

# THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF GREAT HARWOOD, ST BARTHOLOMEW AND ST JOHN

England & Wales - Charity number 1136334

## Details

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Other names	PARISH OF GREAT HARWOOD, ST BARTHOLOMEW AND ST JOHN
Status	Registered
Legal form	Previously excepted
Registered	2010-06-14
Register	<a href="#">View on the Charity Commission register</a>

## Contact

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Church Lane  
Great Harwood  
Blackburn  
BB6 7PU

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Email [mail@parishoffice02.plus.com](mailto:mail@parishoffice02.plus.com)

Website [www.stbartschurch.org.uk](http://www.stbartschurch.org.uk)

## Activities

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

**Activities:** St Bartholomew's Church (often known as St Bart's) is a welcoming congregation with a wide age range which works with the other churches in Great Harwood to serve our town; the Great Harwood Ecumenical Partnership was officially formed in 2007 to help us work, worship and witness together.

## Classification

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

## Geography

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

## Finances

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Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£53,449	£68,406	-	-
2023-12-31	£53,748	£75,884	-	-
2022-12-31	£55,577	£75,253	-	-
2021-12-31	£101,756	£69,022	-	-
2020-12-31	£58,988	£73,643	-	-

## Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Bradley Coates		2024-06-27
CYNTHIA PARKINSON		
David Eric Heaton		2013-10-08
Denise Sheriff		2022-01-01
JOYCE MILLER		
Jennifer Entwistle		2018-04-19
KAREN EXTON		2013-10-08
Leslie Kilsby		2021-05-20
MARK EXTON		2013-09-27
MRS Olwen Sudders		2013-12-31
Rachel Shovelton		2016-03-10
Rev Graham Birch		2021-05-20
Roger Walker		2024-06-27
Ross Shekleton		2021-05-20
Susan Jayne Gray		2024-06-27
Tracey Williams		2019-04-28

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# Accounts

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# The Parish Church of Great Harwood, St Bartholomew & St John

## PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL 2025

Revd Graham Birch Vicarage, Church Lane BB6 7PU Tel 801374 [madrevgra@aol.com](mailto:madrevgra@aol.com)

### Churchwardens

Mrs Olwen Sudders 14 Heymoor Ave, BB6 7SS Tel 884644 [olwensudders@btopenworld.com](mailto:olwensudders@btopenworld.com)  
Mr Les Kilsby 2 Blackleach, Blackburn Old Rd Tel 952068 [les.kilsby@gmail.com](mailto:les.kilsby@gmail.com)  
BB6 7UU

### Deputy Warden

### Elected PCC Members

Mrs Tracey Williams 1 Park Avenue BB6 7RP Tel 07929864640 [traceywilliams56@yahoo.com](mailto:traceywilliams56@yahoo.com)  
Mrs Jennifer Entwistle 17 Holdsworth Drive BB6 7FR Tel 07890071114 [jen.heaton@hotmail.com](mailto:jen.heaton@hotmail.com)  
Mrs Karen Exton 25 Delph Mount BB6 7QF Tel 889976 [extonkaren@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:extonkaren@yahoo.co.uk)  
Mr David Heaton 77 Edge End Lane BB6 7QD Tel.876996 [d.heaton2510@gmail.com](mailto:d.heaton2510@gmail.com)  
Mrs Joyce Miller 42 Edgeside, BB6 7JS Tel 884247 [joyce.miller03@outlook.com](mailto:joyce.miller03@outlook.com)  
Mrs Cynthia Parkinson 5 Pendle Road, BB6 7TN Tel 884950 [cynthiap@talktalk.net](mailto:cynthiap@talktalk.net)  
Mr Ross Shekleton Park Lodge, Church Lane  
BB6 7PU Tel.07977563347 [r.shekleton@sky.com](mailto:r.shekleton@sky.com)  
Mr. Roger Walker New Sawley Grange Farm Tel.07770702034 [rogerwalker@btinternet.com](mailto:rogerwalker@btinternet.com)  
Gisburn Rd.Sawley Clitheroe BB7 4LH

### Deanery Synod Representative

Mr Mark Exton 25 Delph Mount BB6 7QF Tel 889976 [markexton25@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:markexton25@yahoo.co.uk)  
Mrs. Rachel Shovelton 38 Windsor Road BB6 7RR Tel 07758098377 [racheljshuv@icloud.com](mailto:racheljshuv@icloud.com)

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### PCC Treasurer

Mr David Heaton 77 Edge End Lane BB6 7QD Tel.876996 [d.heaton2510@gmail.com](mailto:d.heaton2510@gmail.com)

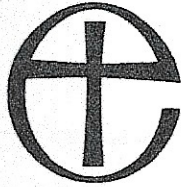
### PCC Secretary

Mrs Lucy Bell 27 Bostons BB6 7HJ Tel. 07815620339 [pcc.secretary.stbarts@btinternet.com](mailto:pcc.secretary.stbarts@btinternet.com)

### Parish Office

Mrs Cynthia Parkinson Tel 829240 [st.bartholomews2024@outlook.com](mailto:st.bartholomews2024@outlook.com)

### Standing Committee



THE CHURCH  
OF ENGLAND

**Parish of Great Harwood  
St Bartholomew and St John**

*Working within Great Harwood Ecumenical Partnership*



**Annual Report and Financial Statements  
of the Parochial Church Council**

**For the year ended 31 December 2024**

**Vicar**

Revd Graham Birch  
The Vicarage  
Church Lane  
Great Harwood  
BB6 7PU

**Bank**

Barclays Bank plc  
The Mall  
Church Street  
Blackburn  
BB1 5AF

**Independent Examiner**

Revd Alan Clements MA, ACIB, FCIE  
15 Carleton Road  
Great Knowley  
Chorley  
PR6 8TQ

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## Annual Report of the Parochial Church Council for the year ended 31 December 2024

### Objectives and Activities.

The PCC is aware of the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit in their publication 'The Advancement of Religion for Public Benefit' and have given regard to it in their administration of the Parish. The PCC believes that, by fulfilling its responsibility to work together with the incumbent, and to co-operate in all matters of concern and importance for the promotion of the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical, it provides a benefit to the public by –

- o providing resources and facilities for public worship, pastoral care and spiritual, moral and intellectual development, both for its members and for anyone who wishes to benefit from what the Church offers;
- o promoting Christian values, and service by members of the Church in the Parish to its community, to the benefit of individuals and society as a whole.

### THE PARISH

Great Harwood is an ancient market town which prospered as a mill town in the nineteenth century and has developed further with light industry and suburban housing. A chapel-of-ease on the current site was recorded in 1335; the present church, originally known as St Lawrence, is largely 15th-16th Century. It was extended in the 19th century to serve a growing population, and St John's Church (closed in 2007 and now sadly demolished) was built in 1912.

St Bartholomew's is a welcoming congregation with a wide age-range which works with other churches in Great Harwood to serve our town; the Ecumenical Partnership was formed in 2007 to help us work, worship and witness together.

Over the last 12 months it is wonderful to say that we have seen a continued increase in the number of people attending weekly worship and that our social events have also been well attended – providing both great times of fellowship and also helping to raise much needed funds for the Church. It is especially nice to hear that a few of the 'new' people attending worship have commented that the welcome they received when first attending church was one of the main things which made them want to return – keep up the good work!

As I mentioned as being one of our aims for 2024 in last years' annual report, I am pleased to say that we successfully held a full Church Stewardship Campaign in 2024. This enabled us to learn more of how the 'grace of giving' is such an important part of our Christian lives and also consider our personal level of giving to the church. I have never found it easy to determine when is the correct time for a stewardship campaign within a church fellowship as I know that many people already give sacrificially to the work of the church. This time around it was even more difficult as we are continuing to live in times which are financially challenging for many people, due to the increasing uncertainty in the world. I would like to personally like to thank everyone who supported this campaign as I know that being willing to increase our level of giving is always a difficult thing for people and always involves sacrifices in other areas of our lives. God, however, especially blesses us when we make sacrifices for the wellbeing of others and I know that this spirit of generosity will undoubtedly bring blessings to our fellowship in the coming years! Although we will still have many financial challenges facing us as a church in the future, this increase in our regular giving will be a great help in helping us to address those challenges.

Looking back at the other mission objectives that we set at our last APCM it is good to see that all but two of them have been achieved or progressed in some way. The ones which have not been achieved were the reforming of a worship group to look at how we can enhance our church worship and also that of us training more Pastoral Visitors to help support our ministry among those who are no longer able to attend worship. Due to this, these two objectives will become the main focus for the coming year as well as us continuing to develop our other times of fellowship and social events.

Another thing which took place during the past year was our 5-year Quinquennial Inspection of the Church buildings. This is always a time of concern and especially so when the church financial reserves are low, as we never really know what sort of things might be highlighted as needing urgent attention. Although the inspection did raise a few jobs which need to be completed on the church building, many of them have already been completed through our occasional Saturday morning 'work parties'. The remainder of them were not major structural items and more just 'general maintenance issues' to avoid any larger work being needed in the future. Due to this, the inspection did not prove to be as costly for us as it might have been and we have also just received notification that we have been successful in our application for a grant from the Diocese to help towards the cost of these repairs!

Over the last year the PCC have continued to do the difficult task of keeping the right balance between ensuring that the ministry of the church continues to expand whilst also trying to reduce the everyday running costs as much as practically possible. My personal thanks continue to go to the Wardens and all the members of the PCC for their commitment and support during these challenging times.

As well as our church wardens, Tracey and Olwen, who I greatly value in supporting me in my ministry, there are so many other people in our church fellowship also work tirelessly to enable the worship and the fellowship to continue successfully and to also take care of our wonderful Church building. All these people are needed to help the fellowship to 'move forward' in faith and discipleship. Special thanks to Cynthia who has remained faithful in her work as Parish Administrator, ensuring that things are done both timely and efficiently – and for also reminding me of the things I needed to do as well! At the moment, we are also thinking a little about 'succession planning' in terms of the administrative support of the church and hope to find someone this year who can work alongside Cynthia with a view to gradually taking over some of the work from her – so, if this is something you might be able to consider yourself, please speak to myself or Cynthia about it. Thanks also to all those who assist our worship, especially to John and the Choir. Also to those who serve the church through reading Lessons, leading Intercessions or assisting with Communion and to the Sidespeople who ensure people receive a warm welcome into Church. It is also wonderful to see such a vibrant and active Mothers Union who not only provide wonderful fellowship for many but also continue to contribute in so many practical ways to the life of the Church. Thanks also to Maxine and those who lead our St Barts Tots group. This is a wonderful group which provides practical support to many of those in our community with young children and also helps to start these children off on their journey of faith.

There is so much work which goes on behind the scenes which is essential for the Church to grow – the essential work of the PCC; David and all those who help to keep the Church finances in order; the Baptism Team; Olwen, our Safeguarding Officer, who ensures that the Church not only complies with legal requirements but is also a safe place for anyone who comes here; those on the Walls and Within Committee who, led by Mark, look after the Church building and grounds; those who serve as School Governors in our two wonderful schools. We are still trying to find more governors for our church schools, so please let me know if you can think of someone who would be able to step into that important role. The Events Committee have also continued to arrange various activities for us to enjoy throughout the year and we are looking to expand the scope of these in the coming year, including a Family Fun Day in the Summer. Thanks also to those who work in the church grounds and on the Flower Committee and ensure that, both inside and out, the Church reflects the wonder of God's creation; those who maintain our 'on-line' ministry; those who help to clean the Church or serve refreshments. All of this work is greatly appreciated and enriches the life of the whole Church.

Despite all the good things which have been happening, however, it has continued to be a difficult time for most of us. The effects of inflation and rising costs, combined with the continuing wars in the Ukraine, Gaza and many other places around the world, have led to the world remaining to be a fearful place for many. The world refugee crisis seems to be out of control and more and more countries are becoming increasingly nationalistic, leading to more divisions in societies around the world and a general lack of trust amongst our world leaders. Please pray fervently for the world which the Lord has entrusted to our care, especially that this 'divisive spirit' at large in the world may be overcome by the Spirit of love and peace. The Apostle Paul warns that we should never forget that we are in a spiritual battle and it is important that we pray against spiritual forces which seek to undermine God's redeeming work in the world. Pray also for those who have lost loved ones over this

past year – especially that the truth of Christ's resurrection will bring comfort to all those who are going through a time of bereavement.

Finally, it is difficult to let my review of the past year go by without at least a brief mention of one of the things that has personally given me the most angst over the last 12 months – and that is the safeguarding controversy surrounding the Archbishop of Canterbury and his subsequent resignation from his post towards the end of 2024. It is easy, when you see such dramatic failings at the high level of leadership in the Church, to allow that to affect how you view both the Church in general and the role you yourself play in it. It can also make many people question their commitment to the Church and even their faith itself. However, I am a great believer in us being able to draw strength from difficult situations and, as the Apostle Paul states in his writing to the Church in Corinth, that, *"it is in our weakness that God's strength is the greatest"*.

This awful situation has at least brought to light the fact that the structures of the church need to be dramatically transformed so that all the decisions taken are done so for the right reasons and that the workings of the Church are much more transparent. If done correctly, this will inevitably lead to greater accountability at all levels in the Church and a turning away from the culture which attempts to deal with difficult issues as 'quietly as possible' and allows bad practices to continue. This transparency is essential, not so that people can be 'hounded out' of their positions when they do make genuine mistakes, but so that lessons are learnt when mistakes are made and that the Church continues to evolve its safeguarding policies and practices. It is my prayer that the recent failures at National level within our church will eventually lead to a genuine change in culture which would only contribute to us being more effective in proclaiming the gospel and ensure that all of our places of worship and fellowship are safe places for all people. Would it be too soon to suggest that we should also pray for the Church to have the courage to appoint a woman as the next Archbishop of Canterbury?? That may indeed cause more problems in the Church than it solves but, seriously, it might also be the kind of strong Spirit-led leadership that the Church needs if it is ever going to regain credibility in our wider society

Although there are many challenges which continue to lie ahead of us in the coming year, both in our own parish and in the national Church, I do not doubt that God can move in power when His people fervently pray for His Kingdom to come on earth as it is in heaven. The best way to resist a 'spirit of doom and gloom' is by constantly focussing on the blessings we receive from God and praising Him for His goodness, whilst doing all we can to reach out to others with His love. As I have often spoken about, it is so important that we, as Christians, are able to shine with the light of Christ and bring hope, joy and support to those around us who feel overwhelmed with all that is happening in the world.

I am looking forward to what lies ahead for us as a fellowship in the coming year and, as long as we keep Jesus at the heart of our lives and fellowship, I know that whatever life may bring our way we will continue to be blessed by the presence of God amongst us! May God continue to bless you and your families and enable each of you to find the role which you can play in sharing the love of Christ with others and in helping to build the Kingdom of God, here in Great Harwood.

**Revd. Graham Birch,  
April 2025**

## **The Year 2024-highlights**

As part of our Stewardship Campaign we held a variety of Social Events some new ones others old favourites. An Open Mike evening, a BBQ was held in the Vicarage Gardens, a Stall on Towngate on St. Lawrence Day, a McMillan Coffee morning, a Christmas Tree Festival in Church and in December Simply Carols, with a Brass Band,

In 2025 more events are being planned

## RESOURCES

Regular giving has decline, which may be connected with reduced attendance after Covid. We held a Stewardship Campaign during the middle of the year which was quite successful and helpful to help maintain our presence in town

We record our particular thanks to all who have stepped down, and our gratitude to the many volunteers who contribute their time, skills and resources to enable the life, worship and outreach of the parish to flourish

## THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL 2024-2025

### **Business During the Last Year**

Since the last APCM held in May 2024, the PCC has met a total of 9 times in Church with Rev Graham Birch as the Chair.

### **Church Maintenance/Spending**

- The Quinquennial was completed in July at a cost of £1778.34. Some of the work identified can be completed by church volunteers. A grant from the Diocese of £2150 has been successfully acquired to complete some of the other work needed.
- The kitchen extension has been refurbished with the help of donations and volunteers.
- The church clock continues to be temperamental and is still waiting on the latest repair.
- Pests have been a problem with pigeons in the tower and mice enjoying a Harvest and Christmas feast. The wire mesh has been repaired to keep the pigeons out and Pest Control have been brought in to help with the mice.

### **Changes in PCC appointed positions**

There were no changes to foundation School Governors this year. Bill Humphries has stepped down as the church's HMRC and the PCC approved Les Kilsby to take on this role.

### **Other Matters Discussed**

- **Safeguarding:** There has been a bigger focus on safeguarding issues over recent months. The PCC are working through questions posed by the Diocese to make sure our church promotes a healthy culture and is a safe space for all. There have been no Safeguarding incidents reported this year. The church has a new phone for Safeguarding emergencies. The number is on the Notice board.
- **Church Fellowship:** Men's Night has continued to be popular and they have visited Blackburn Rovers, and had a darts/pool/table football night at the vicarage. There is a walk over Whalley Nab planned with drinks and food afterwards. The PCC approved for 4 names to be added into the Remembrance Book.
- **Events:** There has been a strong focus on fund raising events. Over the past year there has been a Quiz Night, a Pop-up Boutique, a Musical Evening, Wreath Making, Simply Carols and Lent Lunches all raising money for the church and other charities. The 50/50 club started in January and already has 63 members. Tai Chi classes are now taking place in church and a fee is being paid to use the space.
- **Schools:** A new Deputy Head has been appointed at St Bartholomew's school.

## **FINANCIAL REVIEW**

This has been another challenging year, At the end of December 2024. the parish share was paid in full, the General Fund showed an excess of expenditure over income of £14957. Gift Aid refund from HMRC was £5867

We must increase our income year on year to preserve our church and maintain its mission for years to come.

### **Risk Assessment.**

The PCC recognises that in relation to 'Risk Assessment', risk is defined as 'the threat of any action or event which will adversely affect an organisation's ability to achieve its objectives and execute its strategies'. It also accepts that the term 'risk' can include any circumstances that may, or do, have an adverse effect, and is wider than financial matters. 'Risks' relate not only to the negative consequences of a threat, but also to the impact of not taking advantage of opportunities. The PCC recognises it requires a practical Health and Safety Policy covering activities for the church, the churchyard and the Hope Street Burial Ground. This is reviewed on a regular basis. An Accident Book is maintained.

The contents and obligations of the Equality Act 2010 and the and the 2019 Data Protection Regulation are known and complied with to the best of the PCC's ability. The PCC is aware of its responsibilities in respect of the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 in its requirement to carry out a fire assessment to identify any possible dangers and risks, to take action to minimise the risks and to create a plan to deal with any emergencies, and also to write up and keep a record of its findings and to review its assessment annually. The PCC has appointed Mr David Bond to be the responsible person to put these things into operation.

There are Safeguarding Policies in place and the Safeguarding Officer is Mrs Olwen Sudders. DBS checks have been carried out in respect of all persons dealing regularly with young people and vulnerable adults. Whilst it is impossible to eliminate all risks and their consequences, efforts are constantly made to minimise such occurrences.

### **Reserves Policy.**

The PCC has reviewed its policy and, conscious of the current financial situation of the parish will seek to maintain at all times sufficient liquid funds to satisfy three months general expenditure at any one time whilst seeking to hold in reserve all surplus funds on interest bearing safe deposit accounts such as offered by the CBF.

**Mothers' Union Annual Report**  
**St Bartholomew/St John's Church Gt. Harwood**

We have had another busy year full of friendship and activities. We have also had some sadness within our Branch with the loss of three of our members: Linda Webster, Margaret Birtwistle and Marilyn Toop, all were valued members of our Branch whom we miss very much. Some members were unable to attend our meetings due to health reasons but we kept in touch with them either by phone, in person or a card sending our Best Wishes for a speedy recovery and Prayers for a return to better health.

Our programme has been interesting and varied with a variety of speakers including scam awareness, a talk from a local artist and author, the history of Whalley Abbey and representatives from the Emily Davison Centre. We also enjoyed our summer "get together" at the Aspinall Arms and our Christmas meal at the Calf's Head. In November we were creative and made our own Christmas cards and cut out and decorated angels for our Christmas tree display and tableau in Church depicting our chosen carol.

Our members continue to be involved, organise and support many aspects of the life of our Church. We have members who are on the Pastoral Team, a member who helps with the Tuesday Tots Group and who along with many others are helping to fulfil the aims of the Mothers' Union within the life of our Church. We are grateful for the help and talents of our member who arranges the floral tributes at the funeral services of our members and those who attend to form the Guard of Honour.

In respect of fund-raising, Kay and Margaret held a very successful event in Church on Mothering Sunday, which gave a welcome boost to our funds. We helped at an event at the Gt. Harwood Civic Fayre to raise funds for our Church. We collected our loose change during Lent for MU charities and once again enjoyed our "Caravan Drive" raising funds for the upkeep of the MU Caravan. Following a request from the Emily Davison Centre we collected items of new bedding, 40 in total, which were gratefully received for use in the safe houses. Also collected were board games and items of stationery for young adults. The "Wrap-up Lancashire" request for items of warm clothing was well supported and these were distributed to the homeless and those in need.

In 2024 we had six members of our Branch presented with their long service certificates; two were presented by our Diocesan President at the Deanery Festival in May and the remaining four were presented by our MU Chaplain Rev. Barbara Knight, at our Service of Holy Communion in our Church in September. The number of years having been a member of MU ranged from 30 years to 55 years. We congratulate our members on their wonderful achievement.

Our National project for the year was the "Rise Up Campaign" to highlight the awareness of domestic abuse and violence. Our Deanery Presiding Member attended our meeting in March, together with two members from the Emily Davison Centre who informed us of their involvement within the community and the help that is available for both adults and children who are in need of comfort and a place of safety. In an attempt to publicise this campaign, we placed posters in Church and at the schools; our local supermarkets have also been approached with a request to display these in a prominent position. Throughout the year we have been praying for victims of domestic violence and abuse and for their safety. We helped to organise an Exhibition entitled "the Souls of our Shoes" which told of the personal and moving experiences of victims of domestic abuse in their own words. At the Memorial Service held in Whalley to commemorate our Founder, Mary Sumner, our Branch had the honour of receiving our Bronze Award for the work that we had undertaken for this campaign.

Our Wave of Prayer Service held in Church in October, is also celebrated by each Branch throughout the world when we remember and Pray for our members living in Bhopal, Guinea, High Veid, Nambale and Niger Delta, which reminded us of the difficulties and struggles that they face on a day-to-day basis.

In October was the Deanery Quiet Hour at Clitheroe where we enjoyed an afternoon of friendship, eating home-made cakes and learning all about St. Francis of Assisi.

We hold a traditional meeting on the first Thursday of the month at 2pm in our Church and if you know of anyone who would benefit from the Christian friendship and warm fellowship that we offer and would wish to be a part of our Organisation, please ask them to come along to a meeting or make themselves known. There is now also the opportunity for young parents to set up their own branch and chat via social media, rather than meeting in the traditional way. If they wish, they can arrange to meet socially with other members and their children when convenient, as it is recognised that families have many commitments and lead very busy lives.

Finally, I would like to express my gratitude to Rev. Graham for his spiritual leadership and the Church Wardens for their help throughout the year. Also, I would like to offer my appreciation to the members of our Committee for sharing their skills, talents and for their guidance and support. Also, to each and every one of our members for helping support our Branch in all our activities and for continually striving to uphold the principles of Mary Sumner, without their enthusiasm and commitment we would not be able to continue.

Margaret Mallalieu  
Branch Leader.

### **Safeguarding Report 2025**

I am pleased to report that as last year, no incidents of concern have been reported. We continue to follow the Church of England and Blackburn Dioceses guidelines. The PCC receive a monthly update. We have recently recruited some new volunteers to help with Breakfast Church, as with all volunteers they have gone through the safer recruitment process. We continue to monitor the training and update of DBS, when they are due. Fortunately, the processes we use send out timely reminders so I can alert people to renew their safeguarding training and have their DBS renewed.

I am pleased to say that the Dioceses of Blackburn safeguarding team are very supportive and take the role of Safeguarding very seriously. All PCC members and volunteers are also supportive of the need to complete any safeguarding training appropriate to their role and responsibilities.

As most of you know issues have happened within the Wider Church that cause people to feel unhappy with the institution we belong to (if I can call it that), be assured that we work hard to make sure our Church is a Safe and Welcoming Church for all to attend.

Please pray for all involved in keeping our Church/ Dioceses a safe and happy place for all.

If you have an interest in Safeguarding please contact me. I won't always be around to do the role I have been tasked with. It would be good to have someone to work alongside who is willing to pass on their thoughts and ideas and learn the processes involved in Safeguarding.

If you need to report a concern or have worries, feel free to talk to myself or Graham.

Yours in Christ

Olwen

## PARISH STATISTICS

### Membership and Attendance

	2021	2022	2023	2024
Number on the Electoral Roll at the APCM	190	184	195	191

Quiet Common Sun (Now Breakfast Comm)	0	594	1149	1151
Celebration Communion on Sunday	2331	2707	2874	2608
Quiet Communion on Wednesday	277	481	723	643
	<b>2608</b>	<b>3782</b>	<b>4746</b>	<b>4402</b>

This is split as follows:

Adults	2305	3350	4140	3739
Young people under 16	243	432	606	665

The attendance at quiet communion on Wednesday includes those who have also attended a Sunday service.

The average weekly attendance at all services, without double counting these individuals, was:

Adults	43	65	63	58
Young people under 16	5	8	7	9
	<b>48</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>67</b>

Attendance at other services and groups:

Pram Service (monthly)	0	461	283	350
Saturday Mix at Bankmill House	0	89	50	0

Attendance at Easter and Christmas:

Easter Day	68	109	98	102
Christmas <i>including Crib Service and Roaming Nativity</i>	76	106	153	149

Total attendance at other holy day and special services held at the church was:

Other holy day and special services	165	92	387	219
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Communicants throughout the year at the main services

Quiet Communion on Sunday	0	358	706	542
Communion on Sunday	1901	2253	2502	2242
Quiet Communion on Wednesday	150	481	522	640
	<b>2051</b>	<b>3092</b>	<b>3780</b>	<b>3424</b>

Holy communion is also taken on a monthly basis to a number of individuals in their homes and to nursing homes and sheltered accommodation for the elderly.

Home communicants	2	21	20	30
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Occasional Offices (celebrations of life events)

Baptisms	14	28	21	13
Candidates presented for Confirmation	8	0	9	0
Weddings	3	7	4	2
Dedication of/Thanksgiving for a Marriage	0	1	0	0
Funerals/Memorial Service, of which 9 (2023 :10) began with a service in church	26	24	11	12

## Administrative Information

St Bartholomew's Church is situated on Church Lane, Great Harwood. It is part of the Diocese of Blackburn within the Church of England. The correspondence address is The Vicarage, Church Lane, Great Harwood BB6 7PU.

The Parochial Church Council is a body corporate under section 3 of the Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1965 and is a charity registered with the Charity Commission (no.1136334).

PCC members who have served from 20<sup>th</sup> May 2024 until the date this report was approved are:

Clergy	Revd Graham Birch, vicar (Chair)	
Church Wardens	Mrs. Tracey Williams (Vice Chair) to APCM May 2024 Mrs. Olwyn Sudders to APCM2024 (Safeguarding Officer)	
Representatives on the Whalley Deanery Synod	Mr Mark Exton Mrs Rachel Shovelton	To APCM July 2024 To APCM July 2024
Elected Members	Mrs Jennifer Entwistle Mrs Karen Exton Mr David Heaton Mrs Cynthia Parkinson Mrs Denise Sheriff Mr. Ross Shekleton Mr. Les Kilsby Mrs. Joyce Miller Mr. Roger Walker Mrs. Jayne Gray	From APCM 2018 From APCM 2016 (Treasurer) From APCM 2014 From APCM 2021 From APCM 2021 From APCM 2021 From APCM 2022 From APCM 2023 From APCM 2023
In attendance	Mrs Lucy Bell (Secretary)	From APCM Oct 2020

## Structure, governance and management.

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules 2020. All church attenders are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC. The Standing Committee is the only committee to be in place by church law. It has the power to transact the business of the PCC between meetings, subject to ratification by the PCC. Its members were the Vicar and Churchwardens together with Mark Exton. The committee have not met during the year.

It is considered that all PCC members and any others who could be understood to be 'managers' in the activities and affairs of the Parish of St. Bartholomew and St. John Great Harwood are deemed to be 'fit and proper' persons under the terms of the Finance Act 2010. In service training is available to PCC Members as and when required.

Approved by the PCC at its meeting on 21st March 2024 and signed on their behalf by



Vicar and Chair of the Parochial Church Council

**ST BARTHOLMEW'S & ST JOHN'S CHURCH**  
**FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER 2024**

<b>GENERAL FUND</b>	<b>UNRESTRICTED</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2023</b>
		<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b><u>RECEIPTS</u></b>					
<b>VOLUNTARY GIVING</b>					
LEGACIES		NIL		2000	
PLEDGES		9820		11041	
OPEN COLLECTION		983		2065	
STANDING ORDERS		15524		11041	
GIFT DAY		2012		2730	
DONATIONS INC GIFT AID ENVELOPES		4635		3476	
SUMUP (card donations )		2031		2076	
HMRC (gift aid for charities )		5867		6675	
			40872		41104
<b>RECEIPTS FROM CHURCH ACTIVITIES</b>					
PCC (inc assigned fees)		6548		8068	
BLACKBURN DIOCESE (lifc refund)		2608		2409	
EVENTS		2502		802	
			11658		11279
<b>RECEIPTS FROM INVESTMENTS</b>					
CLOSED (old bank account)		NIL		175	
DIVIDENDS (inc walsh flowers)		852		1067	
BANK INTEREST		67		123	
			919		1365
<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>			<b>53449</b>		<b>53748</b>

<b>PAYMENTS</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2023</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>GRANTS</b>				
BARCHESTER	1573		1573	
		1573		1573
<b>CHURCH ACTIVITIES</b>				
DIOCESAN PARISH SHARE	37122		41018	
DIOCESAN FEES	820		4238	
CHURCH RUNNING COSTS	4015		3906	
WEDDING & FUNERAL COSTS	1491		1545	
INSURANCE	4342		4265	
GAS	5821		4482	
ELECTRICITY	1205		3974	
WATER	418		182	
PHONE & INTERNET	416		402	
WEBSITE & MANAGEMENT	720		675	
VICARAGE (council tax & water)	4355		4089	
VICARS EXPENSES	900		1041	
CHURCH MAINTENANCE	1436		2711	
ARCHITECTS (quinquennial report)	1778		NIL	
WALSH FLOWERS	309		300	
VISITING VICARS FEES	585		383	
		65733		73211
<b>CHURCH MANAGEMENT &amp; ADMINISTRATION</b>				
ADMINISTRATION & HONORARIUM	1000		1000	
INDEPENDENT EXAMINER	100		100	
		1100		1100
<b>TOTAL PAYMENTS</b>		<b>68406</b>		<b>75884</b>
<b>EXCESS OF RECEIPTS OVER PAYMENTS</b>				
BANK ACCOUNTS AT 1ST JANUARY 2024		-14957		-22136
BANK ACCOUNTS AT 31ST DECEMBER 2024		26910		49046
		11953		26910

**Statement of Assets and Liabilities as at 31st December 2024**

	<b>General Fund Unrest</b>	<b>Walsh Bequest Restr</b>	<b>Parish M.F Restr</b>	<b>Hoyle Legacy Restr</b>		
	£	£	£	£	2024 £	2023 £
<b>Monetary Assets</b>						
Barclays	10861				10861	13503
Barclays	1092				1092	13407
CBF		22781			22781	22271
CBF			5110		5110	4996
CBF				3492	3492	3413
<b>Total</b>	<b>11953</b>	<b>22781</b>	<b>5110</b>	<b>3492</b>	<b>43336</b>	<b>57590</b>

Debtors  
Creditors

**Non-Monetary Assets**

**Notes:**

1. The Walsh Bequest consists of 985 shares in the CBF Investment Fund.
2. The Parish Memorial Fund consists of 221 shares in the CBF Investment Fund.
3. The Hoyle Legacy consists of 151 shares in the CBF Investment Fund.
4. The Financial Statements of the PCC have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 using the Receipts and Payments basis.
5. The following Assets are recognised but not necessarily valued in the Statement of Assets and Liabilities: moveable church furnishings held by church wardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty of disposal.
6. The expenses paid to clergy may include a small immaterial proportion which relates to their function as PCC members for acting as PCC members.

Approved by the PCC at its meeting on

20th March 2025

And signed on its behalf by



**Accounting Policies for the P.C.C. of the Parish of  
Great Harwood, St. Bartholomew and St. John.**

The financial statements of the P.C.C. have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 using the R & P basis.

**Funds.**

General funds represent the funds of the P.C.C. that are not subject to any special restrictions regarding their use and are available for application to the general purposes of the P.C.C. These include funds designated for a particular purpose by the P.C.C.

The accounts include monetary transactions, assets and liabilities for which the P.C.C. can be held responsible.

They do not include the accounts of other Church groups that owe an affiliation to another body, nor those that are informal gatherings of Church members.

Subject to the above, receipts and payments include income as received and expenditure when irrevocably paid.

**Statement of Assets and Liabilities.**

The following assets are recognized but not necessarily valued in the Statement of Assets and Liabilities:

Movable church furnishings held by the churchwardens on special trust for the P.C.C. and which require a faculty for disposal.

Land and buildings held on behalf of the P.C.C.

Other fixtures, fittings and office equipment where the P.C.C. is free to dispose of such assets without faculty and where the original cost exceeded £1,000.

Investments held beneficially by the P.C.C.

The following assets are recognized and a monetary value given as part of the description in the Statement of Assets and Liabilities:

Amounts owing from the Inland Revenue where a formal claim has been made.

Any other amounts owing to the P.C.C. including church hall lettings and insurance claims.

Legacies where formal notification of entitlement and amount has been received by 31<sup>st</sup> December by the P.C.C.

Closing bank balances as shown in the receipts and payment account.

The following liabilities are recognized in the Statement of Assets and Liabilities:

Any loans or overdrafts advanced to the P.C.C.  
Any arrears of Diocesan Parish Share

Creditors for goods or services where the supply has been received and invoiced by 31<sup>st</sup> December.

## Independent Examiner's unqualified report to the

P.C.C. of Great Harwood, St. Bartholomew and St. John.

This report of the financial statements of the P.C.C. for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2022 which are set out on pages 7 to 11, is in respect of an examination carried out in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 ('the Regulations') and section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

### Respective responsibilities of the P.C.C. and the examiner.

As members of the P.C.C. you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements. You consider that the audit requirement of the Regulations and section 144(2) of the Act does not apply. It is my responsibility to issue this report on those financial statements in accordance with the terms of the Regulations.

### Basis of this report.

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act and to be found in the *Church Guidance*, 2006 edition, issued by the Finance Division of the Archbishops' Council. That examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the P.C.C. and a comparison of the accounts with those records. It also includes considering any unusual items or disclosures in the financial statements and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

### Independent examiner's statement.

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- (1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Act; and
  - to prepare financial statements which accord with the accounting records
- and comply with the requirements of the 2011 Act and the Regulations have not been met; or

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

Signed. Alan A Clements Date 29th April 2023  
Fellow of the Association of Charity Independent Examiners.

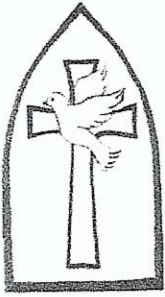
Name Rev'd. A.A. Clements MA, ACIB, FCIE.

Address 15 Carleton Road, Great Knowley, Chorley, Lancs PR6 8TQ

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# Accounts

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Working within Great Harwood Ecumenical Partnership  
 St Bartholomew and St John  
 Parish of Great Harwood



For the year ended 31 December 2023  
 of the Parochial Church Council  
 Annual Report and Financial Statements

Vicar  
 Revd Graham Birch  
 The Vicarage  
 Church Lane  
 Great Harwood  
 BB8 7PU

Bank  
 Barclays Bank plc  
 8-14 Darwen Street  
 Blackburn  
 BB2 2BZ

Independent Examiner  
 Revd Alan Clements MA, ACIB, FCIE  
 15 Carleton Road  
 Great Knowley  
 Chorley  
 PR6 8TQ

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Annual Report of the Parochial Church Council  
for the year ended 31 December 2023

Objectives and Activities

The PCC is aware of the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit in their publication 'The Advancement of Religion for Public Benefit' and have given regard to it in their administration of the Parish. The PCC believes that by fulfilling its responsibility to work together with the incumbent, and to co-operate in all matters of concern and importance for the promotion of the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical, it provides a benefit to the public by -

- o providing resources and facilities for public worship, pastoral care and spiritual, moral and intellectual development, both for its members and for anyone who wishes to benefit from what the Church offers;
- o promoting Christian values, and service by members of the Church in the Parish to its community, to the benefit of individuals and society as a whole.

THE PARISH

Great Harwood is an ancient market town which prospered as a mill town in the nineteenth century and has developed further with light industry and suburban housing. A chapel-of-ease on the current site was recorded in 1335; the present church, originally known as St Lawrence, is largely 15th-16th Century. It was extended in the 19th century to serve a growing population, and St John's Church (closed in 2007 and now sadly demolished) was built in 1912. St Bartholomew's is a welcoming congregation with a wide age-range which works with other churches in Great Harwood to serve our town; the Ecumenical Partnership was formed in 2007 to help us work, worship and witness together.

Over the last 12 months it is wonderful to say that I feel that the 'general spirit' in the church has been more positive. We have seen a small increase in the numbers of people coming to worship each week and that, as a church fellowship, we have enjoyed a few more social events than we have been able to in previous years. We saw a good number of young people come forward to be Confirmed this year and there have been many more visits to the church by children from both of our church schools.

Despite the good things which have been happening, however, it has continued to be a difficult time for most of us. The continuing invasion of Ukraine and the outbreak of war in the Holy Land and many other places around the world have led to the world becoming a more fearful place for many. Millions of people around the world are being driven from their homes and countries through war or persecution and this is greatly increasing the refugee crisis. Add to this the continuing pressures on people's finances due to inflation, the cost of living crisis and the increasing numbers of children in our own community who are now living in poverty and it's easy to believe that evil is winning the battle over good. I personally cannot remember a time when this has been so much of a 'divisive spirit' in the world, such desperate need among so many people and an overwhelming fear of what the future may hold. It is so important that we, as a resurrection people, do not give in to this increasing sense of doom and gloom and always live in the light of the resurrection and seek to bring comfort and hope to those around us.

Although we held our annual Gift Day in October, which provided a much needed income, it was also apparent that the regular monthly income of the church needed to be greatly increased. The church is also still struggling to recover financially from the drop in income as a result of the pandemic and the subsequent fall in the number of people attending worship. Although attendance has improved slightly over this last year, the coming year will be a particularly challenging one and, as the financial statement makes clear, our limited church financial reserves have been greatly reduced over the last few years. These will be fully exhausted by the end of next year if nothing is done to address this.

Due to this, we had intended to hold a full Stewardship Campaign towards the end of 2023 but the PCC felt that delaying it by a few months, until Easter 2024, may yield a better response to the appeal and so the decision was taken to do this. The Stewardship Campaign is intended to have two aspects - covering both the financial situation and also enabling us to reflect on how we can all use our time and energies to further the mission of the church. Over the last year the PCC have also continually tried to keep the right balance between ensuring that the ministry of the church continued to expand whilst also trying to reduce costs as much as practically possible. My personal thanks continue to go to all the members of the PCC for their commitment and support during these challenging times.

On a pastoral level, it has, once again, been a year filled with much sadness as we have said goodbye to a number of long-time members of the fellowship who have died and left huge gaps not only in the lives of their families but in the church fellowship as well. Our thoughts and prayers continue to be with all those who have lost loved ones over this past year and it is my hope that the truth of Christ's resurrection will bring comfort to all those who are going through a time of bereavement.

Although there are many challenges which continue to lie ahead of us in the coming year, I do not doubt that God is moving in this place and there is a great deal for us to be thankful for in our fellowship. As I have often spoken about, it is so important that we, as Christians, are able to shine with the light of Christ and bring hope, joy and support to those around us who feel overwhelmed with all that is happening in the world.

So many people here work tirelessly to enable the fellowship to continue and also to take care of our wonderful Church building. I would personally like to thank our Wardens, Tracey and Owen, for supporting me in my ministry and in helping the fellowship to 'move forward' in faith and discipleship. Thanks once again to Cynthia who has remained faithful in her work as Parish Administrator, ensuring that things are done both timely and efficiently – and for also reminding me of the things I needed to do as well!! Thanks also to all those who assist our worship, especially to John and the Choir. Also to those who serve the church through reading lessons, leading intercessions or assisting with Communion and to the Sidespeople who ensure people receive a warm welcome into Church. It is also wonderful to see such a vibrant and active Mothers Union who not only provide wonderful fellowship for many but also continue to contribute in so many practical ways to the life of the Church. Thanks to Kay for all her time as UM Branch leader, who has now stepped down, and for Margaret who has enthusiastically taken on this important role in the fellowship.

One of the best things about our fellowship is the welcome that people receive the first time that they come here. Those who have recently joined the fellowship often tell me that one of the reasons why they came back was because of how welcomed they felt from the moment they first came into Church. It is so important that we all play a part in this essential ministry, so please take the time to speak to anyone whom you haven't seen before and don't assume that someone else will welcome them! The church has to be a place where all people are welcomed, accepted and loved and provide a place where we are all shown the acceptance, grace and forgiveness that we need to enable us to grow in faith and to deepen our understanding of God's love.

There is also so much work which goes on behind the scenes that is essential for the Church to grow – the essential work of the PCC; David and all those who help to keep the Church finances in order; the Baptism Team; Owen, our Safeguarding Officer, who ensures that the Church not only complies with legal requirements but is also a safe place for anyone who comes here; those on the Walls and Within Committee who, led by Mark, look after the Church building and grounds; those who serve as School Governors in our two wonderful schools. We are still trying to find another governor for one of our schools, so please let me know if you can think of someone who would be able to step into that important role. The Events Committee have not met formally this year but I look forward to us being able to build for the future and plan some more times of fun and fellowship in the coming year. Thanks also to those who work in the church grounds and on the Flower Committee and ensure that, both inside and out, the Church reflects the wonder of God's creation; those who maintain our 'on-line' ministry; those who help to clean the Church or serve refreshments. All of this work is greatly appreciated and enriches the life of the whole Church.

Even through the coming year will continue to provide many challenges, both financial and practical, it will also bring many opportunities for us to grow in faith and to share the gospel with people in our Community. As I often say, it is so important that we continue to hold the difficult balance between respecting and treasure the past, whilst also being able to look forward as a church and to sense where the Spirit of God is leading us. Many people in our community are struggling enormously and it is so important that our focus as a church finds new ways of offering comfort and support to them. As Jesus taught us, the heart of the gospel message is that we follow the example of Christ Jesus Himself and ensure that we love others as He has loved us.

I am looking forward to what lies ahead for us as a fellowship and may God continue to bless you and your families and enable each of you to find the role which you can play in sharing the love of Christ with others and in helping to build the Kingdom of God, here in Great Harwood.

Revd. Graham Birch,  
March 2024

## The Year 2023–highlights

Now that COVID is not as restrictive we are beginning to hold Social Events again. For the Kings Coronation we held an Afternoon Celebration Café, during August a BBQ was held in the Vicarage Gardens, a Stall on Towngate on St. Lawrence Day, a McMillan Coffee morning, a Christmas Tree Festival in Church and in December Simply Carols, with a Brass Band.

In 2024 more events are being planned with the return of our successful "Race Night".

# Mission and Vision

It is nice, coming to write this part of the annual report to be able to see that the fellowship is growing in numbers and that we have moved forward with most of the objectives which we set in last year's report. Some have not moved quite as far as we would have liked, due to the financial restraints we are having to deal with, but things are gradually coming together and we are hoping that these initiatives will gain more momentum in the coming year. Due to the general struggles that people and families were having because of the financial crisis and high level of inflation, it was felt by the PCC that the Stewardship Campaign we had planned for the end of 2023 should be put back a little and so this is now being planned for Easter 2024. Hopefully as the situation regarding the rate of inflation and the cost of living situation is improving slightly, people will be in a slightly better place to respond in a positive way to the appeal at that time. As there have been a large reduction in Church reserves following the Covid pandemic and the financial crisis, the stewardship campaign could not be put back any later than this and it is my hope and prayer that people in the fellowship will respond in a generous way. This is not just so that we can meet our financial commitments but so that we can fund mission in our community and grow in our understanding of what it means to be a 'good steward'. The Bible is quite clear that when God's people are prepared to make personal sacrifices for the sake of the Kingdom of God, that God's blessing will follow and His Spirit will move in power among us.

In practical terms, numbers at the main Sunday service have slightly increased and it is also nice to see that we have a few new regular worshippers who have come to the church following times of bereavement and say that they have found the fellowship to be a welcoming and supportive place. The 'Breakfast Church' service at 8.30am each Sunday has continued to grow and this has been a way for many people and families to worship together and have a time of fellowship. There have been lots of positive comments from people who value this service and it is also a 'gentler' way for people new to the fellowship to become part of the congregation. Once again I want to thank all the Stewards and other volunteers at each of our services who give so much of their time to welcome people to the church and/or provide drinks and food for them. This role is so important to the life of the church and must never be undervalued.

Unfortunately we took the difficult decision to close the monthly family event, based at Bank Mill House, due to falling numbers. It is hoped that, in the coming year we will be able to put on some alternative events specifically targeting families and providing opportunities for worship and fellowship with them. Over the last year we have also started a 'Men's Group', which is intended to provide a good way for men connected with the church to come together for fellowship and social events. These have been well received and we are hoping to increase the number of these in the coming year.

I know that many of us are anxious about the state of the world which seem to be bringing more darkness and suffering but it is especially important that those of us who believe in a 'Risen Christ', allow that belief to affect the way we view the world. If we truly believe that Jesus has won the victory over sin and death then we have to do all we can to live as 'children of God's Kingdom'. That means to pray with faith for the world and to seek to bring the light of God into the places of darkness around us. In a world where people live in darkness and are fearful of what the future may bring, it is so important that we live as people who genuinely believe that God's Will can be done on earth and do what we can to bring light and hope to those around us.

As I am writing these words, we have just celebrated the most amazing day in the whole Church year - the wonderful celebration of our Lord Jesus rising from the dead and winning the final victory over sin and death once and for all time. We need to reflect on this wondrous event and allow it to energise our worship and strengthen our mission in the world. In a world which is becoming increasingly divisive, it is so important that we do all we can to break down barriers in our own community and ensure that all people come to know the amazing love that God has for them.

Over the last few years, like many churches, St Bartholomew & St John's has been struggling with all sorts of external and internal factors and we still have plenty of difficult times ahead of us in the coming years. Despite this I am certain that with the renewed commitment of the fellowship that we will continue to grow both in numbers and in spirituality and be able to successfully meet any challenges that may come our way. It is often, during difficult times, that people's faith is 'purified' and they make a new commitment to bring God's love to those around them. Targets for the coming year will be:

- 1) To continue to revamp the Church extension area and make it a more welcoming place for people to use. The next stage will be to fit new flooring and lighting and also decorate it to make it a lighter and much more pleasant area to be in;
- 2) To continue to develop our new services and to build on the work that has been done over the last year;
- 3) To re-form our Church Worship Group to look at how we can enhance our regular worship and provide new services for special events;

## RESOURCES

- 1) Successfully deliver a comprehensive Stewardship Campaign at Easter.
- 2) Plan into our diary more Church social events where we can share fellowship together.
- 3) Longer able to attend church in person.
- 4) To train and equip more members of the congregation to become pastoral visitors to those who are no longer able to attend church with prayer.
- 5) Following on from our 'seasonal' bible studies, through Advent and Lent, we now intend to hold a weekly Bible Study and prayer group to enable us to grow in faith and surround all the work of the church with prayer.

Stewardship needs revisiting as the church is still dependent on legacy income (for which we are most grateful) - to be able to maintain the building. Regular giving has declined, which may be connected with reduced attendance after Covid.

We record our particular thanks to all who have stepped down, and our gratitude to the many volunteers who continue their time, skills and resources to enable the life, worship and outreach of the parish to flourish.

## FINANCIAL REVIEW

This has been another challenging year. At the end of December 2023, the parish share was paid in full, the General Fund showed an excess of expenditure over income of £22136. Gift Aid refund from HMRC was £6675.

We must increase our income year on year to preserve our church and maintain its mission for years to come.

## Risk Assessment

The PCC recognises that in relation to 'Risk Assessment', risk is defined as 'the threat of any action or event which will adversely affect an organisation's ability to achieve its objectives and execute its strategies'. It also accepts that the term 'risk' can include any circumstances that may, or do, have an adverse effect, and is wider than financial matters. 'Risks' relate not only to the negative consequences of a threat, but also to the impact of not taking advantage of opportunities.

The PCC recognises it requires a practical Health and Safety Policy covering activities for the church, the churchyard and the Hope Street Burial Ground. This is reviewed on a regular basis. An Accident Book is maintained.

The contents and obligations of the Equality Act 2010 and the 2019 Data Protection Regulation are known and compiled with to the best of the PCC's ability. The PCC is aware of its responsibilities in respect of the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 in its requirement to carry out a fire assessment to identify any possible dangers and risks, to take action to minimise the risks and to create a plan to deal with any emergencies, and also to write up and keep a record of its findings and to review its assessment annually. The PCC has appointed Mr David Bond to be the responsible person to put these things into operation.

There are Safeguarding Policies in place and the Safeguarding Officer is Mrs Owen Subuders. DBS checks have been carried out in respect of all persons dealing regularly with young people and vulnerable adults. Whilst it is impossible to eliminate all risks and their consequences, efforts are constantly made to minimise such occurrences.

**Reserves Policy.**  
The PCC has reviewed its policy and, conscious of the current financial situation of the parish will seek to maintain in reserve all surplus funds on interest bearing safe deposit accounts such as offered by the CBF. At all times sufficient liquid funds to satisfy three months general expenditure at any one time whilst seeking to hold the PCC has reviewed its policy and, conscious of the current financial situation of the parish will seek to maintain

## THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

### Business During the Last Year

Since the last APCM held in April 2023, the PCC has met a total of 10 times in Church with Rev Graham Birch as the Chair. There is one more meeting scheduled for April as the APCM has been pushed back to May this year.

### Church Maintenance Pending

- Work has been ongoing on bringing the church Fire Risk Assessment and other health and safety matters up to date.
- other volunteers have been giving their time to do the work needed.
- The kitchen in the extension is undergoing a refurbish. The units have been donated and Graham and the purchase of two new first aid kits and an accident book were approved.
- The church alarm needed updating to a job system. Agreed a cost of approx. £100.
- There has been some roofing/gutter maintenance at the cost of £1460.
- after checking other rates on comparison sites.
- The fixed rate contract for gas ended and new 12 month fixed rate deal was negotiated with British Gas

### Changes in PCC appointed positions

There were no changes in the School Governors this year. Barbara Waddington was approved by the PCC to work in Mum's and Tot's.

### Other Matters Discussed

- **Schools:** Both schools connected with the church were OFSTED inspected during the year and both schools received a grade of 'Good'.
- **Events:** There was an Afternoon Tea fundraiser which raised £200 for church funds, a church BBQ, Christmas lunch at Churchfield House, a Macmillan coffee morning which raised £322, a Christmas Tree festival, Gift Day which raised £2730, two men's nights out and Lent lunches which raised over £400 for the food bank.
- **Church Fellowship:** The PCC approved for 4 names to be added into the Remembrance Book. A Bible induction training and is working on an Action Plan.
- **Safeguarding:** Owen, the church's Safeguarding Officer, completed her Safeguarding role the following year. Work was completed on Safer Recruitment. Leadership courses have been completed by the church wardens. It was agreed that this would be made clear when people put their names forward for the PCC members. A lot of discussions were had around the amount of training that had to be undertaken by PCC members. Many different ideas were discussed on how to encourage giving and the meaning behind stewardship.
- **Stewardship Campaign:** The Stewardship campaign began in March and is running for the 4 weeks around Easter. Many different ideas were discussed on how to encourage giving and the meaning behind stewardship.

## Church Wardens

Both Owen and I are happy with how the last year has gone. The church building: Not all work has been completed: but gutters have been repaired and cleared.

Thanks to Graham the kitchen is now installed and is a great working space, just in need of new sockets and decorating to complete the work. A refrigerator was donated by Dick and the kitchen is already making serving tea and coffee and breakfast so much easier.

We held our Annual Gift Day last autumn and have recently started to get our Stewardship Campaign underway.

Over the past twelve months, we as a church, have held events for church to be open for the public during the summer months and our Christmas tree displays were a triumph bringing people in to admire the work of many different groups.

Our Lent lunches raised £450 pounds for much needed baby items for the food bank, which was overwhelmed with our efforts.

Now that Owen and I are established in the job, we would like to continue for another year at least, God willing! We will also be assisted by Dick who helps us to keep the church open and welcoming as assistant church warden.

We hope we have all your support in this and in turn we can then support the Church family and our vicar Graham.

Plans are underway to have more money raising events in the near future (keep your eyes peeled)

We are hoping for a full PCC in the year to come and looking forward to new members joining; please hold them in your prayers.

Looking forward to serving our Church and community in faith and love.

Tracey and Owen

## Safeguarding Report 2024

We have had no incidents of concern reported this year. Safeguarding continues to be an item on the PCC agenda and a report is given. Training requirements for the Parish Safeguarding Officer are up to date. We now use Parish Dashboard which allows us to track and keep up to date all aspects of volunteering from recruitment, role descriptions, DBS, training completed and more. It also acts as a reminder when dates for renewal of training and DBS need updating. The dashboard is widely used across Dioceses within the Church of England. All new volunteers have to follow a process of recruitment not unlike applying for paid work. This ensures that volunteers are recruited safely and that we as an organisation take their roles seriously.

The Dioceses are always available if we require assistance and details of the Diocese Safeguarding Officers' policy booklets and help lines can be found on the notice boards in church and on the website.

The Church of England takes seriously the role that safeguarding plays at both National and local level, having recently undertaken a report that made recommendations for how Church Safeguarding and the scrutiny of Church Safeguarding could be made fully independent of the Church.

We as a Church also take the safety of all our people seriously and are here to listen and act if you have any concerns.

Owen Sudbers  
Parish Safeguarding Office

## Mothers' Union

The theme for MU in 2023 was The Time for Transformation is Now.

UM members helped with welcoming couples to the church Wedding Welcome event held in April by providing breakfast in the form of coffee and pastries. It is always lovely to host this event where couples are able to meet with the vicar, the organist and the flower committee to help with the finer details of their wedding preparations in church.

UM members of the Baptism Team helped with preparation and baptism throughout the year and in sending of Baptism Anniversary cards inviting children and their parents or guardians to St Bar's Tot's Group. Our charitable giving within the branch continued. During Lent we collected money from our jars for our usual Lent collection for MU charities. In June we held our annual Beetle Drive in aid of the AFA caravan. The caravan provides holidays for those in need of a break and the money we raise helps in funding this important facility. Those who attend welcome the chance to take a well needed holiday.

In 2023 our charitable collection was to the Hyndburn Baby Bank. A large number of items were collected and passed on to this very worthwhile organisation that helps parents and families in our local area with everyday baby items such as nappies and clothes. We also collected warm coats and scarfs etc for the Rotary annual collection held in church.

Our social events included a trip to St Anne's in July where we had lunch and time to stroll on the promenade or do a bit of shopping on the high street. In December we gathered at the Cafe's Head in Worston for our annual Christmas lunch.

It is with great sadness that in February we said our final goodbyes to Mrs Pat Denton. Her funeral reflected her lifelong commitment to Mothers' Union and she is greatly missed by us all.

Our branch had a number of interesting speakers in 2023. Graham kindly spoke to the branch in February, in March we had a visit from Jean Emmett from Friends of Haworth Art Gallery. Some of our members had never visited the gallery before and this talk encouraged them to go for a coffee and cake as well as visit the Gallery.

This year our Denary Festival was held at St John's Road. In May our Denary Presiding Member came to give us a talk.

We held a Quiet Communion Service in September which was led by Reverend Graham Birch. October's meeting was our annual Wave of Prayer when, along with other MU Branches, prayers are offered to the MU Branches around the world. In November Mr John Lamb from the Lancashire Wildlife Trust visited the branch and gave a very interesting talk about Wild Lancashire. Finally, in December, we got crafty and took part in a practical workshop hosted by Dotty Art. It was great fun with members producing some fine art work as well as having the chance to buy some Christmas gifts.

This was another great year at St Bartholomew and St John's MU full of fellowship, fun, vitality and fun. Everyone (even men are able to join too) is welcome to come and join any of our meetings as a visitor. Just take a look at our agenda on the church notice board inside church or speak to Margaret Mallier, who has kindly volunteered to take over from Kay Whitney as the Branch Leader.

Kay Whitney

Membership and Attendance

Number on the Electoral Roll at the APCM	191	190	184	192
	2020	2021	2022	2023

Quiet Common Sun (No Breakfast Comm)	286	0	294	1149
Celebration Communion on Sunday	1689	2331	2707	2874
Quiet Communion on Wednesday	436	277	481	723
	2411	2608	3782	4746

This is split as follows:

Adults	1921	2302	3350	4140
Young people under 16	490	243	432	606

The attendance at quiet communion on Wednesday includes those who have also attended a Sunday service. The average weekly attendance at all services, without double counting these individuals, was:

Adults	12	43	62	63
Young people under 16	6	2	8	7
	21	48	73	70

Attendance at other services and groups:

Saturday Mix at Bankmill House	0		89	20
Prayer Service (monthly)	0	0	161	283

Attendance at Easter and Christmas:

Easter Day	0	68	109	98
Christmas including Carp Service and Roving Nativity	48	76	106	123

Total attendance at other holy day and special services held at the church was:

Other holy day and special services	126	162	92	387
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Communicants throughout the year at the main services

Quiet Communion on Sunday	284	0	328	706
Communion on Sunday	1040	1901	2223	222
Quiet Communion on Wednesday	174	120	481	222
	1498	2021	3032	3780

Holy communion is also taken on a monthly basis to a number of individuals in their homes and to nursing homes and sheltered accommodation for the elderly.

Home communicants	29	2	21	20
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Occasional Offices (celebrations of life events)

Baptisms	2	14	28	21
Candidates presented for Confirmation	0	8	0	9
Weddings	0	3	7	4
Dedication of Thanksgiving for a Marriage	0	0	1	0
Funerals/Memorial Service, of which 10 began with a service in church (2022: 15)	22	26	24	11

**Administrative Information**

St Bartholomew's Church is situated on Church Lane, Great Harwood. It is part of the Diocese of Blackburn within the Church of England. The correspondence address is The Vicarage, Church Lane, Great Harwood BB6 7PU.

The Parochial Church Council is a body corporate under section 3 of the Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1985 and is a charity registered with the Charity Commission (no. 1136334).

PCC members who have served from 20<sup>th</sup> May 2023 until the date this report was approved are:

Clergy	Church Wardens	Representatives on the Whalley Deanery Synod	Elected Members	In Attendance
Revd Graham Birch, vicar (Chair)	Mrs. Tracey Williams (Vice Chair) to APCM May 2024 Mrs. Owynn Sudders to APCM2024 (Safeguarding Officer)	Mr Mark Exton Mrs Rachel Shovelton	Mrs Jennifer Entwistle Mrs Karen Exton Mrs Janet Hall Mr David Heston Mrs Maxine Holdsworth Mrs Margaret Ogden Mrs Cynthia Parkinson Mrs Denise Sheriff Mr. Ross Sherkleton Mr. Les Kilsby Mrs. Joyce Miller	Mrs Lucy Bell (Secretary)
		To APCM July 2024 To APCM July 2024	From APCM 2023 From APCM 2021 From APCM 2021 From APCM 2021 From APCM 2021 From APCM 2021 From APCM 2021 From APCM 2021 From APCM 2018 From APCM 2018 From APCM 2018 From APCM 2015 From APCM 2016 From APCM 2018	From APCM Oct 2020

**Structure, governance and management.**

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules 2020. All church attenders are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC. The Standing Committee is the only committee to be in place by church law. It has the power to transact the business of the PCC between meetings, subject to ratification by the PCC. Its members were the Vicar and Churchwardens together with Mark Exton. The committee have not met during the year. It is considered that all PCC members and any others who could be understood to be 'managers' in the activities and affairs of the Parish of St. Bartholomew and St. John Great Harwood are deemed to be 'fit and proper' persons under the terms of the Finance Act 2010. In service training is available to PCC Members as and when required.

Approved by the PCC at its meeting on 21st March 2024 and signed on their behalf by

Vicar and Chair of the Parochial Church Council

**ST BARTHOLOMEW'S & ST JOHN'S CHURCH  
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER 2023**

GENERAL FUND	UNRESTRICTED	2023	2023	2023	2023
RECEIPTS		£	£	£	£
<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>		<b>23748</b>	<b>22217</b>		
BANK INTEREST		153	15		
DIVIDENDS(2022 £229)		1067	602		
CLOSED (old bank account)		125	Nil		
RECEIPTS FROM INVESTMENTS		11529	15696		
EVENTS		805	Nil		
BLACKBURN DIOCESE (liff refund)		2409	Nil		
PCC (inc assigned fees)		8068	12696		
RECEIPTS FROM CHURCH ACTIVITIES		3476	4128		
DONATIONS INC GIFT AID ENVELOPES		3476	4128		
OTHER VOLUNTARY RECEIPTS					
SUMUP (card donations)		2076	1906		
HMRC (Charities)		6625	6244		
GIFT DAY		2230	1632		
STANDING ORDERS		11041	11429		
OPEN COLLECTION		2062	2637		
PLEDGES		11041	12138		
LEGACIES		2000	Nil		
GRANT (energy)		Nil	1787		
VOLUNTARY GIVING		37628	38106		



**Statement of Assets and Liabilities as at 31st December 2023**

		Monetary Assets				Non-monetary assets	
		General Fund Unrest	Welsh Bedest Rest	Parish M.F. Rest	Holye Legacy Rest	Total 2023	Total 2022
		£	£	£	£	£	£
	Barclays	13203				13203	36977
	Barclays	13407				13407	15674
	D of B		22271			22271	20341
	D of B			4996		4996	4563
	D of B				3413	3413	3118
	Total	29910	22271	4996	3413	25290	77068
	Debtors						
	Creditors						


**Notes:**

1. The Welsh Bedest consists of 982 shares in the CBF investment fund.
2. The Parish Memorial Fund consists of 221 shares in the CBF investment fund.
3. The Holye Legacy consists of 121 shares in the CBF investment fund.
4. The financial statements of the PCC have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 using the Receipts and Payments basis.
5. The following assets are recognised but not necessarily valued in the Statement of Assets and Liabilities:
  - a. moveable church furnishings held by church wardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty of disposal.
  - b. The expenses paid to clergy may include a small immaterial proportion which relates to their function as PCC members. No payments were made to PCC members for acting as PCC members.

Approved by the PCC at its meeting on  
22nd February 2024

.....

And signed on its behalf by



**Accounting Policies for the P.C.C. of the Parish of  
Great Harwood, St. Bartholomew and St. John.**

The financial statements of the P.C.C. have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 using the R & P basis.

**Funds.**

General funds represent the funds of the P.C.C. that are not subject to any special restrictions regarding their use and are available for application to the general purposes of the P.C.C. These include funds designated for a particular purpose by the P.C.C.

The accounts include monetary transactions, assets and liabilities for which the P.C.C. can be held responsible. They do not include the accounts of other Church groups that owe an affiliation to another body, nor those that are informal gatherings of Church members.

Subject to the above, receipts and payments include income as received and expenditure when irrevocably paid.

**Statement of Assets and Liabilities.**

The following assets are recognized but not necessarily valued in the Statement of Assets and Liabilities:

Movable church furnishings held by the churchwardens on special trust for the P.C.C. and which require a faculty for disposal.

Land and buildings held on behalf of the P.C.C.

Other fixtures, fittings and office equipment where the P.C.C. is free to dispose of such assets without faculty and where the original cost exceeded £1,000.

Investments held beneficially by the P.C.C.

The following assets are recognized and a monetary value given as part of the description in the Statement of Assets and Liabilities:

Amounts owing from the Inland Revenue where a formal claim has been made.

Any other amounts owing to the P.C.C. including church hall lettings and insurance claims.

Legacies where formal notification of entitlement and amount has been received by 31<sup>st</sup> December by the P.C.C.

Closing bank balances as shown in the receipts and payment account.

The following liabilities are recognized in the Statement of Assets and Liabilities:

Independent Examiner's unqualified report to the members of the P.C.C. of St. Bartholomew and St. John, Great Harwood in respect of the accounts of the P.C.C. for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023 as shown on pages 11 - 13 in this Report. The examination has been carried out in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 ('the Regulations') and section 142 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

Respective responsibilities of the P.C.C. and the examiner. The P.C.C. members acting as the charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for the year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed. It is my responsibility to:

examine the accounts under section 142 of the Charities Act to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 142(2)(b) of the Charities Act, and to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

**Basis of the Independent Examiner's statement.**

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission and the guidance published in PCC Accountability (The Charities Act 2011 and the P.C.C.) 2<sup>nd</sup> edition). An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with these records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required for an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

**Independent examiner's statement.**

In connection with my examination, no material matter has come to my attention which gives me cause to believe that in any material respect: accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act, or the accounts do not accord to the accounting records.

I 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 is reached.

Signed: *Alan A. Clements* Date 29<sup>th</sup> April 2024

Name Rev'd A. A. Clements MA, ACIB, FCIE.

Fellow of the Association of Charity Independent Examiners.

Address 12 Carleton Road, Great Knowley, Chorley, Lancs PR6 8TQ

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# Accounts

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**The Parish Church of Great Harwood, St Bartholomew and St John**  
**ANNUAL VESTRY & ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING**

**Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> April 2023 at 7.00pm**  
**In church**

**AGENDA**

1. Opening Prayers
2. Apologies for absence
3. Minutes of the last meeting, 28<sup>th</sup> April 2022
4. Matters arising from the minutes

**5. ANNUAL VESTRY MEETING**

- a) Election of Churchwardens

**6. ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING**

- a) Report on the revision of the Electoral Roll
- b) Election of up to 15 Lay Representatives to Parochial Church Council

**The following report will be available in advance:**

- c) Annual Report and Financial Statements approved by the Parochial Church Council

**The following reports will be available at the meeting:**

- d) Churchwardens' report
- e) Deanery Synod report
- f) Terrier and Inventory (available for consultation on request)
- g) Appointment of Independent Examiner
- h) Safe from Harm Policy and Procedures
- i) Vicar's Remarks
- j) Any Other Business as notified at the beginning of the meeting

## Annual Report of the Parochial Church Council for the year ended 31 December 2022

### Objectives and Activities.

The PCC is aware of the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit in their publication 'The Advancement of Religion for Public Benefit' and have given regard to it in their administration of the Parish. The PCC believes that, by fulfilling its responsibility to work together with the incumbent, and to co-operate in all matters of concern and importance for the promotion of the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical, it provides a benefit to the public by –

- providing resources and facilities for public worship, pastoral care and spiritual, moral and intellectual development, both for its members and for anyone who wishes to benefit from what the Church offers;
- promoting Christian values, and service by members of the Church in the Parish to its community, to the benefit of individuals and society as a whole.

### THE PARISH

Great Harwood is an ancient market town which prospered as a mill town in the nineteenth century and has developed further with light industry and suburban housing. A chapel-of-ease on the current site was recorded in 1335; the present church, originally known as St Lawrence, is largely 15th-16th Century. It was extended in the 19th century to serve a growing population, and St John's Church (closed in 2007 and now sadly demolished) was built in 1912.

St Bartholomew's is a welcoming congregation with a wide age-range which works with other churches in Great Harwood to serve our town; the Ecumenical Partnership was formed in 2007 to help us work, worship and witness together.

Over the last 12 months we have seen a return to what we would describe as 'normal service' following the covid pandemic. It has been good to see increasing numbers coming to worship and church social events have been able to take place once more – and we hope to build on this further in the coming year. One day I personally enjoyed was the Church BBQ which we held to mark St Bartholomew's Day and it was great to see people of all ages, from all sections of the church fellowship, come together for some fun, food and fellowship!

Despite the good things which have been happening, however, it has not been an easy year for any of us. The invasion of Ukraine and many other factors have ensured that bills and prices have all risen dramatically and finances have been squeezed for everyone. This is especially true for the church as we also saw a drop in income as a direct result of the pandemic and we are yet to fully recover from this. Over this last year the PCC have tried to keep the right balance between ensuring that the ministry of the church continued to expand whilst also trying to reduce costs as much as practically possible. My personal thanks go to all the members of the PCC for their commitment and support during these challenging times.

In October, we held our annual Open Day in Church and I would like to thank all who contributed to the success of that day. A few concerns were later expressed to me that the leaflet which we distributed in the community this year did not directly say that it was going to be a 'Gift Day' and that it might have left people a little confused. The reason for this was because I was not comfortable sending out a request for people to give money to the Church in the middle of a recession and when many families were struggling to even pay their bills. I was not certain that it was the right message to give at that particular time. Hopefully, as things improve for us all over the coming year, we will return to having a formal 'Gift Day' next October. I also feel that, as the Church has been 'eating into' its reserves over the last few years, that the time is coming when we will need to have a full Stewardship Campaign, covering both the financial situation and how we all use our time and energies to further the mission of the church. As you know from my introduction to the annual report last year, myself and the members of the PCC had begun to look at ways to develop our worship and our outreach into the community. Two of the main things which have happened since then have been the introduction of new worship services. Our Sunday 'Breakfast Church' service has replaced the more traditional early service and this has enabled families to have breakfast at church and worship together before moving on to the many sporting activities and family occasions which tend to happen on a Sunday. This has been a great success and we now have a regular attendance at this service of between 25 & 30 people. In addition to this, our 'Saturday Night Mix' event has been introduced and takes place on the first Saturday of each month at Bank Mill House. This is a great way to build relationships with families and people who wouldn't normally attend traditional worship. This is an event with games, activities, food and worship and families from both St Bartholomew & St John's Schools join us for these times together.

Another positive thing is that it appears, at least for the moment, that the on-going saga of the Church Clock has been solved and it finally seems to be working as it should! Mechanisms have been repaired and replaced and the netting which was snagging on the hands has been removed. Also removed were the Pigeons which had nested in part of the mechanism itself and the Tower has been made more secure to stop them from returning in the future.

It has, once again, been a year filled with much sadness as we have said goodbye to a number of long-time members of the fellowship who have died and left huge gaps not only in the lives of their families but in the church fellowship as well. Our thoughts and prayers continue to be with all those who have lost loved ones over this past year.

Although there are many challenges which continue to lay ahead of us in the coming year, I do not doubt that God is moving in this place and there is so much evidence to confirm this. There is a great deal for us to be thankful for in our fellowship and, as I have often spoken about, it is so important that we, as Christians, are able to shine with the light of Christ and bring hope, joy and support to those around us who feel overwhelmed with all that is happening in the world. So many people here work tirelessly to enable the worship and the fellowship to continue and also to take care of our wonderful Church building. I would personally like to thank our Wardens Dick and Tracey, for supporting me in some of the changes that have been introduced to our worship and for helping keep the focus of the PCC on mission and not just maintenance. Thanks once again to Cynthia who has remained faithful in her work as Parish Administrator, ensuring that things are done both timely and efficiently – and for also reminding me of the things I needed to do as well – sometimes more than once!

Thanks also to all those who assist our worship, especially to John and the Choir. Also to those who serve the church through reading Lessons, leading Intercessions or assisting with Communion and to the Sidespeople who ensure people receive a warm welcome into Church. Some people, who have joined the fellowship over the last year, have told me of how welcomed they felt from the moment they first came into Church. It is so important that we all play a part in this essential ministry as, if we don't get that right, we might as well lock the doors and go home. It is also wonderful to see such a vibrant and active Mothers Union who not only provide wonderful fellowship for many but also continue to contribute in so many practical ways to the life of the Church.

There is also so much work which goes on behind the scenes that is essential for the Church to grow – the essential work of the PCC; David and all those who help to keep the Church finances in order; the Baptism Team; Olwen, our Safeguarding Officer, who ensures that the Church not only complies with legal requirements but is also a safe place for anyone who comes here; those on the Walls and Within Committee who, led by Mark, look after the Church building and grounds; those who serve as School Governors in our two wonderful schools. We are still trying to find a couple more governors (one for each school) so please let me know if you can think of someone who would be able to step into that important role. The Events Committee have not met formally this year but I look forward to us being able to build for the future and plan some more times of fun and fellowship in the coming year. Thanks also to those who work in the church grounds and on the Flower Committee and ensure that, both inside and out, the Church reflects the wonder of God's creation; those who maintain our 'on-line' ministry; those who help to clean the Church or serve refreshments. All of this work is greatly appreciated and enriches the life of the whole Church.

Even though the coming year will continue to provide many challenges, both financial and practical, it will also bring many opportunities for us to grow in faith and to share the gospel with people in our Community. As I often say, it is so important that we continue to hold a difficult balance between respecting and treasuring the past, whilst also being able to look forward as a church and to sense where the Spirit of God is leading us. Even though, as we moved out of the pandemic, things began to improve for many people, the dramatic events in the world have ensured that many people still struggle to make ends meet and also with the pressures of everyday life. Many in our community are struggling enormously and it is so important that our focus as a church finds new ways of offering comfort and support to them. As Jesus taught us, the heart of the gospel message is that we follow the example of Christ Jesus Himself and ensure that we love others as He has loved us.

I am looking forward to what lies ahead for us as a fellowship and my comments in the Mission & Vision section of this report will give more information on some of the things we are hoping to develop in the coming year. May God continue to bless you and your families and enable each of you to find the role which you can play in sharing the love of Christ with others and in helping to build the Kingdom of God, here in Great Harwood.

*Revd. Graham Birch,  
March 2023*

## **The Year 2022–highlights**

Now that COVID is not as restrictive we are beginning to hold Social Events again. During August a BBQ was held in the Vicarage Gardens and in December Simply Carols, with a Brass Band, and an "Open Mic" evening of Poetry, Prose and Song were held in Church.

In 2023 more events are being planned with the return of our successful "Race Night"

## Mission and Vision

It is nice, coming to write this part of the annual report to be able to see that we have moved forward with most of the objectives which we set in last year's report.

We have been able to return to a more 'normal' main service on a Sunday and now have full distribution of the elements during Holy Communion, whilst also giving the opportunity for people to just receive the wafer if they prefer.

We have introduced our 'Breakfast Church' service at 8.30am each Sunday and this has been a great success with many people and families finding this a good way for them to worship together and have a time of fellowship. I want to thank all the extra volunteers who have been faithful in coming to church early on Sunday mornings to make drinks and serve breakfast when they could have been having an extra hour in bed at home! Many of those who come to this new service are very appreciative of it and of how it allows them to worship together as a family before setting off on busy days of sport or visiting their families.

We have also started a monthly family event, based at Bank Mill House, where families can come together for some games, crafts, food and worship. Attendance has varied greatly at this over the year but it is something which I feel is worth continuing with and I hope to develop it a little more this year with the use of more technology which could enhance the worship and some of the games. Parents and children from both of our Church Schools have been attending these events – many of who would not come to worship in Church – and I think it is a great way of building relationships with them in an informal setting. Thanks once again to all the church volunteers who have helped me in putting these events together.

Targets for the coming year will be:

- 1) To apply for a grant to enable us to revamp the Church extension area as this is now looking very 'tired' and needs a lot of work. As we are using this area much more for food preparation and group meetings, it really does need improving. Although we are restricted in what we can actually do, due to the limited space available to us, we hope to fit new kitchen units, new flooring and lighting and also decorate it to make it a lighter and much more pleasant area to be in;
- 2) To continue to develop our new services and to build on the work that has been done over the last year;
- 3) To re-form our Church Worship Group to look at how we can enhance our regular worship and provide new services for special events;
- 4) Following on from our Advent and Lenten study groups, we are hoping to hold more regular Bible Studies with a balance of studying passages of the Bible in more detail whilst also discussing and reflecting on some of the 'major (and sometimes controversial) issues' that are facing the Church as a whole;
- 5) Plan into our diary more Church social events where we can share fellowship together;
- 6) Make preparations for a full Stewardship Campaign later in the year.

I know that many of us were hoping that this last year would have seen us put behind all the struggles due to the pandemic and that things would move in a more positive direction. The invasion of Ukraine and many other factors beyond our control have ensured, however, that it has continued to be another year of struggle for many people. In a world where there is so much bad news and darkness surrounding us, it is so important that we do what we can to bring light and hope to those around us.

As I am writing these words, we are just about to celebrate the most amazing day in the whole Church year – the wonderful celebration of our Lord Jesus rising from the dead and winning the final victory over sin and death once and for all time. It is regularly reflecting on this wondrous event and reminding ourselves of just how incredible is the love of God, which will give us strength to continue to shine even when there is much darkness around us. Just before Jesus ascended back to His Father's side in heaven, He instructed His disciples to go and proclaim the gospel to all people and that same command comes to each of us today. Although I have been writing a little about how I hope the Church will move forward in the coming year, the greatest resource we have as a fellowship is the people of God who worship here. Mission isn't just for the Vicar and the PCC to consider but it is something which should be at the heart of all we do as Christians.

In the coming year, I ask each of you also to prayerfully consider what God is asking you to do to enable His love to reach out to more people in this community. Set yourself a little target and pray that God will give you the strength to enable you to complete it – He has already given you the gifts and talents that you need! Do not be overcome by evil but pray that the glorious light of God will transform even the darkest places in the world and may the victory which is ours in Christ be something that enriches our lives and strengthens us in His service.

*Revd Graham Birch  
March 2023*

## RESOURCES

- **Stewardship** needs revisiting as the church is still dependent on legacy income (for which we are most grateful →) to be able to maintain the building; Regular giving has declined, which may be connected with reduced attendance after Covid.
- We record our particular thanks to all who have stepped down, and our gratitude to the many volunteers who contribute their time, skills and resources to enable the life, worship and outreach of the parish to flourish

## THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

### Business During the Last Year

Since the last APCM held in April 2022, the PCC has met a total of 10 times in Church with Rev Graham Birch as the Chair.

### Church Maintenance/Spending

- The clock has worked on and off throughout the year with many different issues. Each of these has been resolved with no further cost.
- Hope Street Cemetery wall has been repaired and plans are being made to try to involve the community in its upkeep.
- There was a break-in to the vestry in October. Nothing of value was stolen. The alarm system has had some improvements since, and the PCC agreed to a cost of £180 for an ongoing alarm maintenance contract.
- The PCC approved the cost of two new tables for the breakfast club and two small amounts to help local families in need.
- Plans are currently being drawn up to renovate the extension and a matched funding grant from the Diocese is being applied for to assist.
- A Health and Safety inspection has been completed and the actions from this will be addressed throughout the coming year.

### Changes in PCC appointed positions

Over the last year the PCC reappointed Louise Howarth as a foundation governor at St John's and Brenda Anthony at St Bartholomew's. Pauline Russell and Mohammed Shazad were also appointed as new governors at St John's. A new Deputy Head has also been appointed at St. John's.

### Other Matters Discussed

- **Stewardship Campaign:** It was decided that now was not the right time for a Stewardship campaign, but ideas would continue to be discussed.
- **Safeguarding:** There is a new safeguarding hub on the Diocese website with details of PCC members' training. The Safeguarding Officer role profile was signed off by the PCC as well as Action Plans level 2 and 3. The Safer Recruitment Policy was also signed off by the PCC.
- **Church Worship:** There has been the introduction of the new 8.30am Breakfast Service and a monthly Saturday Night Mix from 4.30pm-6.00pm which includes games and food. Both have been successful in drawing families back to the church. There has been a rise in congregation numbers throughout the year, but this has been slow and is still not back to Pre-covid levels.
- **Events:** Other events throughout the year have included The Town Charter Fair where the church made £250 on their stalls, the Vicarage Garden Party, a Christmas Meal at Churchfield House, an Open Mic night and Simply Carols with a brass band.

## FINANCIAL REVIEW

This has been another challenging year. At the end of December 2022, the parish share was paid in full, the General Fund showed an excess of expenditure over income of £ 19,676. Gift Aid refund from HMRC was £6544.

We must increase our income year on year to preserve our church and maintain its mission for years to come.

## **Risk Assessment.**

The PCC recognises that in relation to 'Risk Assessment', risk is defined as 'the threat of any action or event which will adversely affect an organisation's ability to achieve its objectives and execute its strategies'. It also accepts that the term 'risk' can include any circumstances that may, or do, have an adverse effect, and is wider than financial matters. 'Risks' relate not only to the negative consequences of a threat, but also to the impact of not taking advantage of opportunities.

The PCC recognises it requires a practical Health and Safety Policy covering activities for the church, the churchyard and the Hope Street Burial Ground. This is reviewed on a regular basis. An Accident Book is maintained.

The contents and obligations of the Equality Act 2010 and the and the 2019 Data Protection Regulation are known and complied with to the best of the PCC's ability. The PCC is aware of its responsibilities in respect of the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 in its requirement to carry out a fire assessment to identify any possible dangers and risks, to take action to minimise the risks and to create a plan to deal with any emergencies, and also to write up and keep a record of its findings and to review its assessment annually. The PCC has appointed Mr David Bond to be the responsible person to put these things into operation.

There are Safeguarding Policies in place and the Safeguarding Officer is Mrs Olwen Sudders. DBS checks have been carried out in respect of all persons dealing regularly with young people and vulnerable adults. Whilst it is impossible to eliminate all risks and their consequences, efforts are constantly made to minimise such occurrences.

## **Reserves Policy.**

The PCC has reviewed its policy and, conscious of the current financial situation of the parish will seek to maintain at all times sufficient liquid funds to satisfy three months general expenditure at any one time whilst seeking to hold in reserve all surplus funds on interest bearing safe deposit accounts such as offered by the CBF.

**Membership and Attendance**

	2019	2020	2021	2022
Number on the Electoral Roll at the APCM	195	191	190	184

<b>Quiet Common Sun (Now Breakfast Comm)</b>	1364	286	0	594
Celebration Communion on Sunday	4054	1689	2331	2707
Quiet Communion on Wednesday	1103	436	277	481
	<b>6521</b>	<b>2411</b>	<b>2608</b>	<b>3782</b>

This is split as follows:

Adults	5588	1921	2305	3350
Young people under 16	933	490	243	432

The attendance at quiet communion on Wednesday includes those who have also attended a Sunday service. The average weekly attendance at all services, without double counting these individuals, was:

Adults	96	15	43	65
Young people under 16	17	6	5	8
	<b>113</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>73</b>

Attendance at other services and groups:

Pram Service (monthly)	143	0	0	161
Saturday Mix at Bankmill House	0	0		89

Attendance at Easter and Christmas:

Easter Day	178	0	68	109
Christmas <i>including Crib Service and Roaming Nativity</i>	472	48	76	106

Total attendance at other holy day and special services held at the church was:

Other holy day and special services	366	126	165	92
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Communicants throughout the year at the main services

Quiet Communion on Sunday	1260	284	0	358
Communion on Sunday	2350	1040	1901	2253
Quiet Communion on Wednesday	957	174	150	481
	<b>4567</b>	<b>1498</b>	<b>2051</b>	<b>3092</b>

Holy communion is also taken on a monthly basis to a number of individuals in their homes and to nursing homes and sheltered accommodation for the elderly.

Home communicants	196	29	2	21
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Occasional Offices (celebrations of life events)

Baptisms	27	2	14	28
Candidates presented for Confirmation	0	0	8	0
Weddings	9	0	3	7
Dedication of/Thanksgiving for a Marriage	NIL	0	0	1
Funerals/Memorial Service, of which 15 (2021 :11) began with a service in church	23	22	26	24

## Administrative Information

St Bartholomew's Church is situated on Church Lane, Great Harwood. It is part of the Diocese of Blackburn within the Church of England. The correspondence address is The Vicarage, Church Lane, Great Harwood BB6 7PU.

The Parochial Church Council is a body corporate under section 3 of the Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1965 and is a charity registered with the Charity Commission (no.1136334).

PCC members who have served from 20<sup>th</sup> May 2022 until the date this report was approved are:

Clergy	Revd Graham Birch, vicar (Chair)	
Church Wardens	Mr Richard Ferley (Vice Chair) To APCM May 2023 Mrs. Tracey Williams (Vice Chair) to APCM May 2023	
Representatives on the Whalley Deanery Synod	Mr Mark Exton Mrs. Rachel Shovelton	To APCM July 2023 To APCM July 2023
Elected Members	Mrs Jennifer Entwistle Mrs Karen Exton Mrs Janet Hall Mr David Heaton Mrs Maxine Houldsworth Mrs Margaret Ogden Mrs Cynthia Parkinson Mrs Denise Sheriff Mrs. Olwen Sudders Mr. Ross Shekleton Mr. Les Kilsby Mrs. Joyce Miller	From APCM 2018 From APCM 2016 From APCM 2015 (Treasurer) From APCM 2015 From APCM 2018 From APCM 2014 From APCM 2021 From APCM 2017 (Safeguarding Officer) From APCM 2021 From APCM 2021 From APCM 2022
In attendance	Mrs Lucy Bell (Secretary)	From APCM Oct 2020

### Structure, governance and management.

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules 2020. All church attenders are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC. The Standing Committee is the only committee to be in place by church law. It has the power to transact the business of the PCC between meetings, subject to ratification by the PCC. Its members were the Vicar and Churchwardens together with Mark Exton and Margaret Ogden. The committee have not met during the year. It is considered that all PCC members and any others who could be understood to be 'managers' in the activities and affairs of the Parish of St. Bartholomew and St. John Great Harwood are deemed to be 'fit and proper' persons under the terms of the Finance Act 2010. In service training is available to PCC Members as and when required.

Approved by the PCC at its meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> March 2023 and signed on their behalf by



Vicar and Chair of the Parochial Church Council

**ST BARTHOLOMEW'S & ST JOHN'S CHURCH**  
**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER 2022**

GENERAL FUND	UNRESTRICTED	2022	2022	2021	2021
		£	£	£	£
<b><u>RECEIPTS</u></b>					
<b>VOLUNTARY GIVING</b>					
GRANT (energy)		1787		NIL	
LEGACIES		NIL		51470	
PLEDGES		12138		14196	
OPEN COLLECTION		2637		1059	
STANDING ORDERS		11459		9777	
GIFT DAY		1635		3750	
GIFT AIDED REFUND (hmrc)		6544		5910	
SUMUP (card donations)		1906		655	
			38106		86817
<b>OTHER VOLUNTARY RECEIPTS</b>					
DONATIONS INC GIFT AID ENVELOPES		4158		4544	
			4158		4544
<b>RECEIPTS FROM CHURCH ACTIVITIES</b>					
PCC (INC ASSIGNED FEES)		12696		9584	
			12696		9584
<b>RECEIPTS FROM INVESTMENTS</b>					
DIVIDENDS (outstanding 229) +605=834		605		807	
BANK INTEREST		12		4	
			617		811
<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>			<b>55577</b>		<b>101756</b>

<b>PAYMENTS</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2021</b>
<b>GRANTS</b>				
BARCHESTER	1573		1573	
				1573
<b>CHURCH ACTIVITIES</b>		1573		
DIOCESAN PARISH SHARE				
(1158+40339=41497) 2021			40339	
(1017+44592=45609) 2022	44592			
DIOCESAN FEES	5009		4542	
CHURCH RUNNING COSTS	4463		3150	
WEDDING & FUNERAL COSTS	2460		2005	
INSURANCE	4070		3869	
GAS	1908		1650	
ELECTRICITY	1813		620	
WATER	449		214	
PHONE & INTERNET	354		284	
WEBSITE & MANAGEMENT	660		660	
VICARAGE EXPENSES (COUNCIL TAX & WATER)	4014		3911	
VICARS EXPENSES	721		899	
CHURCH MAINTENANCE	1632		3501	
PURCHASE OF FLOWERS	260		417	
VISITING VICARS FEES	175		288	
		72580		66349
<b>CHURCH MANAGEMENT &amp; ADMINISTRATION</b>				
CHURCH ADMINISTRATION & HONORARIUM	1000		1000	
INDEPENDENT EXAMINATION	100		100	
		1100		1100
<b>TOTAL PAYMENTS</b>		75253		69022
EXCESS OF RECEIPTS OVER PAYMENTS		-19676		32734
BANK ACCOUNTS AT 1ST JANUARY 2022		68722		35988
BANK ACCOUNTS AT 31ST DECEMBER 2022		49046		68722

**Statement of Assets and Liabilities as at 31st December 2022**

	General Fund Unrest	Walsh Bequest Restr	Parish M.F. Restr	Holyie Legacy Restr	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
<b>Monetary Assets.</b>	£	£	£	£		
Barclays	36372				36372	56665
Barclays	12674				12674	12057
D of B		20341			20341	23041
D of B			4563		4563	5169
D of B				3118	3118	3531
<b>Total</b>	<b>49046</b>	<b>20341</b>	<b>4563</b>	<b>3118</b>	<b>77068</b>	<b>100463</b>

Debtors  
Creditors

Non-monetary assets

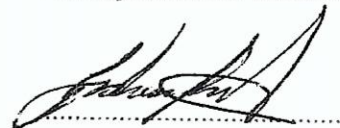
Notes:

1. The Walsh Bequest consists of 985 shares in the CBF investment fund.
2. The Parish Memorial Fund consists of 221 shares in the CBF investment fund.
3. The Hoyle Legacy consists of 151 shares in the CBF investment fund.
4. The financial statements of the PCC have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 using the Receipts and Payments basis.
5. The following assets are recognised but not necessarily valued in the Statement of Assets and Liabilities : moveable church furnishings held by church wardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty of disposal.
6. The expenses paid to clergy may include a small immaterial proportion which relates to their function as PCC members. No payments were made to PCC members for acting as PCC members.

Approved by the PCC at its meeting on

And signed on its behalf by

23rd February 2023



**Accounting Policies for the P.C.C. of the Parish of  
Great Harwood, St. Barnolomew and St. John.**

The financial statements of the P.C.C. have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 using the R & P basis.

**Funds.**

General funds represent the funds of the P.C.C. that are not subject to any special restrictions regarding their use and are available for application to the general purposes of the P.C.C. These include funds designated for a particular purpose by the P.C.C.

The accounts include monetary transactions, assets and liabilities for which the P.C.C. can be held responsible.

They do not include the accounts of other Church groups that owe an affiliation to another body, nor those that are informal gatherings of Church members.

Subject to the above, receipts and payments include income as received and expenditure when irrevocably paid.

**Statement of Assets and Liabilities.**

The following assets are recognized but not necessarily valued in the Statement of Assets and Liabilities:

Movable church furnishings held by the churchwardens on special trust for the P.C.C. and which require a faculty for disposal.

Land and buildings held on behalf of the P.C.C.

Other fixtures, fittings and office equipment where the P.C.C. is free to dispose of such assets without faculty and where the original cost exceeded £1,000.

Investments held beneficially by the P.C.C.

The following assets are recognized and a monetary value given as part of the description in the Statement of Assets and Liabilities:

Amounts owing from the Inland Revenue where a formal claim has been made.

Any other amounts owing to the P.C.C. including church hall lettings and insurance claims.

Legacies where formal notification of entitlement and amount has been received by 31<sup>st</sup> December by the P.C.C.

Closing bank balances as shown in the receipts and payment account.

The following liabilities are recognized in the Statement of Assets and Liabilities:

Any loans or overdrafts advanced to the P.C.C.

Any arrears of Diocesan Parish Share

Creditors for goods or services where the supply has been received and invoiced by 31<sup>st</sup> December.

Address 15 Carleton Road, Great Knowley, Cholely PR6 8TQ

Fellow Association of Charity Independent Examiners.

Name Revd. A. A. Clements

Signed.



Date 18<sup>th</sup> April 2023.

I 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 is reached.

the accounts do not accord to the accounting records.  
accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act, or  
cause to believe that in any material respect:

In connection with my examination, no material matter has come to my attention which gives me  
**Independent examiner's statement.**

statement below.

accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the  
that would be required for an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the  
the trustees concerning such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence  
consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from  
charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with these records. It also includes  
P.C.C.), 2<sup>nd</sup> edition). An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the  
Commission and the guidance published in PCC Accountability (The Charities Act 2011 and the  
My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity  
**Basis of the Independent Examiner's statement.**

to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Commission (under section 142(2)(b) of the Charities Act, and  
to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity  
examine the accounts under section 142 of the Charities Act

It is my responsibility to:

144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed.  
accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for the year under section  
The P.C.C. members acting as the charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the  
**Respective responsibilities of the P.C.C. and the examiner.**

Charity no. 1136334.

ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2022 as set out on pages eight to ten of this Report.  
Harwood in respect of the Financial Statements of the P.C.C. for the year  
members of the P.C.C. of the Parish of St. Bartholomew and St. John Great  
Independent Examiner's unqualified report to the  
C. of E. P.C.C.'s 2018.

**The Parish Church of Great Harwood, St Bartholomew and St John  
ANNUAL VESTRY & ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING  
Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> April 2022 at 7.30pm in Church**

**Present:** Revd Graham Birch, Margaret Ogden, Kay Whitney, Margaret Mallalieu, David Bond, Joan Bond, Les Kilsby, Brenda Humphrey, David Heaton, Mark Exton, Karen Exton, Keith Sudders, Olwen Sudders, Denise Sheriff, John Sheriff, Tracey Williams, Richard Ferley, Doreen Chadwick, Cynthia Parkinson, Lucy Bell

1. **Opening Prayers** by Revd Graham Birch
2. **Apologies for absence:** Joan Bartrum, Christine Heaton, Jennifer Heaton, Bill Humphreys, Gary Bond, Maxine Houldsworth, Janet Hall, Janis Wildeman
3. **Minutes of the last APCM meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> May 2021:** Proposed as a true record. Agreed unanimously and signed.
4. **Matters arising from the minutes:** There were no matters arising
5. **ANNUAL VESTRY MEETING:**
  - a. **Election of Church Wardens:** There were two nominations, Richard Ferley and Tracey Williams. Both unanimously elected and uncontested.
6. **ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING**
  - a. **Report on the revision of the Electoral Roll:** David Heaton gave the report on behalf of the Electoral Roll Officer Jennifer Entwistle. There are 199 members on this year's Electoral Role. Over the year 3 members have deceased and 2 new members have been added.
  - b. **Election of the Parochial Church Council:** There were 15 proposed and accepted nominations for the Parochial Church Council. They are Rachel Shovelton, Olwen Sudders, Karen Exton, Maxine Houldsworth, Janet Hall, Les Kilsby, Jennifer Entwistle, Ross Shekleton, Cynthia Parkinson, David Heaton, Tracey Williams, Margaret Ogden, Lauren Yates, Joyce Miller, Denise Sheriff.
  - c. **Annual Report and Financial Statement:** This has been approved by the PCC and Independent examiner. David Heaton read through the report. Due to a large legacy there was an increase of £32,734 in the funds over the year. There were no questions or comments. Graham thanked David for his help with the finances. Graham reiterated that we needed to maximise income in the coming year.
  - d. **Church Wardens Report:** There was nothing to report.
  - e. **Deanery Synod Report:** Mark Exton reported that the last meeting was in November 2020 so there was nothing to report since the last APCM. Mark Exton is to continue with his place on the Deanery Synod, but there is still one spare place. If anyone is interested they should speak to Graham or Mark.
  - f. **Terrier and Inventory:** The Church log is available to see at any time. Joyce has checked everything is correct. There were no further comments or questions.

- g. **Appointment of Independent Advisor:** Alan Clements is willing to continue being the Independent Examiner.
- h. **Safe from Harm Policy and Procedure:** Olwen stated that there wasn't a lot to report as things had still been quiet due to the pandemic. Some of the PCC members were due DBS checks. There are going to be some changes to the DBS checks and Olwen is soon to attend a meeting regarding this. Most of the PCC have now completed their Safeguarding training. No groups have started up yet but when they do risk assessments will need to be completed. Olwen mentioned that it would be good to have a second Safeguarding Officer. It was noted that the Risk Assessment section in the Annual Report still had David Bond's name in. This is to be reviewed. It was mentioned that Mother's Union do not have a risk assessment. Graham said that himself and Olwen would bring round a generic template and help set one up. All risk assessments for the building needed to be checked and updated if necessary.
- i. **Vicar's remarks:** One of the best things of the last year has been a gradual return to a normal pattern of worship as we have begun to move forward following all the various Covid restrictions. Although we need to be very aware that the pandemic is not yet over, I feel that the main focus for the coming year will be for us to move forward as a church as we try to make new links with people in our community.

Some of the concerns I mentioned last year regarding the finances of the church have been eased through a generous bequest and we are seeing an increase in our general giving as more people are returning to worship, we also have to consider the best ways of increasing our income and reducing our costs over the next few years.

Some of the practical arrangements for the times of worship which were stopped during Covid will be reintroduced, such as the practice of the Sidespeople processing the donations after the 10.00am service. We will also be re-introducing the Chalice at each of our Communion Services, for those who wish to receive it as the trials of this over the last few weeks have been well received.

We have continued to see an increase in the number of people booking their children in for Christenings, or themselves for Weddings, which not only help towards the accounts but also give us many opportunities to build relationship with new people in our community.

I know that many people have asked the question "When will everything be back to normal?" and, whilst I can understand their concerns, I also feel that this is a time for moving forward and not backwards. One of the ways in which I feel we need to do this is in terms of our Pattern of Worship.

With the support of the newly formed PCC there are a few things which I would like to trial in the coming year;

- Reintroduce an earlier Communion Service at 8.30am. Rather than this being the same as the 10.00am service without hymns (as it used to be), I would like to try a more relaxed 'Café style' service which could also provide a simple breakfast for people as well as them receiving communion. The main reason for this is the difficulty that many parents have attending Church due to the sporting commitments of their children on a Sunday. The hope is that this would enable people to still come to worship and something to eat before continuing on to their sporting activities;

- *Linked with the above will also be the introduction of a Saturday Evening Family Service, most likely based at Bank Mill House. This will begin once a month and will be a development of the Lighthouse Service which we used to have once a month in Church. The benefit of this to the existing congregation is that it will mean that we can ensure that there will always be a traditional Communion Service at 10.00am rather than some regular worshippers 'missing-out' whenever we held the Lighthouse Service at 10.00am.*

As well as the changes to the worship, we will also be having a lot more social events throughout the year, with celebrations for the Queen's Jubilee; a Garden Party for St Bartholomew's Day; a welcome return of the Race Night and many other things to help us all to re-connect with one another.

As usual, there are so many people to thank for all their hard work in ensuring that this wonderful place of worship is a safe space for all who enter into it and that the building and grounds are always looking so special. Too many to mention individually, but special thanks to those who help to lead our worship in various ways; to all those who work so hard behind the scenes helping with the finance; the secretarial tasks; the maintenance; the sidespeople; the Mothers Union; the gardeners and flower group; St Barts Tots; those involved with Baptism families and in helping people prepare for their Wedding; and all the uniformed groups.

A special mention, as always, has to go to the Church Wardens. This is a difficult job at the best of times and has been increasingly challenging for them over the last few years with all the changing requirements due to Covid restrictions and the resulting discontent amongst the congregation. Joyce and Dick have been a great support to me and we would not have been able to move forward as much as we have without their dedication.

A particularly special mention this year has to go to Joyce who is stepping down after a total of 13 years' service as Warden. As well as being someone totally committed to the Church, even despite great personal hardships, Joyce was also one of the main people who made Jacqui and myself feel so welcomed into the Church fellowship when we first moved here. I know that she will be continuing to support the Mission here at St Barts in so many ways, but I also know that 'stepping back' from being a Warden will not be an easy thing for her. As well as my heartfelt thanks I would also like to ask you to continue to pray for Joyce as she adjusts to her new role in the Church fellowship – whatever form that may take!

Often, after a time of struggle, God pours out His blessing on His people, and I firmly believe that this will be the case here at St Barts. If we can together continue to seek God's guidance and look for ways that we can be a blessing to the people in our community, then I do not doubt that the fellowship will grow in both numbers and in spirituality and we will see God's Spirit moving among us in many ways. I am looking forward with genuine excitement to the future that God has in store for us all!

- j. **Any other business:** Graham was asked, now that communion was being held at the front of church, whether there could be some sort of order to the way people go up and then back to their seats. A one way system was suggested and the use of sidespersons to assist.

## St Bartholomew and St John's Mothers' Union

The theme for MU in 2022 was The Time for Transformation is Now. Time moved us on from the difficulties of the Covid pandemic of 2020 and 2021 as we were finally able to meet as normal throughout 2022 with a full diary of activities.

MU members helped with welcoming couples to the church Wedding Welcome event held in March by providing breakfast in the form of coffee and pastries. It is always lovely to host this event where couples are able to meet with the vicar, the organist and the flower committee to help with the finer details of their wedding preparations in church.

MU members of the Baptism Team helped with preparation and baptism throughout the year and in sending of Baptismal Anniversary cards inviting children and their parents or guardians to St Barts Tots group.

Our charitable giving within the branch continued. During Lent we collected money from our jars for our usual Lent collection for MU charities. In June we held our annual Beetle Drive in aid of the AFIA caravan. The caravan provides holidays for those in need of a break and the money we raise helps in funding this important facility. Those who attend welcome the chance to take a well needed holiday. In June we had a stall at the Gt Harwood Platinum Street Party, held to celebrate Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth's Platinum Jubilee. Although the weather was unseasonably cold we managed to raise funds for church and MU Charities. In October, following a visit and a talk by Mrs Gill Ireland, our Diocesan MU President about the ongoing work with women prisoners, we collected a large range of toiletries and other items that were then distributed to women when they leave prison to reside in Edith Rigby House operated by the Probation Service. Our continued help with charities such as this is always gratefully appreciated.

Our social events included lunch at Churchfield House in July, rather than an outing. This was extremely enjoyable and made a lovely alternative to our usual coach trip. We held our annual Walk to Whalley in August finishing with lunch at Tastebuds. Those who found the walking more difficult joined us for this enjoyable get together. In December we

gathered at the Calf's Head in Worston for our annual Christmas lunch and small prizes were given to those with lucky raffle tickets.

It is with great sadness that we have said our final goodbyes to three loyal and faithful members of our MU branch this year: Mrs Sheila Beaumont, Mrs Joan Bartram and Mrs Maureen Harrison. Our guards of honour and floral tributes were received with much appreciation by all their families. All three funerals reflected their lifelong commitment to Mothers' Union and they will be greatly missed by us all.

Our branch had a number of interesting speakers in 2022. Eddie Adams gave a 'Talk the Walk' which was all about his amazing pilgrimage to the Camino de Santiago in Spain. In April Gill Ireland, the MU Diocesan President gave a talk about her work in Prisons. In May we welcomed Elana Roma, from the Lancashire Refugee Integration Team, who informed us about the process for re-homing people from Ukraine. We held a Quiet Communion Service in September which was lead by Reverend Graham Birch. October's meeting was our annual Wave of Prayer when, along with other MU Branches, prayers are offered to the MU Branches around the world. Yvonne Pinder came along in November and demonstrated how she makes her 'Pinny Pots' from paper napkins. She also had some pots on sale and she donated a special plant pot that she'd made especially with 'St Bartholomew & St John's MU inscribed on the side. This was later raffled during our December Christmas meal held at the Calf's Head. Our final Christmas meeting was very festive. The Christmas table was laid out with crackers and hats and Norma Roe kindly provided the festive food in celebration of her special birthday.

This was another great year at St Bartholomew and St John's MU full of fellowship, frivolity and fun. Everyone is welcome to come and join any of our meetings as a visitor. Just take a look at our agenda on the church notice board inside church or speak to Kay Whitney, the Branch Leader, who will happily answer any questions.

Although we are an active MU branch we are also an aging one. It is with great sadness that having served as Branch Leader for over 7 years (3 is the norm!) and to family commitments Kay will be stepping down from her role as Branch Leader at the end of 2023. We have been actively seeking a replacement from within the branch. Sadly no one feels able to take on this role so we put out this request to the whole of our church community that if you feel you could step into the breach please contact Kay.

# Churchwarden's Report

This is the end of Tracey's first year as Churchwarden. It's been a year of getting things back to a new normal: communion services as they were, a few social events such as the vicarage BBQ, which was a great success, gift day and Christmas services. All went well.

Breakfast service is going from strength to strength and Saturday mix is thriving.

Our thanks must be given to Graham for his service to the church. And to all the people in the background who put time, effort, care and love into the work they do for the church, we give a massive thank you.

At this time there is an overhaul of Health and Safety being done and fire regulations are being updated.

All the PCC are endeavouring to complete competencies set by the diocese.

It's been a year of learning and I believe I'm getting the hang of it; like a toddler I can now walk in Jesus' footsteps.

The hard work could be seen in church on Easter Sunday with a beautifully decorated church and full congregation. Long may it continue with the help of God.

Tracey and Dick

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# Accounts

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Working within Great Harwood Ecumenical Partnership  
**St Bartholomew and St John**  
**Parish of Great Harwood**



**For the year ended 31 December 2021**  
**of the Parochial Church Council**  
**Annual Report and Financial Statements**

**Vicar**  
 Revd Graham Birch  
 The Vicarage  
 Church Lane  
 Great Harwood  
 BB6 7PU

**Bank**  
 Barclays Bank plc  
 8-14 Darwen Street  
 Blackburn  
 BB2 2BZ

**Independent Examiner**  
 Revd Alan Clements MA, ACIB, FCIE  
 15 Carleton Road  
 Great Knowley  
 Chorley  
 PR6 8TQ

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Annual Report of the Parochial Church Council  
for the year ended 31 December 2021

Objectives and Activities

The PCC is aware of the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit in their publication 'The Advancement of Religion for Public Benefit' and have given regard to it in their administration of the Parish. The PCC believes that by fulfilling its responsibility to work together with the incumbent, and to co-operate in all matters of concern and importance for the promotion of the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical, it provides a benefit to the public by -

- o providing resources and facilities for public worship, pastoral care and spiritual, moral and intellectual development, both for its members and for anyone who wishes to benefit from what the Church offers;
- o promoting Christian values, and services by members of the Church in the Parish to its community, to the benefit of individuals and society as a whole.

THE PARISH

Great Harwood is an ancient market town which prospered as a mill town in the nineteenth century and has developed further with light industry and suburban housing. A chapel-of-ease on the current site was recorded in 1335; the present church, originally known as St Lawrence, is largely 15th-16th Century. It was extended in the 19th century to serve a growing population, and St John's Church (closed in 2007 and now sadly demolished) was built in 1912.

St Bartholomew's is a welcoming congregation with a wide age-range which works with other churches in Great Harwood to serve our town; the Ecumenical Partnership was formed in 2007 to help us work, worship and witness together.

Although over the last year the continuing restrictions imposed on us as a result of the covid pandemic have greatly affected what we could practically do as a church, it has been good to see us starting to move forward with our worship and to see some of the church groups beginning to meet more regularly again. This last year was particularly difficult for the PCC as they attempted to keep the right balance between ensuring people felt safe in church whilst we also began to 're-claim' the parts of our worship and fellowship that been lost during the pandemic. My thanks go to all the members of the PCC for their commitment and support during these challenging times.

As you know from my introduction to the annual report last year, prior to the national lockdown, myself and the members of the PCC had begun to look at ways to develop our worship and our outreach to the community and we had a number of things that we were just about to move forward with until the first lockdown hit us and everything had to be put 'on-hold'. Over this last year we have started to move forward with these plans whilst also continuing with our weekly on-line reflections for those who still felt uneasy returning to worship in person. Over the last 12 months, one of the positive things that we have seen is a gradual increase in church attendance and we hope to continue to build on this over the coming year. As well as this, we also hope to reintroduce many of our church social/fundraising events, such as the horse racing night, which will be making a welcome return later in the coming year.

In October, we held our annual Gift Day in Church and I would like to thank all who contributed to the success of the day. A few new people came to the church during the day and enjoyed looking round the building and learning something about its wonderful history. Money from this went toward the repair of the Church Clock and a new winding mechanism was fitted earlier in the year. As is sometimes the case when old mechanisms are maintained, however, the repair of one part often highlights issues in other areas. This unfortunately turned out to be the case with the clock itself and we are still having some problems with its reliability. It is continuing to be worked on and hopefully, before too long, it will be working as regular as well, clockwork!

It has also been a year with much sadness as we have said goodbye to a number of long-time members of the fellowship who have died and left huge gaps not only in the lives of their families but in the church fellowship as well. Our thoughts and prayers continue to be with all those who have lost loved ones this year.

On a more positive side, it was wonderful to be able to conduct a number of weddings in the church (most after numerous delays due to the pandemic) and we had a rush of parents wanting their children to be baptised as we had been unable to conduct christenings for large period of time during the pandemic. It was also particularly nice to be able to welcome Bishop Julian to the Church in November for our Confirmation Service, which saw 7 young people and one adult make a public commitment to their Christian faith.

Although there are undoubtedly many challenges which lay ahead of us this year, I do not doubt that God is moving in this place and there is so much to be thankful for in our fellowship. So many people work tirelessly to enable the worship and the fellowship to continue and also to take care of our wonderful Church building. I would personally like to thank our Wardens Joyce and Dick, for guiding me through a lot of the practical issues surrounding the life of the Church over the last year. Special thanks need to go to Joyce who, after 12 years of dedicated and faithful

service, has decided that this is the right time for her to step down as Warden. Joyce will finish her term of office in

May this year although she has already mentioned that she will continue with some of the practical tasks that she did in-addition to her duties as Warden. Thanks also to Cynthia who has continued her work as Parish Administrator despite all the challenges this last year has brought and for ensuring all the administrative that needs doing is done both timely and efficiently – and for also reminding me of the things I needed to do as well!

Thanks also to all those who assist our worship through reading Lessons, leading Intercessions or assisting with Communion and to the Sidespeople who ensure people receive a warm welcome into Church. I also want to thank all those who show such dedicated commitment to our children inside the Church and also to those in Uniformed groups who have also had to contend with the ever changing covid restrictions and to provide wonderful opportunities for our children and young people. It is also wonderful to see such a vibrant and active Mothers Union (and to induct new members over the last year) who not only provide wonderful fellowship for many but also contribute in many practical ways to the life of the Church.

There is also so much work which goes on behind the scenes that is essential for the Church to grow – the Baptism Team and the Pastoral visitors; Owen, our Safeguarding Officer, who ensures that the Church not only complies with legal requirements but is also a safe place for anyone who comes here; those on the Walls and Within Committee who, led by Mark, look after the Church building and grounds; those who serve as School Governors in our two wonderful schools. The Events Committee have not met regularly this year but I look forward to us being able to enjoy planning some times of fun and fellowship in the coming year. Thanks to those who work in the church grounds and on the Flower Committee and ensure that, both inside and out, the Church reflects the wonder of God's creation; those who maintain our 'on-line' ministry; those who help to clean the Church or serve refreshments. All of this work is greatly appreciated and enriches the life of the whole Church.

Even though we are now officially 'out of covid restrictions', I know that the coming year will continue to provide many challenges, both financial and practical, but it will also bring many opportunities for us to grow in faith and to share the gospel with people in our Community. We must do our best to look forward as a church and not just keep looking back for 'how things used to be'. This pandemic has brought many challenges and hardships but it has also given us time to reflect on what the most important things are for us as a church and highlighted more of the difficulties that people in our community are facing. We have to become a church who are always looking to build relationships with those outside of the fellowship and not just those who already attend worship. The Apostle Paul said that it was his desire 'to become all things to all people in order that he might save some' and we also have to continually reflect on the best way for us to do the same. That does not mean that we keep changing everything in the hope that something positive happens, but that the focus we have as a church is split equally between respecting what we already have whilst also looking outward in mission. We should always be looking to how we can adapt what we do to enable us to better bring the love of God to others and a part of that means reflecting different traditions in our worship and in providing new opportunities for people to explore the Christian faith in a safe environment. My comments in the Mission & Vision section of this report will give more information on how we hope to do this in the coming year. May God continue to bless you and your families and enable each of you to find the role which you can play in sharing the love of Christ with others and in helping to build the Kingdom of God, here in Great Harwood.

Revd. Graham Birch, March 2022

## The Year 2021-highlights

Unfortunately during the pandemic the church has been closed for most of the year and we have not been able to hold any social activities.

During the summer we were able to hold services with restrictions in place for wearing masks and social distancing but once more the country was in lockdown so services were no longer able to take place

## Mission and Vision

This last year has been a very strange one for most of us and that is certainly true of the life of the Church. Although the restrictions due to Covid were gradually removed as the year passed, the PCC were still faced with having to take decisions regarding how quickly we 'got things going' again. For everyone who was asked why we were reluctant to expand our worship and fellowship, we also had people expressing concern that we were already moving too quickly. As the Vicar, I felt that the main objective was ensuring that people felt safe whenever they came to worship and unusually for myself, I have tended to err on the side of caution.

As we approach the end of the church year, however, my feeling has been changing to one where we do what we can to move forward in a positive way, whilst still being aware of not taking unnecessary risks and ensuring that people continue to feel safe. The way in which we continue to do this will be the priority for the newly elected PCC.

Some of the priorities we have already identified for the coming year will be:

- (1) Starting on Easter Day, I intend that we will re-instate, for those who wish to receive it, the distribution of the chalice at our communion services;
- (2) That we have a trial of a new Sunday early morning service which will be of a more relaxed style and will likely include a simple breakfast. The main aim of this will be to offer a service where families who have children taking part in Sunday sporting activities would be able to attend worship at a time which does not clash with those activities. I understand that this will disappoint some people as it will mean that we do not return to having two 'traditional' Sunday communion services at 8.30am & 10.00am as we had before the first lockdown. It will, however, mean that the 10.00am service will be a communion every Sunday (rather than 3 out of 4) as we will also be replacing the 'Lighthouse Service' with an alternative time of family worship (see point 3). After much reflection as well as discussions with the PCC and members of the congregation, I do feel that, if we are to look to the future as well as the past, we have to offer a greater variety of worship styles and be more flexible in the types of services we offer;
- (3) Instead of having the Lighthouse Service once a month at 10.00am on a Sunday, I hope to develop a time for family worship and fellowship on a Saturday afternoon. This will include worship, challenge, fellowship and friendship and will take place once a month (to begin with) and will most likely take place at Bank Mill House so that we have more flexibility in the activities that we can offer. As I mentioned above, this will be a development of the Sunday Lighthouse Service and will also mean that the Sunday 10.00am service is always a traditional communion service, rather than it changing once a month to accommodate the Lighthouse service. Doing this will also mean that, if we want to increase the frequency of the new family service that we will be able to do so without it affecting the other Sunday services;
- (4) Increase the opportunities for social times of fellowship (and fundraising) which have been greatly missed by many of us whilst we have been under covid restrictions;

All of the above changes will ensure that we can offer a greater variety of services that will hopefully appeal to a greater variety of people and provide more opportunities for individuals and families to become part of the fellowship. The Wednesday service will continue to be a traditional spoken communion service for those who prefer a quieter, more reflective service and also those who may find it difficult to attend worship on a Sunday.

I know that, whenever changes are made to the pattern of worship that some people will not like the changes but I hope that you can appreciate that a lot of thought, prayer and reflection has gone into deciding upon these changes and that they have not been taken lightly. They are also being made to enable us to work towards drawing new people into the fellowship in a time when many people are turning away from traditional styles/patterns of worship. The desire to return to the way things used to be may be more comfortable for some of us but it ignores the many challenges that the church is facing and, ultimately, is the greatest risk to us ensuring that the church is active and vibrant for many generations to come.

After the struggles of the last two years, I hope that this coming year will be one where we can develop a more positive outlook on life and in how we view the role of the church in our community. It we can do this then we will see God's Spirit moving among us in so many different ways. This coming year will continue to bring many challenges for the people in our community and it is so important that we do all we can as God's people to shine the light of the gospel into the places of darkness around us and help to bring the love and peace of God to people of all ages.

Rev'd Graham Birch

## RESOURCES

- Stewardship needs revisiting as the church is still dependent on legacy income (for which we are most grateful) - to be able to maintain the building; regular giving declined slightly, which may be connected with reduced attendance.
- We record our particular thanks to all who have stepped down, and our gratitude to the many volunteers who contribute their time, skills and resources to enable the life, worship and outreach of the parish to flourish.

## THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

### Business during the year

Since the last APCM held in May 2021, the PCC has met a total of 7 times in Church.

#### Church Maintenance/Spending

The outstanding maintenance on the church from last year has been completed including the facade, cupboard repairs and tower door. The new winding mechanism for the clock has also been fitted, and although the clock has been working again, there are still some issues.

The week after the APCM meeting the new card reader was used in church for the first time. The PCC agreed to upgrade the Wifi to assist with the reader and to provide access to the internet from anywhere within church.

The PCC approved the spend of £500 to renovate the notice board saving approx. £1500 that it would have cost to purchase a new one.

IT systems still under consideration include fitting of CCTV to enable live streaming, repair/replace the Clavinova and updating the extension.

#### Changes in PCC appointed positions

Over the last year the PCC reappointed Gail Russo as a Governor at St. Bartholomew's. Heather Warden stepped down as a governor at St Johns.

Joyce Miller has informed the PCC that she will not be standing again as Church Warden.

#### Other Matters Discussed

- Stewardship Campaign: Ideas are being discussed for a stewardship campaign next year.
- Safeguarding: PCC members have been completing online training
- Confirmation: The Bishop was impressed with this year's candidates who are keen to participate in future church events.
- Covid Restrictions: A large proportion of the meetings has been taken up with discussing measures put into place to keep the congregation as safe as possible. Decisions have been made when the restrictions came in, and also when they have been lifted. This is still ongoing as the church slowly returns to its new normal.

## FINANCIAL REVIEW

This has been another unprecedented year, fortunately the Parish share was reduced to £41,497 which was paid in full. At the end of December 2021, the General Fund showed an excess of income over expenditure was £32,734. Gift Aid refund from HMRC was £5,910 and Legacy of £21,470 which was gratefully received.

Without the Legacy we would have a deficit of £18,736 for the year.

We must increase our income year on year to preserve our Church and maintain its mission for years to come.

## Risk Assessment.

The PCC recognises that in relation to 'Risk Assessment', risk is defined as 'the threat of any action or event which will adversely affect an organisation's ability to achieve its objectives and execute its strategies'. It also accepts that the term 'risk' can include any circumstances that may, or do, have an adverse effect, and is wider than financial matters. 'Risks' relate not only to the negative consequences of a threat, but also to the impact of not taking advantage of opportunities.

The PCC recognises it requires a practical Health and Safety Policy covering activities for the church, the churchyard and the Hope Street Burial Ground. This is reviewed on a regular basis. An Accident Book is maintained.

The contents and obligations of the Equality Act 2010 and the 2019 Data Protection Regulation are known and complied with to the best of the PCC's ability. The PCC is aware of its responsibilities in respect of the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 in its requirement to carry out a fire assessment to identify any possible dangers and risks, to take action to minimise the risks and to create a plan to deal with any emergencies, and also to write up and keep a record of its findings and to review its assessment annually. The PCC has appointed Mr David Bond to be the responsible person to put these things into operation.

There are Safeguarding Policies in place and the Safeguarding Officer is Mrs Owen Sudbers. DBS checks have been carried out in respect of all persons dealing regularly with young people and vulnerable adults. Whilst it is impossible to eliminate all risks and their consequences, efforts are constantly made to minimise such occurrences.

## Reserves Policy.

The PCC has reviewed its policy and, conscious of the current financial situation of the parish will seek to maintain at all times sufficient funds to satisfy three months general expenditure at any one time whilst seeking to hold in reserve all surplus funds on interest bearing safe deposit accounts such as offered by the CBF.

PARISH STATISTICS

Membership and Attendance

Number on the Electoral Roll at the APCM	192	192	190
	2019	2020	2021

Quiet Communion on Sundays	1384	1384	0
Celebration/All-age Communion on Sundays	4054	1689	2331
Quiet Communion on Wednesdays	1103	438	277
	6521	2411	2608

This is split as follows:

Adults	5588	1921	2302
Young people under 16	933	490	243

The attendance at quiet communion on Wednesdays includes those who have also attended a Sunday service. The average weekly attendance at all services, without double counting these individuals, was:

Adults	96	12	43
Young people under 16	17	8	2
	113	21	48

Attendance at other services and groups:

Youth Group	0	0	0
Time Out (term time)	0	0	0
Smartie Club (term time) Finished Mar. 2019	83	0	0
Pram Service (monthly)	143	0	0

Attendance at Easter and Christmas:

Easter Day	178	0	68
Christmas including Carol Service, Cup Service and Rosary Nativity	472	48	76

Total attendance at other holy day and special services held at the church was:

Other holy day and special services	366	126	162
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Communicants throughout the year at the main services (note that there is a monthly service without Holy Communion on Sundays at 1pm):

Quiet Communion on Sundays	1260	584	0
Celebration/All-age Communion on Sundays	2350	1040	1901
Quiet Communion on Wednesdays	927	174	150
	4537	1498	2051

Holy communion is also taken on a monthly basis to a number of individuals in their homes and to nursing homes and sheltered accommodation for the elderly.

Home communicants	196	29	6
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Occasional Offices (celebrations of life events)

Baptisms	27	2	14
Candidates presented for Confirmation	0	0	8
Weddings	9	0	3
Dedication of/Thanksgiving for a Marriage	NIL	0	0
Funerals/Memorial Services, of which 11 began with a service in church (2019:12)	23	22	26







Statement of Assets and Liabilities as at 31st December 2021.

Monetary Assets.	General Fund Unvest	Walsh Bedest Restr	Parish M.F. Restr	Holye Legacy Restr	Total 2021	Total 2020
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Barclays	26662				26662	24218
Barclays	12027				12027	11470
D of B		23041			23041	20144
D of B			2169		2169	4218
D of B				3231	3231	3087
Total	68722	23041	2169	3231	100463	63737
Debtors						
Creditors						
Non-monetary assets						

Notes:

1. The Walsh Bedest consists of 982 shares in the CBF investment fund
2. The Parish Memorial Fund consists of 221 shares in the CBF investment fund
3. The Holye Legacy consists of 121 shares in the CBF investment fund
4. The financial statements of the PCC have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 using the Receipts and Payments basis.
5. The following assets are recognised but not necessarily valued in the Statement of Assets and Liabilities : moveable church furnishings held by church wardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty of disposal.
6. The expenses paid to clergy may include a small immaterial proportion which relates to their function as PCC members. No payments were made to PCC members for acting as PCC members.

Approved by the P.C.C. At its meeting on

and signed on its behalf by

17th February 2022



**Accounting Policies for the P.C.C. of the Parish of Great Harwood, St Bartholomew and St John.**

The financial statements of the P.C.C. have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 using the R & P basis.

**Funds.**

General funds represent the funds of the P.C.C. that are not subject to any special restrictions regarding their use and are available for application to the general purposes of the P.C.C. These include funds designated for a particular purpose by the P.C.C.

The accounts include monetary transactions, assets and liabilities for which the P.C.C. can be held responsible. They do not include the accounts of other Church groups that owe an affiliation to another body, nor those that are informal gatherings of Church members.

Subject to the above, receipts and payments include income as received and expenditure when inevitably paid.

**Statement of Assets and Liabilities.**

The following assets are recognized but not necessarily valued in the Statement of Assets and Liabilities:

Movable church furnishings held by the churchwardens on special trust for the P.C.C. and which require a faculty for disposal.

Land and buildings held on behalf of the P.C.C.

Other fixtures, fittings and office equipment where the P.C.C. is free to dispose of such assets without faculty and where the original cost exceeded £1,000.

Investments held beneficially by the P.C.C.

The following assets are recognized and a monetary value given as part of the description in the Statement of Assets and Liabilities:

Amounts owing from the Inland Revenue where a formal claim has been made.

Any other amounts owing to the P.C.C. including church hall lettings and insurance claims.

Legacies where formal notification of entitlement and amount has been received by 31<sup>st</sup> December by the P.C.C.

Closing bank balances as shown in the receipts and payment account.

The following liabilities are recognized in the Statement of Assets and Liabilities:

Any loans or overdrafts advanced to the P.C.C.

Any arrears of Diocesan Parish Share

Creditors for goods or services where the supply has been received and invoiced by 31<sup>st</sup> December.

**Independent Examiner's unqualified report to the  
P.C.C. of Great Harwood, St. Bartholomew and St. John.**

This report of the financial statements of the P.C.C. for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2019, which are set out on pages 7 to 11, is in respect of an examination carried out in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 ('the Regulations') and section 142 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

**Respective responsibilities of the P.C.C. and the examiner.**

As members of the P.C.C. you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements. You consider that the audit requirement of the Regulations and section 144(2) of the Act does not apply. It is my responsibility to issue this report on those financial statements in accordance with the terms of the Regulations.

**Basis of this report.**

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 142(2)(b) of the Act and to be found in the Church Guidance, 2006 edition, issued by the Finance Division of the Archbishops' Council. That examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the P.C.C. and a comparison of the accounts with those records. It also includes considering any unusual items or disclosures in the financial statements and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

**Independent examiner's statement.**

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:  
(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Act; and  
- to prepare financial statements which accord with the accounting records and comply with the requirements of the 2011 Act and the Regulations have not been met; or

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

Signed ..... Date .....  
Fellow of the Association of Charity Independent Examiners.

Name Rev'd A.A. Clements MA, ACIB, FCIE.

Address 12 Carleton Road, Great Knowley, Chorley, Lancs PR6 8TQ

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# Accounts

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THE CHURCH  
OF ENGLAND

**Parish of Great Harwood  
St Bartholomew and St John**

*Working within Great Harwood Ecumenical Partnership*



**Annual Report and Financial Statements  
of the Parochial Church Council**

**For the year ended 31 December 2020**

**Vicar**

Revd Graham Birch  
The Vicarage  
Church Lane  
Great Harwood  
BB6 7PU

**Bank**

Barclays Bank plc  
5 Union Street  
Accrington  
BB5 1JY

**Independent Examiner**

Revd Alan Clements MA, ACIB, FCIE  
15 Carleton Road  
Great Knowley  
Chorley  
PR6 8TQ

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 **VISION**

HEALTHY CHURCHES TRANSFORMING COMMUNITIES

The Parish Church of Great Harwood, St Bartholomew and St John  
**ANNUAL VESTRY and ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING**  
**Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> October 2020 at 7.30pm in Church**

Present:

Revd Graham Birch, Dave Bond, Joan Bond, Jennifer Entwistle, Karen Exton, Mark Exton, Richard Ferley, Christine Heaton, David Heaton, Bill Humphreys, Brenda Humphreys, Joyce Miller, Margaret Ogden, Cynthia Parkinson, Denise Sheriff, Rachel Shovelton, Tracey Williams.

**1. Opening Prayers** by Revd Graham.

**2. Apologies for absence:**, Gary Bond, Jackie Bond, Janet Hall, Maxine Houldsworth, David Harrison, Maureen Harrison, Olwen Sudders, Janis Wildeman.

**3. Minutes of the 2019 APCM:** the minutes were accepted.

Proposed as a true record by Dick Ferley and seconded by Cynthia Parkinson they were unanimously agreed and signed.

**4. Matters arising:**

There were no matters arising

**5. ANNUAL VESTRY MEETING:**

**a) Election of Church Wardens** There was one nomination for the two vacancies; Joyce Miller, proposed by Brenda Humphreys and seconded by Bill Humphreys. She was willing to stand for office. She was unanimously elected.

**6. ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING:**

**a) Report on the Electoral Roll.** The Electoral Roll Officer, Jennifer Entwistle, gave her report. The Roll currently stands at 201 members. Two new members have been added during the year, one removed through death and one change of address. Jennifer was thanked for her work.

**b) Election of the Parochial Church Council.** There were 12 proposed and seconded nominations for 15 vacancies. The following were duly elected to serve and attend a short meeting to elect their officers after this meeting:- Jennifer Entwistle, Karen Exton, Janet Hall, David Heaton, Maxine Houldsworth, Margaret Ogden, Cynthia Parkinson, Rachel Shovelton, Denise Sheriff, Olwen Sudders, Heather Wearden, Janis Wildeman.

**c) Election of Deanery Synod Representatives.** There are three vacancies for representatives to serve for three years. One nomination had been received. Mark Exton, duly proposed and seconded, was unanimously elected to serve.

**d) Election of Sidespersons.** The following persons being nominated and seconded were appointed to serve as sidespersons:-

Dave Bond, Gary Bond, Karen Exton, Dick Ferley, Joanne Gibson, Tony Gilmartin, Christine Heaton, Bill Humphreys, Brenda Humphreys, Lesley Kelsall, Margaret Mallalieu, Derek Pickup, Olwen Sudders, Joe Taylor, Jack Walsh, Heather Wearden, Tracey Williams. The Chair expressed his thanks to them for the work they do.

**e) Annual Report and Financial Statement** approved by the PCC and the Independent Examiner. The Treasurer, David Heaton, read through the figures, highlighting where necessary. Raise the Roof, Accounts no 1 and no2 were closed during the year and the monies transferred to the PCC Account. We

had received a reduction on our Parish Share because we were classed as a deprived area parish. The overall trend however is the same, in that our expenditure exceeds our income every year.

**f) Churchwarden's Report.** This was published in the booklet.

**g) Deanery Synod Report.** Mark gave a verbal report saying that there seemed to have been a loss of momentum since Colin's departure and there had only been one meeting since our last Annual Meeting on the subject of Dementia Awareness.

**h) Reports of Committees and organisations** printed in the booklet were noted.

**i) The Terrier and Inventory.** This has been updated by Joyce and Cynthia and is available for consultation on request. There is also the church log book which details what happens during the church year.

**j) Independent Examiner.** Rev Alan Clements is willing to act again and was unanimously approved.

**j) Safe from Harm Policy and Procedures.** Olwen's report was read out to the meeting. "We continue to follow Diocese guidelines and there have been no safeguarding issues to report in the last 12 months. All DBS forms have been completed and updated when necessary. The Audit for Safeguarding has been completed but the action plan and the audit will need reviewing in the coming months. The P.C.C. gave permission for a Sunday School to begin and all correct procedures, role descriptions and risk assessments were followed. Due to Covid 19 all groups were cancelled and church closed. Before reopening church Graham and I completed a checklist to ensure church was safe to open and all safeguarding procedures followed. I ask everyone to be vigilant in reporting anything that concerns them as safeguarding has to be strictly adhered to. Although some procedures may seem tedious corners cannot be cut in ensuring the welfare of all and we need to set an example of and maintain high standards".

**k) Vicar's Remarks.** First of all a thank you to everyone who has helped to put together this report and all the work and commitment it represents. Last year the P.C.C. set goals to develop our worship which it was hoped would bring in more families into the fellowship and also provide more pastoral support. Covid 19 put a hold on everything.

We know that restrictions due to the virus are not going to change soon and this presents many challenges which all churches are facing. Some help may come from the Diocese but we will have to determine ourselves what path it is best to take for us. Financially we know that our expenditure has exceeded our income every year for the past few years, our reserves are diminishing and during the first four months on shutdown alone we are £5,000 down on our income for the year. We need to find new ways to generate income. Withholding payments to the Diocese is a last resort.

I do not think that what we have always known as being "church" will be able to be that for a very long time. We can pray and hope for the best that normality or that a new "normal" returns before our reserves are exhausted or we can be proactive and determine how we can evolve a fellowship that can adapt to whatever the future may bring. We should keep the truth of the Gospel at the forefront taking to heart what Paul says "*God works in all things for the good of those who are in Christ Jesus*" and that He is the one who is in control of our present situation. We have an opportunity to look anew at building God's kingdom in our community.

Perhaps in the past we have seen "church" as what happens in the building but now we need to reflect on what needs our community, our children's and youth provision, our pastoral care and our schools require to bring them into the fellowship. Our new P.C.C. will actively pursue these goals and hopefully enlist the talents of many of our congregation to go forward in a positive way. Keep praying that God will enable us to get a clear vision of what he wants to do among us.

**7. Any Other Business.** None.

The meeting closed with The Grace.

## Annual Report of the Parochial Church Council for the year ended 31 December 2020

### Objectives and Activities.

The PCC is aware of the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit in their publication 'The Advancement of Religion for Public Benefit' and have given regard to it in their administration of the Parish. The PCC believes that, by fulfilling its responsibility to work together with the incumbent, and to co-operate in all matters of concern and importance for the promotion of the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical, it provides a benefit to the public by –

- providing resources and facilities for public worship, pastoral care and spiritual, moral and intellectual development, both for its members and for anyone who wishes to benefit from what the Church offers;
- promoting Christian values, and service by members of the Church in the Parish to its community, to the benefit of individuals and society as a whole.

### THE PARISH

Great Harwood is an ancient market town which prospered as a mill town in the nineteenth century and has developed further with light industry and suburban housing. A chapel-of-ease on the current site was recorded in 1335; the present church, originally known as St Lawrence, is largely 15th-16th Century. It was extended in the 19th century to serve a growing population, and St John's Church (closed in 2007 and now sadly demolished) was built in 1912.

St Bartholomew's is a welcoming congregation with a wide age-range which works with other churches in Great Harwood to serve our town; the Ecumenical Partnership was formed in 2007 to help us work, worship and witness together.

It is really difficult to write an introduction for the annual report when, for most of the year, we were extremely limited in the activities we could engage in, due to the national covid restrictions. As you all know all too well, for large parts of the year not only the weekly church activities but even our times of corporate worship were prevented from taking place. There were, however, a few corporate activities that we were able to engage in prior to the first national lockdown beginning at the end of March.

At St Bartholomew's Church in January we held a service for the World Day of Prayer and also a joint service for the Prayer for Christian Unity, together with our other Great Harwood churches. These are always wonderful services as people come together from different church traditions with a common purpose to increase our understanding of one-another, develop fellowship and to look at ways of enhancing our ministry to our community. On 7<sup>th</sup> February we were privileged to be entertained by the Choir from St Christopher's School, who performed a varied programme of Christian and secular music and was really enjoyed by the congregation.

We had started to hold a monthly afternoon meeting called 'Simply Praise', which was a short, quiet, relaxed service, intended to be a more easily accessible for those who had difficulty with longer, more 'crowded' services. The service was followed by a time of fellowship along with copious amounts of tea and cakes! These times had been well received by those who attended and are something that we will be starting again as soon as we are permitted to do so in the coming year.

Also, in October, we held our annual Gift Day in Church and I would like to thank all who contributed to the day. A few new people came to the church during on this day and enjoyed looking round the building and learning something about its wonderful history. A large portion of the money raised on this day has gone toward the repair of the Church Clock which needed a complete new winding mechanism. All the parts we require have been ordered but, as these are 'made to order' and the company making them have large back orders due to them being closed for a large portion of last year, it will be a little while longer before things are installed and we are able to have the clock chiming again.

Prior to the national lockdown, myself and the members of the PCC had begun to look at ways to develop our worship and our outreach to the community and we had a number of things that we were just about to move forward with until the first lockdown hit us and everything had to be put 'on-hold'. There is no doubt that we will continue to remain under various restrictions for the foreseeable future but, hopefully, during the coming year we will begin to implement more of the ideas which we had, even though some of them will need to be adapted due to the changing of the way in which we live and worship together. One of the things which the lockdown has highlighted is the need to be able to provide more on-line services/events to connect with people in our community or to ensure that we keep contact with those members of our fellowship who still feel uneasy about gathering together for public worship. As a PCC we will be looking at how we might best achieve this, whilst also seeking to address the drop in income that has affected ourselves just like most other 'businesses' as a result of the pandemic.

Although there are undoubtedly many challenges which lay ahead of us, I do not doubt that God is moving in this place and there is so much to be thankful for in our fellowship. So many people work tirelessly to enable the

worship and the fellowship to continue and also to take care of our wonderful Church building. Many have also taken on the extra responsibilities of cleaning pews etc. after each service to comply with health regulations and ensure that the church building is a safe environment when people come to worship here. I would personally like to thank our Wardens over the last year, Joyce and Bill for guiding me through a lot of the practical issues surrounding the life of the Church over the last year. Special thanks to Bill who was stepping down as Warden in April this year but, due to our APCM being put back to October, continued to perform his role for longer than expected! Thanks also to Cynthia who has continued her work as Parish Administrator despite all the challenges this last year has brought and for ensuring all the administration that needs doing is done efficiently. Although most of the church activities/group activities had to stop for large parts of the year, thanks to those who volunteer on the PCC and help to keep the difficult balance between ensuring that all our legal and practical responsibilities are met whilst looking to move the Church forward in terms of Worship and Mission to our Community – and doing this whilst also learning how to hold our meetings via 'Zoom', which was also a steep learning curve for most of us! I would also like to thank John our organist and the Choir for their uplifting ministry (when they have been allowed to sing!) and look forward to us being able to hear singing in church once more! Likewise, thanks to all those who assist our worship through reading Lessons, leading Intercessions or assisting with Communion and to the Sidespeople who ensure people receive a warm welcome into Church. I also want to thank all those who show such dedicated commitment to our children in Church and in Uniformed groups and, even though they haven't been able to meet in person, have continued to support and encourage one-another in the faith. It is also wonderful to see such a vibrant and active Mothers Union who not only provide wonderful fellowship for many but also contribute in many practical ways to the life of the Church.

There is also so much work to be thankful for which goes on behind the scenes but which is essential for the Church to grow – the Baptism Team and the Pastoral visitors; Olwen, our Safeguarding Officer, who ensures that the Church not only complies with requirements but is also a safe place for all; those on the Walls and Within Committee who, led by Mark, look after the Church building and grounds; those who serve as School Governors in our two wonderful schools. The Events Committee have had some time-off this year but I look forward to us being able to enjoy times of fun and fellowship together before too long. Thanks to those who work on the Flower Committee and ensure that, both inside and out, the Church reflects the wonder of God's creation; those who work to produce the magazine and maintain our 'on-line' ministry; those who help to clean the Church or serve refreshments. All of this work is greatly appreciated and enrich the life of the whole Church.

I know that the coming year will undoubtedly provide many challenges, both financial and practical, but it will also bring many opportunities for us to grow in faith and share the gospel with people in our Community. Whatever the 'new normal' is ( I hate that expression) I am looking forward to getting to know you all a bit better this coming year and discovering more of what God has in store for us in the coming years. I know that we are moving into an exciting time as a Church where we can both continue to celebrate and build on the spiritual traditions and history of the Church, whilst finding new ways to bring the love of God to people. Please particularly remember to pray for your PCC and other Church leaders in the coming year as, together, we seek to discern both God's will for us as a fellowship, to adapt to whatever the coming year may bring and to find ways to better serve the people in our Community.

*Rev. Graham Birch, March 2021*

## **The Year 2020–highlights**

Unfortunately during the pandemic the church has been closed for most of the year and we have not been able to hold any social activities.

During the summer we were able to hold services with restrictions in place for wearing masks and social distancing but once more the country was in lockdown so services were no longer able to take place

## **Mission and Vision**

In many ways, my thoughts around the area of Mission are the same as they were when I wrote the report for the 2019 report last year, as little has been able to be progressed due to the national and local lockdowns that we have had to endure over the last 12 months. As the signs are that we are finally moving towards a 'normal' church life, the challenge in this coming year will be to focus on the areas that we are able to improve whilst not becoming frustrated with the things that we are prevented from progressing. We will also have to continually review what we are doing and be able to adapt our objectives as the situation around us may continue to change at short notice. In the light of this, I would like to quote from what I said last year as we are only now in a position where we may be able to actually reflect on these words and to move forward with our objectives:

*One of the greatest challenges faces most churches in these quickly changing times is how to both respect and build on the traditions of the church, whilst also developing new ways of bringing the life-changing power of the*

*gospel to others. To be able to do this, we need to have both a deep understanding of God's will for us as a fellowship and also the wisdom and courage to take difficult decisions which can enable us to move towards fulfilling our calling.*

*The first of these is actually a lot easier to achieve than many people may think it is. Whatever God asks us to do as a fellowship, it will always be compatible with the teachings of the gospels. Those gospels reveal to us the very heart of God – a God who would stop at nothing to enable all people to know His love for them – and we see this revealed most fully in the life and ministry of Jesus; a God who longs for His children to grow in faith and to have the confidence to share their faith with others; a God who equips His people with many talents and His own Holy Spirit that they may be empowered to transform the world around them.*

*I am not a great believer in 'mottos' or 'gimmicks' – what I would call 'bumper-sticker Christianity' - but one motto that was prevalent in the life of the Church when I first came to faith myself was 'WWJD' – or 'What Would Jesus Do?' That has always stuck in my mind and has formed the basis of much of what I have tried to achieve as a Christian Minister – even though I often fail to fully put into practice what I believe Jesus Himself would have done. This idea of reflecting on what Jesus Himself might have said or done in a particular situation is a great thing to do, not just as individuals but also as a church fellowship. So much of our time in the Church is spent in 'busy-ness' without us spending enough time thinking about 'why we do the things we do' or how they 'fit into' the vision that God has for His people.*

*I doubt that there are many people who would accept that the Church is in very challenging times at the moment and our calling to grow both spiritually and in numbers faces many obstacles which we will need to overcome if we are to achieve this calling. We cannot stand still as a Church and we have to keep moving forward with God or we will move backwards without Him. Things cannot just stay the same as they have been for years - but there is also a great danger in just 'trying things in our own setting' which may have worked in other Churches, without thinking things through fully for ourselves. There is no 'magic formula' that we can use which will ensure our church will continue to grow and to thrive into the future – the greatest thing we can do is to keep asking 'what would Jesus do?' and then do our best to put this into practice. We will fail, we will make mistakes but we have to be proactive as a Church and not make the mistake of just trying to preserve what we already have for fear of getting things wrong. That would be like burying out talent in the ground and then waiting for our Lord's return - and we know the response of the Master to the servant who tried that approach in the parable that Jesus told!*

Over the last year we have seen those words which I wrote last year become even more important to us as a fellowship. Through the various times of lockdown, one of the things which has become really significant is the area of on-line ministry. Prior to the pandemic, this would not have been a priority ministry to many churches, but it quite clearly needs to be so now. Many people are still uneasy about gathering together for worship and it is essential that we can provide ministry and encouragement to those people as well as those who can attend worship in person. The PCC and I had already begun discussions about the technology we could bring into the church to enhance and provide new avenues for our worship and this will now obviously be revisited so that this additional area may also be provided for.

Again, as I mentioned last year, I would like to see us moving towards developing a clearer vision of what we believe God is asking us to do as a fellowship and to find more specific ways of putting that vision into action. Although our fellowship is made up of both individuals and various church groups, it is important that we all gain a deeper understanding of what God is asking us to do as a fellowship. Then, whether individuals or groups within the Church, we can better understand the piece that we are in God's jigsaw and to work towards playing our part in seeing the full picture revealed.

I am still looking forward to an exciting time here in Great Harwood and the positive way in which people here have responded to the enormous challenges we have faced over the last year makes me even more confident that we will be able to work together to enable God's vision for His people to come into a fruitful reality. God's blessings will flow and the presence and power of His Holy Spirit will enable us to grow even deeper in faith and to overcome any challenges which may come our way.

## **RESOURCES**

- **Stewardship** needs revisiting as the church is still dependent on legacy income (for which we are most grateful –) to be able to maintain the building; regular giving declined slightly, which may be connected with reduced attendance,

- We record our particular thanks to all who have stepped down, and our gratitude to the many volunteers who contribute their time, skills and resources to enable the life, worship and outreach of the parish to flourish

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## **THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL**

### **Business during the year**

The PCC met 3 times in Church with the Revd Graham Birch in the chair.

All lights in the main body of the church have now been converted to LED fittings. It was a unanimous agreement to have the tower clock repaired with a new self-winding mechanism. Work outstanding is the fitting of a new flagpole, cupboard repairs and the tower door repair. The church alarm system was repaired and subsequently upgraded. Members are to consider the use of screens and a projector for use during services with the possibility of transmitting live services.

Amongst other matters discussed by the PCC were:-

The Safeguarding Audit and the training of volunteer first aiders were flagged up. The Health & Safety Policy was completed and the Fire Risk Assessment and Fire Evacuation Plan are ongoing. The monthly short Simply Praise Service had been appreciated and leaders found it was good to have time to talk to attendees. A Sunday School is to be held on the second and fourth Sundays of each month during term time for children aged 3 – 9 years. The Archdeacon had been complimentary on many aspects of our church work and other points raised by him e.g. signs for disabled access is to be progressed. A skills questionnaire had been developed and distributed to the congregation for their input. Due to Covid restrictions no meetings were held between March and October 2020 when the delayed Annual Parochial Meeting was held. A socially distanced meeting was held in church in November but it was proposed that meetings in the foreseeable future may be held via Zoom

Joyce Miller Churchwarden, would like to add a big thank you to Bill & Brenda Humphreys for all the work they have taken on whilst she was in hospital and to the end of December 2020. It was good to know the church was being well looked after in her absence.

### **FINANCIAL REVIEW**

This has been an unprecedented year, fortunately the Parish share was reduced to £46,324 which was paid in full. At the end of December 2020, the General Fund showed an excess of expenditure over income of £14,655. The Gift Aid refund from HMRC was £9,045 and Legacies of £7,669 were gratefully received.

We must increase our income year on year to preserve our Church and maintain its mission for years to come.

### **Risk Assessment.**

The PCC recognises that in relation to 'Risk Assessment', risk is defined as 'the threat of any action or event which will adversely affect an organisation's ability to achieve its objectives and execute its strategies'. It also accepts that the term 'risk' can include any circumstances that may, or do, have an adverse effect, and is wider than financial matters. 'Risks' relate not only to the negative consequences of a threat, but also to the impact of not taking advantage of opportunities.

The PCC recognises it requires a practical Health and Safety Policy covering activities for the church, the churchyard and the Hope Street Burial Ground. This is reviewed on a regular basis. An Accident Book is maintained.

The contents and obligations of the Equality Act 2010 and the 2018 General Data Protection Regulation are known and complied with to the best of the PCC's ability. The PCC is aware of its responsibilities in respect of the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 in its requirement to carry out a fire assessment to identify any possible dangers and risks, to take action to minimise the risks and to create a plan to deal with any emergencies, and also to write up and keep a record of its findings and to review its assessment annually. The PCC has appointed Mr David Bond to be the responsible person to put these things into operation.

There are Safeguarding Policies in place and the Safeguarding Officer is Mrs Olwen Sudders. DBS checks have been carried out in respect of all persons dealing regularly with young people and vulnerable adults. Whilst it is impossible to eliminate all risks and their consequences, efforts are constantly made to minimise such occurrences.

### **Reserves Policy.**

The PCC has reviewed its policy and, conscious of the current financial situation of the parish will seek to maintain at all times sufficient liquid funds to satisfy three months general expenditure at any one time whilst seeking to hold in reserve all surplus funds on interest bearing safe deposit accounts such as offered by the CBF.

**PARISH STATISTICS**

**Membership and Attendance**

	2019	2020
Number on the Electoral Roll at the APCM	198	195

Quiet Communion on Sunday	1364	286
Celebration/All-age Communion on Sunday	4054	1689
Quiet Communion on Wednesday	1103	436
	<b>6521</b>	<b>2411</b>

This is split as follows:

Adults	5588	1921
Young people under 16	933	490

The attendance at quiet communion on Wednesday includes those who have also attended a Sunday service. The average weekly attendance at all services, without double counting these individuals, was:

Adults	96	15
Young people under 16	17	6
	<b>113</b>	<b>21</b>

Attendance at other services and groups:

Pram Service (monthly)	143	0
Smartie Club (term time) Finished Mar. 2019	83	0
Time Out (term time)	0	0
Youth Group	0	0

Attendance at Easter and Christmas:

Easter Day	178	0
Christmas <i>including Crib Service and Roaming Nativity</i>	472	48

Total attendance at other holy day and special services held at the church was:

Other holy day and special services	366	126
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Communicants throughout the year at the main services  
(note that there is a monthly service **without** Holy Communion on Sundays at 1am):

Quiet Communion on Sunday	1260	284
Celebration/All-age Communion on Sunday	2350	1040
Quiet Communion on Wednesday	957	174
	<b>4567</b>	<b>1498</b>

Holy communion is also taken on a monthly basis to a number of individuals in their homes and to nursing homes and sheltered accommodation for the elderly.

Home communicants	196	29
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Occasional Offices (celebrations of life events)

Baptisms	27	2
Candidates presented for Confirmation	0	0
Weddings	9	0
Dedication of/Thanksgiving for a Marriage	NIL	0
Funerals/Memorial Service, of which 11 (2019:12) began with a service in church	23	22

## Administrative Information

St Bartholomew's Church is situated on Church Lane, Great Harwood. It is part of the Diocese of Blackburn within the Church of England. The correspondence address is The Vicarage, Church Lane, Great Harwood BB6 7PU.

The Parochial Church Council is a body corporate under section 3 of the Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1965 and is a charity registered with the Charity Commission (no.1136334).

PCC members who have served from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2020 until the date this report was approved are:

Clergy	Revd Graham Birch, vicar (Chair)
Church Wardens	Mrs Joyce Miller (Vice Chair) From APCM Oct 2020 Mr J William Humphreys (Vice Chair) To APCM Oct 2020
Representatives on the Whalley Deanery Synod	Mr Mark Exton (Standing Committee Member) Mrs Deborah Barrow-Yates To APCM Oct 2020 Mrs Sarah Walsh To APCM Oct 2020
Elected Members	Mrs Jennifer Entwistle From APCM 2018 Mrs Karen Exton From APCM 2016 Mrs Janet Hall From APCM 2015 Mr David Heaton (Treasurer) Mrs Maxine Houldsworth From APCM 2015 Mrs Margaret Ogden From APCM 2018 (Standing Com. Member) Mrs Cynthia Parkinson From APCM 2014 Mrs Denise Sheriff From APCM Oct 2020 Mrs Rachel Shovelton From APCM 2016 Mrs Olwen Sudders From APCM 2017 (Safeguarding Officer) Mrs Heather Wearden From APCM 2011 Mrs Janis Wildeman From APCM 2018 Mrs Ann Yates To APCM Oct 2020
Readers	Mrs Denise Sheriff (Ex Officio Member) To APCM Oct 2020
In attendance	Mrs Brenda Humphreys (Secretary) To APCM Oct 2020 Mrs Lucy Bell (Secretary) From APCM Oct 2020

## Structure, governance and management.

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules 2020. All church attenders are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC. The Standing Committee is the only committee to be in place by church law. It has the power to transact the business of the PCC between meetings, subject to ratification by the PCC. Its members were the Vicar and Churchwardens together with Mark Exton and Denise Sheriff/Cynthia Parkinson. The committee met 11 times during the year. It is considered that all PCC members and any others who could be understood to be 'managers' in the activities and affairs of the Parish of St. Bartholomew and St. John Great Harwood are deemed to be 'fit and proper' persons under the terms of the Finance Act 2010. In service training is available to P.C.C. members as and when required.

Approved by the PCC at its meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> March 2021 and signed on their behalf by

Vicar and Chair of the Parochial Church Council



6

**ST BARTHOLOMEWS & ST JOHNS CHURCH**  
**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31<sup>st</sup> DECEMBER 2020**

GENERAL FUND	UNRESTRICTED	2020	2020	2019	2019
		£	£	£	£
<b><u>RECEIPTS</u></b>					
<b>VOLUNTARY GIVING</b>					
GRANTS (LIFC)		949		2157	
LEGACIES		7669		2007	
PLEDGES		15996		21928	
OPEN COLLECTION		994		4672	
STANDING ORDERS		8271		7901	
GIFT DAY		3876		2775	
GIFT AID REFUND(HMRC)		9045		9239	
			46800		50679
<b>OTHER VOLUNTARY RECIEPTS</b>					
DONATIONS INC GIFT AID ENVELOPES		5385		11023	
DONATION FOR FLOWERS RE WALSH		137		270	
			5522		11293
<b>RECEIPTS FROM CHURCH ACTIVITIES</b>					
PCC (INC ASSIGNED FEES)		4484		12651	
MAGAZINE SALES		20		128	
VISITING VICARS (EXPENSES REFUND)		NIL		455	
INSURANCE (CLAIM)		500			
			5004		13234
<b>RECEIPTS FROM ACTIVITIES FOR GENERATING FUNDS</b>					
FUNDRAISING EVENTS		247		1371	
MAGAZINE ADVERTISING INCOME		620		1185	
			867		2556
<b>RECEIPTS FROM INVESTMENTS</b>					
DIVIDENDS		789		790	
BANK INTEREST		6		5	
			795		795
<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>			<b>58988</b>		<b>78557</b>

<b>PAYMENTS</b>	2020	2020	2019	2019
	£	£	£	£
<b>GRANTS</b>				
MISSIONARY & CHARITABLE GIVING	NIL		2500	
BARCHESTER	1573		1573	
		1573		4073
<b>CHURCH ACTIVITIES</b>				
DIOCESAN PARISH SHARE	46324		56829	
DIOCESAN FEES	1364		NIL	
CHURCH RUNNING COSTS	3094		9519	
WEDDING & FUNERAL COSTS	1290		3397	
INSURANCE	3666		3448	
GAS	3144		4709	
ELECTRICITY	1018		944	
WATER	153		298	
PHONE & INTERNET	427		408	
WEBSITE & MANAGEMENT	660		620	
VICARAGE EXPENSES(COUNCIL TAX & WATER)	4040		1669	
VICARAGE EXPENSES (GAS, ELECTRICITY & TELEPHONE)	NIL		653	
VICARAGE EXPENSES (GARDEN MAINTENANCE)	250		773	
VICARS EXPENSES	423		413	
CURATES EXPENSES	NIL		276	
CURATES EXPENSES (COUNCIL TAX & WATER)	NIL		441	
CHURCH MAINTENANCE	4935		1051	
PURCHASE OF FLOWERS	137		270	
ORGAN REPAIRS	NIL		307	
VISITING VICARS FEES	35		835	
		70960		86860
<b>CHURCH MANAGEMENT &amp; ADMINISTRATION</b>				
CHURCH ADMINISTRATION & HONORARIUM	1000		1000	
INDEPENDENT EXAMINATION	110		110	
		1110		1110
<b>TOTAL PAYMENTS</b>		73643		92043
EXCESS OF RECEIPTS OVER PAYMENTS		-14655		-13486
TRANSFERRED FROM RRRR1 & RRRR2 ACCOUNTS		NIL		14183
BANK ACCOUNTS AT 1ST JANUARY 2020		50643		49946
BANK ACCOUNTS AT 31ST DECEMBER 2020		35988		50643

**Statement of Assets and Liabilities as at 31st. December 2020.**

Monetary Assets.	General Fund Unrest	Walsh Bequest Restr	Parish M.F. Restr	Hoyle Legacy Restr	Total 2020	Total 2019
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Barclays	6803	24518			24518	39748
Barclays	3155	11470			11470	10895
D of B	8905		20144		20144	18881
D of B	6025			4518	4518	4236
D of B	6015			3087	3087	2894
<b>Total</b>		<b>35988</b>	<b>20144</b>	<b>4518</b>	<b>63737</b>	<b>76654</b>
Debtors		Nil				
Creditors		Nil				
Non-monetary assets		Nil				

**Notes**

1. The Walsh Bequest consists of 985 shares in the CBF Investment Fund.
2. The Parish Memorial Fund consists of 221 shares in the CBF Investment Fund.
3. The Hoyle Legacy consists of 151 shares in the CBF Investment Fund.
4. The financial statements of the PCC have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 using the Receipts and Payments basis.
5. The following assets are recognised but not necessarily valued in the Statement of Assets and Liabilities : moveable church furnishings held by the church wardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal.
6. The expenses paid to clergy may include a small immaterial proportion which relates to their function as PCC Members. No payments were made to PCC members for acting as PCC members.

Approved by the P.C.C. at its meeting on

and signed on its behalf by

18th March 2021



**Accounting Policies for the P.C.C. of the Parish of  
Great Harwood, St. Bartholomew and St. John.**

The financial statements of the P.C.C. have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 using the R & P basis.

**Funds.**

General funds represent the funds of the P.C.C. that are not subject to any special restrictions regarding their use and are available for application to the general purposes of the P.C.C. These include funds designated for a particular purpose by the P.C.C.

The accounts include monetary transactions, assets and liabilities for which the P.C.C. can be held responsible.

They do not include the accounts of other Church groups that owe an affiliation to another body, nor those that are informal gatherings of Church members.

Subject to the above, receipts and payments include income as received and expenditure when irrevocably paid.

**Statement of Assets and Liabilities.**

The following assets are recognized but not necessarily valued in the Statement of Assets and Liabilities:

Movable church furnishings held by the churchwardens on special trust for the P.C.C. and which require a faculty for disposal.

Land and buildings held on behalf of the P.C.C.

Other fixtures, fittings and office equipment where the P.C.C. is free to dispose of such assets without faculty and where the original cost exceeded £1,000.

Investments held beneficially by the P.C.C.

The following assets are recognized and a monetary value given as part of the description in the Statement of Assets and Liabilities:

Amounts owing from the Inland Revenue where a formal claim has been made.

Any other amounts owing to the P.C.C. including church hall lettings and insurance claims.

Legacies where formal notification of entitlement and amount has been received by 31<sup>st</sup> December by the P.C.C.

Closing bank balances as shown in the receipts and payment account.

The following liabilities are recognized in the Statement of Assets and Liabilities:

Any loans or overdrafts advanced to the P.C.C.

Any arrears of Diocesan Parish Share

Creditors for goods or services where the supply has been received and invoiced by 31<sup>st</sup> December.

**Independent Examiner's unqualified report to the C. of E. P.C.C.'s 2018.  
members of the P.C.C. of the Parish of St. Bartholomew and St. John Great  
Harwood.**

**Accounts for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup>. December 2020.**

**Charity no. 1136334.**

**Set out on pages 7 to 9 of this report.**

**Respective responsibilities of the P.C.C. and the examiner.**

The P.C.C. members acting as the charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for the year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed. It is my responsibility to:

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

**Basis of the Independent Examiner's statement.**

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission and the guidance published in PCC Accountability (The Charities Act 2011 and the P.C.C.), 5<sup>th</sup> edition). An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with these records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required for an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

**Independent examiner's statement.**

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

accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act, or  
the accounts do not accord to the accounting records.

I 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 is reached.

Signed. *Alan A Clements Revd* Date *4th May 2021.*  
Name Revd. A. A. Clements

Fellow Association of Charity Independent Examiners.

Address 15 Carleton Road, Great Knowley, Chorley PR6 8TQ

ACIE PCC CC32