



January 2026

Dear friends,

This comes with warmest greetings at the beginning of 2026.

Following the Open Meeting, held at Arnside Methodist Church on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> October; to discuss the future of our shared ministry and mission across the Kent Estuary Mission Community, the volunteers who came forward to form the Working Group have been working hard – practically and prayerfully – to reflect on how we collectively approach the opportunities and challenges of the future.

The Working Group's conversations have included trying to shape a shared vision for the Mission Community, alongside developing a potential pattern of ministry and framework of governance that could support us going forward.

The Group was asked to complete its work by the end of January. Their proposals will be considered formally by the PCCs and Methodist Church Councils at their meetings in February and March. With the hope and intention being that, by the end of March, the Mission Community's Leadership Team will be able to report on the outcome of those meetings to the Archdeaconry Mission and Pastoral Committee.

As a result of this, we are inviting all members of the congregations of the eight churches in the Mission Community to come together in another Open Meeting on **Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> January at 7.00pm at Arnside Methodist Church.**

This meeting will be set within the context of worship – offering us all time and space to come together in God's presence and hear what the Spirit might be saying to the churches at this important moment in our common life together. It will also provide an opportunity for the Working Group to share its proposals and thoughts following these past weeks of discussion and discernment, and for us all collectively to pray for God's guidance and grace as we look to the future.

We hope you will join us then and will continue to hold all this before the Lord in your prayers.

Yours faithfully,

*The Kent Estuary Mission Community Leadership Team*