

Report 2/6/90

HISTORIC CHURCH LINK-UP



LEADING clergymen gathered in Kirkby Stephen on Wednesday to mark the historic unification of the town's Anglican and Catholic congregations.

The Catholic Church of the Holy Family has closed due to ill repair, and its members will now share the Anglican Parish Church.

The union is unique in the Carlisle Diocese, although the same sharing process operates in Sedbergh.

The Bishop of Carlisle, the Rt. Rev. Ian Harland, and the Roman Catholic Bishop of Lancaster, Bishop John Brewer, attended the service and ceremony to sign the official union agreement.

SPIRIT

It is hoped that the union will be more than just the sharing of a building, encouraging community spirit.

Canon Greetham said: "It really was an historic event. We have two congregations agreeing to use the same building for the foreseeable future."

Canon Greetham is pictured showing the Bishop of Lancaster the official union agreement with the Bishop of Carlisle and Father Bryan Irving, Roman Catholic Priest of Appleby, looking on (far right).