

## Saturday 9th March

9.30am-4.30pm

'Catching the vision' for MCs.

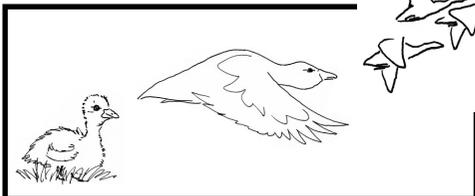
Down-A-Gate Community

Hall, Warwick Bridge. CA48RE

There is extra parking in the St Paul's Holme Eden car park, a short walk to the Village Hall.

All our discussions from 22nd January and other conversations will contribute to this day of the 'Moving Forward' workshop series as we begin to explore how we can launch our MC.

Helpfully, a pattern for our Mission Community is reflected in the nature around us... in fact the wild goose is the Celtic symbol for the Holy Spirit.

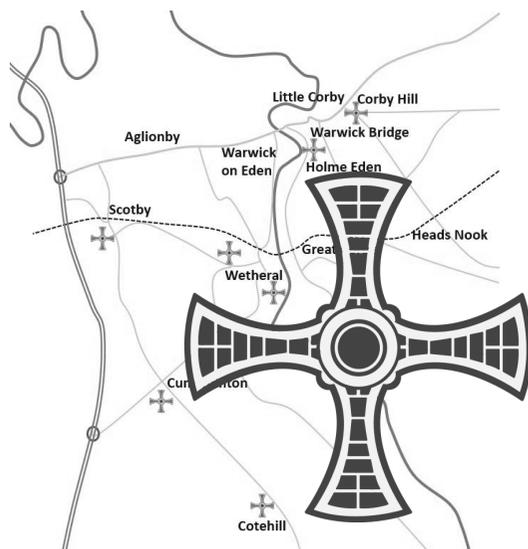


Fledgling Launch Flying

As we move forward together our prayer is that we will grow in discipleship and confidence in the Gospel in new ways. We will learn to fly in dynamic reliance on each other, energised by the Holy Spirit and inspired by the majestic geese who soar above our heads. I'm tempted to say 'Come fly with me', but we have to grow some feathers first!

We understand that Saint Cuthbert walked in this place, over 1300 years ago, and the well to the north of Wetheral is a spot where we recall his visit. There is something about Cuthbert's ministry that inspires us today. He was a man of prayer who wanted people to hear of Jesus. Cuthbert's crosses mark the locations of our church buildings on the map on the front cover, and we also were 'signed with a cross' in our baptisms and take Christ into our homes, our work and wherever we spend our days.

If you have any questions or comments, I would be pleased to receive letters or emails.  
Yours, Graeme Skinner  
with Rachel Williams  
and Isaac Lawrence.

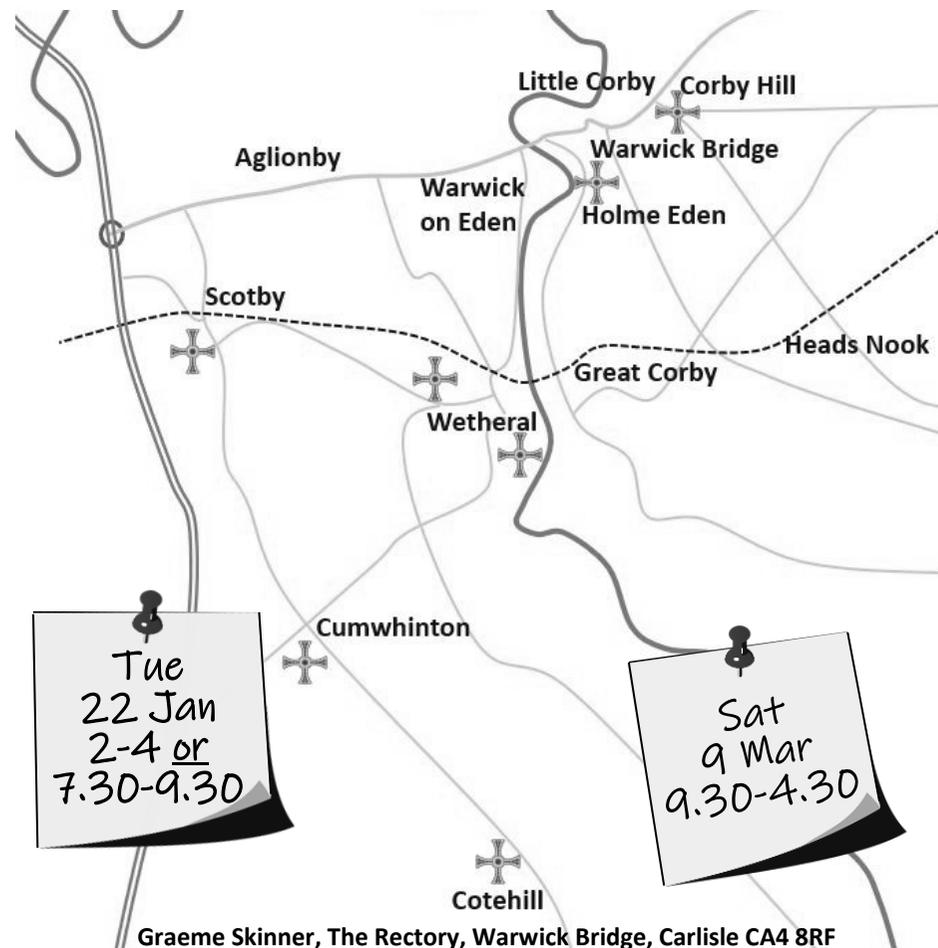


# People with a purpose

## Our local Mission Community



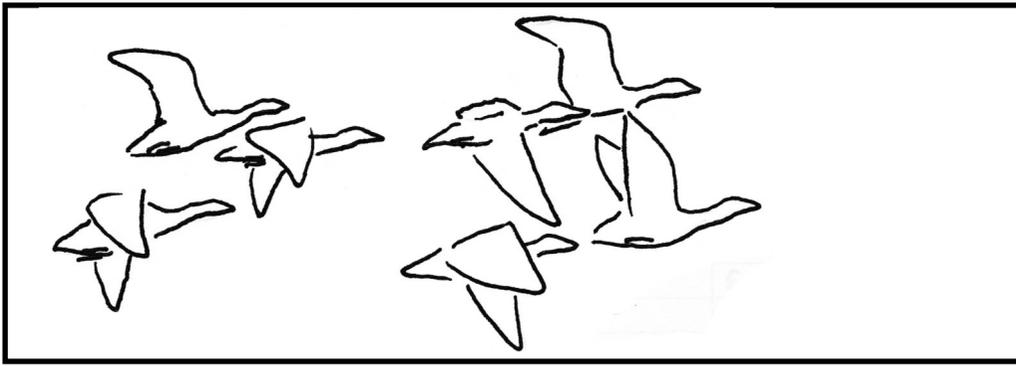
### Your invitation to be part of something significant for our local community of villages



Tue  
22 Jan  
2-4 or  
7.30-9.30

Sat  
9 Mar  
9.30-4.30

Graeme Skinner, The Rectory, Warwick Bridge, Carlisle CA4 8RF  
Mission Community Leader  
t. 01228 561358 e. [graemevicarofeden@gmail.com](mailto:graemevicarofeden@gmail.com) w. [edenchurches.co.uk](http://edenchurches.co.uk)  
December 2018



Greetings,  
I am Graeme Skinner, the vicar in Holme Eden and Wetheral, and Mission Community Leader of the network of churches on the front of this leaflet.

Philippa and I arrived earlier this year and have been exploring the beautiful landscape and wildlife of the Eden Valley. The sight and sound of the geese taking flight and in the fields around us have been a particular highlight this autumn.

The purpose of our 'network' of local churches has so far been about building friendships and developing positive links between us. Over the past few years, Christians from several denominations in Cumbria have been in conversation about how local churches can build on these relationships and deepen our Christian commitment to Jesus and our locality.

Now, in our own patch, we are exploring how to become a people with a purpose. We are the people and representing Jesus in every and any way is our purpose. That's the core of a

Mission Community of churches (MC). I arrived to find the churches in good heart and my role is to invite all local Christians to work together to focus on the aspiration of 'God for all' adopted by Cumbrian churches.

*'By 2020 every person in Cumbria of all ages and backgrounds will have an opportunity to discover more of God and God's purpose for their lives, so that they will discover more of Jesus and the Good News and become followers of Jesus within a Christian community.'*  
[www.godforall.org.uk](http://www.godforall.org.uk)

I have been told that our network is 'Fledgling Mission Community'. This is a wonderful picture. We are full of hope and potential, but have not yet stretched our wings to fly.



The Mission Community is a real opportunity for Christian growth in our area. Whatever



the MC will become, and we are by no means certain what it will be yet, we do know that it must be life and faith affirming. At its heart will be the flourishing that comes from strong relationships between our local congregations and a shared focus on seeing God at work in our community.

To help us move forward in our thinking, MC trainers are offering to run some training days with Christians from all the churches in our own community. There are several such groupings of churches around the county who have flapped their wings and started to lift off as Mission Communities. Some of their expertise and experience will help us to consider what might work for us here.

Our network of churches are the Methodist churches of Wetheral and Corby Hill and the Anglican Parishes of Scotby, Cotehill and Cumwhinton and Wetheral, Warwick on Eden and Holme Eden.

Rachel Williams (Methodist), Isaac Lawrence (Scotby) and myself (Wetheral and Holme Eden) have been talking and praying about the next steps in exploring our local MC. Other leaders in each church have been contributing to the initial thinking.

In order to enable us all to 'start growing some flight-worthy feathers' we have put a couple of dates in the diary early in 2019 to enable us all to

meet and explore our early steps in setting up our MC. This letter is your invitation from all three of us, we hope you can come.

I recently watched the geese lifting off from the Eden. It was noisy and cumbersome as they heaved out of the water, but they did rise up. It was hard to see who gave the 'off we go' message but somehow they did it together. Once they were up and flying, they were majestic.



These meetings are about our first flaps and will build on the good witness of the church in the past and begin to shape the future of Christian witness and discipleship in our community for years to come. So, please join us.

**Tuesday 22nd January 2019**

There will be a gathering from 2-4pm which will be repeated from 7.30-9pm. These will be identical meetings as some can only make a daytime and others can only come to an evening, so please choose one of them. They will be held in Cotehill Village Hall led by Rachel, Isaac and myself. We will talk about 'The future of faith in our community' and our new 'Fledgling Mission Community'. Your views will be an integral part of the afternoon or evening.