

St Mary's APCM May 15th 2022– Reports

Interim Team Vicar, St. Mary's Allithwaite and St. John's Flookburgh, in the Cartmel Peninsula Team.

Revd. Jane Maycock,

In some ways it is quite odd having to write a report which is based on the calendar year 2021, as I was only in post for the last two and a half months of that time. Those weeks were definitely about beginning to get to know people in both churches, getting to know what went on, how things worked and familiarising myself with the wider communities. One of the biggest challenges for me is certainly being half time. There aren't half the number of services or half the number of occasional offices (baptisms, weddings and funerals), and there has been a definite sense of 'post pandemic catch-up' going on. A significant number of baptisms, for example, that had been postponed due to Covid (and to some extent to the clergy situation in the team) have now been able to take place. That of course cannot apply to funerals (!) but there was a steady stream of those in the first few months of my role here too. Both baptisms and funerals offer a rich opportunity to make contact with those who live in our communities, but may not be regular worshippers.

Some of the things that have felt particularly significant since October have come to fruition in the first three months of this year, 2022 — not least the meeting that took place with Bishop James, Derek Hurton and Vernon Ross, and leading the Difference course with Jonathan Brewster and Nick Devenish in Lent. Properly speaking, they belong to next year's report! Yet those things are fruits of the situation Jonathan and I were licensed into in October. Whilst I knew of the particular features of the team situation when I agreed to come to this interim role, how they played out in practice was not known, nor were the ways in which they would bear fruit. I am a firm believer in good fruit being born in the most challenging of situations! I have been very impressed by the commitment and integrity of all of you in both churches, with the ways in which you have sustained the life of the churches over a very difficult time.

As I look ahead I see so much potential for growth and development. As you are aware, the current proposal is to dissolve the formal team and create three separate benefices. This proposal is wending its way through the Church Commissioners process for such things, and will at some point return to our PCCs for approval. Regardless of how that progresses however, there is a lot that we can do to develop working together as an embryonic Mission Community. The only way that the church can thrive is if we share our resources and support each other in various and differing areas of ministry. There is no blueprint for a Mission Community. It is up to us to shape it, with our sisters and brothers in churches across the peninsula, as we seek together to be more Christ-like and live out his kingdom in our communities. I look forward to the months ahead!

PCC Lay Chair

Steve Bell

Dear Friends, "The only constant is change" would be a good summary for the past year.

We have managed to move back to worship in the church building again which has so many benefits over our online meetings, though we have realised that an online presence is also important. John Lanham has really helped to develop our website (<https://www.allithwaitechurch.org.uk/>) and this has enabled us to keep in touch, together with the marvellous St Mary's In Touch e-mail Amiel sends round on a Friday.

PCC meetings have gone back to being in person. We have had a number of difficult meetings this year, trying to decide how best to respond to the Diocese in the way we should, especially in terms of Parish share. We have tried to keep the "main thing", the main thing and focus on how we as a church can reach out with love and faith into the community that we are a part of.

Jane has joined us as a part time vicar working 0.25 full time and she has helped us to focus on our mission priorities as well as leading worship.

It is now over four years since Rachel stood down from ministry and she remains in our thoughts and prayers during this difficult time.

Two years after suffering a stroke, Janet Buckler died in February and is very much missed by so many of us. Janet has been such a dedicated and faithful member of the church with a heart for reaching out into the community to make Jesus known.

Lis and John Arthurs have moved away to be nearer to their family and both have served God here so diligently for many years, Lis in prayer, leading worship and developing others and John in organising all those events and being at the heart of keeping our focus on looking outwards and upwards.

Looking ahead we want to be part of the Mission Community here on the Cartmel Peninsula so that we can work with the other churches to make Jesus known in this area. We have a particular role to play within that Mission Community and we continue to seek God's guidance so that we are led by Him. There are many opportunities to serve God, the church and the community; we pray that you will want to journey with us into 2022 to see what God has in store for us.

Churchwardens –

Michael Jackson / John Lanham

Activities and Achievements of 2021/last 12 months – As with many others this last 12 months has been marked by numerous changes as we responded to changes in national and diocesan guidance on running services under Covid regulations. As the current phase of the pandemic appears to be declining, we are really pleased to see the regular rhythm of services and a growing number of other activities returning to more normal levels.

We would like to acknowledge and express our thanks to Pat Rowsell who has decided to step back from her role working with Liz Bloomer on the Warden's Admin team. We would like to thank Pat for all her help with so many of the processes and paperwork beloved by the Church of England that are needed for the more formal services – funeral's, baptisms etc.

Plans for the next year 2022, next 12 months – In the autumn we had the delayed Quinquennial. Although we are still awaiting the full report the immediate feedback on the day and subsequent summary did not identify any unknown or significant issues. There are a number of small issues – touching up paintwork, repairing some external stonework etc as would be expected in a building of the age of St Mary's. We will be setting up some working groups to undertake/oversee works on the building over the summer – watch this space and you have been warned!

We are slowly starting a revamp of the church www pages and have set up a few simple forms that can be used to book the church for events and another to get in touch with us. Both of these are proving useful in enabling those within and outside the church to contact and make bookings. We will be continuing to develop and update the pages to reflect the current services and activities of St Mary's. We have also set up a Wifi system in the church – so you can now connect and access the www from within the church. Network details are posted around the church so you can login. A permanent broadband solution will be investigated later in the year

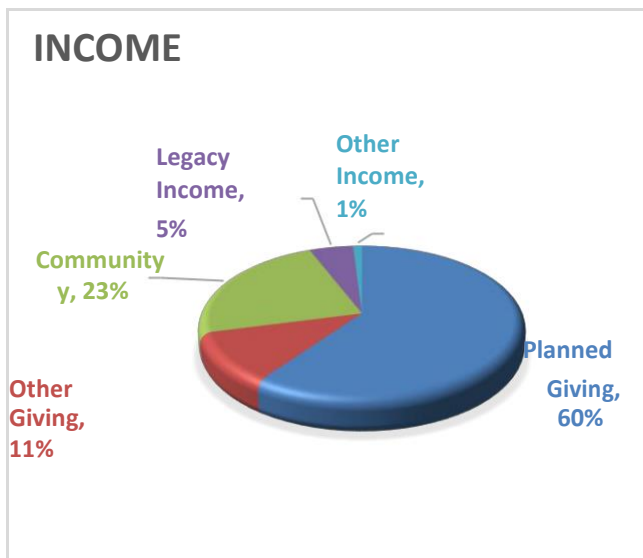
Examples of God's Blessings during the year – The support and engagement in the extraordinary meeting to discuss our Parish Offer, the prayer sessions ahead of the meeting with the bishop and the actual meeting. Although there were a number of sensitive and challenging issues being discussed, and not everyone agreed on every point – there was though a lot of common ground and also a desire to make progress, despite the challenges of the recent years.

Finance- A review of 2021

2021 was another extraordinary year with the church building closed for services in January and February. This background made cash flow difficult and again we had to use our Contingency Fund.

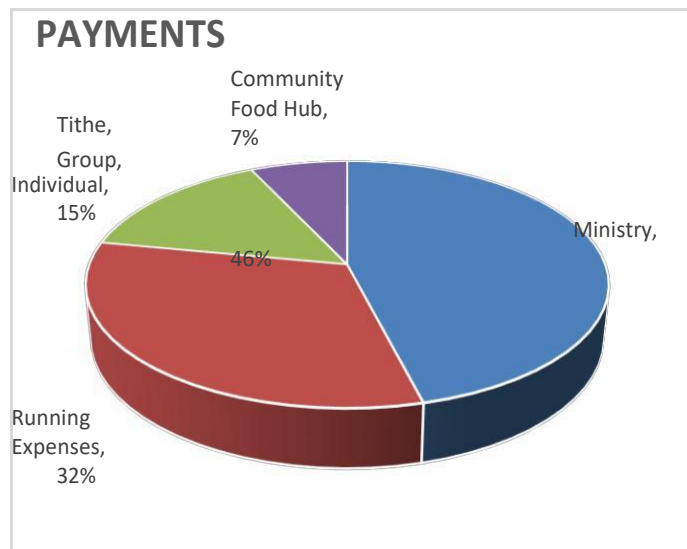
It was encouraging that planned giving continued together with additional giving of cheques and bank transfers. All greatly appreciated!

However, our income is still affected through the loss and movement of many long- standing members. This will also affect the amount of Gift Aid recovered in future years.



Community income is unusually high because it contains many one-off events such as the Parish Weekend and a temporary Support Fund which will not appear next year. Other income (1%) is from rent.

The Legacy income is similar to last year.



The Ministry figure is much lower than last year, £24,320 of Parish Share was withheld in the Deposit account because of issues with the Diocese.

The Deposit account is therefore exceptionally high !

A decision about the Parish Share will be made in 2022 after further discussions.

Apart from the Parish Share the payments are similar to last year

A detailed audited account has been produced and some paper copies will be available at the AGM.

John Tindale

Treasurer

14th March 2022

Electoral Roll - April 2022.

Janice Tindale

The Electoral Roll figures still reflect the changes which are occurring nationally as a result of the pandemic i.e. people moving away to be closer to their families.

Compared to last year, there are now 84 names on the Electoral Roll, which is an overall loss of 6.

Since May 2021 :

- 2 new people were added
- 1 person resigned
- 3 people died
- 4 people have moved away

Janice Tindale

Allithwaite Community Food Hub.

Jean Bell

The Allithwaite Community Food Hub, which operates from St Mary's Church, was started during lockdown on 1st June 2020. Its aim is to help people save money, prevent food from being wasted and saving some space in landfill: A win, win, win, situation!

According to [FareShare](#) 1.9 million tonnes of surplus food is wasted by the food industry every year in the UK and of that 250,000 tonnes is still edible - that's enough for 650 million meals - we are doing this to make a difference to people and to the planet!

Good food that isn't going to be sold, but which is still in date and edible is called surplus food. It can become this for simple reasons such as over-production, labelling errors or short shelf-life. Surplus food occurs everywhere in the supply chain from field through to fork. This perfectly good, in-date food is then sent to landfill, unless it can be intercepted and redistributed.

FareShare is the UK's biggest food redistribution charity, and the branch in Preston is our local contact. We submit a weekly order and food is delivered each Monday to Grange or Cartmel from where we collect it and then share out into boxes for our members to collect at lunchtime. A box costs £3 but contains between £10-£25 worth of food each week.

We now:

- have a full membership, 46 food club members (some smaller families collect fortnightly)
- have 132 people in local households that are enjoying this food each week
- save 180kg food per week from ending up in landfill
- have 13 volunteers with 6 on duty each week to help sort out the food boxes
- have shared lots of smiles, stories and chocolates with all our new friends each week

There is an amazing variety of food to distribute: From sausages to soup, butternut squash to brioche, from pasta to potatoes, tuna to tea bags, from cereals to celeriac, spinach to Starbucks and so many types of tomatoes - tinned, souped, juiced and on the vine.

We are a not for profit group so any profit that we do make has been used to support our local community in the new community lunch, free school meal food boxes, fare share itself and our local food bank as well as communities abroad such as a school with boarders/orphans in Kenya that had no food left!! (RUSH Academy <https://ineeds.org.uk/projects/rush-academy/>); open doors project and more recently a donation to help Ukrainian refugees.

Thank you to all the people that have supported us and the dedicated team that has sorted and shared the food each week.

Mary Lambert Educational Trust/Coals and Clothing Trust

Jean Bell

Mary Lambert Educational trust - The trustees met in January 2022 to discuss the available grants and applications for the year 2021. Following an advert in Grange Now we had five applications and a grant of £330 was awarded to Greg Airey, Isabelle Wattam, Matthew Chadwick, James Tunnadine and Philippa Bell. In addition, £77.35 was donated to fund the gifts of Bibles to each Year 6 pupil in Allithwaite primary school when they left in the summer.

Coals and clothing trust 2021 - There was discussion about how to use this money and whether to close the account. It was decided that some families needed help to fund school uniform and/or energy bills and that a suitable application process was required. This would be considered at a further meeting later in the year.

Deanery Synod

Janice Tindale Diocesan Synod Rep

There have been three Deanery Synod meetings this year.

July 2021 on Zoom business included:

Diocesan Synod elections;

Archdeaconry Pastoral Committee report:

Pastoral included the closure of Lindale Church, and the proposals for the churchyard or part of it to be used for social housing.

Parsonage side, all works have been suspended for eighteen months and no quinquennial work has been done, saving £460,000.

Burnthwaite house and a house in Cartmel are to be sold.

Mission Communities: 3 areas (central lakes, south lakes and peninsula). Each area reported, mainly regarding moving on from Covid and the proposal for interim ministry on the peninsula.

It was stated that although the mission communities are establishing, the deanery is still the formal way to approach the diocese; also, the deanery should be a facilitator offering help to the communities.

September 2021 St Mary's Allithwaite: the business meeting continued the main points of the previous meeting.

Archdeaconry Pastoral Committee-

Interest shown in the repairs to the parsonages which have not been completed.
On finance the Archdeacon reported that the diocese is not in debt but there are severe pressures on finance in the light of reductions in parish offer.

Safeguarding and data protection training to be held on the peninsula in October.

Mission Communities report:

for the Peninsula the appointment of our two interim ministers was recorded for Grange and part time for us in Allithwaite and Flookburgh.

Youth Ministry: Chris Mason reported on the deanery network youth ministry and welcomed Helen Hoyle's appointment.

Archdeacon Vernon Ross gave a presentation on how the church will look in 2030. I have an outline of his talk if anyone is interested.

February 2022 St Mary's Windermere:

Archdeaconry pastoral committee report: long discussion over finances and the possibility that we may have to lose two more clergy across the archdeaconry.

Mission Communities report:

Each community gave a report on their events and planning. Jonathan Brewster was welcomed.

Youth ministry: Chris Mason reported the continuing work with after-school clubs.

Jane Potts representing the Diocese discussed church buildings: blessing or burden?

Her main points were:

Covid has accelerated the discussion we've been avoiding, do we need all our buildings?
How do we encourage local communities to engage in ownership of the church building?
We need to grasp the nettle.

A huge percentage of our buildings are listed buildings.

There are examples of many creative things being done: the hallmark being a church community's willingness to engage with its community.

Possibility for community trust to assume ownership.

What has happened to the Diocesan Buildings Strategy?

Could we establish a 'letting' company responsible for utilising our churches in creative/profitable ways?

Learn to think of our buildings as assets.

We are continually frustrated by a range of planning and other regulations and historic amenities societies.

Minutes are available for all meetings; if you are interested, I can arrange a copy.

The Deanery Synod also needs a secretary. You don't have to be a member of the synod to do the job! If you are interested Helen Hoyle will be pleased to hear from you.

Mission Committee

Committee members: Alison Gawith, Jenny Leahy, Janice Tindale, Kathy Haughton, Andrea Mason, Michael Jackson

Having not met during 2020/21 due to covid restrictions we started meeting in Summer 2021 to discuss our mission partners and allocation of funds. Funds from 2020 were not allocated and were carried forward in the church accounts.

In September 2021 the PCC approved our proposal to support two new mission partners through the Church Mission Society (CMS), as well as continuing to support the work of Christian Restoration Ministries International (CRMI) and Churches Together Youth Trust (CTYT), the remainder being reserved in church accounts to fund local mission work in St Mary's / Allithwaite.

Funds carried from 2020 were £4609 and for 2021 funds were £4572.

Across the two years mission giving was allocated as follows:

- CMS £4000 (£2000 to each partner)
- CTYT £2000
- CRMI £2000
- Mission Fund (St Mary's) £1181

Our new mission partners through CMS are Andy and Kati Walsh working in Brazil, and Ultan McCabe working with the persecuted church in the Middle East and North Africa. Please speak to one of us if you would like more information.

In addition, donations from the harvest festival auction (over £1000) were given to the Julius and Dora Children's Centre in Kenya, of which Amiel is a trustee.

MEN'S WALKING GROUP

Mervyn Hull

Up hill and down dale, and despite interruption during Covid restrictions, during the last year the group have enjoyed a variety of walks and fellowship. John Arthurs set up and led the group in over one hundred different walks over the last 8 years and the group paid a fitting tribute to his leadership when he left for sunnier climes earlier this year. Willing members of the group are now taking turns in leading walks and a programme is in place for fortnightly walks, alternating between Wednesdays and Thursdays. Anyone interested in joining the group would be welcome – contact: Mervyn Hull or Charles Rowsell.

Sue: School Activities

Pastoral Care Group

Isabel Davey

The Pastoral team resumed meeting on January 26th and met again on 27th April this year we have 9 members not including Jane, Julie Lanham, Janice Tindale, June Donnelly, Sandra Hill, Julie Anderson, Sue Wymer, Isabel Davey, Michael Fieldhouse, Alison Gawith. As a team we spend some time at the start of our meeting sharing people we have been supporting, for some it will be fellowship members who have not returned to church since pandemic but are visited for a chat /coffee, and for those who are unwell/ in hospital or waiting for tests and results, some people will not be known to church members but are friends with someone on Pastoral Team. We share this support and offer a friendly ear and prayer if that is what is wanted. Alison Gawith has a

group of local people whom she invites for fellowship tea / cake which I believe is warmly received and now we have The Monthly Community lunch and communion we have more opportunity to show love and care in Action and the weekly food club like wise. Pastoral Care is everyone's responsibility and as a fellowship I think we do our best to do as Jesus taught to love one another as he loves us.

School Activities

Sue Wymer

Allithwaite - Monday morning services have continued as usual in church. Sometimes the whole school has been present. Sometimes just one key stage, due to decisions being made about mixing of pupil groups. Two teachers and one or two TAs have also been present but not the whole staff.

Harvest worship was conducted by two classes of children in church.

The Christmas nativity service took place in an icy cold church with parents present.

An Easter service was held in school.

Governors are now being allowed in school but it is not clear about other people. Whilst I have not been able to support in school but have spent many hours talking to teachers and governors by phone or in person off the school premises

Flookburgh - I have led Collective worship in Flookburgh school for all but a handful of sessions although I have not been able to support in classes. Gill Pett and I have been in constant contact over a variety of issues either in school, outside school or by phone or email. Christmas nativities were held in school with parents and governors present and the Easter service was held in school and livestreamed to parents.

Grange – I have been to lead worship and to stay in school for the whole morning this year. I have supported staff and children in every class in the school from nursery to Y6. Christmas and Easter services were held in church with parents and governors present. Philippa and I have discussions by email, phone or in school when she has time!

As usual I will be preparing videos for every day of Thy Kingdom Come for all three schools and for Lindale school. I have just received 540 small books specially prepared for the Jubilee using the TKC Cheeky Pandas theme to distribute to each school including Leven Valley and Cartmel primary which were free to any school who ordered them. There is one book for each child in each school.

Following the completion of my chaplaincy course, if circumstances permit, I hope to be doing more in schools from this term onwards. I have already talked with Gill Pett, head at Flookburgh and Philippa Summers, head at Grange school and outlined what I hope will be the start of more input into the schools over and above CW etc. It will focus more on individual faith development starting with their worship groups and developing further to any child who wants to meet with us. Both of these headteachers have been very much in favour of my plans and have suggested further input for me to work on. I am going to make a personal visit to Allithwaite school this week to try to arrange a time for Rev Jane and I to talk to Gill Elliott, the headteacher, about the way forward, hopefully outlining similar plans to those in the other two schools and gaining input and agreement where possible.

Community & Youth Leader

Helen Hoyle

Community work (Helen Hoyle)

Activities and Achievements of 2021/last 12 months –

- Community Soup Lunch (aided) started third Weds each month, involvement strategically, planning meetings and helping out at too.
- Food Share / Food Hub – joined team and involvement twice monthly.
- Relationship building / ecumenical outreach & mission – Methodist, URC, Catholic, Quaker, Churches Together in Grange District across the peninsula, community groups e.g. The Hub in Grange.
- Representation of St. Mary's at numerous community meetings and involvement with a variety of initiatives e.g. Christmas Nativity / Carol Singing, World Day of Prayer at URC in Grange, Christian Aid Quiz organization with ecumenical team, Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebration strategic committee member e.g. Sat 4th June 'BYO Big Picnic' on St. Charles Field, Grange.
- Talk / sermon slot at St. Paul's Church, Grange to enlighten others on this role.
- Involvement with Baby Group & support of (Tuesday mornings) at Methodist Church, Grange – relationship building.
- Involvement with Coffee Morning & support of (Wednesday mornings) at Methodist Church, Grange – relationship building.
- Licensed as an 'Authorised Lay Pioneer Minister' through Christian Mission Society and Northern Mission Centre and Carlisle Diocese.
- PCC meeting attendance (St. Mary's & St. John the Baptist).
- St. Mary's Residential Weekend January at Rydal Hall 'Youth Activity Lead' and Community relationship development.
- CPD – Emmanuel Theological College 'Pop Up Theology Course on The Holy Spirit' completed.
- Prayer meetings attendance.
- Food Hygiene Cert completed.
- New 'Spiritual Director' engagement.
- Crazy Golf Easter Holiday Event at St. Mary's in collaboration with Network Youth Church Leaders (Chris, Windermere Deanery, Andy, Barrow and Ruth, Ulverston)

Plans for the next year 2022, next 12 months –

- Continuation &/or development of some of the above points.
- Breakfast Café Club at St. Mary's (pilot) – aimed at young families after dropping off children at primary school first thing, development of team and resources – summer or autumn term TBC.
- First Aid Level 2 Certificate.
- Queen's Platinum Celebrations Saturday 4th June afternoon – continuation of being on the 'ecumenical' planning group and getting the afternoon ready & leading on etc...

Children's work (Helen Hoyle)

Activities and Achievements of 2021/last 12 months –

- Relationship building with peninsula C of E Primary Schools (x6) heads, staff, pupils & parents – most schools engaged and positive.
- Introduced (and continued to develop) 'Secret Agents After School Club' with 4 of the primary schools.
- Planned and delivered numerous 'Collective Worship' each half-term.
- Planned, co-ordinated and delivered 'RE / school vision' creative sessions with 3 of the primary schools.
- Relationship building with babies / toddlers and their mums / parents / carers at 'Baby Group' on a Tuesday morning at Methodist Church, Grange.
- Supported Christmas & Easter primary school worship and events...led stories & prayer.

Plans for the next year 2022, next 12 months –

- To persevere / continue to try to be welcomed into one primary school who continues to not reply to emails and updates and offers to support them...
- Year 6 Transition Event (10 & 11 year old) across peninsula primary schools – Morning of 21st June 2022 at St. Mary's (with Chris Mason & others).
- Breakfast Café Club at St. Mary's (pilot) – aimed at young families (toddlers / babies etc.) after dropping off older children at primary school first thing in the morning, development of team and resources – summer or autumn term TBC.
- Continuation of 'Secret Agents After School Club' across all 6 primary schools...and develop a team to support the delivery of this.
- Continuation of supporting and delivering 'creative' RE sessions e.g. The Big Frieze (Big Bible Story).

Youth work(Helen Hoyle with Chris Mason, Network Church Youth Leader)

Activities and Achievements of 2021/last 12 months –

- Helen & Chris started a fortnightly Friday eve youth group at St Mary's.
- Ignite continued to meet at Colin & Chrissie's house (when allowed).
- Youth outreach in Grange (Wednesday After School Drop In).
- Network Youth Church 'Crazy Golf' event during 2022 Easter Holidays.
- Contact made with Head and Deputy Head at Cartmel Priory School in early stage of Autumn Term 2021, meeting and due to Covid advised it would be Spring Term 2022 before we could consider supporting the school in a diverse number of ways etc...
- Yrs 7, 8 & 9 Collective Worship involvement at Cartmel Priory School.
- Whole School Collective Worship at Cartmel Priory School.
- Detached work.

Plans for the next year 2022, next 12 months –

- Continuation &/or development of some of the above points.
- Friday Eve Youth Group (increase numbers) and development of 'cross network youth church' activities & initiatives.
- Youth Outreach across the peninsula.
- Youth work qualification(s)
- Prayers Space Week (final week of June).
- Priory Day (27th September '22) engagement & development of (and of team), activities etc. leading on with Jenny Leahy with the idea to lead on in future years etc...
- Further development of relationship with staff and pupils at Cartmel Priory School e.g. lead 'Mission Group' in school, Collective Worship involvement.
- Continuation and diversification of the After School Drop In.

Examples of God's Blessings during the year –

- A warm welcome
- Listening ears and open minds
- Friendships
- Love
- Kindness
- Patience
- Opportunities to talk with and develop relationships with a diverse mix of people in our communities (to include children and young people / youth).
- Respect for difference & ecumenical working.