AROUND THE CHURCHES

All Saints

- We have moved back to the Lady Chapel (behind the drapes) for "normal" services over the winter.
- Annual Memorial Service to be held on Sunday 2nd November at 3pm
- All Saints' School annual Service and distribution of Bibles to be held on 5th November with the school in church.
- Annual Cockermouth Remembrance Service to be on Sunday 9th November at 12.45pm, followed by the procession to the War Memorial.
- The Water Leak is now agreed for repair (via a new pipe) - this could still take a couple of months to be completed as the Ecclesiastical Insurance appointed contractors need a licence for work on the pavement, and potentially the road, in Kirkgate.
- The AS Vestry is currently filled with Shoe Boxes waiting to be sent off as part of the Christmas Appeal.

Lorton Street Methodist Church

- Church council is meeting on 30 Oct and will discuss proposed plans for renovations/ building development at Lorton St.
- Delighted to announce return of the Carers and Toddlers group on Thursday mornings, term-time.
- Glad to host the Cockermouth CAN event on Sat 18th Oct. More to follow.
- Regular Repair Cafe planned…possibly the3rd Sat of the month.
  Check their Facebook page.
- Now providing a worship/ gathering space for Seventh Day Adventists on Saturdays.
  Also for info, AA now meeting on Saturdays in the room upstairs…around 5pm.

Great Broughton

- We had our Harvest Festival at the start of October and the primary school came in for theirs last week. We are very fortunate to have such good links with them as they aren't a CofE school. I will be taking the two head pupils along with all the harvest donations to the food bank at Highfield next week where they will have a tour and talk and will be able to pack a bag. They will then be able to feed back their experience to the rest of the school.
- We gave out our new starter bags to parents at the start of term, they are always well received and school will be back in church for a Christmas service in December.
- We are holding our Remembrance Day service on the 9th and will have a bugler to play the Last Post and Reveille, this is always well attended.
- Christmas plans are well on the way and we have a band booked for carols at our annual Beer n Carols at the local pub and at our Christingle service. Travelling Light will play for us at our 9 lessons and carols service.

Days and times: Beer n Carols at the Sundial, Little Broughton 8.30pm, Wednesday 10th December, 9 Lessons and Carols CCGB 4pm Sunday 14th December, Christingle, CCGB 4pm, Christmas Eve

- Our cafe church is still held on the 3rd Sunday of the month although we do need to find ways to engage the village, it's still just our congregation.

Bridekirk

- We were delighted to welcome Bridekirk Dovenby School into church for their Harvest Service as the school term finished. The church was packed and it was such a joy to welcome families of the new Reception class into church for the first time. Many stayed for refreshments after the service which was encouraging to see.
- On Saturday 22nd November, 1.30pm to 5.00pm in church, Margaret Abbott is presenting a Flower Demonstration to Christmas Carols, with music by Angela Johnson. It promises to be a beautifully creative afternoon of festive joy! Afternoon Tea, scones and cakes, are included in the £10 ticket price. 50 places were available and these are almost sold out. Margaret Hall has a few tickets remaining Tel. 01900 821128.
- St. Bridget's and St. Aidan's will be joining together again for this year's Crib Service on Christmas Eve and Bridekirk Dovenby School Choir will be joining us for our Carol Service.
- The new church boiler is serving us well and we are now looking at how best to run the heating in the Church Room.
- Bridekirk Friendship Group (BFG) and Baby Club continue to thrive thanks to teams of church and local community folk working together.

Brigham St Bridget's

- We continue with our service rota 1st & 3rd Sundays.
- In addition we were pleased to have our school children present a wonderful Harvest Service which was attended by 80 children & 92 adults.
- Our restoration work is ongoing but we are still able to provide services as required. We have had some excellent comments with regard to the work that has been completed.
- We are continuing to do mix/match services along with the Brigham Methodist Chapel.
- We have in place our services arranged until the end of the year.

Brigham Methodist Church

- Garden service with bacon butties was successful with Brownies and Rainbows taking part and we will do again next year.
- Thursday Fellowship in November at 7.30 "Prophets and prophesy" all welcome.
- Our accessible and safer entrance way plans continue and we are planning a fundraising concert on 18th January with Fiona Weakley and Martin Ullyet which will be held in the Chapel.

- We are looking at what we need to be doing to try and get the Gold Eco Church Award.
- We will be having our usual Christmas Day service at 10am to which all are invited.

Christ Church, Cockermouth

- As you will see on Saturday our winter tent is back in place keeping us all warm and the Church Rooms will be busy with our monthly coffee morning.
- Over summer and autumn we have seen a steady flow of visitors and new attendees to a number of services and overall we are seeing a slight increase in Sunday service attendance. Combined Sunday services are starting to regularly nudge the 100 figure and on 2nd Sundays see between 130 and 150 when Messy Church is added in. JUMP which meets at Christ Church in the Rooms is growing and has launched a new logo. God has also blessed our Children's Church which is also seeing numbers grow so much that the leaders are looking to split into two age groups and start a crèche aged group. Messy church has become increasingly multicultural with Iranian, Spanish and Indian families joining. We are aware that our existing homegroups are pretty much full and will need to think about developing more in the coming year.
- On the buildings front the Rooms Upper Room is all finished and available for hire, super insulated, nice and cosy. The church toilets have hot water and the extra insulation on the inner doors is keeping more of the drafts out. Roger is continuing to liaise with the Diocese over our bid to be recognised as Demonstrator Church which would unlock funding to help us draw up the plans to take us to net zero as part of our Sustainable Future plans. We are waiting for our Quinquennial report from our architects who inspected the building in September.
- To improve our church sound and vision provision the DCC have approved funds to go completely wireless and replace the current sound desk with a digital desk. This will provide great flexibility for other users to be able to use the system without messing up the settings for Sunday and reduce wiring making a future move of the tech desk much easier. A second livestream camera has been installed to improve viewer experience when panning between different scenes. This will be supported by two mini preview screens so the operator can see what each camera is pointing at.
- Christmas is very much on our minds as we try and fit the different groups and our own services into the increasingly
  busy church calendar. Currently we have just under 40 sessions filled in the church between the 4th Sunday Junk Nativity service on the 30th November and Christmas Day. This is in part due to the Church Rooms being so full that we have moved some midweek community activities into the church. This year we are hosting an HLF Holiday club which we pray will be successful so that they are encouraged to organise more school holiday clubs.
- None of the above would be possible without the support of the church members and group/activity leaders all of whom the DCC and Leadership team are very grateful for.

Clifton

- For a couple of months now we've been working with Clifton Methodists to join in worship. This seems to be going very well, everyone at St Luke's is very happy with 10am start time (rather than 9.30) and we are getting to know our friends from the Methodists who come to our services regularly. Not as many from St Luke's go to the Methodist services, but this has more to do with the fact that St Luke's people are used to worshipping fortnightly at Clifton and some go elsewhere on alternate weeks.
- Afternoon Tea and Songs of Praise for St Luke's Day went very well. We had a number of people from different churches who all seemed to have enjoyed the event and sang robustly, which was lovely. We would like to do something similar in the future.
- Friday Club (a joint effort with the Methodist church in Clifton) is going well. It's now fortnightly rather than monthly. We seem to be getting to know the children better as we're having more regular contact. We have more volunteers now which takes the pressure off having to be there each time. A grant of £100 has been awarded to Friday Club by Clifton Education Trust to pay for equipment.
- Our annual Service of Light is being held on Halloween

Dean

- the DAC have accepted our application for removable handrails to the Chancel steps. We have received a grant towards the handrails from the C of E Disability Project.
- In October we welcomed Years 1 and 2 into church to Experience Harvest. Dean School held their Harvest Service in church on October 20th .

Mosser

St Philip's

- Very little change since last meeting. Two services a month.
- Soup and Sandwich lunches as fund raising events have been popular. Next one is Saturday 13th December in Eaglesfield Village Hall.12-1.30
- Christmas Fayre on Saturday 22nd November in Eaglesfield Village Hall 10am to 3pm. Free entry.

St Michael's

- Overhanging branches from beech trees have been cut back and gutters cleaned.
- Three music concerts have been held this year and proved popular. These should begin again in the Spring.
- Holy Communion to celebrate St Michael's Feast Day was held in September, well attended.

- Next service is the Candlelit Carol Service led by Paddle School on Sunday 14th December at 3pm.

Lorton

- We have begun work reviewing the priorities from the QR report and are actively investigating the work required to the Tower. We have obtained List B permission from the Archdeacon to carry out 4 test patches of the cement render around the church which will give us the opportunity to determine the original finish and also inform the estimates for the overall work by extrapolating the effort involved in the trials.
- We had a very successful Harvest Festival and Lunch and we intend to stick to the lunchtime format next year, especially as a number of children attended.
- We are holding a Remembrance Sunday Service at 1030 on the 9th with a bugler.
- We are having a family friendly advent service on the 30/11 and a 'light' carol service at 1030 on 14/12.

Loweswater with Buttermere

St. James's Buttermere

- Our restoration appeal for the roof and general renovation in the church is in full swing and various people are buying slates for the roof at £100/slate.
- Much work is needed within the church including all the windows.

St. Bartholomew's Loweswater

- Recent ingress of water has necessitated some work on the roof tiles Otherwise business as usual

Poiema Community & Retreat House

- We've hosted nine guests on Residential retreats and four guests on Day retreats.
- Held a very productive and enjoyable Gardening Day, joined by 4 wonderful volunteers from the local area and a volunteer who came on a "working" residential retreat.
- "For you are God's handiwork" Quiet Day in October - numbers of participants partly affected by bad weather, but those who came appreciated the material and the space to reflect.
- Upcoming events include a Silent residential retreat, the GMC clergy day on November 15th, and Advent Quiet Day on November 22nd (for which we still have a couple of places available. Please let us know if you'd like to book a place - info@poiema.org.uk)