



The Way

The FREE newspaper of the Church in Cumbria, Summer 2017



Individual faith stories
take to the airwaves

PAGE 3



Champing it
up this summer

PAGE 5

REACHING OUT TO EVERYONE

“CAN we do this every Sunday?” That was just one of the comments from the children and young people who attended the first ever ecumenical Messy Cathedral event – held recently at Carlisle Cathedral.

For an afternoon this ancient and spiritual place was opened up in new ways and to new people – children, parents and organisers all had an uplifting time.

You can read more about it inside this second edition on *The Way* to be printed since our re-launch. Thank you for the positive feedback received so far and we'd welcome any more comments you may have.

■ Carlisle Cathedral opened up to new people in new ways

Inside you'll find articles which are centred around the God for All strategy and vision – that by 2020 everyone in Cumbria has had an opportunity to discover more of God and God's purpose for their lives.

Our prayer is that, through reading the following content...

- We may feel inspired to move out of our comfort zones – find out how you could share your faith story with a Cumbria-wide audience via BBC Radio Cumbria.

- We may feel empowered

– discover the latest news about next year's Moving Mountains mission when visiting teams of senior ecumenical leaders join forces with local churches to grow God's Kingdom in Cumbria.

- And we may feel challenged in our faith – what can we do to help reach out to those on the fringe and beyond via a pioneering Text-a-Prayer project?

Our thanks go to those whose stories we have featured, and may we wish you all a relaxing and restful summer!

Look what I've made! Five-year-old Reuben Wilson is one of those helping to get things messy at Carlisle Cathedral

JENNY WOOLGAR PHOTOGRAPHY

INSIDE THIS EDITION



ROB & TRACEY



Foster couple's 'new hope'

PAGE 4

MAGGIE PATCHETT

Tourism gets its own chaplain



PAGE 11

FRAN PARKINSON



One of first Text-a-Prayer volunteers

PAGE 12

CONTACT US

EDITOR:

Dave Roberts

Tel: 07469 153658

Email: communications@carlisle-diocese.org.uk



AD MANAGER:

Steven Bowditch

Tel: 01228 530159



The Way is the newspaper of the Church in Cumbria. It is produced in partnership between the Church of England Diocese of Carlisle, the Methodist District of Cumbria, the United Reformed Church in Cumbria and Churches Together in Cumbria. Through Churches Together in Cumbria, we ensure coverage of and distribution to the Roman Catholic, Salvation Army, Quakers and independent churches. The editorial team is made up of representatives from across the denominations.

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.

The views and opinions of contributors and advertisers do not necessarily reflect the views and opinions of the partners.

The publisher takes no responsibility for losses arising from information in advertisements in *The Way*.

The Way Newspaper of the Church in Cumbria

The winter 2017/18 edition will be available in December

Conversations focus on making the most of Moving Mountains

■ Church folk want to enable others to discover more of God

By Rev Mike Talbot, Evangelism Enabler

“WHAT about a community litter pick?” “Can we run our Messy Church that weekend?” “Could we hold an event in one of the village pubs?”

In a collection of small villages somewhere in Cumbria, a group of church folk had gathered together to explore how they could make the most of the opportunity that Moving Mountains offers – and ideas were bubbling to the surface.

The underlying questions they were addressing were: What would be of interest and relevance to the wider community? And what are we already doing that we can naturally build on to provide a chance for others to discover Jesus?

That conversation is being repeated across the county in rural and urban areas, small and large churches, among young and old people.

Underlying it all is the desire to enable others to discover more of God and his purpose for their lives, and so become followers of Jesus.



While the focus of Moving Mountains is on March 8-11, 2018, people are also aware that it is not simply a one-off event; it is part of a much larger movement, at the heart of the God for All strategy, which has already started and will keep on going long after next March.

Having said that, March sees the arrival of some 35 senior leaders (bishops, Methodist district chairs, URC moderators, Salvation Army divisional commanders) from across the country, each bringing a small team with them.

Starting on the Thursday lunchtime with a commissioning event in the auction mart in Penrith – which will offer a taste of Cumbrian life – teams will then spread out across the county, joining local churches as they connect with schools, running Messy Church, inviting people to be blessed by a bishop, and in a variety of other ways looking to work together to



Preparing: Mike Talbot at Penrith Auction Mart, the venue for next March's commissioning event DAVE ROBERTS

MESSAGE FROM ARCHBISHOP OF YORK, DR JOHN SENTAMU



Dear Christians in Cumbria,

I am so looking forward to being with you in Cumbria in this wonderful mission to herald the love of God in Jesus Christ! I am so looking forward to joining with my fellow ecumenical church leaders. We pray for mountains to be moved as we proclaim that God is for all!

Jesus invites us to an ever-deepening faith. Faith might begin tentatively and small but it can grow and blossom to bear fruit, which transforms local communities and our own lives with the life and peace of God.

Moving Mountains is one mission among many. I have accompanied bishops and church leaders in Sheffield, Blackburn and Durham. In March we come to Cumbria and then move on to Newcastle and Liverpool. They all have one life-changing invitation: come to know Jesus more and more. Each mission has had great encouragements: many people have come to faith and those of us who have been in church for years have grown in faith. It is not just about the four days in March. It's about journeying with people in their first steps of faith through Moving Mountains.

I hope you will join in with the services and events through Cumbria. I hope you will join with all your local churches in Moving Mountains. And I hope that you will invite your family, friends and neighbours to come with you. The Good News of Jesus Christ is not just for ourselves, it is for everyone and we are empowered by the Holy Spirit to be witnesses.

+SENTAMU EBORACENSIS

help people discover who Jesus is.

While there is no central 'final event' – for Moving Mountains doesn't finish – we have been invited to hold a massive Messy Church day at Rheged near Penrith on the Sunday. This will hopefully connect with the hundreds who may well be coming through on that day – not least because it is Mothering Sunday.

If you are not sure what is being planned in your own area, have a word with your minister, visit the Moving Mountains pages at www.godforall.org.uk or, if you are in a vacancy, drop me an email – mike.talbot@carlisle-diocese.org.uk. It would be great to hear from you.

And, as we pray for God to be at work, I look forward to seeing all that will be happening across Cumbria.

EVENTS AT CARLISLE CATHEDRAL

JULY

Open guided tours: Tuesdays and Thursdays in July and August* (2-3pm on Tuesdays and 11am-12noon on Thursdays). Please book with Wendy Murrell on 01228 548071 or email her at wendy@carlislecathedral.org.uk * Not Tuesday July 18 or Thursday July 20

Fri 7 - 7.30pm, Music from the British choral tradition. A concert performed by the cathedral boys, girls, and layclerks with the Youth Choir. Tickets on the door.

Sun 16 - 3pm, Evensong with the Old Choristers

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

Mon 31 to Thurs 3 August - Royal School of Church Music choir in residence

AUGUST

Fri 4 - 5.30pm, Evensong sung by Morland Chorister Camp

Sat 5 - 5.30pm, Evensong sung by Friends of Morland Chorister Camp

Sun 6 - 10.30am, Eucharist sung by Royal School of Church Music choir in residence

Fri 18 to Sat 19 - 5.30pm, Evensong sung by the choir of St Paul's Church Bedford

SEPTEMBER

Fri 8 to Sun 17 - C-Art in the south aisle

Sat 9 - Heritage Open Day

Sat 9 - 5.30pm, Evensong sung by the choir of Bury Parish Church

Tues 12 - 12.45pm, Musiclive@lunchtime series begins.

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.

Sun 17 - 3pm, Battle of Britain Service. Preacher, Canon Michael Manley

Thurs 28 - 10.30am, tenth anniversary service for the University of Cumbria

OCTOBER

Sat 7 - Borderlines Book Festival Events (see programme)

Sat 7 - 5pm, Royal School of Church Music festival evensong

Sat 14 - 5.30pm, Evensong sung by Keswick Choral Society

Sun 22 - 10.30am, Eucharist sung by the Carloli Choir

Sat 28 - 10am-4pm, Tower Open Day

Sat 28 - 7.30pm, Show of Hands Concert

NOVEMBER

Sun 12 - 10am, Remembrance Service. Preacher, the Dean

Sun 12 - 3pm, Eucharist. Preacher, Canon Jan Kearton

Tues 14 - 10.30am, Judges Service

People share faith with radio listeners



Richard Corrie: Presents Sunday Breakfast on BBC Radio Cumbria

DAVE ROBERTS

PERSONAL testimony is the strongest kind, so the thinking goes. But many of us don't feel able to share our faith stories.

Well, that's something which is being addressed in a new weekly feature on BBC Radio Cumbria's Sunday Breakfast show.

Presenter Richard Corrie, who is also an Anglican Reader based in the parish of St Michael's Stanwix and St Mark's Belah, answers some questions about 'My Faith in Five'.

Q What is 'My Faith in Five'?

A This is a simple way for us to get people to talk about their faith on the radio. It's a passion of mine and none of us talks about this enough.

At BBC Radio Cumbria we'd previously run a feature called 'My Life in Ten', in which people talked about their life in 10 areas such as why they had a favourite song or colour.

In a brain-storming session we thought it would work well to do something similar with faith. It means that, on a weekly basis, in just five questions, we're asking people about how faith has affected them as individuals.

Q So, what are you asking?

A We ask the same questions of everybody: What do you believe? Where does your faith come from? Who or what is central to your faith? How does your faith

■ 'We're looking to get people from all walks of life - not just church leaders'

impact on your life? And, without your faith...?

Q Who has shared their stories?

A People involved with the Catholic Residential Youth Centre at Castlerigg Manor at Keswick have taken part. A Cumbrian farmer from the outskirts of Carlisle has spoken, a solicitor from the west of the county and a pastor are among some of the others who have been involved.

We're looking to get people from all walks of life - not just church leaders, though we are looking for their stories too. The key for me is hearing from the person who collects the hymn books at church or someone who maybe doesn't go to church.

Q What have people said so far?

A It's really interesting to see what's come out of this so far. We've interviewed people in their teens through to their late 80s.

A lot of people have talked about their faith developing through family or life experience. Some have talked about Jesus being central to their faith, while others have spoken about the way they lead their life as being central.

It's good to hear how people

perceive faith; it isn't the same for everyone. The most important thing is to get people talking about their faith. When we first ran this people walked up to me in church after the show and said what a wonderful idea it was to hear people talking about their own personal faith journey.

Q What's the process for recording the interviews?

A Either myself or a colleague will go out to contributors to record the interviews. It's a really relaxed process and if people make a mistake we can re-record as many times as we have to.

Then the answers are edited down to three minutes and are played at 6.15am and 8.45am in the Sunday programme.

Q And if people want to take part....?

We'd love to hear from anyone interested in sharing their story. Just email sunday.breakfast@bbc.co.uk or send your details to Sunday Breakfast, BBC Radio Cumbria, Annetwell Street, Carlisle, Cumbria, CA3 8BB.

• Richard Corrie's Sunday Breakfast is broadcast on BBC Radio Cumbria each Sunday from 6-9am and is available on AM, FM, Freeview channel 721 or online at bbc.co.uk/iplayer.

LAUREATE'S VERSE

MAGGIE Norton, from Ulverston, is South Cumbria Poet Laureate 2007, and for five years has been a creative writing and poetry tutor at Lancaster University.



A Quaker who worships at Swarthmoor Meeting House, she has had poems published in *The Sunday Times*, *Poetry Monthly* and at Lancaster Litfest, among many others. Other works include a commission to culturally document the 2001 foot and mouth outbreak as well as a 2014 work for three voices - *Women's Voices of the First World War*.

She is currently collaborating with Sally Bamber, a water colour artist, on a Cumbria wildflower project.

We're delighted to be able to feature some of Maggie's works in this edition of *The Way*.

Bumbles In The Yard

I wanted to share the pleasure of sitting amongst the noisy busyness of bees.

Noisy as jazz musicians they fine-tune white trumpets of jasmine, bobbing like metronomes.

Do bees praise the fragrance of flowers? 'Most marvellous,' they intone what must be a psalm

resonating through the cathedral of sage, honeysuckle, comfrey, and marjoram near the alkanet aisle.

A magenta cranesbill opens wide; black dots pin-point the nectar refectory. A bee zooms in, deciphers

the hieroglyphs of honey on demand, bombs a soft centre then heaves away to play the field.

Another bee burns a busy murmur through the wallflowers. It's not solo for long;

harmonies rise in a symphony to Creation till a shadow conducts the final cadence and the yard bows its head.

MAGGIE NORTON

B r o d i e

Accountancy and Tax Services

Martin Brodie - Chartered Accountant

A personal approach to dealing with your accountancy and tax needs.

Call 01228 818269 or 07912 617868

For a free no obligation quote

www.brodieaccountancy.co.uk



Cumbria County Council



Thinking about **Fostering?**



Become part of Cumbria's biggest family

Visit cumbria.gov.uk/fostering



Thinking about **Adoption?**

You could be their someone

Visit cumbria.gov.uk/adoption

By The Way

Exciting challenges

AT THE time of writing, there are some exciting times ahead for this circuit: Bible Month, Thy Kingdom Come and Moving Mountains - initiatives that help us tap into what God is already doing here. But there will be challenging times ahead also as we look to how God is shaping us to be fit for purpose and how Mission Communities will develop.

JOHN MORTON, Newsletter, Kirkby Stephen, Appleby and Tebay Methodist Circuit

IN the Lord's Prayer, Jesus taught us to pray that God's kingdom come and will be done on earth as it is in heaven. God's desire is for every sphere of culture to be transformed: business, media, education, health, arts, religion, family and politics.

SIMON BICKERSTETH, Connect, St James Carlisle

A NUMBER of people ask us why, when we cannot really make ends meet, do we continue to give money away? The answer is that we expect everyone to have a right stewardship of what they have and that includes the church. We expect people to give of what they have and the church does the same.

JIM HYSLOP, The Observer, Saint John the Baptist Uppery

CHURCH reminds us of Christianity's corporate nature. It's not just about me, it's us - the whole body of Christ.

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

IN our leader article last month, Andrew encouraged us to tell our story. All our stories matter - they don't need to be dramatic; God works in the ordinary times in our lives. As we enjoy June's warm, long and sunny days we have a great opportunity to get out and do things; to engage with those around us, to grow friendships and perhaps rekindle old ones, to show God's goodness to others.

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

THESE are the words I was drawn to in my thoughts and prayers as I contemplated in the days following the Manchester attack, and I commend them to you: "Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good."

ANDREW NORMAN, Parish Church of St Paul Grange-over-Sands

TALK about God's love is meaningless if it doesn't make a difference to how we are with one another and how our faith can inspire us to make life better for those in difficulties: the poor, the marginalized, the sick and suffering.

MICHAEL WOODCOCK, Two Valleys Parish News, Cartmell Fell, Crosthwaite, Crook, Helsington, Winstler, Witherslack and Underbarrow

OVER the past year or so, 14 congregations (Dean plus 10 other Church of England, two Methodist and one United Reformed Church) in our area have actually started working together as a Mission Community; 14 separate churches, each with its own tradition and identity, who together recognise that they have a common mission.

Dean Parish News

THE Church too has its own language; strange names for different types of clergy, or parts of the church building. Baptism and confirmation. Names for various ecclesiastical garments. A mystery to outsiders, but tremendous fun to those in the know.

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

THE recent Blue Box opening resulted in £177.43 for the Children's Society. Just in case you haven't happened across the blue boxes, they are given to anyone who wants to help the children, providing a handy place to put your bits of change when you've been shopping.

BRENDA SYKES, St Bridget's Parish News

IT seems to me that, in a way, Jesus is a bit like a retriever dog. When we do bad things - big or small - and are really sorry, Jesus goes out to find us, picks us up and brings us home. What's more, he's prepared to do that time and time again.

Harraby Viewpoint, The Parish Magazine of St Elizabeth's Harraby

BEING a Christian is not about believing a set of facts; it is about having the truth which is Jesus within us. It is about the Holy Spirit causing the love and compassion of Jesus to grow within us and shine from us.

DAVID FIRTH, The Messenger, Wigton Road Methodist Church

Foster parents give infants a 'new life and new hope'

■ Couple 'give something back' by providing a caring home for children for up to two years

By Dave Roberts

"THE first time I pick a child up when they've arrived, I pray for them," the Rev Rob Jackson explains.

Rob is not talking about a new member of the congregation at his church, St James in Whitehaven. Instead, the town's rector is talking about those children he and his wife Tracey have fostered over the last 10 years.

The couple took on their first charge when Rob was a vicar in Bolton in Greater Manchester. Since then they have cared for seven children - taking a break from fostering when they moved to Cumbria.

The couple were specifically drawn towards providing a short-term foster home for babies and young children.

"I am a former youth worker and I've always loved working with children," Rob says. "So, as our two boys grew older and we still felt young in ourselves, we realised we wanted to give something back. That's how the fostering came about."

"It works well for us in that we've been able to work from home and get our network of support involved; it also gives us an opportunity to be involved with toddler and parents groups more easily."

It took 18 months for the registration process to be completed before Rob and Tracey could foster their first child.

They specifically asked to foster



'Pray': Tracey and Rob Jackson have been fostering for 10 years CUMBRIAN NEWSPAPERS

children up to two years old.

"We have a particular heart for babies and toddlers and we wanted to see families together," Rob adds. "But if children were born into particularly difficult situations we wanted to be able to provide them with new life and new hope."

"God has been at the heart of all of this. He laid on our heart that we should do something to help, so we're following his will."

"So much of ministry is all about keeping going, pushing on, logging

away. By fostering we've seen fruit at the end of the process - either children who have gone back to their families or children who have gone on to new families."

As short-term foster carers for Cumbria County Council, Rob and Tracey can care for children for up to two years. They have looked after children for just a few days through to 14 months.

It's also a chance for them to draw alongside the children's natural parents. Both have completed

specialised training to enable this to happen.

"Tracey has spent time with parents teaching them how to bath a child," Rob says. "Social services do an amazing job, but its interactions like that that can also help."

"At night as we're rocking a child to sleep we're able to pray for them, for their families and for the social services too. All those workers who support us, the children and families need to be held in prayer."

Healthcare provision: churches enter debate

CHURCHES across Cumbria are being encouraged to enter into a debate over the future provision of health services across the county.

The Government's 'Success Regime' - now disbanded - was set up two years ago to consider the future of NHS services in west, north and east Cumbria against the backdrop of financial deficits, an ageing population and the geography and infrastructure of the county.

In March, it was decided that a consultant-led maternity unit would be maintained in Whitehaven for a 12-month trial period. Most children's care would be based in Carlisle as would stroke treatment, while in-patient beds would close at community hospitals in Alston, Wigton and Maryport, although the NHS Cumbria Clinical Commissioning Group has said it will now further consider care bed provision.

The same month, a motion went before the Diocese of Carlisle's Synod, prepared by retired teacher Donald Leighton, calling for



Donald Leighton: 'This issue does matter' DAVE ROBERTS

churches to raise the profile of the healthcare debate, to note with regret the likely reduction in local hospital services and to ask the Bishop of Carlisle - as lead bishop on healthcare - to encourage further local and national debate.

Mr Leighton, from Maryport, who worships at All Souls, Netherton, said: "People have said to me the debate at Synod was one

of the best they'd heard and demonstrates how passionate people are about our health services."

"Over the last 50 years or so the Church has become a timid voice in the world. If we are truly to demonstrate that God is a God for All, then we must be prepared to enter into these debates."

"During the consultation meetings I attended I saw people from

this and that church, but nobody expressed a Christian motivation for being there, even though they felt it. I can understand why; people don't want to seem to be foisting their views on others."

"But perhaps we're going to the other extreme. This issue does matter and the Church needs to be prepared to speak out on such occasions. There's a notion that church and politics should not mix which I find slightly ridiculous as both are concerned with how people live together."

Anglican Deanery Synods across Cumbria are now being invited to enter further into the debate.

They are being asked to consider what churches can do to help people adopt healthier lifestyles, improve the way our health services are used and better promote Cumbria to encourage more health professionals to work in the county.

A further motion on healthcare provision will go before Diocesan Synod in October before being tabled at the Church of England's General Synod.

Silent nights, holy nights

■ County gets its first champing venue as visitors pay to stay in historic church building in Longsleddale

By Jayne Potts,
Churches Trust for Cumbria
Development Officer

CHAMPING is a unique concept, organised by the Churches Conservation Trust (CCT), that allows guests to camp overnight in historic buildings.

This simple idea, providing a new use for church buildings, is becoming increasingly popular. Last summer saw an increase in interest in this emerging trend; this year additional sites have been added across the country, including the first in Cumbria.

As development officer for the Churches Trust for Cumbria, this creative approach by the CCT to find long-term sustainable uses for historic buildings struck a chord.

The Churches Trust for Cumbria was formed in 2008 to help keep local church buildings alive by providing advice on their care, conservation and sustainable development.

I thought champing would be an opportunity to bring a new perspective to our church buildings. It's not for every church, but for a select few it could provide an income to help care for them and allow the wider community access to use them.

Champing allows the building to be adapted without changing the internal arrangement or damaging the fabric of the building, and it has a low carbon footprint.

"Champing has proved



Holiday: A family enjoy a break in St Mary's Longsleddale, Cumbria's first champing venue JENNY WOOLGAR PHOTOGRAPHY

immensely popular with people who want to try a completely new experience, immersing themselves in history and relaxing in a stunningly beautiful location," said Crispin Truman, chief executive for the CCT.

The champing season runs from March 31 to September 30. Adult rates cost from £39 to

£59, while children's rates start at £19, with special group discounts for eight or more. Dogs are also welcome.

For more information, visit www.champing.co.uk.

■ *If you think your church could be a champing church, email Jayne at jayne@ctfc.org.uk or phone her on 07979 606131.*

'ONE OF THE BEST IN THE COUNTRY'

"WHEN I heard about champing, I thought it was a fantastic way to help ease the burden on local people who have to find the money to run their church," the Rev Canon Nigel Davies explained.

That church is St Mary's Longsleddale, near Kendal, part of the Beacon Team Ministry.

It's been a festival church for six months - while not used for weekly services, it is used to celebrate Easter, Christmas and harvest as well as baptisms, funerals and weddings.

Now, after consultation with the Friends of St Mary's and the valley's village hall committee, the building has a further use - it is Cumbria's first champing church.

Canon Nigel, team rector of the Beacon Team Ministry, said: "We've committed to the project for a year and then we will review where we're at and take stock of all the comments we've received."

"So far, we've had 10 bookings which should generate a couple of thousands of pounds for the church. That's very use-



Nigel Davies: 'Presence'

ful. It will help secure the future of both the church and the hall.

"The feedback we've had from people staying has been very positive to date."

The champing kit which St Mary's bought includes camp beds, seats, crockery and wind-up lamps. Champers are able to use kitchen facilities in the hall next door and there's a public toilet too.

Five champers can stay at any time and, as with all venues, they have exclusive

access to the church while staying.

The hall's secretary Michael Richards is notified of bookings and sets out the church ready for the champers, greets those arriving and then tidies things away after a visit has ended.

"We're very grateful to all those people who are investing their time in making this work," Canon Nigel said.

"In terms of facilities and the setting I would have thought we'd be one of the best in the country. St Mary's is also on the Lakeland Pilgrimage, which makes it ideal for people taking on that high-level circular walk."

He added: "A church building has a presence, so I think there will be some who book for a spiritual experience. They have an understanding that there's something special about staying in God's house; a place where prayer's been offered up over many years."

"There's a sense of peace in St Mary's which I believe people will capture as part of the champing experience."

www.rydalhall.org

**TIME & SPACE
SPECIAL OFFERS**

SEE ONLINE FOR
SPECIAL OFFERS



Rydal Hall

A Christian Conference, Retreat & Holiday Centre,
situated in the heart of the English Lake District.






VISITING RYDAL HALL

The perfect setting for anyone to come explore, enjoy and stay in this beautiful part of the world. From woodland walks to lake cruises - the possibilities are endless.

STAYING WITH US

Our range of accommodation including the main house, our youth centre, campsite (with eco pods) and cottage offer something to suit every need and budget.

EVENTS & CONFERENCES

We have superb spaces for many kinds of events and conferences as well as weddings.

Rydal Hall, Rydal, Ambleside, Cumbria, LA22 9LX
Booking: 015394 32050 **Email:** mail@rydalhall.org
Visit: www.rydalhall.org

 [Facebook.com/rydalhall](https://www.facebook.com/rydalhall)

 [Twitter.com/rydalhall](https://twitter.com/rydalhall)



Carlisle
Diocese

By The Way

Community influence

WHEN I see who is actively involved in the wider community, there is nearly always at least one Christian on this or that committee, or being that helpful volunteer. Our influence in our communities and the influence of our prayers, Sunday by Sunday, day by day, should not be underestimated.

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

WE held our first Prayer Evening and it will be a regular event on the second Monday of the month to pray for our future, Mission Community and leadership. Please try and attend future meetings, but, if not, please try and make time to add your prayers on the same evening.

GRAHAM TATE, ADRU Benefice News, Aldingham, Dendron, Rampside and Urswick

THERE was an interesting piece about St Nicholas' churchyard in *The Whitehaven News* of June 15, 1882. Gravestones had been torn up to make the flagged path from Lowther Street to the west door. At a later date some of them had been used as coping stones for the Lowther Street parapet wall.

The Parish of Whitehaven

THANKFULLY, God doesn't expect us to sit exams or demand that we meet a certain pass mark. He knows our limitations and our weaknesses and doesn't set us impossible standards that we can't attain. What he does ask though is that we are serious about our discipleship and committed.

JANET PRESTON, Round-and-About, The North Cumbria Circuit

I FOUND it a privilege over recent years at Crosthwaite to work with our vicar, Stuart, and I will miss him. He brought many gifts to our church which have helped me grow in my faith, in prayer and in confidence. You may feel the same.

Crosthwaite Parish Keswick

WHEN I broke my shoulder in the church, my son, who does not have a faith, thought it proved his belief that churches were hazardous places, to be avoided except for weddings and funerals! Those of us who have faith know it doesn't mean that life will be a bed of roses without trials and tribulations.

PAM CARPENTER, Carver Calendar, Carver Uniting Church, Methodist and URC

THE hall committee members met for their monthly meeting and continued discussing fundraising events, in particular the Art Ex, the 2018 Calendar and the planned refurbishment. All the effort made to secure funding is now paying dividends with another successful grant of £9,000 being received.

Allonby Beachcomber Monthly Village Newsletter

ON May 7, the congregation of St Mary's Mallerstang gathered to celebrate the work of local farmers. Our hills are a testament to their efforts as lambs dance in the May sunshine. The Rev Carol Marsden conducted the service uniting all ages with appropriate readings and activities.

Parish News, The Parish of Kirby Stephen with Mallerstang, Crosby Garrett and Soulbly

I'VE been taking school assemblies on Lent recently, and shocking pupils in so doing. Why? Because I've been telling them that Easter is more important than Christmas in the Church. In one school, there was an audible intake of breath at that statement.

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

THE Holy Spirit is not an optional extra 'for those who go in for that kind of thing'. He is the essential presence and power of God in the hearts of God's children and at the centre of the Church's worship, fellowship and witness.

JOHN RILEY, Gosforth, Nether Wasdale and Wasdale Head Parish Magazine

THERE will be a box for collection of tinned goods, breakfast cereals and one-litre packs of UHT milk and fruit juice for the Foodbank. The box will be available before and after services on Sundays and Wednesdays in the community centre.

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

EAST of Eden Mission Community Good Neighbours Scheme - We are a group from Langwathby and surrounding villages who enjoy visiting and making contact with people. We are happy to visit anyone who might appreciate a chat as well as people who are new to the village, at home with young children or are housebound.

Memo, Mid-Eden Magazine with news from the Parishes of The Cross Fell Group

SHARON'S ROLE IN OUR 'BEAUTIFULLY CRAFTED JEWEL'



Sharon Parr: 'My role is also to help us become an even more outward-looking cathedral'

By Dave Roberts

"YOU don't really 'train' to be a cathedral administrator," Sharon Parr explains. "People come into this line of work from so many different routes."

That's certainly true of Sharon, who has been in post as Carlisle Cathedral's Director of Strategic Operations since last November.

With a background in management roles in both the charity and arts sectors, she then moved to China for two years to work for the Foreign Office and British Council. She later retrained as a corporate lawyer, working in the City of London, before becoming a financial ombudsman.

Her cathedral appointment came shortly after she married. She and her husband, the Rev Alun Hurd, were based in Essex. Alun has since been appointed Priest-in-Charge of High Westmorland, and the couple live in Shap.

They had visited the cathedral

■ New cathedral administrator describes her job and how God created a fresh pathway in Cumbria for her and her vicar husband

during a holiday to Cumbria in May 2016. A few weeks later Alun spotted the advert for the post in the *Church Times*.

Sharon explains: "We prayed together a lot about my applying for the job and said that if it was right, then God would show us that to be the case. In faith terms, I admit that I'm not always very good at 'hearing' God's voice, but I'm always open to being shown the way and that happened here."

"Obviously, it was difficult as we had to spend time apart and we knew that Alun would have to find a new ministry, but it felt as though a door had opened for us and there was a new pathway."

Sharon has responsibility for overseeing the strategic management of the cathedral's staff, property and finances. As the most senior lay person, she reports to the

cathedral chapter through the dean. The role was formerly known as the chapter clerk and bursar. A part-time finance manager now oversees the bursar's duties.

"My role is also to help us become an even more outward-looking cathedral, and to look at ways to continue to engage with our local community, congregations and the people of Cumbria as a whole," Sharon says.

"It's also about looking toward our long-term sustainability and to consider new ways which enable people to connect with the cathedral and to see what a unique and special place it is."

The Fraternity Project is going a long way to helping achieve that. Five years in the planning, the project received a grant of £1,918,500 from the Heritage Lottery Fund in March. It will see an extension of

the fraternity building to develop the cathedral's teaching and learning and hospitality work.

"The Fraternity Project is crucial for us," Sharon adds. "We have fantastic heritage but some of this is hidden away and can be physically difficult to access. Those problems will be solved as a result of this work, so that more people are able to enjoy new experiences within the cathedral precinct."

"There's a wonderful library in the fraternity which, once some of it is digitised, will open up faith stories to many more people."

"Personally, I really value the time I have for prayer in the cathedral."

"I remember the first time I stepped into the building I was struck by its intimacy. It is a like a small, beautifully crafted jewel, one which has great warmth to it."

World's 'greatest of women's groups'

THE Mothers' Union is "the greatest of women's groups in the world" according to Justin Welby, the Archbishop of Canterbury. Our mission is to give Christian care to families and communities around the world.

Paul says in Corinthians 12:12: "For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ." The Mothers' Union acts as one body but has more than 4 million members worldwide in 83 countries.

Lynne Tembey, our inspirational worldwide president, who until 2015 lived in our diocese, said: "The Mothers' Union assists families both spiritually and physically. "Without Mothers' Union a parish cannot progress, and devel-

By Jane Conlan,
Mothers' Union Diocesan President

op itself. Mothers' Union exists to do ministry within communities and families. By building family, you build church which builds a nation. Mothers' Union is God's grace and gift to the Church. It gives Christian values to the community."

I joined the Mothers' Union in 1999 and have never looked back. I have experienced the fellowship among members which has been truly wonderful. More than that, I am continually amazed by what is achieved on an international scale as well as at a diocesan and branch level.

The Mothers' Union is an all-inclusive organisation. We welcome men, women, parents, non-



Jane Conlan: Joined in 1999

parents, grandparents, clergy, bishops, those who are married and those who are not. My husband is a member and so are Bishop Robert and his wife.

We raise money through coffee mornings to support people in the UK and worldwide. We support Mothers' Union overseas programmes such as literacy and

financial education.

In our diocese members support their communities through initiatives such as Messy Church. Morland Mothers' Union runs a group for young mums once a week. Holy Trinity, Kendal, is involved in a Fresh Expressions initiative in a care home.

Mothers' Union campaigns on issues such as the commercialisation and sexualisation of children and gender-based violence.

I would like to see a branch in every parish, benefice or mission community. We support God for All in our communities.

So I make this plea to clergy and lay leaders in areas where there is no branch: if you would like help in starting a new branch, please contact me by email at sjconlan@gmail.com.

MESSY CATHEDRAL

■ Excited families come together to be part of ‘something big in the Messy Church world’



Worship: Time for a celebration service after the activities



Let it fly! Nicholas and Lucy Howard, aged eight and four, launch their Prayeroplanes

By Sarah Hulme,
Children and Families
Evangelism Enabler

WHAT do you get when you combine 40 children, a similar number of adults, interactive activity and prayer stations, a water pistol and praise aerobics in a cathedral? The answer – a messy start to the first Messy Cumbria event at Carlisle Cathedral.

Canons Michael Manley and Jan Kearton, alongside a committed volunteer team from Messy Churches across the county, gathered and hosted a great afternoon for families exploring different zones inside the cathedral and frater, using the ‘Thy Kingdom Come’ *Lord’s Prayer* theme.

We all came together for the celebration, which included action songs and a story – complete with spray from the water pistol. Together, we launched our ‘prayeroplanes’ and prayed to be good news tellers to everyone we meet. The event then finished with a picnic time together.

This day was part of wider Messy Cumbria plans, aimed at gathering families already involved in local messy churches,



Visiting: Isaac Webster, 13, and Hannah Webster, 12, from Newcastle

as well as drawing in others new to Messy Church.

We had families from as far afield as Whitehaven, Newcastle and York, as well as others more locally based.

Several of the families had never been to a Messy Church before and were thrilled to be part of the afternoon.

One mum said: “This was the first Messy Church we’ve ever been to as a family and we all loved it. My daughter may have been a little young for some of the activities but my son absolutely loved it. We’ll definitely be going to another Messy Church.”

The team worked hard throughout the day. One team member



Artists in the making: Tabitha Wilson, her daughter Cecilia and son Reuben take on a colouring challenge

ALL PICTURES: JENNY WOOLGAR PHOTOGRAPHY



Cheese! Indianna Passmore gets a shot of Marvin the Messy Sheep mascot

commented: “I thoroughly enjoyed myself. It was lovely to be part of something big in the Messy Church world.”

A great deal of work was also graciously offered behind the scenes by the head verger and his team. “It wasn’t as messy as I’d imagined,” he smiled. Could that be a challenge for our next one?

Messy Cumbria headed outside for the next gathering – Jane Leadbetter from national Messy Church joined us at Rydal Hall on Saturday July 8 for a free afternoon of family fun.

To sign up to receive all the latest termly Messy Cumbria news and events, please email sarah.hulme@carlisle-diocese.org.uk.

EDEN STAINED GLASS				
<i>Years of conservation experience on Churches and Cathedrals in the UK and beyond. Now in Cumbria.</i>				
WE PROVIDE:				
ADVICE - Condition Assessment, Art History, Funding Applications				
DESIGN - Traditional and contemporary new windows				
REPAIR - Remedial repairs to stained glass and leaded lights				
CONSERVATION - ICON Qualified conservator of historic glass				
CONTACT: 016975 08368 / 079250 83780 edenstainedglass@gmail.com WWW.EDENSTAINEDGLASS.CO.UK				

By The Way

'Heaven seems so close'

I'VE not been on any great pilgrimages but I have visited special places where the air between earth and heaven is 'thin' and heaven seems so close. I love cathedrals and feel specially drawn to my favourites. Heaven almost touches earth in our valley. Try sitting in Buttermere church on your own and you will know what I mean.

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

WE need volunteers to do a stint on Wednesdays when St James is open to visitors from 10.30am until 4pm. The church is open from 10am normally for the Wednesday service and then stays open for a while for some cleaning, although the cleaning squad is now small and needs boosting.

Proclaim, Parish Magazine of the North Barrow Team Ministry, St James the Great and St Francis

IT has been my privilege to serve as Churchwarden at St Mary's for the past 30-plus years. However, the time has come for me to stand down and for someone new to fill the position. I have served under three vicars, all very different, all very individual.

BERNARD RIGG, New Life, Dalton-in-Furness, Newton and Ireleth with Askam

IT was with mixed emotions that I announced my appointment as vicar of Coppull and Coppull St John. We will miss Barrow, particularly the people, and especially the friends we have made through church. We have felt very loved here and we will look back on our time here with fond memories.

MATT HORNBY, Team Talk, The Magazine of the Parishes of St Aidan's and St George's with St Luke's, Barrow-in-Furness

GOD for All is an amazing challenge which for some might seem impossible. However, as the years have passed, more people have seen that if we think carefully about how each disciple was able to speak in a language alien to him, then God wants us all to think about the different gifts we have been given.

NICK MARK, Newsletter of Penrith and Penruddock URC

NO ONE knows what this world will look like in years to come; with the rapid pace of change our world could look very different. I try to live with my eyes and heart wide open towards others. In the words written on the Salvation Army Church at St Nicholas Gate, Carlisle: 'With Heart to God and Hand to Man.'

JAMES EDGELL, Focus on Eden, Holme Eden and Wetheral with Warwick

KNOWING we belong to our heavenly Father - that we belong to His family, that He is always crying out to us by name 24/7, that He is with us all in life's disappointments, hardships, confusions, unfairness and pain - is the only ultimate inner security in this life and the next.

Derek Price, Chatterbox, St Paul's Barrow

THE past two years have been 'interesting', challenging, stimulating, heart-breaking and renewing. As a town we have endured some bad flooding and the aftermath thereof; as a circuit we have looked to the future with vision, hope and expectancy, as a church we have, I believe, a renewed vision of who we are and what we might be in the coming months.

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

THIS Pentecost at Paddle saw another step on this journey as the Mission Community of Grasmoor was officially created. The name for this area is different because it covers 14 local churches. The term Mission Community is new because, in part, it avoids church language. It also stresses that each and every one of Christ's worshippers have to be engaged in mission.

MIKE JACKSON, Summer Newsletter, Cockermouth URC

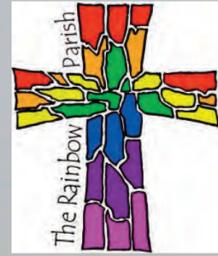
IF we can remember Jesus every day, if we can say his name in a prayer or to somebody even on the days when we simply want to stay in bed, then we are taking part in the task we have been given to testify to the good news of God's grace.

Parish Life, Holy Trinity Parish Church Kendal

A STRONG faith demands not only fidelity to the past but also acceptance and openness to the future. Christians must be receptive to one another, refuse all sectarianism and be full of charity for our 'opponent'; we must be conscious of what is vital and essential and common to all. Our hope in the future must be based, not on a naturally optimistic temperament, but on the certitude that Christ is living among us.

PETER HOUGHTON, The News Magazine of the 'Heart of Eden' Team Ministry

DOWN YOUR WAY... IN LUNESDALE



Vibrant: St Mary's, Kirkby Lonsdale, is just one of the parishes that make up the 'Rainbow Parish'



Outreach: Celebrating the harvest supper became an ecumenical event



Navigation: A labyrinth formed part of the 'pathways' service

Each church adds its own colour

By Liz Dew

We're dedicating the centre spread of each edition of *The Way* to a missional focus. Here we learn about the ecumenical partnerships forged in Lunesdale

THE Kirkby Lonsdale Team Ministry began in 1976 with the uniting of seven parishes - St Bartholomew's, Barbon; Holy Trinity, Casterton; St John's, Hutton Roof; St Mary's, Kirkby Lonsdale; All Saints, Lupton; St Peter's, Mansergh; and Holy Ghost, Middleton.

At some point, perhaps after a prolonged period of rain, it gained the name the 'Rainbow Parish' and each of the seven churches was

assigned a colour. St Patrick's Church joined the parish around 15 years ago, thereby creating a very special rainbow.

Each of the churches has its own character and makes its unique contribution to the parish. At the same time, each church has its own unique way of giving 'colour' to the community it serves.

The Rainbow Parish is only part of the story. 'Christians Together in Lunesdale' (CTiL) draws together

the Friends' Meeting House at Preston Patrick, St Joseph's RC Church, Kirkby Lonsdale Methodist Church as well as the Rainbow Parish.

This partnership has strengthened over the years and is expressed in many ways - an ecumenical prayer group meets every week; there is a strong commitment to the week of Prayer for Christian Unity, Lent groups, Holy Week; joint services, a weekly lunch club... the list goes

on. CTiL has helped to create a culture where working together is very natural.

We have come a long way from 1919 when the vicar of Kirkby Lonsdale objected to any suggestion that Free Church ministers should be invited to participate in the service to celebrate the end of World War One.

CTiL highlights from last year included a 'pathways' service at the



end of July. The Kirkby Lonsdale churches gathered together in the Methodist church. From there people could choose from a number of different 'pathways' before finishing together in St Mary's Church.

The weather was kind and a number of these pathways were in the open air, including a labyrinth that had been set up in the church-

yard. By the time members of the congregation got to the labyrinth, it was already in use by passers-by. One of those occasions where we found ourselves catching up with what God was already doing.

One of the other highlights was in October when the annual Kirkby Lonsdale Methodist harvest supper was reimagined as an ecumenical outreach event for the whole community. St Mary's Church was cleared of pews; Fr Luiz, the Roman Catholic Priest, gave the talk; and a wide cross-section of the community came together to eat and dance and celebrate.

Forum helps plug gaps in elderly care

By Susan O'Loughlin

BUILDING partnerships and community seems to be a theme for us and we have found ourselves working with various stakeholders to develop support for our elderly residents.

As delivery of statutory support has changed, we have identified a need to 'plug the gaps' if we are to maintain and improve the wellbeing of all our residents.

The churches have been working to create a forum that brings together the local council, the GP

We are hoping this will lead to a 'good neighbours' scheme to provide support, friendship, advice and assistance. Ideas already suggested include home/telephone befriending; a handyman service; IT training; seated exercise classes; lunch clubs; and help with form completion and other paperwork.

A big benefit of partnering with Age UK is that it can support, train and insure volunteers as well as ensure best practice.

There are 'positive' signs: many families still look to the Church to have their children baptised; there is a thriving parent/baby/young children group; an after-school club for primary-aged children was recently started in Barbon; our two voluntary-aided primary schools welcome Church support.

The question we have been wrestling with over the last few years is whether or not all this activity has a lasting impact. Does it

Ecumenical family project appoints leader

By Rev Richard Snow

LIKE many churches we give a high priority to our work with children and young people.

There are 'positive' signs: many families still look to the Church to have their children baptised; there is a thriving parent/baby/young children group; an after-school club for primary-aged children was recently started in Barbon; our two voluntary-aided primary schools welcome Church support.

The question we have been wrestling with over the last few years is whether or not all this activity has a lasting impact. Does it

help to develop and nurture a faith that sticks? Like other people up and down the country we have been reflecting on the significant role that the family has in nurturing faith. The result is 'The Churches in Lunesdale Family Project'.

The vision is for our churches to be more outward-looking and a blessing to local families, helping them discover God, and nurturing faith so rooted in their everyday lives that it lasts a lifetime.

The vision to do things differently

By Rev Wendy Thornton

AT THE time of writing I am surrounded by chaos as I prepare to move into the Anglican vicarage in Kirkby Lonsdale.

As an ordained Methodist minister this is unusual - from September, I will be working across both the Methodist churches of Kirkby Lonsdale and Cowan Bridge and the churches of the Rainbow Parish.

Having trained at the Methodist Wesley Study Centre and the Anglican Cranmer Hall, St John's College Durham, I jested with fellow students about being a 'Methican'. Little did I know at the time!

What began as a seed of an idea has come to fruition by prayer, discernment and wrestling with the practicalities through visionary and strategic leadership in both the Kendal Methodist Circuit and the Rainbow Parish. Rick Warren in *Purpose Driven Church* states: "Most people think of 'vision' as the ability to see the future, but in today's rapidly changing world, vision is also the ability to accurately assess current changes and take advantage of them. Vision is being alert to opportunities."

For us it was sensing some Godly energy and potential in a group of churches, resisting decline mentality and being willing to take the risk to shape things differently. The support of the district and diocesan leaders, Bishop James and the Rev



Together: From left, the Rev Wendy Thornton with the Rev Anne Pettifor, Fr Luiz Ruscillo, the Rev Richard Snow and the Rev Richard Teal, Chair of Cumbria Methodist District

Richard Teal, has been a huge encouragement. So has the prayerful grace and vision of the churches affected, not least the other circuit churches and especially Sandylands in Kendal for whom I am currently the minister.

While unusual from an organisational perspective it does not feel unusual but rather a natural response to what is happening among us here - building upon the relationship between the leaders and the relationship between the people and the community. It is an opportunity to make a difference

by focussing energy on what we can do together for the sake of the Kingdom rather than being concerned about maintaining boundaries. In the present national climate we have a responsibility as Christians to model our values of unity, equality and inclusion.

There will be challenges, not least for those working out the legal and structural implications of the role, but we trust God's grace and wisdom will help us work it out. We do not need to have all the answers at the beginning, just the faith to move.

Nurturing relationship bears fruit

By Rev Anne Pettifor, Assistant Curate, Rainbow Parish

ONE of the most fruitful relationships in any parish can be with its local church primary school.

Both of our primary schools are very open and willing to receive any assistance and activities that we can offer.

In St Patrick's School, Endmoor, we deliver an 'open the book' assembly most weeks.

A small team of volunteers from the local churches act out Bible stories, with the enthusiastic help of the children who are always keen to play their part. This is definitely a win-win activity as it is a joy for the adults too.

We use the school premises for sessions that we call 'St Patrick's @...' around once every half-term.

These are a mixture of storytelling, craft, games and singing with the primary school-aged children, all based around a theme, ending with tea for the rest of the family and all the helpers.

It's not rocket science, but it's a good opportunity to build relationships and get to know everyone. Never underestimate the power of food for building fellowship!

There is a range of volunteers



'Win-win': An 'open the book' assembly at St Patrick's

and lots of overlap in the different activities, all of which helps with joined-up thinking and minimising duplication of effort.

One of the other key relationships in our work with schools is with the local Northern Inter Schools Christian Union (NISCU) schools worker, Katy Hall.

We work together, with volunteers from across the churches, to help with the lunchtime clubs that they offer. This is also a win-win

relationship and helps with the efficient use of the time and talents of both NISCU and the volunteers.

Working together requires investment in building relationships but it is definitely worth the effort.

The fruits are already visible, but I get the feeling that this is only the beginning. The ground-work has been done and we are now ready to plant and nurture the crop and prepare for the harvest...

By The Way

Jam for Tanzania

WE HAVE come to the end of jam-making, which was started with the aim of raising £100 towards the cost of sending our young friend Ross to Tanzania to help build houses for the local people. I am delighted that we raised £230 thanks to the generosity of friends and neighbours in Kelleth donating large amounts of fruit.

KATH EGERTON, The Link, The Parish Magazine for Orton, Tebay and Ravenstonedale with Newbiggin-on-Lune

IF YOU listened carefully at Brownies recently you would have heard the tinkle of wedding bells, not once, not twice, but three times as three of our leaders or ex-leaders are about to get married - May, June and July being the months in question.

In Touch, The Magazine of Seascale and Gosforth Methodist Churches

OUR three new churchwardens, John Dugdale, Brian Smalley, and Ian Stirrup, were admitted to their office by Archdeacon Vernon Ross at St Mary's Church, Windermere along with many other churchwardens from across the deanery. It is a special privilege to serve as a churchwarden and we thank them all for taking on this valuable and challenging role.

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

WE at Ramsden Street know the presence of God in our midst, can feel his power within us, and, although small in number, we continue to play our part in spreading that message to the people of the community in which we are set in this corner of Barrow. We do so by sharing as much as we can by fulfilling our own Mission initiatives and those going on in and around the town.

Around Church, Ramsden Street URC

AS part of our outreach to the community, we now have an outside prayer space. It's a garden arbour in the grounds of the church and we're grateful to those people who've helped make this happen.

The Link, Quarterly Magazine of Keswick and Cockermouth Methodist Circuit

THE Rev Micah Hopley was our minister for more than ten years from July 1985 to October 1995 and we were saddened to hear of his death on May 15 this year. Those of us who had the privilege of knowing him fondly remember his modest but nonetheless resolute leadership, which helped us meet a number of challenges, both spiritual and financial, through the part of our Christian journey we shared together.

Living Stones, Whitehaven URC

ANOTHER milestone was reached in our appeal when the Parochial Church Council wrote to the bell founders and converted the provisional booking made earlier in the year into a firm order. This may have been the trigger that has enabled the bell founders to write and say that "all being well" the installation will start in late November and that they "hope to have the bells ringing for Christmas". No longer is it "if" but "when".

Bampton Parish Newsletter

OVER the next few months we are taking the message of the gospel to our communities through participation in the carnivals in Aspatria, Abbeytown and Silloth, and following them with community barbecue events. I hope that as many people as possible will join us, and not just in your own community, but supporting all the events wherever they are taking place.

Bryan Rothwell, Solway Plain Team Magazine

KATIE Banks would like to thank everyone who supported her in the London Marathon. She is delighted to say that the amount she has raised for the Cystic Fibrosis Trust is just over £6,000.

St Mary's Church Wreay

THERE are so many opportunities for people to come forward to help, and give and gain from the experience, just as President Kennedy indicated all those years ago! So maybe we ought to be saying: 'Ask not what your Church can do for you but what you can do for your Church.'

Binsey Link, The magazine of the Binsey Team Mission Community, the churches of Allhallows, Bassenthwaite, Boltons, Embleton, Ireby, Isel, Plumbland, Selmurthy, Torpenhow, Uldale and Wythop

IT'S good to know, when evil strikes in our world, that people still show that they are made in God's image. We humans can be very selfish, but God's compassion and mercy come to the fore when needs arise.

STEVE CARTER, Raughton Head Parish Magazine

Will rising retirement age mean fewer volunteers?



Dependent: St Paul's Holme Eden annual holiday club, attended by more than 50 children during the summer break, is just one of many community facilities that relies heavily on congregation volunteers to run it **CUMBRIAN NEWSPAPERS**

By Jim Webster,
Chair of Churches Rural Forum

People growing cynical about being used as cheap labour; others put off by red tape

BECAUSE our churches are so dependent upon volunteers I wanted to look ahead.

Here in the south of the county we have churches that are growing because of an influx of the newly retired. Well-educated, hard-working and with a lot of experience these people rapidly become an essential part of the team.

A pattern we see is that either people plan to finish their career in this area with the idea of retiring here, or sell up and move here when they retire. Given that a lot of them have a 'public service' background, in many cases the oldest spouse is barely 60 when they arrive.

What we're also beginning to

see is a lesser exodus back south as they start to feel a little frail and realise they're living a long way from their families. At which point they may downsize and move away.

But with the retirement age increasing, are we going to see a big drop in numbers? It's one thing to move up here between 55 and 60, but quite another thing to move north when the younger spouse retires at 66, especially if you don't have family in the area.

I would suggest that even among people living here, the rise in the retirement age is going to reduce the availability of volunteers.

Another factor is that more and

more organisations are hunting for volunteers. Unfortunately, many are put off by various forms of vetting, barring, box-ticking and similar.

Also, people are growing cynical about being used as cheap labour because they're doing what used to be somebody's job before the budget was cut. One thing I've noticed with some in the third sector is that people are wary about calling themselves volunteers.

Other organisations now have to recruit extra volunteers just to tick boxes to guarantee their funding. Potential volunteers are beginning to feel hunted.

At 'ACTION with Communities

in Cumbria' we tend to talk more about 'participants'. In crude terms, 'participants' just get on and do the job and don't particularly want to be part of an organisation or structure - and they certainly don't want the paperwork. In reality, our villages are held together by these 'participants'.

So what can we do?

- Stop doing things that don't need doing, because we haven't got the labour to do them any more.

- Make the system more volunteer friendly with less regulation, less box-ticking and fewer courses people 'ought' to attend.

- Make things more informal; work more with the participants. Trying to run a formal lift-sharing scheme in a village can be a nightmare, but doing something informally can be almost as effective and far less hassle.

Sharing of roles revealed hidden gifts

By Irene McKay,
Steward, Levens Methodist Church

"EACH of us was given grace according to the measure of Christ's gift... he gave gifts to His people." (Ephesians 4)

Members of Levens village Methodist Church were feeling very vulnerable.

"How will we cope without the two people who have managed so much relating to oversight, finance, property and engagement with all that sustains the life of our church?" Everyone felt very inadequate.

The response was to break down everything into many small tasks and responsibilities and to find which tasks could be shared and supported by friends from



Community: Local people working together in Levens

Christians Together in Levens (CTiL), Kendal Methodist Circuit and other people in the local community, but above all to work together and encourage each other.

By working together, and sup-

ported by others, we offer facilities for: varied ecumenical worship opportunities and a weekly fellowship study group; a Post Office outlet; a coffee shop with books to borrow and jigsaws to enjoy making and borrow; immunisation surgery; community meetings; and events where crafts, produce and exchange of goods can be shared.

In partnership with St John's, CTiL and the Kent Estuary Youth project, we also engage with children and young people and care for people in need.

It was important to accept we could do things differently, valuing everyone's particular and different skills and strengths.

Still feeling inadequate, people felt enabled to begin taking on small areas of responsibility. Suddenly there was a release of

hidden gifts, insights and skills, with new visions for developing the facilities to meet further needs in the community.

The church's commitment to hospitality and God for All is expressed in its statement of purpose: "Levens Methodist Church seeks to be a place of welcome, sharing the love of God, where all people are valued and can belong, finding friendship, Christian nurture and care."

As new volunteers become involved in supporting the activities, they in turn attract friends to come and share in all that we offer into the life of the village.

The work continues to develop, but in every situation we seek to ensure the commitment of time is what suits each person. "The body is made up of many parts."



Significant: Visitors bring £2.72 billion to the local economy; inset, new chaplain Deacon Maggie Patchett
MAIN PICTURE: WINDERMERE LAKE CRUISES

Lakes gets chaplain dedicated to tourism

■ Methodist initiative described as a 'new form of outreach for the county'

By Dave Roberts

A GLANCE at the headline figures shows just how important tourism is to Cumbria.

In total, 45 million visitors were drawn to the region in 2016, bringing in £2.72 billion to the economy. More than 62,000 people (a fifth of the county's workforce) are employed in the sector.

Now that the sector is set to receive extra support. As part of a project being rolled out in September, Deacon Maggie Patchett is to join the Methodist Circuit in the South Lakes, with 60 per cent of her time given over to a new role as a tourism chaplain.

Maggie said: "I am very much looking forward to joining the team in the South Lakes circuit in September and to being part of the new initiative to create and develop a chaplaincy ministry to the tourism industry in this area.

"For the past three years I've been involved with a rural outreach project in and around Settle and Skipton, engaging with ecumenical partners here too, as we have sought to discern the new paths God is leading us on. I'm sure I'll be able to bring insights and learning with me that will be of benefit as I move from one national park to another.

"I am excited by the prospect of this new venture

'FORWARD THINKING'

SO WHAT does the tourism industry itself make of the creation of the chaplain's post? Ian Stephens told *The Way* what he thought before passing on the baton of managing director of Cumbria Tourism earlier in the summer.

"We're an industry which is focussed on providing first-rate customer service and this chaplaincy will add to the offer Cumbria makes to tourists. Tourism is a service industry which is made up of a wide range of needs and requirements and obviously providing a pastoral or support service for people is an additional benefit for people coming to the county.

"Working within the sector we have a large number of people from many different parts of the world, backgrounds and religious beliefs. So it's forward thinking that the Methodist Church is providing this extra support for people who work in the industry.

"We know there are stresses and strains for people who work long hours and who, at times, can work in quite diffi-

and to being involved in the Cumbria 'God for All' programme, and I'm looking forward to meeting new people in new places as we reach out together to share God's love."

The chaplaincy role is the



Ian Stephens: 'Positive'

cult conditions. So we recognise this is one of the ways that employees within the industry can find support and additional help. It's a positive move and perhaps other denominations may follow suit. It's progressive and innovative.

"It's another example of how the two sectors can work together well. Faith tourism is already an important part of the global tourism market. There's a big heritage aspect to faith tourism and so many of the churches in Cumbria are stunning historical buildings.

"There's also a booming ancestral tourism market - particularly from America - and so there is scope to develop this further."

idea of the Rev Richard Teal, Chair of the Cumbria Methodist District, and the Rev Graham Ransom, Superintendent Minister for the South Lakes Circuit.

Richard explained: "I

realised very early on after first moving to Cumbria, that the church was missing a real opportunity in ministering to those in the tourism industry.

"So when the South Lakes Circuit was looking at finding a new minister in its northern part - Windermere, Ambleside and Hawkshead - we realised this was a great opportunity to appoint someone whose role could be partly based in tourism chaplaincy.

"The project sits beautifully within the God for All vision, and will offer the opportunity for churches to further work alongside Maggie in her chaplaincy role."

The hope is that through the chaplaincy more church buildings will be opened for outreach for those people visiting Cumbria. And the chaplain will draw alongside workers in the tourism industry.

As well as being appointed tourism chaplain, Maggie will also have responsibility for three Methodist churches.

"Very often people working in the tourism sector are among the lower paid and increasingly come from overseas and from different cultures," Graham said.

"This is an opportunity to connect further with this group of people and be seen as a church which offers friendship and support. It will be a great outworking of the Gospel. It's a new form of outreach for the county."

WHAT'S ON AROUND CUMBRIA

Living with the Mystics

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

Hewlett and Joy Thompson lead this day focussing on Helen Waddell. Cost is £5. Drinks are provided, but please bring your own lunch. To book contact Bob Morley 016974 72644 or at rgm1@live.co.uk.

Flower Festival

Sat 26 to Mon Aug 28, St Andrew's Church, Penrith

Penrith Flower Club and St Andrew's Church arrange 'A Celebration of the Eden Valley' displays. More details via www.standrewспенrith.org.uk or email standrewsflowers2017@btinternet.com.

Christine Pickering: 'Praying with our whole selves'

Thurs Sept 7, 9.30am to 4pm, Rydal Hall

A day of Maranatha Yoga. There will be guidance through gentle movements, postures and sequences that portray spiritual themes. The cost is £25, including a simple lunch and refreshments. To book contact 015394 32050 or mail@rydalhall.org.

Joan Wager: How many loaves are enough?

Thurs Oct 5, 9.30am to 4pm, Rydal Hall

We are challenged daily by the immensity of need in our world. What does the story of the feeding of the 5,000 have to say that can help us? The cost is £25, including a simple lunch and refreshments. To book contact 015394 32050 or mail@rydalhall.org.

Contemplative Living in Daily Life

Wed Oct 11, 10am for 10.30am to 3.30pm, Glenthorne Quaker Centre, Easedale Road, Grasmere, LA22 9QH

Led by Cameron Butland and Terry Winterton. Cost £20 (concessions £5). To book contact Richard on 01946 862990 or cmcwccm@fastmail.fm.

Living with the Mystics

Tues Nov 7, 10am for 10.30am to 3pm, Friends Meeting House, Elliot Park, Keswick

Richard Broughton leads the day, focussing on Christian encounters with Zen. Cost is £5. Drinks are provided, but please bring your own lunch. To book contact Bob Morley 016974 72644 or at rgm1@live.co.uk.

The Boarbank Retreat

Fri 17 to Sun Nov 19, 5.30pm on Friday to 2pm on Sunday, Boarbank Hall, Allithwaite, Grange over Sands, Cumbria LA11 7NH

Stefan Reynolds will lead the retreat. Cost is £130 (concessions £100). To book contact Richard on 01946 862990 or cmcwccm@fastmail.fm.

Cumbria Churches' Dementia Conference

Sat Nov 25, 10am to 3.30pm, Penrith Methodist Church

Speakers are the Bishop of Penrith, Hilary Doxford, the Rev Gaynor Hammond and Jeremy Hughes. To reserve a place, contact Margaret Irving via dfc43@btinternet.com or 07540 920829.

Celtic Harp, Celtic Spirituality and Meditation

Sat Dec 2, 10am for 10am to 3:30pm, Carver Church, Lake Road, Windermere LA23 2BY

Led by accredited therapeutic harp practitioner Julie Darling. A £20 donation is suggested (concessions £5). Drinks are provided, but please bring your own lunch. Contact Richard - 01946 862990, cmcwccm@fastmail.fm.



Phone: 01768 868683

Email: ian@askins-little.co.uk

www.askins-little.co.uk

ASKINS AND LITTLE
Stonemasonry • Historic Property Restoration

We carry out all stonework, lime pointing and lime plastering to churches, memorials, listed buildings and homes

NEWS IN BRIEF

Bonnie guides the way

A GUIDE dog has taken a supporting role at one of the Diocese of Carlisle's ordination services.

Bonnie the Labrador led her owner Derek Vaughan and the Rev Mandy Jones, all pictured right, in a Carlisle Cathedral procession at the start of the Petertide Ordination Service in July.



Derek, registered blind following an accident 30 years ago, was Mandy's sponsor - a supportive role to represent the congregation at St Andrew's Penrith.

The full list of those ordained priest by the Bishop of Carlisle, the Rt Rev James Newcome, is: Jonathan Gillespie to serve St Mary's, Windermere, and Jesus Church, Troutbeck, with training incumbent David Wilmot; Richard Goodfellow to serve the Benefice of Aspatria with Hayton and Gilcrux with training incumbent Tim Herbert; Mandy Jones to serve Penrith Team Ministry with training incumbent Dave Sargent; Gavin Rushton to serve St Thomas', Kendal, with training incumbent George Briggs; and Andrew Simmons to serve St John's Houghton and St Peter's Kingmoor with training incumbent Andrew Towner.

The following day the Bishop of Penrith, the Rt Rev Robert Freeman, led the ordination of Alison Riley as Deacon at St James' Whitehaven with training incumbent Robert Jackson.

Prayer text service lets non-Christians take leap of faith

■ New scheme makes it easy for anyone to request a prayer



Anonymous: Cumbria's Text-a-Prayer is a confidential service

DAVE ROBERTS

Meeting for Worship

A response to a friend who told me of his search for a spiritual life where he felt nourished, accepted and at home...

*In the silence a tide
rides up the beach
its reach allowing its grasp.
It clasps a rough stone
scuffs it into a ball
that rolls away to scroll
a message of homeliness and ease
on the sands you walk in your mind.
'Be kind to yourself,' it reads.
'You are understood and loved.
Bathe in the living water of silence;
it is God's gift to your presence.'*

MAGGIE NORTON

IMAGINE if Christians in Cumbria were able to offer the service of prayer to every person in the county? So that, whatever people were going through, they could be assured that someone would pray for them within 24 hours.

Well, this is the aim behind the new Cumbria Text-a-Prayer service.

This exciting new Big Reach project will offer prayer to every person in Cumbria through publicity materials placed in doctors' surgeries, places of work and other prominent locations. Eventually, we will also place adverts in local newspapers and on public transport. If someone wants to be prayed for, they simply have to text their request to a centrally operated number.

By Eleanor Ledesma,
Big Reach Innovator

Many churches already have, or support, prayer ministries in Cumbria, but these are geographically limited, and are often person-to-person. Personal contact brings many advantages, but it takes courage for a non-Christian to take the first step in approaching someone for prayer. For people who don't have any connection to church, the step is greater. Text-a-Prayer is an anonymous, confidential service, which people can access in private.

Text-a-prayer will give non-Christians the opportunity to take a step of faith by asking for prayer. We believe that God will honour this step, and we pray that people will begin to notice God at work in

their lives, before ultimately becoming followers of Jesus.

So far, a team of nine people have come forward as prayer volunteers. They are from all over the county, of all ages and backgrounds, but they are united by a passion for prayer and a heart for people in need. However, we still need more pray-ers. The rate at which we can extend the service across Cumbria is limited only by the number of prayer volunteers.

Could you join us? Simply choose a day of the week to be on the prayer rota. You will then receive an email with a list of the day's prayer requests for you to pray through that evening or the following morning, whichever works better for you.

If you'd like more information or you'd like to sign up, email eleanor.ledesma@carlisediocese.org.uk

Alex Haynes
ALBION GLASS



*Traditional Stained
Glass Windows*
Repair & Restoration of all
types of Leaded & Stained Glass

New commissions welcomed.
We offer a full design, manufacture
and installation service for traditional
and modern glazing and can work
with clients' own architects/artists
if preferred.

The Byre,
Denton Mill Farm,
Denton Mill,
Brampton,
Cumbria.
CA8 2QU

Telephone: 016977 46801
Email: alex@albionglass.co.uk
Website: www.albionglass.net

'VALUABLE TOOL IN MAKING PRAYER ACCESSIBLE'

Fran Parkinson, of Ravenstonedale, explains why she got involved with the project as a prayer volunteer...

I recognize that, even in our age of social media, it isn't always easy to connect people with God, even though people might spend a lot of time connecting with each other. However, as Christians, we can always bring others before God in prayer and Text-a-Prayer is an opportunity to do just that.

I wanted to be involved because I believe it will reach those who may not be connected with church and will be a valuable tool in making

prayer accessible, especially for people who may not think about praying for themselves. It will also provide a safe and confidential forum for those who might need our prayers the most.

I often wonder whether the point of prayer is to change our circumstances or actually to change us. My hope is that as we intercede on behalf of those who respond, God will do both, by blessing those who send a text and also those who are involved on the team.

My own prayer is that, ultimately, God will do even more than we could ask or imagine.



Volunteer: Fran Parkinson



Performance: Children from Nsukazi Primary School in Zulu dancing costume

Look and learn in Zululand



Meeting: Alan Bing talking to children at Nsukazi Primary School

As denominations across Cumbria continue to build on international links and mission opportunities overseas, we hear from the Rev Canon Alan Bing, the Rector of Ulverston, who has recently completed a visit to Zululand. The Diocese of Zululand is one of the Diocese of Carlisle's three partnerships for world mission.



Typical: Homes in Zululand



Traditional: Children perform a Zulu dance at Nsukazi Primary School



Garden: Christian Aid community and church mobilisation project

IN MAY, 11 of us from the Diocese of Carlisle, led by Rod and Jan Allon-Smith, visited our partner diocese of Zululand.

We represented different areas of interest – education, farming, Mothers' Union, ministry and mission – exploring these separately and as a group. We were there to look and learn as much as to do things.

Even so, I was glad to take part in a workshop with their evangelism team on the 'five marks of mission'.

I was challenged by how seriously they are seeking to oppose injustice and renew creation, with five clearly identified environmental priorities.

We visited two projects which were putting these into practice. One was a credit union, enabling a variety of micro businesses to start up – from brick-making to bean-growing. The other was in a remote area, where diocesan land is being farmed to provide food for about 30 families and to raise money for the community. They were very Christ-centred enterprises.

We also visited battlefield sites from Anglo-Zulu and Zulu-Boer wars, which helped to give a historical perspective and witness the abundance of African in one of their game parks.

I had been to Zululand before, with Bishop Graham Dow, to lead two conferences on healing and deliverance and was glad of the opportunity to re-visit time to absorb and reflect.

I was struck again by the way in which we Europeans are ruled by the clock, while Africans are ruled by events, and generally have more time for people. I was impressed by the unshakeable faith of Zulu Christians, despite great privation and uncertainty, and by their unhurried, joyful worship.

We have a lot to learn from one another and I hope that our partnership in Christ can develop through personal contacts, school links and shared projects. Perhaps the next step is to receive a few key people from Zululand who can help us grow and maybe, in God's grace, also learn from us.

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.

For details, phone/text 07813 085877 or visit www.edenonline.net



Communion: Alan Bing blessing children at the church in Ulundi



Voices: A Mothers' Union meeting at the cathedral in Eshowe

Greetings from Grange-over-Sands

www.bayscapes.co.uk

THORNLEIGH
CHRISTIAN HOTEL

015395 32733
jane@thornleigh.org www.thornleigh.org

By The Way

The Trinity... simplified

TRYING to explain the doctrine of the Trinity has kept many a theologian busy down the centuries. One helpful picture is to imagine the sun shining in the sky. The sun itself - way out there in space - unapproachable in its fiery majesty - is the Father. The light that flows from it, and which illuminates all our lives, is the Son. The heat that flows from it, and which gives us all the energy to move and grow, is the Holy Spirit.

The Link, Holy Trinity and St Barnabas with Sandsfield Fellowship

IF, like me, you are feeling we are in turbulent times, you might find it an encouragement to look at Psalm 124 where the psalmist reflects on the storm that has broken over God's people and the torrents that have battered them, but is still able to conclude "our help is in the name of the Lord, who has made heaven and earth".

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

THIS year is exceptional in that all the spring flowers have been early and given a really good show. I think this is due to the dry, mild winter. The land had been getting very dry, but a wet day in the middle of May stirred the becks and put things to rights.

BOB JACKSON, Contact, Lamplugh, Kirkland and Ennerdale Ecumenical Parish

ROD and Jan have been part of that history over the last seven years and eventually Rod's name will be added to the list of priors and vicars who have served this community and congregation. Seven years of spiritual achievement, seven years of prayer and dedication with inevitably some disappointments.

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

PRAY as you can, not as you can't. People who write books about prayer, each have their own favourite way of praying, and tell us all about it. But their way might not be my way. Instead of trying to fit into someone else's mould, discover your own way.

BILL WHITE, Together Community Newsletter, provided by the churches of Matterdale, Watermillock, Patterdale, Greystoke, Penruddock and Mungrisdale

THE total amount received so far from the Gift Day appeal for St George's is about £1,900. The quotation we have received to repair the windows on the south side of the building which let in the rain is about £2,000 per window. The PCC decided we should go ahead as soon as possible with at least two of them, so that the walls in the Den and Upper Hall can be re-plastered.

PETER DUDEK, Parish News, St George Kendal

THE Wesleyan Methodist Church was established in Dalston at the end of the 18th century. Initially, various premises would have been used for worship but the congregation subscribed sufficient money to build a chapel in the Indian King Yard which opened in 1826.

Dalston Parish Paper

IT'S been a very busy time for North Lakes Foodbank Egremont Centre since January. We've been called upon to help twice as many people as the same time last year and have handled a huge amount of donations from around the community. In the last year Egremont Foodbank has helped 402 people, given out three tonnes of food to those in need and processed 2.5 tonnes of food donations.

Egremont Methodist Church

GREETINGS from Brazil! At the beginning of April, I was privileged to be part of a mission team that travelled from the UK to Iguazu Falls, Brazil. There were 24 of us from four Methodist churches. We ranged in age from 13 to 78, with the majority of the team being over 65. Whilst we were there we worked with three Methodist churches in the town - Central, Cataratas and Portalda Foz.

SOPHIE CARNABY, Newslink, South West Cumbria United Area

MORLAND Area Community First Responders: We currently have a shortfall in responders and need to increase our numbers so we can provide as much cover as we can to the people in our area. Our aim is to provide 24-hour cover, seven days a week, so when you need us, we are available.

North Westmorland News

SINCERE thanks to all those with responsibility for the ministry, administration and maintenance of the priory and halls and grounds over the last year - for their dedication to its life and work.

St Bees News

New website offers support to all mission communities



By Dave Roberts

A NEW website has been launched in support of Cumbria Christian Learning (CCL), the county's learning and training organisation to grow disciples for mission.

CCL was officially launched by the Diocese of Carlisle in September 2016 and now has seven full-time members of staff and two part-time administrative posts.

The organisation is tasked with offering direct support to mission communities - up to 35 groups of mutually self-supporting church networks with a focus on mission - which are being launched and commissioned across the county as part of the ecumenical God for All vision and strategy.

The website includes details of courses and resources being offered under four main headings: 'learning and growing as disciples', 'vocational', 'initial ministerial education' and 'continuing ministerial development'.

The Rev Dr Roger Latham, CCL Director, said: "Our central focus in the short term is to offer high-quality learning opportunities so that nascent mission communities have the support they need to get off the ground and grow sustainably."

"To do that we've got to make resources available which mission communities feel enabled to use -



Learning opportunities: The Rev Dr Roger Latham, standing, with ordinands at a retreat weekend at Rydal Hall
JENNY WOOLGAR PHOTOGRAPHY

from enquirers' and seekers' courses through to how they can best develop their ministry teams. The new website is a way for people to tap into the learning and training opportunities on offer."

As well as Roger, who was appointed director in April 2016, the CCL team is made up of the Rev Canon Peter Clement, Diocesan Director of Ordinands and Vocations Development Officer; Dr Karl Möller, Principal of Initial Ministerial Education; the Rev Dr Allison Fenton, Vice-Principal of Initial Ministerial Education; the Rev Nicki Pennington, Learning Development Team Leader; the Rev Jane Maycock, Continuing Ministerial Development Team Leader; and Dr

James Bober, CCL Administrator.

CCL's main purpose is to 'grow disciples for mission'. This is about helping every Christian in every church in Cumbria to deepen and strengthen their relationship with God, and to discern what their call to serve him might be, either within or outside the church.

The team's specialities link together, offering a range of learning opportunities, including pre- and post-ordination training and support for ordinands, curates and Anglican readers, but most resources on the website are intended for local congregations and their ministers.

Roger added: "Our God for All strategy identifies that eventually we will have more self-supporting

or unpaid ministers than we do stipendiary clergy. So part of the challenge for us is to consider what the Church will look like in ten years in Cumbria.

"We need to think about how we will identify the people God is calling to these new roles and help them grow in their sense of what God is calling them to in a Church which is rather different to what we have now.

"We'd encourage as many people as possible to visit the new website to see the varied learning and training opportunities we have on offer in order that we can all maximise our potential as disciples for mission."

● Visit the new website at www.cumbriachristianlearning.org.

'Faith isn't for an hour on Sunday, but for every moment'

WE HEAR from four people about their Called to Serve journey and what it meant to them as they responded to God's call on their lives...

SUSAN SHAW attended church regularly but struggled to link her faith with life outside church. At Called to Serve, she found others with similar questions, doubts and stories.



"The course opened my eyes to see that faith isn't for an hour on Sunday, but for every single moment. It isn't impersonal; it's a relationship. We all have gifts and talents; mission isn't just for people in dog collars!"

Susan has since explored a lay ministry role. Of her Reader training, she reflects: "I feel I am where God wants me to be... I'm involved in Messy Church, school work, leading worship, preaching and I'm embarking on funeral ministry... a huge privilege."

Having moved, full-time worker **PAM HERBERT** was uncertain how she could support both her parish minister husband and the wider



Course can 'seriously change your life'

THE Called to Serve course is starting this September in Cumbria. This year-long learning opportunity is for Christians who want to grow and discover more of God and God's purposes for them in their faith communities and wider world.

Within a supportive learning community people, are enabled to reflect on their gifts, skills and experience in order to discern how they can serve God and share their faith in the places where they live, work and worship.

"The course should come with a health warning - it can seriously change your life!" said Susan Shaw, who attended.

More than 500 people have taken part in it since it began in 2005. It continues to provide life-changing opportunities as

community. She hoped Called to Serve would help her discern how God might use her in this new place.

"The course introduced me to new friends from widely differing experiences and churches. We quickly became a supportive, caring group.



Celebration: A Called to Serve service at Penrith Methodist Church

individuals discover more about God, about themselves and about how they can serve the God For All.

If you want to find out more, get in touch by emailing admin@cumbriachristianlearning.org.uk.

"Unlike some, I never felt led towards any kind of authorised ministry."

"Since the course, I have become more involved in music and worship and hope that our fellowship and ministry will grow and flourish."

ANDY WALSH said: "Called to Serve was a great opportunity to learn more about God and faith... being part of a community, learning the different ways we can serve God together, not just in church but in our daily lives."



Andy has since set up his own café and bakery business in Cockermouth. He sees this as part of his calling and his faith is at the heart of how he runs his business.

"The Coffee Kitchen provides a third space; somewhere people meet, conversations start, friendships begin and community is built."

ASHLEY MOFFAT has always had a sense of God in his life, but was uncertain what embarking on the faith journey might mean for him.



He attended an Alpha course which led to him going to church regularly. In time he became church warden, but he still had a sense that God was calling him to something more. While on Called to Serve, Ashley became aware of a desire to reach out to the bereaved. He is now exploring opportunities to offer support in his community on behalf of the Church.

No Gospel choir? I'll make my own!

■ Singers respond to engineer's call for members after move to west Cumbria

NOSA Ehigie has always loved to sing in gospel choirs. From teenage years in his native Nigeria, through to time spent latterly in Aberdeen, he's always found music to be a wonderful way to worship God.

So when the engineer arrived in west Cumbria last year, he was looking for ways to continue his love and passion for gospel music.

Unfortunately, Nosa could not find a gospel choir in the area. Undeterred, he took matters into his own hands and set up the Cumbrian Community Gospel Choir.

He explains: "I've always loved to sing in choirs as well as conducting and directing them. So when I arrived in Egremont and realised there was no gospel choir to join, I decided to create a new one.

"Through Gospel music I'm able to convey the message of the cross and the resurrection of the Lord in a way that is full of harmonies and



'Filled with the Holy Spirit': Nosa, far right, with choir members after their worship evening at St Peter's Kells

passion. It never makes me feel restricted. I can clap my hands, jump and dance. It allows me to communicate such an important message in one simple form. It also enables me to praise, worship and minister to the Lord.

"I put out the call for new mem-

bers for the choir and sure enough people came along. Initially there were six of us but now we've grown to about 15 to 20 members."

The group began rehearsing every Tuesday night at All Saints' Church, Cockermouth, and in May they held Together in Worship,

their first worship evening in collaboration with St Peter's Church, Kells, in Whitehaven.

"This was not a show or a concert," Nosa, aged 34, says. "This was a worship experience for everyone who was there. For me it was a reflection of my

personal faith. That's what I have brought to the Gospel choir and that's what we all took into St Peter's that night.

"I know some people who had not been going to church felt so moved by what they heard that night, that they said they had found faith again and wanted to commit to going back to church. That's fantastic."

The evening included performances of hymns and songs such as *Blessed Assurance*, *When I Look Into your Holiness*, *God Great God*, *Every Praise* and *How Great Thou Art*.

"When we first started to practise, while I knew all the songs, a lot of the choir didn't," Nosa explains. "All the music performed on that evening was filled with the Holy Spirit. As we sang *I Stand Amazed in the Presence*, I was moved to tears."

A second worship evening with the Community Gospel Choir is already being planned and the group has started meeting for rehearsals again on Tuesdays at 7pm. The venue is now Christ Church, Cockermouth.

The choir continues to look to grow numbers and anyone who is interested in joining should email cumbriancgchoir@gmail.com.

Enthusiasts' bid to purchase and preserve poet's home in Millom

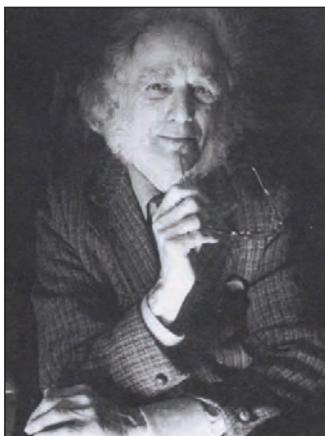
By Martyn Halsall,
Former Carlisle Cathedral
Poet-in-Residence

LITERARY campaigners have launched a national appeal to buy and restore the lifelong home of the Cumbrian poet and writer Norman Nicholson – to promote his work and the community it reflected.

Nicholson (1914-1987) spent only 19 months away from 14 St George's Terrace in Millom. It was here that he wrote some 30 books of poetry, criticism, plays and Cumbrian topography in a second-floor attic study-cum-bedroom, looking out over neighbouring roof-tops to the flanks of Black Coombe in the south-west corner of the Lake District. "I thank God for a lifetime spent in that same town," he wrote.

His former home, now the Norman Nicholson Coffee House and takeaway, could form a national centre for the developing interest in a writer promoted by TS Eliot, and recognised as one of the leading Christian poets of the later 20th century.

The modest terraced house down a Millom side street is on the market for £59,500, but the intended buyers, the



Norman Nicholson:
Promoted by TS Eliot
RAY TROLLS

Norman Nicholson Society, estimate that at least as much again will be needed for restoration and development.

Immediate targets include a Heritage Lottery Fund grant to commission an architect's survey. Longer-term proposals include developing a Nicholson display in an upgraded cafe, and providing access to the family rooms, with accommodation for study, and a writer in residence.

The Norman Nicholson House project was launched in St George's, the Millom church Nicholson attended for most of his life.



'Unique': Charlie Lambert at the launch
FURNESS NEWSPAPERS

Charlie Lambert, chairman of the Norman Nicholson Society, said: "This house was a unique source of inspiration to Nicholson: all his writing was created here. This is a very important building, not just to the town, but also to English literature.

"We live in age when environmental issues are top of the agenda, and when 'a sense of place' has become important to people.

"Nicholson was a standard-bearer for these issues many years ago, and his writings are still valued.

"We want to ensure his home is preserved and



Simple: The building on St George's Terrace
FURNESS NEWSPAPERS

brought into use as a source of inspiration for generations to come."

A major focus of the house, once fronted by the men's outfitters run by Nicholson's father, Joseph, would be on educational projects and community development.

Patrons supporting the scheme include Eric Robson, who chairs *Gardeners' Question Time* on BBC Radio 4, Nicholson's biographer Kathleen Jones, the poet Neil Curry and the vicar of Millom, the Rev Clive Shaw.

Contact the project via normannicholsonhouse@gmail.com.

COCKERMOUTH Stained Glass



I will design, manufacture and install stained glass for your windows and doors in a style of your choice

REPAIRS AND RESTORATION WORK UNDERTAKEN

Doug Smith, Cockermouth Stained Glass, Castle Yard Workshop, Isele Road, Cockermouth, Cumbria, CA13 9EZ. Tel: 01900 825576. Mobile: 0776 3583721. Email: doug@gilgarran.freeserve.co.uk

GRAINGER + PLATT

Chartered Certified Accountants

Providing Accountancy and Taxation Services to Businesses and Individuals

01228 521286

3 Fisher St | Carlisle | Cumbria | CA3 8RR

www.grainger-platt.co.uk

Kate Bruce: Interested in how stand-up comedy can sharpen delivery and performance, skills that are essential to the art of preaching

JENNY WOOLGAR
PHOTOGRAPHY



‘If preaching is boring, something is wrong...’

Q Please tell us a little bit about yourself.

A I am deputy warden and tutor in preaching at Cranmer Hall. I love teaching people and encouraging them to communicate imaginatively and effectively, finding their own confidence and voice. I love writing, and enjoy watching and sometimes performing stand-up comedy.

A few years ago I took the decision to try to get out of the church and meet other people – and delivering stand-up seemed a way of doing this. From school days onward I’ve always loved to make people laugh. I’m interested in how stand-up comedy can sharpen my skills in delivery and performance, which are part of the art of preaching. I’ve learned a great deal through doing this – but I won’t be giving up the day job any time soon.

Q What does your job entail?

A Cranmer Hall is part of St John’s College, which, in turn, is part of Durham University. We train people for ordination in the Church of England, as well as welcoming representatives of free churches onto our courses. We also have some younger people, around 18

■ In the second of our Focus on Faith series, we hear from the Rev Dr Kate Bruce, teacher in preaching and stand-up comedian

years old, doing degrees in theology and ministry. We offer undergraduate and post-graduate degrees in theology, mission and ministry.

My job involves a mixture of teaching, tutoring students and the usual admin. I enjoy listening to students as they reflect on their experience in theological college; it’s not always easy for them, but it is remarkable seeing how they develop though the experience.

My primary subject is preaching – and I deliver courses at BA and MA level and am delighted to be supervising a fascinating PhD in preaching.

I often travel around the country to offer support and ongoing training for preachers in different denominations. I especially enjoy working with younger preachers.

Q Why is it important that we study the art of preaching?

A Poor preaching is a form of heresy. How can we possibly take something as glorious and transformative as the story of God’s love for the world and turn it into a tedious trawl through a heap of ‘shoulds’ and

‘oughts’? If preaching is boring, something is wrong!

There’s always more to consider in terms of the practice of preaching – more to learn about theology, structure, delivery and how to connect with the cultures around us. There are great books on preaching, and always something new to add to the toolbox through reading, and learning from each other.

Q What are your top tips on how to give a good sermon?

A Number one – talk to God about it, and listen. Pay attention to the biblical text you are working with. What is it doing? What are the questions it is seeking to answer? Who was it written for and why? What are the difficult bits? Don’t ignore them; wrestle with them, and talk to God some more.

Pay attention to your context. What do people care about? What questions do they ask? What do people struggle with? What does good news look like in your context?

Make sure the sermon has a clear structure. A rambling sermon is an insult to the listener. Be clear

about what the focus of the sermon is and what you want the sermon to do.

Take care over language. Language has power. Don’t be sloppy over words. Cut out the empty calorie language – the words that don’t do anything. Preachers are wordsmiths; have a care for the language you employ.

Q What are the challenges that preachers face in today’s digital world?

A Popular wisdom tells us that people can’t concentrate for more than a nanosecond. Popular wisdom is talking pants. This kind of unsubstantiated claim can easily rob the preacher of confidence. People do offer sustained interest in response to monologues. The key is to hold that interest. That calls for preachers to make connections between the deepest concerns of our hearers and the voice of God which speaks through the written words of scripture.

We shouldn’t shun the digital, or fear it – it is part of our culture and can enhance the sermon – perhaps through the use of Twitter to send out an abbreviated form of the sermon to a wider audience, or using

Facebook for crowdsourcing ideas, along with making use of digital imagery to support the sermon.

Q How does your work in the study of preaching complement your work in stand-up?

A It keeps me sharp. It takes practice and know-how to hold a room in a comedy event, to be able to use the physicality of communication to support the words being uttered. This speaks into preaching, even if the goal of the two is different.

Performance should not be seen as a swear word in preaching. If I am performing something, it doesn’t mean it is not founded in truth, or that I am wearing a mask.

Whenever anyone stands up to speak they are performing; the key question is whether it is an effective or an ineffective performance. The art of performance hinges around the question: ‘How can I use my body – gesture, tonal variation and inflection, volume, pauses, eye contact and so on – to breathe life into the meaning I want to convey?’ Doing stand-up – with no notes – tends to concentrate the mind on such matters.