



MINUTES of the meeting held on 16th September 2025 at Grange URC at 7pm

Rev Kate Hunt welcomed everyone to the meeting, especially Lois Sparling who had travelled from Cockermouth to be with us tonight. Kate then led the meeting in prayer.

Apologies were received from the following,
Rev Hayley Edmondson, Sue Nicol, Mark Houston, Janet Mardon, Alison Gawith, Kath Canning, David Wilmot & Brian McCann

Correspondence

Pam reported that, in July, she had sent a sympathy card to Trica Calway following the death of her husband. Trica was a past Joint Chair of this meeting.

The Minutes of last meeting were approved and signed.

Matters arising – none that are not covered elsewhere on the agenda.

Financial update

David Edmondson (treasurer) reported that he had now got a Debit card for our account. However, Lloyds said that from November, they would not be offering benefits for a charity account like ours and charges would be applied. David thought he might look at the Co-Op, which he thought still does not charge for charities. Kate wondered if Nat West do special rates for charities and David would look at Cumberland as well.
The Balance in Hand is £1075.

Action: David E to research various banks and what they could offer.

Looking back

- **The Ascension Walk** up Hampsfell to the Hospice was described by Kate as a group of Christians without any labels which was a lovely occasion. There was a brief time of worship and singing at the top, witnessed by some members of the public.
- The **Pentecost Picnic**, due to inclement weather, had to be held inside the Methodist Hall. It was a joyful occasion sharing food, fellowship & fun.
- **Prayer Space** was held for a week in July in Cartmel Priory school. Chris, Andrea, and their team have done it for 8 years. They had prayer stations based on the beatitudes, a resilience graffiti wall and thoughts about joy and forgiveness. They were able to leave their displays up for the week and build upon them.
- **Praise on the Prom** had occurred throughout July & August. 8 out of the 9 Sundays took place, with only one cancelled due to weather. The attendance was on average

30, pushing up towards fifty sometimes. David has sent an article to CTiC about this event.

- **Youth Celebration Service** – this was the third year of having this service and Kate said it was a joy to share it together. It was held at the URC this year. Some regret was expressed that not everybody was able to attend as some churches still felt they had to hold a service. It was suggested that we should consider holding it in the afternoon. Mervyn said it had been discussed by the Trustees, it was felt that if it were to be held as an extra service, maybe there wouldn't be as many people attending and they wanted to reach people who wouldn't normally come and share in the joy of the youth work. Overall, it was felt to have been a good celebration of youth work in the area and was thoroughly enjoyed by those who attended and gave thanks for the youth work that is being undertaken, especial thanks to Chris and Andrea.

Mervyn thanked all those who took part, saying it was good teamwork. He also said that they will always go to any church to share news of the youth work. Chris had previously endorsed that he, and Andrea, would go to churches who were not able to attend Sunday's service.

Action: Hazel will send Pam the link for the recording of the service and Pam will circulate it.

- Worship in residential homes, David said they could do with some more people to attend at Cartmel Grange. It is held on the last Tuesday of the month at 2.30pm for about half an hour.

Reports

- **Youth Trust** - Soul Fuel is building on past endeavours and is now meeting weekly in the URC. In August they joined Cumbria wide Network Youth Church trip to Dreaming the Impossible, a camp organised by vineyard Church that seeks to inspire youngsters to follow Jesus.

Future events

- Taizé – Stillness & Song is held every other month on 1st Sunday of the month. There are a good number of musicians from across the churches who lead a peaceful, reflective service. The next one is on October 5th at 6 '0 clock.
- Remembrance Events – St Pauls' officials will meet with the council to arrange this. Annette Miller will lead a service at the memorial on 11th November.
- Advent quiet morning - will be held on 6th Dec 9.30 – 12 at the Methodist Church. Sue Nicol has kindly agreed to lead this, and thanks were expressed for her willingness to do this.
- Advent Carol Service will be held at Boarbank on 30th Nov at 3pm. There will be a practice at 2 O'clock led by 'Vocal Joy' and anybody is welcome to join the choir. Carol words will be on a sheet.
- Week of Prayer for Christian Unity – 18th – 25th Jan. Different churches have offered to do a short act of worship for 20 mins followed by tea/ coffee.

19th Jan - Methodist 10 am

20th Jan St Johns/St Marys tbc

21st Jan St Pauls 10am
22nd Jan URC 10.30 am.
23rd Jan St Charles 10 am

Lois Sparling then addressed the meeting, thanking the group for sharing our activities and plans with her. She is part of the new Churches Together Community Social Action team which has been asked to take on the 'social responsibility' role of Churches together in Cumbria. They have associations with Anna Chaplaincy and issues such as Modern slavery, addiction, homelessness and poverty, using their expertise and experience to support member churches to work together on whatever they feel called to do in their local community.

As a point of interest, Coniston have renamed themselves, 'Christians Together.'

Kate thanked Lois for coming to share in our meeting, wishing her well in her new role.

AOB

- Pentecost next year will be 24th May. David suggested that we plan ahead and ask the council if we could have a band concert on St Charles' field on that day, if it was agreeable to St Charles' as well. The Band Stand is not a feasible venue due to the expense and not able to have a religious element. David will also have a word with someone from Ulverston Band to see if they might be willing/available to play.

Action: David E to contact the council and Ulverston Band

- The Priory Day, usually held for Y5 & 6 did not happen last year because of the lack of toilet facilities. Cartmel institute is now closed, which used to allow their facilities to be used, as are the toilets by the Methodist chapel, and there is only one toilet in Priory. David E said that would be a good idea to see if schools still want it due to change of heads. Mervyn said they have discussed it, and they need to see if schools want it, and there is the question of who would lead it now that Jenny Leahy has stepped down. Mervyn said it will be discussed at a future Trustees meeting.

Action: Mervyn to raise the question as to the future of the Priory Day at a Trustees meeting.

Date and venue of future meetings

Tuesday 13th January 2026 7pm – Fell Church – Anette will ask David tbc

Action: ALL: please come to the Jan meeting with availability of dates when churches can host the Lent Lunches

St Marys' have already confirmed they can do Friday 20th February.

Date of AGM Tuesday 12th May 2026 7pm venue tbc

Grange URC was thanked for hosting the meeting and The Grace was shared between members at the close.