



**The parish church of St Lawrence,
Crosby Ravensworth**

The Annual Parochial Church meeting 2025 comprising

- Agendas for the Vestry Meeting and APCM 2025

Annual Reports

- Minutes of Vestry meetings and APCM 2024

will be held

on Sunday May 25th 2025 12am after morning service

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1. The Vestry Meeting [ie the Annual meeting of Parishioners] held prior to the APCM of 2024 held on May 25th 2025 at 12.30pm

Agenda

1. Opening prayer
2. Appointment of lay chair
3. Apologies
4. Minutes of last Vestry Meeting 21st April 2024 [see below] to be approved.
5. Election of Churchwardens
6. Close

Minutes of the last Vestry Meeting held on April 21st 2024 at 4.30pm

1. Opening prayer by Rev Tudway
2. Appointment of lay chair, David Barbour
3. Apologies were received from J.Harrison, D.Graham, D.Jones, Bishop Bell, Rev J.Russell
4. Minutes of last Vestry Meeting held on April 25th 2023 were approved
5. Matters arising: none
6. Election of Churchwardens:
David Stewart Barbour proposed J.Douglas, seconded S.Green / unanimous

Alasdair D.Darroch proposed S.Green, seconded J.Douglas / unanimous

The CWs were thanked for their work in this last year. Offers of backup help in this next year were made by S.Green and J.Douglas

7. The Vestry meeting was concluded at 4.46pm.

2. Agenda for the APCM to be held on Sunday May 25th 2025 at 12.30pm

All are welcome to stay but only those whose names are on the Electoral Roll are eligible to vote

Agenda item

1. Opening prayer
2. To elect a Chair [should the Minister decide to vacate the chair or need to be late]
3. To receive apologies
4. To receive and approve the minutes of the APCM April 21st 2024 [see over]
5. To deal with any matters arising
6. To receive a report on the Electoral Roll
7. To receive a report on the proceedings of the PCC and other activities of the church
8. To receive the Financial Report and statements for the year ending December 31st 2024
9. To receive the Independent Examiners report
10. To receive the annual Fabric Report
11. To receive a report on the proceedings of Appleby Deanery Synod
12. To receive Safeguarding reports
13. Consideration of Safeguarding Policies and Training
14. To elect the Parochial Church Council
15. To elect the Independent Examiner of the PCC accounts
16. Questions from the floor
17. Closing prayer and blessing.

3. Minutes of the APCM held on April 21st 2024, in church

[NB these minutes refer to our church in 2023]

1. Stephen Tudway opened in prayer
2. Lay Chair David Barbour was appointed
3. Apologies received from J.Harrison, D.Graham,D.Jones, Bishop Bel, Rev J.Russell
4. Minutes of 2023 APCM were read and approved: proposed D.McCall, seconded J. Kindleysides
5. No matters arising
- 6.**Electoral Roll:** thanks were given to Jill Winder who coordinates this. It was suggested that wedding couples [of whom we have a few in 2024] be asked to join the E.Roll. 2025 is the year for a full revision.
- 7.**Annual report** of the proceedings of the PCC and the activities of the parish was received.
- 8.**Examination and adoption of the Financial Statements.** David Graham. Was given due credit for his handling of church finances.
Discussion followed about a future drive to give news of what we do and encourage further giving throughout the parish.
- 9.**Independent examiner** report was noted, and Doug Henderson was thanked for his work on this.
- 10.**Appointment of Independent Examiner** It was proposed that Doug Henderson be asked to do the same again in the coming year: proposed D. Barbour, seconded S.Tudway/unanimous
- 11.**Fabric Report** was noted
- 12.**Deanery Synod** report was noted and that it is a transitional time. Disappointment that Mission Community plans had not amounted to much was expressed but not by all.
- 13.**Safeguarding report** was received with thanks to Deb McCall, our Parish Safeguarding Officer and Sarah Banks, Benefice Safeguarding Officer. We were reminded about the need to complete Safeguarding modules as per the list on page 13.
14. **Safeguarding policies:** The PCC had adopted Promoting a Safer Church and Safeguarding Policy at a previous PCC on January 25th, 2024
15. **The proposed members of the PCC** were elected en masse
Proposed J.Douglas, seconded Alasdair Darroch and accepted unanimously.
16. There was no other business
17. The meeting was closed with prayers and a blessing by Rev S.Tudway

4. St Lawrence, CR diary of church events 2024

January 10th	Archdeacon Pratt's Visitation
25 th Thurs	Local PCC at Scar
February 22 nd Thurs	Wedding: Lucy Merrill and Matt George
March 7th	'Growing Younger Ministers' interviews
10 th Sunday	Mothering Sunday
31 st Sunday	Easter Day with Easter Garden and decorations
April 21st	APCM , PCC meeting and Evening Prayer
May 11 th Sat	Wedding: Chris Naylor/Alana Goddard
18 th Sat	Darlington Organists visit
June 5th Weds	Local PCC at Jennywell
9 th Sunday	Baptism of Edmund Wentworth Waites
16th Sunday	Dialect Society Service 3pm
23 rd Sunday	Open Gardens
30 th Sunday	Commissioning of Ruth Hutchings 'Growing Younger Ministers'
July 16 th Tuesd	School Leavers' service w. SWT/RH 2.30pm
August 3 rd Sat	Wedding: Jonny Burrows and Sophie Edwards
10 th Sat	Wedding: Hayden Ward and Jessica Clifford
31 st Sat	Wedding: Lewis Rowley and Alicia Spratley
September 1 st Sund	Baptism of Hallie Buebell Harris/Coggins
9 th Monday	PCC at Heron View
15 th Sund	Baptism of Ollie Clark/Fisher
16 th Monday	JAM
18 th Wednesday	Youth Group No 1, 4.15-5.30
October - December	'A Time of Gifts' begins
October 3 rd Thursd	School Harvest Service with Lunch Club 2.30pm 'Gift of Plenty'
5 th Saturday	Community Coffee,cakes and biccies to auction school produce MMVI
12 th Saturday	Wedding: Joseph Power and Harriet Kennedy
21 st Monday	JAM
31 st Thursday	All Hallows Eve: 'Gift of Candlelight' 5 – 8pm
November 7 th Thurs	PCC at Castlehowe Scar
10 th Sund	Remembrance Service 'Gift of Remembrance' 10.45am
17 th Sunday	Samantha Green and Jim Walker 'Gift of Music' 4.00pm
18 th Monday	JAM
December 1 st Sunday	Advent Sunday
16 th Mon	JAM
19 th Thursd	School/Community Carol Service: 'Gifts of Hope and Joy' 6.00pm
22nd Sund	Informal carols in church 3-4pm
25 th Weds	Christmas Day Holy Communion 10.30am
	And breathe out.....

5. Benefice report from the Vicar, Rev SW Tudway

2024 was a busy year in the North Westmorland Benefice, in every sense. To our roster of Sunday and seasonal services were added a large number of funerals, baptisms and weddings: in the latter case, more than the rest of the deanery put together. We continue to enjoy, but also to bear the burden, of having three excellent wedding venues within the Benefice, attracting couples to our churches. Weddings combine with the significant number of tourist visitors to compel us to consider both the outward-facing aspect of our Christian ministry, and the 'passive ministry' in which our buildings and their contents (especially signage, displays, decorations and facilities) are involved when they are open but unattended. I hope that we will continue to experiment with initiatives to expand this ministry (which of course reaches and benefits many local people too) in 2025.

Easter was relatively quiet, with the traditional services on Maundy Thursday in Great Strickland and Shap, and the walk of witness to Shap Abbey on Good Friday. A York Course and a Bible Study on the Genesis creation stories attracted good numbers, but overall, our discipleship and small groups ministry is undeveloped. Together with some of our PCCs, I resolved to explore additional services and activities for Holy Week in 2025, to test demand and make better missional use of our chief festival.

Christmas 2024 saw large and often increased attendances at our services, with carol and crib services generally either static or growing. Particularly notable were carol services in Cliburn, where one fifth of the village population was present; and Bampton, which saw its largest attendance since 2011. There was formality in Morland and delightful informality in Crosby Ravensworth. Our second year of marking Christmas Eve at Ninekirks was also a success. Many of the high attendances could be traced to increased promotional activity of a conventional or online nature. Particularly striking was the result of Cliburn putting a very simple flyer through every door in the village in early December. I encourage all our parishes to follow the Spirit and to promote and invest in services or ministries that are successful.

Structurally, we completed the merger of Cliburn into the Parish of Morland in April. It remains to be seen whether simply relieving the church community of the burden of forming a PCC will enable the church there to flourish in new ways. Bampton began the year looking for a partner parish with which to join, and by the end of the year had mutually resolved to merge with Askham. The completion of that exercise may be affected by the slow process of divesting Askham of responsibility for St Michael's, Lowther, a now impossible burden from which we need to free the PCC. The closure and lease process grinds slowly forward with the church commissioners, and it is possible that a result may be achieved in 2025.

Since my arrival, the ministerial team has shrunk considerably. Diana Nicholson and Neil Hughes moved out of the area during the course of the year, and we wish them well in Chester and northern France respectively. Revd Sandy Pearl has reduced her regular commitments in Bolton and Askham due to ill health. We pray for her. David Jones ceased to take services in July, as a result of the illness which sadly took him from us early in 2025. We must ensure that the choral tradition which makes Morland distinctive is preserved in David's memory. His legacy remains, not least, in the organs he maintained or restored in Morland, Crosby Ravensworth and other parishes. I continue to be indebted to Bishop James, Revd Sheila Clark and Revd Jon Russell, whose relentless commitment to Sunday eucharistic worship makes our complex and extensive rota possible. Bishop James retired from regular wedding ministry at the end of the year, and I would like to express my gratitude to him for that contribution and to Sheila for taking on some of the additional services.

As a result of personnel constraints, it has become increasingly difficult to staff the Sunday rota, and in particular to cope when one of our eucharistic ministers is on leave. These difficulties draw our attention to the fact that, despite having a benefice population smaller than the average parish, we offer between 6 and 9 services every Sunday, many of them identical in form and in the same 10.30/11.00am time slot (up to 5 simultaneously in some weeks). I must record our collective indebtedness to lay leaders of worship in Askham, Bampton, Bolton, Crosby Ravensworth, Great Strickland and Shap whose contribution helps to achieve such extensive Sunday services. More formal investment is needed in lay leadership.

This analysis of the Sunday rota draws our attention to another aspect of our church life. Our population density (one of the lowest in England) combines with the number of PCCs (9, now 8) and churches/churchyards (13) to mean that our resources are divided and our burdens are multiplied, compared to the average parish. Our total worshipping congregation is large for the size of our population, but it is so divided that it often fails to achieve critical mass for many purposes administrative and missional. Occasional benefice services on fifth Sundays provide an opportunity to achieve this, at least in Sunday worship. We have seen congregations of 50 to 70 at such services, but this falls well short of the more impressive aggregate numbers that our churches achieve on ordinary Sundays. We must recognise that without some changes, our churches will fail individually and without exception: Thrimby, Cliburn and Bampton are a sign of what is coming to everyone. Change, we know, is hard.

In June, we were delighted to welcome Ruth Hutchings as our Growing Younger minister, with a brief to develop our ministry to Children & Families, Youth and Schools. Ruth settled in amazingly quickly, and by September had added a new and thriving youth

group in Crosby Ravensworth/Maulds Meaburn ably supported by essential local volunteers. An extension of the Shap group, to embrace Secondary-age children, quickly followed. Ruth has also developed strong relationships with our schools through involvement in JAM, collective worship, after-school clubs and other activities, and has taken on the position of ex-officio governor in Shap. By Christmas, Ruth had begun to make a real difference to our social media presence and other communications. She has also made significant contributions to lay-led services, often keeping the Sunday rota from collapse. This says much about her skill and flexibility, but it also means that we have deflected her from her the work for which she was recruited. I continue to have a governance role in Bolton (where I am acting Chair), Lowther, Morland and Crosby Ravensworth, which is very fruitful in terms of engagement between church and school, but incredibly costly in terms of time.

During the course of the Autumn, Ruth and I sought a £20,000 grant from the national church to develop youth ministry, while Sue Wigley sought a £5,000 to develop pastoral ministry across the Benefice in the shape of a 'Good Neighbours' scheme. That has been authorised by Morland PCC as an initial step, but once begun I hope that it will spread organically and be authorised by other PCCs in short order. Both applications were successful and we look forward to the commencement of that work in 2025.

Finally, 2025 must be a year in which we reconsider our financial position. We are paying more than cost of the ministry we receive (Stephen, Ruth and Joyce Keetley) as a result of historical accident, but doing so by running the larger parishes with a significant deficit budget. The challenges which face our churches require that we shepherd our resources for ministry with the greatest care. We shall need to look into this next year, as well as continuing to search for ways to encourage the community to help maintain our ancient buildings. It will be interesting to see how appeals to households in Bolton and Crosby Ravensworth fare.

Stephen Tudway, Vicar

6. Electoral Roll Report

At the end of our Electoral Roll year, we had 62 names on the roll. 2025 is a year when a whole new roll has to be made from scratch.

We are in the process of sending out a letter and application form to each and every one of those 62 people, inviting them to re-apply and be part of our new Electoral Roll for a further six years. We appreciate that we are going to lose a few people in the process but at the same time we do hope to gain a few new ones as well. We need 51 names on the roll to keep our number of eight PCC members (+2 church wardens)

We would like to thank everyone for their continued help and support over the last year.

Jill Winder – PCC Electoral Roll Officer

7. Annual Report

Aim and purposes - St. Lawrence's Parochial Church Council (the PCC) 'has the responsibility of cooperating with the incumbent, the Reverend Stephen Tudway, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. Rev Tudway has care of 9 other parishes [13 churches] in the North Westmorland Benefice.

Objectives and Activities - The PCC is committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship at our church and to become part of our parish community at St. Lawrence. The PCC maintains an overview of worship throughout the parish and makes suggestions on how our services can involve the many groups that live within our parish. Our services and worship put faith into practice through prayer and scripture, music and sacrament. When planning our activities for the year, we have considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and, in particular, the supplementary guidance on charities for the advancement of religion. We try to enable ordinary people to live out their faith as part of our parish community through:

- Worship and prayer; learning about the Gospel; developing their knowledge & trust in Jesus.
- Provision of pastoral care for people living in the parish.
- Missionary and outreach work including youth work.

- Care for and cooperation with our C of E [Vol. Aided] Primary School staff and children
- Ministry to the annual number of wedding couples, most of whom live out with the parish but wish to be married here due to their connection with local wedding venues. They attend six times before their marriage.

Worship and Prayer - The PCC is keen to offer a range of services during the week and over the course of the year that our community finds both beneficial and spiritually fulfilling. This is realised through Sunday services in a monthly rhythm.

We thank God for Bishop James Bell, Rev Sheila Clark, Rev Jon Russell and for Rev Stephen Tudway coming when they are available [and most of whom take two services each Sunday around the Benefice]; we have been able to celebrate Holy Communion, hear scripture read. We have a team of about 10 lay people at St Lawrence, who read lessons, make intercessions, help with the Chalice. 2024 saw the exciting commissioning on June 30th of our Benefice Growing Younger Ministers youth worker, Ruth Hutchings who is to work alongside Stephen in developing such work in our schools and parishes. Although it falls more into next year's report, we must say at this stage how much David Jones and his ministry on many levels is missed. He died in Feb 2025

Ecumenical Relationships - The churches in the Deanery together provide for the appointment of a half time Deanery Office Manager, *a half time Network Youth Church Minister and two House for Duty Pioneer ministers*. We also share regularly in specific outreach initiatives and activities and have appreciated the ministry of Rev Andrew Stirling, Methodist Minister. He is now to move on in 2025.

Structure, governance and management - The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules 2020. At St. Lawrence the membership of the PCC consists of the incumbent, any licensed clergy, churchwardens and members elected by those members of the congregation who are on the electoral roll of the church. All those who attend our services / members of the congregation are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC. The PCC members are responsible for making decisions on all matters of general concern and importance to the parish including deciding on how the funds of the PCC are to be spent. The New [open] Churchyard regulations and implementation of such take up hours of work in order to keep it looking clear of debris and a quiet, appropriate space for all.

The PCC has complied with the duty under Section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 [ie House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults]

Administrative information - St. Lawrence Church is situated in the parish of Crosby Ravensworth in the Appleby Deanery. It is part of the Diocese of Carlisle within the Church of England. The PCC is a body corporate (PCC Powers Measure 1956, Church Representation Rules 2020) and a charity currently excepted from registration with the Charity Commission

The full PCC met 4 times during 2024 including straight after the last APCM, with an average attendance of 80%. Given its wide responsibilities, the PCC covers matters as a whole committee without necessitating splitting into smaller sub committees, apart from Open Gardens. Together, we tackle all aspects of parish life, which include Worship and Outreach, Building Re-ordering, Social, Stewardship & Charities, Fabric and Safeguarding. See attached diary of what we have achieved in 2024. Over 2,396 people have attended services, funerals, baptisms and weddings in 2024 (2,217 in 2023) - 10% school and Jam, 29% normal services, 47% rights of passage, 14% other services eg. Dialect Society.

Ex Officio members Incumbent: Rev. Stephen W.Tudway (Chairman)

Other licensed clergy: Rev Sheila Clark, Bishop James Bell [retr'd], Rev J. Russell [retr'd]

- ❖ Churchwardens: A.D. Darroch and D.S. Barbour Admission 25/06/2024
- ❖ Vice chair: whoever volunteers at a PCC

Elected Members

- ❖ N. McCall [representative on Deanery Synod] elected 2023-2026
- ❖ J.Harrison [representative on Deanery Synod] elected 2023-2026
- ❖ D.M. Graham [Treasurer]
- ❖ A.M.Barbour [PCC Secretary]
- ❖ J.Winder [Electoral Roll and Sidesman]
- ❖ D. McCall [Parish Safeguarding Officer]
- ❖ J. Kindleysides
- ❖ S.A.K.Green [Minute secretary]

Thanks be to God.

Alexandra Barbour PCC Secretary, 24th April 2024

8. Financial Report

Giving in 2024 was really positive from both the local community and distant supporters. Members of the PCC worked hard to ensure the church doors were always open and services continued, and this was very much supported by Rev Stephen Tudway and the wider ministry team.

Overall income was up by 3.7% on 2023 to £23,034 with the major difference coming from church collections, one-off donations and Gift Aid. The income for the year clearly demonstrates the continuing positive level of support from our community and general supporters.

The card machine in 2024, has again demonstrated its value by attracting £1,834 over the year.

Fundraising during the year came mainly from plant sales, Open Gardens, Silent Auction of Harvest Produce along with coffee/ cakes at MMVI but was down 31% on the previous year.

The value of assets (accounts and shares) increased by £1,086 to £90,685 including £34,092 of long-term investment restricted with a further £16,000 set aside for the heating project. CRPCC was able to claim Gift Aid and a Gift Aid Small Donations top up payment on all individual giving of £30 and less during the year. This brought in £2,065 of additional income from HM Revenue and Customs.

Expenditure on revenue; running costs was £19,900.

The most notable elements of expenditure in the year were.

- Ministry costs - £17,402 with £4,000 of this allocated specifically to youth work
- Repairs and maintenance - £2,147 (Quinquennial inspection, chairs for Dent Chapel and fire equipment upgrade)
- £12m building, £10m employers and £5m public liability insurance - £1,431 (+4.7%)
- Utility – heating and lighting was artificially high due to delayed billing by our utility provider for 2023. We renewed our supply contract during 2024 moving to a cheaper and more professional supplier.

The PCC donated £1,663 to external charities and organisations with the income coming through collections at funerals and special events.

With tight management of regular running costs, we should be able to maintain outgoings to circa £25k for 2025.

We envisage this will be matched by regular income, giving and through the usual number of fund-raising events. We will also be looking to increase the number of regular givers through a community Giving Drive. This is key to ensuring the church viability going forward and in helping to provide greater certainty of income.

During 2025 we will also be focusing on grant applications to cover works identified in our quinquennial inspection including roofing and lead works along with and maintenance of the Hearse House. The likely cost will be circa £30k-£35k.

David Graham - PCC Treasurer

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF CROSBY RAVENSWORTH
BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST DECEMBER 2024

Current Assets				CURRENT ASSETS			
Balance 1st January 2024				Balance 31st December 2024			
							£
£	9,467.77		Barclays Bank Plc - Current Account	£	2,409.38		
£	11,945.25		Cumberland Building Society	£	6,782.61		
£	13,000.00		CBS Savings	£	18,000.00		
£	-		Cash in Hand				
£	34,413.02			£	27,191.99		
			Net Loss/Gain for the Year 2024				
			Quota' owed to Diocese 01/01/2024 to 31/12/2024	£	NIL		
Prepared from the books, records, vouchers, etc and certified to be in accordance therewith.							
Signed	Douglas Henderson			Date	25-May-25		

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF CROSBY RAVENSWORTH
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2024

<u>INCOME</u>	2023	2024
	£	£
Tax efficient Planned Giving	3550.00	3465.00
Other Planned Giving - Envelopes	140.00	328.70
Collection at Services	2090.90	2390.65
Other Giving - Donations	3213.97	4202.41
Collections - Wall Safe	1462.75	1855.63
Gift Aid Recovered Tax	1716.08	2065.86
Fund Raising	2679.70	1843.05
Church Events - Statutory Fees	6146.20	5469.00
Rent Income	318.94	318.94
Restricted Income	0.00	0.00
Capital Sale	0.00	0.00
Dividends and Interest	901.84	1094.83
	22220.38	23034.07
<u>EXPENDITURE</u>		
Utility - Heating & Lighting	824.11	3720.54
Insurance	1367.55	1431.74
Repairs & Renewals (Inc Organ Tuning)	2799.71	2535.21
Church Yard - Upkeep	555.98	555.98
Diocesan fees - Event Statutory Fee Share	1263.66	1473.32
Mission Giving + Donations	1549.00	1663.85
Diocesan Parish Share	11976.00	11982.00
Clergy = Staff Expenses	1431.29	5420.24
Wages - Organist/Grave Digger	640.00	565.00
Fund Raising Costs	100.00	477.00
Chapel / Hall Rental	0.00	0.00
Capital Development	0.00	0.00
Newsletter	0.00	0.00
Church Expenses - Administration + operation	844.87	430.85
	23352.17	30255.73
LESS RESTRICTED Funding		
NET PROFIT/[LOSS] FOR YEAR	-1131.79	-7221.66

Accounts for CR PCC				
NAME	Account Number	Holder	Value	Date
Community	90691035	Barclays	£2,409.38	31/12/2024
Community	54257205	CBS	£6,782.61	31/12/2024
Community		CBS	£18,000.00	31/12/2024
W. Taylors Charity	CB3004077	CDBF	£2,959.71	31/12/2024
Janus Henderson	0001790510	Janus Henderson	£28,878.67	31/12/2024
Janus Henderson	0001790510	Janus Henderson	£522.41	31/12/2024
INCOME SHARES	CB3021736	CCLA	£18,777.94	31/12/2024
Park legacy	CB3003991	CDBF	£7,884.84	31/12/2024
TITHE ACT	CB3004133	CDBF	£1,225.50	31/12/2024
MRS A TAYLOR	CB3004227	CDBF	£1,711.08	31/12/2024
W. Taylors Charity	CB3004146	CDBF	£323.72	31/12/2024
Thwaytes Charity (T0062)	CB3003772	CDBF	£1,209.55	31/12/2024
		Overall Total	£90,685.41	
		Total Restricted.Funds	£34,092.34	

9. Fabric Report

Two Boon days in 2024 were well attended, with up to 11 volunteers tackling vegetation, roof moss, wall moss, gutters and drains. With this necessary caretaking more under control, water ingress issues are fewer but those we have are getting more serious as it seems very difficult to get workmen for these smaller jobs. The lead lining of the valley gutter between the Dent Chapel and S.Aisle is leaking every time it rains necessitating an array of bowls to catch the drips.

The flag 'monitor' is currently Jon Metcalfe assisted by Neil Blenkinship. Tony Tombs is learning the ropes to take over. Mike Winterburn has had to give up his role due to creaky knees. We are grateful to all these people who keep our Union or St George flag flying proudly .

Flowers and other creations are arranged during the year and especially at festivals such as Easter, Christmas and for Remembrance. Judith Harrison and Jill Winder organise this and work with wedding couples too, of which there have been 6 this year.. Jill ensures church is clean and all feels fresh and well-looked after. Altar cloths are changed according to the Lectionary year by Hazel and Mandy Blenkinship.

Joyce Keetley, though not in our parish, is the employed Benefice/Appleby Deanery Administrator until June 2025 and ensures all admin for Rites of Passage runs smoothly.

Our sincere thanks go to all these good people.

In 2024 the following fabric issues were tackled:

- *January the year went off to an unexpected start with Storm Ischa which took down huge limbs of Churchyard trees which in turn wrecked power lines, flattened the new Churchyard noticeboard, wrecked boundary walls and damaged the Hearse House roof. When the tree surgeons came to make the trees safe, they in turn cut the telephone line/broadband so there was no internet in church for 6 weeks+.
- We had an Archdeacon's Visitation in January which included checking of the Terrier and Log.
- March saw the replacement of the damp and moulding Dent chapel chairs with stackable wooden ones, thanks to Alasdair Darroch's sources.
- In April Mike Winterburn bought St Lawrence a new St George flag to replace one shredded by high winds.
- By September the extensive damage caused by Ischa was made good thanks to supreme efforts of David Graham following up insurance claim with Westmorland and Furness Council. The boundary wall repair was still awaiting a decision

- The Eastern Gable cross, removed for safety reasons and now inside church, apparently needs a Faculty for 6 months....we cannot afford to reinstate it.
- November: the organ had its annual retune
- November: rampant cows found their way through the damaged wall [see above] onto Brewer's Lane and caused deep divots as they decided they wanted to come to the front and go into church. Thankfully they were stopped just in time.

Paul Grout has been our Conservation Architect for a good number of years and has taken a keen interest in St Lawrence. Paul sadly died in December 2024. He will be much missed.

Alex Barbour PCC Secretary and David Graham PCC Treasurer , April 20th 2024

10. Deanery Synod Report

Format of Deanery Synod meetings

In September we decided to move to 3 meetings a year rather than 4. We did this as we aware of the increasing demands made on our lay members and clergy and the need for us all to use our time effectively. We also adopted a more topic based format for our meetings with time allocated to specific issues which our Parishes are faced with. These included:

Including Everyone - A Presentation by the Diocesan Disability Advisor – Rev'd Canon Tricia Rogers Canon Rogers' presentation encouraged Deanery Synod members to look at accessibility in its widest sense, to help people to make adjustments so that their church buildings and their worship is accessible to everybody

Youth Work in the Deanery - Feedback from Youth Leaders' Workshop – John Newton John introduced himself to Deanery Synod. John tasked Deanery Synod members to go back to their PCCs to ask how PCCs can support youth work

Meeting our new Archdeacon Ruth Newton, who outlined how The Diocesan Investment Programme would benefit our deanery. The Diocese has submitted a bid to the Church Commissioners for £6.5m. The outcome of the bid will be known by March 2025. An element of the bid is for rural pilot programmes. This aspect of the bid is for £30,000 per year for 3 years and will cover a person to work across all 3 benefices. (N.B. The bid has been successful and a larger amount is to be allocated to our Deanery)

In addition

- At our March 2024 meeting we were updated on Pastoral Re-organisation within the Deanery, The Parish of Cliburn is currently in the process of combining with the Parish of Morland. Thrimby was recently combined into Morland. This will allow services to continue and the building to be maintained, under the single PCC.
- At our June meeting we considered a request from the Diocese to participate in creating a Diocesan Buildings Strategy. Diocesan Synod has set up a sub-group to look at the Diocesan Buildings Strategy to respond to the Diocese.
- At our December meeting we discussed more environmentally friendly heating options. The PCC at Orton is currently working on plans for the installation of solar panels. The PCC has a quotation for the cost of the project, which also include a battery for storage of the power and they are in the process of applying for a faculty. The Diocesan architect will be producing a plan and a funding application has been submitted. Bampton had recently obtained the DAC's approval for a small-scale project, awaiting a faculty, and was happy to help anyone else who was interested in Infra Red installations

By the way, we held the 200th meeting of Appleby Deanery Synod on Wednesday 4th December 2024.

Judith Harrison and Neil McCall – PCC Deanery Synod Representatives - April 2025

11. Safeguarding Report

1. Our Parish Safeguarding Officer

Our Benefice Safeguarding Officer is Sarah Banks. Our Deputy Benefice Safeguarding Officer is Ruth Hutchings. Our Parish Safeguarding Officer is Debbie McCall.

2. Church Policy and Guidance

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. We have done this, together with the Benefice Safeguarding Policy, which has been signed on behalf of the PCC.

3. Recruitment of Ex-Offenders

The adoption of a policy on the recruitment of ex-offenders is a legal requirement for all organisations working with children or vulnerable adults and carrying out DBS checks. We have adopted the Benefice Policy on the Recruitment of Ex-Offenders, which has been signed on behalf of the PCC.

4. Safeguarding Training

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility. While for some, completion of safeguarding training is an expectation as we strive to achieve best practice, for others it is a mandatory requirement for the role that they fulfil. Refresher training at the highest level previously completed must be undertaken every 3 years. Our parish supports and oversees groups working with children and young people, or with adults who are vulnerable. The leaders and volunteers working with our groups are recorded on our Parish Safeguarding Dashboard, have been safely recruited according to the Church's national guidance, and we have ensured they have received the level of training required by the Church for their role.

2024 Safeguarding Review

During the last year the Church, in several denominations, has come under scrutiny regarding safeguarding. Although it seems that much of the abuse has been historic, we must be vigilant and proactive to protect the most vulnerable in society. Consequently, our church safeguarding program has never had a higher profile. I just want to give you all a heartfelt thank you for all the support you've given me in my role as Parish Safeguarding Officer. I'm very thankful that we have had no incidents to report and I sincerely pray that every single person that has come through our church doors has felt safe and welcomed. But our responsibility doesn't stop at the door. We need to continue serving our wider community.

We have seen growth in the number of people that we have been in contact with over the year, with several weddings, funerals and social events. Also, the major development has been the appointment of Ruth, our wonderful youth leader. We now have regular contact with many of the young people in the parish plus of course their families. This has highlighted a few extra considerations for safeguarding and I'm confident that this is being taken seriously. Also, this year we have put a lot of effort into the Dashboard. It's not just a box ticking exercise, but is there to show where we are covering safeguarding well and also it highlights weaknesses that we might not have considered. The safeguarding noticeboard is up in a prominent place in the porch, proclaiming that we are a church that takes safeguarding seriously. The little tri-fold leaflets have been popular and I have had to replenish them regularly.

So, all in all it's been a very good year. Thank you all so very much.

Debbie McCall – Parish Safeguarding Officer - April 2025