

**Community Hub  
Mission Enabler**

**ST. MARY  
WESTFIELD**

**Workington Deanery**



**0.6 FTE Licenced Lay role**

**Lay or Ordained applicants welcome**

**To work in collaboration with to-be-appointed St. Mary Church, Westfield House for Duty Priest**

## Could this be you?

### Opening the doors

Could you be part of the continuing story of a church and community space that has, by God's grace, been transformed? Could you be the person who opens the doors wide in love? Are you convinced that everyone who walks through them has something unique to bring to the kingdom of God? Can you enable them to develop and grow?

### Spotting potential

Could you continue to recognize and build up and enable leaders of all ages and stages of faith to be part of the growing network of groups in Westfield?

### Connecting the dots

Could you work across communities of all faiths and none to build up social capital in Westfield for the benefit of all? The role aims to bring fruitfulness to the people of Westfield.



### Telling the stories

Westfield has a positive story to tell. From a posture of inclusive welcome, inspired by the Holy Spirit, that has transformed this particular church and community and led to significant local leadership developing. This story begs to be told and replicated for the sake of other places in and beyond Cumbria.

## A story of sudden but long prayed for growth...

**St. Mary Church is a church building that was underused in an area that felt quite overlooked. Just three years later, this is a story of astonishing growth: it has a busy parish centre and hall, with social groups and new worshipping communities with 80 plus regularly making this their home and a Sunday congregation that has grown from 6 to between 25-35. This is a church that has reached a whole community with the welcome of Christ and is bringing transformation.**

How did this happen? The answer isn't just good ideas, or sudden investment, but prayer and believing that focusing on Jesus and people was enough. Longed for change and faithful prayer, along with some good practices and postures has opened the door for an amazing work of God in this place. This is now a time of change as a much loved leader moves on to a new calling. A strength of her leadership enabled considerable local participation with many people becoming involved in the life of this church at various levels. Many have grown into positions of leadership, but do not necessarily yet see themselves as leaders.

It is this participation, alongside the wider life of the church in this community, that this new role is seeking to foster. The new worshipping communities and groups that have been welcomed, need to find that continued welcome, but be supported in developing their ongoing leadership and potential.

Could you be that facilitator, and support those on the ground who are leading this work but hesitant to call themselves leaders by:

- Connecting and developing mission with church and community;
- Building confidence in local leaders;
- Managing a building that will need some development and engage others in that work;
- Overseeing hospitality, encouraging a culture of safe welcome and inclusivity, and potentially develop a community café;
- Continuing to develop community connections and to network with the Diocese and ecumenical partners;
- Continuing to develop generosity in and between different users of the space;
- Co-ordinating the development of our facilities, including grant applications and fundraising, alongside overseeing general maintenance and care for our building, its equipment and people;
- Developing this community hub as an example of training and participation for others across Cumbria;
- Exploring and developing the gifts of people as they join this hub and release them for their flourishing and the flourishing of Westfield and beyond.

All while looking, in the power of the Holy Spirit, to the future of this work and its place in Workington, the West Coast of Cumbria and the County.





Workington itself is a place that is growing, with new building happening at the edges of the town. Westfield's heritage includes a mining and steel industry which remain an integral part of the culture. Some families have been in this area for generations, with many considering St. Mary Church to be an integral part of their lives.

In the past few years St. Mary Church, Westfield has seen new growth across all ages, and now it is time for the church community and all the new growth to become sustainable and increasingly fruitful, and for their leaders to shine and take up their roles fully. Are you the one to lead this next chapter and help the people of Westfield flourish in their purpose?

Local accountabilities and support:

The Churchwarden and Safeguarding Officer of St. Mary Church Parish and the PCC will continue to provide the ongoing governance of this project. Any appointment to this role will be subject to safer recruitment.

Priest in Charge of Harrington & Distington - Dom de Mattos

Rural Dean - Ian Grainger

Local Methodist minister - Emma Holroyd

Churches Together - meet weekly for prayer and support

For more information or an informal conversation in the first instance please contact Dom de Mattos, Priest in Charge of Harrington & Distington: [rev.domdem@gmail.com](mailto:rev.domdem@gmail.com)

## **Missional Revitalisation in the Diocese of Carlisle**

If you are interested in this role you will find support and encouragement from other local leaders and a network of people engaged in developing new worshipping communities and community facing work and ministry across Cumbria.

Carlisle Diocese has a track record in innovation and the support of this work, and that led to the investment in the development of St. Mary Church, Westfield. The Diocese also actively supports lay pioneer work, creative mission and church planting across the county. The recent Diocesan Investment Programme grant for our programme, 'The Cumbrian Way', focuses especially on the development of new worshipping communities, a movement of church planting, including a rural church plant, and plants in centres of population in Barrow and Carlisle that have had less resource in recent decades. This is cascading good practice from areas such as the West Coast where we have seen new things emerge. This post would be part of that story and would have support from our central and local team, and the developed network. We have regular gatherings and can offer support in a variety of ways. Starting and developing new work can be isolating, but it need not be.

## Community Hub Mission Enabler - Some stories from Westfield so far

### A growing place

Having an outdoor growing space has meant there is both a space to belong and a place to meet

St. Mary Church, Westfield is a very beautiful church building, especially once you are inside, but you can be forgiven for walking past it quickly. The development of the community garden is a space for all ages to spend time - to work, to grow, to plant, and to have a conversation while doing it. This is a community venture that has also led to developing significant connections across the different worshipping communities. It is an example of how the different spaces interact.

In the manner of monastic communities, under a theology of hospitality, all the spaces function, in the life of a community to make visible the work of God in the world.

Currently the community space also welcomes Westfield Housing, Workington Town Council, Josh McAlister MP and his team, Police Commissioner, NHS Learning Difficulties Team, NHS Mental Health Teams, and in a weekly schedule has regular groups in the hall on every night of the week, including dance classes, support groups and a council-led youth group.

St. Mary Church PCC has also become a member of the Inclusive Church Network and won an Eco church Bronze Award in recent years.



### A warm welcome

This community space hosts a wide range of regular activities, including Cake and Craft on Wednesday mornings (held twice monthly), a monthly Saturday coffee morning, and the Jelly Babies toddler group. Between them, these activities bring more than 200 people through the doors on a regular basis. Jelly Babies caters for the very youngest children, while Monday at 4 has become a welcoming home for slightly older children, along with their parents and carers.

This is just one of the new worshipping communities, that meet regularly here, focused on prayer, stories of Christian faith drawn from the Bible, and encouraging each other to follow Jesus together in daily life. Could you continue to invest in us, to see new partnerships grow, to develop them, and to see faith develop in sustainable ways in Westfield?

### Singing by heart

Community choirs connect to the heart, and they can be the heart of a community - and it is no different in Westfield. This choir has developed a significant core membership including many non-church members, and now goes out to care homes, sings at funerals and special occasions and even supermarkets at Christmas. It occasionally supports the worship in St. Mary Church church.

