

THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST MARY'S ALLITHWAITE

Minutes of PCC Meeting Monday 15th September 2025 at 7.30pm, Mary Lambert Hall

Present: Rev Mark Houghton, Chair (MH), Jim Bloomer (JB), Elaine Baldry (EB), Janet Tindale (JT), John Tindale (JoT), Alan Hill (AH), Andrea Mason (AM), Kevin Dowle (KD), Fiona Dowle (FD), Steve Bell (SB)

1. **Opening Prayer** led by MH
2. **Apologies** – JL, JDL, HW, MJ, LS, JoL, JuL
3. **Approval of Minutes** of PCC meetings held on 9th June 2025
4. **Matters Arising**
 - a. Meeting schedule – Proposed dates for PCC through to July 2026 – November – Mon 17th, January – Mon 26th, March – Mon 16th, June – Mon 8th -APCM/PCC – Sunday 26th April ; Standing Cttee will meet 4 weeks before PCC - October – Mon 20th, January – Mon 5th, February – Mon 16th, May – Mon 11th -Approved.
 - b. School Fence – is a faculty needed? Does the fence meet council fire regulations? Status of fence to be reviewed in July 2026; school aware that PCC not happy that the fence is temporary as agreed and that it encroaches on the church lawn. Action: MH
 - c. Cleaner – EB still looking for someone who could be paid to clean the church
5. **Safeguarding** – incident reported and passed on to DSO; discussion about whether or not all PCC members need a DBS check; JB thinks not; no decision made; Action: JB
6. **Finance** – JT/KD presented accounts which were commended with some questions; Action JoT/KD
7. **Reports** Community and Youth Leader Report AM; thanks expressed to AM for all her hard work organising and running so many activities in the community; Incumbent MH; MH involved in collective worship at Allithwaite, Flookburgh and Carmel Priory Schools; Sermon on the Mount Bible study going well; Christianity Explored course on hold due to lack of participants; decision to aim for two communion services per month; morning service time remains at 10am with the understanding that it will not be possible for MH to lead morning worship at St John's and St Mary's on the same day; Warden – discussion of how to store equipment currently in vestry; Arthur Baldry to look into a way of storing it at the West End of church; Action: EB
Spire update – Michael Jackson's (MJ) paper discussed; PCC encouraged to send MJ ideas; Action: All
8. **Autumn / Advent Services / Christmas**
 - a. Harvest / Quiz Weekend – 4/10
 - b. Proposed 24/1 Prayer Session – Sat / Sun 29/30 November

- c. Request from Blooming Hound Flowers – some insurance and other issues were foreseen; could we suggest she contacts MLH or community centre? Action MJ
 - d. Advent and Christmas Services discussed.
 - e. School Christmas Card. Action: MJ
9. **Misson** – JT suggested buying 100 copies of Bear Grylls’ book “The Greatest Story” which we encourage the congregation to read and pass on to others as part of our mission. Proposed: AM, Seconded: FD. Agreed unanimously.
10. **AOB** during the spire work with the west end of the church being inaccessible outside it was suggested that we let people know that there is a path around the west end past the garden shed. Action: SB
11. The meeting ended at 9.50 with the Grace.