere. There is seating for 120 people in the nave and Lady Chapel.

The church is a flexible space with water, toilets and office space. Whilst the building is currently in need of some modest repairs we are well supported by our churchwardens (one of whom is the Diocesan buildings officer, with significant expertise in this area and whom we are working with to secure grant funding to help with costs).

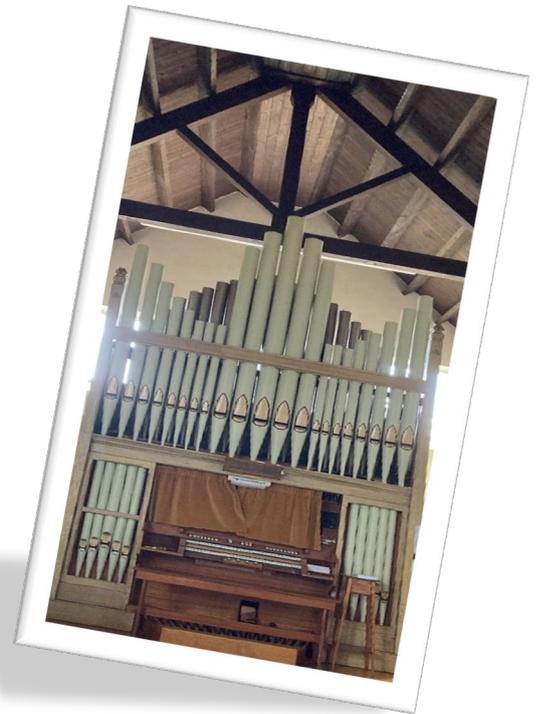


Worship

As well as a well-maintained pipe organ we have a digital sound system with a Bluetooth connection (so are never without accompaniment) and are keen to explore the use of music to enhance worship.

We use Common Worship and consider our church tradition to be liberal catholic, with a deep appreciation for eucharistic worship and liturgy.

We are hoping that the associate will want to introduce a more varied diet of services, including reinstating mid-week services and perhaps a second Sunday service to tailor worship to the different preferences and demographics in our community. We will support them in this and are anticipating that time spent listening to the community and discerning its needs will be reflected in the worship offered.



Our Congregation

- There are 34 people on the electoral roll, 50% of whom are not resident in the parish.
- 21 people attend on a typical Sunday, mostly elderly, long-standing and committed members of the church.
- We have several young people actively involved in Sunday worship, including a chalice assistant, server and several other teenagers/young adults. We are enthusiastic about encouraging children to take on liturgical roles and fully engage in services which we would like to be accessible to all ages.
- In the past year there have been 2 baptisms (but expect this to increase once we have appointed an Associate Priest as we begin to reconnect with the community).
- We were encouraged to realise that in the last two years our congregation grew by three, all within a younger demographic. Although only a small increase, this embodies the new confidence we have found under our new incumbent, and our hopes for the future.
- We are aware that there are opportunities to welcome and support refugees and those who have come to work in this country from around the world and have been taking steps towards engaging with these parts of the community, making some initial connections.
- We are keen to invite our community into church life and see festivals are a key opportunity for this, and we would like to develop our Christmas and Easter worship offer to maximise this opportunity.

Church Hall

Our church hall, with garden and car park, is situated between the church and the vicarage and has a large main hall, stage, kitchen, storeroom, toilets and a meeting room. Having served us well for many years, we are now in the final stages of formalising a partnership with the Scouts who will have their headquarters in the hall and assume responsibility for repair and renovation, whilst allowing the church use on Sunday Morning, for after-church hospitality (enabling us to focus on renewing ministry & mission using the main church building).

Housing

A detached vicarage is provided for the Associate Priest, situated to the west of the church and sharing a joint driveway.

The four-bedroomed house with garage was built in the late 1950s and was extended and modernised in the 1980s.



It is fully double-glazed and has gas central heating and office accommodation. There is a parking area and small garden at the front of the house and a large garden with fruit trees at the rear.

Safeguarding

St Herbert's is committed to Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, young people and vulnerable adults in line with national standards and policies.

Parochial Church Council

The PCC has 8 members, including 2 churchwardens, secretary, treasurer and Safeguarding Officer who are all committed to supporting an Associate Priest in growing a vibrant and flourishing Church.

Meetings are being held monthly.

Finance

St Herbert's has for some time struggled financially, especially since the Covid pandemic.

We have a freewill offering scheme but declining numbers and reduced opportunities for fundraising events have reduced our income year on year, meaning our ministry offer has greatly reduced.

We hope that the associate will help us to reverse this trajectory with support from the incumbent, the Diocese and the national investment. There are some reserves and we benefitted from previous grant-funding. The Diocese offers support through the Generous Giving team to help parishes like St Herbert's strengthen giving and financial planning.

APPENDIX 1 – MISSION & FINANCE

1.1, Finance & Generosity.

Table 1. Key financial data (2024 figures)

Income	£22.9k (of which £13.5k came from congregational giving and gift aid)
Expenditure	£19.8k
Parish Share	£4k
Planned giving	£8.6k
Number of planned givers	18
Average giving	£9.16p/week
Reserves	£36,950 (unrestricted)

1.2, Local Demographics

St Herbert's is in an area of high deprivation, with a more youthful population than is nationally typical, with a high proportion of people with Christian heritage.

Table 2. Census Data (2021)

Of a parish population of 5,353...	48% identified as Christian
	46% as being 'non-religious'
	Approx 38% of people were under 30
	15% of people were over 65
	Average household size was 2.26 people
	There was a high level of deprivation (this parish is in the bottom 7% of all parishes nationally)

1.3, Mission Data

Whilst Sunday attendance and occasional offices are currently low, analysis of the period 2016-2020 shows a thriving church with a high number of young people and a strong local appetite to engage with occasional offices

- Occasional offices have suffered in the period of vacancy (just 2 baptisms in 2025 vs. 27 baptisms in 2018, 23 in 2019)
- Currently, in a congregation of 21 people attending on a usual Sunday (USA), approx. 2 would be under 18 (compared to 10/70 attending on a usual Sunday in 2018, in a larger worshipping community where 75/160 were under 18).

Given the high proportion of young people living and the historical engagement of local young people with the church, we would love to see this mission to young people renewed in some way as a result of this appointment

APPENDIX 2 – FURTHER INFORMATION

Our Churches

- St Elisabeth Harraby - <https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/12270>
- St John's Upperby - <https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/12274/>
- St Herbert with St Stephen, Currock - <https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/12269>

Our Diocese

- Diocesan website: <https://www.carlisediocese.org.uk> • Carlisle Diocesan Investment Programme: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8r7TvNsn32g>
- Network Youth Church (our Diocesan programme for engaging young people in mission and discipleship): <https://networkyouthchurch.org.uk>
- <https://godforall.org.uk> (the Cumbrian wide ecumenical partnership)
- Our Cathedral: <https://carlislecathedral.org.uk>

Local Schools

- Bishop Harvey Goodwin (CofE primary) - <https://www.bishopharveygoodwin.co.uk>
- Trinity School - <https://trinity.cumbria.sch.uk>

Resources about the region

- Discover Carlisle: <https://www.discovercarlisle.co.uk>
- Visit the Lake District: <https://www.visitlakedistrict.com/explore/carlisle>
- Discover Cumbria: <https://cumbriaguide.co.uk>

Our University

- University of Cumbria: <https://www.cumbria.ac.uk>

Sports, Leisure, Entertainment

- Sports & Wellbeing: <https://www.cumberland.gov.uk/parks-culture-and-leisure/sportsand-physical-activity/sports-health-and-wellbeing-carlisle>
- The Sands Leisure Centre: <https://www.better.org.uk/leisure-centre/cumberland/thesands-leisure-centre>
- Carlisle United Football Club: <https://www.carlisleunited.co.uk>
- The Old Fire Station: <https://www.ofscarlisle.co.uk>
- Arts & Museums: <https://www.discovercarlisle.co.uk/discover/arts-and-culture/>

