

SERVICE AT KIRKBY STEPHEN

MINISTER WHO DOUBLES AS TOWN CRIER

KIRKBY Stephen Parish Church welcomed members from the United Reformed Church at Ravenstonedale to a joint service of evensong on Sunday.

The two churches are twinned for the Decade of Evangelism.

The rector of Kirkby Stephen, Canon Bill Greetham, led the service and the Rev. Desmond Owen, High Chapel minister at Ravenstonedale, preached the sermon on a theme of unity.

After the service, members from both churches had the chance to mingle together over coffee.

As Mr. Owen will shortly be retiring from the ministry to go back to his native Wales, the rector took the opportunity to thank him for the contribution he had made to life in the area, not least in his role as town crier for Kirkby Stephen.

Mr. Greetham also remembered how Mr. Owen fought alongside others against the proposed closure

of Kirkby Stephen Grammar School as one of its governors.

Good wishes for a happy retirement were expressed by the rector on behalf of all present and the two communities of Kirkby Stephen and Ravenstonedale.

The week-end was the first opportunity for the parish church to display the new lighting system which has been installed, involving several months of upheaval.

A sound reinforcement system has also been installed with an induction loop for those with hearing difficulties.

The new lighting enhances the interior, showing off to fine effect details of craftsmanship which have previously gone unnoticed.

The nave, east window and the high vaulted roof now look particularly splendid.