



From the Rt Reverend Rob Saner-Haigh

**Bishop of Penrith and Acting Bishop of Carlisle**

Dear Applicant,

This profile will give you a good picture of life and ministry in this wonderful part of Cumbria, which is deeply rural but also within half an hour of the city of Carlisle.

The Diocese of Carlisle is committed to the God for All vision, a vision to share the good news of Jesus Christ with all our neighbours. Launched in 2015, it is underpinned by a commitment across four denominations in Cumbria (the Church of England, the Methodist Church, The Salvation Army, and the URC) to see God's Kingdom flourish across the county.

The vision is based on four values: Follow Daily (helping each other to follow Jesus more closely); Care Deeply (listening to our communities to serve them and to challenge injustice); Speak Boldly (sharing our faith in Jesus in everyday ways); and Tread Gently (seeking to sustain and renew the life of the earth).

Mission Communities are one of the ways in which the Church in Cumbria seeks to live out the God for All vision.

They seek to be collaborative groupings of churches - between denominations, between clergy and laity, and between different communities - working together to proclaim afresh the gospel to each generation, faithful to its tune but improvising together to create new melodies for our place and time. They are fundamentally about enabling each local church to minister to their community.

We are looking for clergy who resonate with this, who love God and love people, who will look outwards into the community in mission, help people grow in faith and who will enable the faith and gifts of all.

If this stirs something in you, we'd love to hear from you.

With every blessing,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rob Saner-Haigh'.

## **THE BRAMPTON DEANERY AREA AND 'MISSION COMMUNITY' – Rural Dean's Letter**

Brampton Deanery stretches from the Esk parishes and Bewcastle on the Scottish border down to Cumrew on the Pennine fellsides in the south; from Rockcliffe on the Solway estuary in the west to Gilsland on the border with Northumberland in the east. Hadrian's Wall cuts right across the centre of the Deanery. On the one hand the area comprises communities which are deeply rural and scattered, and on the other hand, especially nearer Carlisle, villages in which significant numbers of residents work in Carlisle or further afield. There are 27 parish churches currently grouped in 7 benefices. There are also 3 Methodist churches, a joint Methodist / Church of Scotland 'Community Church', a URC Church and a Roman Catholic Church.

The Deanery, alongside our ecumenical partners, has spent the last year working out together how to adapt the Diocesan Mission Community strategy to our context. We have recently arrived at an agreement to form a Mission Community that is coterminous with the Deanery area. As a Mission Community we will seek to support churches through co-operating in those areas where, together, we can do the kinds of things that many churches would struggle to do on their own. For example, youth work, elements of administrative support, the offering of authorised lay training, running courses. Some of these initiatives are already happening – 12 lay people from across the Deanery area have just been authorised to lead services following an 8 session training course.

Clergy are expected to engage positively with the wider Mission Community, sharing specialisms beyond their own benefices in ways that are mutually beneficial.

It is recognised that individual parishes and benefices remain the primary foci for ministry and mission, and that in many respects the building of collaborative relationships will happen more locally – and so we are working with the stated understanding that much ministry and mission will be done more effectively in three smaller areas within the Deanery area – these being centred on Longtown, Brampton and the Eden Churches. We are committed to a Mission Community strategy that supports the local church. By making the Mission Community coterminous with the Deanery area our approach will be to activate the Deanery structure (including Deanery Synod and the Chapter) for mission and ministry without creating extra layers of organisation. We are looking forward to exploring, with those who come to join us, how God will guide us in this journey.

### **NETWORK YOUTH CHURCH**

Network Youth Church (NYC) began across the county in response to low numbers of young people engaging with churches in Cumbria.

In Brampton Deanery NYC runs four weekly groups, one located in Longtown and the other three in Brampton. These vary in style from drop-in sessions to groups that enjoy a pizza while exploring the Christian faith. Alongside these groups NYC regularly goes into William Howard School, the local secondary school, to support young people from across the area at break times. Activities include chatting with them, playing a game of 'uno', or handing out our weekly quizzes. Once a week we also help run a lunch club in the school with NISCU, where we look at topics from a Christian perspective.

NYC has also been involved in supporting young people through confirmation classes, visits to primary schools at various points in the year, trips, and taking young people to larger events. NYC is seeking to develop and support others with youth ministry across the deanery area.