

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST BARTHOLOMEW

England & Wales · Charity number 1136063

Details

Other names	THE PARISH CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. BARTHOLOMEW, WESTHOUGHTON
Status	Registered
Legal form	Previously excepted
Registered	2010-05-21
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	The Rectory Market Street Westhoughton Bolton BL5 3AZ
Phone	01942859251
Email	info@westhoughtonchurches.org.uk
Website	www.westhoughtonchurches.org.uk

Activities

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

Activities: To provide Sunday services, mid week services, Sunday Schools, after school Cafe Church and Luncheon Club. To support Uniformed Organisations, the Ecumenical Week of Christian Unity and Prayer Sunday services. Links are maintained with other Westhoughton churches through a Local Churches together group.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Provides Services, Provides Advocacy/advice/information
- **What:** General Charitable Purposes, Education/training, Overseas Aid/famine Relief, Religious Activities
- **Who:** Children/young People, Elderly/old People, People With Disabilities, People Of A Particular Ethnic Or Racial Origin, Other Charities Or Voluntary Bodies, The General Public/mankind

Geography

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

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£88,026	£120,808	-	-
2023-12-31	£100,608	£109,052	-	-
2022-12-31	£100,743	£104,128	-	-
2021-12-31	£102,455	£110,863	-	-
2020-12-31	£81,549	£106,884	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Rev Carol Helen Pharaoh	Chair	2019-01-31
Alan Morris		2019-04-29
CHRISTINE ANDREWS		
ELAINE SIMKIN		2011-10-05
Edward James McHale BSc		2014-04-30
George Twist		2018-04-04
Hilary Anne Moore		2024-04-29
JOAN O'Reilly		2011-10-06
Jacqueline Denise Madeley		2025-04-28
Jean Tonge		2019-04-29
Patricia James		2024-04-29
Rachel Dawber		2023-04-24
Rev Angela Deborah Wynne		2019-04-29

Accounts



THE PARISH OF ST. BARTHOLOMEW WESTHOUGHTON

St. Bartholomew

St. George

St. Thomas



ANNUAL REPORTS FOR 2024

PRESENTED TO THE APCM

MONDAY 28TH APRIL 2025





The Parish of St Bartholomew Westhoughton

St Bartholomew St George St Thomas

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING:
MONDAY 28th APRIL 2025, 7.30pm
ST BARTHOLOMEW'S CHURCH

AGENDA

1. Welcome and Opening Prayers
2. Apologies for absence
3. Minutes of the Annual Meetings held on Monday 29th April 2024 [*which are attached below*] and matters arising

Annual Meeting of Parishioners:

Election of two churchwardens for the year 2025 - 2026

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

- I. Elections and appointments:
 - i. Two deputy wardens each for St Bartholomew's, St Thomas's and St George's (who will be ex-officio members of the Parochial Church Council)
 - ii. Representative for Deanery Synod for the period 2023 – 2026 (who will be ex-officio members of the Parochial Church Council) – *1 vacancy*
 - iii. Two further representatives from St Bartholomew's, St Thomas's and St George's to serve as members of the Parochial Church Council
 - iv. Up to eight people to serve as members of each of the church councils of St Bartholomew's, St Thomas's and St George's
 - v. Appointment of Independent Examiner
2. Annual Reports for 2024:
 - i. Team Rector's Report
 - ii. Churchwardens' Report
 - iii. Secretary's Report on the Proceedings of the PCC
 - iv. Church Electoral Roll Report
 - v. Honorary Treasurer's Presentation of Accounts
 - vi. Safeguarding Officer's Report
3. Any Other Business relevant to an annual meeting (*chair to be notified BEFORE the meeting begins*)
- 4.

5. Date of future Meetings:
 - Archdeacon's visitation – **all dates given on page 6**
 - Next PCC meeting – to be set
 - Annual Parochial Church Meeting 2026 Monday 27th April
6. Closing prayers

There will be a short meeting of the newly constituted Parochial Church Council immediately following the Annual Parochial Church Meetings

AGENDA

1. Appointment of
 - a. PCC treasurer
 - b. PCC secretary
 - c. Vice chair of the PCC
 - d. Safeguarding officer
 - e. PCC Standing Committee [*usually Rector, vice chair, Parish wardens, secretary, treasurer*]
2. Co-option, if required, of further PCC members
3. Appointment of Sidespeople
4. Any other urgent business

Parish of St Bartholomew Westhoughton

St Bartholomew, St George, St Thomas

Meeting of the APCM Monday 29th April 2024 at 7.30pm

held at St Bartholomew's Church

Attendance: Revd Carol Pharaoh (chair), Ed McHale (Acting Secretary), Christine Andrews, Elaine Simkin, Jean Tonge, John Owen, Lynn Owen, Sarah Barry, Pat James, Joan O'Reilly, Angela Greenall, Graham Andrews, Revd Andy Jones, Rachel Dawber, Peter Ingham, Ollie Younge, Linda Casson, Helen Thompson, John Thompson, Fran Bissett,

Apologies: George Twist, Hilary Moore, Revd Angela Wynne, Ryan Battersby, Carole Walsh, Nigel Ginniff

AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION and ACTION
Apologies for Absence	Attendance and apologies were noted on the signing in sheets and are listed above.
Introductions:	The rector welcomed everyone to the AGM and opened the meeting with a reading from John chapter 18 with Jesus as the True Vine followed by the Diocesan Prayer.
Minutes of Previous meetings	The minutes of the previous APCM held on the 24 th April 2023 had been circulated to those signing up to attend the meeting electronically or in a paper form. These were accepted unanimously by the meeting.
Annual Meeting of Parishioners: Election of Two Parish Wardens 2024 - 25	Joan O'Reilly and Ed McHale had both consented to stand and had been duly proposed and seconded. There being no further nominations, they were appointed to the two posts of Parish Wardens.
Annual Parochial Church Meeting	Elections and Appointments The following were all duly proposed seconded and appointed
Deputy Wardens: [2 per church]	St Bartholomew's: Christine Andrews / VACANCY St George's: Hilary Moore / Pat James St Thomas' Graham Andrews / VACANCY A tribute was paid to John Moore who had died in post during the year.
Deanery Synod: 4 representatives	Christine Andrews, Elaine Simkin and Joan O'Reilly are in post leaving one vacancy to be filled. It was noted that these posts were for a three year period running until the 2026 AGM.
Elected Members to PCC: [2 per church]	The following were all duly nominated, seconded & appointed St Bartholomew's: Jean Tonge / Rachel Dawber / George Twist St George's: VACANCY / VACANCY St Thomas': VACANCY / VACANCY
Elected Members to DCCs	The following were all duly nominated, seconded & appointed St Bartholomew's – Ollie Younge / Linda Casson <i>NB Sue Robinson-Todd was co-opted at the first committee meeting</i>

	St Thomas' – Claire Smith / Caroline Darby St George's - John Thompson, Angela Greenall, June Crook, Carole Walsh, Sarah Barry Thanks were recorded to those who have served on our committees through the year.
Appoint of Independent Examiner	Nigel Ginniff has indicated his willingness to continue and was proposed by Graham Andrews, seconded by Elaine Simkin and duly appointed.
Annual reports	
Team Rector Churchwardens PCC secretary Church Electoral Roll Honorary Treasurer & Independent Examiner Safeguarding Group reports	Those received in time had all been circulated prior to the meeting either by e-mail or as a paper copy. It was noted that the electoral roll stood at 182 as of the date of this meeting. From the reports were highlighted (i) the fact that many activities are staffed by the same very small group of people and there is a need for a wider pool of people to run and develop our services and events. (ii) following the meeting with the Diocese, we had agreed a three-year Parish Share agreement which sees our Share cut from £72,000 to £50,000 with a 5% increase for each of the following two years. The reports were accepted <i>en bloc</i> unanimously with thanks to all who had prepared them.
AOB	On behalf of the parish, Ed thanked the clergy for their leadership through the year.
Date of future meetings	Archdeacon's Visitation – Tuesday 18th June 7:30pm at Bolton Parish Church is our most local service but other dates and venues are available. Future dates for the PCC / committee meetings will be circulated following this meeting. This meeting was closed and followed by a brief meeting of the newly elected PCC [minuted separately] and cheese and wine served in the parish room.

To the Rector, Vicar or other Officiating Minister of:

This notice must be displayed on the principal door of your church.

ARCHDEACONS' VISITATIONS 2025

CHURCHWARDENS WILL BE ADMITTED AT THE FOLLOWING VISITATION SERVICES,

COMMENCING AT 7:30PM UNLESS OTHERWISE INDICATED:

ARCHDEACONRY OF MANCHESTER

Wednesday 11 June	St George Chadderton
Thursday 19 June	Holy Family Failsworth
Tuesday 24 June	Manchester Cathedral
Monday 30 June	Holy Trinity Platt

ARCHDEACONRY OF ROCHDALE

Monday 9 June	St Mary in the Baum
Thursday 12 June	Oldham Parish Church
Thursday 19 June	St Leonard Middleton
Wednesday 25 June	Christ Church Ashton-under-Lyne

ARCHDEACONRY OF BOLTON

Wednesday 11 June	Bury Parish Church
Thursday 12 June	St Mary, Rawtenstall
Wednesday 25 June	Bolton Parish Church

ARCHDEACONRY OF SALFORD

Tuesday 15 July	St Mark, Worsley
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It is a legal requirement for all churchwardens to be admitted into office

The act of admission at the Visitation is an important and significant event for your Parish. The Venerable Archdeacons of Manchester, Rochdale, Salford and Bolton further request that members of the clergy should be present at the Visitation to support the lay officers of the Parish. All members of parochial church councils are also invited to accompany the churchwardens and sidespeople.

NOTES FOR CLERGY AND NEWLY ELECTED CHURCHWARDENS:

- If a churchwarden cannot attend the date for the visitation service for their deanery, they may attend and be admitted at any alternative visitation service in the diocese.
- An elected churchwarden will lose the right to be admitted into their office if they do not attend a visitation service or complete alternative arrangements (which must be made directly with either an Archdeacon or the Diocesan Registrar) before **31 AUGUST** in the year in which they have been elected at the annual meeting of parishioners.
- All churchwardens (whether elected for the first time or re-elected for a further term) must make the declarations for the due execution of their office. Online forms can be found on the diocesan website www.manchester.anglican.org and searching for 'churchwarden admission'.

DONNA MYERS, Diocesan Registrar,
St John's House, 155-163 The Rock, Bury, BL9 0ND

TEAM RECTOR'S REPORT 2024

I will give thanks to you, Lord, with my whole heart; I will tell of all your marvellous works. (Psalm 9.1 NRSVA)

"I will instruct you and teach you the way you should go; I will counsel you with my eye upon you." (Psalm 32.8 NRSVA)

Have you noticed? I'm sure you have. How nature seems very much alive at the moment? The whole of creation seems bursting with vibrancy and life, from spring bulbs, nesting birds and lighter nights. It helps, of course, when we have lovely sunny spring days.

Have you noticed? I'm sure you have. How our churches seem very much alive at the moment? If you look, albeit sometimes a little bit more closely in some instances, you will see our churches are flourishing with vibrancy and life.

You see with all the anxieties and problems that often bombard our lives, from TV news to real concerns about our families and friends, it's easy to feel gloomy. With all the issues and difficulties facing us in our churches, it is easy to feel a bit gloomy about our life as a church too. We struggle with finding volunteers to help with various tasks. We feel a little afraid about who will continue the ministry and mission when we perhaps are no longer able to or we are no longer here. We worry about finding money to resource our work and, at St Bart's Church, the list of problems with our church building and tower seems to be growing. If we think about the wider church, we know that our Diocese too faces many challenges. Problems and difficulties within the Church of England, which are reported in the media, seem to surface every few weeks.

Acknowledging this and despite all this, have you noticed? Have you noticed how much we have to be thankful for? My desire is that reading through the various reports from individuals and groups making up this annual report, will give you much pride and hope. It does me. Our churches are thriving and flourishing in many ways and, there are some new green shoots, if you take the time to carefully look for them. For example, there are green shoots as we see new people, adults and children, coming to join us for our worship and activities. We are becoming a much more multi-cultural community as new people join us from other parts of our world and now call Westhoughton their home. Our Junior Church and Sunday School

groups for children are thriving and growing. There are new people volunteering to help with various roles in the church. Our work with our local schools continues to flourish. We now have regular contact with Thurston's Residential Home and Woodlands Care Home.

Our work continues of course in many other ways. We continue to welcome many families seeking baptism for their children. We continue to support couples wanting to declare their commitment to one another through marriage. By our prayers and care, we continue to support people who are ill or anxious or distressed. We continue to support those who have been bereaved and coping with loss.

We continually give thanks too for Alan and Elaine who give so freely of their time and talents as Reader Emeritus in serving our churches. We are thankful for our ALM Christine and all she gives. We are also pleased that two ALMs James and Pauline, who serve as ALMs in other churches in our team, now also regularly help lead worship in our parish too. We are thankful that they are willing and gifted to share their ministry more widely. Thank you to our Church Wardens Ed and Joan and our Deputy Wardens Christine, Graham, Pat and Hilary. Honestly, without them, our churches would not function at all. Thank you to our PCC secretary Ed and DCC secretaries. Our parish treasurer Graham and church treasurers Claire, John and Elaine. Thank you to our parish Safeguarding Officer Joan, for the expertise and care she exercises in the role she has. Once again a big thank you to all who hold other roles in our church, from PCC & DCC member to sidespeople, vergers to organist, cleaners to gardeners, sound system operators to refreshment makers, children's workers, youth workers, musicians and singers. Thank you to everybody who has helped our churches in 2024.

As we think now of our Team Ministry, I am once again extremely thankful for the strength, care and determination of my clergy colleagues across the Team. We said a very fond farewell to our Curate Andy in October as he took up his new post in Farnworth and New Bury. We pray that God will continue to bless him, Katie and Harry and he finds in his new role, joy and fulfilment. We are extremely pleased and proud that in July 2024, Alisdair Cole was licensed as a Reader. Whilst his base is St John's Church, we are so grateful for his new ministry among us, from which ultimately all the churches in our team will benefit. Ignite Youth, our Team Youth Church, is continuing to provide a church for our young people, with opportunities to explore faith in an engaging and creative way. Once again, there are new shoots, new members and leaders. They are linked now to groups within our Mission Community, which also provides a forum for youth leaders to find support and friendship.

We continued to offer different house groups and study groups within the Team Ministry. These are not well supported which is a real shame. We endeavour to find new ways to help people explore and grow in their faith. Maybe, hopefully, this is where we see new green shoots this year. Do have a word with me if you would like to know more about the events and opportunities we have to grow in our Christian faith.

There is so much that is good in our churches. There are always challenges and we are always evaluating and looking to find ways we can do things better. Sometimes it can feel that those green shoots of hope and all that is flourishing in our churches, is in danger of being trampled. When Jesus asked people to follow him, there was no detailed roadmap or promise of an easy time. No one outlined the hardships they'd face – or the incredible fruit they'd see. And yet, they said 'yes', trusting God with the unknown. God doesn't tell us everything we'll face when we say yes to Him. If He did, many of us might hesitate. But He does promise this: "I will instruct you and teach you the way you should go; I will counsel you with my eye upon you." (Psalm 32.8)

So please let us be thankful and encouraged by all that is good and flourishing. We continue in faith, in trust and with hope that with God's loving eye on us, God will work amongst us and will show us the way. The adventure continues in 2025. Let's keep looking for and nurture all those green shoots and all the encounters and activities we share.

With love and prayers,

Rev'd Carol Pharaoh

Parish Churchwardens' Report for 2024 – to be presented at the 2025 AGM

At the 2024 APCM Joan O'Reilly and Ed McHale were re-elected to the post of Parish Wardens.

During the year, we have been able to run many events with a gradual evolution and development:



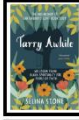
- New Year's Eve fell on a Sunday in 2024 and we had a joint 11:00am service at St Bartholomew's with refreshments served before the service.
- Office Hour continues on a Monday morning [drop-in] or Saturday mornings by appointment. With a decrease in the number of baptisms following the Covid backlog being cleared, we have moved Office Hour to the first Monday of each month [excepting Bank Holiday weekends] from weekly.
- The Monday morning 9:30-11:00am Toddler Group and Wiggle Worship has continued steadily in term time.
- The Civic Service for Mayoral Sunday was held with a good attendance from members of the Town Council.
- In March we participated in the 2024 World Day of Prayer Service prepared by the women of Palestine, which was held at Cornerstones church but moved to an afternoon rather than the evening. This has some advantages but does limit attendance to those available during the day.
- Remembrance Sunday services continued, again limiting attendance at the 10:00am Civic Service. The timing of the Act of Remembrance at the War Memorial was managed poorly and we need to work with the Town Council at improving this.
- The town council led a new format with Switching on of the Town Lights forming part of a day of events on the last Saturday in November and without the Carol Service in St Bartholomew's. This was a very successful event and easier to manage than the ticketed, limited attendance event available in church. The town council's decision to move this to Advent Sunday in 2025 is causing issues with clashes with long-standing church events.
- A Confirmation Service was held in July at St Katharine's church in Blackrod led by the Bishop of Bolton, Revd Dr Matthew Porter. This year we ran the two longer Saturday preparation sessions which worked well. Moving to a summer date meant that it was only 6 months since the previous service which limited the number of candidates. In 2025 we're holding the Confirmation service at St Bartholomew's in May to fit better with Sunday School / Ignite Youth terms and plan to keep to a spring date in future years.
- We continue to admit children to Holy Communion on Mothering Sunday following a short preparation session.
- The Team Youth Church continues to meet monthly at St John's Wingates on a Saturday evening and is running well; more help with running this is sought.



- In spring we were able to run a full programme of Lent, Holy Week and Easter services including the Easter Experience and including more daytime / family friendly events. We continued the Stations of the Cross on a Monday evening as a lay led service. On Good Friday we held a Young People's drop in workshop at St Bart's between the more formal services at St James' and St Katharine's churches. This proved very popular with many craft events and attracted a good attendance.
- We continue to run a large number of baptism services. Many thanks to those who give up their Sunday afternoons to staff these. We also run a baptism preparation evening each month; many thanks to Carole Bullough who organises the baptism preparation session attendances with parents and godparents and also writes out all the certificates and candles for the services.
- We have held a small number of wedding services in 2024 with some booked for 2025. We still have a large funeral ministry.
- Cafe church services have run on a Wednesday at St Bart's from 3:45 -4:30pm during term time and are proving very popular. It many thanks again to the team who plan and staff these as well as providing refreshments.
- The All Souls Memorial Service was held and attracted a greater attendance than in 2023.
- We ran a full programme of Christingle and Christmas Services; although attendances were greater than 2023, they were still not at pre-pandemic levels. We ran lay led crib services at St Thomas' [which had a low attendance] and St George's [which proved very popular]. We are looking at bringing the St George's service forward to 5:00pm in 2025 as 6:00pm can finish too late for some families.
- For the Christmas Dinner on Jesus in 2024, we collected after dinner chocolate mints.
- Local schools returned to hold their Christmas events at St Bartholomew's.
- The monthly Wednesday Communion Service followed by Luncheon Club continued at 11:00am at St Bart's with thanks to all who run this. We continue to run monthly services at Thurston's and Woodlands and take communion to a small number of people in their own homes.
- Following St Bartholomew's Patronal Festival at the end of August, we had our usual "bring and share" lunch.
- In May, we were able to hold the Christian Aid collections in our churches.
- Revd Dr Malcolm Wearing organised a Team Retreat in May 2024 and is planning a further one for May 2025.
- We continue to go into schools to lead assemblies and a year group attends St Bartholomew's once per month from all our church schools for a joint service. We also ran an "Experience Creation" event for year 5 children. Although a good event, we did underestimate the amount of staffing required to set up, run and clear away for this event which we will need to tackle should we run it again. We've also run a couple of Family Holiday Club events in August.

Blackrod, Daisy Hill, Westhoughton & Wingates Team

Lent for Everyone 2024

 TUESDAYS 8.30pm to 10pm St Katharine's Church Study group based on the book 'The Way of the Cross' by David Stead. Led by Revd Dr Malcolm Wearing and David Stead. Starting on Tuesday 20th Feb 2024	WEDNESDAYS Starting on Wednesday 14th Feb 2024 7.30pm Stations of the Cross 7.30pm Holy Communion Starting on Wednesday 21st Feb 2024 10.30am Ecumenical Prayer Service St Katharine's Church
HALF TERM LENT PRAYER WALK FOR FAMILIES Thursday 22nd Feb at 2pm Meet at St Bart's Church 	 SUNDAYS 6.30pm to 8pm Malcolm's house. Led by Revd Dr Malcolm Wearing. 1st Sunday 18th Feb 2024 The Stations of the Cross - A Lent course of reflection on the life, death and resurrection of Jesus. Led by Revd Dr Malcolm Wearing. Starting on Sunday 18th Feb 2024
LUNCHEON: PRAYER & PRAYER 11.45am to 1.15pm St Bart's Church Meeting Room Using painting to pray. Come and pray, or watch others pray. All parents provided. Led by Revd Carol. 8 sessions: Thursdays 15th Feb, 20th Feb, 27th Feb, 6th March, 13th March, 20th March, 27th March, 3rd April. All sessions 11.45am to 1.15pm.	

- Our bell ringers continue to provide an excellent addition to our worship on Sundays and at weddings / funerals and for national events. We welcome regularly teams of visiting ringers and in 2024 welcomed Father Christmas for a charity appeal in aid of Christies.



- For the first time, the church has been used as a polling station for local and national elections which does provide useful income as well as challenges in covering opening / closing up. We made copies of a Church of England daily prayer diary “Play Your Part” available to our congregations in the run up to the general election.
- As part of the Mission Community Outreach events, we held a “Bring a Friend to Church” services at St George’s and St Bartholomew’s and joined in the joint Mission Community Celebration Service in September.

Publicity:

The expanded Pewsheets Plus and is now e-mailed out to 85 - 90 people each week [with a hard copy to those who have requested one] in addition to the smaller pewsheets distributed at our services. The pewsheets are also available from the church website with many thanks to Neil Belch for maintaining this.

Although we have had an initial meeting about redesigning the Website and moving it to a new platform, we have not been able to make further progress with this.

We have had a couple of leaflet drops in Autumn and Christmas to new housing developments around St Bartholomew’s.

We still continue to produce posters and publicity for services and events which appear on the internal and external church noticeboards, St Bart’s railings and, again thanks to Joan O’Reilly, in shops & sites through the town.

All of this falls upon the churchwardens and there is currently no support or back-up available to cover illness or holidays.

Staffing:

We said farewell to our curate Revd Andy Jones along with Katie and Harry as they moved to the Seven Saints parish with thanks for all that he had done over his period with us. Many of us were able to attend and support them at the induction service at St George with St James, New Bury in November. This has had most impact on the service at St George’s church and left a gap on the governing body.

Revd Malcolm Wearing’s role was altered he was Licensed as Team Vicar (SSM) in Blackrod, Daisy Hill, Westhoughton & Wingate Benefice, in autumn.



The PCCs across the team agreed that Pauline Rowley and James Young’s ALM roles be team-wide.

It is of note that the staffing plans for the local mission partnership [effectively the former Deane deanery] require a cut in stipendiary clergy from 6 to 5 by the end of 2025 although there is as yet, no strategy for this. The current plan is for the vacancy in the Horwich team to be filled, however.

We held a couple of meetings with wardens to look at the Team Strategy for services and service cover with more limited staffing across the Team and, twelve months from those sessions, it's time to review this.

Parish Share / Finances:

There are still issues with parish finances, the situation at St Thomas' worsening over 2024.

In October we ran concurrent Stewardship campaigns at both St Bartholomew's and St George's [the **5%** in **2025** tagline at St George's being a highlight] with a more limited campaign at St Thomas' later in autumn. This has raised awareness of the costs of running our churches and the need for additional support to run events. We need to look at this being an annual event.

The Parish social events committee has organised a number of events throughout 2024 continuing into 2025 raising funds with events including

- Houghton Weavers Concert
- The annual Bolton Chamber Orchestra Concert [co-ordinated by Ed McHale]
- Organ Recital marking World Organ Day in April
- St Bartholomew's coffee mornings
- Two joint concerts by Westhoughton Community Choir and the Affetside Singers [in June and December, co-ordinated by Ed McHale]
- An autumn fair [much appreciated by stall holders and those attending]
- The Brixton Singers Christmas performance [co-ordinated by Ed McHale]



St. Bartholomew's Building:

During the year a Buildings and Maintenance committee met, currently chaired by Ed McHale, to prioritise work across the church and tower and to split these into a manageable set of smaller tasks.

Membership: *Revd Carol Pharaoh [rector], Joan O' Reilly, Ed McHale [Parish Wardens], Graham Andrews [PCC Treasurer], Ged Robinson-Todd [Bell Ringers], Linda Casson [secretary], Ryan Battersby [Tower Captain]*

All the usual testing of electrical and emergency equipment has been completed along with routine annual services and maintenance.

In 2024/5 we had a number of additional building works:

- There are ongoing issues with boiler failures / problems with the timer override which have been fixed currently.
- Lighting work for the church path has been completed with funding for this as a result of a bequest from Joyce Cunliffe. The work took about one week with minimal disruption to church events. For those using the building at nights in winter, the impact of this has been very beneficial.
- A further assessment of the dry rot has been completed but we await roof repairs to the church before tackling this.
- We have confirmed our ownership of the patch of land behind the columbarium and are looking at how to landscape this and use it as a memorial site for ashes.
- Three companies have assessed the state of the church roof and quoted for the remedial work. In conjunction with St Bartholomew's committee, we have opted for one company and plan for this work to be completed in April 2025. Diocesan funding is available for this work.
- Following the failure of some lights in the church, particularly over the choir gallery, we have started to look at options for replacing the bulbs with LED lighting that would be cheaper to run and help with Eco Church status. Designs for a new lighting system were expensive and we are reviewing the options still.
- During storms in December 2024 the flagpole was damaged but has now been replaced; a bid has been made for town council funding towards the costs.

Civic Events:

We marked the 80th anniversary of D Day on 6th June with a bell peal and Civic Service at St Bartholomew's. In October we dedicated a new Union flag at a service with the Westhoughton Branch of the Royal British Legion. Organ music at the service came via Glenn Miller and Dame Vera Lynn, which may have surprised some. We're planning events for the 80th anniversary of VE day in May 2025 and the dedication of a new British Legion Standard.



The Pretoria Pit commemorations again took place on 21st December. The Civic Service will move to Monday 22nd December in 2025 to avoid clashing with the programme of Christmas service on Sunday 21st December.

We were saddened to hear of the death of Christine Morris, long-standing Westhoughton Town Clerk with whom we had worked on many civic events over many years.

We apologise if we've missed anything and thank all those who work across all our churches, in many other unsung roles, who keep the many activities across the parish running so well. It must be noted, however, that much is done by a very small group of people and we need to look at involving a greater number of volunteers and succession planning if we're going to be able to continue to run the number of events that we do across the year.

Nothing happens without an enormous amount of planning, co-operation and paperwork and we're grateful to Christine Andrews, Pat James and Graham Andrews and welcomed Hilary Moore who serve as deputy wardens in the parish taking on a lot of additional duties at the different churches as well as our readers and clergy.

Joan O'Reilly – Parish Warden

Edward McHale – Parish Warden

2024/2025

PCC Treasurer's report to Annual Parish Meeting regarding 2024 accounts



St Barts PCC
consolidation maste

1. Income

Overall income was £1702 lower than 2023 at £98906¹.

Looking first at direct giving, this was £3625 lower in 2024 than in 2023, both planned giving (envelopes and Standing orders) and loose plate being significantly down.

Other voluntary giving was up in 2024 by £5891. £4218 of the increase came from wedding and funeral fees at £22976, part of which is subsequently paid to the diocese. Bellringing at Weddings was up by £1200 (subsequently paid to the bellringers). Concerts and events income (including autumn fair and coffee mornings) was up by a pleasing £2603, so congratulations to the events team. Unfortunately, all these increases were dragged down somewhat by a fall in Gift Day / general donations of £1788.

Appeals income was only £241 for the parish in 2024, comprising £96 for Chrisitan Aid and £145 gift for the minister at St George's.

The value of our investments rose by £1096 in 2024. This is not a real gain unless we sell the investments, but needs to be shown as a consolidation adjustment to balance the books. Current global stock market turmoil suggests that this might be a loss in 2025.

Bank interest remained a significant item in 2024 with interest rates remaining strong, St Bartholomew's receiving £2264

The income from the 200 club rose by £65 in 2024. St Bartholomew's church had an income of £2078 for hire of the meeting room in 2023 but only £740 in 2024, a fall of £1338, as sadly the renter concluded that the business was not viable and has since moved out.

Clergy cost sharing within the Team reflects the total clergy costs for the four parishes in the Team split in the ratio of the four Parish Share allocations. The cost sharing procedure brought us a reimbursement of £780 from the other parishes.

Each of the three district councils in our parish pays money to the PCC towards the shared PCC expenses including parish share. Again, this is not real income for the PCC, just a transfer within the parish, and so is removed from the external account with a consolidation adjustment. This year the PCC received £41022 from the three district councils, down from £43219 in 2022. The £10259 HMRC refund is not included in the £41022, as the claim is made for us by the diocese and they retain the refund towards our parish share.

In 2023 the parish received a grant from the diocese of £1580 in total towards energy costs. There were no significant extraordinary income items in 2024

So in summary, some ups and downs leading to an income slightly down on that of 2022.

¹ Numbers in this report have been rounded to the nearest pound

2. Expenditure

Headline:

Our Parish Share for 2023, previously known as quota, was £68200 of which we paid £49112 including the HMRC refund. Following discussions with the diocese our parish share was set at £50000 for 2024, rising by 5% in 2025 and again in 2026. By means of using reserves we paid the £50000 in full. This is good news, but our 2024 deficit of £18848 for the year after allowing for specific capital expenditure on lighting, is not sustainable and we shall not be able to keep using reserves like this.

In detail:

Our payment to Parish Share was £888 more than in 2023. The higher wedding and funerals income than in 2023 resulted in a £1818 higher payment to Manchester Diocese. Church service expenses were £1091 lower than in 2023. Higher payments to the organist and choir were balanced by lower payments to the vergers. The bellringers were paid the £1200 previously mentioned under income.

Our payments under the outreach heading were £301 higher than in 2023 with more expenditure by the luncheon club and on events but less overall on Education / youth work and Sunday School.

Our expenditure on buildings and equipment at £40569 was £17704 higher than in 2023. This includes nearly £14000 spent on external pathway lighting at St Bartholomew's using the Joyce Cunliffe legacy money. Church maintenance, mainly at St Bartholomew's, was £3043 higher than in 2023 and utilities at £10977 were £1016 higher. Utilities will be higher again in 2025 as we have not been able to match the price in our previous gas contract that expired at the end of 2024. Just for interest, utilities cost us £5825 in 2021.

Administration costs at £10301 are substantial, although lower than in 2023. Telephone and internet cost £1849 and we are working on reducing this cost.

Grants and expenses of trading were similar to 2023. Under extraordinary items we have included £2707 for St Bartholomew's cheques that have been issued but not cashed by the end of the year. This is a change in our accounting practice to show commitments we had at year end.

Overall, the total expenditure for the parish of £131688 was £22636 higher than in 2023, so the deficit for the parish increased to £32782 overall (£18848 + £13934 on external lighting). It will be very difficult for us to pay our full £52500 parish share in 2025.

3. Statement of main assets.

The revaluation of investments up by £1096 has already been mentioned.

The total held in various St Bartholomew's funds was £48092, down from £76374, a £14348 reduction after allowing for the planned lighting costs. As in the notes to the accounts, £7144 is designated for St Bartholomew's church building and tower work. St Thomas and St Georges ran deficits of £512 and £943 respectively.

The total monetary assets of the parish at 31st December 2024 were £103230 which was £32782 lower than the previous year.

G P Andrews, PCC Treasurer, 06/04/2025

PCC Secretary Report 2024/5

PCC Members April 2024 – APCM April 2025

***Clergy:

Team Rector – Revd Carol Pharaoh

Team Vicar – Revd Angela Wynne

Curate – Revd Andy Jones [*until October 2025*]

***Readers Emeritus:

Alan Morris / Elaine Simkin

***Churchwardens:

Joan O'Reilly [*Safeguarding Officer*] / Ed McHale [*PCC lay chair / acting secretary*]

***Deputy Wardens:

St. Bartholomew – Christine Andrews / *vacancy*

St George – John Moore / Pat James

St. Thomas – Graham Andrews [*PCC Treasurer*] / *vacancy*

***Deanery Synod Representatives: serve until APCM in 2026

Christine Andrews / Elaine Simkin / Joan O'Reilly / *vacancy*

Elected Members:

St. Bartholomew – Jean Tonge / Rachel Dawber / George Twist

St George – June Crook / Sarah Barry

St. Thomas – *vacancy* / *vacancy*

*** = *ex officio* members

At its first meeting immediately following the APCM, the PCC appointed the sidespeople for 2023/4 and appointed to post

Graham Andrews PCC Treasurer

Ed McHale PCC Vice Chair / PCC Secretary

Rector / Wardens / PCC Secretary / PCC Treasurer to form the Standing Committee

The PCC has met regularly during the year with standing agenda items including

- reports from individual church committees
- reports from church schools within the parish [noting the changes in head teachers and appointing school governors]
- Treasurer's report
- Electoral roll updates

During the year,

- we have accepted the 2024 Diocesan fees for occasional offices and the revised fees,
- completed the three yearly review of Eucharistic assistants
- agreed changes to Pauline Rowley and James Young's ALM roles so they can also minister in Westhoughton parish and to the update to Revd Malcolm Wearing's post within the team.
- agreed the Bishops' Instrument regarding marriages within the Team Benefice with regard to the reading of banns
- reviewed the "Prayers for Love and Faith" guidance from the Church of England

Ed McHale
PCC Secretary

St. George's Church Committee report 2024 for 2025 APCM:

Clergy Revd Andy Jones [*until October 2025*], Revd Carol Pharaoh

Churchwardens:

Joan O'Reilly / Ed McHale [*committee chair*]

Deputy Wardens:

Pat James / Hilary Moore

PCC Reps:

Vacant / Vacant

Elected Reps: John Thompson [*treasurer*], Angela Greenall, Sarah Barry, June Crook, Carole Walsh



In September, it was announced that our curate, Revd Andy Jones had been appointed Team Rector of the Seven Saints Team in Bolton. We paid tribute to his work in the parish and team and particularly at St George's, both church and school, in his time with us at his final service in October and were able to make a presentation to him, Katie and Harry. Many of us were able to attend and support them at the induction service at St George with St James, New Bury in November.

This has had an impact upon service cover at St George's but we continue to meet weekly. We are currently running a service pattern with Communion services on the first and third Sundays and Services of the Word on the other Sundays. We ran a very successful Café Church style Nativity Service and Crib service at Christmas in house and are looking at developing this ministry over this year.



Attendances in 2024 are approximately the same as in 2023 but still not at pre-Covid numbers.

Sunday School continues and meets on the first and third Sundays during the first part of the Communion Service. We have a good number of leaders including some very keen and able young leaders, but numbers attending fluctuate. The Sunday school have been meeting in the school room recently and have updated the noticeboards to include a Prayer Tree and Fair Trade noticeboard and are excellent Bible readers at our services.



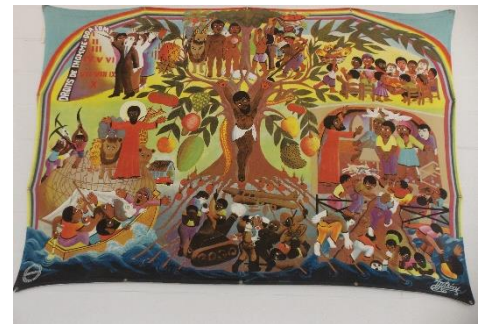
The initial building work had been completed and the new entrance and library space looked very attractive. We had access for services during this work with no issues. The church noticeboard had been resited in the entrance. The hall and sanctuary area have been

redecorated in a very vivid yellow.



The self-defence classes meeting on a Saturday in the school have now finished but a dance group is hiring the hall in that slot. One of the conditions of hire is that they will set out the church and this is generally working well.

Pat James has cleaned the tapestry and this is once again displayed in the hall.



During the year:

- we celebrated the anniversary of opening on St George's day. We welcomed some members of the school who led us in our Mothering Sunday and Harvest services.

- as part of the Mission Community Outreach Plan we marked "Bring a Friend to Church" Sunday which resulted in a few additional people coming to St George's that day. Many thanks for those who provided refreshments that day. It was good that outreach / mission / growth were being discussed at church meetings.

- Carole Walsh and Sarah Barry are now Eucharistic assistants

- we ran stalls at the St Bartholomew's autumn fair, raising approximately £500 for St George's with second hand books, Christmas goods and a wine raffle

- on Mothering Sunday 2024, five of our young people took communion for the first time following the Belonging to God course.



- we have held a further Games Afternoon at St George's which proved fun and popular. The use of the hall on Saturdays limits the opportunity for further events

- we have been able to provide refreshments after the service on special occasions

- John Thompson has been looking at the St George's Eco Church proposals, recognising that as a church meeting in a school, our options are limited

- we ran our stewardship campaign in October with the tagline **5** in **2025** showing that we need to raise income by 5% to stand still. The response to this has been very positive.

We are grateful to all at St George's for their generous giving meaning that we have overpaid[!] our portion of the Parish Share in 2024 especially the majority of people who give to the church by direct debit / envelopes. We have also done the usual fund-raising during the year including both an Advent and Lent challenge as well as the smarties tube challenge.

Many thanks also to the committee for their tireless work each week especially John & Helen Thompson [for the powerpoints, financial stewardship and music], Samuel Greenall [for running powerpoint services], Pat James and Hilary Moore who undertake the wardens' duties and represent us on the parish committees and to all who serve on the St George's committee.

In 2025 we were pleased that James Young was appointed as Head teacher and look forward to develop further links with the school as we move forward together.

Ed McHale

St George's Committee Chair / Secretary

St. Bartholomew's Church Committee report 2024 for 2025 APCM:

Clergy Revd Carol Pharaoh *[chair]*

Readers Emeritus Alan Morris / Elaine Simkin

Churchwardens:

Joan O'Reilly / Ed McHale *[vice chair / committee secretary]*

Deputy Wardens:

Christine Andrews / *vacancy*

Deanery Synod Representatives:

Christine Andrews / Elaine Simkin *[St Bart's treasurer]* / Joan O'Reilly

PCC Reps:

Jean Tonge / Rachel Dawber / George Twist

Elected Reps:

Ollie Younge / Linda Casson

St Bartholomew's committee has met regularly in 2024/5 and, at its first meeting, co-opted Sue Robinson-Todd onto the committee.

During the year *[see also churchwardens' report above for many more details]:*

- There have been updates on the various building projects underway, including faculties for the external lighting and initial dry rot treatment and investigation in the church and tower; internal lighting; PA system; roofing repairs; vestry cupboard door repair.
- There is a regular financial statement from the treasurer

- Relevant services and events are discussed
- There is feedback from Sunday School, St Bartholomew's school
- We have adopted the hire agreement for use with school bookings, clarifying the maximum attendances at events
- We held an additional meeting in August to plan the stewardship campaign
- We have agreed an updated Health and Safety policy which also includes areas within the tower
- The key holders list is being reviewed and updated
- We have agreed a legacy policy and accompanying leaflet

Ed McHale
St Bartholomew's Committee Secretary

St Thomas' Team Vicar's Annual Report 2024-2025

Church Council



The Church Council met formally 4 times last year. Members are The Team vicar Revd Angela Wynne, Joan O'Reilly & Ed McHale Church wardens, Graham Andrews -Deputy warden, Claire Smith Treasurer, council members Christine Andrews. There are vacancies on the church Council. Once more I am very grateful to the Church Council for all their support and input. Graham and Christine open up the church each Sunday and set out the pews / seats, clean, Hoover and set up the altar for Communion, welcome people and keep us stocked up with all we need for the services. Graham looks after the rota for

readers and sidespeople.

Claire has kept the accounts in order and claimed our gift aid back. Claire opens up if Graham and Christine are on holiday. Many thanks to her for all she does.

Thanks to Gail Stocks who kept the minutes until she stepped down during the year. Other commitments also meant that Caroline Darby is no longer able to be on the council. Thank you to both of them for all they've done at St Thomas' and we wish them all the best.

Thank you to all those who contribute by doing the readings, being a sides-person and welcoming people, those who operate the CD player. Your participation is very much appreciated. Several of our young people volunteer to welcome people to church and to read the lessons.

The Church Council has met four times over the year. Finances is one of our major concerns. We held a Stewardship campaign, but this is ongoing. We had a stall at the Christmas Fair. We held a raffle for a Christmas hamper. More people are using the QR code in church.

Another challenge is to recruit more volunteers. One of our parents was confirmed last year and she volunteered to help with Sunday School.

Services

We have roughly half Eucharistic, half non-Eucharistic services. Up to Christmas 2024 we offered Pre-school but now our prayers have been answered and we are now able to have a Sunday School

for children 5-11 years and also we will be able to offer the Pre-school again when the Safeguarding checks are complete.

We continue to put the message across that we need the congregation to be more involved. We have lots of new families attending. Average 25 children and their carers. It's lovely to have them with us. We have been working with the school. They have helped us with Café Church, refreshments and technology and The Songs of Praise we held for the Connect Mission which was well attended.

There is a very loyal core of older people who support us financially and practically as much as they are able. In November we held a **Remembrance Day service** with an act of Remembrance.

During the year we have had 2 baptisms after the main service. Thank you to Graham and Claire who stay behind to support.

At Christmas we supported Christmas Dinner on Jesus, Fort Alice with our Toy Service and we held our Carol Service. On Christmas Eve we held a Crib Service and Christingle. Thank you to Christine who organised transportation, speaker for Toy Service and led our Crib Service.

Christine our ALM, regularly leads Service of the Word which enables me to be at St Katharine's or even take a break.

Looking ahead...

The priorities for the coming year will continue to be how we can improve our fundraising

And how we can engage with the families so that they have a meaningful worship time.

Your prayers that such help may be forthcoming would be very much appreciated.

Every Blessing

Revd Angela Wynne, Team Vicar.

Data Protection Report for 2025 AGM

Our church forms including remain compliant with the Data Protection laws.

As a Parish we continue to e-mail out the weekly pewsheets and occasional special advertising. Regular attendees from our congregation have signed up or e-mailed to request which publications they wish to receive and can withdraw approval at any time by e-mailing the Parish office.

Baptism / wedding families who have indicated consent when booking will receive the special advertising. Anyone can remove their names from this contact list simply by sending an email reply.

We are not aware of any non-compliance with Data Protection in 2024 and no complaints have been raised. The policy was reviewed and there were no revisions to the policy made in 2024.

The churchwardens continue to oversee Data Protection but would be pleased to hand this on to a Data Protection Officer appointed by the PCC now that the policies are in place and the workload known.

Ed McHale

St. Bartholomew's Church Choir Report for 2025 AGM

We have been able to return to singing a full complement of hymns at Sunday services and have contributed anthems and special pieces at services in Advent, Lent and Easter.

Highlights of the year included the Services over the Coronation weekend the Parish Carol Service.

My thanks must go to those who come and practice weekly whatever the conditions. We have faced a lot of health issues over the last 12 months and it's good that we can act together as a support group.

Recruiting new members is always difficult. We are always open to new members of any age – please just come and have a word with me.

Ed McHale

Director of Music

Safeguarding Report 2024

All who work with children in the parish, parish wardens, deputy wardens all PCC members and those who take communion into the homes of parishioners. All must have an up-to-date DBS. Not everyone has completed their DBS training online, this is absolutely essential. At the time of writing this report we have had one concern which was reported to the diocese. From Sunday School, home communion, bellringers, choir, and all Wiggle worship helpers all DBS.

St. Thomas's St Georges and St Bartholomew's have 24 DBS.

Joan O'Reilly

Café Church 2024

We know a lot of the parents and children come to Café Church to get the children into a certain school. We give them all a reading from the bible which they can take away with them. Café church starts at 3.45 on Wednesday when children are served with juice and a biscuits and the parents can choose either tea or coffee.

We start with a worship service followed by songs, prayers then a bible reading and a talk which is followed by crafts.

At the end we come together to say grace.

Thank you to all who help with the refreshments.

Joan O'Reilly

St Bartholomew's Sunday School Report 2024

Sunday School meets on 1st, 2nd and 3rd Sunday of the month. The 4th Sunday is all age worship with children and adults taking part in readings and prayers.

It can vary how many children attend it is normally between 6 and 10. This really depends on whether they need a mark to get their child into a certain school.

Some parents come into Sunday School to support their children which we really do not want to encourage.

I would like to thank Rachel, Helen, Nicola (who leads Sunday School) and Andrea who supports the leader. We now have new leaders, Linda and her son Dion.

We must not forget that these children are the future of our church.

Joan O'Reilly

Wriggle worship report.

Monday mornings are going very well we have about 14 adults and roughly about 16 toddlers.

We start at 9 30 am when the toddlers have toy time, we also have activities which goes with wriggle worship.

10 30 is tidy up time where all adults and toddlers help.

After wriggle worship starts all join in with the song then a story connected to the activity followed by our special prayer. Then we finish with more singing and bubbles

Joan, Christine, Elaine, Carol and Linda.

Ignite Youth Westhoughton

Ignite Youth is a space where our young people across the Team in Year 6 or above can meet each month. We continue to meet at St John's and our thanks go to all the Team PCCs and churches for their prayers and support. Also, to Tim Eden (St John's treasurer) for administering the TYC funds.

We are blessed to have had 20 young people who have attended over the year. Numbers have settled at around up to 12-14 each session. Each year, we have been encouraged to see new Year 6's to join us after the summer and continue to link Ignite Youth attendance with the Team confirmation classes.

We had a slight blip in July due to the weather and a certain football competition meaning we had to delay our BBQ until September. However, this didn't really impact attendance and we continue to see the same core of young people coming.

Topics have included "Running the Race", "It Must Be Love" "Generosity - Social Action" and "Generosity – Thanksgiving & Harvest". We focus on a bible passage, prayer and bible breakdown based including enjoying games and activities linked to the topic. We really value the time spent sharing over "take away" food. We have fun evenings too, including showing the film "Yes Day", our Summer BBQ and Christmas Party.

This year our young people presented our churches with Easter freezes as a Thank You. These included angels which were part of the Easter Experience

for our local schools at St Bartholomew's church. The other pictures created this session were amazing and used by St John's over the Easter season. They also considered their generosity and giving by collecting for Urban Outreach at Harvest, focussing on the items that are not always thought about including toiletries and cleaning items. These were greatly appreciated.

We want to say a big thank you to the volunteers Caroline, Claire, Lisa and Tracey from across the team who help support running Ignite Youth. We welcomed Janet and Rhea in the autumn and they have already been a great asset to the team. We continue to pray that more volunteers will come forward from other churches as we need more support and ideas.

We especially wish to thank Lisa for all her help until Summer 2024, when she stepped down to focus on her own church and wider commitments. Her ideas and enthusiasm will be missed and we wish her God's blessing as she continues to serve. We will miss Reverend Andy Jones help and support - we wish him well in the Seven Saints team and as he seeks to introduce a similar ideas to their young people's group.

We continue to be involved with Bolton West Mission Community Youth Leaders benefitting from sharing our experiences, encouraging one another and arranging events each term. In February - a games & pizza event at St Elizabeth's Horwich, with some staying for Alive & Free, where the speaker was Bishop Matthew, Bishop of Bolton. In June - 3 of our young people attended the Catalyst Youth Weekend with around 35 from other groups. Ni-Cola Scott, Children Changing Places Shade Project Leader, led 3 sessions and there were wonderful times of worship and fun together. In November - "Into the Light" was held at St John's Wingates focussing on journeying towards Advent. 37 young people attended, including 12 from Ignite Youth. An amazing evening of worship, games and activities, with Reverend Vinnie Jones providing the reflection. More events already planned for 2025!

Please pray continually for Ignite Youth as we encourage and support our young people to continue to follow Jesus. Also, for our leaders as we seek God's direction and continue to seek his heart for them.

Evelyn Eden & Andy Glynn

Bolton Deanery Report for APCMs and PCCs 2024-5

Your Deanery needs you!

Yes, you. Not just the clergy or the Deanery Synod reps. Bolton Deanery needs your prayers and your support for the calling we all share as Christians in our churches, parishes and teams, to love God and love our neighbours as ourselves, and to pass on the gospel of Jesus Christ to the people and communities around us in this, our part of God's creation.

You might be thinking what actually is Bolton Deanery, or what's the point of Bolton Deanery anyway – why don't I ever hear much about it? You might be thinking, what are these mission communities I sometimes hear about? What even are they, and why do we have them at all?

This report is about giving you some clear information about these things, whether you know some bits, or have heard some things, or are really not sure at all.

It's also an encouragement and an invitation to find out more, by asking your Area Dean, asking for a visit to your church or PCC or group, and encouraging you to pray for what's going on across Bolton Deanery in many parishes and churches where God is being worshipped faithfully, the gospel is being shared with people of all ages, and lives are being transformed by the love of God in Jesus Christ.

So what is Bolton Deanery – and what's it for?

Bolton Deanery is made up of 50 places of worship and 33 parishes. It includes the borough of Bolton, but also some parts of Blackburn and Salford. It's one of seven Deaneries in the Diocese of Manchester – and it's basically a support network for the parishes and teams, clergy and volunteers within it.

It has a Deanery Synod, a formal gathering of representatives elected from every parish for sharing information and discussion across the Deanery. This

Synod can look at issues raised by the national Church, by the Diocese, and by PCCs at a local level.

In Bolton our Deanery Synod has a policy of looking at key issues and themes in its four meetings across the year.

In recent years we have had presentations and discussions on:

Closing Churches – How, Why and Who

Growing our Churches

Clergy Vacancies, Deployment and the Diocesan Vision

Children, Families and Schools

New mission ideas – Talkin’ Tables and other projects in our Mission Communities

Parish Share and the Discussion and Agreement Process

Safe Families and Home For Good – support for vulnerable young people

The Emerging Strategy for the Diocese 2025-2030

So what’s an Area Dean for – and why are they full-time?

The role of a full-time Area Dean is to support clergy, volunteers and parishes across the Deanery in their ministry and mission.

This includes mentoring, encouraging and advising clergy, individually and collectively as the Deanery Chapter; working with parishes and teams in vacancy or times of clergy illness or sabbatical; working with the Diocesan teams and projects like Children Changing Places across the Deanery; being the local link point for the Archdeacon and Area Bishop, and for the Bishop of Manchester, advising on clergy appointments, parish support and any issues or questions arising; supporting parishes and teams to develop their vision and strategy; preaching and leading worship across the Deanery – especially during vacancies – and encouraging everyone in the Deanery, lay and ordained, to live out their God-given call to follow Jesus.

Or as one person put it – to be a kind of chief exec during the week, and a supply vicar on the weekend...

Area Deans used to be full-time parish priests as well, with much smaller Deaneries. This meant a lot of this support work simply didn’t happen, and clergy and parishes were much more isolated than they are now.

What is a Mission Community and what are they for?

A mission community is a group of parishes within an area of a Deanery who are encouraged to work together in mission and ministry and to support each other. They aren’t ‘mega-parishes’ or ways to get rid of the parish system – they’re a new, and hopefully in the long term better, way to support it. Lots of parishes don’t have the volunteers they used to, and the number of paid clergy in the Diocese is less than it was, for many reasons, mostly around finance.

While we can certainly argue about whether there should be more money from the national church for paid clergy and workers, there's also a shortage of people with the right calling and training for these roles – and loads of the ones there are have a mysterious calling to the South East of England...

In the meantime, every Diocese needs to find ways to share resources and work together across parishes so that we continue with the mission and ministry God has given us. That's what mission communities in this Diocese are about.

Now you may be thinking you don't know much or anything about this – and what difference does it make anyway? The short answer is that these communities are still very new – and while some are already doing amazing things, others are finding it hard to get off the ground or spread the word that this is even a thing, which is one reason why this report has been written and shared.

In Bolton we have four mission communities – Bolton West, Bolton Central, Bolton North East and Bolton South East. The parishes in each are listed below in case you don't know which one you're in:

Bolton West	Bolton Central	Bolton North East	Bolton South East
St Bede Bolton-le-Moors St Mary Deane + St Andrew Over Hulton St Thomas/St John Lostock St Katharine Blackrod St James Daisy Hill St Bart's Westhoughton + St George's the Hoskers + St Thomas Chequerbent St John Wingates Holy Trinity Horwich St Catherine Horwich St Elizabeth Horwich Rivington	Christ Church Heaton St Margaret Halliwell St Peter Bolton-le-Moors St Philip Bolton-le-Moors West Bolton Team St George the Martyr Emmanuel Centre St Luke Halliwell St Paul Halliwell St Thomas Halliwell St Peter Halliwell St Stephen AM Lever Bridge	Christ's Church Harwood Turton Moorland Team Christ Church Walmsley St Andrew Bromley Cross St Anne Turton St James Edgworth St Maxentius Bradshaw St Peter Belmont St James Brightmet St Paul Astley Bridge (Antioch Church Plants: - New Life Brightmet - Oldhams Estate)	Clifton St Anne Clifton St Thomas Clifton Green Farnworth & Kearsley St Stephen Kearsley Moor Stoneclough Holy Trinity Prestolee St Saviour Ringley St Augustine Tonge Moor + St Aidan Crompton Way St Matthew Little Lever Seven Saints St Catherine New Bury St George New Bury St Michael Great Lever

For many of our clergy, their mission community gives them a chance to meet together, to pray and support each other, and explore ways of working together over the area, which the new bigger Deanery doesn't allow. It's also a great way for lay volunteers and parish officers to find support and work on new projects together.

This has seen some exciting developments, building on good pre-existing relationships and foundations, and trialling new things amid the busyness of parish life and ministry.

In Bolton West, the clergy have been meeting and praying together for many years, and the youth leaders and volunteers from the different parishes and teams also meet together regularly to pray and support each other – and over the last two years young people from across the community have shared an annual Away Weekend, Catalyst, and are growing as followers of Jesus and leaders in their own right.

In 2024, Bolton West also held a post-Easter project across all the churches, Connect, encouraging church members to intentionally invite people to church. There have been meetings across the community for the wider ministry teams in all the parishes, and important and robust conversations with the Area Dean and Archdeacon about the challenges of future vacancies, clergy numbers and allocations, and the sheer workload of parish ministry for clergy and volunteers alike. This mission community does not have a leader, but the clergy share leadership amongst themselves as needed.

In Bolton Central there have been regular clergy meetings for sharing and prayer, and shared projects like Ashes to Go on Ash Wednesday, planned Eco-Church training offered in one parish with an invitation to the wider mission community, as well as special services like Autumn and Summer Praise events and a proposed Light Service in October 2025. The mission community has a supportive role to the many initiatives going on its diverse parishes and settings, from Bolton Parish Church to St Peter's Halliwell and everything between at Christ Church Heaton, the West Bolton Team and St Stephen and All Martyrs Lever Bridge – with a increasing emphasis on sharing school governance roles and support across the community. In this mission community, there is no current leader after Ian Hepburn moved to his new role, so leadership is shared amongst the clergy with Dave Thompson acting as spokesman as required.

In Bolton North East the challenge of clergy vacancies, as well as the illness and death of Peter Reiss, has seen the other clergy of the mission community coming together in an extraordinary way to support the ongoing worship of the Turton Moorland Team alongside their own churches, and to hold shared services and other activities with open invitations for everyone to join in during the year, while meeting regularly for prayer and encouragement, especially for the team at Christ's Church Harwood, who have been continuing to minister faithfully despite being in vacancy for four years. There have also been some great shared projects with the two Antioch church plants – New Life Brightmet and Oldhams. There is more to do, especially to support lay volunteers, and with more clergy moving on soon, there will be other opportunities and challenges in the future. In this mission community, Viv Masters serves as mission community leader, looking to convene the clergy and others regularly.

Bolton South East has taken a longer time to get things going, and not because of any lack of effort from the amazing lay and ordained people in the churches here. It is natural and understandable that things have been hard, given the wide

geographic spread, the long vacancies at Seven Saints and Clifton, and a relatively new priest in post at St Matthew's Little Lever with a vacancy before that. Some of the clergy have recently begun to meet at each other's churches

for prayer and conversation, and are beginning to explore ideas for events and activities which might be shared across the community to raise the profile of each parish and team. It would be good to see more opportunities for lay parish officers and other ministers to meet to pray together and support each other, and for training. Currently, Fr Tony Davies is the mission community leader.

Mission communities are not a legal entity – they don't replace parishes or teams but support their work, just as the early churches supported and encouraged each other as we see in the Book of Acts and the letters of St Paul.

What about the Diocese – what's the big picture here?

Bolton Deanery and its mission communities are a kind of scaffolding for the parishes of this part of the Diocese of Manchester. They're there as support, not an end in themselves, and as a way of spreading the load across the whole Diocese as evenly as possible.

So with the 175 paid clergy posts this Diocese funds, with £2 million a year for that coming from the national church, this allocation is shared among the seven Deaneries, with Bolton's allocation being around 18.5 paid posts, and this then allocated by mission community based on numbers of churches, parishes, and people attending for worship or other activities week by week. For more detail about this, invite the Area Dean to come and talk to your church.

The Diocese is the overall structure that holds our parishes together – so the Diocese isn't 'them upstairs', it's all of us in every church, school and parish belonging to it. Every ordained or lay minister has a licence or permission from the Bishop of Manchester in this Diocese in order to serve here, as part of our historic church structures and accountability in Christian ministry. The central team of the Diocese supports parishes by paying your clergy stipends, clergy housing, admin, training, clergy costs, safeguarding and ongoing mission.

As noted above, this is funded by your parish contributions – calculated as fairly as possible across all the churches so each parish pays its 'share' - and also by additional money from the national church, due to the high levels of deprivation in this Diocese, as well as from the reserves of the Diocese – without which we couldn't afford the number of clergy we have.

The Diocese has support teams for education – including our many church schools – and for mission and ministry, training, safeguarding, finance and other support, which are for all parishes. In addition, the central team applies for funding for

major projects – like the transformation programme across the Diocese, and here in Bolton, the incredible Children Changing Places Project, which works to build links between churches, schools and families, helping us minister across all ages, in a world where many younger people and families don't have any connection with or grasp of church or worship or Jesus.

So what's going on now and next with all of these things?

The Diocese is looking to put in a major bid for funding to the national church towards the end of 2025, for significant funding to help us continue to transform our parishes, schools and chaplaincies to be a worshipping, growing and transforming Christian presence at the heart of every community – a Church for a different world.

This is going to focus on four key areas – and it's where right now we need your help and ideas. The four key areas for the next 5 years are:

Growing younger – continuing the pioneering work like Children Changing Places to strengthen churches' relationships with schools, young people and families, and mindful that Jesus tells his followers in Matthew 18.3, 'Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.'

Church planting and revitalisation – starting new churches in new places and sometimes in old buildings where a new spark might bring new people, mindful that every church in history was once a new church, planted in faith, to bring new growth and a harvest, and as that great church planter St Paul writes in Galatians 6.9, 'so let us not grow weary in doing what is right, for we will reap at harvest time, if we do not give up.'

Developing missional leaders – growing as followers of Jesus, lay and ordained, and by doing this together, helping all our volunteers and paid ministers to flourish in their Christian lives, to grow in their faith and their sense of call – and by following Jesus faithfully, to become the leaders he is already calling them

and us to be. As Jesus tells us in Matthew 9.37-8 'the harvest is plentiful but the labourers are few, therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into his harvest.'

Parish Renewal – yes, it's here, the thing we all want to see! All of us want to see parishes renewed in their ministry and mission to the communities around them. That's about support and encouragement, from new appointments, revitalisation, mission initiatives or re-planting teams.

Sadly, in this key area we also have to consider Church buildings at risk of closure. We will look at all possible options and interventions to recover the situation, including planting teams and interim support, and only if nothing else works do we look at helping our PCCs and congregations to close their church buildings – as only the PCC and congregation can make that decision. Even then we will look to do something new and different in such parishes, looking for where God may be at work, and seeking to join in – as Isaiah 40.31 says, ‘...those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.’

So what does this have to do with you and me?

The Diocese of Manchester is not some faceless blob sitting in St John’s House in Bury, or in Bishops court in Salford – it’s you and me and all of us, the people in our churches and parishes, schools and chaplaincies, on Sundays and during the week – whether we work or are retired, have families or live alone, whatever our age or stage or background.

The four areas for our work have been identified from the good and the challenging things going on in our parishes and deaneries over the last five years, and this is being led by the Bishop’s Leadership Team and the central team based in Bury. Their role is to shape our ideas and contributions with their own overview across the deaneries, and the learning from projects like Children Changing Places as well as the experience of other dioceses, about what we ought to be doing now and in the future, so that they can prepare a bid for funding which can be successful, and can add value and resource for every parish and person in this Diocese.

Whether it’s more chaplaincy support in schools, more support for encouraging and supporting our volunteers in their vocations, and growing our own new leaders, lay and ordained, your views matter and will help to shape the bid. And your questions about all of this matter too. Which is why this report is aimed at giving you some information, encouraging you to ask questions and discuss these things in your church, parish or team, and suggesting you invite the Area Dean for more discussions.

It’s about asking you to get involved – and above all else to pray. Because it’s when God’s people pray that extraordinary things happen, and what is impossible for us becomes possible with Him.

Every blessing in Christ

Simon Cook Area Dean of Bolton

**The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Bartholomew
including the churches of St Bartholomew's, St George's and St Thomas'**

2024 Accounts

2023 (£)	INCOME	St Thomas	St Bart's	St George's	PCC	Consol adj	TOTAL 2024 (£)
DIRECT GIVING							
28141.03	Gift aided planned giving-envelopes and SO	4428.50	12100.00	9964.00	0.00		26492.50
13097.46	Other planned giving-envelopes and SO	1147.50	10765.03	1094.00	500.00		13506.53
58.50	Other gift aided donations		0.00		0.00		0.00
11915.07	Loose plate collections (inc Sunday Schools)	1256.54	7810.89	673.07	0.00		9740.50
10411.90	Tax refund on gift aid giving	1762.46	5493.92	3002.95	0.00		10259.33
0.00	Memorial donations				0.00		0.00
63623.96		8595.00	36169.84	14734.02	500.00	0.00	59998.86
OTHER VOLUNTARY INCOME							
3239.28	Gift day and general donations	310.00	699.55	441.75	0.00		1451.30
0.00	Donations for youth work				0.00		0.00
18758.00	Weddings & Funerals		22975.70		0.00		22975.70
20.00	Book of Remembrance		10.00		0.00		10.00
2926.05	Events, Concerts and Refreshments	220.71	5151.09	157.60	0.00		5529.40
435.44	Votive candle stand		348.00		0.00		348.00
245.00	Donations for flowers	0.00			0.00		0.00
0.00	Income from bell ringing		1200.00		0.00		1200.00
25623.77		530.71	30384.34	599.35	0.00	0.00	31514.40
APPEALS							
262.05	Christian Aid		95.59		0.00		95.59
118.45	Donations for Royal British Legion		0.00		0.00		0.00
0.00	Bishop's fund				0.00		0.00
115.50	Children's Society		0.00		0.00		0.00
0.00	Gift for minister			145.00	0.00		145.00
150.00	Tower fund		0.00				0.00
0.00	Miscellaneous appeals				0.00		0.00
646.00		0.00	95.59	145.00	0.00	0.00	240.59
INCOME FROM INVESTMENTS							
1966.73	Revaluation of investments					1096.40	1096.40
2270.98	Bank interest	30.88	2663.84	4.78	0.00		2699.50
170.59	Dividends				231.96		231.96
0.00	Received from trust funds				0.00	0.00	0.00
4408.30		30.88	2663.84	4.78	231.96	1096.40	4027.86

INCOME FROM TRADING						
1495.00	200 club			1560.00	0.00	1560.00
0.00	Sale of magazines and advertising space				0.00	0.00
2078.05	Room Hire	740.00			0.00	740.00
3573.05		0.00	740.00	0.00	1560.00	0.00
						2300.00
OTHER SUNDRY INCOME						
0.00	Transfers between accounts	0.00	0.00	41022.05	-41022.05	0.00
649.80	Clergy cost sharing within the Team			780.29		780.29
383.00	Sundries		0.00			0.00
1032.80		0.00	0.00	0.00	41802.34	-41022.05
						780.29
EXTRAORDINARY ITEMS						
120.00	Insurance reimbursement		0.00		0.00	0.00
0.00	Cash not banked, not included elsewhere	29.24			0.00	29.24
1580.00	Energy costs grant from diocese		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
0.00	Balancing adjustment	0.75	14.00		0.00	14.75
1700.00		29.99	14.00	0.00	0.00	43.99
100607.88	INCOME TOTALS	9186.58	70067.61	15483.15	44094.30	-39925.65
						98905.99

**The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Bartholomew
including the churches of St Bartholomew's, St George's and St Thomas'**

2024 Accounts

EXPENDITURE						
2023 (£)	St Thomas	St Barts	St George's	PCC	Consol adj	2024 (£)
WORK OF THE CHURCH						
Leadership						
927.27 Ministerial expenses		430.00		571.61		1001.61
0.00 PCC expenses (including parish share)	6000.00	25000.00	10022.05		-41022.05	0.00
49111.90 Cof E parish share	1762.46	5493.92	3002.95	39741.00		50000.33
0.00 Clergy cost sharing within the Team				0.00		0.00
0.00 Deanery & other subscriptions				0.00		0.00
50039.17	7762.46	30923.92	13025.00	40312.61	-41022.05	51001.94
Services						
9062.00 Manchester DBF (weddings & Funerals)		10880.00		0.00		10880.00
2056.47 Church Services expenses	41.21	258.70	8.00	657.45		965.36
5935.90 Organists and choir		6251.50	147.00			6398.50
2035.00 Vergers		1633.00		0.00		1633.00
0.00 Payments to bell ringers		1200.00		0.00		1200.00
19089.37	41.21	20223.20	155.00	657.45	0.00	21076.86
Outreach						
368.42 Training and education (inc Sunday School)	21.96	0.00	24.38	0.00		46.34
0.00 Urban outreach				0.00		0.00
319.50 Luncheon Club		652.00		0.00		652.00
515.00 Concerts and events		750.00	0.00	0.00		750.00
222.25 Youth work		198.09		79.98		278.07
1425.17	21.96	1600.09	24.38	79.98	0.00	1726.41
Buildings and Equipment						
2929.47 Rectory Council tax / water rates				3142.04		3142.04
6208.73 Church maintenance (incl. cleaning)	678.00	8503.76	70.00			9251.76
3766.21 Churchyard maintenance		17019.90				17019.90
0.00 Rectory / Vicarage maintenance				0.00		0.00
9960.60 Utilities		10906.71	70.00			10976.71
0.00 Flowers and materials	178.31			0.00		178.31
0.00 Purchase of church equipment				0.00		0.00
22865.01	856.31	36430.37	140.00	3142.04	0.00	40568.72

Adminstration						
1330.78	Printing, postage and stationery	17.90	129.04	6.80	994.09	1147.83
772.00	Sundry		1200.00			1200.00
567.00	Equipment maintenance / rental		92.81	7.20	648.00	748.01
1460.68	Telephones and internet		885.16		963.38	1848.54
373.00	Website fees				325.00	325.00
351.00	Copyright licence	170.00		97.00		267.00
0.00	Bank charges					0.00
411.72	Planned giving envelopes				345.82	345.82
4222.07	Insurance	828.40	2935.36	654.86		4418.62
0.00	Stewardship campaign materials				0.00	0.00
1580.00	Transfers between accounts	0.00	0.00		0.00	0.00
11068.25		1016.30	5242.37	765.86	3276.29	10300.82
GRANTS						
115.50	Children's society		0.00		0.00	0.00
3143.19	Church Schools		1102.10	2131.12	0.00	3233.22
239.00	Royal British Legion Poppy appeal		25.00	0.00	0.00	25.00
0.00	Church council grants to School Governors				0.00	0.00
262.05	Christian Aid		95.59		0.00	95.59
0.00	Bishops fund				0.00	0.00
0.00	Miscellaneous					0.00
0.00	Gift for minister			185.00	0.00	185.00
3759.74		0.00	1222.69	2316.12	0.00	3538.81
EXPENSES OF TRADING						
817.50	200 Club winners plus licence fee				890.00	890.00
0.00	Crux magazine	0.00	0.00		0.00	0.00
817.50		0.00	0.00	0.00	890.00	890.00
EXTRAORDINARY ITEMS						
-12.50	Write-back of uncashed cheques from previous year	0.00		0.00	-122.50	-122.50
0.00	Transfer to PCC		0.00			0.00
	Unpresented cheques not included elsewhere		2707.00			2707.00
-12.50		0.00	2707.00	0.00	-122.50	2584.50
109051.71	EXPENDITURE TOTALS	9698.24	98349.64	16426.36	48235.87	-41022.05
-8443.83	NET SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)	-511.66	-28282.03	-943.21	-4141.57	1096.40
						-32782.07

**The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Bartholomew
including the churches of St Bartholomew's, St George's and St Thomas'**

2024 Accounts

STATEMENT OF MAIN ASSETS						2024 (£)
2023 (£)	St Thomas	St Bart's	St George's	PCC	Consol adj	TOTAL
TOTAL						
Investments and bequests						
6437.51 White Horse School - sale of nursery	0.00	0.00		6684.42		6684.42
15326.39 G&A Grundy Memorial Fund-income to St Barts	0.00	0.00		15677.19		15677.19
8611.77 Hart Common Sunday School and mission Church	0.00	0.00		9068.86		9068.86
4188.94 Thomas Smith bequest	0.00	0.00		4188.94		4188.94
342.16 Banco Santander Shares	0.00	0.00		383.76		383.76
0.00 Monies held in diocesan account				0.00		0.00
34906.77	0.00	0.00	0.00	36003.17	0.00	36003.17
Bank accounts and cash balances						
St Bartholomew's						
8383.32 Current Acc 40013757		5757.52				5757.52
Unpresented cheques		-2707.00				-2707.00
2926.24 Gift aid account 80773344		3104.96				3104.96
61537.41 CBF Deposit Fund 624108001D		38537.41				38537.41
303.96 Choir		328.46				328.46
2802.85 Belfry Fund		2802.85				2802.85
420.60 Luncheon Club		268.15				268.15
76374.38	0.00	48092.35	0.00	0.00	0.00	48092.35
St George's						
3136.92 Current Account			2448.85			2448.85
329.29 Clubs and Societies reserve			334.07			334.07
Unpresented cheques			-325.00			-325.00
0.00 Cash in hand			65.08			65.08
3466.21	0.00	0.00	2523.00	0.00	0.00	2523.00
St Thomas's						
438.68 Current Account	522.66					522.66
9.45 Cash not yet banked	29.24					29.24
3675.18 Memorial Fund	3028.06					3028.06
333.65 Flower Fund	365.34					365.34
4456.96	3945.30	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3945.30
PCC						
16807.72 Current Account				12666.15		12666.15
136,012.04	Asset Totals	3945.30	48092.35	2523.00	48669.32	103229.97

The use of the following funds is restricted: G&A Grundy Memorial Fund, Sale of White Horse nursery, Thomas Smith bequest, St Thomas Memorial fund.

£6,944.15 in the St Bartholomew's accounts is designated to the Tower fund.

£199.50 in the St Bartholomew's accounts is designated to the St Bartholomew's Church, tower and churchyard.



CHARITY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

**Report to the trustees/
members of**

Charity Name

The PCC of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Bartholomew, Westhoughton

**On accounts for the year
ended**

31st December 2024

**Charity no
(if any)**

1136063

Set out on page

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31st December 2024.

**Responsibilities and
basis of report**

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

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed 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 which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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

Signed:

Date:

16th April 2025

Name:

Nigel Ginniff

**Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body
(if any):**

Barrister at Law of England and Wales

Address:

13 Bankside

Westhoughton

BL5 2QP

Section B

Disclosure

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

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

Accounts



THE PARISH OF ST. BARTHOLOMEW WESTHOUGHTON

St. Bartholomew

St. George

St. Thomas

ANNUAL REPORTS FOR 2023

PRESENTED TO THE APCM

MONDAY 29TH APRIL 2024



The Parish of St Bartholomew Westhoughton

St Bartholomew St George St Thomas

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING:
MONDAY 29th APRIL 2024, 7.30pm
ST BARTHOLOMEW'S CHURCH

AGENDA

1. Welcome and Opening Prayers
2. Apologies for absence
3. Minutes of the Annual Meetings held on Monday 24th April 2023 [*which are attached below*] and matters arising

Annual Meeting of Parishioners:

Election of two churchwardens for the year 2024 - 2025

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

- I. Elections and appointments:
 - i. Two deputy wardens each for St Bartholomew's, St Thomas's and St George's (who will be ex-officio members of the Parochial Church Council)
 - ii. Four representatives for Deanery Synod for the period 2023 – 2026 (who will be ex-officio members of the Parochial Church Council) – *1 vacancy*
 - iii. Two further representatives from St Bartholomew's, St Thomas's and St George's to serve as members of the Parochial Church Council
 - iv. Up to eight people to serve as members of each of the church councils of St Bartholomew's, St Thomas's and St George's
 - v. Appointment of Independent Examiner
2. Annual Reports for 2023:
 - i. Team Rector's Report
 - ii. Churchwardens' Report
 - iii. Secretary's Report on the Proceedings of the PCC
 - iv. Church Electoral Roll Report
 - v. Honorary Treasurer's Presentation of Accounts
 - vi. Safeguarding Officer's Report
3. Any Other Business relevant to an annual meeting (*chair to be notified BEFORE the meeting begins*)

4. Date of future Meetings:
 - Archdeacon's visitation – **Tuesday 18th June 7:30pm Bolton Parish Church** *[closest one but other dates and venues are available]*
 - Next PCC meeting – to be set
 - Annual Parochial Church Meeting 2025 Monday 28th April
5. Closing prayers

There will be a short meeting of the newly constituted Parochial Church Council immediately following the Annual Parochial Church Meetings

AGENDA

1. Appointment of
 - a. PCC treasurer
 - b. PCC secretary
 - c. Vice chair of the PCC
 - d. Safeguarding officer
 - e. PCC Standing Committee *[usually Rector, vice chair, Parish wardens, secretary, treasurer]*
2. Co-option, if required, of further PCC members
3. Appointment of Sidespeople
4. Any other urgent business

Parish of St Bartholomew Westhoughton

St Bartholomew, St George, St Thomas

Meeting of the APCM Monday 24th April 2023 at 7.30pm

held at St Bartholomew's Church

Attendance: Revd Carol Pharaoh (chair), Ed McHale (Acting Secretary), Christine Andrews, Elaine Simkin, Joan Warner, Jean Tonge, John Owen, Lynn Owen, Sarah Barry, Pat James, Joan O'Reilly, John Moore, Hilary Moore, Alan Morris, Angela Greenall, Graham Andrews, Revd Andy Jones, June Crook, Ryan Battersby, Rachel Dawber

Following other meetings: Revd Angela Wynne *[by Zoom]*

Apologies: George Twist, Ollie Younge, Helen Thompson, John Thompson, Sue Robinson Todd, Kath Norman, Sylvia Oakes.

AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION and ACTION
Apologies for Absence	Attendance and apologies were noted on the signing in sheets and are listed above.
Introductions:	The rector welcomed everyone to the AGM and opened the meeting with a reading and reflection from 2 Timothy and the Collect for St George's Day.
Minutes of Previous meetings	The minutes of the previous APCM held on the 25 th April 2022 had been circulated to those signing up to attend the meeting electronically or in a paper form. After a number of corrections, mainly to individuals' names, on the proposal of Elaine Simkin, seconded by Andy Jones, these were accepted unanimously.
Annual Meeting of Parishioners: Election of Two Parish Wardens 2023 - 24	Joan O'Reilly and Ed McHale had both consented to stand and had been duly proposed and seconded. There being no further nominations, they were appointed to the two posts of Parish Wardens.
Annual Parochial Church Meeting	Elections and Appointments The following were all duly proposed seconded and appointed
Deputy Wardens: [2 per church]	St Bartholomew's: Christine Andrews / VACANCY St George's: John Moore / Pat James St Thomas' Graham Andrews / VACANCY
Deanery Synod: 4 representatives	Christine Andrews, Elaine Simkin and Joan O'Reilly were duly proposed, seconded and appointed, leaving one vacancies to be filled. It was noted that these posts were for a three year period.
Elected Members to PCC: [2 per church]	The following were all duly nominated, seconded & appointed St Bartholomew's: Jean Tonge / Rachel Dawber / George Twist <i>[co-opted]</i> St George's: June Crook / Sarah Barry St Thomas': VACANCY / VACANCY
Elected Members to DCCs	The following were all duly nominated, seconded & appointed St Bartholomew's – Sue Robinson-Todd / Linda Casson St Thomas' – Claire Smith / Gail Stocks / Caroline Darby St George's - John Thompson, Angela Greenall Thanks were recorded to those who have served on our committees but have chosen to stand down this year namely Kath Norman [retiring from PCC Secretary, St Bartholomew's committee secretary and Deanery Synod], Sylvia Oakes and Claire Smith standing down as St Thomas' PCC reps and Sarah Sloan who has stood down from St George's committee.

Appoint of Independent Examiner	Nigel Ginniff proposed by Graham Andrews, seconded by Elaine Simkin and duly appointed. A card and book token has been presented to Nigel with thanks for his work as Independent Examiner this year.
Annual reports	
Team Rector Churchwardens PCC secretary Church Electoral Roll Honorary Treasurer & Independent Examiner Safeguarding Group reports	These had all been circulated prior to the meeting either by e-mail or as a paper copy. It was noted that the electoral roll stood at 184 as of 24/04/2023. A very belated report from St Thomas' committee received too late to be included with the e-mailed and printed reports was read at the meeting. The reports were accepted <i>en bloc</i> unanimously with thanks to all who had prepared them.
AOB	None relevant to the annual meeting
Date of future meetings	Archdeacon's Visitation – Tuesday 13 th June 7:00pm at Bolton Parish Church is our most local service St Bart's Committee THURSDAY 11 th May 7:30pm Next PCC meeting – Monday 15 th May 7:30pm St Thomas' Committee – Monday 22 nd May St George's Committee – Monday 26 th June 7:30pm Annual Parochial Church Meeting 2024 – Monday 29 th April [planned] 7:30pm
	PCC MEETING
Appointment of Elected Officers	The following were duly proposed, seconded and appointed: PCC Vice Chair: Ed McHale PCC Secretary: vacant – appoint at next PCC meeting / review again in September PCC Treasurer: Graham Andrews Safeguarding lead: Joan O'Reilly PCC Standing Committee: Clergy, Parish Wardens, PCC secretary, PCC treasurer, Elaine Simkin
Election of Sidespeople – note these are now elected by the PCC rather than by the APCM	John Thompson, Jean Tonge, Lynne Owen, John Owen, Claire Smith, Gail Stocks, Kath Norman, Les Downes Further Sidespeople may be appointed by the PCC at any time during the year.
Appointment of Foundation Governor – St George's	It was proposed from the chair that Pauline Hann be appointed as a Foundation Governor at St George's school. Pauline is a regular and active member of St John's church and has a career in education. This proposal was accepted unanimously.
AOB	On behalf of the parish, Ed thanked Revd Carol for her leadership through the year and we all wished her well for her three month sabbatical from mid-May to August.
Closing Prayers	The meeting closed at 8:20pm and was followed by cheese and wine.

TEAM RECTOR'S REPORT 2023

'...but those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.'
Isaiah 40.31 NRSV

2023 was both a fulfilling year and a sad year for me. Fulfilling in that I had the privilege of taking a sabbatical. The sad part came when my lovely Mum, who had struggled with ill-health and frailty for a few years, died on the 7th November. Through it all, I have known the strength and compassion of prayer and the care of many people. Thank you.

During my sabbatical I was fortunate to be able to go on a bird of prey experience day. As part of the day, I had the joy of holding a golden eagle named Sienna. Remembering the feeling of size, weight, power and seeing close up the beauty of such a glorious creature on my arm still gives me goose bumps. It was a moment that I will never forget. Golden eagles are, of course, renowned for their size and strength and their impressive eyesight. An eagle's eye is a much different shape than a human eye, giving an eagle a much larger image than we can see. Its retina has much more concentrated rod and cone cells – cells that send sight information to the brain. As result, it is estimated that an eagle can see clearly about eight times as far as humans can, allowing them to spot and focus in on a rabbit or other animal at a distance of about two miles. We might use the expression that a person is 'eagle-eyed' meaning they notice everything, even very small details.

In 2023, within our churches we have seen signs of vision, growth and strength. The number of people attending our churches grew. St Thomas's Church started holding Café Church style worship on a Sunday morning monthly. St George's Church have been working more closely with St George's School, with members of the school community coming to services regularly. Mid-week services at St Bart's, both at Café Church and the monthly Wednesday Service, have grown numerically. The parent and toddler group at St Bart's Church became a more intentional Christian group and morphed into Wiggle Worship. Our three churches have begun to engage with the Eco Church agenda and started thinking a little more deeply about being good stewards of God's creation. We held many different and enjoyable social and concert events across our churches. We celebrated the King's Coronation with events and special services. We welcomed 40 children into our church families as they came with their families to our churches to be baptised. 8 young people and 1 adult were confirmed by Bishop Matthew at our Team Confirmation Service held at St John's Church. 2 couples were married at St Bart's Church. We had the privilege of showing support and comfort to 42 families who lost a loved

one through death. We supported many more people as they experienced difficult times of illness, sadness and anxiety. We engaged with our Church Schools and Community Schools for a number of different services throughout the year and once again held our Experience Easter event. Thank you to all who serve and care for people of our churches and community.

We thank God for Readers Alan and Elaine who lead and preach at our church services throughout the year. Thank you to our ALM Christine for the work that she does at St Thomas Church and at St Bart's Church. Thank you to our Café Church Team who are inspirational in the energy and creativity they show week by week. Thank you to our Church Wardens Ed and Joan and all the Deputy Wardens Graham, Pat, John and Christine for their dedication and commitment. Thank you to our parish treasurer Graham, and the individual church treasurers Claire, Elaine and John. Thank you to Ed for taking on the role of PCC secretary. Thank you to Jean for being a lovely vergier at St Bart's Church and for overseeing the Luncheon Club. Thank you to all who hold other roles in our church, from children's and youth workers to sidespeople, musicians to singers, cleaners to gardeners, bell ringers to refreshment makers, from DCC members to PCC members. Thank you to everybody who has helped our churches grow and be strong in 2023.

I am once again indebted to my colleagues across the Team for their support, creativity, strength and resilience. You are all gifted and special people. May God continue to bless all you do. Ignite Youth, our Team Youth Church, is continuing to flourish with new members and leaders which gives me great joy to see. We continued to offer different house groups and study groups within the Team Ministry throughout the year. Although these are not as well supported as we would like to see, we do see this as an important part of our ministry and witness. Do have a word with me if you would like to know more about the events and opportunities we have to grow in our Christian faith.

As a parish, we struggle financially to meet all our expenses. St Bart's Church building increasingly needs attention. In the coming year, we will look again at how we might increase our income to meet these challenges. Thank you to all those who give sacrificially of their time, talents and money. May God bless you richly.

There is so much that is good in our churches. There are always challenges and more we could do to serve our community. We need to be eagle-eyed, not only to notice what God is showing us, but also to have a much broader vision of what is possible and what new things God is calling us to. We need not to look back but forward. We wait in trust, knowing God

will renew our strength and pray that God will enable us to soar like an eagle to achieve great things for him. God will work amongst us and will show us the way. The adventure continues in 2024.

Be Thou my vision, O Lord of my heart
Naught be all else to me, save that Thou art
Thou my best thought, by day or by night
Waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light.

(From the hymn, Irish 8th century, translated by Mary Elizabeth Byrne (1880-1931))

With love and prayers,

Rev'd Carol Pharaoh

PCC Treasurer's report to Annual Parish Meeting regarding 2023 accounts

1. Income

Overall income was almost the same as in 2022 being just £135 lower at £100608¹.

Looking first at direct giving, this was £409 lower in 2023 than in 2022. However, in 2023 there were no memorial donations (£2000 in 2022), so the other 2023 direct giving was in fact £1591 higher than 2022. Total 2023 tax refund on gift aided donations were up on 2022 by £1187 but this most likely down to timing of 2022 claims to HMRC.

Other voluntary giving was down in 2023 by £2973. Notably £4932 of the decrease came from wedding and funeral fees but of course part of this is subsequently paid to the diocese. Concerts and events income was up by a pleasing £1759, so congratulations to the events team.

Appeals income remains low at £646 for the parish, spread across the Royal British Legion, Children's Society, Tower Fund and the Turkey/Syria earthquake appeal

The value of our investments rose by £1967 in 2023. This is not a real gain unless we sell the investments, but needs to be shown as a consolidation adjustment to balance the books.

Bank interest became a significant item in 2023 with the rise in interest rates, St Bartholomew's receiving £2267

The income from the 200 club has fallen again by £65 as we have further members have cancelled their subscriptions. St Bartholomew's church had an income of £2078 for hire of the meeting room, but sadly the renter has concluded that the business is not viable and has since moved out.

Clergy cost sharing within the Team reflects the total clergy costs for the four parishes in the Team split in the ratio of the four Parish Share allocations. The cost sharing procedure brought us an income of £650 from the other parishes. We are currently going through discussions with the diocese regarding the parish share for 2024 as are St James and St Katharine's. The outcome of these discussions is likely to affect the split between parishes in our cost sharing agreement.

Each of the three district councils in our parish pays money to the PCC towards the shared PCC expenses including parish share. Again, this is not real income for the PCC, just a transfer within the parish, and so is removed from the external account with a consolidation adjustment. This year the PCC received £43219 from the three district councils up from £38812 in 2022. The £10412 HMRC refund is not included in the £43219 as the claim is made for us by the diocese and they retain the refund towards our parish share.

The only significant extraordinary income in 2023 was the grant from the diocese of £1580 in total towards energy costs. This has been paid over to St Bartholomew's district council as St Thomas and St George's have very minor energy costs.

So in summary, some ups and downs leading to an income compared very close to that of 2022.

¹ Numbers in this report have been rounded to the nearest pound

2. Expenditure

Our Parish Share for 2023, previously known as quota, was £68200 of which we paid £49112 including the HMRC refund, or 72%. This is £4298 more than in 2022. As already noted, we are in discussion with the diocese over the parish share for 2024 to 2026.

The lower wedding and funerals income than in 2022 resulted in a £2000 smaller payment to Manchester Diocese. This accounts for almost all the reduction in expenditures under the services heading, the lack of payments to bellringers being balanced by higher church service costs and payments to the vergers.

Outreach was quite similar in total to 2022. Training and education costs were up but Youth work costs were down. This is probably due to small changes in allocations to these similar headings. St Bartholomew's had a £500 cost for events but this was more than covered by the increased events income.

The rectory costs were similar to the previous year. Adding the costs for church and churchyard maintenance also gives a similar amount to 2022. Energy costs however were £2857 higher than in 2022 which had itself been higher than 2021.

Printing, stationery and postage costs were brought down by £514 from the high of 2022. The high £772 sundry cost was the refund of wedding payment for a ceremony that was cancelled. Telephone and internet costs were down by £220 with a revised BT contract, but they have increased prices substantially for 2024. Insurance costs increased by £297 across the parish. The £1580 transfer between accounts was from the PCC account to St Bartholomew's for the energy cost grant.

Grants to the church schools was £1773 down on 2022, in particular there was no grant to St Thomas school this year. The grant to the Royal British Legion covers two years as the 2022 grant was in fact paid in 2023.

Overall, the total expenditure for the parish of £109052 was £4924 higher than in 2022, so with similar incomes the deficit for the parish increased to £8444.

3. Statement of main assets.

The revaluation of investments up by £1967 has already been mentioned.

The total held in various St Bartholomew's funds was £76374, down from £83063 reflecting the £6689 deficit at St Bartholomew's in 2023. As in the notes to the account £21078 is designated for church building and tower work. St Thomas and St Georges ran deficits of £864 and £1222 respectively.

The total monetary assets of the parish at 31st December 2022 were £136003 which was £8445 lower than the previous year (which was itself £1400 lower than 2021).

G P Andrews



2023 draft annual
accounts.pdf

PCC Treasurer, 17/03/2024

Parish Churchwardens' Report for 2023 – to be presented at the 2024 AGM

At the 2023 APCM Joan O'Reilly and Ed McHale were elected to the post of Parish Wardens.

Largely this has been a year of consolidation after the restrictions of the COVID pandemic, seeking to keep the improvements made in recent years and build on some of the advancements made.

During the year many things have been able to run or have been introduced:

- New Year's Day fell on a Sunday in 2023 allowing us to have a joint 11:00am service with refreshments including bacon butties served before the service.
- Office Hour continues on a Monday morning [drop-in] or Saturday mornings by appointment.
- The Monday morning 9:30-11:00am Toddler Group and Wiggle Worship has increased in numbers.
- The Civic Service for Mayoral Service was held with a good attendance from members of the Town Council.
- In March St Bartholomew's hosted the 2023 World day of Prayer Service prepared by the people of Taiwan.
- Remembrance Sunday services continued, again limiting attendance at the 10:00am Civic Service. The Act of Remembrance at the War Memorial was streamlined and much improved in 2023 and we will look at ways of
- Switching on of the Town Lights Carol Service continued in its new format. Only a limited number of schools will take part in person on a rota basis, the other schools contributing recorded items. Admittance was by ticket only to prevent unsafe overcrowding. We are happy to look at arrangements including the issue of ticket distribution with the schools and are working with the Town Council at the future of this event.
- A Confirmation Service was held in November at St John's Church in Wingates with a good number of candidates led by the new Bishop of Bolton, Revd Dr Matthew Porter. This year we ran again the two longer Saturday preparation sessions which worked well. We are looking, however, at moving the Confirmation back to a Spring date in 2024 to fit better with Sunday School / Ignite Youth terms.
- The Team Youth Church continues to meet monthly at St John's Wingates on a Saturday evening; more help with running this is sought.
- We have been able to continue Sunday schools at St George's and St Bartholomew's with many thanks to all who lead these and especially to Joan O'Reilly for co-ordinating this and organising all the DBS checks and child / vulnerable adult protection training [do read her report]
- In Spring we were able to run a full programme of Lent, Holy Week and Easter services. The Easter Experience was also reintroduced in 2023 following the break for Covid. We continued the Stations of the Cross on a Monday evening and used material produced by CAFOD in the worship which was much appreciated. On Good Friday we held a Young People's drop in workshop at St Bart's between the more formal services at St James' and St Katharine's churches. This proved very popular with many craft events and attracted a good attendance.
- We continue to run a large number of baptism services. Many thanks to those who give up their Sunday afternoons to staff these. We also run a baptism preparation evening each month; many thanks to Carole Bullough who has taken on organising the baptism preparation session and also writes out all the certificates and candles for the services.
- We have held a small number of wedding services in 2023 with some booked for 2024.

- Cafe church services have run on a Wednesday at St Bart's from 3:45 -4:30pm during term time and are proving very popular. It many thanks again to the team who plan and staff these as well as providing refreshments.
- We were able to run some face-to-face study groups during 2023 including one on Prayer and a Lent course based on the film "West Side Story." We a wide range of Lent events planned in 2024 including more daytime / family friendly events.
- A Book Club organised and led by Revd Andy Jones was started during the year
- The All Souls Memorial Service was held and attracted a greater attendance than in 2022.
- We ran a full programme of Christingle and Christmas Services; although attendances were greater than 2022, they were still not at pre-pandemic levels. Of note, no young people attended on Christmas Day. We were able to run crib services at St Thomas' and St George's. For the Christmas Dinner on Jesus in 2023, we collected selection boxes; this proved a very popular item and we exceeded our target. Our local schools returned to hold their Christmas events at St Bartholomew's.
- The monthly Wednesday Communion Service followed by Luncheon Club continued at its new time of 11:00am at St Bart's with thanks to all who run this.
- Following St Bartholomew's Patronal Festival at the end of August, we were able to have a "bring and share" lunch.
- In May, we were able to hold the Christian Aid collections in our churches.
- Revd Dr Malcolm Wearing organised a Team Retreat in May 2023 and is planning a further one for May 2024.

Publicity:

The expanded Pewsheets Plus and is now e-mailed out to 85 - 90 people each week [& a hard copy to those who have requested one]. The pewsheets is also available from the church website with many thanks to Neil Belch for maintaining this.

We have started looking with Neil Belch ways of redesigning the Website and moving it to a new platform.

The death of Joan Warner, who contributed so much to the parish including much of the leg work on the pewsheets each week, is much felt. There is currently no back-up for the pewsheets.

We still continue to produce posters and publicity for services and events which appear on the internal and external church noticeboards, St Bart's railings and, again thanks to Joan O'Reilly, in shops & sites through the town.

Staffing:

Revd Carol Pharaoh took a sabbatical for three months in 2023.

On a Diocesan level, Revd Dr Rachel Mann replaced Revd Jean Burgess as Archdeacon of Bolton [following her move to the Winchester Diocese] and Revd Dr Matthew Porter was installed as Bishop of Bolton following Mark Ashcroft's retirement.

It is of note that the staffing plans for the local mission partnership [effectively the former Deane deanery] require a cut in stipendiary clergy from 6 to 5 by the end of 2025 although there is as yet, no strategy for this.

We also welcomed Pauline Rowley as the new Westhoughton Town Clerk in 2023 and have been working closely with her in developing Civic services including the Town Lights Christmas event and Remembrance Sunday.

Parish Share / Finances:

There are still issues about parish finances and our inability to pay the Parish Share in full. We did not run a Stewardship Campaign in 2023 but would look to hold one in 2024/25 which, learning from the lessons of 2022, would be much more church focussed rather than Parish based. A discussion & agreement meeting to set a three-year plan for a more realistic Parish Share was arranged for March 2023.

The Parish social events committee has organised a number of events throughout 2023 continuing into 2024 raising funds with events including

- Houghton Weavers Concert
- A St Patrick's Day concert run by Ged and Sue Robinson-Todd
- The annual Bolton Chamber Orchestra Concert [run by Ed McHale]
- An autumn fair [much appreciated by stall holders and those attending]
- The Brixi Singers Christmas performance of Handel's Messiah [run by Ed McHale, and again much appreciated]

St. Bartholomew's Building:

During the year a Buildings and Maintenance committee was re-constituted, currently chaired by Ed McHale, to prioritise work across the church and tower and to split these into a manageable set of smaller tasks.

Membership: *Revd Carol Pharaoh [rector], Joan O' Reilly, Ed McHale [Parish Wardens], Graham Andrews [PCC Treasurer], Ged Robinson-Todd [Bell Ringers], Linda Casson [secretary], Ryan Battersby [Tower Captain]*

All the usual testing of electrical and emergency equipment has been completed along with routine annual services and maintenance.

In 2023 we had a number of additional building works:

- There are ongoing issues with boiler failures resulting in some days without heating. Further work to the boilers was scheduled in March 2024.
- We are progressing with options for lighting the church path. The faculty has been submitted and is on display in March 2024. Funding for this is in place following a bequest from Joyce Cunliffe.
- Robinsons visited in April 2023 and prepared a report on the initial dry rot treatments for the tower and choir vestry. A List B faculty for the work was submitted and finally received in March 2024 so we hope that this work can progress soon. Funding for this work is in place and this will allow a more substantial appraisal of the progression of the dry rot and the further work needed.
- Following a break-in during 2022, there were repairs needed to the vestry cupboard door which were completed with thanks to Revd Malcolm Wearing
- There has been some work completed on the columbarium and in clearing guttering at the top of the tower
- The next project will be to seek some companies to assess the state of the church roof and to itemise and cost any remedial work needed to make it watertight
- Following the failure of some lights in the church, particularly over the choir gallery, we have started to look at options for replacing the bulbs with LED lighting that would be cheaper to run and help with Eco Church status, whether this would necessitate changing all the light

fittings and whether we should move to a new lighting system with bulbs at a lower level around the walls of the church which would make changing broken bulbs much easier and cheaper.

- Ongoing issues with the PA system have been noted and we are experimenting with replacement batteries, system settings and training in microphone use; one option is moving the control desk into church so we can adjust it more easily in situ rather than remotely.

As we cannot expect to raise funds to pay our annual bills on top of the additional funding for repairs, we have also set up a small group to look at grant-giving bodies to see what would be involved in applying and the amounts we could hope to receive. This has met infrequently but we are looking at grants available from the Diocese to support some of this work as well as National Lottery Heritage funding for the larger scale works.

Coronation Celebrations:

We marked the Coronation of King Charles III in 2023 by distributing a book of prayers to each member of the congregation which ran from Easter Day to the day of the coronation itself. On the weekend of the Coronations our bell ringers rang additional peals, we held a Civic Service at St Bartholomew's and the Brixi Singers provided a concert of Royal Music with organ music by Ed McHale, some of which had been featured at the Coronation in Westminster Abbey earlier that weekend.

We apologise if we've missed anything and thank all those who work across all our churches, in many other unsung roles, who keep the many activities across the parish running so well. It must be noted, however, that much is done by a very small group of people and we need to look at involving a greater number of volunteers and succession planning if we're going to be able to continue to run the number of events that we do across the year.

Nothing happens without an enormous amount of planning, co-operation and paperwork and we're grateful to Christine Andrews, Pat James and Graham Andrews who serve as deputy wardens in the parish taking on a lot of additional duties at the different churches as well as our readers and clergy. We also remember especially the work put in by John Moore as deputy warden at St George's and pray for Hilary and his family at this time of loss.

Joan O'Reilly – Parish Warden

Edward McHale – Parish Warden

2023/2024

PCC Secretary Report 2023/4

PCC Members April 2023 – APCM April 2024

***Clergy:

Team Rector – Revd Carol Pharaoh

Team Vicar – Revd Angela Wynne

Curate – Revd Andy Jones

***Readers Emeritus:

Alan Morris / Elaine Simkin

***Churchwardens:

Joan O'Reilly [*Safeguarding Officer*] / Ed McHale [*PCC lay chair / acting secretary*]

***Deputy Wardens:

St. Bartholomew – Christine Andrews / *vacancy*

St George – John Moore / Pat James

St. Thomas – Graham Andrews [*PCC Treasurer*] / *vacancy*

***Deanery Synod Representatives: serve until APCM in 2023

Christine Andrews / Elaine Simkin / Joan O'Reilly / *vacancy*

Elected Members:

St. Bartholomew – Jean Tonge / Rachel Dawber / George Twist

St George – June Crook / Sarah Barry

St. Thomas – *vacancy* / *vacancy*

*** = *ex officio* members

At its first meeting immediately following the APCM, the PCC appointed the sidespeople for 2023/4 and appointed to post

Graham Andrews PCC Treasurer

Ed McHale PCC Vice Chair / PCC Secretary

Rector / Wardens / PCC Secretary / PCC Treasurer to form the Standing Committee

The PCC has met regularly during the year with standing agenda items including

- reports from individual church committees
- reports from church schools within the parish [noting the changes in head teachers and appointing school governors]
- Treasurer's report
- Electoral roll updates

During the year, we have accepted the 2023 Diocesan fees for occasional offices and the revised fees, begun the process of looking at Eco Church [and have delegated this to the

individual church committees where it is a better fit], accepted the Terms and Conditions for various PCC subgroups looking at Social Events, Buildings and Maintenance, Communications and Grant Funding and considered the Mission Community outreach proposal for May 2024.

Ed McHale
PCC Secretary

St. George's Church Committee report 2023 for 2024 APCM:

Clergy Revd Andy Jones

Churchwardens:

Joan O'Reilly / Ed McHale [*committee chair*]

Deputy Wardens:

Pat James / John Moore

PCC Reps:

Sarah Barry / June Crook

Elected Reps: John Thompson, Angela Greenall

Throughout 2023 attendances have been growing slowly but steadily through the year.

Sunday School continues and meets on the first and third Sundays during the first part of the Communion Service. We have arranged that the young people sit together in a block when they join the second half of the service. We have a good number of leaders [namely Sarah Barry, Angela Greenall, Carole Walsh and Pat James] but numbers attending fluctuate. The Sunday school have been meeting in the school room recently and have updated the noticeboards to include a Prayer Tree and Fair Trade noticeboard

We are currently running a service pattern with Communion services on the first and third Sundays and Services of the Word on the other Sundays.

Thanks to the school caretaker who has helped us by setting out the Church for us which has made Sundays easier.

During the year:

- we have experimented with holding baptism services at St George's at 11:00am on request.
- we celebrated the 27th anniversary of opening on St George's day and sent out invitations to all via the school but the take up was disappointingly low. We welcomed some members of the school to the Mothering Sunday and Harvest services.
- we were able to celebrate with our young people who were confirmed at the Team Confirmation service in November at St John's Church, Wingates by Bishop Matthew, our new Bishop of Bolton

- we booked a stall at the St Bartholomew's autumn fair [as well as assisting in setting up, clearing away and helping on other stalls] fund raising for St George's with second hand books and a wine raffle
- on Mothering Sunday 2024, five of our young people took communion for the first time following the Belonging to God course.
- we have held two Games Afternoons at St George's which have proven fun and popular
- we have been able to provide refreshments after the service on special occasions
- the committee has agreed updates to the consent forms and produced a contact details form
- John Thompson has been looking at the St George's Eco Church proposals, recognising that as a church meeting in a school, our options are limited
- Simon Bramwell attended a meeting to discuss the various building improvements taking place at the school over the coming months including the LED lighting, remodelling the entrance and refitting classrooms.

We are grateful to all at St George's for their generous giving meaning that we have almost paid our portion of the Parish Share in full again in 2023 especially the majority of people who give to the church by direct debit / envelopes. We have also done the usual fund-raising during the year including both an Advent and Lent challenge as well as the smarties tube challenge.

Many thanks also to the committee for their tireless work each week especially John & Helen Thompson [for the powerpoints, financial stewardship and music], Samuel Greenall [for running powerpoint services], Pat James and Sarah Barry who undertake the wardens' duties and represent us on the parish committees and to all including Angela Greenall and June Crook who serve on the St George's committee. It is with much sadness that we heard of the death of John Moore on 6th April 2024 who had contributed so much to St George's over the years as deputy warden, committee member, PCC member and gave us so much of his time in a practical way often in a "first there, last to leave" capacity. Our thoughts and prayers are with Hilary and the family.

In 2024 we look forward to working with the school and its new head, when appointed, in developing the links as we move forward together.

Ed McHale
St George's Committee Chair / Secretary

St. Bartholomew's Church Committee report 2023 for 2024 APCM:

Clergy Revd Carol Pharaoh [*chair*]

Readers Emeritus Alan Morris / Elaine Simkin

Churchwardens:

Joan O'Reilly / Ed McHale [*vice chair / committee secretary*]

Deputy Wardens:

Christine Andrews / *vacancy*

Deanery Synod Representatives:

Christine Andrews / Elaine Simkin [*St Bart's treasurer*] / Joan O'Reilly

PCC Reps:

Jean Tonge / Rachel Dawber / George Twist

Elected Reps:

Sue Robinson-Todd / Linda Casson

St Bartholomew's committee has met regularly in 2023/4 and, at its first meeting, co-opted Ollie Younge onto the committee.

During the year:

- In line with the Ecclesiastical "Keeping People Safe" self-assessment toolkit, EJM has updated the St Bartholomew's
 - Health and Safety Policy Statement
 - Health and Safety Policy
 - Fire and Evacuation Policy
- The Terms and Conditions of various sub-groups were discussed and agreed
- Progress towards Eco Church Bronze level status has been discussed
- There have been updates on the various building projects underway, including faculties for the external lighting and initial dry rot treatment and investigation in the church and tower; internal lighting; PA system; roofing repairs; vestry cupboard door repair.
- There is a regular financial statement from the treasurer
- Relevant services and events are discussed
- There is feedback from Sunday School, St Bartholomew's school

Ed McHale

St Bartholomew's Committee Secretary

Data Protection Report for 2024 AGM

Our church forms including remain compliant with the Data Protection laws.

As a Parish we continue to e-mail out the weekly pewsheets and occasional special advertising [e.g. for Easter, Mothering Sunday, Harvest or Christmas]. Regular attendees from our congregation have signed up or e-mailed to request which publications they wish to receive and can withdraw approval at any time by e-mailing the Parish office.

Baptism / wedding families who have indicated consent when booking will receive the special advertising. Anyone can remove their names from this contact list simply by sending an email reply.

We are not aware of any non-compliance with Data Protection in 2023 and no complaints have been raised. The policy was reviewed and there were no revisions to the policy made in 2023.

The churchwardens continue to oversee Data Protection but would be pleased to hand this on to a Data Protection Officer appointed by the PCC now that the policies are in place and the workload known.

Ed McHale

St. Bartholomew's Church Choir Report for 2024 AGM

We have been able to return to singing a full complement of hymns at Sunday services and have contributed anthems and special pieces at services in Advent, Lent and Easter.

Highlights of the year included the Services over the Coronation weekend the Parish Carol Service.

My thanks must go to those who come and practice weekly whatever the conditions. We have faced a lot of health issues over the last 12 months and it's good that we can act together as a support group.

Recruiting new members is always difficult. We are always open to new members of any age – please just come and have a word with me.

Ed McHale

Director of Music

TOWER REPORT 2023

Life in the tower continues to grow from strength to strength whilst the tower structure continues to decay. We have several new starters ranging in ages, who are all doing very well. Ringers from different towers continue to visit from across the country to experience our fantastic octave of bells.

There were two highlights of 2023. The first being the coronation of Their Majesties The King & Queen; matching the ringers of Westminster Abbey and watching via a TVscreen set up for the very occasion, the bells rang out at the exact moment of crowning, both before and after the service, and including a successful quarter peal in the evening. Secondly was the launch of the exhibition in Bolton Museum displaying life in our tower as documented by Marge Bradshaw. It was a fantastic 3 month display and I'm grateful to all those who managed to get along to it.

A personal highlight was our successful quarter peal in October to mark the 20th anniversary of the death of our former tower captain, Geoffrey Fothergill. Seven of the eight ringers rang on the day of his funeral, and it was touching to have everyone together again to ring for the occasion.

Weddings have been scarce in their number, but otherwise we have continued to do our part on Sundays, Remembrance, Christmas etc.

Social nights have included meals at Casa Nostra, The China Room, Ewe, Tamarind Table, not to mention up the tower. We even held a mightily successful Ceilidh in the back room of church!

Thankyou as always to those who continue to support us.

Ryan Battersby
Tower Captain

St. Bartholomew's Safeguarding Report 2023

All who work with children in the Parish, Parish Warden, Deputy Warden, all PCC members and those who take communion into homes all have up to date D.B.S.

Everyone has completed their on-line training and I have no concerns regarding any safeguarding issues in our parish at the time of writing this report. In 2025 everyone in our parish will have to update their D.B.S. and training.

Joan O'Reilly

Safeguarding Officer

St. Bartholomew's Sunday School Annual Report for 2023

Sunday School meets on the 1st, 3rd and 5th Sunday of the month. We have decided to now run Sunday School on the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Sunday of the month with the 4th Sunday being an all age worship with children and adults taking part in the readings and prayers.

It can vary how many children come into Sunday School, the numbers range from 6 to 20.

I would like to thank Rachel, Helen and Nicola for all that they do as leaders. Also we would like to thank Andrea and Tracy for supporting the leaders. We are hoping to get a new leader named Linda in September.

We must not forget that these children are the future of the church.

Joan O'Reilly

Café Church Report

Café church is going well with about 15 -20 adults and 20 -30 children tea coffee juice and biscuits is offered at the start.

At 3 -45 we start the service first we go through our worship ways e.g. turning off phones listen and to be quiet when the leader is speaking.

We then say sorry to God, light the candles, sing and then the bible reading followed by the talk we then go on to prayers sometimes lead by the children

We finish with an activity and then say the Grace.

Thank you to all who help with the service and refreshments.

Thank you to all who give donations also to Lanete for her sandwiches cakes and all who bring biscuits and Martin who helps us to tidy up

From the Café Church team.

Wiggle worship report.

Monday mornings are going very well we have about 14 adults and roughly about 16 toddlers.

We start at 9 30 am when the toddlers have toy time, we also have activities which goes with wiggle worship.

10 30 is tidy up time where all adults and toddlers help.

After wiggle worship starts all join in with the song then a story connected to the activity followed by our special prayer. Then we finish with more singing and bubbles

Joan, Christine, Elaine Linda and Carol

Electoral Roll Update

At the date of the APCM, there were 182 names on the electoral roll.

The following reports were received late, after the submission deadline had passed and were not presented to the PCC but copies were available at the APCM.

Ignite Youth (Team Youth Church)

We continue to see Ignite Youth flourish to help provide an event each month for our youth across the team. We have continued to meet at St John's once a month and our thanks go to the PCC at St Johns and from all the Team PCCs for their prayers and support. Also, to Alisdair Cole & Tim Eden (St John's treasurers) for administering the TYC funds.

We have had up to 21 young people attending once a month on the third Saturday evening of the month. Our sessions have included "Belonging", "Generosity & Social Action", "Strength in the Spirit" and "Advent Pledges" We continue to run this as a Youth Church where they focus on a bible passage, prayer and bible breakdown. Also, all our activities, crafts and games are linked to the theme. Also, spending time over food and having fun evenings at our Summer BBQ and Christmas Party.

As in previous year's we encouraged new Year 6's to join us after the summer and continue to keep links with confirmation classes and see our young people taking part in church services across the team. This year they presented an Advent scene that they made to all our churches to display as a "thank you" for all our support.

We have to say a big thank you to the volunteers who make this happen for our youth, Caroline Smith, Claire Billings, Lisa Orrell and Tracey Thornton from across the team to help support running Ignite Youth. We continue to promote the work of Ignite Youth and pray that more volunteers will come forward from other churches as we need more support.

We also want to thank Jo Haslam from Children's Changing Places team who provided support to get Ignite Youth off the ground and her ideas for our sessions along. Also, to Reverend Andy Jones, who is our main clergy lead from the Team.

We have continued to meet with Bolton West Mission Community youth leader, led by Reverend Vinnie Whitworth, and have seen this network develop in providing support and encouragement to us all. God is working in our youth across the team, and we are so thankful. This has led to joint events including Catalyst Youth Weekend in June where we saw 8 of our young people attend and around 35 in total from around the Mission Community. Susie Mapledoram, our Diocese Youth Worker led 3 sessions and we had wonderful times of worship. We had lots of fun too including hunt the leader and, of course, Smithills Ice Cream. More events are planned in 2024.

Please pray continually for Ignite Youth as we see them continue to come to each event and help them on their journey with Jesus.

Evelyn Eden & Andy Glynn

St Thomas' Team Vicar's Annual Report 2023-24

Church Council...

Once more I am very grateful to the Church Council at St Thomas's for all their support and input. Graham and Christine open up the church each Sunday and set out the pews / seats and set up the altar if it's Communion. They also clean and Hoover if necessary, welcome people and keep us stocked up with all we need for the services. Graham looks after the rota for readers and sidespeople.

Claire has kept the accounts in order and claimed our gift aid back. She recently set up a QR code which we hope will encourage those with no cash! Claire is usually the one who opens up if Graham and Christine are on holiday. Many thanks to her for all she does.

Thanks to Gail for being the Secretary and taking the minutes. Gail also makes the refreshments after services and also during Café Church, often single-handed. I particularly appreciate a cup of tea before I go back up the hill to St Katharine's. Gail has also been providing some gorgeous flower arrangements for us which brighten up the church.

Thank you to Caroline for being on the Committee and for her involvement and suggestions and also being a valuable link between church and parents.

Thank you to all those who contribute by doing the readings, being a sides-person and welcoming people, those who man the CD player if necessary. Your participation is very much appreciated.

Meetings...

The Church Council has met several times over the year. A major concern has been how to encourage increased giving as we badly fall short of our Parish Share contribution. The plate collection is very poorly supported. The card machine is used by some people and the QR code will provide a further option. There have been some new standing orders which is encouraging. We had a successful sweet stall at the School Picnic in Summer and on the back of that booked a table at the Autumn Fair at St Bart's but that was not as lucrative as there were not enough children there.

We also had a stall at the Christmas Fair at St Thomas' which also brought in a little extra.



School Picnic - thanks to our young assistants who could add up quicker than us!

Services

Café Church has continued over the year about one a month. The families do like this service and the older congregation have been very supportive. The families can a tea / coffee / soft drink / muffins / biscuits / pastries etc.

There is an activity and often a quiz for the more mature members. We use the projector and screen for the service and try to keep it informal.

In July we had family event after church: "We're going on a Bear Hunt". Although few in number, the children enjoyed an exciting adventure hunting bears as we retold the story and had a picnic afterwards.

Jayne and Chris King two of the parents have set up a **Creche for toddlers and pre-schoolers**. They provide lectionary related activities and this is appreciated by some of the parents and also means the main service is less noisy for those in the main body of the church.

There is still no Sunday School for the older children. If I have time and inspiration, I produce activity sheets for them to complete in church. Please pray for more volunteers.

Many thanks to Brenda who continues to play the keyboard for us on some Sundays and we use CDs for the remainder.

In November we held a **Remembrance Day service** with an act of Remembrance. Humphrey gave a talk about the role of Army Chaplains in conflicts.

During the year we have had 1 baptism after the main service. Thank you to Graham and Claire who stay behind to support.

In November, 2 of our young people were confirmed at St John's by Bishop Matthew.

At Christmas we supported Christmas Dinner on Jesus, Fort Alice with our Toy Service and we held our Carol Service. On Christmas Eve we held a Crib Service and Christingle. Thank you to Christine who organised transportation, speaker for Toy Service and led our Crib Service.

Christine our ALM, regularly leads Service of the Word which enables me to be at St Katharine's or even take a break.

Fabric and repairs.

Very special thanks to Les Downes who manufactured a new bracket to stabilise the communion rail which had worked loose due to being leaned on as people kneel and stand up.

In September the Church was repainted and freshened up.

Looking ahead...

The priorities for the coming year will continue to be how we can engage with the families so that they have a meaningful worship time.

I would like to involve the school more and have a meeting with the head teacher soon to discuss how they can support the church.

Also we are continuing to work on creative solutions for increasing stewardship of time and talents and generosity.

There is a huge amount of goodwill at St Thomas' but we desperately need practical involvement. Your prayers that such help may be forthcoming would be very much appreciated.

Every Blessing

Revd Angela Wynne, Team Vicar.



**The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Bartholomew
including the churches of St Bartholomew's, St George's and St Thomas'**

2023 Accounts

2022 (£)	INCOME	St Thomas	St Bart's	St George's	PCC	Consol adj	TOTAL 2023 (£)
	DIRECT GIVING						
26936.18	Gift aided planned giving-envelopes and SO	4693.46	13089.87	10357.70	0.00		28141.03
13749.92	Other planned giving-envelopes and SO	1238.00	10798.91	460.55	600.00		13097.46
2774.68	Other gift aided donations		58.50		0.00		58.50
9347.72	Loose plate collections (inc Sunday Schools)	2383.15	8944.19	587.73	0.00		11915.07
9224.66	Tax refund on gift aid giving	2040.52	5444.45	2926.93	0.00		10411.90
2000.00	Memorial donations				0.00		0.00
64033.16		10355.13	38335.92	14332.91	600.00	0.00	63623.96
	OTHER VOLUNTARY INCOME						
3539.66	Gift day and general donations		2708.09	531.19	0.00		3239.28
0.00	Donations for youth work				0.00		0.00
23690.14	Weddings & Funerals		18758.00		0.00		18758.00
30.00	Book of Remembrance		20.00		0.00		20.00
1167.54	Events, Concerts and Refreshments	322.65	2497.40	106.00	0.00		2926.05
169.15	Votive candle stand		435.44		0.00		435.44
0.00	Donations for flowers	245.00			0.00		245.00
0.00	Income from bell ringing				0.00		0.00
28596.49		567.65	24418.93	637.19	0.00	0.00	25623.77
	APPEALS						
10.00	Christian Aid				0.00		0.00
0.00	Donations for Royal British Legion		118.45		0.00		118.45
189.45	Bishop's fund				0.00		0.00
93.84	Children's Society		115.50		0.00		115.50
0.00	Pretoria Pit				0.00		0.00
0.00	Gift for minister				0.00		0.00
0.00	Bolton Hospice				0.00		0.00
290.00	Tower fund		150.00				150.00
0.00	Namibia				0.00		0.00
0.00	Miscellaneous appeals				262.05		262.05
583.29		0.00	383.95	0.00	262.05	0.00	646.00
	INCOME FROM INVESTMENTS						
-1669.41	Revaluation of investments					1966.73	1966.73
1227.13	Bank interest		2267.04	3.94	0.00		2270.98
35.81	Dividends				170.59		170.59
0.00	Received from trust funds				0.00	0.00	0.00
-406.47		0.00	2267.04	3.94	170.59	1966.73	4408.30
	INCOME FROM TRADING						

1560.00	200 club			1495.00	0.00	1495.00
0.00	Sale of magazines and advertising space				0.00	0.00
640.00	Room Hire	2078.05			0.00	2078.05
2200.00		0.00	2078.05	0.00	1495.00	0.00
	OTHER SUNDRY INCOME					3573.05
0.00	Transfers between accounts			43219.07	-43219.07	0.00
984.53	Clergy cost sharing within the Team			649.80		649.80
0.00	Sundries	383.00				383.00
984.53		0.00	383.00	0.00	43868.87	-43219.07
	EXTRAORDINARY ITEMS					1032.80
3441.60	Insurance reimbursement	120.00			0.00	120.00
0.00	Bank Error corrections				0.00	0.00
1250.00	Energy costs grant from diocese	1250.00		330.00	0.00	1580.00
60.50	Balancing adjustment				0.00	0.00
4752.10		0.00	1370.00	0.00	330.00	0.00
100743.10	INCOME TOTALS	10922.78	69236.89	14974.04	46726.51	-41252.34
						100607.88

**The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Bartholomew
including the churches of St Bartholomew's, St George's and St Thomas'**

2023 Accounts

EXPENDITURE						
2022 (£)	St Thomas	St Barts	St George's	PCC	Consol adj	2023 (£)
WORK OF THE CHURCH						
Leadership						
787.85 Ministerial expenses		450.00		477.27		927.27
0.00 PCC expenses (including parish share)	7250.00	26000.00	9969.07		-43219.07	0.00
44813.69 Cof E parish share	2040.52	5444.45	2926.93	38700.00		49111.90
0.00 Clergy cost sharing within the Team				0.00		0.00
0.00 Deanery & other subscriptions				0.00		0.00
45601.54	9290.52	31894.45	12896.00	39177.27	-43219.07	50039.17
Services						
11062.00 Manchester DBF (weddings & Funerals)		9062.00		0.00		9062.00
1565.02 Church Services expenses	460.64	1043.87	41.52	510.44		2056.47
5844.00 Organists and choir		5785.90	150.00			5935.90
1855.00 Vergers		2035.00		0.00		2035.00
800.00 Payments to bell ringers				0.00		0.00
21126.02	460.64	17926.77	191.52	510.44	0.00	19089.37
Outreach						
149.98 Training and education (inc Sunday School)	232.83	135.59		0.00		368.42
0.00 Mother and Toddler				0.00		0.00
0.00 Urban outreach				0.00		0.00
511.20 Luncheon Club		319.50		0.00		319.50
0.00 Concerts and events		500.00	15.00	0.00		515.00
541.85 Youth work				222.25		222.25
1203.03	232.83	955.09	15.00	222.25	0.00	1425.17
Buildings and Equipment						
2896.80 Rectory Council tax / water rates				2929.47		2929.47
7050.81 Church maintenance (incl. cleaning)	800.00	5328.73	80.00			6208.73
3124.00 Churchyard maintenance		3766.21				3766.21
0.00 Rectory / Vicarage maintenance				0.00		0.00
7103.54 Utilities		9890.60	70.00			9960.60
287.47 Flowers and materials				0.00		0.00
290.85 Purchase of church equipment				0.00		0.00
20753.47	800.00	18985.54	150.00	2929.47	0.00	22865.01

Adminstration							
1845.48	Printing, postage and stationery	24.98	468.20		837.60		1330.78
0.00	Examiner's fees				0.00		0.00
5.00	Sundry		772.00				772.00
661.50	Equipment maintenance / rental				567.00		567.00
1680.43	Telephones and internet		774.02		686.66		1460.68
325.00	Website fees				373.00		373.00
328.00	Copyright licence	163.00		188.00			351.00
0.00	Bank charges						0.00
399.74	Planned giving envelopes				411.72		411.72
3925.35	Insurance	814.42	2760.38	647.27			4222.07
0.00	Stewardship campaign materials				0.00		0.00
0.00	Transfers between accounts				1580.00	0.00	1580.00
9170.50		1002.40	4774.60	835.27	4455.98	0.00	11068.25
GRANTS							
93.84	Children's society		115.50		0.00		115.50
4916.39	Church Schools		1060.00	2083.19	0.00		3143.19
0.00	Royal British Legion Poppy appeal		214.00	25.00	0.00		239.00
0.00	Church council grants to School Governors				0.00		0.00
12.50	Christian Aid				262.05		262.05
0.00	Bishops fund				0.00		0.00
360.70	Miscellaneous						0.00
0.00	Gift for minister				0.00	0.00	0.00
0.00	Bolton Hospice				0.00		0.00
5383.43		0.00	1389.50	2108.19	262.05	0.00	3759.74
EXPENSES OF TRADING							
962.50	200 Club winners plus licence fee				817.50		817.50
0.00	Crux magazine	0.00	0.00		0.00		0.00
962.50		0.00	0.00	0.00	817.50	0.00	817.50
EXTRAORDINARY ITEMS							
-72.50	Write-back of uncashed cheques from previous year	0.00		0.00	-12.50		-12.50
0.00	Transfer to PCC		0.00				0.00
-72.50		0.00	0.00	0.00	-12.50	0.00	-12.50
104127.99	EXPENDITURE TOTALS	11786.39	75925.95	16195.98	48362.46	-43219.07	109051.71
-3,384.89	NET SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)	-863.61	-6689.06	-1221.94	-1635.95	1966.73	-8443.83

**The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Bartholomew
including the churches of St Bartholomew's, St George's and St Thomas'**

2023 Accounts

STATEMENT OF MAIN ASSETS							2023 (£)
2022 (£)		St Thomas	St Barts	St George's	PCC	Consol adj	TOTAL
TOTAL							
	Investments and bequests						
6,150.40	White Horse School - sale of nursery	0.00	0.00		6437.51		6437.51
13,997.92	G&A Grundy Memorial Fund-income to St Barts	0.00	0.00		15326.39		15326.39
8,344.34	Hart Common Sunday School and mission Church	0.00	0.00		8611.77		8611.77
4,188.94	Thomas Smith bequest	0.00	0.00		4188.94		4188.94
258.44	Banco Santander Shares	0.00	0.00		342.16		342.16
-	Monies held in diocesan account				0.00		0.00
32940.04		0.00	0.00	0.00	34906.77	0.00	34906.77
	Bank accounts and cash balances						
	St Bartholomew's						
16,011.72	Current Acc 40013757		8383.32				8383.32
2,261.00	Gift aid account 80773344		2926.24				2926.24
61,537.41	CBF Deposit Fund 624108001D		61537.41				61537.41
390.46	Choir		303.96				303.96
2,802.85	Belfry Fund		2802.85				2802.85
60.00	Luncheon Club		420.60				420.60
83063.44		0.00	76374.38	0.00	0.00	0.00	76374.38
	St George's						
4,362.80	Current Account			3136.92			3136.92
325.35	Clubs and Societies reserve			329.29			329.29
-	Cash in hand			0.00			0.00
4688.15		0.00	0.00	3466.21	0.00	0.00	3466.21
	St Thomas's						
918.48	Current Account	438.68					438.68
4,075.18	Memorial Fund	3675.18					3675.18
317.46	Flower Fund	333.65					333.65
5311.12		4447.51	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	4447.51
	PCC						
18,443.67	Current Account				16807.72		16807.72
144,446.42	Asset Totals	4,447.51	76,374.38	3,466.21	51,714.49	-	136,002.59

The use of the following funds is restricted: G&A Grundy Memorial Fund, Sale of White Horse nursery, Thomas Smith bequest, St Thomas Memorial fund.

£6,944.15 in the St Bartholomew's accounts is designated to the Tower fund.

£14,134.00 in the St Bartholomew's accounts is designated to the St Bartholomew's Church, tower and churchyard.



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

**Report to the trustees/
members of**

Charity Name
The PCC of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Bartholomew, Westhoughton

**On accounts for the year
ended**

31st December 2023

**Charity no
(if any)**

1136063

Set out on page

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31st December 2022.

**Responsibilities and
basis of report**

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

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed 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 which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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

Signed:

Date:

5th April 2024

Name:

Nigel Ginniff

**Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body
(if any):**

Barrister at Law of England and Wales

Address:

13 Bankside

Westhoughton

BL5 2QP

Section B

Disclosure

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

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

Accounts



The Parish of St. Bartholomew Westhoughton

St. Bartholomew

St. George

St. Thomas

Annual reports for 2022

Presented to the apcm

Monday 24th April 2023



The Parish of St Bartholomew Westhoughton St Bartholomew St Thomas St George

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING:

***MONDAY 24 APRIL 2023, 7.30pm
ST BARTHOLOMEW'S CHURCH***

AGENDA

1. Welcome and Opening Prayers
2. Apologies for absence
3. Minutes of the Annual Meetings held on Monday 25th April 2022 and matters arising

Annual Meeting of Parishioners:

Election of two churchwardens for the year 2023 - 2024

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

1. Elections and appointments:
 - i. Two deputy wardens each for St Bartholomew's, St Thomas's and St George's (who will be ex-officio members of the Parochial Church Council)
 - ii. Four representatives for Deanery Synod for the period 2023 - 2026 (who will be ex-officio members of the Parochial Church Council)
 - iii. Two further representatives from St Bartholomew's, St Thomas's and St George's to serve as members of the Parochial Church Council
 - iv. Up to eight people to serve as members of each of the church councils of St Bartholomew's, St Thomas's and St George's
 - v. Appointment of Independent Examiner

2. Annual Reports for 2022:
 - i. Team Rector's Report
 - ii. Churchwardens' Report
 - iii. Secretary's Report on the Proceedings of the PCC
 - iv. Church Electoral Roll Report
 - v. Honorary Treasurer's Presentation of Accounts
 - vi. Safeguarding Officer's Report
3. Any Other Business (chairman to be notified BEFORE the meeting begins)
4. Date of future Meetings:
 - Archdeacon's visitation – to be set
 - Next PCC meeting – to be set
 - Annual Parochial Church Meeting 2024 Monday 30 April
5. Closing prayers

**There will be a short meeting of the newly constituted
Parochial Church Council immediately following the
Annual Parochial Church Meetings**

AGENDA

1. Appointment of
 - a. PCC treasurer
 - b. PCC secretary
 - c. Vice chair of the PCC
 - d. Safeguarding officer
 - e. PCC Standing Committee *[usually Rector, vice chair, Parish wardens, secretary, treasurer]*
2. Co-option, if required, of further PCC members
3. Appointment of Sidespeople

4. Any other urgent business



**Blackrod, Daisy Hill, Westhoughton
And Wingates Team Ministry**

**Parish of Westhoughton
St Bartholomew, St George LEP, St Thomas**

MINUTES OF ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

MONDAY 25th April 2022

AT ST BARTHOLOMEW'S CHURCH

Present Rev C Pharaoh, Rev A Wynne, Rev A Jones, Mr A Morris, Mrs E Simkins,
Mr E McHale, Mrs M Dolphin, Mr G Andrews, Mrs S Sloan,
Mrs J Warner, Mrs C Andrews, Mr A Younge, Mrs J O'Reilly, Mrs J Tonge,
Mrs S Barry, Ms P James, Mrs C Smith, Mr J Moore, Mrs H Moor.
Mr R Battersby, Mr N Ginniff, Mr P Ingram, Mrs J Crook, Mrs A Greendale,
Mrs S robinson-Todd, Mrs S Oakes, Mr H Owens, Mrs J Owens,
Mrs L Casson, Mrs K Norman

1. Rev C Pharaoh opened the meeting with welcome and prayers and The Rev A Jones read from the gospel of Matthew the reading was for St Marks feast day

2. **Apologies for Absence:** Mr G Twist, Mr J Thompson, Mrs H Thompson

3. **Approval of Minutes**

The minutes of the AGM Monday 24TH May 2021 were
approved as a true record and no matters arising

Annual Meeting of Parishioners

Election of two churchwardens for the year 2021 to 2022

Nominations

Mr Edward McHale

Mrs J O'Reilly

Both have been duly nominated and seconded.

There are no other nominations.

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

1. Elections and Appointments

I. Two deputy wardens each for St Bartholomew's, St Thomas' and St George's

(Who will be ex officio members of the Parochial Church Council)

St Bartholomew's Mrs Christine Andrews, vacancy

St Thomas' Mr G Andrews, vacancy

St George's Mrs Pat James, Mr J Moore

All have been duly nominated and seconded.

There were no other nominations. Rev C Pharaoh confirmed the appointments.

ii Representatives for Deane Deanery Synod for the period 2020-2023 (who will be ex-officio members of Parochial Council)

Mrs C Andrews, Mrs Kath Norman, are already serving with two vacancies

iii Two further representatives from each church to serve as members of the PCC

St Bartholomew's Mrs J Tonge, vacancy

St Thomas' Mrs C Smith, Mrs S Oakes

St George's Mrs J Crook, Mrs S Barry

iv Church Council Members - up to eight at each church

St Bartholomew's Mrs S Robinson-Todd, Mrs L Casson, Mr A Younge

St Thomas' Mrs G Stock, Mrs C Derby

St George's Mrs A Greendale, Mrs S Sloan, Mr J Thomson

All duly proposed, seconded and approved

V Appointment of Independent Examiner

The meeting approved the proposal to re-appoint Mr Nigel Ginniff as Independent Examiner.

2.

All reports can be read in the pack provided

Team Rector's report for 2021

Rev C Pharaoh thanked her husband and everyone for their support since her accident and injured shoulder

Churchwardens' Report for 2021

Which included a fabric report on St Bartholomew's building. The quinquennial inspection was started in 2021 was finished a month ago and we are awaiting the written report

Secretary's report to the AGM for 2021

Electoral Roll Officer's report

185 are on the roll 3 down from last year

Annual Treasurer's report to St Bartholomew's Parish AGM covering the year 2021.

Examination of accounts

Mr G Andrews talked us through the accounts. There were no issues Mr N Ginniff pointed out that if more giving was gift aided by standing order we could gain. Mrs J Warner felt in the post pandemic period we had not had fund raising events so funds were down. Mr G Andrews and the three district treasurers Mrs E Simkins, Mrs C Smith and Mr J Thomson was thanked for their work through out the year

St Georges Committee Report 2021
Dean/Bolton Deanery Synod Report 2021
Safeguarding Report 2021
Data protection Report 2021
St Bartholomew's Choir Report 2021
Team Youth Church Report 2021
Tower Report 2021

3. **Any Other Business**

None

4 **Dates of future Meetings:**

Archdeacon's Visitation:- Wednesday 15th June at 7:30pm at Bolton Parish Church

PCC follows this meeting

Annual Parochial Church Meeting Monday 24th April 2023

5 Closing prayers:

The meeting closed with prayers at 8:17pm

TEAM RECTOR'S REPORT 2022

Everything Has Its Time

*For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven:
a time to be born, and a time to die;
a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted;
a time to kill, and a time to heal;
a time to break down, and a time to build up;
a time to weep, and a time to laugh;
a time to mourn, and a time to dance;
a time to throw away stones, and a time to gather stones together;
a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;
a time to seek, and a time to lose;
a time to keep, and a time to throw away;
a time to tear, and a time to sew;
a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;
a time to love, and a time to hate;
a time for war, and a time for peace. (Ecclesiastes 3.1-8)*

This poem found in the Old Testament of the bible, is beautiful, profound and troubling. It powerfully reminds us that the seasons, cycles and activities of life are appointed by God. God set it up this way and our purpose is embedded within His purpose. God's appointment is complete. It applies to everything. There is not a single thing that is random. All things are appointed and every single thing has an appointed time. The poem is beautiful 'yes', but it is also stark because it reminds us of the inevitability of trouble and evil and even the monotony of life at times.

In 2022 in our world, the reality of these words was keenly evident. In February, we saw the Russian invasion of Ukraine and the horrors and misery this brought for many. In our own country over the year, we had opportunity to get on our dancing shoes as we celebrated Sam Ryder coming second in the Eurovision Song Contest, the late Queen's Platinum Jubilee and the England Lionesses winning the Euro Championship. Many struggled with rising costs due to the war in Ukraine and the aftermath of the global pandemic. Our country saw 3 different Prime Ministers. Temperatures soared to new record temperatures in the summer and we witnessed worldwide, other effects of the climate emergency. Very sadly the Queen died in September. The outpouring of grief and thankfulness for her life was palpable. Charles was proclaimed King Charles III. For everything there is a season.

Within our parish community too, we experienced changing seasons and cycles. I am acutely mindful of the death of so many loved ones for many of our church family members. Others have experienced illness and losses of a different kind.

There has been much heartache. Throughout it all, I have been encouraged by the kindnesses shown and the tangible support offered by other members of our church families, from practical help to a listening ear. Thank you for your care. For everything there is a season.

There have been many signs of growth. We restarted Café Church in a new location, that of St Bart's Church. We started a Toddler group which is now linking with the Wiggle Worship initiative. Our bell ringing group continues to flourish. We formed committees to manage the various repairs needed to our building and tower and also to fund-raise. We held a variety of social events from celebrating the Queen's Platinum Jubilee to a Santa experience. We welcomed 45 children into our church family as they came with their families to church to be baptised. One child was admitted to receive Holy Communion at a special service on Mothering Sunday. We supported 51 families during their time of sadness and bereavement through holding services at St Bart's Church and at local crematoriums. Christine Andrews was recommissioned as an ALM and continues in her individual ministry. Thank you also to Elaine Simkin and Alan Morris who with diligence and care support the life of the parish in many different ways. Thank you to Church Wardens and Deputy Wardens, church DCC secretaries and our PCC secretary, church treasurers and our parish treasurer. Thank you to all who hold other roles in our church, from children's and youth workers to sidespeople, from cleaners to choir members. Thank you to everybody who has helped our church grow and flourish in 2022. For everything there is a season.

Within our Team Ministry we have seen the changing seasons unfold. In July Andy Jones was ordained a priest. It was a wonderful service and Andy's strong gifts and abilities bring much to our shared life together. I am grateful for both Andy's support and that of Angela Wynne and Malcolm Wearing. I am truly blessed to have them as colleagues and I am constantly inspired by their faith and example. Ignite Youth, our Team Youth Church, is flourishing with many new members. We continue to offer different house groups and study groups within the Team Ministry. Our Team Confirmation Service was again a lovely and encouraging occasion, with 8 members of our parish family being confirmed. We chose to suspend our regular online worship as the need for them diminished. For everything there is a season.

We have many a challenge to face. We need to find new ways to help the adults in our parish grow and deepen in their faith. We have problems with our church building and tower and we are desperately short of money to pay our parish share and repair our building and tower. Sustaining our income to match our expenditure is always a challenge. With the ever-emerging climate crisis, we need to work at being Eco Churches and reducing our carbon footprint. We have so much to be thankful for and we praise our ever faithful and generous God. We pray that our responses to Him would also be faithful and generous. For everything there is a season.

So, onto 2023. For everything there is a season. With faith in God as our foundation, we can be confident that all seasons and cycles are part of an intricate

and specific plan. The cycles of life are going to happen. The perspective we choose on how to look at life determines whether we are fulfilled or frustrated. The message of the poem is encouraging: God is over all. We can trust that all things are purposeful. Including us, and our opportunity to choose and act in this life. The poem also shows us the need to take full advantage of the time God gives us. My prayer is that we will take advantage and seize every opportunity.

Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.
(Philippians 4.6-7)

Rev'd Carol Pharaoh

PCC Treasurer's report to Annual Parish Meeting regarding 2022 accounts

Income

Overall income was £1712 lower than 2021 at £100743 and well below the 2019 income of £136435.

Looking first at direct giving, this was £7460 lower in 2022 than in 2021. However, memorial donations were £12134 lower than 2021, so the other 2022 direct giving was in fact £4673 higher than 2021. Total gift aided donations were slightly up on 2021 and so the lower HMRC refund in 2022 is most likely down to timing of claims to HMRC.

Most classes of other voluntary giving were up in 2022 leading to a total increase over 2021 of £6051. Notably £3500 of the increase came from wedding and funeral fees but of course part of this is subsequently paid to the diocese.

Appeals income remains extremely low at £338 for the parish, including £290 for the tower fund. In 2019 appeals raised £4800 plus nearly £6000 for the tower fund.

The value of our investments fell by £1669 in 2022. This is not a real loss unless we sell the investments but needs to be shown as a consolidation adjustment to balance the books.

The PCC received £2000 transferred from one of our trust funds. The consolidation adjustment is used to take this out of our total income as it is only a transfer within the parish funds and not real income entering the parish from outside.

Disappointingly the income from the 200 club has fallen again as we have further members have cancelled their subscriptions. St Bartholomew's church had a new income of £640 for hire of the meeting room.

Clergy cost sharing within the Team reflects the total clergy costs for the four parishes in the Team split in the ratio of the four Parish Share allocations. The cost sharing procedure brought us an income of £984 from the other parishes.

Each of the three district councils pays money to the PCC towards the shared PCC expenses including parish share. Again this is not real income for the PCC, just a transfer within the parish and so is removed with a consolidation adjustment. This year the PCC received £38812 from the three district councils, down from £39382 in 2021 and £44845 in 2019.

There two significant extraordinary items last year. The insurance claim at St Bartholomew's of £3441 was very similar to the claim in 2021. Last year the PCC also received a grant from the diocese of £1250 towards energy costs. This has since been paid over to St Bartholomew's district council as St Thomas and St George's have very minor energy costs.

So in summary, some ups and downs leading to an overall slight fall in total income compared to 2021 but no sign of us getting back to the pre-pandemic income of 2019.

Expenditure

Our Parish Share for 2022, previously known as quota, was £62000 (2021 = £59500, 2023 = £68200). In 2022, including the HMRC refund, we paid £44813 or 72%. In 2021 the parish share was lower and we paid £4365 more, so we reached 83%. Note that in 2021 PCC voted to pay £4000 legacy money to parish share. Had we done the same last year we would have reached 79%.

As already mentioned, the increased wedding and funerals income resulted in a larger payment to Manchester Diocese. This contributed £2296 to the increase of £4111 on items under the services heading, but in fact all expenditures under this heading went up.

Outreach had been very low in 2021 at £211 and this recovered last year to £1203, with both St Thomas and St Bartholomew's spending on Sunday School last year and the St Bartholomew's luncheon club returning to full activity.

The rectory costs were similar to the previous year but St Bartholomew's expenditure on church and churchyard maintenance was lower by about £10000 in total. Energy costs however were £1298 higher than in 2021.

Printing costs were high in 2022 but action has been taken to reduce this by switching to a cheaper contract for the printer. The benefit can already be seen with £397 less spent on equipment rental.

The biggest grant expenditure was again to our three church schools with the total of £4916 being £367 higher than 2021. Some other grants were higher and some lower than in 2021 so the total grant expenditure was almost unchanged.

Overall, the total expenditure for the parish of £104127 was £6735 lower than in 2021, so despite the lower income the deficit for the year was reduced by £5023 to £3384.

Statement of main assets.

The revaluation of investments down by £1669 has already been mentioned and £2000 was withdrawn from money held at the diocese to be used for a grant to St Bartholomew's school.

The total held in various St Bartholomew's funds was £83063. As noted, £20928 is designated for church building and tower work. St Bartholomew's district council ran a surplus of £2130 for the year whereas St Thomas and St Georges ran deficits of £58 and £855 respectively.

The total monetary assets of the parish at 31st December 2022 were £144446 which was £1400 lower than the previous year.

G P Andrews

PCC Treasurer, 20/03/2023

[Numbers in this report have been rounded

Parish Churchwardens' Report for 2022 - to be presented at the 2023 AGM

At the 2022 APCM Joan O'Reilly and Ed McHale were elected to the post of Parish Wardens.

With the easing of Covid restrictions, we have been able to consider different ways of running services at St Bartholomew's. We now routinely have a Service of the Word on the first Sunday of the month and an All Age Communion service on the fourth Sunday. We have kept the "sign" of the peace which is appreciated by many and not kneeling at the communion rail to receive communion although we have reintroduced the chalice on a voluntary basis. In view of the number of people giving by electronic banking methods or using the card reader and many fewer people carrying cash, we have not returned to passing round the collection plates. Refreshments after the service have returned [with thanks to all who prepare, serve and clear away] and are served in the narthex to help with Sunday school in the back room.

During the year many things have been able to run or have been introduced:

- Office Hour continues on a Monday morning [drop-in] or Saturday mornings by appointment.
- Although we supported an external group to run a toddler group at St Bart's this closed due to limited attendances. We have, however, been able to start our own group on a Monday mornings 9:30-11:00am which has increased attendances and has now expanded to include "Wiggle Worship" as part of its remit.
- The Civic Service for Mayoral Service was held as usual. The lack of any Town Clerk in post has hindered communications with the Town Council in planning civic events.
- Remembrance Sunday services continued, again limiting attendance at the 10:00am Civic Service. This works well and should continue.
- Switching on of the Town Lights Carol Service continued in its new format. Only a limited number of schools will take part in person on a rota basis, the other schools contributing recorded items. Admittance was by ticket only to prevent unsafe overcrowding. In 2022, attendance was limited by a clash with England's World Cup football match. We are happy to look at arrangements including the issue of ticket distribution with the schools / Town Council in future years.
- A Confirmation Service was held in November at St James' Daisy Hill with a good number of candidates. Again attendance was limited but this was a splendid occasion. This year we ran the two longer Saturday preparation sessions which worked well.
- The Team Youth Church continues to meet monthly at St John's Wingates on a Saturday evening; more help with running this is sought.
- We have been able to restart Sunday schools at our churches with many thanks to all who lead these and especially to Joan O'Reilly for co-ordinating this and organising all the DBS checks and child / vulnerable adult protection training [do read her report]

- In Spring we were able to run a full programme of Lent, Holy Week and Easter services. The Easter Experience was not able to run but is being reintroduced in 2023. In 2022 we moved the Stations of the Cross to a Monday evening and used material produced by CAFOD in the worship which was much appreciated. On Good Friday we held a Young People's drop in workshop at St Bart's between the more formal services at St James' and St Katharine's churches. This proved very popular with many craft events and attracted a good attendance.
- We have run a large number of baptism services in 2022 clearing the Covid pandemic backlog. Many thanks to those who give up their Sunday afternoons to staff these. We also run a baptism preparation evening each month; many thanks to Carole Bullough who has taken on organising the baptism preparation session and also writes out all the certificates and candles for the services.
- We have been able to read banns and hold wedding services again
- At funeral services and we have been able to increase the numbers allowed to attend to the chair capacity of the church.
- Cafe church services have resumed on a Wednesday at St Bart's from 3:45 -4:30pm during term time and are proving very popular. It many thanks again to the team who plan and staff these as well as providing refreshments.
- We were able to run some face-to-face study groups during 2022 including one covering the "Living in Love and Faith" course considering human sexuality. We have more courses and Lent group planned in 2023.
- The All Souls Memorial Service was held and attracted a greater attendance than in 2021.
- We ran a full programme of Christingle and Christmas Services; although attendances were greater than 2021, they were still not at pre-pandemic levels. We were able to run crib services at St Thomas' and St George's For the Christmas Dinner on Jesus in 2022 we collected packets of posh biscuits. This was much more popular than the collection of custard in 2021 even if no two people could agree on a definition of posh biscuits.
- The monthly Wednesday Communion Service followed by Luncheon Club continued at its new time of 11:00am at St Bart's with thanks to all who run this.
- Following St Bartholomew's Patronal Festival at the end of August, we were able to have a bring and share lunch.

Publicity:

The Pewsheets expanded and is now e-mailed out to 85 - 90 people each week [& a hard copy to those who have requested one]. In December we decided to discontinue the Monthly Newsletter as much of its content could be reproduced in the extended weekly pewsheets and, as this is finalised and issued on Saturdays, it is often much more up-to-date than the monthly sheet. Due to ill health, Suzanne Walker is unable to continue with "Our Daily Bread" a monthly prayer diary. The pewsheets are also available from the church website with many thanks to Neil Belch for maintaining this. Many thanks also to Joan Warner for her work with the weekly pewsheets.

As churches opened fully, the Team Zoom services have been discontinued.

We still continue to produce posters and publicity for services and events which appear on the internal and external church noticeboards, St Bart's railings and, again thanks to Joan O'Reilly, in shops & sites through the town.

Staffing:

We were pleased to celebrate with Rev Andy Jones, Katie and Harry in July 2022 Andy's ordination as priest at Manchester cathedral. We are grateful to all that they bring to the parish and the team, particularly through their work at St George's where we have developed a regular pattern of fortnightly communion services with Sunday school.

Funerals:

We have been able to celebrate the lives of those who have passed away during 2022 but who have been living stones of our churches. We remember especially Maurice Ginniff [remembering Nigel, Lisa and their family] and the families of Beatrice Bridge, Gladys Caldwell and Alice Worthington [remembering especially her husband, Bob].

Parish Share / Finances:

The PCC, following discussion about parish finances and our inability to pay the Parish Share in full, agreed to run stewardship campaign in 2022. Following this we set up a Parish social events committee which has organised a number of events throughout 2022 continuing into 2023 raising funds for St Bartholomew's general funds:

- Various fundraising quizzes / wordsearches
- A Platinum Jubilee afternoon tea at St Bartholomew's
- The Platinum Jubilee Organ recital
- An autumn fair [much appreciated by stall holders and those attending]
- A Music and Arts afternoon featuring paintings by Revd Carol, organ music from Ed and a chance for those attending to create their own artistic masterpieces

St. Bartholomew's Building:

All the usual testing of electrical and emergency equipment has been completed and measures arising from Health and Safety inspections have been put in place for the safe running of the Toddler Group / Wiggle Worship.

In 2022 we had a number of additional building works:

- There are ongoing issues with boiler failures resulting in some days without heating
- We are progressing with options for lighting the church path.
- Following a break-in, although nothing was stolen, there were repairs needed to the glazing in the office, the back door and the vestry door. The vestry cupboard door is still in need of repair

The overdue Quinquennial Inspection took place in late 2021 and we received the final report in 2022. As expected, amongst some minor works, there are major works necessary including attention to the dry rot outbreaks in the choir vestry and tower and general maintenance work to the tower. To address this a Buildings and Maintenance committee has been set up under the chair of Ainslie

Casson to project manage the building work in drawing up schedules of work, costings and tenders. This will all need input from the architect and is subject to faculty approval by the Diocese, so we are looking over a number of years.

As we cannot expect to raise funds to pay our annual bills on top of the additional funding for repairs, we have also set up a small group to look at grant-giving bodies to see what would be involved in applying and the amounts we could hope to receive.

Royal Remembrance:

We celebrated the 70th anniversary of the Accession of Queen Elizabeth II with a special service on the actual date [6th February] led by Alan Morris. At the time of the National Celebrations in Summer we marked this with a number of events including Afternoon Tea [serving the Platinum Jubilee Trifle], a royal-themed organ recital, a Civic Jubilee Service and planting an apple tree at St George's school. Following the death of Her Majesty in September, we organised a Civic Service in just a few days attended by our MP, Town Mayor and Deputy Mayor and provided a Book of Remembrance for all to sign that we were able to send to Buckingham Palace [many thanks to Christine Andrews and Elaine Simkin for organising this] from where we received a royal letter of acknowledgement.

We apologise if we've missed anything and thank all those who work across all our churches, in many other unsung roles, who keep the many activities across the parish running so well. Nothing happens without an enormous amount of planning, co-operation and paperwork and we're grateful to Christine Andrews, Pat James, John Moore and Graham Andrews who serve as deputy wardens in the parish taking on a lot of additional duties at the different churches as well as the readers and clergy.

Joan O'Reilly - Parish Warden

Edward McHale - Parish Warden 2022/2023

PCC Secretary Report

The PCC has met 8 times since the last AGM

These meetings provided time for members of each individual district councils to meet together to discuss issues of shared interest and concern

All meetings were well attended always forming a corium with average attendance of 15 members

All meetings have had their minutes approved

As most covid restriction as now lifted. We have begun to see our congregations return and church be used once again fir community event such as remembrance. Mayor Sunday, Christmas and pictorial pit anniversary

Kath Norman

Parish secretary

St. George's Church Committee report 2022 for 2023 APCM:

Throughout 2022 attendances have been growing slowly through the year. It has been a pleasure to restart the Sunday School after the enforced pandemic break which now meets on the first and third Sundays during the first part of the Communion Service. We have a good number of leaders [namely Sarah Barry, Angela Greenall , Carole Walsh and Pat James] but numbers attending fluctuate.

We were pleased to celebrate Rev Andy's ordination as priest at the start of July in Manchester Cathedral in this new stage in his journey of ministry. This has allowed us to adopt a more stable service pattern with Communion services on the first and third Sundays and Services of the Word on the other Sundays.

Many thanks to the congregation who have coped with more change this year. We have reintroduced the shared cup [optional] and returned to a more traditional seating pattern. We are now also well practised at setting up immediately prior to the Sunday service rather than on a Saturday and

have had refreshments when possible. We've also returned to young people reading some of our Bible readings at Services of the Word.

During the year:

- we have experimented with holding baptism services at St George's at 11:00am on request. Following two such services, the clearing of the covid-induced backlog of baptisms has led to no further requests to date.
- we celebrated the 26th anniversary of opening on St George's day and welcomed members of the school to the Mothering Sunday and Harvest services.
- we planted an apple tree as part of the national campaign to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee which is still well maintained and growing well. Pictures of the event were posted in the newsletter and on the church notice board.
- we were able to celebrate with two of our young people who were confirmed at the Team Confirmation service in November at St James' Daisy Hill.
- we have joined with St George's school summer fair in serving refreshments in aid of church funds. We also booked a stall at the St Bartholomew's autumn fair [as well as assisting in setting up, clearing away and helping on other stalls] also fund raising for St George's

We are grateful to all at St George's for their generous giving meaning that we have paid our portion of the Parish Share in full again in 2022. We joined in the Parish Stewardship campaign in the spring but the majority of people already give to the church by direct debit / envelopes. We have also done the usual fund-raising during the year including both an Advent and Lent challenge as well as the smarties tube challenge.

Many thanks also to the committee for their tireless work each week especially John & Helen Thompson [for the powerpoints, financial stewardship and music], Samuel Greenall [for running powerpoint services], John & Hilary Moore, Pat James and Sarah Barry who undertake the wardens' duties and represent us on the parish committees and to all including Sarah Sloan and June Barry who serve on the St George's committee.

In 2023 there is much to be hopeful about as congregations continue to grow slowly, especially developing links with the school with special services.

Ed McHale
St George's Committee Chair

Bolton Deanery Report 2023

The new Bolton Deanery has met 3 times since last PCC twice in person and once via zoom. These are now large meetings which sometimes split into small discussions in mission communities. These mission community boundaries are now settled and each of the four community's has a logo. We are in Bolton west which is essentially the old Deane deanery comprising of Blackrod, Daisy Hill, Wingate's and West Houghton ten benefices, Rivington, St Marys Deane, St Andrews Over Hulton and St Bedes Morris Green.

This year in synod we are still discussing how these communities we relate and work together, in growth, nurturing and serving.

There was a presentation:

“Believe in Bolton”

There has been a debate and proposal around individual cups for communion.

Deanery action plan.

The cost of living and energy, becoming an eco church

Individual discipleship

Members three year term ends in April and each church will need to elect new representatives.

Kathleen Norman

Christine Andrews

Data Protection Report for 2023 AGM

Our church forms including remain compliant with the Data Protection laws.

As a Parish we continue to e-mail out the weekly pewsheets and occasional special advertising [e.g. for Easter, Mothering Sunday, Harvest or Christmas]. Regular attendees from our congregation have signed up or e-

mailed to request which publications they wish to receive and can withdraw approval at any time by e-mailing the Parish office.

Baptism / wedding families who have indicated consent when booking will receive the special advertising. Anyone can remove their names from this contact list simply by sending an email reply.

We are not aware of any non-compliance with Data Protection in 2022 and no complaints have been raised. The policy was reviewed and there were no revisions to the policy made in 2022.

The churchwardens continue to oversee Data Protection but would be pleased to hand this on to a Data Protection Officer appointed by the PCC now that the policies are in place and the workload known.

Ed McHale

St. Bartholomew's Church Choir Report for 2023 AGM

In 2022 we have been able to build on and consolidate what we started in 2021 following easing of lock down restrictions during the Covid pandemic.

We have been able to return to singing a full complement of hymns at Sunday services and have contributed anthems and special pieces at services in Advent, Lent and Easter. Highlights of the year included the Platinum Jubilee service, our Parish Memorial service for Queen Elizabeth II and the Parish Carol Service.

My thanks must go to those who come and practice weekly whatever the conditions. We are always open to new members of any age – please just come and have a word with me.

Ed McHale

Director of Music

Ignite Youth Westhoughton (Team Youth Church)

After the relaunch of Team Youth Church in November 2021, we have continued to meet at St John's once a month. Our thanks go to the PCC at St Johns and from all the Team PCCs for their continued support. We are grateful to be able to use St John's given its accessibility and format. Also, to Alisdair Cole for administering the TYC funds.

We had 14 young people attending when we started this year and renamed the group – the final name was a mixture of two ideas from them – Ignite Youth Westhoughton. We have run sessions including “Belonging”, “Generosity & Social Action”, “Strength in the Spirit” and “Advent Pledges” where they focus on a bible passage, prayer and bible breakdown. The activities, crafts and games all link into the theme for the evening. Also, spending time over food and having some fun at our Summer BBQ and Christmas Party.

We have been really encouraged to see the numbers grow to around 20 young people following more joining us after the summer who were new to Year 6. It's really encouraging to keep links with confirmation classes and see our young people engaged, including some who have taken part in our church services across the team.

There are volunteers from across the team to help support running Ignite Youth and some have taken a step back this year – we are extremely thankful to all who have helped. We continue to promote the work of Ignite Youth and pray that more volunteers will come forward from other churches as we need more support.

Jo Haslam from Children's Changing Places team has continued to provide ideas for our sessions along with Reverend Andy Jones, who has been our main clergy

lead from the Team. We hope to encourage the young people to come up with their ideas and themes as some of them get older. Please pray continually for Ignite Youth as we see them continue to develop in their faith.

We started meeting in November with youth workers from across the Bolton West Mission Community, led by Reverend Vinnie Whitworth, to build up a network and provide support. These meetings will include how we join resources to provide training for our volunteers, having joint sessions with our youth groups and, most importantly, praying for our young people.

Evelyn Eden & Rev Andy Jones

TOWER REPORT 2022

The 2022 ringing year was focussed on the reign of Her Late Majesty The Queen; in joyous celebration of her Platinum Jubilee with ringing in February, April and June, and with heartfelt sadness in September when The Queen died peacefully at Balmoral.

Yet again, our church Tower, bells and flagpole were the centre of attention within our community and the appropriate marks of respect were afforded in a timely manner.

There are 12 towers with bells in our 'Bolton Branch' stretching from Blackrod across Bolton all the way to Culcheth near Warrington. There are just 2 towers who have teams of bellringers in the branch; ourselves being one of them. Many towers did not ring for The Queen, for Easter or Christmas, or Remembrance Sunday. We are very lucky our town and church has a committed band of ringers to ensure the traditional sound of bells can roll across our town.

Although the BBC issued an article stating there is a shortage of bellringers for the Coronation of His Majesty The King in May 2023, there isn't in Westhoughton. We will ring throughout the weekend, and the flag will be flying high!

We continue to have little social evenings, either meals out at local restaurants, or bring & share nights up the tower; most recently we enjoyed a port and cheese night which ended up with Ged conducting a Ceilidh (quite an achievement in such a small space!).

We look forward to the coming year, and thank those members of the church and community who consistently support us.

Ryan Battersby
Tower Captain

Electoral roll officer's report to the APCM 24th April 2023.

During 2022 there was one addition (non-resident, approved by PCC), two deaths and two changes of address.

The number on the electoral roll at 24/4/2023 was 184.

G P Andrews

24/4/23

St' Bartholomew's Safeguarding Officers Report 2022

Over the last 12 months we have not had any new DBS applications but we have renewed the DBS's for those that have expired.

Everyone who works with children in our churches, St. George's, and St. Bartholomew's are all up to date with their DBS and training.

St. Bartholomew's and St. Georges are now all back in Sunday School on the 1st and 3rd Sunday of the month which is great'

St. Thomas's have not yet restarted Sunday School though some have had DBS checks but not all have had their training.

I have no concerns for any Safeguarding issues as at the time of writing this report,

Joan O'Reilly

**The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Bartholomew
including the churches of St Bartholomew's, St George's and St Thomas'**

2022 Accounts

2021 (£)	INCOME	St Thomas	St Bart's	St George's	PCC	Consol adj	TOTAL 2022 (£)
	DIRECT GIVING						
24722.47	Gift aided planned giving-envelopes and SO	5032.33	11450.00	10453.85	0.00		26936.18
17100.93	Other planned giving-envelopes and SO	990.72	11790.99	368.21	600.00		13749.92
0.00	Other gift aided donations	0.00	2774.68		0.00		2774.68
5057.67	Loose plate collections (inc Sunday Schools)	2394.72	6460.60	492.40	0.00		9347.72
10478.67	Tax refund on gift aid giving	0.00	6386.66	2838.00	0.00		9224.66
14134.00	Memorial donations	0.00	2000.00		0.00		2000.00
71493.74		8417.77	40862.93	14152.46	600.00	0.00	64033.16
	OTHER VOLUNTARY INCOME						
1716.00	Gift day and general donations	185.00	3011.95	342.71	0.00		3539.66
0.00	Donations for youth work	0.00	0.00		0.00		0.00
20181.00	Weddings & Funerals	0.00	23690.14		0.00		23690.14
10.00	Book of Remembrance	0.00	30.00		0.00		30.00
177.80	Events, Concerts and Refreshments	263.59	803.45	100.50	0.00		1167.54
319.81	Votive candle stand	0.00	169.15		0.00		169.15
140.00	Donations for flowers	0.00	0.00		0.00		0.00
0.00	Income from bell ringing	0.00	0.00		0.00		0.00
22544.61		448.59	27704.69	443.21	0.00	0.00	28596.49
	APPEALS						
140.00	Christian Aid	0.00	0.00	10.00	0.00		10.00
0.00	Donations for Royal British Legion	0.00	0.00		0.00		0.00
0.00	Bishop's fund	0.00	189.45		0.00		189.45
104.67	Children's Society	0.00	93.84		0.00		93.84
0.00	Pretoria Pit	0.00	0.00		0.00		0.00
0.00	Gift for minister	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00		0.00
0.00	Mayor's charity	0.00	0.00		0.00		0.00
0.00	Urban outreach	0.00	0.00				0.00
0.00	Christmas charities	0.00	0.00		0.00		0.00
0.00	Bolton Hospice	0.00	0.00		0.00		0.00
0.00	Tower fund		290.00				290.00
0.00	Namibia	0.00	0.00		0.00		0.00
0.00	Miscellaneous appeals	0.00	0.00		0.00		0.00
244.67		0.00	573.29	10.00	0.00	0.00	583.29

INCOME FROM INVESTMENTS						
2012.61	Revaluation of investments	0.00	0.00		-1669.41	-1669.41
440.57	Bank interest	3.79	1222.61	0.73	0.00	1227.13
30.86	Dividends	0.00	0.00		35.81	35.81
0.00	Received from trust funds	0.00	0.00		2000.00	0.00
2484.04		3.79	1222.61	0.73	2035.81	-3669.41
INCOME FROM TRADING						
1725.00	200 club	0.00	0.00		1560.00	0.00
0.00	Sale of magazines and advertising space	0.00	0.00		0.00	0.00
0.00	Room Hire	0.00	640.00		0.00	640.00
1725.00		0.00	640.00	0.00	1560.00	0.00
OTHER SUNDRY INCOME						
0.00	Transfers between accounts	0.00	0.00		38812.00	-38812.00
620.65	Clergy cost sharing within the Team				984.53	984.53
0.00	Sundries	0.00	0.00			0.00
620.65		0.00	0.00	0.00	39796.53	-38812.00
EXTRAORDINARY ITEMS						
3342.57	Insurance reimbursement	0.00	3441.60		0.00	0.00
0.00	Bank Error corrections	0.00	0.00		0.00	0.00
0.00	Energy costs grant from diocese	0.00	0.00		1250.00	0.00
0.00	Balancing adjustment	0.50	60.00		0.00	0.00
3342.57		0.50	3501.60	0.00	1250.00	0.00
102455.28	INCOME TOTALS	8870.65	74505.12	14606.40	45242.34	-42481.41
						100743.10

**The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Bartholomew
including the churches of St Bartholomew's, St George's and St Thomas'**

2022 Accounts

EXPENDITURE						
2021 (£)	St Thomas	St Barts	St George's	PCC	Consol adj	2022 (£)
WORK OF THE CHURCH						
Leadership						
527.45 Ministerial expenses		570.00		217.85		787.85
0.00 PCC expenses (including parish share)	7250.00	22000.00	9562.00		-38812.00	0.00
49178.67 Cof E parish share	1989.03	6386.66	2838.00	33600.00		44813.69
0.00 Clergy cost sharing within the Team				0.00		0.00
0.00 Deanery & other subscriptions				0.00		0.00
49706.12	9239.03	28956.66	12400.00	33817.85	-38812.00	45601.54
Services						
8766.00 Manchester DBF (weddings & Funerals)		11062.00		0.00		11062.00
1018.10 Church Services expenses	6.65	689.95	0.00	868.42		1565.02
5060.00 Organists and choir	0.00	5691.00	153.00			5844.00
1570.00 Vergers	0.00	1855.00		0.00		1855.00
600.00 Payments to bell ringers		800.00		0.00		800.00
17014.10	6.65	20097.95	153.00	868.42	0.00	21126.02
Outreach						
0.00 Training and education (inc Sunday School)	0.00	149.98	0.00	0.00		149.98
0.00 Mother and Toddler	0.00	0.00		0.00		0.00
0.00 Urban outreach	0.00	0.00		0.00		0.00
111.50 Luncheon Club	0.00	511.20		0.00		511.20
0.00 Concerts and events	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00		0.00
100.00 Youth work	495.97	0.00		45.88		541.85
211.50	495.97	661.18	0.00	45.88	0.00	1203.03
Buildings and Equipment						
2751.87 Rectory Council tax / water rates	0.00	0.00		2896.80		2896.80
16277.49 Church maintenance (incl. cleaning)	0.00	6980.81	70.00			7050.81
3839.00 Churchyard maintenance	0.00	3124.00				3124.00
0.00 Rectory / Vicarage maintenance	0.00	0.00		0.00		0.00
5824.84 Utilities	0.00	7033.54	70.00			7103.54
34.00 Flowers and materials	267.47	0.00	20.00	0.00		287.47
702.74 Purchase of church equipment	0.00	160.00	60.64	70.21		290.85
29429.94	267.47	17298.35	220.64	2967.01	0.00	20753.47

Adminstration						
642.25	Printing, postage and stationery	16.98	225.94	0.00	1602.56	1845.48
0.00	Examiner's fees	0.00	0.00		0.00	0.00
65.00	Sundry	0.00	5.00			5.00
1059.00	Equipment maintenance / rental	0.00	0.00		661.50	661.50
1628.69	Telephones and internet	0.00	1068.60		611.83	1680.43
373.00	Website fees	0.00	0.00		325.00	325.00
313.00	Copyright licence	152.00	0.00	176.00		328.00
90.00	Bank charges	0.00	0.00			0.00
448.69	Planned giving envelopes	0.00	0.00		399.74	399.74
3752.54	Insurance	740.40	2546.29	638.66		3925.35
0.00	Stewardship campaign materials	0.00	0.00		0.00	0.00
0.00	Transfers between accounts	0.00	0.00		0.00	0.00
8372.17		909.38	3845.83	814.66	3600.63	9170.50
GRANTS						
104.67	Children's society	0.00	93.84		0.00	93.84
4548.58	Church Schools	0.00	1060.00	1856.39	2000.00	4916.39
60.00	Royal British Legion Poppy appeal	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
0.00	Church council grants to School Governors	0.00	0.00		0.00	0.00
141.25	Christian Aid	0.00	0.00	12.50	0.00	12.50
0.00	Mayors Charity	0.00	0.00		0.00	0.00
189.45	Bishops fund	0.00	0.00		0.00	0.00
0.00	Winter charities	0.00	0.00		0.00	0.00
0.00	Miscellaneous	0.00	360.70			360.70
0.00	Namibia	0.00	0.00		0.00	0.00
0.00	Gift for minister	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
283.20	Bolton Hospice	0.00	0.00		0.00	0.00
5327.15		0.00	1514.54	1868.89	2000.00	5383.43
EXPENSES OF TRADING						
865.00	200 Club winners plus licence fee				962.50	962.50
0.00	Crux magazine	0.00	0.00		0.00	0.00
865.00		0.00	0.00	0.00	962.50	962.50
EXTRAORDINARY ITEMS						
-62.50	Write-back of uncashed cheques from previous year	0.00		0.00	-72.50	-72.50
0.00	Transfer to PCC		0.00			0.00
-62.50		0.00	0.00	0.00	-72.50	-72.50
110863.48	EXPENDITURE TOTALS	10918.50	72374.51	15457.19	44189.79	-38812.00
-8,408.20	NET SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)	-2047.85	2130.61	-850.79	1052.55	-3384.89

**The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Bartholomew
including the churches of St Bartholomew's, St George's and St Thomas'**

2022 Accounts

STATEMENT OF MAIN ASSETS							2022 (£)
2021 (£)		St Thomas	St Barts	St George's	PCC	Consol adj	TOTAL
TOTAL							
Investments and bequests							
6,070.56	White Horse School - sale of nursery	0.00	0.00		6150.40		6150.40
15,856.18	G&A Grundy Memorial Fund-income to St Barts	0.00	0.00		13997.92		13997.92
8,236.01	Hart Common Sunday School and mission Church	0.00	0.00		8344.34		8344.34
4,188.94	Thomas Smith bequest	0.00	0.00	0.00	4188.94		4188.94
257.76	Banco Santander Shares	0.00	0.00	0.00	258.44		258.44
2,000.00	Monies held in diocesan account				0.00		0.00
36609.45		0.00	0.00	0.00	32940.04	0.00	32940.04
Bank accounts and cash balances							
St Bartholomew's							
13,336.26	Current Acc 40013757		16011.72				16011.72
2,639.35	Gift aid account 80773344		2261.00				2261.00
61,537.41	CBF Deposit Fund 624108001D		61537.41				61537.41
100.46	Choir		390.46				390.46
3,162.85	Belfry Fund		2802.85				2802.85
156.50	Luncheon Club		60.00				60.00
80932.83		0.00	83063.44	0.00	0.00	0.00	83063.44
St George's							
5,180.82	Current Account			4362.80			4362.80
324.62	Clubs and Societies reserve			325.35			325.35
38.50	Cash in hand			0.00			0.00
5543.94		0.00	0.00	4688.15	0.00	0.00	4688.15
St Thomas's							
898.62	Current Account	918.48					918.48
4,071.39	Memorial Fund	4075.18					4075.18
399.93	Flower Fund	317.46					317.46
5369.94		5311.12	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	5311.12
PCC							
17,391.12	Current Account				18443.67		18443.67
145,847.28	Asset Totals	5,311.12	83,063.44	4,688.15	51,383.71	-	144,446.42

The use of the following funds is restricted: G&A Grundy Memorial Fund, Sale of White Horse nursery, Thomas Smith bequest, St Thomas Memorial fund.

£6,794.15 in the St Bartholomew's current account is designated to the Tower fund.

£14,134.00 in the St Bartholomew's current account is designated to the St Bartholomew's Church, tower and churchyard.



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

**Report to the trustees/
members of**

The PCC of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Bartholomew, Westhoughton

**On accounts for the year
ended**

31st December 2022

**Charity no
(if any)**

1136063

Set out on page

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31st December 2022.

**Responsibilities and
basis of report**

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

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed 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 which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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

Signed:

Date:

2nd April 2023

Name:

Nigel Ginniff

**Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body
(if any):**

Barrister at Law of England and Wales

Address:

13 Bankside

Westhoughton

BL5 2QP

Accounts



THE PARISH OF ST. BARTHOLOMEW WESTHOUGHTON

St. Bartholomew

St. George

St. Thomas

ANNUAL REPORTS FOR 2021

PRESENTED TO THE APCM

MONDAY 24TH APRIL 2022



**Blackrod, Daisy Hill, Westhoughton
And Wingates Team Ministry**

**Parish of Westhoughton
St Bartholomew, St George LEP, St Thomas**

MINUTES OF ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING:

HELD VIA ZOOM ON MONDAY 24th MAY 2021

AT ST BARTHOLOMEW'S CHURCH

Present Rev C Pharaoh, Rev A Wynne, Mr E McHale, Mrs M Dolphin,
Mr G Andrews, Mrs E Simkins, Mrs H, Mrs S Sloan, Mr J Thompson,
Mrs H Thompson, Mrs J Warner, Mrs C Andrews, Mr A Younge,
Mrs J O'Reilly, Mrs J Tonge, Mrs S Barry, Ms P James, Mrs K Norman

1. Rev C Pharaoh opened the meeting with welcome and prayers A bible reading was read by Mr Ed McHale

Apologies for Absence

2. Mrs C Smith, Mr G Twist, Mr J Moore, Mr A Morris, Mrs K Morris

3. **Approval of Minutes**

The minutes of the deferred AGM held on Wednesday 7th October 2020 were approved as a true record and no matters arising

Annual Meeting of Parishioners

Election of two churchwardens for the year 2021 to 2022

Nominations

Mr Edward McHale

Mrs J O'Reilly

Both have been duly nominated and seconded.

There are no other nominations.

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

1. Elections and Appointments

I. Two deputy wardens each for St Bartholomew's, St Thomas' and St George's
(who will be ex officio members of the Parochial Church Council)

St Bartholomew's Mrs Christine Andrews, vacancy

St Thomas' vacancy/vacancy

St George's Mrs Pat James, Mr J Moore

All have been duly nominated and seconded.

There were no other nominations. Rev C Pharaoh confirmed the appointments.

ii Representatives for Deane Deanery Synod for the period 2020-2023 (who will be ex-officio members of Parochial Council)

Mrs C Andrews, Mrs Kath Norman, are already serving with two vacancies

iii Two further representatives from each church to serve as members of the PCC

St Bartholomew's Ms A Young, Mr George Twist

St Thomas' Mr G Andrews, Mrs C Smith

St George's Mrs J Crook, Mrs S Barry

Iv Church Council Members - up to eight at each church

St Bartholomew's Mrs E Simkins, Mrs J Tonge,

St Thomas' no nominations

St George's Mrs A Greenhall, Mrs S Sloan, Mrs H, Mrs P James,
Mr J Moore

All duly proposed, seconded and approved

V Appointment of Independent Examiner

The meeting approved the proposal to re-appoint Mr Nigel Ginniff as Independent Examiner.

2.

All reports can be read in the pack provided

Team Rector's report for 2020

Rev C Pharaoh thanked everyone for their support as 2020 has not been an easy year.

Also thanks from Rev A Wynne to Rev C Pharaoh for keeping us all on the right path

Churchwardens' Report for 2020

Secretary's report to the AGM for 2020

Electoral Roll Officer's report

188 are on the roll 2 up from last year

Annual Treasurer's report to St Bartholomew's Parish AGM covering the year 2020.

Examination of accounts

Mr G Andrews talked us through the accounts, we followed on zoom. There were no issues and Mr G Andrews was thanked for the challenges of the year

**Annual Report of the Child Protection Officer April 2017
for St. Bartholomew's, St. Thomas's and St. George's LEP**

Covid guidelines say we can now recommence young people's groups but very difficult given our buildings

3. Any Other Business

None

4 Dates of future Meetings:

Archdeacon's Visitation:- Only wardens and clergy to attend venue and date to be arranged

PCC follows this meeting

Annual Parochial Church Meeting Monday 25th April 2022

5 Closing prayers:

The meeting closed with prayers at 8:17pm

TEAM RECTOR'S REPORT 2021

'For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in the one Spirit, we were all baptised into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.' 1 Corinthians 12: 12-13.

In my world, 2021 will be forever known as the year of the broken collar bone. For those who don't know, in June, I tumbled head first into a ditch whilst out walking on holiday in Wales. I landed on my left shoulder, breaking my collar bone and badly spraining my back. A trip to A & E at Bangor hospital, followed by a visit to the Fracture Clinic at Bolton Hospital a week later confirmed, not only was the bone well and truly broken, I managed to break it in a very inconvenient spot. This resulted in having to have surgery to fix a metal plate to hold the bone in place whilst it healed. With the help of an arm sling, rest and recuperation and physiotherapy, my broken collar bone is fixed. (Though I need a further operation to have the metal work removed, as my arm and shoulder won't have complete function until it is.)

Breaking my collar bone was very inconvenient. I couldn't drive for a while. My arm in a sling severely limited some activities. I had plans which had to be cancelled or put on hold. Even when I began to heal, I also found there were some basic functions I couldn't carry out. I couldn't unscrew bottle tops for instance. I couldn't carry anything with even a bit of weight, not even with my right hand / arm. And try getting out of a bath with only one fully functioning arm. It is not to be recommended.

It seems to me that there are parallels with covid and the effect it has had on the church, with the effect of my broken collar bone has had on the rest of my body. First, it's important to say that the pain and inconvenience my broken collar bone caused me, pales into insignificance in comparison to the pain and heartache the pandemic has caused to countless individuals and families. To all those in our parish community who have lost loved ones, to all who have lost livelihoods, to children and young people whose education and development has been severely hampered, to all who have felt lonely and isolated for such a long time, my love and prayers are with you all. It has been very tough and the difficulties and loneliness continue. We pray God will bring healing and peace. However, like my broken collar bone, the pandemic has brought pain and disruption to the church, as a world-wide body, and to our church families. We haven't been able to function like we would like to. It has been impossible to carry on with some activities. It has severely restricted our life and mission. It's been very inconvenient. Slowly, we are healing but it's taking a long time and we've needed the metal work of worship and prayer to hold us all together whilst we do so. We've needed the functioning parts of the body to take the strain and the load and the constant friendship of the Holy Spirit has brought comfort and relief.

So, let's identify the healing that has taken place and celebrate it. We've been able to meet in person to worship together and we have continued to provide resources

as a Team to worship online. (We know we've had an international audience too from Zurich to New Zealand.) During 2021 we were allowed to sing again in our churches and, to those of us who are spiritually fed through music and song, this has been marvellous. (Even through a face mask.) We've been able to extend our worship and go back to familiar patterns and service books. We've been able to meet in person as a PCC and the 3 DCCs. The inaugural meeting of our Team Youth Church happened at St John's Church Wingates. We've been able to offer support to families seeking baptism for their children. We've hosted weddings, supporting 4 lovely couples on this important stage in their lives. We've had the profound privilege of offering love, support and care to families for whom we have held funeral services. We had 2 tremendous Team Confirmation Services, one in July and one in November, at which 18 young people from our parish were confirmed. It was so exciting to be part of this and see these remarkable youngsters take this next step in their Christian journey. We were able to reinstate a monthly Wednesday Holy Communion Service followed by Luncheon Club which offers an opportunity for people to share friendship and good food. We showed practical love by supporting Urban Outreach, the Bolton Lions and Christian Aid. We were able to hold some civic services again along with the Community Carol Service. There have also been opportunities to grow in faith through a Team wide zoom lent course, other zoom courses and a smattering of face-to-face study groups. What's more, we have been extremely fortunate and delighted to welcome 2 new ministers to minister in our Team in the shape of Rev'd Dr Malcolm Wearing as Self-Supporting Associate Minister, based mainly at St James' Daisy Hill, and the Rev'd Andy Jones as our Team Curate. Both these men bring many gifts and we are truly proud to have them as part of our clergy team. I praise God every day for the excellent support I have from all my colleagues, both lay and ordained, stipendiary and self-supporting. They have been a tremendous support following my accident and are the most, loveliest and inspirational people to work with. I count myself very, very fortunate.

Like my left shoulder and arm, we are still lacking some function of course. Financially we are struggling and we need to seriously take time to address this in 2022 through prayer and challenging ourselves to do better. We haven't been able to hold many social events and fund-raising activities. We are still limited in practical ways in our worship and it's been difficult to offer quite the level of support and fun we would want to for our children and young people, to enable them to grow in their faith and understanding of God and the Church. The healing and restoration process continues.

As you can imagine, the passage from 1 Corinthians 12 has resonated very deeply with me in 2021. We are all parts of the one body. We have different functions and different abilities but we are all necessary. In fact, as St Paul goes on to say, it is often the over-looked parts of the body that should have the highest honour. Those unseen heroes and heroines for example, who clean and carry out many routine jobs on our church building and school worship spaces. Those people who offer a welcoming smile and greeting to all those who enter our doors. Those who ring the church bells to call people to worship. Those who carry out countless tedious yet essential administration tasks and those who offer a listening ear to anyone who is needing friendship and care. You are all priceless.

In my annual report, I would normally list people who I particularly would like to thank for all they do. Whilst you all have my heartfelt thanks, I'm not going to do this this year. I'm simply going to say THANK YOU to all those who offer their gifts and time in any way and THANK YOU to you all for your support. Please be assured you are valued and appreciated.

As to the future, there is still uncertainty and there is still much to be resolved. We must find ways to pull together even more as the body of Christ. We must discover more of what part we play in our Team Ministry and in the Missional Community we are now a part. Changes continue at Deanery and Diocese level and we will learn more as 2022 unfolds. We remain undergirded by the metal work of worship and prayer as, unlike the metal plate on my collar bone, it remains in place eternally. We still have the reassurance of the friendship of the Holy Spirit. We will get there and we will discover new ways to be the church God wants us to be along the way.

'I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ.' Philippians 1:3-6.

Rev'd Carol Pharaoh

Parish Churchwardens' Report for 2021 – to be presented at the 2022 AGM

At the 2021 APCM Joan O'Reilly and Ed McHale were elected to the post of Parish Wardens. After completing a six-year term in post, Margaret Dolphin stood down and we were able to make a presentation to her in recognition of all that she had contributed to the role and beyond. It was noted that the post of churchwarden was like an iceberg – what you see on the surface on a Sunday morning is barely one tenth of the role.

Many people have described 2020 as a year like no other. Sadly, 2021 began with many of the same restrictions in place, but as the year progressed and the guidance eased, we were able to bring back some of the services and events. As restrictions ease further, we will be considering as a parish what we can bring back gradually and things that shouldn't return so we can introduce new ways of doing things.

- Office Hour returned but now on a Monday morning [drop-in] or Saturday mornings by appointment.
- The Civic Service for Mayoral Service was held in a limited form with a smaller attendance.
- Remembrance Sunday services returned, although social distancing meant that we had to limit the numbers at the 10:00am Civic Service. This worked well and should continue.
- Switching on of the Town Lights Carol Service returned but in a new format. Only a limited number of schools will take part in person on a rota basis, the other schools contributing recorded items. Admittance was by ticket only to prevent unsafe overcrowding and this will continue in future years.
- A Confirmation Service was held in November with a large number of candidates following postponements in 2021. Again attendance was limited but this was a splendid occasion. This year we had two streams of confirmation classes – the usual weekly one and two longer Saturday mornings to accommodate everyone and see if there were any preferences.
- Although we have not been able to run Sunday Schools, following the confirmation, we have been able to initiate a Team Youth Church meeting monthly at St John's Wingates.
- In Spring we were able to run a full programme of Lent, Holy Week and Easter services although the Easter Experience was not able to run. We joined with the National Day of Reflection for those affected by Covid on 23rd March by opening St Bart's church for private prayer
- Baptism services were able to return towards the end of the year and we have a large number already booked in for 2022. Baptism preparation evenings have also returned face-to-face once per month. Many thanks to those who clean between the services and baptisms and give up their Sunday afternoons to staff these.
- We have been able to read banns and hold a number of wedding services
- There have been fewer restrictions on funeral services and we have been able to increase the numbers allowed to attend.
- We have not held any social or fund raising events and the usual groups hiring the building have not been able to meet, although some groups have started in 2022. Sue & Ged Robinson Todd have planned a number of folk nights in aid of church funds at Westhoughton Conservative club.
- All café church services have been cancelled due to the additional restrictions on schools.
- We were able to run a Bible study course in autumn both by Zoom and face-to-face looking at some characters from the Old Testament.
- November's All Souls Memorial Service could be held again this year.

We ran a full programme of Christingle and Christmas Services; although attendances were better than 2020, they were still only 1/3 of those pre-pandemic. We'll note that we

- collected custard & brandy sauce for the Christmas Dinner on Jesus in 2021 and not say any more.
- A monthly Wednesday Communion Service followed by Luncheon Club was reintroduced at its new time of 11:00am.
- Following St Bartholomew's Patronal Festival at the end of August, we were able to follow this with wine and cake as a trial for bringing back refreshments after the St Bartholomew's service.

Lockdown easing:

St. Bartholomew's church remained open weekly for private prayer even when services were limited. This could not have been achieved without those who drew up the risk assessments and action plans and have implemented them. We continue to review these regularly to ensure that we comply with all the current rules and regulations and that it is as safe as possible for people to attend. This couldn't happen without Christine Andrews and the team of church cleaners who come in each Saturday to disinfect the building and many thanks must go to all who attend each Sunday and through the week to make sure that the building remained open.

Thanks to the work of the team at St George's we have been able to run the usual services there through the year with a gap at the start of the year during the peak pandemic period and a week off while the school hall roof was repaired.

With the lack of any face-to-face worship we had to look at different ways to reach people. The Pewsheets expanded and is now e-mailed out to 85 - 90 people each week [a hard copy to a small postal group] along with the Monthly Newsletter. As restrictions eased, the format changed and the daily reading, prayers and weekly homily no longer appear but it remains the best way of getting the weekly readings and notices out to everyone. Suzanne Walker produces "Our Daily Bread" a monthly prayer diary that we also circulate. These are also available from the church website with many thanks to Neil Belch for maintaining this. Many thanks also to Joan Warner for her work with the weekly pewsheets.

Again, as we offered more services in our churches, the Team Zoom services have reduced in number although we still offer a short weekly reflection. Many thanks go to the team who produce and circulate these. We also ran a virtual "Coffee and a Chat" zoom get-together on Sunday lunchtimes for a period.

School Form Signing:

This has been problematic during the year with changing requirements and conflicting advice. We were informed during the year that intention to attend would no longer apply and we removed the e-mail option to comply with this and reintroduced in-person signing / card stamping. There is no satisfactory way of recording and reporting attendance figures for school form signing and this needs review between churches & schools at a Diocesan or national level.

Staffing:

We were pleased to welcome Revd Malcolm Wearing to the Team on 7th January 2021 with particular responsibility for St. James' church and that Rev Andy Jones with Katie and Harry in July 2021 as a curate but with particular responsibility for St. George's church.

Funerals:

Funerals during the pandemic have been difficult with the strict limits on attendance. We remember particularly Mary Dolphin and James Tonge for their contribution to the parish remembering Graham & Margaret Dolphin and Jean Tonge respectively and their families and friends. We also lost three priests who had long standing connections to the parish, Revd Malcolm Edwards, Revd Gerald Higham and Canon Robert Warner. We thank God for their long and talented

ministries in this and other parishes and the friendships and fellowships they formed with us, remembering their families in our prayers.

Parish Share:

We met with the Diocesan representatives in February 2020 and agreed a further three-year deal. This, obviously wasn't the best timing, as the closure of churches, the lack of fund raising events and the loss of income from occasional offices have all impacted negatively upon parish finances and we have been unable to pay in full. The PCC, aware of this, agreed to launch a stewardship campaign in February 2022.

St. Bartholomew's Building:

All the usual testing of electrical and emergency equipment has been completed and measures arising from Health and Safety inspections have been put in place.

In 2021 we had a number of additional building works:

- Following a flood in the tower cellar, we had several weeks in winter with no heating. Following this we had remedial work done to the boilers [moving or replacing them is prohibitively expensive]. Work was also done to repair drains and remove tree roots from drains to prevent future flooding.
- There are issues still with the heating timer panels and further work is due
- There was remedial work to the electrics following the overdue 5-yearly electrical inspection. The external lighting has been switched off following this so we could get the electrical safety certificate for the insurance. Repairs to the external lighting will be expensive but we are looking at options for lighting the church path.
- The front door lock had to be replaced and new keys issued
- Following a theft there was further damage to the roof causing leaks into church that have been repaired
- There are issues with the church tower clock which are being dealt with
- The overdue Quinquennial Inspection took place in late 2021. We are still awaiting a report but know that there is rot around the window in the choir vestry that will need urgent attention and also that work to the tower will figure heavily again.

St. George's:

Separate report from St George's committee

St. Thomas':

St. Thomas' church closed with the initial lockdown and in the absence of a functioning committee to plan risk assessments, action plans or sufficient volunteers to take on the additional cleaning and safety measures, it was not able to reopen until May 2021.

Graham Andrews took on the role of deputy warden at St Thomas' during the year.

Congregations have begun to grow steadily over the last 9 months.

We apologise if we've missed anything, thank all those who work across all our churches, in many other unsung roles, who keep the many activities across the parish running so well. Nothing happens without an enormous amount of planning, co-operation and paperwork and little of this year could have been anticipated and, with hindsight, there is much that we might have done better

Joan O'Reilly – Parish Warden

Edward McHale – Parish Warden

2021/2022

PCC Treasurer's report to Annual Parish Meeting regarding 2021 accounts

Introduction

2021 was a year for our church to grow back from the partial closures of 2020. St Bartholomew's and St George's churches were open from the start of the year. St Thomas church reopened in May 2021. Attendance at services was however still well down on pre-pandemic levels. Our church income improved over 2020 but remained lower than in 2019.

Income

Overall income was £20906 higher than 2020 at £102456, but still below the 2019 income of £136435. £11929 of the increase over 2020 came from memorial donations rather than regular giving. Also there was an insurance reimbursement of £3343 which is not regular income. The HMRC refund was down by £749 compared with 2020 which is disappointing in a year of recovery. It was also nearly £4200 down on 2019 which shows how much work we need to do to get back this "free money".

Wedding and funeral income sadly came from funerals and not weddings. This income was higher than 2020 but remember that over 40% of this is paid to the diocese in fees (see expenditure below).

Income from appeals continues to be severely depressed at only £245. In 2019 general appeals raised £4800 with another nearly £6000 for the tower fund. Clearly much work to do here.

Stock and bond markets recovered somewhat during 2021 as lockdown measures eased. The value of our investments increased by £2013 compared with £874 in 2020 and £2190 in 2019. We withdrew £2000 from our trust funds for a grant to St Thomas school governors. We withdrew a further £2000 for a grant to St Bartholomew's school governors but this was not received from the diocese in time to pay the grant this year and is therefore shown as monies held at the diocese.

The 200 club continues to make a useful contribution to funds with a surplus of income over expenditure of £860, slightly down on 2020 which was itself down on 2019. We hope for new members following our stewardship campaign although none have come forward as yet.

The £2000 received from trust funds is an internal movement within the parish and is balanced out by an identical consolidation adjustment so that it does not affect the parish's external accounts. The same applies to the £39382 income for the PCC which is the money paid to the PCC account by the three churches towards Parish share and PCC expenses.

Clergy cost sharing within the Team reflects the total clergy costs for the four parishes in the Team split in the ratio of the four Parish Share allocations. The cost sharing procedure brought us an income of £621 from the other parishes. Some quarters in the year could see us spending less than our share of the total which would have resulted in a payment out, but this did not occur in 2021.

Expenditure

Our Parish Share for 2021, previously known as quota, was £59500. This year we did not have a parish share carry forward from the previous year. During the year we paid £49179 including our

£10479 gift aid income tax refund. This meant we were £3898 or 17% short of paying our parish share. This is worse than 2020 despite taking £4000 towards parish share from PCC legacy money.

Ministers' expenses during the year were down at £527. The clergy cost sharing procedure has already been mentioned, as have the wedding and funeral fees paid to the diocese. The payments to organists and choir were down as a consequence of the reduced number of weddings but verger expenses rose by £640 to £1570 with the higher number of funerals. There were no payments to bell ringers recorded in 2020 but £600 was paid in 2021.

Our outreach activities continued at a low level in 2021, something we hope to bring back in 2022. Church maintenance costs were very high in 2021. This is in part repairing damage caused by theft of lead, part by the cost of the 5 yearly electrical inspection and subsequent upgrades for St Bartholomew's, and part by the cost of boiler repairs following flooding. Utility costs fell back compared to 2020. This is a function of when bills are paid at the year end. Unfortunately we can be sure that utility costs will be significantly higher in 2022.

Total administration costs were very similar to 2020. Grants to schools was higher due to the £2000 granted to St Thomas school governors towards their share of the costs of the replacement of the roof over the KS1 (infants) part of the school.

Overall expenditure for 2021 was £110783 which was £3899 higher than in 2020. The parish as a whole ran at a deficit of £8408 for the year.

Statement of main assets

The total in our investment funds plus the Banco Santander shares at the end of the year was £36609, up by £13 despite withdrawing £2000.

The bulk of our assets lie in the various accounts at St Bartholomew's parish church totalling £80933 down £3983 on 2020 which was in turn down £20784 on 2019. St George's total assets were £5544, down by £1630 and St Thomas £5370, up by £568. £4071 of St Thomas assets are restricted being in the memorial account.

Total assets of the parish at year end were £145847. As already noted this is £8408 down on 2020 year end.

Conclusion

This report again contains an unwelcome set of negative numbers showing how far we have to go to get back to the pre-pandemic level of financial stability. The parish is currently running a stewardship campaign aimed at improving our finances and volunteering. A key challenge will be to get congregations back.

G P Andrews

PCC Treasurer, 12/03/2022

[Numbers in this report have been rounded to the nearest pound]

PCC Secretary Report

The PCC as met 6 times since the last AGM which was held via zoom on May 24th 2021

This has provided opportunity for members of the district councils to meet together and discuss shared interests

2 meetings held via zoom due to covid and 4 have been held in person following covid guide lines

All meetings have been well attended.

All meetings have had their minutes approved

Due to ongoing covid restrictions activities this years have been limited, the gradual re opening of our churches and trying to re-establish a good congregation who feel safe to return to church worship has been the focus of our discussions. Along with the formation of Mission Communities. We also continue to support the local community at special times, remembrance. Christmas and Pretoria pit anniversary.

Kath Norman

Parish Secretary

St. George's Church Committee report 2021 for 2022 APCM:

We decided to close in early-January 2021 with the third lockdown. We re-opened again on Mothering Sunday in 2021. Attendances have been notably lower but have grown steadily during the year. We had a brief closure also in summer while repairs were carried out to the school hall roof.

We were very pleased to welcome Reverend Andy Jones with Katie and Harry during 2021. As curate-in-charge with special responsibility for St George's we have all enjoyed working together to look at the development of St. George's church and its links with the school and community during the pandemic.

We were also able to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the opening and consecration of St George's school and church on 23rd April [St George's Day]. Although covid limited the celebrations possible, we did have special articles in the pewsheets and cakes.

The committee met infrequently during the year planning risk assessments around reopening and discussing running services with covid measures in place.

Many thanks to the congregation who have coped with setting out and clearing away chairs, continuing to give generously [even without a collection plate being passed around], mask wearing, more services on screen to avoid service sheets and hymn books and many other ongoing changes. We have more Services of the Word and target these as especially child and family-friendly. We are now also well practised at setting up immediately prior to the Sunday service rather than on a Saturday.

Many thanks also to the committee for their tireless work each week especially John & Helen Thompson [for the powerpoints, financial stewardship and music], Samuel Greenall [for running powerpoint services], John & Hilary Moore, Pat James and Sarah Barry who have taken on the additional covid-19 measures required. Thanks also to Elaine Simkin

In 2022 there is much to be hopeful about as congregations continue to grow slowly. We look forward to Andy being ordained as priest in summer. We are looking at our finances as part of the stewardship campaign, old and new ideas for fundraising, restarting Sunday school and redeveloping links with the school.

Ed McHale

St George's Committee Chair

Deane/Bolton Deanery Synod report 2021

The last meeting of the Deane Synod was held via zoom in February.

Deane Deanery Synod closed with a Celebration Service at Deane Parish church. Giving thanks for 54 years of shared ministry. 1967-2021.

The new Bolton Deanery Synod held its inaugural meeting via zoom on the 7th July. The new synod was opened by The Arch Deacon Jean Burgess presenting a 10 year vision of ministry. Since then the synod has met three times, twice in person and once via zoom. The main focus of all meetings has been covid restrictions and updates and the formation on mission communities. Initially it was suggested Bolton Deanery be divided into 6 mission communities but after discussion it was decided that it would only be divided into four. St Bartholomew's and the Blackrod, Daisy Hill and Wingates Team Benefice being in Mission community one, being basically the old Deane Deanery. We have found this year's meetings difficult not only because of covid but as the number of people attending is large and it is difficult to offer individual opinions or questions in such a large group. Each meetings starts and ends in the large group sub dividing into mission communities for discussion but once groups have been formed and re located there is very little time for any productive discussion. One of the main focus at present is how these communities will work and relate to each other and who will become each community's leader and focal leader.

Kath Norman

Christine Andrews

Safeguarding Report for year 2021

St. Bartholomew's St. George's St. Thomas

As we all know the last two years have been very different with no children's activities happening in the church.

No DBS safeguarding checks have been taken since March 2020.

Training and Development

It has not been possible to deliver face to face safeguarding training during the current pandemic. In view of this Basic and Foundation training is available online. Safeguarding web page. All of those with safeguarding responsibilities including PCC members, working with children and vulnerable adults are required to undertake Basic and Foundation training every three years.

Joan O'Reilly

Data Protection Report for 2022 AGM

Our church forms including remain compliant with the Data Protection laws.

As a Parish we continue to e-mail out the weekly pewsheets, the monthly newsletter & prayer diary and occasional special advertising [e.g. for Easter, Mothering Sunday, Harvest or Christmas]. Regular attendees from our congregation have signed up or e-mailed to request which / all publications they wish to receive.

Baptism / wedding families who have indicated consent when booking will receive the special advertising. This has been especially useful during the pandemic when churches have been closed and / or attendances limited. Anyone can remove their names from this contact list simply by sending an email reply.

We are not aware of any non-compliance with Data Protection in 2021 and no complaints have been raised. There were no revisions to the policy made in 2021.

There was one data breach when the church computer was hacked and a spurious e-mail sent out and this was rectified quickly with passwords being changed. Please note that no personal requests for money will be made by individuals associated with the church.

The churchwardens continue to oversee Data Protection but would be pleased to hand this on to a Data Protection Officer appointed by the PCC now that the policies are in place and the workload known.

Ed McHale

St Bartholomew's Church Choir Report for 2022 AGM

2021 has been another frustrating year, although with some improvements as the year progressed.

After we were allowed to resume the choir practices in December 2020 to prepare for the highly successful "Sequence of Music & Readings for Christmas" which replaced the usual Carol Service we hoped to continue meeting in 2021. Further lockdowns and limitations on singing nationally prevented this.

We were able to continue with a limited service at St. Bartholomew's at the start of the year but with organ music alone.

In spring, the choir were able to return to practice when small groups were allowed to sing in churches. We were able to contribute a small number of hymns and anthems at these services and adapted the seating in the choir gallery to maintain the distancing required.

During the year we were able to reintroduce hymn books and congregational singing including the sung parts of the communion service. The choir have been able to contribute anthems in our services culminating in a splendid Carol Service in the run-up to Christmas.

My thanks must go to those who come and practice weekly whatever the conditions. We are always open to new members of any age – please just come and have a word with me.

Ed McHale

Director of Music

Team Youth Church

This last year, Team Youth Church (venue: St John's) was on hold but as the year continued, we saw that with the easing of lockdown there was a real opportunity to start planning for when we started TYC.

In preparation for launching TYC, we confirmed that our volunteers were still willing to be involved. Also, each month one of the clergy attends to support the team and build relationships with the children.

Jo Haslam from Children's Changing Places team joined us on Zoom calls provide support and ideas for how we could take forward TYC for Years 6 and above. She agreed to lead the first 3 months sessions to help us and provide ideas based on the plans they were adopting in Turton Team. Eventually we want the children to come up with their ideas and themes.

Key to our plans in the Autumn was when we launched to tie in with publicising at the Confirmation classes and after the Confirmation Service. Also, really important as to how we helped our Year 6s and above transition to the next stage of church life after their Confirmation on Sunday 7th November. Invites issued to all of those who were confirmed on Sunday 7th and the launch was set for Saturday 20th November.

We were really encouraged to see 13 children on the 20th with 11 coming from the Confirmation classes and our theme for the evening was "Light". The format for TYC is opening worship including song, prayer and reading; activities throughout the evening around the theme; and a bible breakdown as part of the session or when we break for food. Food is chosen by the children and on the first evening we ordered in pizza. We had a great evening and received excellent feedback from the children. The December session was postponed due to rising Covid numbers, but we returned again in January.

Many thanks go to the PCC at St Johns and from all the Team PCCs for their support. We are grateful to be able to use St John's for TYC given its accessibility and format. Please pray for next steps when we can continue with this work and our Team takes over running TYC around March.

Evelyn Eden & Andy Glynn

Tower Report 2021

Bellringing ceased completely in line with government instruction in March 2020, and apart from the tolling of the tenor bell for the funeral of Joyce Cunliffe, and on the death of HRH The Duke of Edinburgh, the bells have been silent. The half muffled tenor was tolling within 10 minutes of the announcement and the Union flag placed at half mast.

On 24th July 2021, all 8 bells rang out in celebration of a wedding, and on Sunday 25th July for the Sunday Service. Since then, we have rang when possible and when numbers allow. We have marked the important occasions of Remembrance Sunday and Christmas Day, and I will continue to ensure these important days are appropriately marked. Even with the bells silent, I have always tried to make sure the flag is placed even if we cannot ring.

We currently have 10 bellringers; 6 are able ringers, whilst 4 are learners. I plan to have another recruitment drive later in the year through our successful Facebook page.

Looking ahead, we plan to ring as normal throughout the year, with the highlight being the Jubilee weekend. On The Queen's birthday this year (21st April), I plan to ring from 19:52 to 20:22 continuously to mark the Jubilee. This will be covered by the local news who continue to be interested in our bells, and published details and photo of our Quarter Peal for Accession Day.

The clock continues not to work and I am liaising with Christine Andrews who is co-ordinating the repairs. The roof is badly blocked with pigeon mess, and although myself and Peter Ormshaw clean it out, it is unmanageable. When this blocks, it caused a bad leak in the tower; this is currently the case with water and damp in the ringing/clock room.

Additionally, there are £8,400 of repairs which are required to the bells. £2,000 could be funded from the tower account, and I would donate £500 myself meaning required funds would be £5,900. This could further be reduced if we could arrange accommodation and meals for the two engineers. I am keen that the works are completed within the next 2 years to prevent the bells becoming in a worst state and costing far more to repair; at worst case we will have to stop ringing individual/all bells.

Myself and the ringers are looking forward to the year ahead.

Ryan Battersby
Tower Captain

**The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Bartholomew
including the churches of St Bartholomew's, St George's and St Thomas'**

2021 Accounts

INCOME	St Thomas	St Bart's	St George's	PCC	Consol adj	TOTAL (£)
2020						2021
(£) DIRECT GIVING						(£)
28796.00 Gift aided planned giving-envelopes and SO	4936.12	10066.00	9720.35	0.00		24722.47
12377.13 Other planned giving-envelopes and SO	521.38	15782.85	196.70	600.00		17100.93
258.00 Other gift aided donations	0.00	0.00		0.00		0.00
3306.97 Loose plate collections (inc Sunday Schools)	1085.09	3598.04	374.54	0.00		5057.67
11228.28 Tax refund on gift aid giving	1364.83	6536.05	2577.79	0.00		10478.67
2205.15 Memorial donations	0.00	14134.00		0.00		14134.00
58171.53	7907.42	50116.94	12869.38	600.00	0.00	71493.74
OTHER VOLUNTARY INCOME						
869.61 Gift day and general donations	0.00	1563.00	138.00	15.00		1716.00
0.00 Donations for youth work	0.00	0.00		0.00		0.00
16359.00 Weddings & Funerals	0.00	20181.00		0.00		20181.00
40.00 Book of Remembrance	0.00	10.00		0.00		10.00
396.93 Events, Concerts and Refreshments	8.80	169.00	0.00	0.00		177.80
302.50 Votive candle stand	0.00	319.81		0.00		319.81
60.00 Donations for flowers	140.00	0.00		0.00		140.00
0.00 Income from bell ringing	0.00	0.00		0.00		0.00
18028.04	148.80	22242.81	138.00	15.00	0.00	22544.61
APPEALS						
65.00 Christian Aid	0.00	0.00	140.00	0.00		140.00
0.00 Donations for Royal British Legion	0.00	0.00		0.00		0.00
0.00 Bishop's fund	0.00	0.00		0.00		0.00
0.00 Children's Society	0.00	104.67		0.00		104.67
0.00 Pretoria Pit	0.00	0.00		0.00		0.00
305.00 Gift for minister	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00		0.00
205.00 Mayor's charity	0.00	0.00		0.00		0.00
0.00 Urban outreach	0.00	0.00				0.00
0.00 Christmas charities	0.00	0.00		0.00		0.00
0.00 Bolton Hospice	0.00	0.00		0.00		0.00
525.00 Tower fund		0.00				0.00
0.00 Namibia	0.00	0.00		0.00		0.00
0.00 Miscellaneous appeals	0.00	0.00		0.00		0.00
1100.00	0.00	104.67	140.00	0.00	0.00	244.67

INCOME FROM INVESTMENTS						
874.73	Revaluation of investments	0.00	0.00		2012.61	2012.61
749.27	Bank interest	0.41	440.11	0.05	0.00	440.57
24.03	Dividends	0.00	0.00		30.86	30.86
0.00	Received from trust funds	0.00	0.00		2000.00	0.00
1648.03		0.41	440.11	0.05	2030.86	2484.04
INCOME FROM TRADING						
1880.00	200 club	0.00	0.00		1725.00	1725.00
0.00	Sale of magazines and advertising space	0.00	0.00		0.00	0.00
0.00	Room Hire	0.00	0.00		0.00	0.00
1880.00		0.00	0.00	0.00	1725.00	1725.00
OTHER SUNDRY INCOME						
0.00	Transfers between accounts	0.00	0.00		39382.21	0.00
719.71	Clergy cost sharing within the Team				620.65	620.65
0.00	Sundries	0.00	0.00			0.00
719.71		0.00	0.00	0.00	40002.86	620.65
EXTRAORDINARY ITEMS						
0.00	Insurance reimbursement	0.00	3342.57		0.00	3342.57
0.00	Bank Error corrections	0.00	0.00		0.00	0.00
0.00	New Horizons, distribution of surplus funds on closure	0.00	0.00		0.00	0.00
1.81	Balancing adjustment	0.00	0.00		0.00	0.00
1.81		0.00	3342.57	0.00	0.00	3342.57
81549.12	INCOME TOTALS	8056.63	76247.10	13147.43	44373.72	102455.28

**The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Bartholomew
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2021 Accounts

EXPENDITURE

2020 (£)	ITEM	St Thomas	St Barts	St George's	PCC	Consol adj	2021 (£)
WORK OF THE CHURCH							
Leadership							
1022.72	Ministerial expenses		440.00		87.45		527.45
0.00	PCC expenses (including quota)	5000.00	25000.00	9382.21		-39382.21	0.00
51773.28	Cof E Quota	1364.83	6536.05	2577.79	38700.00		49178.67
509.72	Clergy cost sharing within the Team				0.00		0.00
60.00	Deanery & other subscriptions				0.00		0.00
53365.72		6364.83	31976.05	11960.00	38787.45	-39382.21	49706.12
Services							
9663.00	Manchester DBF (weddings & Funerals)		8766.00		0.00		8766.00
815.20	Church Services expenses	110.69	615.10	83.84	208.47		1018.10
5455.50	Organists and choir	80.00	4926.00	54.00			5060.00
929.00	Vergers	0.00	1570.00		0.00		1570.00
0.00	Payments to bell ringers		600.00		0.00		600.00
16862.70		190.69	16477.10	137.84	208.47	0.00	17014.10
Outreach							
167.88	Training and education (inc Sunday School)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00		0.00
0.00	Mother and Toddler	0.00	0.00		0.00		0.00
0.00	Urban outreach	0.00	0.00		0.00		0.00
217.28	Luncheon Club	0.00	111.50		0.00		111.50
0.00	Concerts and events	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00		0.00
89.34	Youth work	0.00	0.00		100.00		100.00
474.50		0.00	111.50	0.00	100.00	0.00	211.50
Buildings and Equipment							
2676.72	Rectory Council tax / water rates	0.00	0.00		2751.87		2751.87
2570.49	Church maintenance (incl. cleaning)	0.00	16206.49	71.00			16277.49
3911.80	Churchyard maintenance	0.00	3839.00				3839.00
0.00	Rectory / Vicarage maintenance	0.00	0.00		0.00		0.00
12023.57	Utilities	0.00	5774.84	50.00			5824.84
68.58	Flowers and materials	24.50	0.00	9.50	0.00		34.00
160.00	Purchase of church equipment	0.00	702.74	0.00	0.00		702.74
21411.16		24.50	26523.07	130.50	2751.87	0.00	29429.94

Adminstration						
771.50	Printing, postage and stationery	0.00	51.10	16.92	574.23	642.25
0.00	Examiner's fees	0.00	0.00		0.00	0.00
0.00	Sundry	0.00	65.00			65.00
1354.26	Equipment maintenance / rental	0.00	0.00		1059.00	1059.00
1439.58	Telephones and internet	0.00	984.90		643.79	1628.69
325.00	Website fees	0.00	0.00		373.00	373.00
302.00	Copyright licence	145.00	0.00	168.00		313.00
0.00	Bank charges	0.00	90.00			90.00
442.49	Planned giving envelopes	0.00	0.00		448.69	448.69
3742.37	Insurance	763.29	2351.72	637.53		3752.54
0.00	Stewardship campaign materials	0.00	0.00		0.00	0.00
0.00	Transfers between accounts	0.00	0.00		0.00	0.00
8377.20		908.29	3542.72	822.45	3098.71	8372.17
GRANTS						
0.00	Children's society	0.00	104.67		0.00	104.67
2552.25	Church Schools	0.00	987.42	1561.16	2000.00	4548.58
25.00	Royal British Legion Poppy appeal	0.00	35.00	25.00	0.00	60.00
500.00	Church council grants to School Governors	0.00	0.00		0.00	0.00
81.25	Christian Aid	0.00	0.00	141.25	0.00	141.25
0.00	Mayors Charity	0.00	0.00		0.00	0.00
0.00	Bishops fund	0.00	189.45		0.00	189.45
200.00	Winter charities	0.00	0.00		0.00	0.00
1461.35	Miscellaneous	0.00	0.00			0.00
0.00	Namibia	0.00	0.00		0.00	0.00
407.50	Gift for minister	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
300.00	Bolton Hospice	0.00	283.20		0.00	283.20
5527.35		0.00	1599.74	1727.41	2000.00	5327.15
EXPENSES OF TRADING						
890.00	200 Club winners plus licence fee				865.00	865.00
0.00	Crux magazine	0.00	0.00		0.00	0.00
890.00		0.00	0.00	0.00	865.00	865.00
EXTRAORDINARY ITEMS						
-25.00	Write-back of uncashed cheques from previous year	0.00		0.00	-62.50	-62.50
0.00	Transfer to PCC		0.00			0.00
-25.00		0.00	0.00	0.00	-62.50	-62.50
106883.63	EXPENDITURE TOTALS	7488.31	80230.18	14778.20	47749.00	-39382.21
-25,334.51	NET SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)	568.32	-3983.08	-1630.77	-3375.28	12.61
						-8408.20

**The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Bartholomew
including the churches of St Bartholomew's, St George's and St Thomas'**

2021 Accounts

STATEMENT OF MAIN ASSETS

STATEMENT OF MAIN ASSETS							2021
2020		St Thomas	St Barts	St George's	PCC	Consol adj	(£) TOTAL
(£)							
Investments and bequests							
10,065.70	White Horse School - sale of nursery	0.00	0.00		6070.56		6070.56
13,862.86	G&A Grundy Memorial Fund-income to St Barts	0.00	0.00		15856.18		15856.18
8,231.72	Hart Common Sunday School and mission Church	0.00	0.00		8236.01		8236.01
4,188.94	Thomas Smith bequest	0.00	0.00	0.00	4188.94		4188.94
247.62	Banco Santander Shares	0.00	0.00	0.00	257.76		257.76
-	Monies held in diocesan account				2000.00		2000.00
36596.84		0.00	0.00	0.00	36609.45	0.00	36609.45
Bank accounts and cash balances							
St Bartholomew's							
6,023.70	Current Acc 40013757		13336.26				13336.26
3,870.93	Gift aid account 80773344		2639.35				2639.35
71,537.41	CBF Deposit Fund 624108001D		61537.41				61537.41
250.46	Choir		100.46				100.46
3,169.41	Belfry Fund		3162.85				3162.85
64.00	Luncheon Club		156.50				156.50
84915.91		0.00	80932.83	0.00	0.00	0.00	80932.83
St George's							
6,850.14	Current Account			5180.82			5180.82
324.57	Clubs and Societies reserve			324.62			324.62
-	Cash in hand			38.50			38.50
7174.71		0.00	0.00	5543.94	0.00	0.00	5543.94
St Thomas's							
446.21	Current Account	898.62					898.62
4,070.98	Memorial Fund	4071.39					4071.39
284.43	Flower Fund	399.93					399.93
4801.62		5369.94	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	5369.94
PCC							
20,766.40	Current Account				17391.12		17391.12
154,255.48	Asset Totals	5,369.94	80,932.83	5,543.94	54,000.57	-	145,847.28

The use of the following funds is restricted: G&A Grundy Memorial Fund, Sale of White Horse nursery, Thomas Smith bequest, St Thomas Memorial fund.
£6,504.15 in the St Bartholomew's deposit account is restricted (Tower fund).



CHARITY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/
members of

Charity Name
St Bartholomew, Westhoughton

On accounts for the year
ended

31st December 2021

Charity no
(if any)

1136063

Set out on page

1 (this page)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31/12/2019.

Responsibilities and
basis of report

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

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed 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 which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- 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 order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:

Date:

7th April 2022

Name:

Nigel Ginniff

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

Barrister at Law

Address:

13 Bankside

Westhoughton

BL5 2QP

Accounts



THE PARISH OF ST. BARTHOLOMEW WESTHOUGHTON

St. Bartholomew

St. George

St. Thomas

ANNUAL REPORTS FOR 2020

PRESENTED TO THE APCM

MONDAY 24TH MAY 2021

DEFERRED FROM MONDAY 26TH APRIL 2021



The Parish of St Bartholomew Westhoughton

St Bartholomew St George

St Thomas

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING: Monday 26th April 2021 7.30pm ST BARTHOLOMEW'S CHURCH

AGENDA

1. Welcome and Opening Prayers
2. Apologies for absence
3. Minutes of the deferred Annual Meeting held on Wednesday 7th October 2020 [enclosed] and matters arising

Annual Meeting of Parishioners:

Election of two churchwardens for the year 2021 - 2022

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

1. Elections and appointments:
 - i. Two deputy wardens each for St Bartholomew's, St Thomas's and St George's (who will be ex-officio members of the Parochial Church Council)
 - ii. Deane Deanery Synod – three year term of office (who will be ex-officio members of the Parochial Church Council) Two vacancies, 2 years remaining.
 - iii. Two further representatives from St Bartholomew's, St Thomas's and St George's to serve as members of the Parochial Church Council
 - iv. Up to eight people to serve as members of each of the church councils of St Bartholomew's, St Thomas's and St George's
 - v. Appointment of Independent Examiner

[N.B. Sidespeople are now appointed by the PCC]

2. Annual Reports for 2020:
 - i. Team Rector's Report
 - ii. Churchwardens' Report
 - iii. Secretary's Report on the Proceedings of the PCC
 - iv. Church Electoral Roll Report
 - v. Honorary Treasurer's Presentation of Accounts / appointment of independent examiner
 - vi. Safeguarding Officer's Report
3. Any Other Business relevant to an annual meeting (chair to be notified BEFORE the meeting begins)
4. Date of future Meetings:
 - Archdeacon's visitation – *to be announced*
 - Next PCC meeting - to be notified
 - Annual Parochial Church Meetings 2022 Monday 25th April 7:30pm

5. Closing prayers

There will be a short meeting of the newly constituted Parochial Church Council immediately following the Annual Parochial Church Meetings

AGENDA

1. Appointment of
 - a. PCC treasurer
 - b. PCC secretary
 - c. Vice chair of the PCC
 - d. Safeguarding officer
 - e. PCC Standing Committee – *usually clergy/parish wardens/PCC treasurer / PCC sec*
 - f. Appointment of Sidespeople
2. Co-option, if required, of further PCC members
3. Any other urgent business

**Parish of St Bartholomew Westhoughton
St Bartholomew, St George, St Thomas**

Meeting of the APCM Wednesday 7th October 2020 at 7.30pm

Attendance: Revd Carol Pharaoh (chair), Ed McHale (Secretary), Margaret Dolphin, Christine Andrews, Elaine Simkin, Ollie Younge, Joan Warner, Helen Thompson, John Thompson, Jean Tonge, John Owen, Lynne Owen, Ged Robinson Todd, Sue Robinson Todd, Sarah Barry, Pat James, Joan O'Reilly, Kath Norman, John Moore, Hilary Moore, Alan Morris.

Following other meetings: Graham Andrews, Sarah Sloan, Revd Angela Wynne *[by Zoom]*

Apologies: Claire Smith, Angela Greenall, George Twist

AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION and ACTION
Apologies for Absence	Attendance and apologies were noted on the signing in sheets and are listed above.
Introductions:	The rector introduced the meeting noting that due to the Coronavirus pandemic, the meeting had been deferred in line with Church of England guidelines from April 27th 2020 to October 7th 2020. The meeting was being held in accordance with all the Government and Church of England Coronavirus regulations in place at the time. Thanks were expressed to Catherine Croughan who had stood down as PCC secretary during the year.
Minutes of Previous meetings	The minutes of the previous APCM held on the 29th April 2019 had been circulated to those signing up to attend the meeting electronically or in a paper form. On the proposal of Elaine Simkin, seconded by Joan O'Reilly, these were accepted unanimously.
Annual Meeting of Parishioners: Election of Two Parish Wardens 2020 - 21	Ed McHale explained that he was standing aside this year as a technicality, which would allow him to be nominated for a further six-year period from the 2021 AGM. Margaret Dolphin was nominated and seconded; no other nominations were received and Margaret Dolphin was duly appointed with the other post remaining vacant.
Annual Parochial Church Meeting	Elections and Appointments The following were all duly proposed seconded and appointed
Deputy Wardens: [2 per church]	St Bartholomew's: Christine Andrews / Ed McHale St George's: John Moore / Pat James St Thomas' VACANCY / VACANCY Thanks were expressed to Sarah Barry who had stood down as Deputy Warden at St. George's after many years, welcoming John Moore in her place, and to Janet perfect who had not stood as a deputy warden at St. Thomas' again after many years of service.
Deanery Synod: 4 representatives	Christine Andrews and Kath Norman were duly proposed, seconded and appointed, leaving two vacancies to be filled. It was noted that these posts were for a three year period. When the Diocesan plan of merging current deaneries into 7 larger deaneries comes into place, these reps will move across to the new Deanery Synod without the need for further elections. Thanks were passed to Pat James and Sarah Barry for their work as Deanery Synod reps as they stood down from this role this year.
Elected Members to PCC: [2 per church]	The following were all duly nominated, seconded & appointed St Bartholomew's: Ollie Young / George Twist St George's: June Crook / Pat James St Thomas': Graham Andrews / Claire Smith Co-opted Members: Jean Tonge / Joan O'Reilly

Elected Members to DCC	The following were all duly nominated, seconded & appointed St Bartholomew's – Joan O'Reilly, Jean Tonge St Thomas' – no nominations received St George's - John Thompson, Angela Greenall, Sarah Sloan, Sarah Barry, Ed McHale Thanks were passed to Stuart Yearsley who has decided to stand aside from St. George's after many years of service.
Appoint of Independent Examiner	Nigel Ginniff proposed by Elaine Simkin, seconded by Ed McHale and duly appointed
Annual reports	
Team Rector Churchwardens PCC secretary Church Electoral Roll Honorary Treasurer & Independent Examiner Safeguarding Group reports	These had all been circulated prior to the meeting either be e-mail or as a paper copy. It was noted that the electoral roll stood at 186 as of 06/10/2020 The reports were accepted <i>en bloc</i> unanimously with thanks to all who had prepared them particularly during a very difficult year.
AOB	None relevant to the annual meeting
Date of future meetings	Archdeacon's Visitation – no dates yet, it was most likely that these would be held by Zoom rather than face-to-face services Next PCC meeting – Wednesday 11th November 2020 Annual Parochial Church Meeting 2021 – Monday 26th April [planned]
	PCC MEETING
Appointment of Elected Officers	The following were duly proposed, seconded and appointed: PCC Vice Chair: Ed McHale PCC Secretary: vacant – appoint at next PCC meeting PCC Treasurer: Graham Andrews Safeguarding lead: Joan O'Reilly PCC Standing Committee: Clergy, Parish Wardens, PCC secretary and treasurer
Election of Sidespeople – note from 2020 these are now elected by the PCC rather than by the APCM	John Thompson, John Moore, Denise Wood, June Crook Claire Smith, Tim Browning, Sarah Wilson, Gail Stocks, Christine Andrews, Margaret Dolphin, Lynne Owen, John Owen Joan O'Reilly, Jean Tonge, Frank Dickinson, Ian Hunter, Valerie Hunter, Kath Norman, Barbara Eaton, Mel Eaton, Graham Andrews
Sale of Land	There was a proposal from the Diocese to sell part of the rectory land they owned between the rectory drive and the market hall. Any funds raised would go to the Diocese. This proposal required the consent of the Team Rector, Team Vicar and all PCCs within the team. This proposal was accepted unanimously.
Closing Prayers	The meeting closed at 8:20pm Covid-19 regulations prevented the usual cheese and wine social time after the meeting

TEAM RECTOR'S REPORT 2020

TEAM RECTOR'S REPORT 2020

'For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope.' Jeremiah 29:11 NRSV

During 2020, Peter and I have played a lot of scrabble. It doesn't take a genius to work out why! Peter is much better at scrabble than I am so I rarely win. On one occasion however, I did think of a word that could potentially score me quite a few points. The word was 'covid' and a combination of a triple letter score for the 'C' and a double word score gave me 34 points. The problem was, is it a valid scrabble word? Some would say as its not in the dictionary (or not yet) I shouldn't have been allowed it. Others might say, whether we like it or not, the word has entered our language and it's here to stay. Peter graciously allowed me the word but I still lost. It made no difference in the end. Maybe next time(?)

In writing this report for parish and team for 2020, I'm conscious of the fact that there has been so much change. With covid entering our language and indeed our lives, so many other things entered our language and our lives. We are bored by the word but it really has been an 'unprecedented' year. As a parish, not only have we had to do things differently, we've also had to view things differently. Our language had to change and change it did. Is worship rooted in place or community? How do we remain connected to the God who loves us and each other? How do we best support those who's lives have been devastated by the cruelty of the virus. Where there is so much fear and uncertainty, how can we remain hopeful?

As for individuals and families, the plans we had for our churches had to be cancelled, postponed or put on hold. Our weekly activities, even our worship stopped. Then we started to rethink our norms. Firstly, could we worship virtually? Yes, was the answer. Could we support each other via the phone and a weekly bumper extended pew sheet? Yes, was the answer. Could we support others practically with food donations? Yes, was the answer. Could we hold PCC meetings via email? Yes, was the answer. Then when restrictions were eased, could we reopen our churches for individual prayer and then face-to-face worship? Yes, was the answer. In stopping doing our normal activities, we were freed to do other activities. We had to think about what was important. Some of the things we thought important turned out not to be that important.

It has been a tough year. I personally have lost a friend to covid. I've seen the devastation this pandemic has caused on many peoples' lives, through funeral ministry and through talking to others. Despite this, I have been staggered by the good and the amount that has been achieved in the year.

There was a lot to celebrate in the year and there was some very good news for the future too. In January, we said a fond farewell to our Curate Kirsty. We celebrated

her ministry at a special service early in the new year and, a few of us, were privileged to be at her licensing service as Priest-in-charge at St John's Hopwood and St Luke's Heywood. In June we heard the great news that Andy Jones would be joining us as Team Curate in July 2021. In December we heard that Revd Dr Malcolm Wearing would be joining us as Self-Supporting Minister / Associate Priest in the Team in January 2021. Both these men, I am confident, will be real assets to our Team Ministry.

I must say a huge thank you to you all but I would like to say a special thank you to some specific people. To Angela who is an excellent and valued colleague. To Margaret and Ed and Christine, for their excellent work as Church Wardens and Deputy Wardens, Graham as parish treasurer and Elaine, Claire and John as church treasurers and both Catherine and Kath as PCC Secretaries. Thank you to Jean as Verger. Thank you to PCC members, Sides People and our group of cleaners. Thank you to Joan and Ed as pew sheet editor and newsletter editor. Thank you to Ed as organist, the choir and the bellringers. THANK YOU to all those who offer their gifts and time in any way and THANK YOU to you all for your support. Please be assured you are valued and appreciated.

As to the future, there is still uncertainty and there is still much to be resolved. Financially we have taken a great hit and we must work hard to work out how we can turn this around. We have lost contact with some of our church families and we will need to work at restoring those relationships. There are radical changes a foot in our Diocese and Deanery which will affect us. All things won't go back to the way they were before the pandemic. Bishop David has asked that we think and plan carefully to build back better. With all of this, I pick up that there is some optimism and people are hopeful for the future. I also pick up there is much fatigue. We need to be mindful of both of these realities, making sure our hope is focussed in the right place and that we take time to resource ourselves, making sure we are always gracious to one another.

I am confident that, following the pandemic and when restrictions gradually ease, we will be able to work together in prayer and in trust, that God has good plans for us. With God's help we will be able to build back better and, in the words of Captain Sir Tom Moore, 'Tomorrow will be a good day'.

Revd Carol Pharaoh

Parish Churchwardens' Report for 2020 – to be presented at the 2021 AGM

At the 2020 APCM Margaret Dolphin was re-elected as a Parish warden; the other position remained vacant. Ed McHale stood down for a fallow year [serving as deputy warden] which will allow him to be nominated at the 2021 AGM for a further six-year period as Parish warden.

As you will guess, it was a year of two unequal halves, pre and post 17th March. With the onset of the Coronavirus pandemic and the closure of all places of worship for the first time much of what had been planned for the year simply could not take place.

- Office Hour was cancelled and was no longer possible face-to-face
- The usual Civic Services for Mayoral Service, Remembrance Sunday and Switching on of the Town Lights Carol Service were all cancelled. This does give us a period to work with the Town Council to change and develop these services particularly the Town Lights Carol Service in view of the concerns about overcrowding and safety and the arrangements for the wreath laying on Remembrance Sunday.
- Confirmation Services planned for May and October were both cancelled.
- All services from Mothering Sunday through to Holy Week, Easter and into summer were cancelled. We were able to send out either by e-mail or post an Easter card to all on the electoral roll.
- All Baptism services had to be cancelled; plans to restart these await further guidance emerging from lockdown on numbers that can be invited to the service and the social side following the christening.
- Nearly all wedding services have been postponed [some more than once] again awaiting for changes allowing an increased number of guests and wedding receptions to take place. Reading banns was impossible as there were no services at which to read them.
- Funeral services have been restricted in the number of people allowed to attend and the format of the services.
- We have been unable to hold any social or fund raising events and the usual groups hiring the building have not been able to meet.
- All café church services and face-to-face school assemblies have been cancelled due to the additional restrictions on schools.

Pre- Covid:

Services in January and February continued as normal. We were able to hold the World Day of Prayer service at the start of March 2020, produced by the people of Vietnam. We plan to host this again in future years as part of a rota.

We were saddened by the death of Ailsa Maddison after a long illness. Ailsa had been a valued member of the choir and an ALM specialising in Prayer ministry, producing our monthly prayer diary. We were able to celebrate her life with her family in February singing her favourite hymns and anthems and with readings and prayers inspired by her final prayer diary of September 2019. The choir provided refreshments afterwards in the back room with a time to reminisce.

Funerals:

Funerals during the pandemic have been difficult with the strict limits on attendance, particularly for those long-standing church members where we know the church would have been full in normal times, remembering especially Arthur Burgess, Mary Dolphin and Joyce Cunliffe.

Joyce Cunliffe was the embodiment of St. Bartholomew's church, a life-long member and former churchwarden and fulsome tributes and reminiscences were given at the time by Ed McHale, Ian Hunter and former rector, Simon Tatton-Brown in parish publications.

Lockdown easing:

With various easing of lockdowns, we were able to re-open St. Bartholomew's church for private prayer as soon as this was permitted. This could not have been achieved without those who drew up the risk assessments and action plans and have implemented them. We continue to review these regularly to ensure that we comply with all the current rules and regulations and that it is as safe as possible for people to attend. This couldn't happen without Christine Andrews and the team of church cleaners who come in each Saturday to disinfect the building and many thanks must go to Christine, Margaret and Ed who attend each Sunday and through the week to make sure that the building remained open.

When services were once again permitted, these were resumed each Sunday first at St. Bartholomew's and latterly at St. George's. They are very different to those we have been used to but many thanks to all who have been attending and leading these services. Despite the restrictions at these services we hope that they are appreciated by those who attend.

With some easing of restrictions towards the end of 2020, we were able to offer some additional services.

We were not able to have the usual Memorial Service at the start of November but we were able to open for private prayer thanks to Ed, Christine and Margaret. This was relatively well attended and was appreciated particularly by those where the funeral had been very restricted in numbers.

We ran a very successful "Sequence of Music for Christmas" at St. Bartholomew's with the church choir which replaced the usual carol service. Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services, however, were poorly attended in 2020.

With the lack of any face-to-face worship we had to look at different ways to reach people. The Pewsheets expanded and is now e-mailed out to 75 people each week [& a hard copy to a small postal group] along with the Monthly Newsletter It contains daily readings and prayers along with the Sunday readings, homily and notices.. Suzanne Walker produces "Our Daily Bread" a monthly prayer diary that we also circulate. These are also available from the church website with many thanks to Neil Belch for maintaining this. Many thanks also to Joan Warner for her work with the weekly pewsheets.

We have a Team Zoom service each week also which has proven very popular, particularly with those shielding or unable to attend at the moment. Many thanks go to those who plan and lead this each week.

School Form Signing:

This has been problematic during the year with changing requirements and conflicting advice. Currently we are offering an e-mail sign-in system to show attendance or willingness to attend had covid-19 restrictions on the number of services and attendance not been in place. It is uncertain how long these measures will apply or how this will affect attendance at church services once unrestricted worship is allowed again.

Staffing:

In January we were able to mark Rev Kirsty Screeton's curacy with us and many were able to join her at her induction service in Heywood and Hopwood at the start of this new ministry.

With the decrease in clergy staffing at the start of 2020, we had to change the pattern of 8:00am Sunday services across the Team from Feb 2020. These services, however, were all cancelled along with the midweek services in March and further easing of lockdown measures and stability will be needed before we can revisit this.

We were pleased by the announcement that Revd Malcolm Wearing would be joining the Team with particular responsibility for St. James' church and that Rev Andy Jones would join in July 2021 as a curate but with particular responsibility for St. George's church.

Parish Share:

The three-year Parish Share agreement with the Diocese expired at the end of 2019. We met with the Diocesan representatives in February 2020 and agreed a further three-year deal. This, obviously wasn't the best timing, as the closure of churches, the lack of fund raising events and the loss of income from occasional offices have all impacted negatively upon parish finances.

St. Bartholomew's:

All the usual testing of electrical and emergency equipment has been completed and measures arising from Health and Safety inspections have been put in place.

Events to mark the 25th anniversary of reopening St. Bartholomew's church [& organ], the 30th anniversary of the fire and the 150th anniversary of the bells in 2020 were not able to take place although they were given full coverage in the pewsheet & newsletter.

In 2021 we are faced with additional bills for repairs to the heating system following a flood in the Tower cellar, remedial work to the electrics following the overdue 5-yearly electrical inspection and replacement of the front door lock. The Diocese cancelled Quinquennial Inspections in 2020 [due to the pandemic] when ours was due. It is now overdue but we do not have a date when these will recommence or when it will be scheduled. We know that work to the tower will feature heavily.

St. George's:

- It has been a period of closure and reopening due to Government, Church of England and school restrictions. Following lockdown 1, we re-opened at Harvest in October, closed in November with lockdown 2 but re-opened in December with services in Advent and the Christmas Eve crib service.
- We decided to close in early-January with the third lockdown. We re-opened again on Mothering Sunday in 2021. Attendances have been notably lower.
- The committee met once during the year [due to restrictions on physical meetings] to discuss and agree the risk assessment and action plan prior to reopening.
- Many thanks to the committee, the congregation and especially John & Helen Thompson, John & Hilary Moore, Pat James and Sarah Barry who have taken on the additional covid-19 measures required

St. Thomas':

- St. Thomas' church closed with the initial lockdown and in the absence of a functioning committee to plan risk assessments, action plans or sufficient volunteers to take on the additional cleaning and safety measures, it has not been possible to re-open
- the 50th anniversary of St. Thomas school was noted in an on-line service in July 2020
- The repairs needed to the school roof and the contribution from the parish have been noted by the PCC

We apologise if we've missed anything, thank all those who work across all our churches, in many other unsung roles, who keep the many activities across the parish running so well. Nothing happens without an enormous amount of planning, co-operation and paperwork and little of this year could have been anticipated and, with hindsight, there is much that we might have done better

Margaret Dolphin – Parish Warden

Edward McHale – Parish Warden, latterly Assistant Warden

2020/21

St. Bartholomew's Church Choir Report for 2021 AGM

It has been a hugely frustrating year. Under the initial lockdown all churches were shut and communal singing in worship has been banned ever since. Attempts to restart choir practices have been thwarted by further national and local Bolton lockdowns so, although we can meet to worship, the stay-at-home message does not allow groups to meet for choir practices and for much of 2020 only one singer or a small professional group was allowed to sing at a service but distanced and with screens.

The relaxation in December, however, did allow us to assemble for three practices to produce the "Sequence of Music & Readings for Christmas" replacing the usual Carol Service. Accepting that it was very different from usual and not having the usual congregational singing that would be hoped for, in those three weeks we were able to produce a first class service. My thanks must go to those who came and worked so hard in those three weeks to ensure that this happened. It remains a pity that the ensuing lockdown again prohibited choir practices and we have not been able to contribute to worship in 2021 thus far.

Ed McHale

Director of Music

Data Protection Report for 2021 AGM

Our church forms including remain compliant with the Data Protection laws.

Under the Church Representation Rules [2020] we are required to publish and display an up-to-date Electoral Roll following its revision prior to the Annual Meeting but this now must include only names and no other personal information such as addresses. This was implemented in 2020.

As a Parish we continue to e-mail out the weekly pewsheets, the monthly newsletter & prayer diary and occasional special advertising [e.g. for Easter, Mothering Sunday, Harvest or Christmas]. Regular attendees from our congregation have signed up or e-mailed to request which / all publications they wish to receive. Baptism / wedding families who have indicated consent when booking will receive the special advertising. This has been especially useful during the pandemic when churches have been closed and / or attendances limited. Anyone can remove their names from this contact list simply by sending an email reply.

We are not aware of any non-compliance with Data Protection in 2020 and no complaints have been raised. There were no revisions to the policy made in 2020.

The churchwardens continue to oversee Data Protection but would be pleased to hand this on to a Data Protection Officer appointed by the PCC now that the policies are in place and the workload known.

Ed McHale

Safeguarding Report 2020

As we all know the last twelve months have been very different with no children's activities happening in the church.

No DBS reports have been taken since March 2020. The names of those with an up-to-date DBS are on a separate list accompanying this report.

Training and Development

It has not been possible to deliver face to face safeguarding training during the current pandemic and when it can start again is as yet unknown. In view of this Basic and Foundation training is available on line on the Diocese's Safeguarding web page. All of those with safeguarding responsibilities working with children and vulnerable adults are required to undertake Foundation (C1) training every three years.

Moving forward, when Sunday School and other children's activities re-start, all adults who wish to take part working with children, both new and existing volunteers will be required to have a meeting to ensure all DBS and references are up to date.

Joan O'Reilly

Safeguarding Officer

Deane Deanery Synod Report 2020

The Deanery Synod met 3 times in 2020.

The first meeting was pre-covid restrictions and was held at St James' Church, Daisy Hill on Tuesday 4th February with 28 people present. At the meeting, the main agenda item was Mission Action Planning. Rev Andy Salmon, the Diocesan Mission Development Officer, spoke about Mission Action Planning (MAP). He said that financially the picture is gloomy with less money coming into the diocese from Parish Shares and the result is a deficit of approximately £1million. The consequence of this will be fewer clergy. We need to grow in order to pay clergy and maintain our buildings. We need to pray about this and think more strategically. The proposed deanery changes are part of this thinking. Change is a reality and unfortunately not all our churches will survive, but this doesn't mean that God's work will stop. The way that our deanery is organized into teams means that we are already sharing resources and good practice. Andy discussed the findings of the October census over the last five years. Generally, these don't show growth and this is the problem that we need to overcome. However, some churches have grown and if they can so can others. He spoke about making the most of technology and making sure we all have website and use www.achurchnearyou.com/. A discussion then followed and all parishes were invited to share their Mission Action Plans to date.

The second meeting was held on the 10th June and was facilitated via Zoom with 23 people present. At this meeting, the main item was an address by Bishop Mark of Bolton. Bishop Mark reflecting on the bible reading Isaiah 43:18-21, spoke about how we are having to learn to be a Church in a new way. The Church is more than the physical building, it is about people and the community.

Bishop Mark shared instances of good things happening during the lockdown –

- The protestant church in Oman feeding migrant workers
- The positive effect on the environment and how a diocesan conference is being planned to take this forward
 - How worship has been reshaped and refreshed
 - The Believe in Bolton Mission had outreach of over 3,000 people
 - Our God who loves to do new things

Following this there were updates from around the parishes in the deanery as to how churches were coping in the pandemic. Parishes shared ideas about worshipping on-line, how they were pastorally supporting people and how they were keeping church members connected.

The third meeting was held on the 14th October and was facilitated via Zoom with 21 people present. Area Dean Vinny Whitworth started the meeting by explaining that, because of covid restrictions, the celebration to mark the end of the current Deanery structure before a move to the super Deanery model, couldn't happen as intended. Vinny stated that hopefully this would happen in 2021. He went on to say that, despite the very challenging times we had faced, across the Deanery mission had been maintained and even grown in areas with the online presence reaching out to more people than ever. Although it's not been easy there has been lots of hard work. Vinny and Sylvia Smith, Lay Chair, thanked everyone on the current synod for working together to build God's kingdom in Deane. They also thanked everyone who were leaving the current synod.

Following this there were updates from around the parishes in the deanery as to how churches were coping as they had reopened for public worship, following the easing of covid restrictions.

In the ensuing reports, Vinny drew the synod's attention to the Diocesan Vision Document – Proposals for Mission Communities. The proposal is to move to a more sustainable ministry that can grow. By 2025 it is planned that there will be 160 clergy, including stipendiary curates, covering 2.2m people. Within Bolton Deanery there will be 6 missional communities. The Westhoughton Team will remain as it is. Deane and Lostock together with St Bede's will go in to the Horwich Team. This is a discussion document only with nothing set in stone and with a 5 – 10 year timescale. Vinny stated that the new Synod, when it met in 2021 would be discussing this and encouraged parishes to discuss with their PCCs.

PCC Report 2020:

The PCC have met 3 times physically in January, March and December 2020. When it was impossible to meet physically because of covid restrictions, the PCC conducted its business by email on 4 occasions. It has been a difficult year and a lot of the important work of the PCC has had to be put on hold regrettably. However, some aspects of the parishes life and worship have been discussed and important key decisions reached.

📋 **Team Vicar Vacancy:** The PCC heard in the early new year that the Diocese had withdrawn the Team Vicar role and recruitment was suspended due to the ongoing financial difficulties the Diocese was facing.

📋 **Mission Action Planning:** In the early year the PCC revisited the parishes Mission Action Plan. Volunteers for a small group were being sought to revisit and update the plan.

📋 **Risk Assessments:** Following the easing of lockdown restrictions, the PCC agreed various risk assessment documents to open St Bart's Church building first for private prayer and then for services, ensuring necessary procedures and cleaning was in place to be covid secure. In the autumn, St George's DCC worked with St George's School, to reopen St George's church on Sunday mornings.

📋 **Appointment of Self-Supporting Minister in the Team:** In October, the PCC supported the appointment of the Revd Dr Malcolm Wearing as SSM Associate Minister in the Team, with special responsibilities for St James' Daisy Hill.

Kath Norman
PCC Secretary

PCC Treasurer's report to Annual Parish Meeting regarding 2020 accounts

Introduction

2020 was an extraordinary year for all churches including the three in our parish. St Bartholomew's church was closed for a time and since then has been offering only a single service per week with restricted attendance. The George's church closed in March 2020 and only held services again at the end of the year. St Thomas' church also closed in March 2020 and did not reopen that year. Online services have been a great success but cannot replace being in church in person. It is against this background that the 2020 accounts are presented.

Income

Overall income for the parish at £81319 was down by £55000 from 2019. Planned giving plus gift aided donations held up the best at only £600 down. Non-gift aided planned giving and loose plate collections / general donations fell by £9600 and £13750 respectively. A consequence of reduced giving was that our HMRC income tax refund was down to £11228, £3400 down on 2019.

Weddings and funeral income at £16359 was £13800 down on 2019. This includes fees that we pass on to the diocese but nonetheless most of the reduction was felt in the parish.

Income from appeals fell from £10787 in 2019 to £870 in 2020. The £870 includes £525 to the Tower fund.

Perhaps surprisingly the value of our investments increased by £874 in 2020 but this is substantially lower than the £2190 in 2019. £500 was withdrawn from trust funds to pay for a grant to St Bartholomew's school. The small gain in the value of our investments can be regarded as a paper gain as we could only access it by selling our investments.

The 200 club continues to make a useful contribution to funds with a surplus of income over expenditure of £990, slightly down on 2019 as we have lost a few members.

Transfers between accounts (£8000 from the St Bartholomew's deposit account to the current account, £43929 paid to the PCC account by the three churches for Parish share and PCC expenses) are internal within the parish and so are balanced out by a consolidation adjustment so that they do not affect the parish's external accounts.

Clergy cost sharing within the Team reflects the total clergy costs for the four parishes in the Team split in the ratio of the Parish Share allocations. The cost sharing procedure brought us an income of £719. Some quarters in the year see us spending more than the other parishes but some quarters are the other way round, so you will see later there was also an expenditure of £509.

Expenditure

Our Parish Share for 2019, previously known as quota, was £57200. We entered the year with a parish share carry forward of £1529. During the year we paid £51773 including our £11228 gift aid income tax refund. This meant we were £3898 or 6.8% short of paying our parish share.

Ministers' expenses during the year were £1022. The clergy cost sharing procedure has already been mentioned, as have the wedding and funeral fees paid to the diocese. The payments to organists, belfry and funerals fell by £4780 as a consequence of the reduced number of weddings and other services.

All aspects of outreach fell resulting in a reduced expenditure £475 down by £1130 compared with 2019. Buildings and equipment expenditure was similar in most areas to 2019. Church maintenance was down by £7670 but utility costs were up by £4290 due simply to the timing of bills coming in.

Administration costs were mostly down on 2019 except for insurance, again due to timing of bills. Grants were down overall by £3600 due to our reduced activity level.

Overall expenditure for 2020 was £106883 which was £20900 lower than in 2019, but the £55000 reduction in income meant that we ran at a deficit of £25300 compared with a surplus of £8660 in 2019.

Statement of main assets

The total in our investment funds plus the Banco Santander shares at the end of the year was £36597, up by £375 despite withdrawing £500.

The bulk of our assets lie in the various accounts at St Bartholomew's parish church totalling £84915. Please note that this is some £20700 down on 2019. St George's total assets were £7174, down by £1145 and St Thomas £4801, down by £347. £4041 of St Thomas assets are restricted being in the memorial account.

Conclusion

This report contains an unwelcome set of negative numbers, but this is a consequence of a year unlike anything the country has seen in generations. The financial outlook for 2021 is very challenging. Our focus has to be on re-establishing a sound financial basis by the end of the year rather than on the final balance sheet.



St_Barts_PCC_conso
lidation_master 2020

G P Andrews

PCC Treasurer, 26/03/2021

**The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Bartholomew
including the churches of St Bartholomew's, St George's and St Thomas'**

2020 Accounts

INCOME	St Thomas	St Barts	St George's	PCC	Consol adj	TOTAL (£)
2019						2020
(£) DIRECT GIVING						(£)
29657.29 Gift aided planned giving-envelopes and SO	5243.65	13162.80	9789.55	600.00		28796.00
21979.76 Other planned giving-envelopes and SO	861.57	11367.66	147.90	0.00		12377.13
0.00 Other gift aided donations	0.00	258.00		0.00		258.00
13522.72 Loose plate collections (inc Sunday Schools)	1084.91	1960.25	261.81	0.00		3306.97
14665.92 Tax refund on gift aid giving	1906.75	6603.04	2718.49	0.00		11228.28
0.00 Memorial donations	0.00	0.00		2205.15		2205.15
79825.69	9096.88	33351.75	12917.75	2805.15	0.00	58171.53
OTHER VOLUNTARY INCOME						
4409.15 Gift day and general donations	0.00	782.77	86.84	0.00		869.61
340.62 Donations for youth work	0.00	0.00		0.00		0.00
30200.65 Weddings & Funerals	0.00	16359.00		0.00		16359.00
50.00 Book of Remembrance	0.00	40.00		0.00		40.00
2657.05 Events, Concerts and Refreshments	0.00	380.00	16.93	0.00		396.93
265.00 Votive candle stand	0.00	302.50		0.00		302.50
485.00 Donations for flowers	60.00	0.00		0.00		60.00
360.00 Income from bell ringing	0.00	0.00		0.00		0.00
38767.47	60.00	17864.27	103.77	0.00	0.00	18028.04
APPEALS						
776.33 Christian Aid	0.00	0.00	65.00	0.00		65.00
646.58 Donations for Royal British Legion	0.00	0.00		0.00		0.00
241.12 Bishop's fund	0.00	0.00		0.00		0.00
274.70 Children's Society	0.00	0.00		0.00		0.00
0.00 Pretoria Pit	0.00	0.00		0.00		0.00
82.00 Gift for minister	0.00	0.00	0.00	305.00		305.00
2000.00 Mayor's charity	0.00	205.00		0.00		205.00
0.00 Urban outreach	0.00	0.00				0.00
487.31 Christmas charities	0.00	0.00		0.00		0.00
300.00 Bolton Hospice	0.00	0.00		0.00		0.00
5979.15 Tower fund		525.00				525.00
0.00 Namibia	0.00	0.00		0.00		0.00
0.00 Miscellaneous appeals	0.00	0.00		0.00		0.00
10787.19	0.00	730.00	65.00	305.00	0.00	1100.00

INCOME FROM INVESTMENTS							
2190.01	Revaluation of investments	0.00	0.00		0.00	874.73	874.73
1153.43	Bank interest	29.10	719.87	0.30	0.00		749.27
46.66	Dividends	0.00	0.00		24.03		24.03
0.00	Received from trust funds	0.00	0.00		500.00	-500.00	0.00
3390.10		29.10	719.87	0.30	524.03	374.73	1648.03
INCOME FROM TRADING							
1935.00	200 club	0.00	0.00		1880.00	0.00	1880.00
0.00	Sale of magazines and advertising space	0.00	0.00		0.00	0.00	0.00
605.00	Room Hire	0.00	0.00			0.00	0.00
2540.00		0.00	0.00	0.00	1880.00	0.00	1880.00
OTHER SUNDRY INCOME							
0.00	Transfers between accounts	0.00	8000.00		43929.43	-51929.43	0.00
739.96	Clergy cost sharing within the Team				719.71		719.71
0.00	Sundries	0.00	0.00				0.00
739.96		0.00	8000.00	0.00	44649.14	-51929.43	719.71
EXTRAORDINARY ITEMS							
379.18	Sequestration account	0.00	0.00		0.00	0.00	0.00
0.00	Insurance reimbursement	0.00	0.00		0.00	0.00	0.00
0.00	Bank Error corrections	0.00	0.00		0.00	0.00	0.00
0.00	New Horizons, distribution of surplus funds on closure	0.00	0.00		0.00	0.00	0.00
5.70	Balancing adjustment	2.00	-0.19		0.00	0.00	1.81
384.88		2.00	-0.19	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.81
136435.29	INCOME TOTALS	9187.98	60665.70	13086.82	50163.32	-51554.70	81549.12

EXPENDITURE

2019 (£)	ITEM	St Thomas	St Barts	St George's	PCC	Consol adj	2020 (£)
	WORK OF THE CHURCH						
	Leadership						
1177.15	Ministerial expenses		500.00		522.72		1022.72
4000.00	PCC expenses (including quota)	6000.00	29045.00	8781.93		-43826.93	0.00
52952.26	Cof E Quota	1906.75	6603.04	2718.49	40545.00		51773.28
317.30	Clergy cost sharing within the Team				509.72		509.72
0.00	Deanery & other subscriptions				60.00		60.00
58446.71		7906.75	36148.04	11500.42	41637.44	-43826.93	53365.72
	Services						
10586.00	Manchester DBF (weddings & Funerals)		9663.00		0.00		9663.00
1292.78	Church Services expenses	6.63	757.07	0.00	51.50		815.20
8833.00	Organists and choir	550.00	4857.50	48.00			5455.50
2330.00	Vergers	0.00	929.00		0.00		929.00
1000.00	Payments to bell ringers		0.00		0.00		0.00
24041.78		556.63	16206.57	48.00	51.50	0.00	16862.70
	Outreach						
688.79	Training and education (inc Sunday School)	0.00	0.00	0.00	167.88		167.88
0.00	Mother and Toddler	0.00	0.00		0.00		0.00
0.00	Urban outreach	0.00	0.00		0.00		0.00
489.77	Luncheon Club	0.00	217.28		0.00		217.28
423.05	Concerts and events	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00		0.00
0.00	Youth work	0.00	89.34				89.34
1601.61		0.00	306.62	0.00	167.88	0.00	474.50
	Buildings and Equipment						
2928.35	Council tax / water rates	0.00	0.00		2676.72		2676.72
10243.67	Church maintenance (incl. cleaning)	0.00	2500.49	70.00			2570.49
3911.00	Churchyard maintenance	0.00	3911.80				3911.80
385.00	Rectory / Vicarage maintenance	0.00	0.00		0.00		0.00
7734.03	Utilities	0.00	11973.57	50.00			12023.57
387.73	Flowers and materials	68.58	0.00	0.00	0.00		68.58
124.00	Purchase of church equipment	0.00	160.00	0.00	0.00		160.00
25713.78		68.58	18545.86	120.00	2676.72	0.00	21411.16

Adminstration						
1807.99	Printing, postage and stationery	0.00	149.24	0.00	622.26	771.50
550.00	Examiner's fees	0.00	0.00		0.00	0.00
297.00	Sundry	0.00	0.00			0.00
1138.92	Equipment maintenance / rental	0.00	0.00		1354.26	1354.26
1315.08	Telephones and internet	0.00	893.22		546.36	1439.58
363.00	Website fees	0.00	0.00		325.00	325.00
293.32	Copyright licence	140.00	0.00	162.00		302.00
0.00	Bank charges	0.00	0.00			0.00
434.67	Planned giving envelopes	0.00	0.00		442.49	442.49
1363.65	Insurance	759.53	2350.48	632.36		3742.37
0.00	Stewardship campaign materials	0.00	0.00		0.00	0.00
0.00	Transfers between accounts	0.00	8000.00		0.00	0.00
7563.63		899.53	11392.94	794.36	3290.37	-8000.00
GRANTS						
274.70	Children's society	0.00	0.00		0.00	0.00
5509.88	Church Schools	0.00	992.12	1560.13	0.00	2552.25
674.00	Royal British Legion Poppy appeal	0.00	0.00	25.00	0.00	25.00
0.00	Church council grants to School Governors	0.00	0.00		500.00	500.00
816.58	Christian Aid	0.00	0.00	81.25	0.00	81.25
0.00	Mayors Charity	0.00	0.00		0.00	0.00
361.12	Bishops fund	0.00	0.00		0.00	0.00
0.00	Young adult / youth work	0.00	0.00		0.00	0.00
200.00	Winter charities	0.00	200.00		0.00	200.00
120.24	Miscellaneous	103.35	1358.00			1461.35
1169.45	Namibia	0.00	0.00		0.00	0.00
0.00	Gift for minister	0.00	0.00	102.50	407.50	-102.50
0.00	Bolton Hospice	0.00	300.00		0.00	300.00
9125.97		103.35	2850.12	1768.88	907.50	-102.50
EXPENSES OF TRADING						
890.00	200 Club winners plus licence fee				890.00	890.00
138.00	Crux magazine	0.00	0.00		0.00	0.00
1028.00		0.00	0.00	0.00	890.00	0.00
EXTRAORDINARY ITEMS						
264.42	Sequestration account				0.00	0.00
-12.50	Write-back of uncashed cheques from previous year	0.00			-25.00	-25.00
0.00	Transfer to PCC		0.00			0.00
251.92		0.00	0.00	0.00	-25.00	0.00
127773.40	EXPENDITURE TOTALS	9534.84	85450.15	14231.66	49596.41	-51929.43
8,661.89	NET SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)	-346.86	-24784.45	-1144.84	566.91	374.73
						-25334.51

STATEMENT OF MAIN ASSETS

2019 (£)		St Thomas	St Barts	St George's	PCC	Consol adj	TOTAL	2020 (£)
Investments and bequests								
10,552.63	White Horse School - sale of nursery	0.00	0.00		10065.70		10065.70	
12,967.43	G&A Grundy Memorial Fund-income to St Barts	0.00	0.00		13862.86		13862.86	
8,196.91	Hart Common Sunday School and mission Church	0.00	0.00		8231.72		8231.72	
4,188.94	Thomas Smith bequest	0.00	0.00	0.00	4188.94		4188.94	
316.20	Banco Santander Shares	0.00	0.00	0.00	247.62		247.62	
36222.11		0.00	0.00	0.00	36596.84	0.00	36596.84	
Bank accounts and cash balances								
St Bartholomew's								
17,582.96	Current Acc 40013757		6023.70				6023.70	
4,908.65	Gift aid account 80773344		3870.93				3870.93	
79,537.41	CBF Deposit Fund 624108001D		71537.41				71537.41	
250.65	Choir		250.46				250.46	
3,229.41	Belfry Fund		3169.41				3169.41	
191.28	Luncheon Club		64.00				64.00	
St George's								
£ 7,995.28	Current Account			6850.14			6850.14	
£ 324.27	Clubs and Societies reserve			324.57			324.57	
£ -	Cash in hand			0.00			0.00	
St Thomas's								
813.59	Current Account	446.21					446.21	
-	Cash in hand	0.00					0.00	
4,041.88	Memorial Fund	4070.98					4070.98	
293.01	Flower Fund	284.43					284.43	
PCC								
20,199.49	Current Account				20766.40		20766.40	
139,147.88		4801.62	84915.91	7174.71	20766.40	0.00	117658.64	
175,369.99	Asset Totals	4,801.62	84,915.91	7,174.71	57,363.24	-	154,255.48	

The use of the following funds is restricted: G&A Grundy Memorial Fund, Sale of White Horse nursery, Thomas Smith bequest, St Thomas Memorial fund.
£6,504.15 in the St Bartholomew's deposit account is restricted (Tower fund).



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/
members of

Charity Name

the PCC of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Bartholomew Westhoughton

On accounts for the year
ended

31st December 2020

Charity no
(if any)

1136063

Set out on pages

(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended DD / MM / YYYY.

Responsibilities and
basis of report

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

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

~~The charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of [insert name of applicable listed body]]. Delete [] if not applicable.~~

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

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have 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.

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

Signed:

Date:

31st March 2021

Name:

Nigel Ginniff

Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body

Barrister at Law of England and Wales

(if any):

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Address:

13 Bankside

Westhoughton

BL5 2QP

Section B

Disclosure

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

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

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