

# St Cuthbert's Church Over Kellet

## Parish Profile

**Diocese** Blackburn

**Deanery** Tunstall

**Patrons** Reformation Church Trust



### **Our mission values are to:**

- Be a witness to Jesus Christ in Over Kellet and the local community.
- Worship God in a way which brings comfort, joy and a challenge to all present.
- Work with God to show care and concern, not only for the members of the church but for the whole community.

**The Bishop of Blackburn**

*The Rt Revd Julian T Henderson*

*Dear potential applicant,*

**Ministry in the Diocese of Blackburn**

Thank you for your enquiry about a vacant post in the Diocese of Blackburn, the Church of England in Lancashire. We believe God wants His Church to grow, and so are looking for gifted and prayerful clergy with a heart for the Gospel and mission, who have the energy and enthusiasm to implement Vision 2026, *Healthy Churches Transforming Communities*. You can read more about Vision 2026 overleaf.

Almost all of our parishes have Vision Champions who have volunteered to work with their clergy and lay leadership in keeping the Vision on the PCC and congregation's agenda. The Vision is about a radical change of culture, in which we engage in new ways in making the unchanging Gospel of Jesus known in our communities.



The spiritual, physical and emotional health and the ongoing development of our clergy is very important to us.

Please be assured of my prayers as you consider whether to make an application.

*+ Julian*

Bishop of Blackburn

**Living in Lancashire**

Lancashire people are known for their warmth and friendliness and those who are new to the area find it to be an easy place to make friends. There are excellent transport connections and the surrounding countryside is spectacularly beautiful. For those with children, the Diocese has over 180 church schools including 10 high schools; the vast majority are rated as Good or Outstanding.



Canon Fleur Green  
Advisor for Women's  
Ministry

**Our call to Mission**

As a Diocese we are fully committed to the breadth and diversity of the Anglican tradition. Traditionalist, evangelical, catholic, progressive, Eucharistic, charismatic – we don't care what the label is. As long as you are passionate about sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ and long to make new disciples, there is a place for you in the Church of England in Lancashire.



+ Philip North  
Bishop of Burnley

## ***If you come to Blackburn Diocese we will look after you...***

- We have a great property department, who will do their best to ensure your house works for you and your family and is well maintained.
- We encourage all clergy to take their full annual leave entitlement, and also to use creatively the overtime we all put in to take an extra day off once each month, to enable you to have a midweek 'weekend' away.



We have a beautiful diocesan retreat house in the grounds of a ruined Cistercian abbey, where clergy are welcome to have personal reading days without charge (bring your own lunch).

### **Whalley Abbey Retreat and Conference Centre**

- We encourage all parishes in vacancy to consider how they will 'pastor' and support their new priest.
- We have a unique pattern of peer-led Ministerial Development Review, designed by the clergy for the clergy.
- We are setting up a pilot reflective practice group for clergy new in post, in partnership with St Luke's Healthcare.
- If you are looking for a spiritual director or a mentor we have networks of people with whom we can put you in touch.
- We are always looking for ways for clergy to mix apart from work – including reading weeks, regular hospitality, and a clergy walking group. Further suggestions are welcome.

### **Bishop Philip leads a clergy walk**



The year 2026 marks the centenary of the formation of the Diocese of Blackburn. In the ten years leading up to our centenary, Vision 2026 is a plan to turn around the long-term trend of gradually declining attendance. Our vision is for the growth of God's kingdom, not just of his church. Our vision is to develop healthy churches which transform their communities, a vision in which making disciples for Jesus Christ and pursuing social justice sit side by side.

Our vision has had a long gestation. When the Vacancy in See occurred in 2012 we began to look at how we were going to move forward as a diocese. On his arrival, Bishop Julian spent his first year visiting every member of the clergy in their homes and visiting all the parishes of the diocese. At the end of that first year, Bishop Julian shared his reflections and the vision began to become clearer. It was shared with the diocesan family in the deaneries and in a number of local events and unanimously adopted by the diocesan synod.

The first year was spent in prayer with the Vision 2026 as the focus. 2016 has seen the Vision develop, with parishes nominating Vision Champions who were commissioned in Preston Guild Hall along with Churchwardens in the presence of 1,600 people. As a diocese with our Vision, we are willing to face the cost of change; and in prayer we see the grace and power of God which can alone bring renewal and growth. We are committed to work together (clergy, laity, church schools, diocesan staff and the cathedral) to deliver Vision 2026 by:

### **Making disciples of Jesus Christ**

- Knowing the Scriptures better through reading, teaching, preaching and study
- Praying with greater depth and urgency for the Kingdom of God to come
- Giving generously of our time, talents and money to the cause of Christ

### **Being witnesses to Jesus Christ**

- Sharing the Gospel of salvation with confidence
- Holding regular enquirers courses in as many local churches as possible
- Showing God's love in action through projects that meet a local human need
- Offering thorough and accessible Baptism preparation and follow-up
- Planting or renewing 50 new strategic congregations by 2026

### **Growing leaders for Jesus Christ**

- Supporting and equipping the current leadership for today's context
- Enabling missional leadership in every Christian community
- Liberating lay leadership for greater participation
- Creating the varied patterns of Sunday and weekday worship necessary to welcome all kinds of people, especially the newcomer
- Prioritising work among children, young people and schools to raise up a new generation for Christ

### **The Diocesan Vision Prayer:**

*Heavenly Father, we embrace Your call for us to make disciples, to be witnesses and to grow leaders. Give us the eyes to see Your vision, ears to hear the prompting of Your Spirit and courage to follow in the footsteps of your Son, our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen*



## The Parish

The village of Over Kellet lies on the B6254 just one kilometre from junction 35 of the M6 motorway. Its centre is an open and unique village green which includes both a cross roads and slip roads in the form of a diamond shape. In early spring the Green is ablaze with daffodils planted by the pupils of the local Primary School. The village boasts the Parish Church of St Cuthbert's, a village store and Post Office, a refurbished Village Hall, a pub (The Eagles Head), Wilson's Endowed Church of England School, and a War Memorial, all of which have been featured in the 'Best Kept Village of Lancashire' Competition which was first won in 1999.

There are extensive views from most parts of the Village. The foreground is rural but embraces the narrow communications corridor taken up by the A6 trunk road and the M6 Motorway plus the West Coast Main Rail Line. The Lancaster Canal also passes close to the Village.

The background to this corridor includes Morecambe Bay to the west with the Lakeland Fells forming a backdrop all the way round to Shap. The limestone crags of Farleton Knott and Warton Crag take up the middle ground.

St Cuthbert's church and the Parish Council financially support the Over Kellet view which is published every month (except January and August) and distributed to all residents within the Parish of Over Kellet. It contains a letter from the Vicarage and church news and information and news about the Parish Council, Wilson's Endowed School, Neighbourhood Watch, Twinning Association, other Village societies and a diary of village events.

In the 2011 census data 70% of the 800 parishioners aligned themselves as being Christian and 41% had level 4 qualifications and above (Bachelor's degree or equivalent and higher qualification) compared to the national average of 27%.

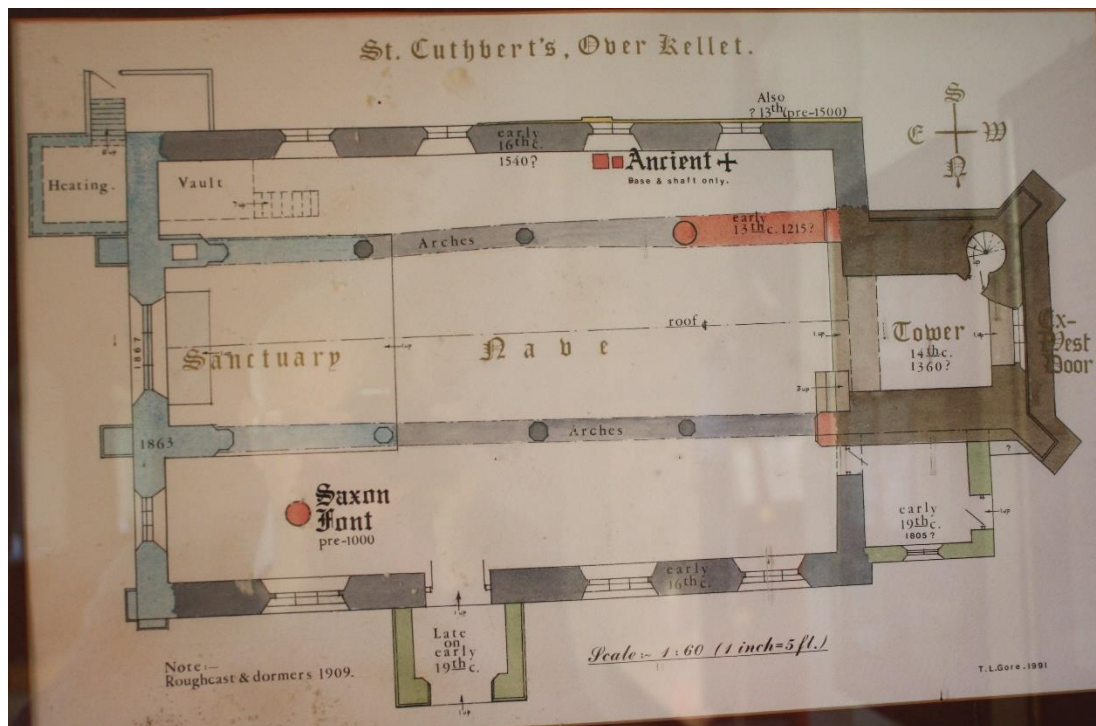
Further information about the Parish is available at [www.overkellet.org](http://www.overkellet.org)



Over Kellet Village Green in winter

## The Church Building

The church is situated on the south side of the village on the Nether Kellet Road. It is most likely that there has been a church in the village since Saxon times as the granite stone font probably dates from about AD900. The church which stands here today has been partly rebuilt and modified several times. In about 1251 there was a stone church on this site and the stonework of the western arch in the south aisle is from that period. In the mid 1300s a tower was added at the west end and may have been made taller in the mid 1500s, it is a heavy construction with a turreted parapet and diagonal buttresses. The tower has three bells with inscriptions. One may be medieval and is inscribed 'Sancte Petre ora pro nobis'. A second bell has an inscription 'Jesus be our speed 1664' and the third is inscribed 'T Mears of London 1824'. The box pews in the nave were erected in 1819 but those along the south wall bear the date 1690. The East Window was installed in 1868 in memory of John Booker. The church roof was restored in 1970, a vestry room in the base of the tower was constructed in 1992 and in 2006 a toilet was added on the north side beside the porch. A small kitchen is available in the old vestry.



Whilst much more could be written about the history of our ancient church it is our desire that it will continue to be a living witness to the saving power of our Lord Jesus Christ and that the building will continue to be a place where God is worshipped 'in spirit and in truth'.

### Tunstall Deanery prayer

'O Lord, good shepherd, look with mercy on Thy flock in this deanery, keep us from straying into error and guide us into fruitful pastures. Our lot has been cast in pleasant places; make us mindful of our great heritage; and here where Thy name has been faithfully praised through many ages, let us not in our day be unworthy of continuing this so gracious a work, through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

## Worship at St Cuthbert's

The following services are held and led by the Vicar and the Lay Reader.

08.45 Holy Communion – no sermon (BCP)

10.30 Morning Worship (St Cuthbert's order of service) 1<sup>st</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> Sundays

10.30 All Age worship (St Cuthbert's order of service) 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday

10.30 Holy Communion (St Cuthbert's order of service) 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday

10.30 Methodist Service 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday

Additional Services are held on Good Friday, Harvest Festival, Remembrance Sunday and Christmas Eve.

Plans to start a mid-week Communion service using Common Worship are pending.

We use Methodist Hymns Old and New as the principle hymn book. The New International Version of the Bible is used at all services and NIV pew Bibles are available for the congregation.

For 5 years we have had the invaluable support of our Lay Reader whose ministry and service have been a great blessing and we look forward to his continuing support in the years to come. We have a dedicated and competent organist who is keen for musical innovation and engagement in worship development. A singing group is formed for special church services and this is an area for future development.

Tea, Coffee and refreshments are served after the 10.30 services which gives us time for fellowship with one another and welcoming newcomers.

In 2015 there were 44 on the electoral roll.





### Attendance at Services in 2015

- The Sunday 08.45 Communion Service has had an average attendance of 9 per service. This represents a drop of approx. 20% in comparison with the previous year.
- The 10.30 Sunday Service has had an average attendance of 28 per service. This represents a drop of approx. 10% overall compared with the previous year but a 20% drop with the Methodist Service.
- Sunday school – This was re-designated as the Fish Club and held in the school. Attendance immediately increased 3 to 4 fold.
- There were 4 Funeral Services in church, no Baptisms and no Weddings.
- There were 4 School Services in church (Harvest, Christingle, Easter and end of year celebration), each with an attendance of between 130 and 170. The Christingle attracts 150 children + at least 200 adults, standing room only.
- 'Special' Services included: Dedication of New Lectern Bible, Service of Remembrance and the Christmas Carol Service – all of which attracted much higher attendances.

Whilst the drop in attendance at the 'standard' Sunday Services is of concern, lessons can be learned from the 'Special Services' attendance.



Christingle Service at St Cuthbert's



### **Church Rotas**

Rotas are established for Sidespersons, Readers, Leading Prayers, Church Cleaning, Teas and Flowers.

### **Church Maintenance**

The Quinquennial Inspection Report (QQI) – this was carried out in June, 2015. The detailed report identified 17 key areas as '*Urgent*' and requiring immediate attention at an estimated cost in excess of £26,000. A further 4 areas were classified as '*Requiring attention within 12 months*' at an estimated cost of £600.

Work carried out by the Church Wardens has included repairs to concrete path, painting of metal gates and railings, commencement of repair and painting to gutters and downpipes, clearance and cleaning of interior of tower, repair of one section of pews and re-carpeting of some pews. Work by contractors has attended to roofing repairs, tower drainage repair, repair and painting of dormer windows and fitting of a lightning conductor.

In addition two specialists from the Diocesan Advisory Committee carried out a detailed inspection of the bells and cradles and confirmed that they are currently unsafe to use.

In summary there is a costly amount of work still to be undertaken to meet the QQI requirements and a serious shortfall of funding in the church's Building Account to pay for it and substantial additional funding is also required.

### **Churchyard/Carpark Maintenance**

The general cutting of grass and churchyard maintenance has been carried out by a small team of 3 helpers. The village lengthsmen is also paid to trim areas not accessible to a mower as well as weed spraying of carpark and verges.

### **Young people's work**

There is a very good relationship between the Church and School. As well as being a school governor the Vicar has taken a very active role in giving pastoral support to the school, leading school worship services at least once a week and leading community worship once a month. Each year several pupils from the village school are confirmed after attending confirmation classes run by the Vicar. The church pays for bibles to be given to all school leavers which are presented at a leavers service in church. The school hosts the monthly Sunday school (Fish Club) which has been a very successful initiative and attended by 11-14 young people. There is a very committed team of six leaders led by the head teacher and the young people from the Fish club contribute to the All Age Worship service in church.

Although there is no longer a youth club in the village, Capernwray Hall hosts monthly Rock Solid meetings for 14-25 year olds for fun, fellowship and following Jesus.



Fish Club after All age Worship

## Mission Action Plan

Following questionnaires to the congregation and parishioners and an open meeting chaired by Rev David Banbury, the Diocesan Missioner, our Mission Action Plan was developed in 2014 and endorsed and launched by Julian, Bishop of Blackburn in March 2015.

The commitment, enthusiasm and prayerful support of our MAP has been well rewarded with many successful new initiatives.

Most of the five teams (worship development, faith development, community development, pastoral, children and young peoples) have met regularly and made excellent progress with the proposals developed at the planning meeting.

A progress report outlining the outcome of the MAP proposals is available (Appendix A).

Of specific encouragement has been the growth of the Sunday school (Fish Club) with over 14 young people attending monthly meetings in the Village School and also their imaginative involvement at the All Age Worship Services. The enthusiastic involvement of the whole team and the head teacher Jo Williams has been exceptional. Bi-monthly Charity Coffee mornings in the Village Hall have been successful and have raised over £750 for Cancer Care, the local Foodbank, Combat Stress and Guide Dogs for the Blind.

Well attended and very successful new services (Remembrance Day, Ecumenical Candlelit Carol Service) have been held and a relaunch of the Village summer Fayre with a flower festival in church and a Harvest Festival is planned for 24-25<sup>th</sup> September. The Bishop of Lancaster is the guest preacher.

A rota for leading prayers in church has been well received.

All that has been achieved could not have happened without hard work and commitment of many people who deserve our sincere thanks.

It is proposed to hold another MAP development meeting in 2016, chaired by David Banbury, to review the progress made, develop new proposals and review the five implementation teams. This will also be an opportunity to consider our response to The Diocesan Vision 2026 and Crossroads Northern Bishop's Mission in Sept 2016.

The March edition of the Diocesan See Magazine reminded us, if we do nothing....nothing will happen, as we reflect on our MAP we are so grateful for all that has been achieved in our Lord's strength and His ministry at St Cuthbert's.



Pupils from school at Remembrance Day Service on Village Green

## **Mission**

We are regular supporters of the Leprosy Mission, Church of England Children's Society and local foodbank. We regularly pray for 3 former members of our Sunday School who are in full-time ministry abroad.

## **Fellowship & Social Events**

Visitors to the church frequently comment on the warm welcome they receive at St Cuthbert's. A weekly Bible study is held in the Village Hall, led by the Vicar, and attended by approximately 12 people. During Lent a course is held using prepared material.

Bimonthly coffee mornings to support charities have been successful in providing fellowship for church members and members of the village community.

Fund raising events have included a Strawberry fayre and Christmas fayre.

## **Financial**

Since 1999 we have been unable to meet the Parish share and in March 2016 the total balance outstanding was £416,941. This is considered to be a notional long term liability which St Cuthbert's is unable to meet, similarly we will be unable to meet the 2016 Parish share assessment of £51,733.

Cash in bank accounts at 31.12.2015 was £18,755 of which £9,338 is in restricted funds to maintain the church, churchyard and improve the heating system. The financial report for year ending 2015 is available as Appendix B.

Fund raising events to support specific local issues have resulted in the installation of a new church organ, a new church heating boiler and church toilet.

## **Links with other Churches and organisations**

- **Methodist Church**

Strong links with the Methodist Church have been maintained following the signing of the local covenant (see below) and on the 4th Sunday at 10.30 a Methodist Service, led by a Methodist lay preacher, is held.

- **Capernwray Hall**

is a 19th century mansion set in 175 acres of parkland, within the Parish of Over Kellet. It was purchased in 1946 for use as a Christian holiday and conference centre and was first used as a Bible School in 1949, to meet the demand for good, sound Bible teaching for the many new converts from the holidays and conferences. Since then, more and more people have taken advantage of the holidays and Bible teaching offered. Each winter the Hall is home to up to 180 students, from sometimes as many as 30 different nations. During the summer months more than 1,500 guests from all walks of life will come through Capernwray's doors. In addition Capernwray boasts one of the area's most pleasant Swimming Pools and an excellent Sports Hall, both of which are used extensively by the local communities.

The Bible schools engages in the local community and churches with evangelistic events led by students and staff, and hosts an annual Christmas concert and Open day which are very well supported by local residents.

Further information about Capernwray Hall is available at [www.capernwray.org](http://www.capernwray.org)



- **Wilson's Endowed CE School Over Kellet**

is a Voluntary Aided Church of England School in the parish of Over Kellet with Capernwray, in the diocese of Blackburn. The school was founded over three hundred years ago and it has been an important part of the village community ever since. The school offers primary education to children aged 4 to 11. The present building was built in 1973 and is spacious and well maintained with four classrooms, and a separate library. There is also a space which is used for worship, P.E., music, dinners, concerts and other events. The school is surrounded by attractive and spacious gardens, a playground and a playing field. At Wilson's Endowed the staff all work together as a committed and dedicated team, to achieve high standards of teaching and attainment. Our school prides itself on its welcoming, family atmosphere. Our community is made up of a wide variety of people including governors, staff, parents and pupils. We also welcome grandparents, neighbours and villagers to share in the life and work of our school. Our church and diocesan links are very important to us. We work closely with the local church and clergy and we are proactive in the teaching of Christian values in order to nurture all aspects of our pupils' development ~ academic, spiritual, social and moral.

School's updated mission statement

[www.wilsonprimary.org.uk/starnet/media/office/MISSION\\_STATEMENT\\_2015.pdf](http://www.wilsonprimary.org.uk/starnet/media/office/MISSION_STATEMENT_2015.pdf)

The 2013 Ofsted grading: Overall Good with outstanding for behaviour.

The Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) graded the school as outstanding in every area.



School head-teacher and pupils in Westminster Abbey in 2015

- **Women's World Day of Prayer**

St Cuthbert's has hosted an annual WDP service in the Village for over 25 years which is a well-attended ecumenical event, with an outside speaker and Christians from different denominations.



## Covenant with Methodist Church

In 1992 following the closure of the Village Methodist Church, 'The Over Kellet Church Partnership' was signed by the Bishop of Blackburn, the Methodist District Chairman, the Vicar of Over Kellet and the Methodist Minister, which stated;

### A Local Covenant and Declaration of Intent

BY THE GRACE OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST,  
THE LOVE OF GOD, AND THE FELLOWSHIP OF  
THE HOLY SPIRIT

We, the ministers and people of  
The Parish Church of St Cuthbert and the Methodist Church, Over Kellet –

**CONFESS** our common faith in one God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit,  
As revealed in Holy Scriptures;

**RECOGNISE** one another as members of the Body of Christ, repenting of those divisions  
which have occurred in history, and of our part in sustaining them;

**REJOICE** in the richness of the traditions we have inherited and seek to understand,  
appreciate and share them more fully with one another;

**COMMIT** ourselves in obedience to the guidance of the Holy Spirit to promote the fullness of  
communion that is in accordance with Christ's will.

*As one congregation we therefore covenant*

To deepen our commitment to Christ and to each other through prayer, worship and  
fellowship;

To increase our understanding, explore our differences, and grow in appreciation of our  
traditions;

To study together our Christian beliefs and convictions, and their application within the world;

To assess our resources and to deploy them in the most effective way in ministry, pastoral  
care and evangelism;

To make more visible to the world the unity of Christ's people



Capernwray students with Mark & Linda Thomas at Methodist service

## Future Vision

**Our vision** is to:

- Work with children, young people and families
- Develop worship, faith and Christian spiritual transformation
- Engage and build community
- Bring others to faith in Christ
- Utilise all the various gifts our Church members have to offer

This will be achieved by reviewing and further developing our existing teams.

**Our priority goals** are:

- **Children and families**
  - Further developing the successful Sunday School (Fish Club) and All Age Worship Service
  - Baptism and Confirmation follow up
  - Holiday club
  - School choir in church for festivals and special events
- **Worship**
  - Worship team to plan services and revise liturgy
  - Congregational involvement in services
  - Joint church and school events
- **Faith**
  - Weekly prayer meeting
  - Weekly Bible study
  - Support Food Bank, Children's Society and Leprosy Mission
- **Community**
  - Promote bi-monthly coffee mornings in village hall
  - Home visiting
  - New residents pack
  - Development of village emergency plan
  - Transport availability
- **Outreach**
  - Back to church services
  - Discipleship course
  - Revise church website and develop social networking

## Challenges

- We have a faithful elderly and committed congregation and our greatest challenge is to achieve sustained church growth especially with young families.
- Encouraging many parishioners who have previously worshipped at St Cuthbert's to re-engage with the village church and build up a united Christian community is a key priority.
- We accept that it is no longer a viable option to have a full time minister solely responsible for our small community and we seek new ways of developing ministry as a combined benefice. The resultant reduction in our Parish share would enable us to be financially viable.
- Exploring ways with the diocese of addressing the burden of the parish debt which has arisen and been increasing over the past 20yrs is a major challenge.
- Maintaining our ancient Parish Church following the recent quinquennial review is a significant but achievable challenge.
- We are anxious to engage and take an active part in the Blackburn Diocese Vision 2026

## **What the PCC is looking for in a new incumbent**

We are a parish church in which worship under the ministry of the present incumbent has generally favoured the low tradition of the Church of England. However, we understand our new minister will come with his or her own gifts, strengths and approach to liturgy, spirituality, theology and pastoral care, which may be different from our former long-serving vicar.

We would wish for a minister who

- has the gifts to communicate faith in our Lord Jesus Christ in a relevant and compassionate way.
- is pastorally sensitive, with a passion for building community and who fosters unity among Christians.
- strongly supports marriage and family life.
- will support the Christian ministry in the school, provide pastoral support for staff and families and provide Christian vision as part of the school's governing body.
- has a heart for the spiritual growth and transformation of believers to become more Christ-like in their lives and service.
- will encourage the laity to develop and use their gifts to be 'the body of Christ'.
- has a heart for ecumenism and a willingness to develop mutually beneficial links with Capernwray Bible School and other local Christians and churches of other denominations.
- has an openness to engage in new ways of expanding ministry and the growth of our church for the glory of God.

22.05.16

**Appendix A** Mission Action Plan progress report 2016

**Appendix B** Treasurer's report 2015