

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST BARTHOLOMEW, THURSTASTON

England & Wales · Charity number 1132086

Details

Other names	THURSTASTON PCC
Status	Registered
Legal form	Previously excepted
Registered	2009-10-12
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	Parish Office St. Chads Church Hall Roslin Road Irby Wirral CH61 3UH
Phone	01516488169
Email	office@thurstaston.org.uk
Website	www.thurstaston.org.uk

Activities

Objects: Promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church.

Activities: Regular public worship open to all. The provision of public space for personal prayer and contemplation. Pastoral work, including visiting the sick and bereaved. Teaching of Christianity through sermons, courses and small groups. Taking of religious assemblies at the Church of England school within the parish. The provision of a church hall for the use of the community with a Christian ethos.

Classification

- **How:** Makes Grants To Organisations, Provides Human Resources, Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Provides Services, Acts As An Umbrella Or Resource Body, Other Charitable Activities
- **What:** Religious Activities
- **Who:** The General Public/mankind

Geography

- **Area of benefit:** UNDEFINED. IN PRACTICE, LOCAL.
- Wirral

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£89,659	£94,279	-	-
2023-12-31	£80,177	£68,405	-	-
2022-12-31	£75,085	£82,913	-	-
2021-12-31	£80,349	£65,845	-	-
2020-12-31	£73,064	£57,754	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
REV ELIZABETH JANE TURNER	Chair	2011-06-05
CHRISTOPHER LUKE SMALE		2010-04-18
Cheryl Francine Goddard		2023-05-09
Christopher James Turnbull		2024-04-28
ELIZABETH ANN WHITEHEAD		2016-04-24
Hilary Jane Parkinson		2025-09-22
JANET TRIGG		2016-04-24
JON FRANCIS OLIVER		2016-04-24
JULIE ANN DEBOORDER		2016-04-24
MALCOLM JAMES STUDHOLME BSC IENG		2016-04-24
Pat Neil		2018-04-16
ROGER EDWARD JACKSON		
Rev Ailsa Claire Whorton		2023-12-18

Accounts

St Bartholomew's, Thurstaston with St Chad's Irby



MISSION AND ACTIVITIES IN 2024



Members of the PCC 2024-2025

Revd J Turner	Rector
Revd A Whorton	Associate Priest
Revd G Kydd	Curate
Mr C Smale	Deanery Synod 2023 – 2026
Ms C Goddard	Elected 2024 – 2027
Mr R Jackson	Elected 2024 – 2027
Mr J Oliver	Elected 2024 – 2027
Mr C Turnbull	Elected 2024 – 2027
Mrs J DeBooder	Elected 2023 – 2026
Mr M Studholme	Elected 2023 – 2026
Mrs J Trigg	Elected 2023 – 2026
Mrs P Neil	Elected 2022 – 2025
Mrs E Whitehead	Elected 2023 – 2025
Mr G Barley	Elected 2023 – deceased February 2024

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The Rector's Report

Every year has its ups and downs and 2024 was no exception. We have welcomed Revd Gaynor Kydd as a self-supporting part time permanent deacon following her Ordination on 30th June 2024. We welcomed eight baptism families, shared in the joy of three confirmation candidates and five wedding couples, and grieved with the eight families for whom we conducted funerals.

At one point in the year, we had no church officers, so I am very grateful to Cheryl who took on the role of PCC Secretary following Graham's death in February. We end the year still without Church Wardens or PCC Treasurer. I am grateful to the various PCC members who work hard at plugging these gaps, and who share the responsibilities which would normally be carried out by the Church Wardens. I am also grateful to the Finance Team who ensure that bills are paid, and income is banked. I continue to pray for God's guidance and calling for those who will serve in these roles in the forthcoming year(s).

At the end of the year, we thanked Dawn Rudd for her 20 years of ministry within Junior Church, we worked out that during that time she had probably worked with in the region of 80 families. Dawn had indicated earlier in the year that she wished to step back from this role, and I am hugely grateful to Julie DeBoorder for returning to working with our children and to Hilary Parkinson who joined our church in the Summer and who is going to work alongside Julie beginning in January 2025. Please do pray for them and for more young families to join our church.

During 2024, I received various comments and communications about the current pattern of services and about the lack of toilet at St Bartholomew's.

- The current pattern of services (put in place post-pandemic) is not ideal. All Church growth statistics show that churches grow best when the service is in the same place at the same time every week. However, due to declining congregations (see the Statistics for Mission Dashboard graphs on pages 6 & 7), less clergy (fewer retired clergy available) and the ageing profile of the congregation who are increasingly less able to carry on serving in the ways they have in the past, we simply do not have enough people to return to three services each Sunday.
- The lack of a toilet and disability access at St Bartholomew's has been on the PCC Agenda for the whole sixteen years that I have been here, with myself and the PCC working hard to find a solution. In the parish profile which I received in 2008 it stated "The Open Door project is a major parish initiative to provide an extension to the Parish church. It will comprise disabled access, toilet facilities, a meeting area and a small kitchen. The estimated cost is £150,000, we have raised £50,000 so far and will raise the balance from grants and fund raising." In 2010, I and the PCC won a consistory court case to gain permission for this extension (this cost us £10,000 in legal fees!). Sadly, despite our best efforts and for a variety of reasons, we were then unable to gain any grant funding and were unable to

go ahead. In the following years the PCC has revisited a whole variety of options and made further grant applications, all of which came to nothing. Following the pandemic in 2020 and the increasing costs of the current climate, the PCC decided to look for a solution which could be achieved within the funding that we had. I am hugely grateful to the various PCC members (especially John Roberts from 2008-2016, Andrew Harford from 2018-2021, Graham Barley and Malcolm Studholme from 2021-2024) who over the years have put huge amounts of time and effort into this project. During 2024, the PCC explored:

- the possibility of a “porta cabin” toilet in the churchyard – this would be a short term (20-30 year) solution to the lack of toilet but would not deal with the disability access to the church.
- converting the old tower into a disabled access toilet – this would require an access path which would need to start near the side gate in order to have the correct gradient and best guess at the cost of just the access path is in the region of £30,000. There would be no grant funding available to convert the tower unless we also provided disability access to the church building.
- Revisited the idea of building an extension. This is now estimated at approximately £500,000.

In January 2025 the PCC met with Mark Pearce (our Church architect), Sheena Wilson (Diocesan Buildings for Mission Advisor) and Dave Thomas (a congregation member with project management experience), with a view to finding a way forward which is practical and affordable (with or without grant funding) and which would get the required permissions for a Grade II* listed building in a conservation area from the Diocesan Advisory Committee (faculty) and from the local council (planning permission). You will see from the Accounts that there is approximately £30,000 remaining in the Open Door Fund.

Between Christmas and New Year Cheryl Goddard (PCC-Secretary) and I spent a day and a half sorting through documents and records which needed to go to the Chester Diocesan Archives. In January 2025, we delivered four boxes which contained service registers (1988-2017), baptism register (1954-2004), marriage registers (1981-2020), PCC and APCM Minutes (1993-2023), Parish Magazines (2007-2024), Annual Reports and Accounts (1993-2023) along with various other historical documents. This was a long and arduous job but very satisfying and it is now so much easier to put things into and out of the safe at St Bartholomew’s!

This year it has been wonderful to see a growth in the number of people engaging with faith in many different ways:-

- February Parish Trip to Chester Cathedral for “Luxmuralis”
- February – March “Table Talk” for Easter
- February - March Lent Group*
- April - May Book Group* - Journey to Contentment by Sally Welch
- May Small group attended “Bible art journalling” day at Foxhill
- June – July “Table Talk” for Friends*

- September – November Bible Study Group* – The Book of Esther
- October Parish Trip to Chester Cathedral for Trena Cox Exhibition
- November Small group attended “Advent Retreat” weekend at Foxhill
- December “Table Talk” for Christmas
- December Advent Book Group* – “Do not be Afraid” by Rachel Mann

The variety of trips and groups has enabled a whole mix of different people with different interests to join in. “Table Talk” was very informal and did not require any preparation by participants and was run in the morning. The Lent group, Book groups and Bible Study group (all marked with * in the list above) all had the option of joining via Zoom and it was good to be able to include a housebound member of the congregation in these groups, Revd Ailsa occasionally joined us from her army base, and other members when suffering with colds chose not to share their germs in person and instead joined via Zoom. As I write this in January 2025, we have already begun our first group for 2025, and there will be more to come. Three members of the congregation have already booked for a Retreat weekend at Foxhill in 2025 because they have gained so much from previous ones. Why don’t you make 2025 the year when you choose to join one of these groups, or trips to the Cathedral or Foxhill?

Throughout the year, in many and various ways, we have continued to seek to fulfil our vision statement “serving Christ in Thurstaston and Irby”, and you can read about more of them in the rest of the Annual Report. Thank you to everyone who has supported the mission and worship in this place during the last year. We pray that 2025 will be a year in which we again see God’s hand at work.

Revd Jane Turner

Electoral Roll Report

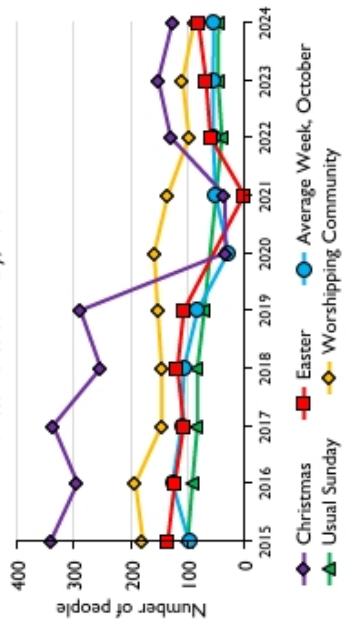
At the APCM in 2024 the electoral roll consisted of 149 members from 101 households.

Every 6th year the electoral roll has to be wiped clean and started again. That was the case this year. The new electoral roll has 97 members from 63 households.

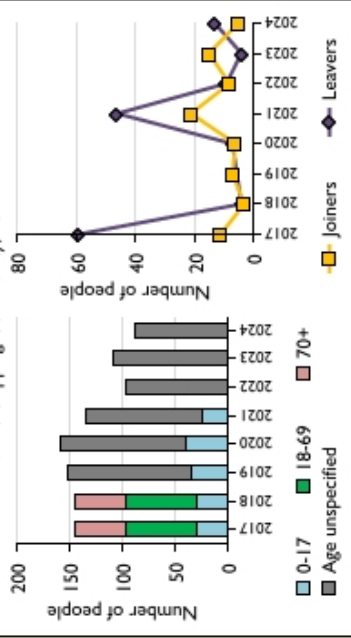
Helen Williams

SIM Dashboard for the Parish of Thurstaston: St Bartholomew in the deanery of WIRRAL, NORTH

1. Attendance Summary, 2015-24



2. Worshipping Community, 2017-24



Parish Census and deprivation summary

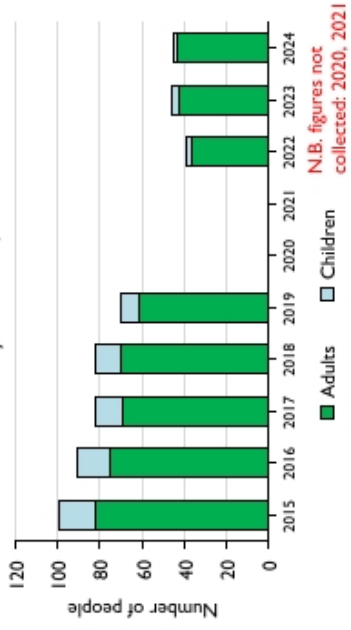
Parish population (2021): 4180	
% aged 0-19	20%
% aged 20-44	23%
% aged 45-69	36%
% aged 70 & over	21%
% Christian	63%
% non-Christian religion	1%
Parish Diocese National	
% aged 0-19	22%
% aged 20-44	29%
% aged 45-69	33%
% aged 70 & over	16%
% Christian	53%
% non-Christian religion	4%

Parish deprivation rank (IMD 2019): 10665
(1=most deprived parish in the Church of England, 12,239=least deprived)

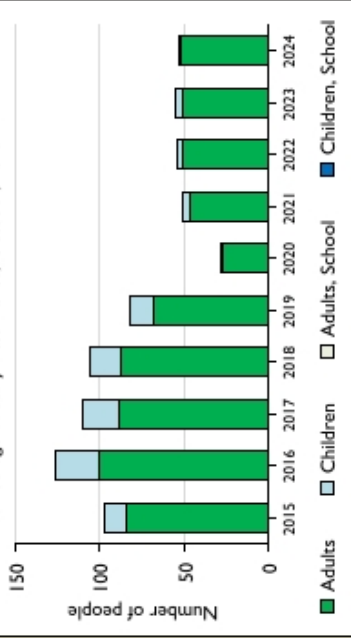
For more detailed census & deprivation info: see <http://arcg.is/1Ra54CS>
<https://www.churchofengland.org/researchandstats> and
<http://www2.cuf.org.uk/poverty-england/poverty-map>

Parish Code: 590164

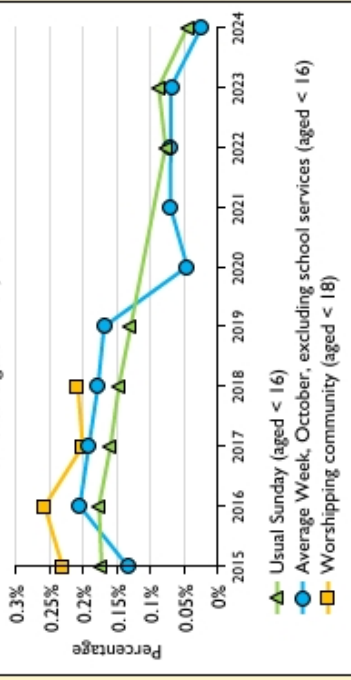
3. Usual Sunday Attendance, 2015-24



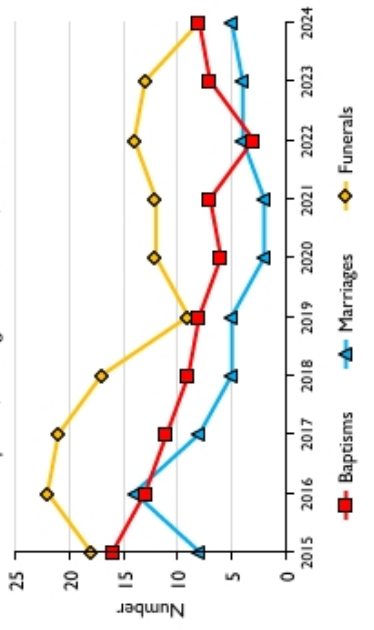
4. Average Weekly Attendance, October, 2015-24



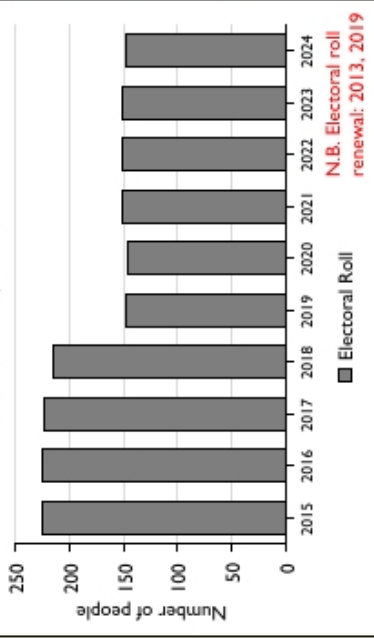
5. Percentage Children, 2015-24



6. Baptisms, marriages and funerals, 2015-24



7. Electoral Roll, 2015-24



This dashboard contains figures as submitted by churches currently in the parish
Attendance statistics: taken from annual Statistics for Mission returns.
Average weekly attendance: attendance at Sunday and midweek church services & fresh expressions in October; Figs 1 & 5 do not include attendance at services for schools.

Easter: Easter Eve & Easter Day; Christmas: Christmas Eve & Christmas Day.
Baptisms: all baptisms & thanksgivings.
Marriages: marriages and services of prayer & dedication after civil marriages.
Funerals: those held in church & at crematoria/cemeteries.
Because of pandemic-related church closures, Easter figures were not collected in 2020.

Census data: taken from the 2021 national Census.
Deprivation statistics: IMD taken from the English Indices of Deprivation, published by the Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government, Sept 2019.
The above statistics have been mapped onto parish boundaries so are approximations.
For more information, see: <https://www.churchofengland.org/researchandstats>

Variations in attendance from year to year may be the result of changes in the number of churches that submitted returns, or changes in parish/benefice structure.
Number of churches included in returns: 2015 2:2016 2:2018 2:2019 2:2020 2:2021 2:2022 2:2023 2:2024 2.
Produced by Data Services, Church House, Great Smith Street, London SW1P 3AZ. Date of production: 11/01/2025.
Every effort has been made to ensure that data are reliable. We would be pleased to be notified of any significant errors or omissions by email to statistics.unit@churchofengland.org



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SfM Dashboard Data for the Parish of Thurstaston: St Bartholomew in the deanery of WIRRAL, NORTH

Report	Field	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
1. Attendance Summary	Christmas	340	293	336	252	288	32	34	129	151	126
	Easter	134	122	106	117	106	-	0	59	67	80
	Average Week, October	97	126	110	106	82	28	50	54	55	53
	Usual Sunday	99	91	82	82	70	-	-	39	46	45
	Worshipping Community	178	191	145	145	152	158	134	97	108	88
2. Worshipping Community	Total		145	145	145	152	158	134	97	108	88
	0-17		29	30	30	35	39	24	-	-	0
	18-69		68	66	66	-	-	-	-	-	0
	70+		48	49	49	-	-	-	-	-	0
	Age unspecified		0	0	0	117	119	110	97	108	88
3. Usual Sunday Attendance	Joiners		11	3	7	6	21	8	15	5	
	Leavers		59	4	-	7	46	9	4	13	
	Adults	82	75	69	70	61	-	-	36	42	43
	Children	17	16	13	12	9	-	-	3	4	2
	Adults	84	100	89	87	68	27	47	51	51	52
4. Average Weekly Attendance	Children	13	26	21	19	14	1	4	4	4	1
	Adults, School	0	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	0	0
	Children, School	0	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	0	0
	Usual Sunday (aged < 16)	17%	18%	16%	15%	13%	-	-	8%	9%	4%
	Average Week, October, excluding school services (aged < 16)	13%	20%	19%	18%	17%	4%	7%	7%	7%	2%
5. Percentage Children	Worshipping community (aged < 18)	23%	26%	20%	21%	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Baptisms	16	13	11	9	8	6	7	3	7	8
	Marriages	8	14	8	5	5	2	2	4	4	5
	Funerals	18	22	21	17	9	12	12	14	13	8
	Electoral Roll	224	224	223	214	148	146	151	151	151	148



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OF ENGLAND

Report on the Business of the PCC in 2024

The PCC met 6 times in 2024.

Early in the year Mr Graham Barley passed away after battling with illness. He had been a very active member in the parish having been PCC Secretary for 40 years. At the APCM the Rector stated she had consulted with Mrs Barley and the family, and in recognition of Graham's service the green chairs at St Chad's would be replaced. It was anticipated that this would cost in the region of £2000. Members of the congregation were asked for donations and samples of chairs were tried resulting in the decision to purchase the 20 blue chairs, 10 with arms and 10 without, blue having been chosen to match the stacking chairs and because it was Graham's favourite colour. These new chairs have received very positive comments, with those with arms being appreciated by those with mobility issues.

The Rector nominated Mr Barley for a Lifetime Achievement Award with the National Churches Trust. His nomination reached the final, and as a consequence the parish has been offered free membership of the Trust for the year.

Church Services

Vision Sunday – in line with other parishes in the Diocese a questionnaire had been circulated at services giving people an opportunity to respond to questions about reaching out to people in our community and suggestions for regarding what people felt would help them grow in faith. The PCC reviewed the responses noting that there were a lot of positive comments about things which were currently happening, and noting that many of the things people were requesting were already being provided. It was agreed that more use should be made of Crosstalk and the ITPAS notice boards to publicise the activities within the parish.

Living in Love and Faith – two papers produced by the Church of England had been circulated to PCC members to read; Prayer of Love and Faith and Living in Love and Faith Pastoral Guidance. These papers had been written in the context of providing prayers for friendships and same-sex relationships to be used within services. Each member of the PCC was asked to respond sensitively to the papers. Concerns were expressed that some members of the congregation might be very uncomfortable if these prayers were used in the parish. Revd Jane explained, that due to her current theological understanding, she would not feel able to conduct a same-sex blessing. Having heard each other's comments and listening to Revd Jane it was agreed that these prayers would not be adopted in the parish. Church guidance had made it clear that a PCC could not be forced to accept these prayers. Revd Jane concluded this discussion by stating that she was certain that there were parishes within Wirral North Deanery where the Prayers of Love and Faith would be adopted and couples seeking the use of these prayers could be referred to one of those parishes.

Use of Chalice – there was a discussion about the reintroduction of receiving bread in hand and wine from the chalice at Communion after PCC members had sought the opinion of members of the congregations. There was less than a handful of positive responses, so it was agreed that simultaneous administration would

continue. Included in this discussion was the returning to using the altar rail to receive, to kneel or stand according to the individual. This was positively supported and was restarted in September.

Bell-ringing – with there only being a 10.30am service at St Bartholomew's every other Sunday, the bells have only been rung on those Sundays. There have been discussions about ringing every Sunday, ringing at 8.30am on the Sundays when there is not a 10.30am service. Mr Robson has contacted the residents in Thurstaston for their opinion and to date no final decision has been reached on ringing weekly.

Junior Church – there was concern regarding the future of Junior Church with Sally Partington standing down as co-leader in the summer and Dawn Rudd stating she would finish leading at the end of the year. Julie DeBoorder offered to lead and at the end of the year Hilary Parkinson offered to work alongside Julie, with grateful thanks to them for taking on this responsibility.

Ministry Support – Revd Gaynor Kydd became our Curate after her ordination as Deacon service on 30 June. She has attended PCC meetings, been involved in some of our discussion groups and in our services through leading Morning Worship, preaching, reading, prayers and serving. She has also shadowed Revd Jane on wedding and funeral visits and services.

Finance

Banking – for the majority of the year banking had to be done in Chester due to the closure of many local banks, with grateful thanks to Mr Studholme and Mr Smale who took it in turns to visit Chester. CAF (Charities Aid Foundation) bank eventually came to an agreement with the Post Office with the caveat that should a monthly total deposit exceed £2000, then a handling fee would be charged.

Parish Share – we have continued to pay 40% of the parish share throughout the year.

Introduction of the Parish Giving Scheme (PGS) – having heard PGS mentioned at a Deanery meeting at the beginning of the year which I attended with Mr Smale, I was keen to see it introduced in the parish as it had been implemented and used very beneficially in the parish and diocese from which I have come. A representative from Chester Diocese gave a presentation at PCC and it was agreed that it should be introduced. At the end of the year 36 monthly donations were being given via PGS, with the number of people moving over to the scheme continuing. To date, it is thought that our parish is the only one using PGS in Chester Diocese. It has the benefit of funds going straight into the parish bank account, gift-aid being collected monthly with the option of agreeing for donations to be increased annually with the donor's permission.

The Finance Committee has deliberated at length about setting a budget and changing the accounting system from Quickbooks to My Fund Accounting which is the accounting system the Diocese recommends, both of which have been discussed at PCC meetings.

Mrs Bulter's salary was reviewed during the year, and is due to be reviewed again in April 2025

Vacancies in the Church Council

Following the APCM, vacancies for Churchwardens, a Treasurer, three Deanery Synod members and three members of the PCC remained unfilled. Ms Goddard and Mr Turnbull joined the PCC with Mr Jackson and Mr Oliver re-standing for the next 3 years, with Ms Goddard becoming the PCC Secretary.

The vacancy of Treasurer has remained unfilled all year, with the responsibility for bookkeeping being covered by Mrs Butler taking on payroll officer as well as her other financial responsibilities with the support of the Finance Sub-Committee.

Safeguarding

It is mandatory that this item be included on every PCC Agenda. Please see the Safeguarding report.

Buildings and Churchyard Matters

Toilet at St Bartholomew's – this item has been discussed at every PCC meeting. Please see the Rector's report for more information.

Defibrillator at St Bartholomew's – this installation had been discussed by the PCC towards the end of 2023. This was a match-funded purchase of benefit to the community. With financial support from the Dawpool Farm Residents Company Ltd, Mr Ledsham from Church Farm and contributions from the congregation the defibrillator was purchased and installed. Mr Oliver is responsible for checking that it is fully charged on a regular basis.

Paving slab path replacement at St Chad's – after considering whether to replace like for like paving or to tarmac the entrances to St Chad's and along the path to Roslin Road, tarmac replacement was considered to be the best option to providing a level surface and removing the need to clear weeds between paving slabs.

Windows in the extension at St Chad's – it was noticed that some of the wooden frames on the windows facing the car park were failing. These have been replaced with PVC frames for longevity.

The wood frame above the porch at St Chad's – it has been noted that this needs attention and will be repaired at no cost to the parish.

St Bartholomew's churchyard south wall – a section of wall has collapsed and it has been agreed that the fallen stones should be built as a dry stone wall by an experienced contractor.

Cheryl Goddard
PCC Secretary

Safeguarding

As a parish we have adopted the national Church of England's procedures and guidelines on safeguarding and you can find out more about the national policies and procedures on the parish website and the Church of England website. We also work with the Diocese of Chester to access their resources and training. Any individual who wishes to come forward with information or to make a disclosure is encouraged to make direct contact with the nominated individuals within the parish.

Locally, we continue to promote safeguarding within the parish, ensuring that DBS checks and appropriate safeguarding training is undertaken and kept up to date for all in positions of responsibility; this includes: Churchwardens, PCC members, employees of the PCC, Bell Ringers, Junior Church Leaders and helpers, Tots and Tinies Leaders and helpers, Sidespeople, Sacristans, Servers, Refreshment Servers, Flower arrangers and Warm Hub Helpers. In addition, safer recruitment procedures are in place for all new appointment processes.

We have a dedicated email address safeguarding@thurstaston.org.uk and safeguarding information is displayed on the front page of our parish website. Information is also provided on our weekly notice sheet, in the parish magazine, and on service sheets for one-off services.

There haven't been any safeguarding referrals during the course of the year. In the year ahead we will continue to ensure that training and checks are updated and that we continue to engage with the diocese's 'dashboard' model of tracking safeguarding compliance.

Chris Williams
Parish Safeguarding Officer

Junior Church

Junior Church has continued to run on a monthly basis throughout 2024 led by Dawn Rudd and Sally Partington. The age of children is generally of pre-school age. Sessions start with a short bible story and then crafts relating to the theme. Throughout the year we've explored Candlemas, celebrated Mothers Day, Palm Sunday, St George's day, the Lost Sheep, the Wise man/Foolish man, Jesus and his Disciples, Harvest and we planted bulbs in the garden to flower this springtime.

Sally has led Junior Church for several years and decided to step down in the summer, a big thank you to Sally for always being prepared with a book and being creative. After 22 enjoyable years I decided to retire at the end of the year. Thank you to all leaders and helpers over the years for all your support.

Junior Church will continue to run on the fourth Sunday of each month led by Julie and Hilary.

Dawn Rudd and Sally Partington

St Bartholomew Church Bell Ringers

We continue to ring the Church bells at Thurstaston for the Sunday service and on special occasions. We are an enthusiastic group who are willing to learn and are steadily improving our ringing.

We now only ring on alternate weeks on a Sunday morning (due to the change in service patterns). We continue to meet on the other Sundays for coffee, chat and hand bell practice. We host a monthly quarter peal attempt by members of the band and Wirral Branch, and we run a monthly hand bell session.

This year we had a special celebration in April. We met for a surprise afternoon tea at The Shippons to celebrate Richard Turner ringing the bells at St Bartholomew's for 60 years (45 years as Tower Captain).

A plaque was commissioned and presented to Richard (this now hangs in the tower) and a quarter peal of Plain Bob Doubles was rung by a tower band.



Richard Turner with the plaque and the band wearing their St Bartholomew's clothing.

You will note that the ringers now look very smart all wearing clothing embroidered with the logo of the Chester Diocesan Guild of Church Bellringers and St Bartholomew's Thurstaston. These were bought via the Guild and part of the price was donated to the bell Restoration Fund.

Below is a list of the quarter peals that were rung at the tower last year;

Wednesday 6th March **¼ Peal 1320 Oxford Treble Bob Minor**

First quarter of Oxford for 2 ringers

Wednesday 3rd April **¼ Peal 1320 Cambridge Surprise Minor**

Thursday 20th April **¼ Peal 1260 Plain Bob Doubles** Rung in celebration of Richard Turner ringing at St Bartholomew's Church for 60 years (45 years as Tower Captain)

Rung by a local band

Wednesday 8th May **¼ Peal 1260 Plain Bob Minor**

First Bob Minor for Alice

Wednesday 12th June **¼ Peal 1320 Kent Treble Bob Minor**

Wednesday 10th July **¼ Peal 1296 Cambridge Surprise Minor**

Wednesday 14th August **¼ Peal 1320 Cambridge Surprise Minor**

Rung in celebration of the life of Patricia Andrews, wife of Geoff Andrews, past Tower Captain at Thurstaston (1955 – 1968)



Geoff Andrews (centre) surrounded by his family following the quarter peal

Wednesday 11th September **¼ Peal 1320 Cambridge Surprise Minor**

First Cambridge for Amy

Saturday 21st September **¼ Peal 1320 Wells Surprise Minor**

With best wishes for a speedy recovery to Liz Whitehead following a knee operation

Monday 14th October **¼ Peal 1260 Doubles** (60 Stedman, 240 Plain Bob and St Simon's, 360 St Martin's and Grandsire)

Wednesday 13th November **¼ Peal 1320 Kent Treble Bob Minor**

Wednesday 11th December **¼ Peal 1320 Cambridge Surprise Minor**

We enjoyed our Christmas meal in the New Year as usual. We met in February and had a wonderful evening with good food at The Mont Blanc in Irby.

We currently have 18 ringers but will always welcome more. You are welcome to come and see what we do and to join us (please ring first to confirm that we will be there).

Peter Robson
Tower Captain

Warm Hub

The Warm Hub has been running weekly for over two years now, serving the need for a safe, warm and friendly environment in which to enjoy social activity, company of other people, refreshments and a programme of talks and events designed to enlighten, interest and entertain. The sessions are open to everyone and they remain entirely free of charge, although we now invite donations on Guest Speaker weeks.

Our small book and jigsaw library remains popular, whilst the range of other entertainments like dominoes etc is expanding. Once a month, one of the volunteers organises a quiz in which, working in teams, our guests prove fiercely competitive! On the 4th Tuesday of each month, there is a Guest Speaker or Special Event and these sessions attract increasing numbers of people. It is difficult to describe the range of the topics covered and were you to ask our guests, they would probably all recall different ones as favourites. However, perhaps the Harp Recital was one of the most memorable – not only did Bethan Conway play so beautifully, but she also explained how to play the harp and how she had declined lessons in the first instance, preferring to play football in the park. People were enthralled! Many of our speakers are friends of the Warm Hub – Steve Jeffrey, Linda Barley, Sue Turnbull, Margaret Fletcher, Alan Jones, Pauline Mitchell and Elizabeth Barton. Some, however, came from further afield, like Jenny Schwarz who brought to life Yellowstone National Park (USA) in winter, Peter Copley who advised us about Family History, Mary Ward who outlined the History of Irby, and Peter and Jill Nicholson who gave us a hilarious account of early Gordale. Adults with Learning Disabilities came from Royden Park bringing their beautiful barn owl, Roy, with whom they are learning about falconry. They successfully flew Roy in the church after which they encouraged guests to wear the gauntlet and hold her.

In addition to being affiliated to Places of Welcome (which is supported by Chester Diocese) and Warm Welcome Spaces, the Warm Hub is championed by many village businesses, Irby Club and the Warrens Medical Centre Social Prescriber. However, we are particularly indebted to the PCC and Parish Secretary for the administrative support and the Wednesday morning donation. We are very grateful to Revd Jane for her assistance in advertising events and especially for applying to Tesco for us so that we are now one of their three chosen local charities until March 2025. This means that the Warm Hub is guaranteed £500 (more, if people vote for us).

2025 stretches ahead with talks, entertainments and weekly events planned. None of this would happen without the team of wonderful volunteers whose enthusiasm, kindness and energy lift the spirits of all who attend each week.

Susan Smale

Tots & Tinies

In the Academic Year Sept 2023 – Sept 2024 we used the Big Bible Story Book for our Story/Song Time. We had an average of 25 Adults and 30 children present each week.

We re-register all families each September and between Sept-Dec 2024 we had 55 adults and 79 children registered. Some of them come regularly, others pop in and out more haphazardly.

It continues to be a great help having volunteers to provide tea/coffee and Juice throughout the session and clear up the Kitchen. This makes a huge difference to the tidying up at the end.

Thank you to everyone who plays a part in making this group so successful and welcoming to all who attend.

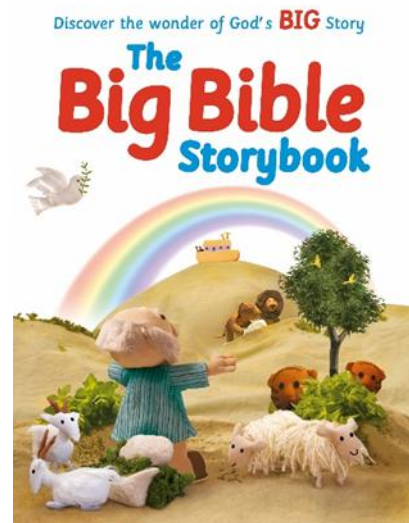
Revd Jane (on behalf of Allison Youds)

Community Outreach and Social Events

In **January** we held a breakfast Bring and Buy with toast and teacakes, a tasty enjoyable morning.

In **February** we again had a Heart Bomb in Irby and the W.I. knitted and wrapped knitted scarves on the trees and our merry team hung hearts all around Irby Village, St Chad's and St Bartholomew's Churches. Our ladies created some wonderful floral arrangements too. Our purpose was for everyone to feel loved around Valentine's Day.

The sight of so many hearts all over the village and at both churches was uplifting, residents and shops joined in putting hearts in their front gardens and windows. It was a lovely event and many people commented how lovely it looked and how it was a nice thing to do for the community. Lots of smiling faces and thank yous as we put them up.





Also in February we had a fascinating talk on going on a pilgrimage by Cheryl Goddard, lots of interesting questions and a well-attended event.



In **March** we hosted an **ARTY PARTY** and everyone had a great time painting a spring scene and having a drink and nibbles as we went along.

In **April** we had an interesting talk all about WaterAid with a cake sale, many people donated to this worthy cause and all proceeds went to WaterAid.

Also in April an impromptu tea in the garden with the bluebells. We had a welcome break in the rain and enjoyed the sunshine and bluebells.



In **May** a lovely day out at Ness Gardens, strolling in the sunshine, picnics, coffee and cake and ice-creams.



In **June** we had a walk to Hilbre Island on a bright but windy day, an enjoyable day for everyone.



In **July** we had The Guide Dogs Demonstration and it was fascinating to watch dog and handler in action. Donations were made to this worthy cause on the night and we later took their catalogue and coordinated an order for Christmas goodies as well.



In **August** we ran **Summer Saturdays** and the garden was opened to all. Many hands had worked together weeding, pruning and planting and we opened up the gardens on Saturday mornings. Children's toys, crafts, drinks and snacks were available. All ages mixed together and everyone enjoyed the company, nature and the beautiful surrounding.



In **August** we also had St *Beartholomew's* Day, in the lovely sunshine, a great event for families and friends to marvel at the parachuting teddies, eat delicious cake with a cuppa and generally have great fun, helped along by children's raffle, pic n mix and lucky dip.

In **September** we held a Coffee and Craft Sale afternoon. We received a generous donation of a variety of craft supplies, sewing pattern books, wool, crochet and sewing kits etc and our ladies made some beautiful scarves, so making a jolly afternoon, shopping for bargains and having a cuppa and natter, proceeds to church funds.





In **October** Maralyn and June demonstrated how to make Christmas table decorations and by generously donating wooden discs and decorations along with a purchase of candles and flowers, we made 20 beautiful items which we sold at the Christmas Bazaar and other events in aid of church funds.



In **November** we had the Christmas Bazaar, complete with a variety of many local beautiful handcrafted goodies and we were able to support several charities. There was also homemade gorgeous cakes, an amazing raffle, children's crafts and games and Santa's Grotto. A popular event for the community and enjoyable time had by all.





In **December** we provided children's Christmas Crafts and Games in the Evangelical Church Hall during the Irby Lights Switch On. A very popular place for families, making Christmas Crafts, playing the ever popular lucky cards and a last chance to buy some handmade Christmas gifts, all in the warmth with plenty to keep the children occupied.

GARDENS St Chad's and St Bartholomew's

A small hardworking, generously time giving, gardening team has formed and together with the mowing team at St Chad's and the Bellringers at St Bartholomew's, both churches have been tended, pruned, planted and rewarded us with blossoms, provided food and a home for the wildlife and created lovely places to be enjoyed by all.



THANK YOU

to the many people involved in these events, for giving their time and skills and to everyone who came along and supported them.

Julie DeBoorder

Dawpool Church of England Primary School

In 2024 the relationships between school and church continued to grow and flourish. Throughout the year, Revd Jane continued to visit school on a weekly basis. The time that Revd Jane has given has been greatly appreciated by all staff and is a model of good practice to other schools. As well as pastoral support for staff, Revd Jane also spent time visiting each year group on a rota. Pupils relish this time with Revd Jane when they are able to be encouraged, supported and celebrate their learning with her.



Pupils and staff visited church for an Easter service, Christingle and a carol service. Year Six visited St Chad's and shared the mid-week communion service. Pupils had prepared their own worship song to share with parishioners. As part of the Religious Education curriculum, a number of year groups visited both St Bartholomew's and St Chad's churches.



Year 3 participated in the Archbishop of York Young Leaders' Award. As part of this programme pupils invited elderly members of the congregation to a coffee morning. Pupils baked biscuits, prepared and served the refreshments and distributed gifts of kindness. They also celebrated aspects of their learning that they were most proud of.

Revd Jane and Revd Gaynor also joined us when Year 6 travelled to Chester Cathedral to participate in the annual Church Schools Leavers' Service.

Church members and friends supported the school's interfaith week. This year's theme was 'Share a Story.' Revd Jane and Revd Gaynor shared the story of Esther with Years 1 and 2 – making the link between school and the church study group who were also studying Esther. Cheryl Goddard spoke with pupils in Year 5 and



6 about Psalm 139. Julie DeBoorder supported pupils to create a new window display depicting the holy books of each major world religion. Julie's friend Padma returned to teach children in EYFS a Hindu dance. Church kindly donated CDs, decorations and battery operated tealights to enable pupils to create Diya lamps.

A number of volunteers continue to attend school each week to support the development of reading. Both pupils and volunteers look forward to their dedicated reading time.

School Governors (which include some congregation members) have offered support with whole school life including support for specific projects, walks to church and class trips.



In December, the whole school community came together for an act of worship to celebrate the headteacher Mr Burrows as he embarked on the next stage of his career at Chester Diocese as a Schools Adviser. Invited guests included family members, a Chester Diocesan Academies Trust representative and Governors. Pupils led the worship reflecting on the unique God given talents of Mr Burrows - which encompassed the Fruits of the Spirit and his implementation of the curriculum 'The Abundant Life of Jesus'. Revd Jane led everyone in prayer, commissioning Mr Burrows for his new role.

Mrs McCann
Acting Headteacher

THE CHILDREN'S SOCIETY

For over 140 years the Society has worked to transform the lives and hopes of young people facing abuse, exploitation and neglect, supporting them through their most serious life challenges. The Society also campaigns tirelessly for the big social changes that will improve the lives of those who need hope most.

Jean Heath and **Barbara Kozer** co-ordinate fund raising for the Society in the Parish.

We held two Coffee Mornings during 2024, one on 16th March which raised £800 and another on 26th October which raised £712.20. Our thanks go to all the stall holders and helpers and for the donations received and, of course, to all those who turn out to support these events.

In the Autumn, the House Boxes provided another source of income for the Society with a total of £939, and we thank all boxholders for their generous support.

Sincere thanks to all those who have contributed to the Children’s Society in any way during the past year and we hope to have more opportunities to come together in 2025 to help those who need our support.

Jean Heath (648 6015)

The Leprosy Mission

The Prayer Diary is used at every Morning Prayer.

Donations raised for Charities throughout the year which have been given directly to the organisations

Water Aid (cake sale)	£260.00
Guide Dogs	£68.48
Guide Dogs Christmas catalogue purchases	£336.00
British Legion Poppy Appeal	£43.21

Thank you to everyone who gave generously to these charities.

2nd Irby Rainbows

1st Irby Rainbows who met at Irby Methodists closed at the end of the summer term and most of the girls joined our unit resulting in us having 26 Rainbows in total. Meetings are held on Tuesdays. The girls enjoy craft activities and games each week, and are working towards badges.

We made edible fireworks, planted plants for cups of kindness, did the splat thing for the young person going to NASA, made Christmas decorations and decorated the tree for Becky’s gran’s care home. We went to the Pantomime and enjoyed playing tennis in Heswall with Dan.

One of our favourite activities in 2024 was toasting marshmallows, and we enjoyed helping with Irby Heart bomb.

Karen, Allison, Trish, Emily and Bec

3rd Irby Brownies

The Brownies have continued to meet at St Chad's weekly and we have had another great year full of activities and fun.

The Brownies have been very busy this year completing several guiding interest and challenge badges. We have had several girls achieve the highest programme award "Gold Award" again this year. This is a really special achievement and means that they fully completed the Brownie programme prior to moving up to Guides. We have had several girls go up to Guides this year.

We have had various overnight trips including a sleepover in the circus ring at Blackpool Tower, PGL at Winmarleigh Hall and some evenings at the cinema, bowling and mini golf. We have had several weekend trips including a carnival event at Hadlow Fields and going to a pantomime.

Several of our Brownies performed in the Gang Show this year and we were very proud of how fantastic they were.

Anyone who has a particular interest or service which they think the Brownies would be interested to learn about please feel free to get in touch as we are always looking for new ideas for our meetings.

Lynn McCoy, Gemma Willerton, Michelle Carter

Fabric, Goods and Ornaments of the Church

Due to not having any Church Wardens during this year, there is no Fabric Report.

Deanery Synod Report for 2024

For those who may be unfamiliar with the rather old-fashioned language used by the Church of England, a deanery is a group of churches within a particular geographical area. We belong to the Wirral North deanery and within the Chester diocese there are eighteen deaneries. Synod simply refers to a gathering of clergy and elected or volunteer parishioners. One of the advantages of this structure is that it enables members to look beyond the Christian family within their own parish and to remind themselves that we all belong to a larger family. We are able to share anxieties and concerns that we may have, but also to gather ideas and celebrate with people from other churches what is going well.

During 2024, there were three meetings held within Wirral North deanery. The first, on Monday 29th January, was hosted by The Lighthouse Church in Heswall. It gave us a chance to see the new building almost immediately after its opening and, whilst there may be mixed reactions to the style of architecture, there is no doubt that it is an extremely versatile space. The main topic discussed at the

meeting was Stewardship and Giving, starting with a PowerPoint given by the Revd Peter Froggatt. After thinking about the anxieties that many churches are experiencing at the present time in relation to this topic, we moved on to consider the pyramid of thankfulness (Responsibility, Generosity and Contentment) and watched a video entitled 'Generosity'.

This led to thinking about how we might do things better with regard to Stewardship and encourage generosity. Two acronyms were suggested:

1. **MINT**

Have the right **MECHANISMS**
Show the **IMPACT**
Explain the **NEED**
Build **TRUST**

2. **IDEA**

INSPIRE people by celebrating generosity
DISCIPLE people by teaching God's generosity
EMBED generosity in the church's life
ACTIVATE generosity by providing opportunities

The final part of the meeting consisted of a presentation on how to encourage digital financial giving by Ms Bessia Kanengoni (Diocesan Digital Giving Adviser).

The second meeting of the year took place at St Andrew's Church, Bebington on Wednesday, 26th June. Paul Crowther from 'Embracing Age' was welcomed and invited to speak about the work of this Christian Charity. The aim of the charity is "Working towards a world where older people are valued, connected and full of hope," and they do this by equipping churches, mobilizing volunteers, combatting loneliness and providing ongoing support.

Having considered such questions as:

- Why do we need to think strategically about ministry amongst older people?
- How do you define old?
- How do you view older people?
- Who would you choose to join your church?

members were urged to develop a strategy for ministry amongst older people, if they didn't already have one. Expressed in simple terms this involves three actions, which should be at the heart of all Christian ministry:

Look

- At your church members. Some may not be able to attend as they are living in care homes, but they must not be "out of sight".
- At your local community, as there may be an organisation with whom you can work.

Listen

- Talk to the "target". Do not assume their needs.

Love

- Christian love expresses where there is the need.

- Remind older people that they are loved and that they are still sons and daughters of God.
- We are loving just to love.

The final meeting of the year was hosted by Christ Church, Higher Bebington and focused on Safeguarding. The Revd Mike Loach, in opening the meeting, reminded members that we are called upon to safeguard the whole of God's creation and encouraged us to pray for the forthcoming COP29 gathering.

Lynn Everton, from the Diocese of Chester Safeguarding Team, then gave a presentation in which she spoke about the critical importance of promoting a safer church and of complying with national standards published by the National Safeguarding Team. Chester Diocese launched a safeguarding dashboard in June, so that parishes can ensure that they are meeting these standards. Although members of the Synod welcomed this development, some expressed their frustration with the dashboard, saying that it was impossible to answer some questions, which then prevented a parish from moving forward.

Lynn, who has a background within social work, emphasized that the diocesan safeguarding team is now complete and that they are keen to support parishes with safeguarding questions and concerns.

I hope it is clear from this summary that the deanery synod addresses important issues. Meetings are open to other members of church congregations, not just synod members, so do feel free to attend any meetings in 2025 that may interest you.

Chris Smale

Treasurer's Report and Accounts

Overall, we have had a more successful year than last year, with income slightly increasing.

PARISH SHARE

For the year 2024 we maintained a payment of 40% of the agreed Parish Share (£30138 paid of the £75344.42 as requested) to maintain our reserves at the required level.

ANALYSIS OF PERFORMANCE BETWEEN 2023 AND 2024

INCOME

Our overall income from giving was up slightly, 7% on last year, which is encouraging. Thank you to everyone for their amazing generosity in these troubled times.

We have had specific donations for chairs at St Chads in memory of Graham Barley and a defibrillator at St Bartholomew's, without the generous gifts from the congregation these would not have been possible.

This year we have also started a flower fund for flowers at church.

We have seen an encouraging number of people sign up to the new Parish Giving Scheme. Thank you to Cheryl for being instrumental in implementing this new system and thanks to Finance Committee for their support and championing of it.

Donations/Grants/Legacies/Fundraising Events

We have received 2 Grants this year one from the Raby school trust of £820 which was used to purchase Eggsplorers resources and £200 from the Diocese towards the Warm Hub

We have received 2 legacies this year, £8000 from the estate of Peggy Evans. £1000 in memory of Jane Ferguson.

Everyone should be encouraged to read our legacy policy and think about including the church in their will.

Various fund raising events such as Santa in Irby, Christmas Fair and Bears Day raised a total of £1716 (£500 more than last year), thanks to Julie DeBoorder for all her hard work and to everyone involved for all the effort in organising these community events.

Gift Aid and GASDS

We have just introduced the Parish Giving Scheme; this enables us to receive the gift aid on any donations at the time of the donation without us having to submit a claim to HMRC. Going forward this will significantly reduce the work required to receive Gift Aid.

Many thanks to Chris Turnbull and Chris Smale for the amazing work they do in this area which can be very time consuming and laborious.

Fees Received

Fees received were down again this year by £366 to £3056 from £3422 the previous year.

Hall Hire

Income from hall hire has increased from £10455 in 2023 to £12845, there has been a slight increase in regular hall bookings and we are hiring out the extension to the Council as a polling station each year.

Investments and Reserves

Given the interest rate rises over the year our income from investments was up from £6592 in 2023 to £7244 in 2024.

We have been able to maintain our reserves at a decent level by not paying the full parish share but the nature of our situation means this needs to be maintained

for the continued financial health of the PCC and to cover any unexpected expenditure which can occur at any time.

There has been an expense of £4032 from the Open Door Fund this year, this was to pay the architects for some plans.

EXPENDITURE

Expenditure has gone up, the main increases are £1687 in wages, £6000 one off payment for 2023 parish share, £582 increase in insurance, £1500 increase in church yard upkeep, £600 increase in St Chad’s utilities. Thanks to Malcolm Studholme for investigating and switching the phone and electricity contract. We have also had a large expense of £7900 for the Tarmac at St Chads.

Summary

It has been another difficult year for everyone for many reasons so to have come out the other end in a stable financial position is a credit to the generosity of everyone in the Parish.

I would like to thank MAW accountants for their invaluable support over the year. I would also like to thank Chris Smale and Malcolm for banking the money earlier in the year. Also thank you to Linda Barley for collecting and counting the money each week.

During 2024, the finance team comprised:

Accounts Partner	MAW Accountants
Parish Giving Officers	Chris Turnbull and Chris Smale
Banker	Kate Butler / Chris Smale / Malcom Studholme
Parish Administrator	Kate Butler
Signatory	Roger Jackson, Chris Turnbull, Chris Smale, Pat Neil, Malcolm Studholme
Hall Hire Officer	Kate Butler
Payroll Officer	Kate Butler
Committee members	Chris Smale, Malcolm Studholme, Pat Neil, Cheryl Goddard, Chris Turnbull

Kate Butler
Parish Bookkeeper

Independent examiner's report on the accounts



**CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES**

Section A Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/ members of The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St. Bartholomew, Thurstaston

On accounts for the year ended	31st December 2024	Charity no (if any)	1132086
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Set out on pages 1 to 7 (remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Charities Act") and that an independent examination is needed. [The charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of [named body]]. *Delete [] if not applicable.*

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act,
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act, and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention

Basis of independent examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

**Independent
examiner's statement**

In connection with my examination, no material matters have come to my attention (other than that disclosed below *) which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- 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.

I 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.

** Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.*

Signed:  Date: 18th March 2025

Name: Margaret Ann Walker of MAW Accountants

Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any): ICPA(Fellow), CPAA

Address: 33 Thingwall Road
Irby
Wirral CH61 3UE

Section B Disclosure

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.

A large, empty rectangular box with a thin black border, occupying the central portion of the page. It is intended for the user to provide details as requested in the text to its left.

CHURCH ACCOUNTS 2024

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Bartholomew, Thurstaston
Registered Charity Number 1132086

Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ending 31 December 2024

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2024	Total 2023
Receipts & Payments account					
Receipts					
<i>Voluntary Receipts</i>					
Planned Giving St Bartholomew	16338			16338	18518
St Chad	12068			12068	13511
Other Collections St Bartholomew	1782			1782	1493
St Chad	703			703	593
Parish Giving Scheme - one off donations including Jane Ferguson legacy	1019			1019	
Parish Giving Scheme - regular donations	4656			4656	
Withdrawal from Reserve account for open door payment		4032		4032	
Total	36567	0	4032	0	40599
Donations					
Wallbox	0			0	
Recurring Donations	1820			1820	1750
Non recurring Donations (see note 1)	4917			4917	655
Total donations	6737	0	0	0	6737
	43304			47336	36520
Grants received (see note 2)	520			520	902
Legacies (see note 15)	8000			8000	10000
Tax recovered - Parish giving scheme	1241			1241	
Tax recovered	8386			8386	9554
Total	18147	0	0	0	20456
Total Donation Income	61451	0	0	0	65483
Activities for Generating Funds (See note 3)	1716			1716	1199
Church Activities (See note 4)	18494			18494	15409
Income from Investments (See note 5)	7997			7997	6592
TOTAL	89659	0	0	0	93691
Payments					
Cost of generating voluntary income (See note 6)	217			217	153
Mission Giving (See note 7)	585			585	125
Church Activities (See note 8)	82178	4032		86210	68127
Major Works - (See Note 17)	11299			11299	0
TOTAL	94279	0	4032	0	98311
Excess of Receipts over Payments	-4620	0	-4032	0	-4620
Transfers between funds					
Total					
Bank Current and Deposit Accounts 1 Jan	71668	189151		7729	268548
Bank Current and Deposit Accounts 31 Dec	70475	192394		8213	271081
	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowme Funds	Total 2024	Total 2023
Statement of Assets and Liabilities					
Assets					
Cash at bank and in hand and undeposited funds	9			9	9
CAF Current Account	36396			36396	38530
CAF Gold Account	29743			29743	29021
Total	66148	0	0	0	66148
Investment Assets (See note 9)					
Morrell Trust		9065		9065	8600
Ismay Charity			8213	0	7729
Tudor Trust		27283		27283	26250
Eileen Shaw Trust		117053		117053	113438
Open Door		38993		38993	40863
Reserve Fund	4326			4326	4108
Total	70475	0	192394	0	8213
				271081	268548
Other Monetary Assets					
Flower Float	0				
Treasurers Float	0				

Gift aid claimable	0					0	0
Total Assets	70475	0	192394	0	8213	271081	268548
Liabilities (See note 11)						0	429
Flower Float	378.25						
Treasureres Float	92						
Total Assets less Liabilities	70004		192394		8213	271081	275486

Approved by the PCC on and signed on their behalf by Rev E Jane turner (PCC Chairperson)
and Mrs Kate Butler (Bookkeeper)

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowme Funds	Total 2024	Total 2023
Notes to the accounts					
1. Non recurring donations					
<i>Gift Aided Donations</i>	349			349	10
<i>Non-Gift Aided Donations</i>	4568			4568	645
Total	4917	0	0	4917	655
2.Grants Received					
<i>Grant from Diocese - Warm Hub</i>	200			200	-
<i>Jubilee Grant funding</i>				0	0
<i>Raby School Trust - used for Eggplorers 755</i>	820			820	12
Total	1020	0	0	1020	12
3.Generating Funds					
<i>Christmas Fair/Santa in Irby</i>	1206			1206	924
<i>sing events craft sale, bring and buy breakfast and Bears</i>	511			511	274
Total	1716	0	0	1716	1199
4. Main Church Activities					
<i>Fees Received</i>	3056			3056	3422
<i>Contribution to heating</i>	724			724	168
<i>Hall Hire</i>	12845			12845	10455
<i>Tots and Tinies</i>	1543			1543	1274
<i>Magazine subscriptions</i>	233			233	221
<i>Magazine income</i>	93			93	119
<i>Insurance claims</i>	0			0	-250
Total	18494	0	0	18494	15409
5. Income from Investments					
<i>Bank Interest</i>	2437				2024
<i>Morrell Trust</i>	218			218	206
<i>Ismay Charity</i>	195			195	138
<i>Tudor Trust</i>	812			812	784
<i>Shaw Trust</i>	3581			3581	3441
Total	7244	0	0	7244	6592
6. Costs of Generating Voluntary Income					
<i>Planned Giving Envelope Systems</i>	91			91	109
<i>Bring and Buy Breakfast</i>	38			38	-
<i>Christmas Fair/Santa in Irby</i>	88			88	44
Total	217	0	0	217	153
7. Mission Giving					
<i>Diocesan Family of Schools</i>				0	-
<i>Friends of Chester CathedralDeanery Synod</i>	25			25	25
<i>Ismay Charity donation</i>	500			500	-
<i>Gifts (Retiring Payroll Accountant)</i>	60			60	100
Total	585	0.00	0.00	0.00	0
8. Church Activities					
Parish Share	36138			36138	28703
Salaries					
<i>Caretaker</i>	197			197	394
<i>Cleaners</i>	3635			3635	3069
<i>Parish Clerk</i>	4969			4969	3560
<i>Parish bookkeeper</i>	2078			2078	1800

Pastoral Expenses								
Curates Expenses	161					161		
Rector's Expenses	2106					2106	2213	
Rector's Office Expenses	1007					1007	887	
Rectory Expenses	3587					3587	3239	
Gifts	0					0	25	
Mission Costs								
Deanary Contribution	30					30	30	
Assisting Clergy Fees & Expenses						0	-	
Organist's Fees								
Pumpkin Party	149					149		
Warm Hub	323					323		
Eggsplorers Materials	755					755		
Service Costs (worship materials)	941					941	781	
Food Hygiene Course	46					46		
Website	233					233	215	
Youth	0					0	0	
Tots & Tinies	648					648	1169	
St Bartholomew Overheads								
Church Insurance (see note 16)	7176					7176	6594	
C26: Church Licences	97					97	93	
C23: Church Building Maintenance see note	467	4032				4499	550	
C19: Churchyard Upkeep	2635					2635	1141	
C24: Church Organ Expenses	350					350	0	
C21: Church Electricity	916					916	1089	
C22: Church Heating Oil	1259					1259	2183	
St Chad's Overheads								
Hall Insurance (see note 16)	0					0		
Hall Licences	420					420	392	
Hall Building Maintenance	1016					1016	903	
Hall Grounds Maintenance	151					151	115	
Hall Electricity	1994					1994	1495	
Hall Gas	1624					1624	1382	
Hall Water	1128					1128	763	
St Chads Building Maintenance	1150					1150	517	
Magazine Costs Production Expenses	52					52	50	
Admin Expenses								
Office equipment	1168					1168	1174	
Office Software	608					608	806	
Office Stationery	1905					1905	2027	
Office Phone & Internet	898					898	674	
Shredding Service	27					27		
Bank Charges	134					134	95	
Total	82178	0.00	0.00	4032.00	0	86210	68127	

9. Investments

The investments relate to 5 funds:

- (i) The Morrell Trust is invested with the CBF Church of England Investments, split between the Fixed Interest Securities Fund and the Global Equity Income Fund.
 - (ii) The Ismay Charity is invested with the CBF Church of England Global Equity Income Fund with the balance held in the bank account for distribution at the discretion of the incumbent, or for eventual reinvestment.
 - (iii) The Tudor Trust. This is invested with CBF Church of England income investments, The property fund, the UK equity fund and the global equity income fund
 - (iv) The Eileen Shaw Trust is a restricted fund producing income for general church use and is invested in C of E Global Equity, Property, UK Equity, Investment and Fixed income Funds
- The fund is held by Chester DBF as Diocesan Authority on behalf of the PCC
This trust is now shown in the PCC's statement of Assets and Liabilities
- (v) The Reserve fund is a small general reserve held for emergency work at St Chads
 - (vi) The Open Door Fund is held for specific work on St Bartholomews

10. St Chad's Building

St Chad's building is 50 years old and was built using donations. The first extension was built using funds from the sale of land on which Village Court was built. The new extension was built over 10 years ago.

11. Liabilities	2024	2023	2022
<i>Retained wedding and funeral fees</i>	748	429	0
<i>Hall Hire paid in advance</i>			0
Total		429	0

The Parish has been unable to meet its Parish Share contribution in full for several years. The Parish achieved a payment amounting to 40% of the total request for 2024 (£30138 paid of £75344.42 requested) , the parish also made a one off payment of £6000 towards 2023 parish share. The Parish are mindful that they have not been able to reach a full payment, but will look to increase payment to the Diocese as income allows.

12. PCC member payments PCC member Jon Oliver was paid £176 and Liz Whitehead £35.20 as Verger.

13. Accounts This financial statement has been prepared in accordance with Church Accounting Regulations 2006 using the Receipts and Payments basis. Also no reference is made to stock held or debtors

14. Reserves Policy We have no Quinquennial provision and we aim to carry a minimum of 3 months turnover i.e approximately £30000

15. Legacies we received 2 legacies , £8000 from the estate of Peggy Evans. £1000 in memory of Jane Ferguson (donated through the PGS and a fee of 10.08 was applied)

16. Insurance The insurance figure is now a combined figure for both churches

17. Major New Works		
<i>Defibrillator</i>	750	the parish collected 1251 towards this
<i>Tarmac at St chads</i>	7900	
New Chairs	2649	the parish collected 2347.50 towards this (including gift aid)
	11299	

18. Plans were drawn up for a toilet at at Barts, the money to pay for these (£4032) was withdrawn from the Reserve Fund , , placed in the CAF bank account and paid to the architects from the CAF Bank account

Annual Report and Accounts Approved by the PCC on Monday 24th February 2025 and presented to the Annual Meeting on Sunday 23rd March 2025

Signed: *E Jane Turner 24/3/2025*

Rector: E Jane Turner

Accounts

St Bartholomew's, Thurstaston with St Chad's Irby



MISSION AND ACTIVITIES IN 2023



Members of the PCC 2023-2024

Revd J Turner	Rector
Mrs E Whitehead	Warden to April 2023
Mr C Smale	Deanery Synod 2023 – 2026
Mrs E Barton	Elected 2021 – 2024
Mr R Jackson	Elected 2021 – 2024
Mr J Oliver	Elected 2021 – 2024
Mr C Williams	Elected 2021 – 2024
Mrs P Neil	Elected 2022 – 2025
Mrs E Whitehead	Elected 2023 – 2025
Mr G Barley	Elected 2023 – 2026
Mrs J Trigg	Elected 2023 – 2026
Mrs J DeBooder	Elected 2023 – 2026
Ms C Goddard	Co-opted May 2023 – 2024

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The Rector's Report

When I sat down to write this report in the first week of January 2024, I wondered what on earth I was going to say. My memory of the year was one full of challenges and sadnesses. But as always, when I took the time to look back and properly reflect, I was reminded of God's amazing love and graciousness.

As a church community we have done so much and fulfilled many of the goals that we set around Community, School and Prayer.

We took part in the Diocesan Vision Process, with a Vision Café at the end of January and an evening making fish for the art installation at the Cathedral in May.

We have welcomed seven families into church for baptism. We celebrated the joy of marriage with four couples. And we have grieved with eighteen families who were bereaved. We have prayed for countless numbers of people who have been ill (long term and short term).



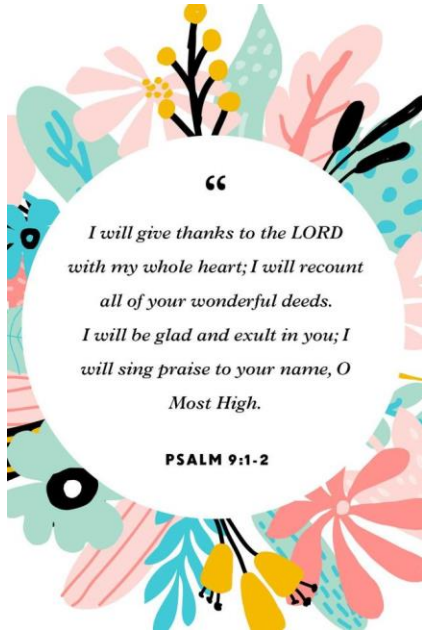
We began the year with a wonderful community event and raising money for Guide Dogs (keep your eyes peeled for another Guide Dog event in 2024!). Later in the year we had a wonderful session learning about the work of Blood Bikes. Of course, the biggest community event in 2023 was celebrating the coronation of King Charles III. And you will read further on in the Annual Report of the Heart Bomb,

the scarecrow festival, Christmas Bazaar, Summer Saturdays and monthly socials. It has been a joy and a blessing to be looking outwards from our church doors and doing lots of things which have enabled us to engage with the community which we are here to serve.

The links between church and school have been growing this year. Several members of our congregation were involved with Interfaith week and others have been supporting children with one-to-one reading and DT projects. It was a great delight to me today to meet some Year 6 children as I was coming out of the post office, they thanked me for helping them with their DT project of making Christmas stockings. It was genuine thankfulness initiated by them, several weeks on from the project, and I was really moved by the interaction with these boys. The hope of the "Growing Faith" project is to make connections between church, school and home. We have made a really good start with this, and I hope and pray that we will be able continue growing these relationships.



Another highlight of the Year was our Lent Talks, which were very informative. It was good to think together about “big Issues” and to discuss how our faith impacts the way in which we view these issues. Learning together continued with Christianity Explored and Discipleship Explored Courses.



It was wonderful to welcome Ailsa as associate minister right at the end of the year. We look forward to seeing how this develops, as we find ways to support her in her role as Army chaplain, and as we benefit from what she is able to offer to us as a parish.

As I reflected on 2023, I was drawn to Psalm 9:1-2 “I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart; I will recount all of your wonderful deeds. I will be glad and exult in you; I will sing praise to your name, O Most High.”

May each of us be inspired this coming year to take time to reflect on where God is at work and to be thankful for all that God gives us. Once a week or once a month, can you build in some time to reflect? I was amazed by how much I had forgotten, and

delighted by taking the time to reflect and discover that God was walking alongside me in the challenges, and that there were so many more wonderful things to be thankful for!

Revd Jane Turner

Electoral Roll Report

At the APCM in 2023, the roll contained 151 members from 101 households. During the past year, 1 addition was made (agreed by PCC in May 2023) and 7 members have been deleted from the roll.

During recent revisions I added 3 new members who applied to join.

The Electoral Roll now has 148 members from 100 households.

Helen Williams

Report on the Business of the PCC in 2023

The PCC met 7 times in 2023 and dealt with one matter via email, the acceptance of Ms Goddard on to the electoral roll following her attendance at church during the previous six months, and her co-option on to the PCC.

Church Services

At the All Age services at St Chad's café-style worship was trialled in between February and July. The congregation was asked to comment on these services. Replies were varied including some negative responses. The preference was for a service with small tables at the end of some rows holding activities for the children to do, which related to the content of the service. It was suggested that musical instruments be available for the children with the possibility of including a song with actions that the children could join in.

Christmas 2022 attendance figures were reviewed to inform the pattern for services at Christmas 2023, while endeavouring to provide services which met the needs of regular worshippers and those who attended at this festive time. Fewer services were offered in 2023 due to low attendance at some services in 2022, and because Christmas Day fell on a Monday.

Ministry Support

Revd Jane submitted a request to the Diocese for a curate, not expecting a favourable response because of the parish not being in a position to pay full parish share and the potential cost of supporting a curate. The Diocese offered a Self-Supporting Curate and the PCC discussed the financial implication of such an appointment. As the cost of ministry would not need to be met by the parish as the person would be self-supporting and only expenses would need to be paid, the PCC agreed to this appointment. The curate will be with the parish for three years from June 2024.

The PCC had also received a request to receive a Self-Supporting Minister to be licensed to the parish, to which the PCC unanimously agreed. The Revd Ailsa Whorton, a padre with 1st The Queen's Dragoon's Guards wanted to be rooted in a parish in the Diocese to retain her personal balance. Ailsa will be at home for one weekend each term and could therefore lead one service a term, and she will also be available in the summer for a couple of weeks unless she is recalled by the Army. Ailsa was licensed to the parish on 18 December by Bishop Julie Conalty in the church of St Bartholomew.

Vacancies in the Church Council

Following the APCM, vacancies for Churchwardens, a Treasurer, three Deanery Synod members and seven members of the PCC remained unfilled. Ms Goddard joined the PCC as a co-opted member in May 2023 when she became eligible to go on the Electoral Roll.

The vacancy of Treasurer has remained unfilled all year, with the responsibility for finance being covered by Mrs Butler taking on payroll officer as well as her other financial responsibilities with the support of the Finance Sub-Committee.

The responsibilities of Churchwardens were discussed and individual members of the PCC agreed to take on specific areas of the role. Four members of the PCC agreed to be trained in leading a Lay Service of the Word – Mr C Smale, Mr R Jackson, Mrs J DeBoorder, Ms C Goddard – in the event that the Rector should be taken unwell at short notice it would be possible to offer a service of the word at short notice.

PCC "Reset"

The three areas of Community, School and Prayer have been progressed building on the work undertaken in 2022.

1) Community

Community Outreach

Following the winding up of EMU, the Community Outreach group has worked hard to run a monthly event open to members of the parish and community with all events being advertised more widely in the community. The focus of events have been varied to be attractive to all.

The biggest event of the year was the party to celebrate the coronation of King Charles III in May. Details of the range of events can be found in the report on page 12.

Warm Hub

As spring arrived, regular guests at Warm Hub showed an interest in it being continued beyond the winter months. It is a space where individuals enjoy company and a chat over a drink and biscuit. It was agreed that it would continue as a weekly community event throughout the year. A grant of £1000 was received against running costs in 2023. See page 10

2) School – Growing Faith

Dawpool School

The school recognised that there was a resource in terms of support to hear children read and help with craft work within the congregation. A detailed report on activities can be found in the report on page 18.

3) Prayer

The prayer room continues to be used regularly for Morning Prayer. Prayer requests left on the Prayer Tree periodically are included in Morning Prayer.

Finance

Banking – The PCC has accounts with CAF (Charities Aid Foundation) Bank, and Mrs Butler had been able to deposit income with HSBC. Due to the closure of the nearest branch in Bromborough in July 2023, depositing monies has been very difficult. CAF has been trying to establish a relationship with the Post Office so that banking can be done there, but despite numerous telephone calls this possibility has not yet been confirmed. In the interim of this happening members of the Finance Committee have taken it in turns to go to Chester to make deposits at HSBC in Chester as any local branches of HSBC on the Wirral no longer have a till service.

The PCC agreed to increase the payment of Parish Share to 48%.

Receipt of a donation from a parishioner was spent on two sets of prayer cards – one set in each church, and two packs of books of 'Daily Prayers for the Coronation of King Charles III'.

The parish was notified of the resignation of the Payroll Officer, and Mrs Butler offered to step into this role when no other alternative had been found.

The Diocese offered free devices so that members of congregations could make immediate transfers to church accounts using credit and debit cards. There was already such a device at St Chad's having been donated by a member of the congregation.

At the November PCC meeting the Finance Committee was asked to review Mrs Bulter's salary and the hourly rate for the cleaners. The outcome of this discussion falls outside the date of this Annual Report.

Energy Grant

Chester Diocese had been allocated a large payment by the Church Commissioners and the parish received £983.77 towards energy costs.

Safeguarding

This item has been on every PCC Agenda.

During the year there was a warning from the Diocese regarding someone who had been visiting Wirral churches to beg for money and who had stolen when visiting the venues. Thankfully this person did not visit our parish.

Fabric, Goods and Ornaments of the Churches

Churchwarden's Report

Matters discussed included the damage and repair to the churchyard wall at St Bartholomew's damaged in December 2022, the disposal of the Christmas Trees to St John's Hospice for a donation, and the eyebolts inspection at St Bartholomew's. See the Churchwarden's report on page 22.

Buildings and Churchyard Matters

The height of the yew trees at St Bartholomew's have been trimmed to allow light into the centre of the trees to promote internal regrowth to allow for the possibility for further retrenchment work in the future. The DAC also gave permission for the holly tree by the front porch at St Bartholomew's to be completely removed and the other holly tree at the front to be crowned.

The provision of a toilet facility at St Bartholomew's has been discussed throughout the year and the project is ongoing.

It was noted that the setting of the paving slabs at St Chad's by the main entrance made it possible for weeds to grow in between, and the paving slabs leading to the public pavement were uneven. Options are being explored on whether to lift and re-lay the slabs or whether to opt for another surface finish such as tarmac. This discussion is ongoing.

St Chad's was inspected for the use of Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (RAAC) and the PCC was informed there is no evidence of it in the building.

Cheryl Goddard (Interim PCC Secretary)

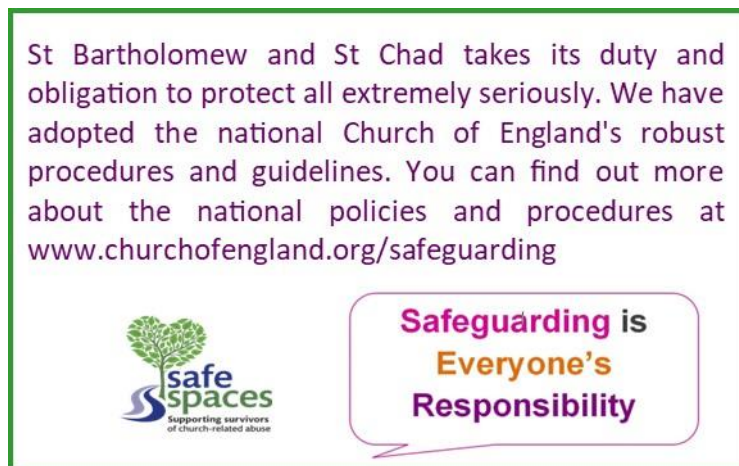
Activities of the Parish Generally

Safeguarding

We continue to promote safeguarding within the parish, ensuring that DBS checks and appropriate safeguarding training is undertaken and kept up to date for all in positions of responsibility (Churchwardens, PCC members, employees of the PCC, Bell Ringers, Junior Church Leaders and helpers, Tots and Tinies Leaders and helpers, Sidespeople, Sacristans, Servers, Refreshment Servers, Flower arrangers and Warm Hub Helpers.)

We have a dedicated email address safeguarding@thurstaston.org.uk and safeguarding information is displayed on the front page of our parish website.

The following image is printed on our weekly notice sheet, in the parish magazine, and on service sheets for one-off services.



During the year, the Rector made one safeguarding referral to social services regarding a vulnerable adult.

Revd Jane Turner
(on behalf of Mr Chris Williams – Parish Safeguarding Officer)

Junior Church

Junior Church has continued on a monthly basis throughout 2023 led by Dawn Rudd and Sally Partington. Attendance picked up in the second half of 2023, with a number of new young faces and parents in attendance. The age of children is generally in the pre-school bracket so we have organised activities suitable for this age group. Some themes explored this past year have included Jesus and the Children, The Lost Sheep, St George and the Dragon and Jesus turns water into wine. Sessions usually start with a simple Bible story and discussion with the

children and are followed by one or two crafts relating to this and sometimes even a song or two!

Sally Partington and Dawn Rudd

St Bartholomew Church Bell Ringers

We continue to ring the Church bells at Thurstaston for Sunday service and special occasions. We are an enthusiastic group who are willing to learn and are steadily improving our ringing. We now only ring on alternate weeks on a Sunday morning (due to the change in service patterns). We continue to meet on the other Sundays for coffee, chat and hand bell practice.

This year's ringing included a significant amount of ringing for the Coronation of HM King Charles III. Prior to the Coronation we rang the bells in celebration and were joined by the Mayor of Wirral, Cllr Jeff Green who rang for the first time. On this occasion we rang Rounds, Kings (when the bells ring in the order 5,3,1,2,4,6), Plain Bob and Grandsire Doubles. It was also noted that Richard Turner had first visited the bell tower with his father during the ringing for the Coronation of HM Queen Elizabeth II.



The band with Mayor and Lady Mayoress (Peter Robson taking the photograph)

We have started to use our bells for monthly Wirral Branch quarter peal attempts. This allows us an opportunity to learn more complex methods and this is reflected in this year's ringing;

Wednesday 1st March ***¼ Peal 1320 Kent Treble Bob Minor***

First quarter of Kent by Alice Pettit

Wednesday 5th April ***¼ Peal 1260 Doubles (240 each of grandsire, Reverse Canterbury, St Martin's, St Simon's and 300 Plain bob doubles)***

Rung after meeting short for minor

Thursday 27th April ***Peal 5040 Surprise Minor (Extents of London, Wells, York, Durham, Cambridge, Bourne and Norwich Surprise Minor)***

Rung in celebration of the forthcoming Coronation of HM King Charles III

Rung by members of the Ancient Society of College Youths. 100th peal and 1st as Conductor with the Society for Peter Robson

Wednesday 3rd May ***¼ Peal 1320 Cambridge Surprise Minor***

Rung to celebrate the upcoming Coronation of HM King Charles III

Saturday May 6th ***General ringing as noted above***

Rung by 12 members of our band and the Mayor prior to the Coronation of HM King Charles III

Wednesday 2nd August ***¼ Peal 1260 Plain Bob minor***

Rung as congratulations on the wedding of Sarah Robson and Joshua Hall on 27/7/23

Saturday 5th August ***¼ Peal 1296 Surfleet Surprise Minor***

Wednesday 16th August ***¼ Peal 1320 Thurstaston Doubles***

Rung in memory of Tony Fletcher whose funeral was today

400th quarter and 100th as Conductor – Peter Robson

Wednesday 6th September ***¼ Peal 1320 Surfleet Surprise Minor***

We enjoyed our Christmas meal in the New Year as usual. We met in February and had a wonderful evening with good food at The Mont Blanc in Irby.

We currently have 16 ringers but will always welcome more. You are welcome to come and see what we do and to join us (please ring first to confirm that we will be there).

Peter Robson

Warm Hub

When we opened Warm Hub on the first Tuesday in December 2022 it was our intention to only run it through the cold months. At our early sessions we had people who appeared once and didn't come a second time, but by February we had a steady attendance of people from within the church and community. While the objective of Warm Hub initially was to offer a warm place to save individuals having their heating on, the people attending came for companionship and conversation. While the initial months of Warm Hub were covered by three volunteers it was clear that to close Warm Hub would leave a gap in the social lives of those who were regulars, so a recruitment programme was carried out. We now have a volunteer team of a dozen or so individuals who cover the sessions on a rota basis.

With the local library closed we have a small library of books at the Hub which can be borrowed. We don't sign out or sign in returned books – everyone is welcome to borrow a book or even keep it. When additional books are added to our library, then we recycle some of the older books. Our 'library' has been very popular. There is a jigsaw board at the Hub with a jigsaw on the go at most sessions. We don't tend to bring it out if it is a session when we have a speaker booked. As our collection of jigsaws has grown we have also offered a jigsaw library service through the winter months.

During the summer it was decided that it would be interesting to invite speakers once a month, on the fourth Tuesday, and this does attract guests who may only come on one occasion or come because of the subject of the talk. Mr Alan Jones was our first speaker in September, and he entertained us with wonderful stories from his time as a teacher. Our speaker in October was Robert Kavanagh, the son of one of our regular attendees. His first career was as an actor and he shared with us the highs of some of the wonderful opportunities he had such as performing with the Royal Shakespeare Company to the lows of periods of having to earn an alternative income between roles. He eventually decided to go into teaching in order that he had a regular income. Our last speaker of the year was Helen Parkinson from Sunlight Bees and she talked to us about bee keeping, queen bees and making honey. We had samples of honey to taste, and she brought jars of honey to purchase. In December, our last session for the year was the third Tuesday of the month where we sang carols and volunteers provided a light lunch for everyone.

Warm Hub has opened on every Tuesday throughout the year with the exception of the Tuesday between Christmas and New Year. Our opening time was originally 9.00am to 12.30pm as it was thought that it might attract young Mums with toddlers after they had dropped off older children at school, but at no point did we have anyone from that age group attending, and so the opening time has been amended to between 9.30am and 12.30pm. We are registered with a couple of national organisations – Places of Welcome which operates under the Church Urban Fund and Warm Spaces which operates under Warm Welcome. Connect Us visited us during one of our sessions and on another occasion used our church as a base for a village door knocking exercise seeing if people within the village were in need of help while also promoting our Warm Hub. [Taken from their website: *'Connect Us' has been launched by Public Health with an underpinning objective of positive wellbeing interventions. Working with your local Community Connector can serve as that missing link for you to access the things you need in order for you to move forward and look to achieve your aspirations.*]

Susan Smale and Cheryl Goddard

TOTS & TINIES

By the end of 2023, we had 78 adults and 108 children registered for Tots and Tinies. Some of them come regularly, others pop in and out more haphazardly. On average we have between 30-40 children every week.

The sessions begin with free play and craft, followed by snack time and finally a story time and song all together. It is lovely to see the parents, grandparents, carers, and children engaging with each other.



We have enjoyed contributing to church window decorations. We enjoyed helping to plant trees in the garden. We loved exploring the Blood Bike.

Reverend Jane planned the craft activities and Bible stories for the year and comes every week to read at Storytime, this has been of great benefit. In the Spring term our sessions were based on stories Jesus told and enjoyed an Easter Egg hunt to end the term.



In the Summer Term we looked at Old Testament stories and enjoyed a Teddy Bears Picnic at the end of term. In the Autumn term we continued our Old Testament theme, and then spent several weeks learning about the different characters in the nativity story. Father Christmas came to visit us at our final session of the year.

It continues to be a great help having volunteers to provide Tea/Coffee and Juice throughout the session and clear up the Kitchen. This makes a huge difference to the tidying up at the end.

Thank you to everyone who plays a part in making this group so successful and welcoming to all who attend.

Allison Youds

Community Outreach and Social Events

In January a new committee was formed, the Evening Mother's Union (EMU) had its last Christmas meal together and the Community Outreach and Social committee was formed in its place. Together we have arranged a variety of monthly social events, on different days of the week and at weekends to hopefully provide something for all tastes and that appeal to the community too. We advertise events on ITPAS Notice boards and through church communications and Facebook. The committee was formed by the former members of the EMU under the wing of the PCC.

In **February** we had a Heart Bomb in Irby and the WI helped us hang hearts made by the congregation and WI in time for Valentine's Day all around Irby Village and we also hung hearts at St Chad's and St Bartholomew's Churches. Our ladies created some wonderful floral arrangements too. Tots and Tinies, Rainbows, Brownies, Guides and Dawpool School all got involved in making hearts for St Chad's windows. The sight of so many hearts all over the village and at both churches was uplifting, residents and shops joined in putting hearts in their front gardens and windows. It was a lovely event and many people commented how cheerful it made them feel and how the community felt stronger.





In **March** we had an enjoyable Crochet Evening learning a new skill.



In **April** we had the Merseyside and Cheshire Blood Bikes come to talk to us, with their Bikes on show and we raised money for their valuable service.

In **May** we held a Coronation Party Big Lunch for the community, a very popular fabulous event including planting trees, sowing wildflowers, bouncy castle, royal photo set, children's crafts, colouring competition, and a beautiful Coronation Cake.



In **June** we had a day out at Ness Gardens in the glorious sunshine. Everyone enjoyed the beautiful flowers and views and the picnic eaten in the shade.



Also in **June** we participated in the Scarecrow Festival with a variety of bugs and butterflies and intrepid bug catchers around the front garden at St Chad's and a Bee Keeper with run away bees in the back garden!



In **July** there was a trip to see Men In Sheds at Christ Church Higher Bebington. It was fascinating to hear how it all started and how many men it has benefitted. The visit finished with some homemade cake we had taken with us to share with the men.



In **July/August/September** the garden at St Chad's was ready for visitors. Many hands had worked together to re-new the bark chipping paths, re-lay uneven paving, weed, prune and plant. We opened up the gardens on Saturday mornings from the end of July to early September. Children's toys, crafts, drinks and snacks were available inside or outside depending on the weather. All ages mixed together and everyone enjoyed the company and beautiful surroundings.





In **August** we also had St *Beartholomew's* Day, in the lovely sunshine. A great event for families and friends to marvel at the parachuting teddies, eat delicious cake with a cuppa and generally have a great fun afternoon, helped along by children's raffle, pic'n'mix and lucky dip.

In **September** we had a compelling talk all about The Leprosy Mission and learnt all about the struggles and the hard work that goes into making things better for those affected by leprosy. We also raised money for this much needed cause with Bring and Buy and personal donations.

In **October** our favourite photographer Roger Ellison gave us another fascinating and enjoyable journey through the year with his amazing collection of images of wildlife and beautiful scenic views, plus we were able to purchase quality prints and cards.



In **November** we had the Christmas Bazaar. There were many local beautifully handcrafted goodies and we were able to support several charities. There were also homemade gorgeous cakes, an amazing raffle, children's crafts and games and Santa's Grotto. A popular event for the community and an enjoyable time had by all.



In **December** we provided children's Christmas Crafts and Games in the Evangelical Church Hall during the Irby Lights Switch On. A popular place for many families, in the warm and plenty to keep the children occupied.



THANK YOU to the many people involved in the success of these events and to everyone who supported them.

Julie DeBoorder



Dawpool Church of England Primary School

Dawpool joined Chester Diocesan Academies Trust (CDAT) on 1st February 2023. Dawpool is proud of its Church of England heritage in the Diocese of Chester since its foundation by Deed of 30th December 1865 - a Church of England history spanning over 150 years.

The PCC has been working with school on The Growing Faith Adventure. The Church of England Growing Faith Adventure provides an opportunity to make all our decisions through the lens of what this means for children, young people and families and to enable flourishing relationships between church, school and home.



The Three Growing Faith Principles are:-

- **Connected Communities** - faith grows in each of the three circles school, home and church. However, when faith grows in the intersections it will be stronger and life long.
- **Spiritual Encounters** - faith is enriched by encounters with God and through the sharing of personal stories.
- **Imaginative Practices** - finding new ways of exploring together to help make faith relevant to everyone.

Children in Year 3 undertook the Archbishop of York's Young Leaders Award which aims to:-



The children raised money for Guide Dogs for the Blind. They also put on a concert at St Chad's for school volunteers and older members of our community, followed by sharing a picnic together and showing some of their work books.



In the Autumn term, Dawpool began to use the "Questful RE" curriculum developed by Blackburn diocese which "promotes the explicit teaching of Christian concepts and God's big salvation story, therefore the content of this syllabus gives pupils a deeper understanding of Christianity. Through an open investigative enquiry approach pupils are given the opportunity to explore major religions and world views. The large number of questions included in each unit is a key feature of the syllabus. As pupils explore these questions they will discover more about themselves, their relationships with others, their relationship with the world around them and their relationship with God".

Throughout 2023, Revd Jane visited school every week, spending an hour over lunch with staff (checking out wellbeing, catching up with news, planning, etc) followed by an hour in a classroom – every year group was visited every term.

We also have a number of volunteers who visit school on a weekly basis listening to children read. Some people have helped out on an occasional basis – with DT projects, assisting with invigilating for SATS. And as a Church school we have volunteers who serve as Foundation Governors.

One of the highlights of 2023 was a number of church members and friends supporting Interfaith week in November. This really did make all of the connections across all of the intersections between church, school and home.

School received this lovely feedback from a parent:-

“Lovely initiative being drawn on the school windows looking into the playground today. I recognised the lady drawing it out from when *child* helped plant a tree at church for the Queens canopy. *Child* pointed out and said to her friend excited on way out of school ‘look they’re drawing our values!’ She was pointing at Sikhism. When we lived in Leeds an MP Jo Cox was killed and she was quoted ‘we have more in common than that which divides us’ I think this was captured beautifully in today’s drawings and it made me feel happy and hopeful, especially close to Remembrance Sunday. Thank you”.

And a Thank you message from the school’s RE lead teacher:-

“The window art has been a huge success and that is thanks to you. I would never have thought of this myself and it has had such an impression on the whole school community. Thank you for giving up your time and for supporting the children in such a lovely way as they drew. It is so nice to see the children admiring the windows and gathering around them to talk about what they can see. I think this will be the start of many more window art opportunities in the future!

Padma was such an inspiration to our pupils in Year 3 and 4. We couldn't have asked for anything more - Padma had so many fascinating items to share with the children and her lovely manner captured their attention. The children loved this opportunity to learn and be curious about Hinduism. Please pass on our thanks, it really was so special.

Also, we've had another email to tell us how a child was chatting away to her mum about everything she'd learned from Padma. The child then realised she'd lost her bindi and this led to her mum reaching out to a Hindu friend that she hadn't been in touch with for quite some time to arrange for a replacement one.”

If you can give an hour each week to listen to children read, or you would like to take on the responsibility of being a Foundation Governor, or you would



occasionally be willing to support staff with an RE lesson (anything from sharing your favourite Bible story with the younger children, to sharing what difference faith makes in your life with older children), please speak to Revd Jane. These different gifts and skills all help to build the relationships between church and school.

Revd Jane

Charities

The Children's Society

For over 140 years the Society has worked to transform the lives and hopes of young people facing abuse, exploitation and neglect, supporting them through their most serious life challenges. The Society also campaigns tirelessly for the big social changes that will improve the lives of those who need hope most.

Jean Heath and **Barbara Kozer** co-ordinate fund raising for the Society in the Parish.

We held a Coffee Morning in March with craft stalls, bring and buy, raffle and Shoe-B-Do, which raised £720.36 and thanks go to all the stall holders and helpers and for the donations received and, of course, to all those who turn out to support this event.

In the Autumn, the House Boxes provided another source of income for the Society with a total of £943.33, an increase of nearly £60 over last year and we thank all boxholders for their generous support.

Jean held the Christingle-making event at her home this year and thanks to a wonderful turnout of helpers, the task was completed in record time, helped along with tea, coffee and mince pies and a lot of chat! We have Tesco to thank again for the supply of the oranges, cocktail sticks and sweets. The Christingles were given out at the lovely service at St Chad's on 17th December and also distributed within the Parish. A further £82.83 was raised for the Society.

Sincere thanks to all those who have contributed to the Children's Society in any way during the past year and we hope to have more opportunities to come together in 2024 to help those who need our support.

Jean Heath (648 6015)

The Leprosy Mission

Following The Leprosy Mission representative's talk in September, £960.40 was donated and including purchases from the Christmas catalogue. Donations came from the Bring and Buy on the evening of the talk, the Harvest donations and the rounding up of orders for items in the catalogue. The bulk order was just over 50% of the total amount. A copy of the Prayer Diary is in the Prayer Room and is used at Morning Prayer.

Cheryl Goddard

3rd Irby Brownies



The Brownies have continued to meet at St Chad's weekly and we have had another great year full of activities and fun.

The Brownies have been very busy this year completing guiding interest and challenge badges. We have had several girls achieve the highest programme award "Gold Award" again this year. This is a really special achievement and means that they fully completed the Brownie programme prior to moving up to Guides. We have had several girls go up to Guides this year.

We have had various overnight trips including a sleepover at The World Museum in Liverpool, PGL at Winmarleigh Hall and some evenings at the cinema and bowling. We have had several weekend trips also this year including a "Get Muddy" event in conjunction with the army, a science jamboree at Liverpool University, a craft day and a "Giant Coronation Tea Party".

We also attended a division event at Hadlow in the summer which was lots of fun and a nice way to celebrate the start of the summer break.

Anyone who has a particular interest or service which they think the Brownies would be interested to learn about please feel free to get in touch as we are always looking for new ideas for our meetings.

Lynn McCoy, Gemma Willerton

1st Thurstaston Guides



It has been a very different year for us at Guides because our numbers dropped to 6 at Easter last year. We had to make a big decision about what to do with our unit. We wanted to continue with our name and as our own group but it unfortunately wasn't financially viable to remain at St Chads. After much liaising with 2nd Irby Guides they agreed that we could join with them on a Monday night at the Methodist Church. We have

been together now for the last 2 terms but we do hope that as numbers begin to rise again we will be able to return to St Chads.

We have had a great year with many indoor and outdoor activities, including a weekend away at the Wallasey Guide HQ where Jude (leader from 2nd Irby Guides) was working towards her going away license. It was a great weekend, giving the 2 units an opportunity to get to know each other better and included a trip into Liverpool to the Quirky Quarter and up St Johns Tower.

We have had quite a few chippy walks which the girls love and it's an added incentive too – our favourites this year have been a night walk to West Kirby, a heads/tails walk around Irby and a beautiful summers evening walk to Parkgate. We had a great evening at the Drill trampolining centre in Birkenhead, where one of our instructors remembers Rev Jane fondly from when she used to go! It has become a regular event to meet with other units from the county to watch the latest Disney film to which we met to watch Ariel in the summer and then Wish just before Christmas. It is a great opportunity to meet girls from across the Wirral and to see how big Girl Guiding is on the Wirral. This is also the case when we meet at the Floral Pavillion just after Christmas to watch the Chrysanthemums latest performance, last year was Jack and the Beanstalk.

In the summer term there were a few events revolving around King Charles' Coronation and we were fortunate to be part of the County's Giant Tea Party in West Kirby. It was amazing to see over 300 Rainbows, Brownies and Guides celebrating together. We were involved in the North West regions 'Girls Get Muddy' event at the Army base in Liverpool. It was so well organised and the girls had such great fun.

Whilst the girls have earned many badges this year they have also been fundraising by doing pyjama and games nights for Comic Relief and Children in Need.

We have had a fun and exciting year and can't wait to continue with our adventures this year.

Ellie Randall

The Fabric, Goods and Ornaments of the Churches

Churchwarden's Report, January-April 2023

- At St Bartholomew's the initial concern for the year was the damaged boundary wall at the back of the churchyard. It had been hit by an unknown vehicle probably on Christmas Eve 2022. We decided to involve our Church Architect, which was supported by our insurers. The work on the wall was completed in April.

- The eyebolts on the tower at St Bartholomew's were due to have their annual inspection in early January. However, the weather was so appalling when the engineer arrived that we decided it was too dangerous to proceed. The inspection was rescheduled for late April, when all eyebolts were inspected, and all passed. This ensured that teddy bears could be safely launched from the tower on St *Bear*tholomew's Day!
- The yew trees at St Bartholomew's were due to be pruned in February, but after further consultation with tree experts, it was decided to leave this until later in the year.
- At St Chad's Jon Oliver has continued to look after lighting and organise plumbing repairs.

Liz Whitehead

At the APCM in 2023 there were no nominations for Churchwarden, so we currently do not have any Churchwardens.

Deanery Synod report 2023

There were two meetings of the Deanery Synod in 2023. The first, on 16th February, was held at Christ Church Community Centre, Higher Bebington. After a welcome by the Reverend Mike Loach, vicar of Christ Church, and opening prayers led by the Reverend Eunice Blackmore, there were several business items, including the election of two clergy representatives to fill two vacancies on the Diocesan Synod.

The main item on the agenda was entitled 'Casting the Net Wide'. Mrs. Harriet Roberts was welcomed to the meeting and invited to give her "Vison Café" presentation. She explained that Bishop Mark wanted to hear from the parishes about their outreach activities and what they consider as important in this area. The exercise was intended to be empowering and encouraging for parishes, providing them with a means of addressing issues that may have got in the way of mission.

The second meeting was held at St John the Divine, Frankby, on 16th October, where the main topic was 'Transforming Lives Together'. Wendy Robertson, who is a community missionary, explained that TLT is an independent charity working with Chester Cathedral and the Diocese, seeking to bring about physical and spiritual transformation. As a 'faith in action' charity it works to stimulate and support church social action, focusing particularly on combatting social isolation and loneliness, as well as tackling poverty and inequality in all its forms. Following Wendy's presentation, there was an opportunity for those present to discuss the various types of social action being undertaken, or facilitated, by parishes in the deanery.

Anyone is welcome to attend the meetings of Deanery Synod, which provide an excellent forum to share ideas and offer mutual support. In addition, those who go along to the meetings become more aware of the larger Christian family in Wirral, to which we all belong.

Chris Smale

Treasurer's Report and Account

Income

We have again had a very difficult year which has had an impact on the financial running of the Parish. However, we have also been able to take advantage of certain financial grants to achieve things that would have been out of reach. Our thanks go to Revd Jane and anyone else who had a hand in applying for the relevant grants.

Parish Share

In January 2023, the PCC agreed to increase our parish share payments from 40% to 48% (£2891.90 per month instead of the £2391.90). This was conveyed to the diocese in January 2023; however we discovered in March 2024 that this was never actioned. Therefore, for the year 2023, we maintained a payment of 40% of the agreed Parish Share (£28703 paid of the £71757 as requested). The PCC finance committee (March 2024) are looking into whether we can now back pay the extra 8% and will look at what we can realistically afford for 2024. We choose not to pay full parish share in order to maintain our reserves at the required level.

Analysis of performance between 2022 and 2023

Our overall income from giving was down by 12% on last year, although I would like to thank everyone for their amazing generosity in these troubled times. Regular Planned giving was down 12% on last year. There has been an increase of 4% in the planned giving at St Chads which is encouraging.

Donations/Grants/Legacies/Insurance Claims/Fundraising Events

We have received two this year one from the Raby school trust of £114 (used for "It's your move" booklets for Year 6) and one from Wirral Borough Council of £1000 towards the Warm Hub.

We have received 3 legacies this year,

- £10000 from the estate of Michael Douglas, this was used towards the new floor at St Chads.
- £2000 from the estate of Ken Gill that was transferred to the Ismay charity trust
- £1000 from the estate of Martin Evans designated to church yard upkeep.

Everyone should be encouraged to read our legacy policy and think about including the church in their will.

Various fund-raising events such as Santa in Irby, Christmas Bazaar and St Beartholomew's day raised a total of £1200, thanks to everyone involved for all the effort in organising these community events.

Gift Aid and GASDS

This provides us with very valuable income and is vital to our accounts as this year it made up nearly 12% of our total income. It is cost free to the payee as long as they have paid enough tax throughout the year. With this in mind could everyone who is eligible, sign a gift aid declaration and also can current members let the Planned Giving Officers know if you have moved, are no longer eligible or have changed your name.

At this juncture I must thank Chris Turnbull and Chris Smale for the amazing work they do on this area which can be very time consuming and laborious.

Fees Received

Fees received were down this year by £457.

Hall Hire

Income was from hall hire increased by 18%, £8547 in 2022 to £10455 in 2023. There has been an increase in regular hall bookings and we are hiring out the extension to the council as a polling station each year.

Investments And Reserves

Given the interest rate rises over the year our income from investments was up from £5314 in 2022 to £6592.

We have been able to maintain our reserves at a decent level by not paying the full parish share but the nature of our situation means this needs to be maintained for the continued financial health of the PCC and to cover any unexpected expenditure which can occur at any time.

There has been no work done through the Open Door Fund this year, but plans are still under consideration.

Expenditure

I have not done a line-by-line explanation as it is impossible to compare this year to last. Our overall expenditure was up by 2% if you remove the major expenditure from the 2022 figures mainly due to increased costs of utilities.

Summary

It has been another difficult year for everyone for many reasons so to have come out the other end in a stable financial position is a credit to the generosity of everyone in the Parish.

I would like to thank Kevin Marley for his support and help over the year, also thanks to Patsy Brady for her years as Payroll Officer, Patsy has now stepped down from the role and I have taken it on along with support from MAW accountants. I would also like to thank Chris Smale and Malcolm for banking the money now that

the HSBC branch in Bromborough and the nearest branches are Chester and Liverpool.

During 2023, the finance team comprised:

Parish Giving Officers	Chris Turnbull and Chris Smale
Banker	Kate Butler/Chris Smale/ Malcom Studholme
Parish Administrator	Kate Butler
Signatory	Roger Jackson, Chris Turnbull, Chris Smale, Pat Neil, Malcolm Studholme
Hall Hire Officer	Kate Butler
Payroll Officer	Patsy Brady and Kate Butler
Committee members	Chris Smale, Malcolm Studholme, Pat Neil, Cheryl Goddard, Chris Turnbull

Kate Butler (Parish Bookkeeper)

Independent examiner's report on the accounts



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/
members of

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical
Parish of St. Bartholomew, Thurstaston

On accounts for the year
ended

31st December 2023

Charity no
(if any)

1132086

Set out on pages

1 to 7

(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

**Respective
responsibilities of
trustees and examiner**

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Charities Act") and that an independent examination is needed. [The charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of [named body]]. *Delete [] if not applicable.*

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act,
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act, and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention

**Basis of independent
examiner's statement**

My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.


**Independent
examiner's statement**

In connection with my examination, no material matters have come to my attention (other than that disclosed below *) which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- 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.

I 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.

** Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.*

Signed:  Date: 27th March 2024

Name: Margaret Ann Walker of MAW Accountants

Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any): ICPA(Fellow), CPAA

Address: 33 Thingwall Road
Irby
Wirral CH61 3UE

Section B

Disclosure

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.

A large, empty rectangular box with a thin black border, occupying the majority of the page. It is intended for the user to provide details of items that the examiner wishes to disclose.

CHURCH ACCOUNTS 2023

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Bartholomew, Thurstaston
Registered Charity Number 1132086

Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ending 31 December 2023

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2023	Total 2022
Receipts & Payments account					
Receipts					
<i>Voluntary Receipts</i>					
Planned Giving St Bartholomew	18518			18518	23786
St Chad	13511			13511	12935
Other Collections St Bartholomew	1493			1493	1875
St Chad	593			593	552
Total	34115	0	0	34115	39148
<i>Donations</i>					
Wallbox	0			0	
Recurring Donations	1750			1750	
Sum up				0	5
Non recurring Donations (see note 1)	655			655	2305
Total donations	2405	0	0	2405	2310
	36520			36520	41458
<i>Grants received (see note 2)</i>	902			902	2736
<i>Legacies (see note 15)</i>	10000			10000	
<i>Tax recovered</i>	9554			9554	10723
Total	20456	0	0	20456	13459
Total Donation Income	56976	0	0	56976	54917
<i>Activities for Generating Funds (See note 3)</i>	1199			1199	898
<i>Church Activities (See note 4)</i>	15409			15409	13956
<i>Income from Investments (See note 5)</i>	6592			6592	5314
TOTAL	80177	0	0	80177	75085
Payments					
<i>Cost of generating voluntary income (See note 6)</i>	153			153	135
<i>Mission Giving (See note 7)</i>	125			125	137
<i>Church Activities (See note 8)</i>	68127			68127	66463
<i>Major Works - new floor at Chads</i>				0	16178
TOTAL	68405	0	0	68405	82913
Excess of Receipts over Payments	11772	0	0	11772	-7828
Transfers between funds					
Total					
Bank Current and Deposit Accounts 1 Jan	65,235	175,042		4,843	245,120
Bank Current and Deposit Accounts 31 Dec	71,668	189,151		7,729	268,548

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2023	Total 2022
Statement of Assets and Liabilities					
Assets					
Cash at bank and in hand and undeposited funds	9			9	13
CAF Current Account	38530			38530	32,812
CAF Gold Account	29021			29021	28,487
Total	67560	0	0	67560	61,312

Investment Assets (See note 9)							
<i>Marrell Trust</i>			8600			8600	7,660
<i>Ismay Charity</i>					7729	0	4,843
<i>Tudor Trust</i>			26250			26250	23,506
<i>Eileen Shaw Trust</i>			113438			113438	104,282
<i>Open Door</i>	0.00		40863			40863	39,594
<i>Reserve Fund</i>	4108					4108	3,981
Total	71668	0	189151	0	7729	268548	245,178
Other Monetary Assets							
<i>Gift aid claimable</i>	7459					7459	8,644
Total Assets	79127	0	189151	0	7729	276007	253,822
Liabilities (See note 11)							
	429					429	-
Total Assets less Liabilities	78699		189151		7729	275579	253,822

Approved by the PCC on and signed on their behalf by Rev E Jane Turner (PCC Chairperson)

E Jane Turner
28/4/24

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2023	Total 2022
Notes to the accounts					
1. Non recurring donations					
<i>Gift Aided Donations</i>	10			10	933
<i>Non-Gift Aided Donations</i>	645			645	1,372
Total	655	0.00	0.00	655	2,305
2. Grants Received					
<i>Grant from Diocese Energy Grant</i>				0	986
<i>Jubilee Grant funding</i>				0	1,000
<i>Raby School Trust - 114 received 102 spent</i>	12			12	
<i>Wirral Borough Council - Warm Hub 1000 received 110.23 spent</i>	890			890	
<i>Wirral Borough Council - Together Fund - Tots & Tinies</i>				0	750
Total	902	0.00	0.00	902	2,736
3. Generating Funds					
<i>Christmas Fair/Santa in Irby</i>	924			924	715
<i>Other fund raising events coronation and Bears day</i>	274			274	183
Total	1199	0.00	0.00	1199	898
4. Main Church Activities					
<i>Fees Received</i>	3422			3422	3,879
<i>Contribution to heating</i>	168			168	167
<i>Hall Hire</i>	10455			10455	8,547
<i>Tots and Tinies</i>	1274			1274	1,000
<i>Magazine subscriptions</i>	221			221	193
<i>Magazine income</i>	119			119	170
<i>Insurance claims</i>	-250			-250	-
Total	15409	0.00	0.00	15409	13,956
5. Income from Investments					
<i>Bank Interest</i>	2024				708
<i>Marrell Trust</i>	206			206	217
<i>Ismay Charity</i>	138			138	558
<i>Tudor Trust</i>	784			784	1,176
<i>Shaw Trust</i>	3441			3441	2,655
Total	6592	0.00	0.00	6592	5,314
6. Costs of Generating Voluntary Income					

<i>Planned Giving Envelope Systems</i>	109					109	135
<i>Harvest Supper</i>						0	-
<i>Christmas Fair/Santa in Irby</i>	44					44	-
Total	153	0.00	0.00	0.00	0	153	135

7. Mission Giving

<i>Diocesan Family of Schools</i>						0	-
<i>Friends of Chester Cathedral/Deanery Synod</i>	25					25	25
<i>Ismay Charity donation</i>						0	-
<i>art exhibition and flood relief</i>						0	-
<i>Gifts (Retiring Church Warden)</i>	100					100	112
Total	125	0.00	0.00	0.00	0	125	137

8. Church Activities

<i>Parish Share</i>	28703					28703	24,384
Salaries							
<i>Caretaker</i>	394					394	394
<i>Cleaners</i>	3069					3069	2,944
<i>Parish Clerk</i>	3560					3560	3,560
<i>Parish bookeeper</i>	1800					1800	1,650
Pastoral Expenses							
<i>Rector's Expenses</i>	2213					2213	1,354
<i>Rector's Office Expenses</i>	887					887	880
<i>Rector's Expenses</i>	3239					3239	3,179
<i>Gifts</i>	25					25	
Mission Costs							
<i>Deanery Contribution</i>	30					30	
<i>Assisting Clergy Fees & Expenses</i>						0	86
<i>Organist's Fees</i>							
<i>Service Costs (worship materials)</i>	781					781	2,942
<i>Website</i>	215					215	233
<i>Youth</i>						0	60
<i>Tots & Tinies</i>	1169					1169	1,126
St Bartholomew Overheads							
<i>Church Insurance (see note 16)</i>	6594					6594	5,994
<i>C26: Church Licences</i>	93					93	87
<i>C23: Church Building Maintenance</i>	550					550	1,367
<i>C19: Churchyard Upkeep</i>	1141					1141	2,245
<i>C24: Church Organ Expenses</i>						0	150
<i>C21: Church Electricity</i>	1089					1089	612
<i>C22: Church Heating Oil</i>	2183					2183	968
St Chad's Overheads							
<i>Hall Insurance (see note 16)</i>	0					0	
<i>Hall Licences</i>	392					392	371
<i>Hall Building Maintenance</i>	903					903	1,771
<i>Hall Grounds Maintenance</i>	115					115	1,160
<i>Hall Electricity</i>	1495					1495	656
<i>Hall Gas</i>	1382					1382	2,191
<i>Hall Water</i>	763					763	1,003
<i>St Chads Building Maintenance</i>	517					517	365
<i>Magazine Costs Production Expenses</i>	50					50	48
Admin Expenses							
<i>Office equipment</i>	1174					1174	1,269
<i>Office Software</i>	806					806	1,165
<i>Office Stationary</i>	2027					2027	1,710
<i>Office Phone & Internet</i>	674					674	460
<i>Bank Charges</i>	95					95	81
Total	68127	0.00	0.00	0.00	0	68127	66,463

9. Investments

The investments relate to 5 funds:

- (i) The Morrell Trust is invested with the CBF Church of England Investments, split between the Fixed Interest Securities Fund and the Global Equity Income Fund.
- (ii) The Ismay Charity is invested with the CBF Church of England Global Equity Income Fund with the balance held in the bank account for distribution at the discretion of the incumbent, or for eventual reinvestment.
- (iii) The Tudor Trust. This is invested with CBF Church of England income investments, The property fund, the UK equity fund and the global equity income fund
- (iv) The Eileen Shaw Trust is a restricted fund producing income for general church use and is invested in C of E Global Equity, Property, Uk Equity, Investment and Fixed income Funds
The fund is held by Chester DBF as Diocesan Authority on behalf of the PCC
This trust is now shown in the PCC's statement of Assets and Liabilities
- (v) The Reserve fund is a small general reserve held for emergency work at St Chads

(vi) The Open Door Fund is held for specific work on St Bartholomews

10. St Chad's Building

St Chad's building is 50 years old and was built using donations. The first extension was built using funds from the sale of land on which Village Court was built. The new extension was built over 10 years ago.

11. Liabilities	2023	2022	2021
<i>Retained wedding and funeral fees</i>	429		0
<i>Hall Hire paid in advance</i>			538
Total		0.00	538

The Parish has been unable to meet its Parish Share contribution in full for several years. The Parish achieved a payment amounting to 40% of the total request for 2023 (£28703 paid of £71757 requested) The Parish are mindful that they have not been able to reach a full payment, but will look to increase payment to the Diocese as income allows.

12. PCC member payments

PCC member Jon Oliver was paid £316.80 because of his employment as Verger.

13. Accounts

This financial statement has been prepared in accordance with Church Accounting Regulations 2006 using the Receipts and Payments basis.

The Gift Aid refers to money received in 2023 for the 2022 financial and tax year. Also no reference is made to stock held or debtors

14. Reserves Policy

We have no Quinquennial provision and we aim to carry a minimum of 3 months turnover i.e approximately £30000

15. Legacies

we received 3 legacies, £10000 from the estate of Michael Douglas £2000 from the estate of Ken Gill that was transferred to the Ismay Charity fund £1000 from the estate of Martin Evans designated to churchyard upkeep,

16. Insurance

The insurance figure is now a combined figure for both churches

Accounts

St Bartholomew's, Thurstaston with St Chad's Irby MISSION AND ACTIVITIES IN 2022



Members of the PCC 2022-23

The members of the PCC in 2022-23 were:

Revd J Turner	Rector
Mrs E Whitehead	Warden
Mr C Smale	Deanery Synod
Mrs J Davies*	Deanery Synod
Mrs P Neil	Elected
Mr G Barley	Elected
Mrs J Trigg	Elected
Mrs J Deboorder	Elected
Mr M Studholme	Elected
Mr J Oliver	Elected
Mr C Williams	Elected
Mr R Jackson	Elected
Mrs E Barton	Elected

*Mrs J Davies retired during the year.

A WORD FROM THE RECTOR

This year we have been able to begin to look forwards to where God is leading us and what God has been teaching us through the pandemic.

It has been sobering to accept the reality that the slow decline which we had been seeing before the pandemic was escalated during the pandemic. The statistics show us that church attendance is down and is much more sporadic than it used to be. The number of people volunteering within the church has also decreased, partly due to the safeguarding requirements, but largely due to the increasing age profile of our congregations. This gives us a real challenge as we seek to fulfil our mission statement of "serving Christ in Thurstaston and Irby" and to build the kingdom of God.

In the Autumn term the PCC looked at how we could reset following the pandemic and agreed three main areas of focus:-

1. *Community*

I have been focusing on Tots and Tinies as an area of contact with the community which has the potential, with time and relationship building, to lower the age profile of our church congregations. I am grateful to Allison for her ongoing work in leading this group, and to the team of people who come each week to serve the refreshments.

I am grateful to those who have made the Warm Hub a reality. It has provided a place for people to meet and enjoy one another's company.

I am also grateful to those who have enabled one-off community events to be held and supported (Fairs, Coffee mornings, Jubilee Party, Santa in Irby etc.)

If we are to grow the kingdom of God in this place, we must continue to look outwards and find ways of engaging with people beyond the walls of our church buildings on a more regular basis.

2. *School*

We have a church school and we must learn to work more closely together. The school is enabling children to explore faith through regular acts of worship and through RE. I am a visible presence in school every week. I am grateful to those who have volunteered to assist by listening to children read in school and to help with one-off projects. I am grateful to our foundation governors who give a huge amount of time to serve the school community.

We are exploring a national initiative "Growing faith" which aims "to promote a partnership between church, school and home ... to help us as we seek to welcome more children, young people and families into the family of Christ".

3. *Prayer*

Prayer is the bedrock of everything that we do. It has been wonderful this year to see the creation of the prayer room at St Chad's. This room is open and available to everyone using the building whether that's a child's birthday party, a regular hall user group, or church members. Morning prayer is said regularly

and it has been a joy to see prayers answered, as well as to have a place in which together we can bring the concerns of the world and our community to the cross of Christ.

I hope and pray that each and every member of church will want to get involved as we continue to reset our priorities, to serve our community, to grow relationships and links between church and school, and to commit to seeking God in prayer.

If you have ideas about how these areas of focus could be further developed, or if you would like to get involved, please do let me know.

“I remind you to rekindle the gift of God that is within you, for God did not give us a spirit of cowardice but rather a spirit of power and of love and of self-discipline.

Do not be ashamed, then, of the testimony about our Lord ..., but join with me in suffering for the gospel, in the power of God” (2 Timothy 1:6-8)

Revd Jane Turner

REPORT ON THE BUSINESS OF THE PCC AND OTHER CHURCH MATTERS IN 2022



The Parochial Church Council met five times in 2022 and there was an additional meeting with the Governors and staff of Dawpool school. The Standing Committee dealt with several issues by email. The Council discussed many important matters but three in particular stand out: recovery from the effects of the pandemic and lockdown, finances and the urgent need to find volunteers willing to be churchwardens or PCC members.

Church attendance and recovery from the pandemic

The PCC first reviewed the pattern of services in March. Some parishioners disliked the new arrangements and the PCC was also concerned about what seemed to be a lack of a sense of identity as one parish.

Sunday services now alternate between St Bartholomew's and St Chad's. PCC members knew that the numbers attending church were falling and hoped that the Jubilee event would provide us with a re-start, as there should be a blaze of publicity.

At the meeting in November, the downward trend in total attendance at church services was clear. Since the introduction of 10.30 am services alternating between St Bartholomew's and St Chad's, most of those who before the-pandemic worshipped weekly at St Bartholomew's never attend St Chad's which reduced the overall numbers of worshippers every other week. In addition, most wedding couples now choose to attend the 9 am service, along with some of those who had previously worshipped at St Chad's. Some people who previously worshipped only at St Chad's now attend the 10.30am service in both buildings. The number of people worshipping only at St Bartholomew's was slowly decreasing and it became obvious that we had to

look outwards, engage with others and attract more people into our church congregations. The PCC was also aware that ideally, there should be one service in each church every Sunday, but there was concern that returning to the previous arrangements would lead to smaller congregations. Unfortunately, despite the good attendance at the Jubilee event, it had no significant effect on numbers attending church.

There were very few children in the Junior Church, mostly under the age of 7. We could not involve young people in services because there was no one to ask. Despite several requests, there was no adult support for a version of Messy Church on the two Sundays when there were no services at St Chad's, although Messy Church might draw in more young people. These issues should concern us all.

Financial Matters and Parish Share

Parish Share is what each parish should give the Diocese. We should pay the standard rate which applies to nearly all parishes, £71,757 for 2023. For several years we have been unable to pay the full amount and during 2022 we paid 35% of our Parish Share. This would create serious difficulties in the event of a change of incumbent although that is unlikely to happen for some time. In January 2022 Mr Marley, the Treasurer, had pointed out that increasing our payments would be difficult because of the effects of lockdown. The Diocese would allow us to change our payments during the year and there is a wide variation in how much other parishes pay. The PCC agreed to continue to pay 35% of our share, with an intention to increase the payment if our finances recovered. It was also agreed to retain the balance of the 50% (as far as possible) in a separate "ringfenced" account that the Treasurer had set up which we intended to repay to the diocese later if finances allowed. At present, we "owe" the Diocese a considerable sum.

The Treasurer also reminded the PCC that it was important to encourage church members to join the Planned Giving Scheme and to set up standing orders, as this helped enormously with planning and budgeting. The Treasurer retired later that year and Mrs Butler became our Bookkeeper. At present we do not have a treasurer. The PCC finance committee and the bookkeeper have enabled us to continue to pay bills and other expenses.

In September, the Parish Bookkeeper produced a report on the finances of the parish between January and August 2022. Total income was £54,320 and total expenditure £64,014 which included the cost of the new floor in St Chad's. As we had been promised a legacy of £10,000, we considered that our finances were balanced during the period.

Vacancies in the Church Council

Members were reminded that Mrs Whitehead will retire as churchwarden in April 2023 and were asked to begin to think about who our new church warden or church wardens could be. In addition, with four vacancies on the PCC, more members should be found including a treasurer.

PCC “Reset”

Before the meeting in September 2022, the Rector had visited all PCC members individually to discuss their views on the future development of the parish. She wanted to look forwards and to see where God was leading us in 2022 and 2023. She identified three main areas to focus on, Community, School and Prayer.

Community

Members hoped to see more people using the picnic tables in the garden of St Chad's. It was reported that help was available, perhaps starting at Easter, to complete the improvements in the garden. It was suggested that it could be opened at weekends for picnics or just for people to enjoy. Building community was a vital part of our vision statement “serving Christ in Thurstaston and Irby”.

School

A national project called “Growing Faith” had been discussed at the Deanery Synod meeting in June. Its aim was “to promote a partnership between church, school and home ... to help us as we welcome more children, young people and families into the family of Christ”. A special PCC meeting took place at Dawpool, which included members of the Senior Leadership Team and the Governing Body, with representatives of the Diocesan Education Department. Those present watched a video with many suggestions about how to encourage links between church, school and home.

In the first week of school, every child is given a leaflet “Dawpool’s Church Links” which contains service details and invitations to EMU and Tots and Tinies. The project is still under consideration by the School and the PCC. Initial thoughts were that if PCC members went into school regularly, children would begin to recognise them, building relationships beyond the church walls.

Prayer

The PCC was told that the prayer room at St Chad’s was now available as a very visible sign to all who use our building that this is a place of prayer and also a way in which the wider community can ask us (via the prayer tree) to pray for them or things they care about.

Warm Hub

Following initial discussions about a Warm Hub, the Finance Committee had discussed its affordability. As the heating in the extension was always on when Mrs Butler was in the office during the winter, no additional expenditure on heating was expected, although there would be some running costs as the Warm Hub would have to provide at least hot drinks and possibly hot meals. During the PCC discussion, the Rector suggested that the Ismay Trust might cover those costs. Later however, we received details of a grant from Wirral Council that Churches Together in Wirral had applied for and we are expecting to receive a substantial sum from that grant which will be used by the Warm Hub.

Hall Hire Charges

The charges for hiring rooms at St Chad’s had not been reviewed since January 2016. Having reviewed information about the costs of hiring rooms in other nearby places,

the PCC considered and approved increases in charges by between 25% and 150%, noting that further information might necessitate further changes. In November, with further information available, the PCC reduced the charges in bands 3 and 4 with immediate effect and scheduled a review in November 2023.

Floor at St Chad's

It was reported in 2021 that the entire floor at St Chad's was beginning to break up. Floor blocks continued to pop out occasionally, temporary repairs were carried out and the PCC decided that the floor should be replaced and that possible sources of grant funding would be sought. At a later meeting, the PCC agreed to use a promised legacy of £10,000 for the work.

In July 2022, the main hall floor was re-laid by Arrowe Flooring. All comments received about the new floor have been extremely positive.

Quinquennial Inspection Report

The immediate requirements of the Report were dealt with quickly. Among other issues, it had specified trees and bushes to be cut back in addition to the yew trees and the holly by the porch. We had been advised that this work should be carried out in March. The Report also required Electrical Installation Condition reports for both churches, which were arranged by Mr Oliver.

In September, we had the faculties and planning permission for the work required on the trees at St Bartholomew's. The quotation we received for the work in 2022 was £10 less than the quotation in 2017 and included disposal of all the waste material. The PCC decided to engage Merseybranch to carry out the work.

The Old Tower at St Bartholomew's

Mr Whitehead and Mr Studholme returned to the Old Tower to fit mesh inside the wooden louveres as pigeons were still able to enter the space after Mr Whitehead, Mr Studholme and Mr Oliver had cleared debris and fitted a new hatch door. This prevented further entry by pigeons. Further work was to be carried out in the summer of 2022.

Safeguarding

In May, PCC members received a letter from Bishop Julie, Bishop of Birkenhead, referring to safeguarding training and DBS checks. Under these requirements, all PCC members and others, about 50 altogether, would need a DBS certificate and online training. Face-to-face training was also offered, which Bishop Julie's letter suggested would be easier for some.

By the November meeting, all who required the basic safeguarding course had completed it. Face to face courses had been delayed. A new Assistant Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser had been appointed and two assistants would be appointed, to make it easier for the Diocese to cover needs.

The Queen's Platinum Jubilee

Also in May the PCC continued to discuss the arrangements for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebration event which had been planned for the third week of June,

depending on any limitations that the Government might impose such as Covid restrictions on gatherings.

Mrs Deboorder said that the garden at St Chad's was progressing. The sensory garden had been re-seeded with grass and some seating would be installed. She has several pots of bulbs (tulips and daffodils) ready to plant.

It was reported in March that, aided by a grant from the Raby School Trust, commemorative Jubilee books had been ordered for the children at Dawpool, Irby Primary School and Tots and Tinies. Further books would be ordered so we could deliver a book and a letter to every house in the parish.

By May, there had been a good response to the request for support to buy Jubilee books, one for each home in the parish. Prizes and other necessities had been ordered and leaflets advertising the church event would be delivered with the books to every home in the parish.

Mrs Trigg had investigated the possibility of a commemorative tree and had spoken to Mr John Roberts, the Queen's Green Canopy Project Lead for Merseyside. A special directive from the Diocese would allow us to plant a tree with a plaque at St Bartholomew's without the need for a faculty, in addition to a tree and plaque at St Chad's. The PCC reviewed suppliers and their prices and selected one to provide two stainless steel plaques showing an image of a tree and the words, "The Queen's Green Canopy. The Platinum Jubilee 2022". Mrs Trigg arranged the purchase. One tree would be planted at St Bartholomew's on 30th October at a location selected by Mr Studholme and the Rector and the other at the front of St Chad's on 6th November. Both would be rowans, native British trees.

Maintenance of the Churches

Mrs Whitehead arranged for the eyebolts on the tower of St Bartholomew's church to be tested In March: one eyebolt was replaced. Mr Studholme had made and installed a new unit for the sound system in the chancel.

All electrical installations at both churches were inspected and the church architect was informed, as these checks were required in the Quinquennial Inspection Report. Some of the ceiling uplighters at St Bartholomew's required earth connections and a new socket had been fitted for the oil storage tank level gauge at a higher level to avoid false readings due to the sandstone blocking the signal. Mr Oliver checked the lights at St Chad's and replaced four emergency lights. Contractors removed debris and ivy and replaced damaged fencing between the flats and St Chad's.

In September, the PCC heard that the Rector and Mr Oliver had discovered several unsafe monuments in St Bartholomew's churchyard. Some had already fallen and were broken. The Archdeacon's advice was that relatives should be contacted where possible but the parish was not responsible for paying for unsafe memorials. Some of the dates on the slabs were more than 100 years ago and it was proving difficult to contact the owners.

In November, Mrs Whitehead reported that PAT testing had been completed at each church. Mr Oliver had dealt with a flood in the kitchen at St Chad's, caused by water

flowing from a locked cupboard. He had also repaired severe damage to the fire door between the entrance lobby and the extension.

Christmas Services

During its November meeting, the PCC discussed whether it was worthwhile to hold the 10.30 service Christmas Day service, as there would be a service at St Bartholomew's on Christmas Day at 9 am and at St Chad's on Christmas Eve. Some of the congregation would be away from home on Christmas Day, no one had offered to act as a sidesperson and some had said that 10:30 was too late to start the service. The PCC decided that as there would be people present for the Bible readings and the prayers, we should hold the service and ask members of the congregation to be sidespeople.

Graham Barley

Honorary Secretary to the PCC



TREASURER'S REPORT FOR 2022

We have again had a very difficult year which has had an impact on the financial running of the Parish. However, we have also been able to take advantage of certain financial grants to achieve things that would have been out of reach. Our thanks go to Revd Jane and anyone else who had a hand in applying for the relevant grants.

PARISH SHARE

For the year 2022 we maintained a payment of 35% of the agreed Parish Share in order to maintain our reserves at the required level. The PCC intends to increase this when finances permit.

ANALYSIS OF PERFORMANCE BETWEEN 2021 AND 2022

INCOME

Our overall income from giving was down by 12% on last year. I would like to thank everyone for their amazing generosity in these troubled times. Regular Planned Giving was down 11% on last year.

Even though services have returned to normal following the pandemic our overall giving has fallen.

Donations/Grants/Legacies/Insurance Claims

The income from donations other than planned giving was up 67% which is encouraging, so again a huge thank-you to all who have donated over the past 12 months.

We also received three grants, a £986 energy grant from the diocese, £1,000 Jubilee grant funding and £750 for Tots and Tinies from Wirral Borough Council's Together Fund.

We have received no legacies this year, but we are expecting one in 2023.

Everyone should be encouraged to read our legacy policy and think about including the church in their will.

Gift Aid And GASDS

This provides us with very valuable income and is vital to our accounts as this year it made up nearly 15% of our total income. It is cost-free to the payee as long as they have paid enough tax throughout the year. With this in mind it would be very helpful if everyone who is eligible signed a gift aid declaration and also if current members of the Planned Giving Scheme let the Planned Giving Officers know if they have moved, are no longer eligible or have changed their name.

At this juncture I must thank Chris Turnbull and Chris Smale for the amazing work they do on this area which can be very time consuming and laborious.

Fees Received

Fees received were up 46% this year as things return to normal.

Hall Hire

Income from hall hire increased significantly from £1,144 in 2021 to £8,547 in 2022 as we can now hire out the main hall.

Investments and Reserves

Given the interest rate rises over the year our income from investments was up by 14% but because of the poor economic climate, assets have decreased in value by 10%.

We have been able to maintain our reserves at a decent level by not paying the full parish share but the nature of our situation means this needs to be maintained for the continued financial health of the PCC and to cover any unexpected expenditure which can occur at any time.

There has been no work done through the Open Door Fund this year but plans are still under consideration.

EXPENDITURE

I have not done a line-by-line explanation as it is impossible to compare this year to last. Our overall expenditure was up by 2% mainly due to the new floor at St Chads and the increased costs of utilities.

Assistant Clergy

We have had an expense of £86 on Assistant Clergy over the year, our thanks continue to go to you all for your unwavering support and generosity.

Summary

It has been another difficult year for everyone for many reasons so to have come out the other end in a stable financial position is a credit to the generosity of everyone in the Parish.

This is my first Treasurer's Report since I became the bookkeeper and I would like to thank Kevin for his significant support and help over the year.

During 2022, the finance team comprised:

Accounts Partner	
Parish Giving Officers	Chris Turnbull and Chris Smale
Cashier	Linda Barley
Banker	Kate Butler
Parish Administrator	Kate Butler
Signatory	Roger Jackson, Chris Turnbull
Hall Hire Officer	Kate Butler
Payroll Officer	Patsy Brady
Committee members	Chris Williams, Chris Smale, Malcolm Studholme

Kate Butler



SAFEGUARDING


Following a letter to all PCCs from Bishop Julie in May 2022 instructing us to tighten up on Safeguarding training and DBS checks, the Rector on behalf of the PCC wrote to everyone who would be required to do this – PCC members and employees of the PCC, Bell Ringers, Junior Church Leaders and helpers, Tots and Tinies Leaders and helpers, Sidespeople, Sacristans, Servers, Refreshment Servers, Flower arrangers and Warm Hub Helpers.

We have completed 14 enhanced DBS checks, with two outstanding, and 11 basic DBS checks. Forty-two people have completed the Basic Safeguarding module, with four people still needing to complete it. Sixteen people have completed the Foundation Safeguarding module with four people still needing to complete it. Eight people have completed the "Raising awareness of domestic abuse" safeguarding module with six people still needing to complete it. Mr Alan Jones (Reader Emeritus) has also completed the Leadership Safeguarding module, and Mr Chris Williams has completed the Parish Safeguarding Officer module.

We have also set up a dedicated email address safeguarding@thurstaston.org.uk and made sure that safeguarding information is always on the front page of our parish website.

And you will all have become familiar with the following image which is printed on our weekly notice sheet, in the parish magazine, and on service sheets for one-off services.

St Bartholomew and St Chad 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



**Safeguarding is
Everyone's
Responsibility**

There have been no reported safeguarding concerns or incidents.

Revd Jane Turner

(on behalf of Mr Chris Williams – Parish Safeguarding Officer)

CHURCHWARDEN'S REPORT

Services have been held in both churches throughout the year. They have followed the new pattern, created after the COVID restrictions were removed. This pattern has been reviewed periodically by the PCC but has remained unchanged due to congregation size and fewer volunteers to assist at services.

In January the annual inspection of the eyebolts on St Bartholomew's tower, by PTSG, revealed that one had failed and had to be completely replaced. As a result, teddy bear parachute jumps on St Beartholomew's day can now continue in safety!

In March we were contacted by local volunteers for CWGC 'Eyes on, hands on project'. They monitor and care for war graves across six Wirral churchyards including St Bartholomew's. They plan to carry out an inspection and report back to the Rector.

In last year's Quinquennial Report, we were strongly advised to have the yew trees at St Bartholomew's pruned. We obtained a faculty under list B and permission from Wirral Borough Council was granted for this work to go ahead. The yew trees are subject to a tree preservation order and they are in a conservation area. The work on the trees is scheduled to take place in February 2023.

In May I took a large group from Burton and Neston History Society on a guided tour of St Bartholomew's. The occasion was thoroughly enjoyed by all, and the society gave a generous donation to the church.

In June I attended the Archdeacon's Visitation service, in person, for the first time since 2019 due to the pandemic.

In July, at St Chad's, the major project was to replace the floor in the main hall. This was undertaken by Arrowe Flooring. All hall users are benefiting from the superior, safer surface.

In July, at St Bartholomew's, the Rector and Mr Jon Oliver discovered a number of unsafe headstones. The Archdeacon was informed and gave advice that where possible, families should be informed as the parish is not responsible for paying for unsafe memorials.

At St Chad's, we are very grateful to Mrs Julie DeBoorder and a number of parishioners as they have continued to maintain and improve the garden and paved areas.

Just before Christmas a neighbour contacted the Rector to inform her that the boundary wall at the north corner of the churchyard at St Bartholomew's had been damaged by an unknown vehicle, possibly reversing into it. We await its repair.

Once again, as the only Churchwarden for both churches, the role has continued to be challenging. As I complete my final full year, I would like to thank all who have helped in any way with the day to day running of the churches.

In particular, I would like to thank Mr Malcolm Studholme, Mr Jon Oliver and my husband, Mr Peter Whitehead for their continued support and assistance, without whom my role would be virtually impossible.

Finally, we as a parish must give our thanks to our Rector, Rev'd Jane Turner, for her continued support, hard work and devotion throughout the year.

Now, we pray that the Lord will give us his blessing for 2023, as we go forward in these challenging times.

Liz Whitehead

DEANERY SYNOD REPORT

The Deanery Synod enables clergy and lay representatives from parishes within a particular area to meet periodically, not only to discuss matters of mutual interest and concern, but also to hear presentations on initiatives within the diocese and the national church. It is always uplifting to be encouraged to raise our eyes above the immediate horizon and to see what can be achieved through prayer, commitment and hard work.

The first meeting of the year, held on February 7th at St Mary's, Upton, focused on three topics: Mission, Christians Against Poverty, and Christmas and Easter Events. The Revd Andy Greenhough gave a presentation on the Wirral Gospel Partnership "Life Mission", which was subsequently held from March 28th to April 1st, with meetings held each day and a different topic spoken about each evening. Then a member of the congregation at St Mary's spoke about the Christians Against Poverty work carried out there over the past ten years, which includes helping people with their financial problems as well as lack of household equipment. In addition to practical support, clients are also offered spiritual help and prayer at each appointment, with some going on to take Alpha courses and attend different churches. The Rural Dean and the Revd Al Rogers reported on a dramatic event, "Christmas Journey", held annually in the grounds of St Andrew's Church, Bebington and supplemented by a tree festival, café and crafts. In 2021 it was attended by between 500 and 600 members of the public, resulting in increased awareness of the church and an opportunity to make contact with people who did not usually attend. A similar "Easter Journey" had been held several times on Good Friday.

At the second meeting, held at St John's, Meols, on June 9th, Jonny Masters gave a presentation on "Growing Faith Adventure". At its heart is a call for a shift in attitude and culture, so that it becomes second nature for every member of the church to include and value children, young people and households in every aspect of church life, for the lifelong formation of faith. It involves partnership between church, households and schools. The initiative is not in itself about getting children into church, although that may be a result, but about enabling them to meet Jesus Christ and develop faith. In the ensuing discussion, various examples were given of some of the different ways in which parishes are trying to bring about this shift in attitudes and culture. Afterwards, the Rural Dean encouraged people from the various parishes to attend the Everyday Faith event at St Stephen's, Prenton, at the beginning of July. The aim of this Church of England initiative is to help all Christians live out our faith, and follow Jesus with confidence, in all areas of our lives.

The final meeting of the year took place at The Centre (St Mary's), Saughall Massie, on October 12th. The Rural Dean spoke about the aim of the Diocese to discern and develop its vision, with contributions sought from parishes throughout the area. There followed a presentation by the Revd Dr. Joe Kennedy, Annie Merry and Zarah Ross, entitled "Net Zero 2030: Making it a reality". After Joe had outlined the mess that we're currently in, he reminded members that God created the world and gave instructions to look after it: we are stewards of it, we must treasure it and not spoil God's creation. The longer we take to do something the worse it will become. We

need to care enough to change our own behaviour. Then Annie and Zarah outlined some of the schemes that have already been put in place by, for example, Liverpool Diocese, as well as a number of parishes, "to strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth".

In conclusion, I hope this report has given some indication of the wide range of topics covered at Deanery Synod meetings. Any parishioner is welcome to attend; you don't have to be an elected member.

Chris Smale

ELECTORAL ROLL REPORT

At the Annual Meeting in 2022, the roll contained 151 members from 102 households. During the past year, seven members have been deleted from the roll. During recent revisions the names of seven new members who applied to join have been added. The Electoral Roll now has 151 members from 101 households.

Helen Williams (Electoral Roll Officer)

CHARITIES SUPPORTED THROUGHOUT THE YEAR



With children, for children, with you

THE CHILDREN'S SOCIETY

For 140 years, the Society has worked to transform the hopes and happiness of young people facing abuse, exploitation and neglect, supporting them through their most serious life challenges.

The Society also campaigns tirelessly for the big social changes that will improve the lives of those who need hope most.

Jean Heath and **Barbara Kozer** co-ordinate fund raising for the Society in the Parish.

After two years of being unable to hold our 'Thank You' coffee mornings in October, due to Covid restrictions, we started 2022 with a March coffee morning and were blessed with a beautiful, warm, sunny day. Thanks to our hard-working stall holders, contributions to bring-and-buy and kind donations, we raised £707.70. In addition, Dilys raised a further £152 for the Ukrainian appeal and our thanks go to all who supported the event.

In the Autumn, the House Boxes provided another source of income for the Society with a total of £884.88. This was considerably down on last year by approximately £370, but some people are choosing to pay directly online, given the change to more card use and less cash transactions. However, whilst losing some boxholders, we were happy to welcome three new ones this year.

Again with thanks to our stall holders and helpers, we were able to hold another coffee morning in November with a Christmas theme, which was very well attended and raised £725.80.

We rounded off the year by making the Christingles for the service on Christmas Eve. Tesco kindly donated the oranges, cocktail sticks and sweets and Jean, Barbara and family members, together with some kind friends, gathered at St. Chad's on the 23rd to put them together, with the help of tea and cakes! The Christingles were given out at the lovely service the next day at St Bartholomew's, and on Christmas morning.

Jean Heath (648 6015)

CHURCH ACTIVITIES

Junior Church 2022

Junior Church is held once a month in term time, usually the 4th Sunday of the month. Sally Partington and Dawn Rudd have produced lovely sessions with crafts and stories for a small number of children ranging from a regular two to occasionally a couple more.



I have been helping with tots and tinies and have been able to involve them with decorating our windows, they made fruit and vegetables for Harvest, Poppies for Remembrance and stars for Christmas, some of these toddlers are now coming to church.



On 20th August we saw the first St Bartholomew's day since Covid. We had good weather and lots of families came to watch the teddies parachute off the St Bartholomew's spire, with only a few getting stuck in the holly tree! Everyone had

a good afternoon, enjoying the spectacle, having cakes and tea, the children's raffle, sweets in a cup and lucky dip.



On October 31st Revd Jane organised a Pumpkin Party, there was pumpkin carving, games, crafts and



glowsticks and outside they toasted smores (marshmallows sandwiched between chocolate biscuits). Several families came to this and it was a great success.

On November 6th the children helped plant a Rowan tree for the Queen's Green Canopy which they all enjoyed being involved in.

On 2nd December, we provided children's crafts and games at Irby Evangelical church for the Irby Christmas lights Turn On, this was packed out and a great time was had by all.



We were not able to produce a nativity service as in the past, as there were not enough junior church children, but Rev Jane organised a Pop Up Nativity which was able to run with the aid of a few props, a few



willing adult volunteers, Guides and a few children. It was a lot of fun, we had some

funny sketches and I think the adults liked dressing up more than the children! It was a wonderful service enjoyed by all.

Many thanks to all the leaders, helpers, friends, members of the congregations of both churches and Rev Jane for all their support and hard work.

Julie De Boorder



Bellringers' Report 2022

I am pleased to report that we have returned to regular practice and service ringing at Thurstaston following the easing of Covid restrictions. We continue to be an enthusiastic group who are willing to learn and improve our ringing.

We now only ring on alternate weeks on a Sunday morning (due to the change in service patterns). We continue to meet on the other Sundays for coffee, chat and hand bell practice.

This year's ringing included a significant amount of ringing following the death of Queen Elizabeth II. For this occasion the bells are rung muffled (by placing leather spacers on the clapper to deaden the sound – as done for the Remembrance Day service). Ideally following the death of the Monarch the bell should be rung fully muffled; will all bells except the tenor back stroke muffled. This produces a very mournful sound alongside the slow tolling tenor note. This is the first time any of the ringers had rung bells fully muffled as this is only ever done following the death of the Monarch.

Fully muffled bells is logistically challenging (as all churches only have one set of muffles and therefore need to arrange sharing) but we did manage this for one of the quarter peals.

The following ringing took place during the year:

Saturday 15th January **¼ peal 1260 Plain Bob minor**

A visiting band from the Welsh Colleges Society.

Thursday 17th February **Peal 5040 7 Minor** (*London Surprise, Norwich Surprise, Bourne Surprise, Cambridge Surprise, Oxford Treble Bob, Kent Treble Bob, Plain Bob*)

A band from Liverpool Universities Society including Peter Robson. Rung to mark the 70th anniversary of Elizabeth II's accession to the throne.

Friday 3rd June **Ringling of methods, rounds and call changes**

Rung by 9 members of our band. Rung on the morning of the service of celebration for the Platinum Jubilee of HM Queen Elizabeth II.

Friday 9th September **Muffled tolling of the tenor for one hour**

Rung by 7 members of our band at midday following the death of HM Queen Elizabeth II.

Sunday 11th September **Open ringing: Rounds, call changes, Grandsire and Plain Bob**

Rung by 10 members of our band. Bells rung open to celebrate the Proclamation of King Charles III.

Sunday 11th September **Half muffled ringing: Rounds, Kings and Queens**

Rung by 9 members of our band. Rung half muffled for the commemoration service marking the death of her late Majesty Queen Elizabeth.

Saturday 17th September **¼ peal 1260 Grandsire doubles**

A Wirral Branch band including Alice Pettitt and Peter Robson. Rung fully muffled in memory of Queen Elizabeth II.

Sunday 18th September **Rounds, call changes, Grandsire and Plain bob**

Rung by 9 members of our band. Rung half muffled for morning service in memory of HM Queen Elizabeth II.

Monday 19th September **Rounds, call changes, Plain bob doubles and minor and Grandsire**

Rung by 12 members of our band. Rung half muffled prior to the funeral of HM Queen Elizabeth II.

Wednesday 28th September **¼ peal 1260 Plain Bob Doubles**

Rung by a tower band. In celebration of King Charles III.

Wednesday 5th October **¼ peal 1260 4 doubles (Grandsire, Plain Bob, St Simon's and St Martin's doubles)**

Rung by a Wirral branch band including Alice Pettit and Peter Robson (conductor).

Thursday 8th December **¼ peal 1296 Cambridge Surprise Minor**

Rung by a visiting band from Mid Branch of the Chester Diocesan Guild.

Many thanks to all the team who made themselves available to ring following the death of the Queen..

We did manage to book our Christmas meal following the lifting of Covid restrictions. We met in February and had a wonderful evening with good food at The Anchor. Caroline, our latest recruit, brought a gift of decorative bells for the team – this was greatly appreciated.

During the year we have hosted the monthly Branch Surprise minor practice on the first Wednesday. This has given a couple of the team an opportunity to learn new methods and to develop their ringing further.

We currently have 16 ringers but will always welcome more. You are welcome to come and see what we do and to join us (please ring first to confirm that we will be there).

Peter Robson

COMMUNITY ACTION 2021

Heart Bomb

In February the W.I. helped us hang hearts made by the congregation and W.I. in time for Valentine's Day all around Irby Village, and at St Chad's and St Bartholomew's Churches.





The idea started last year to lift spirits with so that everyone felt loved. Many residents and shops heard about this on Facebook and through ITPAS and joined in putting hearts in their front gardens and windows.



It was a lovely event and many people commented how cheerful it made them feel and how the community felt stronger.



Garden Project

This summer the work that began in September 2021 to remove the large, raised area of wooden barriers and overgrown scrub and return it to grass was finished. Grass was sown and it successfully re-covered the area which can now be mowed along with the rest of the back garden. From the wood that was saved it is hoped we can make the broken compost bin into a leaf store and mend the wooden raised beds that surround the established bushes. The bark paths that lead to the new raised flower bed, composting area and woodland area have been restored.



This summer the work that began in September 2021 to remove the large, raised area of wooden barriers and overgrown scrub and return it to grass was finished.

The new raised planter was planted up in time for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee and maintained with subsequent planting.

We have some funds left and hope to continue with this project by mending and tidying up the old, raised beds, plant up the woodland borders and get is ready so that it can be opened as a community area to be enjoyed by all.

Queen's Platinum Jubilee Party

On Sunday 5th June, we held a community party at St Chads to celebrate the Queen's platinum Jubilee.

This was a fabulous event and was attending by many residents of the area and congregation, the hall was packed to capacity, with all ages coming together to have their picnics and enjoy a special celebration cake, tea and ice-cream. The weather was raining, but eventually stopped and the children went outside to play on the bouncy castle and the complete the outdoor quiz, inside there was also a toddlers play area, children's crafts and a crown competition.



MacMillan Coffee Morning

On Saturday 1 October we held a coffee morning to raise money for MacMillan. This was very successful, we raised £520 for this good cause. Everyone enjoyed delicious cakes, bought plants, cards and Bring and Buy items and were very generous to make cash donations as well.

Christmas Fair

On Saturday 19th November we held the first Christmas Fair since Covid, (we did have



a small Christmas coffee morning last year, but not with all the trimmings of a full fair due to restrictions).

This was a great success and attracted all ages of the local community.

Claire House and Dog Rescue charities were given free tables, it was lovely to be able to support them.



We sold tables to six various independent vendors who provided us with fantastic gifts and a good variety of quality goods. Our own stalls consisted of beautiful handmade Christmas Craft items, second-hand books, homemade cakes, refreshments, raffle, Santa's Grotto, children's games and children's crafts.



We made £644, but for me the best part was the community coming together, chatting to friends not seen for ages, the children excited to make their Christmas goodies and seeing children with armfuls of teddies, their faces beaming with their bargain.

Other Family events are detailed in Junior Church and Children's Activities Report:- Pumpkin Party, St Beartholomew's Day and Irby Christmas Lights Switch on Children's Crafts.

THANK YOU to the many people involved these events and to everyone who supported them.

Julie De Boorder

CHURCH RELATED ORGANISATIONS



Mothers' UNION
Christian care for families

Please visit www.mothersunion.org/ or www.mothersunionchester.org.uk to find out more about the work of Mothers' Union.

EMU report January – December 2022

We started off the year in February with 'My Journey into Photography' led by Roger Ellison, which was enjoyed by all who attended.

Retired Vicar Revd David Felix came along to talk to us about his time in Daresbury, a very interesting and amusing talk.

Another Vicar, Rev'd George Palmer, joined us in May to give us an insight into his work as a hospital chaplain, again very interesting.

Our June meeting was led by Jan DeBoorder who talked about 'Fly tipping'.

A meal in The Gravesberie Inn at Greasby was enjoyed in July.

Alison Youde came along in September to explain her very valuable work with 'Special Needs' children and we all joined in with some crafts that she uses in her teaching.

We had a talk by Caroline about the Wirral charity 'Horse Sense' who care for neglected horses along with a variety of small animals. This was a very informative talk and we were all shocked by the level of neglect.

We finished off the year with 'The Upside of Lockdown' by 'Little Eye' photographer Roger Ellison, back by popular demand in time for Christmas.

This is my last report for EMU as Secretary as I have decided it is time to step down. As there is no one willing or able to take over, we have all decided that it is time for our branch of Mothers' Union to close.

I would like to thank the committee for their help and members for supporting our meetings over the last ten years.

If anyone would like to become a Diocesan member then please visit the website below.

www.mothersunion.org/ or www.mothersunionchester.org.uk to find out more about the work of Mothers' Union.

Chris Rostock – Branch Secretary

1st Thurstaston Guides Annual Report 2021



We've had a whole year of being able to meet in person in 2022. Unfortunately, Ellie was unable to attend meetings during the summer term but was definitely a much-needed presence in the background and it was great to have her back in the autumn term 😊.

Outings

We try and incorporate some trips away from the hall when we can and 2022 was no exception. We had many outings during the year – Boulder Hut in Ellesmere Port, Calm at Church Farm, the Yog Bar in Hoylake followed by rounders on the beach, night hike to West Kirby (and chips at the end), chippy walk from Parkgate (there's a theme here!), Litter pick on Thurstaston beach, Manley Mere adventure trail (the usual muddy, cold but somehow enjoyable event), cinema trip to see Matilda at the end of the year and a theatre trip to see a pantomime at the start of the year. This is in addition to our games evenings in Irby park, the annual barbeque at the end of the summer term at Thurstaston and the meal out to present Guide awards to those girls leaving us.

West Wirral scouting and guiding held their gang show at the Gladstone Theatre this year with a couple of our guides also taking part. We went to see the show and it was amazing – a huge well done to all involved 😊

There was a residential trip to PGL for a few days in June, with other brownies and guides from Wirral and everyone had a fantastic time. We also had a few guides go to Wellies and Wristbands camping – a guiding festival open to units across the country. The girls that went had a brilliant time!

Hall Meetings

We always begin each term with a catch up and craft night which always goes down well as a chance to see friends after the holidays. In addition to this we've completed a few badges including chopsticks and courage for Chinese New Year and the Be Well theme award. We've had a couple of fundraising evenings and raised money for Children in Need and Red Nose Day, we also helped at the Church Christmas fair serving the drinks. Earlier in the year, we spent a couple of weeks doing activities relating to the late Queen's Jubilee celebrations which culminated in a tea party that we held during one meeting, and we were obviously devastated to then hear that she had passed away in September.

Our unit was part of a fantastic, uniformed turn out for Remembrance Sunday. This is always a lovely, moving service and it is so nice to see all our local uniformed units taking part as it is the one time of year that Squirrels, Rainbows, Beavers, Brownies, Cubs, Guides and Scouts are together.

Unfortunately, due to work commitments, Lily had to take the decision to leave us at the end of 2022 and so we would like to take the opportunity to thank her for everything she has done for us and to wish her all the best for the future.

As always, we wish the guides who have now left us every happiness and success in the future and look forward to seeing many new faces joining us in 2023.

Ellie Randall, Gaynor Vaughan, Lily Foster and the Guides!

3rd Irby Brownies

We have had another fantastic year at St Chad's.

The Brownies have been very busy this year completing several guiding interest and challenge badges. We have had several girls achieve the highest programme award "Gold Award" this year. This is a really special achievement and means that they fully completed the Brownie programme prior to moving up to Guides.

We have had various overnight and day trips including a sleepover at Gulliver's World, PGL at Winmarleigh Hall and evenings at Saughall Massie fire station and Freedom trampoline park. The Brownies have also attended church parade at St Chad's and Remembrance Sunday at St Bartholomew's.

We also had a district event in the Summer when we met up with all other Guiding members in Irby and completed activities including making small fires, toasting marshmallows and singing around a campfire. The girls also learnt various Circus Skills earlier in the evening.

Anyone who has a particular interest or service which they think the Brownies would be interested to learn about please feel free to get in touch as we are always looking for new ideas for our meetings.

Lynn McCoy, Gemma Willerton, Emma Parker.

2nd Irby Rainbows

We have had a good year which has flown by.

We have 17 girls, including some four-year-olds (they can start Rainbows at four now).

We have been lucky to have two new leaders join us, which is great.

Rainbows have completed some challenge badges and interest badges. We have enjoyed being in the garden (even using our torches in the dark!).

Rainbows took part in UK Parliament week and took part in Remembrance Sunday church parade.

We enjoyed our District get-together at St Chad's, we learnt circus skills, did outdoor BBQ, made keyrings, even the rain did not put us off.

Our goals for 2023 are to keep our girls interested in the Guiding programme. We would like to increase attendance at Church Parades. We are hoping to raise money to buy ourselves a Unit flag too.

Karen, Alison, Emily and Trish.

Unit leaders, 2nd Irby Rainbows.

TOTS & TINIES

We have continued to meet weekly term time; numbers have been increasing with between 30-40 children every week. The session begins with free play and craft, followed by snack time and finally a story time and song all together. It is lovely to see the parents, grandparents, carers, and children engaging with each other. We also contribute to any church activities such as the heart bomb event. Father Christmas visited us which the children all enjoyed. Reverend Jane has planned the craft activities and bible stories for the term and comes every week to read at story time, this has been of great benefit.

It has been a great help and is very much appreciated having volunteers to provide Tea/Coffee and Juice throughout the session and clear up the Kitchen, this makes a huge difference to the tidying up at the end. We are not providing any snacks for the children at the moment to minimise the risk of spreading COVID.

Thank you to everyone who plays a part in making this group so successful and welcoming to all who attend.

Allison Youds

Independent examiner's report on the accounts



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/
members of

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical
Parish of St. Bartholomew, Thurstaston

On accounts for the year
ended

31st December 2022

Charity no
(if any)

1132086

Set out on pages

1 to 7

(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

Respective
responsibilities of
trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Charities Act") and that an independent examination is needed. [The charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of [named body]]. *Delete [] if not applicable.*

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act,
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act, and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention

Basis of independent
examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

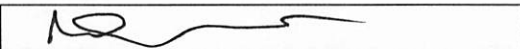
**Independent
examiner's statement**

In connection with my examination, no material matters have come to my attention (other than that disclosed below *) which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- 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.

I 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.

** Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.*

Signed:  Date: 30th March 2023

Name: Margaret Ann Walker of MAW Accountants

Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any): ICPA(Fellow)

Address: 33 Thingwall Road
Irby
Wirral CH61 3UE

Section B Disclosure

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.

A large, empty rectangular box with a thin black border, occupying the central portion of the page. It is intended for the user to provide details of items for disclosure as requested in the text to its left.

CHURCH ACCOUNTS 2022

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Bartholomew, Thurstaston

Registered Charity Number 1132086

Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ending 31 December 2022

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2022	Total 2021
Receipts & Payments account					
Receipts					
<i>Voluntary Receipts</i>					
Planned Giving St Bartholomew	23786			23786	26603
St Chad	12935			12935	14304
Other Collections St Bartholomew	1875			1875	629
St Chad	552			552	546
Total	39148	0	0	39148	42082
<i>Donations</i>					
Wallbox	0			0	0
Recurring Donations	0			0	0
Sum up	5			5	16
Non recurring Donations (see note 1)	2305			2305	2883
Total donations	2310	0	0	2310	2899
	41458			41458	44981
<i>Grants received (see note 2)</i>	2736			2736	6321
<i>Legacies (see note 15)</i>	0			0	5000
<i>Tax recovered</i>	10723			10723	11231
Total	13459	0	0	13459	22552
Total Donation Income	54917	0	0	54917	67533
<i>Activities for Generating Funds (See note 3)</i>	898			898	176
<i>Church Activities (See note 4)</i>	13956			13956	8030
<i>Income from Investments (See note 5)</i>	5314			5314	4770
TOTAL	75085	0	0	75085	80509
Payments					
<i>Cost of generating voluntary income (See note 6)</i>	135			135	126
<i>Mission Giving (See note 7)</i>	137			137	65
<i>Church Activities (See note 8)</i>	66463			66463	65674
<i>Major Works - new floor at Chads</i>	16178			16178.4	0
TOTAL	82913	0	0	82913	65865
Excess of Receipts over Payments	-7828	0	0	-7828	14644
Transfers between funds					
Total					
Bank Current and Deposit Accounts 1 Jan	72312	193095		5634	271041
Bank Current and Deposit Accounts 31 Dec	65235	175042		4843	245120

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2022	Total 2021
Statement of Assets and Liabilities					
Assets					
Cash at bank and in hand and undeposited funds	13			13	13
CAF Current Account	32812			32812	39992
CAF Gold Account	28487			28487	28378
Total	61312	0	0	61312	68383

Investment Assets (See note 9)							
Morrell Trust		7660			7660		8893
Ismay Charity				4843	0		5634
Tudor Trust		23506			23506		28085
Eileen Shaw Trust		104282			104282		117037
Open Door	0	39594			39594		39080
Reserve Fund	3981				3981		3929
Total	65293	0	175042	0	4843	245178	271041
Other Monetary Assets							
Gift aid claimable	8644				8644		9911
Total Assets	73937	0	175042	0	4843	253822	280952
Liabilities (See note 11)						0	785
Total Assets less Liabilities	73937	175042	4843	253822			785

Approved by the PCC on and signed on their behalf by Rev E Jane turner (PCC Chairperson)
and Mrs Kate Butler (Bookkeeper)

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2022	Total 2021
Notes to the accounts					
1. Non recurring donations					
Gift Aided Donations	933			933	2505
Non-Gift Aided Donations	1372			1372	378
Total	2305	0	0	2305	2883
2.Grants Received					
Grant from Diocese Energy Grant	986			986	0
Jubilee Grant funding	1000			1000	3506
Wirral Borough Council - Together Fund - Tots & Tinies	750			750	2815
Total	2736	0	0	2736	6321
3.Generating Funds					
Christmas Fair/Santa in Irby	715			715	176
Other fund raising events bears day	183			183	183
Total	898	0	0	898	359
4. Main Church Activities					
Fees Received	3879			3879	2502
Contribution to heating	167			167	56
Hall Hire	8547			8547	1144
Tots and Tinies	1000			1000	443
Magazine subscriptions	193			193	184
Magazine income	170			170	240
Insurance claims				0	3461
Total	13956	0	0	13956	8030
5. Income from Investments					
Bank Interest	656	52		708	25
Morrell Trust	217			217	223
Ismay Charity	558			558	0
Tudor Trust	1176			1176	762
Shaw Trust	2655			2655	3465
Total	5262	0	52	5314	4610

6. Costs of Generating Voluntary Income

<i>Planned Giving Envelope Systems</i>	135					135	126
<i>Harvest Supper</i>	0					0	0
<i>Christmas Fair/Santa in Irby</i>	0					0	0
Total	135	0	0	0	0	135	126

7. Mission Giving

<i>Diocesan Family of Schools</i>	0					0	0
<i>Friends of Chester Cathedral Deanery Synod</i>	25					25	25
<i>Ismay Charity donation</i>	0					0	0
<i>art exhibition and flood relief</i>	0					0	0
<i>Gifts (Retiring Treasurer & Clergy)</i>	112					112	40
Total	137	0	0	0	0	137	65

8. Church Activities

Parish Share	24384					24384	23072
Salaries							
<i>Caretaker</i>	394					394	394
<i>Cleaners</i>	2944					2944	1519
<i>Parish Clerk</i>	3560					3560	3560
<i>Parish bookkeeper</i>	1650					1650	1650
Pastoral Expenses							
<i>Rector's Expenses</i>	1354					1354	567
<i>Rector's Office Expenses</i>	880					880	1874
<i>Rectory Expenses</i>	3179					3179	2959
Mission Costs							0
<i>Assisting Clergy Fees & Expenses</i>	86					86	0
<i>Organist's Fees</i>							66
<i>Service Costs (worship materials)</i>	2942					2942	1228
<i>Website</i>	233					233	215
<i>Youth</i>	60					60	0
<i>Tots & Tinies</i>	1126					1126	221
St Bartholomew Overheads							
<i>Church Insurance (see note 16)</i>	5994					5994	5828
<i>C26: Church Licences</i>	87					87	83
<i>C23: Church Building Maintenance</i>	1367					1367	841
<i>C19: Churchyard Upkeep</i>	2245					2245	7358
<i>C24: Church Organ Expenses</i>	150					150	329
<i>C21: Church Electricity</i>	612					612	329
<i>C22: Church Heating Oil</i>	968					968	1330
St Chad's Overheads							
<i>Hall Insurance (see note 16)</i>	0					0	0
<i>Hall Licences</i>	371					371	332
<i>Hall Building Maintenance</i>	1771					1771	200
<i>Hall Grounds Maintenance</i>	1160					1160	4996
<i>Hall Electricity</i>	656					656	691
<i>Hall Gas</i>	2191					2191	1062
<i>Hall Water</i>	1003					1003	1105
<i>St Chads Building Maintenance</i>	365					365	106
<i>Magazine Costs Production Expenses</i>	48					48	47
Admin Expenses							
<i>Office equipment</i>	1269					1269	1859
<i>Office Software</i>	1165					1165	1686
<i>Office Stationary</i>	1710					1710	402
<i>Office Phone & Internet</i>	460					460	96
<i>Bank Charges</i>	81					81	
Total	66463	0	0	0	0	66463	65654

9. Investments

The investments relate to 5 funds:

- (i) The Morrell Trust is invested with the CBF Church of England Investments, split between the Fixed Interest Securities Fund and the Global Equity Income Fund.
- (ii) The Ismay Charity is invested with the CBF Church of England Global Equity Income Fund with the balance held in the bank account for distribution at the discretion of the incumbent, or for eventual reinvestment.
- (iii) The Tudor Trust. This is invested with CBF Church of England income investments, The property fund, the UK equity fund and the global equity income fund
- (iv) The Eileen Shaw Trust is a restricted fund producing income for general church use and is invested in C of E Global Equity, Property, UK Equity, Investment and Fixed income Funds

The fund is held by Chester DBF as Diocesan Authority on behalf of the PCC
 This trust is now shown in the PCC's statement of Assets and Liabilities
 (v) The Reserve fund is a small general reserve held for emergency work at St Chads
 (vi) The Open Door Fund is held for specific work on St Bartholomews

10. St Chad's Building

St Chad's building is 50 years old and was built using donations. The first extension was built using funds from the sale of land on which Village Court was built. The new extension was built over 10 years ago.

11. Liabilities	2022	2021
<i>Retained wedding and funeral fees</i>		785
<i>Hall Hire paid in advance</i>	538	0
Total	538	785

The Parish has been unable to meet its Parish Share contribution in full for several years. The Parish achieved a payment amounting to 35% of the total request for 2022 (£24384 paid of £69668 requested) The Parish are mindful that they have not been able to reach a full payment, but will look to increase payment to the Diocese as income allows.

12. PCC member payments

PCC member Jon Oliver was paid £422.40 because of his employment as Verger.

13. Accounts

This financial statement has been prepared in accordance with Church Accounting Regulations 2006 using the Receipts and Payments basis.

The Gift Aid refers to money received in 2022 for the 2021 financial and tax year. Also no reference is made to stock held or debtors

14. Reserves Policy

We have no Quinquennial provision and we aim to carry a minimum of 3 months turnover i.e approximately £30000

15. Legacies

No Legacies this year

16. Insurance

The insurance figure is now a combined figure for both churches

Accounts

St Bartholomew's, Thurstaston with St Chad's Irby



MISSION AND ACTIVITIES IN 2021



Members of the PCC 2020-21

The members of the PCC in 2021-22 were:

Revd J Turner	Rector
Mrs E Whitehead	Warden
Mr C Smale	Deanery Synod
Mrs J Davies	Deanery Synod
Mr A Harford	Elected
Mrs J Hodgson	Elected
Mrs P Neil	Elected
Mr G Barley	Elected
Mrs J Trigg	Elected
Mrs J Deboorder	Elected
Mr M Studholme	Elected
Mr J Oliver	Elected
Mr C Williams	Elected
Mr R Jackson	Elected
Mrs E Barton	Elected

A WORD FROM THE RECTOR

Initial reflections on the past year seemed to produce a deep sadness for me. It has felt like a year in exile. The adrenalin of 2020 caused by the pandemic led to lots of action and lots of new ways of doing things and this report last year was full of thankfulness for all that we had learned about gratitude for so many things. But 2021 has felt like a year of waiting for things to begin to rebuild. Many people have not yet returned to church, and some probably never will. The variety of everyday ministry has been lacking with not being able to be in school, with many fewer weddings and baptisms than normal, with small groups and fellowship needing to remain online. A large focus of the PCC has been related to diminishing finances.

Thankfully, glancing back through the parish magazine over the last twelve months reminded me of some of the good things of 2021. We were able to remain engaged with the wider community through the Heart Bomb and the Scarecrow Festival. We were able to serve those in need by making cot blankets for Arrowe Park Neonatal Unit and through donations to Forum Housing and Wirral Foodbank. We were able to learn together through the Prayer Course and had fun baking our way through Lent. A few of us were able to join with others across the diocese on the "Creation Care Course" and work continued to re-establish the garden at St Chad's so that it will be more accessible in the future.

As I look to the future I am reminded of some of the promises of God:-

Isaiah 42v3: "A bruised reed he will not break, and a smouldering wick he will not snuff out."

And I am reminded of the Book of Nehemiah. Nehemiah enabled the rebuilding of the temple through prayer and by bringing people of all backgrounds to work together. But this rebuilding wasn't just about the temple, it was also about enabling the people to repent and be restored in relationship with God leading to spiritual growth and evangelism.

Let's give thanks for where God has been present in this year. Let's look for what God is doing now. And with prayer and commitment let's look to where God is leading us and trust him to rebuild and strengthen our church community starting with us.

Revd Jane Turner

REPORT ON THE BUSINESS OF THE PCC AND OTHER CHURCH MATTERS IN 2021



The PCC met seven times using video technology (“Zoom”). The Standing Committee met in the same way to discuss urgent matters, usually referring their conclusions to the PCC for discussion or using an approved consultation process to reach decisions. This is a summary of the PCC business during 2021.

Closure of churches and plans to re-open

In January, the Rector informed the PCC that the Standing Committee had recommended another closure of the churches, with only on-line services until at least the end of the month. The Government’s guidance on preventing the spread of coronavirus meant that neither church could safely be used for public worship until transmission rates were much lower and the vaccination programme had begun to take effect. The bishop agreed to authorise dispensing with regular services until post Covid-19 lockdown had ended and Wirral had returned to a minimum of Tier 3.

Over the next weeks and months, the regulations and advice were changed frequently and the PCC supported the Rector in adapting arrangements as necessary to comply with the law. Re-opening the churches was discussed frequently. It was possible to hold all-age services during Holy Week, for the evening of Palm Sunday and further services on Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Day.

After much discussion and a survey of views on returning to normal worship, the PCC decided that service times would not be changed until social distancing rules were lifted.

Service arrangements after the lockdowns.

The PCC agreed later that from September 2021, or after all social distancing requirements had been removed, if later than September, the service pattern should be changed to try to rebuild, rejuvenate and strengthen the congregations. This would be reviewed after six months (around Easter 2022, or later if implemented later than September). The service times would be:

- 9.00am every Sunday – Holy Communion at St Bartholomew’s (BCP)
- 10.30am service every Sunday (usually alternating between St Chad's and St Bartholomew’s): -
 - 1st Sunday – Holy Communion at St Bartholomew’s
 - 2nd Sunday – All age service at St Chad’s

3rd Sunday – Morning Worship at St Bartholomew’s
4th Sunday – Holy Communion at St Chad’s
5th Sunday – Baptism at St Bartholomew’s – or Holy
Communion if no baptism booked

- Wednesday 10.30am every week – Holy Communion at St Chad’s

The decisions about service times were taken after many options had been explored. The PCC recognised that the pandemic has taken its toll and we should move forward as positively as we could by working together, to strengthen the community outreach that was so powerful during the first lockdown, and to help to grow the kingdom of God.

Drains at St Bartholomew’s

Early in the year, a pump in the heating system at St Bartholomew’s failed and was replaced by Mr Studholme. It became apparent that the rainwater gully was partially blocked and could not be cleared. No manholes were visible and there were no drawings of the external layout of drains.

The Insurance Company, Ecclesiastical Insurance, would replace only the damaged part of the drain but the PCC believed that a limited repair would mean more problems in the future. Ecclesiastical Insurance agreed to a cash payment for the cost of the repair to the damaged drainpipe so that we could have the entire drain replaced. The work was completed by a local builder, Hattons, with some of the cost paid from the legacy of Mr C Jones, with the permission of his executors.

Toilet facilities at St Bartholomew’s

In March, Mr Harford, who was leading the work to provide the facilities, said that the work by Hattons should help in finding the best site for the building. In June, Mr Harford informed members that he had spoken to the suppliers of the modular toilet block proposed for installation on the south side of the church and to the Church Architect, Mark Pearce. As it could be moved very quickly, if necessary, he did not expect it to require planning permission and there would be no need to dig foundations. The DAC had approved the use of such buildings by other churches.

Mr Harford had identified another supplier, Concept Cabins, that could provide a steel building that would be easier to install. He suggested that we inform the DAC of both options. A steel structure could be disguised by an external wrapping provided by the manufacturers, to simulate a wooden building. We could not yet make it a specific proposal because the DAC would require full details including costs. It was agreed to ask the DAC for advice, and Mr Harford’s description of the possibilities and other information were submitted to the DAC.

Churchwarden's Reports to the PCC

The Churchwarden regularly draws the attention of the PCC to all matters concerning the two churches that require attention. The Churchwarden's report (page 12) has further details.

Financial Matters

We have for some time only been able to afford to pay 60% of our full Parish Share, which the Diocese agreed to and is still in effect our 'baseline'. Even that became difficult during lockdown and was reduced to 35%, but the Treasurer hoped we could return to paying 60% of Parish Share from 1st April. All Parish Share retained during the year had been ringfenced in the hope that we would repay it later, unless it was required for an emergency.

In September, the PCC was informed that we were still paying 35% of Parish Share and reverting to 60% would increase outgoings by £1,514 a month. This was discussed at length. In November the Treasurer reported that the finances were slowly returning to normal in services although we were still about 30% down on income. More information on the parish finances can be found in the Treasurer's report (page 6).

Legacy for St Bartholomew's from the late Mr C Jones

In May, the PCC expressed appreciation of a generous donation by Mr C Jones of a legacy for use at St Bartholomew's. Mr Jones was a PCC member and churchwarden who had oversight of many building and maintenance projects in the churches and the previous rectory.

Quinquennial Inspection of St Bartholomew's

The PCC agreed unanimously to invite Mr Mark Pearce, the church architect and a member of the DAC, to carry out the inspection.

Renewal of St Chad's garden

The PCC agreed to a proposal by Mrs DeBoorder to apply to the LA for grant aid for a plan to renovate existing features in the garden. The work was commenced during the summer and was planned in phases, beginning with the raised beds and outside electrical fittings.

Quinquennial Inspection

During the inspection, the architect found that pigeons had gained access to the Old Tower, creating a significant Health and Safety issue. Mr Studholme, Mr Whitehead and Mr Oliver offered to clear and seal the premises, with overalls and masks kindly provided by Mr Studholme.

Easy Pay

The possibility of having a debit/credit card reader for use by visitors or people passing by, and by those attending weddings or baptisms who

are relatively young, computer literate and often not carrying cash, had been discussed previously, and the PCC agreed to an offer by Mr Turnbull to purchase a card reader, test it and train others to use it. The costs involved were not fully known and the Finance Committee would be assessing it.

Resignation of Booking Secretary

Mrs Jean Heath had retired as Hall Booking Secretary and had been formally thanked for her work in that capacity over many years. An offer by Ms Julie Davies to receive the emails and maintain the diary was gratefully accepted.

Resignation of Treasurer

Mr Marley informed the PCC that he would be resigning as treasurer in April 2022. He suggested that Mrs K Butler would become treasurer and bookkeeper, working from home for one hour extra on her usual working days. The banking arrangements would have to be reviewed to ensure due separation of responsibilities.

Resignation of Safeguarding Officer

Our Safeguarding Officer was no longer able to carry out the role. It was essential to have a Safeguarding Officer who understood the requirements and the responsibilities and was computer-literate. The person appointed would require a DBS certificate. Three people offered to undertake the responsibilities. After careful consideration, Mr C Williams was appointed. The Rector thanked all those who had volunteered.

Dawpool Foundation Governor

Two of the six Foundation Governors at Dawpool School reached the ends of their terms of office. Mrs K Robson was re-appointed unanimously and Mrs H Williams was appointed to replace Mr K Marley. The Rector thanked Mr Marley on behalf of the PCC.

Kneelers at St Bartholomew's

Following an on-line discussion, most PCC members had said the old kneelers should be removed. All PCC members were asked for their views by email; permission from the archdeacon was obtained and they were offered on E-Bay. There was no interest and Mr Oliver disposed of them.

Graham Barley (PCC Secretary)



TREASURER'S REPORT FOR 2021

We have again had a very difficult year which has had an impact on the financial running of the Parish. However, we have also been able to take advantage of certain financial grants to achieve things that would have been out of reach. Our thanks go to Revd Jane and Julie_Deboorder who applied for these.

PARISH SHARE

We started the year again paying 35% of the agreed Parish Share in order to maintain our reserves at the required level. This meant that in 2021 we contributed £17,909 less than our agreed 60% 'baseline', which together with the £15,215 ringfenced from last year means we have not paid £33,000 over the two years. We were hoping to repay the diocese at a later date if finances allowed and I believe that is still our hope, but as income is down and repairs are imminent, that decision will have to be reviewed.

If we do this it still leaves us in the vulnerable position of possibly receiving only 35% of a replacement minister if the need arose.

ANALYSIS OF PERFORMANCE BETWEEN 2021 AND 2020

Income

Planned Giving

Our main source of income was down by 5% on last year. However, I would still like to thank everyone for their amazing generosity in these troubled times. It represented 52% of our total income down from 60%, not including the gift aid that is due.

As attendance at church becomes more erratic due the pandemic, it becomes more important that more members are encouraged to join and current members set up standing orders to eradicate any gaps in their financial support of the church. The increase in standing orders since the start of the pandemic has helped enormously with the planning and budgeting, so again my thanks to you all. The continued need to limit numbers at services during parts of the year, following government guidance, has had an impact on the donations we have received.

Donations/Grants/Legacies/Insurance Claims

The income from donations was down 53% and again a huge thank you to all who have donated over the past 12 months.

We also received two grants of £3,506 and £2,815, being a covid recovery grant and a garden grant.

We received this year a very generous legacy of £5,000 from the estate of Mr Cecil Jones.

We also had an insurance claim at St Bartholomew's for £3,461 to replace some damaged drainage, and we added some additional expenditure to future proof the work.

We will be examining ways of making donations via contactless technology over the course of the year once we know what the new normal will be.

Everyone should be encouraged to read our legacy policy and think about including the church in their will.

Gift Aid and GASDS

This provides us with very valuable income and is vital to our accounts as this year it made up nearly 15% of our total income. It is cost free to the contributor as long as they have paid enough tax throughout the year. With this in mind, could everyone who is eligible, sign a gift aid declaration and also can current members let the Planned Giving Officers know if you have moved, are no longer eligible or have changed your name.

At this juncture I must thank Chris Turnbull and Chris Smale for the amazing work they do in this area – it can be very time consuming and laborious.

Fees Received

Unfortunately, due to the ongoing issues fees received were down again this year on normal years by over 50%.

Hall Hire

Income was down by 90% this year on normal years due to not being able to hire out the hall.

My thanks to Julie Davies and Kate Butler for their tireless work on bookings, invoices, debt collection and QuickBooks entry.

Investments and Reserves

Despite the poor economic climate and the disintegration of the interest rates on savings, we were only down by 1% in investment income so our assets have held up really well and have actually increased in value by 10%.

We have been able to maintain our reserves at a decent level by not paying the full parish share, but the nature of our situation means this

needs to be maintained for the continued financial health of the PCC and to cover any unexpected expenditure which can occur at any time.

There has been no work done through the Open Door Fund this year but plans are still under consideration.

Expenditure

I have not done a line-by-line explanation as it is impossible to compare this year to last. Our overall expenditure was up by 14% mainly due to the work done with the grants and the insurance claim, which is offset in the income. Otherwise, the expenses are only 3% up overall. This is mainly due to increased costs of utilities. This was in line with the overall rise in income of 10%. We still had to incur cleaning and salary costs as certain jobs still needed to be done so we didn't need to furlough anyone.

Assistant Clergy

We had no expenditure on Assistant Clergy over the year but our thanks continue to go to you all for your unwavering support and generosity.

SUMMARY

It has been another difficult year for everyone for many reasons so to have come out the other end in a fairly stable financial position is a credit to the generosity of everyone in the Parish.

This is my last Treasurer's Report as I have handed the reins over to Kate who will be employed by the PCC to take on this role on top of the Administrator role. I would like to express my deepest thanks to all who have supported me in this endeavour and I wish everyone well for the future.

The finance team comprises:

Parish Giving Officers	Chris Turnbull and Chris Smale
Banker	Kate Butler
Parish Administrator	Kate Butler
Signatory and cashier	Roger Jackson
Hall Hire Officer	Julie Davies, Jon Oliver, Elizabeth Barton and Kate Butler
Payroll Officer	Patsy Brady
Committee members	Chris Williams and Malcolm Studholme

Kevin Marley (Honorary Treasurer)



SAFEGUARDING

Safeguarding Policy and Procedures

The government is continually reviewing legislation and guidance to ensure children, young people and adults at risk are kept safe as far as possible. It is our responsibility to ensure we do all we can to make the environments, in which we work and worship, safe for everybody. Our policy at St Chad's and St Bartholomew's is based on the policy and procedures outlined in the Church of England Parish Safeguarding Policy. This policy and its procedures will be amended in line with any recommendations or good practice guidance from the House of Bishops and will be reviewed annually. These procedures may be adapted as required specifically to meet the needs and practices of St Chad's Irby and St Bartholomew's Thurstaston.

Parish Safeguarding Co-ordinator

The current Safeguarding Co-ordinator appointed is Mr Christopher Williams. Christopher has recently completed the diocesan safeguarding training. Christopher is responsible for the administration of all DBS correspondence, references and online checks through the thirtyoneeight DBS online portal (the company procured by the Diocese to undertake DBS checks) but has no pastoral responsibility for the children or adults at risk within the Parish. Contact details for the Safeguarding Co-ordinator are currently displayed on Church notice boards along with contact details of local authority safeguarding boards. The email address to contact the Safeguarding Co-ordinator is safeguarding@thurstaston.org.uk.

Reporting Safeguarding Concerns

In the event of a safeguarding concern or referral being made, under the current arrangements, any such referrals should be directed to the Safeguarding Co-ordinator or Reverend Jane Turner who will liaise with the Diocese Safeguarding Officer and the relevant local safeguarding authority. There have been no safeguarding referrals or concerns raised to the Safeguarding Coordinator during the year 2021 and no pending investigations.

Safeguarding Training

Safeguarding training for volunteers is arranged by the Diocese. Dates of any new classroom based safeguarding training events will be circulated as they become available; however an easier to access, online e-learning course is also freely available through the Church of England website at <https://www.chester.anglican.org/support-services/safeguarding/safeguarding-7485.php>

All current volunteers have been asked to complete this Church of England online safeguarding training course. All current volunteers have received a guidance document outlining the types of abuse which can lead to safeguarding referrals, this should enable them to identify any potential abuse situations.

Safer Recruitment and DBS (Disclosure & Barring) Vetting

In accordance with legal requirements all volunteers currently working with children and adults at risk have registered for DBS checks. References from two referees are requested along with suitable identification checks prior to DBS certificates being issued. New volunteer applicants are asked to complete a pre-appointment questionnaire and declaration in relation to any previous offences. New volunteer applicants are asked to sign a consent form in relation to the sharing of their personal information under the Data Protection Act 1998. DBS checks are completed and retained by thirtyoneeight as the 14 appointed DBS service provider. This is an on-line service which works well for these purposes and DBS certificates will be requested to be renewed at regular intervals.

Current DBS Registrations

Presently eleven people within the Parish have DBS certificates in place, several of whom will be required to renew their DBS certificates during 2022. There are currently no new DBS applicants being processed. The Rector or the Safeguarding Officer will only provide details of DBS certificate holders on request.

Confidentiality

Safeguarding referrals and all relevant sensitive information should remain confidential and should only be shared with local authority safeguarding boards and the Safeguarding Officer for the Diocese. All personal information in relation to volunteers and sensitive information in relation to safeguarding referrals must be stored and locked away in a safe place, inaccessible to anyone other than authorised personnel.

Safe Working Practice

Risk assessments forms are available and should be carried out and recorded for all new and changing activities. Risk assessments for existing activities should be assessed at least annually by the lead practitioner for the activity.

Children's Advocate

Currently the Parish has decided not to appoint a separate person to act as 'vulnerable person's advocate' whom children or adults at risk could talk to about any safeguarding concerns they might have. Safeguarding

concerns and referrals in relation to children will continue to be reported by the Parish Safeguarding Co-ordinator or the Rector.

Appropriate Insurance Cover

The Parish is responsible for ensuring adequate annual insurance cover for its Church activities. People requesting hall hire are asked to ensure that they have also made appropriate insurance arrangements and advised that they need to ensure risk management strategies are in place for the activities they wish to engage in and that it is their responsibility to provide adequate supervision for children and young people taking part in these activities.

Local Ecumenical Partnerships (LEPs) and Joint Safeguarding Policy Arrangements

St Chad's, Irby with St Bartholomew's, Thurstaston do not currently have any such joint partnership arrangements in place.

Agreements with Offenders

Offenders who become known to the church and who pose a risk to children or adults at risk and who wish to take part in activities or church worship should enter into an agreement which should be reviewed on a regular basis.

The Year Ahead

The Parish commits itself to promoting safe practice by those in positions of trust. The current policies and procedures have been adopted and are in place in order to ensure that the Parish is compliant with legislation and guidance and has robust safeguarding protocols in place. I believe that provided the current policies and safeguarding procedures are followed and adhered to, the Parish will remain compliant.

In the year ahead it is proposed that, in order to remain compliant with legislation and guidance, the following will take place:

A full review, by the PCC, of Parish safeguarding policies.

A review and update of the Parish website to ensure that all safeguarding information is up to date and easily accessible.

Ensuring that all people undertaking any church role has access to and information on appropriate training, and that training for all such individuals is up to date.

Christopher Williams

Safeguarding Co-ordinator

St Chad's Irby with St Bartholomew's Thurstaston

CHURCHWARDEN'S REPORT

The year began with no services at either church due to the national lockdown.

Services resumed for both churches from 23rd May. Places were limited due to COVID protocols and had to be booked using a booking system which was in place through to July when restrictions were eased.

In January ITPAS donated and planted daffodils at St Bartholomew's on either side of the lychgate. ITPAS donated further daffodil bulbs for St Chad's which were planted by congregation members along the grass verge in front of the extension and in a cross shape at the entrance to the car park.

Julie DeBoorder has continued to work extremely hard with the tree project at St Chad's. We were also given a grant from the Wirral Together Fund to help renovate the existing garden features at St Chad's, and a further COVID Recovery Grant from the local council to purchase some garden tables and chairs.

At St Bartholomew's, we have had work completed on the roof to clear gutters of vegetation. There has also been a considerable amount of work completed on the drainage system with the installation of new pipe work and gullies. The system had begun to collapse.

We have also had work completed on repairing the organ which had a 'stuck' stop. This was paid for by a legacy specifically given for organ repairs.

The Quinquennial Inspection of St Bartholomew's was carried out by the church architect on 30th June. The report was received in November.

The urgent works requiring immediate attention were to commission an electrical installation condition report and clear the Old Tower of guano and dead birds in order to allow the safe inspection of its interior.

Pigeons has been able to access the Old Tower through a wooden hatch which had rotted. There were several dead birds and the contents of the tower were covered in guano.

We are very grateful to Malcolm Studholme, Peter Whitehead and Jon Oliver, for donning PPE to remove the dead birds and prevent them from gaining further access.

At St Chad's, hall hire was suspended during lockdown, but resumed in June.

The main hall floor had begun to deteriorate and has been temporarily repaired. However, we have started to look at funding in order to replace the whole floor.

In May, Revd Jane was given a truncheon, a pair of handcuffs and two pictures of St Bartholomew's (the first and second churches). These had belonged to Mr Thomas Langley of Ivy Bank, Thurstaston. He had become the first warden of Thurstaston Common in the late 19th Century. He had also been a very active member of our church community.

In June, Revd Jane accompanied Aleta Doran (Artist in Residence at Chester Cathedral) on a visit to St Bartholomew's to view two stained glass windows made by Trena Cox.

Trena Cox (1895-1980) was born on Wirral and grew up around Birkenhead. Most of her works are in churches in the old counties of Cheshire and Lancashire. Our two examples are the St Bartholomew window, on the South side opposite the main door and the first window, by the main door on the North side.



Once again, as the only Churchwarden for both churches the role has been very challenging.

My thanks go to all who have helped out in any way with the day to day running of the churches, but in particular to Malcom Studholme, without whose assistance my role would become impossible.

I would also like to thank my husband, Peter Whitehead, Peter Robson and Jon Oliver for always being there when needed.



Finally, but most importantly, we as a parish must give our thanks to our Rector, Revd Jane Turner, for her continued support, hard work and devotion especially during the restrictions caused by the continuing pandemic.

Now we pray that the Lord gives us his blessing for 2022, as we go forward in these still uncertain times.

Liz Whitehead (Churchwarden)

DEANERY SYNOD REPORT

In the first half of 2021, lockdown rules were in force, so two remote Deanery Synod meetings were held via Zoom. The Reverend David Vestergaard, the vicar of St Andrew's Bebington, was welcomed as the new Rural Dean at the first of these meetings.

The main agenda item was 'Ministry during the pandemic' and the Revd David invited participants to consider three questions:

1. Can you name one thing which has helped you to keep going over the last year and which might be helpful to others?
2. What is your greatest hope for the year ahead?
3. Where is your church most in need of support, advice or help?

Feedback from the various breakout rooms indicated some wide-ranging discussion. Participants referred to regular telephone contacts, 'buddy' groups, WhatsApp prayer groups and use of technology, including streaming services, as important means of sustaining church life, whilst others mentioned the importance of Nature and the opportunity to (re) establish home routine.

Among people's greatest hopes were an end to the pandemic, the chance to worship in person once more and to receive Communion, a Church that looks outwards, not inwards, and that we would not forget the things we have learned during the pandemic. The hope was also expressed that some people who have watched streamed services might be brought to the Lord.

The third question generated quite a lot of discussion about IT issues, how to stream services and use various digital platforms, as well as about best practice for children's groups when given permission to re-start.

The main part of the second meeting held via Zoom was devoted to a presentation by the Revd Canon Sarah Fenby, who is the Diocesan Director of Vocations. She began her talk, entitled "Let's Talk Vocations", by considering the 'theological starter blocks':

Beginning with God;

Confidence in God's work in the world;

God calls us to be a visible witness to His name;

Different Gifts – a manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.

From there she considered a number of 'discernment' questions and described the various vocational courses available within the diocese, concluding with an exploration of the six qualities necessary for ordained ministry: love for God, love for others, a call to ministry, wisdom, fruitfulness and potential.

Revd Jane offered to host the final meeting of the year at St Chad's. This was the first to be held in person, following the lifting of lockdown, and gratitude was expressed to the volunteers from the parish who provided refreshments. The main speaker was the Revd Jane Proudfoot, a member of the Diocesan Advisory Group for Living in Love and Faith (LLF). She explained that there is a need for church members to learn about identity, sexuality, relationships and marriage and that LLF is there to allow different voices to speak in safe spaces without feeling judged. A book entitled "Living in Love and Faith" is available, as well as a course which can be accessed via the Church of England website. This course is followed by a questionnaire, which can be taken by individuals or groups and will provide valuable feedback to the national church.

Chris Smale and Julie Davies

ELECTORAL ROLL REPORT

At the APCM in 2021, the Electoral Roll contained 151 members from 103 households.

The numbers on the Roll have not changed during the past year and on the date of the APCM in 2022, it still contained 151 members from 103 households.

Helen Williams (Electoral Roll Officer)

CHARITIES SUPPORTED THROUGHOUT THE YEAR



THE CHILDREN'S SOCIETY

For 140 years, the Society has worked to transform the hopes and happiness of young people facing abuse, exploitation and neglect, supporting them through their most serious life challenges.

The Society also campaigns tirelessly for the big social changes that will improve the lives of those who need hope most.

Jean Heath and **Barbara Kozer** co-ordinate fund raising for the Society in the Parish.

Due to Covid restrictions, for the second year it was not possible to hold our annual 'Thank You' Coffee Morning in October. However, with due regard to health and safety, Barbara and Jean were able to collect most of the house boxes on the list and, thanks to these supporters, a record amount of £1,258.29 was paid in to help with the Society's work with young people across the country.

Some of our box holders, for this year only, chose to donate online and some have decided to use this method in future. However, we hope the Coffee Morning planned for 10.30 on Saturday, 19 March 2022 at 'Barnstables', 233 Irby Road, will give an opportunity for everyone to come together and help raise a further amount for the Society's work.

Jean Heath (648 6015)

CHURCH ACTIVITIES

Junior Church and Seniors 2021

Before Junior Church had re-started, it was noticed that one senior had been very helpful in our family zoom services. Although we were not able to have a bookgiving service, we thought Abigail Williams was very deserving of the Senior Shield. Revd Jane devised a plan to fool Abigail into opening a parcel during the June "Zoom" family service as part of a theme, however she was surprised to find the shield!

Also, in May, while there was no Junior Church, we were able to involve the children in Pentecost by sending out pictures to colour in. The children's pictures were then able to be part of our window display.



Partington became a new leader and Dawn and Sally produced lovely sessions with crafts and stories.

After careful consideration and consultation with all the seniors, we made the decision to close Seniors.

A lot had changed in two years, most had naturally moved on to other things and there was no interest from those of the right age to start a new group. I will miss them; they were a great group. Chris Smale and I both enjoyed our sessions together and wish them a bright future.

In October we had a special Pumpkin Party when there was much pumpkin carving and fun to be had.

We were not able to produce a nativity service as normal, so this year Revd Jane organised a Pop Up Nativity which was able to run with the aid of a few props and willing volunteers



Junior Church resumed in September and was held once a month, usually the 4th Sunday of the month. Sally



It was a lot of fun and I think the adults liked dressing up more than the children, particularly the three kings who looked wonderful.

Many thanks for parents' help in sessions and to all the leaders, helpers and Revd Jane for all their support and hard work.



Julie De Boorder



Bellringers' Report 2021

2021 has followed on from 2020 as another difficult and disrupted year for the world, the Church and for our ringing.

We started the year with ringing in Church suspended by Covid regulations. We therefore took the opportunity to continue to meet, socially distancing, in gardens to ring hand bells. At some points in the crisis this was reduced by the Rule of Six and we put in place an informal 'rota' for attendance.

The hand bell ringing has improved and developed over time. It has allowed us the opportunity to look at the logic and patterns behind the bell ringing, something that I hope will improve our church bell ringing over time.

We wish to continue to meet and practice hand bells over the coming year.



Photo taken by Ruth Eden of hand bell ringing in summer 2020

There have been a number of occasions when the national ringing community were asked to ring during the lockdown. On these occasions I attended and rang the tenor bell after agreement from the Rector:

Saturday 27th February 100 Tolling

In memory of Captain Sir Tom Moore on the day of his funeral.

Friday 9th April 99 Tolling

In memory of His Royal Highness The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh whose death was announced today.

Saturday 10th April Half muffled Nine Tailors and Tolling 99 times

Rung at noon in memory of the life and service of His Royal Highness The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh.

Saturday 17th April 30 minutes of half muffled Tolling

Rung prior to the funeral of His Royal Highness The Prince Philip, the Duke of Edinburgh held at Windsor.

[The Nine Tailors (made famous by the Dorothy L Sayers novel of the same name) is an historic way of noting a death. The tenor is initially tolled in groups of three. There are nine rings (three groups of three) for the death of an adult male, six for an adult female and three for a child. This is then followed by one toll for each year of their life].

During the last year representatives of the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers, the House of Bishops and the Government have been regularly meeting to come up with an approved framework detailing how to return to ringing in a safe fashion as the regulations change. This framework takes into account local circumstances such as ventilation, number of bells, length of ringing etc. I am very grateful to this team for their ongoing advice and updates as to what is safe and reasonable.

Following the relaxation of Government rules and with agreement from the Church we were able (with appropriate safeguards in place) to return to limited ringing practices in May – this was greatly appreciated by the whole ringing team. We were very happy to return to the tower and reassured that the appropriate precautions were in place.

In September the PCC agreed to a return of Church services, though the service pattern was changed. We were therefore able to return to service ringing and now ring on alternate Sundays for the 10.30 service at St Bartholomew's. We would like to ring more regularly but do not feel that ringing before the 9am service on the alternate weeks would be acceptable to the village community.

We did not have a 'Christmas meal' last year due to the lockdown restrictions but are looking to book one as the situation, hopefully, improves in the coming weeks and months.

We currently have 15 ringers but will always welcome more. You are welcome to come and see what we do and to join us (please ring first to confirm that we will be there).

Peter Robson

COMMUNITY ACTION 2021

Community Action was first included in last year's Annual Report because due to the pandemic, I was involved in community projects that would not have happened otherwise.



Heart Bomb

Shortly before Valentine's day, Revd Jane found an article called Heart Bomb, composed by Muddy Church, the idea being to get the community to cover everywhere in hearts, lifting spirits with everyone feeling loved. Initially I was just going to take it up with our church, but it grew quickly with the help of Facebook.



Elizabeth Barton worked with me and made all the large hearts for the churches and created the floral display in St Bartholomew's porch. Elaine Jones decorated the lychgate and the W.I. made hearts and helped Elizabeth and myself to decorate the village.

By 13th February we had Heart Bombed both churches and Irby Village, with many people joining in putting hearts in their front

gardens and windows.





It was a lovely event and many people commented how cheerful it made them feel and how the community felt stronger.

Garden Project

In 2020 plans were made to restore the back garden of St Chad's and in February 2021 we were successful in receiving a grant from Wirral Together for £2,815 for this purpose.

Work began in May, firstly, to cut back the large overgrown raised area and treat with weedkiller, then to remove rotten raised beds and have a new long raised bed built, complete with bark path for easy access all around it. Also in May, Linda Barley

and I laid down tree mats around each tree that was planted last year along the Village Hall side of the back garden, in order to suppress grass around them to aid their growth.

In September there was a change of plan and work began to remove the large raised area and return it to grass. It was felt that trying to restore it to a bark chipped area would cost a lot of money and need a lot of time to maintain, with a possibility of it becoming overgrown yet again. From the wood that was saved it is hoped we can make small raised beds to plant up and make it a relaxing place to sit and enjoy for our church and the community.



Scarecrow Festival

At the end of August, a Scarecrow Festival was held in Irby. St Chad's were able to join in the festival due to the hard work and talent of Elizabeth Barton, helped by Emma Davies, Matthew Barton, Jon Oliver and me. We had a scarecrow choir led by scarecrow Sheeran and a scarecrow gardening party. A great fun event to take part in and was enjoyed very much by the community and all that came to see it.



Julie De Boorder

CHURCH RELATED ORGANISATIONS



Mothers' UNION
Christian care for families

Please visit www.mothersunion.org/ or www.mothersunionchester.org.uk to find out more about the work of Mothers' Union.

EMU report January – December 2021

Our branch of EMU (Evening Mothers' Union) meets monthly during the school term at St Chad's at 8.00pm. We would love to welcome new members. Please come along and give it a try. We have a varied programme to suit all tastes.

We didn't manage any meetings in St Chad's in 2021 because of COVID restrictions. However, on 30th June we had an unofficial meet up with EMU friends in Judith's garden and enjoyed tea and cake.

Also on 20th October, some of us met up for a meal in The Gravesberie Inn at Greasby and had a lovely meal and a good long chat.

A Christmas coffee morning was held on 27th November 2021 at St Chad's, with proceeds being split between church and EMU. We raised £174.25, of which £100 is to be donated to AFIA (Away from it all Holidays).

A group of us, along with church members made hearts to display in Irby for Valentine's Day to spread Love in the community.



I continue to knit Baptism teddies but not many baptisms took place this year.

Chris Rostock – Branch Secretary

1st Thurstaston Guides Annual Report for 2021

Well, what can we say about the past year!

Like most people, we found things were hugely different again for us for most of the year. In 2021, we had to remain online for the spring and summer terms but then after the summer holidays we were able to go back to face-to-face meetings for autumn 2021, which was great. This report will therefore cover both our online and in-person meetings, as we tried to make the sessions enjoyable for our guides no matter where we all were!



Virtual Meetings

Having been forced online in 2020, in 2021 we were more used to the idea and so continued to have some great meetings over Zoom.

Some of the cooking we did (over Zoom ably assisted by glamorous assistants in the form of parents/carers!):

- Honeycomb towards the Confectioner's badge
- Scotch pancakes/dropped scones
- Lemonade scones – we made our own butter to go with them – surprisingly simple and successful!
- Creme egg cake in a mug (delicious!)
- We made calzone to celebrate National Pizza Party Day in the USA (yes, it is a thing!)

We also completed our Whittling badge and had some great soap models leading up to it and no major first aid incidents.

We held our district Thinking Day event over Zoom and although the singing was 'interesting' the whole event was a great success involving two guide units, two brownie units and two rainbow units – all on Zoom! A few of our guides also made their promises at this meeting – a truly unique experience for them 😊

Face to Face

It was fantastic to be able to meet face to face with the girls again from June 2021. We had all outdoor meetings first as we were still unable to meet indoors. We still managed to do a fair bit including a chippy walk to Parkgate, a very damp games night in Irby Park, a trip to the Yog bar in Hoylake, litter pick on Thurstaston Beach and the traditional outdoor BBQ at Thurstaston (just for guides rather than their families too this year to aid with social distancing) at the end of term.

In the Autumn term, we were back in the Church Hall. We completed a couple of the skills builder badges (which go towards the girls' Gold Award). One of these focused around campaigning and we had a visit from the local parliament outreach officer, Gary who gave us a really

interesting, informative and enjoyable talk about what goes on in parliament and also played us a short video that our local MP, Margaret Greenwood, had made for us.

We had the usual trip to Manley Mere which involved a great deal of getting soaked and muddy (intentionally I hasten to add!) and plenty of smiles and laughter. We also had a tennis evening when Sue from Heswall tennis club came and did some tennis with the girls. This also coincided with our Children in Need fundraising night, so tennis was played in PJ's and onesies!

So, after starting 2021 in lockdown again and having to continue with virtual meetings, it was fantastic to be able to finally meet face-to-face again and throughout it all, we've once again managed to involve the girls in a good range of activities.

As always, we wish the guides who have now left us all the best for the future.

Ellie Randall, Gaynor Vaughan, Lily Foster and the Guides!

3rd Irby Brownies

3rd Irby Brownies have been able to return to meeting weekly face to face at St Chad's. The Brownies have been able to complete plenty of badges throughout the year and we have started to be able to do some trips including a Christmas themed evening at Hadlow Fields and a trip to the Panto in January. We have said goodbye to some of our older Brownies who have gone to Guides and welcomed lots of new Brownies. The unit is thriving with over 35 girls. We are looking forward to going to PGL in June for a weekend away.

Gemma Willerton, Lynn McCoy, Kate Preston, Mandi Fletcher and Emily Fearn-Nicol.

TOTS & TINIES

We have been meeting since September 2021, numbers have varied between 20-40 children every week. The session begins with free play, then a craft and finally a story time and song all together. It is really lovely to see the parents and children engaging with each other. We also contribute to any church activities such as the heart bomb event.

It has been a great help having volunteers to provide Tea/Coffee and Juice. We are not providing any snacks for the children at the moment to minimise the risk of spreading COVID.

Allison Youds

CHURCH ACCOUNTS 2021

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Bartholomew, Thurstaston

Registered Charity Number 1132086

Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ending 31 December 2021

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2021	Total 2020
Receipts & Payments account					
Receipts					
<i>Voluntary Receipts</i>					
Planned Giving St Bartholomew	26603			26603	26343
St Chad	14304			14304	17068
Other Collections St Bartholomew	629			629	296
St Chad	546			546	454
Total	42082	0	0	42082	44161
<i>Donations</i>					
Wallbox	0			0	0
Recurring Donations	0			0	0
Text Donations(just giving)	16			16	16
Non recurring Donations (see note 1)	2883			2883	6151
Total donations	2899	0	0	2899	6151
	44981			44981	50312
<i>Grants received (see note 2)</i>	6321			6321	2000
<i>Legacies (see note 15)</i>	5000			5000	0
<i>Tax recovered</i>	11231			11231	10489
Total	22552	0	0	22552	12489
Total Donation Income	67533	0	0	67533	62801
<i>Activities for Generating Funds (See note 3)</i>	176			176	0
<i>Church Activities (See note 4)</i>	8030			8030	5434
<i>Income from Investments (See note 5)</i>	25	4450	135	4610	4829
TOTAL	75764	0	4450	80349	73064
Payments					
<i>Cost of generating voluntary income (See note 6)</i>	126			126	157
<i>Mission Giving (See note 7)</i>	65			65	310
<i>Church Activities (See note 8)</i>	65654			65654	57287
<i>Major Works</i>	0			0	0
TOTAL	65845	0	0	65845	57754
Excess of Receipts over Payments	9919	0	4450	14504	15310
Transfers between funds					
Total					
Bank Current and Deposit Accounts 1 Jan	58045	179427		4849	242321
Bank Current and Deposit Accounts 31 Dec	72312	193095		5634	271041

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2021	Total 2020
Statement of Assets and Liabilities					
Assets					
Cash at bank and in hand and undeposited funds	13			13	13
<i>CAF Current Account</i>	39992			39992	25730
<i>CAF Gold Account</i>	28378			28378	28375
Total	68383	0	0	68383	54118
Investment Assets (See note 9)					
<i>Morrell Trust</i>		8893		8893	8178
<i>Ismay Charity</i>			5634	0	4849
<i>Tudor Trust</i>		28085		28085	24080
<i>Eileen Shaw Trust</i>		117037		117037	108109
<i>Open Door</i>		39080		39080	39060
<i>Reserve Fund</i>	3929			3929	3927
Total	72312	0	193095	0	5634
				271041	242321
Other Monetary Assets					
Gift aid claimable	9911			9911	10693
Total Assets	82223	0	193095	0	5634
				280952	253014
Liabilities (See note 11)	785			785	204383
Total Assets less Liabilities	81438	193095	5634	280167	48631

Approved by the PCC on and signed on their behalf by Rev E Jane turner (PCC Chairperson)
and Mr Kevin Marley (Treasurer)

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2021	Total 2020
Notes to the accounts					
1. Non recurring donations					
<i>Gift Aided Donations</i>	2505			2505	2272
<i>Non-Gift Aided Donations</i>	378			378	3879
Total	2883	0	0	0	0
				2883	6151
2.Grants Received					
<i>Grant from Diocese due to COVID</i>	0			0	2000
<i>Covid recovery grant</i>	3506			3506	0
<i>Garden Grant</i>	2815			2815	0
Total	6321	0	0	0	0
				6321	2000
3.Generating Funds					
<i>Christmas Fair/Santa in Irby</i>	176			176	0
<i>Other fund raising events</i>	0			0	0
Total	176	0	0	0	0
				176	0

4. Main Church Activities

<i>Fees Received</i>	2502					2502	2456
<i>Contribution to heating</i>	56					56	280
<i>Hall Hire</i>	1144					1144	1852
<i>Tots and Tinies</i>	443					443	238
<i>Magazine subscriptions</i>	184					184	180
<i>Magazine income</i>	240					240	428
<i>Insurance claims</i>	3461					3461	0
Total	8030	0	0	0	0	8030	5434

5. Income from Investments

<i>Bank Interest</i>	25					25	204
<i>Morrell Trust</i>		223				223	237
<i>Ismay Charity</i>				135		0	131
<i>Tudor Trust</i>		762				762	747
<i>Shaw Trust</i>		3465				3465	3510
Total	25	0	4450	0	135	4610	4829

6. Costs of Generating Voluntary Income

<i>Planned Giving Envelope Systems</i>	126					126	157
<i>Harvest Supper</i>	0					0	0
<i>Christmas Fair/Santa in Irby</i>	0					0	0
Total	126	0	0	0	0	126	157

7. Mission Giving

<i>Diocesan Family of Schools</i>	0					0	0
<i>Friends of Chester Cathedral Deanery Synod</i>	25					25	65
<i>Ismay Charity donation</i>	0					0	220
<i>art exhibition and flood relief</i>	0					0	0
<i>Gifts (Rural Dean)</i>	40					40	25
Total	65	0	0	0	0	65	310

8. Church Activities

Parish Share	23072					23072	25359
Salaries						0	
<i>Caretaker</i>	394					394	394
<i>Cleaners</i>	1519					1519	1607
<i>Parish Clerk</i>	3560					3560	3560
Pastoral Expenses						0	
<i>Rector's Expenses</i>	567					567	567
<i>Rector's Office Expenses</i>	1874					1874	1873
<i>Rectory Expenses</i>	2959					2959	2818
Mission Costs						0	
<i>Assisting Clergy Fees & Expenses</i>	0					0	406
<i>Organist's Fees</i>	66					66	868
<i>Service Costs (worship materials)</i>	1228					1228	1006
<i>Website</i>	215					215	233
<i>Youth</i>	0					0	0
<i>Tots & Tinies</i>	221					221	116
St Bartholomew Overheads						0	
<i>Church Insurance (see note 16)</i>	5828					5828	5918
<i>C26: Church Licences</i>	83					83	80
<i>C23: Church Building Maintenance</i>	841					841	867
<i>C19: Churchyard Upkeep</i>	7358					7358	915
<i>C24: Church Organ Expenses</i>	690					690	115
<i>C21: Church Electricity</i>	329					329	450
<i>C22: Church Heating Oil</i>	1330					1330	1061
St Chad's Overheads						0	

<i>Hall Insurance (see note 16)</i>	0	0	0
<i>Hall Licences</i>	332	332	307
<i>Hall Building Maintenance</i>	200	200	492
<i>Hall Grounds Maintenance</i>	4996	4996	600
<i>Hall Electricity</i>	691	691	620
<i>Hall Gas</i>	1042	1042	1245
<i>Hall Water</i>	1105	1105	231
<i>St Chads Building Maintenance</i>	106	106	91
<i>Magazine Costs Production Expenses</i>	47	47	109
Admin Expenses		0	
<i>Office equipment</i>	1859	1859	2152
<i>Office Postage</i>	0	0	31
<i>Office Software</i>	958	958	825
<i>Office Stationary</i>	1686	1686	1898
<i>Office Phone & Internet</i>	402	402	413
<i>Bank Charges</i>	96	96	60
Total	65654	0	0
		0	0
		0	0
		0	0
		0	0
		65654	57287

9. Investments

The investments relate to 5 funds:

(i) The Morrell Trust is invested with the CBF Church of England Investments, split between the Fixed Interest Securities Fund and the Global Equity Income Fund.

(ii) The Ismay Charity is invested with the CBF Church of England Global Equity Income Fund with the balance held in the bank account for distribution at the discretion of the incumbent, or for eventual reinvestment.

(iii) The Tudor Trust. This is invested with CBF Church of England income investments, The property fund, the UK equity fund and the global equity income fund

(iv) The Eileen Shaw Trust is a restricted fund producing income for general church use and is invested in C of E Global Equity, Property, Uk Equity, Investment and Fixed income Funds

The fund is held by Chester DBF as Diocesan Authority on behalf of the PCC

This trust is now shown in the PCC's statement of Assets and Liabilities

(v) The Reserve fund is a small general reserve held for emergency work at St Chads

(vi) The Open Door Fund is held for specific work on St Bartholomews

10. St Chad's Building

St Chad's building is 50 years old and was built using donations. The first extension was built using funds from the sale of land on which Village Court was built. The new extension was built over 10 years ago.

11. Liabilities

	2021	2020
<i>Retained wedding and funeral fees</i>	785	785
<i>Hall Hire paid in advance</i>	0	885
Total	785	1670

The Parish has been unable to meet its Parish Share contribution in full for several years. The Parish achieved a payment amounting to 35% of the total request for 2021. The Parish are mindful that they have not been able to reach a full payment, but will look to increase payment to the Diocese as income allows.

12. PCC member payments

PCC member Jon Oliver was paid £264 because of his employment as Verger.

13. Accounts

This financial statement has been prepared in accordance with Church Accounting Regulations 2006 using the Receipts and Payments basis.

The Gift Aid refers to money received in 2021 for the 2020 financial and tax year. Also no reference is made to stock held or debtors

14. Reserves Policy

We have no Quinquennial provision and we aim to carry a minimum of 3 months turnover i.e approximately £30000

15. Legacies

We received one legacy of £5000 from the estate of Cecil Jones.

16. Insurance

The insurance figure is now a combined figure for both churches

Independent examiner's report on the accounts



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/
members of

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical
Parish of St. Bartholomew, Thurstaston

On accounts for the year
ended

31st December 2021

Charity no
(if any)

1132086

Set out on pages

1 to 6

(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

**Respective
responsibilities of
trustees and examiner**

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Charities Act") and that an independent examination is needed. [The charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of [named body]]. *Delete [] if not applicable.*

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act,
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act, and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention

**Basis of independent
examiner's statement**

My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

**Independent
examiner's statement**

In connection with my examination, no material matters have come to my attention (other than that disclosed below *) which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- 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.

I 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.

** Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.*

Signed: Date:

Name:

Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any):

Address:

Section B Disclosure

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.

Following a meeting of the PCC to discuss the 2021 Financial Accounts, and a subsequent discussion with the Diocese it was agreed that the Liabilities (Note 11) relating to the Unpaid Parish Share should be revised to reflect a more realistic position and in that respect all previous years 'outstanding' Liability should be cancelled and the Reserves adjusted accordingly.

Accounts

St Bartholomew's, Thurstaston with St Chad's Irby



MISSION AND ACTIVITIES IN 2020



Genesis 9:16

"Whenever the rainbow appears in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and all living creatures of every kind on the earth."



I wanted to visit in person but...
#socialdistancing



Members of the PCC 2020-2021

The members of the PCC in 2020-21 were:

Revd J Turner	Rector
Mrs E Whitehead	Warden
Mr C Smale	Deanery Synod
Mrs J Davies	Deanery Synod
Vacancy	Deanery Synod
Mr J Oliver	Elected
Mr C Williams	Elected
Mr R Jackson	Elected
Mr A Harford	Elected
Mrs J Hodgson	Elected
Mrs Pat Neil	Elected
Mr G Barley	Elected
Mrs J Trigg	Elected
Mrs J Deboorder	Elected
Mr M Studholme	Elected

There are three vacancies for elected members, one for a Deanery Synod representative and one for a churchwarden.

It is important to fill these vacancies, to ensure that the views of the congregations are fully represented at PCC meetings, especially when decisions are made.

A Word from the Rector

We began the year as any other, with hopes and plans. We had committed to taking part in the diocesan initiative called "Houses of Prayer" and were beginning to look at plans to plant trees to help the environment. We had no idea that by March our lives we would be facing a pandemic and a very steep learning curve as lockdown came and churches were closed with almost no notice just before Mothering Sunday. Reflecting on the year and looking back to events of January and February it seems like a life-time ago, so much has happened and so much has changed. We have all faced unprecedented challenges. But it has also been a year in which we have grown much and learned much.

As I sat to write this report, I wondered what effect the pandemic had had on our church in terms of the five marks of mission and was encouraged to find that in some way we had engaged with all of them.

Houses of Prayer

The idea of this initiative was to reclaim our churches as places of prayer throughout the week. So on 30th January we held a prayer evening at St Bartholomew's, with a variety of prayer stations around the building and an encouragement for people to just pop in. One of those prayer stations involved colouring and this inspired a planned art project in which pictures would be passed Sunday by Sunday amongst the congregation who would take the picture home and colour a small section. These pictures would then be framed and hung in St Chad's



as part of our witness to the many hall user groups of the presence of church in the building. Sadly, this project was only just getting off the ground when the pandemic hit and it has been on hold ever since – hopefully we will be able to pick it up again next year and use the pictures as part of our celebration at being able to share in these kind of activities once again.

During the first lockdown (March – June) our buildings were very much Houses of Prayer - as we displayed a whole variety of prayers in the windows for people to engage with whilst taking their daily exercise. And once buildings were allowed to be open again, there were several Sundays when they were open for individuals to pop in and pray.



Worship

The year began with our normal pattern of worship (8am St Bartholomew's, 9.30am St Chad's, 11.15am St Bartholomew's and Wednesday morning at St Chad's) and it ended with most Christmas Services being held on Zoom!

As worship began to take place at home, it was very quickly evident that we would need to provide people with resources for this. During the course of the year the following packs were put together and distributed to everyone on the electoral roll along with others who were regular at church but not on the electoral roll yet.



18th March – Letter explaining church closures. Prayer Resources for morning and evening prayer at home. Flyer with information about how to access support and help. And an early edition of the April Magazine. We also organized small phone groups for support.

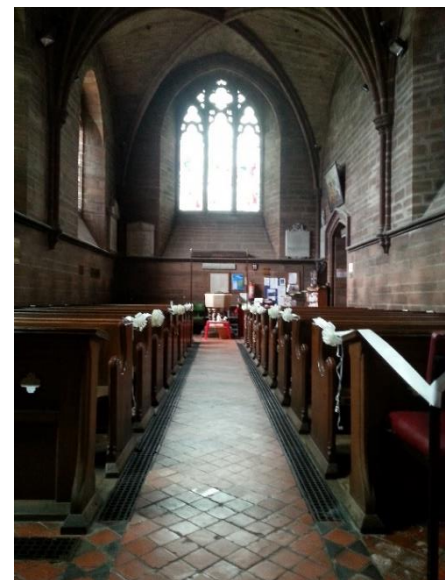
April – Easter Cards, craft activities for children, prayer resources for Holy Week, Mini Easter Egg and Palm Cross.

May – Thy Kingdom Come resources and Pentecost Resources and a small key-ring gift

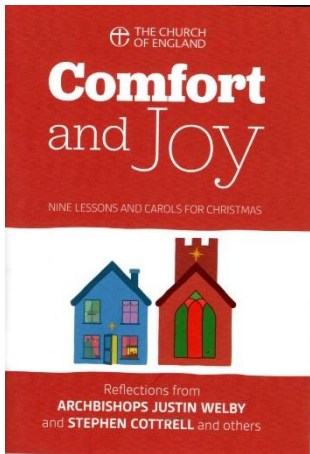
June – Self-care and Comfort booklets. Father's Day craft activities for families

July – A letter encouraging people to reflect on lockdown and return a postcard to be included in a montage.

August-October – we were in hybrid mode, with church open for socially distanced services, but still maintaining weekly sermons by email (and on Facebook). Church services required lots of planning and preparation, with a booking system put in place, pews blocked off to ensure social distancing (with ribbons for aesthetic reasons – hazard tape made it look like a building site), the requirement for people to wear face coverings, lots of hand sanitiser and lots of cleaning of light switches, door handles and anything else that was touched. Singing was not allowed and communion was brought in one kind only to the pews.



As Autumn approached it became clear that our “big” services were just not going to be possible “in-person”, so we made plans for our first online services by Zoom. Towards the end of October, we began services of Evening Prayer by Zoom. November 1st saw our first All-Age Zoom service for All Saints Day. And November 8th saw Remembrance Sunday service by Zoom.



October – Half Term Packs sent to families included, “A pumpkin craft that we would have done at our light party. A stained glass window rocket for you to display on Bonfire night. A poppy for you to make for Remembrance Sunday. A Bible Story for you”.

All Souls letters were sent to bereaved families and a display of doves and hearts was placed in St Chad’s which could be viewed from outside.

December – Lockdown number two, and the real possibility of Christmas having to be online, inspired the final postal pack of the year which included Advent prayer resources, family craft activities, Christmas Card and a chocolate.

Five marks of Mission

1 - To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom



Beginning in Holy Week, we encouraged people to use their windows as places of proclamation that Easter wasn’t cancelled. Churches were closed, but we were still celebrating resurrection. This grew into prayer windows and banners.

We also installed trails around St Bartholomew’s church yard for All Saints, All Souls and Remembrance Sunday. And followed this with a Nativity ADVENTure trail at both churches.



2 - To teach, baptise and nurture new believers

The Postal Packs throughout the year enabled us to keep in touch with baptism families. WOW - Worship on Wednesdays for Dawpool School via Facebook in the Summer Term enabled us to keep in touch with a large number of other families.

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We were able to conduct two very small socially distanced weddings, one very small socially distanced wedding blessing and two very small socially distanced baptisms, as well as a baptism in early February. We remain in contact with wedding couples and baptism families who chose to postpone their services.

3 - To respond to human need by loving service

Early in the first lockdown there was a request from the NHS for kit bags for staff to put their uniforms in and for pairs of hearts (one to be given to a patient and the other to be given to a relative not allowed to visit). Members of our church and wider community were very quick to respond and by the end of lockdown we had made and distributed 308 Kit bags, 30 Aprons, and 191 pairs of hearts to both the hospital and a selection of local nursing homes.



Lockdown birthdays were also quite challenging, so we committed to sending birthday cards to anyone who was willing to tell us when their birthday was.

4 - To seek to transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind, and to pursue peace and reconciliation

The pandemic raised lots of awareness of key workers who are normally taken for granted and often low paid. Our gratitude to these people has been massively increased and they are now treated as heroes who deserve our respect.

During late May and early July, the “Black Lives Matter” campaign was global. As a church we included these issues in our prayers and encouraged people to think through these issues.

We continued to raise awareness of global issues through support of the Leprosy Mission. And we continued to raise awareness of the work of the Children’s Society, holding our annual Christingle service by Zoom.



5 -To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth

We have planted trees at St Chad's. And ITPAS planted Daffodil bulbs at St Bartholomew's and donated more daffodil bulbs which we have planted at St Chad's.



We have learned so much this year about

- Gratitude
- Looking outwards to our community
- New ways to be church
- Care of housebound and vulnerable people

I look forward with hope to the day when we will once again be able to hold big services of celebration and to hug one another, but I sincerely hope and pray that we never forget what we have learned during this year.

Revd Jane Turner

REPORT ON THE BUSINESS OF THE PCC AND OTHER CHURCH MATTERS



The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is the governing body of the church. Its members are the clergy, churchwardens and the people elected at the Annual Church Meeting (the APCM) to represent all church members.

The Council is legally responsible for the financial affairs of the parish, for looking after the buildings and land and for all the goods and property in the churches. It also works with and supports the minister (the Rector) in the whole mission of the Church – caring for the people of the parish, teaching people about God through church services, the Junior Church and by example, supporting the Church School, growing and developing our community through enjoyable social activities and cooperating with other religious groups. Our “mission statement” is “Serving Christ in Thurstaston and Irby”.

PCC Business during 2020

During 2020, the PCC met twice before the first lockdown prevented normal meetings. Between March and the beginning of November, there were ten “PCC Consultations”, mostly on single issues, and in November the PCC met remotely using “Zoom”. Our Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM), originally planned for March 2020, was postponed until 26th October 2020 when it took place using Zoom.

Summary of the main topics discussed at the meetings in January, March and November.

“Seasons of Giving”

It was agreed that a package of information, called “Seasons of Giving”, should be sent to those on the Electoral Roll, parents of children recently baptised, wedding couples and a few other categories. This would be 150-160 people, in about 120 envelopes. One member commented that if the targets discussed in the package could be achieved, we would be able to increase our Parish Share contribution to 100% of that expected, at least for 2020. The amount of Parish Share unpaid over the last five years was £263,256. It was not clear whether most members of the congregations were aware of Parish Share and the amount of income required each month to pay all parish costs. Members discussed how to encourage church members to contribute regularly and explain that it was not just a nominal donation.

Financial reports

Mr Marley, the Treasurer, provided financial reports to the PCC throughout the year. His report for the full year is on page 9.

Lay Conference

The Lay Conference is an event organised by the Diocese for members of the congregations. The PCC had reserved a free place but had to find a named person to take it up within three weeks. To promote interest, the PCC decided to ask those who had been to the last Lay Conference to talk about it in church on the following Sunday. Two church members wished to attend the conference was cancelled due to Covid-19 restrictions.

The legacy from the estate of Mrs Butler

A computer expert had informed us that the desktop computer in the Parish Office could fail at any time. As it was essential for the administrative work of the parish and for providing information in various forms to all the congregations, the PCC agrees that a legacy from Mrs Butler for the parish should be used to purchase a new computer for the Parish Office.

Toilet facilities at St Bartholomew's

Mr Harford had spoken to several suppliers of modular buildings. He proposed a building with a toilet suitable for people with disabilities, a sink, a hand dryer and a baby change facility. The Open Door Fund would cover the cost of the building and its installation. The next steps would be to approach the Church Architect for advice, decide where to position the building, contact the Diocesan Advisory Committee (DAC) and apply for a faculty (church planning permission). It was noted that drainage pipes were already in place on the south side of the church that there was an external tap nearby. At the November meeting, PCC members asked several questions and unanimously approved these proposals.

Churchwarden's Reports

Mrs E Whitehead, the churchwarden, informed the PCC regularly of issues related to the land around the churches, the buildings and their contents. More information can be found in Mrs Whitehead's Churchwarden's report, which appears below.

St Chad's Car Park

A person responsible for painting the white lines in another car park had offered to repaint the lines in St Chad's car park but was unable to complete the work. Following a PCC discussion, L&R Roadlines Ltd were engaged to complete the work.

The Diocesan Past Case Review (PCR) Investigations

The Diocese required all parishes to search all records for anything that might indicate a potential Safeguarding Issue, especially anything that had not been addressed properly. This included all records held by the Rector, in the Parish Office (paper and electronic) and older records stored at the Diocesan Archives in Chester. In addition, Mrs Timmins, the Parish Safeguarding Officer, searched her records. None of these searches found any issues and the previous Rector, Revd Diane Watson, confirmed that no such issues had arisen during her incumbency.

Appointment of a Foundation Governor for Dawpool Primary School

Mrs D Rudd retired as a Foundation Governor of Dawpool School. The Rector and the Chair of Governors, Mrs Robson, recommended that Mrs Catherine Mathieson, the school crossing supervisor, should be appointed to replace Mrs Rudd as a Foundation Governor. PCC members approved the appointment and thanked Mrs Rudd for her contributions to the School.

Easy Pay

A member of the congregation had offered to pay for an electronic card reader to enable people to make an instant contribution using a credit or debit card. This was referred to the Finance Committee.

St Chad's Garden Project

A proposal to plant a small number of trees in the field at St Chad's was discussed and agreed in principle by the PCC in 2019. In January 2020, the PCC considered a proposal based on advice from the Woodland Trust, which was offering packs of assorted saplings at very low prices as part of a national project to increase the number of trees in the UK. With increasing carbon emissions and climate change, this could be considered as a small contribution to the project, which we could describe as helping to look after the world and God's creation. After a further discussion, it was agreed that a pack of 30 trees should be purchased.

This plan was absorbed into a further proposal, approved by the PCC, for the restoration of the grassed area at the back of St Chad's. Financial support was available for the work involved. Some members still had real concerns about the tree-planting proposal, and it was agreed that the issues raised would be re-examined. Dr Hilary Ash MA, PhD, MCIEEM, the Conservation Officer for Wirral Wildlife, the Wirral Group of Cheshire Wildlife Trust and a full Member of The Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management, inspected the area and made several suggestions about the garden area and the trees, addressing all the points that PCC members had made.

Summary of PCC consultations and decisions by email between March and October

From the middle of March, normal meetings became impossible owing to Covid-19. Under new regulations about the voting process, PCC decisions were made following email consultations. Later in the lockdown period, the Church of England authorised all PCC meetings, including committee meetings and the APCM, to be conducted electronically.

i. Parish Share during lockdown

The PCC agreed that we would reduce our Parish Share payment to 50% of what we usually pay, with the other 50% put aside for use in an emergency or to pay to the Diocese if not needed.

ii. Activity Packs for Young Families

The Standing Committee confirmed the purchase and distribution of Activity Packs for young families.

iii. The effect of lockdown and Covid-19 on our Churches and Service

This was a complicated issue to deal with electronically. It included:

Opening the churches for private prayer

PCC members were asked how to approach this, how many people were likely to attend and cleaning arrangements. The responses provided guidance as we moved forward during the lockdown period.

Risk assessments

The PCC accepted the risk assessments that Mr Studholme had produced.

Access to the Church Tower

The PCC agreed that Mr Turner could enter St Bartholomew's tower (the default national regulation was that no one could enter churches without authorisation).

Maintenance of the organ at St Bartholomew's

The PCC agreed that the organist could enter St Bartholomew's to keep the organ in good condition.

iv. Gift from the Diocesan Board of Finance

PCC members voted on a range of options. The most votes were for improved wi-fi at both churches, a new telephone in the Parish Office and the purchase of a laptop computer for PowerPoint presentations and use by Junior Church and the Seniors. It is anticipated that these options will be discussed and implemented during 2021.

v. Capacity of the churches under lockdown regulations

The PCC considered and approved the Rector's proposals.

vi. Re-opening the churches

Following a Parish Survey about re-opening and related matters and a discussion by the Standing Committee of the responses, PCC members reviewed and approved detailed plans for re-opening, including numbers allowed in the buildings, safety equipment and risk assessments, booking systems, on-line information and service arrangements.

vii. Retirement of Rural Dean

After a discussion by the Standing Committee, in which a range of views was expressed, it was agreed that we should give £25 to the collection for a retirement gift for the Rural Dean.

Attendance at Church Services after re-opening

In November, the Rector reported to a "Zoom" PCC meeting that since re-opening, with a reduced capacity in each church, St Bartholomew's had generally

had 7-10 people at each service, depending on whether people came alone or with others in their household, which was near its limit under lockdown. The maximum capacity of St Bartholomew's during the lockdown was 14 individuals or seven households.

St Chad's had never been up to full lockdown capacity (30 people or 16 households) and the largest congregation on a Sunday had been 13 adults and one child. The services seemed to have been well-received and the people present felt safe. Wednesday morning services had attracted eight or nine people, nowhere near its full capacity under lockdown.

Graham Barley
PCC Secretary



TREASURER'S REPORT

As you all know it has been a year to forget for so many reasons, yet financially due to everyone's incredible generosity we as a parish have been able to maintain our financial position. We have been able to do this due to a number of reasons which I will explain throughout this report.

PARISH SHARE

We started the year again paying 60% of the agreed Parish Share in order to maintain our reserves at the required level. However due to the pandemic we agreed with the diocese to reduce our 60% by half. This saved us £15215 which was effectively all our excess receipts over income. This has been ringfenced so that if we are able to in the future, we can repay the Diocese the share that was due.

If we do this it still leaves us in the vulnerable position of possibly receiving only 60% of a replacement if the need arose.

Analysis of performance between 2020 and 2019

INCOME

PLANNED GIVING

Our main source of income was actually up by 5.3% on last year. I can only thank everyone for their amazing generosity in these troubled times. It represented 60% of our total income up from 52%, not including the gift aid that is due. The difference is due to the lack of income elsewhere compared to a normal year.

As attendance at church becomes more erratic due the pandemic, it becomes more important that more members are encouraged to join, and current

members set up standing orders to eradicate any gaps in their financial support of the church. The increase in standing orders since the start of the pandemic has helped enormously with the planning and budgeting, so again my thanks to you all.

DONATIONS/GRANTS

The income from donations was up 127% and again a huge thank you to all who have donated over the past 12 months.

We also received a one-off grant of £2000 from the Diocese which was very gratefully received by all Parishes.

We will be examining ways of making donations via contactless technology over the course of the year once we know what the new normal will be.

Everyone should be encouraged to read our legacy policy and think about including the church in their will.

GIFT AID AND GASDS

This provides us with very valuable income and is vital to our accounts as this year it made up nearly 15% of our total income. It is cost free to the payee as long as they have paid enough tax throughout the year. With this in mind could everyone who is eligible, sign a gift aid declaration and also can current members let the Planned giving officers know if you have moved, are no longer eligible or have changed your name.

At this Juncture I must thank Chris Turnbull, Chris Smale and Roger Dennison for the amazing work they do on this area which can be very time consuming and laborious.

FEES RECEIVED

Unfortunately, due to the ongoing issues fees received were down again this year by 15%.

HALL HIRE

Income was down by 80% this year due to not being able to hire out the hall.

My thanks to Jean Heath, Chris Rostock and Kate Butler for their tireless work on bookings, invoices, debt collection and QuickBooks entry.

INVESTMENTS AND RESERVES

Despite the poor economic climate and the disintegration of the interest rates on savings we were only down by 4% in investment income, so our assets have held up really well and have actually increased in value by 6.3%.

We have been able to maintain our reserves at a decent level by not paying the full parish share but the nature of our situation means this needs to be maintained for the continued financial health of the PCC and to cover any unexpected expenditure which can occur at any time.

There has been no work done through the Open Door Fund this year, but plans are still under consideration.

EXPENDITURE

I have not done a line-by-line explanation as it is impossible to compare this year to last. Our overall expenditure was down by 14% mainly due to the churches and hall being closed for most of the year. This was in line with the overall drop in income of 15%. We still had to incur cleaning and salary costs as certain jobs still needed to be done so we didn't need to furlough anyone.

ASSISTANT CLERGY

Our expenditure on Assistant Clergy fees fell by 55% over the year due to fewer services but our thanks continue to go to you all for your unwavering support and generosity.

SUMMARY

It has been a difficult year for everyone for many reasons so to have come out the other end in a fairly stable financial position is a credit to the generosity of everyone in the Parish. We have been fortunate to have not incurred any exceptional costs this year which has helped to keep us in the position we are in.

I would like to thank everyone for their support and in particular the other members of the finance team who have again been a great help.

The finance team comprises:

Accounts Partner	Chris Rostock
Parish Giving Officers	Chris Turnbull and Chris Smale
Banker	Roger Dennison
Parish Administrator	Kate Butler
Signatory and cashier	Roger Jackson
Hall Hire Officer	Jean Heath
Payroll Officer	Patsy Brady
Committee members	Chris Williams and Malcolm Studholme

Kevin Marley (Honorary Treasurer)



SAFEGUARDING

1. Safeguarding Policy and Procedures

The government is continuously reviewing legislation and guidance to ensure children, young people and adults at risk are kept safe as far as possible. It is our responsibility to ensure we do all we can to make the environments in which we work and worship, safer for vulnerable people.

Our policy at St Chad's and St Bartholomew's is based on the policy and procedures outlined in the Church of England Parish Safeguarding Policy.

This Safeguarding policy and its procedures will be amended in line with any recommendations or good practice guidance from the House of Bishops and will be reviewed annually. These procedures may be adapted specifically to meet the needs and practices of St Chad Irby and St Bartholomew Thurstaston as required.

Parish Safeguarding Co-ordinator

The current Safeguarding Co-ordinator appointed is Mrs Kathryn Timmins. Kathryn has no pastoral responsibility for the children or adults at risk within the Parish. Kathryn is responsible for the administration of all DBS correspondence, references and online checks through Thirty One Eight DBS online portal.

2. Children's Advocate

Currently the Parish has decided not to appoint a separate person to act as 'vulnerable person's advocate' whom children or adults at risk could talk to about any safeguarding concerns they might have. Safeguarding concerns and referrals in relation to children will continue to be reported by the Parish Safeguarding Co-ordinator or the Rector.

3. Safeguarding Co-ordinator Contact Details

Details are currently displayed on Church notice boards along with contact details of local authority safeguarding boards.

4. Safer Recruitment and DBS (Disclosure & Barring) Vetting

All volunteers currently working with children and adults at risk have registered for DBS checks. References from two referees are requested along with suitable identification checks prior to DBS certificates being issued. New volunteer applicants are asked to complete a pre-appointment questionnaire and declaration in relation to any previous offences.

New volunteer applicants are asked to sign a consent form in relation to the sharing of their personal information under the Data Protection Act 1998.

DBS checks are completed and retained by Thirtyoneeight as the

appointed DBS service provider. This is an on-line service which works well for these purposes and DBS certificates will be requested to be renewed at regular intervals.

5. Appropriate Insurance Cover

The Parish is responsible for ensuring adequate annual insurance cover for its Church activities.

People requesting hall hire are asked to ensure that they have also made appropriate insurance arrangements and advised that they need to ensure risk management strategies are in place for the activities they wish to engage in and that it is their responsibility to provide adequate supervision for children and young people taking part in these activities.

6. Local Ecumenical Partnerships (LEPs) and Joint Safeguarding Policy Arrangements

St Chad's Irby with St Bartholomew's Thurstaston do not currently have any such joint partnership arrangements in place

7. Safeguarding Concerns

In the event of a safeguarding concern or referral being made, under the current arrangements, any such referrals should be directed to the Safeguarding Co-ordinator Kathryn Timmins or Reverend Jane Turner who will liaise with the Diocese Safeguarding Officer and the relevant local safeguarding authority.

Despite a difficult year due to COVID-19 restrictions, there have been no safeguarding referrals or concerns raised to the Safeguarding Coordinator during the year 2020

8. Safeguarding Training

Safeguarding Training for volunteers is arranged by the Diocese. Dates of any new classroom based safeguarding training events will be circulated as they become available, however an easier to access, online e-learning course is also freely available through the Church of England website.

All current volunteers have been asked to complete this Church of England online safeguarding training course.

All current volunteers have received a guidance document outlining the types of abuse which can lead to safeguarding referrals, this should enable them to identify any potential abuse situations.

9. Safe Working Practice

Risk Assessments forms are in place and should be carried out and recorded for all new and changing activities and should be assessed at least annually.

Agreements with Offenders

Offenders who become known to the Church and who pose a risk to children or adults at risk and who wish to take part in activities or Church worship, should enter into an agreement which should be reviewed on a regular basis.

The Safeguarding Officer has not been informed of any new or recent offenders who require such Agreements

10. Confidentiality

Safeguarding referrals and all relevant sensitive information should remain confidential and should only be shared with local authority safeguarding boards and the Safeguarding Officer for the Diocese.

All personal information in relation to volunteers and sensitive information in relation to safeguarding referrals must be stored and locked away in a safe place, inaccessible to anyone other than authorised personnel.

Current DBS Registrations

- 11 people within the Parish currently have DBS certificates in place
- 3 of these people will be required to renew their DBS certificates in February 2022 to remain compliant and they will be contacted with re-registration instructions.
- 2 new contacts were approached with regard to their interest in Junior Church volunteer work, however both have not progressed due to their personal commitments. Perhaps we can approach these people again once COVID-19 restrictions lift and Church life resumes to a more normal position.
- There are currently No new DBS applicants being processed.

The Rector or the Safeguarding Officer will only provide details of DBS certificate holders on request.

The Parish commits itself to promoting safe practice by those in positions of trust. The current policies and procedures have been adopted and are in place in order to ensure that the Parish is compliant and has robust safeguarding protocols in place.

I believe that provided the current policies and safeguarding procedures are followed and adhered to, the Parish will remain compliant.

Kathryn Timmins

Safeguarding Co-ordinator

St Chad's Irby with St Bartholomew's Thurstaston 22 February 2021

CHURCHWARDEN'S REPORT

The year began with the usual pattern of services and activities taking place in both churches. However, early in March, the onset of covid-19 pandemic meant social restrictions and increased hygiene became incorporated into our practices, swiftly to be followed by complete closure of both churches as we entered our first lockdown on 24th March.

As restrictions eased in the summer, a limited number of services took place at St Chad's, followed by St Bartholomew's in the early autumn.

In January we had a visit from Ecclesiastical Insurance regarding a change in policy for St Chad's. St Chad's original policy, called Hall Guard was discontinued. A new policy has been put into place incorporating St Chad's with St Bartholomew's. This is called a Parish Plus policy. The total cost remained the same.

In late January, a 2-metre section of the sandstone wall, to the left of the churchyard gate at St Bartholomew's had been damaged, probably by a large vehicle reversing into it. Our insurers were informed, and the church architect was consulted. By March, the wall had been repaired.



Just before lockdown, Dr Peter Robson painted the men's and ladies' toilets at St Chad's.

I have received two separate donations to the church containing pictures of the old St Bartholomew's churches, newspaper cuttings and postcards.

In November, Mr Richard Turner, who has very kindly wound up, each week, St Bartholomew's church clock, discovered that the pendulum suspension spring was broken. The original manufacturer was still in business and was able to repair the spring.

Richard has replaced the spring and monitored the clock's timekeeping before adding the chimes. By the end of the year all appears to be working well.

Work has continued on churchyard maintenance at St Bartholomew's and parishioners have maintained the grounds at St Chad's throughout the year.

In November, I attended the Archdeacon's Visitation service via Zoom.

As the only churchwarden, again, for both churches, it continued to be a challenge throughout this very difficult year. My thanks again go especially to Mr Malcolm Studholme who has continued to assist in many aspects of the running of both churches, to Mr John Oliver, Dr Peter Robson, Mr. Richard Turner and to Mr Peter Whitehead who has been a continual support in numerous ways.

The services and activities in both churches, although extremely limited for most of the year, have involved many parishioners, including the PCC, and I am very grateful for everyone's contributions.

Finally, but most importantly, we as a parish thank our Rector, Revd Jane Turner, for all her hard work and devotion, supporting us in many different ways under the very difficult circumstances caused by this pandemic.

Now we pray that the Lord gives us his blessing for 2021, as we go forward in these still uncertain times.

Liz Whitehead (Churchwarden)

DEANERY SYNOD REPORT

The meetings and activities of the Deanery Synod, in common with worship and so many other activities in our own parish, were seriously curtailed in 2020, as a result of Covid 19. Matters were further complicated by the departure of one Rural Dean, Revd Peter Froggatt, at the end of the year and the appointment of a new one, Revd David Vestergaard, as well as by the fact that the Lay Chair, Lesley Young, came to the end of her term of office. At the time of writing this report, no successor has presented him/herself, so your prayers are asked that a suitable person may soon be found to take on this role.

The first meeting of the year was held at St Andrew's, West Kirby, on Wednesday 4th March, just before the first national 'lockdown'. This was also the last Synod meeting of the current cycle and everyone was thanked for their contribution to the Deanery. Elections for Synod normally take place at the Annual Church meetings, but subsequently APCMs were postponed until the end of October.

The appointment of a new Bishop of Chester was underway. The Rural Dean was a member of the Crown Nomination Committee and could not reveal all their deliberations, but a short list of four candidates would be interviewed on the 16th/17th March 2020 and a public announcement made thereafter.

The Revd Peter Froggatt then presented Lesley Young with gifts and thanked her for her time as Lay Chair, since she was completing her term of office at the end of the current cycle of Synods. A visit to Chester Cathedral had been arranged for Saturday 4th July 2020. Prior to a tour, a meeting would be held to elect a new Lay Chairman.

Revd Canon Jane Brooke (Vice Dean and Canon Missioner of Chester Cathedral) addressed Synod:

The Cathedral, with the arrival of the new Dean, had a plan for 2018-2023: "Chester Cathedral will follow Christ through Discovery, Encounter and Faith." The Cathedral plans that one of its clergy will attend the installation of every new incumbent. It is also developing links with Street Pastors and those ministering to the homeless, as well as developing education and exhibitions in the Cathedral itself.

The new altar and dais were installed, and it was planned to increase the number of special services, to make the Cathedral a resource for churches and the Diocese.

On Wednesday 17th June, the Venerable Mike Gilbertson, Archdeacon of Chester, spoke via Zoom to Wirral North Deanery and Churchwardens, etc, about the constraints of holding services and maintaining churches during the coronavirus pandemic.

The meeting planned for Saturday 4th July to elect a new Lay Chair was cancelled, together with the tour of the Cathedral.

At the Deanery Synod meeting held on Wednesday 16th September by Zoom, several clergy moves were noted: Revd Steph Warrell had moved from Upton, Revd Ailsa Whorton was to become an Army Chaplain, but would still be at Newton as an SSM. Revd Al Metcalfe was moving to Ipswich as an incumbent. Revd Alec Ham was the new Associate Minister at Upton and Revd Alex Williams had been appointed to St Bridget's, West Kirby.

Several deacons were to be ordained in October: Danny Sedano – Greasby, Richard Skinner – Hoylake, Frances Skinner – Meols, George Roach – Higher Bebington and Paul Lewis – Poulton Lancelyn.

The Pastoral Scheme to reorder the boundaries of Christ Church Higher Bebington with St Paul and St Luke Tranmere was still under discussion.

The Rural Dean announced that he would be leaving parish ministry to become the Diocesan Director of Outreach on 18 January. He was congratulated and thanked for his work for the Deanery and Diocese.

The Venerable Mike Gilbertson, Archdeacon of Chester then spoke about "Everyday faith" (previously "Setting God's People Free"), a trial project held in 20 parishes across the Diocese. Reports from the parishes had now been received and collated but, because of lockdown, proposals to "roll out" across the Diocese were on hold until it was practicable to continue.

He suggested that members view the Diocesan website, with its variety of resources, such as "Back to Better", to support lay and clergy in their work, and conversations with people about "Everyday Faith".

Michael gave thanks for all those who were helping to steer the Church through this period. Parishes had not turned in on themselves but had utilised the technology available to produce services. Most churches had now resumed services in church buildings, observing the guidelines. The Church of England website also had up-to-date information on the interpretation of restrictions.

Because the dates of church Annual Meetings in 2020 had been put back by six months, the Electoral Roll, even if revised in readiness for an APCM earlier in the year, would have to be revised again as it must be correct 28 days in advance of an APCM.

Archdeacons' visitations were to be held by Zoom.

Bishop Mark was legally in post from the date of his Confirmation of Election. On 20th September he would be "taking up the Crozier" which would allow him to carry out his pastoral role. It is hoped to have his full installation service in 2021.

Chris Smale, Malcolm Studholme and Julie Davies (with thanks also to Lesley Young)

ELECTORAL ROLL REPORT

At the APCM in 2020, the roll contained 147 members from 101 households.

During the past year six members have been deleted from the roll. During recent revisions I added 10 new members who applied to join. The Electoral Roll now has 151 members from 103 households.

Helen Williams (Electoral Roll Officer)

CHARITIES SUPPORTED THROUGHOUT THE YEAR



LEPROSY MISSION

What a strange twelve months we have had, and how devastating it's been for charities to raise vital funds. However, the parishioners of St. Barts. and St. Chads have been amazing in their generosity, and proactiveness.

Not being able to collect the leprosy boxes this year, and asking instead for donations by cheque, ended with a total of £470.00 being raised. This is the largest single donation we have raised for the Mission. Well done!

This money has helped to find, and cure children affected by leprosy. What a gift!

Thank you for changing their lives and giving them a future.

Pat Hulme



With children, for children, with you

THE CHILDREN'S SOCIETY

Jean Heath (648 6015) and **Barbara Kozer (648 3512)** co-ordinate fund raising for the Society in the Parish.

Due to Covid restrictions it was not possible to hold our annual 'Thank You' Coffee Morning in October.

The Society was also concerned about the safety of collectors regarding the collecting and counting of house boxes. However, with due regard to health and safety, Barbara and Jean were able to collect in 55 of the 62 boxes on the list and, thanks to these supporters, a record amount of £1,020.07 was paid in to help with the Society's work with young people across the country.

Reverend Jane organised a Zoom Christingle Service, which was enjoyed by the families and individuals who attended and provided another opportunity to support the Society's work in a difficult year for fundraising.

Jean Heath (648 6015)

CHURCH ACTIVITIES

Junior Church and Seniors 2020

In the short time that the church was open during January-March, Seniors were able to meet once a month and Junior Church during term time.

Seniors took part in the family service in February, "Seasons of Giving", by dramatising the Bible reading, Matther chapter 6, verses 19-35. We had a farmer, a birdwatcher, a pirate and Jesus, an unlikely combination! However, we got the message across that God provides us all with all we need and we are not to spend our lives worrying about our crops, wildlife and valuables.



The Annual Pancake party was held on Sunday 23rd February, and children

and seniors enjoyed games, crafts and of course hot pancakes.

Eggs were decorated and many pancakes were eaten, covered in fruit, chocolate buttons. Syrup and cream.



Seniors and senior leaders together completed a colouring scripture art piece, and in Lanuary it was framed and hung in the Seniors' room.

Everyone took the picture home in turn and coloured different bits and passed it on to the next person or



family. We had been studying the importance of rest and that God gave us the seventh day to rest. We discussed the necessity to find time to be with God.

Colouring the picture was hopefully a restful time and time to reflect on the words being coloured as well.

During Pentecost, Anna and Daniel Wiseman helped me create the flames on the Come Holy Spirit poster. A particularly fiddly time consuming and sticky task, completed with Deanne's oversight and safely done in their own hole and passed back to me.

At the end of the summer, when we would normally have the Book Giving Service and give out the shield to the senior who in that year had made an impression on us, we decided a lockdown Shield Presentation was possible, with Revd Jane on the camera and me at a safe distance at the front door of the senior being awarded the shield. There was a bit of sneaky goings on in order to trick the recipient into thinking that we were coming round to interview a family, in order to maintain the surprise. This year, Anna Wiseman was chosen to receive the shield. She and her brother Daniel had only joined Seniors that year, but Anna had already shown a strong presence in discussions and willingness to help out.



During the rest of the year, Revd Jane and I set about providing support to families. We got together crafts and activities to post out to everyone, covering Easter, Fathers' Day, the Pumpkin Party, Bonfire Night, Remembrance Sunday, Advent and Christmas.

In April, Revd Jane sourced a resource for seniors called "95". This was emailed out to seniors, with parents' permission.

With the Remembrance parcel there was also a small keepsake to show that we were thinking and praying for the children and young people.

Revd Jane and I created activities in St Chad's windows consisting of picture prayers and quiz trails. Dawn created a lovely crib scene for everyone to enjoy.



A difficult year and very different from normal, but a challenge I think we rose to, with the help of leaders and revd Jane.

With God's help we came through it together.

Many thanks for parents' help in sessions and to all the leaders, helpers and Revd Jane for their support and hard work.

Julie DeBoorder



Bellringers' Report

2020 has been a very disrupted year for all. We started the year ringing regularly for Sunday morning Church services at Thurstaston with no real knowledge of what was to come.

Following the commencement of the Covid lock down ringing was curtailed. As the regulations relaxed in late August, we returned to 'socially distanced ringing' with significant precautions. This allowed ringing on three bells for a maximum of 15 minutes to occur for one wedding and two services before the regulations were again increased and ringing once again stopped.

At the start of the crisis, we set up a Ringers' WhatsApp group to keep in touch. We continue to keep ourselves amused and in contact with jokes, videos, and chat. From the summer onwards, we met for coffee and chat in ringers' gardens. This led to us starting to learn how to ring hand bells on Sunday mornings. This was a wonderful and often very funny experience enjoyed by all. These meetings remained in place until the tightening of restrictions in the autumn. I hope to return to meeting and hand bells again when the situation allows it.



There was one quarter peal rung at the Church on 1st February 2020, this was Plain Bob Doubles called by myself and was the first quarter for James Bussey, a young ringer from West Kirby.

Our Christmas Meal was held at The Anchor in January this year and was enjoyed by all.

We currently have 15 ringers but will always welcome more. I hope after an enforced absence this year will allow us to get back to ringing for Church services as before. You are welcome to join us.

Peter Robson

Community Action 2020

This is a new subject to have a place in the Annual Report, because due to the pandemic, I have been involved in several community projects that would not have happened otherwise.

In April, my choir told me about a request for knitted pairs of hearts and kit bags for the NHS. I acquired the knitting pattern and details of the bags and asked our congregation if anyone would like to get involved. There was an immediate pick up on the kit bags by members of the congregation, spreading to the W.I., a local Craft Group C.O.W (Craft on Wednesday) and friends and neighbours. I made several deliveries to Arrowe Park Hospital, totalling approximately 200 kit bags. The Charity people at Arrowe Park asked if we would like to start to support the Care Homes instead, as they had had such an overwhelming response and felt the Care Homes would be struggling too.



At the start of May, I then started "Hearts for Homes".



I contacted six local Homes who were overjoyed and touched to receive pairs of hearts, a much needed pick me up and a lovely way to feel in touch with loved ones, when no visiting was allowed. The idea being that one heart was with the resident and the other with the loved one.

Knitted and sewn hearts started arriving from all corners, some people were posting their hearts to me from afar, others arrived via Bishop Keith's secretary, via



Rev Jane and so on. We continued to make a small amount of kit bags too, for those homes that needed them, and one home needed aprons. The Aprons were difficult and time consuming, but we managed a few, then called in the cavalry - Calday School sewing group had a great set up and a production line so soon filled the quota. In total we supplied 191 pairs of Hearts to Homes, approximately 80 kit bags and 30 Aprons.

In May with church buildings closed, I set about keeping the community uplifted and started using chalk pens to create short prayers in one of my top windows. One of my first was

“God I Trust You, you are with me, I am not alone, Amen”



And one of the last prayers



“Be still & rest a while, bathe your soul in His light & let the Spirit renew & comfort you, Amen”

Longer prayers as moved to a bigger window! Then once I was allowed inside St Chad's.....



In June Councillor Liz Skillicorn-Grey, a member of our congregation, contacted Revd Jane with a plea to help with a predicament.

Because of previous bad weather, young sapling trees had been unable to be planted and been kept bare rooted in cold storage, but now had to come out and be put into soil urgently. However, because of Covid, there was no one able to plant them. She asked if anyone could foster any trees during this crisis as otherwise, they would have to be destroyed.

Many of the congregation and their families agreed to take



some trees for fostering, but there were hundreds of trees still in danger and Liz was so busy with her councillor hat on and her teaching job, that I offered to help her out. I organised an email to help highlight the plea and asked my neighbours



on WhatsApp to help as well. I helped deliver to people around the Wirral and negotiated with people to take more until they were all gone. Liz estimates we managed to save around 300 trees in total! Which is a fantastic plus for the planet!

Plus, as we were looking to plant trees in the garden at the back of St Chad's, we got all our trees for free, and my son and I planted them just before Christmas.



Towards the end of the year, I put plans in motion to restore the back garden at St Chad's, in the hope that we could eventually have a communal area to enjoy, as a peaceful area and for all ages to engage in the joys of growing flowers etc. In December I was compiling a fund application to submit to Wirral Together for funding to restore the garden.

Julie De Boorder

CHURCH RELATED ORGANISATIONS



Mothers' UNION
Christian care for families

Please visit www.mothersunion.org/ or www.mothersunionchester.org.uk to find out more about the work of Mothers' Union.

Our branch of EMU (Evening Mothers' Union) meets monthly during the school term at St Chad's, usually on the third or fourth Wednesday of the month at 8.00pm. We would love to welcome new members. Please come along and give it a try. We have a varied programme to suit all tastes.

During 2020 we managed two meetings before lockdown.

29th January – 16 of us went along to the Potting Shed and made lots of different pots whilst enjoying a good old natter and a 'cuppa'



26th February – Some of us joined the Ash Wednesday service at St Chad's.

As we have been unable to meet up, our creative side has come in useful.

A group of us, along with church members made uniform bags, scrubs and masks for NHS staff and carers. We also made lots of hearts for Care Homes.



I continued to knit Baptism teddies and have a stock ready for when needed.



Please visit www.mothersunion.org/ or visit www.mothersunionchester.org.uk to find out more about the work of Mothers' Union

Chris Rostock – Branch Secretary

1st Thurstaston Guides Annual Report 2020

Well, what can we say about this past year! Like for everyone, things have been hugely different for us for most of this year. We managed to hold meetings from January up until guiding informed us to stop having face-to-face meetings on March 16th, and we have not been able to meet face-to-face since then, so this report will be Pre and Post lockdown!



Pre-Lockdown

Whilst we were still able to meet in the church hall, without knowing what was to come, we managed several exciting and informative evenings including:

Designing, making, and presenting Mocktails

First Aid training with Little Lambs First Aid. Emma from Little Lambs was fantastic, and the guides learnt all about dealing with all sorts of first aid situations that they may come across, as well as learning CPR. Really valuable skills.

Belly Dancing – guides had to learn a new skill as part of one of the badges we were doing and had great fun.

For world thinking day, we were once again part of a district event with our 2 guide, 2 brownie and 2 rainbow units all coming together to celebrate.

We also had a visit from Claire bear from Claire House and we were able to present her with a cheque that was raised when guides did a sponsored walk last year arranged by two of our older guides that have now left us.

Post-Lockdown

We did not start meeting virtually with Zoom meetings until the Autumn term in September as it was a big adjustment to make and we weren't sure how it was going to work. We have found it to be working well – especially as we have all got more used to it! So far, the things we have managed to do include:

- Making pizzas – we would usually have a trip to pizza express when it is time to present awards and for our older guides to leave but obviously could not do that this year and so we made our own pizza's at home on Zoom.
- Cake in a cup – more delicious than it sounds!
- Origami
- Rock painting – poppies for the display at the war memorial at St Barts for Remembrance Sunday
- Taekwondo Session – Brian Anderton from Pensby TAGB Taekwondo did a virtual training/self-defence session for the girls which was really useful and a lot of fun.
- Various Christmas activities including quizzes, making Christmas cake, and Christmas crafts.

So, after starting the year in normality like everyone else, we have had to adapt but we feel that we have still managed to have another great year (albeit with a term missing) and managed to involve the girls in a good range of activities.

We have also managed to award 2 Gold Awards (replaced Baden Powell award in the new programme).

As always, we wish the guides who have now left us all the best for the future, and we all hope to be able to meet face-to-face again sometime soon when it is safe for us to do so.

Ellie Randall and Gaynor Vaughan, supported by Lily Foster, Caitlyn Pridgeon, and the Guides!

3rd Irby Brownies

3rd Irby Brownies are continuing to meet weekly albeit virtually on Zoom rather than face to face! The Brownies have done a brilliant job moving over to this format and have been able to complete plenty of badges throughout the year. We have said goodbye to some of our older Brownies who have gone to Guides and even welcomed some new Brownies who we are yet to meet in person! We are looking forward to our first virtual district wide Thinking Day event in a couple of weeks. We can't wait until we can meet face to face again but for the time being, we will carry on doing our activities online.

Gemma Willerton, Lynn McCoy, Kate Preston & Emily Fearn Nicol

2nd Irby Rainbows

Our year started well, with a good-sized group of Rainbows. During lockdown last March we had a break from all our activities.



At the end of August, we decided to meet via Zoom. We were not sure how the girls would like this! How would meetings work over Zoom? How could craft work? These were some of the questions we thought about. Luckily, Girl Guiding had resources we could adapt, we thought about games we could play differently, simplifying crafts so they could be done more independently.



We have been successfully running Zoom meetings for six months now. We have a group of nine girls who come each week. We have made mug cakes, decorated Rudolph style biscuits, drawing, making craft and one of the girl's favourite games is a scavenger hunt...bring me something green/ something beginning with A etc. We have managed to compete some fun challenge badges, ABC challenge, Mermaid Challenge, Parliament week as well as some Guiding Badges as a group.



We have had great support from our Rainbow parents, and a 'surprise' visit from Father Christmas!

Karen Fearn and Allison Youds.

TOTS & TINIES

Before the lockdown, each Thursday morning during Term Time, Tots & Tinies met at St Chad's Hall, Irby from 9.30am-11.30am. The playgroup welcomes parents and carers with babies and children up to school age. There is a charge of £1.50 per child and accompanying adult, with a supplement of 50p for each extra child.

Each week the children are provided with a snack of fresh fruit, toast and a drink. Adults are invited to help themselves to tea/coffee, biscuits and toast. This provision is funded from the cover charge.

Parents and carers are invited to supervise their own children in this friendly group environment. The children freely interact with one another whilst using a wide variety of activities. These include a reading corner, crafts, large/small play toys, jigsaws – all of which encourage fine and large motor skills and social skills.

The group is co-ordinated by Allison Youds, with help from a few mums who are regular attenders. Alan and Elaine Jones have been providing snacks. A sing song/music session follows snack time and a story finishes each session.

Parent volunteers help put equipment out and away and help with the dishes at the end of each session.

Tots & Tinies welcomes on average 35+ children plus their parents/carers each week. It should be noted the safety and supervision of each child is the sole responsibility of the child's attending parent/carer at all times.

Unfortunately, since the lockdown in March 2020, Tots and Tinies has been unable to meet.

Allison Youds

Independent examiner's report on the accounts



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/
members of

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical
Parish of St. Bartholomew, Thurstaston

On accounts for the year
ended

31st December 2020

Charity no
(if any)

1132086

Set out on pages

1 to 8

(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

**Respective
responsibilities of
trustees and examiner**

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Charities Act") and that an independent examination is needed. ~~[The charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of [named body]]. Delete [] if not applicable.~~

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act,
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act, and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention

**Basis of independent
examiner's statement**

My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

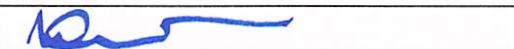
**Independent
examiner's statement**

In connection with my examination, no material matters have come to my attention (other than that disclosed below *) which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- 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.

I 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.

** Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.*

Signed:  Date: 26th March 2021

Name: Margaret Ann Walker of MAW Accountants

Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any): ICPA(Fellow)

Address: 33 Thingwall Road
Irby
Wirral CH61 3UE

Section B

Disclosure

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.

CHURCH ACCOUNTS 2020

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Bartholomew, Thurstaston
Registered Charity Number 1132086

Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ending 31 December 2020

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2020	Total 2019
Receipts & Payments account					
Receipts					
<i>Voluntary Receipts</i>					
Planned Giving St Bartholomew	26343			26343	20358
St Chad	17068			17068	18413
Other Collections St Bartholomew	296			296	1921
St Chad	454			454	1257
Total	44161			44161	41949
<i>Donations</i>					
Wallbox	0			0	17
Recurring Donations	0			0	30
Text Donations	0			0	0
Non recurring Donations (see note 1)	6151			6151	2709
Total donations	6151			6151	2756
	50312			50312	44705
<i>Grants received (see note 2)</i>	2000			2000	0
<i>Legacies</i>	0			0	11000
<i>Tax recovered</i>	10489			10489	9641
Total	12489			12489	20641
Total Donation Income	62801			62801	65346
<i>Activities for Generating Funds (See note 3)</i>	0			0	1377
<i>Church Activities (See note 4)</i>	5434			5434	14223
<i>Income from Investments (See note 5)</i>	39	4659	131	4829	5044
TOTAL	68274	4659	131	73064	85990
Payments					
<i>Cost of generating voluntary income (See note 6)</i>	157			157	636
<i>Mission Giving (See note 7)</i>	310			310	831
<i>Church Activities (See note 8)</i>	57287			57287	83798
<i>Major Works</i>	0			0	27929
TOTAL	57754	0		57754	113194
Excess of Receipts over Payments	10520	0	4659	131	15310
				15310	-27204
Transfers between funds					
Total					
Bank Current and Deposit Accounts 1 Jan	41848	171451		4073	217372
Bank Current and Deposit Accounts 31 Dec	58045	179427		4849	242321

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2020	Total 2019
Statement of Assets and Liabilities					
Assets					
Cash at bank and in hand and undeposited funds	13			13	15
<i>CAF Current Account</i>	25730			25730	9571
<i>CAF Gold Account</i>	28375			28375	28352
Total	54118			54118	37938
Investment Assets (See note 9)					
<i>Morrell Trust</i>		8178		8178	7206
<i>Ismay Charity</i>			4849	4849	4073
<i>Tudor Trust</i>		24080		24080	22465
<i>Eileen Shaw Trust</i>		108109		108109	102885
<i>Open Door</i>		39060		39060	38895
<i>Reserve Fund</i>	3927			3927	3910
Total	58045	179427	4849	242321	217372
Other Monetary Assets					
Gift aid claimable	10693			10693	9082
Total Assets	68738	179427	4849	253014	226454
Liabilities (See note 11)	204383			204383	162218
Total Assets less Liabilities	-135645	179427	4849	48631	64236

Approved by the PCC on and signed on their behalf by Rev E Jane turner (PCC Chairperson) and Mr Kevin Marley (Treasurer)

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2020	Total 2019
Notes to the accounts					
1. Non recurring donations					
<i>Gift Aided Donations</i>	2272			2272	1493
<i>Non-Gift Aided Donations</i>	3879			3879	1216
Total	6151			6151	2709
2.Grants Received					
<i>Grant from Diocese due to COVID</i>	2000			2000	0

3. Generating Funds

Christmas Fair/Santa in Irby			0	1258
Other fund raising events			0	119
Total			0	1377

4. Main Church Activities

St Bartholomews Church

Fees Received	2456		2456	2865
Contribution to heating	280		280	336
Hall Hire	1852		1852	8938
Tots and Tinies	238		238	1363
Magazine subscriptions	180		180	346
Magazine income	428		428	330
Other income	0		0	0
Total	5434	0	5434	14223

5. Income from Investments

Bank Interest	39	165		204	380
Morrell Trust		237		237	251
Ismay Charity			131	131	0
Tudor Trust		747		747	750
Shaw Trust		3510		3510	3662
Total	39	4659	0	131	4829

6. Costs of Generating Voluntary Income

Planned Giving Envelope Systems	157			157	238
Harvest Supper	0			0	0
Christmas Fair/Santa in Irby	0			0	398
Total	157			157	636

7. Mission Giving

Diocesan Family of Schools	0			0	300
Friends of Chester Cathedral Deanery Synod	65			65	25
Ismay Charity donation	220			220	0
art exhibition and flood relief	0			0	206
Gifts (Rural Dean)	25			25	300
Total	310			310	830

8. Church Activities

Parish Share	25359			25359	39585
Salaries					
Caretaker	394			394	362
Cleaners	1607			1607	2388
Parish Clerk	3560			3560	3405
Pastoral Expenses					
Rector's Expenses	567			567	1581
Rector's Office Expenses	1873			1873	879
Rector's Expenses	2818			2818	2737
Mission Costs					
Assisting Clergy Fees & Expenses	406			406	890
Organist's Fees	868			868	1720
Service Costs (worship materials)	1006			1006	1105
Website	233			233	230
Youth	0			0	56
Tots & Tinies	116			116	747
St Bartholomew Overheads					
Church Insurance (see note 16)	5918			5918	4302
C26: Church Licences	80			80	78

<i>C23: Church Building Maintenance</i>	867	867	1053
<i>C19: Churchyard Upkeep</i>	915	915	5847
<i>C24: Church Organ Expenses</i>	115	115	230
<i>C21: Church Electricity</i>	450	450	432
<i>C22: Church Heating Oil</i>	1061	1061	1415
St Chad's Overheads			
<i>Hall Insurance (see note 16)</i>	0	0	1617
<i>Hall Licences</i>	307	307	268
<i>Hall Building Maintenance</i>	492	492	1758
<i>Hall Grounds Maintenance</i>	600	600	1195
<i>Hall Electricity</i>	620	620	2849
<i>Hall Gas</i>	1245	1245	1289
<i>Hall Water</i>	231	231	399
<i>St Chads Building Maintenance</i>	91	91	642
<i>Magazine Costs Production Expenses</i>	109	109	134
Admin Expenses			
<i>Office equipment</i>	2152	2152	1444
<i>Office Postage</i>	31	31	151
<i>Office Software</i>	825	825	627
<i>Office Stationary</i>	1898	1898	1901
<i>Office Phone & Internet</i>	413	413	422
<i>Bank Charges</i>	60	60	60
Total	57287	57287	83798

9. Investments

The investments relate to 5 funds:

(i) The Morrell Trust is invested with the CBF Church of England Investments, split between the Fixed Interest Securities Fund and the Global Equity Income Fund.

(ii) The Ismay Charity is invested with the CBF Church of England Global Equity Income Fund with the balance held in the bank account for distribution at the discretion of the incumbent, or for eventual reinvestment.

(iii) The Tudor Trust. This is invested with CBF Church of England income investments, The property fund, the UK equity fund and the global equity income fund

(iv) The Eileen Shaw Trust is a restricted fund producing income for general church use and is invested in C of E Global Equity, Property, UK Equity, Investment and Fixed income Funds

The fund is held by Chester DBF as Diocesan Authority on behalf of the PCC

This trust is now shown in the PCC's statement of Assets and Liabilities

(v) The Reserve fund is a small general reserve held for emergency work at St Chads

(vi) The Open Door Fund is held for specific work on St Bartholomews

10. St Chad's Building

St Chad's building is 50 years old and was built using donations. The first extension was built using funds from the sale of land on which Village Court was built. The new extension was built over 10 years ago.

11. Liabilities

	2020	2019
<i>Retained wedding and funeral fees</i>	785	1143
<i>Hall Hire paid in advance</i>	885	0
<i>PAYE</i>	0	25
<i>Sundry creditors</i>	0	0
<i>Outside Collections</i>	0	0
<i>Unpaid Parish Share (2011) 10,422</i>	10422	10422
<i>Unpaid Parish Share (2013) 12,600</i>	12600	12600
<i>Unpaid Parish Share (2014) 15,000</i>	15000	15000
<i>Unpaid Parish Share (2015) 20,666</i>	20666	20666
<i>Unpaid Parish Share 2016</i>	24506	24506
<i>Unpaid Parish Share 2017</i>	25118	25118
<i>Unpaid Parish Share (2018)</i>	25746	25746
<i>Unpaid Parish Share 2019</i>	26390	26390
<i>Unpaid Parish Share 2020</i>	42265	0

<i>organist fees outstanding</i>	0	496
<i>Accounts Payable</i>	0	106
Total	204383	162218

12. PCC member payments

PCC member Jon Oliver was paid £245 because of his employment as Verger.
PCC member E Whitehead was paid £42 because of her employment as Verger

13. Accounts

This financial statement has been prepared in accordance with Church Accounting Regulations 2006 using the Receipts and Payments basis.

The Gift Aid refers to money received in 2020 for the 2019 financial and tax year.
Also no reference is made to stock held or debtors

14. Reserves Policy

We have no Quinquennial provision and we aim to carry a minimum of 3 months turnover i.e approximately £30000

15. Legacies

We received no legacies this year.

16. Insurance

The insurance figure is now a combined figure for both churches