

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF SAINT PAUL, BARROW IN FURNESS

England & Wales · Charity number 1132621

Details

Other names	ST PAUL'S PCC, BARROW IN FURNESS
Status	Registered
Legal form	Previously excepted
Registered	2009-11-10
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

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Activities

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

Activities: PROMOTING IN THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH THE WHOLE MISSION OF THE CHURCH.

Classification

- **How:** Makes Grants To Organisations, Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Provides Services
- **What:** Religious Activities
- **Who:** The General Public/mankind

Geography

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

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-12-31	£136,158	£83,695	-	-
2024-12-31	£124,822	£102,940	-	-
2023-12-31	£96,423	£105,987	-	-
2022-12-31	£79,351	£87,128	-	-
2021-12-31	£114,280	£95,036	-	-
2020-12-31	£98,909	£86,346	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Adele Fern Hilton		2025-04-27
Callum Michael John Whitehall		2021-03-21
Fiona Elizabeth Geibel		2022-04-04
JULIE JONES		2011-06-02
Lesley Hubbard		2023-04-30
MAUREEN AUBREY		
Michael Lindsey Derry		2022-03-27
Nathan James Mair		2024-04-28
Rev ELAINE AUSTWICK BATES		
Rev Robin Peter Ham		2021-01-17
Rev Sarah Elizabeth Dawn Richardson		2023-04-30
Susan Phipps		2026-05-03
Tracy Jane Graham		2018-04-24
Zoe Elizabeth Ham		2022-03-27

Accounts



St Paul's Church, Barrow in Furness

**Annual Reports and Accounts
For the year to 31 December 2025**

Charity Registration: 1132621



St Paul's Church, Barrow-in-Furness

**Trustees Annual Reports & Accounts
for the year ended
31st December 2025**

Charity Registration: 1132621

ST PAUL'S CHURCH,
HAWCOAT LANE,
BARROW-IN-FURNESS
LA14 4HD

Aim and Purpose

St Paul's Parochial Church Council (the "PCC") has the responsibility of cooperating with the Incumbent, the Reverend Robin Ham ('priest-in-charge'), in 'promoting in the ecclesiastical parish and benefice and the Diocese, and also at home and abroad the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical'. (This is as stated in the Parochial Church Council (Powers) Measure 1956.) The PCC is also responsible for maintaining the church building and the church hall. This overall mission is expressed in the following mission statement:

Empowered by God's Spirit, we're a community passionate about giving everyone the opportunity to hear, enjoy, & live out the good news of Jesus - for God's glory in Barrow & beyond.

MEMBERSHIP

The PCC is a charity registered with the Charity Commission. Members of the PCC are either *ex officio* or elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) in accordance with the Church Representation Rules.

PCC MEMBERS

During the year, the following served as members of the PCC:

Incumbent:

Revd Robin Ham

Associate Minister:

Revd Canon Elaine Bates

Associate Minister & Pioneer Minister for Newbarns:

Revd Dr Sarah Richardson

Curates:

Revd Simon Jones (until August 2025)

Church Wardens:

Mr Mike Derry

Mrs Fiona Geibel

Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO):

Mrs Tracy Graham

(Assisted by Mrs Fiona Geibel for J7 Children's ministry)

Representatives on General Synod (2021-26):

Mrs Zoe Ham

Representatives on Deanery Synod (2023-26):

Mrs Maureen Aubrey

Mrs Eleanor Ledesma

Elected Members:

Mrs Tracy Graham

Mrs Lesley Hubbard

Mrs Julie Jones

Mr Howard LeRoy

Mr Nathan Mair
Mr Peter Molyneux
Mr Solomon Praveen
Mr Callum Whitehall
1 vacancy

Treasurer:

Revd Canon Elaine Bates (Acting Treasurer)

COMMITTEES

Standing Committee

This is the only committee required by law. It has the power to transact the business of the PCC between meetings, subject to any directions given by the Council.

Finance Committee

This committee oversees the general financial matters of St Paul's Church by monitoring income and expenditure and the financial implications of PCC decisions.

Building Committee

This committee has responsibility for maintenance of the church buildings and fabric.

Safeguarding

Our safeguarding officer is Mrs Tracy Graham, with Mrs Fiona Geibel helping her by overseeing safeguarding particularly for our J7 children's ministry.

CHURCH ATTENDANCE & ELECTORAL ROLL

At the time of writing this, there are 77 adult parishioners on the new Church Electoral Roll, of whom 33 are not resident within the parish.

The Average Weekly Attendance (AWA) for **January-December 2025** was:

Sunday	12 adults at 8.00 am Holy Communion service 52* adults and 22* children under the age of 16 yrs at 10.00 am Sunday worship
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**An reminder that as of 2024 we have included all Sunday 10am services in our AWA figures, whereas in previous years we had excluded baptism/thanksgiving services figures. It is worth noting that in 2025 we only had 3 baptism/thanksgiving services, whereas in 2024 we had 7. As a result, the 2024 average attendance will likely be higher to 2025 due to that difference.*

J7/Creche Regulars: J7 Adventurers: 9 children; J7 Crew: 8 children; Creche: 5 babies

Wednesday	15 adults at 10.00 am Holy Communion service
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Night prayer	7 adults at 9pm Zoom Thursday night prayer
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At a previous APCM, a request was made as to whether this document could indicate previous figures too, so we now include the following:

Previous years' service attendance:

	Sun 8am	Sun 10am	Children u16	Weds 10am
Year 2025	12	52*	22*	15
Year 2024	9	56*	16*	14
Year 2023	9	49	11	9
Year 2022	11	37	14	10
Year 2021	11	41	14	10
Year 2020	11	36	7	13
Year 2019	13	33	4	12
Year 2018	10	32	2	11
Year 2017	13	36	6	11

**Indicates average of all Sundays in this year, whereas 2017-23 excluded attendance for baptism/thanksgivings Sundays.*

Previous years' electoral roll:

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2023	2024	2025
Electoral Roll	102	80*	77	73	68	64	55*	52	57	64	62	71	73*	77

Electoral roll is a formal indication of membership of the church community for those aged 16 or over. It requires someone to either to live in the parish or to have attended worship for 6 months. Some regular attendees of worship choose not to join the electoral roll for various reasons.

** Indicates when a new electoral roll is issued (every 6 years all electoral roll members have to sign-up afresh and a new roll is issue).*

FORMAL MEETINGS

The full PCC met 6 times during the year in their usual pattern of meeting, with 3 extraordinary meetings:

- 8th January to discuss St Paul's role within Carlisle Diocese's bid for mission funding to the Strategic Mission & Ministry Investment Board.
- 6th April to approve people applying to the new electoral roll.
- 20th April to approve the end of the year accounts.

The Finance committee met in between PCC meetings and reported back to the PCC. An EcoChurch Working Group and a Partnership Working Group also met between some meetings and reported back.

Good attendance was had throughout.

Review of 2025 from Rev Robin Ham, Chair of the PCC

As we look back on 2025, we do so with gratitude to God for his continued faithfulness to us at St Paul's Church Barrow. In a year of both steady ministry and fresh opportunities, we have seen encouragement across our church family, deepening discipleship, growing partnerships, and renewed investment in children and young people.

Our mission remains the same: to be a Spirit-empowered community passionate about giving everyone the opportunity to hear, enjoy, and live out the good news of Jesus, for God's glory in Barrow and beyond.

For me personally, the year began with a three month sabbatical from January to March, for which Zoe & I, as well as the kids, remain deeply thankful. It was a valuable period of rest, renewal and reflection, and I returned on April 1st feeling refreshed for this next season of ministry. I am especially grateful to the ministry team and church members who stepped up in various ways during that time, and particularly to Rev Simon Jones, who ably took some of my responsibilities during part of his final year of curacy.

Back in 2021 we began discerning our vision priorities for 2022-25, and given this is the last year of that period, I will again use these five emphases to reflect on the past year:

1) Transforming Gatherings that Grow & Sow

We commit to enabling our services, courses & Connect Groups to be places where we abide in Jesus together, whether we re exploring God for the first time or growing as disciples.

Our Sunday gatherings continued to be places of worship, welcome and biblical teaching. During the year we journeyed through a wide range of Scripture and themes, including a slow walk through the Beatitudes in the first part of the year, a gritty but hopefully illuminating journey through Judges in the Spring, and another few laps of our marathon in Luke's gospel. Our summer holiday series saw us explore the Nicene Creed in its 1700th anniversary year, and then in the autumn we looked at the important topics of identity, bodies and intimacy in our *Made for More* series, before selections of the Old Testament prophet, Amos, during Advent.

Midweek discipleship continued largely through our newer centrally-based approach, first introduced in late 2024. Highlights included the *Growing on the Frontline* course during the new year term, alongside the Alpha course, which led to a service of adult baptisms in April. Our Lent study book, 'In Quietness & Trust', helped us reflect more deeply on the Beatitudes, before Bible-study in Ephesians in the summer term, and the *Practising the Way* discipleship rhythms course in the autumn term.

It was a particular privilege to be asked to host the Church of England's national weekly online service for Bible Sunday in October, which has had 100k views on Facebook and 4.5k views on YouTube.

Throughout Holy Week we joined with other Anglican churches for joint events, whilst our Christmas carol services were the most popular in a decade.

2) Frontline-Focused

We commit to sending, equipping & inspiring our community to live and speak the grace of Jesus in our everyday situations.

As mentioned, the *Growing on the Frontline* course from LICC gave us explicit opportunity to consider our frontlines. We've continued to pray for each other in our everyday witness through a variety of settings, especially at **Powerhouse**, **Night Prayer** on Zoom, using our **Church Prayer Diary**, and with the Deanery at **Firepit** (see later). In many ways, this is the vision priority that is under the radar, yet undergirds in many ways the mindset we encourage. Wherever we go, we go with God.

3) Growing Younger

We commit to seeing a lost generation of children, young people & families discover the love of Jesus Christ.

One of the clearest encouragements of 2025 has been continued momentum in our Growing Younger vision:

Considering first some of our midweek ministries: **The Harbour** baby & toddler group celebrated its first full year of ministry in May, providing welcome, friendship and support for parents, carers and toddlers, and was nominated for a Love Barrow award. The precious ministry of our **Happy Tots** hosting team continued, welcoming pre-schoolers into church every fortnight for a Bible story, song, craft and game. **Who Let The Dads Out?** is being discovered by a new generation of fathers and their youngsters, and after a break-in at the church in December, we were overwhelmed to receive various gifts of games consoles from the wider community to use every month. **Hot Chocolate Mondays** continued to provide an important point of connection with children and families, including special seasonal events such as pumpkin carving. A number of dedicated individuals continue to lead and serve as part of the town-wide Open the Book team.

A number of people helped to refresh our *Experience Easter* programme, which led to us welcoming around **280 Key Stage 1 children from 6 schools across 9 classes**, helping younger pupils engage with the Easter story in an interactive and memorable way.

With a growing number of children moving from primary school to secondary school, this led to a couple of strategic shifts in September. Firstly, we launched **Rooted**, a group for secondary-aged young people on Sundays. This involves the young people serving in various Sunday teams, remaining in the main congregation, but then discussing the sermon together afterwards - aiming to help them to consider themselves part of the church community. Secondly on a Monday evening we began our first church youth group for many years, imaginatively titled **Youth**, for Years 7-9. Some of these young people supported a Diocese-wide youth event, The Big One, in September. These new ventures mark an important next step in serving and discipling our young people. However, the reality of a lack of leaders meant we had to cease running the midweek group, Monday Crew, for Years 3-6.

There are increased numbers of babies and children and young people as part of our Sunday 10am congregation particularly. Alongside the aforementioned Rooted group, the creche area is often busy during a Sunday morning, and our two J7 groups for 3-11s feel more popular than ever. All of this raises questions about how we ensure our building is fit for purpose for these growing ministries. We were also pleased to take part in a national initiative, Recognise Week, celebrating the contribution of our young volunteers and helpers.

Our relationship with St Paul's School goes from strength to strength, despite challenging numbers on the school roll. With Rev Simon Jones finishing his curacy, I joined the Governing Board, alongside Jackie Dower (an incredible chair!) and Mike Derry.

4) Partnership Beyond Our Walls

We commit to playing our part in Jesus' great commission by training & partnering with others to help people become Christians & grow as followers of Jesus across Barrow & beyond.

Our partnership with St Aidan's Church, Newbarns, continued to deepen during 2025. Rev Dr Sarah Richardson was commissioned as Pioneer Minister for Newbarns at a special Firepit gathering with Archdeacon Vernon in February. This then led to a summer of prayer for the emerging work there, followed by the launch of a Sunday tea-time Alpha course as momentum grows towards planting a congregation there.

In June we said 'farewell' to the Ward family, with Andy finishing as Barrow NYC Leader after ten years of inspiring service of young people, and being ordained to serve as a curate in Kendal.

October saw our second Partnership Sunday, where we particularly highlight the work of our four global mission partners. Wonderfully, this included a visit from one of them, Lydia, helping us continue to grow in our global gospel partnerships. The Partnership Working Group arranged for a special Saturday evening event where we heard from Lydia and ate local food together.

Across the town, we saw the launch of the Rising Faith Barrow vision, which including the positive news of financial investment in Barrow from the Church of England's Strategic Mission and Ministry Investment Board, as well as tying in with the wider Barrow Rising initiative funded by BAE/W&F Council/UK Government. As well as the monthly mission-focused Firepit gatherings across the Deanery, we were also glad to welcome Bishop Rob, fresh from starting as our Diocesan Bishop, for his deanery visit in November.

5) Open Doors & Hearts to our Community

We commit to being a church connected to our wider community, using our building & land as a place of welcome and intentionally hosting and running events & spaces that build community and share the hope of the gospel.

We continue to seek ways of serving our wider community and making Christ known through welcome, hospitality and presence.

At Easter we trialled a very popular family-friendly Easter Craft Cafe, and as mentioned, our Christmas events and services were the busiest they had been for a number of years, with many attending from the wider community, including the return of the Rag-Wreath evening. It was also a privilege to host carol services and seasonal events for various external organisations, and support others, such as Carols at The Ship.

Other community highlights included our Macmillan Coffee Morning, the continuing ministry of the monthly Vintage Thursdays for those in later life, and celebrating our first wedding at St Paul's for at least five years in November.

With Gratitude and Hope

In every season, Christ has shown himself kind and faithful to us. As well as much that is visible, 'up front' or 'in the spotlight', let us thank him for every act of service, every answered prayer, every new beginning, and every quiet demonstration of love offered in his name.

Can I also express that I am so thankful for all who serve so generously across the life of the church. Whether it's leading a team, carrying a formal ministry role, or doing so much behind the scenes, I am so glad to be part of a church community that takes seriously its biblical identity as a body and a partnership.

In particular, our churchwardens, I'm thankful for **Fiona Geibel** and **Mike Derry**, who serve with much grace; our Administrator, **Sheila Pearce**, who administers cheerfully, helping the day-to-day life of the church to flourish; our cleaner, **Christine**, whose steady and faithful care of our buildings helps us provide a space that is the setting for so much of our ministry and welcome; our **PCC** and other committees and working groups, whose passion and unity I'm so grateful for.

It remains a real privilege to serve at St Paul's alongside **Revd Canon Elaine Bates** (whose generous contribution as Acting Treasurer alone is worth a thousand Gift Days!), **Revd Dr Sarah Richardson** (who we are thrilled to see released for exciting and challenging endeavours in Newbarns), **Revd Richard Goodfellow** (who is giving his time so joyfully across our Deanery for an interim period), and of course for the first half of the year, **Revd Simon Jones** (whose friendship and support I have been so grateful for during his curacy). Each one brings wisdom, faithfulness and generosity to the life of the church, and we are richly blessed by their ministry among us.

We give thanks for all God has done, and we look ahead with expectation to all that he will yet do in Barrow and beyond.

"Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us."

Ephesians 3:20

To God be the glory.

Revd Robin Ham

Priest-in-Charge, St Paul's Barrow

CHURCHWARDENS REPORT 2025

The focus of this report is on the PCC's responsibility for the fabric and property of St. Paul's Church.

The main headline, we are sorry to say, is that the sale of the Church Hall has not progressed as we would have liked. An offer was made and accepted, but is now stalled as we wait for the buyers to secure the appropriate planning permissions they require to proceed with the purchase.

The works on the church building set by the Quinquennial Report have therefore not commenced as we continue to wait for funds from the sale of the Church Hall.

We had a major water leak from an underground pipe which was damaged by a tree root. This resulted in an enormous volume of lost water over a period of time. Fortunately, our insurance policy covered the repair work, which has now been successfully completed.

We are pleased that the building is still in constant use throughout the week, servicing the needs of both church family and the local community.

At the start of the year, Robin was given a three month Sabbatical. During this time, we were encouraged to see various people from the church family step up to support in many different ways. We were pleased for Robin, and family, to be able to have this time for writing, reflection and rest.

Simon Jones substituted for Robin whilst he was on Sabbatical, before completing his curacy in the summer. We're thankful for the ways Simon served St Paul's over the three years he was with us, and we're pleased he is still in Barrow now serving with St Mark's and St George's.

In February, it was really special to be part of the commissioning service at St Aidan's for Sarah Richardson as Pioneer Minister for Newbarns, alongside her role as Associate Minister at St Paul's. In the autumn term we also saw the exciting beginnings of a Sunday evening gathering at St Aidan's, as people met to do the Alpha Course.

Once again, we would reiterate our comment from last year that it has been a privilege to be part of the team here at St. Paul's. We appreciate the continuing support and encouragement given by the church family to our endeavours as churchwardens.

We especially give thanks to God for all the ways people sacrificially serve, in the sharing of their skills, the giving of their time, energy and finances, all for the sake of Jesus and the building of His church.

Fiona Geibel and Mike Derry
Churchwardens 2025-2026

April 2026

Acting Treasurer's Report 2025

2025 saw a sustained picture of generous giving following the stewardship campaign in 2023, which will be revisited in early 2026 when we propose to introduce the Parish Giving Scheme as a way of giving for all new regular givers and any current givers who feel able to transfer. This scheme has the advantage that the Gift Aid is collected for us and, in time, it will simplify the role of the treasurer.

The year end saw that we again had a surplus of income over expenditure, though in part this was because we have been unable to progress some of the work recommended in the Quinquennial report, which will incur significant costs. It has been difficult to find contractors willing and able to quote for the work needed. Nonetheless, we are grateful for the generous, even sacrificial, giving from so many people and will continue to steward it wisely in line with the vision priorities. As we seek to play our part in sharing the Good News in word and action.

In 2025 we fully implemented our commitment to giving to 4 Partners in Mission (New Growth Ministries in Zimbabwe, Andrew and Debbie in Turkey, Lydia on an island in the Indian Ocean, Network Youth Church in Barrow) and were overjoyed to meet Lydia on her home leave. The church hall sale has still not been completed.

Grants towards the work of The Harbour and Monday Crew were received from the diocese and some of the latter will be used to subsidise the Youth weekend away in May 2026.

Each year brings new opportunities to give to God's work as well as new challenges in stewarding our financial resources. We are hugely grateful to those who support the stewardship of our church finances, whether counting and banking money, administering Gift Aid recovery or facilitating other financial administration and also those who serve on the Finance committee and the PCC.

Elaine Bates
Acting Treasurer



Annual Report to the PCC and to the APCM 2025

1. The Parish Safeguarding Officer

The Parish Safeguarding Officer for St Paul's Church Barrow-in-Furness is;

Mrs Tracy Graham, Tel: 07786438357, Email: tracyj22.tg@googlemail.com,

I have completed the following training:

Basic Safeguarding
Foundation Safeguarding
Leadership Safeguarding
Raising Awareness of Domestic Abuse
Suicide Awareness

2. Safer Recruitment, and Training

Our parish supports the following groups working with children and young people, and with adults who are vulnerable:

J7 - Activities for children during the 10 o'clock service.

We have J7 Adventurers for ages 3 to 7. J7 Crew for ages 8 to 11. Rooted ages 11+ school year 7 to 9. There is a creche for under 3's with their parents in the lounge or space at the back of the church.

WLTD0? – Dads and Children Aged 0 to 11 (end of Y6) every third Saturday in the month from 10.00 to 11.45.

Open the Book – Groups visit local schools to perform stories from the Bible and share their meaning.

Easter Experience – Schools visit Church to hear about and discuss the Easter Story

Happy Tots Nursery – Groups of children visit fortnightly to enjoy stories from the Bible; learn about Jesus and learn about the church and its work.

Visits to Church – Groups e.g., schools visit church for special services, assemblies or activities.

Home Communion – Held on request for individuals who are not able to attend church.

Vintage Thursdays- Craft, conversation & chat for those later in life.

Hot Chocolate Mondays – This is a drop in for children and families on their way home from school.

Monday Crew- is for children aged 7 to 11 and runs from 6.15pm to 7.30pm, this was held until the end of term July 2025.

The Harbour – This is a parent baby and toddler group; there are an average of 25 families attending each week with many more registered.

Youth – This is for youths aged 11+ (school year 7 to 9). It started in September 2025 and is held on a Monday night during term time 6.30pm to 8pm.

The leaders and volunteers working with our groups have all been safely recruited according to the Church's national guidance.

We continued with safeguarding training to the level that people required. Training is always ongoing. I will continue to support everyone to ensure they have received the level of training required by the Church.

The DBS checks are carried out where required and the register is regularly updated with checks being carried out for members of the church working with children or vulnerable adults for the first time, or those whose checks have reached the 3-year deadline for renewal. I have been helping people who do not have access online to complete their checks on a one-to-one basis.

3. Church Policy and Guidance

All parishes are required to have formally adopted the House of Bishops 'Promoting a Safer Church; Safeguarding Policy statement', and Church of England safeguarding policy and guidance.

This policy statement was adopted by the PCC at a meeting on 12th March 2018 and was reviewed on 10th March 2025. Details of this are on the poster displayed in the lounge which also included contact details for parish safeguarding in St Pauls church.

St Paul's Safeguarding Policy for Children and Vulnerable Adults has also been reviewed and updated. This is now a single policy for both children and vulnerable adults and it was reviewed at a meeting of the PCC on 7th May 2025. This is displayed on the website and copies are available from the office on request.

I have developed a spreadsheet with all training and DBS information on. It has formulas input so they highlight in red when due so management of renewals will be easier to see going forward. I started the Parish Dashboard and we are at level two. Our action plan for 2026 and safeguarding action summary are attached in separate reports. In 2026 I will be completing the Safeguarding hub training and bringing all the safeguarding training records onto the parish dashboard. I will be continuing to help St Aidens with their safeguarding requirements

4. Church Practice

Any safeguarding concerns should be reported to the Parish Safeguarding Officer, the Churchwardens or the Clergy. There are also posters in church giving other points of contact. The Diocese Safeguarding Adviser can be contacted for advice where needed.

Risk assessments for activities involving children, young people or vulnerable adults are regularly reviewed and updated and the Parish Safeguarding Officer, the Churchwardens or the Clergy should be notified of any concerns regarding the safety or welfare of church members and/or visitors.

Everyone has their part to play in keeping our church and community safe and I would like to thank you all for your help with this. It is very much a team effort and your support is invaluable.

Finally, we give thanks to The Lord as He guides and protects us in our work with both adults and children. His blessings are many and we know that we are nothing without Him.

Tracy Graham

Parish Safeguarding Officer

February 2026

**St Paul's PCC
Receipts and Payments Account 2025**

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Endowment	Designated	Total	2025	2024
Incoming Resources							
Voluntary Income:	105,386.25	637.06		983.30		107,006.61	100,867.75
Gift Aid Tax Recovered	22,102.32					22,102.32	15,760.32
Grants				2,850.00		2,850.00	3,057.60
Legacies							
Activities generating funds:							
Special Efforts & Sales							
Rent Income	677.00					677.00	1,560.00
Charitable Activities:							
Service Fees	1,495.00					1,495.00	2,129.00
Other	30.00					30.00	49.37
Investment Income:							
Interest	1,997.49					1,997.49	1,397.70
Total Incoming Resources	131,688.06	637.06		3,833.30		136,158.42	124,821.74
Resources Expended							
Parish Share	55,426.00					55,426.00	56,687.00
People	13,668.51					13,668.51	19,835.08
Where we meet	22,484.23					22,484.23	13,661.59
Ministry & Mission	1,311.70	710.61		2,574.39		4,596.70	4,374.15
Giving Away	4,519.32					4,519.32	4,175.15
Office & Admin	5,179.94					5,179.94	4,207.29
Cost of Generating Funds							
	102,589.70	710.61		2,574.39		105,874.70	102,940.26
Net (Outgoing)/Incoming resources	29,098.36	-73.55		1,258.91		30,283.72	21,881.48
Balance brought forward	47,855.21	1,318.32	621.00	3,617.25		53,411.78	31,530.30
Funds transferred							
Balance Carried Forward	76,953.57	1,244.77	621.00	4,876.16		83,695.50	53,411.78

Statement of Assets and Liabilities

	2025	2024
Current Assets		
Cash at Bank and in hand	£83,695.50	£53,411.78
Current Liabilities		
Deposit refundable	£43.00	£43.00

Fund Movements in 2025

	At 01/01/25	Receipts	Payments	At 31/12/25
General Funds	47,855.21	131,688.06	101,389.70	78,153.57
Restricted Funds				
Flower Fund	190.00			190.00
WLTDO	220.32	637.06	710.61	146.77
Hardship Fund	908.00			908.00
	1,318.32	637.06	710.61	1,244.77
Designated Funds				
Digital Innovation Grant	500.00			500.00
Mothers' Union for Harbour	400.00		337.15	62.85
Cumbria CF	500.00		500.00	-
Growth Fund - Monday Crew	1,870.00	1,250.00	1,376.44	1,743.56
The Harbour	347.25	2,583.30	1,560.80	1,369.75
	3,617.25	3,833.30	3,774.39	3,676.16
Endowment Funds	621.00			621.00
Andrews & Knights Bequest	621.00			621.00
	53,411.78	136,158.42	105,874.70	83,695.50



Independent Examiner's Report To the Trustees of St Paul's PCC

I report on the accounts of St Paul's Church for the year ended 31 December 2024 which are set out on pages 16 and 17.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The church's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The church's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed. It is my responsibility to:-

- Examine the accounts under section 145 pf of the 2011 Act;
- Follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commissioners under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- State whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the 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 you as trustees concerning 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 matter has come to my attention:
Which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements

- To keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
- To prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting.
- Requirements of the 2011 Act have not been met; or
- To which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Anita Brook – FCCA



R F Miller & Co
Doubletree Court
10A Cavendish Street
Ulverston
LA12 7AD

Accounts



St Paul's Church, Barrow in Furness

**Annual Reports and Accounts
For the year to 31 December 2024**

Charity Registration: 1132621



St Paul's Church, Barrow-in-Furness

**Trustees Annual Reports & Accounts
for the year ended
31st December 2024**

Charity Registration: 1132621

ST PAUL'S CHURCH,
HAWCOAT LANE,
BARROW-IN-FURNESS
LA14 4HD

Aim and Purpose

St Paul's Parochial Church Council (the "PCC") has the responsibility of cooperating with the Incumbent, the Reverend Robin Ham ('priest-in-charge'), in 'promoting in the ecclesiastical parish and benefice and the Diocese, and also at home and abroad the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical'. (This is as stated in the Parochial Church Council (Powers) Measure 1956.) The PCC is also responsible for maintaining the church building and the church hall. This overall mission is expressed in the following mission statement:

Empowered by God's Spirit, we're a community passionate about giving everyone the opportunity to hear, enjoy, & live out the good news of Jesus - for God's glory in Barrow & beyond.

MEMBERSHIP

The PCC is a charity registered with the Charity Commission. Members of the PCC are either ex officio or elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) in accordance with the Church Representation Rules.

PCC MEMBERS

During the year, the following served as members of the PCC:

Incumbent:

Revd Robin Ham

Associate Minister:

Revd Canon Elaine Bates

Revd Dr Sarah Richardson (from 4th Dec 2024)

Curates:

Revd Dr Sarah Richardson (until 4th Dec 2024)

Revd Simon Jones

Church Wardens:

Mr Mike Derry

Mrs Fiona Geibel

Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO):

Mrs Tracy Graham

Representatives on General Synod:

Mrs Zoe Ham

Representatives on Deanery Synod:

Mrs Maureen Aubrey
Mrs Eleanor Ledesma

Elected Members:

Mr Derek Bradley (until 31st Dec 2024)
Mrs Tracy Graham
Mrs Lesley Hubbard
Mrs Julie Jones
Mr Howard LeRoy
Mr Nathan Mair
Mr Peter Molyneux
Mr Solomon Praveen
Mr Callum Whitehall

Treasurer:

Revd Canon Elaine Bates (Acting Treasurer)

COMMITTEES

Standing Committee

This is the only committee required by law. It has the power to transact the business of the PCC between meetings, subject to any directions given by the Council.

Finance Committee

This committee oversees the general financial matters of St Paul's Church by monitoring income and expenditure and the financial implications of PCC decisions.

Building Committee

This committee has responsibility for maintenance of the church buildings and fabric.

Safeguarding

Our safeguarding officer is Mrs Tracy Graham, with Mrs Fiona Geibel helping her by overseeing safeguarding particularly for our J7 children's ministry.

CHURCH ATTENDANCE & ELECTORAL ROLL

At the time of writing this, there are 73 adult parishioners on the new Church Electoral Roll, of whom 27 are not resident within the parish.

(Every six years a parish is asked to prepare a new electoral roll 'from scratch' to give an accurate sense of church community numbers. We had 13 new people join the electoral roll who were not on last year, but others have died, moved away, left the church, or were not able to complete a form. Other regular members of the church community choose not to go on the roll.)

Previous years' electoral roll:

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2023	2024
Electoral Roll	102	80*	77	73	68	64	55*	52	57	64	62	71	73*

** Indicates when a new electoral roll is issued (every 6 years all electoral roll members have to sign-up afresh and a new roll is issue).*

FORMAL MEETINGS

The full PCC met 6 times during the year in their usual pattern of meeting, with 1 extraordinary meeting in April 2024 to approve the annual accounts. A PCC Vision Day was held on 9th November.

The Finance committee met in between meetings where necessary and reported back to the PCC. An EcoChurch Working Group also met between some meetings and reported back. Good attendance was had throughout.

Review of 2024 from Rev Robin Ham, Chair of the PCC

As we look back on 2024, it's wonderful to see how God has been at work—in our gatherings, on our frontlines, through new ventures, and in quiet faithfulness. Amidst change and challenge, we've seen encouragement, new connections, deepening discipleship, and fresh opportunities. Our mission remains unchanged:

'Empowered by God's Spirit, we're a community passionate about giving everyone the opportunity to hear, enjoy, and live out the good news of Jesus—for God's glory in Barrow and beyond.'

Back in 2022, we launched five 'vision priorities' to help us focus our time, energy, and resources as a church in carrying out this mission. They help us shape how we worship, gather, pray, serve, spend, and reach out.

1) Transforming Gatherings that Grow & Sow

We commit to enabling our services, courses & Connect Groups to be places where we abide in Jesus together, whether we're exploring God for the first time or growing as disciples.

Our main gatherings continued to offer opportunities to gather for worship together, with teaching that was rooted in Scripture and relevant to our lives, whether in our popular **Sunday 10am service**, or **Sunday 8am**, and **Wednesday 10am** which has seen gentle growth. From **Lamentations** during Lent (*Finding Mercy on the Way of Sorrow*), to **1 Corinthians** (*Truly Spiritual*) and our **Frontline-Focused** series, to the reassuring truths of **Psalm 23** in the summer months, we've been challenged, comforted, and called onwards in our worship & discipleship. It's been great to see new faces become integrated into the church community this year, indicated by 14 new members on the electoral roll.

Our Connect Groups used the **Romans Course** resource in early 2024, an encouraging opportunity to be rooted in God's Word using a DVD and discussion. However, in September, we transitioned from fortnightly Connect Groups to a new rhythm called 'On the Way', with termly midweek courses in the church building, initially using **Discipleship Explored** and looking at Philippians. The vision was fresh energy, a fixed-length and weekly accessible format, with a warm welcome and familiar location for new faces.

We also continued to host **Alpha** —twice this year—as a safe, open space for people exploring Christianity. Alpha has remained a key way that people encounter Jesus and know the hope of the gospel in our community.

In Holy Week, we had a special Maundy Thursday *Broken for You* meal, as well as Good Friday's reflective *Worship at the Cross*, led by Sunny & Jessica, and then the joy of **Easter Day adult baptisms**. Further adult baptisms were also celebrated in November with a special bring & share lunch featuring home-made Iranian food, following on from a Farsi-speaking **Christianity Explored** course.

Our **Twenties & Thirties** network continues to be a valuable space for younger adults to connect and grow in faith together, meeting regularly and building community across Furness.

2) Frontline-Focused

We commit to sending, equipping & inspiring our community to live and speak the grace of Jesus in our everyday situations.

This year, our focus on our 'Frontlines' became more visible and practical. Our *Frontlines* teaching series in May got us thinking: '*Are we chameleons, hedgehogs, or confident everyday witnesses?*' We heard interviews & testimonies from across our church community, before praying & commissioning each other to 'go' with God's Spirit on Pentecost Sunday. We aim to equip people to live for Christ wherever they are—at school, home, work, the gym, the café queue or hospital ward.

We've continued to pray for each other in a variety of settings, especially at **Powerhouse**, **Night Prayer** on Zoom, using our **Church Prayer Diary**, and with the Deanery at **Firepit** (see later). Wherever we go, we go with God. That's the heartbeat of our vision.

3) Growing Younger

We commit to seeing a lost generation of children, young people & families discover the love of Jesus Christ.

There's been a buzz of life in our children's and families' ministry this year. For example, there's been encouragements in our existing ministries, with new team members of the town-wide **Open the Book** ministry and new endeavours with **Who Let The Dads Out?**, such as a special All Together service for Father's Day. Our Sunday **J7** groups on Sundays have seen some new faces, as well as a popular **creche**, and we're grateful to all who serve week-by-week helping our children to grow to know, love & follow Jesus.

In March, we hosted the first **Life Exhibition** in Cumbria, with Counties, an amazing interactive week that welcomed over 500 children from 12 schools to explore Jesus' invitation to life in all its fullness. A huge team effort and a significant moment of witness!

Hot Chocolate Mondays—initially aimed at secondary schoolers—has evolved into a regular meeting point for families, many of them with **primary-age children** connected to **St Paul's School**. It's become a gentle & consistent way of being present in young lives.

Back in 2023, we had launched **Monday Crew**, a midweek group for 7–11s. Every week involves games, snacks, Bible talks and discussion, with larger termly family-friendly events (Pancake Party, Mini Olympics, Christmas Party) publicised across our families'

network. A steady core of 10–15 now attend regularly, many in Year 6—so we’re already praying and planning how to serve them well as they move to secondary school in 2025.

After Easter, we launched **The Harbour**, our new baby & toddler group, especially to support parents and guardians. A committed team—many of whom once benefitted from a church toddler group themselves—now offer that same welcome to others. Around **30 families** attended our Harbour Christmas Party!

Our connection with **St Paul’s School** continues to flourish through worship, events and prayer. We also said farewell to Mrs Ruth Webster, long-standing headteacher, and welcomed Mrs Jane Newby as our new head.

4) Partnership Beyond Our Walls

We commit to playing our part in Jesus’ great commission by training & partnering with others to help people become Christians & grow as followers of Jesus across Barrow & beyond.

We’ve been privileged to partner with others across Barrow and beyond this year. We’ve especially worked with **St Aidan’s in Newbarns** through a growing relationship that has included a **Community Christingle**, **Light Party**, **Easter Extravaganza**, and a well-attended **BBQ** in July, all in partnership with **Network Youth Church** and **CAMEO**. We’re thrilled that **Sarah Richardson** successfully completed her curacy in the summer and was licensed at the end of the year as **Pioneer Minister for Newbarns**, while remaining part of the team at St Paul’s as an Associate Minister.

In July we also celebrated **Sunny & Jessica’s** completion of their 10-month **Ministry Internship** with us. Their joy and servant-heartedness have left a real mark, and we sent them back to Taiwan with our prayers and thanks.

In **November**, we introduced new **global mission partners** as part of our first **Partnership Sunday**—and committed to praying for them each week. We thank the Partnership working group for all their efforts in getting us to this point and look forward to this being a mutually-beneficial relationship.

Regionally, we’ve renewed our sense of shared mission across the **Deanery**. Our clergy serve across the town, and we welcomed Revd Richard Goodfellow to our team for an interim period. Other highlights included hosting the Diocese’s six-month Discipleship Project, as well as partaking in a **Deanery Confirmation Service** at St Mark’s with Bishop Rob, and joining a **‘Whole Bible in One Hour’** event in January at St Mary’s Walney.

From September, we've also been part of the new **Deanery Firepit event** —a monthly gathering around worship and prayer for the sake of mission.

Compassion Sunday in May reminded us again of the global Church, and how we're called to walk alongside the vulnerable and poor, as we heard from **Compassion UK**.

5) Open Doors & Hearts to our Community

We commit to being a church connected to our wider community, using our building & land as a place of welcome and intentionally hosting and running events & spaces that build community and share the hope of the gospel.

We simplified some of our festival service offerings (particularly at Christmas), and yet found this helped us better focus and connect: our 2024 Christmas services were some of the best-attended we've seen post-COVID, with Family Carols & Christingle and Carols by Candlelight both drawing in many families, young people, and newcomers.

From monthly **Vintage Thursdays** for those in later life, to our **Macmillan Coffee Morning**, our **Harvest collection** for Furness Homeless Support Group, from popular **school carol services**, we continue to seek creative, practical ways to welcome, bless and point to Jesus.

Creation care has also been a growing theme. We were thrilled to receive our **Silver Eco Church Award** in October—a testament to the faithful work of our Eco Church team. With events like the **Big Garden Clear-Up** and the joyful **Rewilding Party** as part of **The Great Big Green Week**, we're discovering how looking after God's world is part of the calling of God's people.

Grateful Hearts

This year began with challenges—especially financially—but we shared our needs, prayed, and saw God provide. We're deeply thankful for every person who gave, responded, and stepped out in trust.

More recently, in **November**, the PCC gathered for a **Vision Morning** to pray and discuss how we steward the sale of the church hall for mission and considered our needs going forward. It was a significant time of discernment and hope.

We're also grateful for all those who quietly make St Paul's what it is. A special thanks to **Tracy Graham**, our Safeguarding Officer, who was recently honoured at a diocesan thanksgiving service. Her faithful work ensures St Paul's remains a safe and welcoming place for all, with national news stories highlighting just how crucial this is.

We're especially thankful for our **churchwardens, Fiona Geibel and Mike Derry**, who have served with wisdom, grace and steady hands through significant moments this year.

A huge thanks also to our **staff team**—to **Sheila Pearce**, who quietly and cheerfully keeps so much of the church ticking behind the scenes, often going far beyond the job description; and to **Christine**, whose faithful care of our buildings makes everything else possible.

It continues to be a joy to serve alongside **Revd Canon Elaine Bates, Revd Dr Sarah Richardson**, and **Revd Simon Jones**, each bringing such generous, joyful, and sacrificial leadership. We are deeply blessed by their gifts and their hearts.

To everyone who welcomed, brewed, cleaned, sang, planted, prayed, preached, led, served and loved—thank you. You are the church. And Christ is building something beautiful among us and through us.

"I thank my God every time I remember you... because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now."
(*Philippians 1:3-5*)

To God be the glory,
Rev Robin Ham
Vicar, St Paul's Church Barrow

CHURCH WARDEN REPORT 2024

The focus of this report is on the PCC's responsibility for the fabric and property of St. Paul's Church.

We have been thrilled to see new people joining our Church Family, the excitement of new converts and the ongoing development of new ministries which means that the church building is in constant use throughout the week.

The main headline has been the Silver Award to the church due to the unstinting hard work of the Eco group in developing the church grounds. This has included partnering with outside groups to continue the development of the woodland area to the rear of the church building.

In addition to this the sale of the Church Hall has progressed, with an offer made and accepted. This potentially means that funds may be available to facilitate the much-needed repairs to the church fabric, identified in the Quinquennial Report.

The PCC met to seek God for a vision of how any funds from the sale could be used to further the work of the church in addition to repairs and refurbishments. This was a very positive meeting with many ideas aired and discussed.

We are hopeful that the sale will be completed in the first half of 2025.

Once again, we would reiterate our comment from last year that it has been a pleasure to be part of the team here at St. Paul's and for the continuing support and encouragement given by the church family to our endeavours as wardens. We especially thank God for all the ways people sacrificially serve, and how so many generously responded to the financial needs highlighted at the start of the year.

Fiona Geibel and Mike Derry
April 2025

Acting Treasurer's Report 2024

In the 2023 report it was noted that we needed to give serious consideration to increasing income and /or decreasing expenditure as well as seeking grant funding.

A prayerful stewardship campaign that looked for a specific increase in the number of regular givers and increasing giving from current givers as their response to God's generosity more than met our hopes and as a result we have moved from having a deficit on the year in 2023 to a surplus in 2024. We acknowledge with gratitude that this has been through the generosity and sacrificial giving of many.

Fuel prices have dropped slightly and we benefited from a large VAT rebate on our gas bill (as a charity we should only pay 5% not 20% on fuel bills).

Nearly all of our giving is now through regular standing order and that helps us to manage cash flow with more confidence.

The quinquennial inspection of the church building identified a number of areas that need to be addressed, some of which will involve considerable cost so we will continue to steward our finances as wisely as possible. The church hall is under offer but as yet there is no date for completion of the sale.

Thanks to all who support the stewardship of our church finances, whether counting and banking money, administering Gift Aid recovery or facilitating other financial administration

Elaine Bates
Acting Treasurer



The Annual Report to the PCC and to the APCM 2024

1. The Parish Safeguarding Officer

The Parish Safeguarding Officer for St Paul's Church Barrow-in-Furness is;

Mrs Tracy Graham, Tel: 07786438357, Email: tracyj22.tg@googlemail.com,

I have completed the following training:
Modern Slavery Training and Parish Dashboard training

2. Safer Recruitment, and Training

Our parish supports the following groups working with children and young people, and with adults who are vulnerable:

J7 - Activities for children during the 10 o'clock service.

WLTD0? – Dads and Children Aged 0 to 11 (end of Y6) every third Saturday in the month from 10.00 to 11.45.

Open the Book – Groups visit local schools to perform stories from the Bible and share their meaning.

Life Exhibition – we hosted this instead of the Easter experience. This is an interactive multimedia experience where primary school children discovered the story and teachings of Jesus.

Happy Tots Nursery – Groups of children visit fortnightly to enjoy stories from the Bible; learn about Jesus and learn about the church and its work.

Visits to Church – Groups e.g., schools visit church for special services, assemblies or activities.

Home Communion – Held on request for individuals who are not able to attend church.

Vintage Thursdays- Craft, conversation & chat for those later in life.

Hot Chocolate Mondays – **This** is a drop in for children on there way home from school

Monday Crew- is for children aged 7 to 11 and runs from 6.15pm to 7.30pm.

New events for 2024 are: -

Harbour – This is parent baby and toddler group, there are an average of 25 families attending each week with many more registered.

The leaders and volunteers working with our groups have all been safely recruited according to the Church's national guidance.

2024 we continued with safeguarding training to the level that people required. Training is always ongoing. I will continue to support everyone to ensure they have received the level of training required by the Church.

The DBS checks are carried out where required and the register is regularly updated with checks being carried out for members of the church working with children or vulnerable adults for the first time, or those whose checks have reached the 3-year deadline for renewal. I have been helping people who do not have access online to complete their checks on a one-to-one basis.

3. Church Policy and Guidance

All parishes are required to have formally adopted the House of Bishops 'Promoting a Safer Church; Safeguarding Policy statement', and Church of England safeguarding policy and guidance.

This policy statement was adopted by the PCC at a meeting on 12th March 2018 and was reviewed on 10th March 2025. Details of this are on the poster displayed in the lounge which also included contact details for parish safeguarding in St Pauls church.

St Paul's Safeguarding Policy for Children and Vulnerable Adults has also been reviewed and updated. This is now a single policy for both children and vulnerable adults and it was reviewed at a meeting of the PCC on 10th March 2025 Copies are available from the office on request. I have developed a spreadsheet with all training and DBS information on. It has formulas input so they highlight in red when due so management of renewals will be easier to see going forward. I started the Parish Dashboard and we are at level two. Our action plan for 2025 and safeguarding action summary are attached in separate reports. In 2025 I will be renewing my safeguarding leadership, awareness of domestic abuse and safer recruitment training. I will also be looking at helping St Aidens with their safeguarding requirements

5. Church Practice

Any safeguarding concerns should be reported to the Parish Safeguarding Officer, the Churchwardens or the Clergy. There are also posters in church giving other points of contact. The Diocese Safeguarding Adviser can be contacted for advice where needed.

Risk assessments for activities involving children, young people or vulnerable adults are regularly reviewed and updated and the Parish Safeguarding Officer, the Churchwardens or the Clergy should be notified of any concerns regarding the safety or welfare of church members and/or visitors.

Everyone has their part to play in keeping our church and community safe and I would like to thank you all for your help with this. It is very much a team effort and your support is invaluable. Finally, we give thanks to The Lord as He guides and protects us in our work with both adults and children. His blessings are many and we know that we are nothing without Him.

Tracy Graham Parish Safeguarding Officer

**St Paul's PCC
Receipts and Payments Account 2024**

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Endowment	Designated	Total	2024	2023
Incoming Resources							
Voluntary Income:	99,399.93	974.12		493.7	100,867.75	65,865.91	
Gift Aid Tax Recovered	15,760.32				15,760.32	14,782.20	
Grants				3057.6	3,057.60	12,643.00	
Legacies							
Activities generating funds:							
Special Efforts & Sales							
Rent Income	1,560.00				1,560.00	376.00	
Charitable Activities:							
Service Fees	2,129.00				2,129.00	1,545.00	
Other	49.37				49.37	55.50	
Investment Income:							
Interest	1,397.70				1,397.70	1,155.18	
Total Incoming Resources	120,296.32	974.12		3,551.30	124,821.74	96,422.79	
Resources Expended							
Parish Share	56,687.00				56,687.00	52,291.00	
People	17,445.08	2390			19,835.08	15,864.55	
Where we meet	13,149.24			512.35	13,661.59	26,539.83	
Ministry & Mission	2,997.79	979.91		396.45	4,374.15	3,446.14	
Giving Away	4,174.79	0.36			4,175.15	3,390.57	
Office & Admin	4,207.29				4,207.29	4,455.00	
Cost of Generating Funds							
	98,661.19	3,370.27		908.80	102,940.26	105,987.09	
Net (Outgoing)/Incoming resources	21,635.13	-2,396.15		2,642.50	21,881.48	-9,564.30	
Balance brought forward	26,220.08	3,714.47	621.00	974.75	31,530.30	41,094.60	
Funds transferred							
Balance Carried Forward	47855.21	1318.32	621.00	3617.25	53,411.78	31,530.30	

Statement of Assets and Liabilities

	2024	2023
Current Assets		
Cash at Bank and in hand	£ 53,411.78	£31,530.30
Current Liabilities		
Deposit refundable	£43.00	£43.00

Fund Movements in 2024

	At 1/1/24	Receipts	Payments	At 31/12/24
General Funds	26,220.08	120,296.32	98,661.19	47,855.21
Restricted Funds				
Alpha	17.50		17.50	0.00
Building	0.00			0.00
Bus Ministry	0.00			0.00
Charity Donations	0.36		0.36	0.00
Flower Fund	190.00			190.00
PAIS/Interns	2390.00		2390.00	0.00
WLTD0	208.61	974.12	962.41	220.32
Hardship Fund	908.00			908.00
	3714.47	974.12	3370.27	1318.32
Designated Funds				
Digital Innovation Grant	500.00			500.00
Seedcorn Hot Choc Monday	250.00		250.00	0.00
Great Big Green Week		287.60	287.60	0.00
Mothers' Union for Harbour		400.00		400.00
Cumbria CF		500.00		500.00
Growth Fund - Monday Crew		1870.00		1870.00
The Harbour		493.70	146.45	347.25
National CofE Fuel Scheme	224.75		224.75	0.00
	974.75	3551.30	908.80	3617.25
Endowment Funds	621.00			621.00
Andrews & Knights Bequest	621.00			621.00
	31530.30	124821.74	102940.26	53411.78



Independent Examiner's Report To the Trustees of St Paul's PCC

I report on the accounts of St Paul's Church for the year ended 31 December 2024 which are set out on pages 16 and 17.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The church's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The church's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed. It is my responsibility to:-

- Examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- Follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commissioners under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- State whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the 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 you as trustees concerning 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.

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In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:
Which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting
- requirements of the 2011 Act have not been met; or

- to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Anita Brook - FCCA

Anita

R F Miller & Co
Doubletree Court
10A Cavendish Street
Ulverston
LA12 7AD

Accounts



St Paul's Church, Barrow in Furness

**Annual Reports and Accounts
For the year to 31 December 2023**

Charity Registration: 1132621



St Paul's Church, Barrow-in-Furness

**Trustees Annual Reports &
Accounts
for the year ended
31st December 2023**

Charity Registration: 1132621

ST PAUL'S CHURCH,
HAWCOAT LANE,
BARROW-IN-FURNESS
LA14 4HD

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St Paul's Parochial Church Council (the "PCC") has the responsibility of cooperating with the Incumbent, the Reverend Robin Ham ('priest-in-charge'), in 'promoting in the ecclesiastical parish and benefice and the Diocese, and also at home and abroad the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical'. (This is as stated in the Parochial Church Council (Powers) Measure 1956.) The PCC is also responsible for maintaining the church building and the church hall. This overall mission is expressed in the following mission statement:

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Associate Priest:

Revd Canon Elaine Bates

Curates:

Revd Dr Sarah Richardson
Revd Simon Jones

Church Wardens:

Miss Jackie Dower (until July 2023)
Mr Mike Derry
Mrs Fiona Geibel (from July 2023)

Representatives on General Synod:

Mrs Zoe Ham

Representatives on Deanery Synod:

Mrs Maureen Aubrey
Mrs Tracy Graham (until May 2023)
Mrs Eleanor Ledesma (from September 2023)

Elected Members:

Mr Derek Bradley

Mrs Julia Burns
Miss Susan Cowell
Mrs Debbie Gardner (until May 2023)
Mrs Tracy Graham (from May 2023)
Mrs Lesley Hubbard (from May 2023)
Mrs Julie Jones
Mr Howard LeRoy
Mr Peter Molyneux
Mrs Sheila Pearce (until May 2023)
Mr Callum Whitehall

Treasurer:

Revd Canon Elaine Bates (Acting Treasurer)

COMMITTEES

Standing Committee

This is the only committee required by law. It has the power to transact the business of the PCC between meetings, subject to any directions given by the Council.

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This committee oversees the general financial matters of St Paul's Church by monitoring income and expenditure and the financial implications of PCC decisions.

Building Committee

This committee has responsibility for maintenance of the church buildings and fabric.

Safeguarding

Our safeguarding officer is Mrs Tracy Graham, with Mrs Fiona Geibel helping her by overseeing safeguarding particularly for our J7 children's ministry.

CHURCH ATTENDANCE & ELECTORAL ROLL

At the time of writing this, there are 70 parishioners on the Church Electoral Roll, of whom 25 are not resident within the parish. 8 people have been added in the last year.

The Average Weekly Attendance for **January-December 2023** was:

Sunday	9 at 8.00 am Holy Communion service 49 at 10.00 am Sunday worship and 11 children under the age of 16 yrs.
Wednesday	9 at 10.00 am Holy Communion service

At a previous APCM, a request was made as to whether this document could indicate previous figures too, so we have included the following.

Previous years' service attendance:

	Sun 8am	Sun 10am	Children u16	Weds 10am
Year 2023	9	49	11	9
Year 2022	11	37	14	10
Year 2021	11	41	14	10
Year 2020	11	36	7	13
Year 2019	13	33	4	12
Year 2018	10	32	2	11
Year 2017	13	36	6	11

Previous years' electoral roll:

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Electoral Roll	102	80*	77	73	68	64	55*	52	57	64	62

* Indicates when a new electoral roll is issued (every 5 years all electoral roll members have to sign-up afresh and a new roll is issue).

FORMAL MEETINGS

The full PCC met 5 times during the year in their usual pattern of meeting, with 3 extraordinary meetings to particularly discuss Living in Love and Faith.

The Finance committee met in between meetings where necessary and reported back to the PCC. An EcoChurch Working Group also met between some meetings and reported back. Good attendance was had throughout.

Review of 2023 from Rev Robin Ham, Chair of the PCC

Once again I have structured this report around our five 'vision priorities' for 2022-25, which we discerned in 2022. However, in the last year the PCC we have added to this by also agreeing a new mission statement, which acts as a compass and overall focus for our work in those five areas:

Empowered by God's Spirit, we're a community passionate about giving everyone the opportunity to hear, enjoy, & live out the good news of Jesus for God's glory in Barrow & beyond.

Transforming Gatherings that Grow & Sow

Our gatherings are such an important part of our church life.

We have continued to have two main weekly services, Sundays at 8am & 10am, as well as a fortnightly service, Wednesday at 10am. Our Sunday 10am service has seen a steady increase in regular participants, whilst Sunday 8am & Wednesday 10am has seen a small decline, chiefly due to ill health and immobility. We now have five Connect Groups meeting midweek, as well as weekly Night Prayer on Thursdays on Zoom at 9pm with others from across the Barrow Mission Community.

On Sundays we have engaged with various parts of God's word. In both January-February and June-July we considered from Exodus how God is revealing himself as a God who rescues for a relationship. We also continued our steady journey through Luke's gospel in February-March. In Holy Week we ran a special '7 Words from the Cross' service on Good Friday, and on Easter Sunday we were delighted to baptise six adults.

In June we took a week to think about our digital life as disciples of Jesus, following Eleanor Ledesma's Diocese-wide initiative, Digital Sunday. Over the school summer holidays we had a series called 'None Like Him', looking at the attributes of God, with some brilliant all age talks given by Callum Whitehall. During September-October we began a series in 1 Corinthians, 'Truly Spiritual', before engaging with Ecclesiastes in November and the powerful message that life is 'hebel', or vapour. During Advent Sarah Richardson compellingly led us through a much-appreciated series looking at the characters in Jesus' genealogy, 'Muddy Boots Welcome'.

We're grateful for all those who preach, lead services, lead us in our sung worship,

lead J7, serve on the AV desk, Welcome team and Refreshments team, as well as all manner of behind the scenes roles. It has been wonderful to have a number of people step up and use their gifts for the first time. In March we held a 'Serving on Sundays' afternoon to particularly encourage people to consider how they could use their gifts to serve in different ways at our Sunday services.

Prayer is a crucial part of any fruitful church - and we gather in a number of ways. For a number of years, a group of people had been meeting to pray on Monday mornings, particularly for ministry to children and families. This was relaunched as 'Powerhouse' and moved to the church lounge. We have also maintained a monthly Sunday late afternoon prayer gathering to pray for the life of the church.

Frontline-focused

In many ways this vision priority is the hardest to measure in a report such as this, as it refers to the work of the church as the 'scattered' people of God, rather than our services, activities and events.

However, our hope is that all our 'gathering' has the purpose of sending us out as the people of God, inspired, equipped and transformed by God's Spirit to live for the glory of God, wherever we have been placed.

We hope that this is a priority that runs through our different services and gatherings and becomes part of our 'DNA' as Christians. We are particularly conscious of not wanting to foster a culture 'busy Christians' who have no times for their colleagues, neighbours, family members, etc.

Growing Younger

It's been exciting to see this vision priority come to birth in different ways - and we continue to try to connect these different strands together...

Our J7 groups continue to be such an important means of discipling young people, overseen by Maureen Aubrey, Zoe Ham and Becca Whitehall. We continue to have two age-groups: J7 Adventurers (3-7s) and J7 Crew (8-11s). Alongside these we ran a number of associated events, including our annual Pancake Party and a J7 Movie & Pizza Night in June.

In early 2023 we relaunched the after school youth drop-in as Hot Chocolate Mondays (or Lemonade Mondays in the summer term!). This was initially aimed at serving secondary school students walking home, with the recognition that we have

very little contact with young people aged 12-16. Initially an outdoor 'stall', in September this began to meet in the church lounge with games and activities, with Simon Jones, Lesley & Tony Hubbard and Jackie Dower forming the nucleus of the team.

In the run-up to Easter 2023, an amazing team once again put on Experience Easter for the younger age groups of local primary schools, which was really appreciated by local schools. I'm thankful to Maureen Aubrey, Howard Le Roy, Julia Burns and Jackie Dower for overseeing this.

Significantly, in September we launched Monday Crew, a new Monday evening group for those aged 7-11 - 'fun, friends & faith', overseen by Fiona Geibel and a brilliant team. This has been a pioneering initiative and regularly has over 12 young people attending. As part of the weekly group, we also ran a Light Party around Halloween and a Christmas Party; both events were open to younger children and parents.

Who Let The Dads Out? continued each month, taking a break for August, and connects with a network of (mainly) dads and grandads. It was great see Howard LeRoy return to action after some time off for recovery, as he leads this with Jenny and Jackie Dower.

It was wonderful to join with St Paul's School in celebrating 180 years in the summer. Jackie Dower and Simon Jones now both serve as school governors, with Jackie taking on the role of chair. The school continue to come into church for monthly collective worship, carol services, a mock wedding, etc.

Partnership Beyond Our Walls

We continue to seek to play our part in the work of the gospel across Barrow and beyond.

Our two BMC curates, Sarah Richardson and Simon Jones, continue to serve across the Deanery as part of their ministry, whilst being based at St Paul's. After a year of serving as a deacon, Simon was ordained in July as prebyster by Bishop James in one of the Bishop's last ordinations before his retirement. We continue to pray for Simon as he seeks to faithfully exercise the ministry God has called him to, as well for ourselves, that each of us would use our gifts, time & passions in God's service.

We have hosted a number of events, helping to resource ministry and mission across the area. In January we hosted one of the touring 'God for All Roadshows',

with people from across Barrow & Furness coming to St Paul's to hear more from Bishop Rob about the refreshed Diocesan vision. Bishop Rob challenged us all to take the gospel melody and play it in our time and place.

In Lent Sarah Richardson organised a town-wide engagement with the Prayer Course, and it was good to host a group at St Paul's. In April we also hosted a meeting for local people to share their views about the next Bishop of Carlisle, as part of the Diocesan Discernment process. In the same month we were also part of the Anna Chaplaincy 'Holiday at Home' week, for those in later life unable to take holiday 'away', with one of the days held at St Paul's, coordinated by our Anna Chaplaincy 'friend', Julie Jones.

Members of the church continue to lead and serve as part of the Open The Book ministry dramatising Bible stories to primary schools. In July we hosted an OTB training event that saw team members from Walney, Ulverston, Millom & Coniston all attend.

During August, our Barrow Community Pastor, Opa Geibel, ran a Mental Health First Aid course, which St Paul's hosted and a number of St Paul's members took part in.

In September we were invited to host a monthly six-session Diocesan course, 'The Discipleship Project', with Bob & Mary Hoskins, as well as Nicky Smith from Carlisle Diocese. As well as St Paul's members engaging with this, there have also been attendees from across Furness & beyond.

Simon Jones has overseen our ministry with Farsi-speakers, a considerable number of whom began attending the church in summer 2022. He has also particularly worked with those at St Mark's Church, and led a discipleship programme alongside some Farsi-speaking leaders. A number of the participants were baptised at St Paul's or St Mark's. In summer 2023 many of these men were moved away from Barrow as part of their asylum process. We miss their presence in the St Paul's community, and feel it was a privilege to have them worship and grow amongst us. Wonderfully some of their stories were shared in a 2023 edition of *The Way*, the Diocesan newspaper.

In September we were also joined by Sunny & Jessica, who came from Taiwan to serve in Barrow as Ministry Interns for ten months through a partnership between the Norwegian Mission Society and the Diocese of Carlisle. Although serving across the town (including with NYC Barrow, St Mark's Clothes Bank & Open the Book), their base has been St Paul's and it has been a joy to begin to get to know them.

The Twenties & Thirties network continues to meet fortnight and attract young adults from across Furness, including some with no real church commitment. This has been coordinated by members of St Paul's, including Nathan Mair, Callum & Becca Whitehall & Simon Jones.

Looking at the wider Deanery, I was delighted by the appointment of Rev Stuart Silk to serve on Walney & Barrow Island, after a significant vacancy there. We also joined with Christians from across the Deanery for the Ascension Day service at St Francis.

Open Doors & Hearts to our Community

Back in January, church members shared their talents at a social evening to blow away the January blues, a 'Midwinter Merriment Mash-Up'.

As mentioned above, Hot Chocolate Mondays was launched to particularly open our doors to young people. Vintage Thursdays also happens once a month for those in later life, providing cake, conversation and craft, coordinated by Julie Jones and Patsy Derry.

We also took part in the BarrowFull 'Window Wanderland' displays, with a full-window display on the theme of Psalm 19.

During the summer term we ran an Alpha Course in summer term for those wanting to explore the Christian faith, coordinated by Debbie Gardner. We then offered a range of 'summer socials' to encourage friendships and welcome those on the fringe of church over July-August.

In September Julia Burns and Sarah Capstick helped us host an annual Macmillan Coffee Morning for Cancer Support.

Our 2023 Christmas programme, 'O Come Let Us Adore Him', included a number of Christmas carol services. We brought back real candles in our Carols by Candlelight and on Christmas Eve we included a Christingle in our Family Carols event, which seemed very popular. Numbers were generally at their highest since COVID.

We also appreciated the opportunity to once again host carol services for St Paul's School, Dane Ghyll School, St Mary's Light Up a Life, Lynwood Nursery and Deemon Performance Academy. There was also a new Happy Tots carol service this year, alongside their visits during term time.

Our Ecochurch working group helped us consider our stewardship of God's creation,

and this included an afternoon spring 'work party' in the church grounds.

Grateful Hearts

It has been such a joy to see God at work amongst us and through us in 2023 - and often in spite of us too! On behalf of the PCC as legal trustees, I want to say a big 'thank you' to the whole church community - we are the body of Christ, and it has been a privilege to see different gifts, personalities and people working together!. I'm also grateful to the PCC themselves for their support and partnership; we have had to work through some significant issues, including Living in Love & Faith, and I believe God enabled us to do this with much grace.

Since their appointment at the last APCM, Fiona Geibel and Mike Derry have been wonderful churchwardens, with Fiona only in her first year. I'm so grateful for their encouragement, thoughtfulness, prayerfulness and servant-heartedness through some significant decisions and discussions.

I'm continually grateful too to our staff, Sheila Pearce who does so much 'behind the scenes' and 'above & beyond' as administrator, and to Christine, our cleaner, who diligently helps our premises stay in good condition.

Working closely with Revd Canon Elaine Bates, Revd Sarah Richardson and Revd Simon Jones has been a real joy and privilege too - and they are such an example of abundant, sacrificial and joyful service. We are so blessed!

I'm especially grateful for the work that Elaine continues to do so diligently and generously as Acting Treasurer. As you'll see in her report, this year has been challenging financially, but Jesus Christ is building his church.

In closing, as I reflect on the past year, I am overwhelmed with gratitude to our Almighty and Gracious God for His unwavering guidance, provision, and goodness. Through the challenges and encouragements of 2023, His faithfulness has been our steadfast anchor. Together, we have witnessed His transformative power at work in our community. As we continue to move forward in faith, let us remain rooted in His Word, fervent in prayer, and committed to spreading the Gospel message of love and salvation. With hearts overflowing with thankfulness, let us press on in our mission to glorify God and make disciples of all nations, filled by his Spirit. To God be the glory!

CHURCH WARDEN REPORT 2023

With Robin covering the ministry and mission of the church in 2023 in his own report, this report focuses on the PCC's responsibility for the fabric and property of St Paul's Church.

However, we would like to express our joy at seeing God at work in and through His people during 2023; including people exploring faith and being baptised, new ministries starting, interns arriving and the ongoing faithful, perseverance of many.

This has been a relatively uneventful year in terms of the fabric of the building:

Work has been done on the roof to upgrade the efficiency of the guttering & gullies.

There has been considerable activity in the church and grounds spear-headed by the church Eco group with areas to the sides and rear of the building being cleared and wilding taking place.

In addition to the above, some trees have had to be felled and cut back, as they were in a dangerous condition. There was significant cost to this work (nearly £3k), but this is part of our legal obligation. The wooded area 'over the wall' has also been cleared by our own team and a path laid through it.

LED lighting has been installed in the lounge area and a Diocesan grant received to cover the cost for this.

The Quinquennial Inspection with Paul Grout in September flagged up the inadequacy/inefficiency of the heating system in the main part of the church as well as highlighting the ingress of damp and consequent mould on walls.

We await the report based on this inspection but it is highly likely that remedial work will be required, both to the latter issue and to the wooden window frames in the newer part of the building, which have degraded and need repair or replacement as a matter of urgency.

Sadly, the potential sale of the Church Hall has not progressed. We had multiple viewings and one offer was accepted in early 2023, but this fell through in June due to a change of circumstance with the potential buyer. It still remains a matter for prayer that a future sale will be possible.

We are thankful for the many years service that Jackie Dower undertook as church warden before stepping down in May 2023. For us, it has been a pleasure to be part of the team here at St. Paul's and also to be on the receiving end of the support given by the church family to our endeavours as wardens. As Robin has also

expressed, we are hugely thankful for the community of people playing their part in the body of Christ here.

Mike Derry & Fiona Geibel
April 2024

Acting Treasurer's Report 2023

This year, as last, has been challenging not least because of the correctly anticipated impact of high fuel bills. Our commitment to stepping out in faith in offering a warm space to others in the community including children and young people through Hot Chocolate Mondays and Monday Crew and to those who are older through Vintage Thursday was rewarded by generous grants from the Benefact Trust, the local council and the Church of England nationally.

Nonetheless the year has again ended with a deficit. Thanks to the reserves we have been able to cover this but the PCC recognises that serious consideration must be given to increasing income and/or decreasing expenditure and seeking further grant funding. That is a priority for early 2024 and at the time of writing is well underway.

The majority of our regular giving now comes electronically which is immensely valuable and online banking has been effective in reducing bank charges. The card reader and giving online via the website has brought a small but welcome stream of income. LED lights have been installed in some parts of the building and further steps to reduce our carbon footprint are being explored.

We are enormously grateful to all who give in such difficult times, often generously or sacrificially and to the team who is responsible for counting and banking money, administering Gift Aid recovery and facilitating other financial administration.

Elaine Bates
Acting Treasurer



The Annual Report to the PCC and to the APCM 2023

1. The Parish Safeguarding Officer

The Parish Safeguarding Officer for St Paul's Church Barrow-in-Furness is;

Mrs Tracy Graham, Tel: 07786438357, Email: tracyj22.tg@googlemail.com,

I have completed the following training: Text
Safeguarding Foundations
Safer recruitment and people management.

2. Safer Recruitment, and Training

Our parish supports the following groups working with children and young people, and with adults who are vulnerable:

J7 - Activities for children during the 10 o'clock service.

WLTD0? – Dads and Children Aged 0 to 11 (end of Y6) every third Saturday in the month from 10.00 to 11.45.

Open the Book – Groups visit local schools and retirement homes to perform stories from the Bible and share their meaning.

Easter Experience – Schools visit Church to hear about and discuss the Easter Story

Happy Tots Nursery – Groups of children visit fortnightly to enjoy stories from the Bible; learn about Jesus and learn about the church and its work.

Visits to Church – Groups e.g., schools visit church for special services, assemblies or activities.

Home Communion – Held on request for individuals who are not able to attend church.

Vintage Thursdays- Craft, conversation & chat for those later in life.

New events for 2023 are :-

Hot Chocolate Mondays – This is a drop in for children on their way home from secondary school

Monday Crew- is for children aged 7 to 11 and runs from 6.15pm to 7.30pm.

The leaders and volunteers working with our groups have all been safely recruited according to the Church's national guidance.

2023 we continued with safeguarding to the level that people required. Training is always ongoing. I will continue to support everyone to ensure they have received the level of training required by the Church.

The DBS checks are carried out where required and the register is regularly updated with checks being carried out for members of the church working with children or vulnerable adults for the first time, or those whose checks have reached the 3 year deadline for renewal. I have been helping people who do not have access online to complete their checks on a one to one basis.

3. Church Policy and Guidance

All parishes are required to have formally adopted the House of Bishops 'Promoting a Safer Church; Safeguarding Policy statement', and Church of England safeguarding policy and guidance.

This policy statement was adopted by the PCC at a meeting on 12th March 2018 and was reviewed on 11th March 2024. Details of this are on the poster displayed in the lounge which also included contact details for parish safeguarding in St Pauls church.

St Paul's Safeguarding Policy for Children and Vulnerable Adults has also been reviewed and updated. This is now a single policy for both children and vulnerable adults and it was reviewed at a meeting of the PCC on 11th March 2024 Copies are available from the office on request.

I have struggled with time constraints during 2023, but I retire in 2024 so this will enable me to give more time and have a better life balance. I am committed to the role and have booked on 2 new courses for 2024. One is a new safeguarding dashboard and the other is Modern slavery.

5. Church Practice

Any safeguarding concerns should be reported to the Parish Safeguarding Officer, the Churchwardens or the Clergy. There are also posters in church giving other points of

contact. The Diocese Safeguarding Adviser can be contacted for advice where needed.

Risk assessments for activities involving children, young people or vulnerable adults are regularly reviewed and updated and the Parish Safeguarding Officer, the Churchwardens or the Clergy should be notified of any concerns regarding the safety or welfare of church members and/or visitors.

Everyone has their part to play in keeping our church and community safe and I would like to thank you all for your help with this. It is very much a team effort and your support is invaluable.

Finally, we give thanks to The Lord as He guides and protects us in our work with both adults and children. His blessings are many and we know that we are nothing without Him.

Tracy Graham Parish Safeguarding Officer

A Year in Review Jan 2023 - Dec 2023

We're Church.... Just a little DIFFERENT!



The headlines...

- **FOCUSED IN ON NEWBARNs AREA**
- **EXTENDED OUR WORK IN NEWBARNs TO OPEN DROP INS ON A MONDAY AND A WEDNESDAY AFTERSCHOOL**
- **RELAUNCHED OUR SUNDAY EVENING GATHERINGS**
- **CONTINUED DROP IN AT ABBEY RD BAPTIST CHURCH**
- **OPENED A SMALLER TABLE GAME GROUP AT ABBEY RD BAPTIST**
- **LAUNCHED A FAMILY BREAKFAST ONCE A MONTH**
- **HELPED LAUNCH A CUMBRIA WIDE YOUTH EVENT**

During the year 2023 Network Youth Church Barrow made a decision. That decision was to step away from trying to open new things across the town and to focus in on one area. Through prayer it was decided that the best plan would be to build on the work happening in and around the Abbey Rd Baptist Church. This opened the door to growing work out of St Aidans, into the Newbarns area of the town. We already had contact with a number of the young people living in the area, and decided that having opened a drop in within the area, we would begin to extend the work and open two days a week. We also relaunched our Sunday Evening Gatherings, which look a bit more like Church as we know it. We also reopened a table gaming group meaning that we have two days a week in Baptist church and two days a week at St Aidans.

We began to engage families in conversation and so in October of 2023 we started a 'Big Breakfast' for the young people and their families, and we have been excited to see how the breakfast has grown, and different families coming together.

Network Youth Church Barrow also helped plan and lead a successful county wide youth event at the Keswick Convention Centre and we took 30 young people to the event from across Barrow to join in with another 140 young people from across the county for a time of fun, faith and friendship.

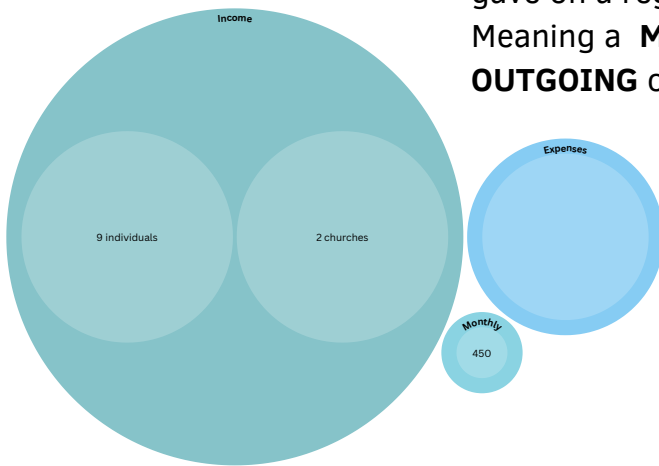
A Year in Review

Jan 2023 - Dec 2023

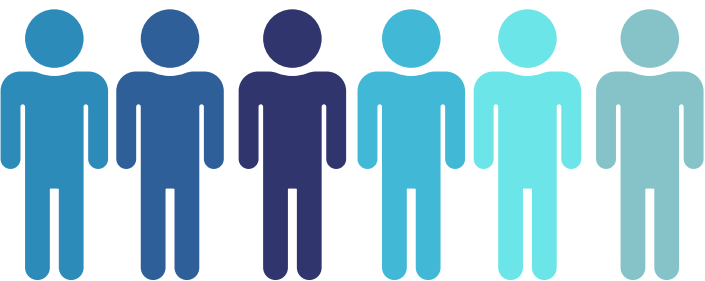
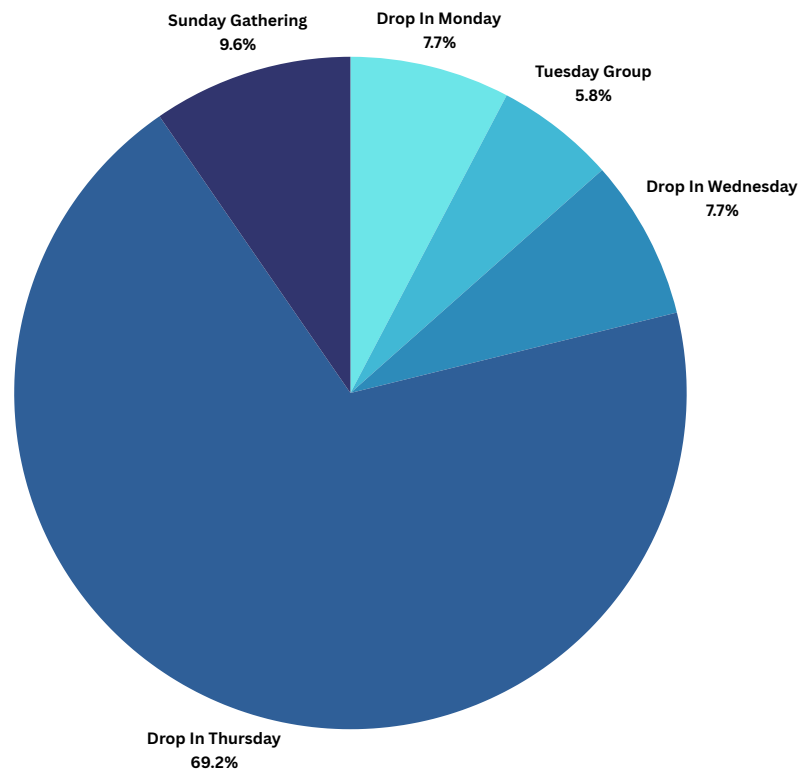
Our Funding...

Network Youth Church received **£7749** throughout the year of 2023. That came from 9 INDIVIDUALS AND 2 CHURCHES who gave on a regular basis.

Meaning a **MONTHLY BUDGET** of **£450** and a total yearly **OUTGOING** of **£4797.21**



this means we can reach **220** young people every week



WHERE WE'RE HEADING...



- continue to build on the foundations we have
- work on seeing more young people more times a week
- continue to try and find more sources of income
- continue to seek opportunities to share God with the young people, and disciple them.
- take young people to "the Big One" in Keswick

Looking ahead into 2024 we are hoping to build on the work we have started, both with the young people and their families. We are wanting to find ways to spend more time with the young people and work on teaching them more about who Jesus is and how we can live and following Him. We are working on ideas and ways to raise more income for Network Youth Church Barrow, as we recognise that if some of our givers stopped then our work would also have to stop. We will continue to seek ways to reach the young people of the town with the good news of Jesus. And once again we hope to take a large number of young people to the county wide event in Keswick later in the year.

what can you do?

Pray

The easiest thing you can do to support Network Youth Church Barrow is too Pray...

1. *Pray for the young people of the town, and their families, and that God would touch their hearts and lives*
2. *Pray for the volunteers and helpers of Network Youth Church Barrow, pray for wisdom and strength as they give their time to impact the young people of this town.*
3. *Thank God for what he is doing through Network Youth Church Barrow and for the impact and relationships that have been built.*

Support

Another way to support Network Youth Church Barrow is through giving time and finances. Maybe you feel that you have a couple of hours a week that you would like to give, or a spare £5 a month that could be given to the work of Network Youth Church here in Barrow. If so please do get in touch and we can give you details of how to give or start a conversation about where you might give your time.

Andy

and the Network Youth Church Team

Contact Details
email - andy.ward@carlisle-diocese.org.uk



**St Paul's PCC
Receipts and Payments Account 2023**

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Endowment	Designated	Total	2023	2022
Incoming Resources							
Voluntary Income:	63,438.00	2,427.91				65,865.91	60,714.80
Gift Aid Tax Recovered	14,782.20					14,782.20	13,613.35
Grants				12,643.00		12,643.00	0.00
Legacies							
Activities generating funds:							
Special Efforts & Sales							
Rent Income	376.00					376.00	1,143.00
Charitable Activities:							
Service Fees	1,545.00					1,545.00	3,333.14
Other	55.50					55.50	27.10
Investment Income:							
Interest	1,155.18					1,155.18	520.01
Total Incoming Resources	81,351.88	2,427.91		12,643.00		96,422.79	79,351.40
Resources Expended							
Parish Share	52,291.00					52,291.00	47,334.00
People	14,904.55	960				15,864.55	12,895.63
Where we meet	15,954.87	427.62		10157.34		26,539.83	16,767.76
Ministry & Mission	535.52	1399.71		1510.91		3,446.14	1,843.37
Giving Away	3,390.57					3,390.57	3,414.92
Office & Admin	4,455.00					4,455.00	4,872.34
Cost of Generating Funds							
	91,531.51	2,787.33		11,668.25		105,987.09	87,128.02
Net (Outgoing)/Incoming resources	-10,179.63	-359.42		974.75		-9,564.30	-7,776.62
Balance brought forward	36,399.71	4,073.89	621.00	0.00		41,094.60	48,871.22
Funds transferred							
Balance Carried Forward	26,220.08	3,714.47	621.00	974.75		31,530.30	41,094.60

Statement of Assets and Liabilities

	2023	2022
Current Assets		
Cash at Bank and in hand	£31,530.30	£41,094.60
Current Liabilities		
Deposit refundable	£43.00	£43.00

Fund Movements in 2023

	At 1/1/23	Receipts	Payments	At 31/12/23
General Funds	36,399.71	81,351.88	91,531.51	26,220.08
Restricted Funds				
Alpha	17.50			17.50
Building	427.62		427.62	0.00
Bus Ministry	727.91		727.91	0.00
Charity Donations	0.36			0.36
Flower Fund	190.00			190.00
PAIS/Interns	1470.00	1880.00	960.00	2390.00
WLTD0	240.50	547.91	579.80	208.61
Hardship Fund	1000.00		92.00	908.00
	4073.89	2427.91	2787.33	3714.47
Designated Funds				
Digital Innovation Grant		500.00		500.00
Seedcorn Monday Crew		250.00		250.00
Benefact Trust Grant		2200.00	2200.00	0.00
Brighter Lives		5000.00	5000.00	0.00
National CofE Fuel Scheme		4693.00	4468.25	224.75
		12643.00	11668.25	974.75
Endowment Funds				
Andrews & Knights Bequest	621.00			621.00
	621.00			621.00
	41094.60	96422.79	105987.09	31530.30



Independent Examiner's Report To the Trustees of St Paul's PCC

I report on the accounts of St Paul's Church for the year ended 31 December 2023 which are set out on pages 18 and 19.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The church's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The church's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed. It is my responsibility to:-

- Examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- Follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commissioners under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- State whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the 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 you as trustees concerning 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 matter has come to my attention:
Which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting
- requirements of the 2011 Act have not been met; or

- to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Anita Brook - FCCA

Anita

R F Miller & Co
Doubletree Court
10A Cavendish Street
Ulverston
LA12 7AD

Accounts



St Paul's Church, Barrow in Furness

**Annual Reports and Accounts
For the year to 31 December 2022**

Charity Registration: 1132621

Charity Registration: 1132621

Trustees Annual Reports & Accounts for the year ended 31st December 2022.

Aim and Purpose

St Paul's Parochial Church Council (the "PCC") has the responsibility of cooperating with the Incumbent, the Reverend Robin Ham ('priest-in-charge'), in 'promoting in the ecclesiastical parish and benefice and the Diocese, and also at home and abroad the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical'. (This is as stated in the Parochial Church Council (Powers) Measure 1956.) The PCC is also responsible for maintaining the church building and the church hall. This overall mission is expressed in the following mission statement:

*"To make and grow wholehearted followers of Jesus
who make and grow wholehearted followers of Jesus."*

MEMBERSHIP

The PCC is a charity registered with the Charity Commission. Members of the PCC are either ex officio or elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) in accordance with the Church Representation Rules.

PCC MEMBERS

During the year, the following served as members of the PCC:

Incumbent:

Revd Robin Ham

Associate Priest:

Revd Canon Elaine Bates

Curates:

Revd Dr Sarah Richardson
Revd Simon Jones (from July 2022)

Church Wardens:

Miss Jackie Dower
Mr Derek Pearce (until July 2022)
Mr Mike Derry (from July 2022)

Representatives on General Synod:

Mrs Zoe Ham

Representatives on Deanery Synod:

Mrs Maureen Aubrey
Mrs Tracy Graham

Elected Members:

Mr Derek Bradley
Mrs Julia Burns

Miss Susan Cowell
Mrs Debbie Gardner
Mrs Julie Jones
Mr Howard LeRoy
Mr Peter Molyneux
Mrs Sheila Pearce – (also Secretary)
Mr Callum Whitehall

Co-opted Members (April 2022-23):

Mrs Fiona Geibel

Treasurer:

Revd Elaine Bates (Acting Treasurer)

COMMITTEES

Standing Committee

This is the only committee required by law. It has the power to transact the business of the PCC between meetings, subject to any directions given by the Council.

Finance Committee

This committee oversees the general financial matters of St Paul's Church by monitoring income and expenditure and the financial implications of PCC decisions.

Building Committee

This committee has responsibility for maintenance of the church buildings and fabric.

Safeguarding

Our safeguarding officer is Mrs Tracy Graham, with Mrs Fiona Geibel helping her by overseeing safeguarding particularly for our J7 children's ministry.

CHURCH ATTENDANCE & ELECTORAL ROLL

At the time of writing this, there are 62 parishioners on the Church Electoral Roll, of whom 22 are not resident within the parish.

6 people have been added in the last year, and 8 people have been removed (1 deceased, 3 leaving Barrow, and 4 no longer attending the church and not living in the parish).

We have 131 people named on our 2023 congregation prayer diary.

The Average Weekly Attendance for **January-December 2022** was:

Sunday	11 at 8.00 am Holy Communion service 37 at 10.00 am Sunday worship and 14 children under the age of 16 yrs.
Wednesday	10 at 10.00 am Holy Communion service
Night prayer	10 at 9pm Zoom Thursday night prayer

At the last APCM, a request was made as to whether this document could indicate previous figures too, so we have included the following.

Previous years' service attendance:

	Sun 8am	Sun 10am	Children u16	Weds 10am
Year 2022	11	37	14	10
Year 2021	11	41	14	10
Year 2020	11	36	7	13
Year 2019	13	33	4	12
Year 2018	10	32	2	11
Year 2017	13	36	6	11

Previous years' electoral roll:

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Electoral Roll	102	80*	77	73	68	64	55*	52	57	64

* Indicates when a new electoral roll is issued (every 5 years all electoral roll members have to sign-up afresh and a new roll is issue).

FORMAL MEETINGS

The full PCC met 6 times during the year in their usual pattern of meeting. An Extraordinary Meeting was held in February regarding making a decision about the future of the Church Hall.

The Finance and Building committees met in between meetings where necessary and reported back to the PCC.

The EcoChurch Working Group also met between meetings and reported back.

Good attendance was had throughout.

Review of 2022 from Rev Robin Ham

It is strange to recall that up until February 2022 we were still encouraging people to wear masks at all times in church. 2022 was also the first full calendar year of meeting physically again after the lockdowns of 2020 & 2021. For myself, it has also been the first full calendar year where I have been in post.

It is a wise Christian rhythm to look back at what has happened amongst us, as it can grow glad gratitude in our hearts, as well as giving us a sense of perspective, for by 'numbering our days' God grows in us a 'heart of wisdom'. I have framed most of this review & report around our five 'vision priorities', which the PCC identified and agreed after a discernment process over the last year.

After the tangible change of a church merger through 2020-21, perhaps this past year has been a year of 'settling into' who we are as a church. As above, this has involved the PCC doing some significant work on refreshing our church mission statement, vision priorities, and considering a set of values. We have been delighted to see new people become part of our church community, as well as being sad to lose others to death or see people move away.

We began January reflecting on Jesus' call to remain - or 'abide' in him through this year. Only then do we bear fruit. Without him, we can do nothing. But as we remain in him and his commands, we are remaining too in his love and experience his joy. We only grow out and grow wider as a church, as we grow deeper.

Transforming Gatherings that Sow & Grow

Gathering together as God's people is vital as we grow together through our encounter with the living God, Father, Son & Holy Spirit. We continue to have three main service congregations, Sunday 8am & 10am and Wednesday fortnightly 10am. These couldn't happen without a whole range of people, from welcome & refreshments team, service leaders & preachers, pray-ers and Bible readers, musicians, our Audio Visual team, and people setting up & clearing up. Through this rhythm of meeting together, we 'trust the process' and believe God sustains and grows us. We also want our services to be places where others can explore God too and God's word is sown to those who have never really considered it before.

In our preaching, we continue to have a mix of expositional series' that work through books of the Bible, as well as topical or thematic series. As mentioned, we began the year with a call to 'Abide' in Jesus - growing everyday rhythms that help us do this, as well as on our 'frontlines' and in our digital lives. In February & March we continued our journey through Luke's gospel, 'Rediscovering Jesus'. In April & May we had a 'Life Pitstop' teaching series, looking specifically at marriage, singleness, parenting, church and friendship. People were encouraged hearing powerful testimonies of God's faithfulness and provision, but also honest reflections on the challenges of discipleship. In the summer term we studied the Joseph story - 'Joseph for Grown-Ups' and reflected on God's sovereign goodness throughout our lives. Over the summer we focused on the Apostles' Creed and engaged with the significance of each line week-by-week. As part of this series there was a moving video of church members reciting different lines of the creed. In the autumn we looked at 1 Peter - 'Living Hope, Living Different'. We reflected on the way God uses our 'ordinary lives', tracing out the example of Jesus, to make an impact for his kingdom in our world. We finished the year with three weeks in some of the great Advent promises in Isaiah's prophecy.

Our pattern of prayer has largely continued as in 2021. We continue to gather once a month for an 'all church' prayer meeting, which is now always a Sunday evening. Our Monday morning prayer group for children, young people & families, and our prayer gathering before the 10am service are both opportunities for people to pray faithfully for the Lord's work. The daily prayer diary continues to be a powerful tool to enable us to be praying for each other. Barrow Mission Community Night Prayer on Thursday evenings on Zoom continues to be a much appreciated reflective end to the day. This was pioneered by Hannah Wallace before she passed it onto a dedicated team in Spring 2022.

A few other particular highlights that fit under this 'vision priority':

- One precious but slightly unexpected moment was in a church service in May as we were reflecting on being the household of God - and how we all need each other. Wonderfully, we were able to see that there was someone present representing every decade from 0-10 years old, all the way to 90-100 years old! Amazing!
- Another highlight was our Easter Day baptisms & reaffirmation of baptismal vows, which took place in a borrowed baptistry in the church grounds. During Holy Week we also had a special Maundy Thursday online meditation led by Hannah Wallace, and Good Friday 'Worship at the Cross', followed by fish & chips.
- In November we celebrated the baptisms of twelve Iranian members of our church community, with a baptism pool in the church lounge. As people turned up to church they were shocked to be greeted by police tape and government surveillance posters - but this was to give us a sense of what Christians around the world face, including those believers in Iran. We had a special 'bring & share' lunch after the service which included some home-made Persian food. Those being baptised shared testimonies in a special video that used the Google translate app.

Focused on our Frontlines

In February, Revd Sarah Richardson and St Paul's featured on a BBC 1 programme, 'We are England', which followed the lives of two newly ordained clergywomen. This was particularly fascinating for the way it showed Sarah's 'frontlines' - her work as a doctor and as an ordained minister. It led to some media interest - and on April 1st we were delighted to announce her forthcoming TV chat show, 'On the Sofa with Sarah', telling everyone they'd be a 'fool to miss it'.

This fitted well with an inspiring morning thinking about 'Abiding with Christ on our frontlines', which led to some really important conversations and a sense of wanting to be used by God wherever he has placed us.

Having relaunched our new discipleship groups as 'Connect Groups' in 2021, these continued through 2022. By the end of 2022, we had three daytime groups meeting (including a Farsi based discipleship group for our Iranian congregation members) and three evening groups meeting. These groups seek to help us connect with God, connect with each other, but also connect with God's world as we uphold each other in prayer, apply God's word, and send each other out with God's Spirit to serve him.

During the spring, our Connect Groups studied the apostle Paul's first letter to the Thessalonians. In the autumn we ran the 'Real Change' course across our Connect Groups. This used home-made video resources and aimed to help us consider where God might be wanting to grow us into the likeness of Jesus Christ as we turn from our old selves and trust in God's goodness. God often uses the 'heat' in our lives to change and shape us.

We also hosted a special Women's Brunch on the theme of God's grace motivating us to display the beauty of the gospel in our lives.

The church Prayer Diary continues to be a precious resource as we pray for each other and our individual witness on our frontlines.

Growing Younger

Over lockdown we had held an online pancake party for children and families, so in February it was a delight to be able to host this in the building for the first time. There was a brilliant turn-out with many people inviting friends and it being a 'next step' for many of the children & families who have some connection with our church.

Our J7 children's groups on Sunday morning continue to meet in two age streams and we're grateful for all who serve to make this possible. In September we invited all our J7 leaders and helpers to get together to give thanks for them and to pray together about this vital ministry amongst 3-11 year olds on a Sunday morning.

Having restarted in September 2021, Who Let The Dads Out? celebrated its five year birthday in the summer and continues to draw a 'new generation' of dads, grandads, carers, and their little ones, with a dedicated and joyful team.

A number of our church members continue to be actively involved in the hugely important 'Open the Book' ministry. Throughout 2022, a number of schools began to 'open up' again and allow visitors in, so the team found their diaries getting busier once again.

St Paul's School have begun visiting the church for their monthly act of collective worship again, as well as their 'mock wedding' event - and we continue to explore how to develop this relationship. We continue to have one-off visits from other local schools who might be wanting their children to experience a church building as part of their learning. It was brilliant to see Experience Easter back up and running, including with new faces, which was a real gift to local schools. We're also thrilled Happy Tots are visiting again too.

Partnership Beyond Our Walls

Carlisle Diocese is hoping that St Paul's functions as a 'training hub', where leaders can be trained and equipped together. This inevitably involves 'comings and goings' as leaders are welcomed and sent out:

- In May we gave thanks for Hannah Wallace's nearly two years with us as part of her training as an ordained. Archdeacon Vernon Ross joined us for a special 'celebration of ministry' service, where we gave thanks for Hannah & Greg & Bethan & Sam. Hannah is now serving as a curate in Arnside & Beetham.
- In June, Sarah Richardson was ordained presbyter, having had the traditional first year of her curacy serving as a deacon. This special service with Bishop James was able to be held at St Paul's, which meant that the many people who have got to know Sarah through her time in the area could be part of the service.
- In July, we welcomed Simon Jones to also serve as curate, based at St Paul's but serving across the Barrow Mission Community. Having trained at Wycliffe Hall, Oxford, Simon is originally from Southport and had visited Barrow on a work-experience placement in which God had lit a spark that led to his arrival now, many years later.

As the training hub model intends, our clergy continue to serve other churches in the town, particularly in instances of maternity leave and vacancy.

The horrific war in Ukraine led to a real desire to partner in prayer for that situation. In the immediate months after the war began we had a prayer station at the back of church, and it was a regular focus in our services

and prayer meeting, including at Night Prayer, and we joined in with a prayer gathering on Dalton Road in the town centre.

In July we were able to host the annual admission of Church Wardens service for the Barrow Deanery, celebrate and pray for these men and women who serve our churches in this way. In October a group of women went to the Northern Women's Convention in Manchester, where they came back encouraged from teaching from Habakkuk on 'From Frustration to Faith' and a range of practical seminars.

Church members also supported various Barrow Mission Community initiatives and partnerships. These including the monthly CAMEO event at St Aidan's on Sunday afternoons, led by Opa Geibel, Pioneer Enabler; the BeWell Fest at Barrow Raiders stadium; and a community-led service to mark the 'Knife Angel' statue visiting Barrow in January, amongst others.

Opens Doors & Hearts to our Community

As lockdown restrictions have lifted, there seems to have been a readiness to return to 'normal' patterns of life amongst many people. As a result, it has felt like we're in a season of 'opening up the doors' as we rediscover old rhythms and new opportunities for gathering together. Of course, Christian mission is not just about inviting people to 'come to us', but there is a place for creating welcoming spaces that bless the local community and allow a space to explore the Christian faith.

In the Spring, we trialed a new monthly initiative, Vintage Thursdays. Our Anna Chaplaincy friend, Julie Jones, worked with a small team and our Barrow Pioneer Enabler, Opa Geibel, to launch this blend of 'conversation, craft, and cake'. After a steady group of attendees through to the summer, we felt it was worth keeping this going as a monthly event during term time. Simultaneously, it felt wise to bring 'Flix & Chips' to a close for the time being, particularly because Lucy Jenkin had moved to Scotland and the fact that both initiatives were aimed at a similar demographic of people. We are so grateful for all Lucy brought to St Paul's and miss her very much!

In June, we ran 'Wonderfully Made' on Thursday mornings, a special course for new mums that explored the Christian faith through the lens of the joys & challenges of parenthood. In the same month we also ran 'Alpha' again on Wednesday evenings, giving people an opportunity to ask big questions about life.

Like last year, over the summer we ran a series of summer socials, these gave the opportunity for our church community across the three congregations to get to know each other, but also to invite friends and those perhaps on the 'fringe' of church to feel more connected. These including the annual Sugarfoot bandstand concert in Barrow Park, a Family-friendly Ramble, Games Night, BBQ, Bangers on the Beach, a Sketching afternoon, and a Quiz Night to support New Growth Ministries in Zimbabwe.

In September the nation and world mourned the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. Our bell was rung at St Paul's on 9th September in response to her death, joining in with bells around the country. We hosted a special book of condolences & space for reflection & prayer in the church building, which led to many people coming to sign. A group also watched her funeral in the church lounge.

In September we hosted an annual Macmillan Coffee Morning for Cancer Support, and in the run up to Christmas, we also appreciated the opportunity to host carol services for St Paul's School, Dane Ghyll School,

St Mary's Light Up a Life, Lynwood Nursery and Deemon Performance Academy. It was really encouraging to pick up old connections and grow new ones.

With the 'cost of living crisis', we joined many community spaces and churches in pledging to be a 'Warm Space'. For us, as well as existing ministries such as Vintage Thursdays, this included opening as a Warm Space on Wednesday's mornings from late November. We also made plans to restart and develop the 'youth drop-in', which had been first initiated by Network Youth Church.

In the Advent & Christmas period, we used the 'Follow the Star' publicity campaign from the Church of England to host a range of events & services, including a Carols by Candlelight service, Pop-Up Nativity & Family Carols event, a Blue Christmas service, Christmas Eve Communion, and Christmas Day services. We again supported Furness Homeless Support Group. For the first time we also ran a Ladies' Rag-Wreath Making Night, which was very popular. We also had 'Christmas specials' for Who Let The Dads Out? and Vintage Thursdays.

One of Hannah Wallace's legacies has been the starting of an Eco Church Working Group, who have been helping us consider our role in stewarding and caring for God's world. As a result of their work and encouragement, St Paul's received a 'Bronze Eco Church Award Certificate' from A Rocha UK in November in recognition for the steps that we've taken in Worship/Teaching; Management of Buildings/Land; Community & Global Engagement; Lifestyle. As we begin to consider how best to use our land, we had a 'Tidy & Tea' event in the church grounds in July that was enjoyed by a whole range of ages.

Church Hall & Bus

As indicated in last year's report, we had determined that this year we would make a decision on the future of these two precious assets, the church hall and the church bus.

Church Hall:

After a consultation process that began in early autumn 2021, the PCC met for an extraordinary meeting in February where they discussed this issue at length and shared their reflections on the consultation process.

The PCC recognised the immense value that the St Paul's Church Hall has played in the life of the church and the wider community over 140 years. However, its present state meant that it is not currently offering such benefit to the church nor to our mission in the wider community. They recognised that determining to seek a buyer for the hall site was a big decision, and worthy of the prayerful and consultative manner in which the consultation had been undertaken. Naturally any sale would be irreversible for the site itself, but we reflected that God calls us to make courageous decisions in the sure knowledge that, whilst there are different seasons and chapters in life, 'the word of God stands forever' (1 Peter 1:25).

And so, it was with huge thankfulness for God's blessings through the church hall to previous generations, that the PCC decided it would now be appropriate to pursue a sale of the church hall site for the sake of the church's ministry to future generations. It is the PCC's intention to use any sale funds to help the church carry out our mission 'to make & grow wholehearted followers of Jesus who make & grow wholehearted followers of Jesus' in the local community, as well as across Barrow, and beyond.

Under God and with all things considered, it was the PCC's sincere hope and belief that we might be more effective in this mission through responsible but creative use of any sale funds, rather than through retaining ownership of the current hall site. We believe this will be a means of blessing to the wider community, amongst whom the Hall has clearly meant a great deal to many.

Consequently, the inevitably lengthy process of pursuing a sale began and in late autumn the St Paul's Church Hall was put on the market.

Church Bus:

The PCC had already determined that the Church Bus was highly unlikely to be used again in the same way it had been, and that Network Youth Church also had said they would not be using the bus going forward. Various options were discussed by the PCC, including scrapping or the bus being used by another organisation.

We were then approached by the headteacher at Dane Ghyll school, located in the parish, who had expressed interest in using the bus if we were looking to sell it. The PCC felt this would be a way of blessing our parish community and seeing it have an ongoing use, rather than scrapping or selling for a minimal amount nationally.

Any useful church equipment was stripped out and Dane Ghyll took responsibility for transporting the bus (which was out of operation). It's wonderful to see that it is now being used on the school site as a coffee bar for children to serve parents at pick-up and drop-off.

Cost of Living & Financial Stewardship

Although our finances are covered in detail elsewhere in this report, I thought it was worth mentioning a few items:

In July the PCC also pledged to raise our Parish Offer (our financial giving to the Diocese) for 2023 to £52,500. We are one of few Anglican churches in the Diocese where our minister is only licensed to one church, and so it was felt that it was important to continue to raise our offer from the £46,000 given in 2021 and £50,000 in 2022. This still remains somewhat short of the £62,000 diocesan figure, which covers clergy costs, including housing, training, insurance, council tax & pensions, but we are grateful for the sacrificial and generous giving of many.

As we're all aware, we are living amidst a 'cost of living' crisis. We are all feeling the pinch in some way or other, due to rising costs, especially with food and fuel costs. For us as a church, the increase in fuel costs has been particularly steep, and we need to consider how to help our income match our expenditure. That said, we recognise everyone has less financial resources than before this crisis.

In all of this, we look to God, the good provider. In October we launched our five vision priorities and also encouraged people to consider their giving to the church's mission. We look to God to help us grow habits of joyful generosity as we enjoy the generous heart of God.

Abiding in Christ

As I noted as I began this report, unless we remain in Jesus Christ, we cannot bear fruit. But we 'abide in him'

together, rather than as individuals. And although this report intentionally does not list many names, I am so encouraged by the sense of being the 'body of Christ' at St Paul's. None of the different ministry and mission areas that we've described above, or the new ideas or initiatives, or the week-by-week rhythms of being a church community, would be able to happen without members of the church community using their time, gifts and energy. On behalf of the PCC as legal trustees, I want to say a big 'thank you' to everyone.

It is perhaps fitting though for me to perhaps underline my gratitude to those whom I work alongside on a day-to-day, week-by-week basis. Since their appointment at the last APCM, Jackie Dower and Mike Derry have been wonderful churchwardens. I'm so grateful for their encouragement, thoughtfulness, prayerfulness and servant-heartedness through some significant decisions and discussions. I'm grateful too to our staff, Sheila Pearce who does so much 'behind the scenes' and 'above & beyond' as administrator, and to Christine, our new cleaner, who diligently helps our premises stay in good condition.

Working closely with Revd Canon Elaine Bates, Revd Sarah Richardson, and, since July, Revd Simon Jones has been a real joy and privilege. Our thanks must go to Elaine who has again served as Acting Treasurer this past year, on top of everything else she does. It was also wonderful to have Hannah Wallace as part of this team up until May, and as is seen in the details above, we're so grateful to God for the contribution she made to the life of the church on her two-year ordained placement.

As we bring this review to a close, let us end with Jesus' words: "As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love."

Yours in Christ,

Robin

Churchwardens' Report APCM 2023

All goods and ornaments have been checked and are accounted for and are correct.

The church building and grounds have been checked on a regular basis for any damage or deterioration. The church roof was inspected in October and work was begun in November to carry out repairs and general maintenance. This work is ongoing and will continue into 2023.

Both church boilers have been serviced and no repairs were needed. In addition, Emergency Lighting and Fire Alarms were checked regularly. A problem with the Intruder Alarm was dealt with by "Swan Alarms" and it is now working effectively. We also purchased new screens for use inside the church, due to concerns about the stability and safety of the old grey screens.

Energy costs have increased greatly and these are regularly monitored by the PCC and Finance Committee. We get our energy through the Diocese Parish Buying Scheme, using the Energy Basket, which offers good pricing and competitive rates. We are currently with "Total Energies" which was recommended as providing good value. After many years' service, it was finally agreed to find a "new home" for "The St Paul's Bus". It was becoming harder to keep The Bus going for outreach work, due to rising costs and the difficulties in finding a driver and volunteers to man it. Although it was sad to see it go, we were delighted when Dane Ghyll School decided that they would like to use "The Bus" for their community events. It is now established at the school and is continuing to serve the local community. Praise the Lord!

It was also with great regret that we decided to sell the Church Hall. A lot of work was needed to bring it up to an acceptable standard for use and we did not have sufficient funds to cover the costs involved. This was a painful decision both for church members and for many people in the community, as they had fond memories of happy times spent at the hall. A public meeting was held to explain the difficulties we faced in trying to keep the hall going and following that meeting, the PCC made the decision to put the hall up for sale. It was decided that funds from its sale would be used to develop the facilities at the church and continue the Lord's work through our outreach and support for the community.

In January we said goodbye to our cleaner Christine North, who started a full time job at BAE Systems at the beginning of 2022. From January until a new appointment in May, we were blessed by the generous support of church members in helping to keep the church clean and tidy. We would like to thank them for the gift of their free time and hard work in keeping our building looking its best. We couldn't have managed without you! We were able to appoint a new cleaner in May and we were pleased to welcome another Christine to our team. Mrs Christine Ashley joined us on 2nd May.

We also said goodbye to Hannah Wallace who finished her placement with us. We were sad to see her go but we wish her well for the next stage of her training. However, God has blessed us with another placement. Simon Jones has joined us and he has quickly settled into church life and is proving a real asset.

In July church had a "Visitation" from the Archdeacon of Westmorland and Furness, the Ven. Vernon Ross. The Archdeacon looked around the church and grounds and discussed the work of the church. The "Visitation" went very well and the Archdeacon was encouraging and supportive of all that had been done. He was very positive about how the church was moving forward.

2022 saw another exciting development, which Hannah encouraged and supported before she left. We now have a new "Eco Church Working Group". Thanks to their efforts we have achieved a Bronze Certificate for the "A Rocha's Eco Church Award Scheme". They have produced a "St Paul's Caring for Creation" statement which expresses our commitment to making improvements to our grounds and building, so that we can do our part in protecting our local environment and habitats, and in preventing further damage to God's Creation. We are grateful to all those who joined our working parties to clear and tidy the grounds in preparation for the planned improvements, and also to the "Community Payback" Team who came to continue this work on Saturdays.

A lot has happened in the past year – we have welcomed a group of Christian men from Iran and they have become an important part of our church family. We have continued to reach out to members of our local community and "Vintage Thursday", an afternoon of craft and conversation for older members of our community began after Easter.

We are thankful for all that the Lord has done for us in 2022, especially for the blessing of our clergy, led by Rev. Robin Ham. They continue to provide us with good ministry and loving pastoral support in an ever changing world. Furthermore, we are blessed with faithful church members who give tirelessly of their time in supporting the work of St Paul's and in encouraging and supporting us on our journey with God.

Praise the Lord!

Jackie Dower and Mike Derry
Churchwardens

Safeguarding Report to the PCC and to the APCM 2023

1. The Parish Safeguarding Officer

The Parish Safeguarding Officer for St Paul's Church Barrow-in-Furness is;

Mrs Tracy Graham, Tel: 07786438357, Email: tracyj22.tg@googlemail.com,

This is my first full year in the safeguarding role, I would like to thank Miss Jackie Dower for all her help and support. I have completed the following training:

Safer Recruitment	Domestic Abuse
Safeguarding basic	Safeguarding Foundation
Safeguarding Leadership	Parish Safeguarding Officer
DBS online awareness	

2. Safer Recruitment, and Training

Our parish supports the following groups working with children and young people, and with adults who are vulnerable:

J7 - Activities for children during the 10 o'clock service.

WLTD0? – Dads and Children Aged 0 to 11 (end of Y6) every third Saturday in the month from 10.00 to 11.45.

Open the Book – Groups visit local schools and retirement homes to perform stories from the Bible and share their meaning.

Easter Experience – Schools visit Church to hear about and discuss the Easter Story

Happy Tots Nursery – Groups of children visit fortnightly to enjoy stories from the Bible; learn about Jesus and learn about the church and its work.

Visits to Church – Groups e.g., schools visit church for special services, assemblies or activities.

Home Communion – Held on request for individuals who are not able to attend church.

Vintage Thursdays- Craft, conversation & chat for those later in life.

The leaders and volunteers working with our groups have all been safely recruited according to the Church's national guidance.

2022 was a year for training with the leadership training starting again after covid. Training is ongoing with 78% having completed training. I will continue to support everyone to ensure they have received the level of training required by the Church.

The DBS checks are carried out where required and the register is regularly updated with checks being carried out for members of the church working with children or vulnerable adults for the first time, or those whose checks have reached the 3 year deadline for renewal. Checks are now completed on-line. There is currently 1 DBS outstanding & 1 renewal outstanding

3. Church Policy and Guidance

All parishes are required to have formally adopted the House of Bishops 'Promoting a Safer Church; Safeguarding Policy statement', and Church of England safeguarding policy and guidance.

This policy statement was adopted by the PCC at a meeting on 12th March 2018 and was reviewed on 27th March 2023. Details of this are on the poster displayed in the lounge which also included contact details for parish safeguarding in St Pauls church.

St Paul's Safeguarding Policy for Children and Vulnerable Adults has also been reviewed and updated. This is now a single policy for both children and vulnerable adults and it was reviewed at a meeting of the PCC on 27th March 2023. Copies are available from the office on request.

5. Church Practice

Any safeguarding concerns should be reported to the Parish Safeguarding Officer, the Churchwardens or the Clergy. There are also posters in church giving other points of contact. The Diocese Safeguarding Adviser can be contacted for advice where needed.

Risk assessments for activities involving children, young people or vulnerable adults are regularly reviewed and updated and the Parish Safeguarding Officer, the Churchwardens or the Clergy should be notified of any concerns regarding the safety or welfare of church members and/or visitors.

Everyone has their part to play in keeping our church and community safe and I would like to thank you all for your help with this. It is very much a team effort and your support is invaluable.

Finally, we give thanks to The Lord as He guides and protects us in our work with both adults and children. His blessings are many and we know that we are nothing without Him.

Tracy Graham
Parish Safeguarding Officer

RESERVES

The PCC has no formal reserves policy and funds held are on deposit.

PUBLIC BENEFIT

The PCC have complied with their duty to have due regard to the guidance on public benefit published by the Commission in exercising their powers or duties

Acting Treasurer's Report 2022

This year we have, like everyone else been impacted by the cost-of-living crisis and especially a significant increase in fuel bills which will continue to affect us in 2023. Yet we have endeavoured to respond, not by stepping back, but by offering a warm space to others in the community in various ways, trusting in God.

Where people have been able, they have increased their giving, but we recognise that is not possible for everyone and we thank God for the generosity each person has shown, not just financially. Many have begun to give electronically which helps with cash flow and saves bank charges on cheques and cash deposits. We are setting up online banking so will soon be able to make payments electronically too, again saving bank charges. The card reader has proved valuable, enabling donations and payments to be made easily.

We **have** ended the year with a deficit which we have been able to cover from reserves thanks to the generosity of givers in previous years, including past legacies. We have made the decision to sell the Church Hall, believing that this is the right way to use our resources to serve God and our community better. Investing in LED lighting will not only save money but contribute to lowering our carbon footprint.

We are, as always, grateful to those who are able to give financially – and in so many other ways – to those who count and bank money or administer Gift Aid recovery and manage other admin related to the finance.

Elaine Bates
Acting Treasurer

St Paul's PCC
Receipts and Payments Account 2022

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Endowment	Total	
Incoming Resources					2022
Voluntary Income:					2021
Voluntary Income:	59,839	875		60,715	91,175
Gift Aid Tax Recovered	13,613			13,613	16,331
Grants					3,614
Legacies					
Activities generating funds:					
Special Efforts & Sales					
Rent Income	1,1143			1,143	2,145
Charitable Activities:					
Service Fees	3,333			3,333	907
Other	27			27	16
Investment Income:					
Interest	520			520	82
Total Incoming Resources	78,476	875		79,351	114,280
Resources Expended:					
Parish Share	47,334			47,334	46,000
People	12,896			12,896	17,356
Where we meet	14,743	2025		16,768	17,205
Ministry & Mission	1,077	766		1,843	2,920
Giving Away	3,415			3,415	4,824
Office & Admin	4,872			4,872	6,731
Cost of generating Funds	84,337	2,791		87,128	95,036
Net (outgoing)/Incoming resources	(5,861)	(1,915)		(7,777)	19,244
Balance brought forward	42,261	5,989	621	48,871	29,628
Funds transferred					
Balance carried forward	36,400	4,074	621	41,095	48,871

Statement of Assets and Liabilities

	2022	2021
Current Assets		
Cash at bank and in hand	41,095	48,771
Current Liabilities		
Deposit refundable	43	43
HMRC		400
Other		30

Fund Movements in 2022

	At 1/1/22	Receipts	Payments	At 31/12/22
General Funds	42,261	78,476	84,337	36,340
Restricted Funds				
Alpha	18			18
Building	2,451		2,025	428
Bus Ministry	728			728
Charity Donations	0			0
Flower Fund	160	30		190
PAIS	1,470			1,470
WLTD0	161	845	766	241
Hardship Fund	1000			1000
	5,989	875	2,791	4,074
Endowment Funds				
Andrews & Knights Bequest	621			621
	621			621
	48,871	79,351	87,128	41,095



**Independent Examiner's Report
To the Trustees of St Paul's PCC**

I report on the accounts of St Paul's Church for the year ended 31 December 2022 which are set out on pages 10 and 11.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The church's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The church's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed. It is my responsibility to:-

- Examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- Follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commissioners under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- State whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the 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 you as trustees concerning 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 matter has come to my attention:

Which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act have not been met; or
- to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Mr P Newsham – ACA

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P Newsham'.

RfM Ulverston Ltd Chartered Accountants
Bellevue, Princes Street
Ulverston, Cumbria LA12 7NB