

# **ST MARY'S CHURCH ALLITHWAITE**

## **Agenda for the Annual Parochial Church Meeting to be held on**

**Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> April 2026 at 11:15am**

1. Opening Prayer
2. Members Present
3. Apologies for absence

### **Annual Vestry Meeting**

4. Approval of minutes of Annual Vestry Meeting held on 27th April 2025
5. Appointment of Churchwardens (2)

### **Annual Parish Church Meeting**

6. Approval of the minutes of the APCM meeting held on 27th April 2025
7. Reports:

The Annual Report, the Treasurer's Report and the audited accounts for the year 2025 had been prepared and made available to parishioners in advance of the meeting.

- i. Electoral Roll declaration
  - ii. Annual Report
  - iii. Treasurer's statement
  - iv. Adoption of Accounts
8. Elections      PCC members (3)
  9. Appointments
    - i. Sidespersons and Sacristans
    - ii. Appointment of External Examiner
  10. Any other business notified prior to the meeting
  11. Date of next PCC meeting – tba

# **ST MARY'S CHURCH ALLITHWAITE**

## **Minutes for the Annual Parochial Church Meeting held on**

**Sunday 27th April 2025 at 11.20**

1. Opening Prayer led by Rev Mark Houston
2. Members Present: 33
3. Apologies for absence: Liz Bloomer, Fiona Dowle, Kevin Dowle, Michael Fieldhouse, Janet Sherwin, Les Spring, Helen Whitely.

### **Annual Vestry Meeting**

4. Minutes of Annual Vestry Meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> April 2024 approved unanimously. Proposed S Bell; Seconded P.Rowsell.
5. Appointment of Churchwardens: John Lanham appointed unanimously. Proposed J Bell; Seconded A.Mason.

### **Annual Parish Church Meeting**

6. Minutes of the APCM of 27th April 2024 approved. Proposed: Julie Lanham Seconded: John Tindale
7. Reports: The Annual Reports, the Treasurer's Report and the audited accounts for the year 2024 had been prepared and made available to parishioners in advance of the meeting.
  - v. Electoral Roll declaration
  - vi. Annual Reports
  - vii. Treasurer's statement
  - viii. Accounts adopted unanimously. Proposed: Michael Jackson, Seconded: P Rowsell
8. Elections: Fiona Dowle, Kevin Dowle, Michael Jackson and Andrea Mason elected to the PCC unanimously. Michael Fieldhouse was thanked for his service to the PCC.
9. Appointments:
  - j. List of 9 Sidespersons and 4 Sacristans read out and approved.
  - ii. Appointment of Redhead Accountancy Ltd as External Examiner approved unanimously.
10. Any other business – The Vicar gave a vote of thanks for Michael Jackson who has been Church Warden for 6 years acting with considerable skill and dedication. His work during this difficult period has been essential to the wellbeing of the church and greatly appreciated by all.
11. The meeting ended with The Grace.

## 2025 Reports

### 1- Vicar

2025 was my first full year as the Team Vicar to both St John's & St Mary's. The main event in the early part of the year was the organization & execution of what I believe was quite a successful 'Weekend Away – at Home' which was held at Holker Hall. We were blessed by three wonderful speakers who shared their thoughts on aspects of how church can work together. I am grateful to all the people who helped make the weekend work. The planning committee of Carole, Janet, Julia & Georgina worked well to cover the bases, filling in any gaps I created! Thanks to John for handling the money, Michael for booking the Ceili band and Ruth, who as well as helping with the worship also ran a Choir workshop. Our guest speakers, Julia, Callum & Keith shared with conviction and made themselves available to us during the day. It is time to start planning our next weekend away for 2027. We were grateful to welcome Bishop Rob to speak and preside at our benefice service at St Mary's in March. He was officially appointed Bishop of Carlisle later in the spring. As a Lent study I offered the LICC 'Growing on your Frontline' which was offered and picked up by several people with sessions held in both churches and a Sunday evening Zoom. During the late Summer and Autumn, I offered a Bible study on the subject of the Sermon on the Mount. Sessions were held in both churches and both groups generated good and interesting discussion. Across both parishes I have a regular cycle of home and care home visits which I find wonderfully fulfilling. As well as taking collective worship in both parish primary schools I also began taking a regular CW with the Y8 & 9 pupils at Cartmel Priory School.

#### Reporting on life at St Marys: Regular Worship

We are able to host a service most Sundays, except when we share a joint benefice service with the congregation of St Johns, Flookburgh. The third Sunday is usually a Holy Communion and the aim of PCC is to have two Sunday communions each month. Our pattern of Sunday worship is as follows:

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday – 10am service

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday – we usually hold a service at 4pm. The style is informal and allows different styles of presentation. In July, after a short

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday – This is usually a service of Holy Communion.

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday – we either celebrate Holy Communion at 10am in St Johns or we are meeting to worship at St Mary's.

5<sup>th</sup> Sunday – when these occur, we have managed to hold a 10am service.

There has also been at least one service of BCP Holy Communion a month on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday morning. If my diary can accommodate, I have been able to add a 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday service

I am grateful to everyone who have presided, led, spoken at services. We are blessed with 2 'retired' priests, Rev Amiel & Rev Sue, 2 licensed Readers in Steve & Jenny who all participate in leading services. Janice & John bring their giftings to leading services. Kevin & Peter have also shared 'from the pulpit' in the last year. This breadth of talent is a gift to us. I pray we take the opportunity to learn from all of these wonderful folk. Our worship team, hospitality team, welcome team, prayer ministry team as well as the sides people, readers & intercessors and any who I may have missed (sorry!) help to make our worship experience run smoothly.

## PCC

Every church needs a PCC to enable that church to function. The number of PCC members is dictated by the number of people on the Electoral Roll. We have a robust PCC but, despite their brilliance we do have gaps and roles need filling. Jim stepped down as PCC Secretary at the last APCM to take on the responsibility of Parish Safeguarding Office, a task he took a great interest in. Michael J stepped away from being Church Warden. Sadly, no-one felt able to step up so John L has carried the role in a lone capacity, which isn't very fair on him. Thankfully he has support from Liz, and Michael has helped when required. John L, along with Steve have kindly taken PCC minutes and Jim has helped out in the background, acting as the link between PCC and diocese. John T handed over responsibility of Treasurer to Kevin and this has seemed to go smoothly. I offer the thanks of the parish to those mentioned but also to the others on PCC. There will always be a change to address with PCC and it is unfair to expect the same people to always step up. But, as you see, even though people step away from a role, they are still around and willing to help where needed. If anyone felt they could be part of this team I think you will find that you are rarely alone in the challenges you might face.

## School

Mark & John T are school governors at Allithwaite primary. Mark (along with occasional help from Andrea & Janice) leads Collective Worship (school assembly) each week. As mentioned, he also visits CPS most weeks to offer CW to the Y8 & Y9 pupils. If anyone had time to volunteer in school it would be a great help.

## Life Events

We had 0 **weddings** during 2025. Thankfully we already have one planned for 2026.

We had 6 **christenings** in church during 2025.

We had 1 **funeral** in church during 2025 plus 3 interments of ashes.

## **Mark Houston**

### **2- Warden**

The Spire project has been the main building-based activity for us this year and I am very grateful to Michael for continuing to lead this for us. The work should commence in May and Michael and I are working through practicalities – there will a scaffold tower at the back of church to enable the team to gain access to the internals' of the spire and we will need to some furniture in the Nave for the duration of the work. Planned competition is planned for mid-July. Additionally, I have been working with John T on bids for funding to fill the £65,000 gap we have. The other activity that has taken my time and attention was a risk audit inspection in October by our insurers – Ecclesiastical. Overall, the outcome was good but there are four areas where we need to take some action in the coming months – renewing the lighting conductor, fitting fire detection and alarms and undertaking an asbestos clean of the boiler area underneath the church.

I am indebted to so many of you who proactively help out and invariably tell me after they have seen a problem and sorted it ! Officially the building and contents may be my responsibility, but I could not manage it without all your help – many thanks. This year will be my sixth year and I will step back in April 2027 – so if anyone wants to know what's involved, or join me for the next 12 months for some "experiential, on the job training!" please get in touch.

## **John Lanham**

## 2.1 St Mary's Spire – APCM Update

After finding a sizeable chunk of masonry which had fallen from the spire in 2024, we have worked with Clach conservation engineers and Dearbhail Keating from John Coward Architects to develop a plan for full structural repairs to the spire both externally and internally.

In brief the works will:

- Replace the carved finial and top layers of stone in the spire which have been damaged by corroded metalwork
- Remove the corroded metal which holds together the stonework at the base of the spire and replace this with internal supporting metalwork.
- Repair the stonework which has been damaged by the corroded metalwork
- Repair the lead-lined timber sump within the spire which ensures that any water which enters the spire is discharged outside.
- Replace and re-point weather-damaged limestone further down the west wall of the church building.

A full faculty application was made to the Diocese in July 2025 and was approved without amendment.

Following a tender process, Highlife Rope Access were chosen to complete the project.

The project is expected to cost £100,500+VAT for the construction works, plus an estimated £10,000+VAT for project management by the architect and conservation engineers. We are in a fortunate position thanks to some generous bequests and careful stewardship of church finances over recent years, in total representing approximately 50% of the cost, that we can start the works in May 2026. A team lead by John Tindale have been working on grant applications to support the works, and groups who use the church are planning fundraising activity. It is anticipated that this should fund the remaining 50% of the project, although there is temporary support available through the Diocese or other funds should the need arise.

Eagle-eyed members of our community have noticed that preparatory works have already started, with the team from Highlife removing the fractured finial block so that a replica can be carved, as well as taking measurements from the stonework which requires repair further down the spire.

The works are expected to start on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> May and should last 8-10 weeks. Given the extensive use of lime-mortar in the project, it is essential that the works are completed early in the summer to allow time for it to cure before the worst of the winter weather. The area to the rear of church around the font will be inaccessible for the duration as scaffolding will be erected to allow access to the interior of the spire. Works on the exterior will require the west end of church to continue to be cordoned off.

If you would like to find out any more about the project please speak to Michael. All contributions towards the cost of the works, whether through personal giving, or organising fundraising activities, are very gratefully received. Please speak to John T or Kevin for further information.

Michael J

### 3- A review of our Current Account in 2025

#### Save our Spire!!!

#### Save our Spire!!!

A summary of the accounts is provided but details are available on request.

I would like to thank the exceptional generosity of church members and community to the various challenges we have had during the last decade. This is my final report, Kevin Dowle will be taking us into 2026 and beyond.

The high turnover of income and expenditure indicates how active we are as a church. Consequently, we must now register as a charity with our own charity number.

During Autumn of 2025 information became available about the dangerous condition our church spire was and is in. After much investigation a figure of £130,000 emerged as the amount needed to repair the spire. A small working team started to research what grants were available to help us to meet this cost.

On 31<sup>st</sup> December we had generated £65,400, thanks to the generosity of recent legacies and other support. We are trying to achieve the balance of £64,600 from grant organisations and further support from church members and local organisations.

**Activities now happen in the church six days a week.** Many church members and the community help in making the activities and events successful through their:

- **Generosity of spirit by praying.**                      **Generosity of time by helping.**
- **Generosity of financial giving which supports these events/activities.**

Our church constantly tries to:                      **Pray Give and Serve**

- **We want to see God's Kingdom grow: financial giving is part of this.**
- **God is the great giver.**
- **Jesus is Lord.**
- **The work of the church costs money.**

#### Summary of the Account 2025

Income	104,887.39	Expenditure	104,174.83
		BALANCE	000,712.56
Internal transfers	24,507.45	Internal transfers	00,00
Giving	73,927.61	Running expenses	31,222.53
Community	05,802.33	The Ministry	60,982.01
Other Income	00,650.00	Tithe Giving-2 years	09,300.00
		Other Giving	02,670.29

**John Tindale Treasurer 2025**

Kevin Dowle took on the role of assistant treasurer in August 2025 and will formally become treasurer in 2026. 2026 will be a challenging year financially because of the need to repair the spire. Applications for grants and a loan from the diocese have been made with a 10-year budget prepared to show how a loan can be re-paid. It is likely there will be additional fees related to this work, which have already been seen, for example architects' fees which are in addition to the main cost of the repairs. At the beginning of 2026, although giving has held up, there have been some unforeseen expenses for an asbestos survey and for fixing headstones in the graveyard meaning we are already slightly over the plan for the first quarter.

## **Kevin Dowle 2026**

### **4 - Electoral Roll**

#### **Janice Tindale Electoral Roll Officer**

There are still 69 names on the St Mary's Electoral Roll as there has been no movement this year.

We also have 3 retired clergy worshipping with us (they are not counted on the electoral roll)

#### **Janice Tindale**

### **5 - Safeguarding**

Jim Bloomer, our current PSO has stepped back from the role. PCC have been provided with updates and feedback at each meeting and no issues were reported during the year. A replacement PSO is being sought.

#### **John Lanham**

### **6- Tuesday Evening Prayer Meeting**

The Tuesday evening prayer meeting is seen by those who attend as a vital function of a healthy and vibrant church community. We believe prayer underpins all that the church seeks to do and be. We meet at 7.30 for an hour.

The meeting has been running for over a year, and no two meetings are the same. The combination of participants varies. We try and start the meeting with a time of worship which is often led by Alan Hill who gently leads us into God's presence. In Alan's absence we sometimes find a worship song online or prompted by The Holy Spirit some will suggest songs which are meaningful for the moment.

In the early days we would bring to the prayer meeting items on our hearts, and the prayers could be diverse and wide ranging from praying for God's provision for the local church, praying for the local community, current items in the news, for national revival, for mission partners etc. We started a book to record our prayers to be encouraged when we see God's answers and to see if particular themes and directions are developing.

More recently, with there being so much in need of prayer, and not knowing what to pray or how, we now always make a point of welcoming The Lord Jesus at the start of the meeting, through the Holy Spirit and asking Him to reveal His heart and His agenda for the meeting and for the church. Sometimes this leads us into periods of silence, which we are becoming more at ease with. Sometimes someone will be prompted to share a scripture, or a picture or insight which sometimes leads to a discussion and direction for our prayers. Sometimes His Spirit leads us into heartfelt prayer for a particular issue or situation. We sense that the Lord is delighted to meet with His children and longs to lead us deeper and further on our journey of faith and trust in Him, not just those who attend the prayer meeting but the whole church family.

We more often than not meet in the vestry. I see that as the church family's equivalent of Jesus teaching on prayer - " When you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you." Matt 6 v 6

That being said, all are welcome. There is no monopoly on prayer!

**Andrew Sherwin**

## **7- St Mary's Primary School**

The Governors meet four times each academic year. The school budget continues to be a difficult balance between income and expenditure.

Building repairs are supposed to be happening but we await news about this.

The education authority does not appear to be aware of the massive new housing developments in the area as no preparation appears to be happening!

It is very difficult for the church to become involved in the Christian life of the school, lunch time club happened only six times.

A number of issues need to be clarified in order to move forward.

- Using the remaining allocated fund for the purchase of appropriate Christian books. Still waiting for the staff to confirm which Christian books/materials they require.
- The use of funds from the School House Charity, the purpose of which needs clarifying.
- The future use of the Mary Lambert Hall, tables and chairs due to school concerns
- Better school access for Christian activities

**John Tindale, Foundation Governor**

## **8 - Mary Lambert Educational Trust / Coals and Clothing Trust**

**MLET** - The trustees met in January 2026 to discuss the available grants and applications for the year 2025. There were six applications and a grant of £200 was awarded to Thomas Jackson, Beccy McCleery, Jamie Airey, Will Douglas, Olivia Mallinson and Robert Wattam. This was a slightly lower grant due to the decrease in income from investments.

The fund used for the Yr6 Bibles for Allithwaite primary school when they leave was not used this year as there was an alternative donation.

**C&CT**- We have struggled over the years to use the Coals and Clothing Trust and so it was decided to close this account, sell the shares to purchase new shares in the MLET and transfer the remaining money into the MLET fund to be used towards grants both this year and in the future.

**Jean Bell**

## **9 – Social Events**

Social activities in 2025 were well supported by lots of St Mary's people which was greatly appreciated and the only practical way of making the events work.

A Fun Day took place on 28th June 2025, with a bouncy castle – which had to be located in the Mary Lambert Hall due to high winds! We still managed to have a BBQ outside , "mini Olympics", crafts, tea and cake were in the church building. Steve B did a kids talk based on "The Pearl of Great Price" – a good

number of local families attended some who enjoyed the previous year event, and some from the Tots group.

On 4<sup>th</sup> October we enjoyed an evening of good food and fun for a Curry and Quiz night, supporting the Julius and Dora Children's Centre , Kenya. We were delighted that over £700 was raised to support the charity.

We had a pause and did not have the Create for Christmas craft event. This needs further thought for 2026. Please speak to Fiona if you are able to help with developing this evening.

There was an intentional link to services on the day following the fun day and the curry night (harvest) in 2025 that gave us an opportunity to invite guests who don't normally meet with us.

St Mary' also helped support the 2025 Allithwaite Easter event by offering a welcome into the building, refreshments and games for those families taking part. There was positive feedback from the event organisers with thanks for the support we gave.

For 2026. There is a plan to support the Easter Egg Hunt arranged by the Allithwaite Playground group on 5<sup>th</sup> April. There is the annual fun day on June 13<sup>th</sup> and curry and quiz night planned for late September/early October – date to be confirmed. Many thanks.

I have developed a simple "guide for running a fun day" so that the event can be picked up more easily by someone else in the future.

**Fiona Dowle**

## **10 - Youth and Community Work**

*REFRESH - ST MARY'S TOTS* - After two years leading Tots and seeing the little ones becoming more independent and starting school, we decided to transform our tots' group into Refresh.

Refresh "is a fun and effective way to build fruitful relationships with parents and carers" in our community. It is the opportunity to refresh the parents and carers physically by providing a hot drink and a sweet treat, emotionally by listening and helping them to form relationships with other parents and spiritually by providing a thought for the day where se share something of God in a gentle, relevant and accessible way. All this in a welcoming play space for children.

We have had 8 to 9 sessions, and the parents receive a laminated card with a Bible verse in it, that correspond to the talk they heard. I have been encouraged in listening to their response and how those verses were reread at times at home.

The majority of parents attending are bringing very small babies, and for this reason I decided to change the format, so instead of having Bible stories for the children we do a thought for the day – testimony for the parents and they can hear something of the hope and love of God. The children will have a play, a craft and songs but the aim is to refresh the parents.

We have noted a difference in our conversations and seen people filling up when I have mentioned that we are praying for them. We keep having new parents walking through the doors and our prayer is that when they leave the building they leave with hope and eventually will find themselves on a deeper relationship with Jesus.

*VOCAL JOY* - Vocal Joy has grown into a beautiful community choir, where people from the community experience fellowship, friendship, fun and growth in their singing and confidence and lately some have experienced spiritual growth by praying for the first time.

The choir atmosphere continues to be welcoming and loving, reflecting the leadership of Andrea, Julia and Ruth. There is a strong sense of belonging and trust. Members are encouraged to take other roles like welcoming (preparing refreshments), librarian, secretary and treasurer as well as singing solo for the first time.

We have organized 2 concerts, raising funds for charities close to the hearts of the members (Dementia and Guide dogs) and we are planning the next concert (June) to raise funds for the spire. We have been invited to sing at the Westmorland hospital in Kendal at one of the wings in May.

*ELEVENSES* - Eleveses continues to bring in many people of the community, by providing a lovely space where people experience companionship, gentle spiritual input "Thought of the Day" and blossoming friendships as well as delicious scones and a hot drink.

This has become a lifeline for some people and is very appreciated by those who attend it.

Over the past year there has been personal stories in how God was present in moments of fear, doubt and sickness, how a specific Scripture has given hope, music, and other situations where God did something extraordinary in the ordinary life as well as moments to reflect on all the good things we have.

Every meeting there is something to take away and I am so grateful to Helen Whitely for helping me to host it, to all who brought something to share on the thought for the day and for those who help preparing and serving refreshments, chauffeuring and just being friendly.

*LOVE TO MOVE* - This is a British Foundation initiative to help elderly people to keep moving and be independent (physically and cognitively). Helen and I are fully trained deliverers of the program by gaining our qualification last year. We welcome up to 10 people from the community on the first and third Tuesday of the month from 10.30 am until midday. Kathy Houghton has been attending it, and soon she will also be a qualified deliverer.

Love to move is an activity which the church is blessing the community by providing something that has a physical and emotional impact in the lives of those who attend it. People are very appreciative of it, especially those who are on their own, as it helps them to keep moving, talking and being with others even if it is twice a month.

Looking at all these activities, I can say with all my heart that it has been a privilege and honour to serve the church and the community. I have learnt a great deal with those around me, I have met very interesting people, I have prayed for many and have seen changes in their lives. My heart's desire is to see them one day worshipping the God of truth who cares deeply for each one of them. A God who has plans bigger and better than our plans...plans to give them hope and a future.

**Andrea Mason**

## **10.1 Youth Ministry - Activities and Achievements of 2025**

*Soul Fuel – URC Church Hall, Grange Over Sands.* - Soul Fuel has grown, whilst we lost some members who decided that faith wasn't for them, we gained a lot of younger year 6& 7s and get double figures every week, with most of the young people from non-Christian backgrounds. We continue to use the Bear Grylls devotional 'Soul Fuel' as a tool to discuss living life with Jesus. We have 5 female volunteers who do a great job preparing food and generally helping out on a Monday night. We could do with some male volunteers.

*Dreaming The Impossible Summer 2025* - Andrea & Chris joined up with a wider Network Youth Church team and took 6 young people from Soul Fuel to this summer camp. All had a fun time, taking part in lots of fun activities, meeting new people and attending the lively engaging worship and ministry twice a day.

*Schools* - Prayer Space took place at Cartmel Priory School in the summer term 2025, this was an opportunity for young people from across the school to engage in creative prayer. Andrea and Chris continued to take year 7 assemblies on a Monday morning, and the lunch club still takes place on a Thursday lunchtime. This is a space for young people to come and chill out, play games, eat their lunch and chat.

Andrea continues to engage with primary schools, by taking assemblies offering Jesus & Me Clubs and getting involved in ad hoc things.

Andrea joins in with the work of 'The Be Me Project' at Cartmel Priory School. Each Wednesday she supports Hannah (Be Me) to help young people discover that they have identity, truth & purpose.

Chris partners with the NISCU in the Lakes School in running a Friday lunch club, where young people are invited to ask questions, play games, chat and eat their lunch. Chris also offers a listening service on a one-to-one basis to young people who need a chat.

### **Plans for the next year 2026, next 12 months –**

We plan to continue the above and have 8 young people signed up to go to Dreaming The Impossible this year.

We are very appreciative for the volunteers, who are integral for the groups we have. In 2026 it would be great to recruit a couple of male volunteers that can help at Soul Fuel. Having a cohort of boys means that we need male role models.

On Saturday September 26<sup>th</sup> in the afternoon, Network Youth Church needs help running a Cumbrian wide event in Keswick called 'The Big One. If you would like to offer yourself, please do get in touch with Chris.

### **We are thankful for:**

It has been a joy to see some of the young people find community in Soul Fuel. and We pray for 2026 that we will find ways to draw closer to God and for the young people to experience the life-giving hope of having a relationship with Jesus. We are thankful that a real difference is being made in the lives of a group of mainly unchurched young people.

**Chris Mason**

## **11 – Community Lunch**

Lunches take place on the third Wednesday of the month and the lunch this March was the 45th since starting in October 2021. We serve up around 30+ light meals each time, soups and jacket potatoes in the cooler weather and sandwiches in the summer, followed by homemade cakes and a hot drink. There's no charge and any donations are voluntary but each month sees a small surplus of donations after deducting costs and we've sent money this past year to St Mary's Hospice and CancerCare, also this March to the church Spire Appeal. All this is only possible because of the dedication of the volunteer team who organise, prepare and serve the food each time. A huge thank you is due to them. Those

attending are a mix of anyone who's attended the 11am Communion, along with a growing number from the community, including some regulars who also now give us much appreciated help with kitchen duties and serving up. With four full tables of people eating and chatting, each lunch is an enjoyable and hospitable occasion.

**Liz Bloomer**

## **12- Pastoral Care Group**

St Mary's Pastoral Care Team meet every three months to pray, read God's word and update our activities in relation to the well being of all in and around our parish.

We have nine members :- Julie Lanham, Janice Tindale, Julie Anderson, Alison Gawith, Andrea Mason, June Donnelly, Sandra Hill, Mark Houston and myself. You may speak to any one of us regarding pastoral concerns and we shall listen and do our best to help.

We are regularly contacting folks in connection with life's happenings, to share in their joy or grief, using our faith to support them in community life. Examples are around bereavement, baptism, weddings, illness, funerals, welcoming new people to our neighbourhood etc. Any opportunity to remember and / or speak to our friends and neighbours about the love of God.

We are updating our visiting card so that it can be versatile and allow us space to write our own personal message. This can sometimes be the best way of showing our care. If you have any thoughts that you would like to bring to our attention, we shall be pleased to hear from you.

**Michael Fieldhouse**

## **13- Allithwaite Community Food Hub 2024.**

The aim of Allithwaite Community Food Hub, which operates from St Mary's Church is to help people save money, prevent food from being wasted and save 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. This is the job of FareShare, the UK's biggest food redistribution charity, and the branch in Preston is our local contact.

We have:

- 36 food club members (some smaller families collect fortnightly), representing 100 people in local households that are enjoying this food each week
- saved on average 122kg food each week from ending up in landfill
- have 11 volunteers with 5 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 Swiss roll to soup, porridge to potatoes, bananas to bread, from chocolate to carrots, spinach to spaghetti hoops and so many types of teabags – chocolate and spearmint, wild berry and lemongrass, Yorkshire, Peace tea etc. It certainly makes cooking each week more interesting and varied!

The overall quantity of food reduced during 2024 but we, along with other food clubs in the area, were awarded another grant in 2025 from Cumberland building society to support our project. So, in addition to the FareShare food, each week we order in some extra fresh fruit and veg from Interfresh, who deliver directly to the church on a Monday morning to supplement our food boxes.

We are a not-for-profit group so any profit that we do make has been used to support our local community in the community lunch, fare share itself and our local food bank as well as communities abroad such as schools with boarders/orphans in Kenya, the Julius and Dora trust (<https://www.janddchildrenscentre.org>).

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

**Jean Bell**

## **14- Deanery Synod**

The Deanery Synod met 3 times during the year and recently the Synod business seems to be completed quickly. Usually the giving across the Deanery is discussed together with data indicating where each parish is with their giving, but the departure of Rev James and the November visit by Bishop Rob curtailed the business side of the meetings.

Each mission group is invited to comment on matters of interest from their parishes, again there seemed little to report. Chris Mason gives a report on his work as Network Youth leader.

We had 3 speakers over the 3 meetings:

A Christian headmaster who outlined the difficulties of working as a Christian particularly in a small primary school.

Bishop Rob who spoke about his new appointment and his intention to maintain

A diocesan visitor to present information about the Eco churches scheme which churches can sign up to. Information on the Diocesan website.

**Janice & John Tindale Deanery Synod Reps.**

## **15 – Mission and Out-Reach Ctte**

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

As a church we seek to give generously from our income to support the work of others. For 2025 the total giving to our mission partners was £5120.

Funding was split between: Church Mission Society (CMS), Churches Together Youth Trust (CTYT), and Julius and Dora Children's Centre.

We have continued to support our partners through CMS:

- Andy and Kati Walsh working in Brazil – particularly prison ministry.
- Our lawyer/advocate partner working with the persecuted church in the Middle East and North Africa.

Information is on the notice boards in church or please speak to one of us if you would like more details.

CTYT are our partners in the Community and Youth Leader project through Andrea Mason, and support the work that Chris and Andrea do with young people in the whole of the Cartmel Peninsula. For further information please speak to Andrea, Chris, or Mervyn. For information about giving to support the work of CTYT please speak to Charles.

Julius and Dora Children's Centre provides a loving home to abandoned children in Kenya. As a trustee for the Centre, Amiel would be happy to answer any questions about the work.

Events throughout the year have also supported other charities, both local and national.

**Michael Jackson**

## **16 – Men's Walking Group**

There are now 21 on the circulation list for our Men's Walking Group, some are regular walkers, others more occasional. There have been walks on Thursdays every two weeks throughout the year and a programme is in place for the remainder of 2026. With different leaders for each walk, a good variety is maintained exploring both well known and less well known areas of southern Lakeland and its surrounds. Similarly, some walks are fairly easy, flat walks, others are more demanding.

Walks are a great opportunity for fellowship for St.Mary's members and friends and all are welcome (contact Charles Rowsell or Mervyn Hull).

**Mervyn Hull**

## **17 - Church Garden Team – report**

May I take this opportunity to thank all 13 members of the Garden team for their enthusiasm, hard work, willingness and versatility over the past 12 months. We have met on 6 occasions in the last year – on a Saturday morning. Saturdays are the best day during term time when there are no cars parked to hinder our progress. There are always a wide range of tasks to suit each member's particular interests and skill set. Leaf sweeping, pruning, weeding, trimming, emptying compost bins, spreading compost. One session was devoted to tidying in the old graveyard as part of the overall upkeep and improvement. One key aspect of the gardening session is the fellowship enjoyed around coffee and the now essential chocolate biscuits.

We are very grateful to the guides who voted to have a gardening evening last May around the church gardens. Armed with leaf blowers and secateurs, rakes and trowels they did some very useful work. It was great to enjoy the buzz of enthusiasm and activity. Thanks girls. Thank you also to those who come in between times to weed, prune and tidy – it has been noticed. Thanks also to the stalwart band of mowers, under Kevin Dowle's supervision, who keep the lawns around the church in good trim.

If you would like to help with the care of the grounds and gardens around the church building and would like to be added to the contact list, then please get in touch with **Andrew Sherwin**.

**Andrew Sherwin**

# **St Mary's Parish Church**

## **Allithwaite**

### **Accounts for 2025**

#### **Pages**

1&2 Receipts and payments Current Account 00740192

3 Receipts and payments Account Food Hub 16487668

4 Movement on CBF Accounts

5 Independent examiner's report

**St Mary's Allithwaite Accounts Year Ending 31st December 2025**

2024.00		2025.00
£132,023.14	<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>£104,887.39</b>
£130,943.58	<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>£104,174.83</b>
£1,079.56	<b>BALANCE</b>	<b>£712.56</b>
£1,079.56	<b>SURPLUS (-DEFICIT)</b>	<b>£712.56</b>

2024	INCOME	2025	
£15,590.77	<b>INTERNAL TRANSFERS</b>	<b>£ 24,507.45</b>	
£1,271.65	Carried Over	£1,079.56	
£191.98	Miscellaneous	£0.00	
£7,082.14	CBF Deposit	£19,671.29	
£3,120.00	CBF Fabric	£1,413.60	
£1,925.00	ML Educational Fund	£2,343.00	
£1,000.00	CBF Churchyard	£0.00	
£1,000.00	CBF Organ & Music	£0.00	
£69,366.43	<b>GIVING</b>	<b>£73,927.61</b>	
£1,215.00	Gift Aid Occasional	£610.00	
£1,798.14	Service collection- cash	£1,089.33	
£875.55	Service donations	£593.70	
£0.00	Service collection- funerals	£160.00	
£49,407.70	Standing Orders	£50,370.00	
£2,300.24	Sum Up income	£1,695.98	
£0.00	Use of building- fee	£300.00	
£2,996.57	Church donations	£4,009.23	
£10,773.23	Gift Aid recovered	£14,225.64	
£3.00	Community Events	£873.73	
£8,275.18	<b>COMMUNITY</b>	<b>£5,802.33</b>	<b>£5,802.33</b>
£2,127.00	Fees	£1,011.00	
£1,721.69	CYL Shared expenses	£1,004.98	
£0.00	Church donations	£954.71	
£1,739.00	Grants	£0.00	
£1,145.82	Community Lunch	£0.00	
£350.00	ML Educational Fund Cash	£0.00	
£0.00	Holker Hall Day	£2,730.00	
£0.00	CYL Shared salary	£101.64	
£38,790.76	<b>OTHER INCOME</b>	<b>£650.00</b>	<b>£650.00</b>
£619.66	Office rent Youth worker	£540.00	
£1,339.15	Miscellaneous	£110.00	
£36,831.95	Legacy & Gift income	£0.00	
£132,023.14	<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>£104,887.39</b>	

2024		EXPENSES		
	<b>£37,021.54</b>	<b>INTERNAL TRANSFERS</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>£0.00</b>
37021.54		CBF Deposit	0.00	
				£0.00
	<b>£38,584.84</b>	<b>CHURCH RUNNING EXPENSES</b>	<b>£31,222.53</b>	<b>£31,222.53</b>
15501.60		Heating, Lighting & Water	7573.26	
1604.27		Administration	492.65	
265.30		Community Lunch	0.00	
1205.34		Fees: Funerals Monuments	466.00	
2444.26		Insurance	2502.91	
5152.84		Maintenance building	1907.60	
2450.00		ML Education	3300.00	
71.53		Service materials	28.41	
1427.77		Community events	1676.45	
320.64		Other giving	0.00	
2302.03		Churchyd Grounds	2699.00	
476.60		Printing	39.76	
785.15		Church b provisions	171.51	
2614.35		NW grant C&Y	1769.62	
112.13		CP Printing	0.00	
120.00		NW grant Art	0.00	
464.00		Miscellaneous	2130.20	
739.40		CBF Organ & Music	345.40	
0.00		CBF Churchyard	168.42	
0.00		Holker Day event	2219.12	
	<b>£51,484.50</b>	<b>THE MINISTRY</b>	<b>£60,982.01</b>	<b>£60,982.01</b>
2139.28		C&Yshared exp.	1422.82	
32436.00		Parish share	41004.00	
15391.92		C&Y Shared Salary	17111.52	
1517.30		Ministers expenses	1377.30	
0.00		C&Y Shared expenses	66.37	
<b>2 YEARS</b>	<b>£0.00</b>	<b>GIVING- TITHE- 2024</b>	<b>£4,500.00</b>	<b>£4,500.00</b>
0.00		CTYT	1500.00	
0.00		CMS	1500.00	
0.00		CMS Brazil	1500.00	
		<b>GIVING- TITHE-2025</b>	<b>4800.00</b>	<b>£4,800.00</b>
0.00		CTYT	1600.00	
0.00		CMS Brazil	1700.00	
0.00		CMS	1500.00	
	<b>£3,852.70</b>	<b>OTHER GIVING- VARIOUS</b>	<b>2670.29</b>	<b>£2,670.29</b>
400.00		Barrow Salvation Army	0.00	

0.00	Community events	1525.99
0.00	Miscellaneous	124.30
200.00	Leprosy Mission	0.00
259.90	Dignity in Dementia	0.00
300.00	Bay Palliative Care Team	0.00
81.20	Barrow Food Bank	0.00
817.00	Tearfund	0.00
62.35	Animal Rescue Cumbria	0.00
571.00	Other Giving	1020.00

£130,943.58	<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	0.00	<b>£104,174.83</b>
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**Income & Expenditure Account for the year ending 31st December 2025**  
**Account 16487668 : Community Food Hub**

2024			2025
£8,072.72	TOTAL	INCOME	£5,774.39
£6,219.82	TOTAL	EXPENSES	£4,620.48
<u>£1,852.90</u>	SURPLUS	(DEFICIT)	<u>£1,153.91</u>

	Income	Payments	Balance	Inv. Ref.
Balance cf	1852.9			
JANUARY	226.02	8.79	2070.13	H1
FEBRUARY	597.94	522.50	2145.57	H2,H3
MARCH	314.03	315.54	2144.06	H4
APRIL	711.1	534.10	2321.06	H5,
MAY	98	326.10	2092.96	H6
JUNE	242	341.35	1993.61	H7
JULY	258	416.31	1835.3	H8
AUGUST	556.7	458.57	1933.43	H9,H10.
SEPTEMBER	302	0.00	2235.43	
OCTOBER	216	776.07	1675.36	H11, H12
NOVEMBER	223.7	391.82	1507.24	H13,H14,
DECEMBER	176	529.33	1153.91	H15,H16 H17,H18.
<b>Total</b>	<b>£5,774.39</b>	<b>£4,620.48</b>	<b>£1,153.91</b>	

**The CBF Church of England Deposit Fund**  
**Income & Expenditure for the year ending 31st December 2025**

**Movement on CBF Funds**

	<b>Deposit</b>	<b>Fabric</b>	<b>Chyard</b>	<b>Organ</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b><u>Valuation</u></b>					
At 1st January 2025	£127,211.57	£11,606.52	£755.38	£4,811.00	£144,384.47
<b><u>Movements</u></b>					
Deposits	0.00	0	0	0	
Redemptions	19,671.29	1,413.60	0	0	
	107,540.28	10,192.92	755.38	4811	£123,299.58
<b><u>Reinvestment</u></b>					
Interest	4,400.00	490.75	40.44	55.47	
Investment A/C income	3,959.25	1,500.00	715.13	4701	
Net	£114,485.93	£13,597.27	£1,510.95	£9,567.47	£139,161.62
<b>AT 31st December 2025</b>	<b>£114,485.93</b>	<b>£13,597.27</b>	<b>£1,510.95</b>	<b>£9,567.47</b>	<b>£139,161.62</b>

**Deposit Account as at 31st December 2025**

R	Restricted		
UR	Unrestricted		
D	Designated		
<b><u>Legacy Accounts</u></b>			
1. Institute	R	£10,394.00	
2. Sue Wymer	D	£15,000.00	
3. Alan Jones Graveyard	R	£2,000.00	
			£27,394.00
<b><u>Other Accounts</u></b>			
The Spire project	R	£65,400.00	
Audio equipment fund	R	£2,000.00	
C & Y Leader salary support fund	R	£5,000.00	
Contingency Fund	UR	£1,423.63	
General	UR	£1,748.23	
Heating Fund Equipment	R	£3,876.00	
Mary Lambert Education	R	£0.00	
Strategic Mission Fund	R	£5,489.36	
Churchyard maintenance	UR	£2,154.71	£87,091.93
		£87,091.93	
<b>At 31st December 2025</b>			<b>£114,485.93</b>

## **Independent Examiner's report to the Members of St Mary's Parish Church, Allithwaite**

We report on the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2025, which are set out on pages 1 to 5.

### **Respective responsibilities of trustee and examiner**

The members of the PCC are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. They consider that an audit is not required under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is our responsibility to:

- Examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- To follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act, and
- To state whether particular matters have come to our attention.

### **Basis of independent examiner's statement**

Our examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the members of the PCC concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the next statement.

### **Independent examiner's statement**

In connection with our examination, no matter has come to our attention:

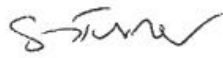
(1) Which gives us reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act.

have not been met; or

(2) to which, in our opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

**Redhead Accountancy Ltd**  
Chartered Accountants  
Bank House, Griffin Street  
Broughton-in-Furness  
Cumbria  
LA20 6HH

SHARON TURNER  
FCA  
  
7 April 2026