



ANNUAL REPORT 2024

The eight churches around the Kent Estuary form an ecumenical Mission Community, coming together to support each other in ministry and mission. Each church sustains its engagement with its own community whilst sharing in collaborative activity.

The activity is led by a **Leadership Team**. This brings together the clergy (Bryan Kerr, Andrew Norman, Tiras Dainty-Share and Hannah Wallace) and three lay representatives (Annie Garden, Viv Stirrup and Karen Leslie), with a secretary (Peter Clarke).

In 2024, the collaborative activity included:

A quarterly **Gathering**, the only main service on that Sunday, with a congregation of 150+

A regular **Partnership Meeting**, bringing together representatives from each church to explore issues around mission and ministry. It is also a network for communication.

Starting to refresh the role of Dementia Enablers in each church, as part of our concern for **Care for older people**.

A quarterly **Songs of Praise**, linked with a walking group, targeted on those who live with dementia.

A **Christmas and Easter Diary**, circulated across all the congregations, highlighting all the services and other activities in each of the churches.

A **Blue Christmas Service**, recognising that for some people Christmas is a time of sadness and loss.

Providing Christmas Bible Society **books for children** in the local primary schools.

Forming a small **Pioneering Group** to explore new ways of engaging with people who find the traditional church off-putting.

A **Pet Service**, held on a farm, which attracted families who are not routine church goers.

A **Marriage Preparation** course, run by the clergy, for couples being married in any of the churches.

The **Bereavement Journey**, offering 7 sessions of films and discussions for people coping with grief.

A **Church in the Market Place** stall as part of the Farmers' Market in Milnthorpe throughout the spring and summer.

Initial steps in planning of a **Trail / Pilgrimage route**, connecting the eight churches and celebrating their distinctive histories.

Exploring the potential for **Transforming lives for good** (a young persons' mentoring scheme) being developed locally. This proved to be impractical.

Co-ordinating a shared **Mission Community Offer** to the Diocese.

Holding a social gathering for **members of church councils**, creating an opportunity for informal sharing of experiences and building relationships.

Supporting local input into the **Social Action Audit** in Westmorland and Furness, to quantify the contribution of faith groups to their communities.

Visit our website at: <https://www.kentestuarymissioncommunity.com/>