

## Annual Parochial Church Council Meeting – May 2023

### Reports

#### 1-Interim Vicar

It's quite hard to write about 2022 in April 2023. I'm not naturally inclined to dwell on the past at the expense of looking ahead, although it is of course always important to remember and learn from what has gone before. At this point I am keen to consider the future, both in terms of the 'big picture' Mission Community vision and in terms of our immediate next steps here at St. Mary's. One of my reflections on looking back is simply that it feels to me as though we are in a very different place from where we were 16 months ago. We began 2022 facing some difficult decisions about finance, about which it was hard to agree. This financial issue was a symptom of the very difficult context that the church had been in for almost four years. An open meeting of the PCC in January was followed by a meeting with Bishop James, Derek Hurton (Diocesan Secretary) Archdeacon Vernon Ross and Revd. Jonathan Brewster which was attended by over 50 people from St. Mary's and St. John's. This offered an opportunity for views to be expressed and heard, and given the understandable strength of feeling was conducted by all with grace and respect. Whilst the past cannot be rewritten, there was a sense in the weeks following the meeting of being able to move forward.

Another thing that offered an opportunity to shift what has been a very difficult situation was the Difference course that took place during Lent 2022. Over 50 people from across the Anglican churches in the Carmel Peninsula Team met at High Newton Village Hall each week, in the evening or the daytime group. Led by Nick Devenish, Jonathan Brewster and myself it provided a context in which to explore the experience of conflict in various aspects of life. Apart from the content of the course, simply the time to come together as Christians from different church communities was enriching. Although the relationships between all the churches in the team may still not be as we would like, this course indicated our intention to move on from the the situation that had developed and doing this together has itself made a positive difference.

Whilst those things have been particularly notable, there are very many other things that are part of the ongoing life of St. Mary's which are no less important. Your faith and openness to sharing in the work of God through this church community is evident in so many ways. I want to say thank you to all those who are involved — in no particular order — in preparing and leading worship (including managing the technology); in offering hospitality through refreshments after services and community lunches; enabling Food Share to happen; in looking after the church building and the grounds; in praying and enabling others to pray in various groups and meetings; and in pastoral care. Thank you too to all those involved in the children's Holiday Club that took place in August. Our relationship with our school and with families in our local community is so important. Last year began with serious concerns about Covid still in place, but saw a gradual opening up of opportunities to connect. I want to pay tribute to the huge contribution made by Sue Wymer in keeping the link with school alive in the face of a number of challenges. Sue's illness accelerated much faster than anticipated. Her death in March this year, plus the decision of Helen Hoyle to resign from her post as Community and Youth Leader at the end of 2022, have brought into sharp focus the scale of the task of seeking to maintain relationships, forge new ones, and enable children and young people to come to a knowledge and love of Jesus.

At the time of writing the formal process of dissolving the Cartmel Peninsula Team is now going ahead and we will shortly be beginning to think about the process of appointing a full time vicar for what is expected eventually to be the Benefice of Flookburgh and Allithwaite. I hope that we will think about this next appointment not in terms of two parishes that happen to be served by the same vicar, but in terms of what it means to be the church across this area, serving the communities of Kents Bank, Allithwaite, Ravenstown, Flookburgh, Cark and Holker; and — forgive the long sentence — to do this in co-operation with churches of all denominations across the Carmel Peninsula area as we grow a Mission Community. I look forward to sharing the next steps with you over the coming months.

***Jane Maycock***

*Associate Priest and Interim Team Vicar.*

## **2-PCC Chair**

Dear Friends,

We look back on a year of changes and progress and we look forward to a year of more stability as the leadership of St Mary's and of the Mission Community we are soon to develop into become more clear.

Our communications have been revolutionised by our excellent and up-to-date website (check it at <https://www.allithwaitechurch.org.uk/> ) and the marvelous St Mary's In Touch e-mail Amiel sends round on a Friday. It is a great way to be in the know and be ready to get involved in the many activities on offer as we seek to be a mission church.

As a PCC we have tried to keep the focus on how we as a church can reach out with love and faith into the community that we are a part of. The Food Share and Community Lunch have gone from strength to strength involving lots of people from the church and the community and using the church building as a light on the hill. The Shape Course has been a powerful way for many of us to explore our gifts and how we can use them in God's Service.

Jane has helped us move on as a church and her love, support and wisdom have made a big difference to our journey. The appointment of Andrea as Youth and Community Leader will also help to mobilise us.

We have heard, after 5 years, that Rachel is standing down from ministry for a time and she remains in our thoughts and prayers during this difficult time. We will be looking to recruit a full-time vicar for St Mary's and St John's as part of the local Mission Community.

As well as welcoming new members to church we have lost a number of valued members, including Sue Wymer who made such good relationships by serving the local schools, running assemblies and being a listening ear. We will miss her many contributions to the life of the church but know she is now with her Lord and Saviour whom she served so well.

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 2023 to see what God has in store for us.

**Steve Bell**

**St Mary's PCC Chair**

### **3- Wardens**

When I (John) put myself forward to work with Michael I recall Jim Bruce advising me that whilst Mr J and I might be "responsible" for many aspects of the life and fabric of St Mary's, this did not mean we had to do it all ourselves – and we do not! There is much that goes on in St Mary's each week that neither of us are involved in, but all these facets are integral and key to the life of St Mary's and importantly the part St Mary's plays in the community – thanks to all of you who contribute to rotas, duties and engage with the wonderful procedural requirements of the Church of England! We will not list them all, as we will do the inevitable and miss some out – but thank you all. We could not fulfil our responsibilities without your willing support and help.

Rachel's position has finally been resolved after 5 years of a very challenging time for her, and we pray for Rachel's next steps and thank her for her contribution and leadership prior to this issue. We are awaiting guidance from the Diocese on the details of the recruitment process, but will ensure that we are as inclusive as is practicable, so that we collectively shape, define and appoint the replacement to work with us and St John's.

As we begin to transition back into normal, pre-pandemic life, it has been great to see events, Lakes Gospel Choir, beginning to come back into the calendar. St Mary's is one of two "large spaces" in the village, the other is the Community Hall. Notwithstanding the environmental/economic challenges of running the heating, we are keen to explore ways in which we can make this space available for others to use when we are not.

We have the Quinquennial "To Do" list and made some progress in 2022 but will be endeavouring to tick off a few more items in 2022.

Blessings for all of you "who just get on with it" week in week out, be it a Sunday Service, a mid-week event, a funeral, or those unseen telephone calls, emails, letters or forms filled in and posted – Many thanks M&J.

John Lanham / Michael Jackson

### **4- Electoral Roll Report April 2023**

In April 2022 there were 84 people on the Electoral Roll Now, April 2023 there are 78 people on the roll.

The fall to 78 is due to the death of six people from our congregation.

No new people have come onto the roll.

Janice Tindale Electoral Roll Officer

## 5- Finance

We use the Receipts Payment method of accounting because our income is usually under £100,000.

This means only transactions in the same year are shown.

In 2021 we had retained some of the Parish Offer pending negotiations with the Diocese.

Our account in 2021 therefore showed a surplus of £23,034.

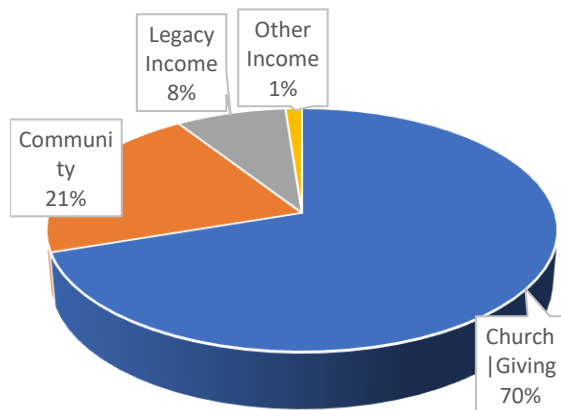
This money was paid to the Diocese in 2022.

This gives the appearance of reducing expenditure in 2021 and increasing it in 2022.

It is correctly disclosed in Receipts & Payment terms. Our accountant has verified this statement.

Church giving and Legacies account for 78% of our income. This was £4,752 less than year.

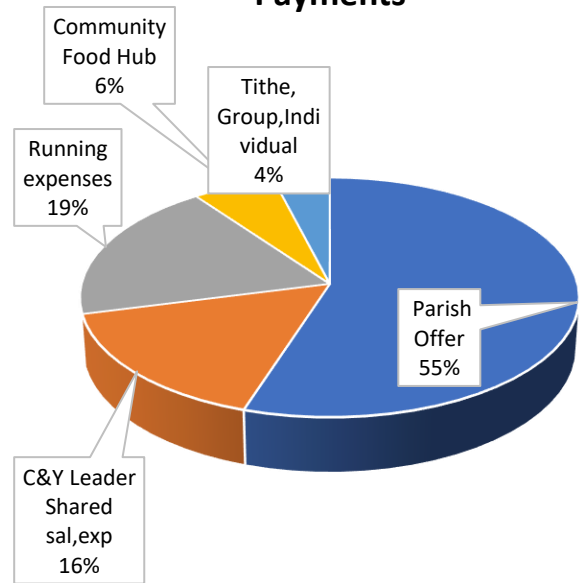
### Income



Many Legacies were given in the past from which we benefit today. This year we received two Legacies which we are very grateful for.

The income from the Community is less this year because of specific events in 2021.

### Payments



Overall, our Running expenses were less than last year even though the Heat, Lighting and Water costs were much higher.

Ministry costs were much higher because the retained parish offer for 2021 was paid in 2022. This year we also had a full year's salary and expenses payment for our shared Community and Youth Leader.

Tithe giving was less because the Mission Committee carried the account forward to 2023 when it will be distributed.

Detailed audited accounts are available from the Treasurer. Some paper copies will also be available before the AGM.

John Tindale

Treasurer

25<sup>th</sup> March 2023

## 6 - Safeguarding

### Safer Recruitment, and Training

The Parish Church of St Mary's Allithwaite have been running the activities and groups that work with children and young people, or with adults who are vulnerable, in the following areas, Sunday School/Junior Church, Rock Solid, Messy Church. Our active Pastoral Care Team support members of the congregation in all aspects of need, and have continued to do this in a safe way.

Where possible leaders and volunteers working with our groups have been safely recruited according to the Church's national guidance and we have ensured they have or will receive the level of training required by the Church of England.

A full review of all DBS records was undertaken and completed in 2022, all are current and within date, in accordance with the Church of England policy and guidance. Those who have registered after receiving their disclosure documentation can in future updated online, thus avoiding having to fill in the forms every three years.

All DBS records are now completed through an online portal using Thirty-one Eight and this had made the process much easier and quicker for both volunteers and PSO's.

Almost all volunteers have completed the online training, Basic and Foundation courses, it is imperative that all volunteers complete this training and update me once complete so I have a clear and concise record of training. I have compiled a list of these and during the process of reviewing all DBS records and ensuring those that require to attend this training do so in appropriate timing constraint.

No Leadership Training outstanding

There are 2 Training records outstanding

There is currently 1 DBS renewal being processed and verifications outstanding

No DBS outstanding

Requests have been made on a number of occasions for those people who are in an official post, (i.e. working with children or on the pastoral team) to complete the relevant online training. There are still two people who are in post that either have not completed the training or have not notified me that they have completed it, these are required as soon as possible, and I will endeavor to chase the outstanding training. I would like to stress to everyone how important this is and that we are in breach of Church of England policy and guidance.

Church Policy and Guidance

There is a signed copy of the statement of adoption of the House of Bishops 'Promoting a Safer Church; safeguarding policy statement', displayed in the entrance porch, with my photo and contact details, together with those people and organisations that anyone can contact should they have a safeguarding issue, and a copy of Church of England safeguarding policy and guidance.

As PSO it is important that I am informed of any volunteer recruitment, so I can perform the appropriate DBS checks, ensure they are able to access the appropriate training and add them to the volunteer database.

I also have the application forms for those recruiting and once filled in these can be sent electronically so they can be filled appropriately.

If anyone has any Safeguarding concerns, please contact me as soon as possible.

Amanda Fogg, PSO

## 7 - Mary Lambert Educational Trust

The trustees met in January 2023 to discuss the available grants and applications for the year 2022. Following an advert in Grange Now we had four applications and a grant of £350 was awarded to Isabelle Wattam, Matthew Chadwick, Philippa Bell and Ellie Douglas. In addition, £68 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 2022

After struggling for some years to find suitable ways to distribute the grants available in this trust it is now possible to work with Allithwaite primary school to identify families and provide them with appropriate money towards uniform or actual uniform. The money spent will be recorded in a separate column in the school accounts so that it is easy to identify.

It was agreed to give £400 from the Coals and clothing trust towards this.

A simple card sending best wishes and the name of the charity is to be given with each gift.

The Headteacher will give a brief account to the trustees at the end of the year outlining how much has been spent and how many families/children were supported.

Jean Bell

## 8-Activity – Youth Work

### Activities last 12 months –

#### *Schools*

- Helen ran secret agent groups working across 5 primary schools.
- Helen also connected into the majority of Primary schools and offered lessons and assemblies.
- Chris & Helen inputted into the life of Cartmel Priory School, leading Year 7 worship weekly and the occasional whole school assembly.
- Chris organised and ran Prayer Space at Cartmel Priory School in June 2022
- He also arranged the funding for a Christian organisation called 'The Naked Truth' to go in to school to talk with some year groups about Pornography.
- Chris also led transition for year 6's from across the Peninsula which took place at Allithwaite Church in July 2022.
- Helen led Priory Day for year 5 & 6's in October 2022

### Other things

- Helen & Chris continued 'Friday Night Youth' a small group for young people.
- Chris & Helen tried numerous outreach methods including a 'Drop In' in Grange Over Sands and detached.
- We partnered with St Marys to run a holiday club in August.
- Helen left her post in December 2022 and a new person has been appointed and will start in Sep 2023.

### Plans for the next 12 months.

- Connect better with Year 5 & 6's with the view of starting some after school clubs to build relationships with new young people.
- Prayer Space in June 2023
- Working with the new Community & Youth Leader to develop and implement a new strategy for young people.

Lead - Chris Mason & Helen Hoyle

## 9- Pastoral Care

The team met 3 times over the year , to pray, share concerns and visiting requests.

We focus individually on the people near us or those we know well and one member is visiting in Grange nursing home, following up a request from an Ulverston church.

The pastoral team have also organised the after service, individual prayer following on from the prayer course of March 2022.

Our 4<sup>th</sup> meeting was forgotten or overlooked by all but 2 members. Well done Sandra and Julie A.

We look forward to the return of Isabel to organise us and remind us of meetings.

Janice Tindale

## 10 - Deanery Synod

Notes from the meetings:

Finances:

- Deanery Levy for Network Youth has been reduced by 50% as a trust fund is supporting the expenses.
- Paper circulated showing where money for ministries come from.
- Value of Parish offer across the diocese has reduced by 40% over 14 years .
- Mission communities will collaborate over their ministry offer i.e agree who is paying and how much for the minister.

Deanery Synod members to be elected at this year's APCM

Mission communities give regular reports on how they are moving forward::

- Central lakes: Rev Beverly Lock has retired; expecting to appoint a curate in next few months. The mission community choir have been leading worship at Rydal Hall and Hawkshead. Pilgrim walks are organised regularly.

- South lakes: Rev Lawrence Basham became Team vicar this year. With small initiatives they hope to build up the mission community
- Peninsula: 3 new benefices proposed; Annette Miller licensed ; Priory day and the Moving Forward together event reported.

Network Youth ministry:

- Chris Mason reports on his work each meeting – details if you need them. Working towards next year’s Priory Day, transition for year 6, drop in after school and Friday evening youth groups.

Information on ‘Promoting Legacy’ week was provided

General Synod reports provided by Rev Jane Maycock

The 3 meetings each had a guest speaker:

**July:** The Rev Nicky Smith talked about the Discipleship project, the new lay ministry course. A core module, based around the participants home area and designed to stimulate vocational growth. Then includes 6 further modules to choose from according to interests. Each module costs £15. Details are on the God for All website.

**November** Richard Passmore gave a presentation on the Mixed ecology of Church

**March:** Bishop Rob addressed the meeting about God for all, offering elements given at the Roadshow and responded to questions regarding the appointment of a new bishop.

Janice and John Tindale

## 11- MEN’S WALKING GROUP

The last year has seen the Men’s Walking Group well established and thriving. With up to a dozen walkers, the group go out alternate Thursdays, each walk being led by a volunteer from the group. Walks vary in difficulty, a flat canal-side walk, for example, or a more testing fell walk such as Black Coombe. Walks are a great opportunity for fellowship for St. Mary’s members and friends and all are welcome (contact Charles Rowsell or Mervyn Hull).

## 12 - Mission Committee

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

As a church we have continued to support our mission partners through CMS: Andy and Kati Walsh working in Brazil, and Ultan McCabe 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 information.

We also continue to support the work of CRMI in Uganda and Churches Together Youth Trust in the Cartmel Peninsula.

Donations from the harvest festival auction went to support the food bank in Barrow, along with items collected in church.

Concerts in church in the autumn of 2022 raised money for charities including RUSH Academy in Kenya.