

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

Churchwardens

Mrs Olwen Sudders 14 Heymoor Ave, BB6 7SS Tel 884644
Mr Les Kilsby 2 Blackleach, Blackburn Old Rd Tel 952068
BB6 7UU

olwensudders@btopenworld.com

les.kilsby@gmail.com

Deputy Warden

Elected PCC Members

Mrs Tracey Williams	1 Park Avenue BB6 7RP	Tel 07929864640	traceywilliams56@yahoo.com
Mrs Jennifer Entwistle	17 Holdsworth Drive BB6 7FR	Tel 07890071114	jen.heaton@hotmail.com
Mrs Karen Exton	25 Delph Mount BB6 7QF	Tel 889976	extonkaren@yahoo.co.uk
Mr David Heaton	77 Edge End Lane BB6 7QD	Tel.876996	d.heaton2510@gmail.com
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Mrs Cynthia Parkinson	5 Pendle Road, BB6 7TN	Tel 884950	cynthiap@talktalk.net
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Mr. Roger Walker	New Sawley Grange Farm Gisburn Rd.Sawley Clitheroe BB7 4LH	Tel.07770702034	rogerwalker@btinternet.com

Deanery Synod Representative

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

PCC Treasurer

Mr David Heaton	77 Edge End Lane BB6 7QD	Tel.876996	d.heaton2510@gmail.com
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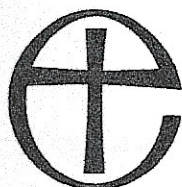
PCC Secretary

Mrs Lucy Bell	27 Bostons BB6 7HJ	Tel. 07815620339	pcc.secretary.stbarts@btinternet.com
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Parish Office

Mrs Cynthia Parkinson		Tel 829240	st.bartholomews2024@outlook.com
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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
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Table of Contents

Annual Report	2
Financial Statements	11
Accounting Policies	14
Independent Examiner's Report	15

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 Veld, 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
	2608	3782	4746	4402

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
	48	73	70	67

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 including Crib Service and Roaming Nativity	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
	2051	3092	3780	3424

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 20th 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 To APCM July 2024
Mrs Rachel Shovelton To APCM July 2024

Elected Members

Mrs Jennifer Entwistle	From APCM 2018
Mrs Karen Exton	From APCM 2016
Mr David Heaton	(Treasurer)
Mrs Cynthia Parkinson	From APCM 2014
Mrs Denise Sheriff	From APCM 2021
Mr. Ross Shekleton	From APCM 2021
Mr. Les Kilsby	From APCM 2021
Mrs. Joyce Miller	From APCM 2022
Mr. Roger Walker	From APCM 2023
Mrs. Jayne Gray	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

GENERAL FUND	UNRESTRICTED	2024	2024	2023	2023
		£	£	£	£
<u>RECEIPTS</u>					
VOLUNTARY GIVING					
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
RECEIPTS FROM CHURCH ACTIVITIES					
PCC (inc assigned fees)		6548		8068	
BLACKBURN DIOCESE (lifc refund)		2608		2409	
EVENTS		2502		802	
			11658		11279
RECEIPTS FROM INVESTMENTS					
CLOSED (old bank account)		NIL		175	
DIVIDENDS (inc walsh flowers)		852		1067	
BANK INTEREST		67		123	
			919		1365
TOTAL RECEIPTS			53449		53748

PAYMENTS	2024	2024	2023	2023
	£	£	£	£
GRANTS				
BARCHESTER	1573		1573	
		1573		1573
CHURCH ACTIVITIES				
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
CHURCH MANAGEMENT & ADMINISTRATION				
ADMINISTRATION & HONORARIUM	1000		1000	
INDEPENDENT EXAMINER	100		100	
		1100		1100
TOTAL PAYMENTS		68406		75884
EXCESS OF RECEIPTS OVER PAYMENTS		-14957		-22136
BANK ACCOUNTS AT 1ST JANUARY 2024		26910		49046
BANK ACCOUNTS AT 31ST DECEMBER 2024		11953		26910

Statement of Assets and Liabilities as at 31st December 2024

	General Fund Unrest	Walsh Bequest Restr	Parish M.F Restr	Hoyle Legacy Restr		
Monetary Assets					2024	2023
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Barclays	10861				10861	13503
Barclays	1092				1092	13407
CBF		22781			22781	22271
CBF			5110		5110	4996
CBF				3492	3492	3413
Total	11953	22781	5110	3492	43336	57590
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 31st 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 31st 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 31st 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