CHURCHES TOGETHER IN CUMBRIA

ANNUAL REPORT 2025-26

Cumbria Ecumenical Spirituality Group

God for All

Anna Chaplaincy for older people Cumbria

CHAIR'S REPORT

Revd Derek Lacey - CTiC Chair

Over the last year the trustees have met on four occasions (July, October, January and May). At the January meeting we said goodbye to Richard Snow, our vice president, and Alistair Smeaton. They had both made a significant contribution to the work of CTiC over many years and they are missed. Their departure reduced the number of trustees to four people (Bill Bewley, Paul Burden, Kath Dodd and Derek Lacey). CTiC has since been advertising for new trustees, including one to take on the role of Treasurer.

Members of the trustees have also met with Church leaders twice, in December and May. The second of these meetings took the form of a workshop which explored how the work of CTiC as a charity aligned with Church leaders priorities and how stronger connections might be built between the church leaders and CTiC.

At the trustees meeting on 11 May the trustees, informed by discussions with Church leaders, appointed Derek Lacey as Chair and Kath Dodd as Vice Chair of CTiC.

VICE-CHAIR'S REPORT

Revd Kath Dodd - Vice-Chair of CTiC

Over the past year CTiC has done a lot of work behind the scenes to update policies and operating systems. David Honour has supported our work on a GDPR policy along with all the necessary actions, while Jill Webb Training has supported the overhaul of our Safeguarding policy and processes.

Part way through 2025, Charlotte Lait joined us as Admin Support, and encouraged us to use Google Workspace to provide a secure online working environment for the whole CTiC team. It has been a demanding move but the team have engaged with the changes with commitment. There is still some work to do, but we are moving to a place where we are operating with the highest levels of online security and Charity Commission Compliance.

FINANCIAL REPORT

2025

Revd Kath Dodd, CTiC Treasurer

INCOME:
We are grateful to the denominations for their ongoing financial support (which includes a 4% increase on the previous year), to the Churches Together groups (with an increase of around 4%), to Westmorland and Furness for their grant of £2343, and to Gateway Church for their funding of £17K. Both the latter funds are directed towards the work of Jonny Gios, enabling him to do more than the one day per work which CTiC funds.

The final grant payment from the Henry Smith Foundation to support Sam Pester, Anna Chaplaincy (AC) lead, was made in September 2024. This supported the AC work throughout most of 2025. CTiC agreed to support Sam to the end of 2026. Further funding is urgently being sought to continue the work beyond that date.

EXPENDITURE:
During the year, Jo Phillips, (our previous Ecumenical Social Responsibility officer) was joined by Lois Sparling and Jonny Gios, to make a Community Social Action Team (CSAT) of three. We were also joined by Charlotte Lait, Admin Support, and each is funded one day per week. This raised outgoings by 50% on the previous year. This was a planned increase, as CTiC wants to ensure that income is made to work, and isn't accumulated. Our current Reserves policy allows us to keep £35K (6 months expenditure). A new expenditure is for Policy advice and support – in the areas of Safeguarding and GDPR.

CTIC began the year with a balance of £117K, and ended with a balance of £114K. We anticipate ending 2026 with a balance of £71K. We are looking for grant funding to maintain the work of the CSAT at the current level. If anyone has expertise in this area, please let me know.

COMMUNITY SOCIAL ACTION TEAM

Revd Derek Lacey

This report covers the period June 2025 to May 2026.

The social action team, formed in April 2025, has been fostering opportunities for social action in Cumbria through connections with local government, third sector and churches. The team had two team building events during the year (December and March) to assess the effectiveness of current activities, explore potential new areas of work and set priorities. The team members (Jonny Gios, Jo Phillips and Lois Sparling) are currently funded by CTiC for a day each per week (with Jonny receiving funding for an extra day)

Highlights of work completed or in progress follows:

- Suicide Awareness/Prevention Project (Jo and Lois)

Exploring a diocese-wide offer of a menu of training options (e-learning, online interactive, face to face).

- Faith in Social Action Conference (All) Proposal

Work has commenced to prepare an event to spotlight great church social action work around the county, to inspire churches and to inform non-church partners.

- Modern Slavery Network Event, Workington, May 2026 (Jo)

Work to support the modern slavery network continues with the most recent event held in West Cumbria, covering the topic of sexual exploitation and how exploitation affects maternity and midwifery care. The event itself was a success and many new network members have joined (250).

- Give A Day Kendal June 2026 (Jonny) Grant funded.

This new initiative, developed in collaboration with Westmorland and Furness council and numerous partners, has prepared several projects with others in the pipeline.

- Resilience Project (Jonny)

Jonny is CTIC's representative on the group. 22 churches across have offered emergency resources/facilities so far. Jonny is working with the Penrith team to map. The current focus is on funding for generators and battery packs in event of power cuts.

- Faith Covenant (Jonny)

Official signing on 1 July at Kendal Town Hall. Jonny has been talking to mayoral candidates about how they will work with the faith communities if elected, hoping to provide a path forward from the covenant to practical cooperation across the county.

- Health & Spiritual Wellbeing Project (Lois)

This project decided to focus on populating and popularising existing online resources used by social prescribers, GPs and others - providing information for Christian projects and services to help them register services and encouraging churches and others to use Joy and Hub of Hope to find those projects and services. The project is working with the NHS and social prescribing teams to do this.

- Chaplaincy Strategy Group (Lois)

A recent statement of intent focuses on supporting chaplaincy across the diocese, including safer recruitment, supervision and training. CTiC is ready to offer safer recruitment support for those who cannot access it easily through their denominations. There is potential for CESG Spiritual Directors to offer chaplaincy in some cases.

- CT Groups (Lois)

Now in regular contact with most of the active CT groups but with some still to meet. Focussing on celebrating existing activity through the newsletter and new website and encouraging attendance at the Gathering.

- Community Cohesion Work (Jo & Jonny)

Multi-sector groups are gathering North & South, and with involvement from both Local Authorities to speak into the problematic issues bringing about disunity in our communities through unity statements and positive messaging about the value of rich diversity.

- Refugees & Asylum Seekers (Jo)

Work continues to connect with organisations supporting this group of people. Jo has spoken and met with various forums and drop-in meetings (e.g. Cumberland Sanctuary Network & West Cumbria Refugee Support Network, Carlisle MCC project).

ANNA CHAPLAINCY REPORT

Sam Pester - Anna Chaplaincy Lead for Cumbria

Anna Chaplaincy has grown significantly in Cumbria over the course of the ministry helping to alleviate chronic loneliness for the elderly in Cumbria and bringing substantial wellbeing and spiritual support to those we serve. Our dedicated volunteers have worked in care homes, hospitals, in people's homes and in churches. The elderly we work with are often infirm through physical disability, illness or frailty. Their lack of mobility and often fuel poverty mean they are no longer able to access churches or services that would bring them spiritual support. We have also supported the Anglican clergy in Cumbria who have said that our Anna Chaplains are a lifeline to them and bring a substantial growth to the church in which they serve. We have a thriving ministry in the South of the county, where in Barrow our Chair Paul Burden and the Steering Group work intergenerationally with the young people at the schools in Barrow. These kind young people have helped to write hundreds of gift tags and write a prayer on each one for the elderly folk in Barrow.

In Kendal there is a thriving Anna Chaplaincy who serve mainly the care homes and the tea services. Sadly we have to announce that we have just lost a dear team member and Anna Friend Marilyn Fishwick. She will be remembered very fondly by all of the team for her kindness and devotion to the elderly.

We have seen the good news of our very first Salvation Army Captain and Canon, Captain Hillary Borthwick in Kendal. Hilary is dedicated to serving the care homes she works in and the local community.

We have built a strong team of over 138 volunteers across the county, including the young people who proudly serve for their community and school.

As the ministry reaches it's 5th year of service, we have now helped 81,595 people across Cumbria.

The Anna Chaplaincy Lead has given a number of training sessions for Anna Friends in Cumbria so that our volunteers feel well trained. Some of the interesting comments that have come from these sessions are that the volunteers feel that ageing is a unique experience, some feeling that there is a loss of liberty as mobility declines and ‘things are taken off them’, such as driving licence or the ability to travel. Whereas others feel it is a benefit as they have more patience and time for family or just to contemplate life. We take this into the work that we do and reflect on this as we work with a diverse background of people.

We have also discussed at the training events what gives us hope? What does this mean to each one of us. Working ecumenically and with people who have a faith or no faith at all, this can mean different things to each one of us. But finding what gives someone hope can change their life even in the later stages and bring a sense of peace.

Our volunteers have frequently said that people may have no faith, but they ask us to pray for them and feel comforted by this. One of the frequent questions asked by the trainee Anna Friends is that they have a fear of knowing how to pray for someone and what should they say. The Lord’s prayer is a good prayer that everyone knows and loves if someone feels they are unable to think what to say.

We have now had many ministers report that our volunteers take considerable pressure off the Anglican clergy in particular. This may lead to us approaching Henry Smith again for a further grant to continue this ministry and other grant funders.

The Lead regularly monitors the progress of our charity and how each Anna Chaplain and area are doing. The outcomes are measured every few months across the county. The methods have to be easy for the volunteers to use and accessible. The quality of the data has been important and each area collects their own data so that it is as close to the source as possible.

We hope now to continue this work into the future with further funding from a number of sources.

A huge thank you is given to CTiC for funding this ministry for a further year, which takes the funding after the Henry Smith funding to the end of December 2026.

CUMBRIA ECUMENICAL SPIRITUALITY GROUP

Joanne Maybury - CESG Administrator

Our vision:

To journey with Christians in Cumbria in discovering the joy and depth of prayer as it draws us home to God, and to ourselves, and to the world in which we live. To encourage everyone to discover their unique pathway to enjoying God and glorifying Him in their daily lives.

This past year has been a year of transition in the team. Four of our team have stepped down for personal reasons. We are grateful to Helen Bailey, Becca Gilbert, Lesley McCririe and Ruth Lee for the wisdom and insight they brought to our team and resourcing of the network. We are especially grateful to Ruth for her prayerful service as our matching co-ordinator. Marjorie Arnold has now joined us to take over Ruth's role at a time when our procedures are changing.

We have had two main foci this year: to continue to resource the 38 Spiritual Directors on the Network, and to complete work on our safe recruiting procedures. At the same time, we have had twelve requests for a spiritual director.

In May and September 2025, we held resource days for our Spiritual Directors and other Directors in and near Cumbria. The theme was Deep calls to Deep: Visual arts and the knowledge of God. Judith Woolley, artist and retreat host, facilitated the day exploring how art can be used in spiritual direction and giving participants the opportunity to pick up paper and glue! Both were well attended and received. Our annual Network day at Rydal Hall took place in October. We had a very stimulating and useful time considering and practising peer supervision. This was led by Ali Betteridge with help from Helen Bailey and Lesley McCririe.

During the year we have come under the governance of CTiC and have benefitted hugely from being able to work together to update policies and procedures for safe recruiting and safeguarding. With support from CTiC and the Diocese we hope to complete the work by the end of September.

We now have our own page on the CTiC website under Spirituality, continue to advertise in the CTiC newsletter, the Diocesan newsletter, and further afield in the Retreat Association Handbook. This year CTiC granted CESG £500 toward operating and development costs, and now covers the cost of our administrator's work.

Looking ahead, we anticipate an upturn in people requesting spiritual direction from the autumn onwards when we will be in a good position to respond. We will continue our resource days (Inspiration from Science and Nature) and in November hold our Network Day at Rydal (Exploring Silence).

CESG Team Members:

Marjorie Arnold (Matching Co-ordinator), Ali Betteridge (Supervision Co-ordinator), Kath Dodd (Ecumenical Liaison) CESG Annual Report to CTiC May 2026
Jo Maybury (Admin Support)

Cumbria Ecumenical Spirituality Group

MEMBER CHURCHES

Baptist Union of Great Britain
Religious Society of Friends
Methodist Church
United Reformed Church
Church of England
Salvation Army
Roman Catholic Church

CTIC TRUSTEES

Revd Derek Lacey
Mr Paul Burden
Mr Bill Bewley
Revd Kath Dodd

OFFICERS & STAFF

Chair - Revd Derek Lacey
Treasurer and Vice Chair: Revd Kath Dodd
Facilitator of Community Social Action Team: Revd Derek Lacey
Anna Chaplaincy Lead: Samantha Pester
Trustee for Anna Chaplaincy: Mr Paul Burden
Admin to Cumbria Ecumenical Spirituality Group: Jo Maybury assistantcesg@ctic.uk
CTiC Admin Support: Charlotte Lait - admin@ctic.uk

COMMUNITY SOCIAL ACTION TEAM

North Cumbria: Jo Phillips - jo@ctic.uk
West & Central Cumbria: Lois Sparling - lois@ctic.uk
South & East Cumbria: Revd Jonny Gios - jonny@ctic.uk

CHARITY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Charity Name	No (if any)
Churches Together in Cumbria	1191358

Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period from	Period start date 01/01/2025	To	Period end date 31/12/2025

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Denominations	35,938	-	-	35,938	35,438
Local Groups Donations received	1,685	-	-	1,685	1,890
Bishop Radford -Modern Slavery Grant		1,000		1,000	
Other member donations	-	-	-	-	160
Deposit account interest received	173	-	-	173	256
Gateway Church for Johnny Gios	-	17,374	-	17,374	-
Westmorland & Furness	-	2,343	-	2,343	-
Modern Slavery Project	-	-	-	-	7,250
Social Action Audit -Restricted					4,000
The Henry Smith Charity					25,900
Anna Chaplaincy	-	-	-	-	198
***Sub total** (Gross income for AR)*	37,796	20,717	-	58,513	75,092
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	37,796	20,717	-	58,513	75,092
A3 Payments					
Salaries & Pension -CSAT-JP	2,719	3,343	-	6,062	6,498
Salary & Pension- Anna Chaplaincy	23,845		-	23,845	22,930
CSAT-Modern Slavery projects-expenses	654	-	-	654	147
Trustees & Volunteers expenses	-	-	-	-	1,353
Social Action Project costs	-	-	-	-	5,611
Social Action audit restricted costs-JG	8,424	1,434	-	9,858	2,000
CSAT-LS	5,439		-	5,439	547
Cinnamon Projects		2,000		2,000	-
Finance, Admin, & examiners costs	7,243			7,243	4,438
Meetings/events costs incl room hire	853			853	1,258
Administration costs -insurance /Zoom	1,031			1,031	750
Website Costs	413			413	443
Payroll Costs	396	1		396	396

Secretarial costs	-			-	348
Anna Chaplaincy training costs	150			150	350
Honorarium costs				-	1,000
Anna Chaplaincy expenses	1,129			1,129	1,379
Donations & grants paid	425			425	966
Policy Advice-Safeguarding	300	-	-	300	-
Cumbria Ecumenical -Grant	1,500	-	-	1,500	-
Sub total	54,521	6,777	-	61,298	50,415
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	
	-	-	-	-	
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	54,521	6,777	-	61,298	50,415
Net of receipts/(payments)	- 16,725	13,940	-	- 2,785	24,676
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	-	-	-	-	-
Cash funds this year end	- 16,725	13,940	-	- 2,785	24,676

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Current Account balance 31.12.2025	75,210	17,374	-
	Deposit Account balance 31.12.2025	21,929	-	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	97,139	17,374	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	Agreement Error	Agreement Error	OK

	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-

	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B3 Investment assets			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

		-	-
		-	-
		-	-

B5 Liabilities

Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
Nest Creditor at 31.12.2025	238	-	
		-	
		-	
		-	
		-	

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
	Kath Dodd	
	Treasurer & Vice President	

Independent examiner's unqualified report (for a non-company charity preparing receipts and payments accounts) with a gross income of £250,000 or less in the relevant financial year

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of the Churches Together in Cumbria (CTiC), charity number 1191358.

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the KDDC for the year ended 31st December 2025.

Responsibilities and basis of my Report

As the charity trustees of the CTiC you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by section 130 of the Act;
2. the accounts do not accord with those records.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed: D. G. Grey.

Name: David Geoffrey Grey

Relevant professional qualification or membership of professional bodies (if any): Retired Solicitor

Address: Sunnyfield, Storth Road, Storth, Milnthorpe, LA7 7JA

Date: 6th July 2026