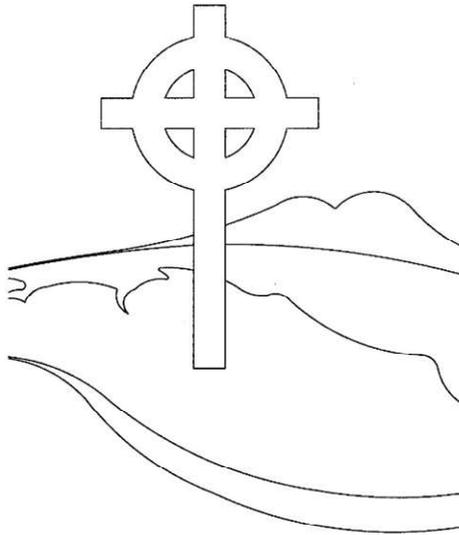


The Parish of the Solway Plain Annual Meeting



**Sunday 30th August 2020 at 11am
Holme Cultram Abbey**

Agenda

Minutes of the last meetings

Annual Reports

Accounts

Vestry Meeting and Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Held in Holme Cultram Abbey on Sunday 30th August 2020 at 11.00am

Welcome and Opening Prayer by the Chairman

The Meeting for the Election of Churchwardens

1. The Election of Churchwardens
2. The Admission of Churchwardens – to be arranged

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting

1. Minutes of last year's Annual Meeting
2. Matters arising from the minutes
3. Reports
 - a. Annual Report
 - b. Chairman's Report
 - c. The Treasurer's Report for the year ending 31st December 2019
 - d. Report on the Parochial Church Council
 - e. Reports from the church committees of the Solway Plain Parish
 - f. Report on the Activities of Solway Deanery Synod
4. The Election of 5 people to Deanery Synod
5. The Election of the Parochial Church Council
6. Review of Safeguarding policy
7. Any other business / Matters of general interest may be raised and recommendations made for consideration by the PCC

Meeting of the Parochial Church Council

The PCC will meet on Wednesday 23rd September at 7pm in Holme Cultram Abbey

The Parish of the Solway Plain

Annual Meetings 2019

The minutes from the Annual Meetings held on Sunday 3rd March 2019 after the United Service held in Holme Cultram Abbey

Welcome and Opening Prayers: Canon Rev Bryan Rothwell took the chair

Bryan went through how we reached today – The creation of a single parish was first mooted 10 years ago when Sharon Swain was the Team Rector, since then Bryan has become our Team Rector, at that time David Tembey was the Team Vicar who left the team in 2014.

The single PCC was put on the back burner. In 2016/7 the Team Council as part of the Mapping process revisited the single PCC - discussion started again, always going back to the individual church PCC's for approval to finally going to the Church commissioners for final confirmation.

No one is sure what this new single PCC will be like. But things have to change and here we are going forward together – we will survive – UNITED in Worship; UNITED in one parish of the Solway Plain; UNITED in Mission and Ministry. The meeting was opened with prayers said by Bryan.

Apologies: Malcolm Stilwell; Richard Goodfellow; Brian Bailey; Linda Bailey; Carol Knowles; Mary Hodgson; Rosie de Mello; Shiona Bickley

The Meeting for the Election of Church Wardens

1) Election of Church Wardens

The Team Rector thanked the Church Wardens who have been in post for the last year. Reminding us about the responsibility they have for their churches and the work they do behind the scenes. Bryan also thanked the assistant wardens of Lawrence Marshall and Elaine Atkinson for their work

Election of Church Wardens

Holme Cultram Abbey	Margaret Graham	Brenda Sim
Holme St Cuthbert	Joe Armstrong	
Silloth	Margaret Graham	Jean Oliver
Westnewton	Shiela Szandurski	Christine Young

Election of Deputy Wardens (for the daughter churches)

Bromfield	Shirley Holland-Reid	Jane Miller
Waverton	Jean Balfour	

Nominations were carried by all present

2) Admission of Church Wardens

Will take place on Tuesday 4th June 2019 at St Kentigern's, in Aspatria

The meeting closed at 11:35

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting

1) Minutes of last year's Annual Meeting

The minutes of the Annual Meetings from each of the church in the parish are in the Annual Report booklet on file

2) Matters arising from the minutes

There were no matters arising and it was agreed that they were a true and accurate record of the previous meetings.

3) Reports

The Annual Reports were circulated in a booklet

a) Team Rector's report

Main points: The Parish of The Solway Plain came into effect on 1st November 2018. This is the earliest time to hold the meetings to elect Churchwardens and PCC (Christmas, and redoing the Electoral roll)

Sub committees (in each church) will have delegated responsibilities and oversight of the day to day running of their church, including the day to day finance and maintenance for the building. The local committees will need a treasurer and secretary to take notes/minutes.

The Sub committees will consist of Churchwardens, elected members of the PCC, Deanery Synod reps. Extra people can be co-opted on to the committees

Together we can support the work of the churches in the parish. The single parish and PCC will bring changes for us all, so not sure what lies ahead – we can support EACH OTHER, we can share in the MINISTRY and MISSION. See 1 Peter 4:10

- b) **Treasurer's report** – Margaret Pickering has prepared consolidated accounts for the Solway Plain Parish, a copy on file. Margaret has been a real hero, working a long side ALL the other treasurers to get the accounts ready. Accounts show basic income and expenditure of the churches – the individual accounts for each church are available from the treasurers.

Magazine column: not a full year, as year endings are different accounts, the magazine committee will be asked to consider changing the year end to coincide with PCC accounts.

MP – thanked ALL the treasurers for their work in the preparation of the account sheet

- c) **Electoral Roll** - The new revised roll for the Parish stands at 253 names on roll. Thanks were given to all those who have been involved (in anyway) in the preparing of the new ER
- d) **Reports** from the six churches, Team Council, Deanery Synod, Solway Mission Community and Churches Together in Silloth & Aspatria are circulated in the Annual Report booklet

4) **The Election of the Parochial Church Council**

Nominations from each church were received before the Annual Meeting they are:-

Westnewton

Jane Launchbury
 Mary Hodgson
 Christine Young (CW)

Waverton

Jean Balfour

Holme St Cuthbert

Brian Bailey
 Pauline Stagg
 Joe Armstrong (CW)

Deanery Synod reps will stay the same, as they hold their office until 2020

Jenny Scoging (Bromfield)
 Eileen Todhunter (Abbeytown)
 Tim Barker (Silloth)
 Martha Walker (Westnewton)

Silloth

Marjorie Harrison
 Margaret Pickering
 Margaret Graham (CW)

Holme Cultram

Anita Norman
 Elaine Atkinson
 Margaret Graham (CW)

Bromfield

Shona Bickley
 Jenny Scoging
 Julie Brough

Francess McIntyre (Abbeytown)
 Rosie de Mello (Holme St Cuthbert)
 Peter Wardle (Westnewton)

5) **Election of Sidespersons**

Usually elected at an Annual Meeting, but these will be compiled by the sub committees of each church

6) **Review of the Safeguarding Policy**

Report on file given by Francess McIntyre Parish Safeguarding Officer. PCC are legally responsible to ensure that the Safeguarding of Children, and especially in our Parish Vulnerable adults.

Everyone in the Church has a Duty of Care. In order to fulfil our duties, it is a requirement that people trained C0; C1; C2 according to their office and the responsibility they have. The Policy Handbook outlines the expected levels of training – “Who gets what training in the Parish”

C0 and C1 training can be completed on line. C2 is delivered by the Diocesan training officers. Information on training was given out

7) Matters of general interest:-

Terms of Reference for the Sub committees will be finalised and adopted at the first meeting of the PCC E.g Numbers of members on a Sub committee

- (a) Number of times they need to meet
- (b) Officers required on a SC - Chair, Treasurer, Secretary co-opted members

New styles of Worship - Helen Graham asked if people were interested (give name to her and will take it from there).

Kirkbride and Newton Arlosh coming into the Parish of the Solway Plain – no formal information from the Diocese only hearsay. A long way to go before this will happen. Resources (including manpower) needs to be in place BEFORE anything happens.

What's happening about getting the Youth/Young people involved in "Church" – Network Youth Church minister Yvette Ladds now back after maternity leave works throughout the Deanery with youth groups – including Fairy dust Youth Café in Silloth and in Aspatria, Maryport & Workington.

In the light of the General Synod's agreement that churches are no longer required to hold a service every Sunday, Bryan confirmed that there were currently no plans to alter to weekly services, timings and patterns of worship in the Solway Plain.

Richard Goodfellow is our curate BUT with the Aspatria parishes as well, training incumbent is Tim Herbert, often training requirements are with him first.

From the floor – Bryan was thanked for all his work before this meeting.

The meeting closed with the God for All prayer said together

The first meeting of the newly elected PCC will take place on Tuesday 26th March in Westnewton Village Hall at 7pm

Meeting closed at 12:23 – then followed the Shared Meal

The Parish of the Solway Plain in the Diocese of Carlisle

Registered Charity No. 1187312

Annual Report for the year ended 31st December 2019

Administrative Information

Addresses Christ Church, Criffel Street, Silloth CA7 4BZ
St Mary, Holme Cultram, Abbeytown CA7 4SY
Holme St Cuthbert, Mawbray CA15 6QZ
St Matthew's, Westnewton CA7 3NT
St Mungo's, Bromfield CA7 3NB
Christ Church, Waverton CA7 0AE

Correspondence Address

The Vicarage, Wigton Road, Silloth CA7 4NJ

PCC Membership

PCC members are Trustees of the Registered Charity.

Revd Canon Bryan Rothwell (Rector) **Chair**

Revd Malcolm Stilwell (Assistant Priest)

Revd Peter Hayward (Associate Priest) *died Feb 2020*

Revd Richard Goodfellow (Curate) *moved to Carlisle Sept 2019*

Mr Tim Barker (Reader) **lay vice-chair**

Mrs Christine Young (Licenced Lay Minister)

Mrs Cherry Asbury (Lay Minister)

Mrs Shiona Bickley (Bromfield)

Mrs Julie Brough (Bromfield)

Mrs Jenny Scoging (Deanery Synod & Bromfield) *Resigned Jan 2020*

Mrs Margaret Graham (Holme Cultram)

Mrs Anita Norman (Holme Cultram)

Mrs Elaine Atkinson (Holme Cultram)

Mr Brian Bailey (Holme St Cuthbert)

Mr Joe Armstrong (Holme St Cuthbert)

Mrs Pauline Stagg (Holme St Cuthbert)

Mrs Margaret Graham (Silloth)

Mrs Margaret Pickering (Silloth) **Treasurer**

Mrs Marjorie Harrison (Silloth)

Miss Jean Balfour (Waverton)

Mr Peter Wardle (Deanery Synod & Westnewton)

Mrs Mary Hodgson (Westnewton)

Mrs Jane Launchbury (Westnewton)

Mrs Rosie DeMello (Deanery Synod)
Mrs Frances McIntyre (Deanery Synod) **Secretary**
Mrs Eileen Todhunter (Deanery Synod) *died June 2020*
Mrs Martha Walker (Deanery Synod)

Structure, Governance & Management

The Parish of the Solway Plain came into being on 1st November 2018 under a pastoral scheme which united the parishes that formed the Solway Plain Team.

Holme Cultram Abbey, Holme St Cuthbert, Christ Church Silloth and St Matthew's Westnewton are Parish Churches in the benefice.

St Mungo's Bromfield and Christ Church Waverton are chapels of ease (daughter churches) and were licenced for the reading of banns and the solemnization of marriages by the Bishop on 19th November 2018.

The incumbent of the benefice, the Rector works with a ministry team including a Reader, a part time Assistant Priest, part time Curate and Retired Clergy and other licenced lay ministers.

The Parochial Church Council is a corporate body established by the Church of England. The PCC operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure. The Parochial Church Council (PCC) registered with the Charity Commission at the beginning of 2020.

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. The PCC has prepared Terms of Reference for Sub-Committees of the PCC to oversee the day to day management and finances of the six churches.

Regular members of the congregation are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC.

Finance

The PCC sub-committees of the six churches in the parish hold the delegated responsibility for their churches finance. Accounts are prepared in accordance with the Church accounting procedures.

Expenses relating to the whole parish are administered in a Parish Account by the PCC treasurer.

The magazine committee holds accounts for the running of the parish magazine.

The PCC receives regular updates at its meeting from the churches in the form of a consolidated account.

The end of year accounts presented to the Annual Meeting are a consolidated account for the Parish. The individual audited accounts are available for inspection from the committee treasurers.

St Mungo, Bromfield – Shirley Holland-Reid 016973 61805 shirley.holland-reid1@virgin.net

Holme Cultram Abbey – Laura Sim 016973 61007 lozs1984@btinternet.com

Holme St Cuthbert – Barbara Stephens 01900 881411 barbara.stephens@btconnect.com

Christ Church, Silloth; Christ Church Waverton & Solway Plain PCC – Margaret Pickering
016973 33068 marbigroc@gmail.com

St Matthew, Westnewton – Shiela Szandurski 016973 21073

Magazine Account – Leila Wilson 016973 61200

Objectives and activities

The PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the church, pastoral, social and ecumenical.

The Parish is part of the Ecumenical Solway Plain Mission Community and is supportive of the Diocesan Vision “God for All”.

The PCC has the legal responsibility for church buildings, finance and safeguarding. Local responsibility is delegated where possible to the sub-committees of the PCC.

There are four open churchyards in the Parish (Abbeytown, Holme St Cuthbert, Bromfield and Westnewton), one closed churchyard (St Paul’s Causewayhead) and an area for the burial of ashes (Waverton).

There are four primary schools and one secondary school in the parish, the ministry team has good links with all the schools and is involved with regular Collective Worship and other support for the schools.

Holm Cultram Abbey School and St Matthew’s School, Westnewton are church schools and the PCC appoints foundation governors.

Safeguarding

The PCC has adopted the national policy “Promoting a Safer Church” and Frances McIntyre acts as the Safeguarding Officer for the Parish. Training for clergy and lay people has taken place over the past year and the PCC ensures that updates to the Policy are implemented.

The Electoral Roll

The Electoral Roll was renewed in 2019 and updated in preparation for the Annual Meeting.

GDPR

The parish has an agreed policy for the General Data Protection Regulations and a copy is displayed in all the churches and on the parish website.

Communications

The Parish Produces a Magazine which is distributed throughout the churches monthly for 10 months of the year, joint editions are produced in July/August and December/January. A committee formed from representatives of all the churches oversees the production. The committee meets twice a year.

A notice sheet is produced and distributed at services every Sunday.

The Parish has a website www.solwayplainchurches.org.uk which includes information about all the churches in the parish and has a diary which is updated regularly with services and events taking place across the area.

Rector's Report

The Parish of the Solway Plain, formed out of the former parishes of the Solway Plain Team came into effect at the end of 2018, so 2019 saw the first full year of working as a single parish.

Each church has a small committee which oversees the day to day running of the churches, and I would like to thank all the members of those committees who look after the maintenance, fundraising, preparing the church for worship, running various events to support the mission and ministry in the Parish. I would also pay tribute to the churchwardens, secretaries and treasurers who do so much behind the scenes.

Early in the year, we were asked to consider the expanding of the Parish to include the parishes of Newton Arlosh and Kirkbride following the vacancy after Revd Peter Blackett left. Since October, we have been working together, and supporting the services and work of those churches, and in due course a pastoral scheme will bring them into the Solway Plain Parishes. It has been a pleasure to get to know folks in the churches over the past few months.

Primarily this is the annual report for 2019, but with the delay in holding our Annual Meeting, which was due to be held in March, much of what is being reported has receded into the background.

At the time of presenting this annual report, we are still living with the Covid-19 Pandemic and churches have been closed for worship for a number of months. As we begin to worship together again, it has been good to welcome people back into our churches. Throughout the lockdown, we have continued to provide an online service which has been an encouragement to many.

The treasurers have been diligent in looking after the accounts over the past few months, income has been hit, whilst expenses continue with the parish offer and ongoing maintenance and support of our church buildings. I would like to thank everyone who has faithfully supported our churches with generous giving in these times of great difficulty.

I must pay acknowledge the debt of gratitude we owe to the Revd Peter Hayward who in retirement was so active in ministry in the Solway Plain. His ministry up until the time of his death was appreciated by so many. We have also been saddened by the deaths of others within our churches and remember with thanksgiving Jane Miller (deputy churchwarden at Bromfield) and Eileen Todhunter (former churchwarden at Abbeystown).

I would also like to thank Cherry Asbury who has recently stepped down from her role as a valued member of the Ministry Team. Thank you to all those who lead worship in our churches and share in the ministry across the area.

We have recently welcomed Andrew Callaway and his wife Carol. Andrew joins us as Curate in the Parish and Mission Community and will be ordained on 26th September.

At the beginning of the Coronavirus Pandemic, the words of Psalm 91 became a source of strength and inspiration.

*He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High
will rest in the shadow of the Almighty.
I will say of the Lord, "He is my refuge and my fortress,
my God, in whom I trust".*

*Surely he will save you from the fowler's snare
and from the deadly pestilence.*

Looking back to 2019 seems a long time ago. We have faced many challenges over the past few months, and will have to live with the effects of Covid-19 for some time to come, but we take our strength and encouragement from the God who "never leaves us, or forsakes us", who goes before us, and who goes with us through all of our lives.

May we keep safe, keep well and keep strong and faithful in the Lord.

Bryan Rothwell

Report from the Secretary of the PCC

We have been The Parish of the Solway Plain and a single PCC for a year now; our PCC meetings following the more formal format; while the subcommittees dealing with the day to day running of their church and buildings have a more informal approach to their meetings. With the Team Rector (Bryan) only attending if asked. A system that seem to be working well!

We said goodbye to Richard Goodfellow in September, having his own parishes of St Elisabeth's Harraby and St John the Baptist Upperby (Jan'20)

In November we welcomed members of Newton Arlosh and Kirkbride PCC's to our meeting with Bryan our Rector becoming their vicar with Pastoral oversight until the formal pastoral scheme is complete.

More laity are taking services regularly in our churches; Malcolm has had his time with us increased and others from around the area helping out (both laity and retired clergy), which all goes to show that we all have a part to play and that we do work well with each other. But with this comes the extra admin to organise the service rota (Bryan's forte and headache).

On a sad note we have lost many friends over the past year and none more so than Revd. Peter Haywood – A true Christian, a real character, lovely storyteller and reciter of hymns old and new. He will be missed.

What else have we accomplished over the past year ...

Charity status - the Parish of the Solway Plain is now a charity in its own right, so on official correspondence our charity number should be used: Registered Charity No 1187312

Safeguarding - A huge thank you to all those who have completed their training – just a reminder for any new Church Wardens that they need to complete C2.

Finance - Throughout the year all the treasurers have been working hard behind the scenes to bring their accounts in line with each other (the format is required by the Diocese); ably helped by Margaret.

Mission Community - Still trying to reach out to non-church goers through BBQ (two held in 2019)

Youth cell in Aspatria and Silloth going strong with help from Yvette and volunteers (NYC)
2000+ angels sent out peace and love at Christmas around the whole mission community.
Various church services around the area during the year.

God for All strategy reached its completion at the end of 2019

Bishop Emma wanted to build on its success - Vision Refresh 2010+ as the ongoing God for ALL. It started with 100 days of Prayer then 100 days of Listening in which we could all have our say; now Diocese are taking stock and using our feedback - we have to watch this space to see what comes from Bishop Emma.

Frances McIntyre

Electoral Roll

There are currently 246 members on the electoral roll of the Parish of the Solway Plain

Reports from the PCC church committees

Christ Church, Silloth

The Committee has met every regularly since the last AGM. The transition to the Parish of the Solway Plain having gone smoothly.

The year started with the arrival of the new Bishop of Penrith with the Bishop of Carlisle on foot on the 18th March, the first day in post for Bishop Emma.

The sale of St Paul's has finally been completed. Our reordering project is still very much on the agenda but no date yet for any structural work to commence. The Church Bells and organ remain on the project list, progress has been made with cleaning the tower and barring the pigeons but not the water yet all necessary before more can be done on the bells. A generous grant from Allerdale Council enabled the gates at the rear of the Church to be replaced.

Christ Church was opened on 8th September 1870 and consecrated in November 1871 so plans are underway for a year of celebrations starting with an evening service on 6th September 2020 led by Bishop James.

The traditional fundraising events have been held during the past year including The Men's Choir concerts, the Border Concert Band and Tim Barker's Quiz all making much needed funds for the Church. The need for a major fundraising effort will be high on the agenda for the coming year with our many projects pending.

The year ended with the sad passing of Peter Hayward who following his retirement to live in Allonby joined the Carlisle Diocese as Associate Priest in the Solway Deanery. Taking his final service in January this year, a Requiem Mass to celebrate his nearly 70 years ministry and long and productive life was held in Christ Church on 7th March.

Liz Elliott

St Mungo, Bromfield

We are now at the end of our first year under the new PCC setting. We have 3 members serving on the PCC and a newly set up local church committee looking after the everyday business of the church. This has worked well with the local committee meetings running in advance of the PCC meetings. The local committee held several successful fundraising events, including a Gruffalo walk and an Afternoon tea. We were lucky to have generous sponsors providing all our catering needs. We raised funds of over £2500 for the church and we hope to build on this amount in the coming year. Our funds remain steady and in a fairly good state but like others we would wish for more. Our Parish offer increased by 10% on last year's offer, so we are heading in the right direction.

Luckily the church building is in a good state of repair, so no major repairs were necessary, but our boiler is very old and getting beyond repair. Internal decoration is also being considered. Our 5-year inspection is due this coming year so we will wait for their report and findings.

Our congregation numbers remain static, which is good, but we are always looking to get more people to join us. We are considering holding "Open afternoons" to encourage visitors and hopefully potential new members of the congregation. Blencogo has several new homes being built, so we can make contact with the new residents and see what happens.

It is with sadness, that we have to report the passing of Jane Miller (our Deputy churchwarden). Jane has been a stalwart of the church for many years. She had so much knowledge and information relating to the church. She will be greatly missed by many.

We said goodbye to John and Jenny Scoging. John was our organist and Jenny was our Treasurer and PCC member. They have moved to Penrith to fully retire and take things a bit easier. We wish them well with their move and their new life.

We look forward to this coming year with a bit more confidence than we did this first year. Well done everyone.

Shirley Holland-Reid

Holme Cultram Abbey

Another full year for the Subcommittee; spending most of the year trying to finalise the accounts (and make payments) to Roland Hill and the Architects, which will then allow us to start the next phase of the Abbey renovation, the lighting and electrics.

The heating failed during the year only for us to find out that it was never installed correctly; companies going out of business and the ever increase in the cost to fix the problem added to our frustration, but on a brighter note we found out that the insurance will cover the cost.

Fundraising went apace during the year with the Monthly Munches bringing in people from the wider area; our annual Strawberry Teas the Christmas Fayre to name a few.

2019 saw our accounts coming in line with the PCC as Laura found her way around the Abbey accounts with the help of Margaret P and they have managed to get our first gift aid and small donations payment.

The PCC and Mission Community are still evolving and during the year we have hosted several of the larger events for both – it has been good to see the churches working closer together and the Mission Community becoming more established; we just have to have faith in each other and what the Solway Plain Parish can achieve.

Francess McIntyre

St Matthew, Westnewton

The sub-committee met 7 times over the year to discuss initiatives and fundraising, to ensure the future of our church, as well as other matters of importance.

Partial funding for phase 3 of repairs to stonework and the boiler house roof was obtained and the work was completed. Application for the funding of phase 4 will be made in April.

Receipt of a generous legacy has enabled us, with the agreement of the PCC, to fulfil our dream of a warm church building. At least we hope so- at the time of writing the job is not finished but completion is expected by the end of March. It hasn't been without it's delays and frustrations but, I feel sure, all will be forgiven when the system is up and running

The Parish Offer was paid in full and on time (paid by monthly standing order) due to the hard work of sub-committee members and their helpers in fund raising and good management. For a small rural church this was a major achievement. The sub-committee has agreed an increase to our parish offer for 2020.

The sub-committee continues to work extremely hard with limited resources and numbers. Anybody that feels that he or she could contribute and would like to join the sub-committee will be made very welcome!

Peter Wardle

Holme St Cuthbert

Holme St Cuthbert church continues to stay open to all and its very committed congregation.

The upkeep of our church, like others in the Parish, will always be our largest annual outlay beside the Parish Offer. So next year we are going to increase the parish offer (by inflation) because we feel that as a church, we need our stipendiary ministers and that outreach is as important as fundraising. So, all our fundraising efforts have an outreach element as well; we feel this gives us the opportunity to get closer to our community and listen to their needs.

Our quinquennial inspection (which was due in April) had a bit of a hiccup, but we are now on course for the inspection in March (2020), so we will see how well we are doing, keeping our little church and buildings in good order.

Income wise - we benefit from the small donations and gift aid payments; our little tins are still going well and with the introduction of the 100 club we hope to increase our income to cover our increased parish offer.

Being part of a single parish we know we are not alone and can call for help if needed and likewise as a Mission Community we are growing (if slowly) together as we find we have more in common than our differences – we hope this will continue during the years to come.

Francess McIntyre

Waverton

Services continued with just a small number of regular worshippers through to the beginning of October. Early in the year some internal work in the church was started without faculty permission and in the summer after an Electrical Inspection the electricians were found to be in need of significant improvements. The PCC made the difficult decision to move towards declaring the church redundant, and currently no services are being held in Christ Church.

Bryan Rothwell

Churches Together in Silloth and Aspatria 2019

Churches Together in Silloth and Aspatria continued to meet in Silloth with Rev Tim Herbert and representatives from Aspatria taking part in our meetings.

The united service for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity was celebrated on January 20th at the Roman Catholic Church. £135 was donated to Christian Aid's appeal for victims of the Indonesian tsunami.

On Ash Wednesday people from Silloth attended the service in Aspatria Community Centre.

At Easter, 2019, united ministry included Lent Bible Study followed by lunch in which Christ Church took their turn and church members attended the united service at Christ Church on Good Friday, followed by the walk of witness and Stations of the Cross. On Easter Day members met for the Sunrise Service led by Rev Richard Goodfellow.

In May we took part in Silloth Green day with an open-air service in the morning.

Sea Sunday in July attracted several visitors and was led by RNLI Chaplain Margaret Gate.

Carnival Praise on the Green was blessed with good weather for once. The event was shared with the Solway Plain Mission Community and included games and a picnic before Bryan led us in worship.

Monthly bible study sessions were again held throughout the Autumn in St Andrew's church followed by an invitation to join "Our Door's Open" lunch in the hall.

Thanks again to members of all the Silloth churches who helped distribute a Christmas calendar to every household in the town.

Sadly our planned evening of singing carols round the local pubs had to be called off. Only two or three brave souls met at Fell Close on a dreadful wet and windy night and decided not to go any further.

All Christ Church members are free to attend meetings of the Churches Together steering group and are urged to take part in all the united activities which we present, including those in Aspatria.

Tim Barker

Solway Mission Community

The ecumenical community involving the Anglican, Methodist and URC churches in the Silloth, Aspatria, Wigton area continued to work together in 2019 and members of other denominations contributed to our activities.

The Mission Community is organised by a steering group of the clergy and youth workers plus representatives from the different churches. It is funded from various sources including church contributions, local council grants and the Diocesan Growth Fund.

Volunteers from different churches continue to help at cell groups for young people in Aspatria and Silloth and with various activities including walking football on Mondays in Silloth and a monthly hour of prayer. This generally takes place on the last Sunday of each month and is held in a different church each time. It is hoped that over the months we may visit each church in the community.

On March 18th, the day after the inauguration of Bishop Emma of Penrith, she and Bishop James of Carlisle began a visit to churches throughout the Community with a walk from Holme Cultram Abbey to Silloth. They ate with the Luncheon Club, visited the walking football game and went on to Blitterlees before being taken further down the coast by car. Barbecues were held again in Aspatria and Silloth. The one at Christ Church on September 7th attracted a good number of families both residents and visitors. Thanks to members of this church who helped prepare and run the event.

Tim Barker

Deanery Synod

Deanery Synod has met on three occasions since last year's Annual Meetings.

In June synod met in Holme Cultram Abbey. The Revd Mike Talbot, God for All Evangelism Advisor led discussions on the effectiveness of Mission.

The October meeting, held in Flimby welcomed the Bishop of Penrith Emma Ineson and her husband Matt who introduced the God for All Refresh, looking at the next five years of the Diocesan Vision and Plan.

In February they synod met at St Mary's Maryport. The speaker was Revd Allison Fenton who talked about the new 'Authorised Local Training Pathway' encouraging churches to think about who might be encouraged to explore their calling to lay ministry in the church or think about their vocation to ordained ministry.

In addition, we have received regular reports about the Deanery Network Youth Church. Reports on the finances, diocesan and general synod have also been included on the agenda. Representatives on Deanery Synod are elected for three years and this year we are to elect new members. The Solway Plain Parish elects five representatives, please consider who might stand for election.

Deanery Synod representatives