

THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST MARY'S ALLITHWAITE

Minutes of PCC Meeting Monday 17th November 2025 at 7.30pm, Mary Lambert Hall

Present: Rev Mark Houghton, Chair (MH), Jim Bloomer (JB), Elaine Baldry (EB), Alan Hill (AH), Kevin Dowle (KD), Fiona Dowle (FD), Steve Bell (SB), Les Spring (LS), Helen Whitely (HW) Julie Lanham JuL, John Lanham (JoL), Michael Jackson(MJ)

Opening Prayer: Led by MH.

Apologies: John Tindale(JoT), Janice Tindale, Andrea Mason

1. Approval of Minutes of PCC Meeting 15th September 2025

- Approved, subject to minor correction to absence lists.

2. Matters Arising (not elsewhere on agenda)

- None.

3. Safeguarding – JB

- No incidents to report since last meeting.
- JB has completed 6 training units required as PSO
- DBS checks: It was agreed that DBS checks are not automatically required when a member of St Mary's is elected to PCC. JB confirmed that if a member of the PCC is involved in activities directly working with children / vulnerable adults a DBS check would be required as defined in parish/diocese Safeguarding policies.
- **Action:** JB open to offers of PCC member to assist with DBS admin/coordination (**JB**).

4. Finance – KD

- KD presented October summary; figures in line with projected budgets.
- Provisional budget to be circulated ahead of next financial year.(**JT/KD**)
- KD will be switching to treasurer@stmarys... email address (**KD**).

5. Reports

Community and Youth Leader – AM

- AM had provided brief summary of current activities, see Annex 1, but was unable to attend PCC.
- MJ confirmed successes of AM's current activities and AM's annual review. MJ will work with CTYL Mgt. team and AM on Strategic priorities for next 24–36 months. Update from MJ at Jan 2026 PCC. (**MJ**)
- New mentor required as previous mentor has moved away. Potential mentor has been approached.

Incumbent – MH

- Diocese “Wonder Project” engaging pupils in spirituality/faith; CPS workshop day produced book of poems which has been published.
- SIAMS inspection for Allithwaite Primary was undertaken before half-term. Provisional report submitted to Governors, full details once report is published.

- Bishop visited Deanery (Flookburgh for Morning Prayer, Windermere for Synod); enthronement Sat 29/11.

Warden – JoL

- Insurance visitation undertaken in October – awaiting feedback / report.
- QQ Review. MJ offered to contact Dearbhail Keating @ John Coward Arch. To enquire of cost to undertake QQ review. Due spring 2026. **(MJ)**.

Spire Update – MJ

- Two quotes received by architects –
 - High Life Rope Access - £100,500
 - Walker Conservation - £237.423
- Agreed HLRA was preferred tender. Queries raised: VAT liability, timeline of quote – MJ agreed to clarify. **(MJ)**
- AH queried possibility of removing tower – MJ to enquire with Diocese. **(MJ)**
- JoT provided financial summary of current reserves which identified a further ~£50K needs to be raised to meet ~ £100K budget. (If VAT levied total additional required could be £70K)
- Agreed to JoT offer to form sub-committee to investigate funding/grants/fundraising. KD/JoL agreed to assist. **(JT to coordinate)**.

6. Storage Project – EB

- EB summarised background to screen/box proposal and proposed a fifth possible configuration. Option 3 selected as initial configuration after review and discussion at back of church. Configuration would be reviewed if experience confirms additional space/configuration is required.
- **Action:** AB/AH to proceed with Option 3 **(AB/AH)**.

7. Julie-Ann Scott Painting – JT

- Agreed in principle – JoT/JoL to liaise to arrange suitable mount and proposed position in Nave. **(JoT/JoL)**
- Insurance : does painting need to be declared as a specific item with insurers ? JL to follow up with JoT wrt policy details. **(JoT/JoL)**

8. 2026 Outreach and Community Events – FD

- Proposed schedule discussed:
 - 7 Feb (tbc): Ceilidh + pie/pea supper. **Actions:** MJ to confirm band available; JuL to get cost from Fish/Chips **(MJ/JuL)**
 - 5 Apr: Easter Sunday – support community egg event. **Action:** JuL to confirm with Angie Wood **(JuL)**.
 - 13 Jun: Fun Day – Agreed revised timing 1.00 –4.00pm.
 - 26 Sep / 3 Oct: Curry/Quiz.
 - 31 Oct: Light Party – future discussion required.
 - Dec: Seek volunteer for “Create for Christmas” event – future discussion required.
- General discussion around linked services (e.g. café style service, Harvest impact).

9. AOB

9.1 Mission Giving Distribution

- Proposal for allocation approved:
 - CTYT £1600
 - CMS £1700 (Andy/Kati) and £1500 (Advocacy Support)
 - Julius & Dora £320 (+£770 raised at curry night)
- Mission Committee will review recipients for 2026 at its next meeting.

9.2 Agreed JoT suggestion to purchase additional copies of *The Greatest Story Ever Told* (JoT).

Closing

Meeting closed with the Grace at 9.30pm.

Annex 1 – AM Summary

Dear all,

I am writing to apologise for my absence tonight. Tonight after Soul Fuel session, I am meeting with all our Soul Fuel volunteers to review and plan the future sessions as well as thanking them for the support. I want to thank you and the church for your support and would like to share with you a new venture.

Some of you may remember that I was volunteering with the Be Me project in Dowdales School. Be Me project is School and community courses supporting mental wellbeing and improving confidence, self-esteem and positivity. Be Me Project exists to give young people a better start in life, to help young people to find the truth, identity and purpose.

I am very excited to tell you that last week the Be Me course started at Cartmel priory School and I am part of the team. It is a great opportunity to build relationships with the older children and continue this journey with them as well as sharing truth with them.

I would love if you could pray for this and for the disciple course we are planning on running with some of the Soul fuel children.

The tots group has changed dramatically and we have a new flow of babies and a reduced number of toddlers. I am planning on adding a 2 minutes thought for the day for the parents from January. Please pray for that too!

I am on a lookout for new people to do a 5 minutes Thought for the day for the Elevenses and if you have a story to share, a poem to read, a song to sing, a piece of art to share please let me know. Last week Merv shared about the Allithwaite boys and it was moving and beautiful. We also shared the sacrifice Jesus did for us. Elevenses is quite informal and people from the community love attending, here is an open door to share with the community the goodness of God, his mercy and grace. Would you like to be part of this beautiful journey?

I hope you have a blessed meeting!
Andrea