



Children & Family Ministry Team Leader in the PARISH OF PENRITH



The wider Church context of this work

We are thrilled to be able to tell you more about the exciting mission and ministry, which is being faithfully played out across the Diocese of Carlisle. The Parish of Penrith is a small part of the whole Church in Penrith and across the county of Cumbria. We hope this 'bigger picture' will inform and inspire you to consider joining us in Penrith.

From the Diocese of Carlisle vacancy introduction pack:

At our beating heart is a love for Jesus and a passion to spread the Good News, as together we continue to grow God's kingdom across this unique region. To some we might be 'the ends of the earth', but for us this is home, whether we've been here all our lives, returned to our roots, or we came for a season and found more than we could have imagined. In any event, 'the ends of the earth' is precisely where the Gospel is to be taken.

From the hundreds of churches and congregations who serve their communities through to the numerous Fresh Expressions of Church that have grown in recent years and the Christian witness lived out at Rydal Hall – our conference and retreat centre near Ambleside - we are constantly looking to faithfully improvise so that more and more people can come to know the transformative love of Jesus Christ.

This mission and ministry plays out in a county of contrasts: the celebrated beauty of the Lakes sits alongside market towns such as Penrith and more gritty urban areas. This is a place where roots go deep and tradition is precious, but where we're willing to pioneer new pathways. And it is within this mixed landscape that we prayerfully commit to step out in faith.



Might God be calling you to join us?

Cumbria is a borderland. We have been pushing boundaries in many senses since our earliest days, but above all in the promotion of the Gospel. We are inheritors of an astonishing spiritual tradition stretching back to Patrick, Kentigern, Aiden, Cuthbert and Herbert, who pushed out the boundaries of Christ's kingdom with the light of the Gospel and the fire of God's redeeming love.



As the most north-westerly Diocese in the Church of England, Carlisle can be seen as being 'on the edge' geographically, historically, and metaphorically, something that has given us 'edge' - a deep seated resilience, character, and adaptability. Our character and resilience mean that we can respect and cherish our traditions whilst embracing pioneering approaches. Our adaptability means we look for new solutions.

This is reflected in Cumbria being named in 2011 as **England's first ecumenical county**. That spirit of ecumenism is played out in our *God for All* vision and strategy and through the ties forged between four partner denominations – the Diocese of Carlisle, the Methodist Church, the United Reformed Church and the Salvation Army – and other companion denominations.

Cumbria's *God for All* strategic vision

Our God for All vision and strategy seeks to enable people across Cumbria to know the transformative love of Jesus Christ in their lives and the sustaining and growth of worshipping communities across the county.



Alongside our ecumenical partners we have recently renewed our vision and strategy, God for All, as we look to the next decade.



We will help each other to follow Jesus more closely, seeking to grow as his disciples in all aspects of life, both corporately and as individuals.

We will share our faith in Jesus Christ in everyday ways, seeking to connect with everyone, especially those currently unrepresented in our churches. We'll do this in both time-honoured and pioneering ways.



We will listen to our local communities and respond in loving service, seeking to transform injustice, challenge oppression and pursue peace and reconciliation.

We will strive to safeguard the integrity of God's creation, seeking to sustain and renew the life of the earth.



God for All – Cumbria’s Strategic Vision

Mission Communities

At the heart of Cumbria’s God for All strategy are our ecumenical Mission Communities. Their purpose is to enable the Church to be missional, local and sustainable.

The central tenet of Mission Communities is for local Christians to come together under the guidance and inspiration of the Holy Spirit to:



Commit to the Lord
whatever you do,
and he will establish
your plans
Proverbs 16:3

- Discern what God is calling the Church to be and do in our various contexts, developing appropriate local strategies, priorities and plans
- Serve our communities together in Christ’s name
- Reach out to our communities as one
- Be a local presence of worship and prayer for our communities
- Improvise faithfully as we proclaim the Gospel afresh in this generation

Mission Community Hallmarks

Six key hallmarks of Mission Communities in the promotion of mission have been identified:

Praying - they should pray together, regularly, and as a priority.

Collaboration - they encourage collaboration in mission between denominations, between communities, between clergy and laity, and between church and community.

Ecumenical - they seek to be Christian first and foremost and to present a united common purpose to our communities as we serve them in Christ’s name.

Resourceful - together they can do more, both by sharing the gifts and calling of their people, and by pulling together to fund projects individual churches could not afford by themselves.

Local - they remain locally focused: planning based on local needs and opportunities, enabling mission to happen at a local level, not as a central imposition.

Mutual Accountability - recognising the impact our actions and omissions have on one another and making ourselves accountable to each other, to God, and to the episcopal leadership of the church (however that might be expressed in our denominations).

Penrith Mission Area and Mission Communities

How does this county-wide vision find expression in Penrith and our area?

The Church of England ‘deanery’ area and Methodist ‘circuits’ are roughly coterminous, stretching from the southern end of Ullswater, along the Helvellyn and Blencathra mountains to Calthwaite and Hesket north of Penrith and across to ‘the fellside’ communities on the slopes of the Pennines. We are a mix of deeply rural farming communities, tourist and holiday hot-spots (especially within the Lake District National Park), villages, scattered hamlets and the market town of Penrith.



We have established four distinct Mission Communities:

Penrith Central Mission Community – the town itself

Ullswater Mission Community – the area around Ullswater

East of Eden Mission Community – to the east of the River Eden and along the Pennine ‘fellside’

Blencathra Mission Community – to the north-west of Penrith

Each Mission Community is at a different stage of development, but we are committed to finding ways of working well together in shared ministry, outreach and Christian witness in and with our varied communities.



In addition, as Penrith is the market-town hub for this whole area, we seek to do together as a wider area sharing in those areas of church life, ministry and outreach where it is sensible and helpful to do so. Again, we are at the early stages of this intentional joined-up approach for the Penrith Mission Area, but this is our direction of travel as the whole church community.

There is a thriving Mission Area Fellowship Bible Study and Prayer Home Group based in Penrith. A commitment to prayer and growing together in fellowship is always a good start!

The Penrith Mission Community – what does this look like in practice?

In Penrith we express our shared Mission Community structure through the network of **Churches Together in Penrith**. The wide range of church traditions have been working together and sharing mutual care and fellowship for many years. This is precious to us; we cherish these relationships of affection and care demonstrated by our commitment to deeper unity and reaching out to care for our town and local area.



What do we actually do?

Worship

We share worship, prayer and witness throughout the year (e.g. Good Friday Walk of Witness and service, Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, Thy Kingdom Come Week of Prayer).



Outreach in Care

Together we actively support or run the following social engagement projects:

The Nourish Project – not just a foodbank; run by The Salvation Army.

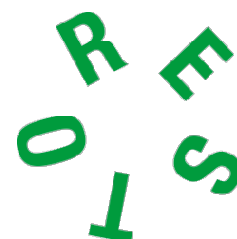


Christians Against Poverty CAP Debt Centre & Job Club – freeing people from unmanageable debt, training in budgeting and finance, and helping people into secure employment.

See more about this nation-wide project at:- <https://capuk.org>

RESTORE - a high street presence through our shop with community space for welcome and friendship.

WE HELP RESTORE HOPE, FAITH AND HAPPINESS IN OUR COMMUNITY.



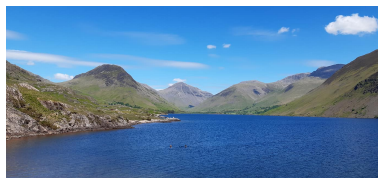
See more about this county-wide missional project at:
<https://restorecumbria.co.uk/our-shops/>



Linking Lives Befriending Service - a very popular service, with a paid coordinator, linking up lonely people with a volunteer befriender.

See more about the National and Penrith Linking Lives Project at:
<https://linkinglives.uk>

A Day in the Lakes – we organise, run and host, a “day-out” in the northern Lake District for refugee and asylum-seeking families.



Fellowship and Prayer support - the local ministers try to meet once a month to support each other and pray together.

Schools and Children’s outreach projects

Though not directly linked to Churches Together in Penrith, we encourage and facilitate close working and sharing resources between churches in running holiday club and outreach programs for children and families.

There is a small but much valued ecumenical chaplaincy presence in our two secondary schools complementing the good work done by NISCU (Northern Inter-Schools Christian Union) and working alongside our local NISCU colleagues.

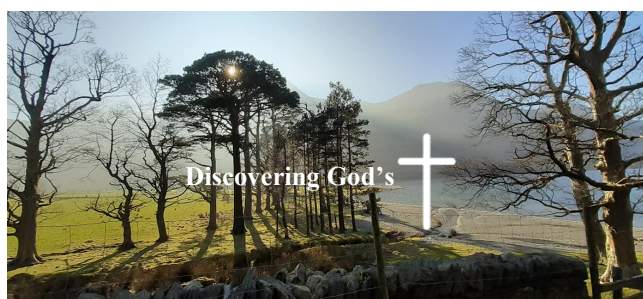
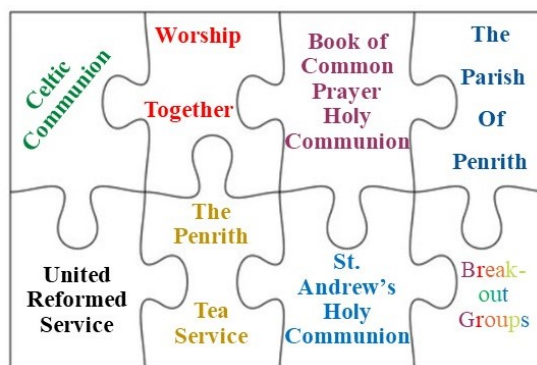


The Parish of Penrith – St Andrew’s and Christ Church

What you will find with us.

Our worshipping Life

As you join us you will discover a jigsaw of worship traditions appealing to a wide range of different people. Through this variety of approaches we hope, and pray, that people will **discover the love of God in Jesus Christ** and find a people of welcome **with whom, and among whom, each of us can belong.**



Our Sunday worship is the bread and butter of our life in Christ:



The quiet **Holy Communion at Christ Church every Sunday at 8 a.m.** This is a small gathering, usually around 10 – 15 people; some are there pretty much every week (the children are still asleep at home or perhaps the local fells call for a day out), some now and then, but you will find a quiet, simple, welcome for all... and you won't be asked to do a job, unless you really want to!

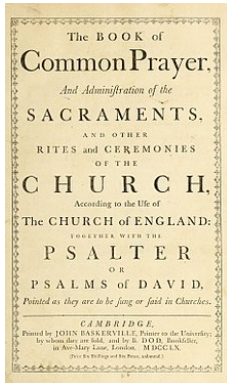
Or you may be drawn to **St Andrew's at 10 a.m. service**; This is usually the highest attended service, with organ-led hymns and worship, a robed choir and the familiar (though not stuffy or rigid) liturgy of Parish Communion. A Sunday School meets at the back in the 'Children's Church Corner' led by our team of adult leaders. It's not a big group and we would love to see this grow. Seeing this congregation become a more diverse and true reflection of our parish community is our prayer and hope, but to do this within the cherished heritage of Anglican worship – a challenge indeed! We hope you will be excited to be part of this and help us to see where we can grow.



**WORSHIP
TOGETHER**

Different worshipping communities gather at **Christ Church at 10:30.** Twice monthly a more interactive, multi-generational community gather for **WORSHIP TOGETHER**. The oldest is over 80, the youngest are new born babies who join us from our **Ladybirds** pre-school group. Contemporary music-group worship is followed by teaching and optional 'break-out' groups to explore faith in different ways. A growing sense of belonging and shared community are healthy signs of this new work over the last three years. We expect this to be a key part of your involvement in ministry and outreach to families.

On other weeks in Christ Church, we currently have more traditional worship in both the Church of England and United Reformed Church traditions.



Worship during the Week

Sundays don't work for everyone! Our midweek worship is integral to our shared life. This probably will not be a direct part of your work with us, but it gives you an idea of what we do:

Wednesdays 9:30 at St Andrew's – BCP Holy Communion.



Wednesdays 12:30 at St Andrew's – our 'Celtic Communion' drawing on the worship and liturgy of the Iona and Lindisfarne Celtic worship traditions. This service has become a popular time of quiet, reflection worship, drawing people from other churches and across the wider area.



Fridays 2.30 p.m. at Christ Church – The Penrith Tea Service. A short service with well-known hymns and familiar prayers followed by fellowship tea and cakes. This works well for some of our older church family for whom Sunday mornings are too early ... and a bit too long! It's a gentle, caring fellowship bringing together older people from a number of our local churches.

Home Groups, Prayer and Bible Study Groups

Some meet in the afternoon, others in the evening, including new home groups being established on Penrith's new housing development where many of our young families live. These are complemented by seasonal study groups during Lent and Advent. Small groups are a good way to build fellowship, community and sharing the joys and struggles of life and faith.



.... and our current work with children and young people?



You will be excited to share the next part of the story of our ministry with children and families, welcoming many into the life of faith within the church family. Here is a snap shot of what you can expect to find as, with us, you consider whether God may be calling you to join us.

Praise and Play

Praise and Play has started within the last two years as an opportunity once a month for people of all ages to gather and have fun together, playing table and card games, with toys, and eating a 'Bring Your Own' picnic tea together. It always includes a time of praise and singing too.

Ladybirds

Ladybirds meet at Christ Church every Tuesday morning during term time. Bible story-based craft, free play (sometimes outside in the spring and summer), drinks and singing.

This popular group for any pre-school children draws parents, grandparents and carers from across our community. Many will have their children baptised in our churches and most will eventually be attending one of our local primary schools. We are gradually seeing connections between these groups and our twice-monthly **Worship Together** community at Christ Church.



**WORSHIP
TOGETHER**

Worship Together is an emerging community you will be involved with as we grow a genuinely multi-generations church family who enjoy a more contemporary style of worship, interactive learning and the uncertainty of a service with toddlers, children, young and very much older adults exploring faith together.



St Andrew's Sunday School provides led activity for children attending the weekly Sunday service. Our team of leaders explore faith through story and activity, all in the children's corner in church. Children share in the service as much or little as they feel happy to and come forward for a blessing or to share some of the bread at our communion service.



Beaconside Church of England Primary School is the largest primary school in Penrith and the area. Our school motto Learning to live; Learning to shine expresses our longing for children to flourish in every way and in doing so, discover God's love for them and his purpose for our lives.

You will enjoy sharing in the rhythm of Collective Worship and love being involved in strengthening our already good links between the school, the church and the local community.



We are involved with all local schools, working closely with the Northern Inter-Schools Christian Union to provide special 'Come along Christmas' sessions.



Until recently we worked with Scripture Union to provide a Bible Explorers lunchtime club. This was hugely popular but ceased through lack of leaders. It could be restarted and support is available from Scripture Union through their Faith Guide network.



Young People – iGNITE - Network Youth Church



Cumbria's Network Youth Church seeks to grow an authentic Christian community with young people across Cumbria. In Penrith this work is focused on The Gathering which currently meets at Christ Church. It is a place of welcome where young people can find friendship, community and a place where faith and life and can all be explored in a spirit of great fun and real sense of belonging. Even closer links are currently being forged with the Parish of Penrith and there will be opportunities for you to help shape those.

Our two secondary schools:



Queen Elizabeth Grammar School Penrith



We are fortunate to have two very successful and very different secondary schools in Penrith, serving the large catchment area up and down the Eden Valley. Ullswater Community College and Queen Elizabeth Grammar School are both popular in their distinct ways and both happy for the local churches to have a role in their school communities. We are committed to expressing this as ecumenical partners from across our church families. Lunchtime Christian Union groups, church visits, end of term services, chaplaincy presence, Prayer Stations in school – all of these have been and continue to be a part of our connection to these two schools.

There is so much more to discover about the Parish of Penrith, the Penrith community and this wonderful corner of God's kingdom. We hope you will enjoy finding out more about us and considering becoming part of our ministry team



Finding out more about living in Penrith

If our wonderful corner of Cumbria is a new area to you (or even if it is familiar) some of the following links might be helpful in giving further reasons why a move to work with us in Penrith could be just what you are looking for and exactly where God is calling you to be:

<https://discoverpenrith.co.uk>

<https://www.visiteden.co.uk/explore-eden/the-eden-valley/>

<https://godforall.org.uk>

<https://www.parishofpenrith.org.uk>

We look forward to meeting you and exploring whether Penrith might be part of the next chapter in your story.

Rev David Sargent
Team Rector
The Parish of Penrith