



## Annual Report 2025

The eight congregations of the mission Community have continued to collaborate in a range of activity during the year. This has included:

- A well-attended quarterly **Gathering** for worship, rotating round the churches and being the only main service on that Sunday.
- A quarterly **Songs of Praise**, linked with a walking group, targeted on those who live with dementia.
- A **Pet Service**, held on a farm, which attracted families who are not routine church goers.
- **Christmas** and **Easter Diaries**, 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.
- The **Bereavement Journey**, offering 7 sessions of films and discussions for people coping with grief.
- A **Marriage Preparation** course, run by the clergy, for couples being married in any of the churches.
- Collaboration with NISCU in a weekly Lunch club at **Dallam School**
- A monthly **Men's Breakfast**, building fellowship.
- Exploring the potential for a network of **Dementia Enablers** across the churches.
- Running a **first-aid** training event.
- Providing Christmas Bible Society **books for children** in the local primary schools.
- The **Partnership Meeting**, which brings together representatives from each church to explore issues around mission and ministry. It is also a network for communication. In the first half of the year, it focused on community engagement activity and social action. Latterly its meetings have been paused, and its future is to be reviewed in 2026.
- A **Pioneering Group**, which met for an initial exploration of ways that churches can engage with people who find the traditional church off-putting.
- Holding an occasional social gathering for **members of church councils**, creating an opportunity for informal sharing of experiences and building relationships.
- Continuing work on developing the **KEMC Pilgrim Way**, the guide to which is to be published in March 2026.
- Co-ordinating a shared **Mission Community Offer** to the Diocese.
- Maintaining the website: **[www.kentestuarymissioncommunity.com](http://www.kentestuarymissioncommunity.com)**

In the Autumn, the Archdeaconry Mission and Pastoral Committee asked the Mission Community Leadership Team to ensure that the 5 parishes and their ecumenical partners develop a shared vision, with a sustainable pattern of ministry and appropriate governance arrangements.

Following a letter to all members of the congregations and an open meeting, a Working Group was asked to develop proposals for a direction of travel. These were presented at a special service in January 2026 and then passed to each church council for consideration. The Leadership Team reported back to the Committee at the end of March.