

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF THE SOLWAY PLAIN

England & Wales · Charity number 1187312

Details

Other names	SOLWAY PLAIN PARISH, THE PARISH OF THE SOLWAY PLAIN
Status	Registered
Legal form	Other
Registered	2020-01-13
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	The Vicarage Wigton Road Silloth Wigton CA7 4NJ
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Website	www.solwayplainchurches.org.uk

Activities

Objects: PROMOTING IN THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH THE WHOLE MISSION OF THE CHURCH.

Activities: Promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the mission of the church through regular worship, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical events

Classification

- **How:** Makes Grants To Organisations, Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Provides Services
- **What:** Religious Activities
- **Who:** Children/young People, Elderly/old People, People With Disabilities, Other Charities Or Voluntary Bodies, The General Public/mankind

Geography

- Cumbria

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-12-31	£158,505	£169,543	-	-
2024-12-31	£169,807	£159,851	-	-
2023-12-31	£176,899	£162,994	-	-
2022-12-31	£246,423	£217,187	-	-
2021-12-31	£189,776	£284,249	-	-
2020-12-31	£134,462	£168,326	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Rev BRYAN ROTHWELL	Chair	2018-11-01
Anita Norman		2019-03-03
Ann Little		2021-10-31
BRIAN BAILEY		2019-03-03
Barbara Stephens		2021-05-30
Christine Margaret Young		2019-03-03
Frances Mary McIntyre		2019-03-03
Ian Paul King		2023-05-20
JOSEPHINE JEFFERSON		2021-10-31
Jane Launchbury		2019-03-03
Judith Bryan		2021-05-30
Margaret Elaine Atkinson		2019-03-03
Margaret Graham		2019-03-03
Margaret Graham		2019-03-03
Marjorie Harrison		2019-03-03
Mary Hodgson		2019-03-03
Peter Royle Wardle		2019-03-03
Ruth Pinguey		2021-10-31
Stephen Sowerby		2025-05-18
Susan Margaret Shardlow		2022-05-22
TIMOTHY WARD BARKER		2018-11-01

Accounts

The Parish of the Solway Plain Annual Meeting



Sunday 31st May 2026 at 11am
Holme Cultram Abbey, Abbeytown

Agenda
Minutes of the last meetings
Annual Reports
Accounts

Vestry Meeting and Annual Parochial Church Meeting
Holme Cultram Abbey, Abbeytown – 31st May 2026 at 11am

Agenda

Welcome by the Lay Chair

The Vestry meeting to elect the Church Wardens

1. Election of the Church Wardens
2. The Admissions of the Church warden

Admission of Church Wardens, Wednesday 1st July St Paul's Seaton at 7:00pm

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting

1. Minutes of last's year's Annual Meetings
2. Matters arising from the minutes
3. Reports for 2025

An annual report – from Lay Chair

Accounts for the year ending 31st December 2025

Electoral Roll

Report from the Parochial Church Council

Reports from the church committees of the Solway Plain Parish

Reports from Churches together, Solway Mission Community

Reports on the Activities of the Deanery Synod

4. The Election of the PCC members
5. Review of the Safeguarding policy
6. AOB/ Matters of general interest

Meeting of the Parochial Church Council

There will be a short meeting of the PCC following the Annual Meetings

Next full meeting - **22nd July 2026 Holme Cultram Abbey at 7:00pm**

The Parish of the Solway Plain

Minutes of the APCM 2025 in the Parish of the Solway Plain

Held on Sunday 18th May 2025 in St Mungo's Church Bromfield

Welcome: - The Team Rector - Canon Rev Bryan Rothwell took the chair
Thanked those who stayed for this meeting. Stated there would be three meetings today - Vestry meeting; APCM and the first PCC with elected members, which will be a very short one 😊

The Team rector also noted that the booklet for this meeting will be on our website as well as one going to the Charity Commission

(as we are a charity)

As this will be Bryan's last meeting with us all, it gave a short summary of his time with us in the Solway Plain.

Bryan started his ministry in 1986 and continued to this present day, and his Ministry will be over 40 years by the time of his final service on 29th June 2025 - beginning in the Solway Saturday 1st August 2011.

Having seven churches, at the start, then losing two along the way through their closure (St Paul's and Waverton) and then gaining two (Newton Arlosh and Kirkbride!

Bryan stated: -The Solway Plain is a community - not just the churches, the wider community – we have made connections with the Primary schools (5) and the Secondary school; the Care and Nursing homes and other organisations with our town and villages

It has not always been easy, but hopefully together we have laid some good foundations for what lies ahead. We all know that there is so much more that goes on behind the scenes in every church, with all the volunteers having a wealth of expertise, experience and potential. You will need to support and help each other as YOU are part of this community. It has been a privilege to work alongside you all. So thank you once again.

Present & Apologies: 31 parishioners were present

Apologies from 4 parishioners

The Vestry meeting for the Election of Church Wardens

1. Election of Church Wardens

The Team Rector thanked ALL those involved in our churches.

ALL have an integral part to play in the life of our churches. **THANKYOU!**

Election of Deputy Wardens (from our daughter churches)

St Mungo, Bromfield Mary Douglas Sue Shardlow

Election of Church Warden

St Mary's, Holme Cultram Abbey

Margaret Graham

Brenda Sim

Ass. Elaine Atkinson

Holme St Cuthbert, Mawbray

Brian Bailey

Lynda Bailey

St Bridget's, Kirkbride

Josephine Jefferson: Stephen Sowerby

St John's, Newton Arlosh

Sherry King

Christchurch, Silloth

Margaret Graham

Jean Oliver

St Matthew's, Westnewton

Christine Young

Mary Hodgson

Nominations were carried by all members present

2. Admission of Church Wardens

Will take place on Tuesday 1st July at 7:00pm in All Soul's Church,
Netherton

The meeting closed at 11:25 am

Minutes from the Annual Parochial Church Meeting Sunday 18th May 2025 in St Mungo's Bromfield

Charity N^o 1187312

1. Minutes of last year's Annual Meeting

Signed as a true copy by Bryan (Team Rector)

2. Matters arising from the minutes

No matters arising

3. Reports in the booklet – booklets where in ALL the churches a week before the meeting

- a) The Annual report – the official report about the Parish that goes to the Charity Commission
- b) Team Rector's report

- c) Treasurer's report –The consolidated accounts for the Solway Plain PCC copy with the booklet
- Balance sheet as at the end of 2024 with a breakdown of each income and expenditure
- Margaret Pickering did step down (01-06-24) – but still helps if required BR took on the role
- d) From the Secretary of the PCC with the Electoral Roll report - membership *is currently 190*
- e) From the Parish Churches – in the booklet
- f) Churches together - in booklet
- g) Mission Community – in booklet
- h) Deanery Synod - in booklet
- i) Safeguarding

4. The Election of the Parochial Church Council

Nominations from each church were received before the APM they are:
To include CW and up to 2 other reps

Bromfield:	Susan Shardlow
Holme Cultram:	Margaret Graham; Judith Bryan; Elaine Atkinson
Holme St Cuthbert:	Brian Bailey; Barbara Stephens
Kirkbride:	Josephine Jefferson; Stephen Sowerby; Ann Little
Newton Arlosh:	Ruth Pinguey; Ian King
Silloth:	Margaret Graham; Marjorie Harrison
Westnewton:	Mary Hodgson; Christine Young

All nominations were carried by all members present

Deanery Synod Representatives

Tim Barker	Silloth
Jane Launchbury	Westnewton
Francess McIntyre	Abbeytown
Anita Norman	Abbeytown
Peter Wardle	Westnewton
Brian Bailey	Holme St Cuthbert

5. Review of the Safeguarding Policy

Report on file from Francess McIntyre; Parish Safeguarding Officer

- New training cycle starts 2025 – ALL members of Church committees complete Basic Awareness

PCC members to the highest level they achieved (e.g. Foundation)

- When Bryan retires – no incumbent – CW need to complete the Leadership training
Training day has been arranged for Friday 23rd May in the Abbey starting at 10:00am see PSO for more details
- Safeguarding policy and Responding to Concerns/Allegations - reviewed and signed (by TR)

6. **AOB** From the floor – Thanks to Bryan for all his help, support and service to all the churches of The Solway Plain

With the Grace being said the meeting closed at 11:40am

The Parish of the Solway Plain in the Diocese of Carlisle

Registered Charity No. 1187312

Annual Report for the year ended 31st December 2025

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
St John's, Newton Arlosh CA7 5ET
St Bride's, Kirkbride CA7 5HY

Correspondence Address

Brook Barn, Mawbray, CA15 6QT

PCC Membership

PCC members are Trustees of the Registered Charity

From July 2025 in Interregnum (no vicar)

Rev. Eileen Reid (Interim part-time Ministry lead) *from October 2025*

Mr. Tim Barker (Reader & Deanery Synod) lay vice-chair

Mrs. Christine Young (Licenced Lay Minister)

Mrs. Sue Shardlow (Bromfield)

Mrs. Margaret Graham (Holme Cultram)
Mrs. Elaine Atkinson (Holme Cultram)
Mrs. Judith Bryan (Holme Cultram)

Mr. Brian Bailey (Holme St Cuthbert)
Mrs. Barbara Stephens (Holme St Cuthbert)

Mrs. Josephine Jefferson (Kirkbride)
Mrs. Ann Little (Kirkbride)

Mrs. Ruth Pinguey (Newton Arlosh)
Mr. Ian King (Newton Arlosh)

Mrs. Margaret Graham (Silloth)
Mrs. Marjorie Harrison (Silloth)

Mr. Peter Wardle (Westnewton & Deanery Synod)
Mrs. Mary Hodgson (Westnewton)
Mrs. Jane Launchbury (Westnewton & Deanery Synod)
Mrs. Frances McIntyre (Deanery Synod) Secretary
Mrs. Anita Norman (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 John's, Newton Arlosh and St Bride's, Kirkbride became Parish Churches within the Parish of the Solway Plain on 1st August 2021.

St Mungo's Bromfield is a chapel of ease (daughter churches) and was licenced for the reading of banns and the solemnization of marriages by the Bishop on 19th November 2018.

At present we are in an Interregnum with no full-time minister but have a part-time interim Ministry Lead until a new vicar is recruited. Our Ministry team includes, Interim Ministry Leader; a Reader, and other licenced lay ministers; trained laity and three retired priests also help out in the parish.

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 seven 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 seven churches in the parish hold the delegated responsibility for their church's 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 meetings from the churches in the form of a consolidated account.

The end-of-year accounts are 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 07592031263 shollandreid@gmail.com

Holme Cultram Abbey: Laura Sharp 07879403442 lozs1984@btinternet.com

Holme St Cuthbert: Barbara Stephens 01900 881411

barbara.stephens@btconnect.com

Christ Church, Silloth Margaret Graham 016973 31452

margaretgraham70@gmail.com

St Matthew, Westnewton – Peter Wardle 07824903420

pajwardle@btopenworld.com

St Bride's, Kirkbride – Ann Little 016973 51254 annlittle8664@gmail.com

St John's, Newton Arlosh - Gwen Hopkinson 016973 51345

gwen.hopkinson@btinternet.com

Magazine Account – Anne Little (as above)

Solway Plain PCC – Ann Little 016973 51254 annlittle8664@gmail.com

Objectives and activities

The PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with the Ministry Lead 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 six open churchyards in the Parish (Abbeytown, Kirkbride, Newton Arlosh, Holme St Cuthbert, Bromfield and Westnewton), one closed churchyard (St Paul's Causewayhead) and an area for the burial of ashes (Waverton).

There are five 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 Francesc McIntyre acts as the Safeguarding Officer for the Parish 016973 44756 frannymac55@gmail.com 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 Safeguarding Officer gives regular reports to the PCC and annually at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting.

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. Individual churches have Facebook pages where information is publicised to the wider community.

Activities in the Parish are listed in the annual report.

Signed by the

REPORTS for 2025

Lay Chairman's Report

At time of writing this I have chaired three PCC meetings since the retirement of Rector Bryan Rothwell; and the spiritual and practical life of “The Team” as I still think of the united parish remains very rich. What heartens me is the way members of our churches have rallied to fill vacant roles and take on responsibilities.

We said Goodbye to both Bryan and Curate Cornelia which left Rev Geoffrey Ravalde and Rev Malcolm Stilwell to fill the priestly roles in our rota of services and their commitment is limited.

We're overjoyed that God has sent Rev Eileen Reed to step eagerly into the role of Part Time Interim Priest in charge, but she too is PART time.

Thankfully members of most of our churches are willing to lead worship and congregations have accepted some reductions in Communion services. The frequency of services has not been disturbed.

In addition, churchwardens and others have come up with new initiatives, set up new social media communication networks to share ideas and pulled together positively. God bless you.

I owe special thanks to Secretary Francess for guiding and prompting me and we all owe her thanks for shouldering so many duties.

As we continue in our interregnum I'll repeat what I said when the interregnum began - ours is a wonderful place and our people are wonderful people but, on the face of it I can see no earthly reason why a stranger would want to take on the responsibility of moving to join us. We can only look to God to call the right person. So, since He listens when we pray, the future is bright.

Electoral Roll

The combined Roll has been reviewed in April 2026 with **189** members.

The Roll is available for inspection.

Report from the Secretary of the PCC

In 2025 we had 4 full PCC meetings plus the APCM held in May (Feb, April, July, Oct)

Because Bryan was retiring had an extra meeting to discuss the way forward and talk about the Parish profile, with the Archdeacon Stewart Fife

The first half of the year was relatively normal - churches being busy and many congregations still small.

Then Bryan retired and Cornelia – finished her curacy and moved on
Being secretary I took on some of the gaps left by Bryan

Two main ones the weekly notice sheets and the ministry rotas (including finding clergy to take Holy Communion services) and getting churches to take some of their own services – and filling- in if required to take some services too

But the Solway Plain has stepped up - now with some slight changes and having Eileen Reid (taking the helm - as our part-time interim Ministry Lead) We have settled into a new scheme of things. Now some churches, on a regular basis, cover service other than Holy Communion. New forms of worship are becoming the norm - Café type of Family services, different Harvest festivals - all add to the Solway Plain being on the map!!

So, a huge THANK YOU to all those who have been cajoled by me over the year, for taking services, reading and taking intercession.

I would like to thank all who are part of the Ministry Team in the Solway Plain Parish, both Laity and Ordained, as without them, services wouldn't happen. ALL our churches are still open and have services with at least one Communion service a month.

Thank you again for all the churches managing to pay their Mission Offer. It has meant that we are able to advertise for a FULL-TIME ministry position for our Parish.

GOD is WITH US here in this place - FAITH is strong - BUT we still need to find ways to touch the lives of all who venture into our churches in the Solway Plain We still need to work closer together as churches - to these ends - when preparing the Parish Profile, I have called ourselves The Solway Plain United Parish – *I hope it sticks!!* 😊

Well done to all and again thank you to all those who work quietly behind the scenes of all the church in our Parish.

So let's make it happen!!! Let's become closer with each other, let's give help to each other, not only when it is needed - and let's ask for help too.

We still belong to the Mission Community of the Solway - although we have not had any time together (as a MC), activities are still ongoing under the Mission Community banner: Soulway in Aspatia: Men's Breakfast and Walking football in Silloth

Fransess McIntyre PCC Secretary

Reports from the PCC church committees

Holme St Cuthbert

We have had 3 subcommittee meetings and a stewardship meeting with John Thompson from the Diocese during the year
All safeguarding training is upto date

2025 began and so did the cycle of maintenance to ensure that our little church is welcoming to all, with again the Cumbrian weather holding sway on how much can be completed outside at any one time!

The Parish Hall was finally sold towards the end of 2025.

Outreach is very important to us, so having the church open ALL the time is one way of showing our community that we are there for them. Other community events are the Lent Lunch; Harvest festival and sale (where this year we had a Tractor festival with blessings. Inviting our farming community to say thank you for their work on the land); the usual Christingle and Carol Singing - finishing up at the Lowther Arms. The Quiet corner is being used by many in the community, for a little peace and lovely views – “a piece of quiet in the business of daily life “ as one visitor put it.

The Church committee would like to thank all those far and wide who have helped us in anyway during another in year at Holme St Cuthbert's

Fransess McIntyre

St Matthew, Westnewton

A hardworking and successful year in 2025. Good attendance and profitable Lent Lunch, Summer Fayre and Christmas Fayre. We really are so lucky to have so many hard-working people, both Church goers and friends, to help us and enable us to pay our way.

We had 5 meetings in the 12 months, wide ranging and extremely helpful, with an added bonus of Marth's hospitality

Peter Wardle

St Bride's, Kirkbride

Church attendance remains low and there are no indications of younger generations becoming practicing worshippers to add to a generally aged group of regular attendees. Having said that, the links between St Bride's and Kirkbride Primary school are strong and the school regularly visits church for occasions such as their Harvest Festival Service. The annual Christingle Service also appeals to the younger generations. United Services are particularly welcomed and felt to be up lifting opportunities to bring people together. St Bride's is generally in good state of repair though finances will be needed to allow the potentially expensive repair of the gable end wall damaged by storms last year and still unresolved.

Fundraising events such as the Hot Cross Bun coffee morning have continued, a Car Treasure hunt was a particular success in bringing a diverse group of people together as well as raising money. As ever, St Bride's Committee wishes to express our gratitude to the many people throughout the community who support our church in a multitude of different ways.

Craig Thompson

St John the Evangelist, Newton Arlosh

We had 4 meetings of our committee.

Currently there are 16 members on our Electoral roll.

All the "jobs" were attended to by the Subcommittee members and friends of our parish, cleaning, flowers, side person and church warden.

Our money making this was our monthly drawing tickets which sold very well.

Our Harvest festival sale plus raffle was very well supported, a big thank you goes to our Auctioneer of produce John Graham. Our services all went well.

Our Christmas carol service, having 7 readers with carols, plus refreshments was very well supported. Grass cutting is financially supported from Holm East Waver Parish Council which is much appreciated.

We feel that having the church always open makes passing visitors feel very welcome. Thank you to the Solway Plain ministry team for taking all our services.

Ruth Pinguey

Holme Cultram Abbey

We had 4 subcommittee meetings during the year

The Abbey churchyard, with its wildling and nature areas, are constantly growing and have brought pleasure to all those who take a walk around them. But disappointingly some people that use these areas do not adhere to the notices, by not clearing up after their dogs and not having them on leads.

Since Bryan retired - the family service has changed - having refreshments during the service, a craft activity (linked to the lectionary), while others read ; lead intercessions and play musical instruments, with members of Eco Church leading this service. We hope this style of service will encourage children in our church. Abbey Tots is now a regular even on Tuesdays during term times. The Parish Council and the Church collaborate, with the now annual Easter Egg Hunt with the number of families increasing each year – the fun happens both inside and outside - bible scenes are placed in the Abbey on the Easter theme and outside the "hunt" eventually leads back into the Abbey for refreshments and an Easter egg for the children. It's a lovely afternoon for all.

Other seasonal services are the Harvest Festival and Christmas wouldn't be Christmas without the Christingle services.

As the congregations fluctuate there is a need to fundraise even more – continuing apace are the Monthly Munches, The Strawberry Teas in July and the Christmas Fayre in November, along with occasional concerts, Teas and Talks and group visits. Other church events of Christening; Weddings and Funerals are also catered for. The committee are keeping up with the maintenance of the Abbey and its buildings as we head for our first quinquennial inspection, since the fire in 2026.

The committee would like to thank ALL those involved in the church, in any way for their help and support throughout the year *Francesc McIntyre*

St Mungo, Bromfield

We currently have 1 member serving on the PCC and a local church committee looking after the everyday business of the church. The committee meet regularly to discuss maintenance and fundraising. Roof repairs and a flooded boiler house were significant costs. Funds remain steady but we always wish for more. Donations were received from the Parish Council and Aspatria charity shop which helped fund our grass cutting costs. Our Parish offer was paid in full, and we have increased the amount paid year on year.

Our quinquennial inspection has been carried out, and we are awaiting the report and recommendations. We have also had a recent inspection by the Cumbrian Fire service. Their recommendations are also being implemented. Our congregation numbers remain small, but we remain positive that numbers can increase. Westnewton pre-school group meet at the church on Friday mornings, hopefully parents will become familiar with our activities and become more involved. The group hold their annual Nativity play in the church.

Our fundraising included a Big Breakfast, Craft fair, Harvest Bingo, Quizzes, and a Carol Service. All events were well supported and raised a significant amount to church funds. Thanks to our local committee members for their continued loyal support.

We look forward to another year and hope that you continue to support our events.

Shirley Holland-Reid

Christ Church, Silloth

2025 has been another challenging year with the retirement of The Rector, Revd Canon Bryan Rothwell followed by the departure of Revd Cornelia Noghiu. Bryan had a good sendoff at his final service on 29th June. His leadership and guidance are missed as we keep Christ Church going during the interregnum. The Committee has met regularly with Tim Barker taking over the Chair, he has been working tirelessly to keep the Church activities in order, ably supported by our Church Wardens Jean Oliver and Margaret Graham, Margaret also acting as Treasurer. The Committee were pleased to welcome David Henderson who has brought enthusiasm and a knowledge of modern technology to the committee.

The appointment of The Revd Eileen Reid as Interim Ministry Lead in the Solway Plain in September has been a great help and has given us a lift.

The need for fundraising becomes a greater issue, Coffee mornings, Art Exhibition and Tim's Quiz all raised much needed funds, but more is always needed. The Church continues to be used by several groups including the Youth Group, Men's Breakfast and Walking Football.

Liz Elliott

Other Reports

Churches Together in Silloth

Christ Church, the Roman Catholic Church and Greenrow Pentecostal Church, supported by local Methodist and URC members who now worship in other towns, maintained the annual programme of events including open-air carols by the crib outside Christ Church, an Easter bible-study course and services on Good Friday and Easter morning. Margaret Gate led the Sea Sunday service at the Lifeboat Station where money was raised for four sea charities.

Thanks especially to everyone – churchgoers and others – who helped distribute Christmas calendars to every household in the town. *Tim Barker*

Solway Mission Community

The ecumenical Mission Community (MC) involves churches in Silloth, Aspatria and Wigton. The Steering Committee of clergy and representatives from the Anglican, Methodist and URC churches of the area agreed in 2023 to amalgamate with Criffell View MC (Allonby, Maryport) but this has not yet happened. The Steering Committee has met rarely since then, but activities continue:

Soulway, the informal worship group led by Rev Matt Richards meets in Aspatria Rugby Club on the last Sunday of each month at 4pm and reaches out into the community with street cleaning sessions. Programmes have included a 24-hour prayer time, a curry night and a dramatisation of the Passion story. Contact Rev Matt Richards 07932 041517.

Men's Breakfast is provided on the first Saturday of the month at 9am in Christ Church Silloth. A full breakfast is provided and a guest speaker, though one month was reduced to simple tea, toast and chat owing to a lack of volunteers to organise cooking that day. We are eternally grateful to those who do keep the project working but there is a continuing need for people to help prepare the space, cook and serve. To book breakfast or offer to help, please contact Francess 07967 376356.

Walking Football for men and women, takes place by Silloth tennis courts at 1pm each Monday, followed by coffee in Christ Church.

United prayer sessions aim to be held in a different church each month. A time of quiet prayer for any public or personal matters that people are concerned about. Silent meditation is included. Contact Tim Barker 016973 31246. Members of the MC support cell groups for young people in

Aspatria, Wigton and Silloth organised by Network Youth Church.

Tim Barker

Deanery Synod verbal at the APCM

Safeguarding: from PSO

Parish Safeguarding Officer:

Francess McIntyre

Diocesan Safeguarding Advisor: Jo Van Lachterop

In 2025 – No safeguarding issues have been reported to me or the year

The major safeguarding issue for us ALL in the Solway Plain Parish was the retirement of the vicar Bryan Rothwell – which meant all FULL Church wardens would have to complete the Leadership Level of Safeguarding. We were fortunate to have this training face to face in the Abbey in May '25, this meant that all the churches in our Parish are covered.

The PSO has reviewed the Safeguarding Policy for the PCC meeting 22nd April 2026 ready for the APCM

Areas that were highlighted this year - the use of social media by the churches in the Parish and the PCC needing the individual church administrators. Considering GDPR (eg signed permission for photos of children).

*NB All **Parishes** are required to have formally adopted the House of Bishops 'Promoting a Safer Church; Safeguarding Policy statement', and Church of England safeguarding policy and guidance.*

PCC members reviewed and adopted the Diocesan Safeguarding policy on at our APCM

The PCC holds the FULL policy (Sectetary: PSO)

*With every church having **UP TO DATE COPIES** of the following for anyone to view within their church:-*

- *the poster recommended for parishes, "Promoting a Safer Church"*
- *the House of Bishops' policy statement*
- *With the "Who's who" in parish safeguarding in your church.*

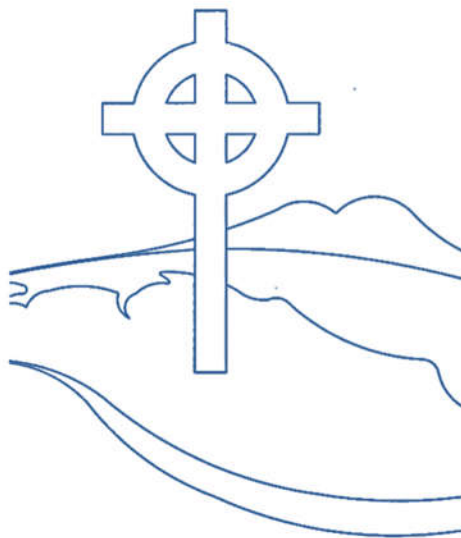
Francess McIntyre PSO for the Solway Plain

Date reviewed: 31st May 2026

Signed:

Accounts

The Parish of the Solway Plain Annual Meeting



**Sunday 18th May 2025 at 11am
St Mungo's Church, Bromfield**

Agenda

Minutes of the last meetings

Annual Reports

Accounts

Vestry Meeting and Annual Parochial Church Meeting

St Mungo's Church, Bromfield - Sunday 18th May 2025 at 11.00am

Agenda

Welcome by the Chairman

The Meeting for the Election of Churchwardens

1. The Election of Churchwardens
2. The Admission of Churchwardens – **Tuesday 1st July 2025 at 7pm in All Soul's Church, Netherton**

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting

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Meeting of the Parochial Church Council

There will be a short meeting of the PCC following the Annual Meetings
The next full meeting will take place on 9th July at 7.00pm

The Parish of the Solway Plain.

Minutes of the Annual Meetings 2024 in the Parish of the Solway Plain held on 19th May 2024 in Holme St Cuthbert Church.

The meeting took place after a united service held at 10am.

Welcome: - The Rector - Canon Rev Bryan Rothwell took the chair

The Rector thanked all that have contributed in any way towards the running and upkeep of the churches in the Parish. Many are behind the scenes and our churches would not survive without them.

He also thanked members of the clergy team – Tim (who is away at present) Geoffrey and Malcolm, and our newest member Cornelia (our curate) who has settled in well and loved by all.

Bryan concluded by saying we still manage to have services in the churches every week, due to the Parish having a wonderful Ministry team – both Lay and Ordained working alongside the Church wardens/deputy wardens and he gives his heartfelt thanks to all

Present & Apologies: 32 parishioners were present
Apologies from 6 parishioners

The Vestry meeting for the Election of Church Wardens

1. Election of Church Wardens

The Rector thanked **ALL** those involved in the “running” of our churches, in whatever way they could. **ALL** have an integral part to play in the life of our churches. THANKS to each and every one of you!

Election of Deputy Wardens (from our daughter churches)

St Mungo, Bromfield

Mary Douglas Sue Roberts

Election of Church Wardens

Holme Cultram Abbey

Margaret Graham, Brenda Sim
Ass. Elaine Atkinson

Holme St Cuthbert, Mawbray

Brian Bailey, Lynda Bailey

St Bridget's, Kirkbride

Josephine Jefferson Stephen Sowerby

St John's, Newton Arlosh

Sherry King
Willy Bell stepping down after 40+ years

Christchurch, Sillioth

Margaret Graham, Jean Oliver

St Matthew's, Westnewton

Christine Young, Mary Hodgson

Nominations were carried by all present

2. Admission of Church Wardens

Will take place on **Wednesday 3rd July at 7:00pm in All Soul's Church, Netherton**

The meeting closed at 11:28 am

Minutes from the Annual Parochial Church Meeting Sunday 19th May 2024 in Holme St Cuthbert's, Mawbray

Charity N^o 1187312

1. Minutes of last year's Annual Meeting

Signed as a true copy by Bryan (Rector)

2. Matters arising from the minutes

No matters arising

3. Reports in the booklet – *booklets where in ALL the churches a week before the meeting*

- a) The Annual report – the official report about the Parish that goes to the Charity Commission
- b) Rector's report
- c) Treasurer's report – The consolidated accounts for the Solway Plain PCC copy with the booklet
 - Balance sheet as at the end 2023 with a breakdown of each income and expenditure
 - Ministry Offer which was £57,750 was paid in full
 - Treasurers are working together and supporting each
 - Margaret Pickering will relinquish her position as Treasurer from 1st June 2024, so any suggestions for a new Parish Treasurer – please let the vicar know
- d) From the Secretary of the PCC with Electoral Roll report– membership is currently 282
- e) From the Parish Churches – in the booklet
- f) Churches together - in booklet
- g) Mission Community – in booklet
- h) Deanery Synod - in booklet
- i) Safeguarding

NB The PCC wish to give our grateful thanks to Margaret for all her work on our behalf ever since we became a single PCC in 2019

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

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

Bromfield	Susan Shardlow
Holme Cultram	Margaret Graham, Judith Bryan, Elaine Atkinson
Holme St Cuthbert	Brian Bailly, Barbara Stephens
Kirkbride	Josephine Jefferson, Sindy Harrap, Ann Little
Newton Arlosh	Ruth Pinguey, Ian King
Silloth	Margaret Graham, Marjorie Harrison
Westnewton	Christine Young, Mary Hodgson

All nominations were carried by all members present

Date of next Full PCC meeting 17th July in Holme Cultram at 7:00pm

5. **The Election of Deanery Synod Representatives**

As we now have 7 churches within our and 6 Synod representatives, based on the Electoral Roll of the whole parish.

Membership at present	Tim Barker	Silloth
	Jane Launchbury	Westnewton
	Francess McIntyre	Abbeytown
	Anita Norman	Abbeytown
	Peter Wardle	Westnewton
	Brian Bailey	Holme St Cuthbert

6. **Review of the Safeguarding Policy**

Report on file from Francess McIntyre; Parish Safeguarding Officer

- Thanked all who have completed their training. Most have completed the Basic Awareness module and others the Foundation Module as required.
- Recap: Everyone in the Church has a Duty of Care

7. **AOB None**

From the floor – Thanks to Bryan for all his help and support to all the churches throughout the past year

The meeting closed with the Grace (meeting closed at 11:47am)

The Parish of the Solway Plain in the Diocese of Carlisle

Registered Charity No. 1187312

Annual Report for the year ended 31st December 2024

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
St John's, Newton Arlosh CA7 5ET
St Bride's, Kirkbride CA7 5HY

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**

Mrs Cornelia Noghiu (Curate)

Mr Tim Barker (Reader & Deanery Synod) **lay vice-chair**

Mrs Christine Young (Licenced Lay Minister)

Mrs Sue Shardlow (Bromfield)

Mrs Margaret Graham (Holme Cultram)

Mrs Elaine Atkinson (Holme Cultram)

Mrs Judith Bryan (Holme Cultram)

Mr Brian Bailey (Holme St Cuthbert)

Mrs Barbara Stephens (Holme St Cuthbert)

Mrs Josephine Jefferson (Kirkbride)

Mrs Ann Little (Kirkbride)

Mrs Sindy Harrap (Kirkbride)

Mrs Ruth Pinguey (Newton Arlosh)

Mr Ian King (Newton Arlosh)

Mrs Margaret Graham (Silloth)

Mrs Marjorie Harrison (Silloth)

Mr Peter Wardle (Westnewton & Deanery Synod)

Mrs Mary Hodgson (Westnewton)

Mrs Jane Launchbury (Westnewton & Deanery Synod)

Mrs Frances McIntyre (Deanery Synod) **Secretary**

Mrs Anita Norman (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 John's, Newton Arlosh and St Bride's, Kirkbride became Parish Churches within the Parish of the Solway Plain on 1st August 2021. St Mungo's Bromfield is a chapel of ease (daughter churches) and was 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 Curate and other licenced lay ministers. Two retired priests also help out in the parish.

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 seven 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 seven churches in the parish hold the delegated responsibility for their church's 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 07592031263 shollandreid@gmail.com

Holme Cultram Abbey – Laura Sharp 07879403442 lozs1984@btinternet.com

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

Christ Church, Silloth – Margaret Graham 016973 31452 margaretgraham70@gmail.com

St Matthew, Westnewton – Peter Wardle 07824903420 pajwardle@btopenworld.com

St Bride's, Kirkbride – Ann Little 016973 51254 annlittle8664@gmail.com

St John's, Newton Arlosh - Gwen Hopkinson 016973 51345

gwen.hopkinson@btinternet.com

Magazine Account – Anne Little (as above)

Solway Plain PCC – Margaret Pickering stepped down as Treasurer and is currently being looked after by the Rector until a new appointment is made.

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 six open churchyards in the Parish (Abbeytown, Kirkbride, Newton Arlosh, Holme St Cuthbert, Bromfield and Westnewton), one closed churchyard (St Paul's Causewayhead) and an area for the burial of ashes (Waverton).

There are five 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 016973 44756 frannymac55@gmail.com. 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 Safeguarding Officer gives regular reports to the PCC and annually at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting.

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

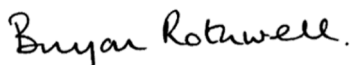
The Parish Produces a Magazine which is distributed throughout the churches monthly for 10 months of the year, joint editions are produced in July/August and December/January. A committee formed from representatives of all the churches oversees the production. The committee meets twice a year.

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. Individual churches have Facebook pages where information is publicised to the wider community.

Activities in the Parish are listed in the annual report.

Signed by the chairman:



Rector's Report

Looking back over the past year, also prompts me to look back over the past fourteen years. I have been blessed with colleagues who have been wonderfully supportive and bringing their unique gifts and insights into the ministry of the church in the Solway Plain Parish.

Alongside we have had faithful churchwardens, PCC members and local congregations who have given their time and energy to enable our churches to be focal points for worship and mission in their local communities.

Each of our churches are different and bring a variety of styles and approaches across the Solway Plain. But we are united in our faith, and our desire to see our churches flourishing. The world has changed and moved in different directions. The church no longer has a central part in many people's lives yet is still important in the significant times of life, through our ministry of baptism, weddings and funerals. We come alongside people in times of joy and sadness. We minister to people in sickness, grief and loneliness. We offer a message of God's love for all as we work alongside young people in schools and in youth activities.

My journey to ordained ministry began whilst still a student at university. On 30th June 1985 I was young, inexperienced and nervous when standing before the bishop in Carlisle Cathedral before starting as a curate in Carlisle. Since then, and after working in Ulverston, Preston and Threlkeld & St John's in the Vale and here in the Solway Plain, I may have gained a lot of experience, but I am constantly aware of what more there is to do, to learn and to achieve.

There have been some painful and difficult times. We will not forget the effects of Foot & Mouth on our communities, the effects of fire & floods, and Covid. But we come through these things because we work together, because we support each other, because we share the same faith and hope in God.

There have also been some wonderful achievements, through commitment and support to enable things to change and to grow.

Having recently celebrated Easter, we have recalled that at the heart of the gospel, out of death comes life, resurrection life, life in all its fullness.

Change can often be worrying, and we can't always know what lies ahead, but I pray that our churches are in a good position to look forward with confidence to the Lord who continues to guide and bless us in the coming months and years.

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." *Jeremiah 29:11*

Bryan Rothwell

Electoral Roll

The combined Roll in 2024 was 282, the Roll was renewed in preparation for the Annual Meeting 2025 and there are now **189** members. The Roll is available for inspection.

Report from the Secretary of the PCC

In 2024 we had 3 full PCC meetings plus the APCM held in May

It has been a busy year for all the churches within the Solway Plain Parish with many congregations still fluctuating, with some midweek services doing better than traditional Sunday Services.

Maybe it is time to look at the congregations (number and age), service times, where, when and how we move forward as individual churches and as a single PCC.

Our Mission Community still exists, but without a leader, so it has become difficult to feel connected to other Parishes, within our Solway Plain MC area. However, some activities set up have become established and very popular - Men's Breakfast; Walking Football and Soulway to name a few. When we have a Mission Community leader the next step will be to move forward with the "Garden Planner" A booklet which aims to help support, energise, and encourage all of our mission communities here in Cumbria as they consider how best to flourish locally: as churches, as faith communities, and as individual Christians and disciples of Jesus.

We must thank all who are part of our Ministry Team for their continued work within the Parish, as at present, ALL the churches have a weekly service (no matter how small the congregation), having at least one Communion service a month.

This year Bryan completed the task of revamping our worship booklets (which had started during the Covid pandemic) bringing all the churches together under one common worship booklet. These were introduced to all the churches on Advent Sunday.

Cornelia has settled in well, with the travelling and routines within our area, and has brought many a smile to Parishioners with her own style of Ministry. Under the watchful eye of Bryan, who is ensuring that Cornelia gains all the experiences she will need to become a Parish priest.

Once again, ALL the churches have paid their Mission Offers in full - but we still have a shortfall for the actual cost of having a full time incumbent. Another thing WE as a Parish will have to think about in 2025

As a Parish – we still need to be thinking of how we go forward - working more as a single entity rather than seven churches and how we can make the Parish of the Solway Plain more attractive to a new incumbent.

It remains a privilege to see - God for All within OUR PARISH!

Well done to all and again thank you to all those who work quietly behind the scenes keeping this Parish alive.

Francesc McIntyre

Reports from the PCC church committees

Holme St Cuthbert

We have had 3 subcommittee meetings and a stewardship meeting with John Thompson from the Diocese during the year

All safeguarding training is upto date

2024 began and so did the cycle of maintenance to ensure that our little church is welcoming to all.

But being Cumbria, the weather holds sway on how much can be completed outside at any one time!

The Parish Hall is still up for sale as a private dwelling.

The committee took on board “Stewardship” in all its forms this year having a meeting with John from the Diocese. He helped us put together a leaflet about our church and what it does within the community. Everyone in our area received the leaflet – but very few responded. BUT at least we tried!

Outreach is very important to us and having the church open ALL the time. Some of the events for the community are Lent Lunch; Harvest (where the school are fully involved in decorating the church); Christingle and Carol Singing around the area - finishing up at the Lowther Arms (who are very supportive of the church and another community asset). This was also our second year our Memorial Tree “pop in” during Advent - having lovely chats over a cuppa and nibbles, with people remembering their loved ones, with laughter and a few tears (gosh don’t forget the stories too!)

The Quiet corner (in the older part of the grave yard) has been looking lovely during the year with donated planters, flowers and a bench or two. It’s a little hideaway form the business of the world, to take stock and just be with God and his creation.

The Church committee would like to thank all those far and wide who have helped us in anyway during another in year at Holme St Cuthbert’s

Francess McIntyre

St Matthew, Westnewton

The local committee met 6 times over the year- at Martha’s as usual, marvellous hospitality as always.

We held 3 major fundraising events- a Soup Lunch, Summer Fayre and Christmas Fayre.

Thankfully all were well attended. In addition we had a very generous income from Martha’s Table and from the Dominoes club.

We agreed increases to our Parish Offer of 10% for 2024 and 5% for each of 2025 and 2026.

Bible Crack continues on the 3rd Monday evening chaired by Malcolm. An excellent hour or so and open to all.

Peter Wardle

St Bride's, Kirkbride

The congregation of St. Bride's is an aging but active one, who aim to support the church with whatever skills they can offer. The number of regular worshippers remains small. Members contribute to services and upkeep in a variety of ways as well as lead some services. Help and care from the wider community is always forthcoming and the committee is appreciative and thankful of support, in whatever guise it comes, towards the upkeep of St. Bride's. Special services are particularly well attended and links with the village primary school are strong. Our financial position is comfortable, aided by a variety of fundraising events. The church has suffered water ingress through the gable wall and roof due to one of the named storms this winter and repairs will be required.

Craig Thompson

St John the Evangelist, Newton Arlosh

We held 3 meetings of our committee. Currently there are 16 members on our Electoral Roll.

All the jobs were attended to by PCC members and friends of our parish helpers, cleaning, flowers side person and church warden.

Our money making this year was our Monthly Drawing tickets which sold very well. Our Harvest Festival sale plus Raffle was a success, a big thankyou goes to our Auctioneer of produce, John Graham. We also had a Christmas Bingo donation by the Parish Hall.

Our services all went very well, only a few for Remembrance Day and the Christmas carol service and the Christmas service all went very well.

We had one baptism in February and a wedding in May went very well.

Willie Bell resigned from Church Warden and Treasurer of St John's Church for over 40 years.

Grass cutting is financially supported from Holm East Waver Parish Council which is much appreciated. It was agreed that we open our church every day to get visitors in the church.

Thank you to the Solway Plain ministry team for taking all our services.

Ruth Pinguey

Holme Cultram Abbey

We have had 5 subcommittee meetings during the year.

Inside: Ambulatory: the revamp was completed, and the "new" fines display case now in situ and lit up showing off some of the artefacts found during the "digs" around the Abbey grounds.

The Memorial Chapel: had some the custom-made cabinets installed.

Upper floor: Needs some work done, as the damp is affecting the ceilings

Paul Grout is still to complete our Quinquennial survey sometime this year.

Outside: The re - wilding of the older part of the churchyard continues - with many people from the village enjoying the walks through the older part of the burial grounds

Eco Church (with help from the Parish Council) are continuing (even if very slowly) to get the community involved with an Easter Egg hunt in March, having over 40 children with adults following the clues in and around the Abbey, seeing Peter rabbit and collecting a prize of an Easter egg: Being involved with the National Churchyard count again in June and Litter Picks and Pizza as well as getting the school involved in putting displays in the bus shelter (near the shop).

The Parish Council has also provided another defibrillator for the village, and it is sited on the Abbey's outside toilets.

Fundraising: The familiar cycle of fundraising for the Abbey continues, having the Monthly Munches, Strawberry Tea weekend in July and the Christmas Fayre in November, along with occasional events like concerts from Dalston MVC, Tea and Talks and other church events of christenings; marriages and funerals all being catered for. The Church committee would like to thank ALL those involved in any way for their help and support throughout the year.

Francess McIntyre

St Mungo, Bromfield

We currently have 1 member serving on the PCC and a local church committee looking after the everyday business of the church. The committee meet to discuss maintenance and fund raising. Funds remain steady and in a fairly good state but like others we would wish for more. Regular reminders are given to donate via Gift Aid where possible. Our Parish offer was paid in full, and we have increased the amount paid year on year.

Our quinquennial inspection recommendations continue to be carried out and the church building is in a fair state of repair. An outstanding inspection of the roof and belltower needs to be completed, and sandstone tiles have been lost and need replacing. Again, our very old boiler continued to let us down with meetings held to discuss a replacement heating system. Our congregation numbers remain small, but we remain positive that numbers can increase. Westnewton pre-school group meet at the church on Friday mornings, hopefully parents will become familiar with our activities and become more involved. The group hold their annual Nativity play in the church.

We also undertook a programme of events to raise funds which included a Big Breakfast, Craft fairs, Harvest Bingo and a Carol Service. All events were well supported and raised a significant amount to church funds.

We look forward to another year and hope that you continue to support our events.

Shirley Holland-Reid

Christ Church, Silloth

Christ Church has served the community for another year with all the usual services. The Committee has met regularly but with no new faces. The importance of safeguarding is kept high on the agenda with committee members keeping up to date with safeguarding training. Margaret Graham is still having to continue very ably as acting Treasurer. The Rector, Revd

Canon Bryan Rothwell has chaired the Committee, his imminent retirement is a wakeup call for us ensure the work of Christ Church continues with even more vigour in these challenging times.

The Rector, Church wardens and volunteers have worked hard to maintain all aspects of Church life ensuring that everything runs smoothly. Numbers attending the services are relatively low, but the Church does have a positive atmosphere. Since reordering the use of the Church for more community activities has increased for example the Christmas Lights Switch On, Youth Group, Men's Breakfast and Walking Football continue to thrive and enjoy the facilities.

Several fundraising events have been held such as Tims Quiz, concerts and coffee mornings. Raising funds is an ongoing challenge.

Liz Elliott

Other Reports

Churches Together in Silloth

On January 21st a united service for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity in the Roman Catholic Church was well supported.

United ministry at easter included a course of Lent Bible Study in Christ Church.

Good Friday worship was held in the Pentecostal Church followed by a walk of witness before planting the cross on the green. Tim Barker and Teresa Lewis guided worshippers through the Stations of the Cross in the Roman Catholic church.

On Easter Day members met at 5.45am for the Sunrise Service followed by breakfast butties and hot cross buns in Christ Church.

Sea Sunday was led by Mrs Margaret Gate. £30 was donated to each of four sea charities. A reduction on the previous year.

Silloth Green Day Morning service, Carnival Praise and open-air carol service took place again.

The church leaders recorded a series of daily Advent reflections to be broadcast on Facebook during December.

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

Christ Church members are urged to take part in all the activities which Churches Together present, especially when they replace our own regular Sunday services. Many events provide valuable "outreach" to non-churchgoers. The next meeting of Churches Together will be on July 23rd at 7.30 in Christ Church. It will be a social event rather than business and refreshments will be provided. All church members are invited

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 with most active events based on the Solway worship activities organised by Rev Matt Richards, pioneer curate of Aspatria. These take place in Aspatria Rugby Club on the fourth Sunday of each month at 4pm. They have included informal worship, a curry night and street cleaning. Contact Rev Matt Richards 07932041517

Men's Breakfast continued in Christ Church on the first Saturday of each month at 9am.

All men in the community are invited to eat a full breakfast and hear a variety of speakers. We are especially grateful to the ladies and some men who prepare and serve the breakfast.

United prayer sessions took place during the year around the community. These continue at 3pm on various Sundays going to different churches in the area for a time of quiet prayer for any public or personal matters people are concerned about. Contact Tim Barker 016973 31246

Walking football continued on Mondays with a group of about two dozen men and women players plus others who join for refreshment and fellowship in Christ Church after the game.

Volunteers from different churches continue to help at cell groups for young people in Aspatria and Silloth and with various activities initiated by particular churches.

The Mission Community is organised by a steering group of the clergy and youth workers plus representatives from the different churches. Funding comes from various sources including church contributions, grants for specific activities and the Diocesan Growth Fund.

Tim Barker

Deanery Synod

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

In June the meeting focuses on Net Zero in the Carlisle Diocese, with a presentation from Anna Newlove. She explained the steps being taken by the diocese and churches, with a number of churches having worked on the Arocha Eco Church scheme gaining bronze and silver awards.

The November meeting was led by Tricia Rodgers on Disability Awareness, and the various things a church should be considering how to make our churches accessible for all.

Elections to Diocesan Synod and Committees were held this year. The Deanery Synod is looking for a new secretary, and with the retirement of Bryan Rothwell as Rural Dean, await a news of his successor.

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.

Vacancies in the Criffel View and Workington Benefices, have put increased burden on ministers, church members and volunteers. The parishes are working with the Archdeacon to seek new appointments as soon as possible.

Rural Dean

Safeguarding

Parish Safeguarding Officer: Francess McIntyre

Diocesan Safeguarding Advisor: Jo Van Lachterop

In 2024 – there was one safeguarding issue (throughout the Parish of the Solway) reported to me, as PSO last year.

2024 was a good year for me – as ALL the required safeguarding training with the Parish was complete by all those with responsibilities within their “own” churches and the PCC and even the new module of Raising the Awareness of Domestic Abuse.

Thank you to ALL who have completed their training – we all have a duty of care and “to have due regard”, for our positions within the church community seriously.

We need to bear in mind that Revd Canon Bryan Rothwell (our Incumbent), has expressed that he is thinking of retiring in his 40 year of Ministry (which will fall next year 2025) and he is another key member of the Safeguarding Team for the Solway Plain, so for some their roles will have extra responsibilities. Towards the end of 2024 to 2025, the Diocese of Carlisle will be having an INEQE Safeguarding Audit

NB All Parishes are required to have formally adopted the House of Bishops ‘Promoting a Safer Church; Safeguarding Policy statement’, and Church of England safeguarding policy and guidance.

PCC members reviewed and adopted the Diocesan Safeguarding policy on 19-05-24 at our APCM

The PCC holds the FULL policy (Rector: PSO)

With every church having UP TO DATE COPIES of the following for anyone to view within their church:-

- *The Parish Safeguarding handbook*
- *the poster recommended for parishes, “Promoting a Safer Church”*
- *the House of Bishops’ policy statement*
- *With the “Who’s who” in parish safeguarding in your church.*

Francess McIntyre PSO for the Solway Plain

Action Plan from the Safeguarding Dashboard (LEVEL 2) year 2024/25

- For the PCC to review the Safeguarding policy

Which includes:- Receiving and Managing Allegations.

- Ensure ALL members of church committees and the PCC complete their relevant training
- That ALL Safeguarding information is displayed in EVERY CHURCH with the PARISH
- To include photos of the people mentioned on the who’s who
- To establish a Safeguarding Team - trained initially in Safer Recruitment:

Date reviewed: 18th May 2025

Francess McIntyre (Parish Safeguarding Officer)

Consolidated Accounts of the Solway Plain PCC 2024

1st January to 31st December 2024

Receipts	Unrestricted	Restricted
Voluntary receipts		
Tax efficient planned giving	31,751	1,534
Other planned giving	4,915	0
Collections at services	15,309	0
All other giving	8,654	1,784
Gift aid recovered	13,812	0
Legacies received (capital value)	500	0
Grants (including recurring & one off)	12,318	4,852
TOTAL Voluntary Receipts	87,259	8,170
Activities for generating funds		
Gross receipts from fund raising	39,919	530
Investment Income		
Dividends, Interest, receipts from property	1,486	3,153
Church activities		
Statutory fees retained by the PCC	11,222	0
Gross receipts from trading (not fundraising)	13,473	471
Other receipts		
Other receipts not already listed	4,124	0
TOTAL RECEIPTS	157,483	12,324
COMBINED TOTAL	169,807	
Cash & investment balances	Unrestricted	Restricted
Cash & deposit balance at 1st January 2024	197,428	96,254
Investments at 1st January 2024	0	342
TOTAL FUNDS	197,428	96,596

Payments	Unrestricted	Restricted
Cost of generating funds		
Fundraising activities	4,252	0
Church activities		
Mission giving & donations	1,122	0
Diocesan parish offer	60,940	0
Salaries, wages & honoraria	0	0
Clergy & staff expenses	4,461	0
Church expenses		
Mission & evangelism costs	0	0
Running expenses (including governance)	41,528	3,851
Utility bills	19,388	0
Cost of trading	9,770	228
Major capital expenditure		
Major repairs to church building	7,060	7,251
Major repairs to church hall	0	0
New building works	0	0
SUB-TOTAL of all expenditure above	148,521	11,330
Other payments not listed	0	0
TOTAL PAYMENTS	148,521	11,330
COMBINED TOTAL	159,851	
Cash & investment balances	Unrestricted	Restricted
Cash & deposit balance at 31st December 2024	206,390	97,228
Investments at 31st December 2024	0	362
TOTAL FUNDS	206,390	97,590

**Independent Examiner's Report to the members/trustees of the Parish of
the Solway Plain.**

Registered Charity No. 1187312

The component parts of The Parish of the Solway Plain are Independently Examined individually by their own appointed examiners who issue them with their Independent Examiners report.

I report only on the Consolidated Accounts of the Parish for the year ended 31st December 2023 which have been produced from the above records and which are set out on 1 page.

Respective responsibilities of the Trustees and Independent Examiner

The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners section 145 (5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent Examiner's Statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission.

An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and 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 management committee concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in a full audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the accounts.

Independent Examiner's Statement

In connection with my examination, no matters have come to my attention

1. which give me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements

- to keep accounting records in accordance with s.130 of the 2011 Act; or
- to prepare accounts which accord with these accounting records have not been met; or

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

Linda Brown
Field End Cottage
Waterside
Wigton
Cumbria



The Parish of the Solway Plain

Consolidated Accounts of the
Parochial Church Council

2024

Independent Examiner's Report to the members/trustees of the Parish of the Solway Plain.

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Linda Brown
Field End Cottage
Waterside
Wigton
Cumbria

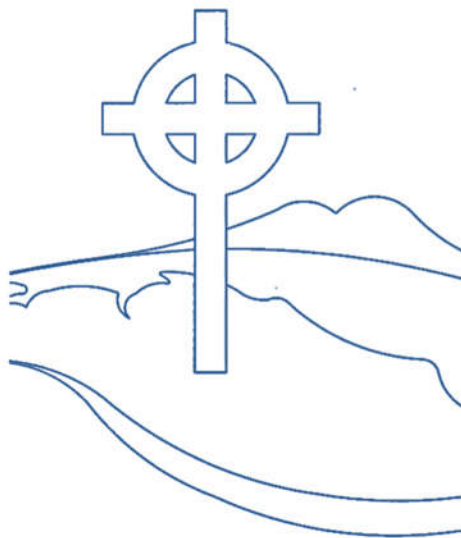


Date:

18 - 3 - 2025

Accounts

The Parish of the Solway Plain Annual Meeting



Sunday 19th May 2024 at 11am
Holme St Cuthbert Church

Agenda

Minutes of the last meetings

Annual Reports

Accounts

Vestry Meeting and Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Holme St Cuthbert Church - Sunday 19th May 2024 at 11.00am

Agenda

Welcome by the Chairman

The Meeting for the Election of Churchwardens

1. The Election of Churchwardens
2. The Admission of Churchwardens – **Wednesday 3rd July at 7pm in All Soul's Church, Netherton**

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting

	Page
1. Minutes of last year's Annual Meetings	2-5
2. Matters arising from the minutes	
3. Reports	
a. Annual Report	5-7
b. Chairman's Report	8
c. The Accounts for the year ending 31st December 2022 <i>insert</i>	
d. Electoral Roll	9
e. Report on the Parochial Church Council	9
f. Reports from the church committees of the Solway Plain Parish	10
g. Reports from Churches Together	13
h. Solway Plain Mission Community	14
i. Report on the Activities of Solway Deanery Synod	15
4. The Election of the Parochial Church Council	
5. Review of Safeguarding policy	15
6. 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 **Tuesday 17th July 2024** at 7pm

The Parish of the Solway Plain.

Minutes of the Annual Meetings 2023 in the Parish of the Solway Plain held on 21st May 2023 in Christ Church, Silloth.

The meeting took place after a united service held at 10am.

Welcome. The Rector, Rev Canon Bryan Rothwell took the chair. He gave a “big Thank You” to all who took part in the running of our churches but pointed out that our united work as witnesses to Christ was not just about what happens in our church buildings.

Vestry Meeting for the election of churchwardens.

Nominations for Churchwardens

Holme Cultram	Margaret Graham (Assistant Elaine Atkinson)	Brenda Sim
Holme St Cuthbert	Brian Bailey	Lynda Bailey
Kirkbride	Josephine Jefferson	Stephen Sowerby
Newton Arlosh	Willy Bell	Sherry King
Silloth	Jean Oliver	Margaret Graham
Westnewton	Christine Young	Mary Hodgson

Deputy wardens (from daughter church Bromfield)

Shirley Holland-Reid Mary Douglas

Nominations were carried unanimously.

Admission of churchwardens of the Solway Plain Mission community will take place on 13th July at St Kentigern, Aspatria at 7pm

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

- 1 Minutes of last year's annual meetings** were signed as a true copy.
- 2 Matters arising** None
- 3 Reports** Written reports were in the booklet distributed at the meeting.
 - a. Annual Report** as booklet
 - b. Chairman's Report** as booklet
 - c. Accounts for the year ending 31st December 2022**

Consolidated accounts were in the booklet.

The Chair noted that, though the overall result for the year looked good, much of the surplus income was from generous legacies and could not be counted on in the future.

Church treasurers had met with Diocesan representatives to discuss Parish Offers from the Mission Community. It had been explained that these paid for the clergy in our parishes. Our community cannot afford to pay the full cost of our clergy and is actually subsidised by other communities who pay more than their own clergy require.

The Diocesan budget requires a 5% rise in the over-all offer.

Bryan thanked all the treasurers who do a demanding task. Silloth was looking for a new treasurer.

He thanked Parish Treasurer Margaret Pickering who has moved to Carlisle. She is standing down as Parish Treasurer but will continue to advise and support her successor and all church treasurers.

d. Electoral Roll

The roll had been updated and had 290 names.

Sadly, Bryan had just received news that one person named had since died.

e. Report on the Parochial Church Council as booklet

f. Reports from Church Committees of the Solway Plain as booklet

g. Report from Churches Together as booklet

h. Report from Solway Plain Mission Community as booklet

i. Report on the activities of Solway Deanery Synod as booklet

4 Election of the Parochial Church Council

Each church may nominate up to three representatives to the PCC.

Nominations

Bromfield	Susan Shardlow		
Holme Cultram	Margaret Graham	Judith Bryan	Elaine Atkinson
Holme St Cuthbert	Brian Bailey	Barbara Stephens	
Kirkbride	Josephine Jefferson	Anne Little	Sindy Harrap
Newton Arlosh	Ruth Pinguey	Ian King	Sarah Whittaker
Silloth	Margaret Graham	Marjorie Harrison	
Westnewton	Christine Young	Mary Hodgson	Jane Launchbury

Nominations were carried unanimously.

5. Election of Deanery Synod Representatives

New arrangements of Deanery Synod allow up to six representatives from this parish.

Nominations

Brian Bailey	Holme St Cuthbert
Tim Barker	Silloth
Jane Launchbury	Westnewton
Francess McIntyre	Holme Cultram
Anita Norman	Holme Cultram
Peter Wardle	Westnewton

Nominations were carried unanimously.

6. Review of safeguarding policy. As in booklet

7. Any other business. None

The meeting closed with The Grace. 11.43am.

The Parish of the Solway Plain in the Diocese of Carlisle

Registered Charity No. 1187312

Annual Report for the year ended 31st December 2023

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
St John's, Newton Arlosh CA7 5ET
St Bride's, Kirkbride CA7 5HY

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**

Mrs Cornelia Noghiu (Curate) from November 2023

Revd Andrew Callaway (Curate) moved to Patterdale September 2023

Mr Tim Barker (Reader & Deanery Synod) **lay vice-chair**

Mrs Christine Young (Licenced Lay Minister)

Mrs Sue Shardlow (Bromfield)

Mrs Shirley Holland Reid (Bromfield) stepped down after the Annual Meeting

Mrs Sue Roberts (Bromfield) stepped down after the Annual Meeting

Mrs Janet Sharp (Bromfield) stepped down after the Annual Meeting

Mrs Margaret Graham (Holme Cultram)

Mrs Elaine Atkinson (Holme Cultram)

Mrs Judith Bryan (Holme Cultram)

Mr Brian Bailey (Holme St Cuthbert)

Mrs Barbara Stephens (Holme St Cuthbert)

Mrs Pauline Stagg (Holme St Cuthbert) stepped down after the Annual Meeting

Mrs Josephine Jefferson (Kirkbride)

Mrs Ann Little (Kirkbride)

Mrs Sindy Harrap (Kirkbride)

Mr Stephen Sowerby (Kirkbride) stepped down after the Annual Meeting

Mrs Ruth Pinguey (Newton Arlosh)

Mr Ian King (Newton Arlosh)

Mrs Sara Whitaker (Newton Arlosh) resigned October 2023

Mrs Margaret Graham (Silloth)

Mrs Marjorie Harrison (Silloth)

Mr Peter Wardle (Westnewton & Deanery Synod)
Mrs Mary Hodgson (Westnewton)
Mrs Jane Launchbury (Westnewton & Deanery Synod)
Mrs Frances McIntyre (Deanery Synod) **Secretary**
Mrs Anita Norman (Deanery Synod)

Mrs Margaret Pickering **Treasurer**

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 John's, Newton Arlosh and St Bride's, Kirkbride became Parish Churches within the Parish of the Solway Plain on 1st August 2021.

St Mungo's Bromfield is a chapel of ease (daughter churches) and was 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 Curate and other licenced lay ministers. Two retired priests also helps out in the parish.

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 seven churches in the parish hold the delegated responsibility for their church's 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 07592031263 shirley.holland-reid1@virgin.net

Holme Cultram Abbey – Laura Sharp 07879403442 lozs1984@btinternet.com

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

Christ Church, Silloth – Margaret Graham 016973 31452 margaretgraham70@gmail.com

St Matthew, Westnewton – Peter Wardle 07824903420 pajwardle@btopenworld.com

St Bride's, Kirkbride – Ann Little 016973 51254 kirkbridehouse@googlemail.com

St John's, Newton Arlosh - Gwen Hopkinson 016973 51345

gwen.hopkinson@btinternet.com

Magazine Account – Anne Little (as above)

Solway Plain PCC – Margaret Pickering 07884135781 marbigroc@gmail.com

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 six open churchyards in the Parish (Abbeytown, Kirkbride, Newton Arlosh, Holme St Cuthbert, Bromfield and Westnewton), one closed churchyard (St Paul's Causewayhead) and an area for the burial of ashes (Waverton).

There are five 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 016973 44756 frannymac55@gmail.com

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 Safeguarding Officer gives regular reports to the PCC and annually at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting.

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. Individual churches have Facebook pages where information is publicised to the wider community.

Rector's Report

Looking back over the past twelve months, we have much to be grateful for, and I wish to pay tribute to the many people who have continued to support the churches of the Solway Plain Parish. Our success is largely due to the dedication of our churchwardens, PCC members and congregations who week in, week out give their time and energy to supporting the life and ministry of our churches. Thanks especially go to our Ministry Team who lead our worship. With their commitment, we maintain our regular pattern of services as we try to inspire, challenge and learn together how to live faithful Christian lives in our communities and in our homes.

We have been pleased to welcome Cornelia Noghiu as curate and the enthusiasm and joy which she brings to our services.

The generous giving over the past year helps to keep our churches in good order. We benefit significantly from all the fund raising that goes alongside our financial stewardship. Our church treasurers do a fantastic job looking after the accounts, and I am pleased we have once again been able to maintain our Ministry Offer and raise it in line with inflation. In the present climate, with rising costs, we have to make wise decisions. It is important for us to review our stewardship of all that God gives us.

It is all too easy to think of our churches to be a burden, with three Grade I, one Grade 2* and one Grade 2 listed buildings, we have a great responsibility and legacy to maintain. But standing in the midst of our neighbourhoods, they bear witness to the faith we have in the Lord, "the same, yesterday, today and for ever". At their heart is the community of faithful, prayerful and spirit filled Christians. The church is always growing, changing. It is our life, witness and worship that brings the light of the Gospel into the world.

Together with Christians from other congregations in our Mission Community, we are reaching out beyond the doors of our churches to discover new opportunities for reaching out in Mission. Sometimes this falls on the shoulders of just a few people, but it is the calling of all Christians to share the good news. We need each other to take their part in using their gifts, time and energy to be able to fulfil our calling.

⁴There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them. ⁵There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. ⁶There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work." *1 Corinthians 12:4-6*

When we come together in worship and witness, it not only strengthens our own faith, but bears witness to those around of the God who loves us, the God who gave himself for us, and the God who walks alongside us every day.

The temptation at an Annual Meeting is to look back, when instead we need to look ahead, to look for signs of God at work in our world, to join him on the journey of discovery where he is leading us. Will you?

Bryan Rothwell

Electoral Roll

The combined Roll in 2023 was 290, the Roll was updated in preparation for the Annual Meeting 2024 and there are now **282** members. The Roll is available for inspection.

Report from the Secretary of the PCC

All the churches are continuing to re-energise themselves within their own communities, and although not back to pre-Covid levels of attendance, there is a feeling of hope within the Parish.

Old and new events within the churches show the level of commitment from all the sub committees, with fundraising for the maintenance and upkeep of the buildings being always on people's minds.

During the year the Diocese completed the sale of Waverton Church.

With the inside memorials going to St Mungo's, Bromfield, and the War Memorial re-sited in the memorial garden, to the side of the church. There is still some work to do with making the memorial garden accessible to the public.

Mission Community events during the year, started slowly – with the Men's Breakfast now firmly established as a monthly event in Christchurch Silloth; Prayers for our mission occurring regularly; The Alternative style of worship/service at the Rugby Club in Aspatria drawing others that would not normally go to church, saw its last meeting with over 100 people.

The Ministry Team has had its ups and down during the year. Gaining the Revd. Geoffrey Ravalde (who is with us for 3 Sundays in the month), losing the Revd. Andrew Callaway (and Carol) after he completed his curacy in July and heading for the Parish of Patterdale. A new curate Cornelia Noghiu coming towards the end of the year

All promised Parish Offers (Mission Offers) were paid in full (which pays for our full-time stipendiary clergy) but we still have a shortfall for the actual cost of having a vicar in a full time post. We as a Parish are so lucky to have a FULL-TIME vicar. But I feel within the next few years we will only get the percentage of a vicar that we can pay for like other denominations – something to think about?

Over the year as the churches get back into their rhythm, the Solway Plain is slowly becoming more united - Our fifth Sunday united services now have a choir; different styles of worship are emerging, Eco Church Certification has been awarded, as more are opening the churchyards to nature,

It is a privilege to see - God for All in action within OUR PARISH!

Well done and again thank you to all those who work quietly behind the scenes keeping this Parish alive.

Franness McIntyre

Reports from the PCC church committees

St Mungo, Bromfield

We currently have 1 member serving on the PCC and a local church committee looking after the everyday business of the church. We received very generous donations from Bromfield Parish Council, several parishioners and Aspatia Charity Shop which enabled us to maintain a grass cutting programme and replace our oil tank. Funds remain steady and in a fairly good state but like others we would wish for more. Regular reminders are given to donate via Gift Aid where possible. Our Parish offer was paid in full, and we have already agreed increased amounts over the next three years.

Our quinquennial inspection recommendations continue to be carried out and the church building is in a fair state of repair. An outstanding inspection of the roof needs to be completed and sandstone tiles have been lost and need replacing. In addition, it has been verified that the land adjacent to the church does belong to us, and ultimately will be used as addition burial space. Further checks are needed in order to progress this aim.

Our congregation numbers remain small, but we remain positive that numbers can increase. Westnewton pre-school group meet at the church on Friday mornings, hopefully parents will become familiar with our activities and become more involved. We held our second Nativity service involving the children which was very well attended.

We also undertook a programme of events to raise funds which included a Big Breakfast, Harvest Bingo and a Carol Service. All were well supported and raised a significant amount to church funds.

We look forward to another year and hope that you continue to support our events.

Shirley Holland-Reid

Christ Church, Silloth

Christ Church served the community for another year with all the usual services. The Committee has met six times during the year with Church Warden Margaret Graham taking on extra responsibility as Treasurer again.

In order to maintain the Church and all it does the responsibilities are falling to a diminishing number of people, The Rector and Church wardens and other volunteers are having to do more, with an aging congregation and the numbers attending church falling there is a smaller pool to call upon.

On a more positive note Andrew Callaway took his final service as Curate in July before moving to his own parish. Cornelia Noghiu was ordained in November and is now the Curate with Christ Church having a share of her busy schedule.

A number of fundraising events were held in the Church Tims Quiz, concerts and coffee mornings. Raising funds is an ongoing challenge. The Church was also used as a warm space and continues to be well used by various community groups.

Liz Elliott

Holme St Cuthbert

We have had 4 subcommittee meetings during the year, With all the members completing their Safeguarding training including the Basic Awareness of Domestic Abuse

2023 has been the year in which Holme St Cuthbert got “everything sorted” from revising and ensuring all of the church’s paperwork was fully up to date; gaining grants for the painting; LED lighting. We also have lovely new curtains for the vestry. There is still some work on the roof to complete which will hopefully be completed in 2024 (weather permitting!)

The Parish Hall is still up for sale, but now it can be sold as a dwelling – being a long drawn out process. The hall finally closed the latter part of the year, and the Mawbray Hall or Church will now host our larger community events.

On a sad note we lost Mike Coke a long standing member of the Church Committee.

Joe Armstrong, another long standing member of 35 years, gained the title of Warden Emeritus. Thank you for all your work Joe 😊

Outreach is very important to our church with the annual events such as Lent Lunch; Harvest (where the school are fully involved); Christingle and Carol Singing around the area.

This year the church started a new tradition of the Remembrance Tree during Advent – it was a lovely event with parishioners coming into church, having time for a cuppa; to reflect and chat about their loved ones and put their names on the tree.

The Church committee would like to thank all those far and wide who have helped us in anyway during 2023.

Frances McIntyre

St Bride’s, Kirkbride

St.Bride’s has continued in much the same vein as the previous year. Attendances have remained at similar levels, neither increasing or declining significantly and never fully recovering since the pandemic. Annual services however such as Harvest Festival and the Carol Service are well attended. The number on our electoral roll has not altered. It has been encouraging to see the relationship between St.Bride’s and Kirkbride Primary School developing and the whole school have attended on various occasions such as their Harvest Festival Assembly to use and enjoy the church. Fundraising to support the church has been ongoing and at the end of the year finances finished with a very small surplus to accounts.

Our Quinquennial Inspection has been conducted this year. The condition of the building is good and there were no urgent works required. However, a breakdown of works for the longer-term including maintenance of the roof, ceiling repair and external pointing has shown several necessary tasks which will require further fundraising to finance them.

The committee are, as ever, grateful to all those within the parish and further afield who support St. Bride’s in so many different ways. They continue to do so with care and diligence out of a fondness for and bond with our church.

Craig Thompson

Holme Cultram Abbey

We have had 5 subcommittee meetings during the year.

As usual this has been another busy year in the Abbey both inside, outside and fundraising.

Inside: continuing to update the Abbey, notably the revamp of the Ambulatory: rewiring and decorating and discussing which “finds” should go into new or re-ordered display cabinets. Then wanting to tidy up the Memorial Chapel the ordering of custom made cabinets, which will be in place soon.

Outside: the wilding of the older part of the churchyard continues with a couple of volunteers giving of their time to sow and care for wildflowers and trees and Eco Church continuing to get the community involved – the making of bug and insect houses, joining the national churchyard count on nature in June and with the school doing eco displays in the bus shelter, and a “spruce-up” of the outside toilets.

Fundraising: has its own cycle within the life of the Abbey, with the monthly munches, still going strong, and the usual big events on the calendar - Strawberry Tea weekend in July and the Christmas Fayre in November, with the ever increase in popularity of the Tea and Talks and other church events of christenings; marriages and funerals also being catered for. The Church committee would like to thank ALL those involved in any way for their help and support throughout the year.

Finally we are very lucky to still have our organist (Bill). It is lovely to have “live” music every week in the Abbey, and an added bonus of having Stewart, the Archdeacon living in the village, his wife Carolyn has also been seen helping with the music on several occasions this year.

Like most of the churches in the Parish, this year we have lost more loved ones and we need to thank their families for legacies left to the Abbey, their loving support is ever present and Thank you to ALL

Francesc McIntyre

St Matthew, Westnewton

The local committee met 6 times over the year- at Martha’s as usual, marvellous hospitality as always.

We held 3 major fundraising events- a Soup Lunch, Summer Fayre and Christmas Fayre. Thankfully all were well attended. In addition we had a very generous income from Martha’s Table and from the Dominoes club.

We agreed increases to our Parish Offer of 10% for 2024 and 5% for each of 2025 and 2026. Bible Crack continues on the 3rd Monday evening chaired by Malcolm. An excellent hour or so and open to all.

Peter Wardle

St John the Evangelist, Newton Arlosh

We have held 4 meetings plus the Annual church committee meeting

There are 21 members on our Electoral Roll.

All the jobs were attended to by PCC members and parish helpers: cleaning, flowers sidesperson, church wardens.

Our money making this year was the monthly drawing tickets which sold very well, also our Harvest festival gift sale plus Raffle also good selling all produce, home made preserves cakes vegetable and flowers. Was ably auctioned by John Graham.

We are hoping to book the Harlequin choir to come and entertain us. We have purchased a new CD player to be used in church to play our hymns for our services.

We have all the Electric Led lights changed and checked. The guttering needs to be checked when we get some dry days.

The grass cutting, which is financial supported from Newton Arlosh Parish Council, ably assisted with a contractor cutting the church yard.

We are now going to open the church for any visitors to have a look around.

All our services were taken by the Solway Plain Ministry Team

Ruth Pinguey

Waverton

The building has been sold and a faculty for moving the War Memorial to the West end of the church, creating a new gate and pathway to create a memorial garden including the Ashes Memorial Garden was granted. A Faculty application to move the internal war memorials to Bromfield Church was granted and the war memorials have now been installed in the church.

Bryan Rothwell

Other Reports

Churches Together in Silloth and Aspatria

On January 22nd a united service for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity in Christ Church was well supported.

At Easter, 2023 united ministry included a course of Lent Bible Study in Christ Church.

Good Friday worship was held in the Pentecostal Church followed by a walk of witness and distribution of hot cross buns before planting the cross on the green. Tim Barker guided worshippers through the Stations of the Cross in the Roman Catholic church.

On Easter Day members met at 6am for the Sunrise Service followed by breakfast butties in Christ Church.

Sea Sunday was led by Mrs Margaret Gate. £40 was donated to each of four sea charities.

Carnival Praise was planned to be an outdoor event but again threatening weather sent worshippers inside Christ Church.

The church leaders recorded a series of daily Advent reflections to be broadcast on Facebook during December.

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

An open-air carol service took place at Christ Church followed by wine and mince-pies.

Christ Church members are urged to take part in all the activities which Churches Together present, especially when they replace our own regular Sunday services. Many events provide valuable “outreach” to non churchgoer.

Members of many churches now collaborate actively in events with the Solway Mission Community.

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 2023.

United services for all members of the Mission Community took place on April 30th at Holme Cultram, July 30th at Aspatria and August 20th at St Mary's Wigton.

A series of informal worship sessions with “contemporary” music were begun, organised by Rev Matt Richards, pioneer curate of Aspatria. These take place in Aspatria Rugby Club on the fourth Sunday of each month at 4pm.

Men’s Breakfast began and take place in Christ Church on the first Saturday of each month at 9am. All men in the community are invited to eat a full breakfast and hear a variety of speakers. We are especially grateful to the ladies and some men who prepare and serve the breakfast.

United prayer sessions took place during the year around the community. These continue at 3pm on various Sundays going to different churches in the area for a time of quiet prayer for any public or personal matters people are concerned about. .

Walking football continues on Mondays with a group of about two dozen men and women players and others who join for refreshment and fellowship in Christ Church after the game.

Volunteers from different churches continue to help at cell groups for young people in Aspatria and Silloth and with various activities initiated by particular churches.

The Mission Community is organised by a steering group of the clergy and youth workers plus representatives from the different churches. Funding comes from various sources including church contributions, grants for specific activities and the Diocesan Growth Fund.

Tim Barker

Deanery Synod

Deanery Synod has met on one occasion since last year's Annual Meetings, the autumn meeting was cancelled at short notice.

In June the meeting took place in Westnewton Village Hall, with Revd Peter Powell who introduced the session with a presentation of the huge variety of personal prayer and spirituality practices. He led an interactive session which provided points for reflection and participation. Two lay members then volunteered to talk briefly about their particular practices and informal sharing was encouraged in small groups.

Throughout the past year, the secretary has updated the synod on various matters via email. 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.

Rural Dean

Safeguarding

Parish Safeguarding Officer:

Francess McIntyre

Diocesan Safeguarding Advisor:

Jo Van Lachterop

In 2023 – there have been no safeguarding issues (*throughout the Parish of the Solway*) reported to me.

Just when you thought my badgering, cajoling and pestering was a thing of the past, - I came back to ask PCC members; Church Wardens; Deanery synod reps to complete more training – but this time it is for Raising the Awareness of Domestic Abuse and I'm pleased to say that out of the 25 who were asked 14 have completed the training. Thank you for your due diligence

Other training completed to date Basic Awareness 44; Foundation 25; and Raising Awareness of Domestic Abuse 22 (*inc. the Leadership Team*).

Thank you to ALL who have completed their training – we all have a duty of care and “due diligence”. You have all shown that you take your positions within the church community seriously.

Thank you once again

NB All **Parishes** are required to have formally adopted the House of Bishops ‘Promoting a Safer Church; Safeguarding Policy statement’, and Church of England safeguarding policy and guidance.

PCC members reviewed and adopted the Diocesan Safeguarding policy 21-05-23 The PCC holds the FULL policy (Rector: PSO)

With every church having **UP TO DATE COPIES** of the following for anyone to view within their church:-

- *The Parish Safeguarding handbook*
- *the poster recommended for parishes, “Promoting a Safer Church”*
- *the House of Bishops’ policy statement*
- *With the “Who’s who” in parish safeguarding in your church.*

Francess McIntyre (Parish Safeguarding Officer)

Consolidated Accounts of the Solway Plain PCC 2023

1st January to 31st December 2023

Receipts	Unrestricted	Restricted
<i>Voluntary receipts</i>		
Tax efficient planned giving	30,839	574
Other planned giving	4,628	0
Collections at services	17,531	0
All other giving	12,233	2,175
Gift aid recovered	10,836	26
Legacies received (capital value)	12,000	0
Grants (including recurring & one off)	6,370	11,667
TOTAL Voluntary Receipts	94,437	14,442
<i>Activities for generating funds</i>		
Gross receipts from fund raising	37,582	115
<i>Investment Income</i>		
Dividends, Interest, receipts from property	815	2,074
<i>Church activities</i>		
Statutory fees retained by the PCC	12,971	0
Gross receipts from trading (not fundraising)	13,462	320
<i>Other receipts</i>		
Other receipts not already listed	682	0
TOTAL RECEIPTS	159,949	16,951
COMBINED TOTAL	176,899	

Cash & investment balances	Unrestricted	Restricted
Cash & deposit balance at 1st January 2023	167,469	112,318
Investments at 1st January 2023	0	332
TOTAL FUNDS	167,469	112,650

Payments	Unrestricted	Restricted
<i>Cost of generating funds</i>		
Fundraising activities	3,706	0
<i>Church activities</i>		
Mission giving & donations	2,097	0
Diocesan parish offer	57,750	0
Salaries, wages & honoraria	0	0
Clergy & staff expenses	4,888	0
<i>Church expenses</i>		
Mission & evangelism costs	0	0
Running expenses (including governance)	38,559	6,466
Utility bills	26,401	0
Cost of trading	10,103	0
<i>Major capital expenditure</i>		
Major repairs to church building	4,374	8,651
Major repairs to church hall	0	0
New building works	0	0
SUB-TOTAL of all expenditure above	147,877	15,118
Other payments not listed	0	0
TOTAL PAYMENTS	147,877	15,118
COMBINED TOTAL	162,994	

Cash & investment balances	Unrestricted	Restricted
Cash & deposit balance at 31st December 2023	179,770	113,912
Investments at 31st December 2023	0	342
TOTAL FUNDS	179,770	114,254

Independent Examiner's Report to the members/trustees of the Parish of the Solway Plain.

Registered Charity No. 1187312

The component parts of The Parish of the Solway Plain are Independently Examined individually by their own appointed examiners who issue them with their Independent Examiners report.

I report only on the Consolidated Accounts of the Parish for the year ended 31st December 2023 which have been produced from the above records and which are set out on 1 page.

Respective responsibilities of the Trustees and Independent Examiner

The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners section 145 (5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent Examiner's Statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission.

An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and 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 management committee concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in a full audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the accounts.

Independent Examiner's Statement

In connection with my examination, no matters have come to my attention

1. which give me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements

- to keep accounting records in accordance with s.130 of the 2011 Act; or
- to prepare accounts which accord with these accounting records have not been met; or

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

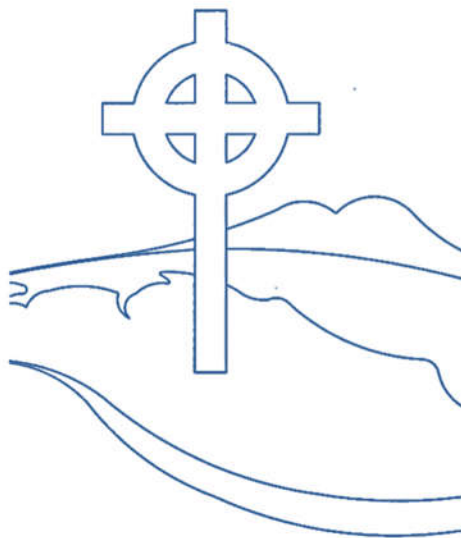
Linda Brown
Field End Cottage
Waterside
Wigton
Cumbria



Date: 3-3-24.

Accounts

The Parish of the Solway Plain Annual Meeting



Sunday 21st May 2022 at 11am
CHRIST CHURCH, SILLOTH

Agenda

Minutes of the last meetings

Annual Reports

Accounts

Vestry Meeting and Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Christ Church, Silloth - Sunday 21st May 2023 at 11.00am

Agenda

Welcome by the Chairman

The Meeting for the Election of Churchwardens

1. The Election of Churchwardens
2. The Admission of Churchwardens – **Thursday 13th July at 7pm in St Kentigern's Church, Aspatria**

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting

	Page
1. Minutes of last year's Annual Meetings	2-5
2. Matters arising from the minutes	
3. Reports	
a. Annual Report	6-8
b. Chairman's Report	9
c. The Accounts for the year ending 31st December 2022 <i>insert</i>	
d. Electoral Roll	9
e. Report on the Parochial Church Council	10
f. Reports from the church committees of the Solway Plain Parish	11
g. Reports from Churches Together	14
h. Solway Plain Mission Community	15
i. Report on the Activities of Solway Deanery Synod	15
4. The Election of the Parochial Church Council	
5. The Election of Deanery Synod Representatives (6)	
6. Review of Safeguarding policy	16
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 **Tuesday 13th June 2022** at 7pm

The Parish of the Solway Plain

Minutes of the Annual Meetings 2022 in the Parish of the Solway Plain held on 22nd May 2022 in St Mungo's Church, Bromfield

The meeting was held after a United Service which was held at 10:00am

Welcome: - the Rector – Revd Canon Bryan Rothwell took the chair

The Rector on our behalf thanked the ladies of St Mungo's for the refreshments after the service, and HG for the music.

The meeting started with prayers and a quick recap of the last year, again with the Covid pandemic affecting all of our churches in some way or other, including the loss of church members, reduced opening for some churches and the loss of revenue.

Present & Apologies: 26 parishioners were present, Apologies from 8 parishioners

The Vestry meeting for the Election of Church Wardens

Election of Church Wardens

The Rector thanked ALL those involved in the "running" of our churches, in whatever way they could. ALL have an integral part to play in the life of our churches. THANKS to each and every one of you!

Election of Church Wardens

Holme Cultram	Margaret Graham	Brenda Sim
	Ass. Elaine Atkinson	
Holme St Cuthbert	Joe Armstrong	Brian Bailey
Kirkbride	Josephine Jefferson	Stephen Sowerby
Newton Arlosh	Willy Bell	George Hill
Silloth	Margaret Graham	Jean Oliver
Westnewton	Christine Young	Mary Hodgson

The Rector commented on the names being the same as last year – and thanked them all for their work within all of our churches, which usually goes unnoticed.

Nominations were carried by all present

Election of Deputy Wardens (from our daughter church)

Bromfield	Shirley Holland-Reid	Mary Douglas
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Admission of Church Wardens

Will take place on Tuesday 28th July in Christ Church Silloth at 7pm

The meeting closed at 11:17 am

Minutes from the Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Sunday 22nd May 2022 in St Mungo's , Bromfield

Minutes of last year's Annual Meeting

signed as a true copy

Matters arising from the minutes

The PCC – Officially, we welcomed Kirkbride and Newton into the Parish in September (although it has been nearly two years since we started working together)

Waverton Church – is now closed (the Diocese will be putting it up for sale shortly).

Reports in the booklet – to take home and read at your leisure

Rector's report

Covid Restrictions eased. Worship on-line still going ahead (a virtual congregation!)

HUGE thanks to ALL involved in our churches. Thanks to Worship Leaders (the ordination of Andrew Callaway was very special as it was in HCA away from the Cathedral)

Looking after our historic buildings is no mean feat and are ALL assets to their communities.

Finances, are always the biggest burden – even more so now as the cost of living is increasing

Ended with "May we be open to the Spirit guiding and leading us as we move forward together, safe in the knowledge of the Father's love and care is revealed to us through Jesus Christ our Lord."

Treasurer's report –The consolidated accounts for the Solway Plain PCC copy with the booklet

Parish Offer ALL paid in full with some managing to give more at the end of the year.

Treasurers all do a great job – keeping the books and the churches "heads" above water.

Our Treasurers need our support

Margaret P will be moving to Carlisle – and will continue being the PCC treasurer

A/c were signed off by Rector Bryan (a copy has to be sent to the Charities Commission)

From the Secretary of the PCC, with Electoral Roll report– membership is currently 282 (as at 07-05-22)

From the Parish Churches – in the booklet

Churches together - in booklet

Mission Community – in booklet

Deanery Synod - in booklet. NB Canon Rev Bryan Rothwell is now Rural Dean

The Election of the Parochial Church Council

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

Bromfield	Shirley Holland-Reid	Susan Roberts	Susan Shardlow
Holme Cultram	Margaret Graham	Judith Bryan	Elaine Atkinson
Holme St Cuthbert	Brian Bailey	Barbara Stephens	Pauline Stagg
Kirkbride	Josephine Jefferson	Stephen Sowerby	Ann Little
Newton Arlosh	Ruth Pinguey	Sarah Whitaker	Robert Heywood
Silloth	Margaret Graham	Marjorie Harrison	Margaret Pickering
Westnewton	Christine Young	Mary Hodgson	Jane Launchbury

All nominations were carried by all members present

Date of next Full PCC meeting 22nd June in Holme Cultram at 7:00pm

The Election of Deanery Synod Representatives

As we now have 7 churches within our Parish (but for the formula for membership, only 6 count as one is a chapel of ease. We should have 9 Deanery members

Membership at present - those that were elected in 2019 - 2023

Tim Barker	Silloth
Arnold Kyrke	Kirkbride (was in Carlisle Deanery) but as in our Parish

Membership has moved over to Solway Deanery

Jane Launchbury	Westnewton
Francess McIntyre	Abbeytown
Anita Norman	Abbeytown
Peter Wardle	Westnewton

Brian Bailey (Holme St Cuthbert) wishes to stand

Nominated by Francess McIntyre seconded by Peter Wardle Carried by all present

Review of the Safeguarding Policy

Report on file from Francess McIntyre; Parish Safeguarding Officer

Thanked all who have completed their training. Most have completed the B.A. module

Recap: Everyone in the Church has a Duty of Care

New modules can be completed on line, But we have had "in-house training for Basic Awareness level and we will be doing some more" in house" training for Foundation level on 6th July

AOB None

From the floor – Thanks to Bryan for all his help and support to all the churches throughout the past year

The meeting closed with the Grace (meeting closed at 11:47am)

The Parish of the Solway Plain in the Diocese of Carlisle

Registered Charity No. 1187312

Annual Report for the year ended 31st December 2022

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
St John's, Newton Arlosh CA7 5ET
St Bride's, Kirkbride CA7 5HY

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 Andrew Callaway (Curate)

Mr Tim Barker (Reader & Deanery Synod) **lay vice-chair**

Mrs Christine Young (Licenced Lay Minister)

Mrs Shirley Holland Reid (Bromfield)

Mrs Sue Roberts (Bromfield)

Mrs Janet Sharp (Bromfield)

Mrs Margaret Graham (Holme Cultram)

Mrs Elaine Atkinson (Holme Cultram)

Mrs Judith Bryan (Holme Cultram)

Mr Brian Bailey (Holme St Cuthbert)

Mrs Pauline Stagg (Holme St Cuthbert)

Mrs Barbara Stephens (Holme St Cuthbert)

Mrs Josephine Jefferson (Kirkbride)

Mrs Ann Little (Kirkbride)

Mr Stephen Sowerby (Kirkbride)

Mr Robert Heywood (Newton Arlosh) *resigned 2022*

Mrs Ruth Pinguey (Newton Arlosh)

Mrs Sara Whitaker (Newton Arlosh)

Mrs Margaret Graham (Silloth)

Mrs Margaret Pickering (Silloth) **Treasurer**

Mrs Marjorie Harrison (Silloth)

Mr Peter Wardle (Westnewton & Deanery Synod)

Mrs Mary Hodgson (Westnewton)

Mrs Jane Launchbury (Westnewton & Deanery Synod)

Mrs Frances McIntyre (Deanery Synod) **Secretary**

Mrs Anita Norman (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 Sillioth and St Matthew's Westnewton are Parish Churches in the benefice. St John's, Newton Arlosh and St Bride's, Kirkbride became Parish Churches within the Parish of the Solway Plain on 1st August 2021.

St Mungo's Bromfield is a chapel of ease (daughter churches) and was 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 Curate and other licenced lay ministers. A retired priest also helps out in the parish.

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 seven churches in the parish hold the delegated responsibility for their church's 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, Sillioth – Elaine Holmes 016973 26736 elaineholmes66@outlook.com

St Matthew, Westnewton – Peter Wardle 07824903420 pajwardle@btpopenworld.com

St Bride's, Kirkbride – Ann Little 016973 51254 kirkbridehouse@gmail.com

St John's, Newton Arlosh – Willie Bell 016973 51311 (retired end of 2022) new treasurer appointed January 2023 – Gwen Hopkinson 016973 51345 gwen.hopkinson@btinternet.com

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

There are five 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 Francesc McIntyre acts as the Safeguarding Officer for the Parish 016973 44756 frannymac55@gmail.com. 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 Safeguarding Officer gives regular reports to the PCC and annually at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting.

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. Individual churches have Facebook pages where information is publicised to the wider community.

Signed by the chairman:

Bryan Rotwell.

Rector's Report

We pay tribute to the many people who take an active role in our churches in various capacities, and especially to our churchwardens, PCC members and church committees. We are grateful especially to Joe Armstrong and George Hill who have retired as churchwardens. The committees have continued to support and maintain our churches, and we are grateful to all those who do so many of the jobs behind the scenes to ensure the churches continue to be wonderful places of prayer and worship, and welcoming to our communities and visitors who join us for many special activities and events.

Our buildings are a precious resource. Christ Church, Silloth has hosted many events, and increased demand from organisations wanting to use the new facilities. Events such as the new Men's Breakfast have seen many coming who wouldn't be regular attenders joining us. Holme Cultram has seen a busy year with its regular activities and visitors, and it was wonderful to finally get the lighting and electrics completed and have recently achieved the eco-church Bronze award, giving a challenge to other churches to look at our environment and energy use.

Many of the activities that were suspended during the Covid19 pandemic have started up again. The fundraising events have been welcome in boosting our often fragile accounts. Thank you to all who generously give to the mission and ministry of the church, and we are grateful to the treasurers, supported by Margaret Pickering who carefully look after our finances.

Increasing costs of energy has been a challenge as are the costs of maintaining our buildings. But I am pleased that all our churches have been able to meet the Parish Offer and looking ahead are seeking to raise this and keep in line with inflation over the coming years.

I am greatly indebted to those who lead our worship. We are one of the few multi-church parishes that have been able to maintain our regular pattern of services. This is in no small part due to the team we have, helped on occasion by local retired clergy.

We are grateful for the ministry of Revd Andrew Callaway as he comes to the end of his three year Curacy here in the Solway Plain. The new initiatives that he has been instrumental in getting up and running alongside others have been a welcome addition to our outreach and mission. We wish Andrew & Carol every success and blessing as they move to Patterdale.

The challenge for us all as Christians is the call Jesus gave to his disciples at his Ascension is to "go and make disciples" Matthew 28:19. Together with our colleagues from across the Solway Mission Community we need to pray that, empowered by the Holy Spirit, we may be witnesses in word and deed, as we reach out to the lost & lonely, the suffering and the needy with God's love and forgiveness, healing and peace.

Bryan Rothwell

Electoral Roll

The combined Roll in 2022 was 282, the Roll was updated in preparation for the Annual Meeting and there are now **290** members. The Roll is available for inspection.

Report from the Secretary of the PCC

There has been some lively debate within our five full meeting of the Solway Plain Parish in 2022, with all the churches contributing.

Covid is still with us, in all its variations, but we are learning to live with it. With our clergy still having to test themselves (and be negative) in order to administer the sacraments to those in our nursing homes.

As a Parish we have been cautious about the giving of “the peace” with a handshake and as yet we haven’t started using the common cup in a Communion service, but we have discussed this at intervals throughout the past year.

All the churches are beginning to re-energising themselves within their own communities, seeing our churches come alive has been a milestone within the Parish. Fundraising for the maintenance and upkeep of the buildings started again in earnest.

Bryan Rathwell our Rector became Rural Dean in June after the retirement of Rev Tim Herbert.

Waverton Church is still going through the stages of being sold, with Allerdale Borough Council passing the plans to allow the new memorial area to the side of the church.

With the arrival of the Revd Canon Robert Saner-Haigh (Suffragan Bishop of Penrith) the God for All initiative has been refreshed with Roadshows around Cumbria hosted by our two Bishops. The focus being for the Diocese to centrally give the churches help, support and resources (with churches being able to gain a start-up grant for new ways of being church) to enable for every church to get out into their communities. Also our Network Youth Minister Yvette Ladds will now be paid for by the Diocese rather than the Deanery Synod having to find her salary.

We now have one of our Archdeacons (Revd Stewart Fyfe) - living in our Parish and he now heads up our Mission Community. Stewart started with having two roadshows earlier in the year, talking about “How we would like to shape our Community and what is our shared Mission”? Both being well attended, by all our partner dominations, clergy and parishioners.

Over the year it has been a privilege seeing our churches come slowly back to life and the Parish of the Solway Plain becoming more united - Our fifth Sunday united services now have a choir; different styles of service being tried; opening the churchyards to nature ; Warm Spots and getting out there into our communities. God for All - in action!

Well done to you all.

Francess McIntyre

Reports from the PCC church committees

St Mungo, Bromfield

We currently have 3 members serving on the PCC and a local church committee looking after the everyday business of the church. We welcomed 2 new members to our local committee and a new chairperson. We received very generous donations from Bromfield Parish Council, several parishioners and Aspatia Charity Shop which enabled us to maintain a grass cutting programme and undertake necessary electrical repairs. Funds remain steady and in a fairly good state but like others we would wish for more. Regular reminders are given to donate via Gift Aid where possible. Our Parish offer was paid in full, although we had to reduce the amount paid in previous years. We hope to increase this amount in the coming year.

Our quinquennial inspection recommendations continue to be carried out and the church building is in a good state of repair. An outstanding inspection of the roof needs to be completed.

Our congregation numbers remain small, but we remain positive that numbers can increase. Westnewton pre-school group now meet at the church on Friday mornings, hopefully parents will become familiar with our activities and become more involved. We held our first Nativity service involving the children which was very well attended.

We also undertook a programme of events to raise funds which included a Big Breakfast, Harvest Bingo, Carol Service, and an Afternoon Tea. All were well supported and raised a significant amount to church funds.

We look forward to another year and hope that you continue to support our events.

Shirley Holland-Reid

Holme St Cuthbert

We have had 5 subcommittee meetings this year

With all the members completing their Safeguarding training

Like other churches we have slowly come out of the pandemic, basically starting afresh – with a new lease of life trying to get the church to become the heart of the community. The first step is more school involvement, as the new Head wants us to work more closely with the church – their efforts were seen at the Queens Jubilee: Harvest and Christingle (and hoping again in Lent). We started with grant applications for the painting of the church (to commence in spring 2023)

The Parish Hall has now become a liability – so during the year, the long slow process started. Going through the hoops required before the for sale notice appeared, Having to offer it as a community building first, before being able to put it on the market as a private dwelling (thank you Brian for all your hard work on our behalf)

We continue to give every household a copy of the Parish, our parish magazine as part of our mission and outreach.

We thank all those far and wide who have helped us in anyway during 2022

Frances McIntyre

St Matthew, Westnewton

Another year of post Covid improvement, no new growth in terms of congregations, but gradually returning to some semblance of normality. The sub-committee met 7 times formally, we made nearly £2000 from the Summer Fayre, over £1000 from the Christmas Fayre and over £300 from Dominoes. A big thank you to all our helpers. We were fortunate to receive grants of £1000 from ADCCA (Aspatia Charity) and £600 from Westnewton Parish Council.

We were pleased to welcome the Niece and Nephew of Miss Sheila Rankin- our generous benefactor- to a service of dedication of a commemorative plaque to Miss Rankin.

The Rev'd Malcolm led our Lent course again- open to all, excellent content and presentation and, of course, excellent hospitality from Martha.

We had 2 concerts- ZING and Abbeytown Community Choir; neither was very well attended but both were excellent.

We had to have our big Ash tree cut down due to Dieback. It was over 100 years old- unsurprisingly no-one could remember the church without it- and we were sad to see it go. It was also our Quinquennial year; thankfully the report wasn't too alarming and work continues.

We paid our Parish Offer in full. We were unable to increase the offer for 2023 but have since agreed an increase of 10% for 2024..

Peter Wardle

Christ Church, Silloth

Another year in life of Christ Church with services and activities very much back to the usual routine after the pandemic.

The Committee has met regularly although members have gone down with the loss of some key stalwarts. We are desperately trying to find a new Treasurer and more volunteers are needed help with caretaking and other church activities.

The church has had to replace the heating pump and had repairs to the Lightning Conductor which was an expense we were not expecting.

The problems experienced by Christ Church reflect the issues in the wider Church but on a positive note the opening up of the Church to community groups and activities continues to flourish, with regular bookings from Causewayhead WI, the Nursing Home Coffee morning, Walking Football. Silloth RNLI has held concerts in the church, the Christmas Light's Switch on Event took place in the church again, a Craft Sale weekend in October, and we had a well supported concert with Dalston Male Voice Choir.

Liz Elliott

Holme Cultram Abbey

We have had 5 subcommittee meetings during the year.

With all the subcommittee completing their Safeguarding training

With caution (after Covid), the church reopened fully, from Dawn to Dusk rather than just for services. During 2022 - it has been getting back to the next phase of the Abbey restoration (the lighting) and other facilities like the outside toilets ready for the summer events and the old church yard getting a new lease of life with “Get Cumbria Buzzing”, with the school and members of the community involved in the revamp: clearing the old and planting with native flowers, hedges and tree saplings.

The new lighting system is now up and running, the outside toilets can be used again and the old churchyard is a lovely place to walk, relax and reflect and now used by many within the community.

Other events included: Becoming an Eco Church starting slowly and trying to get the community involved – going for a Bronze award; A Community choir; the Cathedral going out and about with a day called “ Journey and Rest” for Children. In July the Abbey hosted the Lord Lieutenants Dinner to name just a few events. Our mission, underpinning our fundraising.

The subcommittee would like to thank all those who have been involved with the Abbey in anyway during the past year.

Francess McIntyre

St Bride's, Kirkbride

Church attendance has remained much the same this year, never fully recovering from the reduction due to the pandemic. Church life however has fully recovered, and the year has been a busy one. We have seen an organ recital to commemorate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee and a Service of Commemoration for her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. Annual Harvest Festival and Christingle Services were conducted as was Kirkbride Primary School's Carol Service, though very icy conditions led to the cancellation of the village Carol Service. The Church Institute hosts a few regular weekly events such as the Craft Club and Coffee morning. A successful MacMillan Coffee Morning and Lent Lunch have raised welcome funds as has the Parish Monthly Draw.

St.Bride's is due its Quinquennial Inspection in the coming months, repairs and maintenance have of course been ongoing through the year. Of note, the organ has been renovated, though an organist is not always available, and services often now utilise smart speakers. Damp ingress through the West End Gable Wall has been an ongoing problem and the first stage of maintenance work to prevent this is now planned. A potential structural problem with the Church Institute has been investigated and is being carefully monitored though it poses no risk. We are grateful to the Parish Council for helping to financially support grass cutting in the churchyard and this work is supplemented by the churchwardens.

The committee are as ever, grateful to the many members of the village and parish who use their skills and time to support St.Bride's Church in a multitude of different ways

Craig Thompson

St John the Evangelist, Newton Arlosh

During the year we had 5 meetings plus the Annual committee meeting.

We now have 21 members on our Electoral Roll,

All the jobs to be with the church were all attended to by PCC members and parish helpers.

Our money making this year was our monthly drawing tickets which sold very well, also our Sale of Harvest gifts of all kinds of produce, homemade preserves, cakes, vegetables, flowers, potatoes, hay and straw, very ably auctioned by John Graham. This included a raffle.

The New Notice board has been put back up in the church yard, our thanks to the Harrison Family

The Parish Council are looking to put up coloured map of Newton Arlosh village this will be put up as and when it comes

A thank you to George Hill for his services he has been on our PCC for about 50 years he held the post for church warden for 39 years a great asset to St John's Church and for all his dedication to the work that needs to be done for our church.

The Electrics in church have all been tested and in good order.

The 1st & 3rd Sunday Services are HC.10-45am Taken by The Solway Plain Ministry Team.

2nd Sunday 10-45am Family Service taken very ably by Frazer Clark and David Ross.

We do now have tapes of Hymns so that we can have singing in Church all going very well.

Ruth Pinguey

Waverton

The church was declared closed for worship in October 2021. The Carlisle Diocese has been negotiating the sale of the building and has received Planning Permission and Faculty for moving the War Memorial to the West end of the church, creating a new gate and pathway to create a memorial garden including the Ashes Memorial Garden. A Faculty application to has also been made to move the internal war memorials to Bromfield Church.

Bryan Rothwell

Other Reports

Churches Together in Silloth and Aspatria

In January 2022 a united service for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity at St Andrews Church was well supported and we donated £70 to Christian Aid.

At Easter, 2022 united ministry included Lent Bible Study in St Andrews church followed by Our Door's Open" lunch. £100 was donated from the lunch collections to Christian Aid.

On Good Friday the united service was held in Christ Church rather than Greenrow as planned. It was followed by a walk of witness and planting of the cross on the green. Tim Barker guided worshippers through the Stations of the Cross in the new worship space created in the Roman Catholic church. On Easter Day members met for the Sunrise Service followed by breakfast butties in Christ Church.

Sea Sunday was led by Mrs Margaret Gate. £40 was donated to each of four sea charities.

Carnival Praise took place outside Christ Church with a good number of worshippers representing all the churches in Silloth.

The church leaders recorded a series of daily Advent reflections to be broadcast on Facebook during December.

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

A drive-in carol service was held at Aspatria Rugby Club and open-air carols at Christ Church followed by wine and mince-pies and a seasonal entertainment by Tim Barker.

Christ Church members are urged to take part in all the activities which Churches Together present, especially when they replace our own regular Sunday services. Christian fellowship is always a blessing and such events provide valuable “outreach” to non-churchgoers as a joyful and practical example of different church groups working together.

Members of many churches now collaborate actively in events organised through the Solway Mission Community.

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 2022.

The first major event of the year was “Abbey Live”, an evening of food and home-made entertainment in Holme Cultram Abbey in April. Many took part including members of the youth cells and the evening was very rewarding. Special thanks to the caterers.

In August members of the Mission community joined a united service in Christ Church, followed by a bring-your-own picnic.

In September and October two Roadshows were held in Blencogo village hall to give people more insight into the Mission Community and to stimulate ideas on how we might use our united resources to support each other’s churches and bring faith to our communities. Very lively discussions and many suggestions for action. Requests for more united worship and alternative patterns of service have been considered and a series of fifth-Sunday-of-the-month services with “contemporary” music are about to begin, organised by Rev Matt Richards, pioneer curate of Aspatria.

Tim Barker

Deanery Synod

Deanery Synod has met on two occasions since last year’s Annual Meetings. A similar pattern of two meetings, one in Spring and one in the Autumn will become the usual format. In June the meeting took place in Silloth, with Archdeacon Stewart Fyfe introducing himself through his “Desert Island Disks” chosen to reflect the different stages in his life.

At the October meeting, Matt Richards talked about his role and the pioneering work he is doing as part of his curacy in Aspatria. Held in St John’s, Workington, they shared their achievements in gaining the Eco-Church award

Throughout the past year, the secretary has updated the synod on various matters via email.

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.

Revd Canon Bryan Rothwell took on the role of Rural Dean in May 2022 following Tim Herbert's retirement.

Deanery Synod representatives

Safeguarding

Parish Safeguarding Officer: Frances McIntyre

Diocesan Safeguarding Advisor: Jo Van Lachterop

The safeguarding policy for the Solway Plain has been reviewed and was amended in line with the changes to the provision of safeguarding training.

During the Covid pandemic all safeguarding training ceased and most of the certification had lapsed so 2022 was the year of mass training for All of the church committees within the Solway Plain.

With ALL church committee members now having to undertake the Basic Awareness module: PCC members doing the Basic Awareness and Foundation modules: Ministry and Leadership Team completing an extra Leadership module.

The Basic Awareness and Foundation modules are on line and the Leadership module a mixture of on line and face to face.

For those who didn't have access to a computer or who liked the face-to-face interaction. Bryan (TR) and the PSO undertook to do in house training. With two sessions: Basic Awareness and Foundation

After badgering, cajoling, and pestering - I am pleased to say that all the church committees have completed the required safeguarding training for their respective churches

Training completed Basic Awareness 40; Foundation 22; Leadership 7 (with some leadership modules not starting until Sept22, these are still ongoing)

Thank you to ALL who have completed this training – we all have a duty of care and “due diligence”. You have all shown that you take your positions within the church community seriously.

Thank you once again Frances McIntyre (PSO)

NB All Parishes are required to have formally adopted the House of Bishops 'Promoting a Safer Church; Safeguarding Policy statement', and Church of England safeguarding policy and guidance. The PCC holds the full policy (Rector: PSO) With every church having: -

- *a copy of your Parish Safeguarding handbook*
- *the poster recommended for parishes, “Promoting a Safer Church”*
- *the House of Bishops' policy statement*
- *With the “Who's who” in parish safeguarding in your church.*

Frances McIntyre (Parish Safeguarding Officer)

Consolidated Accounts of the Solway Plain PCC 2022

1st January to 31st December 2022

Receipts	Unrestricted	Restricted	Payments	Unrestricted	Restricted
<i>Voluntary receipts</i>			<i>Cost of generating funds</i>		
Tax efficient planned giving	31,187	1,134	Fundraising activities	3,429	0
Other planned giving	6,053	0	<i>Church activities</i>		
Collections at services	15,863	0	Mission giving & donations	950	764
All other giving	11,778	3,304	Diocesan parish offer	58,000	0
Gift aid recovered	11,237	250	Salaries, wages & honoraria	110	0
Legacies received (capital value)	12,632	50,632	Clergy & staff expenses	4,829	0
Grants (including recurring & one off)	10,586	26,668	<i>Church expenses</i>		
TOTAL Voluntary Receipts	99,337	81,988	Mission & evangelism costs	0	0
<i>Activities for generating funds</i>			Running expenses (including governance)	32,647	18,580
Gross receipts from fund raising	33,402	4,142	Utility bills	18,938	0
<i>Investment Income</i>			Cost of trading	8,796	0
Dividends, Interest, receipts from property	429	756	<i>Major capital expenditure</i>		
<i>Church activities</i>			Major repairs to church building	0	70,144
Statutory fees retained by the PCC	13,999	0	Major repairs to church hall	0	0
Gross receipts from trading (not fundraising)	10,967	668	New building works	0	0
<i>Other receipts</i>			SUB-TOTAL of all expenditure above	127,699	89,488
Other receipts not already listed	15	720	Other payments not listed	0	0
TOTAL RECEIPTS	158,149	88,274	TOTAL PAYMENTS	127,699	89,488
COMBINED TOTAL	246,423		COMBINED TOTAL	217,187	
Cash & investment balances	Unrestricted	Restricted	Cash & investment balances	Unrestricted	Restricted
Cash & deposit balance at 1st January 2022	141,141	109,446	Cash & deposit balance at 31st December 2022	184,916	94,871
Investments at 1st January 2022	0	325	Investments at 31st December 2022	332	
TOTAL FUNDS	141,141	109,771	TOTAL FUNDS	184,916	95,203

Independent Examiner's Report to the members/trustees of the Parish of the Solway Plain.

Registered Charity No. 1187312

The component parts of The Parish of the Solway Plain are Independently Examined individually by their own appointed examiners who issue them with their Independent Examiners report.

I report only on the Consolidated Accounts of the Parish for the year ended 31st December 2022 which have been produced from the above records and which are set out on 1 page.

Respective responsibilities of the Trustees and Independent Examiner

The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners section 145 (5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent Examiner's Statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission.

An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and 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 management committee concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in a full audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the accounts.

Independent Examiner's Statement

In connection with my examination, no matters have come to my attention

1. which give me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements

- to keep accounting records in accordance with s.130 of the 2011 Act; or
- to prepare accounts which accord with these accounting records have not been met; or

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

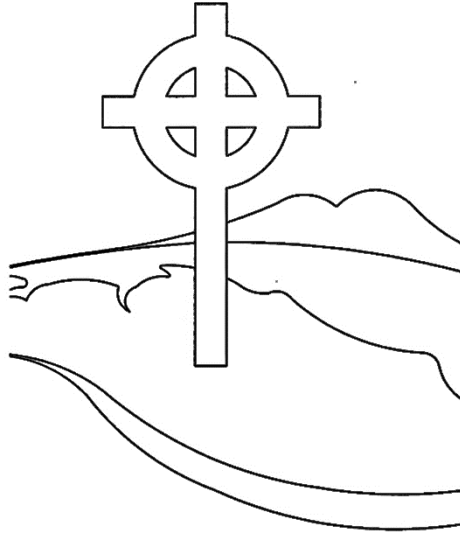
Linda Brown
Field End Cottage
Waterside
Wigton
Cumbria



Date: 14-5-23.

Accounts

The Parish of the Solway Plain Annual Meeting



**Sunday, 22 May 2022 at 11am
St Mungo's Church, Bromfield**

Agenda

Minutes of the last meetings

Annual Reports

Accounts

Vestry Meeting and Annual Parochial Church Meeting

St Mungo's Church, Bromfield - Sunday 22nd May 2022 at 11.00am

Agenda

Welcome and Opening Prayer by the Chairman

The Meeting for the Election of Churchwardens

1. The Election of Churchwardens
2. The Admission of Churchwardens - Tuesday 28th June 2022 at 7pm in Christ Church, Silloth

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting

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| h. | Report on the Activities of Solway Deanery Synod | |
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| 1. | The Election of the Parochial Church Council | |
| 2. | The Election of Deanery Synod Representatives | |

3. Review of Safeguarding policy
20
1. 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 22nd June 2022 at 7pm

The Parish of the Solway Plain

Annual Meetings 2021

Parish of the Solway Plain

The Vestry meeting for the Election of Churchwardens 30th May 2021 in Holme Cultram Abbey

The meeting was held after a United Service which was held at 10:00am

Welcome: - the Rector - Canon Rev Bryan Rothwell took the chair

The meeting started with prayers and a recap from the Rector, it is only nine months since our last APCM; and we have had another lockdown, which has affected ALL the churches in the Parish.

Present & Apologies: 27 parishioners were present

Apologies sent – Liz Elliott; Sarah Norman; Anita Norman; Jean Oliver

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.

Election of Church Wardens

Holme Cultram Abbey Margaret Graham Brenda Sim Ast CW
Elaine Atkinson

Holme St Cuthbert Joe Armstrong Brian Bailey
Silloth Margaret Graham Jean Oliver Ast CW
Lawrence Marshall

Westnewton Christine Young Mary Hodgson

Election of Deputy Wardens (for the daughter churches)

Bromfield Shirley Holland-Reid Mary Douglas

Waverton no nominations received

Nominations were carried by all present

2. Admission of Church Wardens

Will take place on 19th July at 7:00pm venue tba (Archdeacon, Richard Pratt to arrange)

Minutes from the Annual Parochial Church Meeting Sunday 30th May 2021 in Holme Cultram Abbey

1. **Minutes of last year's Annual Meeting**, Amended and will be signed as a true copy

2. Matters arising from the minutes

Update on The pastoral scheme with Newton Arlosh and Kirkbride, now with the Church Commissioners. So they have had their AP Meetings already. When the Pastoral scheme is approved they will be FULL members of the PCC and will attend this meeting too.

The closure of Waverton Church – going ahead with notices on ALL of the churches within the parish. We are now in the consultation phase, where views can be aired.

3. **Reports in the booklet -**

a) **Rector's report**

Foot note from the Rector – effectively at present we have 8 congregations, with the addition of those who worship online! One of our OUTREACH areas.

b) **Treasurer's report** –The consolidated accounts for the Solway Plain PCC copy with the booklet

Margaret Pickering – thanked ALL the treasurers for their work in the preparation of the account sheet (a very special group of people, that over the last year have encouraged and supported each other)

From the floor – All the churches in the Parish have paid their offer in full for 2020

2021 will be a challenge with some churches having to review their position later in the year

2022 now being looked at As the Diocese will not be able to subsidise parishes, which have a shortfall from what they can offer to what it actually costs to have a Stipendiary clergy (PSP £58k actual cost £64K). This will enable us to “keep doing the things that really matter”

Generosity is needed by ALL to keep our churches alive

We can ALL pray – when we do blessings happen!

c) **From the Secretary of the PCC**

d) **Electoral Roll report- membership is currently 234**

e) **From the Parish Churches - in the booklet**

f) **Churches together - in booklet**

g) **Mission Community - in booklet**

h) **Deanery Synod - in booklet**

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

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

Westnewton

Jane Launchbury

Mary Hodgson (CW)

Christine Young (CW)

Holme Cultram

Judith Bryan

Elaine Atkinson (Ast CW)

Margaret Graham (CW)

Bromfield

Silloth

Marjorie Harrison

Margaret Pickering

Margaret Graham (CW)

Holme St Cuthbert

Brian Bailey (CW)

Pauline Stagg

Barbara Stephens

Waverton

Shirley Holland-Reid (dCW)
Sue Roberts
Janet Sharp
present

None received

All nominations were carried by all members

5. **Review of the Safeguarding Policy**

- Report on file from Frances McIntyre; Parish Safeguarding Officer
- Thanked all who have looked after the churches, keeping them safe for Parishioners.
- Everyone in the Church has a Duty of Care; PCC members need to be trained C0; C1; (online) C2 for those in Leadership roles – inc Church Wardens
- Training if required for C2 will commence shortly
- Most of the PCC will renew their certification in 2022

6. AOB None

Date of next PCC meeting Wednesday 7th July at Holme Cultram at 7:00pm

The meeting closed with the Grace (meeting closed at 11:40am)

Extra-ordinary Meeting

An extra ordinary meeting of the Parish of the Solway Plain was held on Sunday 31st October 2021 after a United Service at St John's. Newton Arlosh

Single agenda item to elect members from St Bride's, Kirkbride and St John's, Newton Arlosh on the Parish of the Solway Plain PCC

Present: A mixed congregation, which included representatives from all the other churches within the Parish.

Apologies: 2 sent beforehand

Welcome: The Rector opened the meeting with a little of the background of the Parish of the Solway Plain and the formation of a single PCC.

Agenda item: Election of members to the PCC from Kirkbride and Newton Arlosh Churches

The new Pastoral Scheme that made Kirkbride and Newton Arlosh, full members of the Parish came into being on 1st August. Because ALL the members of the PCC are trustees of the churches; ALL members need to be formally elected onto the PCC and are allowed 3 members per church.

Nominations:

Kirkbride: Stephen Sowerby
Josephine Jefferson
Ann Little

Newton Arlosh: Robert Heywood
Sarah Ann Whitaker
Ruth Pinguey

The Team Rector asked if the members present were happy to elect the above representatives on to the PCC, with a show of hands - it was unanimous.

So the above are duly elected on to the PCC of the Parish of the Solway Plain.

The meeting then closed with thanks from the Rector and him saying "Now go in Peace to Love and serve the Lord" and all responded with " In the name of Christ - Amen"!

St Bride's Church, Kirkbride

Minutes of the Vestry Meeting on Wednesday 26th May 2021 at 6:00pm in St. Bride's Church, Kirkbride.

The meeting opened with prayer.

The Rev'd Canon Bryan Rothwell thanked the churchwardens and PCC members for continuing to look after St. Bride's and the Church Institute throughout the Covid Pandemic and ensuing national lockdowns. He noted that services had been available online and that once they could resume had continued with appropriate hygiene precautions following government protocols. There had been reduced numbers at services, but this was probably due to the ongoing self-isolation appropriate for some. Very few activities outside worship had been possible though the Lent discussion group following the 'God for All' vision had taken place online. The financial impact had been considerable, income has decreased due to reduced worship, fewer church visitors, no weddings and only a few baptisms and funerals. This had placed an increased burden on the role of treasurers, and they were thanked for their efforts.

- Appointment of Vestry Clerk Craig Thompson was appointed.
- **Election of Churchwardens** Re-appointment of **Josephine Jefferson** - proposed by Stephen Sowerby, seconded by Jennifer Sowerby. Re-appointment of **Stephen Sowerby** - proposed by Josephine Jefferson, seconded by Jennifer Sowerby.

Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting on Wednesday 26th May 2021 at 6:00pm in St. Bride's Church, Kirkbride.

- **Present** The Rev'd Canon Bryan Rothwell was in the chair. Present were: Anne Little, Stephen Sowerby, Jennifer Sowerby, Craig Thompson, Josephine Jefferson and Arnold Kyrke.

- **Apologies** Lynn Beattie.
- **Minutes** The minutes of the Annual PCC Meeting of Wednesday 21st October 2020 were read, approved, and signed by the Chairman.
- **Electoral Roll** The electoral officer, Mrs Beattie has concluded the review. There are 22 names on the roll. There has been one removal since last year.
- **Fabric, goods and ornaments** Ceiling plaster in the Southwest corner of the church has collapsed. This is probably due to water penetration and is to be investigated further. PAT testing of electrical equipment has been completed. A new fuse board fitted with an RCD is to be installed as soon as possible. Further opinions are to be sought on the wood worm issue in embedded roof timbers. Ivy encroachment on the exterior of the building is to be addressed.
- **Financial Statements** Mrs Little reported upon the current financial situation. She reported that considering the problems caused by the Covid Pandemic finances had held up quite well. Regular giving had remained at similar levels to the previous year. There was a deficit for the annual quota of £1083. The PCC unanimously agreed that this deficit would be paid. The financial statement was adopted by the PCC.
- **Election of PCC Members** Lynn Beattie, Jennifer Sowerby and Ann Little were re-elected (3 years). Craig Thompson (1 year), Arnold Kyrke (1 year).
- **Deanery Synod** Arnold Kyrke passed on to PCC members information regarding the costs of local ministry. Meetings have been minimal and online during the national lockdowns.
- **Safeguarding** There have been no concerns regarding the safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults. All PCC members need to complete Safeguarding Basic Awareness CO. Not all have yet done so. Safeguarding is overseen by the Solway Plain Parish and it is anticipated that as the pandemic diminishes the resumption of courses will be encouraged.
- **Church Institute** Grants from Allerdale Borough Council have proved extremely beneficial and made a significant contribution to income. Without that support the Church Institute would have been in a very difficult financial position. Leaking guttering requires attention, an Ash tree to the rear of the building requires pruning back and there is a developing though not unsafe issue regarding the stability of the toilet block.

St John the Evangelist, Newtown Arlosh

The Annual Vestry meeting was held on Tuesday 4th May 2021 held in St John's Church at 7.30pm.

Revd Canon Bryan Rothwell opened the meeting with a prayer, and welcomed everyone to the meeting

Present: W & E Bell, R Haywood, G Hill, W Baldwin, R Pinguey & S Whitaker

Minutes of the last vestry meeting held on 5th October 202 were read, approved and signed.

Elections of Churchwardens:

George Hill, proposed by A Hetherington & seconded by E M Bell

Willy Bell, proposed by R Pinguey & seconded by W Baldwin

Everyone was in favour, and both accepted.

Revd Canon Bryan Rothwell thanked Willy & George for their hard work in running our church together and all the jobs that need to be done.

Annual Parochial Church Meeting held on Tuesday 4th May 2021 following the Vestry Meeting

Present: as above

Apologies from A Hetherington, she handed in her resignation which Ruth read out to PCC members. A thank you to be sent to Alison for all the hard work playing the organ every Sunday morning and a lot of other jobs. We will miss her.

Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting held on 5th October 202 were read, approved and signed.

Reports:

Electoral Roll given by E Bell. 20 members, having lost one member.

Annual Report of the proceedings of the Parochial Church Council and activities and the parish generally. Ruth Pinguey gave her report on the activities in church, George Hill gave his account on the church building, fabric, goods and ornaments.

Financial Statement of the Council. Willy Bell read out the income and expenditure in the Accounts £7844.35 a loss of £647.73. George Hill proposed the financial report seconded by Eileen Bell.

Thank you to everyone for their reports and keeping the church running, keeping the books up to date and we must carry on until we join fully into the Solway Deanery, from Revd Canon Bryan.

The Appointment of Auditor for the coming year would be Olive Reed. Everyone was agreeable.

Election of PCC members. All were re-elected on block, without Mrs Alison Hetherington which has resigned from the PCC. Everyone was agreeable.

Election of Sidespersons was also re-elected on block. All were agreeable.

Safeguarding will help with catching up with Frances McIntyre (Parish Safeguarding Officer)

The meeting closed with the Grace and Peace shared by all (meeting closed at 11:15am)

The Parish of the Solway Plain in the Diocese of Carlisle

Registered Charity No. 1187312

Annual Report for the year ended 31st December 2021

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 Andrew Callaway (Curate)

Revd Malcolm Stilwell (Assistant Priest) *to 4th April 2021*

Mr Tim Barker (Reader & Deanery Synod) **lay vice-chair**

Mrs Christine Young (Licenced Lay Minister)

Mrs Shirley Holland Reid (Bromfield)

Mrs Sue Roberts (Bromfield)

Mrs Janet Sharp (Bromfield)

Mrs Margaret Graham (Holme Cultram)

Mrs Elaine Atkinson (Holme Cultram)

Mrs Judith Bryan (Holme Cultram) *from 30th May 2021*

Mr Brian Bailey (Holme St Cuthbert)

Mrs Pauline Stagg (Holme St Cuthbert)

Mrs Barbara Stephens (Holme St Cuthbert) *from 30th May 2021*

Mr Joe Armstrong (Holme St Cuthbert) *to 30th May 2021*

Mrs Josephine Jefferson (Kirkbride) *from 31st Oct 2021*

Mrs Ann Little (Kirkbride) *from 31st Oct 2021*

Mr Stephen Sowerby (Kirkbride) *from 31st Oct 2021*

Mr Robert Heywood (Newton Arlosh) *from 31st Oct 2021*

Mrs Ruth Pinguey (Newton Arlosh) *from 31st Oct 2021*

Mrs Sara Whitaker (Newton Arlosh) *from 31st Oct 2021*

Mrs Margaret Graham (Silloth)

Mrs Margaret Pickering (Silloth) **Treasurer**

Mrs Marjorie Harrison (Silloth)

Mr Peter Wardle (Westnewton & Deanery Synod)
Mrs Mary Hodgson (Westnewton)
Mrs Jane Launchbury (Westnewton & Deanery Synod)
Mrs Frances McIntyre (Deanery Synod) **Secretary**
Mrs Anita Norman (Deanery Synod)
Mr Arnold Kyrke (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.

Christ Church, Waverton was declared closed for worship on 1st October 2021, the Carlisle Diocese are now looking for alternative uses for the building. The bank accounts in the name of Christ Church were closed and the funds transferred to the Solway Plain PCC account.

The Benefice of Bowness, Kirkbride & Newton Arlosh was dissolved and the churches of St John's, Newton Arlosh and St Bride's, Kirkbride became Parish Churches within the Parish of the Solway Plain on 1st August 2021

The incumbent of the benefice, the Rector works with a ministry team including a Reader, a part time Assistant Priest, part time Curate 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 seven churches in the parish hold the delegated responsibility for their church's 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 & Solway Plain PCC – Margaret Pickering 016973 33068 marbigroc@gmail.com

St Matthew, Westnewton – Peter Wardle 07824903420
pajwardle@btopenworld.com

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

There are five 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. Individual churches have Facebook pages where information is publicised to the wider community.

Signed by the chairman:

Bryan Rothwell.

Rector's Report

The past year has seen the loosening of restrictions caused by the Covid Pandemic. Worship has resumed its normal pattern across the Parish, but many of the regular activities and fundraising events have not taken place. The regular congregations have not fully recovered from the effects of the lockdowns, and some people are cautious about meeting up with others because infection rates are still high.

Worship online began at the beginning of the first lockdown and has been maintained throughout, having a regular group of people following the service on Facebook, as well as many casual visitors to the site.

The parishes of Kirkbride and Newton Arlosh joined the Solway Plain Parish at the beginning of August after almost two years working together.

Christ Church, Waverton was formally closed for worship in October, though no services had been held there for two years. Plans to create a memorial garden at the Western end of the church have been made, and the Diocese are looking at the sale of the building for alternative use.

I am immensely grateful to everyone who plays a part in the smooth running of our churches, PCC, churchwardens, treasurers, and secretaries. We have a great team of members on the churches sub committees who are involved in looking after the day-to-day work of our churches including looking after the buildings and raising funds to maintain the ministry and mission of the church.

I would also like to thank our team of worship leaders, who turn out each week to ensure that regular worship is maintained in all of our churches. The ordination to the priesthood of Revd Andrew Callaway was a very special occasion held in Holme Cultram Abbey.

Looking after old and historic churches comes with its challenges, but our buildings are much loved and cared for. The re-ordering of Christ Church, Silloth has opened up new possibilities for developing the mission of the church, and it was wonderful that all the churches came together to celebrate the 150th Anniversary in November.

Finance often dominates discussions at PCC and church committees. We have seen income drop during the pandemic but are grateful for the continuing support received. All our churches have paid their parish offer in full, a great achievement in the current financial climate. Rising costs, especially with the rising prices of energy, will put a significant burden on our churches over the coming months, so we are going to have to face up to the challenge over the coming year.

May we be open to the Spirit guiding and leading us as we move forward together, safe in the knowledge of the Father's love and care revealed to us through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Bryan Rothwell

Electoral Roll

The combined Roll in 2021 was 276 from the Parish of the Solway Plain, Kirkbride & Newton Arlosh.

The Parishes Rolls were brought together in 2021 and the new roll now has 282 members.

Report from the Secretary of the PCC

During 2021 we had four FULL meetings of the PCC and one extra ordinary meeting to elect new members from Kirkbride and Newton Arlosh

The year was again dominated by the Covid 19 virus and its variants and the opening of our churches with much caution. Service going ahead with and without singing and communion continuing with just the bread being distributed by masked clergy!

But for those that like the atmosphere of our church buildings, just being in them is a cause for celebration. It's thanks to that tireless band of workers in all our churches for keeping them open and safe for us to attend.

St Bride's, Kirkbride and St John's, Newton Arlosh eventually came into our fold officially in September with the lovely service in St John's and the election of members to our PCC. It was first time, for many being in a full church and the singing was amazing. It will take time for the churches to fully recover from this pandemic, especially when we have all lost many loved members that will be greatly missed.

Re ordering, the continued renovations and general maintenance (in line with Quinquennial inspections) for our churches has continued apace during the year.

In June we hosted Bishop James for the Ordination of Revd. Andrew Callaway - a first for the Abbey and away from the Cathedral - where the Solway Plain Parishioners were in attendance to welcome Andrew as a fully licensed member of our clergy team.

Christchurch, Silloth hosting the Bishop, again in September, for a dual celebration of its (belated 150th anniversary of laying the foundation stone) and the reopening after its re ordering.

United Parish services started up again when there was a 5th Sunday in the month, but only in Silloth or Abbeystown as they are the only churches with the capacity for social distancing.

Financial burdens which our churches bring and maintaining our churches for our communities is a MUST within the Solway Plain, but the way people worship is changing and we will all have to adapt and "find new ways of touching the lives of all" BUT having and keeping someone who can steer us through this time of change is a PRIORITY. As the review of our Parish Offer looms large again - let us all just take time to reflect on what others do for us and what we would miss if this was lost.

Reports from the PCC church committees

St Mungo, Bromfield

We are now at the end of our third year under the new PCC setting. We have 3 members serving on the PCC and a local church committee looking after the everyday business of the church. We welcomed a new member to our local committee. Covid lockdowns and restrictions has meant that our fundraising and church activity has been significantly curtailed, which resulted in income being severely limited. We received donations from Bromfield Parish Council and several parishioners which enabled us to maintain a grass cutting programme, our largest expense after insurance. Funds remain steady and in a fairly good state but like others we would wish for more. Regular reminders are given to donate via Gift Aid where possible. Our Parish offer was paid in full, although we had to reduce the amount paid in previous years. Gift Aid and Gasds claims will be made for financial years 2021 and 2022.

Our quinquennial inspection was undertaken and 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. Outstanding inspections are due for Electrics and the roof. In addition, we need to undertake some roof repairs and churchyard wall repairs. External painting of doors, guttering and gates has been completed.

Our congregation numbers remain small, but we remain positive that numbers can increase. Westnewton pre-school group now meet at the church on Mondays, hopefully parents will become familiar with our activities and become more involved.

We look forward to this coming year and hope that there are no further lockdowns. We have resumed our fundraising programme and hopefully, life will get back to normal.

Shirley Holland-Reid

Holme St Cuthbert

We only had met three times as the Covid pandemic continued well into 2021 with another lockdown, so it was April before we had our first meeting of 2021. The meetings being held after the Sunday service which fits in well with all of us.

The new heating system works well and is much more efficient, heating the church quickly so hopefully more cost effective too. Quinquennial inspection work started in the summer and by the autumn the repointing of the Tower was completed. The Old Church yard had a clean-up and we hope to keep some of it wild as the Abbey is doing.

The Parish Hall is getting past its best and we have been monitoring its cost closely, but at present income and expenditure are similar with a few regular hiring's that keep it viable.

The subcommittee would like to thank all those that have contributed to Holme St Cuthbert's in anyway during the past year.

Franness McIntyre

St Matthew, Westnewton

Another strange year but finding a "new normal". No Summer Fayre, no concerts but more Church services and a new style Christmas Fayre.

We, in common with most, had to dip into reserves to pay our Parish Offer, albeit reduced from previous years. Our weekly congregation hasn't quite reached pre-pandemic levels but is certainly improving- we had a congregation of 40 at our Christmas Eve service.

We, the Ladies actually as I was told not to worry and let them get on with it, organised a very successful Christmas Fayre with take-away teas and made an astonishing £2010!

We held 7 sub-committee meetings during the year, mostly at Midtown, so we enjoyed Martha's hospitality. We also held a Lent course, led by Rev'd Malcolm and well supported.

Financially it continues to be a challenging time but, hopefully, as we get back to normal fundraising we'll be able to, once again, "punch above our weight".

Peter Wardle

Christ Church, Sillioth

A momentous year for Christ Church. The reordering project completed and 150 years since the church was consecrated.

The church was closed for the builders to complete their work from May to October. We were lucky to be lent a marquee for the period by Thomas Milner which enabled us to continue with services and other activities within the Church grounds for the duration.

The committee were able to meet for all the usual meetings in either the marquee or the church.

Bishop James came for the celebratory Service on 21st November to mark the 150th anniversary and the reordering of the church. A well-attended joyful occasion.

The opening up of the Christ Church and its change to a more flexible usable building started in earnest with the switch on of the Sillioth Christmas Lights the Church was packed with happy folk. The WI and the

Solway Youth group now use the Church regularly and more local groups are expected soon.

With the pandemic restrictions easing a more normal schedule of services and events has resumed..

Liz Elliott

Holme Cultram Abbey

With the pandemic restrictions continuing well into 2021, the Abbey remained open for services whenever possible. Not fully opening its doors on a daily basis until July. Being one of the larger churches in the Parish, most of the United Services, were held in the Abbey. Notably, the first away from the Cathedral was the Ordination of Revd Andrew Callaway in June, with Bishop James.

Fundraising both inside and as a take away outside of the Abbey went ahead with Monthly Munches; Teas and Talks; Strawberry Tea weekend and the Christmas Fayre, all help towards the continued renovations and upkeep of our buildings. A new front door was erected (made by Stanley Foster and completed by Ray Holyoak); Discussions on the new lighting scheme commenced and the updating of the outside toilets with help from the Parish Council were projects started in the year.

We continued our involvement with the school in "Get Cumbria Buzzing"(wilding of the Old Church Yard for nature) and taking a messy Christingle into the school too.

Again we remember those in our community that have died during the year. They will be missed; not only by their families, but by all of the Church community and we thank all who have contributed to our church during the past years.

Francess McIntyre

St Bride's, Kirkbride

We are delighted to have, this year, become a member of the Parish of the Solway Plain. The Committee is pleased that as Covid restrictions have eased, attendances at services have increased. However, they remain at only about half of the levels we might previously have expected. Church life though has very much resumed; lay and community contribution continues to be an important aspect of our church including both involvement in our weekly services, in annual services such as the Carol Service and in the welcome practical support of St. Brides. Events have also returned to normal; a coffee morning in the Autumn for example, and a recent Lent Lunch which was a great success and also raised valuable funds; further events are in the planning. The Church Institute is once again hosting regular local community groups and also now houses Kirkbride's defibrillator.

Our church building has required ongoing maintenance; an issue with the roof is still to be resolved whilst partial electrical updating is required. The organ has required a degree of renovation and the churchyard, which is maintained by volunteers, will now benefit from some financial support from Kirkbride Parish Council to assist with contractors cutting the grass. The village vicarage has now been sold; the car park adjacent to the church has however been retained by the Diocese for the benefit of St. Bride's church.

Craig Thompson

St John the Evangelist, Newton Arlosh

During the year we had 2 meetings plus the Annual committee meeting. We now have 19 members on our Electoral Roll, unfortunately having 2 deaths.

The Church linen, Cleaning, Flower Rota & Church opening are very well attended to by our PCC members and parish helpers.

The grass cutting is done by Andrew Carr with his machines. The cutting of the roadside hedge and along the Churchyard are done by John Harrison, this keeps the Churchyard clean and tidy.

Our money making this year was our monthly drawing tickets which sold very well, also our Sale of Harvest gifts of all kinds of produce, homemade preserves, cakes, vegetables, flowers, potatoes, hay and straw, very ably auctioned by John Graham. This included a raffle.

Our Quinquennial Inspection took place a lot of work is to be done on the tower, re-pointing on all four sides, inside and outside the parapet walls and any other parts that need pointing. It was noted that the pointing out around the West door also needs attention. Askins & Little have now started on the work.

The 1st & 3rd Sunday Services are HC.10-45am Taken by The Solway Plain Ministry Team.

2nd Sunday 10-45 am Family Service taken very ably by Frazer Clark and David Ross.

We do now have tapes of Hymns so that we can have singing in Church, this all sounds good when we have some good singers.

Ruth Pinguey

Waverton

The church was declared closed for worship on 1st October 2021. The Carlisle Diocese is now looking for alternative uses and potential sale of the building. It is proposed to move the War Memorial to the West end of the church, create a new gate and pathway to create a memorial garden including the Ashes Memorial Garden.

Bryan Rothwell

Other Reports

Churches Together in Silloth and Aspatria

Churches Together in Silloth and Aspatria were restricted by covid regulations for much of 2021 but began meeting face to face in August; first at Trinity Methodist schoolroom and, since that building has now been sold, at St Andrews URC hall.

Christmas was the time for activities to begin again with a series of drive-in (!) carols at Aspatria and open-air carols round the crib at Silloth. Thanks again to members of all the Silloth churches who helped to distribute a Christmas calendar to every household in the town.

On 23rd January this year services for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity were held at St Andrews Church Silloth and Aspatria Methodist church.

At Easter, united ministry included Lent Bible Study followed by St Andrews "Our Door's Open" lunch and on Good Friday members attended the united service at Christ Church. This was intended to take place at Greenrow church but, sadly, Margaret Gate and several church members had tested positive for covid. The service was followed by a walk of witness and Stations of the Cross. On Easter Day members met for the Sunrise Service followed by breakfast provided by Christ Church.

In August we said farewell to long-standing Chair Rev Dave Harkison who was retiring from ministry and Rev Tim Herbert retired in March 2022.

All Church members are encouraged to take part in the activities which Churches Together present, especially when they replace our own regular Sunday services. Christian fellowship is always a blessing, and such events provide valuable "outreach" to non-churchgoers as a joyful and practical example of different church groups working together.

Tim Barker

Solway Mission Community

The ecumenical community involving the Anglican, Methodist and URC churches in the Silloth, Aspatria, Wigton area became more active after the easing of covid lockdown. The cell groups for young people in the towns, led by Network Youth organiser Yvette Ladds were well supported and a group of 48 went for a residential time at Knock near Appleby.

Walking football in Silloth resumed in June 2021 and a picnic with worship was held at the tent in Christ Church, Silloth's grounds on August 22nd with music by Michelle Dodds and Geoff Betsworth.

Ministers and Outreach worker Judith Parr marked Christmas by presenting an "Advent Calendar" of daily reflections on Facebook.

A zoom hour of prayer for Christian Unity had been held in January 2021 and a live event took place in Holme Cultram Abbey in 2022.

The Abbey also hosted “Abbey Live” in April 2022; an open mic evening led by Michelle Dodds and including a variety of entertainment by Network Youth members from Wigton and Silloth.

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.

Tim Barker

Deanery Synod

Deanery Synod has met on three occasions since last year’s Annual Meetings, two on Zoom.

In October the new Diocesan Safeguarding Advisor addressed the meeting and, in a meeting, held in Maryport in February Canon Cameron Butland introduced the Living in Love and Faith discussion about human sexuality and relationships.

Throughout the past year, the secretary has updated the synod on various matters via email.

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.

Revd Canon Tim Herbert announced his retirement and Revd Canon Bryan Rothwell took on the role in May 2022.

Deanery Synod representatives

Safeguarding

The Parish Safeguarding policy for the Parish of the Solway Plain has been reviewed during 2021 and amended as required by Church House to include the changes to the provision of safeguarding training.

(As recommended in the table below – Francesc McIntyre PSO April 2022)

Since the last APM, the Diocese has a new Safeguarding Advisor: Jo Van Lachterop.

January hit the ground running having to update the training modules for all, as training had lapsed during the pandemic, as well as Church House and churches opening slowly, and all of us still adjusting to restrictions and weekly changes in guidance.

The Safeguarding module now comprise of:

Basic Awareness; Foundation; Leadership modules.

(The Basic Awareness and Foundation can be completed online, and the Leadership module is a combination of face to face and online. All are more Church focused and have a strong biblical content)

There will be provision for those not having access to computers to complete the training “in house”.

Who needs training and to what level?

Basic Awareness	Recommended for anyone who needs a basic level of awareness of safeguarding <i>Anyone who holds an office within their church (committee membership)</i>
Foundation	Required for anyone who has safeguarding responsibilities/contact with children and/or vulnerable adults <i>Elected Membership of the PCC (Trustees) & Church Wardens</i>
Leadership	Required for anyone who has safeguarding leadership responsibilities/is leading activities involving children and/or vulnerable adults. Clergy; PSO; LLM

The training modules only came online late 2021

Church Leaders, clergy, and church members in leadership positions were asked to complete their training first, which started in the Autumn 21 – Of the Ministry Team, those who managed to get on the courses completed their modules Jan’22, others have dates arranged.

Update April ’22: Thank you, to those who have completed their training, whether online or face to face. Your support shows the level of

commitment, love and care you have towards the Parishioners within our Parish

Frances McIntyre (Parish Safeguarding Officer)

Consolidated Accounts of the Solway Plain PCC 2021

1st January to 31st December 2021

Receipts	Unrestricted	Restricted
Voluntary receipts		
Tax efficient planned giving	29,156	187
Other planned giving	6,858	0
Collections at services	13,163	0
All other giving	10,255	2,298
Gift aid recovered	13,190	0
Legacies received (capital value)	11,100	2,000
Grants (including recurring & one off)	8,566	15,023
TOTAL Voluntary Receipts	92,288	19,508
Activities for generating funds		
Gross receipts from fund raising	23,284	87
Investment Income		
Dividends, Interest, receipts from property	282	357
Church activities		
Statutory fees retained by the PCC	10,927	0
Gross receipts from trading (not fundraising)	10,589	1,569
Other receipts		
Other receipts not already listed	332	30,554
TOTAL RECEIPTS	137,702	52,075
COMBINED TOTAL	189,776	

Cash & investment balances	Unrestricted	Restricted
Cash & deposit balance at 1st January 2021	124,352	220,317
Investments at 1st January 2021	0	566
TOTAL FUNDS	124,352	220,883

Payments	Unrestricted	Restricted
Cost of generating funds		
Fundraising activities	2,763	0
Church activities		
Mission giving & donations	573	368
Diocesan parish offer	61,927	0
Salaries, wages & honoraria	100	0
Clergy & staff expenses	2,710	0
Church expenses		
Mission & evangelism costs	0	0
Running expenses (including governance)	29,894	5,954
Utility bills	12,972	0
Cost of trading	9,233	410
Major capital expenditure		
Major repairs to church building	0	154,313
Major repairs to church hall	250	2,084
New building works	0	0
SUB-TOTAL of all expenditure above	120,422	163,129
Other payments not listed	698	0
TOTAL PAYMENTS	121,120	163,129
COMBINED TOTAL	284,249	

Cash & investment balances	Unrestricted	Restricted
Cash & deposit balance at 31st December 2021	141,231	109,206
Investments at 31st December 2021		325
TOTAL FUNDS	141,231	109,531

Signed by the Chairman
Revd Canon Bryan Rothwell

22nd May 2022

Bryan Rothwell.

Independent Examiner's Report to the members/trustees of the Parish of the Solway Plain.

Registered Charity No. 1187312

The component parts of The Parish of the Solway Plain are Independently Examined individually by their own appointed examiners who issue them with their Independent Examiners report.

I report only on the Consolidated Accounts of the Parish for the year ended 31st December 2021 which have been produced from the above records and which are set out on 1 page.

Respective responsibilities of the Trustees and Independent Examiner

The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners section 145 (5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent Examiner's Statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission.

An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and 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 management committee concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in a full audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the accounts.

Independent Examiner's Statement

In connection with my examination, no matters have come to my attention

1. which give me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements

- to keep accounting records in accordance with s.130 of the 2011 Act; or
- to prepare accounts which accord with these accounting records have not been met; or

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

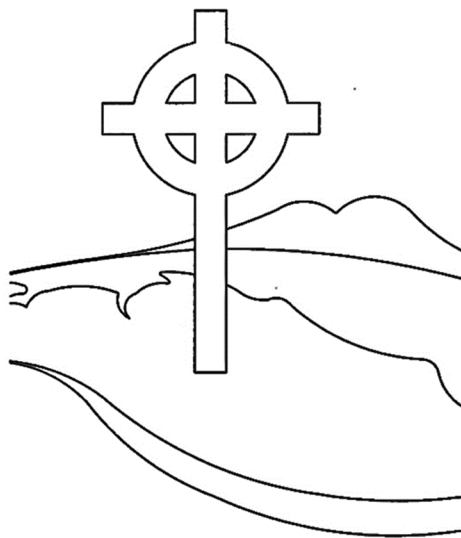
Linda Brown
Field End Cottage
Waterside
Wigton
Cumbria

Date: 15th April 2022

Accounts

The Parish of the Solway Plain

Annual Meeting



Sunday 30th May 2021 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 May 2021 at 11.00am

Agenda

Welcome and Opening Prayer by the Chairman

The Meeting for the Election of Churchwardens

1. The Election of Churchwardens
2. The Admission of Churchwardens – Monday 19th July 2021 at 7pm

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 2020
 - 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 the Parochial Church Council
5. Review of Safeguarding policy
6. 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 7th July at 7pm

The Parish of the Solway Plain

Annual Meetings 2020

The minutes from the Annual Meetings held on Sunday 30th August 2020 after the United Service held in Holme Cultram Abbey

Welcome: - the Rector – Revd Canon Bryan Rothwell took the chair

The Rector gave a quick recap – All the reports were prepared before the lockdown was imposed, and seems a little late to recap on 2019 now!

He thanked everyone who has supported their churches throughout the lockdown, especially those people behind the scenes. Looking at those present, he stated that you are all ACTIVE members of our churches here in the Solway Plain and again gave his grateful thanks.

The Rector thanked his ministry team and noted that it had changed – Richard Goodfellow had moved to his new parishes; BUT we now have a new curate Andrew Callaway. Cherry Asbury had stepped down.

Also that we had lost 3 staunch members of the Solway Plain Parish - Rev Peter Hayward and two former Church wardens; Jane Miller (Bromfield) and Eileen Todhunter (HCA). Shiela Szandurski had recently stepped down as Church Warden for Westnewton (the Rector extended thanks to her too).

Present & Apologies: 35 parishioners were present
2 apologies received – Liz Elliott; Barbara Stephens

The Vestry meeting for the Election of Church Wardens

1. Election of Church Wardens

The 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.

Election of Church Wardens

Holme Cultram Abbey	Margaret Graham & assistant CW Elaine Atkinson	Brenda Sim
Holme St Cuthbert	Joe Armstrong	
Silloth	Margaret Graham & assistant CW Lawrence Marshall	Jean Oliver
Westnewton	Christine Young	Mary Hodgson

Election of Deputy Wardens (for the daughter churches)

Bromfield	Shirley Holland-Reid; Mary Douglas
Waverton	No nominations received

Nominations were carried by all present

2. Admission of Church Wardens

Will take place sometime in November. The Archdeacon, Richard Pratt to arrange

The meeting closed at 11:00 am

Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting

1. Minutes of last year's Annual Meeting

Signed as a true copy

2. Matters arising from the minutes

NONE

3. Reports

- a) Printed reports circulated in the booklet
- b) Rector's report
- c) Treasurer's report –The consolidated accounts for the Solway Plain PCC copy with the booklet
Margaret Pickering – thanked all the treasurers for their work in the preparation of the account sheet – with all accounts in by the deadline in January 2020
- d) From the Secretary of the PCC with Electoral Roll report – membership is currently 246
- e) From the Parish Churches – in the booklet
- f) Churches together – in booklet
- g) Mission Community – in booklet
- h) Deanery Synod - in booklet

4. Election of (5) Deanery Synod representatives for office from November 2010

Frances McIntyre

Anita Norman

Tim Barker

Peter Wardle

Jane Launchbury

Nominations were carried by all members present

5. The Election of the Parochial Church Council

Nominations from churches received before the meeting:

Westnewton

Jane Launchbury

Mary Hodgson

Christine Young (CW)

Silloth

Marjorie Harrison

Margaret Pickering

Margaret Graham (CW)

Bromfield

Shirley Holland-Reid

Sue Roberts

Janet Sharp

Holme Cultram

Anita Norman

Elaine Atkinson

Margaret Graham (CW)

Holme St Cuthbert

Brian Bailey

Pauline Stagg

Joe Armstrong (CW)

Waverton

None

Nominations were carried by all members present

6. Review of the Safeguarding Policy

- Report on file from Frances McIntyre; Parish Safeguarding Officer
- Thanks to all who had done the training so far.
- Everyone in the Church has a Duty of Care; PCC members need to be trained C0; C1; (on-line) C2 for those in Leadership roles, Covid-19 has put pay to face-to-face training for the time being.

7. AOB

Kirkbride and Newton Arlosh –

- Pastoral scheme is with the Church Commissioners
- They will hold their own Annual Meetings in due course - Kirkbride 21st Oct; Newton Arlosh still to be arranged

The next PCC meeting will be held on Wednesday 23rd September , Holme Cultram at 7:00pm

The meeting closed with the Grace and Peace shared by all (meeting closed at 11:15am)

The Parish of the Solway Plain in the Diocese of Carlisle

Registered Charity No. 1187312

Annual Report for the year ended 31st December 2020

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)

Mr Tim Barker (Reader & Deanery Synod) **lay vice-chair**

Mrs Christine Young (Licenced Lay Minister)

Mrs Cherry Asbury (Lay Minister) *to 30th Aug 2020*

Mrs Shiona Bickley (Bromfield) *to 30th Aug 2020*

Mrs Julie Brough (Bromfield) *to 30th Aug 2020*

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

Mrs Shirley Holland Reid (Bromfield) *from 30th Aug 2020*

Mrs Sue Roberts (Bromfield) *from 30th Aug 2020*

Mrs Janet Sharp (Bromfield) *from 30th Aug 2020*

Mrs Margaret Graham (Holme Cultram)

Mrs Anita Norman (Deanery Synod & 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) *to 30th Aug 2020*

Mr Peter Wardle (Deanery Synod & Westnewton)
Mrs Mary Hodgson (Westnewton)
Mrs Jane Launchbury (Deanery Synod & Westnewton)
Mrs Frances McIntyre (Deanery Synod) **Secretary**
Mrs Rosie DeMello (Deanery Synod) *to 1st Nov 2020*
Mrs Eileen Todhunter (Deanery Synod) *died June 2020*
Mrs Martha Walker (Deanery Synod) *to 1st Nov 2020*

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 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 church's 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

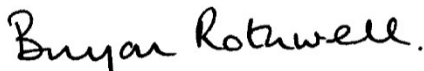
The parish has an agreed policy for the General Data Protection Regulations and a copy is displayed in all the churches and on the parish website.

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.

Signed by the chairman: 

Rector's Report

Since the last Annual Meeting, held on 30th August, we have had to contend with two further lockdowns due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Restrictions laid upon us have meant that most of the usual activities have been curtailed. Worship in our churches has been maintained where possible, but many people have missed the singing of hymns during our services. We are grateful to those who have provided music for us, and the occasional opportunities to sing outside.

Worship online has continued throughout the past year. It has been a source of help and support for many, and it has been good to see people outside of our regular congregations joining us online.

With the threat of transmission of the virus, many people have been self-isolating, and people have become used to worship at home. As restrictions are eased, we look forward to people joining us in person, in church once again.

I am grateful to the churchwardens, church committee members and all who have continued to look after our buildings during the past year. Our buildings are a great resource and an important symbol of God's presence in the heart of our communities.

One major concern has been the financial impact of the pandemic. Income through donations at our services has decreased because of lockdowns and reduced numbers of worshippers. Fundraising events have been cancelled. Income from occasional offices (baptisms, weddings & funerals) has been minimal as services have been cancelled or moved elsewhere. I am grateful to the regular givers, they have continued to support us during this time, and without your support, we would be in a much more serious situation. But all churches have seen significant shortfall, and it may be many months before we see things beginning to recover. I am grateful to the treasurers, who have the burden of handling the finances when things are tough, but they have done so with much care and attention.

Looking ahead, we held a successful discussion group during Lent online and are continuing with fortnightly Bible studies, for the time being online, but when restrictions allow, we hope to meet together in person.

We are fully committed to the God for All vision and the four strands: Follow Daily; Care Deeply; Speak Boldly; Tread Gently and will be also looking at Give Generously as a theme to raise awareness of the importance of giving to support the ministry and work of our churches.

God for All's focus is on "Releasing the whole people of God for the whole mission of God for the transformation of Cumbria in Jesus's name". We all have a part to play, using the gifts and talents God has given us.

"We are the body of Christ. In one Spirit we were all baptized into one body. Let us then pursue all that makes for peace and builds up our common life".

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

Bryan Rothwell

Report from the Secretary of the PCC

Most of 2020 the churches in the parish have been closed, due to the Covid-19 pandemic. When restrictions have been eased – some churches decided to remain closed while others opened with all the “Covid guidelines” in place: the risk assessments; sanitising stations; wearing masks and social distancing, as well as the cleaning and constant disinfecting of high-risk areas. All of this done behind the scenes, so services could go ahead.

Online services took place every week during the lockdown, and at present are continuing. Up to the end of 2020, we managed two full PCC meetings and a very late APCM held in August.

Andrew Callaway (Curate) has been with us nearly a year now, so hopefully he has settled into the Parish.

Although some people have yet to meet him, because of the Covid restrictions.

Finances for every church have been a worry during 2020, but hopefully as we are eased back into some sort of normality, these can be addressed; with our Parish offer for 2021/2, being a worry.

Waverton Church has been closed for worship since the end of 2019, with the final closure notices now on all churches in the Parish.

And finally on a happier note - We will soon be able to officially welcome the churches of Newton Arlosh and Kirkbride into our Parish as the Pastoral scheme is finally with the Church Commissioners.

On behalf of the PCC – I would like to thank all the behind the scenes helpers – your efforts on the behalf of all the parishioners within the parish has been much appreciated, especially by those able to use our churches.

Francess McIntyre

Electoral Roll

There are currently 234 members on the electoral roll of the Parish of the Solway Plain, 12 fewer than 2020

Safeguarding

Parish Safeguarding Policy has been reviewed with no additional content required.

This year the safeguarding report is all about the churches keeping the parishioners safe through the pandemic.

All the churches had to carry out risk assessments (to comply with both the Government and Diocesan guidelines). So when each church felt ready, and the lockdowns eased, they could open the churches in their care. Some churches opened as soon as they could, while others preferred to wait; with all churches now open - from Palm Sunday or Easter Sunday. Well done to those behind the scenes that have looked after our churches and our Solway Plain parishioners.

For 2021 I will be checking up on all our Safeguarding training; renewing or encouraging training for ALL PCC members- specifically in a church setting, even if no children are involved in the church – we will always have vulnerable adults.

We all know that it is EVERYONES' duty of care to look after each other, so with this in mind - I would like to see ALL members of Sub committees to have a Basic level of safeguarding as the PCC membership. While others in leadership roles (Church Wardens) are required to complete ALL levels up to C2

Fransess McIntyre (Parish Safeguarding Officer)

Reports from the PCC church committees

St Mungo, Bromfield

We are now at the end of our second year under the new PCC setting. We have 3 members serving on the PCC and a local church committee looking after the everyday business of the church. We welcomed two new members to our local committee and a new deputy Churchwarden. The lack of meetings and everyone in lockdown has meant that our fundraising and church activity has been significantly curtailed, which resulted in income being severely limited. We received donations from Bromfield Parish Council and Aspatria Charity shop, which enabled us to repair the churchyard wall, prune churchyard trees and maintain a grass cutting programme. Our funds remain steady and in a fairly good state but like others we would wish for more. A request for donations and a reminder to donate via Gift Aid where possible, was included in a recent magazine. Our Parish offer was paid in full, and Gift Aid/Gasds claims were made for tax years ending April 2019 and April 2020. The tax year ended April 2021 will be submitted when our accounts are returned from the auditor. We are awaiting these repayments.

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 year so we will wait for their report and findings. Our congregation numbers reduced with the passing of Vera Watkinson and the loss of transport meaning Jean Violet could no longer attend church. We remain positive that numbers can increase.

We look forward to this coming year and hope that there are no further lockdowns. We will resume our fundraising programme and hopefully, life will get back to normal.

Well done everyone.

Shirley Holland-Reid

Holme St Cuthbert

During the pandemic, the church was closed and there were no meetings of the subcommittee. Whenever the lockdown eased our little church has been open to the community, through private prayer and Sunday services. Being able to celebrate Harvest and Christmas (and from Palm Sunday - 2021 open for weekly services).

We gained a grant from Allerdale (with Holme Cultram), as our Parish Hall had to close too.

An upgraded heating system is now in place, so our little church is always cosy and welcoming.

We started work on essential items from our quinquennial report, but once lockdown came, these are now on hold until spring/summer 2021

The subcommittee would like to thank all those that have contributed to Holme St Cuthbert's in anyway – especially the upkeep of the churchyard during the past year.

Francess McIntyre

Holme Cultram Abbey

Throughout the pandemic, when allowed the church has been open for services during Harvest and Christmas (opening fully for Sunday services on Palm Sunday 2021).

Even though the church was closed, our bands of fundraisers have been busy; with Alternative (take away) Monthly Munches and Bake sales at Christmas and Easter. All monies raised contributing towards the upkeep of the Abbey. Also, with Holme St Cuthbert we managed to gain a grant from Allerdale.

We hope to complete the next phase of our restoration – electric and the lighting this year with a new Architect Paul Grout advising us throughout.

We also remember those who have died in and around Abbeytown, during the past year, we will miss them.

We are now looking forward to being able to celebrate a new beginning within our community, not only in the building but out there in our community.

Frances McIntyre

Christ Church, Silloth

2020 should have been the start Celebrations to mark the 150th Anniversary for Christ Church but as with many things during global pandemic the year was different.

The committee met in the Church instead of the Vicarage but on fewer occasions.

The Diocese Advisory Committee approved the faculty for the reordering project which is now proceeding apace.

Liz Elliott

St Matthew, Westnewton

It's been a strange year! No Summer Fayre, no concerts, very few Church services. We did have a raffle, which raised £400, and Martha is still selling jam - that's about it.

We had 2 meetings in 12 months, we had little that we could discuss and, of course, even less that we could do. ZOOM hasn't reached Westnewton.

We look forward, ever hopeful, to next year and some form of normality.

Just a footnote to thank Bryan and the team for our weekly worship - very much appreciated.!

Peter Wardle

Waverton

No services have taken place since November 2019. The Church Buildings Council have made a report on the church as part of the process of declaring the church closed for worship. The draft Pastoral Scheme has been published by the Church Commissioners and responses are due by 14th June 2021.

Bryan Rothwell

Other Reports

Churches Together in Silloth and Aspatria

Churches Together in Silloth and Aspatria have only met once for a united service in January 2020 for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. All churches have been closed at times during the various lockdowns over the past year and the regular activities have been curtailed. Membership of the committee is open to two representatives from each church, and we are always on the lookout for people to serve. This year Dave Harkinson (URC) will retire as secretary. If anyone would be interested in taking on this role, please let us know.

Tim Barker

Solway Mission Community

The steering group has been unable to meet during Covid-19. The ministers of the churches have held a couple of meetings online via Zoom and one meeting in person in between the lockdowns.

We have inaugurated a monthly prayer evening in conjunction with Cornerstone Methodist Church in Wigton, which has taken place online. If you would like to join us, please get in touch and I can forward you the link.

Recent discussions with treasurers and churchwardens have focussed on Parish Offer, looking ahead to 2022 offers.

Tim Barker

Deanery Synod

Deanery Synod has met on two since last year's Annual Meetings, both on Zoom.

Throughout the past year, the secretary has updated the synod on various matters via email.

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

A new treasurer was appointed for the Synod at the March meeting, Margaret Nichol & Revd Julia Powley has become the treasurer for the Network Youth Church who have taken over from Willie Smith who looked after both accounts.

Deanery Synod representatives

God for All



Follow Daily

Care Deeply

Speak Boldly

Tread Gently

&

Give Generously

Consolidated Accounts of the Solway Plain PCC 2020

1st January to 31st December 2020

Receipts	Unrestricted	Restricted
Voluntary receipts		
Tax efficient planned giving	22,426	157
Other planned giving	4,737	0
Collections at services	7,777	0
All other giving	7,291	690
Gift aid recovered	14,215	890
Legacies received (capital value)	5,769	0
Grants (including recurring & one off)	6,218	4,246
TOTAL Voluntary Receipts	68,433	5,984
Activities for generating funds		
Gross receipts from fund raising	10,072	85
Investment Income		
Dividends, Interest, receipts from property	448	1,144
Church activities		
Statutory fees retained by the PCC	7,952	0
Gross receipts from trading (not fundraising)	8,957	43
Other receipts		
Other receipts not already listed	16,624	14,720
TOTAL RECEIPTS	112,486	21,976
COMBINED TOTAL	134,462	

Cash & investment balances	Unrestricted	Restricted
Cash & deposit balance at 1st January 2020	137,325	200,447
Investments at 1st January 2020	0	558
TOTAL FUNDS	137,325	201,005

Payments	Unrestricted	Restricted
Cost of generating funds		
Fundraising activities	2,041	0
Church activities		
Mission giving & donations	200	114
Diocesan parish offer	59,050	0
Salaries, wages & honoraria	250	0
Clergy & staff expenses	2,251	0
Church expenses		
Mission & evangelism costs	0	0
Running expenses (including governance)	24,075	1,320
Utility bills	11,347	0
Cost of trading	8,598	0
Major capital expenditure		
Major repairs to church building	39,868	19,212
Major repairs to church hall	0	0
New building works	0	0
SUB-TOTAL of all expenditure above	147,679	20,647
Other payments not listed	0	0
TOTAL PAYMENTS	147,679	20,647
COMBINED TOTAL	168,326	

Cash & investment balances	Unrestricted	Restricted
Cash & deposit balance at 31st December 2020	102,132	201,769
Investments at 31st December 2020	0	566
TOTAL FUNDS	102,132	202,335

Examined by Linda Brown

Signed by the Chairman

Rev'd Canon Bryan Rothwell

30th May 2021

Bryan Rothwell.

Independent Examiner's Report to the members/trustees of the Parish of the Solway Plain.

Registered Charity No. 1187312

The component parts of The Parish of the Solway Plain are Independently Examined individually by their own appointed examiners who issue them with their Independent Examiners report.

I report only on the Consolidated Accounts of the Parish for the year ended 31st December 2020 which have been produced from the above records and which are set out on 2 pages.

Respective responsibilities of the Trustees and Independent Examiner

The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners section 145 (5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent Examiner's Statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission.

An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and 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 management committee concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in a full audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the accounts.

Independent Examiner's Statement

In connection with my examination, no matters have come to my attention

1. which give me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with s.130 of the 2011 Act; or
 - to prepare accounts which accord with these accounting records have not been met; or
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Linda Brown
Field End Cottage
Waterside
Wigton
Cumbria

Date: 30th April 2021