

2 The first training meeting will be held on **Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> March** 9.30am-4.30pm. 'Catching the vision'. Down-a-Gate Village Hall, Warwick Bridge, CA4 8RE. **This will be a key event to which all Christians in our locality are invited.**

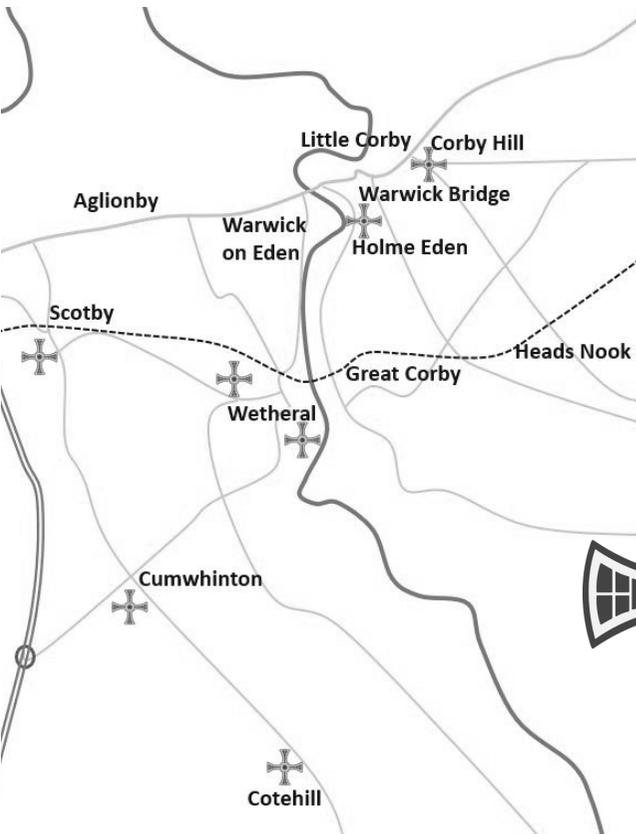


'God **SO** loved the word that he sent his son...' (John 3v16)

Jesus said to his father 'I am in them and they are in me **SO** that they may be brought to complete unity. Then the world will know that you sent me...' (John 17v23)

3 Once this has happened, we will continue to explore the next steps towards a further training event.

4 Prayerful consideration on three verses from the gathering;



'As the Father has sent me, **SO** I am sending you.' (John 20v21)

Yours , Graeme Skinner with Rachel Williams and Isaac Lawrence.

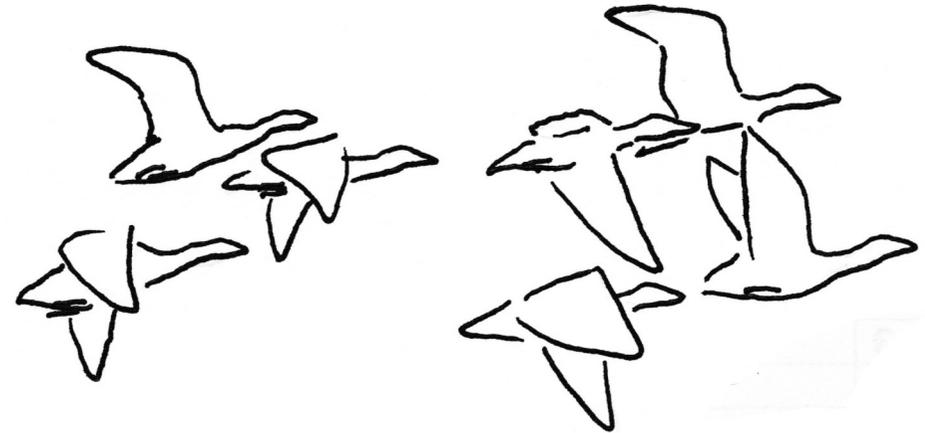


# People with a purpose

## Our local Mission Community



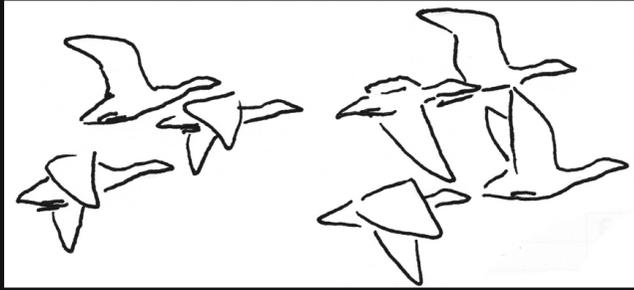
### Spring Update: Letter 2



**In Celtic Spirituality  
the symbol of the Holy Spirit  
is the wild goose.**

**News from the conversations  
in January 2019**

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December 2018



**We came together to catch the wind of the Spirit under our wings  
and see how and where God may take us**

## **Considering our Mission Community 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2019 in Cotehill Village Hall**

We gathered **to begin the exploration of how we might set up a Mission Community in our locality.** We recognised that like the wild geese we were dependent on the lift of the air and on each other to fly in 'formation'.

All the churches were represented, with a total of 40 people over the morning and evening. Rachel Williams (Methodist) Isaac Lawrence and Graeme Skinner (Church of England) and Callum Baker (Children and Families Outreach Worker) led the discussions and prayers.

Rachel took us to Ephesians 3v17, **'being rooted and grounded in love'**, as the basis on which to explore our discussions. Graeme explained the reasons behind the Mission Community idea, Isaac took us into a healthy and

faith filled question time and lastly Callum led us in prayer.

The Mission Community is the local outworking of the **'God for All' vision.**

*By 2020 every person in Cumbria of all ages and backgrounds will have had 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.*

A range of themes and comments were discussed during the meeting, including;

There was a desire to grow as **disciples of Jesus** – knowing 'who we are in Christ' – so that we would be reinvigorated in order to reach out in word, action and love. We reminded



ourselves that our faith is expressed in every aspect of our lives, at all times and in all places.

The history of our place, including the presence of the Celtic St Cuthbert's Well, could be developed as a theme which unites all Christians in mission. **Celtic spirituality** might be a useful lens through which to imagine what our Mission Community could become.

Christian Celtic themes include,  
*Prayer – Weaving into life/God Presence – God is in this place and all places*

*People – Friends and hospitality Pilgrimage – The journey matters Pattern – Times and seasons Power – Word and Spirit Proclamation- By word and deed*

The church members need to listen to the concerns and needs of the whole community in order to be **relevant in our ministry and mission.** Our gatherings need to be reconsidered so that new events and activities might be offered alongside the traditional services on Sundays, and that midweek times could be explored. It may be that we could have some distinctive opportunities, such as Parenting Courses. We could also explore the possibility of a faith community on the internet.

We recognised that God is at work outside the 'church' as well as within. Spirituality is being sought and lived

throughout the wider community whether people are part of the church or not. We affirmed our belief that people are more **attracted to Christ** than church.

We gave thanks for the faithful service of the present congregations as we also expressed the desire for **developing relevant links** with everyone in our community, including children and youth. We were pleased to hear of the excellent work in our local schools but recognised the need to develop young people's work through the churches.

**At the end of the meeting** we summarised that the Spirit of God has been at work amongst us, the responses included, 'This is a huge challenge', 'I feel uplifted', 'We are a people with a purpose', This is a real opportunity' and 'There is a sense of unity'. It was noted that one positive aspect of the meeting was that we did not rush into how or what to do but were taking time to consider love as the 'why' of our prospective Mission Community.

### **Where do we go to from here?**

**1** Anyone is welcome to contact Graeme Skinner, who will be a catalyst and encourager of growing our mission community.

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Is there anything you want to ask or add?