

Diocese of Liverpool

The Parish of Up Holland & Dalton



St Thomas the Martyr
Parish Church
Church Street, Up Holland,
Skelmersdale, WN8 0ND



Christ The Servant
Church
Birkrig, Digmoor,
Skelmersdale, WN8 9HW



St Michael & All Angels
Parish Church
Higher Lane, Dalton,
Skelmersdale, WN8 7RP



Oak House
6 Elmridge, Tanhouse
Skelmersdale, WN8 6DD.

Annual Report and Accounts for the Parochial Church Council

Year ending 31st December 2025



Administrative information

The Up Holland Parish Team consists of the Churches of:

St Thomas the Martyr Parish Church,
Church Street,
Up Holland,
Lancashire WN8 0ND.

Christ the Servant Church
Birkrig,
Skelmersdale,
Lancashire WN8 9HW.

St Michael & All Angels Church
Higher Lane,
Dalton, Skelmersdale
WN8 7RP

Oak House
6 Elmridge
Tanhouse
Skelmersdale
WN8 6DD

Parish website: <https://www.uphollanddalton.org.uk/>

Situated in the Ormskirk Deanery within the Diocese of Liverpool.
(Parish Number 733)

Charity number: 1131230

The Liverpool Diocesan Board of Finance acted as Custodian Trustee for the inalienable property of the churches.

Appointed Architects:

For the three churches of: St Thomas the Martyr Parish Church, Up Holland
Christ the Servant Church, Digmaor
St Michael & All Angels Parish Church, Dalton

are: Graham Holland Associates
Architects and Historic Buildings Consultants
Winnington Hall, Cheshire, CW8 4DW
01606 624626 info@grahamhollandassociates.co.uk

Bankers: HSBC Ormskirk
5 Moor Street, Ormskirk L39 2AB

Independent Financial Examiner:

Paul Rothwell,
Myersons Chartered Accountants
32 Derby Street, Ormskirk, Lancashire, L39 2BY

Legal advisor: No-one on retention, all legal advice obtained through
St James' House, Liverpool.

Duties and Responsibilities of the Parochial Church Council (PCC):

The PCC works together in consultation with the incumbent on matters of general concern and importance to the parish.

The general functions of the PCC are stated within section 2 of the Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956.

The functions of parochial church council include:

- a) co-operating with the incumbent in promoting in the parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical;
- b) the considering and discussing of matters concerning the Church of England or any other matters of religious or public interest, but not the declaration of the doctrine of the Church on any question;
- c) making known and putting into effect any provision made by the diocesan synod or the deanery synod;
- d) giving advice to the diocesan synod and the deanery synod on any matter referred to the council;
- e) raising such matters as the council consider appropriate with the diocesan synod or deanery synod.

In the exercise of its functions the Parochial Church Council (PCC) takes into consideration any expression of opinion by any parochial church meeting.

The PCC is responsible for the good order, repair and appropriate use of properties owned by or invested in the ecclesiastical parish, which currently consists of:

St Thomas the Martyr Parish Church, Up Holland
St Michael & All Angels Parish Church, Dalton
Christ the Servant Church, Digmaoor
Oak House, Tanhouse
The Parish Rooms (located at St Thomas the Martyr CE Primary School),
The Rectory located in Up Holland,
The Vicarage located in Ashurst
A curate's house located in Beacon View Drive, Up Holland

It also ensures that any work carried out in the property it manages complies with statutory and Church of England regulations.

The PCC is also responsible for the management of the parish finances and resources. It must ensure that all financial conduct is in line with statutory and Church of England regulations.

Daily Management:

The incumbent is the Chair of the PCC. Day to day management has been exercised by the incumbent, Churchwardens, PCC Secretary and PCC Treasurer.

Parish Clergy

The Revd. Paul Lock, Rector,
The Rectory, College Road, Up Holland, WN8 0PY 01695 622936

The Revd. Paul Givens
1 Heatherlea Close, Up Holland, WN8 0NX 07951 522054

The Revd. Vivienne Mitchell
66 Parsonage Brow, Up Holland, WN8 0JG 07958 287188

Address for official correspondence:

The Rectory, College Road, Up Holland, WN8 0PY 01695 622936

Churchwardens**St Thomas the Martyr Parish Church, Up Holland**

Brenda Entwistle 23 Hallbridge Gardens, Up Holland, WN8 0EP 07534 623544
Harry Lees 1 Devon Avenue, Up Holland, WN8 0DQ 07795 664504

St Michael & All Angels Parish Church, Dalton

Diane Dobson 17 Standside Park, Skelmersdale, WN8 8BH 07808 830704
Beryl Trainor 184 Martins Lane, Skelmersdale, WN8 9AY 07808 533689

PCC Secretary:

Janet Cowley 80a Sefton Road, Orrell, Wigan WN5 8UP 07724 896803

The PCC Treasurer:

Barbara Roughley 29, Delphside Road, Orrell, WN5 8TR 01695 624431
(No longer treasurer from 18th May 2025).

Paul Lock The Rectory, 1A College Road, Up Holland, WN8 0PY 07813 019863
Appointed treasurer from 18th May 2025.

List of Members of The Parochial Church Council

Ex-Officio Members

The Revd. Paul Lock	Rector	revpaul@beaconchurches.org.uk
Brenda Entwistle	Churchwarden	bechoir@outlook.com
Harry Lees	Churchwarden	h.lees@btinternet.com
Diane Dobson	Churchwarden	dianedobson49@gmail.com
Beryl Trainor	Churchwarden	bimpsjt@hotmail.com
The Revd. Paul Givens	Associate Priest	revpaulg@beaconchurches.org.uk
The Revd. Vivienne Mitchell	Assistant Curate	revvivienne@beaconchurches.org.uk

Deanery Synod Members

John Gardner	john.gardner119@gmail.com
Alaric Hicks	alarichicks@aol.com
Neil Girvin	neilgirvin@sky.com
Steve Holmes	stevholmes1.sh.sh@gmail.com
Dennis Roughley	

Elected PCC Members

Michael Entwistle	mikeentwistle@outlook.com
Helen Foster	helen.rob69@btinternet.com
Janet Cowley	admin@beaconchurches.org.uk
Marion Flanders	marion@thelibertycentre.org.uk
Pauline Flanders	no email address
Jane Baker	jbowden11@virginmedia.com
Marilyn Bryan	marilyn_bryan@btinternet.com
Ian Dobson	iandobson49@hotmail.com
Martha Doyle (<i>resigned 28.10.25</i>)	marthadoyle62@icloud.com
James Wilson	jameswilson13bellwood@gmail.com
Kathryn Harwood	kathrynharwo@aol.com
Jean Holmes (<i>resigned 25.06.25</i>)	jean.holmes3232@hotmail.co.uk
Stephen Pyatt	stevep2605@gmail.com
Irene Hesketh	irenefhesketh@gmail.com
Craig Sinnott	cwaigy2002@yahoo.com

PCC Secretary

Janet Cowley	admin@beaconchurches.org.uk
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PCC Treasurer

Paul Lock	revpaul@beaconchurches.org.uk (<i>from May25</i>)
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Lay Vice Chair

Diane Dobson	dianedobson49@gmail.com
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PCC Electoral Roll Officer

Janet Cowley	admin@beaconchurches.org.uk
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PCC Safeguarding Officer

Jacky Jolley	safeguarding@beaconchurches.org.uk
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Safeguarding Officers for each church

John Gardner	for STM	john.gardner119@gmail.com
Beryl Trainor	for CTS	bimpsjt@hotmail.com
Ian Dobson	for SMD	iandobson49@hotmail.com
Paula Eusebio	for Oak House	eusebioukpaula@hotmail.co.uk
Rebecca Vann	for Oak House	vennbecky@yahoo.co.uk
Helen Foster	for Up Holland Hub	helen.rob69@btinternet.com

Scheme to create the Parish of Up Holland and Dalton

The Benefice came into being on 1st April 2020 under a Pastoral Scheme made by the Church Commissioners on 3rd March 2020.

The Pastoral Scheme included the following:

- Termination of the Up Holland team established in 1973.
- The benefice of Up Holland and the benefice of Saint Michael and All Angels, Dalton became new benefice which is called "The Benefice of Up Holland and Dalton", which is a rectory.
- The parish of Up Holland and the parish of Saint Michael and All Angels, Dalton was named "The Parish of Up Holland and Dalton" which comprises the area of the new benefice.
- There are two parish churches within the parish, they are:
 - The Church of Saint Thomas the Martyr, Up Holland
 - The Church of Saint Michael and All Angels, Dalton
- The parish is in archdeaconry of Wigan and West Lancashire (now within the Archdeaconry of Knowsley, Sefton & West Lancashire) and in the deanery of Ormskirk.
- The Rectory, 1a College Road, Up Holland, Skelmersdale WN8 0PY is the place of residence of the incumbent of the new benefice.

A full copy of the Pastoral Scheme is available in the parish or from The Diocesan Offices.

Oak House

In October 2022 following agreement by the PCC of the Parish of Up Holland and Dalton, the PCC of the Parish of St John, Burscough, the Deanery of Ormskirk, the Archdeacon and the Bishop of Liverpool, Oak House moved into the Parish of Up Holland and Dalton, where it now operates as part of the parish. Oaks continues to be based at 6 Elmridge, Skelmersdale, WN8 6DD.

Representatives from Oaks are invited to attend PCC and Churchwarden meetings. They also have a local management group which organises matters locally. Oak House now operates as part of the Parish of Up Holland and Dalton.

Parish Standing Orders

Governing Legislation

The life of the Benefice and Team shall be conducted in accordance with the section 2 of the Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956 and in accordance with any legislation relating to Parish Appointments and Representation, Canon Law, Church Legislation and Diocesan Rules in force at the time.

Benefice Team

The Incumbent, Licenced Incumbent Status Clergy and Churchwardens are ex-officio members of all Committees and may choose to attend when they consider it appropriate.

The Benefice and Districts

The Parish of Up Holland & Dalton is a single Benefice with one Parochial Church Council (PCC).

The Parish Electoral Roll

There is one Electoral Roll made up members from each church or worshipping community within the parish. Representation on the Deanery Synod in accordance with current Church Legislation. Election is from the whole parish at the Annual Parochial Church Council (APCM).

Child Protection

A Child Protection Policy is agreed annually at the APCM in accordance with the Diocesan Guidelines and relevant legislation, for implementation at parish and church level.

The Lay Chair

A Lay Chair of the PCC will be appointed at the first PCC meeting following the APCM. They may attend any PCC committee as a full member.

The PCC Secretary

The PCC may appoint one of their number to act as secretary of the Council. Failing such an appointment the office of secretary shall be discharged by some other fit person who shall not thereby become a member of the Council.

The Parish Treasurer

The PCC may appoint one of their number to act as Treasurer. Failing such an appointment the office of Treasurer shall be discharged by the churchwardens or by some other fit person who shall not thereby become a member of the Council.

The Parish Auditor

The Parish Auditor or Examiner is elected annually at the APCM in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 1993 and subsequent legislation.

Financial Management

The PCC is responsible for ensuring that all matters regarding finance and parish assets (including parish charities and trusts) are managed in accordance with the law and following guidelines from the Church of England, The Liverpool Diocese and the Charity Commission. A budget is set each year and the PCC Treasurer manages parish finance in accordance with that budget. The PCC receives regular reports from the Treasurer and scrutinizes spending and income and evaluates how closely to the budget the parish is during the year and makes necessary adjustments. All cheques and payments from all accounts and trusts associated with the parish, must be signed by two authorised signatories. Receipts and invoices must be provided for all payments. For larger payments (levels and responsibilities are made clear in the appropriate parish policy) and for donations to other charities and organisations, can only be made with PCC's authorisation (or that of the Standing Committee). The decision to make such payments must be recorded in the Minutes of that meeting. If the Standing Committee makes such a decision, this must be reported at the next PCC meeting. The PCC manages some agent transactions including; payment of statutory fees, special collections/fund raising activities for charities (listed separately in this report). All these transactions are shown in the accounts. The accounts are independently scrutinized and reported at the Annual Meeting.

Parish Reserves Policy

The PCC aims to keep approximately three months running costs in reserves. This is also to cover emergency building work.

Appointment of Officers and Sub-committees

At their first meeting after the APCM the Parochial Church Council will appoint its officers, their sub-committees and their representatives to other Parish Committees or outside bodies.

Quorum for Meetings

For a Meeting to take valid decisions, one third of the members must be present and voting.

Composition of the Parochial Church Council

Licensed Clergy and Lay Workers
Licensed Readers
Parish Treasurer
Members of General, Diocesan and Deanery Synod
Churchwardens – two elected from each Church
Elected Church Members – up to 3 people from each Church

The Parochial Church Council Standing Committee

The Incumbent
PCC Secretary
PCC Treasurer
Lay Chair
Churchwardens
Up to 3 lay people (one from each church)

The dates and venues of PCC Meetings are to be set by the PCC or the Standing Committee. In addition to the APCM there will be at least four Parochial Church Council Meetings in every year. PCC Meetings are to be held at places agreed by the PCC or Standing Committee.

Items for Parochial Church Council Agendas

Any item to be brought up under Any Other Business must be given to the Secretary or Chairperson twenty-four hours before the meeting. In exceptional circumstances the Chairperson may allow an item for Any Other Business to be brought up at the meeting.

Parochial Church Council Meetings 2025/26

There have been 8 meetings of the PCC in 2025-26

- Sunday 18 May (*following the APCM*)
- Wednesday 25 June 2025
- Tuesday 16 September 2025
- Tuesday 18 November 2025
- Tuesday 10 February 2026
- Tuesday 17 March 2026
- Thursday 23 April 2026

Ormskirk Deanery Synod

Parish Representatives have ensured that at most Deanery Synod Meetings the parish has been represented, where these meetings have been open to other PCC members and congregation members, people from across the parish have attended.

This parish remains committed to working closely and positively with other local churches and the wider Deanery.

Local Heritage and Amenity

We recognise that two of our church buildings and graveyards (and wider grounds at St Michael's) are an important statement of Christian presence in the local community. These have continued to be maintained to a high standard throughout the year by our dedicated band of volunteer gardeners in both churches.

Our buildings and grounds are visited and enjoyed regularly by people from the local and wider communities and provide a warm welcome, support, peace and tranquillity.

Authored by Nick Daunt, we now have Church and Stained Glass Windows guide booklets available for St Thomas the Martyr Church. The booklets guide visitors around the exterior and interior of the church, drawing attention to the special heritage features of the church.

Risk Management

The PCC takes its responsibility for the safety of the people and financial wellbeing of its church buildings and other property very seriously. To date individual events and situations have been discussed and assessed as they have arisen and remedial actions taken as and when necessary. Our risk management policy is to continue to monitor all situations and carry out further risk assessments as and when necessary.

The PCC operates a Health and Safety policy covering areas such as fire risk, electrical appliances, risks in the graveyard, first aid etc. The PCC is regularly updated in any issues regarding Risk Management.

We operate the Diocesan policy of protection for children and vulnerable adults. Volunteers are scrutinised by the Disclosure and Barring Service [DBS].

Some members of staff and volunteers are First Aid trained and the parish remains committed to ensuring this is maintained. As expansion of community hub activities reaches out to more vulnerable members of our community, we have expanded the number of people on our safeguarding team. The team now includes a parish safeguarding officer for the Up Holland Community Hub this person works alongside the church and PCC safeguarding officers within the Diocesan safeguarding policy. The parish follows current guidance on safer recruitment.

We continue to work with the Diocesan Safeguarding Team and follow Church of England and Diocesan Safeguarding Policies and practice by using the Safeguarding Dashboard to help ensure we remain compliant and working to continually improve all aspects of safeguarding within the parish. We are currently at Level 2 on the Safeguarding Dashboard and now working towards Level 3 compliance. PCC members have completed Safeguarding training as individuals and also attended a whole PCC training session with a members of the Diocesan Safeguarding Team.

All our churches are insured against the risk of damage to the building, vandalism, theft, fire and public liability. The Parish Rooms are also covered. There is appropriate insurance on the house in Beacon View Drive.

Parish Website

As part of our commitment to safeguarding and ensuring we are compliant with Church of England Regulations, the following statement is displayed on our parish website:

The Parish of Up Holland and Dalton takes its duty and obligation to protect all extremely seriously. We have adopted the national Church of England's robust procedures and guidelines.

*You can find out more about the national policies and procedures
at www.churchofengland.org/safeguarding*

If you have any safeguarding concerns or issues on a safeguarding matter then you can find

Main Activities Include:

- Regular Sunday and midweek services are provided in all our churches.
- Learning groups have been organised, meeting face to face in different parts of the parish.
- The STM Development Group has continued to meet to oversee developments and plan for next steps
- The Up Holland Community Hub is operating successfully: and the PCC is committed to developing Hubs across the parish. We are currently developing Christ the Servant Church into a local Community

Hub which is to be called 'Martin House' and are looking to establish community Hubs in St Michael's Church, Dalton and Oak House in Tanhouse.

- The PCC has continued to look at options for the future of Christ the Servant Church building – the condition of the roof and other aspects mean that repairing and maintaining are now beyond the church's means and looking at new options and opportunities will help us re-vision and more effectively serve the wider community as well as maintain and strengthen the Christian presence within the Digmoor area.
- There is a single website for the parish where information about all three churches, our schools and wider community activities are listed and promoted. The site provides easy access to information and application forms for those wanting to book baptisms, weddings, burial of ashes and other significant life events.
- A number of events have been organised at St Michael's Church for local people and those visiting the area. These have been well supported and much appreciated.
- We have been providing care for the bereaved and pastoral care to many across the communities we serve.
- We have provided services of baptism, weddings and funerals in all three churches. We are receiving increasing applications for baptisms and weddings.
- We have been supporting our schools and the children and staff within them throughout the year.
- Through working successfully with the national LyCiG (Leading your Church into Growth) programme we have been evaluating our worship, presence and service across the local communities we serve and have introduced several initiatives to improve much of what we do. We are continuing to see new people coming to worship in our churches. We are committed to using the LyCiG principles and guidance as part of our mission and outreach.

Worship

Weekly Services Times at St Thomas the Martyr Church during the last year:

<u>Sunday</u>	9.00am	Eucharist
	10.30am	Sung Eucharist
<u>Tuesday</u>	7.00pm	Eucharist
<u>Thursday</u>	10.00am	Eucharist

Weekly Services Times at St Michael & All Angels Church, Dalton during the last year:

<u>Sunday</u>	10.30am	Sung Eucharist
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Weekly Services Times at The Oaks, Tanhouse, Skelmersdale during the last year:

<u>Sunday</u>	10.45am	Worship
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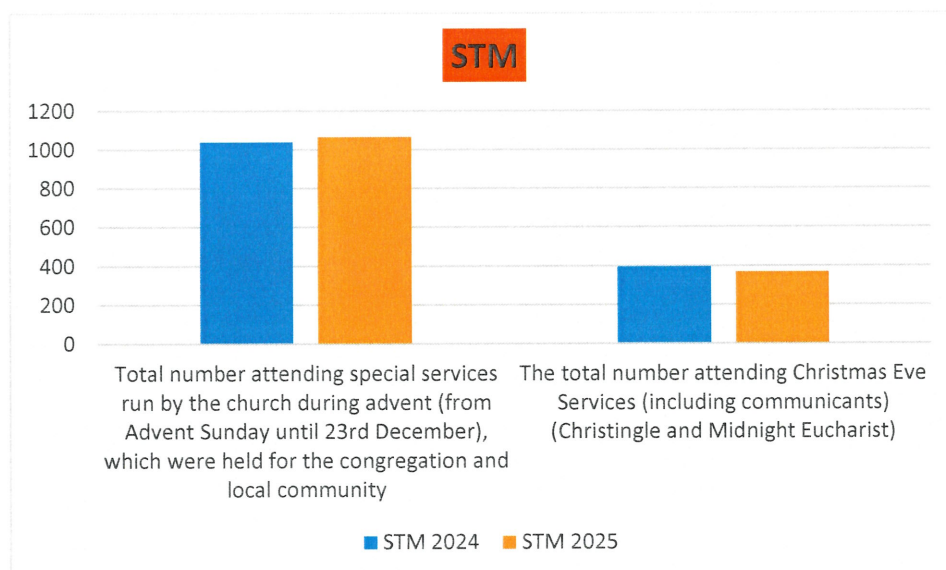
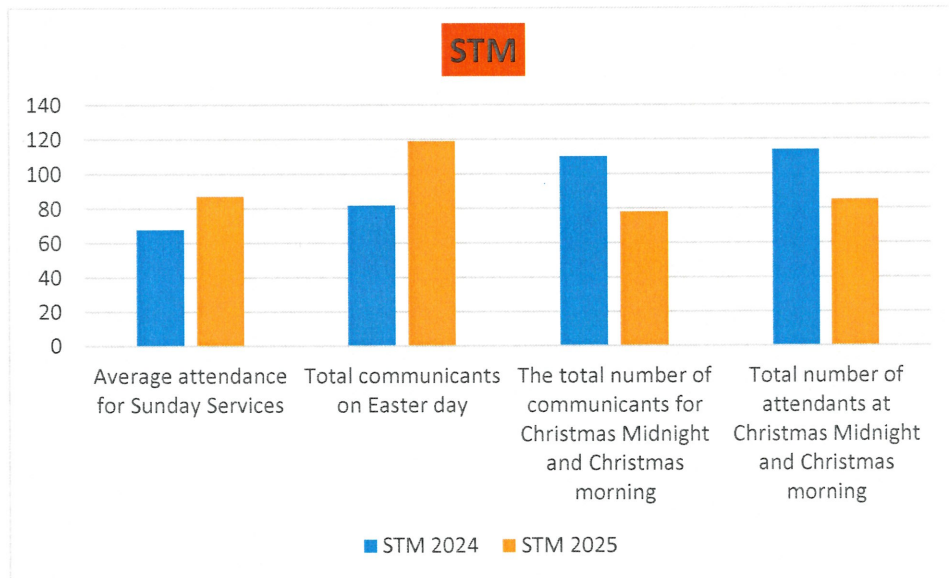
Seasons & Holy Days

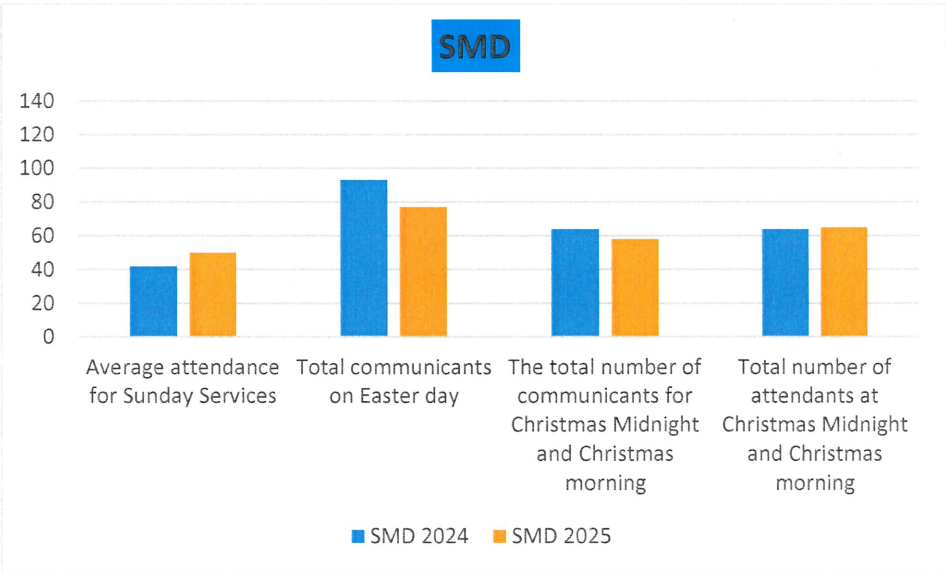
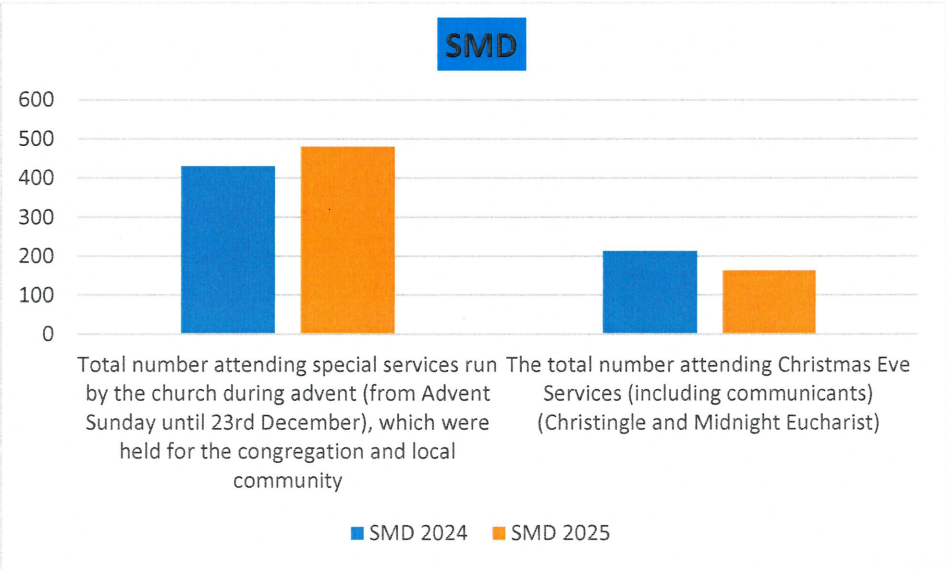
A range of special services are planned throughout the year in three churches, these include:

- Daily Services for Holy Week & Easter
- Extra times of worship for Holy Days and Saints days
- Remembrance Sunday Services with the community
- Harvest Services and activities
- Services to commemorate those who have died
- Carol Services
- Christingle

Attendance Figures

	STM		SMD	
	2024	2025	2024	2025
Average attendance for Sunday Services	68	87	42	50
Total communicants on Easter day	82	119	93	77
Total number attending special services run by the church during advent (from Advent Sunday until 23rd December), which were held for the congregation and local community	1041	1066	430	479
The total number attending Christmas Eve Services (including communicants) (Christingle and Midnight Eucharist)	396	368	213	163
The total number of communicants for Christmas Midnight and Christmas morning	110	78	64	58
Total number of attendants at Christmas Midnight and Christmas morning	114	85	64	65





Spiritual Development

All our churches and are committed to the spiritual development of all members, during the year this was supported by:

- Using music, images, resources and styles to enhance Sunday worship and making this more accessible through the printing of weekly service sheets, appropriate activities and screens.
- Study Groups
- Bible Study
- Preaching and teaching in all Sunday and most weekday services
- Arranging study groups to provide worship, study and prayer groups
- New worshipping communities and new ways into faith and prayer

Promotion of Christianity

This parish is committed to promoting Christianity in the communities we serve and has done this in the following ways:

- Continuing to run the Up Holland Community Hub to promote positive links with the community, ensure St Thomas the Martyr Church is open daily, providing 'safe space' for people in many different ways, to allow the Church to serve people by identifying and meeting some of their needs, developing good ecumenical links and working.
- There has been a significant shift across the churches within the parish increasingly seeing themselves as working together in mission, outreach and pastoral work. This is also reflected in decisions made at the PCC to use funds to target areas of need for additional support.
- Working more closely with ecumenical partners and working with churches across the deanery.
- Committing to be part of the LYCiG (Leading Your Church into Growth) programme of training and development. So far, the PCC has supported people to attend two national training conferences (2023 & 2024). We hope to be able to continue to send people to ensure we use LyCiG materials and ideas to their full potential.
- Developing our websites and use of social media to promote services and events
- Arranging accessible and suitable worship for special occasions e.g. Carol Services, Christingle, All Age worship
- Engagement with schools through weekly assemblies and special services
- Providing easy ways to discuss special services e.g. baptisms, weddings, renewal of vows and blessings for significant wedding anniversaries, funerals, burial of ashes
- Children's activities and events
- Open Churches - providing a safe and welcoming place for people to visit

Supporting Charities

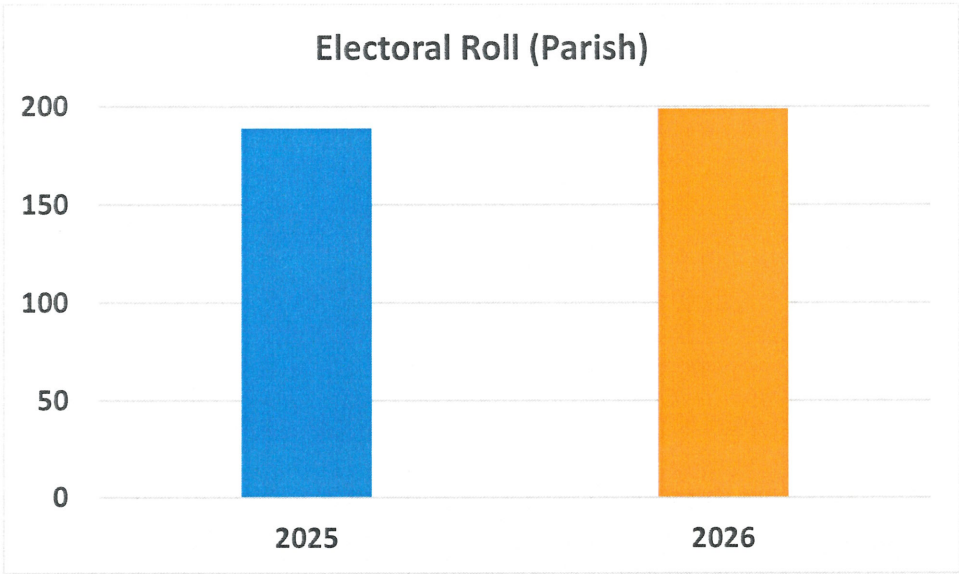
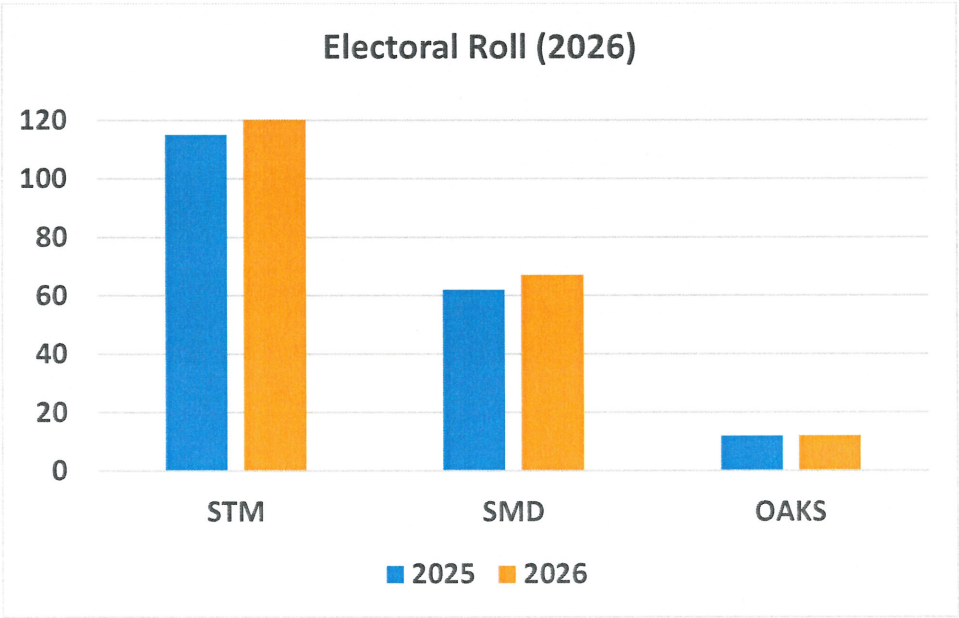
This parish is committed to supporting the work of those charities and organisations which enrich and support the lives of others both in this country and overseas. We have supported financially the following organisations:

- The Children's Society
- Macmillan Cancer Support
- Digmoor Food Bank
- Royal British Legion
- Cancer Research
- West Lancs Crisis Centre
- Liberty Centre
- Up Holland Food Bank
- Skelmersdale Outreach
- Christian United

Parish Electoral Roll

The total number of people on the Electoral Roll following the recent Electoral Roll Revision (completed by 26th April 2026) is 199. Membership at each church within the parish is recorded as follows:

St Thomas the Martyr Church, Up Holland:	120
St Michael & All Angels Church, Dalton:	67
Oak House, Tanhouse:	12



Inclusive Church Policy

The Parish of Up Holland and Dalton is the parish for people living in Up Holland, Roby Mill, Crawford, Holland Moor, Digmoor, Tanhouse, Ashurst, Birch Green, Elmers Green, Fosters Green, Whalleys and Dalton.

We believe in doing all that we can to ensure all our church communities are welcoming church who know that we are called and sent to serve all people in the name of Jesus Christ.

We are committed to ensuring that each of our church congregations seeks to follow the teachings of Jesus Christ and so proclaim the Gospel with a fresh vision for each generation.

We believe that in the power of the Holy Spirit, we are empowered to help every person discover how widely embracing and deep is the love of Jesus Christ.

In the Parish of Up Holland and Dalton, we are committed to living in the light of the inclusive Gospel of Jesus Christ where all are accepted 'as they are' and cherished as God's children.

Our Mission

Our parish is a diverse community and we welcome people of all ages, experiences, lifestyles, outlooks and backgrounds, following the example Christ gave of serving God through family, friends and neighbours, those we meet and know and those who remain unknown to us.

We are an inclusive church and we do not discriminate in any way, whether in terms of economic means and social standing, age, gender, physical or mental health, ability, race or sexuality.

Whoever you are and wherever you are on your journey of faith you are welcome in all our churches.

Our Vision

We want our churches and worshipping communities to give people the opportunity to find hope and be transformed. For each one of us to live as God intends, using all our gifts and talents to fill the world with love, peace and hope. We recognise that we live in a complex world and we seek to be more Christ-like, both as individuals and as a community: celebrating the light, love and grace which is given freely to all.

We believe that Jesus Christ is the one who brings light and love into all without condition.

St Thomas the Martyr Church, Up Holland

In May, the new cupboards and servery had been finished, which were consistent with the Chancellor's recommendations and were being used by the Hub Staff. This was just in time to be fully operational at the Summer Fayre in June where we were entertained by a variety of musical groups. There were some commercial stalls and other stalls from church groups. The Christmas Fayre in November was also very well attended.

June also saw the licensing of Rev Paul Givens as Associate Priest followed by a very well attended reception in church.

During the Summer holidays, themed art and craft activities plus free lunches were provided once a week, proving very successful. Parents and carers commented on how grateful they were, particularly if the weather was poor!

During September, an opportunity was created after the Tuesday Eucharist, during Suicide Prevention Week, for those who had lost family or friends to suicide, to come into church, to light a candle, to place a ribbon on a tree, or just to talk.

The "Colours" Fashion Company put on a fashion show which was very well attended and they will be returning again in April with their Spring collection.

At the end of September, the church hosted the annual McMillan Coffee Morning which raised funds and allowed people the opportunity to chat over coffee and cake and donate.

The Makers Markets began on the second Saturday of each month and are continuing to draw in people to buy homemade and recycled goods

Confirmation classes began in October in church, for young people and at the Rectory for adults, led by parish clergy. This culminated in a wonderful Confirmation service of six young people and three adults led by Bishop Geoff Pearson and attended by well over a hundred family and friends.

The annual Halloween party took place, created especially for young children who were encouraged to dress up and enjoy the art and craft activities with music and the café selling Halloween themed goodies. This offers, every year, an opportunity to celebrate Halloween in a warm, safe space.

A Candlelight Concert took place at the beginning of December which co-ordinated with the switching on of the Christmas tree lights outside church. Performers included the Daytime Singers who gather every Wednesday as well as some of the Friday lunchtime singers.

The Tree and Gift Service in December was popular and donations and gifts received were donated to the Community Food Bank which is part of the Up Holland Community Hub.

Dignity Funeral Services organised a Winter Memorial Service for those who have lost loved ones and again in March.

Up Holland High School once again held their annual Carol Service in church, combining solo and choral singing with orchestral pieces, readings and Christmas carols for all. Well over two hundred people attended this hugely successful service.

Roby Mill CoE Primary School performed their Nativity as part of the Thursday Morning Eucharist, enjoyed by parents and parishioners alike.

Christingle again welcomed almost three hundred people on Christmas Eve. Many thanks go to those who helped to make just over three hundred Christingles!

The New Year opened with what is becoming a very popular event, the Robbie Burns Experience, complete with piper and haggis. The music was led by local musicians and singers with a Scottish flavour.

There have been three very well attended ATC Enrolment services led by their chaplain, who is also a parish clergyperson.

The Lent Course was run by a member of the parish clergy team for each Wednesday during Lent as well as a Quiet Day at Roby Mill Farm.

In March we were privileged to host the Commemorative Order of St Thomas of Acon for their Annual Meeting followed by a buffet. This was in addition to the annual service held each June at St Thomas the Martyr and further meetings in church have been planned for 2026.

Roby Mill CE School provided some beautiful Easter Gardens made by the children to compliment the flowers in Church over Easter.

The repairs to the stonework and the church parapet wall on the North side of the building began in January and were completed in April.

Two teams of volunteer gardeners which now include men from the Community Payback scheme, have continued to manage the graveyard, learning new skills, maintaining, planting, clearing and helping to support the upkeep of our very large graveyard.

Work continues to extend this further as space in the South section is now becoming limited.

Christ the Servant Church, Digmoor

In May 2024, the building was closed for public worship and community work due to infestation which has now been dealt with.

The PCC has been working with partners to try and create a Community Hub in the building. Investigations in the possibility of doing this were overseen by members of the Up Holland Community Hub Leadership Team. Responses from statutory agencies and other partners working in the community voiced strong support for this. Many groups and organisations have been identified as those who would make use of Hub facilities at Christ the Servant Church.

The PCC has been through the process of seeking permission to de-designate Christ the Servant as a place of worship and to establish a Community Hub within the premises. This process has now run its course and following signatures from the Bishop of Liverpool and the Archbishop of York, Christ the Servant Church has been de-designated as a place of worship with effect from 10th March 2026. The PCC remains committed to ensuring worship takes place within the building which has also been given the new name of 'Martin House'.

Working with partners in the area, we are now actively seeking funding to repair and redecorate the entire building and to allow it to flourish as a Community Hub. We also hope that as a Hub we will be able to ensure that Martin House is part of the regeneration programme being rolled out in the Digmoor area.

St Michael & All Angel's Church, Dalton

In a time of change and challenge, the church has become more than a place of worship. It has become a listening space, and a source of welcome and care.

Relationships have deepened, new faces have been embraced, and the church continues to live out it's calling by serving Dalton and the wider community with warmth, faith and generosity.

Our Church family continues to grow, not only in numbers but also spirit, as we share and live out God's love.

Our worshipping community draws together a rich diversity of people who are united in worshipping God and supporting one another.

We are blessed with a growing team of volunteers who are encouraged and empowered to take on a range of roles that enrich our weekly worship, and provide support with weddings, funerals and baptisms.

At St Michael's we have facilitated training for all volunteers, ensuring basic safeguarding compliance, while enabling select members to complete certified first aid and fire safety courses.

While all-age worship has presented challenges, it has also generated positive feedback.

Our Tuesday prayer group continues to offer a vital opportunity for people to deepen their faith and relationship with God and pray together for the parish and the wider world.

St Michael's continues to play an important role in the life of the community, welcoming people through events held across the year, including:

- Lighting the church has made it a beacon for the community, helping it to stand as a visible symbol of welcome, faith, and belonging.
- By opening the church on a Saturday, people can come in to light a candle, say a prayer, and spend time in quiet reflection away from our regular service. This initiative has been warmly received with positive feedback.

Clergy and lay people have been key in the developing and enhancing home communion provision, especially within nursing homes across the parish, offering pastoral care and support to those unable to attend church.

A cancer support group meets monthly, providing a supportive and caring space for those affected, the group has grown in numbers attending and is greatly appreciated.

The introduction of a weekly yoga class has been well received and continues to grow, extending the church's engagement with the wider community.

An all inclusive bingo has been running regularly and has offered much support for those who attend.

Our first car boot sale was attended by many people, drew lots of positive feedback, and has created enthusiasm for it to become an annual event.

Support is offered within the parish through helping to deliver meals to those less fortunate, reflecting a strong spirit of cooperation and shared care across the parish.

St Michael's has maintained a strong programme of well attended community events, demonstrating its active role in the life of the community: Carol services, Christingle, Christmas fayre, car boot, Easter festival with activities, Easter raffle, and a variety of concerts. Through these activities, joy and companionship are shared, and our relationship with the wider community is strengthened.

Church Building and grounds

Maintaining our beautiful church building and grounds remains a key priority and an ongoing challenge. Although important work has been identified, progress has been affected by the current lack of funding. We remain deeply grateful to the dedicated volunteers who clean and maintain both the church and grounds.

Looking ahead

We are pleased to report that our re-ordering plans have progressed and we are working with professionals and other agencies to seek the permissions required. Once completed, we believe the re-ordering will help ensure that St Michael's Church remains a welcoming, mission focused Christian family at the heart of community life.

As we join our strengths, share our gifts, and work together across our parish, we deepen our service to our communities and shine Christ's love ever more brightly.

Oak House, Tanhouse, Skelmersdale

Our normal service at Oaks on a Sunday

We meet at 10.45am, have a cup of tea or coffee. Then we open in prayer and we say the prayer for growth; next we sing some worship songs. We have a God/good news slot where we share what God has done for us or others that week. then a worship song. Next, we watch a short video / bible study then chat about it. then a worship song, next a prayer time, then a worship song and then close in prayer. After the service we have a cup of tea /coffee and cake or biscuits. Later some of us go for lunch together, continuing to fellowship. There are usually 7/8 of us who meet for Sunday service.

The first Sunday of the month we have Overspill Which is mainly worship songs Where we worship God and listen to what he may say to us.

Once a month we celebrate Holy Communion when one of the parish clergy come to celebrate

Open Oaks on a Monday. Meet at 12 till 2pm. They have lunch, chat, and sometimes do crafts. We can have 12 or more people there. when the children are on holiday there could be 6 to 12 of them. They like to fill their own pizza or pancakes.

Food Bank on a Tuesday Morning.

Pilgrim Bible study Group meets 6.30pm till 9pm we have a meal first then our study. 5 of us regularly meet together.

Friday Food Bank

Outreach Trust have their meetings at Oaks.

Prayer Chain A member at Oaks organises the prayer chain which includes phoning and or texting people. She also updates members on prayer requests.

We have two people who are employed to run Open Oaks, which provides a warm welcome and something to eat to people from the wider community. These two members of staff also work outside working hours shopping, Safeguarding and supporting others. They work hard.

We have a Sensory Room the children love it. There are some with additional needs, so it is a calm and safe space for them to chill out.

Up Holland Community Hub

A place where all are welcomed and valued without condition, where we strive to serve the community, grow together and create a sense of wellbeing and belonging

Management and Activity Summary 2025/2026

The Hub has continued its successful service to the community throughout the year with its ongoing provision of well-being groups, activities, and events. Becket's Cafe has provided a warm, welcoming atmosphere to all and supported the Hub through multiple events and activities. All aspects of delivery rely heavily on our much-valued team of volunteers, without whom none of this could be possible. Through their strength and dedication, the Hub has grown over the last 12 months and continues to welcome all into its heart.

We continue to support our community, whether via the immediate practical help of food and household necessities to those who need it or emotional/psychological support via the well-being initiatives on offer. As church and hub work together to reach out to our community, we are well-placed to build on success to date and are actively seeking funding investment to enable us to extend our much-valued provision further. Currently there is active engagement with third parties to robustly explore funding opportunities that are most relevant to our setting and goals.

Hub progress

Work is ongoing to build upon work undertaken by the previous Hub Development Manager to extend and enhance the reach, impact, reputation and visibility of the Hub.

We work collaboratively with community partners such as Asda, Birchwood, Fare share, Kraft/Heinz, all of whom donate food regularly. Some of this food is offered on our 'save from waste' trolley within the vestibule, while other food is used for much needed food bags for the community. We continue to deliver our 'kids eat free' scheme and will always support anyone in our community if they need it. We never turn anyone away.

Throughout the range of all our activities we strive to deliver our mission, to provide a safe and welcoming space which helps to enhance well-being and belonging and genuinely helps to transform lives. We continue to receive regular endorsement of this in reality, from the numerous daily comments from customers and visitors regarding their positive and life enhancing experience of the Hub.

To reflect our vision and ethos as a place where 'all are welcomed and valued without condition', we have maintained a strong commitment to promote inclusivity and to uphold safeguarding principles in all areas of our activity. Throughout the past year, there has been focused work to embed and establish core approaches, including 'Safer Recruitment' procedures; Health and Safety systems and processes such as First Aid and Fire Safety training and Food Hygiene standards incorporating Safer Methods. This has greatly enhanced the professionalism, development opportunities and sense of pride among employees and volunteer colleagues, providing a strong foundation for further development in the services offered. With the help of our wonderful volunteers and the kindness of our visitor community, we have been able to make real positive impact on peoples' lives.

Significant achievements and highlights this year include:

- 899 people attended our community breakfast/lunch
- 198 'Pay It Forward' café refreshment gifts were donated and used by the community
- 138 food bags were given out in addition to existing food bag provision
- 134 'Kids eat free' meals were given out

- 52 free meals were provided to those in need
- 266 people attended the free family activities
- 86 free Easter meals were given to those in need
- 64 free Christmas meals were given to those in need
- 19 free Christmas food hampers were given to those in need
- 22 Hopeful Hearts were donated and gifted (Christmas gifts offered on the Christmas tree to brighten a Christmas for those struggling in the festive period)

Provision of regular group activities which support social wellbeing:

Group activity	Average weekly attendance
Get Together Games	9
Language Club	8
Qigong	12
U3A Reading Club	8
Shared Reading	8
Water Colour Art Class (40 members)	25
Daytime Singers (31 members)	20
Together (Journeying Together After Loss)	8
Craft and Chat (19 members)	12
Music Friday	40-60

Man-Archy (Men's mental health group) and Chair Yoga have operated during the year but are currently postponed. Man-Archy is starting back up in June 2026, and Chair yoga will be starting as soon as the new group leader is inducted over the next few weeks.

The 'Journeying Together After Loss' Group is a newly established group which has continued from an original bereavement support group held in the hub during the past 12 - 18 months. This original group has since relocated to new premises in order to access specific funding opportunities. However, the Hub has continued to maintain strong commitment to continue a bereavement support group. This is in recognition of the much needed and valued benefit the group offers to people who encounter different experiences of loss, particularly in bereavement and the loss of a loved one.

The Hub is regularly accessed by individuals from the refugee community. One such person has been successfully recruited and supported to work as a cafe volunteer. This has provided opportunities to develop skills (such as Barista, customer service, food preparation and language development) as well as addressing issues of loneliness and isolation by joining a friendly Hub community.

Social media has helped to advertise events and give members of the community the opportunity to ask questions directly regarding the Hub timetable, events and community help initiatives (such as the provision of our Easter and Christmas Meals and hampers for those in need). Engagement is predominantly positive, with posts regularly being liked or shared.

Events and activities.

Notable events during the year have included hosting:

- Summer Fayre,
- Christmas Fayre,
- 1950's Themed event,
- Robbie Burns Day,
- Newly established Makers Markets to raise funds for the free Easter and Christmas Meals
- Haydock Male Voice Choir,
- Macmillan Coffee Morning,
- U3A Choir,

- Candlelight concert,
- Ladies Fashion Show,
- Connected Voices Choir Concert,
- Easter Bunny Family Activities,
- Mother and Father Christmas family activities
- Inclusive Bingo
- Community gardening day

Post Office

The Post Office continues its much-valued service in the local community. Customer numbers have grown significantly year on year and now average over 2000 customers per month (a ten-fold increase from the levels when the Post Office opened in 2021). It is serviced by a small team of dedicated volunteer staff providing a friendly, efficient and supportive service to the local community.

Further Development

The church and hub are always looking for opportunities to build upon our community links and find better ways to deliver sustainable projects. We are currently looking into the possibility of opening a community shop which will provide low-cost items to all, and double as a choosing food bank. The aim is to create a 'community' day (Tuesday), where people can access services and support, have delicious food on a 'pay as you feel' basis, and access the community shop for affordable low-cost items.

There has been initial engagement with colleagues from different statutory and voluntary agencies to explore future development of a 'listening' café and support for individuals who may have particular needs, such as people who are living with dementia. We have often seen a community need which is reflected in the numbers of people who appear to be living in isolated circumstances and for whom social interaction is absolutely a priority. We view this as a significant priority in our next stage of development. This will also allow the Hub to offer a 'signposting service' such as to care at home services and services to limit and avoid admission to hospital in particular population groups.

The Hub is looking at planning more inclusive events in the future, promoting a place for all. This will include an inclusive talent show and build upon our inclusive activities such as Mother and Father Christmas Meet and Greet and family activities.

Events celebrating the history of St Thomas the Martyr Church are also being planned. This will include the introduction of regular history tours, and the opportunities for local schools to participate in history events which support the national curriculum. This will also open up opportunities to the local home-schooling community who may wish to visit and take advantage of our kids eat free scheme.

Food Bank

The Up Holland Community Hub Food Bank is now in its fifth year of operation and is firmly established as one of the community activities provided by UCH.

The Food Bank is located at St Thomas the Martyr Primary School and is open Monday to Thursday 8.45 – 11.15

We work closely with colleagues from Becketts' Café and Post Office to provide grocery bags at church to be allocated as needed to people using those services. Typically, we provide 6-10 bags per week.

We also offer a box or bag delivery service once a week for people for whom getting to the Food Bank or the church is a problem. We currently deliver to four households.

This has enabled us to achieve one of the objectives we set ourselves for the year, which was to make our service accessible to more people who need and can benefit from what we have to offer. We currently have 40 – 50 regular clients so, including their families, we calculate that we support around 120 – 130 people in our community.

We continue to provide a wide range of food and household items, including:

- Fresh, tinned and packet foods
- Milk, teabags, coffee, sugar

- Personal hygiene products e.g. shower gel, shampoo, toothpaste; Household cleaning materials, e.g. washing up liquid, cleaning sprays

We have seen demand increase year on year and as a result it has been necessary to maintain a limit on the quantities each client can take. Our regulars have by and large accepted this.

We continue to work with our retail partners, particularly Tesco, with five evening collections a week from Tesco Express in Pemberton. The Tesco link is via our membership of Fareshare. We also have a partnership with Premier Store in Up Holland and a link with the Birchwood organisation enables us to offer fresh food such as bread and vegetables in the porch at church.

We also receive generous individual donations from the congregations of St Thomas the Martyr Church, Up Holland Methodist Church and St. Teresa's Catholic Church as well as other individual members of the Up Holland community and beyond. We were very grateful to some of our local schools, in particular, St. Thomas the Martyr Primary School, for hugely generous contributions which helped us meet the Christmas demand.

We have been supported by charitable donations, e.g. from Skelmersdale and Tawd Vale Lions and the Co-op Community Fund. We also have a partnership with the Brick project, based in Wigan, which offers a range of household items to support families. The money received from the Co-op Community Fund has enabled us to offer a wider range of goods, including such items as eggs, cheese and spreads. It has also funded a joint project with St. Thomas the Martyr School nurseries to promote wellbeing. We support the nurseries' dental health campaign, providing age-appropriate toothbrushes and toothpaste for each child, and we contribute bags of infant medical supplies to families who can benefit from them. A recent additional grant from the LA Community Fund will enable us to continue with these projects.

As is the case for most Food Banks at present, we face a constant challenge to meet the needs and demands placed on us by the community we are trying to serve and support. We are and will continue to be heavily reliant on the generosity of those who are able and willing to donate food and household goods to enable us to support the people who need us.

Grants and Funding

We have received grant from the following:

1. Warm space grant
2. Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF)
3. West Lancashire Household Support Fund

The Hub is grateful to those who have supported us financially through these grants.

Groups and Organisations

Church Schools in the Parish

There are four Voluntary Aided Primary Schools in the Parish.

- Bishop Martin CE Primary School, Digmoor
- Roby Mill CE Primary School, Roby Mill
- St Thomas the Martyr CE Primary School, Up Holland
- St Michael & All Angels CE Primary School, Dalton

The PCC takes seriously its role of supporting the four church schools and is grateful to those who serve as foundation governors and for giving their time to lead and manage church schools for the whole community. We continue to support the Diocesan Board of Education policy to appoint practicing Christians to the role of Foundation Governor within our schools.

Members of the clergy regularly lead collective worship, to support all staff and pupils and to assist in the delivery of RE and spiritual development of pupils and staff. The headteachers and members of the clergy meet each half-term to discuss and plan work and activities. There is an end-of-term Eucharist or end of term service in each school.

There are good positive links with all four church schools and each one visits churches and takes part in several activities there, when able to do so.

Work and Service in the Wider Community

The churches continue to support work with people from the wider community through the following activities:

- Up Holland Community Hub and all its activities
- 1st Upholland Scout Group
- Chaplaincy to the local Air Cadets
- Informal chaplaincy role in Crawford Village, especially in the Primary School
- Bingo at St Michael's Church, Dalton
- Craft Groups at St Michael's Church, Dalton
- Church choirs (open to all) in both Up Holland and Dalton
- Commitment in all our churches to ensure that the welcome, care and way occasional offices (Baptisms, Weddings, Funeral, Burial of Ashes, Blessings, Memorial Services etc) are planned and executed are focused on the pastoral needs of each family
- Provision of food bank collection points for Food Banks
- Walks for the parish and wider community
- Volunteers continue to undertake maintenance of the churchyard and church (in both Up Holland & Dalton)


The Parish of Up Holland and Dalton
Accounts for the Year Ended 31st December 2025


The Parish of Up Holland and Dalton
Balance Sheet as at 31st December 2025

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	Note	2025	2024
FIXED ASSETS			
Tangible	5(a)	284,500	284,500
Investment	5(b)	44,129	44,129
		<u>328,629</u>	<u>328,629</u>
CURRENT ASSETS			
Debtors	7	-	-
Short Term Deposits		201,689	190,954
Cash at bank and in hand		112,224	157,425
		<u>313,913</u>	<u>348,379</u>
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Creditors - amounts falling due within one year	7	<u>2,333</u>	<u>1,320</u>
NET CURRENT ASSETS		311,580	347,059
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		640,209	675,688
Creditors - amounts falling due after one year	7	-	-
TOTAL NET ASSETS		<u><u>640,209</u></u>	<u><u>675,688</u></u>
PARISH FUNDS			
Unrestricted	8	452,849	478,023
Designated	8	80,363	-
Restricted	8	62,868	153,536
Endowment	8	44,129	44,129
		<u>640,209</u>	<u>675,688</u>

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on 18/5/2026 and signed on its behalf by:


Revd. Paul Lock - Rector


J Cowley - PCC Secretary

2 - INCOMING RESOURCES

CBF code		Unrestricted Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	TOTAL 2025
2(a) Voluntary Income						
101	Planned Giving: Gift Aid donations	67,345	-	-	-	67,345
102	Tax Recoverable	9,501	-	-	-	9,501
103ab	Other	2,651	-	-	-	2,651
104	Collections (open plate)	11,124	-	-	-	11,124
105a	Gift Days	-	-	-	-	-
105b	Donations	29,128	-	-	-	29,128
201	Grants	6,631	-	-	-	6,631
202	Legacies	6,281	-	-	-	6,281
203b	Bispham Charity Fund	-	-	-	-	-
		<u>132,662</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>132,662</u>
2(b) Activities for Generating Funds						
401b	Bookstall for fundraising	-	-	-	-	-
	Hub Activities	840	-	-	-	840
203a	Rummage sales, fetes, etc.	6,485	-	-	-	6,485
	Net Income from Becketts Café	43,781	-	-	-	43,781
	Net Income from STM Post Office/Café	9,563	-	-	-	9,563
		<u>60,669</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>60,669</u>
2(c) Income from Investments						
301	Dividends and Interest including tax recoverable	3,334	-	-	-	3,334
		-	-	-	-	-
302	Rent from land or buildings held as an investment	15,548	-	-	-	15,548
		-	-	-	-	-
		<u>18,882</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>18,882</u>
2(d) Income from Church Activities						
402a	Church Hall lettings	2,953	-	-	-	2,953
401a	Bookstall for promoting church objectives	-	-	-	-	-
	Beneface Income	7,934	-	-	-	7,934
404	PCC Fees	39,093	450	19	-	39,562
		<u>49,981</u>	<u>450</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>50,450</u>
2(e) Other Incoming Resources						
601	Insurance claims	-	-	-	-	-
	Building funds	-	-	-	-	-
		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES		<u>262,193</u>	<u>450</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>262,662</u>

4(a) STAFF COSTS

2025

Gross Wages

64,071

64,071

4(b) PAYMENTS TO RELATED PARTIES

No payments or expenses have been made to any related parties to PCC members.

5. FIXED ASSETS

5(a) TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS (all unrestricted)

Freehold
Land &
Buildings

Actual / Deemed Cost

B/Fwd
Additions
Disposals
C/Fwd

284,500

284,500

Depreciation

B/Fwd
Charge for Year
Disposals
C/Fwd

-

-

-

-

Net Book Value

C/Fwd

284,500

B/Fwd

284,500

5(b) INVESTMENTS

Purchases at cost

44,129

Disposals at carrying value

-

Revaluation gain/loss

-

Market value as at 31st December 2025

44,129

The market value represents investments for:

Unrestricted funds

-

Restricted funds

-

Endowment funds

44,129

44,129

The Parish of Up Holland and Dalton
Accounts for the Year Ended 31st December 2025

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of The Parish of Up Holland and Dalton

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of The Parish of Up Holland and Dalton for the year ended 31st December 2025.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Trust 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; or
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 to be reached.

Paul Rothwell FCCA FCA CTA
Myersons, Chartered Accountants
32 Derby Street
Ormskirk
Lancashire
L39 2BY

Date.....