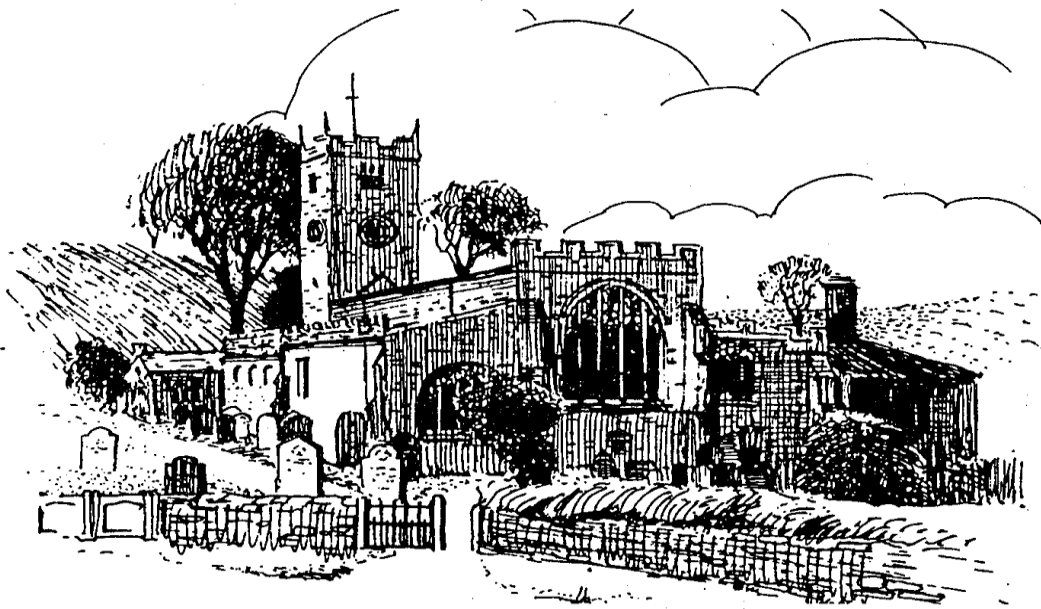




The Parish Church of St Michael and All Angels, Beetham



Agenda and Reports
for the Annual Parochial
Church Meetings 2026

The Annual Vestry Meeting
The Annual Parochial Church Meeting

to be held on Sunday 3rd May 2026
in the Parish Church at 12.15pm.

The Parochial Church Council of St Michael and All Angels, Beetham

Priest-in-Charge		The Reverend Andrew B Norman
Assistant Curate		The Reverend Hannah Wallace
Churchwardens		John Lomax Vivien Stirrup <i>Vacancy</i>
Parochial Church Council	<i>Chair:</i>	The Reverend Andrew B Norman
	<i>Assistant Curate:</i>	The Reverend Hannah Wallace
	<i>Vice-Chair:</i>	<i>Vacancy</i>
	<i>Treasurer:</i>	John Lomax <i>for part of the year</i> Dorothy and Andrew Macleod <i>for part of the year</i>
	<i>PCC Members:</i>	Dorothy Macleod (elected 2023) Tess Rowlands (elected 2023) Jenny Andrews (elected 2024) Darrell Lancaster (elected 2024) Ann Robinson (elected 2024) Deborah Lancaster (elected 2025) John Townsend (elected 2025) Patricia Townsend (elected 2025) Andrew Macleod (elected 2025) <i>for one year</i>
Deanery Synod Representatives		Theresa Holden Vivien Stirrup
Parish Safeguarding Officer <i>in attendance at PCC meetings</i>		Andrew Skinner
Secretary <i>in attendance at PCC meetings</i>		Charles Ellis
The Standing Committee		The Reverend Andrew B Norman The Reverend Hannah Wallace Deborah Lancaster John Lomax Viv Stirrup

The Annual Vestry Meeting

(for the election of Churchwardens)

Agenda

1. Welcome and opening prayer
2. Apologies for absence
3. Minutes of the Annual Vestry Meeting (held on 13th May 2025)
4. Election of (three) Churchwardens for the coming year
 - We extend our sincere gratitude to John Lomax and Vivien Stirrup whose (one-year) term of office as Churchwarden has elapsed with this year's Annual Meeting.
 - The Deanery Admission of Churchwardens for the coming year, by the Archdeacon of Westmorland and Furness, will take place on Tuesday 30th June at Holy Trinity, Kendal.

Minutes of the Annual Vestry Meeting held in the Parish Church on Tuesday 13th May 2025 at 6.30pm

Present: The Rev'd. A.B. Norman (AN) – Chair, The Rev'd. H. Wallace (HW), Deborah Lancaster – Churchwarden (DL), Vivien Stirrup – Churchwarden (VS), Elizabeth Rocke – PCC Secretary (ER), John Lomax – Treasurer (JL) Andrew Skinner – Parish Safeguarding Officer (AS) and 21 members of the congregation.

Apologies had been received from: Jenny Andrews (JA), Theresa Holden (TH), David Peacock, Judith Peacock, Ann Robinson, Tess Rowlands, Ned Rowlands, Sue Smalley.

The meetings opened with prayer and a reading from the Letter to the Ephesians (4.25-5.1).

The Minutes of the Annual Vestry Meeting held on 14 April 2024 were approved

Proposed by Brian Smalley (BS) and seconded by Jenny Marks (JM), agreed unanimously.

Election of Churchwardens

AN thanked the Churchwardens TH, DL and VS, for all their faithfulness, dedication and hard work over the last year, noting that VS and DL had taken on the role of Churchwarden for the first time. They had worked very well together as a team, supporting one another and in doing so had offered a great deal to the shared life of the church. The meeting was reminded to hold TH in prayer as she continues her recovery, praying for God's grace and healing in her life.

The meeting recognised their contribution and expressed its unanimous gratitude.

Looking to the year ahead, TH is not able to continue, and DL has decided that, for this coming year, she will not seek election as Churchwarden.

One paper nomination for Vivien Stirrup proposed by Jenny Andrews and seconded by Jane Theobald have been received.

AN explained that if there is only one nomination there is the potential (and need) for many others to share in the care of the church and all its ministry and work, as happens at present.

JL said that as there was the opportunity to elect three Churchwardens it was unfair to elect VS to do the role alone. As such, JL is happy to stand alongside her if he is able to relinquish his current role of Treasurer of the PCC. He hoped that someone else will take on the work of Treasurer. AN reminded the meeting that all offers of help are always gratefully received.

JL was proposed as Churchwarden by Jenny Marks and seconded by Vivien Stirrup.

There being no other nominations JL and VS were elected unanimously.

Note: They will take 'office' as Churchwardens at the Admission of Churchwardens, which for the Kendal Deanery is taking place on Monday 23rd June at St Thomas' Kendal.

The Annual Vestry Meeting concluded at 6.47pm.

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Agenda

1. a) Approval of the Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (held 13th May 2025)
- b) Matters Arising from the Minutes of the previous Annual Parochial Church Meeting
2. Report on the Electoral Roll (as prepared for the Annual Parochial Church Meeting)
3. Report on the proceedings of the Parochial Church Council
4. Finance report (including Gift Aid) for the year ending 31st December 2025
5. Church fabric (and Health and Safety)
6. Report on the proceedings of the Kendal Deanery Synod
7. Report on the Kent Estuary Mission Community
8. Report on Safeguarding *(please see Appendix 1 for a copy of the parish's Safeguarding Action Plan)*
9. Other reports relating to the life of the church
 - a) Social events
 - b) Bell ringers
 - c) *The Gateway*
 - d) Church flowers
 - e) Choir and music
10. Churchwardens report
11. Words from the Priest-in-Charge
12. Elections and appointments
 - a) Two representatives to serve on the Kendal Deanery Synod
 - b) Three members of the Parochial Church Council (to serve for three years)
 - c) Independent Examiner
13. Comments from the meeting for consideration by the Parochial Church Council
14. Closing prayer and The Grace

Agenda Item 1a Minutes of the Previous Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting held in the Parish Church on Tuesday 13th May 2025 at 6.30pm

Present: The Rev'd. A.B. Norman (AN) – Chair, The Rev'd. H. Wallace (HW), Deborah Lancaster – Churchwarden (DL), Vivien Stirrup – Churchwarden (VS), Elizabeth Rocke – PCC Secretary (ER), John Lomax – Treasurer (JL) Andrew Skinner – Parish Safeguarding Officer (AS) and 21 members of the congregation.

Apologies: had been received from: Jenny Andrews (JA), Theresa Holden (TH), David Peacock, Judith Peacock, Ann Robinson, Tess Rowlands, Ned Rowlands, Sue Smalley.

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

Minutes of the 2024 Annual Parochial Church Meeting

a) The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Sunday 14 April 2024 were approved.

Proposed by Dianne Lomax and seconded by Dorothy MacLeod, agreed unanimously.

b) There were no matters arising from the minutes.

The Annual Report for 2024

AN referred to the individual written reports in the composite APCM report which were all accepted as read, noting both the statutory reports and the additional reports that had been provided to reflect the past year. He expressed his gratitude to all report authors and the work undertaken throughout the year by those authors in their particular sphere of activity. It was noted that the Electoral Roll of the parish now stands (following a full revision) at 75 names.

AN referred to the substantial tasks involved in looking after a Grade I listing church building. The care and maintenance of the fabric of the church is already co-ordinated and shared and will need to be even more so in the future, following JM's decision to stand down as the chairperson of the Fabric Committee. It was noted that compared to many churches, AN noted that this church is in good order even taking into account the need for boiler replacement and quinquennial repairs.

Following a report from the Parish Safeguarding Officer, Andrew Skinner, it was confirmed that the PCC has discharged its duties with regard to Safeguarding.

In response to these reports AN offered his thanks to all who served God and his church through their contribution to the shared life of St Michael and All Angels, remembering that by serving God and his church in a particular place we were also serving the church in every place. He gave his personal thanks for the support, prayers, encouragement and the many ways - both seen and unseen - in which so many had blessed and enriched the life of the church over the last year: prayerfully, pastorally, practically, musically, liturgically, socially and in a myriad of other ways.

Agenda item 11: Priest's report

AN gave some reflections as Priest-in-Charge orally to the meeting.

AN wanted to say three things.

His gratitude to God is first and foremost and then, as a result, to everyone - both those present and unable to be present at the meeting - connected (in any way with the life of the church in all its complexity and diversity. By contributing in any way to all the different aspects of church life, as reminded in the reading from the Letter to the Ephesians, we are reassured that we are 'all in it together' and that no-one is more or less important in what they do or offer than anyone else. We all have dignity and value in God's sight for the ways in which we seek to proclaim in word and deed the good news of his love.

Secondly, AN expressed his regret if he had fallen short of expectations or had mistakenly misjudged situations over the last year. Acknowledging that the Lord is a loving redeemer, he offered an apology for any way he had been felt or interpreted to have failed. He reflected that whilst it is a great privilege to be a priest, it is also a great responsibility, reminded of words in the Ordinal (as he approached the tenth anniversary of his ordination as a deacon) that priests will be called to give account to God for their care, service and stewardship of his people. As such, in offering thanks to everyone for their love and support he also asked for mercy and forgiveness.

Thirdly looking ahead, he noted that the Christian church throughout the world is in changing times and the Church of England needs to look at how it will respond to those changes. This, understandably, makes AN anxious because change is never easy, noting that there will need to be change and transition in the years to come in ways that we perhaps do not yet anticipate or expect. This will mean that the church will be called by God to forsake things it once loved and see and set a new course, walking forward with faith and hope. As the Easter season reminds us, God always transforms all fears, anxieties and misplaced judgements into hope and new life. In this we remember the promise held in Jesus' death and resurrection, that ultimately 'Christ is risen' and because of this we do not need to worry because God is trustworthy and forever faithful in his love - now and always.

AN also paid tribute to HW who has been ordained for nearly 3 years. Her end of curacy meeting had taken place yesterday, giving her the opportunity to reflect on the experiences of her time since ordination. When she completes her curacy HW's formal part of training will be ended, with AN noting that it may be sooner or later when she moves on. AN paid tribute for her work and effort and the way she has approached ordained ministry and blessed his own ministry. He is very grateful that he made the decision to take her on as curate.

The meeting thanked HW for all her work as Assistant Curate and HW, on behalf of the meeting, reciprocated her gratitude for AN's shepherding of her and the work of God in the parish, which was echoed by the meeting.

Agenda item 12: Elections and appointments

a) Parochial Church Council Members

There are, following the election of JL as a Churchwarden, now four vacancies for PCC members.

It was noted that Sheila McInnes, Brian Smalley, Elizabeth Rocke and Jenny Marks (who was co-opted by the PCC to serve for a year in May 2024) have come to the end of their term of office. The meeting noted thanks to those who had offered service to the PCC, and thus the church, in different ways. Of the four vacancies, three of these are for a period of 3 years, one for a period of 2 years.

In advance of the meeting, one nomination had been received for DL proposed by Elizabeth Rocke and seconded by Chris Roberts. The meeting voted unanimously to elect DL to the PCC.

This means that there are three vacancies for PCC members. AN encouraged those present to prayerfully consider (or suggest to others) whether they might consider coming forward to serve in this way, and to speak to him if they felt so moved.

b) Independent Examiner

David Carey had expressed his willingness to continue as the Independent Examiner of the church accounts. Proposed by John Lomax and seconded by Brian Smalley, this was unanimously agreed.

Agenda item 13: Comments from the meeting for consideration by the PCC

Susan Ellis asked where the nearest defibrillator was situated in the village, noting that it was important that those coming into church were away of its location, not least if emergency services were required to attend someone in need. AN confirmed it was in the former phone box opposite The Parsonage (at the corner of the School Field).

Susie Villiers-Smith noted, from her experience, that would be good practice for the Church, as a space frequented by the public, to display a notice specifying the location of the defibrillator. It was confirmed that, knowing this, a notice will be posted on the noticeboard in the porch and made available inside the church building as soon as possible.

AN noted that Charles Ellis has kindly agreed to serve as the secretary of the PCC. He will not be a member of the PCC as he is a Clerk in Holy orders (member of the clergy), but will - all being well - be appointed at the next PCC meeting.

The meeting closed at 7.27pm with a prayer, blessing and the Grace.

Agenda Item 1b Matters Arising from Minutes of the 2025 APCM

Agenda Item 2 Report on the Electoral Roll (prepared for the 2026 APCM)

The number of electors upon the Church Electoral Roll of the Parish of St Michael and All Angels Beetham, as revised in preparation for the Annual Meeting held in 2026, is 74.

As at April 2026 the number of sides people is 23, the number of Morning Service readers is 26 of which 8 are also intercessors; and the number of Evensong readers is 7. Thanks go to Dianne Lomax for continuing to compile the weekly rotas, and to all who give their time as volunteers.

This year we have sadly lost two members of the Roll but have welcomed a new member. A reminder that we also have several retired members of clergy in our congregation, but that they are not eligible to register for the electoral roll.

St Michael and All Angels continues to attract members living outside the Parish who are prepared to come from further afield to enjoy our style of worship, music and welcome. Of the Roll members this year:

- 43% live and worship in the Parish
- 37% 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 for 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 Parochial Church Council

The Parochial Church Council meets bi-monthly in Beetham Primary School. Thus, in the year ending 31st December 2025 six meetings were held. Average attendance was 66% of the members with Andrew Skinner also in attendance as the Parish Safeguarding Officer and Charles Ellis as the Secretary.

Several important items are included on the agenda each month. These include: Safeguarding, Finance, Church Fabric, the Kent Estuary Mission Community, and Mission and Outreach. Updates are given at each meeting on the business and life of the Deanery and Diocese.

As required by the Church Representation Rules it is important to note that the Parochial Church Council has complied with Section 5A of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016. The report of Andrew Skinner, the Parish Safeguarding Officer, may be found below as Agenda Item 8 with comprehensive details in Appendix 1.

Charles Ellis
(PCC Secretary)

Agenda Item 4 Finance Report (for the year ending 31st December 2025)

I am enormously grateful to Dorothy and Andy for expressing their willingness to take over the Treasurership. Not only does it relieve me of the responsibility I have borne for some considerable time, but it also relieves PCC members of my repetitive ramblings!

Since they first stepped forward, Andy and Dorothy have played an increasing part and have now effectively completed the takeover of duties. I am still around, of course, and happy to be of what use I can be.

The accompanying accounts are in a slightly different format because we have decided to categorise the various receipts and payments items into groupings which match the requirements of the Diocese to whom we report these figures annually, I have attached the sheet showing 2024 figures (together with 2023).

A broad, if crude, reading of the state of our finances is that we have much smaller reserves than in previous years, resulting from our decision to replace the obsolete boilers before they decided to function no longer. This was made possible by a generous grant of £17,500 from BCHT. Receipts excluding this grant and the VAT reclaim total ca. £69,600 whilst expenditure, excluding the heating project, amounted to some £67,100.

This suggests that “ordinary” spending is just about matched by “ordinary” income, although inflation demands that our many generous donors review their giving at regular intervals.

John Lomax
(former PCC Treasurer)

St Michael & All Angels Beetham PCC - Receipts and Payments 2025

Receipts

Community account b/f £8,836.00 £13,401.63
 Deposit account b/f £6,065.49 £25.76

Item	2025	2024
Routine giving	£20,373.00	£20,716.30
Collections in church	£14,942.30	£24,690.78
Donations contactless	£2,427.79	£979.16
Gift Aid tax recovered	£7,295.94	£11,864.55
Wedding & Funeral fees	£9,726.39	£6,310.00
Fundraising	£14,068.44	£1,607.50
BCHT grant	£17,500.00	
Gateway ads	£631.00	£669.00
VAT reclaim	£5,584.76	£175.00
Interest CBF	£57.22	£55.82
Interest Dep	£73.80	£39.73

Total Receipts £92,680.64 £67,107.84
 CCLA £2.53

Total £107,582.13 £80,537.76

Additional Assets

Cash c/f Valuation at 31 Dec 2025 £42.05
 CBF Church of England Investment Funds £1,975.64
 CCLA Investment Funds £2.88

Payments

Item	2025	2024
Upkeep of services, altar rec	£779.51	£970.66
Organists, music	£7,550.00	£8,304.40
Heat, Light & Broadband	£7,630.03	£5,484.76
Insurance premium	£5,872.72	£5,383.69
Cemetery & churchyard	£6,776.86	£1,905.00
Fundraising costs	£1,237.25	
Ministry Offer	£24,792.00	£26,325.00
Charities	£1,401.64	£1,549.03
Clergy expenses	£2,687.68	£3,090.10
Faculty application fees	£2,950.00	£220.00
Diocesan payable fees	£869.00	£370.45
Boiler project costs	£34,208.58	£2,660.00
Routine running expenses	£4,513.31	£1,643.83
Copier & Stationery		£3,415.98
Heating duct cleaning		£1,715.00
Fabric reordering		£2,595.60

Total Payments £101,268.58 £65,633.50
 CCLA £2.77

Community account c/f £6,294.30 £8,836.00
 Deposit account c/f £19.25 £6,065.49

Total £107,582.13 £80,537.76

Agenda Item 4 Gift Aid Report

Gift Aid Summary:

From eligible donations given during 2025 we have been able to claim for church funds a total of **£7,441.33** in tax repayments, compared with **£8,885.31** claimed in 2024.

Gift Aid Scheme	Eligible Donations 2025	Tax Claimed 2025	Eligible Donations 2024	Tax Claimed 2024
Gift Aid Donations	£29,756.50	£7,441.33	£27,521.50	£6,885.31
GASDS (Gift Aid Small Donations Scheme)	-	-	£8,000.00	£2,000.00
Grand Total	£29,756.50	£7,441.33	£35,521.50	£8,885.31

Gift Aid Schemes:

The summary table above shows the details for 2025 and 2024 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.

Note – the 2025 GASDS claim has not yet been submitted because not all the information is yet available. It is expected that two GASDS claims will be made in 2026, from which we hope to receive £4,000.

Gift Aid Trend:

The summary chart below illustrates the tax repayments received under each scheme from 2018 to 2025:

The tax claimed from Gift Aid Donations in 2025 included a number of very generous donations to assist with church heating and new churchyard gates.

No tax has yet been claimed from the small donations GASDS scheme in 2025, though it is hoped that two maximum possible payments of £2,000 will be received in 2026, 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 £29,756.50 given in Gift Aid Donations. The final payment was received from HMRC in January 2026 and therefore the 2025 total Gift Aid repayments listed below will not match the 2025 church accounts figure for Gift Aid repayments received within 2025.

Claim Period 2025	Eligible Donations 2025	Tax Claimed 2025
April - 25	£12,454.50	£3,113.63
August - 25	£9,321.00	£2,330.25
December -25	£7,981.00	£1,997.45
Grand Total	£29,756.50	£7,441.33

Gift Aid Method:

A total of 59 different individuals gave through Gift Aid during 2025, mostly through standing order or online banking payments directly into the church bank account.

Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, a significant number of visitor donations were made by completing the one-off Gift Aid envelopes available in church. Nowadays, a substantial number of visitor donations are 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	2025 Donors	2024 Donors	2023 Donors	2022 Donors	2021 Donors	2020 Donors	2019 Donors	2018 Donors
Bank	30	31	33	34	33	34	28	28
One-Off Envelopes	18	14	11	18	11	24	119	139
Numbered Envelopes	11	14	15	12	11	14	16	18
Grand Total	59	59	59	64	55	72	163	185

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 Secretary)*

Agenda Item 5 Church Fabric Report

All the routine annual inspections have been carried out, happily without any untoward outcomes or reports. These include: fire/smoke/burglar alarms, roof CCTV, fire extinguisher servicing, electrical safety review, insurance review, tower bells, organ tuning, church tower clock, sound system and induction loop.

The project to replace the obsolete boilers began in June; the contract having been awarded to J W Moore & Co after a tender process. Completion was achieved in September with only one minor snag when one ancient pipework joint required replacement; final commissioning then took place in September. Payment was made thanks to a substantial grant from Beetham Church Heritage Trust. VAT was reclaimed via the DCMS Listed Places of Worship Grant Fund. The system is now running efficiently but we must continue to recognise that we have a magnificent large building without any worthwhile insulation. We must continue to wear the attire suited to such a space and adopt good practice with keeping doors closed whenever possible. Further attention is being given to insulation at the North-East door, and a door curtain is planned for the South-East door.

The Quinquennial Inspection of 2023 pointed out important and necessary repair work to the external masonry of the building. This is a major issue which will occupy the attention of PCC for some time.

Memorials in the Churchyard and the New Burial Ground are routinely inspected for stability. This has to be conducted outside the winter months and a firm date for this year's inspection is now requested.

At the New Burial Ground new gates have been installed thanks to a generous gift from the Hills family (in memory of Judith Hills). Very sadly, we had to decline the offer of a further gift – this was to create a hard footpath to the Garden of Remembrance for burials of ashes. Unfortunately, such a scheme would result in the loss of an unacceptable number of grave spaces.

Routine maintenance outside the Church building in both graveyards is undertaken in a number of ways. The grass-cutting contract, previously undertaken by the Smith brothers of Carr Bank was taken over by Paul Johnson. Clearance of gutters and drains and much routine cutting-back of shrubs is managed by our ever-willing volunteers, with the assistance of the team at Dallam. For all of these we are enormously grateful.

*Vivien Stirrup and John Lomax
(Churchwardens)*

Agenda Item 6 Report on the proceedings of the Kendal Deanery Synod

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 as an elected representative. The Deanery Synod is one of the important, essential and indeed canonical ways in which local parishes connect both to the Diocese and thus to wider Church of England.

There are, in the Kendal Deanery, three meetings of Synod each year, along with a Deanery Ascension Day service (held in 2025 at St Andrew's Sedbergh). There was also, following the success of the service 2024, a second Deanery Easter Vigil held on Easter Eve at Holy Trinity Kendal, which was – once again – valued and appreciated.

Each of the meetings of the Deanery Synod is mainly devoted to a particular 'spotlight' issue relating to questions of the church's mission and ministry, 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).

Spring Meeting

Rachel Head outlined diocesan support for mission and ministry within Mission Communities. She stressed the importance of a “mixed ecology of church, open to all,” encouraging “faithful improvisation” that draws on both inherited and innovative approaches. She introduced the gardening metaphor, now used across the diocese to help Mission Communities reflect on their life and priorities, highlighting the Garden Planner on the God for All website as a practical tool. Rachel also spoke about vocations, emphasising the need to nurture lay people of all backgrounds, enabling their vocation in church and everyday contexts. She underlined the importance of high-quality training in the development and support of both clergy and lay leaders.

Summer Meeting

Charlotte Tudway presented the work of the Diocesan Board of Education, with its general role promoting education that is consistent with the Church of England as well as its specific role with Church schools. She emphasised that Church schools are community schools, not faith schools, they serve all, while maintaining a clear Christian ethos expressed through worship and biblical storytelling. She explained the role of SIAMS inspections, which assess how well a Church school’s vision and practice reflect its Christian foundation and enable pupils and adults to flourish. Flourishing, she said, involves mental wellbeing and spirituality, enabling young people to look “in... out... and up.”

Autumn Meeting

Joanna Van Lachterop spoke about safeguarding across the diocese. On taking up her post, she had found that many Parish Safeguarding Officers lacked support and that some parishes held “worrying underlying attitudes and assumptions,” revealing a gap between safeguarding and theology. Her aim is to embed safeguarding at the heart of diocesan and parish life, grounded in Christian faith. She acknowledged that safeguarding failures continue to make headlines and that more will emerge. She stressed that while “we cannot change the past, we can shape the future” by learning from good practice. She highlighted the resources and policies available to help parishes integrate safeguarding into everyday ministry.

Meeting with Bishop Rob

The fourth meeting welcomed Bishop Rob as the new Bishop of Carlisle. He was, ahead of his enthronement on the eve of the First Sunday of Advent, meeting all Deanery Synods so that the Diocese may be shaped by local churches and so that he “knows and is known” by them. He reaffirmed the Church’s central calling: helping people meet and follow Christ and seeking God’s Kingdom in our time. While new diocesan strategies are emerging, he emphasised that the priority remains local ministry responding to local opportunities. A successful church, he said, is not necessarily a full one; smaller worshipping communities are not “failed large ones... any more than a tangerine is a failed orange.” He encouraged deeper prayer, openness to God’s shaping, and a willingness to “flood out into our communities” with the joy and hope of the Gospel.

Andrew B Norman

(with thanks to Peter Clarke, Deanery Synod Secretary)

Agenda Item 7 Report on the 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 to reach a greater number across the Kent Estuary with the good news of Jesus Christ.

The work of the Mission Community is overseen and directed by the Leadership Group. This brings together the stipendiary Kent Estuary 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).

During 2025 the shared work and witness of the Kent Estuary Mission Community included:

- A well-attended quarterly **Gathering** for worship, rotating round the churches and being the only main service on that Sunday.
- A quarterly **Songs of Praise**, linked with a walking group, targeted on those who live with dementia.
- A **Pet Service**, held on a farm, which attracted families who are not routine church goers.
- **Christmas and Easter Diaries**, circulated across all the congregations, highlighting all the services and other activities in each of the churches.
- A **Blue Christmas Service**, recognising that for some people Christmas is a time of sadness and loss.
- The **Bereavement Journey**, offering 7 sessions of films and discussions for people coping with grief.
- A **Marriage Preparation** course, run by the clergy, for couples being married in any of the churches.
- The **Church in the Market Place** stall as part of the Farmers' Market in Milnthorpe throughout the spring and summer.
- A monthly **Men's Breakfast**, building fellowship.
- Exploring the potential for a network of **Dementia Enablers** across the churches.
- Running a **first-aid** training event.
- Providing Christmas Bible Society **books for children** in the local primary schools.
- The **Partnership Meeting**, which brings together representatives from each church (Linda Cooper and Peter Clarke from St Peter's) to explore issues around mission and ministry. It is also a network for communication. In the first half of the year, it focused on church community engagement activity and social action. Latterly its meetings have been paused, and its future to be reviewed in 2026.
- A **Pioneering Group**, which met for an initial exploration of ways that churches can engage with people who find the traditional church off-putting.
- Holding an occasional social gathering for **members of church councils**, creating an opportunity for informal sharing of experiences and building relationships.
- Continuing work on developing the **KEMC Pilgrim Way**, the guide to which is to be published in March 2026.
- Co-ordinating a shared **Mission Community Offer** to the Diocese.
- Maintaining the website: www.kentestuarymissioncommunity.com

In the Autumn of 2025 the Archdeaconry Mission and Pastoral Committee (for the Archdeaconry of Westmorland and Furness) asked the Mission Community Leadership Team to “ensure that the five parishes and their ecumenical partners formulate their shared vision and governance proposals and, within this, outline a vision that will shape an affordable new pattern of ministry for the next five years.” This followed on from an exercise, undertaken in the January, coordinated by The Reverend Canon Richard Snow and The Reverend Canon Anne Pettifor, of ‘interviewing’ the five Parochial Church Councils to form a picture of the shared challenges and opportunities as we look to the future.

Following a letter from the Leadership Group to all members of the congregations and a subsequent Open Meeting held in October at Arnside Methodist Church (informed by contributions from Diocesan officers), a volunteer Working Group was formed and asked to develop proposals for a shared direction of travel for ministry and mission in the years to come. These were presented at a further Open Meeting, set within the context of worship and prayer, in January 2026 and then passed to each church council for consideration.

These (five) proposals are:

- 1) *We propose that, more effectively to share God's love in Christ within the villages of the Kent Estuary, the eight churches, individually and collectively agree to:*
 - *Be truly ecumenical*
 - *Support a Christian presence in each village*
 - *Sustain existing congregations*
 - *Grow lay leadership and ministries*
 - *Grow new disciples of all ages, including the "lost generation" and with an emphasis on children and families*
 - *Enable new ways of being Church*
 - *Learn from the experience of others*
 - *Be inclusive and open to the communities*
 - *Use available resources efficiently*
 - *Be bold, evolving and open to change.*
- 2) *We propose that the direction of travel should include the development of a single ecumenical Ministry Team serving the whole of the Kent Estuary.*
- 3) *We propose that the direction of travel include the creation of a single, new Parish of the Kent Estuary, with five parish churches and in a partnership agreement with the Methodist Church.*
- 4) *As an integral part of the direction of travel, we propose that the transition is underpinned by:*
 - *Prayer – actively sustaining and supporting collective and individual prayer*
 - *Communication – with regular sharing of progress and active listening to hopes and fears across the congregations*
 - *Pastoral Care – with specific initiatives to support people during the period of change*
 - *Lay Leadership development – with targeted action to grow leaders for worship and pastoral care in each community*
 - *Engagement – revising KEMC arrangements so congregations can feel connected.*
- 5) *The group's final proposal is that the Leadership Team seek early agreement from the diocese for eighteen months' funding for an additional priest who will lead and support this transitional programme.*

At the time of writing this report, the Leadership Group has been asked to report back to the Archdeaconry Committee by 31st March 2026.

We give thanks for our fellowship and friendship as churches across our area, understanding that the months and years to come will involve challenges and choices for our common life together, not least in how we seek to be a lively, sustainable and active Christian presence in our parishes, villages and communities in the years to come. Whilst this may be unsettling, not least given the prospect of substantial change for our ministry, mission and partnership in the gospel, there is much cause for encouragement and rejoicing.

As such, we seek and pray for the Lord's blessing, guiding and leading as we look to all that is to be, asking that we might have faith in the God – made real in Jesus Christ - who, quoting the words of Saint Paul in the Letter to the Romans (4.17), '*gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist*'.

Andrew B Norman
(with thanks to Peter Clarke, Secretary to the Kent Estuary Mission Community)

Agenda Item 8 Report on Safeguarding *(Please read in conjunction with Appendix 1)*

There have been no adverse safeguarding events reported to me since my last report. I have taken advice from the Diocese about one matter and been advised that no immediate action is needed or practical. Like anything raised with me it is being kept under discreet review. Central advice is always at our disposal, ideally through me.

My duty is to advise the PCC and not to deliver safeguarding on the PCC's behalf. Safeguarding is the responsibility of the PCC. Safeguarding is in the news, especially for the established church. It is painful to report that the steady flow of safeguarding failures, both of conduct and of response to disclosures, continues though not, at the time of writing, locally.

We need to 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.
- We need sufficient display material, strong responses to approaches and confident handling to be engrained in our day-to-day conduct and planning all of which are known to deter offending.

We currently meet the training requirements. People who need to renew their training or DBS checks should get a reminder from me on behalf of the PCC. We use an internet-based software system for records as recommended by the Church of England. I am grateful for the invitation to attend PCC meetings. I use these to update the PCC, for the PCC to update me and to re-raise important topics that need to be kept in the collective mind.

I continue to attempt 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. Were our circumstances to change we may well need urgent reassessment to remain robust. These are simply reminders I have had no intimation of either:

- If children were to join outside the purview of school activities.
- When the parish next is in vacancy.

I continue as a safeguarding trainer with roles in the Church of England and the Methodist Circuit and these roles keep me up to date.

Andrew Skinner
(Parish Safeguarding Officer)

Please note:

At the time of writing the PCC has achieved Level 3 on the Parish Safeguarding Dashboard, covering all mandatory requirements for Safeguarding in The Church of England.

The latest version of the parish's Safeguarding Action Plan (accessed and monitored via the Safeguarding Dashboard) was discussed and approved at the PCC meeting in January 2026. Further information can be found at Appendix 1.

Agenda Item 9 Other reports

a) Social events

The annual Harvest Supper was held on Friday 10th October 2025 in the Heron Corn Mill Barn and the Shrove Tuesday Supper on Tuesday 17th February 2026.

Over fifty people in October, and also in February, filled the Barn where they enjoyed an excellent supper provided by Alison Thompson of Ackenthwaite, plus the usual generous Raffle which was then followed by entertainment which involved music, laughter and quizzing. In the light of the advancing years of the 'Beetham Thespians', it was decided that the entertainment would take on a gentler form from that of the past eighteen years. Thus, taking inspiration from the long running radio programme, we presented 'Dessert Island Discs'. Our mystery Celebrity Castaway was the Rev'd Hannah Wallace and John Lomax hosted the programme asking Hannah about her career and of course, music. Hannah asked the company to join her for one piece of music and played the piano for another, ending with Victoria Wood's slightly risqué 'Pam'! A brilliant evening at the end of which, the audience went home with full tummies and a smile on their faces! Our thanks also go to Geoff Field who played the musical accompaniment.

The Shrove Tuesday Supper was held on 17th February with Cottage pie and pancakes on the menu. The Grand Raffle, again superbly organised by Julie and Colin Clarke, relieved the audience of their loose change and was followed with a brilliant Quiz put together by Jenny Marks and Katriona Field, things that we should all know but forget in the hurried business of life! It was brilliant!! Our very grateful thanks go to everyone who took part in either or both events, including our very appreciative audiences, who 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 9th October 2026 and the Shrove Tuesday Supper will be on Tuesday 9th February 2027. We look forward to seeing you there.

*Dianne Lomax
(on behalf of the Friends Committee)*

b) Beetham Bellringers

The Beetham Towerbell Ringers have had a year of mixed fortunes, having been hampered by injury, illness, work, inability to multitask at both ends of the church at the same time, weather conditions, power cuts, and holidays! However, although practice sessions have suffered, we are pleased to report that we have been able to ring for all but one Sunday during the year as well as for special services, weddings and funerals, plus joining national ringing occasions such as VE Day.

'Bob Minor' still eludes us due to the lack of practice nights, but we have added 'Grandsire Doubles' to our Sunday repertoire instead, with grateful thanks to our Ringing Master, Brian Smalley, for cajoling us to give it a go. We have also had several visiting teams of ringers who enjoy our ground floor ring and the welcome that we offer. The Beetham Church Handbell Ringers have also struggled with regular practice sessions for the same reasons as above, and we have moved our practice time to a Monday morning to try to improve the situation.

Despite this we have had a successful year of community outreach, with handbell 'gigs' at the church Flower Festival, Strawberry Tea, Elmsfield, Hartland House, and Croftside Care Homes, Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols, Parr St Church Kendal Senior Group, and Arnside with Milnthorpe Visually Impaired Group at Arnside Methodist Church. Thank you to all the clangers – big and mini – for another enjoyable year and if anyone would like to join either group please do get in contact.

*Jenny Marks
(Tower Captain)*

c) *The Gateway* and Church Website

The Gateway magazine continues to be an important communications link with everyone in our parish, detailing everything from worship and support groups to wider community news. It lies at the heart of our essential church fundraising campaigns, advertising regular events and bookstall sales to help us to keep our church open.

A very big thank you to all that contribute in any way to the production of *The Gateway*, especially the many folders, and the distributors who deliver to every home in the parish whatever the weather. A particular welcome to new front page letter writers Patricia & John Townsend, Andy MacLeod and Colin Clarke, which now means that we have nearly enough contributors for us to each write one letter per year (one more volunteer would complete the list if you would like to join us!).

Thanks also to Revd Andrew and Revd Hannah, Abi for School Corner, Tess for the Beetham Band, and to Beetham WI for their regular contributions, and to all who submit occasional articles and events. We have also welcomed some new advertisers this year, so please do support our local businesses whenever you can. The *Gateway* magazine is emailed to an increasingly long list of recipients, both locally and around the globe. It is also available on our church website, along with past editions.

The website gives plenty of information about our worship, our weekly pew sheet, safeguarding, Who's Who, What's On, our videos, and links to the Kent Estuary Mission Community and other local websites. If you would like to submit anything for inclusion or suggestions for any other information that you would like to see on the website, please get in touch.

Jenny Marks
(*Editor of The Gateway*)

d) Church Flowers

Flowers are usually arranged by a rota of Church members in the Sanctuary throughout the year, excepting Advent and Lent. However, time is catching up with us and sadly four members have retired this year. 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 9th November, Remembrance Sunday. To mark the end of the Second World War, flowers were arranged by the War Memorial to commemorate the 80th Anniversary of VE Day on 8th May and of VJ Day on the 15th August.

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 Day Eucharist. 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 24th, 25th and 26th June. The theme was 'Caring for our Environment'. Refreshments were provided and there was live music on Bank Holiday Monday. Special flowers have been arranged during the year in memory of loved ones. The Church was 'full of flowers' for the funeral of Norma Morris, at her request. Flowers were arranged for a wedding in November. 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 occasional costs. The flower arrangements remain an important part of the peace and tranquillity of Beetham Church.

Dianne Lomax
(Co-ordinator of church flowers)

e) Choir and Music

2025 was another good year for music in Beetham Church. A very big thank you to everyone who has sung, or played an instrument, in any capacity to enrich our worship. As always, I am very grateful to all the choir members for their continued hard work, commitment and dedication throughout the year. Their willingness to explore new repertoire, and attend weekly rehearsals, is much appreciated and valued. Thank you, too, to Jenny Marks for her excellent organ playing at Evensongs and occasional morning services, and also to the Clergy for their support and encouragement for all our musical ventures.

The choir sang for every Sunday service during the year, as well as on extra occasions such as at Easter and Christmas. 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, both for weekly services and special occasions such as the regular Sung Evensongs, Patronal Festival, Harvest Festival and the Advent and Christmas Carol Services. These were well attended by highly appreciative congregations.

A particular highlight of the year was the beautiful singing of the 'Once in Royal Davd's City' solo in the Carol Service by a Year 5 pupil, Ava Hodgson, from Beetham Church of England Primary School who repeated this at the beginning of the Christingle service on Christmas Eve. Going forward, it is hoped that we can involve more of the school's pupils in the music during our regular Sunday worship.

Also during this year, the joint choir, from various churches within the Kent Estuary Mission Community, continued to come together for two of the four combined services. It is lovely to mix with our choral colleagues from around the area, and fun to explore different repertoire with these singers. Thank you again to everyone who comes along to sing and support these joint ventures.

Geoffrey Field
(Organist)

Agenda Item 10 Churchwardens Report

Throughout this year we have two elected Church Wardens, John Lomax and Vivien Stirrup. As a first comment in this report, we need to make it clear that we are both very much indebted to the army of people who help and support the work of the church. Many have been doing just that for years and their dedication and commitment to the church and the church community of St Michael and All Angels is simply amazing. Thank you so much to each and every one of you.

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.

We are so fortunate to have a wonderful ministry team led by Andrew and Hannah. During the last 11 months much work has been undertaken by the team to ensure that St. Michael & All Angels have served individuals, families and the community, upholding Christian mission and Christian values. So, here is an indication of some of the work that has been undertaken from planning to preparation to delivery. This is an indication of some of the visible work that goes on within a parish but of course there is so much more that happens, not just at Beetham but at Arnside and Storth as well.

So, here is a record of the services that have happened at St Michael and All Angels since the last APCM.

Sunday morning Eucharist service 41

Kent Estuary Mission Community Gatherings 4

Sunday Evensong 44

(which includes special evensongs for Harvest, All Souls, Advent, Nine Lessons and Carols, Epiphany Carol Service, Candlemas)

Wednesday Morning Eucharist 9

Holy Communion:

- administered at home 18 visits
- administered at hospital *when required or needed*
- administered at Elmsfield Care Home 10 visits

Services with Beetham Church of England Primary School

We have strong links with our church school, the children making use of the church for special services and other occasions throughout the year. Recently (March 2026) we have been inspected by SIAMS (Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools), whilst the results are not yet officially known, we are hopeful. The Foundation Governors (at the time of writing: The Reverend Andrew B Norman, Vivien Stirrup, John Lomax, Brian Smalley and Chris Christou) make up the majority on the School's Governing Body, and at the time of writing there are two vacancies with the search for new Governors continuing.

- Leavers End of Year Service 54 children, 35 adults
- Harvest Festival 49 children, 28 adults
- Celebration Worship 44 children, 36 adults
- Remembrance Service 48 children, 32 adults
- School Carol Service 48 children, 32 adults
- Easter Service 52 children, 22 adults

Baptisms	7	(including one adult baptism)
Confirmation	1	(held on Trinity Sunday 2025)
Weddings	1	
Reception of coffin prior to Funeral	1	
Funerals	7	
Burial of Ashes	5	

Attendance at Village War Memorial on Remembrance Sunday c.70

Attendance on Remembrance Sunday 59

Christmas Services:

• Advent Sunday Eucharist	46
• Advent Sunday Carol Service	44
• Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols	119
• Christingle Crib Service	266
• Midnight Mass	42
• Eucharist of Christmas Morning	47
• Epiphany Carol Service	40
• Candlemas Eucharist	66

Holy Week and Easter Services:

• The Liturgy of Palm Sunday	49
• The Way of the Cross	24
• Monday of Holy Week Holy Communion	12
• Tuesday of Holy Week Holy Communion	14
• Wednesday of Holy Week Holy Communion	18
• The Liturgy of Maundy Thursday	22
• The Liturgy of Good Friday	26
• The Eucharist of Easter Day	83

Fundraising Events

At the moment we are raising money for very necessary repairs to the church building as advised in the Quinquennial Inspection report. There are always many fund-raising events being planned and undertaken throughout every year and we are grateful to the Friends Committee in their unfailing commitment in generating ideas and then through sheer hard work translating those ideas into action. Some examples of the ways that funds are raised are: Shrove Tuesday Supper and Quiz, Soup Lunches (on one occasion we welcomed the children from school who served everyone who arrived for their lunch), monthly coffee mornings, the Duck Race (now nearing its 25th year), the annual The Flower Festival and a presence at Beetham Sports.

Use of Church premises since reordering

The reordered space has supported the convivial arrangement of tables for coffee mornings and the soup lunches. Endmoor Choir used the church for a successful Christmas concert on 19th December 2025.

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 the Flower Festival, Beetham Sports Day and 'Brightening Beetham'.

New Burial Ground

We record our thanks to Dallam Tower Estate for their generous assistance and expertise with helping church members to maintain the two burial grounds. The workday that was arranged to tidy and make safe the new burial ground was highly successful, and thanks go to the Dallam Tower Estate and all the willing volunteers from church. Another 'tidy up' day (for the new burial ground) is being arranged very shortly.

Pastoral Care

We continue to support its own church family and the community in many ways: prayer support, Holy Communion at Home, hospital visiting, visits to local residential homes (including celebrating Holy Communion), transportation to/from hospital appointments, providing support for those bereaved, sending cards, practical help when necessary.

All of the above - provision of dedicated ministry, organisation of wonderful and well attended church services, provision of pastoral care whenever and wherever needed, generation of ideas, carrying out fund raising 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?

*John Lomax and Vivien Stirrup
(Churchwardens)*

Agenda Item 11 Words from the Priest-in-Charge

Agenda Item 12 Elections and Appointments

1. Two representatives to serve on the Kendal Deanery Synod (to serve for three years)

We extend our gratitude to Theresa Holden and Vivien Stirrup whose (three-year) term of office as representatives to the Kendal Deanery Synod has elapsed with this year's Annual Meeting.

2. Three members of the Parochial Church Council (to serve for three years)

We extend our gratitude to Andrew Macleod, Dorothy Macleod and Tess Rowlands whose (three-year) term of office as members of the Parochial Church Council has elapsed with this year's Annual Meeting.

3. Independent Examiner

Agenda Item 13 Comments from the meeting for consideration by the PCC

Agenda Item 14 Closing Prayer and The Grace

Appendix 1 – Parish Safeguarding Action Plan

Policies and Action Plan

	Status	Notes
Safeguarding Policy Approval The PCC must approve a parish safeguarding policy which complies with Church of England requirements.	The PCC has adopted 'Promoting a Safer Church' as its own safeguarding policy.	This was reaffirmed at the PCC Meeting on Thursday 22nd May 2025.
Safeguarding Policy Promotion 'Promoting a Safer Church' must be publicised and promoted, and all Church Officers must have access to it.	'Promoting a Safer Church' is publicised and promoted, and all Church Officers have access to it.	
Safeguarding Action Plan The PCC must approve a Safeguarding Action Plan and review it at least once a year.	The PCC last reviewed their Safeguarding Action Plan on 21/01/2026.	This is ongoing.
Recruitment of Ex-Offenders The PCC must have a policy regarding the recruitment of ex-offenders.	The PCC last reviewed their policy regarding the recruitment of ex-offenders on 18/07/2024.	This was approved at the PCC Meeting on Thursday 18th July 2024.
Local Ecumenical Partnership Local Ecumenical Partnerships (LEPs) must agree which denomination or organisation's safeguarding policy to follow.	The parish is not part of an LEP.	A policy regarding this was agreed by the PCC at the meeting on 22nd May 2025

Safeguarding Procedures

	Status	Notes
Responding to Concerns or Allegations The PCC must approve a procedure to deal promptly with any safeguarding concern or allegation (including suspicion of abuse).	The PCC reviewed their procedure on 17/07/2025.	This will be reviewed at the PCC meeting in July 2025.
Lone Working The PCC must follow the Church of England's safeguarding guidance regarding lone working with children or vulnerable adults.	The PCC is following guidance regarding lone working with children or vulnerable adults.	To ensure (ongoing) that all PCC members know and are informed about this safeguarding guidance.
Appropriate Boundaries The PCC must follow the Church of England's safeguarding guidance regarding appropriate boundaries with children or vulnerable adults.	The PCC is following guidance regarding appropriate boundaries with children or vulnerable adults.	To ensure (ongoing) that all PCC members know and are informed about this safeguarding guidance.

	Status	Notes
<p>Use of Social Media The PCC must ensure that the church is following national guidance regarding the use of social media.</p>	The church does not use social media for any of its activities.	
<p>Known Offenders Known offenders, and others who may pose a risk to children or vulnerable adults, must be effectively managed and monitored in consultation with the Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser.</p>	Anyone who poses a risk to children or vulnerable adults is being effectively managed and monitored.	This was discussed at the July 2025 PCC meeting.
<p>Data Protection and Retention The PCC must comply with data protection legislation and Church of England data retention guidance.</p>	The PCC complies with GDPR legislation and data retention guidance.	
<p>Clergy Vacancy Consideration must be given to the secure storage of safeguarding records during a clergy vacancy.</p>	Arrangements have been made for the secure storage of safeguarding records.	
<p>Support for Victims and Survivors Following the disclosure of church-based abuse, the PCC must take reasonable steps to offer appropriate support to the victim or survivor.</p>	Completed	This discussed in some detail at the July 2025 PCC meeting.

Safeguarding Roles

	Status	Notes
<p>Parish Safeguarding Officer The PCC must safely recruit a suitable person (not the incumbent or his/her partner) to the role of Parish Safeguarding Officer. The appointment is to be made in accordance with national 'safer recruitment' guidance.</p>	A Parish Safeguarding Officer was appointed on 26/09/2024.	The PSO is up to date as he is a trainer for CoE and Methodist churches and is a CSO for the Cumbria Methodist Circuit.
<p>Churchwardens The churchwardens must be made aware of their safeguarding responsibilities.</p>	The churchwardens are aware of their safeguarding responsibilities.	
<p>DBS Administrator The PCC must appoint at least one DBS Administrator who is responsible for the administration of DBS applications. This role may be carried out by the Parish Safeguarding Officer.</p>	The PCC has appointed at least one DBS Administrator.	

Training for Key Roles

	Status	Notes
Parish Safeguarding Officer The PCC must ensure that the Parish Safeguarding Officer undertakes the required safeguarding training.	The Parish Safeguarding Officer has completed the required safeguarding training.	
Churchwardens The PCC must ensure that all Churchwardens undertake the required safeguarding training.	Churchwardens have completed the required safeguarding training.	
DBS Administrator The PCC must ensure that DBS Administrators undertake the required safeguarding training.	DBS Administrators have completed the required safeguarding training.	Incumbent and PSO have access to DBS systems and are suitably trained an experienced.
PCC Members The PCC must ensure that all their members undertake the required safeguarding training.	PCC members have completed the required safeguarding training.	New appointees completed on line training

Displayed Information

	Status	Notes
Safeguarding Policy Notice Each church building must display a notice about its safeguarding policy.	A notice about our safeguarding policy is being displayed in each church building.	
Safeguarding Who's Who Each church building must display contact details for people who have safeguarding roles.	Contact details are being displayed in each church building.	
Safeguarding Poster Each church building must display a 'Promoting a Safer Church' poster.	A poster is being displayed in each church building.	
Parish Website Safeguarding arrangements must be clearly visible on the front page of a parish website (if you have one).	Safeguarding arrangements are clearly visible on the front page of our parish website.	This is monitored regularly.
Information for Victims and Survivors The PCC must provide clear and accessible information for victims and survivors of abuse.	Completed	Safer Spaces material displayed appropriately 10/8/25

Non-Church Activities Reviews and Reports

	Status	Notes
<p>PCC Agendas Safeguarding must be a standing agenda item at every PCC meeting.</p>	Safeguarding is a standing agenda item at every PCC meeting.	
<p>Reports to the PCC The Parish Safeguarding Officer must give regular reports to the PCC regarding safeguarding in the parish.</p>	The PCC last received a safeguarding report on 20/11/2025.	The PSO provides a report on Safeguarding to every PCC meeting.
<p>Reports to the APCM At the Annual Parochial Church Meeting, the PCC must report on safeguarding in the parish.</p>	The APCM received a safeguarding report on 13/05/2025.	
<p>Review List of Church Activities The PCC must confirm that the list of Church Activities on this dashboard is complete.</p>	The PCC reviewed the list of Church Activities on 25/09/2025.	To ensure that this is reviewed regularly.
<p>Review List of Non-Church Activities The PCC must confirm that the list of Non-Church Activities on this dashboard is complete.</p>	The PCC reviewed the list of Non-Church Activities on 25/09/2025.	
<p>Promoting a Healthy and Safe Culture The PCC must consider how they can better promote a healthy and safe church culture.</p>	The PCC has considered how they can better promote a healthy and safe church culture.	