



THE PARISH OF MILLOM

The Church of England in Millom with Haverigg

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THE PARISH OF MILLOM

Documents for the
Annual Vestry Meeting
and the
Annual Parochial Church Meeting

11.30am May 10th, 2026

Holy Trinity Church

THE MEETING OF PARISHIONERS
FOR THE ELECTION OF CHURCHWARDENS

SUNDAY, 10th May, 2026 at 11.30am

At Holy Trinity Church

Agenda

1. Appointment of Clerk to the Meeting
2. Apologies
3. Minutes of Annual Vestry Meeting of May 18th, 2025
4. Election of Parish Churchwardens

Minutes of Annual Vestry Meeting held on 10th May 2025 at 11.45am in St George's Church

M Bratley opened the meeting with a prayer. She also chaired the meeting.

P Bell was appointed **Clerk** to the meeting, proposed by M Edmondson, seconded by L Merrill. All were in favour.

Present P Bell, M Bratley, L Merrill, R Brown, J Bolt, J Gray, M Johnson, B Andrews, B Moyle Rosser, D & S Rawlins, M & G Edmondson, A Norman, P Read, Yemi, N Green and H Coote.

Apologies G Brunskill and R Pooler.

Minutes of last year's meeting were agreed to be a true record. Proposed by J Gray and seconded by G Edmondson. All were in favour.

Election of Parish Churchwardens

Margaret Edmondson was proposed by P Bell, seconded by R Brown

Geoffrey Edmondson was proposed by P Bell, seconded by R Brown

Berry Moyle Rosser was proposed by B Andrews, seconded by H Coote

Derek Seal was proposed by C Turner, seconded by M Edmondson

All were in favour.

The churchwardens were thanked for all their hard work in the previous year. It was greatly appreciated.

The meeting closed at 11.35am.

THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING
May 10th 2026 in Holy Trinity Church

1. Election of Clerk to the Meeting
2. Apologies for absence
3. Minutes of the APCM of 18th May 2025
4. Proposal to accept the Scheme for the Establishment of District Church Councils
5. Report on the Electoral Roll.
6. Report on the Proceedings of the PCC since the last APCM
7. Financial statements of the PCC and DCCs for the year ended 31:12:2025
8. Report on the fabric, goods and ornaments of the churches
9. Report of the Safeguarding Officer
10. Other submitted reports
11. Report from Clergy
12. Report on the proceedings of Furness Deanery Synod
13. Elections to Furness Deanery Synod
14. Elections to Millom PCC
15. Appointment of Sidespersons
16. Appointment of Independent Examiner
17. Any other relevant business

The APCM will be followed by a brief meeting of PCC members to elect officers for 2026-2027 [Lay Vice-Chair, PCC Treasurer, PCC Secretary] and members of the Standing Committee

**Minutes of Annual Parochial Church Meeting held at 11.35am on
18th May 2025 in St George's Church**

P Bell was appointed **Clerk** to the meeting, proposed by M Edmondson, seconded by L Merrill. All were in favour.

Present and Apologies see lists for Annual Vestry.

Minutes of last year's APCM J Gray proposed the minutes to be a true record, seconded by B Moyle Rosser. All were in favour.

Report on the Electoral Roll M Johnson reported that there are 83 members on the Electoral Roll. She thanked G Edmondson for preparing the Electoral Roll. He reported that 57 people had not reappeared and we had gained 26 new names from St Luke's Church. Thanks were given to M Johnson and G Edmondson.

Report on the Proceedings of the PCC M Edmondson Proposed the report be accepted, seconded by B Moyle Rosser. All were in favour.

Financial Statements of the Parish for the year ended 31:12:2024 J Gray queried why there was a difference in the expenditure on the PCC Report? Also there appeared to be some numbers missing from 2024. M Bratley said she was unable to answer in the absence of G Brunskill.

All the accounts had been agreed by the DCC's and PCC and had been independently reviewed and checked. All were in favour of accepting the accounts. Thanks were given to all the Treasurers.

Report on the fabric, goods and ornaments of the churches All were in favour of accepting the reports. Thanks were given to the Churchwardens.

Report of the Safeguarding Officer B Moyle Rosser submitted the following report:

The Parish of Millom is largely compliant with Safeguarding Matters but there are outstanding issues to be addressed:

- Ensuring that St Luke's Church receives all the necessary posters and documents for display at the church.
- PCC and DCC Members and the Churchwardens receive face to face training on Safeguarding – to be arranged at a mutually convenient time.
- DBS Records are held for all members of the PCC and DCC's.
- The PCC adopt a Policy on the recruitment of ex-offenders – Policy for the Diocese awaited so it can be presented to the PCC.

- PCC needs to approve adoption of the Church of England Policy on lone working – to be discussed at the next PCC meeting.
- PCC needs to confirm that they are compliant with the Church of England’s Policy on appropriate boundaries for children and vulnerable adults.
- PCC had complied with the duty to have ‘due regard’ to the House of Bishops’ Safeguarding Policy and Practice Guidance.

There have been no safeguarding incidents recorded.

Berry was thanked for all his hard work on safeguarding.

Other submitted reports G Brunskill submitted reports from Furness Deanery Synod and Carlisle Diocesan Synod and R Brown submitted reports on 1st Millom Scouts and a Social Media report. Mrs Brown was thanked for all the work she does at All Together.

J Gray submitted a verbal report on the Bells at St George’s Church. He said 2 ringers are required as it is not a good idea to ring alone. Financially they are doing well and there have been no big bills. However, he was concerned that birds had got into the bell tower again as there was quite a bit of mess up there. Work is needed to clean up and wire netting needs repairing to stop them getting in.

Clergy Report as we have no clergy M Bratley gave a brief report .Revd Carl Carter retired at Christmas and fortunately Revd Graham Hollowood was willing to lead all the services until he went back to Spain. We have also been fortunate to have the Archdeacon leading 2 services and Revds Robert and Wendy Bracegirdle have led 2. Revd Brian Streeter has also helped out with Christenings and we have also had Lay led services. We are doing our best to keep things going. Revd Graham is back from Spain at the beginning of June and is willing to resume services until the Autumn when we will have Lay led services again.

Margaret said she is in the process of putting together a Parish Profile for prospective applicants.

Report on the proceedings of Furness Deanery Synod All were in favour of accepting the report.

Elections to Millom PCC there are nine places available.

St George’s – L Merrill, B Andrews and H Coote

St Luke’s – N Green

Holy Trinity – J Bolt, A Norman, R Pooler, P Bell and M Bratley

All were in favour.

Appointment of Sidespersons Churchwardens will arrange

Appointment of Independent Examiners P New was appointed as Independent Examiner, proposed by G Brunskill, seconded by M Bratley. All were in favour.

Any other relevant business J Gray thought the APCM booklet was fantastic and thanked M Bratley for all her hard work. M Bratley also thanked P Bell for her work as PCC Secretary.

The meeting closed with the Grace.

Proceedings of the PCC for APCM 2026

From 4th June 2025 there have been 6 PCC meetings with an average of 10 people attending. The meetings have been held at St George's Church and Holy Trinity Church.

We are still in vacancy but a new Parish Profile has been put together and we are in the process of advertising for a new Priest.

Revd Graham Hollowood has been a great help leading services and organising service booklets while he is here. When he has been away we have been fortunate to have services taken by the Archdeacon on a couple of occasions and Brian Streeter has been helpful with funerals and baptisms. During Easter, the former Bishop of Papua New Guinea, Rt Revd Peter Ramsden was kind enough to take charge of all the services from Palm Sunday until Easter Day. On other occasions the services have been lay led, thanks to our Churchwardens and Margaret Bratley.

We had some good news that, thanks to the efforts of the new committee at St Luke's Church, the church is no longer under threat of closure, although it will remain a Festival Church. They have been working hard to fundraise and attract help to keep the church open. They had a successful Easter Egg Hunt in 2025 and also held their first Christmas Tree Festival. They are in the process of decorating the church.

On 1st February we welcomed the Bishop of Carlisle to St Luke's Church to confirm 9 members of our church community and another member was confirmed on Easter Saturday by Bishop Peter Ramsden.

St George's, Holy Trinity and St Luke's are all busy with repairs to their buildings and are doing their best to pay the Ministry Offer.

All Together is still being held on the 1st Sunday of each month although we only have one or two children attending. In March the new Youth Worker and his family attended and he said that if he could help with anything he would. He was particularly interested in the Easter Activity days that Rebecca Brown was organising.

Christmas events were well attended and there have been a couple of concerts at St George's which were much enjoyed.

It is hoped that there will be future events taking place during the rest of 2026 and that these will be successful.

Millom PCC Treasurer's Annual Report**2025****Expenditure**

		<u>2025</u>	<u>2024</u>
Offering		32020.00	32500.00
Fees		24579.38	32000.00
Clergy			977.90
Publications		172.76	165.24
	Totals	56772.14	61376.13
Photocopier	Rental	884.25	964.49
	Prining	513.50	400.63
	Totals	1397.74	1365.12
Licences etc	CCLI	914.58	593.44
	Synod levy		225.00
	ACAT Membership	24.00	22.00
	Totals	938.58	840.44
Equipment	Candles	338.93	364.75
	Wafers	14.49	
	Lectionaries	22.97	11.98
	Wine	125.00	119.50
	Paper	207.06	77.88
	Easter Flowers	33.00	
	Bibles	314.70	
	BaptismCerts	40.76	
	Palm Crosses	20.40	
	Altar linen	29.20	
	Totals	1146.51	574.11
Others	Secretary Honorarium	490.00	460.00
	Web Service		143.00
	Harvest Appeal	175.00	150.00
	Rev Carter Retirement Gift		500.00
	Rev Bracegirdle Anniversary		45.00
	Wendy Bracegirdle flowers		25.00
	Sunday School Transfer to Deposit A/C		1709.00
	Electris refund H/T	58.84	58.84
	Embrace charity Donation	400.00	400.00
	Benefice grass cutting	630.00	630.00
	Bank Charges	68.06	95.70
		1821.90	4216.54
	Total Expenditure	<u>62076.87</u>	<u>68372.34</u>

Millom PCC Treasurer's Annual Reprt**2025 Rec eipts**

Offering	2025	2024
St George's	14986.00	16000
Holy Trinity	15172.00	16000
St Luke's	845.00	
Total	31003.00	32000

Administration	2025	2024
St George's	3600.00	3600.00
Holy Trinity	3600.00	3600.00
St Luke's		
Total	7200.00	7200.00

Fees	23615.00	28882.00
Parish News Subs	640.00	843.00
Total	24255.00	29725.00

Others	2025	2024
Altogether contributions	145.00	150.00
H/Trinity Elec Refund	58.84	58.84
Sunday School Transfer		1409.17
Harvest Appeal	275.00	150.00
Refund Gift Aid	575.00	475.00
Siemans Refund	146.00	
Story Contractors	4100.00	
Total	5299.84	2243.01

Total Receipts **67757.84** **71168.01**

Balances B/F	7033.86	4238.19
Totals	74791.70	75406.2
Expenditure	62076.87	68372.34

Balances C/F as per Bank 12714.83 7033.86

<u>Deposit Account</u> B/F	3470.9
Interest	43.94
Balance C/F	3514.84

Accounts checked and verified

Patricia
13/1/26

The overall Balance carried forward to 2026 is £12714 83 compared with £7033.86 from 2024.

The figures are inflated due to payments by Story's Contractors for use of part the Benefice Green

In 2025 this has amonuted to £4100.

In terms of general running costs which do not include the "Ins and Outs" of Parish Offer and Fees :-

Income		Expenditure	
Admin contributions from DCCs	7200.00	Redemptorist "Sunday"	172.76
Parish News subscriptions	640.00	Photocopier	1397.74
Others	5299.84	Licences	938.58
	Total 13139.84	Equipment	1146.51
		Others	1821.90
		Total	5477.49
Excess of Income over Expenditure		7662.35	
Less £4100 from Story's		3562.35 (2446.49 for 2024)	

In 2025 there was no Deanery Levy and no Clergy expenses. St Luke's began to contribute to running costs and Parish Offer although these payments were as a total each month and included in Parish Offer. The Parish Offer was paid in Full.

We are due a Quinquennial Inspection in 2026 and there will be substantial payments to the surveyor so the Story's Monies will assist.

G. Brunskill

G Brunskill

Millom PCC Treasurer

1. January 2026

ST GEORGE'S DCC

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FOR 2025

INCOME



Planned Giving		£7,496.00	
Collections at services		<u>£5548.07</u>	£13044.07
Fees: Funerals & Weddings			£4896.00
Donations:	Donations/legacies	£5734.86	
Fundraising	General	<u>£5639.26</u>	£11374.12
Refund from PCC			£17.02
Bells Fund (restricted)			£10.00
Investment Income:	Shardlow Trust	£1330.02	
	20 Duke St	<u>2718.39</u>	£4048.41
TOTAL			£33389.62

EXPENDITURE

Parish Offering			£15172.00
Churchyard maintenance			£1710.00
Church upkeep	General	£3400.15	
	Insurance	£4,692.95	
	Gas	£2046.35	
	Electricity	£1464.32	
	Water	£582.21	
	Cleaning	<u>£840.00</u>	£13025.98
Costs of Services			£4112.62
Salaries (organist & verger)			£1430.00
Charitable donations	Funerals	£1890.04	
	General	<u>£1446.22</u>	£3336.26
Bells costs (restricted)			£252.00
TOTAL			<u>£39038.86</u>

ST. GEORGE'S DCC

BALANCE SHEET & SUMMARY OF TOTAL ASSETS AT 31/12/25

Balances at 01/01/25

Current Account £18807.25

Investment funds at 01/01/25 £62560.67

£81367.92

Deduct excess expenditure over
income for 2025

£5649.24

£75718.68

Balances at 31/12/25

Current Account £11025.89

less unrepresented cheques £586.27 £10439.62

Investment Funds

20 Duke Street at 31/12/25 £65279.06

Total Balance at 31/12/25 £75718.68

Checked and verified by:



Mrs P New

Date: 24/2/26



Lynda Merrill
DCC Treasurer

Date: 25/02/26

ST GEORGE'S DCC ANNUAL TREASURER'S REPORT 2026

Accounts for 2025 Financial Year:

We have an overspend of £5649.24 for the year. This is not as bad as I had expected because of the £2718 interest on the savings account which contains the legacy which we received in 2023. We also received legacies amounting to £5725 in 2025. However, it does show that we are not balancing our budget and are relying on using some of our reserves every year.

The Shardlow Trust fund was worth £45952.26 on 31/12/25 and we received £1330.02 interest from it. We still cannot access the capital. The Diocesan Board of Finance have notified us that the Charity Commission have decided to allow access to trust funds with less than £25000 in them but that the funds have to be spent on whatever the original donor specified. In our case the fund has too much money in it and, in any case, it is to be spent on funding our incumbent. Since the diocese funds the incumbent, I doubt if we could keep the money and we would lose the interest as well.

Expenditure for 2025. We paid our Parish offer in full - £15172. Most of our expenses were much the same as last year except that there were no building repairs. Small items required to maintain the building are included under Church Upkeep – general. We paid out a lot less in charitable donations from funerals this year as there were many fewer funerals. In total our expenditure for 2025 was almost £4000 less than 2024.

Income for 2025. This was £872 less in 2025 than in 2024 but it would have been almost £6600 less if we had not received the legacies mentioned above. The main reason was the fact that there were so few funerals in 2025 and only one wedding so the collections and fees were much reduced compared with previous years. Fundraising continued well with the main contributors being the Light lunches (£2768), Quizzes (£304) and Christmas Tree Festival in 2024 (£772). The craft fair and 2 concerts raised almost £800.

Lynda Merrill
April 2026

Holy Trinity Church, Millom, Cumbria

Receipts and Payments Account for the Year ended 31 December 2025

RECEIPTS	2025		2024	
	£	£	£	£
Voluntary receipts:				
Tax efficient giving net of tax - Gift Aid	13509.00		13258.00	
Tax efficient giving net of tax - GASDS	3461.37		4755.87	
Donations General	2853.10		886.38	
Donations (Events)	54.50		186.40	
Donations (Carl's Retirement)	345.00		0.00	
Gift Aid recovered	<u>4980.54</u>	25203.51	<u>4230.95</u>	23317.60
Fees:				
Funeral and Burial	6032.00		5845.00	
Memorial & Book of Remembrance	<u>1038.00</u>	7070.00	<u>1606.00</u>	7451.00
Investment income		47.82		41.89
Fund Raising:				
Church Fund Raising/Community Events	2472.00		1493.50	
Merchandise Sales	131.25		254.50	
Charitable Fund Raising (Water Aid + Christian Aid)	879.50		1169.00	
Trinity Guardians	<u>100.00</u>	3582.75	<u>100.00</u>	3017.00
Other Receipts:				
Commonwealth War Graves	35.00		35.00	
Wayleave	58.84		58.84	
VAT Refunds	0.00		1512.67	
Charity Donations at Funerals	1071.03		814.10	
Fees received in error from PCC	0.00		371.00	
CBF Deposit Fund Withdrawals	0.00		9206.00	
M&DLHS Events	<u>1344.40</u>	2509.27	<u>250.00</u>	12247.61
Total Receipts		<u>38413.35</u>		<u>46075.10</u>

Holy Trinity Church, Millom, Cumbria**Receipts and Payments Account for the Year ended 31 December 2025**

PAYMENTS	2025		2024	
	£	£	£	£
Parish offering		15172.00		16000.00
Parish administration		3600.00		3600.00
Fees (Organist and Vergers)		375.00		375.00
Organist		440.00		420.00
Properties running costs:				
Electricity (Church and Old School)	1463.74		2782.26	
Water	360.32		548.29	
Insurances	2602.49		2703.75	
Maintenance - Church	392.90		9076.00	
Fire extinguishers	0.00	4819.45	807.00	15917.30
Churchyard:				
Grass cutting and groundwork	3194.00		2761.00	
Wall repair and ivy removal	0.00		171.00	
Garden of Rest Paving and Laying Turf	500.00	3694.00	0.00	2932.00
Donations/Appeals/Special Collections:				
Water Aid	800.00		1060.00	
Christian Aid	325.00		0.00	
Donations to charities from funerals	1071.03	2196.03	934.10	1994.10
Other Payments:				
Catering and cleaning expenses	0.00		88.86	
Fees to PCC	163.00		371.00	
Weekly envelopes printing	47.98		43.61	
Admin Refund and Gift Aid to PCC	575.00		475.00	
Bishop's Harvest Appeal to PCC	15.00		0.00	
Plaque in memory of Duane Farren	108.00		0.00	
CBF Deposit Fund deposit VAT refund	0.00		1512.67	
CBF Deposit Fund deposits	5476.54		0.00	
Misc	134.28	6519.80	175.27	2666.41
Total Payments		36816.28		43904.81
Excess of Receipts over Payments	1597.07			
Cash at Bank at 01 January	8082.36			
Cash at Bank at 31 December	9692.43			

Holy Trinity Church - Statement of Assets and Liabilities on 31 December 2025

	Total 2025		Total 2024	
	£	£	£	£
Bank Current Account		9679		8082
Restricted Funds				
Storey Legacy	13016		12453	
Holy Trinity Churchyard	2375		2273	
Maintenance of Church and Churchyard	371		833	
Chancel Fund	1034		991	
Repairs to Chancel	666		694	
Incumbent Stipend/Fabric	355		370	
Mills Legacy	304	18621	290	17904
Designated Funds				
Facilities Project	2218		2122	
General Bequests	81532	83750	72772	74894
Unrestricted Funds				
McGowan Bequest	26658		25548	
Armstrong Bequest	250	26908	250	25798
Total all Funds		<u>138558</u>		<u>126678</u>

Liabilities: None

The accounts for the year ending 31 December 2025 have been independently checked, verified and authorised


G B Edmondson
Honorary Treasurer


Mrs P E J New
Accounting Technician

30-Jan-26

Holy Trinity Church, Millom

Financial review for the year ended 31 December 2025

General account

1. Overall tax efficient giving net of tax decreased by £1044 (5.8%)
2. Tax recovered under the Gift Aid and Gift Aid Small Donations Scheme for the period 06.04.24 to 05.04.25 was £4981 (17.7% increase).
3. Receipts from fees (funerals, memorials and weddings) decreased by £381. Funerals and burials increased by £187. Memorials decreased by £568. There were no weddings.
4. Donations received amounted to £2908.
5. Donations raised through supporting Millom and District Local History Society events £1344.
6. Parish Offer paid in full £15,172 (reduced from £16,000 due to St Luke's contribution).
7. Contribution to Parish Administration unchanged.
8. The cost of insurance has decreased by £101. Costs for electricity have decreased by £1319 (no charges since Smartmeter installed in May 2025) Water decreased by £188.
9. The cost of churchyard maintenance £3694 an increase of £762.
10. Maintenance work on the church £393.
11. The net result for the year was that Receipts exceeded Payments by £1597. Adding bank balance brought forward at the beginning of the year, the balance carried forward on 31 December totalled £9692.

Fundraising

- Church fund raising activities £2472 an increase of £978.
- Donations to Water Aid including Jars of Change (£800) and Christian Aid (£325).

Reserves Policy

- All Restricted, Designated and Unrestricted Funds are held in CBF Church of England Deposit Funds and Investment Funds.

- Deposit and Investment Funds total £129,280 of which £18,622 are restricted funds. A further £26,908 are unrestricted funds.
- The remaining £83,750 is unrestricted but designated towards work to the church windows, building repairs and internal maintenance.
- Interest from all Deposit and Investment Funds yielded £5261. Interest rates on Deposit Funds ranged from 4.52% in March to 4.02% in December.

G B Edmondson
Honorary Treasurer
30 January 2026

St Luke's DCC Financial Report**2025****Receipts**

Burial Fees	£5,188.00
CDBF Interest	£1.33
Free Will Offerings	£2,821.00
Christenings	£30.05
Collections	£1,540.52
Donations	£594.24
Sea Sunday Collection	£114.30
Fueral Collections	£670.66
Remembrance Sunday	£190.40
Transfer from Reserve account	£2,200.00
Total	£13,350.50
Add balance B/F from 2024	£853.45

Expenditure

Electric	£812.00
Gas	£384.00
Insurance	£2,842.35
Charity Donations	£372.70
Churchyard Maintenance	£648.19
Church Repairs	£3,880.00
Food & Drink	£50.00
Funeral Charity Gifts	£730.40
PCC Offer	£845.00
PettyCash	£1.37
Stationary	£61.00
Vergers	£360.00
Water Plus	£535.13

Total £14,203.95**Total** £11,522.14**Reconciliation**

Receipts	£14,203.95
Waiting to clear	£0.00
Expenditure	£11,522.14
Balanced C/F	<u>£2,681.81</u>

Business Reserve A/C

Balance 01/01/2024	£9,451.92
Interest	£93.77
Transfer to Current A/C	<u>£2,200.00</u>
Balance	<u>£7,345.69</u>

Liquidy Manager 35

Balance 01/01/2025	£10,049.53
Interest	£245.30
Total	<u>£10,294.83</u>

Checked and Authorised by:

G. Binnick
Millem PCC Treasurer
24.1.26

W Lees (Independent)
20 Feb 2026

Holy Trinity Church - Churchwardens' Annual Report 2025

BUILDINGS AND FABRIC

Church Interior

1. Evidence of water ingress has reappeared on the south pillar and walls of the chancel. Quotations for the remedial work have been obtained.
2. Repairs to the plaster in a several areas of the church, including the vestry are still to be carried out along with re-decoration.
3. The Diocesan Advisory Committee (DAC) had investigated the possibility of space being available in the Old School for use by church. Nothing was forthcoming so the DCC will be looking at options for reordering the removal of pews to create more space.
4. The existing sound system is becoming unreliable and is need of investigation.
5. All registers (Services, Burials and Baptisms) are up to date.
6. The Schedule of Works for 2025 has been completed and the Terrier and Inventory updated as required.

Church Exterior

7. Work is still outstanding on all windows on the South Side of the church, especially the Archangel window and the Irving window in the sanctuary, and the Fish window on the West Side. Other windows are in a generally good condition.
8. The driveway to the church inside the main gates, the paths around the church and the path down through the churchyard are in serious need of repair/replacement.

Churchyard

9. An additional row of burial plots has been created by removing the paved path adjacent to the garden of rest. At the same time a paved path has been laid within the garden of rest to allow people easy access to the memorial plaques.

10. No headstones have been found to be in an unsafe condition.
11. Grass cutting has taken place regularly throughout the year and all areas are in good condition.
12. During the year there were 8 Burials and 12 Burials of Cremated Remains.
13. The grave plans for the new burial ground and the new garden of rest are maintained up to date.

The Old School

14. Building to be sold by the Diocese. Keys handed to Corries Estate Agent

General

15. Five services have been lay led.
16. There have only been two baptisms during the year.
17. The Church is insured with Ecclesiastical Insurance. No claims have been made this year.

EVENTS

- Charter Fair Weekend – Exhibition of the art of David Bates and a talk.
- Annual Charter Lunch.
- Spring Fair in May and Autumn Fair in October.

- Carols, and Conviviality including Christmas Buffet at Trinity with the Phoenix Singers.
- Trees at Trinity.
- During the year three Millom & District Local History Society events have been held in the church.

Margaret and Geoff Edmondson Churchwardens

St George the Martyr, Millom Church Warden Report

Looking back over the past year, it is difficult to know where to begin this report. As a Parish we are still without a Priest to support and shepherd us in our Mission for the community of Millom. However, we have been very fortunate to have the regular support of a retired Priest living in Haverigg – the Rev Graham Hollowood – who has led services for us when he is in the UK and not in Spain where he also lives. We were also blessed with a retired Bishop Peter Ramsden who led services during Holy Week this year taking us on a journey through the last days of Jesus's life before his Crucifixion.

Our Mission and Outreach

Rev Graham Hollowood commenced a weekly Bible study every Wednesday at 12 noon and this has, over the months, grown in numbers and, interestingly, has members who are not part of our Church but attend other services in Millom. Even when Rev Graham is not in the UK, the Bible study group still meets and is proving popular.

On the first Friday of each month, St George's runs a buffet lunch at The Pensioners Association (Tin Chapel) and we have, on average, 40 people attend. Essentially a fund raiser for the church, it is now a regular fixture in the calendar and we love the fact that people linger and chat over coffee. A huge thanks to Hilary Coote and her team of helpers who make this possible.

October saw the beginning of the Warm Hubs again offering a soup, with a baguette, fresh coffee, selection of teas and cakes and treats and this ran every Wednesday from 1100 to 1330 and finished at the end of March 2026. This was a free offering to the community and it was good to see some familiar faces return to us from the first warm hub we ran.

Holy Communion was offered regularly to St George's Care Home and the residents appreciated the opportunity to spend time in worship and receive the Eucharist.

Church Events

To celebrate St George's Day, the church organized a craft fair in the church and we had 20 different stall holders turn up to promote - and sell - their crafts. It proved really popular and 18 stall holders want to return for a future date.

Just before the Christmas Tree Festival, we were treated to a candlelit performance of choral music from the Ulverston Choral Society which was absolutely spectacular and was well attended.

As a result of that event, we were approached and asked if we would be interested in hosting the Lviv Philharmonic Orchestra's principal players to an evening of music as a fund raiser for them. We raised an amazing £741 plus gift aid on the evening. Despite the war in the Ukraine, the Orchestra has a regular programme of music being performed in their city.

December saw the return of the Christmas Tree Festival at St George's and we were joined this year by our sister churches - both Holy Trinity and St Lukes. We had 68 trees in - all from different local organisations and groups and we raised £1309.03 in total. The charity we chose to support this year was Shackles off - a local charity supporting young people. This event can only happen with the help and support of its organizer - Mrs Gill Greep and her band of volunteers and we are extremely grateful. Planning for this year's Christmas Tree Festival has already begun (yes! In April!) and we are looking forward to that magical time later this year.

Services

Morning Prayer on a Wednesday Morning at 0930 continues each week. It is a gentle time of reflection and prayer and a wonderful way to start your day. Our prayer board in the church receives prayer requests and we pray those requests at this service as part of our outreach to the community we wish to serve.

Christingle in the middle of December saw a large crowd in the Church for the making of Christingles and the Crib service afterwards. Seeing the children with their sticky oranges and candles and the excitement of the event sparkling in their eyes is a lovely sight to behold.

On the first Sunday of each month, the Church has an All Together Service for families and we run a small children's group at the back of the church. Many thanks to Mrs Rebecca Brown, Mrs Pamela Bell and Mrs Hilary Coote who help to make the children welcome and feel included in the service. Also, thanks to Ms Margaret Bratley who leads the service when Rev Graham is away.

Funerals and Christenings have been regular at the Church throughout the year and this is set to continue in 2026.

Building and Fabric

The church is cleaned once a month by a local cleaning firm in Millom. However, on a Wednesday each week, after Morning Prayer, the St George's Scrubbers meet for a couple of hours to clean the church as well. There are 4 of us who do this the other 3 being Mrs Liz Cooper, Ms Ann Haynes and Mrs Gill Greep - none are members of the church but just want to help keep our church clean and welcoming for the community. Their help and support is very much appreciated, because when I was doing this alone for well over a year, it gets lonely! Now we have a laugh and spend time in each other's company. Anyone is welcome to join us and it would be nice to see some members of our congregation stepping up to also help keep their church clean and tidy. It does not happen magically!

One area we focussed on was the back of the organ which is a storage area. It was a mess - but not now. Everything is sorted and labelled and boxed. We have just started to get the Vestry into even better shape dealing with the former choir robes to start with.

During our clear out of the storage area we found bundled up and thrown into a corner, the old Sunday School banner dating back to 1874 - three years before the Church opened. It was in a very bad state of repair and was extremely fragile. Mrs Ann Haynes is a seamstress and upholsterer and she very kindly restored this beautiful banner for us for free and it is now hanging up facing the entrance to the church as you walk in. The banner pole was repaired by Mr David O'Brien from the Haverigg Inshore Rescue Team - so a real community effort to see a part of St George's history being restored. Mrs Ann Haynes will be restoring the Mothers Union banner at the High Altar next.

The Church gutters have been cleaned and a repair has been done to the gutter at the front of the church.

Our gas boilers - used to heat the church - have been serviced.

There is a great deal of work outstanding on the church Quinquennial Report which has not been dealt with due to lack of funds. Unfortunately, I have not had the capacity this year to make applications for grants - although one has been started for the money needed to repoint the church but it is not complete and has not been submitted.

St George's DCC

The work of a church warden can be very demanding. There is a lot to think about and get done. And it is a voluntary role. To help me in this role my thanks go to St George's DCC who support me in this work - Mrs Marion

Johnson, who does the church flowers, Jeg Grey - the Bell Tower Captain, Mrs Lynda Merrill - our Treasurer, Mr Geoff Brunskill who supports Lynda and does all sorts of odd jobs around the church as he is able and last but not least Mrs Hilary Coote who runs the popular St George's Church monthly quiz and also our lunches on the first Friday of each month and Mrs Barbara Andrews our organist.

Thank you for all you do - it is very much appreciated.

Beresford Moyle Rosser, Church Warden

St Luke's

This is the report the PCC sent to the diocese when the decision about St Luke's future was to be made

The Future of St Luke's, Haverigg

The enthusiasm with which St Luke's began their 'resurrection year' has continued throughout the year. A core group of around 20, have worked very hard to support and promote St Luke's.

This lists what has happened:

PCC Involvement

- 5th Sundays: all churches meet together for Parish Communion at St Luke's. Active involvement of SL members in the services and refreshments after the service
- St Luke's had one representative on PCC. PCC agreed to an additional St Luke's observer to represent St Luke's when elected member unavailable
- PCC agreed to suggest increased representation for St Luke's on PCC to be put to APCM

St Luke's own services

- Sea Sunday with attendance of 28
- Annual Civic Service with attendance of 93
- Remembrance Sunday service with attendance of 111
- Haverigg School Remembrance 27
- Village Carol service included representatives from village group: attendance 170
- School Carol Service with attendance of 200

- First Communion of Christmas with attendance of 40, 21 communicants

Other events in church

- Display in church to mark 80th anniversary of VJ Day in church
- Christmas Tree display in church

Occasional Offices:

- 1 baptism, 8 funerals. Confirmation with 9 candidates, 5 from St Luke'

Management

- St Luke's DCC has been enlarged considerably and is now operating in a satisfactory manner.
- Revised arrangements are in place for regular giving and St Luke's is a focus for community giving
- The church is open on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays
- Events at St Luke's are widely advertised in the village
- Village events in support of church

Building

- Existing damage to the church has been repaired with no cost to the church
- Donations box made by HMP attached to door
- Churchyard excellently maintained by HMP Haverigg
- Plans for the internal decoration of church underway by HMP Haverigg under experienced supervision

St Luke's does not at present have any churchwardens.

St Luke's started the year with a closed church and a congregation of 3, none of whom felt able to take on the role of churchwarden. Much growth in numbers, understanding and commitment has taken place over the past year (viz number of confirmands from St Luke's) but as such newcomers, we do not yet know whether anyone will feel able to take on this role but we are hopeful that in the near future someone will come forward.

St Luke's has received regular support and advice from Geoff and Margaret Edmondson who are Parish Wardens and live next door to St Luke's.

We cannot recommend too highly that the closure order on St Luke's be withdrawn.

Parish of Millom

Safeguarding Report

Introduction

Safeguarding within the Church of England means taking all reasonable steps to protect children, young people and adults from harm and to promote a culture where everyone can worship, serve and participate in the life of the church safely. It is grounded in the Christian commitment to care for the vulnerable and to uphold the dignity and worth of every person. Safeguarding is the responsibility of everyone within the church and involves good practice, clear policies, appropriate training, and prompt action in response to concerns.

The Parish of Millom is committed to working in line with the Church of England Safeguarding Policies and local diocesan guidance to ensure that our church community is a safe and welcoming place for all.

Current Status

The Church of England operates a Parish Dashboard which offers a structured approach to deliver Safeguarding in the Parish. This Dashboard is available on line and has 3 Levels to work through.

Our Parish is nearly complete on Level 2 and there is only one more Level to complete.

Outstanding Items at this Level are:

- Safeguarding Training for all members of the PCC
- The PCC needs to approve an exhaustive list of activities that are held in the Churches of the Parish
- DBS checks must be completed for all PCC members, volunteers and helpers within the Parish
- All helpers and volunteers must attend support and oversight meetings at least once a year.
- Job Descriptions, Training Records, Person Specifications for all helpers and volunteers need to be produced for each activity within the Parish.

Incident Report

There has been no Safeguarding incidents reported over the past year in the Parish of Millom

Beresford Moyle Rosser
Safeguarding Officer – Parish of Millom

Furness Deanery Synod and Carlisle Diocese.

All parishes in the Furness Deanery (stretching from Coniston to Rampside) send representatives to the Deanery Synod which normally meets 3 times a year. The Deanery Synod in turn sends representatives to Carlisle Diocesan Synod which also meets 3 times a year, and is the ultimate decision making body for the Diocese.

Deanery Synods can submit motions to the Diocesan Synod and over the last year there have been sometimes heated discussions over whether or not to support particular charitable causes.

Furness Deanery has been discussing and then approving how we organise the Deanery, given that, over the years, the number of Stipendiary Clergy has fallen, and Parishes without full time clergy need to have support. We have also discussed the practical application of the Diocesan “God for All” mission. The Diocese is hopeful that parishes can group together into Mission Communities for mutual support and furtherance of our Christian Mission. The Parishes in our Deanery have decided that we should work together to create such a community.

Each meeting of Synod, led by Brian Streeter, our Rural Dean, has a time for prayer and reflection on issues of the day. The Deanery Synod provides an excellent opportunity to meet members of other Parishes, share problems and hopefully generate solutions, and realise that we are not alone in our individual troubles.

The recent Diocesan meeting looked at how the Diocese has managed Safeguarding matters over the past year and emphasised the importance that individual PCC members undertake Safeguarding training. We also heard about how the Diocese is taking steps to become Carbon Neutral. We also learned how Clergy from different racial backgrounds have sometimes felt discriminated, and we were asked to check we do not have any underlying prejudices about folk who are “different” in any way.

Geoff Brunskill

1st Millom Pairsh Church Scouts Report 2025-6

Over this past year 1st Millom seems to have flourished, gaining not only new Scouts but also new leaders.

We have recently completed a weekend camp to Great Tower and have tried to get out and about as much as possible. Beavers Section (as a worldwide whole) have recently celebrated their 40th Birthday where our Beavers took part in a District Birthday Party in Barrow. We have undertaken various fundraising missions including our annual Entertainment Evening and craft stall at the Palladium Christmas Craft Fair.

We continue to endeavour to complete as many badges as possible and the children seem more determined than ever to work for them.

Our group consists of 3 Sections, all meeting in the Palladium Theatre Basement:

Beavers: For Boys and Girls aged 6-8. We have approximately 8 Beavers, led by Jayne Vernon and assisted by Diane Vernon.

Cubs: For Boys and Girls aged 8-10 1/2. We have approximately 8 Cubs, led by Diane Vernon and assisted by myself.

Scouts: For Boys and Girls aged 10 1/2- 14. We have approximately 8 Scouts, led by myself and assisted by our new leader Alan Dixon.

Our new leader, Alan, is an exciting addition to our 1st Millom team! Also a Cub Dad he has been supporting us for the past few years. Now with him on board we have been managing to complete some of the First Aid Badges and also a lot more of the outdoor elements as this kind of thing is his bread and butter! We feel very fortunate to have added him to our 1st Millom Family!

This next year promises to be equally as eventful with talks of another camp on the cards, plus more trips and badges to work for. Information about all our goings on can be found in the Parish Magazine.

By Rebecca Brown, (Scout Leader)

Social Media Report

Our social media presence has continued to grow quite well this past year. With many more people using it as a way to post the goings on of our churches as well as people using it as a platform to ask questions about services or church contact information.

We currently have a Facebook and an Instagram page, Facebook being the more preferred choice to follow, however, there has been a slowly growing rise in interaction with the Instagram page. These are to post information about services, posters of events in our churches or photos of when the events have happened. People can also contact us through these pages if they have any questions to do with our churches.

I am really pleased with the number of followers we have on both of our pages!

Facebook- 397 followers

Instagram- 79 followers

As the main admin of the pages, I try to make sure that the pages stick strictly to content to do with our churches in Millom and Haverigg. Occasionally, I do have to delete some posts that are not to do with this but they are few and far between.

If you have anything that needs to be posted on these pages and you are not on social media then you can email me on:

beccabelllvsu@hotmail.co.uk

Otherwise, just go to post on the Facebook page as normal and I will accept it to be viewed. I can then transfer this to Instagram.

If you are on Facebook or Instagram and you haven't followed us yet then please do:

Facebook- Search Millom and Haverigg Churches and click Follow

Instagram- Search @millomandhaveriggchurches and click Follow

I hope our presence continues to grow and thank you to anyone who posts or sends me content to post.

By Rebecca Brown
(Social Media Officer)

Report on Millom, St George's Bells for the year ended 31 Dec 2025

There is little to add to the report for last year. The six bells were not rung before Sunday services nor was there a regular ringing practice. There are still only two ringers and the sound of only two bells ringing is not pleasing to hear. There has been no effort to recruit new bell ringers.

The tenor bell was rung as part of the Remembrance Day service and attendance at the War Memorial. In September, we had a service and inspection of the bells by the Loughborough Bell Foundry. The bells, ropes and fittings appear in good order. The frame still needs de-rusting and repainting (as has been the case for 20 years). A big and expensive, but not urgent job. The walls of the ringing chamber were repainted by residents of HMP Haverigg, for which we are very grateful.

The ring-fenced bell fund total decreased by £242 during the year to end at £3,680. We received a £10 donation and paid the Bell Foundry £252. It is very important that this bell fund is not used for other purposes. It is rare to have small expenses and it cannot be predicted when the funds will be needed.

There is still a large quantity (20 dustbin bags?) of twigs and bird droppings to be removed from the belfry. Preventing rooks getting into the belfry is a nightmare of a job and needs constant monitoring. If rooks do get in, they make a bad mess which will be expensive to remedy. However, on several occasions the top door of the staircase was left insecurely bolted (by workmen?) (a new door bolt is required.) and birds got in and started nesting. Fortunately, they were discovered in time. Bird-proofing and the replacement of an 8' x 4' perishing weather board was undertaken by D M Ross, Builders.

There is little prospect of increased ringing for the time being.

JEG Gray

