



The Lunesdale & Endmoor Mission Community





Contents

Click on a title to get taken to that page

Welcome and introduction	4
Our strengths and opportunities	5
Our mission community	6
Our worshipping communities	7
Partner churches	9
Communications	9
Church governance	10
Mission and community engagement	12
Sunday worship	13
Missionary links	13
Our new mission community leader...	14
The parsonage	15
Finance	15
Local services and major transport links	15
Appendix 1 – a typical month of Sundays	16
Appendix 2 – Mission community staffing	17
Appendix 3 – Kirkby Lonsdale parsonage	18
Our mission community prayer during this vacancy	19

Welcome and introduction

This is an exciting opportunity to work with a diverse group of churches, and to join an enthusiastic ecumenical ministry team and dedicated community of faithful people committed to sharing God's love in this idyllic area, which John Ruskin described as 'one of the loveliest views in England...'

Kirkby Lonsdale was voted as one of the 'Best places to live 2025' by *The Times*. It is a great place also in which to work. The Lake District National Park, the Yorkshire Dales National Park and other Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty are within easy reach. In our ecumenical setting we are looking for someone who is flexible and confident to minister to both Anglican and Methodist churches in our small market town, and in the Anglican churches in surrounding rural villages and hamlets. We welcome new insights, gifts, and graces to enable us to further our vision, grow the church and continue to be an active Christian presence in the locality.



Our strengths and opportunities

We are a leader in ecumenical integration, community involvement and pioneering mission in South Cumbria. (<https://kl.church/>)

- Well-established inter-denominational working through Christians together in Lunesdale (CTiL)
- Broad and dedicated lay support across our administrative, pastoral, and missional activities.
- Active involvement with local schools, and other community organisations.
- A nine-year Family Project (https://www.facebook.com/familiesinlunesdale/?_rdr) with funded leader for at least a further two years. This engages newer families and has extended our traditional worship offering with regular volunteer-led Messy (indoor) and Forestry (outdoor) groups.
- A funded parish administrator.
- Wonderful and dedicated volunteers who help throughout the mission community.

The ordained team includes a self-supporting team vicar, a Methodist minister/ authorised in the role of team vicar (for one further year) and the support of a supernumerary Methodist minister. An organogram of the mission community's staffing structure is included here as Appendix 2.

There are many exciting opportunities for the new person to help grow the mission community further. For example:

- Encourage the different geographical communities and traditions into a cohesive mission community.
- Develop our engagement in Endmoor village where the church building is not located within the community.
- Enable a sustainable model of discipleship with members of new groups, explore stewardship and encourage faith development and active participation of group members.
- Develop our relationship with the Queen Elizabeth School (QES) and QE Studio Schools' pupils and staff, and maintain existing work with the local primary schools.
- Contribute to the oversight of the St. Mary's project along with the project team.

To maximise opportunities the refurbished building offers for creative worship, ministry and community engagement.

Our mission community

The Lunesdale and Endmoor Mission Community covers a popular rural area in south Cumbria bordering the Yorkshire Dales. Four of our villages lie in the Yorkshire Dales National Park. The main urban centre is the market town of Kirkby Lonsdale (<https://www.kirkbylonsdale.co.uk/>), with Endmoor six miles away rapidly becoming an expanding commuter settlement for Kendal, and seven other villages and hamlets. The resident population of nearly 5,000 is broadly split between two demographics, both with low ethnic diversity. One demographic is local and deeply-rooted. Mainly agricultural and service-industry based, they have a broad social and age cross-section, including pockets of deprivation and seasonal need. They suffer housing pressures due to the prevalence of over 300 rentals and second homes in the area. The other demographic is professional families who move in to work at home or commute to local towns and cities, attracted by a great locality, superb education opportunities, good fibre-optic broadband and excellent road and rail links. Many stay into retirement, just as others retire to the area. Many young people go away to university, with few returning due to employment taking them elsewhere. Another distinct community served by the mission community is the excellent Queen Elizabeth School (<https://ges.org.uk/>) and adjacent Studio School – a population of 1,500 secondary-age children and over 200 staff, from a wide geographical area. Overall, there is an encouraging 60/40 split in the mission community between those who consider themselves Christian and those who say they have no religion. Baptism numbers were 40% of the 24 births in 2024, 66% of the 62 deaths had a Christian funeral.



Our worshipping communities

Kirkby Lonsdale, St. Mary's CofE Church

The Church of St. Mary the Virgin sits right at the heart of the Kirkby Lonsdale community and is a much-loved ancient mediaeval building, Grade 1 listed, with major church status. Our faithful congregation meets regularly for weekly Sunday worship, with liturgies varying from Common Worship to an Iona format as well as mid-week Communion. Every third month there is an ecumenical service with Kirkby Lonsdale Methodist Church. The church is open from dawn 'til dusk with high footfall throughout the week. The church is linked with St. Mary's CofE Primary School and the incumbent is an *ex officio* school governor. (<https://stmarys.kl.church/>) In 2019 the churches in Kirkby Lonsdale agreed "that the churches, the surroundings and the rectory buildings be creatively and sustainably utilised for the benefit of the local community, visitors and the ministry and mission of the church". We have recently received a development grant from the National Lottery Heritage Fund to work towards repairing the roof and tower, reinstalling the clock, adding to the bells and reordering the building for better community use. Extensive work is ongoing to ensure St Mary's has a reliable, operational and sustainable future. In addition to regular annual art exhibitions, concerts and school services, 'St Mary's Events' is bringing theatre, folk music and concerts into the building throughout the year. (<https://stmarysevents.kirkbylonsdale.org/>)

Kirkby Lonsdale Methodist Church

KLMC is a friendly welcoming mixed-age congregation meeting weekly with a Sunday Club for children. Worship is varied and inclusive with a range of styles and music, led by a worship group. A variety of Methodist, Anglican and other preachers provide a rich breadth of preaching and teaching. We believe in 'Real Life – God with us; Real Hope – growing and Real Difference – sharing God's love'. The spacious modern hall with an enclosed garden and adjoining schoolroom is well

used during the week by church and community for meetings, fellowship/Bible groups, a prayer group, and a variety of community activities including the Art Society, choirs, yoga/exercise classes, community cafés, a quarterly Men's Breakfast, and See & Know for pre-school-age children and their parents/carers, as well as several youth uniformed groups. (<https://www.klmethodist.church/>)



The church building was recently registered for same-sex marriage, with the authorised person being a local presbyter from a nearby part of the Cumbria Circuit. There is no requirement for the future incumbent to officiate at same-sex marriages.

Barbon, St. Bartholomew's CofE Church

St Bartholomew's Church has a mixed congregation of Anglicans and Methodists meeting weekly with varied styles of worship led by clergy, lay leaders and local preachers. There is

a weekly ecumenical prayer and fellowship group meeting in the village. They also host 'coffee cake & chat' outreach for the community each month in the village hall. (<https://barbon.org.uk/church/>)

Casterton, Holy Trinity CofE Church

Holy Trinity is unusual in that it is both a school chapel and a church for the community with four or five services a year. The school has a Friday morning service – open to all – throughout the school calendar. During the year the two roles are brought together with the annual Christingle and harvest services. The rest of the year the building largely sees festival services. (<https://www.castertonchurch.org/>)

Hutton Roof, St. John's CofE Church

A small village church and congregation who are exploring how they can better serve and involve their community. They meet for worship twice a month, including Holy Communion. They hold a community harvest supper in the refurbished village hall each year, and support the local fell race and other community events on occasions.

Lupton, All Saints' CofE Church

All Saints' Church has been serving its community since 1867 and is at the heart of village life with two services a month. The congregation are relaxed,

informal, welcoming and caring. The calendar is filled with much-loved gatherings where food and genuine hospitality abound.

Mansergh, St. Peter's CofE Church

This serves a small yet very active community, including young families, with a monthly Holy Communion service. The worship is largely traditional with additional services at the festivals. The excellent community hall in the hamlet hosts many community outreach events.

Middleton, The Holy Ghost CofE Church

There has been a church on this site from 1634, but unfortunately major structural issues have forced the permanent closure of the building. Celebrations of the major festivals continue to be held in the churchyard as the community gather together for worship and fellowship.

Preston Patrick, St. Patrick's CofE Church

St. Patrick's is the church on top of the hill by the M6 with the illuminated cross. The people are welcoming and pastoral, and they use a range of contemporary and traditional musical styles in worship at the weekly services.

The church has strong links with St. Patrick's School in Endmoor and facilitates 'Open the Book' where the leaders and pupils act out stories from



Partner churches

the Bible. They host 'Meet to Eat', a community café in Endmoor Village Hall, and hold community events such as the annual plant sale.

(<https://prestonpatrick.org/>)

Messy Church

'Messy' is a well-attended and established group led by gifted and committed lay people and supported by the clergy. We follow the general Messy Church principles, and a hot meal is always enjoyed by everyone. This group has grown into a distinct worshipping community. Messy has a Facebook page ([Please click here](#))

Foresty

This began as an experiment but has become embedded as a new worshipping community. We are blessed to have excellent, accessible, and extensive safe outside spaces. Foresty usually takes place on the Glebe, a very special green area where it is easy to connect with nature and the beauty of creation. Foresty explores our relationship and stewardship of God's creation in creative ways, using land art, a fire-pit and very importantly making s'mores!

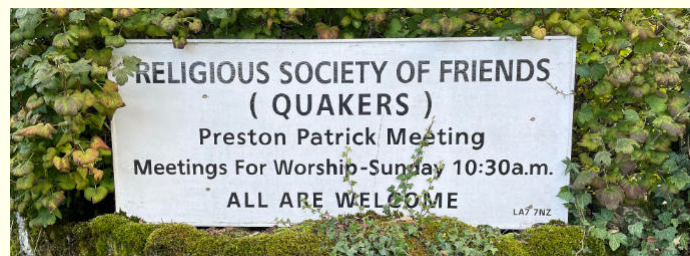


St Joseph's Catholic church in Kirkby Lonsdale

A small welcoming church, with weekly Mass. The church is a part of CTiL, hosting various events and meetings. The church is active in supporting refugees, offering the flat above the church for families to stay, recover from trauma and integrate into UK society, thus eventually becoming independent.

The Quaker meeting house in Preston Patrick

This community holds weekly meetings and participates in CTiL activities, such as leading a session during each Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. ([Please click here](#))



Communications

We are fortunate to have several means of communication within our community.

The well-established AKL (Around Kirkby Lonsdale) – a local community magazine produced by the church – gets distributed throughout the mission community and is available online (<https://kirkbylonsdale.org/>) We send out weekly notices and a monthly Family Project newsletter, and support the Around Kirkby Lonsdale group on Facebook.

St. Patrick's Church also has a local community church magazine.



Church governance

In 2019 a local ecumenical covenant (<https://www.therainbowparish.org/images/lec.pdf>) was agreed and signed between the Rainbow Parish, Kirkby Lonsdale Methodist church, and St Joseph's Catholic church. Whilst not a legal arrangement this covenant informs our activity and relationship as a mission community. There are two legal bodies within the Mission Community: the Rainbow Parish PCC and the Kirkby Lonsdale Methodist Church Council, both of which you will be responsible for. However, governance advice and assistance for the Methodist Church can be provided by a Circuit minister in the local area.

The Rainbow Parish PCC

In 1975, seven Anglican churches in Lunesdale became a single parish. Each church was given a colour and so the team became known as the Rainbow Parish. One more church joined the parish in 2004, making a unique eight-banded rainbow! There is one PCC and each of the local churches has their own district church council. The PCC meets six times a year. It is usually chaired by the lay chair and the parish manager is the secretary. There is also a standing committee which can act for the PCC in defined situations to

avoid having to have a full meeting. The parish has 244 on the electoral roll. The patrons are the Master, Fellows and Scholars of Trinity College of the University of Cambridge, King Henry VIII's Foundation, and the Church Pastoral Aid Society Patronage Trust.

The churches have their own District Church Councils which arrange their meetings individually, and manage their finances and missional activities with the support of the ministry team.

Kirkby Lonsdale Methodist Church Council

The church council are the appointed trustees and meet four times a year including the general church meeting. The minister has pastoral over-sight of the church. Day to day the church is supported by the stewards, working as a leadership team with the minister. The minister, and stewards are responsible to the church council which has authority over the whole of the ministry of the church.

The Kirkby Lonsdale Methodist Church Council is part of the Cumbria Methodist Circuit (www.cumbriamethodists.org.uk) that came into being on 1st September 2025 (making us co-terminous with the Carlisle Diocese). Not only does this help us to work ecumenically across Cumbria but,





being able to draw on the resources of this large circuit, we aim to enable local churches to flourish in their mission.

Cumbria Methodist Circuit is part of the North West England District (<https://nwedmethodists.org.uk/>)

Kirkby Lonsdale Methodist Church has sixty-nine members, with one Methodist minister currently working 0.5 with this church and 0.5 authorised in the role of team vicar in the Anglican parish. As Cumbria is an Ecumenical County, existing relationships between churches are strengthened by Cumbria's ecumenical 'God for All' mission initiative (<https://godforall.org.uk/>), with groups of churches throughout the county forming ecumenical mission communities.

Kendal Deanery

This is a geographically varied deanery, centred on Kendal but stretching from Garsdale in the east to the Winster Valley in the west, from Kirkby Lonsdale in the south to Longsledale in the north,

encompassing deeply rural dales and valleys, villages and scattered farming communities to market towns.

The churches in the area are grouped into ecumenical mission communities, which are important in enabling effective mission in the local areas as part of the county-wide God For All vision (<https://godforall.org.uk/>) based on the four principles: Follow Daily, Care Deeply, Speak Boldly, and Tread Gently. There are thirty-four mission communities across the county, dozens of fresh expressions of church are growing and new and exciting ways are being realised to empower everyone's missional gifts. The clergy chapter meets monthly and is a friendly and active group of ecumenical colleagues providing mutual support through fellowship and prayer. The mission community centred on Kirkby Lonsdale is one of seven across the area of the deanery and formally includes all the Methodist and Anglican churches in the area.

Mission and community engagement

The Churches in Lunesdale Family Project

This is a joint initiative between the Rainbow Parish and Kirkby Lonsdale Methodist Church.

In 2017 a full-time project leader was recruited to be part of the ministry leadership team. This enabled the churches to build new bridges with families and community stakeholders, developing creative ways for meaningful engagement, and encouraging teams of volunteers to facilitate these different activities. The project serves two CofE primary schools, one secondary school and its associated Studio School, and one independent prep school.

We aim to help families with children discover more of God and God's purpose for their lives, particularly aiming at those with whom the local church previously had little or no contact. We seek to engage with families in a way that is meaningful to them and ultimately leads them to faith and worship.

Over the last five years the attendance at Family Project groups has increased. Activities have been responsive to need and have been grown around the interests and concerns of those who gather. Those which have seen the greatest consistent attendance are See & Know, Forestry, Messy and also craft-days during each school holiday. Here

relationships have been formed and have become sustainable and self-directed. The highly valued work within the primary schools has also been key to building connection and trust, developing and enabling faith that 'sticks'.

We are currently in a period of review as our previous project leader moved to a wider diocesan role in November 2025. We aim to recruit soon, having at least two years funding remaining. Meanwhile all the existing activities are continuing with the leadership of lay leaders. We remain committed to the Family Project as there is much opportunity for this work to continue to thrive and develop.

See & Know

See and Know is a long established and well-loved group (with twenty to thirty families attending regularly) and provides a safe and happy space for pre-school-age children and their parents or carers to meet each Thursday morning in the Methodist church hall, 9.30am-11.30am. Each session includes chat, play, singing, Bible stories, crafts and refreshments.

Meet to Eat community cafés

M2E was a 'not for profit' initiative run and supported by church members along with other



Sunday worship

community volunteers, providing soup and puddings for all ages in the Kirkby Lonsdale Methodist Church hall. Sadly, this group has just ceased to meet.

The volunteer-led Meet to Eat held fortnightly in Endmoor Village Hall continues to meet.

Coffee, Cake and Chat

This takes place on the last Monday of each month, hosted in Barbon village hall. Mansergh also holds a monthly event.

Christians Together in Lunesdale (CTiL)

We celebrate good working relationships via the active Christians Together group which creates a forum for deepening relationships and cooperation between Christians, discerning and developing a range of mission initiatives in the area.

CTiL promotes informed understanding of, and respect for, the gifts of various denominations and bodies locally and to encourage sharing, praying, worshipping, and working together. We aim to demonstrate Christian unity and to find opportunities to put this into practice. We come together for shared worship and celebrate festivals via Lent groups and an annual Good Friday open-air service in the Market Square. We participate in the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity and share in a covenant service together.

Fellowship groups

There is a Monday afternoon fellowship group fortnightly in KL Methodist Church hall, and a Wednesday evening Bible Study also takes place twice a month. A small prayer group meets fortnightly.

The Men's Breakfast

This usually takes place once a quarter in the KL Methodist Church hall, welcoming people of faith and no faith. Food, fellowship, and discussion are usually themed on a Christian subject with a talk by an invited speaker.

Each month the rota follows a similar pattern. Not every church has a service each week. Please see Appendix 1 for an example of a typical month. Figures for the number of weddings, Christenings and funerals are also attached.

Missionary links

Kisa Family Development Project, Uganda
Kisa advances the education of children and young adults in rural Uganda to break the cycle of poverty by providing skills training, financial literacy, community co-operatives and enterprise projects; relieves sickness and supports those with disabilities. (<https://kisaproject.co.uk>)

The Good Samaritan Orphanage, Vellatur, Andhra Pradesh, South India

This is supported by a local UK charity to help Ratnam and Suneetha Pallikonda, pastor and teacher, fulfil their vision of setting up an orphanage to help the large number of poor and 'untouchable' children and to improve conditions for people in this rural part of India. The project has grown from eight children in 2002 to over 150 at the main site with nearly 100 children on two other sites, and also now runs a primary school.. (<https://www.goodsamaritanorphanage.org.uk/>)

The Amasango Career School in Grahamstown/ Makhanda, South Africa

Amasango takes some of South Africa's poorest and most deprived children through an accelerated primary education, to enable them to catch up with their peers and move on to high school or to employment. (<https://www.amasango.org.uk/>)

Link with Norway

The Carlisle Diocese has a link with Stavanger Diocese and Grødem Church. We have enjoyed a visit from the church at Grødem and seek to exchange ideas and learn from each other. They were particularly interested in our ecumenical work and in the Family Project.

Our new mission community leader...

If we were to write the ideal CV it would look something like this –

- A team player, capable of bringing people together, encouraging and growing lay-led teams.
- Able to build on our good foundations, encouraging unity whilst celebrating diversity, and developing opportunities for growing our Christian communities through discipleship and worship.
- A good leader, resilient and with life and ministry experience.
- A visionary for embedding the mission community identity.
- Dedicated to working collaboratively and ecumenically in all ways.
- Able to continue to provide a range of worship across the different parts of the mission community as well as being supportive of the newer worshipping communities and experimental groups.
- Being competent to manage the governance and responsibilities of the church councils.
- Being confident as a community leader and able to nurture good working relationships with stake holders.

Your personal attributes and skills:

- A person who has a prayerful, deep lively faith.
- An engaging preacher, educator, and enabler.

- Warm and pastoral.
 - An excellent communicator, across the generations in all mediums.
 - A creative thinker who welcomes the ideas and creativity of others.
 - Able to work as part of a team and manage lay employees.
 - A good time manager and able to work well with staff and volunteers.
 - Considerate and measured in a crisis.
- And it's essential to have a sense of humour as well as more practically to be a driver with your own vehicle.



The parsonage

The Diocese is currently acquiring a new fully appointed parsonage in Kirkby Lonsdale with access to excellent schools and services. See Appendix 3.

Finance

Here are links to the end of year accounts for 2024, first for the Anglican Rainbow Parish: ([Please click here](#)) and then for Kirkby Lonsdale Methodist Church: ([Please click here](#)) NB These two links are provided solely for the information of those interested in the mission community vacancy. Please do not copy or distribute them more widely unless with permission.



Local services and major transport links

Schools
Within KL we have St Mary's CofE Primary School, (<https://www.stmarys-kl.cumbria.sch.uk/>) and Queen Elizabeth School / Studio School. (<https://qes.org.uk>) Also within the mission community lie St. Patrick's CofE Primary School in Endmoor and Sedbergh Preparatory School, Casterton. There is an FE college in Kendal.

Universities

The University of Cumbria at Lancaster ([Please click here](#)), The University of Lancaster (<https://www.lancaster.ac.uk/>), and The University of Central Lancashire, Preston (<https://www.lancashire.ac.uk/>)

Health services

There are two dental practices in Kirkby Lonsdale, and the Lunesdale Surgery GP medical practice. (<https://www.lunesdalesurgery.co.uk/>) Hospitals include the Westmorland General Hospital on the near side of Kendal – ten miles – ([Please click here](#)) and The Royal Lancaster Infirmary – twenty miles – ([Please click here](#))

Recreation

There are a range of excellent sports clubs and leisure facilities, and numerous groups and activities to enjoy.

Shopping

Kirkby Lonsdale has a Booths supermarket, a variety of smaller and specialist shops, and plentiful cafés and restaurants. Larger retail centres nearby include Kendal – twenty minutes driving time from KL – and Lancaster – thirty minutes.

Road and rail routes

We are on the A65, which runs from Kendal via Endmoor, Kirkby Lonsdale and Settle to Skipton and Leeds. However, there is not a lot of public transport.

Junction 36 of the M6 is six miles from KL, giving easy and speedy routes north and south.

Oxenholme station on the West Coast Main Line, which is twenty minutes away, offers fast rail services to Manchester, the Midlands and London, and to Glasgow and Edinburgh.

Appendix 1 – A typical month of Sundays

The Lunesdale & Endmoor Mission Community – a typical month of Sunday services

	Kirkby Lonsdale (St. Mary's) 11.00am	Preston Patrick 9.30am	Casterton, and Middleton	Barbon 11.00am	Hutton Roof 11.00am	Lupton 9.30am	Mansergh 11.00am
1 st Sunday	Holy Communion	Morning Service	Sunday services at festivals only. Casterton has a school service on Fridays during term-time.	Morning Service		Morning Service	
2 nd Sunday	Morning Service	Holy Communion		Morning Service	Morning Service		Holy Communion
3 rd Sunday	Morning Service Messy/Forestry (alternate months) Evensong 6.30pm	Morning Service		Holy Communion		Holy Communion	
4 th Sunday	Morning Service	Morning Service		Morning Service	Holy Communion		
5 th Sunday	Ecumenical Service	Morning Service					

Kirkby Lonsdale Methodist Church has services each week at 10.30am. Ministers and local preachers are scheduled through the Circuit. Mission Community Ministry Team involvement includes one Sunday per month.

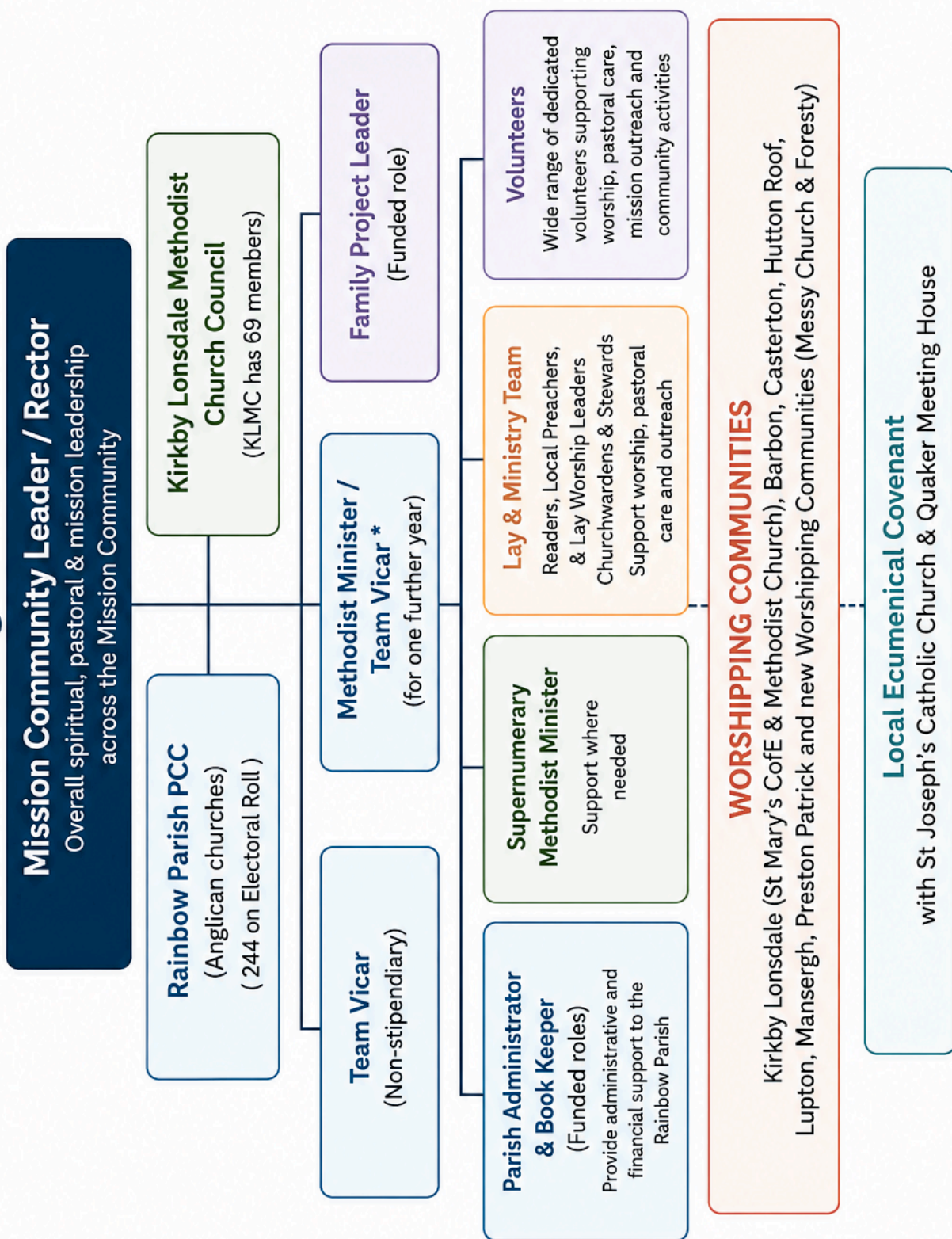
There is also a weekly mid-week Holy Communion service at Kirkby Lonsdale (St Mary's) Thursday 10.30am.

Life Events Statistics

	2024	2025	2026 to date
Baptisms	11	13	5
Weddings	9	4	12
Funerals/Ashes	41	27	20

Appendix 2 – Mission community staffing

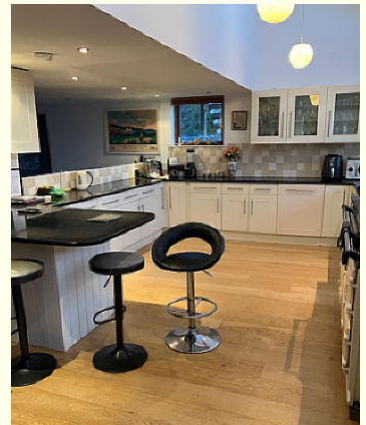
The Lunesdale and Endmoor Mission Community Staffing Structure



**Authorised in the role of Team Vicar*

Appendix 3 – Kirkby Lonsdale Parsonage

The property comprises a substantial detached house, providing light, spacious 4-bedroom, 4 reception, 3 bathroom, family accommodation (gross internal floor area approximately 311 sqm.) with gardens and garage. It had a large extension added about twenty years ago. It is conveniently placed for access to Kirkby Lonsdale town centre's shopping and recreational amenities. It has been well-maintained and substantially modernised in more recent years.



Our mission community prayer during this vacancy

God our Father,
you have welcomed each
one of us in Jesus Christ,
and called us to be His body in this
place.

At this time of uncertainty and
change, hold us fast.

Send your Holy Spirit, to inspire
faithfulness in unity, prayer, and
worship.

May we be true to our vision to help
our communities discover more of
God

and God's purpose for their lives.

Guide us with your wisdom and
grace,

as together we listen and watch and
wait.

Prepare the heart of your servant
elect to hear your call to serve with
us here.

May they be ready to walk alongside
with humility and joy,
to encourage our faith, and to lead
us by example in loving obedience
to your son, our Saviour, Jesus
Christ.

Amen.





The Lunesdale & Endmoor Mission Community

