



## Update from the Kent Estuary Mission Community Working Group December 2025

The task given to the Working Group is to identify proposals for how the eight churches\* can fulfil their collective calling to be the body of Christ in this area in the coming years. Our task is to identify a potential direction of travel; the details will come once that is agreed.

We are being realistic, but we are looking for growth, not retrenchment. Our suggested way forward will aim to enable the eight churches to build on their strengths and relationships and to become more able to grasp new opportunities to share the Gospel and to witness to its relevance.

Our emerging proposal will have at the heart of it a shared set of commitments. These would be agreed by the eight churches, not just as a vision statement but as the basis for concrete action that will be reviewed each year.

We are suggesting that individually and collectively the eight churches commit to:

- **Be truly ecumenical**
- **Sustain existing congregations**
- **Grow lay leadership and ministries**
- **Grow new disciples of all ages, including the “lost generation” and with an emphasis on children and families**
- **Enable new ways of being Church**
- **Support a Christian presence in each village**
- **Use available resources efficiently**
- **Be inclusive and open to the communities**
- **Be evolving / open to change.**

Delivery of such commitments in the churches and in our communities, will require us to do things together and differently, including in worship and witness.

The churches will need to look at how the human, financial and physical resources are being used, so that our energy and money is purposefully invested in the growth of the Kingdom in line with the commitments.

Over time, refreshment and renewal is likely to result in new, younger people being drawn in, bringing increased energy and income. However, we must start from where we are now. The Working Group is considering how action on the commitments might start within existing resources. We will have proposals for the development of a Ministry Team (ordained and lay) and for the way in which decision taking and accountability can aid achievement of our shared objectives.

The Working Group must complete its task in time to present its proposals at the special KEMC Gathering on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> January 2026. They will then be considered by each church council during February and March.

**In the meantime, the Working Group would welcome comments  
on the nine commitments set out above and asks for your ongoing prayers.**

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\*Levens Methodist Church; St John's, Levens; St Peter's, Heversham; St Thomas', Milnthorpe;  
St Michael and All Angels, Beetham, Storth Village Church; St James' Arnside; Arnside Methodist Church.