



# The Lunesdale & Endmoor Mission Community





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## Welcome and introduction

This is an exciting opportunity to work with a diverse group of churches, and to join an enthusiastic ecumenical ministry team and dedicated community of faithful people committed to sharing God's love in this idyllic area, which John Ruskin described as 'one of the loveliest views in England...'

Kirkby Lonsdale was voted as one of the 'Best places to live 2025' by *The Times*. It is a great place also in which to work. The Lake District National Park, the Yorkshire Dales National Park and other Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty are within easy reach. In our ecumenical setting we are looking for someone who is flexible and confident to minister to both Anglican and Methodist churches in our small market town, and in the Anglican churches in surrounding rural villages and hamlets. We welcome new insights, gifts, and graces to enable us to further our vision and grow the church.



## Our strengths and opportunities

**W**e are a leader in ecumenical integration, community involvement and pioneering mission in South Cumbria and our new minister will benefit from solid foundations. ( <https://kl.church/> )

- Well-established inter-denominational working through Christians together in Lunesdale (CTiL)
- Broad and dedicated lay support across our administrative, pastoral, and missional activities.
- Active involvement with local schools, and other community organisations.
- An eight-year Family Project ( [https://www.facebook.com/familiesinlunesdale/?\\_rdr](https://www.facebook.com/familiesinlunesdale/?_rdr) ) with funded leader for at least a further two years. This engages newer families and has extended our traditional worship offering with regular volunteer-led Messy (indoor) and Forestry (outdoor) groups.
- A funded parish administrator.
- Wonderful and dedicated volunteers who help throughout the mission community.

The ordained team consists of a self-supporting team vicar, a Methodist presbyter/authorised in the role of team vicar (for one further year) and the support of a supernumerary Methodist presbyter.

There are many exciting opportunities for the new person to help grow the mission community further. For example:

- Better unifying the different geographical communities and traditions into a cohesive mission community.
- Developing our engagement in Endmoor village where the church building is not located within the community.
- Leading a more engaged and sustainable Christian relationship with non-regular church-goers. We have opened the door, but we need a better way to provide this congregation with spiritual substance and guidance, and to receive back time and financial support from them.
- To develop our relationship with the Queen Elizabeth School (QES) and QE Studio Schools' pupils and staff, and with the local primary schools.
- To increase our impact on visitors. The major restoration project for St. Mary's Church will enable us to build a focus for this mission.

# Our mission community

The Lunesdale and Endmoor Mission Community covers a popular rural area in south Cumbria bordering the Yorkshire Dales. In fact four of our villages lie in the Yorkshire Dales National Park. The main urban centre is the market town of Kirkby Lonsdale (<https://www.kirkbylonsdale.co.uk/>), with Endmoor six miles away rapidly becoming an expanding commuter settlement for Kendal, and seven other villages and hamlets.

The resident population of nearly 5,000 is broadly split between two demographics, both with low ethnic diversity.

One demographic is local and deeply-rooted. Mainly agricultural and service-industry based, they have a broad social and age cross-section, including pockets of deprivation and seasonal need. They suffer housing pressures due to the prevalence of over 300 rentals and second homes in the area.

The other demographic is professional families who move in to work at home or commute to local towns and cities, attracted by our good fibre-optic broadband and excellent road and rail links. Some stay into their retirement, to be joined at that stage by others. Many young people go away to university, few of whom return to the area.

Another distinct community served by the mission community is the excellent Queen Elizabeth School (<https://qes.org.uk/>) and adjacent Studio School – a population of 1,500 secondary-age children and over 200 staff, from a wide surrounding area.

Overall, there is an encouraging 60/40 split in the mission community between those who consider themselves Christian and those who say they have no religion. Baptism numbers were 40% of the 24 births in 2024, 66% of the 62 deaths had a Christian funeral.



# Our worshipping communities

## Messy Church

'Messy' is a well-attended and established group led by gifted and committed lay people and supported by the clergy. We follow the general Messy Church principles and a hot meal is always enjoyed by everyone. This group has grown into a distinct worshipping community. Messy has a Facebook page ( [Please click here](#) )

## Foresty

This began as an experiment but has become embedded as a new worshipping community. We are blessed to have excellent, accessible, and extensive safe outside spaces. Foresty usually takes place on the Glebe, a very special green area where it is easy to connect with nature and the beauty of creation. Foresty explores our relationship and stewardship of God's creation in creative ways, using land art, a fire-pit and very importantly making s'mores!

## Kirkby Lonsdale, St. Mary's CofE Church

The Church of St. Mary the Virgin sits right at the heart of the Kirkby Lonsdale community and is a much-loved ancient mediaeval building, Grade 1 listed, with major church status. Our faithful congregation meets regularly for Sunday worship, with liturgies varying from Common Worship to an Iona format as well as mid-week Communion. Every third month there is an ecumenical service with Kirkby Lonsdale Methodist Church. The church is open from dawn 'til dusk with high footfall throughout the week. There is a special area equipped for families to use at anytime and the church attracts thousands of visitors each year, contributing to the economy of the town. The church is linked with St. Mary's CofE Primary School and the incumbent is an *ex officio* school governor. ( <https://stmarys.kl.church/> ) In 2019 the churches in Kirkby Lonsdale agreed "that the churches, the surroundings and the rectory buildings be creatively and sustainably utilised for the benefit of the local community,

visitors and the ministry and mission of the church". We have recently submitted a development application to the National Lottery Heritage Fund to repair the roof and tower, replace the clock, increase the bells from six to eight and reorder the building for better community use. Extensive work is ongoing to ensure St Mary's has a reliable, operational and sustainable future. In addition to regular annual art exhibitions,



concerts and school services, 'St Mary's Events' is bringing theatre, folk music and concerts into the building throughout the year. ( <https://stmarysevents.kirkbylonsdale.org/> )

## Kirkby Lonsdale Methodist Church

KLMC is a friendly welcoming mixed-age congregation with a Sunday Club for children. Worship is varied and inclusive with a range of styles and music, led by a worship group. A variety of Methodist, Anglican and other preachers provide a rich breadth of preaching and teaching.

We believe in 'Real Life – God with us; Real Hope – growing and Real Difference – sharing God's love'. The spacious modern hall with an enclosed garden and adjoining schoolroom are well used during the week by church and community for meetings, fellowship/Bible groups, a prayer group, and a variety of community activities including the Art Society, choirs, yoga/exercise classes, a quarterly Men's Breakfast, the weekly Meet to Eat community café and See & Know for pre-school-age children and their parents/carers, as well as several youth uniformed groups. (<https://www.klmethodist.church/>)

The church building was recently registered for same-sex marriage, with the authorised person being a local presbyter from a nearby part of the Cumbria Circuit. There is no requirement for the future incumbent to officiate at same-sex marriages.

### **Barbon, St. Bartholomew's CofE Church**

St Bartholomew's Church has a mixed congregation of Anglicans and Methodists with varied styles of worship led by clergy, lay leaders and local preachers. They host 'coffee cake & chat' outreach for the community each month in the village hall. There is a weekly ecumenical prayer and fellowship group meeting in the village, and bell ringing instruction also takes place here. This

is often the preferred church for weddings. (<https://barbon.org.uk/church/>)

### **Casterton, Holy Trinity CofE Church**

Holy Trinity is unusual in that it is both a school chapel and a church for the community. The school has a Friday morning service – open to all – throughout the school calendar. During the year the two roles are brought together with the annual Christingle and harvest services. The rest of the year the building largely sees festival services. (<https://www.castertonchurch.org/>)

### **Hutton Roof, St. John's CofE Church**

A small village church with a fascinating link to the Rev'd Theodore Bayley Hardy, WW1 local vicar and chaplain who was killed before the end of the fighting and was awarded the VC. The small congregation are exploring how they can better serve and involve their community. They meet for worship twice a month with one Holy Communion and a second clergy or lay-led service. They hold a community harvest supper in the refurbished village hall each year, and support the local fell race and other community events on occasions.

### **Lupton, All Saints' CofE Church**

All Saints' Church has been serving its community since 1867 and is at the heart of village life. Its



## Partner churches

calendar is filled with much-loved gatherings, from Rogation walks to a lambing service, BBQs to harvest festival and harvest supper and on to Christingle. The congregation are relaxed and informal and are welcoming and caring. Sharing food does feature quite often and the Lupton-run local dances regularly attract a wide range of different people from around the area.

### **Mansergh, St. Peter's CofE Church**

This serves a small yet very active community, including young families. The worship is largely traditional with a monthly Holy Communion and additional services at the festivals, eg. they recently held a pet service for the first time. In addition, other occasions such as the harvest supper and 'coffee, cake and chat' are community outreach events and are held in the excellent community hall in the hamlet. Other gatherings shared together are the May bluebell walk, and an Easter egg hunt.

### **Middleton, The Holy Ghost CofE Church**

There has been a church on this site from 1634, but unfortunately major structural issues have forced the permanent closure of the building. However, celebrations of the major festivals continue in the churchyard where up to thirty people from the scattered hamlet gather together for worship and fellowship.

### **Preston Patrick, St. Patrick's CofE Church**

St. Patrick's is the church on top of the hill by the M6 with the illuminated cross. The people are welcoming, and pastoral. They use a range of contemporary and traditional musical styles in worship.

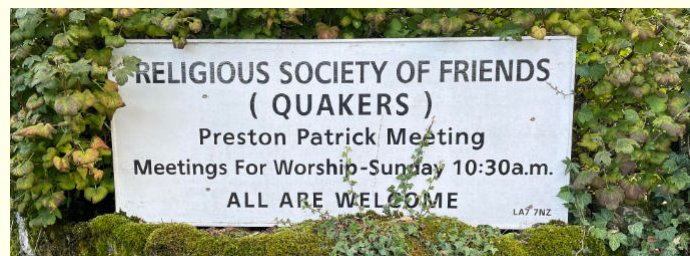
The church has strong links with St. Patrick's School in Endmoor and facilitates 'Open the Book' where the leaders and pupils act out stories from the Bible. They host 'Meet to Eat', a community café in Endmoor Village Hall, and hold community events such as the annual plant sale.

( <https://prestonpatrick.org/> )

**St Joseph's Catholic church in Kirkby Lonsdale**  
A small welcoming church, with weekly Mass. The church is a part of CTiL, hosting various events and meetings. The church is active in supporting refugees, offering the flat above the church for families to stay, recover from trauma and integrate into UK society, thus eventually becoming independent.

### **The Quaker meeting house in Preston Patrick**

This community holds weekly meetings and participates in CTiL activities, such as leading a session during each Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. ( [Please click here](#) )



## Communications

We are fortunate to have several means of communication within our community. The well-established *AKL (Around Kirkby Lonsdale)* – a local community magazine produced by the church – gets distributed throughout the mission community and is available online ( <https://kirkbylonsdale.org/> ) We send out weekly notices and a monthly Family Project newsletter, and support the Around Kirkby Lonsdale group on Facebook. St. Patrick's Church also has a local community church magazine.



# Church governance

In 2019 a local ecumenical covenant (<https://www.therainbowparish.org/images/lec.pdf>) was agreed and signed between the Rainbow Parish, Kirkby Lonsdale Methodist church, and St Joseph's Catholic church. Whilst not a legal arrangement this covenant informs our activity and relationship as a mission community.

## The Rainbow Parish PCC

Around 1975, seven Anglican churches in Lunesdale became a single parish. Each church was given a colour and so the team became known as the Rainbow Parish. One more church joined the parish in 2004, making a unique eight-banded rainbow! There is one PCC and each of the local churches has their own district church council. The PCC meets six times a year. It is usually chaired by the lay chairman and the parish manager is the secretary. There is also a standing committee which can act for the PCC in defined situations to avoid having to have a full meeting. The parish has 244 on the electoral roll. The patrons are the Master, Fellows and Scholars of Trinity College of the University of Cambridge, King Henry VIII's Foundation, and the Church Pastoral Aid Society Patronage Trust.

## DCCs (District Church Councils)

The DCCs arrange their meetings individually, and manage their finances and missional activities with the support of the ministry team.

## Kirkby Lonsdale Methodist Church Council

The church council are the appointed trustees and meet four times a year including the general church meeting. The presbyter has pastoral oversight of the church. Day to day the church is supported by the stewards, working as a leadership team with the minister. The minister, and stewards are responsible to the church council which has authority over the whole of the ministry of the church.

## The Cumbria Methodist Circuit

This came into being on 1st September 2025

(making us co-terminous with the Carlisle Diocese). Not only does this help us to work ecumenically across Cumbria but, being able to draw on the resources of this large circuit, we aim to enable local churches to flourish in their mission. Our circuit vision statement is based on the four principles of the Cumbrian God for All Project, namely to: Follow Daily, Care Deeply, Speak Boldly, and Tread Gently.

Cumbria Methodist Circuit is part of the North West England District <https://nwedmethodists.org.uk/> and covers a geographically large area with some eighty-two congregations: ([www.cumbriamethodists.org.uk](http://www.cumbriamethodists.org.uk))

Kirkby Lonsdale Methodist Church has sixty-nine members, with one Methodist presbyter currently working 0.5 with this church and 0.5 authorised in the role of team vicar in the Anglican parish. As Cumbria is an Ecumenical County, existing relationships between churches are strengthened by Cumbria's ecumenical 'God for All' mission initiative (<https://godforall.org.uk/>), with groups of churches throughout the county forming ecumenical mission communities.





### **Kendal Deanery**

This is a geographically varied deanery, centred on Kendal but stretching from Garsdale in the east to the Winster Valley in the west, from Kirkby Lonsdale in the south to Longsledale in the north, from deeply rural dales and valleys, villages and scattered farming communities to smaller towns and the larger ancient market town of Kendal. It is a great place in which to live and work, with all the local services to hand including good schools and easily accessible road and rail links to London and Scotland, but with amazing countryside and seaside on the doorstep. Parts of the deanery are in the Lake District National Park, others in the Yorkshire Dales National Park and yet more in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty bordering Morecambe Bay, and all are within easy reach of Kirkby Lonsdale.

The churches in the area are grouped into ecumenical mission communities as part of the county-wide God For All vision (<https://godforall.org.uk/>) and these are important in enabling effective mission in the local areas and in providing mutual support in terms of both mission and ministry. There are thirty-four mission communities across the county, dozens of fresh expressions of church are growing and new and exciting ways are being realised to empower everyone's missional gifts. The clergy chapter is a friendly and supportive group of ecumenical colleagues who meet together on a monthly basis for fellowship, prayer and support. The mission community centred on Kirkby Lonsdale is one of seven across the area of the deanery and formally includes all the Methodist and Anglican churches and congregations in the area.

# Mission and community engagement

## **T**he Churches in Lunesdale Family Project

This is a joint initiative between the Rainbow Parish and Kirkby Lonsdale Methodist Church. It is our response to the national and local decline of families engaging with faith and the church and it grew out of much discussion, debate and prayer.

In 2017 the full-time project leader was recruited to be part of the ministry leadership team. So much more than just a 'hands on' children and families worker, she enabled the churches to build new bridges with families and community stakeholders, developing creative ways for meaningful engagement, and building and encouraging teams of volunteers to facilitate these different activities. The project serves two CofE primary schools, one secondary school and its associated Studio School, and one independent prep school.

The project aim is to help families with children in our communities discover more of God and God's purpose for their lives, particularly aiming at those with whom the local church previously had little or no contact. We aim to be 'strategic' – to develop our understanding of the barriers to people engaging with the Gospel and its relevance to their lives. Also, to be 'practical' – directly engaging with families and their children in a way that is meaningful to them and ultimately leads them to faith and worship.

Over the last five years the attendance at Family Project groups has increased despite fewer people attending time-honoured church services. The family project activities have been responsive to need and have been grown around the interests and concerns of those who gather.

Those which have seen the greatest consistent attendance are See & Know, Foresty, Messy and also craft-days during each school holiday. Here relationships have been formed and have become sustainable and self-directed. The highly valued work within the primary schools has also been key to building connection and trust, developing and enabling faith that 'sticks'.

We are currently in a period of review as our previous project leader sadly moved to a wider diocesan role at the end of November. We aim to recruit soon, having two years funding remaining, meanwhile all the existing activities are continuing with the leadership of lay leaders. We remain committed to the Family Project – a significant percentage of our shared missional activity happens in its sphere and there is much opportunity for this work to continue to thrive and develop.



## **See & Know**

See and Know is a very long established and well-loved group and provides a safe and happy space for pre-school-age children and their parents or carers to meet each Thursday morning in the Methodist church hall, 9.30am-11.30am. The sessions begin with a welcome drink followed by chat, play, singing, Bible stories, crafts and refreshments. During the year we have had between twenty and thirty families attending regularly and on average, six helpers per session.

## **Meet to Eat community cafés**

M2E is a 'not for profit' initiative run and supported by church members along with other community volunteers, who provide the soup and puddings or organise and serve on the day. It takes place every Wednesday in term time from 12 to

1pm (drinks and biscuits from 11am as part of the 'warm spaces' initiative) at Kirkby Lonsdale Methodist Church hall. All are welcome, whatever their ages!

There is also a Meet to Eat fortnightly in Endmoor Village Hall. This too is a volunteer-led community café serving soups, salad and cake.

### **Coffee, Cake and Chat**

This takes place on the last Monday of each month, hosted in Barbon village hall. Mansergh also holds a monthly event.

### **Christians Together in Lunesdale**

We celebrate good working relationships via the active Christians Together group which creates a forum for deepening relationships and cooperation between Christians, discerning and developing a range of mission initiatives in the area.

Christians Together in Lunesdale (CTiL) promotes informed understanding of, and respect for, the gifts of various denominations and bodies locally and to encourage sharing, praying, worshipping,

and working together. Areas of difference are explored and overcome if at all possible. By working together, we aim to demonstrate Christian unity and to find opportunities to put this into practice. We come together for shared worship and celebrate festivals via Lent groups and an annual Good Friday open-air service in the Market Square. We participate in the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity and share in a covenant service together. Our members include Anglicans, Catholics, Quakers, and Methodists.

### **Fellowship groups**

There is a Monday afternoon fellowship group fortnightly in KL Methodist Church hall.

A Wednesday evening Bible Study also takes place twice a month.

### **The Men's Breakfast**

This usually takes place once a quarter in the KL Methodist Church hall, welcoming people of faith and no faith. Food, fellowship, and discussion are usually themed on a Christian subject with a talk by an invited speaker.



# Missionary links

**Kisa Family Development Project, Uganda**  
Kisa advances the education of children and young adults in rural Uganda to break the cycle of poverty by providing skills training, financial literacy, community co-operatives and enterprise projects; relieves sickness and supports those with disabilities.  
( <https://kisaproject.co.uk> )

**The Good Samaritan Orphanage, Vellatur, Andhra Pradesh, South India**  
This is supported by a local UK charity to help Ratnam and Suneetha Pallikonda, pastor and teacher, fulfil their vision of setting up an orphanage to help the large number of poor and 'untouchable' children and to improve conditions for people in this rural part of India. The project has grown from eight children in 2002 to over 150 at the main site with nearly 100 children on two

other sites, and also now runs a primary school..  
( <https://www.goodsamaritanorphanage.org.uk/> )

**The Amasango Career School in Grahamstown/ Makhanda, South Africa**  
The Amasango School takes some of South Africa's poorest and most deprived children through an accelerated primary education, to enable them to catch up with their peers and move on to high school or to employment.  
( <https://www.amasango.org.uk/> )

**Link with Norway**  
The Carlisle Diocese has a link with Stavanger Diocese and Grødem Church. We have enjoyed a visit from the church at Grødem and seek to exchange ideas and learn from each other. They were particularly interested in our ecumenical work and in the Family Project.



## Our new mission community leader...

If we were to write the ideal CV it would look something like this –

- Dedicated to working collaboratively and ecumenically in all ways.
- A visionary for embedding the mission community identity.
- A good leader, resilient and with life and ministry experience.
- A team player, capable of bringing people together, encouraging and growing lay-led teams.
- Able to build on our good foundations, encouraging unity whilst celebrating diversity, and developing opportunities for growing our Christian communities through discipleship and worship.
- Able to continue to provide a range of worship across the different parts of the mission community as well as being supportive of the newer worshipping communities and experimental groups.
- Being competent to manage the governance and responsibilities of the church councils.
- Being confident as a community leader and able to nurture good working relationships with stake holders.

Your personal attributes and skills:

- A person who has a prayerful, deep lively faith.
- An excellent communicator, across the generations in all mediums.

- Warm and pastoral.
  - An engaging preacher, educator, and enabler.
  - Able to work as part of a team and manage lay employees.
  - A creative thinker who welcomes the ideas and creativity of others.
  - A good time manager and able to work well with staff and volunteers.
  - Considerate and measured in a crisis.
- And it's essential to have a sense of humour as well as more practically to be a driver with your own vehicle.



## The parsonage

The Diocese is currently acquiring a new fully appointed parsonage in Kirkby Lonsdale with access to excellent schools and services. Further information will become available in due course.

## Finance

Here are links to the end of year accounts for 2024, first for the Anglican Rainbow Parish: ( [Please click here](#) ) and then for Kirkby Lonsdale Methodist Church: ( [Please click here](#) ) NB These two links are provided solely for the information of those interested in the mission community vacancy. Please do not copy or distribute them more widely unless with permission.



## Local services and major transport links

**Schools**  
Within KL we have St Mary's CofE Primary School, ( <https://www.stmarys-kl.cumbria.sch.uk/> ) and Queen Elizabeth School / Studio School. ( <https://ges.org.uk> ) Also within the mission community lie St. Patrick's CofE Primary School in Endmoor and Sedbergh Preparatory School, Casterton. There is an FE college in Kendal.

### Universities

The University of Cumbria at Lancaster ( [Please click here](#) ), The University of Lancaster ( <https://www.lancaster.ac.uk/> ), and The University of Central Lancashire, Preston ( <https://www.lancashire.ac.uk/> )

### Health services

There are two dental practices in Kirkby Lonsdale, and the Lunesdale Surgery GP medical practice. ( <https://www.lunesdalesurgery.co.uk/> ) Hospitals include the Westmorland General Hospital on the near side of Kendal – ten miles – ( [Please click here](#) ) and The Royal Lancaster Infirmary – twenty miles – ( [Please click here](#) )

### Recreation

There are a range of excellent sports clubs and leisure facilities, and numerous groups and activities to enjoy.

### Shopping

Kirkby Lonsdale has a Booths supermarket, a variety of smaller and specialist shops, and plentiful cafés and restaurants. Larger retail centres nearby include Kendal – twenty minutes driving time from KL – and Lancaster – thirty minutes.

### Road and rail routes

We are on the A65, which runs from Kendal via Endmoor, Kirkby Lonsdale and Settle to Skipton and Leeds. However, there is not a lot of public transport. Junction 36 of the M6 is six miles from KL, giving easy and speedy routes north and south. Oxenholme station on the West Coast Main Line, which is twenty minutes away, offers fast rail services to Manchester, the Midlands and London, and to Glasgow and Edinburgh.



## Our mission community prayer during this vacancy

**G**od our Father,  
you have welcomed each  
one of us in Jesus Christ,  
and called us to be His body in this  
place.

At this time of uncertainty and  
change, hold us fast.

Send your Holy Spirit, to inspire  
faithfulness in unity, prayer, and  
worship.

May we be true to our vision to help  
our communities discover more of  
God

and God's purpose for their lives.

Guide us with your wisdom and  
grace,

as together we listen and watch and  
wait.

Prepare the heart of your servant  
elect to hear your call to serve with  
us here.

May they be ready to walk alongside  
with humility and joy,

to encourage our faith, and to lead  
us by example in loving obedience  
to your son, our Saviour, Jesus  
Christ.

Amen.



# The Lunesdale & Endmoor Mission Community

