

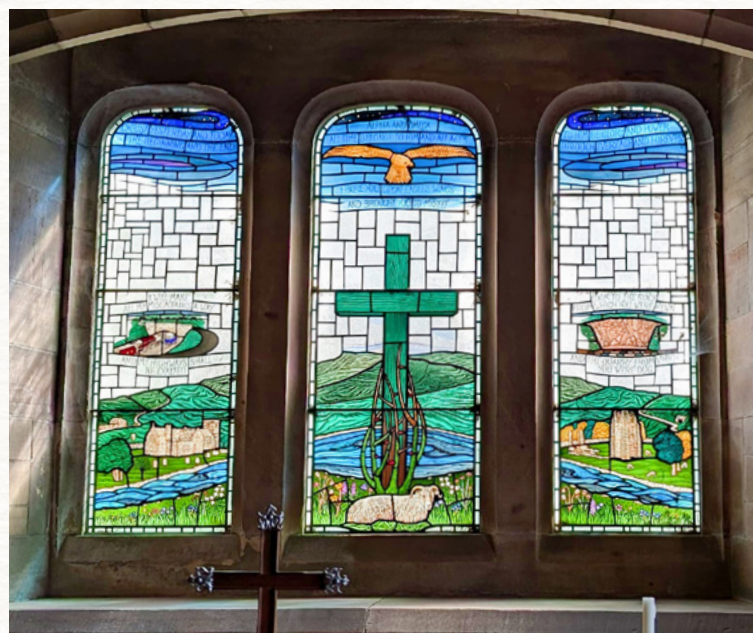


Welcome to the
Churches of the North Westmorland Benefice



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WELCOME

The North Westmorland Benefice is a group of Church of England parishes in the Eden Valley, at the northern edge of historic Westmorland.

The Benefice includes the parishes of Askham and Lowther; Bampton with Mardale; Bolton; Clifton and Brougham; Crosby Ravensworth; Great Strickland; Morland (which includes Cliburn and Thrimby); and Shap with Swindale.

Our parishes aspire to be the church in every place, offering regular worship and other activities for the benefit of the communities in which they work.

Each Sunday, we offer a variety of services, led by different ministers and lay teams, to suit different needs and preferences. We have a friendly midweek service in Morland, followed by coffee in the Mill Yard Cafe. Special services at Christmas, Easter, Harvest and Remembrance are advertised on our website and social media.

Our website provides a week-by-week schedule of services as well as the pattern for the current and next month.

Our churches celebrate and affirm every person. We believe in a Church which welcomes and serves all people in the name of Jesus Christ; which seeks to proclaim the Good News afresh for this generation.



OUR CHURCHES

We are guardians of a number of historic churches, almost all with community burial grounds. These places of beauty and spirituality have been at the heart of their communities for generations and are integral to the character and wellbeing of our communities, for people of faith and none.

We welcome visitors from nearby and tourists from afar. We are working hard to expand our heritage engagement, the accessibility of our buildings, and the interpretation resources and facilities we offer to visitors. Almost all our churches are open during daylight hours and you are warmly invited to visit.



HAVING YOUR CHILD BAPTISED

Baptism marks the beginning of a lifelong journey of faith. Through water and prayer, we celebrate God's love and welcome people of all ages into the family of the Church. Whether for a child or an adult, baptism is a joyful occasion, surrounded by hope, promise, and the support of the Christian community. We generally conduct baptisms in the ordinary Sunday service of whichever of our churches you prefer.

To arrange a baptism, contact sue@northwestmorland.church

GETTING MARRIED IN CHURCH

Christian marriage is a joyful and lifelong commitment, rooted in love, faithfulness, and shared hope. In the beauty and peace of one of our historic churches, couples make their vows before God, surrounded by family, friends, and centuries of prayer. A church wedding offers not only timeless tradition and sacred atmosphere, but also the assurance of God's blessing at the beginning of married life together. We welcome couples whose wedding venues include Askham Hall, Holesfoot and Long Acre Barn, as well as our many Village Halls, pubs and hotels.

To discuss your wedding plans, please contact sue@northwestmorland.church



FUNERALS AND CHURCHYARDS

At times of loss and sadness, the Church is here to offer comfort, prayer, and support. A Christian funeral gives thanks for a loved one's life, entrusts them to God's care, and offers hope in the promise of eternal life. We are honoured to help families plan meaningful and personal services.

Our churchyards are available to all those with connections in the area for burials and the interment of ashes, after funeral services here or further afield.

We aim to process applications for new and additional memorials in our churchyards quickly and efficiently, helping you and your monumental mason to achieve your wishes within the boundaries of the Churchyard Regulations.

Contact sue@northwestmorland.church

HOUSE BLESSINGS

A house blessing is an opportunity to pray for God's peace, love, and protection in a new or existing home. Whether marking a move, a fresh start, or simply seeking God's presence in daily life, this simple service offers comfort and thanksgiving. Holy water is sprinkled around the home as a sign of God's blessing.

Contact stephen@northwestmorland.church





SCHOOLS

We are proud of our ministry in schools which is for all children, whether or not they or their families are people of faith. We work with all ages from pre-school to Year 6, and make provision for older children in our youth groups. We support both church and community schools alike, as well as governor-led and private nursery provisions. Our ministers are experienced in governance and safeguarding. We work with a good awareness of the curriculum, the Early Years framework and the expectations of Ofsted and SIAMS inspection.

We aim to develop deep, serving relationships in which our churches and ministers add value for the whole school community.

We serve our schools in a wide variety of ways:

- Collective worship and assemblies
- Supporting RE teaching
- After-school clubs and lunch clubs
- Governance
- 1:1 listening and mentoring for children
- Pastoral support for staff
- Accompanying trips and residentials
- Support for transition from primary school to secondary school
- Supporting worship leaders
- Early Years sessions in church aimed at our Nursery & Reception pupils
- Our minibus is kept locally and available at a discounted rate for schools



CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

Young people are at the heart of our church's vision and ministry. We offer activities and gatherings for children and teenagers each week, creating safe spaces for friendship, faith, fun, and support.

Our dedicated Youth Café Church provides an informal and welcoming place to explore spirituality, ask questions, and discover more about God in a relaxed and engaging environment.

We offer our young people two weekends away each year, with a range of accessible Christian content as well as plenty of fun, games and crafts.

Our holiday activities include day trips, and an intergenerational event each half term, with crafts and refreshments.

For more information about our youth work and our Youth Café Church, contact ruth@northwestmorland.church



SOCIAL ACTION

Loving and serving our communities is a priority for all our churches. Our ministers and congregations undertake a large number of pastoral visits and offer practical support of all kinds.

We support our schools and other community organisations by making our minibus available for hire by educational or charitable users at advantageous rates. Contact sue@northwestmorland.church

Through our 'Good Neighbour' project we are developing a team of volunteers to foster strong social bonds and promote personal well-being and self-esteem through a range of pastoral activities. In addition to visiting and befriending, connecting isolated members of the community, we have also offered:

- Care packages to provide essentials and seasonal treats, particularly aimed at those without free school meals during holidays
- IT support sessions
- Social outings
- Information, advice and signposting to other services

For support from our Good Neighbour project, contact us via neighbour@northwestmorland.church



GET IN TOUCH OR SUPPORT OUR WORK

All our work is funded by the generosity of our congregations, local residents and other donors. Apart from occasional grants, there is no national funding for churches, their work in the community, their buildings or churchyards.

Your donation helps us to expand the scope of our social action and youth, children and schools work, as well as helping to preserve our heritage buildings and the public amenity of our churchyards.

You can support your local church by visiting our website

<https://northwestmorland.church/resources/supporting-our-churches/>

You can support our children, youth and schools ministry by visiting

<https://www.parishgiving.org.uk/donors/find-your-parish/growing-younger-minister-fund-penrith>

SOCIAL MEDIA AND ONLINE LINKS

Website northwestmorland.church

Facebook @northwestmorlandbenefice

YouTube @northwestmorlandbenefice or @NWBYouth



A faithful community seeking to grow younger and closer together