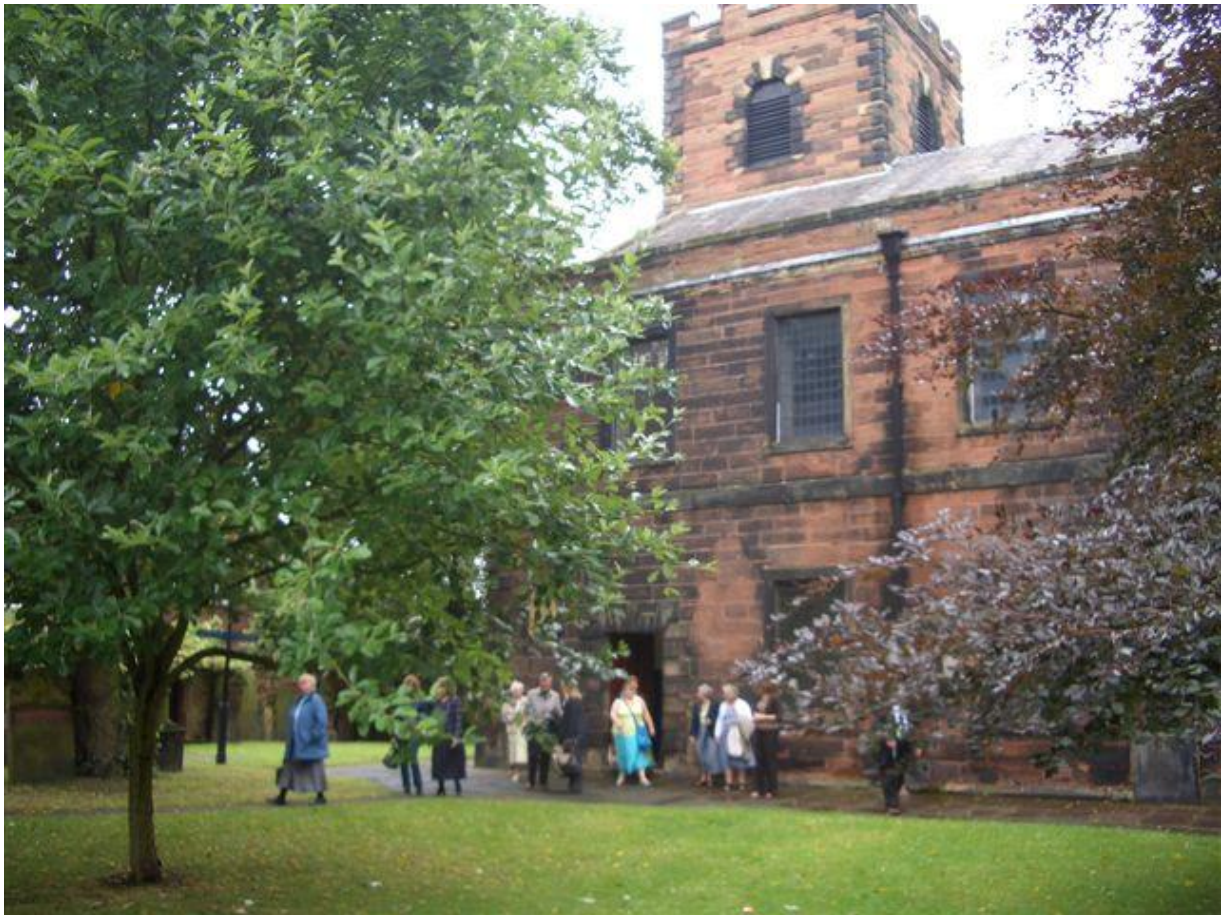


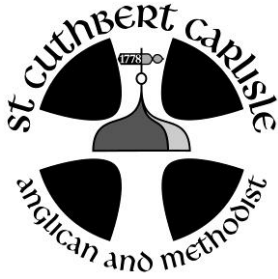
# ST CUTHBERT WITH ST MARY CARLISLE



## Parish Profile



[www.stcuthbertscarlisle.org.uk](http://www.stcuthbertscarlisle.org.uk)



**Profile of the Parish of  
St Cuthbert with St Mary  
Diocese of Carlisle  
Post of Vicar**

**Contacts**



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## What Is Our Vision?

**We have a strong incarnational approach to Christian ministry and fellowship. Within the love of God, and in keeping with our current mission aspiration of 'Christian Hospitality', our vision is to build a strong, secure, creative and prayerful church; to reach out to the wider community; to offer a welcoming place of peaceful tranquillity and solace and to be a sign of Christ's love for all his children.**

The present St. Cuthbert's Church was built for the glory of God and for his service in 1778 and opened the following year. It stands on the site of earlier churches, a fact hinted at by surviving fragments of fourteenth century stained glass and more particularly by its peculiar north-east to south-west orientation, standing end-on to a Roman road. This suggests a very ancient origin. Its dedication to St. Cuthbert certainly relates to that saint's recorded visits to Carlisle as Bishop of Lindisfarne in the years 685 and 686. At that time Carlisle, then Carluel, was already a flourishing Christian community, and it is recorded that Ecgrith, king of Northumberland, granted Carluel and the country fifteen miles round to Bishop Cuthbert. The earliest church was probably destroyed in the Viking raid on Carlisle in 876, and rebuilt in the following century.

After William II added Carlisle and Cumberland to his kingdom in 1092, St. Cuthbert's Church and parish belonged to a wealthy Norman, Walter the Priest. From him it passed with other lands to King Henry I who in turn granted it to his newly founded cathedral priory of St. Mary as part of its endowment. St. Cuthbert's church was probably rebuilt about that time. That church with much of the city was destroyed by fire on 4 May 1391, and must have been rebuilt in about 1400, as probably the third church on the site. It is this rebuilt church which is illustrated on the well-known map of Carlisle dating from about the 1560s. With the dissolution of the cathedral priory in 1540, St. Cuthbert's passed from the care of the Augustinian prior and canons to the Dean and Chapter of the new Cathedral foundation of 1541. In about the year 1600 St. Cuthbert's Church underwent substantial rebuilding which certainly included the building of a new tower. It is this church that is shown on Buck's print of Carlisle dated 1739.

In 1650, during the Commonwealth period, the Mayor and Corporation of Carlisle removed their pews from St. Mary's Church, located in the nave of the Cathedral, to St. Cuthbert's which from that time has been the city's Civic Church. The incumbent of St. Cuthbert's remains the ex-officio chaplain to the City Council, and Mayor and Councillors attend specific services each year.

In recent times, following the building of a new St. Mary's Church in 1870 and its demolition in 1954, the parish of St. Mary was amalgamated with St. Cuthbert's. The ancient parish boundaries have been substantially changed with the creation of new parishes.

## Where Are We?

The church of St Cuthbert with St Mary lies within the ancient city walls in the heart of the historic quarter of the City of Carlisle, next to the Cathedral and close to the Castle with its Norman keep. It is on the same site as the Diocesan Office and the Board of Education. It is adjacent to the busy main shopping centre, close to bus and railway stations, with direct links to London, Scotland, Newcastle, West Cumbria and the famous Carlisle - Settle Railway Line. It is close to the administrative offices of Carlisle City Council and Cumbria County Council.



Carlisle is a busy industrial and market town with a population of about 70,000. It is Cumbria's county town. The city of Carlisle having been a prestigious Roman town, built on the world heritage site of Hadrian's Wall, is also on the doorstep of both the world famous Lake District National Park and the beautiful Scottish Borders region and has a wealth of history.

Carlisle, with its beautiful and historic Old Town Hall, has a vibrant city centre frequently hosting street theatre, entertainment and local farmers' and continental markets. At weekends it throngs with local shoppers. Tullie House, our local museum, is a wonderful venue for adults and children alike and is a centre of education which portrays Carlisle's long and eventful history. For many years during the Middle Ages the Border area between England and Scotland was not secure and was known as "The Debatable Lands". Although our famous State Management Scheme came to a close many years ago there are many public houses of great character and serving excellent ale. St Cuthbert's has a particularly close relationship with the old coaching inn, the Sportsman, which is situated next to our churchyard.



Within the parish there is: the Green Room, the local amateur theatre, of which many of our congregation are members; the prestigious Sands Centre, the venue for many renowned musical and theatrical concerts and shows, as well as being an excellent sports centre; and the award winning The Lanes shopping centre.

St Cuthbert with St Mary's is a parish with one church building. There is a large adjoining meeting room. The unique fifteenth century Tithe Barn, next to the church, is our church hall. During the day our church doors are always open.

## Our Land and Buildings?

We have a beautiful, yet simple, eighteenth century church built on a site which is on the Roman Street Plan, indicating that worship has probably happened here continuously since the 4<sup>th</sup> or 5<sup>th</sup> century. St Bede tells us that St Cuthbert visited Carlisle during the seventh century. His life is depicted in the beautiful stained glass windows. We are fortunate to have



a massive 'moving' pulpit which is believed to be the only one of its kind in the country, built by our local crane firm, Cowan Sheldon, in 1905. On the pillar beside the pulpit is the City Coat of Arms, the iron stays enable the City Sword of Honour to be housed when the Mayor and City Council visit the church on ceremonial occasions.

The church is large, seating 200 to 250 downstairs with a gallery, typical of its style, seating up to 300. The church is in an excellent state of repair, is always warm and welcoming and has good disabled access. There is currently no outstanding work from our 2007 Quinquennial Report apart from some minor stonework to the Tithe Barn and some long-term work.

The church has good acoustics and a very good microphone system, which includes a loop system for the hard of hearing. There is a clergy vestry to the side of the chancel. Our adjoining meeting room has recently been renovated to a high standard and has a small office and well equipped compact kitchen and two toilets, one being for those with disabilities.

Across the church yard is situated the Tithe Barn, which is also in excellent condition and is



a wonderful resource. The Tithe Barn is a Class 1 ancient monument built by Prior Gondabour in 1490 and renovated by the parish in the early 1970s. The Tithe Barn is our church hall and hosts the city centre Methodists weekly service every Sunday morning.



All these buildings are in almost constant use and are hired to the public for a variety of purposes including concerts, wedding receptions, conferences, meetings, art exhibitions, music societies, tea dances, examinations, university and civic events.

Our closed churchyard, Garden and Tithe Barn spot in the heart of the by the City Council Parks



incorporating a Memorial Garden, is a welcoming green bustling city. It is maintained Department.

We are fortunate to have the Finance office car park on

use of the Diocesan Board of Sundays.

Overall, the people of Carlisle have the perception that St Cuthbert's is their church and is the 'Parish Church of the City'.

The Diocese has recently acquired a new vicarage which is a well-proportioned semi-detached property to the east side of the city, in a quiet residential street, with good parking and within easy walking distance of St Cuthbert's and the city centre. It is a four bedroomed property, which fully meets the expected requirements with gardens to front and rear. It backs onto Chatsworth Tennis Club, and is close to Carlisle United Football Club,

Carlisle Golf Course, Rickerby Park, the River Eden and several secondary schools. When the site adjoining St Cuthbert's Church is re-developed provision for a new St Cuthbert's vicarage may be part of that redevelopment.

## Who Are We?

Our eclectic, regular and committed congregations assemble from a wide area of the city centre, suburbs and surrounding small towns and villages. We are very varied in our make-up; we are a lively Christian community drawn together by our love of Anglican worship and our city centre roots. The church community seeks to be friendly and inclusive, welcoming everyone and



meeting the spiritual needs of all. Among our current congregation are some families spanning several generations. We particularly welcome children and families. We have a Junior Church, Family Worship, and a thriving Toddler Group. We are a welcoming and inclusive church and this is reflected in our baptism and wedding policies. We baptise children of unmarried parents and marry divorcees after due preparation. Our motto is 'Christian Hospitality'.



St Cuthbert's has a central tradition and is an open tolerant church. Our clergy wear vestments, and chalice assistants, organists and choir wear robes.

We have a very involved and positive relationship within the Diocese, several of our congregation working in the Resource Centre and Cathedral and previously in the Diocesan Office.

## Current Personnel:

We thank God that within the family of St Cuthbert's, in addition to our stipendiary minister, we are blessed with excellent support from a host of willing helpers and volunteers including two retired priests, and a Reader. We also have a number of our congregation who actively contribute to the Anglican Church as members of Diocesan and Deanery Synods, The National Society Council, Ministry Reviewers and the Carlisle Diocesan Youth Council. Our Honorary



Verger and Booking Secretary for all our buildings/rooms give extremely practical and essential support. We employ an organist on an RSCM contract (currently vacant).

St Cuthbert's is most fortunate in having many highly effective committed lay people. Within the church they administer the chalice, read the lessons and Gospel, lead intercessions, give Lenten Talks, take Home Communion, lead organisations, arrange flowers, send greetings cards, visit the sick, elderly and those in hospital, make coffee after services, organise Advent and Lent lunches and offer refreshments to concert goers and the general public. We are also fortunate in having lay people who willingly work around our church and its grounds and many who are involved within City activities and events.

### **Councils and Committees:**

- Parochial Church Council (Anglican)
- Joint Church Council (Anglican and Methodist)
- Officers – Steering Committee (Anglican and Methodist)
- Worship (Anglican)
- Mission (Anglican and Methodist)
- Premises (Anglican and Methodist)
- Social (Anglican and Methodist)

### **What Are We?**

Our parish, with its café culture, consists of all the city centre shops, hotels, bars, and businesses with only a few residential properties.

We are pro-active in the life of the Deanery and Diocese and our clergy and officers work closely with the Dean and Chapter in the adjoining Cathedral.

Our pattern of services is varied including Book of Common Prayer and Common Worship in both Traditional and Contemporary language. We have a quarterly evening service of freestyle contemporary Worship. We have a weekly Said Eucharist at 10.00am on Wednesdays attended by twenty or more regular worshippers.

### **Sunday Services:**

- 9.00 am - Said Eucharist (BCP)
- 10.45 am - Sung Eucharist (traditional language) 2<sup>nd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>  
Family Communion (once a month) 1<sup>st</sup>  
Choral Matins (once a month) 3<sup>rd</sup>  
Sung Eucharist (contemporary language) 5<sup>th</sup>

*Children are welcomed at our services and also have the option of attending Junior Church (both Anglican and Methodist) in our recently beautifully renovated vestry, a large meeting room.*

- 12.30 pm – Baptisms (most weeks)
- 6.30 pm – Evensong (BCP) 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>,  
Sung Eucharist (once a month) 3<sup>rd</sup>  
Contemporary worship (in conjunction with the Methodists) 5<sup>th</sup>

### **Wednesday Service:**

- 10.00 am – Said Eucharist (Common Worship Order One)

Each of these services has its own printed booklet

## **Occasional Offices:**

We have approximately 50 baptisms, 20 weddings and 40 funerals per annum. Here we have a significant ministry to those who regard themselves as St Cuthbert's people for a host of reasons and circumstances.

Our trained lay team take a significant number of Home Communion to individuals and to a residential home for the elderly.

We host services for the James Rennie School, a local Special School. We also retain a link with the local Deaf Community.

## **Who Are Our Friends and Neighbours?**

We have excellent relations with our neighbours, the Cathedral, Church House, the Board of Education and the Diocesan Resource Centre. We engage actively with 'Churches Together in Carlisle' and our good relationship with the owners and customers of the Public House adjacent to our churchyard is important to us. We have strong links with Carlisle City Council and Cumbria County Council and the business and education sector within the city; our vicar has served on several school and college governing bodies.

## **What is there in this Role beyond Parochial Ministry?**

We have hundreds of years of close involvement with the City Council. Historically, as decreed by Oliver Cromwell, our Vicar is Chaplain to the City Council and its elected Mayor. And as such is at the heart of the strategic thinking of the city. *"The Vicar of St Cuthbert's plays a central role in the life of the city of Carlisle and in the life of the City Council. The Vicar is our Chaplain and we recognise the symbolic importance of this role. Our Chaplain begins each of our Council meetings, which includes "A prayer for the City of Carlisle" and is closely involved in all of our civic events and celebrations. But the role is much wider and stronger than that, for our Chaplain also gives individual support and advice to our Elected Members and our Officers and brings to us a unique and very important view and one that we always listen to and learn from and that's because our Chaplain brings the authentic voice of our local communities and particularly those who are most deprived."* Maggie Mooney Carlisle City's Chief Executive.

We regularly engage with the retail and commercial establishments. Our work with retailers is in partnership with The Church of Scotland. This is an area we are seeking to further develop. Given the current economic climate, alongside the proposals to develop the city, the new role as Chaplain to the City Centre is vital. Our vicar, as a facilitator, negotiator and communicator will have a strategic involvement in moral decisions affecting the whole city including the historic quarter. *"The city centre business community and, in particular, the retail sector benefits from the chaplaincy role jointly undertaken by the vicars of St Cuthbert's and The Church of Scotland. This important role is welcomed by all and extends beyond the business level into providing much needed personal support on occasions and I do hope that it will continue following the new appointment at St Cuthbert's. The role really does have the Church working in the community on a daily basis and is valued by all in business in our city."* David Jackson Manager of The Lanes Shopping Centre, Carlisle.



Outside our significant parochial responsibilities, it is in these two main roles as Civic Chaplain and City Centre Chaplain which the church expects our new Incumbent to lead in effective mission and ministry. This will make up a very important proportion of the role. We are looking for a creative leader who will build on the relationships already in place, having the personal confidence and experience, coupled with an inspiring and infectious faith and spirituality, which combine to make for a fruitful visible church presence. Confident in the ordained role, our Incumbent will be identifiable and approachable in the street and on the shop floor, as well as in the boardroom and civic committees, where his/her contribution will be sought as an important, informed and independent mind. The ability to relate the Christian faith to the contemporary "real world" of a busy city centre is critical, along with the stature and ability to cause people to hesitate, to reflect and not simply rush past. This vision of the expected role is not for the hesitant or faint hearted! St Cuthbert's is well placed to engage with the City. We want a Leader who will capitalise on this and who will teach, motivate and inspire us to mutually engage and enjoy all we do.

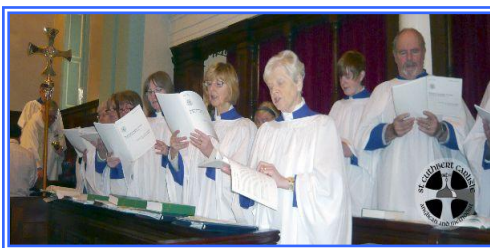
**Children and Young People:** We host Trinity School Prize Giving, Carlisle College Graduations and co-host the University of Cumbria Graduations with the Cathedral, when the Tithe Barn is used for refreshments and photographs. We have good relationships with local schools. In particular, we work with and support James Rennie School; this is a 50 year link and the school is keeping a Governor's position vacant for our new priest. We also have strong links with the Bishop Harvey Goodwin School, the only Church of England VA Primary School in the City. In addition we organise five children's Activity Afternoons each year in conjunction with the Cathedral, Methodists@tithebarn and the Church of Scotland, usually with between 40 to 100 children and adults participating. The young people's activities include St Cuthbert's hosting 'Squiggle', a youth worship initiative, once a month in our Tithe Barn. We also help to host an annual diocesan youth event 'Ablaze' and have hosted 'All Age Gigs' (no alcohol) with local groups, and sessional youth workers. We have also hosted famous pop group concerts in church, namely McFly and Orson!

**Ecumenical Partners:** We have a covenant relationship with our city centre partner Methodists who worship in our Tithe Barn each Sunday morning at 10.45. We have joint services during the year, two in the Tithe Barn and two in church and on the fifth Sunday in the month.

We very much enjoy our 13 year link with a Catholic parish in France through which we exchange visits and share worship, fellowship and mission.

## So What Do We Do?

Our ecumenical **Junior Church** meets weekly in the vestry and our **Toddler Group** has recently restarted; we are very excited by this!



**The Choir** practises each Friday evening and participates in Diocesan and regional services and events, and during Advent the congregation join the choir for **Carol Singing** in the Lanes Shopping Centre.



**The Young Women's Group** meet for social activities and **Women's Fellowship** invites speakers fortnightly. Every Monday morning we host a **Women Only Coffee Morning** focussing on support for mental health issues. The **Afternoon Fellowship**, formerly MU, meets every Tuesday and runs a Lent course.

**Social Events** – we have a host of very well attended and varied events which include: ceilidhs, Shrove Tuesday suppers, Burns Night, St George's Night, Harvest Lunch, Christmas Jazz Concert, summer ball as well as quiz evenings which are mainly run by the Methodists. **Parish Pilgrimages** are always sold out! We enjoy our links with our neighbours and share **Coffee with the Cathedral** congregation six times a year, following morning services. Hosting is shared between St. Cuthbert's and the Cathedral. We look forward to our **Annual exchange visits** with the Roman Catholic congregation of St. Barthélémy's Church, Angers, Loire Valley, France.



To enhance our **fundraising** we have an **Annual Autumn Fair** opened by the Mayor which usually raises over £3000, this includes the money raised from our monthly **Cake Stall**. Twice weekly we hold **Coffee Mornings** which are open to the public on Friday and Saturday mornings.

In addition to all our **Outreach** activities many of our groups organise **Advent and Lenten Lunches** which are open to the public and the proceeds are halved between church and chosen charities. **Prayer Walks** are led by our Mission Committee who also organise bag-packing in Marks and Spencer in aid of Christian Aid. We also support the Operation Christmas Child appeal for gift-filled shoe boxes for children in disadvantaged situations.

**We are a venue for prestigious speakers and events** – for example, a Tony Benn Lecture, Pop concerts, Hustings for the last General Election and the Carlisle and District Music Festival, (where Kathleen Ferrier was discovered), with 5,000 performers and audience.

## **What Were Our Statistics in 2008?**

- Population 1111
- Electoral Roll 282
- Average Sunday Attendance - 140, adults and children (not including the Methodists)
- Average Wednesday Attendance - 20 adults
- Christmas attendance – 469 (includes Christingle, Midnight Mass & Christmas Morning Eucharists)
- Easter Attendance - 260

## **What about Our Finances?**

As a result of committed hard work we are financially sound and have always paid our parish share in full. Under the new system we have made a generous offer of approximately £49,000. Our annual budget is about £100,000. We have a programme of regular, annual stewardship renewal. Over the last ten years we have additionally raised £300,000 which

has been spent on our fabric. Our outward giving amounts to £4,000. In addition to this we also raise monies through Advent and Lent lunches which are open to the public. We support CMS through collection boxes and the Children's Society through Christingle, and several others through a variety of fundraising and social activities.

## **What Are Our Strengths?**

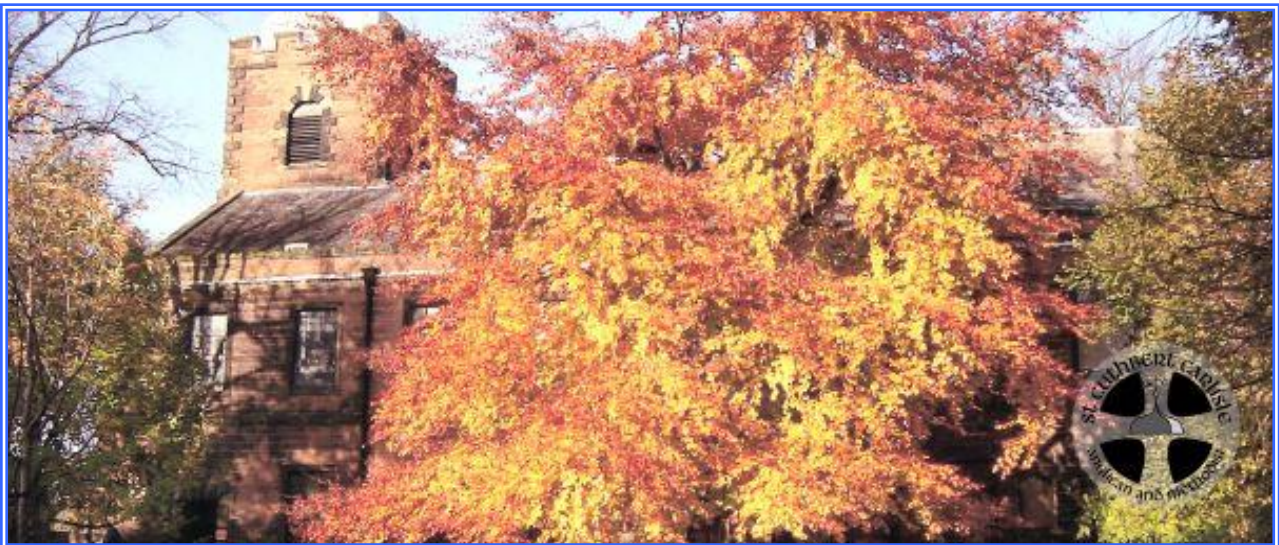
We offer an excellent central location in this beautiful county and the historic City of Carlisle. We have a unique Civic connection, a high profile within the life of the capital City of Cumbria and a varied range of significant contacts across the city. We are on the tourist Town Trail Guide.

We have a long history of innovative liturgy, a huge variety of ministry for the appointed priest and very pro-active and creative lay people. The church building is open during daylight hours, and passers-by, tourists, workers and residents call in for quiet prayer. This opens up the potential for the development of a special ministry. Our people and our buildings are used by a wide range of secular organisations; we have excellent relationships with our neighbours.

We seek to be open to change and welcome further development.

## **What Are Our Developmental Opportunities?**

We have had discussion surrounding our Diocesan Initiative 'Survival to Revival'. We welcome new and further ideas led by a motivational, collaborative and gifted teacher through expanding our communication systems; developing our ministry of welcome; increasing involvement of young people; encouraging the vocation, ministry, training opportunities and expertise of the laity; further progressing our church music and innovative worship; revitalising our outreach opportunities; maximising fundraising, which in the future could be for the overhaul of our first-rate three-manual organ built by Norman and Beard of Norwich in 1904, and finally, further develop our website [www.stcuthbertscarlisle.org.uk](http://www.stcuthbertscarlisle.org.uk)



## **St Cuthbert with St Mary's Church, Carlisle** **Vicar Specification**

### **The Vicar should:**

- Be a learned, inspirational, motivational leader and innovator able to take calculated risks whose vision is grounded in prayer;
- Be a sound theologian who is committed to careful teaching and preaching whilst maintaining our open, inclusive and welcoming approach;
- Value the wealth and creative opportunity of Anglican liturgy; be committed to worship with a eucharistic and sacramental focus whilst responding positively, openly and imaginatively to further develop a range of worship styles;
- Be an excellent open communicator and manager of people who will empower us to develop further and deepen our faith and understanding whilst ensuring accessibility and inclusion of all;
- Welcome, encourage and facilitate the involvement and development of all aspects of lay ministry;
- Embrace the whole parish, supporting our open policies for baptisms, marriages and funerals;
- Maximise our outreach opportunities and further develop our high profile within the city and amongst its population through continuing the use of all our buildings for non-religious purposes;
- Build on our foundation of commitment to working with and extending opportunities for children, young people and families within our church as well as in partnership with the Cathedral and neighbouring churches;
- Welcome and support our relationship with the Methodists;
- Actively promote our musical tradition and support the cultural aspects and opportunities of the city;
- Effectively fulfil the new role of City Chaplain, City Council and its Mayor;
- Initiate and create openings whilst reaching out and ministering to the city's businesses and their people;
- Be highly visible, empowering, approachable and accessible;
- Build on established practice and ensure we fulfil our current vision and our motto of "Christian Hospitality".