

Ministry for me remains a pleasure as I continue to serve God in this place. We as a family are grateful for all your support to us as a family and in our ministry. Zoofi enjoys the things she is involved in and Shamik is in year 7 at William Howard school, and is enjoying every minute of it.

Ministry continues to present its challenges especially as I look at the ageing congregation, church finances and volunteers. At this point in time in our staff team we only have Maurice as the reader, who due to his health issues is doing less in the parish but continues to lead and preach once a month at Cotehill.

We said good bye to David and Liz in March, a huge thanks to them for their ministry in our churches over the last 10 years and we hope that they will settle well in their new home and church. But last year we also have seen 6 members of the churches who put themselves forward for leading church services, which has been a huge blessing. (Alison, Ian & Nigel – Scotby, Tessa, Liz and Mary – Cotehill)

Due to their commitment we have been able to continue with our pattern of church services, without them we would have had to change our services, so a huge thank you to them.

I do also wish to thank Maurice, Steve Salkeld, Derek Nelson, Sophie, Karen and Martin Bragg, Matt & Jenny for their continued leading and preaching and their efforts in discipling the members of our church. And especially Katie Nicholson who is emerging as a very promising youth leader. Also a sincere thanks to all the House group leaders for their excellent efforts in keeping the house groups going.

As far as Occasional Offices are concerned last year, we had a total of 3 Weddings, all 3 of them at Cotehill and no weddings at Scotby, we had 12 baptisms. And we lost Dorothy Fawcett, Winnie Henderson and Tessa's husband John White.

A Special thanks to Mary Martin, Church warden Cotehill, for her continued support and to the deputy church wardens Scotby, Ian Blenkinsopp, Derek Nelson, Bill Harrison, & Steve Kennedy, Eileen Wilson at Cotehill, and Steve Salkeld at Cumwhinton.

We still haven't been able to appoint Church Warden at Scotby – please do think carefully if you can offer yourself as the church warden – please do come and speak to me. I do wish to thank David Johnson, Nigel Christian and Don Jary for their excellent efforts to keep the business of the church going especially in the absence of the church warden.

I wish to thank the members of the PCC and the DCC for their wisdom and their continued support

No one has stepped forward to take on the role of the Baptism Co-ordinators – and this position remains vacant still. If you know of anyone who would be able to take on that role, please talk to them and please talk to me.

Finances – remain a cause for concern, we did manage to pay our parish share last year, please think carefully and prayerfully, and contribute as much as you can. This year we are holding a number of fundraising events, coffee mornings, and other social events, to raise

funds for the church I would request you all to please join in bring others along and support our church.

Our Parish weekend is approaching fri 12 – sun 14th Oct (please do book – I have leaflets booking forms etc here) – this year we have invited The Revd Wilf Gowing to be our guest speaker,

One of the major events we are launching in April next year is the passion play in the city centre of Carlisle – if you would like to know come along to the presentation on the 3rd of June 2018 at Scotby church – 3 pm

COFFEE POT - I would also like to say a special thanks to Valerie Johnson, Sue Vanderbyl, and Doreen Wallace for running the coffee pot for the last 26 years – it had its ups and downs but has been a hugely useful ministry to many. And to all those who have volunteered over the last many years

And thanks to Mary and Maurice for organizing the Coffee pot rota, which seems to be working well.

We had some wonderful and very well attend services over the Christmas period, the most surprising was the carol service at Scotby pub. It was very well attended. And we had some wonderful services over Easter – the sunrise service remains the highlight of the Easter services, thanks to Steve for leading that service.

Our connect services at Scotby and Cumwhinton continue but numbers are low in both services – this is something that will need consideration. Film club at Scotby and creche have good days and average days, please continue to pray for these initiatives.

My sincere appreciation for Matt, Margaret Johnston (both for their role as treasurers at Cotehill & Organist), Karen for her supporting role as assistant treasurer, Mary Martin Church Warden Cotehill), Derek & Ydell and members of the Music group, members of the PCC, DCC's, PCC secretary Alison Jary, and Mandy Kennedy DCC Cotehill, Margaret Sibley for Flower arrangements , vergers, Pastoral visiting, Valerie Johnson, Bereavement, Angela Horsley – Don and Alison Jary for their various roles in the church esp for making sure that rotas are done. Matt & Jenny for leading the youth, and Don for heading the fabric committee. Thanks to all those who clean the church, welcomers and sides people. Thanks to the PPT team, sound desk team and all those who serve refreshments after the services.

Our re-ordering of the Cotehill church is in the next phase now where we are waiting for the architect to give us our final drawings. The DAC has approved the project subject to the submission of drawings. Many thanks to David Johnson and Mary Martin for managing this project.

One of our biggest expense will be repairs to the building of Scotby church (roughly £49,000) – please pray that finances will be arranged, and the work will get done – if all goes well the wok could start by the end of this year.

MISSION COMMUNITIES, it was decided that Scotby, Cotehill and Cumwhinton and Wetheral and Holme Eden will be a mission community. Revd Graeme Skinner has been appointed as the new priest in charge of Wetheral and the Mission Community Leader. And

we are looking forward to his appointment and working with him in this mission community.

DISCIPLESHIP, growing in prayerfulness and listening to what the spirit is saying to our church remains to be of utmost importance and a priority for me. We must have an effective vision that clearly defines WHO WE ARE, and WHERE WE ARE. Then it must clearly define WHERE we are going and HOW we plan to get there.

As a church family, we must become a place where the hurting can find healing from the terrors of this world. As a church family, we must dream of sharing the good news of Jesus Christ with every resident in our community.

Our vision is to develop and equip every new member into the ministry of our Church. Our dream is to see God do exceedingly, abundantly, above all that we can ask or think.

Let us understand our mission in Matthew 28:19-20,

"Go therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit: teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, behold, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world."

This must be our vision.

My question to you is: Do you believe this vision to be God's vision for us? The answer will be placed on what we do with it. My sincere desire is that we will take it and run with it.

Let us then stay focused on our vision; let us come together, do the work cheerfully, and leave the results to God. Let us be patient.

Galatians 6:9 says, "And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not."

Thanks for listening and my sincere thanks to all.

Every blessing & prayers
The Revd Isaac Lawrence