



Annual Report
of the
Parochial Church Council
for the Year Ending
31st December 2024

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The Parochial Church Council of the ecclesiastical parish of
St Andrew Eccles Manchester.
Registered charity number 1132836

Parochial Church Council of St. Andrew, Eccles

3. Further Analysis of Receipts and Payments Accounts (continued)

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Building fund Restricted £	Memorial or Designated £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Payments						
f) Clergy and staffing costs						
Clergy working expenses	425				425	659
11 Abbey Grove expenditure during vacancy	1,301				1,301	-
Clergy housing costs	634				634	1,794
	<u>2,359</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,359</u>	<u>2,453</u>
g) Church running expenses						
Church building improvements	350		19,050		19,400	8,109
Church routine annual maintenance	1,145				1,145	1,390
Upkeep of grounds	-				-	12
Church utility bills	9,462	1,550			11,012	10,596
Church insurance	4,307				4,307	4,211
Upkeep of services	32				32	139
Mission support costs	62	2,856			2,918	3,363
Eccles Team - shared finances	1,010				1,010	2,041
Miscellaneous	1,376	145			1,521	1,371
Church administration	237				237	271
	<u>17,982</u>	<u>4,551</u>	<u>19,050</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>41,583</u>	<u>31,503</u>

4 STAFF COSTS

a) Wages and salaries

It is the custom of the PCC to charge for the services of organists and vergers at funerals & weddings, and to pass these fees on to the individuals providing the service. In 2024 the PCC paid £75 to musicians and £35 to vergers at these occasional services.

Fees for the clergy at such events belong to the Diocesan Board of Finance. These costs are netted off against fees received, because the PCC is acting merely as agent. Statutory fees income disclosed in note 3c) is net of all such costs. No amounts were sufficient to attract social security costs.

b) Payments to PCC members

No payments or expenses were paid to any PCC member, persons closely connected to them or related parties.

5 ECCLES TEAM

St Andrew's is responsible for administering the payments on behalf of Christ Church Patricroft PCC in relation to the Team Vicar's housing and working expenses. The pastoral plan for Eccles Benefice is not to recruit a Team vicar at present.

St Andrew's is responsible for administering the payments on behalf of other churches in the Eccles Team in relation to the Team Rector's housing and any joint team expenditure.

6 RESERVE POLICY

The PCC has a reserve policy to ensure adequate working capital. The policy specifies that reserves should be maintained equal to 3 months planned expenditure. This policy has been adhered to in 2024. For 2025 this requires the PCC to maintain at least £10,314 in immediately accessible accounts.

Parochial Church Council of St. Andrew, Eccles

3. Further Analysis of Receipts and Payments Accounts

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Building fund Restricted	Memorial or Designated	Total 2024	Total 2023
Receipts	£	£	£	£	£	£
a) All other giving/voluntary receipts						
One-off tax efficient non recurring gifts	2,484	500		-	2,984	6,407
St Andrew's gift day	-	-	3,115	-	3,115	7,053
Grants / Loans	-	5,250	1,654	-	6,904	8,306
Refunds relating to vicarage costs	1,038	-	-	-	1,038	-
Legacies / in memorial gifts	3,294	-	-	-	3,294	-
Donations for charities	-	905	-	-	905	868
Sundry donations	570	145	-	-	715	457
	7,386	6,800	4,769	-	18,955	23,091
b) Activities for generating funds						
Funds raised via online shopping	159	-	-	-	159	215
Christmas Band Concert	259	-	-	-	259	327
	418	-	-	-	418	542
c) Income from church activities						
Statutory fees to PCC for weddings, funerals etc.	203	-	-	-	203	402
Café in the church	2,242	-	-	-	2,242	2,175
Toddler group & art group	740	-	-	-	740	776
Rental received for use of church	3,656	-	-	-	3,656	3,326
	6,841	-	-	-	6,841	6,678
d) Other income						
Eccles Team - shared finances	880	-	-	-	880	2,171
	880	-	-	-	880	2,171
Payments						
e) Mission giving and donations						

The PCC has adopted a policy of making grants to Christian charities equal to 10% of the money it receives from planned giving and open plate collections. The PCC also encourages the congregation to support charities by organising collections and special events to promote selected charities. The PCC is acting as an agent for the charities concerned, and has no control over the funds. The details of these donations during 2024 are as follows.

	From PCC	Events & appeals	Total 2024	Total 2023
			£	£
Children's Society	450	20	470	
ReVive International - Brazil	450		450	
Tear Fund	450	188	638	
C.M.S. (Sarah + Simon Cawdell - Uganda)	450	28	478	
Scripture Union	450		450	
Tear Fund (Middle East appeal)	175	192	367	
National Churches Trust	100		100	
Bamabus	50	37	87	
Royal British Legion	50	18	68	
Greater Manchester Churches Trust	25		25	
Christian Aid		143	143	
St Ann's Hospice		46	46	
Macmillan Cancer Support		44	44	
Salford Foodbank		186	186	
Francis House		25	25	
Salford Foodbank (donations at band concert)	100	-	100	
	2,750	925	3,675	3,421

Aims and Purposes

St Andrew's Eccles PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with the Team Clergy in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church - pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. It also has maintenance responsibilities for the church building.

Administrative Information

St Andrew's Church is situated on Chadwick Rd, Eccles M30 0NZ. It is part of the Eccles Team Ministry in the Deanery of Salford and Leigh and in the Diocese of Manchester within the Church of England.

The correspondence address is The Vicarage, 11 Abbey Grove, Eccles M30 9QN.

Website: www.standrewseccles.org

Structure, Governance and Management

The Parochial Church Council of the ecclesiastical parish of St Andrew, Eccles, Manchester is a registered charity (charity number 1132836). The method of appointment of PCC members and wardens is set out in the Church Representation Rules. Members of the PCC are either ex officio (being ordained clergy, members of the Deanery or Diocesan Synod or Church Wardens) or are elected at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting as PCC members. (Wardens and Deanery Synod representatives are also elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting). All Church attendees are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC.

PCC members who served during 2024

Ex officio

Rev Andrew Harper	Team Vicar and Chair until end February
Rev Jeremy Wisdom	Curate in Charge February to November, Team Rector and Chair from November
Rev Jennifer Lewis	Ordained Local Minister and Curate
Kevin Walton*	Church Warden (Lay Chair)
Stephen Gibbison*	Church Warden and Safeguarding Coordinator
Richard Lewis*/**	PCC Treasurer

* Deanery Synod member ** Diocesan Synod member

Elected members

Elaine Walton	Reader & PCC Secretary from July
Karen Gibbison	Authorised Lay Minister (Children's work)
Jane Lowe	Authorised Lay Minister (Community)
Gaynor Bland	
Aimee Downey	PCC Secretary until end June
Ayoka Olibisi	from June

The PCC met 9 times in 2024. The average attendance was 78%.

Safeguarding Report

Statement of Intent: The parish will follow the Church of England guidance on safeguarding children and adults at risk, per the Parish Safeguarding Handbook, Updated August 2019.

The C of E Parish safeguarding handbook can be accessed via a link within the diocesan website, Navigate to it via Support for Parishes >> safeguarding >> Policies and Guidance

[Diocese of Manchester | Policies and Guidance \(anglican.org\)](https://www.anglican.org/policies-and-guidance)

If anyone would like a hard copy of the handbook, please ask the safeguarding co-ordinator.

The PCC reviewed and agreed to apply the Church of England model safeguarding policy on 11th March 2024. It was signed at the 2023 APCM on 21st April 2024.

A signed copy of the policy is on the notice board in church and it is also published in this annual report.

Where roles require it, we are continuing to get our volunteers DBS checked and to complete the required training courses.

Over the course of 2024 many leaders have undertaken a new training module on domestic violence. The PCC receives regular updates on DBS checks and the training of church officers.

Stephen Gibbison, Safeguarding Coordinator

Parochial Church Council of St. Andrew, Eccles

Statement of Assets and Liabilities

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Building Restricted £	Designated £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Cash funds						
Deposit funds	58,527	5,519	18,654	4,759	87,460	85,597
Bank current account	300	-	-	-	300	300
	58,827	5,519	18,654	4,759	87,760	85,897
Investment Assets						
Lloyds Banking Group 10,107 shares at 31/12/24	5,537				5,537	4,801
Other monetary assets						
Gift Aid recoverable	1,882	-	743	-	2,625	3,726
Refunds pending from VAT	-	351	-	-	351	-
Interest outstanding on CCLA accounts	-	-	-	-	-	702
Diocesan minor repair grant	-	7,900	-	-	7,900	-
Refunds owed by Diocese re. Vicarage costs	177	-	-	-	177	-
Monies owed by other Team Churches	279	-	-	-	279	-
	2,338	8,251	743	-	11,332	4,428
Liabilities						
Commitments to contracts awarded + clergy	-	9,100	-	-	9,100	170
Utility bills for usage in December	1,110	-	-	-	1,110	1,519
	1,110	9,100	-	-	10,210	1,689

Notes

- The financial statements of the PCC have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 using the receipts and payments basis.
- The movements in the designated and restricted funds during the year were:

	Bal b/fwd	Receipts	Payments	Bal c/fwd
Restricted				
Youth worker fund	1,382	-	-	1,382
Art & Craft workshops	2,668	5,875	4,406	4,137
Retirement gift for Rev A Harper	-	145	145	-
Charities collections	20	905	925	-
Building renovation	30,976	6,729	19,050	18,655
	35,046	13,654	24,526	24,174

The Youth Worker fund represents the remaining funds (£1,382) from grants received previously. They are retained pending recruitment of a youth worker.

A grant from the Community Lottery fund was received in 2023 in support of the Arts and Craft group, some of this grant was spent in 2023 the remaining funds were used to support the group until mid-Summer 2024. In May 2024 a further grant was received from the Manchester Diocesan Council for Social Aid which will enable the group to continue through to September 2025.

	Bal b/fwd	Receipts	Payments	Bal c/fwd
Designated				
Memorial fund	2,541	37	-	2,578
Community Outreach fund	1,638	543	-	2,181

The designated funds consist of monies allocated by the PCC towards building upkeep and future mission projects.

The PCC agreed to set aside 2% of the offerings received to build a fund for community outreach.

In 2024 no payments were made from this fund. The PCC continues to discuss how best to utilise this fund.

Parochial Church Council of St. Andrew, Eccles

Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31st December 2024

Receipts and Payments Accounts

RECEIPTS	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Building fund Restricted £	Memorial or Designated £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Voluntary receipts							
Planned Giving							
Gift aid donations		23,868	-	-	-	23,868	21,748
Other (non gift aided)		2,162	-	-	-	2,162	2,105
Tax recovered + GASDS		7,560	125	1,768	-	9,452	7,845
Collections (open plate)		1,136	-	-	-	1,136	1,891
All other giving/voluntary receipts	3a)	7,386	6,800	4,769	-	18,955	23,091
Activities for generating funds	3b)	418	-	-	-	418	542
Income from bank and investments		3,743	-	192	37	3,972	2,121
Income from church activities	3c)	6,841	-	-	-	6,841	6,678
Other income	3d)	880	-	-	-	880	2,171
TOTAL RECEIPTS		53,994	6,925	6,729	37	67,685	68,192
PAYMENTS							
Church activities							
Mission giving and donations	3e)	2,750	925	-	-	3,675	3,421
Diocesan parish share		17,738	-	-	-	17,738	17,579
Clergy and staffing costs	3f)	2,359	-	-	-	2,359	2,453
Church running expenses	3g)	17,982	4,551	19,050	-	41,583	31,503
Costs of generating funds		466	-	-	-	466	455
TOTAL PAYMENTS		41,295	5,476	19,050	-	65,822	55,411
Revaluation gains on investments		736	-	-	-	736	212
Transfers between funds		(543)	-	-	543	-	-
Surplus / Deficit for the year		12,891	1,449	(12,321)	580	2,599	12,993
Balances brought forward at 1 January		51,473	4,070	30,976	4,179	90,698	77,705
Balances carried forward at 31 December		64,364	5,519	18,654	4,759	93,297	90,698

Accounts

page 1

The Parish of St Andrew's, Eccles. SAFEGUARDING POLICY PROMOTING A SAFER CHURCH

The following policy was agreed at the Parochial Church Council (PCC) meeting held on 11th March 2024.

In accordance with the Church of England Safeguarding Policy our church is committed to:

- Promoting a safer environment and culture.
- Safely recruiting and supporting all those with any responsibility related to children, young people and vulnerable adults within the church.
- Responding promptly to every safeguarding concern or allegation.
- Caring pastorally for victims/survivors of abuse and other affected persons.
- Caring pastorally for those who are the subject of concerns or allegations of abuse and other affected persons.
- Responding to those that may pose a present risk to others.

The Parish will:

- Create a safe and caring place for all.
- Have a named Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO) to work with the incumbent and the PCC to implement policy and procedures.
- Safely recruit, train and support all those with any responsibility for children, young people and adults to have the confidence and skills to recognise and respond to abuse.
- Ensure that there is appropriate insurance cover for all activities involving children and adults undertaken in the name of the parish.
- Display in church premises and on the Parish website the details of who to contact if there are safeguarding concerns or support needs.
- Listen to and take seriously all those who disclose abuse.
- Take steps to protect children and adults when a safeguarding concern of any kind arises, following House of Bishops guidance, including notifying the Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser (DSA) and statutory agencies immediately.
- Offer support to victims/survivors of abuse regardless of the type of abuse, when or where it occurred.
- Care for and monitor any member of the church community who may pose a risk to children and adults whilst maintaining appropriate confidentiality and the safety of all parties.
- Ensure that health and safety policy, procedures and risk assessments are in place and that these are reviewed annually.
- Review the implementation of the Safeguarding Policy, Procedures and Practices at least annually.

Each person who works within this church community will agree to abide by this policy and the guidelines established by this church.

This church appoints Mr Stephen Gibbison as the Parish Safeguarding Officer

Incumbent: N/A (Interregnum)..... Date:
Churchwardens: Mr Kevin Walton..... Date: 21/4/24
Mr Stephen Gibbison..... Date: 21/4/24

Team Rector's Report

It's both exciting and strange to be writing my first report as Team Rector for the Eccles churches. Exciting because I am over the moon to be living and serving the Lord in Eccles. Strange because, technically, I'm only reporting on my time in post in 2024...which is about 6 weeks. But, in reality, I've been part of the Eccles family since January 2024 and have much to reflect on.

Firstly, I'd like to take the opportunity to say 'Thank You'.

Thank you to everyone for making me feel so welcome.

Thank you to the church officers for their continued support.

Thank you for all who volunteer and serve in our churches.

Thank you for your grace when I make mistakes.

And thank you for your support as I've come to terms with both a Cancer and Type 1 Diabetes diagnosis in my first year. The timing has not been ideal.

Thank you all.

Much of my time has been spent trying to understand the challenges we face as a group of churches. There are many. Congregation numbers are far lower than we like, buildings require constant maintenance, finances are challenging and our church officers, and volunteers, are stretched to their limit. On the face of it, not a very hopeful situation. However...

...I have great hope.

At St Andrew's, in particular, we have talented church officers, active volunteers and ministries/activities that bring many into the church each week. The relationship with St Andrew's school continues to deepen and I've always felt wonderfully welcome when I do assemblies there. Plus, we have a warm and welcoming building. Never take that for granted!

Over the coming year, we will need to think creatively about how our four churches do ministry and mission. We're going to have to do things differently. But, we have some great people, keen to see God's kingdom come in Eccles. I am confident that we will see revival and growth in the coming years.

God Bless,

Jez

Rev Jez Wisdom, Team Rector

Church Wardens' Report

This is Kevin's twelfth report and Stephen's third as Wardens and looking back over the reports we've written, quite a number of them have started with the words 'this has been a busy year for St Andrew's'. So what's different in 2024? Nothing actually, this has been a very busy year.

In January Rev Jeremy P Wisdom (Jez) arrived as Curate-in-Charge for the parishes of St Mary the Virgin Eccles and St Paul Monton. This was a very welcome

Independent examiner's report to the PCC of St Andrew Eccles

I report to the PCC on my examination of the accounts of St Andrew's Eccles PCC for the year ended 31st December 2024 which are set out on pages 1 to 4.

Responsibilities and basis of the report

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

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

Independent Examiner's Statement

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

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

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



John Price
23 Ellenhall Close,
Harpurhey,
Manchester M9 5XG

Date 29 January 2025

Financial Review 2024

The full details of receipts and payments for 2024 can be seen in the Accounts pages of this Annual Report.

Thanks to the generosity of the congregation, St Andrew's has again met all its commitments to support the ministry in our parish and in our Diocese. A special thank you to everyone who continued to set aside money each week in envelopes or each month by standing order. When the PCC agreed the income budget for 2024 we hoped for a small increase in giving and as usual our generous congregation responded. Our income from regular planned donations (including gift aid recovered from HMRC) increased by 8% from £30,997 in 2023 to £33,590 in 2024. Our budget for 2025 hopes to at least match the 2024 performance. We have also received other generous one-off gifts during the year and we were very grateful to receive a £3,300 legacy from the estate of Krysia Sloniecka.

Our community outreach projects (café, toddlers, art & crafts) operated for the whole of the year and income from these activities was just under £3,000. We were grateful to receive a grant from the Manchester Diocesan Council for Social Aid which will enable our Art & Craft workshops to continue fully funded through to September 2025.

The significant increase in utility prices in 2022 that trebled our utility bills caused a lot of concern and I am pleased to say that the prices have stabilised slightly such that we have been able to renegotiate these costs for 2025 and 2026, which will save us money. However, they will still be double what we paid in 2021 before the invasion of Ukraine by Russia.

The Wardens Report highlights a number of building projects that were completed during 2024. Maintenance work on our listed church is never inexpensive and these projects cost £19,050 and required a net withdrawal of £12,300 from our building funds.

The PCC continued to honour its commitment to donate 10% of collections and planned giving to charities. £3,675 was donated to our supported charities (see accounts page 3 for further details). Parish Share (our contribution to the costs of our Diocese, especially clergy stipends) was £17,738. Inflation affects our Diocese just as much as any other organisation and our Parish Share for 2025 will rise to £18,638.

2024 has therefore been a year of continued consolidation for the church finances. Our annual Gift Day was very well supported with over £3,000 being received and this has been allocated to our planned building projects in 2025. Therefore, the 2024 accounts show our overall funds had a surplus of £2,600.

Thank you.

Richard Lewis
Hon Treasurer

The accounts on pages 1 to 4 were approved by the Parochial Church Council on 10 March 2025 and signed on its behalf by:



Rev Jez Wisdom – Rector of the Eccles Benefice

additional staff resource to what was to become the Eccles Benefice, later in the year. At the end of February Rev Andrew Harper retired as Team Vicar of St Andrew's and Christ Church Patricroft. In November Rev Jez Wisdom was installed as Rector of the Benefice of Eccles with pastoral oversight for the four parishes in the Benefice. During the year Jez has re-established strong links with St Andrew's School and Branwood School, where he visits on a term basis to take assemblies. However, we wish to place on record, on behalf of the PCC and the congregation, our thanks to Rev Jenny Lewis for her service to St Andrew's during this transitional year and the work she continues in the residential homes in the parish.

It will come as no surprise to learn that the average weekly attendance at Sunday worship has declined in 2024. Whereas our Salt group maintained an attendance of 5 young people per week, our adult attendance declined to 25 per week. St Andrew's has an aging congregation which has inevitable effects and therefore we ask the question, are we the last generation to worship here?

On a more positive note our mid-week activities have been better supported than in previous years, as other reports will reflect, showing that there is a need for the outreach we are undertaking to provide for the community, especially our Carer and Toddler group, as well as the Art and Craft group, which has had referrals from other agencies.

Maintenance of the building is a never ending task for the wardens and we have seen the pigeon deterrence installed on the tower, the repair/replacement of tower windows, pointing of the west boundary wall (which had become unstable and posed a risk to Public Health and Safety, so urgent work was required) and the flag pole was painted. The Quinquennial Inspection was completed, which brought to the PCC's attention a number of expensive areas of work that needed to be completed within the next five years and beyond. The PCC commissioned our Inspecting Architect to prepare a plan of phased repairs to the south aisle and porch. It is important to note that, despite the repairs recommended, St Andrew's Church is in a good state of repair and planning repair and restoration in manageable packages is a prudent way of ensuring the fabric remains in good condition.

Finally, we would like to thank all those who have helped us maintain our worship during 2024 and those who, by various means, have been undertaking the pastoral care of our community throughout the year.

Kevin Walton & Stephen Gibbison, Church Wardens

St Andrew's School Report

2024 was another busy year for the school.

Our year 6 attainment figures (SATS) were below national average levels, especially in Mathematics. Our children have made good progress during their time with us, but many start at a disadvantage, particularly those who arrive in the junior years with little or no English or understanding of the way to behave in school in the UK. There were seven "arrivals" amongst the 30 children who took KS2 SATS in 2024. The school suffered with a lot of staff absence/illness at the end of 2024 which put strain on the remaining staff as they had to adapt to cover other classes and activities. Unfortunately, this meant it was not possible to do some of the Christmas assemblies and church visits.

As described in last years report the boiler fire in February 2023 left us needing new boilers. A temporary boiler supported the school over winter and a new boiler and full heating system was installed over the 2024 Summer Holidays and Autumn Half term. The original Victorian radiators and pipework have been replaced by more efficient replacements and the school has been much warmer with the new system running well towards the colder end of the year. There was some disruption, and no heating during the first half of the Autumn term, and the staff, especially the site manager, worked hard to get everything working and make sure everything remained safe.

The Boiler/heating replacement was funded directly by Salford City Council.

We were the subject of a SIAMS Inspection in April 2024. We received an excellent report from the inspectors who were able to see the great work our staff do to support every aspect of our children's development.

The Inspection confirmed we were living up to our foundation as a church school, with the inspector making the following comments:

St Andrew's is a truly transformational Church school, serving a richly diverse area. Leaders are dedicated to ensuring individuals develop their gifts and flourish. The Christian vision serves both the community and God. Staff recognise the uniqueness of pupils and work hard to empower them to use their gifts. This reflects the values of love, honesty, respect and forgiveness. These are not merely aspirational, they are actively integrated into the school's ethos. St Andrew's works effectively with families to dismantle barriers that might limit life chances. The impact of the vision can be seen in leaders' rapid, decisive and supportive actions after a fire and flood. This inclusive approach ensures the flourishing of pupils, staff and the community.

The full SIAMS inspection report is available on-line or I can provide a printed copy.

Synod then broke into Mission Community Groups and a wide ranging discussion around these four topics ensued.

At the November Synod meeting the main topic of discussion was Emerging Diocesan Strategy and Synod heard a presentation from Bishop Matthew and Helen Platts (the Diocesan Chief Operating Officer). The strategy comprised four themes. Growing Younger, Church Planting and Revitalisation, Developing Mission Leaders and Parish Renewal.

Following the presentation Synod broke into its Mission Communities to consider two questions:

- 1 God is calling us to go and make disciples. In the context of your parish, how do you see the emerging strategy supporting your growth plans?
- 2 In the light of the emerging strategy and the hope it offers you and the church, what bold and courageous prayer would you pray to God?

There then followed a plenary session which perhaps posed more questions.

Kevin Walton & Stephen Gibbison, Deanery Synod Representatives

Three Men's Breakfasts at the Rugby Club with interesting speakers and the World Day of Prayer held at Eccles Congregational Church and repeated at Monton Methodist Church, also come under the Churches Together banner, and these times of sharing faith were much enjoyed. Eccles Street Pastors continue to patrol at weekends and are looking for more pastors and trustees.

Jenny Lewis (CTE Chair)

Deanery Synod Report

Deanery Synod met three times during 2024, in March, July and November.

At the March Synod meeting the topics for discussion were: Diocesan Finance, Net Zero and Establishing and Growing New Expressions of Church.

Diocesan Finance. Deanery Synod was informed the Diocesan Draft account showed a deficit of £511K despite the amount of Parish share collected being £100k more than that collected in 2022. Of the 36 parishes in the Salford & Leigh Deanery 25 paid in full, achieving 87.8% of the amount asked for by the Diocesan Board of Finance. The Board of Finance reiterated its commitment to maintaining the level of Stipendiary Clergy at 175 until 2027.

Net Zero. Synod heard a presentation by Nick Hardman and noted the CofE aim to reach Net-Zero by 2030. Attention was drawn to the Eco-Church Awards which should energise churches to be practical and then to formalise their achievements.

Establishing and Growing New Expressions of Church. A presentation by Rev Jack Shepherd. Synod was advised Leigh Mission Community would be starting the CofE 'Greenhouse' initiative to help establish and grow new ('fresh') and existing expressions of church. Greenhouse is a CofE initiative to equip teams of people to design, grow and cultivate fresh expressions of church. In Wigan, it has also been used to 'refresh' existing expressions of church.

At the July Synod meeting the major topic for discussion was the Diocesan Transformation Programme. After 3 years of the programme, it is time to take stock. Colin Pearson (Area Dean) wanted to listen to the views from synod as to its effect and impact to date. Diocesan priorities for the journey ahead have been reframed around four key missional headings:

Growing Younger – includes children and young people, but we also want to grow in the younger adults age groups.

Growing Church, Church Revitalisation and Planting.

Developing Missional Leaders, Lay and Ordained.

Missional Renewal – supporting and helping parishes and continued development of the Deanery Mission Action Plan.

We are pleased that following his appointment as Rector of Eccles, Rev Jez Wisdom has agreed to take up the ex-officio foundation governor role. He has already visited the school and lead assemblies a number of times. The three foundation Governors are:

Ex-Officio	Jez Wisdom
Diocesan appointment	Stephen Gibbison
PCC appointment	Derek Smith (Pastor of Kings Church, Bolton)

As of November 2024, the school is almost full with 226 pupils: 122 boys and 104 girls.

122 children (54%) speak English as an additional language.

97 children (43%) are classed as disadvantaged, and 44 are vulnerable.

Stephen Gibbison, Foundation Governor & Vice Chair of Governors

Electoral Roll Report

On 31st December 2024 there were 34 names on the Electoral Roll. During the year we welcomed one new member in May, Ayoka Olabisi, and, sadly, lost two members who died, Emma Harper and Serita Williams.

Jenny Lewis (Acting Electoral Roll Officer)

Community Report

During the year St Andrew's continued to host a distribution centre for the **Salford Foodbank**, which is part of the Trussell network of foodbanks, on Monday afternoons and Thursday mornings. Foodbank volunteers (some from Eccles Team churches and others from the wider community) served refreshments and gave out bags of food to people who came with vouchers issued by professionals or voluntary organisations. Advice was provided by advisors from St Anthony's Centre and Salford Citizens' Advice.

Toddler Group for preschool children accompanied by an adult continued to take place on Tuesday mornings. Children had the opportunity to play with a variety of toys, listen to a Bible themed story and have a go at a craft activity based on the story.

The **Art and Craft workshop** continued to run on Tuesday afternoons led by a professional tutor providing an activity and a chance to socialise for mainly (but not exclusively) older members of the community. We were blessed in that when our grant from the National Lottery ran out in the summer we

were able to secure a further year's grant from the Manchester Diocesan Council for Social Aid.

The **Community Café** on Friday mornings also continued to attract members of the local community, as did the dementia friendly sessions for older sports fans run by the **Sporting Memories Foundation** while the cafe is open.

It is our hope that all these activities, as well as meeting local needs in a variety of ways, will help us increase our links with the local community and show people the love of Jesus. I would also like to express my gratitude to all those who give up their time to help run these activities.

Jane Lowe, ALM (Community)

SALT (Sunday School) Report

During the year the children have attended faithfully, bringing their enthusiasm and willingness to join in and try different activities as we continue to learn together.

We start with a game then a story. Sometimes they act out the story or we read it together then we pray together using different methods such as blowing bubble prayers, then we have a craft activity, all on the same theme.

During the year we have explored the story of Abraham and Sarah, Isaac and Rebekah and Jacob and Esau. We also looked at Joseph's story and made him a special coat. We also learned about Samuel and King David.

We spent time looking at the Easter story and the Christmas story and we joined in with the church Nativity with the part of the Wise star gazers, after which we had a party.

We display our work on the noticeboard then it goes into scrapbooks. Please continue to pray for us and ask us what we are learning about.

Kate and Karen, Salt Leaders

Home Group Report

The year began with four sessions from a study book called 'Promises, Promises', which focused on God's promises, linked to the first to fourth weeks after Christmas in the church calendar.

As the chair of Churches Together in Eccles, Jenny organised the first 'in person'

Lent group since the Covid pandemic, which she both led and hosted at her home. A good number of people from several churches in Eccles attended and appreciated the time spent together.

After Easter we spent five weeks looking at the letters 2 Peter and Jude, then one week with a study found online called, 'Renewing my Faith: Worship' to round off the half term. After the half term holiday 8 weeks were focused on discussing Sabbath. It was interesting to go into this subject in so much detail, learning how there's so much more to observing Sabbath than just not working on a specific day of the week.

Due to Rosemary Grovestock's move to Norfolk, we needed to find a new home for the group to meet after the summer break. Tony Wood from Christ Church kindly offered his home and made us very welcome.

Throughout the autumn term up to Christmas our studies were based on the book of Hosea, entitled 'God's Persistent Love'. Although this prophet's book is a hard read, ultimately its message speaks loudly that God's love is indeed persistent, and is the constant that we can rely on and which continues to give us hope.

Elaine Walton, Home Group Coordinator & Reader

Churches Together In Eccles Report

St Andrew's enjoys working collaboratively with the other Trinitarian churches in Eccles. In 2024, we started with the Service of Christian Unity held at St Paul's Church, Monton. Our own Home Group members joined in the joint Lent Group which studied Bible reflections from the Holy Land about living in hope with God. At Easter there was a Walk of Witness on Good Friday from Monton to St Andrew's carrying a cross and we hosted a short time of worship together. The summer event was a Creation Celebration for children held at Eccles Parish Church and St Andrew's contributed the interactive prayers, some of the crafts, and helpers. Children and adults alike appreciated meeting lots of animals from Curious Critters. (Well, perhaps not the snake and tarantula in some cases!)

Remembrance Services at the Cemetery with schoolchildren and at the Cenotaph led by Rev Jez Wisdom, were very well attended. Despite windy weather the Carols Round the Cross was very joyful, with Eccles Borough Band leading the carols.