



The Way

The FREE newspaper of the Church in Cumbria, Spring 2017



The role of godparents
in the life of a child

PAGE 2



'We all have
God-given gifts'

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MARCHING TO THE SAME BEAT

WELCOME to this new-look edition of *The Way*! Our hope and prayers are that you enjoy the re-branded ecumenical newspaper for the county of Cumbria – more than ever.

At the heart of all the content is our county-wide God for All strategy and vision: that by 2020 everyone in Cumbria, of all ages and backgrounds, has had an opportunity to discover more of God and God's purpose for their lives, so that they will discover more of Jesus and the Good News and become followers of Jesus within a Christian community.

We're bringing you a greater story count and more people-centred content; everything with God for All at its heart. The God for All

■ God for All vision at the heart of the new look for The Way

vision is fresh and exciting and we hope that's conveyed in this new and vibrant look for *The Way*.

This edition features some of the amazing missional work which is taking place right across the county.

From Fresh Expressions of church being played out by groups of Mountain Pilgrims, through to the mum who found God through Messy Church, we're looking at how God is moving through people in our towns and villages.

We also reflect on the wonderful pastoral work of hospice chaplains, through the eyes of Dorothy Derrick who has just retired after 10 years with the Eden Valley Hospice's ecumenical chaplaincy team.

We explore how God is with us, all of the time, wherever we are. Stephen Wright, from the Sacred Space Foundation, writes about the comfort of feeling God's love as he lay in a hospital operating theatre.

And a new regular centre page spread – Down Your Way – features mission and outreach which is going on in specific parts of the county. In this edition we focus on the west Cumbrian village of Moresby.

Of course, we welcome further ideas for regular features and content. You can make contact with the editor Dave Roberts via details on page 2.

We hope that you enjoy the read!

The beat goes on... Professional drummer Andy Kelly, pictured by Derwentwater, is working on a new Samba drum mission group with young people in Moresby. See pages 8 and 9 for more details...

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The purpose of *The Way* is to reflect the Church in Cumbria to itself and to our communities more widely. We do not seek to promote any particular theological viewpoint, but rather aim to stimulate debate by featuring writers from a variety of church traditions and from society more widely. While we are happy to consider unsolicited submissions, we operate largely on a system of commissions and do not guarantee to publish any materials received.

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The Way Newspaper of the Church in Cumbria

The summer 2017 edition will be available in July

A godparent's for life, not just for baptism

■ Individuals provide advice, encouragement, support and protection

By Sarah Hulme,
Children & Families Evangelism Enabler

CUMBRIA is at the top of the national league table when it comes to infant baptisms (often referred to as christenings) and thanksgivings.

A third of all children born in the county are being welcomed into the church before the age of one; a figure which sits way above the national average of 11 per cent.

Figures from the most recent Statistics for Mission (2015) show that more than 1,500 were baptised across the county and, with children having a minimum of three godparents, that means we are looking at more than 4,500 people becoming godparents to children in Cumbria just in the last year.

Why are godparents so important? A christening gives parents the opportunity formally to involve other significant adults in their child's life and faith. Parents view godparents as important for their child's upbringing; available for advice, protection, support and encouragement.

The choice of godparents often honours long friendships, and in choosing them, parents are envis-



Christening: Parents want the best for their children
CHURCH SUPPORT HUB

aging a relationship that will last at least 20 years, probably a lifetime.

In national research by the Archbishops' Council, the biggest reason parents gave for wanting their child to be christened was to ensure he or she had godparents. Linked closely to this, parents also

want their child to have the best start in life and God's blessing on them.

There are plenty of resources for godparents to tap into, one being at www.churchsupporthub.org/ baptisms which also includes links to more information about Godparents' Sunday on April 30.

WHY ARE GODPARENTS SO IMPORTANT?

GODPARENTS are among the most important people at a christening; they make big promises to encourage their godchild to grow in faith and commit to helping them understand how to live their life in a Christian way.

We asked families around Cumbria what having or being a godparent meant to them:

Christening of Esther Ladds

"Esther's godparents are amazing. We are so blessed to have them in our lives. We love watching Esther grow in relationship with them all. It is so special to us knowing that she has people praying for her, ready to answer questions and support her on her faith journey as she gets older."

Parents Martin and Yvette Ladds

"Being a godparent to Esther is so wonderful; it allows me to be closer to her whilst helping her in a relationship with God as she grows up."

Fran Houston

"Being a godparent starts with the promise I made at the baptism, to encourage my god-daughter to grow in faith and help her to understand what it means to be Christian and live for God. Praying regularly for my god-daughter is really important and, as she



Lifetime bond: Left, Esther Ladds, centre, with parents Yvette and Martin Ladds, the Rev Phil Jackson, behind, and godparents, from left, Fran Houston, Vicky Allison, Chris Allison and Joelle Raby; right, The Rev Tim Cooke baptises Talwyn Thomas in Ullswater

grows older, I am looking forward to being able to chat and encourage her as I share my Christian faith."

Joelle Raby

"Being godparents mean we have a very special bond with Esther; we aim to help her to grow in her faith and also to provide practical and emotional support. We hope she will be able to turn to us for help, advice and support in the future."

Chris and Vicky Allison

Christening of Talwyn Thomas

"I chose five godparents,

so there is a merry team to help guide Talwyn. I chose family members I can depend upon to always be there as well as wise Christian friends to offer Talwyn spiritual guidance and support in our Christian journey."

Talwyn's mother, Rachael Cottam

"I will always look out for Talwyn and give advice and try to guide him as best possible throughout his life."

Jasmine Passley

"A godparent is a special position in a child's life - important, yet different from



family. I see my role as one of maintaining a close relationship as he grows."

Chris Hulme

"I hope I can support Tal throughout his life with some of the valuable lessons I've learned on love, acceptance, forgiveness and trust."

Nathalie Cottam

"I am delighted to be Talwyn's godfather; it's a great honour."

Matthew Cottam

"I hope I can be a good role model guiding him through life."

David Montgomery

EVENTS AT CARLISLE CATHEDRAL

APRIL

Holy Week and Easter Services 2017
The Preacher for Holy Week will be the Rev Canon Michael Manley, Canon Missioner, Carlisle Cathedral

Sun 9 (Palm Sunday) - 10.30am, Procession of Palms, the reading of the Passion Story and Eucharist sung by members of the Cathedral Choir; 6.30pm, The Passion according to St Mark composed by John Joubert in 2016 will be performed by the Cathedral Choir conducted by Mr Jeremy Suter
Mon 10, Tues 11, Wed 12 - all 7.30pm, Sung Eucharist. Preacher: Canon Michael Manley

Thurs 13 (Maundy Thursday) - 11am, The Chrism Eucharist sung by the Cathedral Youth Choir
Preacher: Bishop of Penrith

Thurs 13 (Maundy Thursday) - 7.30pm, The Eucharist of the Lord's Supper sung by members of the Cathedral Choir followed by Watch of the Passion

Fri 14 (Good Friday) - 12 noon, A Meditation led by the Cathedral Youth Choir; 1.30pm, The Good Friday Liturgy sung by members of the Cathedral Choir. Preacher: Canon Jan Kearton; 9pm, The Cross of Lights with music by the Cathedral Taizé Choir

Sat 15 (Easter Eve) - 7.30pm, The Easter Vigil & Confirmation by the Bishop of Carlisle sung by members of the Cathedral Choir
Sun 16 (Easter Day) - 8am, Said Holy Communion; 10.30am, Festival Eucharist sung by members of the Cathedral Choir. President: The Bishop. Preacher: The Dean; 3pm, Choral Evensong sung by members of the Cathedral Choir. Preacher: Canon Michael Manley

Tues 18 to Fri 28 - South Aisle, Carlisle Day Services Exhibition
Thurs 20 to Sat 22 - 5.30pm, Evensong with the Clerks of All Saints, York

Sun 23 - 10.30am, Sung Eucharist with the Cathedral Carlisle Choir
Sun 23 - 7.30pm, Shakespeare Event, Fraty

MAY

Sat 6 - 10.30am to 4pm, Tower Open Day

Sun 14 - 1pm, Duke of Lancaster Regiment's Thanksgiving Service

Thurs 25 - 7am, Ascension Day Eucharist

Sat 27 - 5.30pm, Evensong with Choir of Oxtou St Saviours

Mon 29 - 5.30pm, Evensong with the Choir of Chester Cathedral

JUNE

Sun 11 - 10.30am, Eucharist for Trinity Sunday. Preacher: Archdeacon of Carlisle, The Venerable Lee Townend

Sat 17 - 7pm, The Sixteen (7pm talk and 7.30pm concert)

Sat 24 - 12.45pm, Lunchtime Recital by Concord Women's Chorus

JULY

Sat 1 - 2.30pm, Ordination of Priests

Sat 29 - 12.45pm, Lunchtime Recital by Altrincham Choral Society

Musiclive@lunchtime

All concerts are held on a Tuesday in the cathedral; start at 12.45pm and last 45 minutes. Admission £5, £4 for members of Carlisle Festival, £2.50 students and under 18s. Season ticket: £40.

April 18 - Leah Nicholson (piano)

April 25 - Charles Edmondson (organ)

May 2 - Nelson Tomlinson School (choir and Instrumental)

May 9 - Millbeck Quintet (wind quintet)

May 16 - Solway Singers

May 23 - City of Carlisle Orchestra

May 30 - Scott Bradley (guitar)

June 6 - Sheffield Academy Duo (French horn and piano)

June 13 - Jack Stone (organ)

June 20 - Brief Encounter Duo (trumpet, saxophone, clarinet, vocals and keyboard)

A breath of Fresh Expression

■ Different groups of Mountain Pilgrims head outdoors to explore life and God in the hills

NATURAL SETTING ALLOWS US TO RECONNECT



Exploring: The 4th Sunday Adventures group in Martindale in the Lake District

WE'D noticed we were losing touch with people. Our church had a great way of connecting with parents with very young children - toddler groups, dads' group, etc. We'd even seen some families coming to church, although they were the minority. But once the kids started school, or soon after, unless we saw them at church on a Sunday morning, we found we'd never see them again.

It was this experience, along with a few other loose ends coming together, and the development of Mountain Pilgrims, which prompted the emergence of the gathering now known as 4th Sunday Adventures.

We recognised that the people we had connected with in the past still liked a good excuse to gather with others. We realised though, on its own, that wasn't enough; we needed to provide something accessible for parents and children across at least the primary school spectrum to entice whole families to come and join in.

We also recognised these fami-

By Paul Rose,
Children's & Youth Work Team
Leader at Penrith Methodist
Church and 4th Sunday
Adventures Leader

lies weren't interested in church in a traditional sense, but that they may be willing to explore the spiritual side of life if re-packaged outside of a religious setting.

And so, once a month, 20 to 40 people gather and 'seek to explore the transcendence behind the mountains, valleys, hills and lakes: we meet in the Lakeland hills to better understand what it is that draws us to the thin places - the places where we sense something more than the everyday.'

We strive to avoid religious language and yet to be intentional about encountering God through activity and one another.

This was primarily to make it easily accessible for all, irrespective of beliefs, but we also find using non-religious language invites the Christians among us to

discover new characteristics and experiences of God that we wouldn't have in a church building. We don't deny the experiences of God we've had in our more traditional setting; rather we allow these previous experiences to inform and influence how we encounter God in natural places.

It's encouraging to hear the conversations that go on though the activities - sometimes inspired by a reflective practice we've done together as a group; sometimes simply because people love to walk and talk. The sense of community grows each time we meet.

As well as allowing the sights, sounds, smells and physical encounters of the Lake District to reveal the creator and sustainer of all things, we have activities that help us stop and look: hide-and-seek, orienteering and trying to put into words what it is about a view that makes us feel the way we do.

On one hand it feels simple, but we notice glimmers of the profound, and love the way we're able to reconnect with people we thought we'd lost contact with.

By Richard Passmore,
Reach Team Fresh
Expressions Enabler

WITH such an amazing landscape on our doorstep it seemed obvious that one place to develop a Fresh Expression of church was outdoors.

So, about 12 months ago, a small group went for a snowy, wet walk to chat about the idea; then went to the pub to talk some more. We realised we needed to be flexible about what we were doing, but keep it intentional so we weren't just another walking group.

There are four key areas that Fresh Expressions centre around: formational (helping people grow), missional (not a cosy club for Christians), ecclesial (intentionally trying to explore a new form of church) and contextual (relevant to the community being engaged).

After three months and gathering a few more people, Mountain Pilgrims was formed. It was deliberately not attached to a particular church so it could be as creative and flexible as possible. Nine months later and we couldn't have imagined how it has developed.

Initially, we thought it would be a single group, walking and exploring life and God in the hills. While God and Creation are still at the heart of what we do, it has spun out into many different forms.

As well as 4th Sunday Adventure and Mini Pilgrims, which you can read about elsewhere on this page, the original Mountain Pilgrims now consists of three core spaces. Each month we have 'Active', a walk/scramble to one of the mountain cathedrals that John Fleetwood - featured in the last edition of *The Way* - identified as a part of the new Lakeland Pilgrimage.

We also have 'Reflective', a shorter walk around a theme, run-



On a journey: The Mountain Pilgrims group

ning alongside the Mini Pilgrims. Here we walk and talk, exploring the theme. For example, when the Mini Pilgrims explored 'being me', our version of that theme was 'mortal'. We wrote our names on card in chalk that slowly rubbed off as we walked. Then we went deep into one of the tunnels at Cathedral Cave and watched a candle in a jar slowly burn out.

Finally we also have 'Abbey' which meets twice a month and, this season, is about prayer and the rhythms of life. Each month we meet for a walk and breakfast at Wilf's, a well-known hangout for people who like the outdoors.

We are a fairly ad hoc gathering with different people connecting with different activities and groups - a bit like your traditional church offering different services - but we also connect online via Facebook groups where people will often continue the conversations sparked by various activities.

Good mission is often about doing what is in front of you well. If we had been too fixed about our original idea, some of the growth we are seeing would never have happened. One exciting development is that several other churches and groups are interested in developing their own versions locally.

To find out more visit the website www.godforall.org.uk or email richard.passmore@carlisle-diocese.org.uk.

Fun for Mini Pilgrims too

By Indianna Passmore,
Aged 10

MINI Pilgrims is a part of Mountain Pilgrims and is a group of children and families walking and learning about God in the hills.

It is good because most kids like being active and not sitting down in a church, but we still want to learn about God.

"It's exciting and you get to make new friends," said Norah, seven.

Each time there is a theme which makes it even more fun. So far we have looked at 'being me' and 'patterns'. There has been a walk to Cathedral Cave which was exciting

"The walks are suitable for all ages," said Edie, 10.

People who have been on the Mini Pilgrims recommend it to



Making friends: Mini Pilgrims in the Lake District

friends and family and some friends from school have started coming.

Norah said: "I would rate its level of fun seven out of 10." Edie said: "I would rate it eight and three-quarters!"

You won't go hungry on our walks as we have snacks all around and sometimes have lunch together at the end.

By The Way

Take time this spring to appreciate God's world

I HOPE that you and I will find space as winter begins to retreat and spring flourishes around us; time to rest and enjoy the stunning beauty of the Solway, to be refreshed by the growing warmth of the sun, to put aside all those things that bother and worry us, to relish the beautiful world our God has created and to realise that He is always close to us.

MARY DAY, *Allonby Beachcomber Monthly Village Newsletter*

ALTHOUGH I have always looked at my role as a presbyter as being a two-fold thing of being and doing - one is ordained to the office (being) and work (doing) of a presbyter in God's church - much of my value as a minister come from the work, the 'doing'.

JOHN SIMMS, *The Stricklandgater, Newsletter of the Stricklandgate Methodist Church Kendal*

THE sad truth is that any church that becomes focussed on itself and inward-looking will fail to thrive. It is only when we turn outwards and engage in mission that we begin on the path of growth.

JACK KNILL-JONES, *Proclaim, Parish Magazine of the North Barrow Team Ministry, St James the Great and St Francis*

THERE is a box at the back of St Mary's for donations of toiletries to go in the emergency toilet bags which the MU provides for local hospitals. Required are small 'travel-size' bars of soap, face cloths, combs, toothbrushes, toothpaste and small hand towels.

Gosforth, Nether Wasdale and Wasdale Head Parish Magazine

WELL, it's a new era in the life of our benefice - ADRU. Alex is now officially retired. We wish him and Val all the very best for the future and hope to see them both from time to time: they have given so much.

ADRU Benefice News, Aldingham, Dendron, Ramsdale and Urswick

IN the Bible the word 'sin' comes from an archery term meaning to 'miss the mark'. That is why we are all sinners: none of us, no matter how hard we try, can live up to God's standards. However, how we respond to the problem of sin in our lives can vary greatly.

SIMON BICKERSTETH, *Connect, St James Carlisle*

OUR alternative Christmas card for Water Aid this year has raised £365 which, after gift aid is added, amounts to £443.75. Very many thanks to all who contributed.

The Parish Church of St Paul Grange-over-Sands

MONTHLY Messy Church continues to thrive and I am very grateful for our helpers and those who regularly give. This month we are being sponsored by the Little Co-op, so I will be doing a £20 trolley dash.

Parish News, The Parish of Kirkby Stephen with Mallerstang, Crosby Garrett and Soulby

BRIGHAM Gardeners' Club - Today we are thinking about our late chairperson, Joan Lawson, and wondering what we will do without her reassuring presence, wide knowledge of plants and flowers and, perhaps most of all, the absolute pleasure of her company.

St Bridget's Parish News

THE first time I observed Lent over 40 years ago, I attended an Ash Wednesday service. Ashes were applied to my head and words were spoken over me: "Remember you are dust and to dust you shall return." I learned in a new way that I am a mere mortal and at the same time created in the image of God.

SUE WICKS, *Haraby Viewpoint, The Parish Magazine of St Elizabeth's Haraby*

WE hear the story of the crucifixion so often that it sometimes fails to touch us. My prayer is that we make time during Lent for Bible study, prayer and personal reflection especially in Holy Week itself - on what Jesus went through for you and me.

STEPHEN RADFORD, *Newsletter, Kirkby Stephen, Appleby and Tebay Methodist Circuit*

I ENJOY my twice monthly visit to Youth Café. Why, at my age do I want to mix with teenagers? One reason is that I remember my own teenage years and how important it is to socialise with one's peers.

SHEILA HUGHES, *The Link, The United Benefice of Lorton and Loweswater with Buttermere*

LENT is a time for taking time to reflect on our lives and where we are going. Let's all use it for our own growth, as well as that of our church as we do God's work in the community in which we live.

JIM HYSLOP, *The Observer, Saint John the Baptist Upperyby*

Putting clothes on people's backs and faith in their lives

■ Community pastor Gill Grisedale on the church Clothes Bank serving those in need in Barrow

ST MARK'S Clothes Bank began after what I term a "God instance"; when God put me in a particular place at a certain time.

I had seen this lady wearing maternity clothes for some time and presumed wrongly that she was expecting another baby. The truth was she could afford to clothe her toddler but kept wearing her maternity clothes as she could not afford to clothe herself.

At church, we have a dance group attended by women and I enquired there if anyone could donate good quality clothes for a lady in need. And so it began.

We then collected clothing, shoes and accessories for men, women and children to pass on to anyone in need.

From Monday to Friday, 10am to 12 noon, we open our doors and welcome people in, to take what they need free of charge. At the same time, we run a free café with drinks and snacks, where people can meet in a safe, happy environment and socialise.

Friendships have been formed and needs met as we reach out in love to our community in our parish and beyond, in one of the most deprived areas in Cumbria.

We have seen more than 2,500 clients since we began.

We continually help the homeless with dry, clean clothes and then later with household items when they move into a home. One young man we helped said we had restored his faith in humanity. He successfully moved into a home and found employment.



Reaching out: Volunteer Danielle Benson, left, with Gill Grisedale in the Clothes Bank

We provide washbags and clothes for people released from prison; we also provide night wear and washbags for people admitted into Furness General Hospital. We have provided wedding outfits, interview clothes as well as warm, clean clothes for the homeless and people in need.

Many of the volunteers, who came firstly as clients, have grown immensely in confidence.

They now feel empowered, running the café and Clothes Bank.

It is a delight to see how they have changed and grown; they are giving something back to others.

The volunteers and their chil-

dren now attend church social activities and services, and have become part of the family of St Mark's.

Some have committed their lives to Christ which is wonderful.

If it were not for the Clothes Bank they may never have come into our church.

It really is a simple and effective way of evangelising by spreading the word of God, by our actions and compassion as called to do in Matthew 25.

Reaching out to others blesses them but also blesses us, and we hope to continue doing God's work here in Barrow.

THE VOLUNTEER

I FIRST met Gill when she was gathering information for a survey. I was invited to a yarn bomb that she organised at church. The outside of church was covered with knitted items that they then gave away to anyone who wanted them.

I helped that day and started popping into the Clothes Bank, then volunteering there and also bringing my daughter to Youth Café. I also attend a home group once a fortnight and services at church. I cannot put into words the feeling and peace I feel in my life now; it has certainly changed for the better.

DANIELLE BENSON, *St Mark's Clothes Bank volunteer*

Centre chips away at debt-related issues

By Donna Docker, CAP Centre Manager, Barrow

CHRISTIANS Against Poverty (CAP) recently opened a new debt centre to serve the Furness area at Spring Mount Christian Fellowship, Barrow-in-Furness.

There was much prayerful anticipation, with my colleagues from Whitehaven, Carlisle, Penrith and Kendal praying for a centre in Barrow for some time.

We all know the statistics of poverty in Barrow, so CAP was bound to open a centre here to start chipping away at the debt-related problems caused by joblessness, illness, relationship breakdown, addictions, low income and poor financial education.

Initially, Spring Mount didn't think we were the ones to take it forward, but every time we batted it away God batted it back until we really had to take a step of faith that this was His will for our church. Personally, I believed God had called me into His service and



Hope: Donna Docker and Bupe Tyson share a light moment

had been waiting in faith for Him to reveal how. When I was approached about becoming debt centre manager it appeared to be the answer.

The first few months were spent promoting our service. I have been amazed at the wealth and quality of services available to those in Furness and the dedicated people who provide them.

God has opened every door I've knocked on. By His grace, these services are putting their trust in us and referrals are coming through.

Working with a team of befrienders, we have made relationships with seven very different households so far, providing them with free debt counselling in the comfort of their own home and signposting them to other services

where we feel they would benefit.

It's a privilege to be invited into someone's life and to bring some hope into difficult situations, but a double blessing if they allow us to pray for them and point them towards the hope they can have in our faithful God.

For help, visit www.capuk.org to see if CAP covers your area and then call 0800 328 0006.

THE CLIENT

I HAVE always struggled with my finances: I spend before considering the long-term consequences. This means I am always without enough for myself and family.

This led me to borrowing: first from banks, then payday loans. When I became desperate I sought out debt management services. I tried a couple, but CAP was different. First of all, it was a Christian-based company which was very attractive. They explained how they would work. They offered prayer, they never judged my bad decisions and made me feel important on a personal level. Thank you CAP."

BUPE TYSON

'Roz knew she was loved by God and that gave her peace'



Inspirational: Jon Greenwood with Roz Pate, who recently died of cancer
DAVE ROBERTS

LIFE is a funny thing – there are constant highs and lows and not always where you expect them.

Roz Pate, a volunteer at Opshops who had grown to be a friend, had been suffering with cancer. A big high for her was to see her story in print in *The Way*. She could see it but didn't know what it said as Roz couldn't read well.

I'd had the privilege of reading it to her when it was published and she was incredulous that other people would be

OpShop volunteer Roz Pate was featured in the last edition of *The Way*, reflecting on how her battle with cancer had brought her closer to God. Sadly Roz passed away at the start of the year. Jon Greenwood, the OpShop's Business Development Manager, reflects on the impact Roz had on those around her.

interested in her and what she thought. She had not had an easy life and, unfortunately for Roz, the cancer was winning; her already tiny frame shrank before our eyes.

But Roz didn't; the person who was Roz stayed large, filling the room, even near the end in the hospice, drifting in and

out of sleep. This tiny lady who asked for nothing, knew she was loved by God, and that gave her an incredible peace.

She would tell all visitors to get out and live their lives. It was simple: "Just go and do it!" Sometimes it takes that kind of situation to realise where our priorities should be.

I took friends to see Roz and we always came away both amazed and inspired. She knew she was saved, she had no time for regrets but only to enjoy her memories and trust in Him. I don't think she worried about Heaven and what it would be like. Roz knew it would be Heaven and she was loved.

Roz is gone but her influence remains – encouraging, staying positive and very real. It has been a tough time for those who knew and loved Roz but all of us are better for it.

Young widow brings late husband's words to life

■ Book on spiritual life published after author's death

PSYCHOTHERAPIST Robin Daniels was born in Blackpool in World War Two.

Alongside his private practice, he ran a reflective group for hospital chaplains, a Methodist bereavement group and marriage enrichment and preparation groups for the Baptist Church. But Robin Daniels' main love was writing.

In 1996, he had been invited to lead a retreat day on the interface between psychology and the spiritual life. A series



Close: Robin and his wife Katherine

of talks snowballed over the next 15 years into a book on the spiritual life.

In 2012, Robin died of bronchopneumonia, leaving *The Virgin Eye* unpublished. His widow Katherine Daniels, a play therapist then working for the NHS in

Morecambe, quit her job to edit the book down to a size that a publisher would consider and to add material from notes Robin had left.

She recalled: "It was quite daunting to begin with – to get your head around another person's thought, and the structure of the text. But it was a beautiful experience, because it was contact with Robin's mind. I could hear his voice on the pages, often speaking into decisions I had to make."

The book, published by Instant Apostle, explores the pressures of rapid change, stress, information overload, impinging technology and the rushed pace of life. Daniels makes a case for

slowing down and prioritising one's relationship with God and the inner life.

Katherine added: "Robin moved through life at a slow pace. He was an encourager. He did little things with a lot of love, and he was immensely grateful."

Roy Godwin, author of *The Grace Outpouring* said about the book: "It is like having an amazingly wise old uncle showing you how to live; to truly be alive."

Teresa Onions will lead a quiet day on the book's subtitle 'Towards a Contemplative View of Life' at Rydal Hall in November. It can be ordered at bookstores or at www.mindfulnessforchristians.com (RRP £9.99).

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By The Way

Don't let your earthly burdens get in the way

WHAT burdens you? What gets between you and God? The whole point of Easter, of the cross and resurrection, is that God wanted to make the relationship with us right and yet so often we allow earthly things to get in the way of an eternal relationship.

PHIL JACKSON,
Link, Aspatria Methodist Church, St Kentigern's
Aspatria, St Mary's Gilcrux, St James' Hayton

WE would like to thank Bryan Rowe, retiring Rural Dean, for organising cover for church services over the last year and we now look forward to working closely with Tim Herbert who is taking over this important role.

Parish News,
St Michael's The Parish Church of Workington

DEAN WI - Mrs Bonner introduced our speaker for the evening, Pat Martin from the Helena Thompson Museum. A fascinating talk followed about Nella Last, a housewife from Barrow who, in 1939, began a diary that was to continue for 30 years.

LOUISE RICHARDSON, Dean Parish News

THE other day I got a notification in my Twitter account that read: "Interesting newsletter piece. Just interested in how a world so painful shows God?"

Clearly I was delighted that someone is reading what I write, but obviously had to make a meaningful response which, because of Twitter's limit on the number of characters, meant I had to keep it to the point.

My response was: "I suppose a world so painful displays how out of kilter humanity has become if you assume the creation works best in a certain way."

NIGEL DAVIES, Skelsmergh, Selside and
Longleddale Church and Community News

THE first fruit of the Spirit is love. Sadly the word love is often misused. In today's society love can mean anything from a cozy, fuzzy feeling; an ecstatic state; physical passion; or how much one likes chocolate/wine/sport/clothes etc. The word covers a multitude of meanings but the Bible tells us emphatically that "God is love".

BARBARA IRWIN, New Life, Parish of
Dalton-in-Furness, Newton and Ireleth with Askam

PLANS for the Keswick area Mission Community are under way. A MC Starting Group, made up of clergy and lay representatives from the churches involved, is meeting regularly and working well together.

STUART PENNY, Crosthwaite Parish Keswick

KIRKBRIDE School - In January, our new headteacher, Dawn Maxwell, joined our school. She has been warmly welcomed into the Kirkbride community by the parents, staff, children and friends of the school.

**Parish Magazine, St Bride's Parish Church Kirkbride
and St John's Newton Arlosh**

CHURCH-PLANTING is always a sacrificial enterprise for those involved - both in terms of time and energy - as well as for those existing churches who provide finances and send people to be involved.

ROBIN HAM, Team Talk,
Magazine of the Parishes of St Aidan's and
St George's with St Luke's, Barrow-in-Furness

OUR Messy Church this month was on the theme of Epiphany. A great time was had by all. The children had a choice of crafts, star-shaped biscuits to decorate with icing (yes it got messy) and crowns to decorate with beautiful jewels and sequins.

ANNA JONES, The Parish of Whitehaven

LAST year we were able to improve the hall heating and repair the hall windows. We now move on to the next phase; the windows will have secondary glazing fitted in the same way as the church.

ANDREW WOOD, Carver Calendar,
Carver United Church, Methodist and
URC and the Windermere Centre

THE parish church is not a membership club or confessional society; it is a place of open welcome for those who know where they are going and have a sense of faith, but also for those who simply seek to understand, belong and befriend and to be something of the body of Christ. It's a pilgrimage for us all that never ends.

RICHARD LEE, Parish Magazine, The Benefice of
Egremont with Bigrigg and Haile

BRAVING the mud, our six new apprentices have created a lovely new 250m long boardwalk forming a section of the Greenway Trail route across Rusland Moss. It is worth a visit to see their good work.

Parish News, Holy Trinity Colton

Because life's never tidy



Leading the way: At the first regional and ecumenical Messy training day near Kendal

■ Messy Church gets off to an encouraging start in Cumbria

By Sarah Hulme,
Children & Families
Evangelism Enabler

MESSY Cumbria has been launched at the first regional and ecumenical Messy training day near Kendal.

As part of the event late last year, Jane Leadbetter from Bible Reading Fellowship spent the day with more than 80 local Messy Church leaders, encouraging, challenging and resourcing us on our Messy journeys.

Messy Cumbria is providing a support network for local lay leaders of these fresh expressions of church, gathering events to encourage and give a sense of the bigger Cumbrian picture, networking opportunities and resources to help existing Messy Churches flourish and new ones grow.

The aim is that each family in Cumbria will soon have access to a local Messy Church.

Messy Cumbria members are keen to emphasise the benefits from being part of something countywide... "Messy Cumbria is awesome and should be about us working together." "It's exciting, pioneering, challenging. I'm hoping to network with other leaders and groups to share resources and ideas." "It's great to be part of something wider, partnering with others towards the same aim." These are just a few of the reasons given for signing up.

Another draw is Marvin, the Messy Cumbria mascot, who is visiting local Messy Churches and keeping a diary - giving a fun snapshot of each Messy Church around the county. You can follow

MORE NATURAL ROUTE FOR HAYLEY'S FAMILY

HAYLEY Wisbey moved to Wigton just over four years ago with her family.

As she was new to the area, a neighbour invited them to Holiday Club over the summer, which Hayley saw as a great opportunity for the children to start making friends before starting schools.

Through the family connecting with various church-run clubs and events, and a developing friendship with Alan and Mim Rainford, outreach workers for Wigton Methodist Circuit, Hayley got drawn in as an adult helper with various family outreach events.

She tried attending Sunday morning church, but discovered Messy Church was a much simpler and more natural way for her and her whole family to relate to God and grow in faith.

In September last year, Hayley decided to get baptised during a special Messy Church to help her



Declaration: Hayley prepares to be baptised

declare publicly what she now believes. It wasn't something she found easy, as she's always been a quiet and private person.

Hayley said: "As I got into the water all my nerves went, I felt a sense of calm and peace as I was dipped backwards into the pool. As

I came up I felt clean and tingly. "The baptism has started so many conversations since. I've even been stopped and asked questions in the middle of B&M! "It's a complete turnaround for me, being able to have natural conversations about God."



Fun: A young family enjoying Messy Church at St Mary's, Harrington

his adventures on Twitter and Facebook.

It is really encouraging to see just how quickly things have been moving over the last couple of years. When Syl Hunt started in her role as the regional Messy Church co-ordinator, there were only a couple of Messy Churches

in Cumbria. Fast forward seven years and we now have 30 registered nationally, and an additional 13 hopefully starting soon - one of the reasons Messy Church is looking to expand the team of regional co-ordinators to five across Cumbria.

Why is Messy Church growing and attracting families within our local communities? Messy Church is a fun way of being church for all ages. It's about being Christ-centred and focuses on three major themes: creativity, hospitality and celebration.

This quotation from a recent Messy blog by Lucy Moore contains some clues to its appeal: "Messiness is content with loose ends, unresolved issues, development, spontaneity, fluidity and tensions, because family life is full of them and they are a vital part of how we become who we are meant to be together."

Find out more...

- For details on Messy Church, visit www.messychurch.org.uk
- Sign up to receive a termly Messy Cumbria newsletter - <http://bit.ly/2niySpN>
- Messy Cathedral Family Event: 2-4pm, May 20 at Carlisle Cathedral. Booking essential - <http://bit.ly/2mpfJew>
- Messy Cumbria family outdoor gathering - 2-4pm, July 8 at Rydal Hall. Booking essential - <http://bit.ly/2mmUb0B>
- Messy Cumbria leader training and networking day - 10am-4pm, September 9 in Penrith. Save the date!
- For more, email Sarah Hulme sarah.hulme@carlisle-diocese.org.uk



Iconic: Anne Blamire and Dorothy Graham in front of the Western (Wailing) Wall



Welcome! The School of Joy in Beit Sahour serves children of low academic achievement



Commitment: Pilgrims renewed their wedding vows at a service in Nazareth

Troubled land, but a special land

A 75-strong group from Cumbria has just returned from an ecumenical pilgrimage to the Holy Land. The trip in March was led by the Bishop of Carlisle, the Rev Richard Teal, chair of the Cumbria Methodist District, and the Rev Andrew Mills, moderator of the North Western Synod of the URC. The Rev Robert Jackson, who organised and led the pilgrimage, reflects on what the pilgrims witnessed and experienced.

BACK home from pilgrimage, when you get a quiet moment, your mind looks back over the many experiences of the past 11 days: the places we went to, the moments when Jesus was so close, the people we spoke to and heard from. We recall those situations and the question comes to us: 'What do we do with all this?'

Yes, our reading of Scripture will never be the same again because we have stood in those places where Jesus taught and ministered, lived, died and rose again. How fortunate we are! How blessed we have been! What a wonderful experience!

But, it is more than that. We have experienced, seen first-hand, the pain and division in the land where Jesus walked. 'What can we do?'

I suspect there are three things.

We can pray. This always comes top of the list. Jesus has led us by the hand through the Holy Land. He has opened our eyes, and now our prayers are more informed and personal.

We can support. The organisations that we visited, such as the School of Joy, need our help to buy equipment resources and experienced teachers to go over for a couple of weeks and train their staff in dealing with children who have special needs. We can certainly show our love by giving. You can find out more about supporting Christians on the ground by visiting www.friendsoftheholyland.org.uk.

Finally, we can tell the story. We can tell the story of our encounters with Jesus and his people. We can share our experience of walking in Jesus's footsteps and meeting with the people of that amazing country. We can encourage people to go and see and experience for themselves that Holy Land. We all went, we all came back and never did we feel in danger or at risk – we were welcomed and embraced by everyone we met.

It is a troubled land, but it is also a special land. I can't wait to go again.



Blessed: A final group picture near the River Jordan at Jericho before the pilgrimage came to an end

THE PILGRIMS RETURN WITH THEIR TALES

NICHOLAS STAINFORTH

THE tour of the Holy Land has certainly reinforced my belief and trust in our God through the power of His Holy Spirit and His son, our Lord Jesus Christ.

I have always been conscious of my belief and trust due to the numerous times I have been rescued from incidents not of my design, such as saving me from a 1965 fatal car crash in Iran or leaving me with no more than a slight scar after rolling off Striding Edge due to my inadequacy - an eye-sight problem since birth.

My most memorable moments were the services outdoors such as beside Lake Galilee and outside the tomb where Jesus was buried - to name just two. I have always found the outdoors - places such as on Kentmere Pike, for example - just as easy for receiving God's message(s) as inside a church.



Sights: Six days into the journey, the pilgrims visited the Garden of Gethsemane, above; left, the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem at dusk

SUE O'LOUGHLIN

TOMORROW we go to Jerusalem, and at this stage in our journey I am feeling dusty and dishevelled, perplexed and excited, troubled and yet peaceful.

It's been suggested the way to go on a pilgrimage is to go like Abraham, not knowing where you are going or who you will meet, suspending beliefs: to be open, to be still, to wait, to learn to listen, in scripture and sacrament, in silence and in suffering for the voice of the one who loves more deeply than we have ourselves; who asks the questions we haven't dared to face and asks of us that which we would rather not give.

So tomorrow I'm going to Jerusalem with muddled expectations and trembling heart. I'm going to Jerusalem to walk where Jesus walked, to meet with God - Abba, Father; Jesus - Son and brother; and Holy Spirit - comforter and inspiration. I'm going to Jerusalem with pilgrim brothers and sisters.

By The Way

'We desperately want to believe in progress'

AS we look back across history we often try to convince ourselves that we learn by our mistakes. We desperately want to believe in progress.

We celebrate Wilberforce, Gandhi and many others who did good things and made the world a better place but we can also point to people who have made it worse again. Is progress really possible? History is ambiguous.

TERRY WILCOCK, *Together Community Newsletter*, provided by the churches of *Matterdale, Watermillcock, Patterdale, Greystoke, Penruddock and Mungisdale*

REFLECTION is both personal and corporate. Personal, in that it is a time for us all to look at our own lives and ask ourselves how we can walk closer with God in our life journeys. Corporate, in that as a Church we ask ourselves how we are following, reflecting and showing the light of Christ into our world.

CHARLES HOPE,
The Parish Church of Keswick St John

THE Binsey Mission Community was formally commissioned just over a year ago. It meant some changes in structures and governance, but being a Mission Community is far more than that.

It describes the activity that we engage and share in together.

The word mission is the key. It comes from 'missio' which means 'to send'. This shows us that at its heart, mission is something very active. So, therefore, being a Mission Community means we cannot be passive, we cannot stand still.

TRICIA ROGERS, *Binsey Link*, The magazine of the Binsey Team Mission Community, the churches of *Allhallows, Bassenthwaite, Bolton, Embleton, Ireby, Isel, Plumbland, Setmurthy, Torpenhow, Uldale and Wythop*

SOME clever clogs has worked out that once we've had our sleep there are 120 hours a week in which we are active.

On average we spend about 10 of those hours in the work and worship of the gathered church, so what do we do with the other 110 hours?

SUSAN BRICE, *Living Stones, Whitehaven URC*

THE Rose Castle Foundation - Rose Castle has been buzzing since December with various events and it is a real joy to be able to witness and share in the life that is being breathed back into the castle walls as more guests walk through the doors.

OWEN MAY, *Raughton Head Parish Magazine*

THE thought occurred to me that if [Syrian] families were re-settled in Whitehaven or Workington during the first part of this year, they might appreciate a day out in the countryside later in the summer. I wondered whether groups and organisations in the parish might work together to offer such a day out.

IAN PARKER, *Contact, Lamplugh, Kirkland and Ennerdale Ecumenical Parish*

HOW often have you heard someone say, 'What did I do to deserve this?' or 'Why should this be happening to me?' As if having faith, being Christian, will somehow exempt you from the traumas of life! If only that were true, then our churches would be full to overflowing every Sunday but they'd be full for all the wrong reasons.

The Gateway, Parish Church of St Michael and All Angels, Beetham

CONSIDER our own circle of family, friends and acquaintances. We know their names but how well do we really know him or her as a person? So glib to say: 'I know so-and-so', but to remain unaware of that mystery which is each soul, no matter how familiar the face.

How little we understand their secret hopes and fears and struggles, the hidden circumstances which have shaped their personality.

The News Magazine of the 'Heart of Eden' Team Ministry

BY the time you read this, the decoration of the community room should be almost completed. We are very grateful to Stan for all the hard work he is putting in.

Around Church, Ramsden Street URC

GOD is not absent. God has not deserted you or any of us. In fact, God is hard at work getting things ready for what he's about to do next.

Like a master gardener, God is getting things ready for what he knows is coming next. God is doing a new thing!

TIM COOKE, *Penrith Circuit Magazine*

DOWN YOUR WAY... IN MORESBY PARKS



Spreading the word: Some of the younger members of the local community help publicise Marks in the Parks

Marks in the Parks

By Gabby Kerry

MARKS in the Parks is a celebration, all about Jesus, to help everyone explore the good news of Jesus Christ together. It's a place where anyone can listen to the same message Jesus preached, where anyone can ask their questions, voice their doubts, share their experiences and explore what faith in Jesus might look like for them.

Our hope is that the afternoon is a fun time when people, particularly in the community of Moresby Parks, can learn through craft, games and singing.

It's an informal gathering where the activities – all themed around the day's Bible passage – last for about an hour.

After that we all share a simple meal together – that is, if the children have left us grown-ups anything to eat! People generally find the atmosphere so friendly that this time of sharing food and friendship can last more than an hour, which is really lovely.

Our prayer is that through these celebrations, which happen twice a month on a Sunday afternoon, many more people will come to know the love, forgiveness and grace of Jesus; that Jesus will grow his church; and that the people of Moresby Parks will feel loved by Jesus and his people.

Sharing villagers' vision

By Jim Barwise

AFTER our Mission church in Moresby Parks had closed we built a relationship with the local Methodist church, who let us hold Anglican services at St Mark's in the village.

During a prolonged inter-regnum, we realised we had taken our eye off the ball. The congregation was down to single figures and closure looked likely.

We asked, if we played a bigger role would it be possible to keep the church open, reducing services to once a month until at least we had a new rector in place? The monthly services started with attendances averaging 22, with good

In each edition of *The Way* we want to dedicate our centre pages to great examples of mission and outreach which are going on right across the county. To introduce this regular feature - *Down Your Way* - we begin by looking at what is going on in the west Cumbrian village of Moresby through the Moresby Parks Ministry.

fellowship and both churches having regular meetings to monitor progress.

A new minister at St Bridget's gave us a fresh impetus, and we undertook a doorstep survey in the village.

We were blown away by the response: we were averaging 15 minutes at each

house, and many people said they thought it was a good thing that the church was prepared to go out and ask people what they thought.

We then held a 'sharing the vision for Moresby Parks'. More than 40 people came together to consider the responses

from the survey and how we could put the suggestions and ideas into practice.

After many prayers and much planning, three new activities were started.

To mark what had been achieved, we had a celebration at Christmas in the form of a Nativity walk. We walked around the village meeting Mary and Joseph, shepherds with some real sheep, a bad-tempered innkeeper and three wise men.

In 2015, the Christmas celebration drew four people; in 2016, the number was more than 60.

Back at church we heard the Christmas story, sang carols and enjoyed great fellowship in a messy, straw-filled manger. This celebration formed the blue print for our new bi-monthly 'Marks in the Parks'.



By Alison Bird

MORESBY Sparks is a weekly playgroup held at St Mark's on a Tuesday morning.

We offer a warm welcome to mums, dads, grandparents, child-minders and other caregivers who bring along their children of pre-school age.

Each session includes time for

Left: The Moresby Sparks playgroup at Christmas

Moresby Sparks

welcome and signing in, free play with the toys, singing nursery and simple Christian rhymes and listening to a short Christian story or learning a message

There's also snack time for children as well as hot drinks for adults, with the sessions finishing off with crafts.



Beat master: Drum tutor Andy Kelly leads the after-school club

By Julie Rudman

MoresBEATS

OUR midweek, after-school drumming club for junior age children began in November last year with a group of excited youngsters making a wonderful sound on Samba drums, tambourines and bells.

Under the expert tuition of Andy Kelly, local professional drum tutor, we all have a go at

making a great Samba sound.

After just a few sessions the group was able to create some fabulous beat at our first Nativity service at St Mark's in Moresby Parks.

This group is one of several community ventures set up in the village by St Bridget's Church after a survey of vil-

lagers gave us the starting point for various activities.

It has been fabulous to meet the children and their families, and we hope this group will continue to flourish with more appearances at future services or events. The next step after building relationships at MoresBEATS is to develop youth ministry more fully.

For more details, visit www.stixpercussion.co.uk.



Relaxed: People of all ages take part in the monthly lunch club

By Martin Brion

Time for Everyone

THIS is a monthly lunch club for young and old, and everyone else in between.

It's held in a comfortable, modern chapel in a relaxed atmosphere. We have soup served, various sweets and a cuppa... or two.

There's sometimes a feature, such as a guitarist

playing or a choir singing for us, and always a topical word from the Lord. And there's plenty of chat, a lot to prepare for and served up by a dedicated team.

We're doing it because it's one of the things that local folk

have asked for in a village survey - a need we are seeking to meet.

Our aim is to make people feel welcome and at home and to want to bring their friends.

And, if this is to help people to get to know one another, it's also to help them get to know Jesus, in line with our parish motto - "to know Christ, and to make him known".

By The Way

If we carry on in this manner, we'll sink

THERE have been many words over the last few years about Mission Communities across Cumbria. Essentially, this is a challenge for us to think differently about how we 'do church'. If we only carry on what we are doing we will sink; the downward trajectory is indisputable in all but a few cases.

DAVID SARGENT, Penrith Beacon, The Magazine for St Andrew's Penrith, Christ Church Penrith, St John's Newton Reigny and St John's Plumpton Wall

CROSTHWAITE School - To develop our values, last June we sent a questionnaire to the whole school community to find out which best represent our school. Children, parents, governors and staff were all consulted. From the feedback, six core values were chosen. These are truth and honesty, friendship, trust, love, responsibility and compassion.

Two Valleys Parish News, Cartmel Fell, Crosthwaite, Crook, Helsington, Winstar, Witherslack and Underbarrow

AS a new president, Donald Trump has promised much, including his self-acclaimed ability to make it happen: "I will never let you down." Yes he will because his leadership, at its core, is trusting in his perspective, his ability, his strength, his power, his control, his values, his dream.

DEREK PRICE, Chatterbox, St Paul's Barrow

ANOTHER highlight of Christmas was the Messy Christingle and Church Party. We had lots of people coming to that, both from Messy and from Sunday Church and a great time was had by all. We made our Christingles, shared excellent food and played wonderful games.

GRAHAM RANSON, The Grapevine, Newsletter of the Methodist Churches of Coniston, Swarthmoor and Ulverston

IT'S still strange to be talking about moving. The thought of leaving behind these wonderful churches is very difficult. We have come to love you all very much and you will forever hold a dear place in our hearts. We will not forget you.

DAVID CRAVEN, Focus on Eden, Holme Eden and Wetheral with Warwick

TO capture the wonder of Christmas in the faces of 100 children as they processed up the aisle of the priory with their lighted Christingle oranges was a memorable start to Advent. Our Lanercost Mothers' Union organised the service for the children and parents of both Lanercost and Lees Hill CE schools.

ELAINE NIGHTINGALE, Writings on the Wall, A Newsletter from the Anglican Churches of Lanercost with Walton, Gilsland and Nether Denton

"FLASHBACKS... to times with Jesus" has been held once again, this time at Ramsden Street. Many thanks to them for hosting.

Over three days at the beginning of March, 140 children from four primary schools were transported back to the first century.

LILIAN WOOD, Newslink, South West Cumbria United Area

THEN there is nature's loveliest gift, that of friendship - the most under-rated of all forms of love, but something which across the world in time and space, and in every place summons up so much that is good in people.

Every time you think of Philadelphia in the USA, you are thinking of friendship, for the word just means 'brotherly love', which is another term for friendship.

GEOFFREY RAVALDE, News Bulletin, St Mary's Wigton

IT won't be long before I have been licensed and installed in the High Westmorland parishes and we will be living in the vicarage in Shap.

We are both looking forward to joining you all soon and getting to know you. Sharon is already settled into her job as director of strategic operations at Carlisle Cathedral and I am in that odd state between leaving one parish to start in another one, and anticipating all the challenges and opportunities that a new ministry might offer.

ALUN HURD, The Link, The Parish Magazine for Orton, Tebay and Ravenstonedale with Newbiggin-on-Lune

PARISH Gala, Saturday, June 24, 2017 - Some folk have been asking what this is all about, so here is some background information. The idea is to create to an event on the grass in front of the church that will both attract and involve groups and folk in the area but also provide an opportunity for those involved in the '£5 Challenge' to increase their £5.

Parish Life, Holy Trinity Parish Church Kendal

The choral tradition alive and well thanks to Jeremy



Jeremy Suter: 'Just by listening to choral music, you can have a sense of the transcendence of God' DAVE ROBERTS

By Dave Roberts

"AT A recent Evensong there were six boys present in the choir. They are a super group and they really put their hearts into it. It was truly wonderful to hear what these boys from Carlisle can produce and it was one of those moments where you realise that things can't get any better. I shall miss that kind of experience very much."

Carlisle Cathedral's Master of the Music Jeremy Suter reflects on his time in post - more than 25 years - as he prepares to retire just after Easter.

Appointed in 1991, Jeremy has led significant change. When he first arrived there was just a cathedral boys' choir. Under his leadership, that has now grown to five choirs: boys', girls', youth, cantata and voluntary adult Carlisle choir.

"What hasn't changed is that if you go into the cathedral at five thirty any week day, except on Saturdays, you will hear Evensong sung by one of the choirs," Jeremy says.

"I think that's important; I'm very proud that tradition remains. There are other cathedrals who have not found it possible to do that. The number of children and adults who are now involved in music-making at the cathedral has rocketed. That's very positive."

The son of a clergyman based in north London, Jeremy's musical journey took him from schoolboy chorister at Westminster Abbey in the early 1960s through to student organist under H A Bate at St James's, Muswell Hill.

A music scholarship at Harrow School followed before Jeremy moved on to the Royal College of Music for two years, and

■ Cathedral's respected Master of Music prepares for retirement

Magdalen College, Oxford as organ scholar.

After a year as a post-graduate at the University of Pennsylvania, Jeremy took his first job as organist at All Saints, Northampton, re-establishing a lapsed boys' choir.

There followed ten years at Chichester Cathedral as assistant organist and director of music at their choir school, before he took up the post in Carlisle.

As Master of the Music he has overseen numerous foreign tours with cathedral choirs as well as three broadcasts for BBC Radio Three's Choral Evensongs.

He remains as passionate as ever about the choral tradition with Anglican Choral repertoire remaining the staple diet.

Jeremy says: "Music is important because it's a language which is able to express religious experiences, thoughts and aspirations in a way that transcends ordinary language but which creates a new dimension. Just by listening to a piece of choral music - even if you may not understand what all the words mean - you can still have a sense of the transcendence of God."

Jeremy and his wife Sue will retire to Poulton-le-Fylde, with his final service on Low Sunday, the Sunday after Easter.

He adds: "Music - choral music in particular - is my life and the closer I get to my retirement the more I'm grateful for what I have been able to do.

"Haven't I been lucky to have had this job, working with such lovely people and helping to make such wonderful music in such a beautiful place?"

Pair welcome an 'exciting' challenge

TWO new Archdeacons to Cumbria say they are excited to help lead forward the countywide ecumenical God for All vision.

The Ven Lee Townend is the new Archdeacon of Carlisle, while the Ven Vernon Ross has been appointed Archdeacon of Westmorland and Furness. Both were collated and installed at a service at Carlisle Cathedral in February.

They will help lead the God for All vision as two of the three principal strategy development officers for mission communities, alongside the Ven Richard Pratt, Archdeacon of West Cumberland.

Lee, who with his wife Liz will be based in Plumpton, said: "It feels like a great time for Liz and I to be joining the diocese. The God for All vision is both exciting and challenging.

"I'm really looking forward to



'Talents': Bishop James, far left, and Bishop Robert, far right, welcome Vernon, second left, and Lee to the diocese

getting to know people and to see the great things that God wants to do next in all our lives. We have a God who can transform anything, and many people are longing to experience that."

Vernon, who will be based in Lindale with his wife Francesca, said: "I'm looking forward to working in an innovative and exciting diocese, and sharing in the adventure which is God For All.

"As a church we are very good at saying how dark the world is; God for All gives us an opportunity to start lighting some candles and transforming the darkness into light."

Lee, 51, came to the post having served as diocesan missionary in the Diocese of Derby. Before ordination in 1998 he worked in sales management and ran a garden design business.

Vernon, 59, was the mission and ministry adviser for the Barking Episcopal Area of the Diocese of Chelmsford. Ordained in 1991, he has a nursing background.

The Rt Rev James Newcome, Bishop of Carlisle, said: "Lee and Vernon have shown tremendous and demonstrable talents for missional and spiritual growth as well as strategic oversight to bring new people to discipleship in Jesus Christ."

■ Communities already looking at ways to help others discover more of Jesus

Moving Mountains well received at gatherings

By Rev Mike Talbot,
Evangelism Enabler

SIX hundred people. Five venues. One vision that, across Cumbria, everyone should have the opportunity to discover more of God and his purpose for their lives so that they will discover more of Jesus and the Good News and become followers of Jesus within a Christian Community.

During February, those hundreds of people from the majority of our churches came together at one of five different events to discover how we could make that vision a reality through Moving Mountains.

It is a countywide opportunity for everyone to discover what it means to become a follower of Jesus. The focus will be from March 8-11, 2018, when we will be joined by around 35 teams from across the country, each led by a senior church leader.

A variety of bishops, Methodist district chairs, URC moderators and Salvation Army divisional commanders will each bring three or four people with them to work alongside us, supporting and enabling us to engage with our local communities in helping



One vision: Bishop James addresses a launch event at St James's, Carlisle



them take a step forward in discovering more of Jesus.

The five Moving Mountains launch events saw people sharing their own faith stories and discovering how encouraged others were by hearing what they had to say.

There were also opportunities to see what is already hap-

pening, in churches, chapel and corps across Cumbria, as well as to begin to think about ways in which each one of us could be open to opportunities to help others explore what faith in Jesus might look like.

Christian communities are already thinking how they could make the most of Moving Mountains. But this is not simply a one-off event in a year's time; it is an ongoing response to the God for All vision to which every church has committed itself.

The March 2018 events run up to Mothering Sunday, with its reminder of the love that

mothers have for children, and the love that God has for each one of us. The strapline for Moving Mountains is 'Revealing the love of God for All'. How might your church be able to show God's love to those around you in a way which prompts others to want to discover more about that love for themselves?

■ Have a look at the resources on the Moving Mountains section of the God for All website - www.godforall.org.uk/moving-mountains-2018 - or get in touch via email - mike.talbot@carlisle-diocese.org.uk.

WHAT'S ON AROUND CUMBRIA

Windermere Rambles

Sun to Thurs April 9-13, URC Windermere Centre

If you enjoy walking and would like to make new friends, in a warm Christian environment then this is for you. Daily walks, fun evenings and times of fellowship are all on offer. Led by Martin & Jackie Wrench. Pay what you can. Details at www.windermereurc.org.uk or at 015394 44902.

Living with the Mystics

Tues May 2, 10am for 10.30am to 3pm, Friends Meeting House, Elliot Park, Keswick

Edwina Campbell leads a day focussing on St Therese of Lisieux. The cost is £5. Drinks are provided, but please bring your own lunch. To book, contact Bob Morley on 016974 72644 or at rgm1@live.co.uk.

'Where is God in Dementia?'

Weds May 17, 10am to 3.30pm, Keswick Meeting House

A day of reflection and discussion on the theme of spirituality and dementia. Speakers include the Rev Lucie Lunn and Dr Elizabeth Anderson as well as group discussion. Places are limited to 25 so booking is essential. Cost is £10 per person (bursary available on request). Bring your own lunch. To reserve a place, please contact Cameron Butland on cda03@gmail.com or send a cheque made payable to 'CTiC' to Bishop's House, Ambleside Road, Keswick, Cumbria CA12 4DD.

Card Mania

Thurs to Sun May 25-28, URC Windermere Centre

A workshop-style card-making course. You will learn new techniques and be inspired with many ideas, all in friendly surroundings with great food. Suitable for beginners and experts alike. Pay what you can. Details at www.windermereurc.org.uk or at 015394 44902.

Domestic Abuse Awareness Training

Tues June 13, 9.45am to 3.30pm, Penrith Methodist Church

This CTiC event is free of charge and open to clergy and all involved in pastoral care in the church. CTiC training programme in domestic abuse awareness has already reached at least half the churches in our county. To book, contact Helen Boothroyd on 07503 931196 or via hbctic@tiscali.co.uk. Please include the following details: name, church, email address (or postal address if no email)

Living from our Fullness: The Role of Prayer and Meditation

Sat June 24, 10am for 10.30am to 3.30pm, Glenthorne Quaker Centre, Easedale Road, Grasmere, LA22 9QH

John Martin Sahajananda leads this session. The cost is £20. Drinks are provided, but please bring your own lunch. To book contact Richard on 01946 862990 or via cmcwccm@fastmail.fm.

Living with the Mystics

Tues August 1, 10am for 10.30am to 3pm, Friends Meeting House, Elliot Park, Keswick

Jo Grundy leads this day focussing on Brother Lawrence. The cost is £5. Drinks are provided, but please bring your own lunch. To book, contact Bob Morley on 016974 72644 or via rgm1@live.co.uk.

MOVING MOUNTAINS PRAYER WALL

'...the few people in my own church – elderly as they are – will catch the visions of mountains being moved, by them!'

At each of the Moving Mountains launch events people were asked to write a prayer for the mission.

Hundreds of people duly reflected on what they wanted to see happen before, during and after Moving Mountains. The prayers have been uploaded to the God for All website under the Moving Mountains tab. We thought you may like to see some of those personal reflections. The prayer begins "As we engage in the Moving Mountains mission I am praying that..."

'...we can break out of our comfort zones, that we can overcome our lack of confidence in talking about God'

'...it will impact with a 'wow' and have a real and lasting effect'

'...God will ignite our hearts with His love'

'...I have the courage to speak and to share my faith with others'

'...further links will be created between the school and church'

'...we will see the Holy Spirit moving in this county'

'...we see at least 100 young people aged 11 to 18 come to know God and enter a discipleship plan'

'...all the churches in our proposed Mission Community may have the opportunity to be involved in this'

'...our church members become more outward-looking and grasp this opportunity'

'...we will have the courage to move forward in mission'



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NEWS IN BRIEF

Thank you Lorna!

LORNA Shaw, pictured, is stepping down as a distributor of *The Way* after decades of delivery.



Lorna has helped distribute the newspaper since it was launched, in the early days alongside her husband Frank, who was the former managing editor of the *Cumberland and Westmorland Herald*.

Following Frank's death in 2001, Lorna continued to deliver copies of *The Way* to churches around the Penrith Deanery.

Lorna, who is in her 90s, said: "It's a service which has been a real pleasure."

We are looking for a new volunteer to help distribute these bundles - collected from the Herald's Penrith offices. If you are interested, please contact Dave Roberts on 01768 807764 or at communications@carlisle-diocese.org.uk.

Board of Education

A CARLISLE vicar - and former teacher - has been appointed the new chair of the Diocese of Carlisle's Board of Education.

The Rev Andrew Towner is vicar of St John's Houghton with St Peter's Kingmoor. Before ordination, he taught maths at schools in Kent and Essex.

Andrew said: "Schools are at the centre of many communities, and can therefore be significant hubs within our commitment to enabling everyone in this county to learn more of God and his purpose for their lives."

Hospice chaplain retires



'Extremely moving': Dorothy Derrick in the grounds of the Eden Valley Hospice

DAVE ROBERTS

DOROTHY Derrick has a stand-out memory from her 10 years of chaplaincy work at the Eden Valley Hospice.

She has always had a policy of knocking on people's doors and asking if they wanted to chat.

Dorothy explains: "I knocked on one door and the chap told me, 'I don't do God'. I said, 'Oh. I do. Shall we have a chat?' It turned out that this man was a fell-walker, as was I, and so we had plenty to talk about.

"While he said he didn't do God, he was certainly angry with God, which was interesting. We had a wonderful conversation and

■ Dorothy was a member of the 12-strong ecumenical team

I was later privileged to take his funeral."

The Rev Derrick has just retired from her chaplaincy role - one of 12 members of the ecumenical chaplaincy team which works out of the Carlisle hospice.

Ordained deacon in 1992 and priest in 1994, Dorothy served a parish in Oxfordshire until 2005. She and her husband of 52 years, John, retired to Carlisle in 2004.

After taking a well-earned break from ministry, she approached the hospice to see if her services could be used. After 10 years, Dorothy has now stepped down.

"When I started there were eight of us on the team and that's grown amazingly," Dorothy says.

"There's now a team of 12 - Anglicans, Roman Catholics, Salvation Army, Quakers, Free Church and an inter-faith minister."

There's a rota system of chaplains covering the hospice's day care unit, adult unit and the Jigsaw children's unit. Dorothy had a regular commitment to day care every other Friday.

She says: "That involved coming alongside people and talking to them and I always offered a service in the chapel for those who wanted to come.

"The chapel is a very important member of the chaplaincy team. It's a place where you can go on your own, or you can take people

there to talk or pray or whatever you may want to do.

"It can be quite tiring and the hard part of this work is being constantly open to listen."

Dorothy says God's presence resonates in the hospice and its grounds. "God is all around there, it's quite amazing," she adds. "People sense that, and there's a peacefulness when you walk in.

"It has been a huge privilege to come alongside people in day care when they are ill or failing, and on the ward when they are at the end of life. I have found it extremely moving to see how courageous people are - both patients and families."

■ For more information, visit www.edenvalleyhospice.org.

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Bishop's visit bolsters bond

By Dave Roberts

AS CHALLENGES go, running a diocese, comparable in size to France and with only two paved roads, is a tough one.

But that is what Nick Drayson is faced with as the Bishop of the Diocese of Northern Argentina - one of three Partnerships for World Mission links that the Diocese of Carlisle has.

A measure of that challenge can be seen by the vast distances Bishop Nick and his wife, Catherine Le Tissier, have to travel to take their mission forwards. They recently bought a new car - it already has 90,000 kilometres on the clock.

Northern Argentina represents a different missional arena, but Bishop Nick says he can see many similarities with Cumbria.

During a six-day visit to Cumbria earlier this year, he said: "Because our two dioceses are so far apart geographically, it is



Links: From left, Dave Holt, convener for the Diocese of Carlisle's Northern Argentina link committee, Catherine Le Tissier and Bishop Nick
DAVE ROBERTS

always important that we look to maintain face-to-face contact whenever possible. We have common concerns in mission, unity, working with families and discipleship. We can learn from each other in all of those areas.

"Very high on our agenda is the creation of missional communities and work on and around disciple-

ship, so we are very keen to talk more with people from Cumbria about God for All."

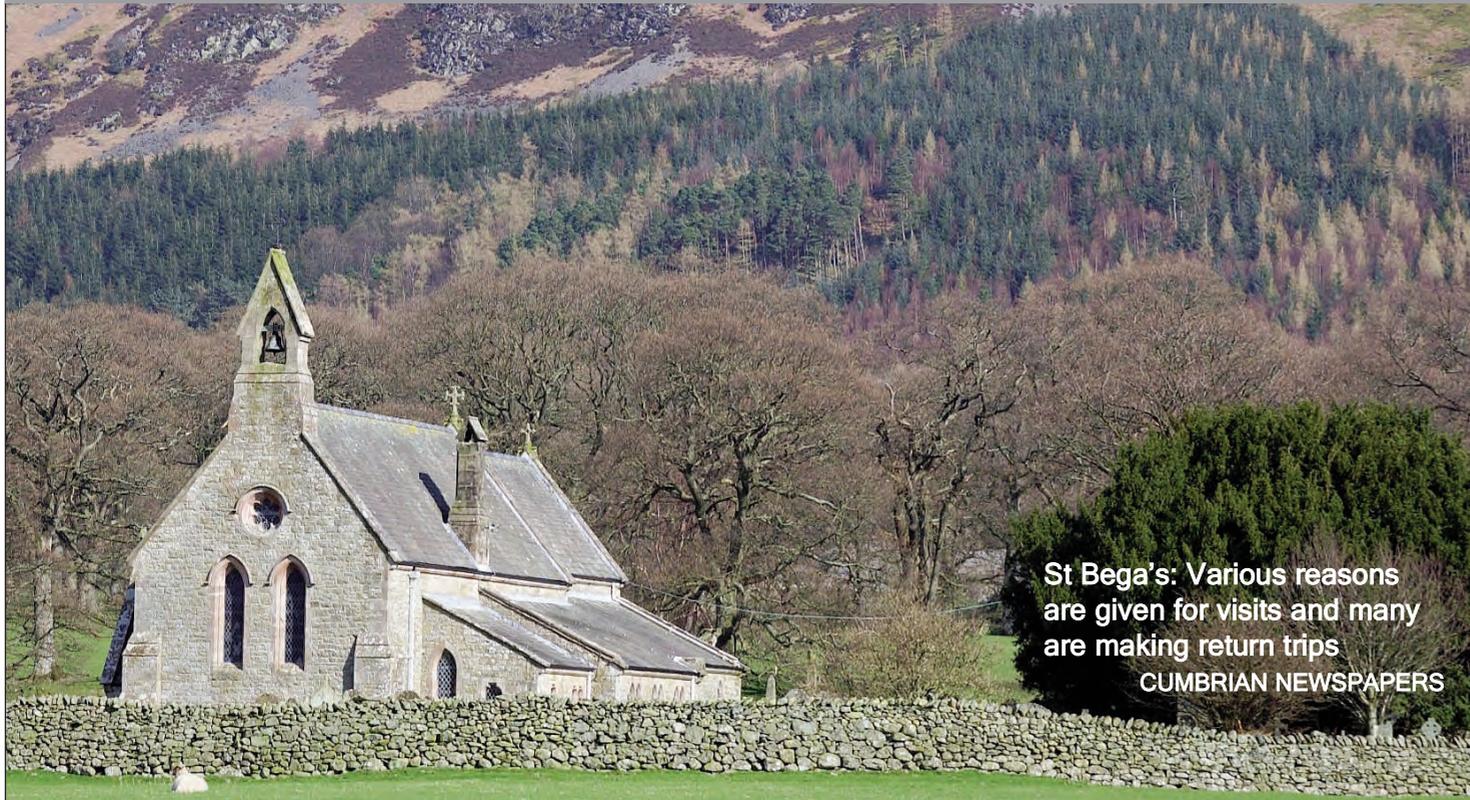
Bishop Nick, who was appointed suffragan bishop in 2009, and his wife live in the north-west of Argentina, in a rural area which holds around 90 per cent of the diocese's 150 churches.

Mrs Le Tissier has overseen the launch and co-ordination of AMARE, the Argentinian branch of the Mothers' Union, which is set to expand to neighbouring South American countries. It already has 1,000 members.

"This is about helping women to be affirmed, motivated and renewed in the spirit," she said.

The link between the dioceses will be strengthened with a visit to Cumbria in May by a group of pastors and young people from Argentina. And an annual prayer day, with people in Cumbria and Northern Argentina joining in prayer, will take place on May 25, Argentina's Independence Day.

So many get so much from this simple place



St Bega's: Various reasons are given for visits and many are making return trips
CUMBRIAN NEWSPAPERS

IT IS perhaps surprising that a small church in the middle of a field should attract as much attention as St Bega's does.

Last year, a New Zealand couple wrote in the visitors' book "well worth the journey"; a couple from Berlin said "one of our all-time favourite places over many years"; and, on mid-summer's day, a choral society visited from Lake Odessa in the USA. People have also come from Australia, Austria, Canada, Eire, France, Guyana, Indonesia, Kenya, Macao, Malaysia, Moldova, the Netherlands, Poland, Spain, Sweden, Switzer-

By Rev Clare Spedding,
Curate in the Binsey
Mission Community

land, South Africa and Turkey.

Various reasons are given for visits. A group of friends came to celebrate an 80th and three 50th birthdays. Some, like Rupert and Jenny, are looking for family graves. Regularly, people write that they have just walked St Bega's Way. Nicholas and Lucy were happy to have completed it and to enjoy "this remarkably spiritual place". Others come to revisit memories

– "my mother's favourite place" – and many come, as June and Philip did, "to pray for peace".

The most frequent reason given is that people are making return visits. Like two from Chesham: "Good to be back." LC from the Wirral: "Here again like an old friend." Gary and Sandy have been visiting for 27 years. And many return to the place where they were married like the Robinsons who said: "Still WOW!"

Often people describe their reactions to this place. A visitor from San Francisco found it "a wonderful surprise". Someone

in August wrote: "I love this place; it makes my heart ache."

It is noticeable how many remark on the atmosphere – "holy"; "a thin place"; "I felt welcomed the moment I walked in"; "a warm beautiful feeling of peace envelops you..."

One couple brought us a very special gift. Barrington and Rita from Guyana gave us a copy of the gospels which Rita had translated into their local language, Akawaio. It joins the collection of Bibles in different languages, which us that the good news al is for everyone, near and

Comfort of God's love in hospital operating theatre

■ Mystic knew he had nothing to fear as he went under the knife

By Stephen Wright,
Director of the Sacred
Space Foundation



Stephen Wright: 'The veils of ordinary reality gave way'

scared? With all the stuff going on around me I keep breathing the holy name, as is my prayer habit... Je-sus... in rhythm with my in-and-out breath.

I inwardly ask: "What's going on?" From somewhere in my consciousness, the answer is clear: "Love is what's going on." And it is. I look at and through equipment and people; all have a deep radiant quality. No matter what's going on, I know I am utterly safe and held;

there is nowhere that God is not, penetrating, being, the very atomic structure of everything.

I feel my heart stop at one point, notice the increased level of activity about me, the nausea as the drugs are pumped in and the painful ripple of electricity to kick-start my heart. I am aware of it all. If the sedation just administered ought to have stopped that, it didn't work. I am watching it all in wonder. I just know what life is and what death is and that there is nowhere that God is not and there is absolutely nothing to fear and that I am utterly in Love.

Sceptics will say such experiences are from a rush of endorphins induced by fear or drugs. All I can say is that I was 'seeing' deeply, that nothing was separate as the veils of ordinary reality gave way to the essential oneness of everything; a oneness that was not neutral but a profound expression and emanation of Love.

Being mystically inclined

since childhood, it wasn't that unusual an experience, except for its length and intensity.

Mystics who thus connect with ultimate reality, God, are not always well accepted in churches. Others may even suggest admission to a psychiatric unit. That's why we tend to keep quiet about it.

When the veils of ordinary reality slip away, in prayer or sudden insight or an operating theatre, we may sense the truth of the Presence of God. Unconstrained by time or space, in all things yet contained by none, just that... Presence.

■ The Sacred Space Foundation is a charity based in Mungrisdale with almost 30 years of experience in providing peaceful, confidential rest and recuperation for those who are exhausted, stressed, burned-out or experiencing a sense of crisis. It is currently looking to raise £50,000 to extend its facilities. Visit www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/stephen-wright-1.

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Mike Angelo Photography

PRESS – PUBLICITY – PRESENTATIONS

Lakeland Seasons, Lakeland Life and Lakeland Calendar are three differing, 50-minute audio-visual presentations featuring the annual beauty of Cumbria.

These FREE entertaining and informative shows may be booked in advance by WI and MU. Music, poetry and narration accompany the spectacular images which have already been appreciated at various venues.

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By The Way

New friends made in big community effort

LAST year Dalston was nominated to represent Cumbria as a Britain in Bloom finalist. It was a huge challenge, but groups and individuals rose to the privilege in large numbers of all ages. New friends were made and together we tackled the various tasks and projects with great camaraderie and fun.

LIZ AULD, Dalston Parish Paper

IT'S great to see the laity - male and female - using so many of their skills and gifts in the leading of our services. Our latest welcome change is that St George's Church will soon be offering communion to baptised children before confirmation (with the consent of their parents). This is something that has been happening in many other churches for the last 20 years, so it's taken a little while for us to get there.

JEAN RADLEY, Parish News, St George Kendal

MANY of you will be aware that from May, our group of parishes will be enlarging. The parishes of Askham with Lowther and Clifton and Brougham will be joining us, and our ministry team will be covering them in addition to our existing six parishes. Consequently, we will be changing our name from the Leith-Lyvennet Parishes to the North Westmorland Parishes.

Leith-Lyvennet News

THIS Easter weekend, the Friends of St Mary's Church are holding an art exhibition in the Sarah Losh Heritage Centre. The theme of the exhibition is based on Sarah Losh, her life, her works, the village of Wreay or the surrounding district. Artists within the benefice and those receiving this newsletter are invited to create and submit work.

St Mary's Church, Wreay

THE Church Council met on January 24. Wendy told us of the nationwide shortage of Methodist ministers. In west Cumbria, two or more circuits might have to join together in some way, depending on whether replacements are found for ministers finishing in the next year or two. Wendy also stated that she had offered to be a mission partner in an overseas church from September 2018.

ALEC BOUNDS, Egremont Methodist Church

THIS is our good news story. Our church is growing and we just want to share some of the great things that happen and we want you to tell people about it too. As you know we have our three worship centres that enjoying being church family. The numbers are not huge but we are family. Well, our family is growing!

The Link, Holy Trinity and St Barnabas with Sandsfield Fellowship

IT is now about three years since steering groups were being set up to form Mission Communities. This is now a worthwhile point at which to review where we are. The Christian Church struggles to move fast but in the three years that have elapsed since the groups were set up, progress has actually been made in Churches realising that if we make no changes at all we are on a downward trajectory.

NICK MARK, Newsletter of Penrith and Penruddock URC

AS you probably know, 'Christ' is simply the Greek translation of the Hebrew word 'messiah'. This helpfully reminds us that being a 'good Christian' is not first and foremost about living a morally upright life, but about being a follower of Jesus - a disciple.

JAMES RICHARDS, St Martin's, Bowness-on-Windermere

LAST Sunday, which was Homeless Sunday and also our first informal Café Church service, we heard the parable of the Good Samaritan and this reminded us that our neighbour is not necessarily someone like ourselves but anyone in need. Our collection then went to Shelter, one of the charities which help the homeless in the UK.

DIANA NICHOLSON, Bampton Parish Newsletter

FOR me, hymnbook and Bible are intertwined. If, like myself, you were of the evangelical tradition, you not only carried a hymnbook to Church, but also a Bible. My pocket money had to stretch to a leather-bound, compact, zipped Bible that fitted into my handbag - King James version of course.

WENDY KILWORTH-MASON, In Touch, Magazine of Seascale and Gosforth Methodist Churches

ST NICHOLAS' Church, Nicholforest is an old and humble parish church with nave, chancel and apse. There is a small wooden bell turret with a spire. There are many stained glass windows, all by John Stott and Son, with a five-light east window depicting Christ the Good Shepherd flanked by the four Evangelists.

The Esk Parishes, Arthuret, Kirkandrews-on-Esk and Nicholforest

How do we live out our life within the body of Christ?

■ The work of the vocations team, God for All, Moving Mountains... it's all part of the same thing

ENCOURAGING people to think about what God is calling them to do. Asking how we live out our baptismal calling. Helping us all to think how we change our church culture to get to a place where talking about God's calling is normal.

All this is what we are here for in the vocations team; to encourage parishes and Mission Communities to do these things. We have a big obligation in the God for All vision to foster and inspire many more people to consider their calling, their vocation, to live out our Christian life within the body of Christ.

If we look at the vision as a whole "that by 2020 we want everyone in Cumbria to know more of God..." it seems stagger-

By Rev Peter Clement,
Diocesan Director of Ordinands & Vocations Development Officer

ing, and dare I say unrealistic, but if we start doing little things then that changes.

It is wonderful how people are becoming inspired by Moving Mountains, and this is not something different from God for All or encouraging vocations. This is all part of the same thing. By taking small steps we are starting to make significant progress in this vision.

I am delighted the vocations advisers in the county are beginning to be well used. People are going to see them to explore what God might be calling them to do, and looking at all sorts of things.

Vocations Sunday is on May 7, and it is a great opportunity to tell

stories of calling. This is not something big and scary, but something everyday, and is happening all around us. God is working here and now. Let's watch out for His gracious actions, and join in!

Another event that is happening to fit in with Vocations Sunday is a Women's Vocations event at Carlisle Cathedral on Saturday May 6, from 10.30am to 3.30pm. This will be led by the Rev Dr Kate Bruce, who helps train people for ordination and who is also a stand-up comic. This is not just for women, but all the speakers will be women.

To book a place at the Women's Vocations event, please contact James Bober at admin@cumbriachristianlearning.org.uk or on 01768 807765.

VOCATIONS ADVISERS CONTACTS

North Archdeaconry (Carlisle)

Co-ordinator:
Janet Cox
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vanorth@carlisle-diocese.org.uk



South Archdeaconry (Westmorland and Furness)

Co-ordinator:
Maureen Stevens
01539 734358
vasouth@carlisle-diocese.org.uk



West Archdeaconry (West Cumberland)

Co-ordinator:
Jonathan Falkner
019467 21852
vawest@carlisle-diocese.org.uk



'I've been called to work with those on the margins'



'God-given gifts': As a distinctive deacon, the Rev Sandy Pearl focusses on pastoral work

THE Rev Sandy Pearl is the county's first Anglican distinctive deacon. She was ordained deacon in 2016, but has chosen not to be priested.

Instead, she feels God's call is for her, as a deacon, to draw alongside people pastorally as she serves the benefice of Leith-Lyvennet in the Eden Valley.

"I believe we all have God-given gifts, as it says in Corinthians 1, and when we realise what those gifts are, we owe it to God to use them and not ignore them," she says.

"I believe the gifts I'd been

given along with my life experiences meant I was being called to be a distinctive deacon, not a priest. I've been called to work with those on the margins - the sick, the elderly, the frail and the lonely - and to minister to them and encourage people to know that God loves them and we love them.

"Whatever they have done and whatever they may do, God will continue to love them.

"There's more of a pastoral side to the work of a distinctive deacon. I still take services, but it is the pastoral side which is a focus.

"I take a lot of funerals - that is one of my God-given gifts - and that has been helped by my experience as a nurse and as a bereavement counsellor.

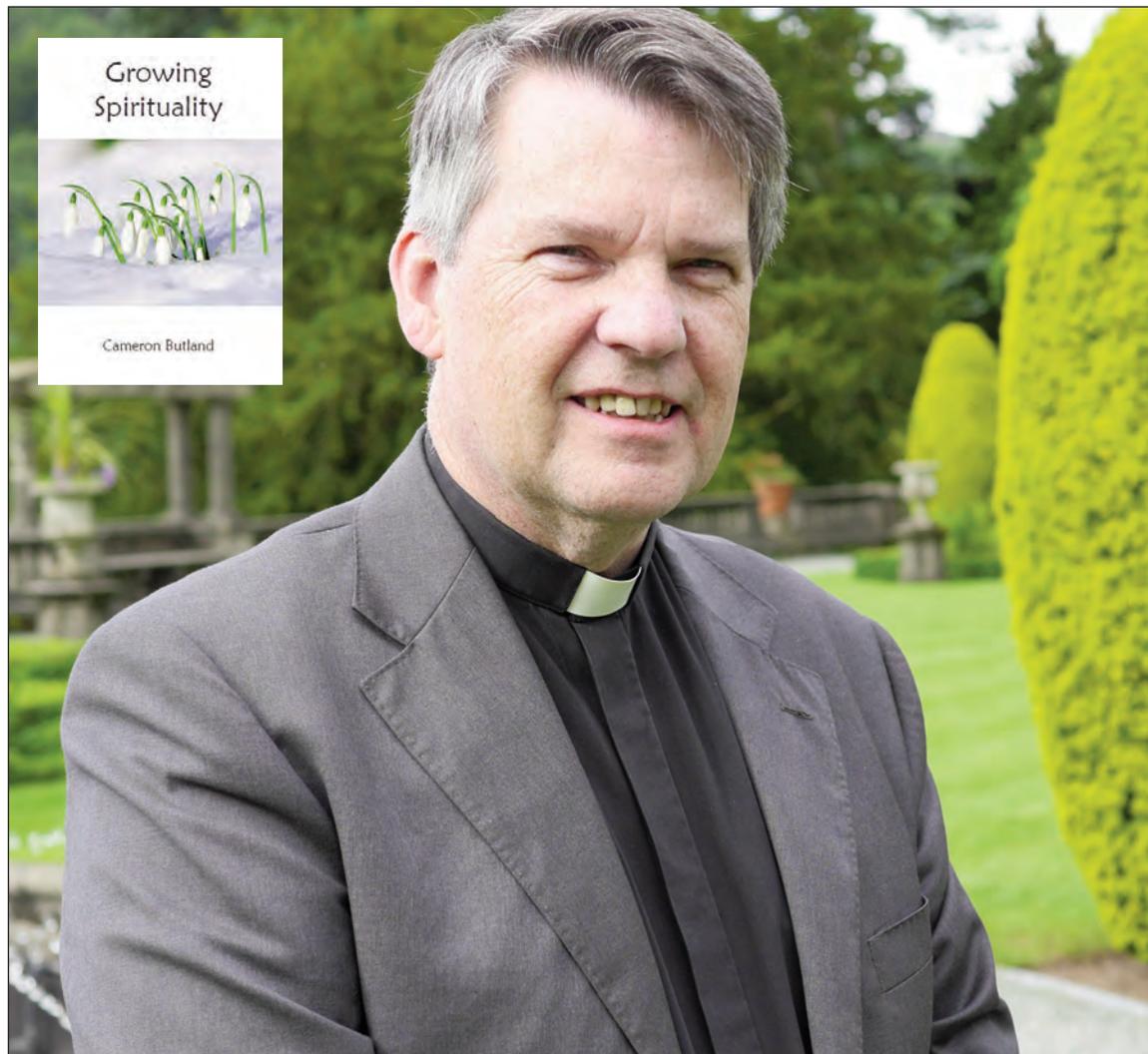
"I also do follow-on visits after funerals, and at some point I will ask people who may not be regular churchgoers to come along to a Eucharist service on a Wednesday morning. After a half-hour service, people then spend two hours chatting in the café - it's important for those who may be feeling isolated or lonely. That can lead to them coming to a luncheon club on a

Monday and then to church on a Sunday. It can take as long as it needs to. But by coming back into the life and family of the church they realise life is worth living."

She adds: "God does take you out of your comfort zone. If you had said to me five or six years ago that I would be preaching from a pulpit, I would not have thought it possible. But I'm doing that and I love it. It's a privilege.

"I want other people to realise their gifts too and to have that relationship with God in all they do, rather than just on Sundays."

Prayer and community are key



'Personal reflection': Cameron Butland and, inset, the book that he has written

By Rev Canon
Cameron Butland,
Chaplain to the Bishop of Carlisle

TO BE missional is to live prayerfully. Only when we are rooted in a loving relationship with God do we have the confidence to witness to Jesus.

The courage to do this comes from being in community with others who live prayerfully. Prayer and community are, I believe, the foundations of mission.

In January 2016, Methodist District Chairman Richard Teal asked me to write a few notes about the formation of the ecumenical county of Cumbria. Having written a short paper, I realised there was much more to be said. The resulting book is a personal reflection on the journey of faith that has brought us to this point. Much of it is the culmination of the last eight years working as part of the Cumbria Ecumenical Spirituality Group.

Growing Spirituality is a personal reflection on the spirituality of Cumbria and briefly tells the story of the faith from the first Christians to those denominations that signed the covenant partnership and supported it in Carlisle Cathedral on November 27 last year. It reflects, too, on the spiritual styles that have played an important part in shaping the county's churches and is a story of the dynamism of Christ's disciples over the last 16 cen-

■ New book looks at the spirituality of our ecumenical county

turies, rooted in prayer, community and mission. In the final part it asks where the spirituality of the ecumenical county may be taking us.

The book is dedicated to my colleagues with whom I have worked on courses and events, and from whom I have learned so much. I am also indebted to those who have attended events that the group has organised, especially the 'Nourishing the Soul' and 'Introduction to Spiritual Direction' year-long courses. The growth in numbers wanting to be part of these courses and in those seeking spiritual direction has been one of the most encouraging parts of my ministry.

The book is written to acknowledge the hundreds who, in all our churches, are making the ecumenical county a reality. Cumbria is an exciting place to be, seeing not just the churches but also faith itself coming alive again in people and communities.

It is in this spirit of revival that we can see growth again in our Christian fellowships. It is a 'growing spirituality' rooted in prayer, held in community and leading us into mission.

■ *Growing Spirituality* costs £10. Order from Cameron Butland via email cdsa03@gmail.com.

Pilgrimage gives priest a better insight into parishes

LAST year, thousands of people across Cumbria came together in a great wave of prayer for the evangelisation of the nation.

The Thy Kingdom Come event saw the God for All partner and companion denominations come together from prayer relays through to prayer balloon services and community prayer gatherings. We will be doing the same in Cumbria again this year from June 4 to 11.

As part of last year's events, the Rev Philip Dorling, from the Inglewood group of churches, completed a week-long prayer pilgrimage, taking in each of his churches. Below are excerpts from his reflections on that journey.

SUNDAY MAY 8: With the Sunday services done, I packed my rucksack, and, at 4pm, set out for Ainstable. Down to the bridge at Armathwaite and then up to Eric and Christine's, arriving very hot, for a wonderful supper. Then, on to church. Dust particles dance in the sunbeams as I pray my first pilgrimage prayers.

MONDAY MAY 9: I woke late. 'Quick, get up!'...there are steps on the path, and the voices of three people coming to pray. The sun is warm in patches on the



Immersed: The Rev Philip Dorling on his walk

pews. After breakfast, my wife and I walk down to the River Eden, through bright green fields and spring blossom woods... I have prayed all day for blessing on the land – that it, and the week, will bear much fruit.

TUESDAY MAY 10: ...down to the River Eden and on to the spot where the fishing hut was washed away in the floods. Everything is changing. Lord teach us to pray... A quick swim in the river. Standing knee deep, I imagine Moses, and Joshua, Ezekiel, and John... and Jesus, as the water sheets past my knees.

WEDNESDAY MAY 11: It is a wonder to break bread again... this time with the people who live at Barrock Park, and with Bishop

Graham Dow, who strolls into the sitting-room and says that he wants to join me for the day... Finally, we arrive at Ivegill Village Hall, just as the school children are going home. Bishop Graham blesses me.

THURSDAY MAY 12: I climb steadily on... A smiling farmer shows me his sheds. Then I meet a man standing with his dog at the gate of a pen full of bleating sheep. I feel as if I'm seeing the parishes I work in for the first time.

FRIDAY MAY 13: As darkness falls, I make my way to another home for another wonderful meal, this time with the Inglewoods. Later, in the moonlight, I slip back to the church, through the trees.

SATURDAY MAY 14: Hutton is beautiful in the silence of the morning. It is gold and green. This is what it is like, when no one is here, but God. Today, heaven's eternity touches earth.

SUNDAY MAY 15: I rise early to go home. As I walk up the A6 in the early sun, there is no traffic, but in the haze you can tell the wheat is pushing through the good earth. Thanks be to God!

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SHARING THE FAITH



Jimmy Dale: 'I think one of the key issues is there is a lack of understanding around evangelism'

■ The Way meets the man tasked with promoting and resourcing youth evangelism across the Church of England

Q Please tell us a little bit about yourself.

A My name is Jimmy Dale and I work with the Church of England as their National Youth Evangelism Officer. I'm married to Sarah and live in East London where I have been doing youth work for the past 10 years, running a Youth for Christ centre for the last five years.

Before that I actually lived in Carlisle for a few years so I still have a soft spot for it.

Outside of work, I am an avid Spurs fan, a running enthusiast and a passionate advocate for Apple products!

Q What does your new role entail?

A The role is a brand new role and has the remit to promote and resource youth evangelism across the Church of England.

Obviously that's a really wide remit and covers everything from churches who want to engage with young people for the first time to young people wanting to share faith with their friends to dioceses wanting to look at youth evangelism strategies.

It can look at creating new initiatives or helping better resource



Enthusiastic: Jimmy with his wife Sarah

existing ones. It can also consider resources, projects, fresh expressions or wider strategies. It's very varied!

Q Who will you be working with?

A I'm working right across the Church of England at all levels and with all churchmanships.

Anyone who is interested in

looking at youth evangelism I'm keen to work with.

Q How can we support young people in evangelism?

A I think one of the key issues is there is a lack of understanding around evangelism, with it defined in most young people's minds as proclamational, stage-based altar calls or confrontational conversations around faith, as opposed to part of a journey. Young people feel unequipped and unable to do this and so opt to keep their faith personal.

I think one of the best things we can do is offer simple, relational and conversational models of sharing faith so young people have examples to imitate.

Q What goals are you setting?

A I think success is a hard thing to measure. I want to see a change in culture, which sees a move away from me

coming to people and asking them what they are doing about youth evangelism, to people contacting me, asking what they can do about it.

Q How can we change models to enable young people to reach their peers?

A I think it's important to realise there isn't a silver bullet. There are so many resources out there that will encourage and equip young people to share their faith, but the only way this happens is with ongoing discipleship, journeying in faith with young people as they grow in confidence in their relationship with Jesus.

Q What are the opportunities that we're missing out on?

A We need to get better at telling the ordinary story. I love a story where the whole school became Christians and now your church has 400

young people, but we need to remember they're exceptions.

If you are faithfully working with three young people, journeying with them around what their faith looks like, then that's amazing. We need to get better at telling stories that give simple, achievable and sustainable models of reaching young people. If we don't, people who are faithfully serving small groups of young people feel that what they are doing isn't enough and become demotivated and can give up. We need to change the narrative.

Q How can we learn from others?

A There is so much shared learning. But the best people to ask are the people at the grass roots, serving young people week in and week out.

I always encourage people to let me know what they see is working. Don't wait for me to hear about it or we'll miss the opportunity. Sharing what we're seeing work is so key.