

| Section B   | Disclosure  |
|---|---|
| <p>Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.</p> | <p>Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).</p> |



**TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORTS & FINANCIAL  
STATEMENTS OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL**  
**For the year ending 31st December 2024**

**INCUMBENT**

Rev Chris Spittle The Vicarage Church Rd Skelmersdale

**CURATE**

Rev Lizzy Ferguson 6 Wilcove Skelmersdale

**BANK**

Barclays Bank

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER**

The Accounting Clinic

Liverpool Business School

John Moores University

## Administrative Information

The Parish Church of St Pauls Skelmersdale, Church Road, Skelmersdale, WN8 8ND.

Official correspondence to Parish Administrator, Parish Office at the above address.

PCC Members are:

Incumbent The Revd. Chris Spittle (Chairperson)  
Curate The Revd. Lizzy Ferguson

Church Warden Mr John Taylor

Deanery Synod Reps. Mrs J Cliff (until 2026)  
Mrs J Jolley (until 2026)  
Mrs S Price (until 2026)

Elected Members Mr K Skelton (until 2025)  
Mrs D Bennett (until 2026)  
Mr J Davies (until 2026)  
Mrs E Kenyon (until 2026)  
Mrs L Lomas (until 2026)  
Mrs B Curry (until 2027)  
Mrs L Oakley (until 2027)

Treasurer Mrs J Price  
Secretary Mrs L Lomas  
Child Protection Officer Mrs A Taylor  
Vulnerable Adults Manager Mrs A Taylor

Bank Barclays  
Independent Examiner Liverpool Business School Accounting Clinic.  
Architect Mr R Wolley

Day to day management control of the church is exercised by the Incumbent and Warden, contactable via the Church Office on 01695 716439 or the Vicarage on 01695 722087.

No Trustee received a payment for being a Trustee. However, during the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024 some Trustees received expenses and payments for services rendered in a capacity outside their role as Trustee.



CHARITY COMMISSION  
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

## Independent examiner's report on the accounts

| Section A   | Independent Examiner's Report  |                            |                       |
|---|--|----------------------------|-----------------------|
| <b>Report to the trustees</b>                                   | The Parish Church of St Paul's Skelmersdale  |                            |                       |
| <b>On accounts for the year ended</b>                           | 31 <sup>st</sup> December 2024   | <b>Charity no (if any)</b> | 1128068               |
| <b>Set out on pages</b>   | 9 and 10<br><small>(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)</small>   |                            |                       |
| <b>Responsibilities and basis of report</b>                     | <p>I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended <b>31 / 12 / 2024</b>.</p> <p>As the charity's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").</p> <p>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.</p>   |                            |                       |
| <b>Independent examiner's statement</b>                         | <p>I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or</li> <li>the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or</li> <li>the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.</li> </ul> <p>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.</p> <p><i>* Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.</i></p> |                            |                       |
| <b>Signed:</b>  |  |                            | <b>Date:</b> 21/05/25 |
| <b>Name:</b>  | The Accounting Clinic  |                            |                       |
| <b>Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any):</b> |  |                            |                       |
| <b>Address:</b>   | Liverpool Business School, Liverpool John Moores University, L3 5UG  |                            |                       |

**Skelmersdale, St Paul (Charity Reg. 1128068)**  
**Receipts and Payments Account**  
**For the period from 01 January 2024 to 31 December 2024**

|  | Unrestricted funds | Designated funds  | Restricted funds  | Total funds       | Prior year total funds |
|--|--------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|------------------------|
| <b>Receipts</b>  |                    |                   |                   |                   |                        |
| Donations and legacies   | 91,645.96          | 2,995.31          | 380.00            | 95,021.27         | 119,312.93             |
| Income from charitable activities                                | 6,945.00           | 9,296.40          | -                 | 16,241.40         | 5,808.00               |
| Other trading activities   | 796.75             | -                 | -                 | 796.75            | 1,139.67               |
| Investments  | 178.37             | 306.64            | -                 | 485.01            | 395.17                 |
| Other income   | -                  | -                 | -                 | -                 | -                      |
| <b>Total Receipts</b>  | <b>99,566.08</b>   | <b>12,598.35</b>  | <b>380.00</b>     | <b>112,544.43</b> | <b>126,655.77</b>      |
| <b>Payments</b>  |                    |                   |                   |                   |                        |
| Raising funds  | 147.99             | -                 | -                 | 147.99            | 492.82                 |
| Expenditure on charitable activities                             | 107,826.48         | 11,595.67         | 1,495.74          | 120,917.89        | 133,616.87             |
| Other expenditure  | -                  | -                 | -                 | -                 | -                      |
| <b>Total Payments</b>  | <b>107,974.47</b>  | <b>11,595.67</b>  | <b>1,495.74</b>   | <b>121,065.88</b> | <b>134,109.69</b>      |
| <b>Excess of receipts over payments before transfer</b>          | <b>(8,408.39)</b>  | <b>1,002.68</b>   | <b>(1,115.74)</b> | <b>(8,521.45)</b> | <b>(7,453.92)</b>      |
| <b>Transfers:</b>  |                    |                   |                   |                   |                        |
| Gross transfers between funds - in                               | -                  | 337.23            | 113.16            | 450.39            | 2,361.00               |
| Gross transfers between funds - out                              | (138.70)           | (311.69)          | -                 | (450.39)          | (2,361.00)             |
| <b>Excess of receipts over payments before other gains</b>       | <b>(8,547.09)</b>  | <b>1,028.22</b>   | <b>(1,002.58)</b> | <b>(8,521.45)</b> | <b>(7,453.92)</b>      |
| <b>Net movement in funds</b>                                     | <b>(8,450.03)</b>  | <b>1,028.22</b>   | <b>(1,002.58)</b> | <b>(8,424.39)</b> | <b>(7,087.81)</b>      |
| <b>Reconciliation of funds</b>                                   |                    |                   |                   |                   |                        |
| <b>Excess of receipts over payments at beginning of the year</b> | <b>7,449.79</b>    | <b>215,753.58</b> | <b>11,539.44</b>  | <b>234,742.81</b> | <b>241,830.62</b>      |
| <b>Excess of receipts over payments for the year</b>             | <b>(1,000.24)</b>  | <b>216,781.80</b> | <b>10,536.86</b>  | <b>226,318.42</b> | <b>234,742.81</b>      |

**Structure, Management and Governance.**

St. Paul's Skelmersdale PCC operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure 1956. It is registered as a charity with the Charity Commission The method of appointment of the PCC members is set out in the Church.

Representation Rules. All Church members are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC.

The PCC operates two subcommittees when needed:

The Standing Committee: Incumbent, Treasurer, Secretary, Church Wardens and three elected members.

The Finance Committee: Incumbent, Treasurer, Secretary, and Church Wardens plus any member of the PCC who would like to attend.

**Financial Risk.**

The PCC continually reviews the financial position. Although our finances are a cause for concern, particularly in light of rising prices, there is no immediate financial risk.

**Health and Safety**

The PCC is conducting an ongoing review of our Health and Safety procedures. All formal risk assessments are listed within the PCC's Risk Register.

Every year the Fire Alarm is checked to make sure that it is in good working order and the fire extinguishers are also checked on an annual basis. A five yearly Electrical Inspection is undertaken. A survey of the trees in the churchyard took place in 2018.

**Child and Vulnerable Adult Protection.**

At St Paul's the safety and well-being of all people, especially children and vulnerable adults, is taken seriously. We continue to follow correct procedure and policy so that all people are recruited to teams and roles using the official 'Safer Recruitment' procedures. We are grateful to Mrs Ann Taylor who is our Safeguarding Officer for her work and for all the people in St Paul's who volunteer on our various teams, groups and PCC. They all have a firm commitment to a safe culture and all Disclosure and Barring Service checks are up to date. There were no formal safeguarding incidents in 2024.

Mrs Taylor reports that "The Diocese have introduced a new system for Parish Safeguarding Officers to help them meet the necessary requirements called The Dashboard. It is based on 3 levels and currently we have completed most of Level 1 and have moved to Level 2. The Vicar is able to view the Dashboard and could show it to the PCC. The PCC members all have an up-to-date DBS and have completed Safeguarding Training. All volunteers have also completed Safeguarding Training and where necessary have a DBS. Safeguarding is discussed at each PCC meeting to which I send a letter with any new information or concerns."

## Objectives and Activities.

The PCC (Powers) Measure 1956 states that the PCC is to cooperate with the Minister in promoting in the Parish the whole mission of the Church, this includes the Pastoral, Evangelistic, Social, and Ecumenical ministry.

At St. Paul's we have a Mission Statement which confirms our mission to proclaim the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to the doctrines and practices of the Church of England, both through the proclamation of the word and to encourage members of the congregation to put their faith into action, as we serve Christ in the Parish.

## Mission Statement

Jesus Says, "Go and make Disciples", we try to do this through:

- the teaching of the Bible as God's Word to us in all matters of faith and moral behaviour,
- allowing God's Holy Spirit to work in us in order to make us more like Jesus,
- worshipping together: listening to God; talking to Him; responding to Him and encouraging one another.
- using the different gifts God has given us to love and serve Him, each other and the local community.
- making Jesus known to others by what we say and what we do.
- encouraging and supporting children and younger members of the Church family at St. Paul's and Trinity Anglican/Methodist School and making every effort to ensure that we are a "Child Friendly" Church.
- seeking to work with other Christians and by building links with the world-wide church.
- developing our small group life.
- improving our pastoral care.

Skelmersdale, St Paul (Charity Reg. 1128068)

## Statement of Assets and Liabilities (by code) As at: 31 December 2024

| Class and nominal code                          | General (Unrestricted) | Designated        | Restricted       | Endowment | Total             | Last year         |
|---|------------------------|-------------------|------------------|-----------|-------------------|-------------------|
| <b>Fixed Asset - Investments</b>                |                        |                   |                  |           |                   |                   |
| 6440: Shares & CBF investments - 334S           | 3,306.55               | -                 | -                | -         | 3,306.55          | 3,232.56          |
| 6441: Shares & CBF investments - 206S           | 1,017.40               | -                 | -                | -         | 1,017.40          | 994.33            |
| <b>Total</b>                                    | <b>4,323.95</b>        | <b>-</b>          | <b>-</b>         | <b>-</b>  | <b>4,323.95</b>   | <b>4,226.89</b>   |
| <b>Fixed Asset - Tangible Assets</b>            |                        |                   |                  |           |                   |                   |
| 6421: House (Wilcove)                           | -                      | 160,000.00        | -                | -         | 160,000.00        | 160,000.00        |
| <b>Total</b>                                    | <b>-</b>               | <b>160,000.00</b> | <b>-</b>         | <b>-</b>  | <b>160,000.00</b> | <b>160,000.00</b> |
| <b>Current Asset - Cash At Bank And In Hand</b> |                        |                   |                  |           |                   |                   |
| 6501: Barclays current account (711)            | (6,496.57)             | 25,894.73         | 11,146.86        | -         | 30,545.02         | 39,604.11         |
| 6561: NS&I investment account 842               | -                      | 30,887.07         | -                | -         | 30,887.07         | 30,580.43         |
| 6581: LDBF (CBF) Deposit account (312D)         | 1,172.38               | -                 | -                | -         | 1,172.38          | 1,172.38          |
| <b>Total</b>                                    | <b>(5,324.19)</b>      | <b>56,781.80</b>  | <b>11,146.86</b> | <b>-</b>  | <b>62,604.47</b>  | <b>71,356.92</b>  |
| <b>Liability - Agency Accounts</b>              |                        |                   |                  |           |                   |                   |
| 6699: Agency collections                        | -                      | -                 | 610.00           | -         | 610.00            | 841.00            |
| <b>Total</b>                                    | <b>-</b>               | <b>-</b>          | <b>610.00</b>    | <b>-</b>  | <b>610.00</b>     | <b>841.00</b>     |
| <b>Net total assets</b>                         | <b>(1,000.24)</b>      | <b>216,781.80</b> | <b>10,536.86</b> | <b>-</b>  | <b>226,318.42</b> | <b>234,742.81</b> |
| <b>Represented by</b>                           |                        |                   |                  |           |                   |                   |
| General (Unrestricted)                          | (1,000.24)             | -                 | -                | -         | (1,000.24)        | 7,449.79          |
| Designated - DeepRes                            | -                      | 30,887.07         | -                | -         | 30,887.07         | 30,580.43         |
| Designated - FB                                 | -                      | 6.00              | -                | -         | 6.00              | -                 |
| Designated - FixedAssets                        | -                      | 160,000.00        | -                | -         | 160,000.00        | 160,000.00        |
| Designated - GiftDay                            | -                      | 18,787.36         | -                | -         | 18,787.36         | 16,426.45         |
| Designated - Knock                              | -                      | 1.00              | -                | -         | 1.00              | -                 |
| Designated - SPAPrshWhd                         | -                      | 760.53            | -                | -         | 760.53            | 0.17              |
| Designated - VestryDev                          | -                      | 6,314.84          | -                | -         | 6,314.84          | 8,746.53          |
| Designated - VM                                 | -                      | 25.00             | -                | -         | 25.00             | -                 |
| Restricted - CS                                 | -                      | -                 | 10.00            | -         | 10.00             | 10.00             |
| Restricted - EcumenicalCentre                   | -                      | -                 | 2,645.98         | -         | 2,645.98          | 3,145.98          |
| Restricted - Fabric                             | -                      | -                 | 876.97           | -         | 876.97            | 1,102.96          |
| Restricted - Flowers                            | -                      | -                 | 543.58           | -         | 543.58            | 523.58            |
| Restricted - GiftDay                            | -                      | -                 | 6,000.00         | -         | 6,000.00          | 6,000.00          |
| Restricted - KingsKids                          | -                      | -                 | -                | -         | -                 | 1.33              |
| Restricted - LetThereBeLight                    | -                      | -                 | 248.00           | -         | 248.00            | 248.00            |
| Restricted - SPY                                | -                      | -                 | 212.33           | -         | 212.33            | 196.04            |
| Restricted - VestryDev                          | -                      | -                 | -                | -         | -                 | 311.55            |
| <b>Total</b>                                    | <b>(1,000.24)</b>      | <b>216,781.80</b> | <b>10,536.86</b> | <b>-</b>  | <b>226,318.42</b> | <b>234,742.81</b> |

### Reserves Policy.

It is PCC policy to maintain a balance on unrestricted funds (if possible), which equates to approximately three months unrestricted payments, to cover emergency situations that may arise from time to time.

### Finance

The Financial Statements can be found on pages 9 and 10.

The Trustees have carried out a review of the Parish's internal financial controls during the year.

We can confirm that all funds designated as restricted or endowed are correctly recorded as such and are complete.

Addressing our financial challenges has been an ongoing priority for the Parish. We continue to encourage use of the Parish Giving Scheme and contactless giving using a card reader. In 2023 printed materials were produced, encouraging giving and explaining its importance.

Signed ... *C B Spittle* .....

Name ... Chris Spittle .....

Position: Trustee

Signed *June Price* .....

Name...June Price.....

Position: Treasurer

### Achievements and Performance (including review of charitable achievements against objectives)

There has been much to celebrate and give thanks for in 2024.

In our worshipping life we have seen growth and attendances moving towards pre-Covid levels.

We took the decision to introduce a monthly Informal Holy Communion on the first Sunday of the month to offer a more reflective and creative worship time. This has been appreciated by those who attend.

Easter and Christmas services were well-attended, the Christingle service was particularly full. A planned travelling Nativity service around the parish had to relocate to church in the light of bad weather but is an innovation we hope to introduce in 2025.

At Easter we once again offered a Way of the Cross service in Holy Week, and an all-age Maundy Thursday service with evening meal. These newer innovations have both been well received. Holding all-age services in Trinity school on a regular basis has led to increased attendances and a number of newcomers joining us at these services.

The Bright Lights worshipping community has gone from strength to strength and is now held monthly. It is not unusual for attendances to approach 100 children and adults.

The annual memorial service also drew a large number of people to give thanks for the lives of loved ones.

In June and July we ran the SHAPE Course on Thursday morning and evenings exploring Spiritual Gifts (God's unique gifts to you); Heart's Desire (what motivates and excites you; what you love to do); Abilities (your talents, knowledge and skills); Personality (your character, personal qualities and strengths); Experience (your life experiences and what you've gained from them).

A good number of church members attended and valued the sessions. This led on to the Cultivate Course shared jointly between the Fit for Mission parishes but hosted by ourselves and St John's, Burscough. This explored the planting and growth of new worship communities through the encouragement of fresh planting, the development of lay leaders, and the growth of missional discipleship. A number of church members attended this course.

Considerable time was given in 2024 to Fit for Mission. Ormskirk Deanery was in the second cohort within Liverpool Diocese to discern whether to engage with this process of 5 Programme Actions: 1) Planting & Revitalising through Cultivate and Leading your Church into Growth, 2) Working to our strengths in larger teams and portfolios 3) High-quality support and clear lines of accountability 4) Having the right buildings to support future mission 5) Larger parishes with high-quality support services and simpler administration.

As part of this discernment process clergy, churchwardens, treasurers and safeguarding officers met together and valued the collegiality that has been fostered. Some Parish Snapshot evenings also allowed us to reflect on our church life and consider vision and plans for the future.

A third SPA weekend was held at Quinta in Shropshire. We were hugely blessed by our speaker Mark Greenwood. A booking has been made for 2025 and we are looking forward to Greg Downes joining us as our speaker. The men also enjoyed another excellent weekend away at Knock Christian Centre and were pleased to welcome Rev Canon David Banbury as our speaker.

We identified greater involvement in our community as an objective for 2024, and achieved this (among other ways) through the ongoing work of the Renew wellbeing café now running on two days a week and the chaplaincy in the Concourse shopping centre under the leadership of Paul Davies.

The chaplaincy team is growing and involves members from other local churches. This in turn led to an approach from West Lancs College for Chaplaincy there and in the autumn Paul Davies took on that role. Right from the start this ministry has been appreciated by staff and students alike. How this continues and develops is one of our considerations for 2025.

St Paul's has also become a hub for FUSS, offering free second-hand school uniform for local schools.

Communion is taken into local Nursing Homes, and the monthly service at Stocks Hall in particular has drawn together not only residents but their families for much appreciated times of worship.

We have continued to be blessed in the area of Vocations and Ministry. This has been a significant movement of the Spirit at St Paul's in recent years. Rev Lizzy Ferguson has continued her curacy at St Paul's, and we have been blessed by her ministry and a number of innovations she has introduced to church life. During the year she led on the creation of a pastoral visiting team as we recognise this as a key area for development. Lizzy's curacy will come to an end in 2025.

We have been blessed by Lizzy, Jon and Aoife being a part of the St Paul's family and we shared their joy at the arrival of Simeon at the end of 2023.

Paul Davies has continued his ordination training and placement at St Paul's. He will be ordained in 2025.

A number of church members attended the licensing of Rev Sandra Jones as Hub Leader in Wigan South Hub.

We greatly value our partnership with Trinity our church school, and that partnership has continued to grow and bear fruit. In 2024 Helen Winstanley our Deputy Head teacher was appointed to the Head's role, and Matthew Fairhurst to the Deputy Headship. An increasing amount of St Paul's members are involved in ministry to the school and that Helen is a member of the St Paul's congregation brings significant blessing and opportunities for ministry in and with the school.

We were pleased to run Experience Easter and welcome four local schools (Trinity, Crow Orchard, Kingsbury and St Edmunds) to explore the true meaning of Easter.

The PCC would like to thank everyone who has worked through this year to make our Church a lively, loving and welcoming worshipping community.

**The Electoral Roll** is now 119.

### **Church Buildings.**

Mr. Ken Skelton continues to work as "Building Manager". He has organised minor work that needed to be carried out on the church building. There is an ongoing programme to improve the church fabric. Important checks such as the electrics, boiler and fire appliances are all up to date.

A Quinquennial Inspection of the Church took place in 2023, which although broadly positive, raised some concerns about the roof and perimeter walls. Remedial work was undertaken on the roof during the year.

In November we installed a new kitchen in the Vestry kindly donated by Howdens. We hope that this will allow further use of the building by both church and community groups.