DIOCESE OF CARLISLE

PROFILE FOR
PLANTING CURATE (IME 2)
OR **ASSOCIATE MINISTER**
(PLANTING SPECIALISM)

ST PAUL'S BARROW, WITH NEWBARNS



2027

God for All

CARLISLE DIOCESE

rising Faith BARROW





a unique opportunity to grow, serve, and *plant* in a hope-hungry town...









Welcome to St Paul's...

We're a **growing church** in **Barrow-in-Furness,** living out our **faith in Jesus** *together*, with a calling to be a **resourcing church** in our region.

Empowered by God's Spirit, our mission is to be a **community passionate** about giving *everyone* the opportunity to **hear**, **enjoy** and **live out** the *good news* of **Jesus** – for *God's glory* in **Barrow & beyond**.

As part of '*The Cumbrian Way*', a nationally funded Diocesan programme to **plant new worshipping communities**, we'd love to invite *you* to prayerfully consider **joining us** on this **adventure** as either a **Planting Curate** *or* **Associate Minister (Planting Specialism)**.

Whether you're looking for **a curacy with opportunity to explore planting**, or you are **already serving in an ordained role** and a sense a calling to **a formational 'next step'** that involves **a specialist church planting pathway** with **bespoke training and development opportunities,** we'd love to hear from you.



Worship team



Life Exhibition for primary schools



Wednesday congregation



Harvest



Outdoor adult baptisms



Bring & share lunch



Christingle



The Cumbrian Way

rising faith BARROW

The Cumbrian Way: Planting & Revitalisation in Barrow-in-Furness



"Carlisle Diocese offers a warm welcome to all traditions and gifts within our shared God for All *vision. We provide a strong training experience across diverse contexts, with rich learning opportunities - helping people meet Jesus and grow as whole-life disciples in the 21st century. I'm excited about what God is doing across our county and here in Barrow. We'd love you to join us - as we seek to join in with what God is doing..."*

- Rt Rev Rob Saner-Haigh, Bishop of Carlisle

In March 2025, Carlisle Diocese was awarded £6.8 million by the Church of England to help Cumbrian churches grow missional, younger and more diverse faith communities. This programme, named **'The Cumbrian Way',** particularly focuses on Barrow, Carlisle, and rural Derwent Deanery, and seeks to **revitalise existing congregations** and **plant new worshipping communities.** With over £2 million of this to be invested in frontline ministry in Barrow, our Deanery vision for this is known as **Rising Faith Barrow**.

We are especially praying for **spiritual growth** in the following areas: growth in our reach to our communities ... growth in the number of new Christians ... growth in missional discipleship ... growth in a younger church ... growth in new local leadership capacity ... growth in giving ... and growth in collaboration across our Deanery.

As part of this vision, St Paul's Barrow has been identified as well placed to serve as a **resourcing church**, playing a key role in planting and revitalising worshipping communities. As **Planting Curate** or **Associate Minister,** you play a key part in the team enabling this vision.





Who are we at St Paul's?

At St Paul's, we're not big on labels — but we're recognisably rooted in the evangelical tradition of the Church of England, with a commitment to Scripture, a focus on the outrageously good news of Jesus, and a desire to live it out in everyday life through the power of the Holy Spirit.

We try not to overcomplicate things: we open the Bible, we pray, we worship, we serve, we look for ways to share Jesus, and we get on with it - *together*.

We're a parish church, committed to loving and serving our local community, but we've also got the feel of a network church, with people travelling in from across Barrow and Furness to be part of the family and share in the vision we have together for our town. Theologically, you could say we aim for a 'big tent approach', but one securely rooted by the groundpegs of the historic faith entrusted to us.

At the beating heart of it all, of course, is Jesus — his voice steadies us, his mercy defines us, and his beauty draws us. In practice, we hope people experience a rich and vibrant orthodoxy, grounded in God's word, warm-hearted in tone, and open to the Spirit's leading. For example, the PCC have expressed their clear support for the clergy team's orthodox position on matters of marriage and human sexuality, expressed in a commitment to biblical faithfulness, sincere pastoral care, and gracious welcome.

Ultimately, we believe the ascended Jesus is at work today through his Bride, the Church. He has given us his word and sacraments, and by his Spirit we are invited to join in with his mission. *Let's go!*



Our St Paul's 5 Vision Priorities (2022-26):



Transforming Gatherings that Grow & Sow



Frontline-Focused



Growing Younger



Partnership Beyond Our Walls



Open Hearts & Open Doors to our Community

Planting in Newbarns

At the heart of this role is the opportunity to join in with a discerned vision of helping **plant a new worshipping community on the Newbarns estate**.

Located just a ten minute walk from St Paul's Church, the **Newbarns area** is home to around 5,500 people. It contains a large residential estate, as well as one of Barrow's largest primary schools, and much of the area is amongst the 6%-10% most deprived area in England.

Sitting in the middle of Newbarns is **St Aidan's Church**, first founded in 1951 as a daughter church of St Paul's. However, in recent decades the Sunday morning congregation has aged and dwindled - and in 2011 the main church building was shut for safety reasons.

Following a period of spiritual momentum around ten years ago, the Diocese and local people invested in a development plan to make the sanctuary fit for purpose and convert a side chapel into an **accessible community cafe space**.

Whilst the original Sunday morning congregation remains as a dozen faithful people, there are shoots of new life that have emerged over the last 18 months as a small but growing team have felt a burden for this area and its people.







A City on a Hill: The Light and Life of Jesus in Newbarns

At the start of 2025 and following her curacy in the area, **Revd Dr Sarah Richardson** was licensed and commissioned as a **self-supporting Pioneer Minister for Newbarns** and **Associate Minister at St Paul's**, serving alongside her vocation as a local GP.

After a summer of prayer gatherings in 2025, we launched a Sunday evening Alpha Course in September 2025. At the turn of the year, we transitioned this into a weekly worshipping community, 'Tea Time Church', currently in the first phase of its development.

The Planting Curate or Associate Minister will work closely with Sarah, and alongside two other Rising Faith Barrow staff, a **town-wide Church Planting & Evangelism Enabler** and a **Growing Younger Worker**, as well as **lay leaders,** sharing the vision to see St Aidan's revitalised and a new worshipping community established, rooted in prayer, presence, and deep community engagement.

The Training Experience



At St Paul's, we aspire to live out the Bible's rich vision of church as a body, with everyone having a part to play! But as part of this church-wide team, we have a clergy team entrusted with pastoral oversight of the church: **Robin Ham** *(Lead Minister)*, **Elaine Bates** *(Associate Minister)*, and **Sarah Richardson** *(Associate Minister)*. Together, we seek to offer a supportive training environment rooted in a generous orthodoxy, where you'll be encouraged to grow in wisdom, confidence, and character - as you develop your church planting specialism.

With a mix of gifts, experiences, and callings—full-time, part-time, and self-supporting —we work as a team to lead, pray, and serve the church. Elaine brings a wealth of experience in lay development and ministerial formation, now serving the Diocese as Initial Ministerial Education 2 (Curacies) Officer. Sarah brings a dual vocation as an ordained local GP, embodying holistic, incarnational ministry in the community.

As either a **Planting Curate** or **Associate Minister (Planting Specialism),** you'll be welcomed into this team, given space to learn, and entrusted with real ministry as you grow in your own calling to proclaim afresh Christ to every generation. Both roles will be given the opportunity to develop in church planting, as you receive **bespoke training tailored to whichever stage of the ministry journey you are on** - and focused on the competencies for required for planting and leading new worshipping communities.





Training Minister: Revd Dr Robin Ham

"**I've found both Barrow and Carlisle Diocese to be a brilliant place to serve, grow, and live!**

I have served at St Paul's since 2021, but first came to Barrow with my young family in 2015 to explore church planting in the town. It's been a fascinating adventure since then - and one that is still unfolding!

Ministry is a great privilege - and it is a joy to share it with lay and ordained co-workers. Over the past five years I've had the particular delight of helping train two curates, one stipendiary and one self-supporting. I feel like we're still learning loads, but we'd love you to consider joining us in what God is doing here!

To give you a feel for me, I'm married to Zoe and we're loving raising our children in this part of the world! Alongside my role at St Paul's, I have served as Rural Dean of Barrow Deanery since 2024. Last year I completed a DMin programme in Church Planting with Asbury Theological Seminary & The Gregory Centre for Church Multiplication (CCX) on Church Planting and Lament. I'm also part of the Archbishops' College of Evangelists and chair the Diocesan Evangelical Fellowship. Free time usually means junior football coaching, a bit of writing, and family walks fuelled by good coffee & ice cream!



Getting to know Barrow

Welcome to **Barrow-in- Furness** – where the sea meets the shipyard, the stunning Cumbrian fells sit on the horizon, and the seagulls definitely keep you humble...


Workers' Tribute, Dalton Road

Tucked away on the edge of Cumbria, Barrow might not be on everyone's radar—but that's part of its charm. It's a place that surprises you: gritty, proud, full of warmth, and packed with stories.

Being set on the tip of the Furness Peninsula means that Barrow is on the doorstep of some stunning beaches and the neighbouring Lake District is easily accessible - with Windermere and Coniston just 20 minutes away. The unspoilt Duddon Valley is easily accessible from Barrow and the historic market towns of Dalton-in-Furness and Ulverston are nearby.

There's a resilience here, a down-to-earth humour, and a deep hunger for hope that makes gospel work feel real and urgent. Barrow can feel like a town of contrasts—industrial and coastal, sometimes struggling yet often spirited, hard-edged but full of heart.

With a population of around 70,000, Barrow is the proud home of BAE Systems' world-leading submarine programme. But it's not all shipyards and steel: Barrow is also looking to the future, with growing investment in renewable energy, and a brand new university campus just opened.

And when it comes to downtime, Barrow has much to offer. From Barrow AFC on the football pitch to Barrow Raiders in rugby league, plus a whole ecosystem of grassroots clubs, drama & music groups, and a popular local art scene, the town thrives on teamwork, competition, and local pride.



Furness Abbey



Barrow AFC

"It's not *just* the abundant
natural beauty of the area
or the lovely buildings,
or the extraordinary coastal light,
or the nature reserves...
it's Barrow *itself*,
the friendliest,
most unassuming place
I've ever visited, let alone lived.
I never go anywhere
without someone
wanting a brief chinwag."

- Isabel Hardman,
assistant editor of *The Spectator* & author

View to Sea from Walney Island



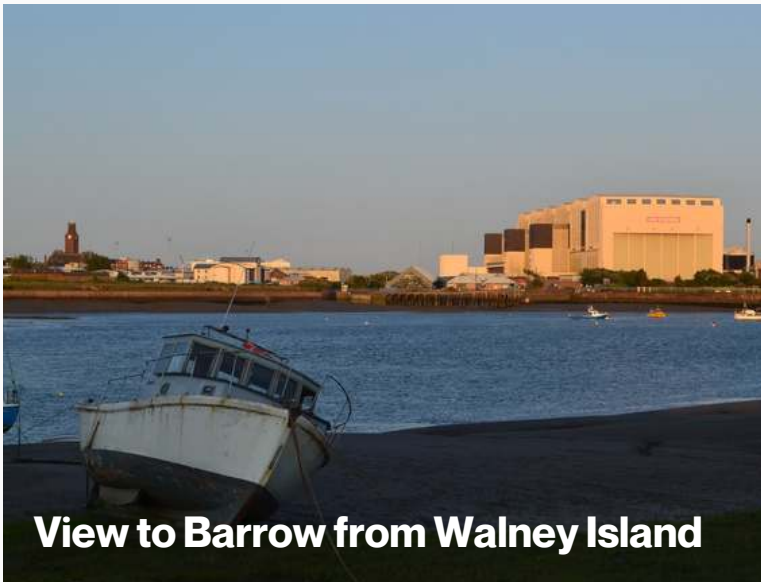
Roanhead Beach



Portland Walk Shopping Precinct, Barrow



Roa Island Lifeboat Station
& View to Piel Island Castle



View to Barrow from Walney Island













Everyone's *welcome.*

Nobody's perfect.

With *Jesus*, there's always hope.

STPAUL'S BARROW



Housing

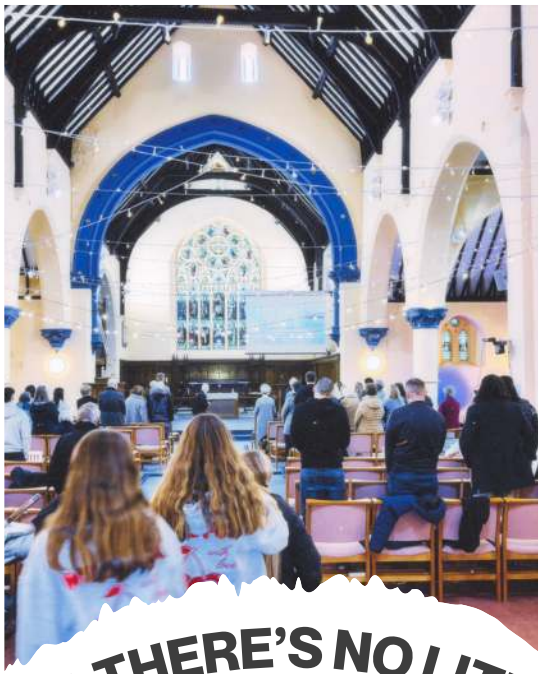
A Home with a View – and a Vision: St Aidan's Vicarage, 31 Middle Hill

We are thrilled the Diocese has offered St Aidan's Vicarage for this role. It offers a modern, spacious, and newly refurbished home, ideal for helping you settle into ministry with comfort and a sense of being in the community. With four double bedrooms, a bright and open living/dining room (complete with patio), a separate dining room, and a large study with adjacent toilet, there's plenty of room for work, rest, and play.

The new kitchen, utility room, bathroom, and additional shower room make daily living easy and efficient. The garden and garage add even more space for family, hobbies, or BBQs in the sun.

Set in an elevated spot next to St Aidan's Church and Hall, the house boasts views across Barrow and out to Walney Island, giving a real sense of place and perspective. You're just minutes from the town centre and civic park, with local gems like the Farmer's Arms pub, a Post Office, takeaways, and a convenience store all a short walk away.

For families, there's outstanding schooling within walking distance—including Newbarns Primary School and Furness Academy (secondary). A sports centre and swimming pool are just down the road, making this an ideal base for ministry and life alike.





"WITH GOD THERE'S NO LITTLE PEOPLE OR LITTLE PLACES..."





- Francis Schaeffer

Are you stirred by the thought that **God delights to do spiritually significant things in seemingly insignificant places?** Are you convinced God loves to plant new worshipping communities, not just in headline cities but in *overlooked corners*? Well, maybe this opportunity might well be for you.

If you long to **hold out Christ faithfully, walk closely with people,** and **see lives changed by the Spirit** - and all in **an unflashy place that matters deeply to God,** then we'd love to talk!



To find out more:

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