



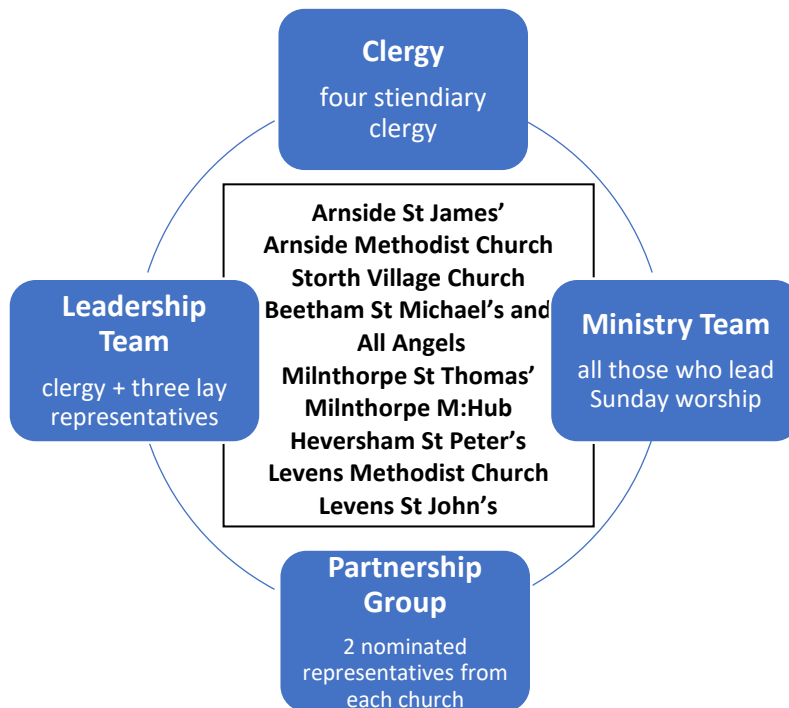
Kent Estuary Mission Community

Annual Report

2023

The Methodist and Anglican churches in Arnside, Storth, Beetham, Milnthorpe, Heversham and Levens work together and support each other in mission and ministry as a Mission Community. Each works to serve their own local community; together they seek to sustain and grow the body of Christ in this area.

As the churches develop their relationship in the Mission Community there are four groups that meet to grow collaboration and to lead action:



KEMC initiatives in 2023 include:

United Services following the very well attended united service for the ordination of Hannah Wallace, all the congregations now join in a single, united service once a quarter, which will be supported by an informal music group and choir.

Growing Disciples there was a joint Lent Course and common resource materials have been shared for use by local house groups at other times.

Fresh Expressions A small group has been formed to explore the development of pioneer ministry and a workshop was held with the Northern Mission Centre.

Outreach A stall in Milnthorpe's Farmers' market provides an opportunity for contact and conversation. A new website provides information about KEMC, and contact details for the churches: www.kentestuarymissioncommunity.com

Pastoral care the focus has been on exploring how initiatives for older people can be supported. A collaboration with a walking group for people living with dementia has resulted in two successful Songs of Praise events.

Baptism and Marriage preparation the clergy have been looking at the possibility of a collaborative approach and a shared marriage preparation is planned for 2024.

Open the Book As part of a phased expansion, building on the established programme in Levens, a team now takes the bible stories into Storth Primary School.

Information sharing diaries have been circulated at Easter, in the autumn and at Christmas, bringing together the events and activities in all the churches. The new website keeps people in the congregations informed and is a point of contact for people outside the churches.

The **Partnership Meeting** brings together representatives of the nine churches, to share experience and to explore how mission can be developed within our communities. In 2023 its meetings have focussed on



Other Mission Community Events include:

A collaboration between some members of St Michael's and All Angels and St Peter's has led to the development of an occasional series of workshops looking back at the history of the Church in this area to understand it and to learn from it as we face the future- **Looking back in order to look forward.**

St Peter's hosted what it is hoped will be the first of periodic informal gatherings of members of the Church Council's to provide opportunities for sharing local issues and strengthening relationships.

Treasurers and representatives of Church councils are meeting to consider how the Diocesan Parish Offer can be approached on a Mission Community basis.