

# Parish of St Michael & All Angels, Beetham



Agenda and Reports  
for the Annual Parochial Meetings 2025

## **The Annual Vestry Meeting and Annual Parochial Church Meeting**

To be held on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> May 2025  
in the Parish Church at 6.30pm

## Church Committees at April 2025

Priest in Charge		The Revd. Andrew B Norman
Curate		The Revd. Hannah Wallace
Churchwardens and Ex-officio members of the PCC:		Theresa Holden Deborah Lancaster Vivien Stirrup
Parochial Church Council	Chair:	The Revd. Andrew B Norman
	Vice Chair:	Brian Smalley
	Secretary:	Elizabeth Roche
	Treasurer:	John Lomax Jenny Andrews Darrell Lancaster Sheila MacInnes Dorothy MacLeod Jenny Marks Ann Robinson Tess Rowlands The Revd. Hannah Wallace
Deanery Synod Reps		Theresa Holden and Vivien Stirrup
Safeguarding Officer		Andrew Skinner
Standing Committee		The Revd. Andrew B Norman Theresa Holden Deborah Lancaster John Lomax Elizabeth Roche Vivien Stirrup The Revd. Hannah Wallace
Finance Committee		Vivien Stirrup Tess Rowlands Darrell Lancaster John Lomax
Friends of Beetham Church	Chair:	John Lomax
	Administrator:	Brian Smalley Deborah Lancaster Dianne Lomax Jenny Marks Tess Rowlands Sue Smalley Vivien Stirrup John Townsend Patricia Townsend Dennis Wright
Fabric Committee	Chair:	Jenny Marks
	Secretary:	Harry Parrott Darrell Lancaster John Lomax Brian Smalley Ian Stirrup Dennis Wright
Foundation Governors for Beetham CE School		John Lomax Chris Christou Katharine Parrott-Edwards Vivien Stirrup
	Local Authority Governor:	Brian Smalley
	Ex-Officio:	The Revd. Andrew B Norman

**Parish of St Michael & All Angels, Beetham**  
Agendas for Annual Parochial Meetings 2025

**The Annual Vestry Meeting**  
**and the Annual Parochial Church Meeting**

Tuesday 13 May 2025 at 6.30pm

**Welcome and introduction**

**Opening Prayers**

**Apologies for absence**

**Agenda: Annual Vestry Meeting**

*Please note that only those on the Church Electoral Roll or those resident in Beetham Parish and on the Civil Electoral Roll are entitled to vote.*

1. Minutes of the Annual Vestry Meeting held on 14 April 2024
2. Election of Churchwardens

**Agenda: Annual Parochial Church Meeting**

*Please note that only those on the Church Electoral Roll are entitled to vote.*

1. Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting held on 14 April 2024
  - a) Approval
  - b) Matters arising
2. Electoral Roll
3. Report on the proceedings of the Parochial Church Council 2024
4. Finance Report for year ending 31st December 2024
  - 4.1 Gift Aid report
5. Fabric Committee and Health & Safety Report
6. Kendal Deanery Synod Report
7. Kent Estuary Mission Community
8. Safeguarding
9. Reports from Church Groups
  - a) Social Events
  - b) Bell Ringers
  - c) The Gateway and Church Website
  - d) Church Flowers
  - e) Choir and Music
10. Churchwardens' Report
11. Priest's Report
12. Elections and Appointments
  - a) Parochial Church Council Members
  - b) Independent Examiner
13. Comments from the meeting for consideration by the PCC

**Closing Prayers**

## **Annual Vestry Meeting 2025**

**Annual Vestry Meeting 2025: Agenda Item 1: Minutes of the Annual Vestry Meeting held in the church on Sunday 14th April 2024 at 12.25pm.** (Minutes of the meeting are below in italics)

*Present: Rev'd. A.B. Norman (AN) - Chair, Rev'd. H. Wallace, Dianne Lomax (DL) - Churchwarden, Jenny Marks (JM) – Churchwarden, Brian Smalley (BS) – Churchwarden, Elizabeth Rocke (ER) - PCC Secretary, and 22 members of the congregation.*

*Apologies had been received from: Val Cookson, Geoff Field, Chris Roberts.*

### **Annual Vestry Meeting 14 April 2024**

1. *Minutes of the Annual Vestry Meeting held on 23 April 2023 were approved Prop. John Lomax (JL), sec. Sue Smalley, agreed unanimously.*

2. *Election of Churchwardens: AN thanked the Churchwardens DL, JM and BS for all their diligence, effort and support, and the care for him personally. Through their sustained devotion they had ensured both the daily tasks in running a church and the annual events had been successfully completed.*

*No paper nominations had been received for the three posts of Churchwarden. AN encouraged nominations from the meeting explaining it was vital for people to come forward in order that the life and purpose of the church is maintained, but recognised it was difficult to encourage people to take on such roles when lives are so busy and pressurised.*

*He assured the meeting that the present Churchwardens would continue to assist in undertaking many of the tasks in running the church. St Michaels and All Angels had the largest congregation of any churches in the Kent Estuary Mission Community.*

*BS explained that all three Churchwardens had exceeded the recommended number of years of a term of office and more people were needed to know and understand what is involved in running the church. He assured that anyone taking on the role of Churchwarden would have the support of the three present Churchwardens.*

*Echoing BS's words, AN stressed that the running of the church is a joint operation by many people working together. JL referred to how the pandemic had made it difficult to share out tasks so they had tended to end up being done by the Churchwardens.*

*Theresa Holden (TH) offered to stand as a Churchwarden, but could not commit to the role fully until after August because of other demands over the next three months. She has been a Churchwarden in the past. AN referred to another person who had said to him that they did not want to leave the church without a Churchwarden. This was Viv Stirrup (VS) who was willing to be a Churchwarden for the next 12 months if no one else came forward. As TH could not commit fully until after August AN referred to VS's willingness to stand.*

*As TH and VS were willing to stand that left one vacancy and AN asked for reflection on whether anyone would wish to put their name forward before the 20<sup>th</sup> June, being the date of the service for the admission of Churchwardens. BS, JM and DL all agreed that they would continue as deputy Churchwardens.*

*The nominations were as follows:*

*TH – Proposed – JM, Seconded – Jenny Andrews*

*VS – Proposed – JL, Seconded – Ann Robinson (AR)*

*There being no other nominations these TH and VS were elected unanimously.*

*End of Annual Vestry Meeting at 12.43.*

**Annual Vestry Meeting 2025: Agenda Item 2: Election of Churchwardens for 2025/26**

# **Annual Parochial Church Meeting 2025**

Please note that only those on the Church Electoral Roll are entitled to vote

## **AGENDA ITEM 1a – Minutes of APCM 2024 for approval (*in italics*)**

(The following minutes should be read in conjunction with the full Annual Report for 2024)

1. a. *The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held 23 April 2023 were approved.*  
*Prop. BS, sec. DL, agreed unanimously*  
b. *There were no matters arising from the minutes of 23 April 2023.*

2. *AN made reference to the individual written reports in the composite APCM report which were all accepted as read. AN gave his thanks to those who have provided both the statutory reports (Financial Statements, Fabric, Deanery Synod, Electoral Roll and Safeguarding) and the other reports that other people have generously provided which help to provide a snapshot of the life and work of the church.*

### **3. AGENDA ITEM 2 – Electoral Roll**

*The Electoral Roll, following the 2024 revision, has 77 names. The meeting noted that next year will require a complete revision of the Electoral Roll*

### **4. AGENDA ITEM 8 – Safeguarding**

*The APCM noted that the PCC has discharged its duties with regard to safeguarding as set out in the House of Bishops' guidance on the safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults (**Promoting a Safer Church**). This aligns with section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 (duty to have regard to House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults)*

### **5. AGENDA ITEM 11: Priest's report**

*AN gave his report as parish priest orally to the meeting.*

*AN first offered his sincere thanks for the support, kindness, work, and witness he had experienced and seen throughout the church and its community over the previous 12 month. AN echoed his gratitude for what people do whether seen or unseen, seemingly great or small. All of it important, necessary and a significant part of the work of the Kingdom of God in this place, where we all work together for the good and blessing of all. AN paid particular tribute to HW saying it was a great joy to be her training incumbent and for her gifts and talents and for her support and care for him. AN's second message was to ask for forgiveness and charity where anyone felt he had fallen short or failed as an incumbent, acknowledging he was not perfect, and he does make mistakes.*

*BS reflected the view of the meeting in saying that AN had nothing to reproach himself for, reflecting the whole church community's gratitude for his work and ministry, and that the church was lucky to have AN as their priest.*

### **6. AGENDA ITEM 12: Elections and Appointments:**

**a) Parochial Church Council Members:** *There are four vacancies on the Parochial Church Council (3 vacancies for a three-year term of office and 1 vacancy for a one year term of office [following the resignation of Katriona Field]).*

*Four nominations were received:*

*Jenny Andrews (JA) – Prop. JM, Sec. VS – (re-election, if desired, after 3 years in office)  
Darrell Lancaster (DaL) – Prop. ER, Sec. AR – (re-election, if desired, after 3 years in office)  
Ann Robinson (AR) - Prop. ER, Sec. DaL – (re-election, if desired, after 3 years in office)  
Brian Smalley (BS) – Prop. ER, Sec. JA – (re-election, if desired, after 1 year in office)*

*There being no other candidates all four nominations were unanimously approved.*

**b) Deanery Synod:** *There was one remaining vacancy. One nomination was received:*

*Theresa Holden (TH) - Prop. Sue Smalley, Sec. AR.*

*There being no other candidates the nomination was unanimously approved.*

**c) Appointment of the Independent Examiner**

*David Carey had expressed his willingness to continue as Independent Examiner of the Church's accounts.*

*Proposed by JL and seconded by BS that David Carey be appointed as Independent Examiner.*

*Unanimously agreed.*

**7. AGENDA ITEM 13: Comments from the meeting for consideration by the PCC:**

*None.*

*Before closing the meeting, AN reflected with thankfulness on the year that has passed, noting the successful completion of the re-ordering project which had been planned for and hoped for over many years. AN recognised that at a time of great uncertainty and change for the Church of England, nationally and locally, the work of God remained constant: sharing the love of Christ in word and deed, offering worship in spirit and truth, and seeking to be effective witnesses in our day and generation. AN thanked everyone for their presence at the meeting and asked for everyone's continued help and support as we seek to go forward as a church community together.*

*There being no further comments the meeting was closed with a prayer of Blessing and the Grace at 12.58pm.*

**AGENDA ITEM 1b: Matters arising from the minutes of the APCM held on 14 April 2024**

**AGENDA ITEM 2: Electoral Roll 2025**

**The number of electors upon the Church Electoral Roll of the Parish of St Michael & All Angels Beetham, as revised in preparation for the Annual Meeting held in 2025, is 75**

As at April 2025 the number of sidespeople is **24**, the number of Morning Service readers is **26** of which **8** are also intercessors; and the number of Evensong readers is **6**. Thanks go to Dianne Lomax for continuing the complex task of arranging the weekly rotas

This year has seen the preparation of a new roll, as is statutory every six years. It is also worth noting that we are very lucky to have several retired members of clergy in our congregation, but that they are not eligible to register for the electoral roll.

The electoral roll presents us with the opportunity to understand the appeal of our church to members living outside the Parish, who are prepared to travel longer distances to enjoy our style of worship, music and welcome. Of the members this year:-

- 41% live and worship in the Parish
- 39% live outside the parish boundary of St Michael & All Angels but within the Kent Estuary Mission Community
- 9% live outside the Mission Community but within Kendal Deanery
- 11% live outside Carlisle Diocese

As always we give thanks for all who attend our church and contribute to the warmth of our church family. We are grateful to those who serve in any capacity, and new volunteers for the rotas are welcome at any time

*Jenny Marks, Electoral Roll Officer*

### **AGENDA ITEM 3: Report on the Proceedings of the PCC 2024**

Meetings of the PCC take place, usually, on the third Thursday of every other month, with a Standing Committee meeting having a diary date for the intervening month. Standing Committee meetings are only called if there is pressing business to determine. The PCC meetings are held in the school which provides a warm environment. A long list of agenda items, which seem to have grown over the last 13 months is despatched smoothly by the efficient vice-chair Brian Smalley.

There are certain important items which form part of every agenda. These are Finance, Safeguarding and Fabric (repairs and maintenance). Others which always feature are KEMC and Deanery and Diocesan Synod meetings. The proceedings of each meeting relate mainly to information sharing and noting, but certain activities such as specific expenditure, require a resolution of the PCC. Over the last two meetings the PCC has been asked to approve a number of reservations of burial spaces.

Minutes are produced after the meeting which are sent out to PCC members electronically and a paper copy is also kept. Should anyone wish to receive a copy of the minutes of any of the meetings then I can send them one.

*Elizabeth Rocke, PCC Secretary*

### **AGENDA ITEM 4: Finance Report for the year ending 31 December 2024**

Please refer to separate document

#### **AGENDA ITEM 4.1: Gift Aid report 2024**

##### **Gift Aid Summary**

From eligible donations given during 2024 we have been able to claim for church funds a total of **£8,885.31** in tax repayments, compared with **£12,792.05** claimed in 2023.

<b>Gift Aid Scheme</b>	<b>Eligible Donations 2024</b>	<b>Tax Claimed 2024</b>	<b>Eligible Donations 2023</b>	<b>Tax Claimed 2023</b>
Gift Aid Donations	£27,521.50	£6,885.31	£43,126.00	£10,792.05
GASDS (Gift Aid Small Donations Scheme)	£8,000.00	£2,000.00	£8,000.00	£2,000.00
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>£35,521.50</b>	<b>£8,885.31</b>	<b>£51,126.00</b>	<b>£12,792.05</b>

##### **Gift Aid Schemes**

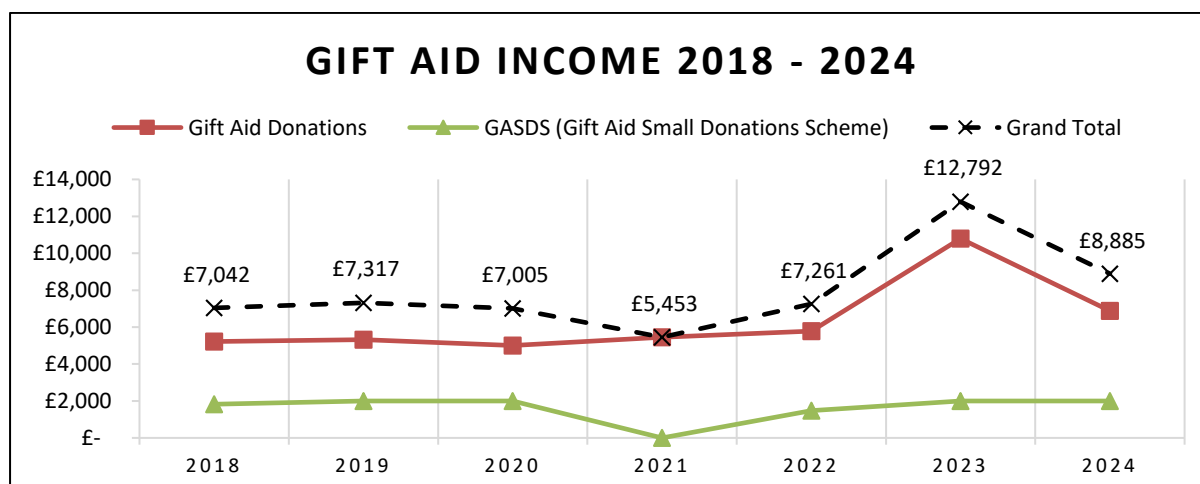
The summary table above shows the total tax repayments received in 2024 and 2023 under the two different Gift Aid schemes:

- Gift Aid Donations – a Gift Aid Declaration has been completed by the donor, either by a single form to cover all donations made by the donor, or by a signed declaration on each donation envelope.
- GASDS (Gift Aid Small Donations Scheme) – where no Gift Aid Declaration has been received, a Gift Aid style payment may be claimed from HMRC on cash donations of

£30 or less up to a maximum total of £8,000 received in small donations within a tax year. Contactless card donations of £30 or less are also now eligible for GASDS.

### Gift Aid Trend

The summary chart below illustrates the tax repayments received under each scheme from 2018 to 2024:



- The tax claimed from Gift Aid Donations was much higher in 2023 than in 2024 because the total of Gift Aid Donations was substantially higher and included a number of very generous donations to assist with the church reordering.
- The tax claimed from the small donations GASDS scheme in 2024 was the maximum possible £2,000 because the maximum eligible limit of £8,000 was received, achieved largely through loose cash given as donations during church services, weddings, funerals, baptisms, contactless payments and other fundraising events.

### Gift Aid Claims

To assist with church cash flow, three claims were made through the year on the total of £27,521.50 given in Gift Aid Donations. The final payment was received from HMRC in February 2025 and therefore the 2024 total Gift Aid repayments listed below will not match the 2024 church accounts figure for Gift Aid repayments received within 2024.

Claim Period 2024	Eligible Donations 2024	Tax Claimed 2024
Mar-24	£6,735.00	£1,683.75
Jun-24	£6,516.00	£1,629.00
Sep-24	£6,882.00	£1,720.50
Dec-24	£7,388.50	£1,852.06
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>£27,521.50</b>	<b>£6,885.31</b>

### Gift Aid Method

A total of 59 different individuals gave through Gift Aid during 2024, mostly through standing order or online banking payments directly into the church bank account. The table below shows a relatively constant number of regular donors in recent years and little change in the number of people using hand written Gift Aid envelopes. Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, a significant number of visitor donations were made by completing the Gift Aid envelopes



available in church. Nowadays, a substantial number of visitor donations appear to be made instead through the contactless card machine available in church and thus become eligible for a tax refund claim under the GASDS scheme rather than through Gift Aid.

Donation Method	2024 Donors	2023 Donors	2022 Donors	2021 Donors	2020 Donors	2019 Donors	2018 Donors
Bank	31	33	34	33	34	28	28
Hand Written Envelopes	14	11	18	11	24	119	139
Numbered Envelopes	14	15	12	11	14	16	18
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>163</b>	<b>185</b>

Grateful thanks are expressed to all who have undertaken to Gift Aid their donations and collectively make such a significant difference to church income.

*Andy MacLeod, Gift Aid Officer, 24 March 2025*

### **AGENDA ITEM 5: Fabric Committee and Health & Safety Report**

***“The committee has the responsibility for implementing the ongoing maintenance and improvement of the church”***

**Church Heating.** Having breathed a sigh of relief last year that the Reordering Project went to plan and made such a successful difference to the interior of our church, the year closed with the unwelcome news that our 25 year old boilers were failing. Having explored alternative heating sources, the Heating Report completed by the Diocesan Heating Advisor concluded that our only viable option was to replace the two boilers with more efficient eco-friendly gas boilers. Tenders were sought and a faculty application submitted, which was approved by the DAC in November 2024, and granted by the Chancellor in January 2025. A Heating Appeal is currently in progress to raise the £30,000 needed to undertake the project, and it is hoped that the boilers can be replaced before next winter to help preserve the fabric of the church (as well as to keep the congregation warm!).

The faculty also granted permission for a curtain to be installed over the South East doorway for heat retention which will be progressed this year.

To improve the efficiency of the existing heating system, a work party was organised in October, with grateful thanks to Charles Howarth from the DAC, to clean out the many years of debris from the Victorian heating ducts running beneath the nave and chancel aisles. Many thanks go to all who spent several dusty hours on their hands and knees.

**Vestry Heating.** Problems with the church photocopier in the vestry identified that there was water in the machine accumulating from the use of damp paper and a cold damp atmosphere. An infrared heater and a dehumidifier have now been installed, and have greatly improved the working conditions in the vestry. Thanks go to all who took the opportunity to declutter and reorganise the space into a much more efficient area.

**Quinquennial inspection.** Due to the priority of replacing the boilers, the Quinquennial work on the external parapets was put on hold. However, our architect, Mike Darwell, completed the scope of works which will enable a specification and tender to be prepared as soon as funds become available.

**Children's Corner.** Thank you to Revd Hannah for creating our delightful new Children's Corner next to the kitchen extension. It is colourful and inviting and has been put to good use on many occasions!

**Electrical work.** Our mandatory 5-year electrical inspection certificate was successfully completed in January 2025. Various electrical repair works have been carried out during the year, with thanks to our electrical contractor Robert Gunn. A smart meter has been installed in the church tower.

**Sound system.** A faulty remote microphone lead was replaced during the year, and a problem identified with the induction loop before Christmas has been resolved.

**Grass cutting.** Our thanks go to Jamie & Mark Smith who have regularly cut the grass in both churchyards for many years. They gave notice this year that they were unable to continue and we are grateful to Paul Johnson for taking on the new contract.

**New Burial Ground.** The excessive burial ground rubble that was accumulating in the corner of the burial ground has been removed. Thanks go to all who maintain the burial ground as such a tranquil setting for remembering loved ones.

**Annual servicing.** Annual services and Health and Safety checks have continued to be done on the smoke alarms, fire extinguishers, CCTV, PAT testing, sound system, organ tuning, clock, and bells.

**A Rocha Eco-Church Bronze Award 2024.** We were delighted to be awarded the Bronze level of the A Rocha Eco-Church Award scheme last year, relating to the worship, fabric, and social aspects of the church. This acknowledges our work in becoming more environmentally aware and eco-friendly as a church 'in recognition of our efforts to care for God's Earth'. It celebrates even just small actions taken with recycling, supporting Fairtrade, energy-efficiency, encouraging wildlife, and understanding our carbon footprint. Our Flower Festival theme for 2025 is 'Caring for our Environment' – please come along to appreciate the beauty of the flower displays and find out how we are now working towards the Silver Award.

**Thank you.** Harry Parrott is standing down this year as Fabric Committee Secretary, having done the role for longer than any of us can remember, and our thanks go to him for all his hard work during that time. I am also standing down as the Fabric Committee Chairman after 10 years, and I would like to give my thanks to the committee and all the volunteers that have been so supportive and enthusiastic over that time, making our church so warm and welcoming and – despite the never-ending lists of actions – a building that remains in such good condition.

*Jenny Marks, Fabric Committee Chairman*

## **AGENDA ITEM 6: Kendal Deanery Synod Report**

At the meetings of the Kendal Deanery Synod St Michael and All Angels is represented by the Priest-in-Charge and Assistant Curate as licensed clergy and Vivien Stirrup and Theresa Holden as elected representatives.

There are three meetings of Synod each year, along with a Deanery Ascension Day service (held in 2024 at St Patrick's Preston Patrick). 2024 also witnessed the first Deanery Easter Vigil which was held at Holy Trinity Kendal on Easter Eve, which was well received and supported from across the parishes of the Deanery.

Each of the meetings of the Deanery Synod is mainly devoted to a particular 'spotlight' issue, along with any necessary business (often relating to matters from Diocesan Synod) and a closing service of Compline. The officers of the Deanery are: The Reverend Canon Anne Pettifor (Rural Dean), The Reverend George Briggs (Assistant Rural Dean), Mr Peter Clarke (Secretary), Mr Charles Howarth (Lay Chair). There remains an ongoing search for a Deanery Treasurer.

**Spring Meeting: Housing Crisis.** The spring meeting (at St Thomas' Kendal) considered the Church's response to the housing crisis. Beki Winter, from Housing Justice, highlighted the profound impact it was having on individuals, families, and communities in Cumbria. She emphasised that the General Synod had formally stated that addressing housing needs is a core part of the Church of England's mission and ministry.

Carlisle Diocese is unique in having a church-based Housing Association, Mitre. It collaborates with the Diocese, parishes, and other denominations to create small developments of affordable rented housing, particularly in National Parks. These developments can be purpose-built or involve repurposing redundant church buildings or land to create new housing, sometimes including worship spaces and community facilities.

The key message was that parishes (and Diocesan Boards) should consider the needs in local communities and the opportunities for Church led initiatives, perhaps as part of a Mission Community Building Strategy. Engagement by churches in enabling there to be affordable homes for rent can address the pressing needs of individuals, support families and strengthen communities and expressly witness to the loving God.

**Summer Meeting: Network Youth Church.** The summer meeting (at St Thomas' Crosscrake) focused on Network Youth Church (NYC) because the Diocese has funded the appointment of an NYC worker for the deanery. Once the person is appointed, they will be an additional resource supporting engagement with young people.

Richard Passmore (Director of the Northern Mission Centre) emphasised that the person would be looking to connect with young people in relevant and accessible ways, that might grow Fresh Expressions. The six stages of the Fresh Expressions process would provide underlying framework for the approach:

*Listening > Loving & Serving > Building Community > Exploring Discipleship > Church Taking Shape > Shared Ownership*

Yvette Ladds (NYC Leader for the Solway Deanery) then talked about how this works in practice across her area. During a month, through contacts in schools, she engages with around 130 young people they know well, plus hundreds more through assemblies and acts of collective worship. The main priority is to get alongside young people and listen to them.

It was clear that NYC presents a real opportunity, not for recruiting young people to sit in our pews, but rather sensitively to grow something that truly engages them, and which has the potential to open a pathway to growing discipleship as they mature and move on. There was collective enthusiasm for moving forward with the appointment of an NYC leader as a Deanery.

**Autumn Meeting: Net Zero Strategy.** The autumn meeting (at St George's Kendal) focused on the diocesan strategy (aligning with that of the Church of England) for moving towards Net Zero by 2030. Anna Newlove (the Diocesan Net Zero Officer), emphasised that the climate crisis is a theological issue as well as a scientific one. As such, it is core part of the Church's mission.

The Church of England aims to achieve net zero carbon emissions by 2030, requiring year-on-year reductions across all parts of the Church, including dioceses and parishes. The Diocesan Synod approved a Net Zero Action Plan in 2023, and this aligns with the Church of England's national route map to Net Zero. The plan includes various initiatives, including:

- Using the Energy Footprint Tool (EFT) to measure carbon emissions in individual parishes.
- Participating in the Eco Church award scheme.
- Implementing practical steps to reduce emissions.

Anna Newlove highlighted the need for parishes and/or mission communities actively to engage with the challenges. As a step towards this, she encouraged all parishes to register with Eco Church scheme (via the Christian charity A Rocha) and to complete their EFT annually. She suggested that alongside the collective action of PCCs and congregations, there is a need to help members of congregations to think about their own carbon footprints in the particular context of their discipleship and witness.

*Andrew B Norman*

*(With thanks to Peter Clarke, Deanery Secretary, for providing much of the included information)*

### **AGENDA ITEM 7: Kent Estuary Mission Community**

The eight churches around the Kent Estuary form an ecumenical Mission Community (working towards and in step with the Diocesan 'God for All' vision) coming together to support each other in ministry and mission. Each church seeks to sustain its engagement with the village community in which it is set, whilst also sharing increasingly in collaborative activity in order to reach a greater number across the Kent Estuary with the good news of Jesus Christ.

The work of the Mission Community is stewarded and directed by the Leadership Team. This brings together the clergy (Bryan Kerr, Andrew Norman, Tiras Dainty-Share and Hannah Wallace) and three lay representatives (Annie Garden, Vivien Stirrup and Karen Leslie), with a secretary (Peter Clarke). The Partnership Group (with representatives from each of the eight churches across the Kent Estuary) comes together throughout the year to reflect on 'key' issues that are worthy of discussion or information to help guide, inspire and inform our work as a Mission Community. These meetings also provide the opportunity for the Mission Community to come together in prayer on regular occasions, outside the offering of public worship.

In 2024, the collaborative activity has included:

- A quarterly **Gathering**, the only main service on that Sunday, with s congregations of 150+. In 2024, the Gatherings were held at: Arnside Methodist Church (March), St Michael and All Angels Beetham (June), St Thomas' Milnthorpe (September) and St James' Arnside (December). The Gatherings are supported by involvement from across the Mission Community, including the joint choir and the joint music group. At the September Gathering we welcomed The Bishop of Penrith as our preacher and in December we were joined by 'Good News for Everyone'.
- Attempted to start refreshing the role of Dementia Enablers in each church, as part of our concern for **care for older people**.
- A bi-annual **Songs of Praise**, held at Arnside Methodist Church, linked with the AONB 'Walks for All' group, seeking to support especially those affected with dementia and their carers.

- A **Christmas and Easter diary**, circulated across all the congregations, highlighting all the services and other activities in each of the churches.
- A **Blue Christmas Service**, held at Storth Village Church near the shortest day in December, recognising that for some people Christmas is a time of sadness and loss.
- Funding the purchase of the Christmas Bible Society **books for children** in the local primary schools (Levens CE, Milnthorpe, Arnside National, Storth CE, Beetham CE).
- Forming a small **Pioneering Group** to explore new ways of engaging with people who find the traditional church off-putting. This group has met throughout 2024, sharing ideas, expertise, thoughts and perspectives to help inform how we might reach out to different people with the good news we wish to share. This has, in turn, inspired the formation of a **prayer group** to especially pray for our pioneering work as a Mission Community, and the creation of an **intercessory bidding** to be used throughout the churches of the Kent Estuary as part of Sunday worship week-by-week. This ensures that the pioneering focus is shared and has the potential to be acknowledged (and hopefully celebrated) by all.
- A **Pet Service**, held on a farm in June, which attracted a congregation beyond that of regular congregations from across the Kent Estuary.
- A **Marriage Preparation** course, run by the clergy in the Spring, for couples being married in any of the churches of the Mission Community.
- **The Bereavement Journey Course**, hosted at Storth Village Church, offering seven sessions of films and discussions for people dealing with the effects and challenges of grief.
- A **Church in the Market Place** stall as part of the Farmers' Market in Milnthorpe throughout the spring and summer.
- Initial steps in planning of a **trail / pilgrimage route**, connecting the eight churches and celebrating their distinctive histories.
- Exploring the potential for '**Transforming lives for good**' (a young persons' mentoring scheme) being developed locally. Unfortunately, this proved to be impractical.
- Co-ordinating a shared **Mission Community Offer** (for the Church of England parishes within the Kent Estuary) to the Diocese.
- Holding a social gathering for **members of church councils**, creating an opportunity for informal sharing of experiences and building relationships.
- Supporting local input into the **Social Action Audit** in Westmorland and Furness undertaken by the Cinnamon Network, to quantify the contribution of faith groups to their communities.

The above gives a snapshot of some of the work, ministry and activity that has sought to have been coordinated throughout 2024. The life of the Mission Community continues to develop and there is (no doubt) a long way to go as we seek to be a sustainable Christian presence in our six villages. The months and years ahead will, God willing, be marked by even greater collaboration and connection, by strengthening our shared sense of identity and purpose, and uniting together even more closely in ministry and mission. We give thanks for our fellowship and friendship as churches across our area, seeking the Lord's blessing on that is yet to be as we shape and share our common life as the Christian communities of the Kent Estuary.

*Andrew B Norman*

*(With thanks to Peter Clarke, Mission Community Secretary, for his work in providing much of the included information)*

## **AGENDA ITEM 8: Safeguarding**

1. I took up this role on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2024 after a full safer recruitment process
2. There have been no adverse safeguarding events reported to me since appointment and I am not aware of any events in the recent past.
3. I have agreed and documented advice about some lower level issues with the priest in charge and wardens.
4. My duty is to advise the PCC and not to deliver safeguarding on the PCC's behalf. Safeguarding is the responsibility of the PCC. My role would however be to act on the PCC's behalf if an untoward event were reported so the PCC can be assured as far as possible of a correct but confidential response.
5. Safeguarding is in the news, especially for the established church. Failure to run a safe church is deeply damaging to the people, the church and its mission. The whole church should feel shame for the failings in it.
6. We need to make and keep our church safe for all. The idea that we are in some way immune is not tenable. We are lower risk, but that is not zero risk. We need:
  - To protect the vulnerable in our church.
  - To protect the reputation of people who serve in our church against false accusations.
  - To enable us all to deal with disclosure by victims of abuse well and properly – we are a group likely to be chosen by people who need to share dark things in their lives.
7. The main and most intrusive requirement is that leaders in the church have undergone safeguarding training to help us deliver the above. The detail is not important save that we currently meet the requirements. People who need to renew their training or DBS checks should get a reminder from me on behalf of the PCC.
8. The diocese uses an internet based “dashboard” which has three levels and each level has indicators which are categorised as green, amber or red. We are about to start addressing these final, level three indicators. We will need to maintain compliance of those we achieve. These are not simply bureaucratic targets, those who achieve them are demonstrably in control of the secular activities in their church.
9. Most but not all of the remaining requirements are essentially procedural showing that the PCC is aware of and in control of various activities which will be addressed over the next few months.
10. My second role is to help the PCC meet the Church of England's requirements in a way that is effective, fitted to our needs and circumstances and is not needlessly intrusive or bureaucratic.

*Andrew Skinner, Parish Safeguarding Officer*

## **AGENDA ITEM 9: Reports from church groups**

### **(a) Social Events**

The annual Harvest Supper was held on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> October 2024 in the Heron Corn Mill Barn and the Shrove Tuesday Supper on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> March 2025.

Over fifty people in October and also in March filled the Barn where they enjoyed an excellent supper provided by Alison Thompson of Ackenthwaite, followed by entertainment which involved singing, laughter and quizzing.

In the light of the LVIX Olympiad being held over the 'water' in Paris, it seemed obvious that '**Team Great Britain, for One Night Only**' would stage its own contribution to this Global event, even if some of the scenes were in 'slow motion'! The location of the 'physical activity' was the 'Beetham Sports Arena', an athletic and field event area where a programme of all sorts of mishaps occurred to visitors and staff alike, demonstrated in music, dance and verse. The expectant audience was introduced to a collection of stories, poems and sporting tunes, and this together with the dazzling dialogue and spirited acting, contributed to the great amusement of the assembled company! We are very grateful to Choir Master Geoff Field for his accompaniment and his help in putting it all together.

The Shrove Tuesday Supper was held on the 4<sup>th</sup> March 2025. Sadly and perhaps yet a little poignantly, we lost our Quiz Master Clive Holden on the 11<sup>th</sup> October. Clive had exercised our grey matter by putting together a wide selection of 'head-scratching' questions on a variety of topics which had puzzled us all for a decade. We are indeed grateful to our new Quiz Team of Jenny Marks and Katriona Field who have taken up the baton.

Our very grateful thanks go to everyone who took part in either or both events, including our very appreciative audiences, whom thought and laughed and sang and clapped at 'all of the right places and in the right order'!

For your diaries, the next Harvest Supper will be on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> October 2025 and the Shrove Tuesday Supper will be on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> February 2026. We look forward to seeing you there.

*Dianne Lomax, Friends of Beetham Church*

### **(b) Beetham Bellringers**

Bellringing continues to play an important part in the life of the church and the community. The towerbell ringers have been beset with injury, illness and busy diaries, but despite this have still rung before every Sunday morning service throughout the year. Sadly last year saw ringing for more funerals than weddings, including our longest serving ringer, Phil Marks, who had rung here since 1984. Visiting teams have come from all over the country and rung quarter peals and complex methods. This even extended to ringers from Honolulu during August, when Beetham was one of the towers used to host the annual North West Ringing Course. As always, a special thanks goes to our ringing master, Brian Smalley, for his endless patience and enthusiasm – we will master Bob Minor one of these days we promise.

The Beetham Church Handbell Ringers have also had a busy time, ringing at the Flower Festival and Elmsfield during the summer. As always the bells come into their own during the Christmas season and 2024 was no exception, starting in November for the Dementia Walkers Carol Service in Arnside, then December included Croftside, Elmsfield, Levens, and Windermere Royal Yacht Club, and finished with the Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols.

Thank you yet again to all the 'big clangers' and 'mini-clangers' for another exciting year, and if anyone would like to have a go at either tower or handbells please do get in touch

*Jenny Marks, Tower Captain*

### **(c) The Gateway and Church Website**

Despite the increase in use of social media, The Gateway parish newsletter is still very much appreciated by our community. It remains a significant method of communicating all that is happening, both at church and in the local area, with paper copies continuing to be delivered to every house in the parish. Past residents of Beetham also send feedback that they enjoy reading The Gateway online, even when they have moved away. Thanks again go to all the regular contributors – the front page writers, Andrew and Hannah's Letters, Beetham CE School, Beetham Band, Beetham WI – and to the team of folders and distributors that make it all happen. Thank you also to our advertisers and to all who support them, but unfortunately as numbers have not recovered since the pandemic, we are making the decision to reduce the number of issues of The Gateway to 10 editions per year. This will include the joint July/August Summer edition that we already publish, but from 2026 there will also be a joint January/February New Year edition.

Our website remains a central source of information about the Church, Who's Who, and 'What's On' activities. Copies of The Gateway and the weekly church pewsheets are available to download, and the Home page summarises the latest church notices and special services. Please let me know if there is any other information that you would like to see on the website.

*Jenny Marks, Gateway Editor*

### **(d) Church Flowers**

Flowers are usually arranged by a rota of twelve members of the congregation in the Sanctuary throughout the year, excepting in Advent and Lent. The team is further assisted by other members in decorating the Church for the major festivals.

As usual, the Church has been especially decorated for the festivals of Easter, Harvest and Christmas. Arrangements of poppies in the Sanctuary and by the War Memorial to go with the 'there but not there' figures, were put in place for the 10<sup>th</sup> November, Remembrance Sunday. Sixty small bunches of daffodils were again put together for distribution to the congregation on Mothering Sunday and a group of us helped the children of Beetham School to make fifty bunches to take home to their parents. The Easter Garden and Pascal Candle were prepared and the Church decorated for the Easter Festival in the Spring colours of white and yellow. Daffodils were ordered for placing in Sandy's Cross at the end of the Easter Morning Service. Autumnal colours were used for the Patronal and Harvest Festivals. The Advent Wreath was prepared again and the Church decorated for the Christmas Festival with greenery and in white, red, silver and gold.

The Annual Flower Weekend was held on the 25<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> May to mark 'Britain in Bloom'. A variety of gardens were on display. The Beetham Community Band and Beetham Handbellringers played and teas were served. Special flowers have been arranged during the year in memory of loved ones. Flowers have also been arranged for a Blessing and for Afternoon Tea to mark our Patronal Festival. A flower arrangement was again placed in the porch each week together with the Sanctuary flowers indicating a welcome for everyone.

We are very grateful to all who continue to help, give and arrange the flowers, as well as for the donations towards flowers for 'extra' occasions etc.

The Church flowers remain an important part of the peace and tranquillity of Beetham Church.

*Dianne Lomax, Flower Arranging Co-ordinator*



### **(e) Choir and Music**

2024 was another good year for music in Beetham Church. As always, I am very grateful to the members of the choir for their continued hard work and dedication throughout the year. Their willingness to explore new repertoire, and attend weekly rehearsals, is much appreciated and valued.

The choir sang for every Sunday service during the year, as well as the extra services during the Christmas and Easter seasons. Weekly choir practices on Sunday mornings contribute greatly to the confidence and musicality of the choir, and new members are always welcome! The repertoire of anthems and service settings, sung by the regular and/or augmented choir, continues to grow steadily, both for weekly services and special occasions such as the regular Sung Evensongs, Patronal Festival, Harvest Festival, All Souls, and the Advent, Christmas and Epiphany Carol Services. These were well attended by highly appreciative congregations.

Following the first performance of a joint choir from various churches within the Kent Estuary Mission Community in 2023, it was good for the singers to come together again on two occasions this year. This enthusiastic band of singers led the worship in two KEMC combined services, one in Beetham in June and the other in Arnside in December. These were a most enjoyable and positive experience for all, and we look forward to similar events in 2025.

Finally, a big thank you to Jenny Marks for her excellent organ playing at weekly Evensongs and occasional morning services, and also to everyone who has sung, or played an instrument, in any capacity to enrich our worship this year. Thank you, too, to the Clergy for their support and encouragement in all our musical ventures.

*Geoffrey Field, Organist and Choir Master*

### **AGENDA ITEM 10: Churchwarden's Report**

At the start of this current year we had three elected Churchwardens. As you are no doubt aware Theresa Holden was taken poorly before Christmas and has been in hospital, firstly in Preston and currently in Lancaster. In January she underwent emergency surgery in Preston hospital to remove her left leg below the knee. In February she suffered a clot to the brain which resulted in a stroke which affected her right side. She is now in Lancaster hospital but is unable to speak or use her right arm and leg.

This tragic sequence of events have overshadowed the work of the Churchwardens who, along with Andrew and many others have visited Theresa many times during her illness. Thank you to all those who have made the journey to support Theresa and her son Greg. We continue to hold Theresa and her family in our prayers and send the best of wishes for whatever her future holds for her.

Theresa was making a valuable contribution to the life of the church before she became ill and it is right and proper to record our thanks to her for the work that she started and would have continued with enthusiasm and commitment.

Deborah and I have learned a lot since becoming Churchwardens last year. We continue to learn and we thank all those who have informed us and supported us as we continue to work for the church, our congregation and, certainly and not least, for God's Kingdom here on earth.

During the year, the church, its officers, volunteers and our invaluable church family have been engaged in planning, arranging and staffing many services, activities and events which have taken place and heartfelt thanks go to everyone, in whatever capacity, who have contributed to our Christian life within our beautiful, ancient and holy church.

**So, exactly what has gone on since the last APCM up to 13th May 2025?**

<u>Regular Worship</u>	<b>Number held</b>
<b>Sunday morning Eucharist</b>	<b>52</b>
<b>Sunday Evensong</b>	<b>53</b> , of which 11 services were choral evensongs, the special choral evensong services including Harvest, All Souls, Advent, Nine Lessons and Carols, Epiphany Carol Service, Way of the Cross
<b>Wednesday morning Eucharist</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Holy Communion:-</b>	
Administered at home	<b>40</b>
Administered at hospital	<b>2</b>
Administered at Elmsfield Care Home.	<b>12</b>
<u>Special Services</u>	<b>Attendance</b>
<b>School Services in Church</b>	
Leavers & End of Year Service 19.7.2024	<b>80</b>
Harvest Festival 4.10.2024	<b>107</b>
Remembrance Service 11.11.2024	<b>69</b>
Nativity Service 18.12.2024	<b>70</b>
<b>Baptisms</b>	
Bethany Ingham & Roman Hartley 14.7.2024	<b>39</b>
Edie Scarisbrick 4.8.2024	<b>145</b>
Jenton Dobson 22.9.2024	<b>55</b>
Nancie Cummins 29.9.2024	<b>103</b>
Poppy Blenkharn 20.10.2024	<b>68</b>
Elliot Maudsley and Oakley Lusted 4.5.2025	<b>89</b>
<b>Weddings</b>	
Stephen Hartley and Bethany Ingham 10.9.2024	<b>65</b>
<b>Marriage Blessing</b>	
Kate and Mark Shaw 1.6.2024	<b>30</b>
<b>Funerals</b>	
Philip Marks 10.5.2024	<b>130</b>
Geoffrey Grimshaw 1.8.2024	<b>18</b>
John Deakin 16.8.2024	<b>38</b>
Betty Semark 1.10.2024	<b>67</b>
Anne Richardson 25.10.2024	<b>76</b>
Clive Holden 7.11.2024	<b>86</b>
John Thompson 22.11.2024	<b>23</b>
<b>Burial</b>	
Christopher Haine 28.11.2024	<b>5</b>

### **Burial of Ashes**

Ann Rushton 12.5.2024	5
Betty & Daphne Hasleden 2.8.2024	2
Pauline Harrison 13.12.2024	19
Richard & Freda Atkinson 23.3.2025	16

**Remembrance Service** at Cenotaph 10.11.2024 **70+**

### **Christmas Services**

Advent Sunday Eucharist 1.12.2024	42
Advent Sunday Carol Service 1.12.2024	40
Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols 22.12.2024	112
Christingle Crib Service 24.12.2024	255
Midnight Mass 24.12.2024	46
Eucharist of Christmas morning 25.12.2024	42
Epiphany Carol Service 19.1.2025	38
Candlemas Service 2.2.2025	66

### **Easter Services**

Palm Sunday 13.4.2025	59
Holy Week - Monday Holy Communion	11
- Tuesday Holy Communion	15
- Wednesday Holy Communion	13
Maundy Thursday Service followed by The Watch	17
Good Friday Service 18.4.2025	33
Easter Sunday Service with lighting of Easter flame	88

### **Kent Estuary Mission Community Gatherings**

St. Michael & All Angels, Beetham, 9.6.2024, 171 attended
St. Thomas, Milnthorpe, 8.9.2024
St. James, Arnside, 8.12.2024, 137 attended
St. Peter's, Heversham, 9.3.2025, 118 attended

### **Fundraising Events for the Boiler Appeal**

During the year there has been much activity to raise funds for the priority replacement of our failing boilers. At the point of writing we have raised in excess of £9,600. Other events are planned in the hope that we will raise enough funds to replace the boiler before next winter:-

- The Shrove Tuesday Supper and Quiz raised £335
- At Christmas the Hamper Raffle raised £1,103, Carol Singing raised £221 (plus £221 for the Salvation Army), and a Hot Hits Quiz raised £42
- Five Soup Lunches have raised £983 (plus a Lent Lunch raised £117 for Christian Aid )
- A Table-Top/Nearly New Sale raised £835
- Throughout May 2025 a Garden Hanging Basket Sale is raising funds
- The Duck Race was held on 3<sup>rd</sup> May and has raised £1,115 so far
- Future events for the boiler appeal include the Flower Festival on 24<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> May under the heading of 'Caring for our Environment', which will include a garden hamper raffle; monthly Village Coffee Mornings restarting on 2<sup>nd</sup> June; a 'Strawberries and Scones' tea on 12<sup>th</sup> July; the church stall at Beetham Sports Day on 26<sup>th</sup> July; a sponsored Parish Boundary Walk to take place in August; and more events planned for the Autumn

### **Community use of Church premises since reordering**

- The reordered space has supported the convivial arrangement of tables for the soup lunches, and in April, the successful Table Top Sale utilised all the new spaces effectively.
- Endmoor Choir has booked the church for their Christmas Concert on 19th December.
- Beetham Community Band continue to use space within the church to rehearse each Saturday morning and willingly provide live music for a number of church events and community events including 'Brightening Beetham.'

### **Safeguarding**

Andrew Skinner is now our Safeguarding Officer and is available to give advice on any safeguarding issues.

### **Pastoral Care**

The Church continues to support our own church family and the community in many ways:

- Prayer support
- Home Communion
- Hospital Visiting
- Care Home visits and Communion
- Transportation to and from hospital appointments
- Visiting those who are sick or anxious
- Providing support for those bereaved
- Sending cards to anyone who needs to be remembered in whatever way
- Making telephone calls to those who need to be remembered
- Practical help wherever necessary

All of the above - provision of dedicated ministry, organisation of wonderful and well attended church services, providing pastoral care whenever and wherever needed, generation of ideas and then carrying out fundraising activities, planning for and creating a safe church environment, managing church administration on a day by day and week by week basis, attending countless meetings for countless reasons, creating flower displays which lift the spirit, keeping our beautiful church clean, provision of refreshments each Sunday, producing and publishing our wonderful Gateway - all this takes a lot of dedicated people so much energy, so much effort and a generous willingness to give up personal time, skill and commitment. How can we ever thank so many for so much?

*Deborah Lancaster and Vivien Stirrup, Churchwardens*

### **AGENDA ITEM 11: Priest's Report (To be given orally at the meeting)**

### **AGENDA ITEM 12: Elections and Appointments**

- (a) Parochial Church Council Members
- (b) Independent Examiner

### **AGENDA ITEM 13: Comments from the meeting for consideration by the PCC**

### **Closing Prayers**