

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST KATHARINES, BLACKROD

England & Wales · Charity number 1144084

Details

Other names	ST KATHARINES, BLACKROD
Status	Registered
Legal form	Previously excepted
Registered	2011-09-30
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	118 Greenbarn Way Blackrod Bolton BL6 5TE
Phone	01204691097
Email	stkatharineschurch@btconnect.com
Website	www.stkatharine.net

Activities

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

Activities: Regular public worship open to all. Pastoral work, including visiting the sick and bereaved. Teaching of Christianity through sermons and related groups. Supporting other charities in the UK and overseas. Promoting the whole mission of the church through the provision of activities for senior citizens, parents and children groups.

Classification

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

Geography

- Bolton

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-12-31	£130,677	£135,675	-	-
2024-12-31	£140,759	£122,099	-	-
2023-12-31	£111,092	£104,830	-	-
2022-12-31	£118,277	£135,471	-	-
2021-12-31	£98,544	£112,890	-	-
2020-12-31	£87,093	£91,698	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Rev Angela Wynne	Chair	2016-10-13
CHRISTOPHER SKINNER		2020-01-01
Deborah Howard		2021-05-25
Hazel Lord		2021-05-24
Helen Gambles		2019-04-11
JANET Hollick		2012-07-11
JEAN MARGARET HIBBERT		2011-09-30
Jacqueline Greenbank		2024-05-01
Jacqueline Sorry		2024-04-25
Margaret Sumner		2019-04-11
Mary Pryle		2017-04-30
Susan Margaret Parry		2019-04-11

Accounts

St Katharine's Church, Blackrod

ANNUAL REPORT 2026

For presentation at the

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

Thursday 30th April 2026 at 7.00pm



**THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND**

Diocese of Manchester

**CHURCH
FOR A
DIFFERENT
WORLD**

**ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENT
YEAR ENDING 31 DECEMBER 2025**

<u>CONTENTS</u>	<u>Page</u>
The Electoral Roll 2026	3
Team Rector report	4
Minutes of Annual Vestry Meeting held on 1st May 2025	5
Minutes of Annual Parochial Church Meeting held on 1st May 2025	5
Report on the proceedings of the Parochial Church Council 2025-6	9
Church Fabric Report	10
Deanery Synod Reports	11
Children & Young People Report	13
Ignite Youth	14
Groups and Gatherings at St Katharine's	16
Financial Statement	18
Balance sheet	21
Year end to 31st December 2025	22/23



**The Team Ministry:
Blackrod, Daisy Hill, Westhoughton & Wingates**

Team Rector: The Revd Carol Pharaoh

The Vicarage, Church Street, Westhoughton, BL5 2BG
Telephone 01942 859251
Email: carol.pharaoh@gmail.com

Vicar: The Revd Angela Wynne

St Katharine's Vicarage,
Blackhorse Street, Blackrod, BL6 5EN
Telephone: 01204 468150
Email: Revawynne@gmail.com

CHURCH OPEN TIMES

Tuesdays 10am - 12.30pm

Tel: 01204 469220

This phone is not monitored 24/7.

Church and office open, for enquiries & prayer

Email: office@stkatharinesblackrod.org.uk

CONNECT on Tuesdays 10.30am to 12.30pm

Warm Welcome. Call in for a coffee and company. Continuing through the year!

Thursdays 10 to 11 am

Church open for a quiet hour of private prayer.

Cover picture: St Katharine's in the Spring 2026.
Thank you to the Team for keeping the path borders fresh and colourful.

SERVICES AT ST KATHARINE'S

Sundays 11.00am The Parish Eucharist
2nd Sunday of the month is All Age Worship at 9.30am

Tuesdays 9.30am Holy Communion

Saints' Days/Holy Days

As shown in the Parish Magazine.

KEEP IN TOUCH

Website: www.stkatharine.net

www.westhoughtonchurches.org.uk

Facebook:

St. Katharine's Church, Blackrod

ACNY - A Church Near You

<https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/16047>

ST KATHARINE, BLACKROD

Welcome to St Katharine's, Blackrod, part of the Daisy Hill, Westhoughton and Wingates Team of churches.

St Katharine's is a family friendly church, and all are welcome. We have a lively Sunday School which meets during the Sunday morning service, and a monthly session of Messy Church for children and families.

Monday mornings welcome pre-school children for Wiggle Worship Baby and Toddler group.

We have a hearing system, and facilities for those with disabilities, including a stair-lift to the upper room.

We are open for private prayer on Tuesday and Thursday mornings, as well as our regular Sunday and Tuesday services.

The church is a Grade 2 listed, stone building, mostly rebuilt in early 1900's, with a bell tower holding a peal of six bells dating from the 16th Century.

The church was re-ordered in 2000 to create meeting rooms up and downstairs, and an office, kitchen and toilets.

The Church is dedicated to Saint Katharine of Alexandria whose feast day falls on 25th November.



THE ELECTORAL ROLL OF ST KATHARINE'S 2026

The Electoral Roll is the list of names and addresses of a Church's membership. Every person listed on the Electoral Roll is eligible to attend the Annual Parochial Church Meeting and stand for election to the PCC.

A new roll was created in 2025. It will be renewed every six years.

No-one over 18 years can be elected to the PCC until they have been Electoral Roll members for 6 months.

People under the age of 18 years can be elected to the PCC from their 16th birthday.

There are 111 names on the Electoral Roll for the APCM 2026.

Mary Pryle, Electoral Roll Officer

SAFEGUARDING AT ST KATHARINE'S

As part of the Manchester Diocese, St Katharine's Church follows the safeguarding guidelines, the national legal and procedural framework for safeguarding children and vulnerable adults, and the Church of England policy and practice.

The C of E Parish Safeguarding Handbook is under review and expected to be available later this year. Once the new handbook (Manual) is finalised, a copy would be in place in the office.

The Safeguarding Officer is Janet Hollick (07514 041611).

TEAM RECTOR'S REPORT FOR 2025

'I hereby command you: Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.'

(Joshua 1.9 NRSVA)

Courage. Each church school has a set of Christian values which aim to integrate faith into learning and development. These values aim to shape moral character as well as academic learning, rooted in the teachings of the bible and in prayer. Key values such as love, respect, compassion, service, forgiveness and truthfulness are often included in a school's Christian value list. Whilst these are all commendable values to hold, the Christian value 'courage' seldom makes an appearance. I think this is a shame. Courage coupled with strength, resilience and perseverance are qualities very much needed on the Christian journey.

Courage is being brave even when we are worried or scared and problems seem insurmountable. Courage is facing our fears and standing up for what's right. Courage is standing up for our beliefs and for those who can't speak up for themselves. Courage is never giving up. Courage is encouraging others and helping others. Courage is believing we can do anything with God at our side.

As we have continued our Christian journey in 2025, I see and hear of amazing work in the life and worship of St Katharine's Blackrod. Whether it be working with our youngest members or our more senior members. Whether it be in practical or creative ways. Whether it be in serving on committees or in groups or being a friend and offering prayer support to others. All of this takes a great deal of time and effort and many give tirelessly of their time and talents to the parish. Often it feels like an uphill struggle as there is more to do in terms of pastoral care, governance and safeguarding and not enough volunteers to share the load. We need to have courage and confidence that the God who loves us so much will provide everything that we need, often in unexpected and surprising ways.

It has been so good to see people continue to grow in their faith and their service of God. It takes courage to step out and continue to serve God in any area of ministry but also, sometimes, making ourselves available to help in new areas of church service. For some this might be reading in church for the first time. For others it might be pursuing an authorised role in the church. Thank you to Sheila Kinrade and Chris Skinner who continue to serve God in their Church Warden roles, ably and conscientiously assisted by our Deputy Warden Janet Hollick. Thank you to all who are dedicated in their various roles and service of our church and parish. I might not see you very often, but please do know that I appreciate all that you do and the life and worship of this parish would not be the same without you and the contribution you make. Thank you to all who use their gifts and abilities and give their money to further our life and worship together.

In terms of our wider Team life, Ignite Youth group, our Team Youth Church, continues to flourish in amazing ways, with young people exploring and growing in faith and the group being blessed with new leaders from across the team. As a Team we continue to provide opportunities for people to come together to study the bible. These groups are always hugely rewarding and are appreciated by many. That's not to say that it would be very pleasing to see more people take advantage of these opportunities. Please do think and pray about whether God is prompting you to be courageous and give one of these groups a try. I'm sure if you do, you will find it challenging but immensely rewarding.

In 2025 Alisdair Cole completed his Reader Training. We thank God for all that Alisdair brings, not just to St John's Church Wingates where he is based, but our wider Team too. Alisdair works immensely hard and his ministry is bearing fruit. Of note too is that our Associate Priests Carol McCabe and Heather Sharp decided to retire, and our Reader Emeritus Alan Morris, mainly based at St Bartholomew's Church, retired. We thank them for all that they have done in their years of faithful service. It would be hard to count how many people have benefitted from their extraordinary ministry. We pray that God will richly bless them as they continue their faith journey.

I would like to say a big thank you to Angela Wynne. Angela's gifts and abilities are much appreciated by you I know and across the Team. Thanks too to my wider Team colleagues, Malcolm Wearing, Alisdair Cole, Christine Radford, Vincent Radford, Elaine Simkin, our wider Team Church Wardens and Deputy Wardens and ALMs. I couldn't do what I do without you and you remain a constant inspiration and strength to me. God bless you in all you are and all you do.

All we have done, all we have achieved are important in the way we share our faith and seek to bring others to know God better. For many of us there has been personal issues and struggles in 2025. Because of these, sometimes we must take a step back for a while or even for good. It takes courage to faithfully follow, especially when the future is unclear. There is much hidden on the road ahead which none of us can prepare for or guard against. Thankfully, we know that we can rely on God and are assured of his protection and strength. With him we can be bold, confident, even audacious. As Psalm 23 reminds us, even walking through the valley of the shadow of death, we have nothing to fear because God is with us.

So, let's be inspired by one final bible verse; -

'Jesus said, I have said this to you, so that in me you may have peace. In the world you face persecution. But take courage; I have conquered the world!' (John 16. 33 NRSVA)

With love and prayers.

Rev'd Carol Pharaoh



ANNUAL MEETINGS 2025

ANNUAL PARISHIONERS' MEETING

Held on Thursday 1st May 2025 at 7.00pm

MINUTES OF MEETING

Present: Revd Angela Wynne (Chair), Kath Ashton, Bob Chapman, Jane Chapman, Ellis Collier, Jennifer Collier, Helen Gambles, Dilys Garrett, Jacqui Greenbank, George Hibbert, Jean Hibbert, Janet Hollick, Deborah Howard, Jane Kenyon, Sheila Kinrade, Hazel Lord, Carol McCabe, Brian McCabe, Barbara Miccoli, Sue Parry, Mary Pryle (Minutes), Chris Skinner, Jackie Sorry, Margot Ward, Ruth Wills, Christine Wolstencroft, Barbara Worsley, Peter Wynne. (28)

Opening Prayer and welcome: Revd Angela welcomed all to the meeting and began the meeting with prayer. Those present were reminded that this Meeting was open to all parishioners.

Apologies for Absence: Apologies were received from Joyce Beech, Diane Cashmore, Paul Cashmore, Mike Hollick, Shirley Rowlandson, Margaret Sumner, Agnes Taylor, Margaret Tickle.

Minutes of the Annual Vestry Meeting held on 25th April 2024: The Minutes were accepted as a correct record, proposed by Janet Hollick.

Election of Churchwardens: Sheila Kinrade and Christopher Skinner were nominated as Churchwardens.

Proposed by Mary Pryle, seconded by Jean Hibbert and Janet Hollick. There were no other nominations, and Sheila Kinrade and Christopher Skinner were duly elected as Churchwarden.

Revd Angela thanked Sheila Kinrade for her service as Churchwarden during the past year.

Sheila Kinrade thanked Revd Angela for all her work during the past year.

Any Other Business: There were no items of Any Other Business.

Date of next meeting: To be confirmed.

Closing prayer: The meeting closed with prayer at 7.30pm.

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

Minutes of meeting held on Thursday 1st May 2025 at 7.45pm

Present: Revd Angela Wynne (Chair), Kath Ashton, Bob Chapman, Jane Chapman, Ellis Collier, Jennifer Collier, Helen Gambles, Dilys Garrett, Jacqui Greenbank, George Hibbert, Jean Hibbert, Janet Hollick, Deborah Howard, Jane Kenyon, Sheila Kinrade, Hazel Lord, Carol McCabe, Brian McCabe, Barbara Miccoli, Sue Parry, Mary Pryle (Minutes), Chris Skinner, Jackie Sorry, Margot Ward, Ruth Wills, Christine Wolstencroft, Barbara Worsley, Peter Wynne. (28)

Apologies for Absence: Apologies were received from

Opening Prayer. The meeting was opened with prayer by Revd Angela.

Introduction and Welcome: Revd Angela introduced the meeting and reminded those attending that only those persons whose names were on the current Electoral Roll were entitled to be present.

The Annual Report 2025 had been made available to parishioners in print and via *A Church Near You*.

Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting held on 25th April 2024: The Minutes were accepted as a correct record, proposed by Barbara Worsley. There were no matters arising from the minutes.

Annual Report 2025

Revd Angela drew attention to the printed Annual Report of St Katharine's Church to 31st December 2024. The Annual Report contained full reports on the following:

Church Electoral Roll: Mary Pryle, Electoral Roll Officer, stated that there were 100 names on the roll. Mary was thanked for her work as Electoral Roll Officer.

Proceedings of the PCC: Details of the PCC meetings and decisions made during 2024/5 were given in the report. The PCC had met ten times during the year with slightly lower attendance due to health and family issues.

Fabric Report: With thanks to Chris Skinner for the report. The church was in a good state of repair with no major work outstanding. Works identified in the Quinquennial report of 2020 were either already addressed or nearing completion. A new Quinquennial report was expected later in 2025 for the next five years to 2030. Revd Angela thanked George Hibbert for all his work to maintain the church building.

Revd Angela gave details of the new Audio-Visual system to be installed this year. Also, a stained-glass window panel to be installed, with thanks to a legacy left to the church by the late Sal Keegan in memory of members of her family.

The Proceedings of the Deanery Synod: Reports on the three meetings held in the year 2024-5 were included in the Annual Report with thanks to Sheila Kinrade and Barbara Worsley. Blackrod was part of the Bolton Deanery in Bolton West Mission Community and Revd Angela explained the importance of Deanery Synod representatives and their part in the decision-making process of the whole Church of England. St Katharine's has a vote so it is important to take part.

Safeguarding. The Church of England policy "*Promoting a Safer Church*" was included in the report. Following the Makin Report into safeguarding in the Church of England, 2024, "Safeguarding" was now an item on the agenda for every PCC meeting. Revd Angela commented that we need to have confidence that the church is a safe place.

The meeting was informed that Helen Gambles, Safeguarding Officer for many years, had now retired from this role and was thanked for her service. Deborah Howard was continuing as Lead Recruiter and thanked for her service.

The Financial Report: The financial statement and accounts included a breakdown of expenditure and income. Total expenditure to 31st December 2024 was £122,099.22 and income was £140,759.68. The balance at end of the year was £93,894.50. There were no questions.

Jean Hibbert thanked everyone for their support for St Katharine's and for the events organised at the church. Jean commented on the Parish Share, and as St Katharine's had once again paid this in full, the Diocese paid out £1,000 as part of the "encouragement scheme".

Chris Skinner was thanked for his work to reclaim Gift Aid, and the Charity work.

Jean Hibbert, PCC Treasurer, was thanked for her work and the report.

Vicar's Report

Revd Angela Wynne gave the report as follows:

Thank you to everyone for all your support this year for St Katharine's. Without you we could not keep the doors open. I can only echo the thanks already expressed in the *Annual Report by Jean and the wardens to everyone who volunteers, everyone who gives regularly and everyone who contributes to the life of this church. You are all amazing. Too many to name individually but thank you to all of you.

I want to note particular thanks to our churchwardens Sheila and Chris and deputy warden, Janet. Jean, our treasurer, Mary our Parish Administrator, who all do an amazing job at steering us through what needs to be done. Of course, they are ably supported by the PCC and the sidespeople. We are a team and when you consider that everyone is a volunteer giving generously of their time and talents makes it all the more precious.

Those people provide the bedrock of our church. A firm foundation on which to build our ministry. Without it we're like the man who tries to build his house on the sand. It's unstable and at the first sign of trouble it collapses because it had no foundation.

On that firm foundation we can work on the five Marks of mission

The **Five Marks of Mission** of the Church of England are sometimes abbreviated to:

TELL - Proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom.

TEACH - Teach, baptize, and nurture new believers.

TEND - Respond to human need by loving service.

TRANSFORM - Seek to transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind, and to pursue peace and reconciliation.

TREASURE - Safeguard the integrity of creation, and sustain and renew the life of the earth

When we look through the report we can assign everything we do to one of those 5 Marks of Mission.

I am sure that everyone member of our church family is involved in at least one of those 5 MoM. Most people contribute to more than one. But as you will realise without that firm foundation we can't do the mission. Without the financial means to operate church and sufficient people to lead and take responsibility our foundation is weakened.

We have managed to pay in full the Parish Share for the 8th or 9th year in a row. I think that's something we can be really proud of. Well done all of you. Even during Covid we managed it. Just. It's not been easy. It's nail biting at the last quarter of the year, will we, won't we, manage to pay it off in full so that we can benefit from the encouragement scheme which gives us almost a £1000 back. Jean manages somehow to pull it off but it's not a certainty.

The number of regular givers in the stewardship scheme is gradually decreasing. Sadly, as people die, we lose their donations and we don't have enough new people to replace them.

We find ourselves depending on the tremendous fundraising efforts of the Events team to make up the shortfall from our regular giving to pay our parish share and our running costs

Giving generously is a mark of our love for God in response to his generosity towards us. Encouraging Generous Giving has got to be one of our priorities this year. We need to find a way of securing a financial future for St Katharine's that doesn't depend more and more on Events to fundraise the shortfall. Because we quite simply haven't got the people to maintain that and the people we have got haven't got the energy that they used to have. As Jean said last year our regular income dropped to less than £40,000 for the first time in 5 years. If we don't do anything it will continue to drop. The pressure will increase to fundraise through Events and I think we are at our limit on that.

The thing is Fundraising for church takes up so much time and energy that could be used to work on those 5 MoM. We could spend that time doing more pastoral work, or encouraging new believers, teaching the young about Jesus. So this year the PCC are seriously looking at ways we can encourage generous giving. Wouldn't it be wonderful to know we had enough money coming in and we could concentrate on other aspects of Mission.

The 5th Mark of Mission is Treasure - Looking after creation. A few years ago we obtained our Bronze award for Eco Church but since then we've rather let it slide. Discouraged after Covid with the increase in the cost of Solar panels, and also the difficulties in finding suppliers to give us quotes, we shelved the idea but the need to reduce our carbon foot print hasn't gone away. So we're looking for a new Eco Champion. Someone to lead and drive us forward, someone to inspire and encourage us. Could that person be you? It would be great to achieve in this next year our Silver award. I'm sure we can do it.

Finally, I want to talk about safeguarding. (Transform) As the PCC report mentioned, the PCC have undertaken the safeguarding training and well done to them. Many thanks to Deborah Howard our Lead Recruiter for enabling that. It's a sign of the times that this needs to be a priority. It's not just about training and ticking the box. It's about creating a safer culture in church where everyone takes responsibility for each other. Where everyone, young and old, feel safe and where, if there was a problem, everyone would know what to do about it. WE need to create a culture of openness and accountability. Of thoughtfulness and of kindness, respect and trust. It's no use thinking that safeguarding issues can't happen here. They can happen anywhere. We need to make sure we are prepared so that we can act with confidence.

We are doing a lot at St Katharine's. It's fabulous. It's down to you because you are willing to support it and be involved. I talk to people in the village who don't come to church, and they tell me that what we do is appreciated by the village. We need to continue to welcome people to services, Wiggle, Messy, to concerts and to coffee mornings, to everything that we do with a loving and serving heart. It's all about breaking down barriers, building up relationships, and making people feel valued. Because that's what Jesus did.

Thank you for being a fabulous church.

Revd Angela was thanked for the report. There were no questions.

Election of Representatives of the Laity to the PCC

The following had been nominated as new Members of the PCC (Parochial Church Council): Denise Burton, Paul Cashmore, and Helen Gambles. All were proposed, seconded and elected. (*Denise Burton later resigned and the vacancy was filled by Suzanne Farley in September 2025*).

The following had agreed to continue their terms of office for a further year: Margaret Sumner, Jane Kenyon, Kath Ashton and Janet Hollick. Those whose terms of office as PCC members had ended - Jean Hibbert, Deborah Howard and Brian McCabe - were thanked for their service.

Deanery Synod Representatives: Sheila Kinrade, Barbara Miccoli and Barbara Worsley were happy to continue as representatives for the Deanery Synod. Marlene Atherton (Deanery Synod representative) had resigned from this role and was thanked for her service. Mary Pryle was elected to fill the vacancy, proposed by Sheila Kinrade and seconded by Margaret Sumner.

Appointment of Auditor to the PCC: Revd Angela queried if the current auditor, Joan Trevena, was willing to continue, and the Treasurer indicated that she was. Joan Trevena was appointed as auditor.

Any Other Business: Wiggle Worship was congratulated on another successful year.

The meeting closed with prayer at 8.30pm.





Above: Friends and Family attended Manchester Cathedral in September 2025 for a service to witness the Bishop of Manchester authorise four Lay Ministers from St Katharine's. Rhea Howard and Janet Hollick as ALM's in "Worship and Liturgy". Margaret Sumner and Jane Kenyon as ALM's in "Children and Families". And Deborah Howard had completed the elective in "Parish Administration".



Left:

Margaret, Revd Angela and Jean, representing St Katharine's with a stall at the Festival of Blackrod in September 2025.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE PCC (PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL) MAY 2025 - APRIL 2026

The PCC worked very hard on behalf of Blackrod Parish with nine meetings in the year from April 2025. Attendance was good.

Training included Safeguarding, and all PCC Members had completed the online courses in Basic and Foundation Safeguarding. All PCC members had received DBS clearance at the time of this Annual Report.

Appointment of Officers at PCC Meeting held on 1st May 2025:

- * Lay Vice-chair – Chris Skinner
- * Deputy Churchwarden – Janet Hollick
- * PCC Treasurer – Jean Hibbert
- * Deputy Treasurer – Bob Chapman (Insurance)
- * PCC Secretary – Mary Pryle
- * Electoral Roll – Mary Pryle
- * Health & Safety – Paul Cashmore and Barbara Micolli
- * Gift Aid Officer/ Charity Commission co-ordinator – Chris Skinner
- * Safeguarding Officer – Janet Hollick
- * Lead Recruiter – Deborah Howard
- * Standing committee: Chair, Lay-chair, Churchwardens, Treasurer, Secretary.

Matters discussed at meetings from April 2025 to March 2026 included the following:

- Appointment of Sidespersons
- Safeguarding - Update of notices and information available
- Harvest Festival arrangements and Harvest Charity suggestions and voting
- The Quinquennial Report 2025
- New stained glass window in memory of the Keegan family donated by Sal Keegan
- New Audio-Visual system
- Civic Service to welcome the new Mayor of Blackrod June 2025
- New cabinet installed constructed from pews removed from church - Making Space.
- Royal British Legion Standard to be installed in church (decision revoked at a later date).
- Health and Safety—regular reports and updates.
- Christian Aid Week 2025 collections and fundraising.
- Update to Church noticeboard.
- Legacy from Margaret Thorne.
- Scarecrow Festival July 2025
- Thank you from USPG for Lent Boxes donation.
- Team News - Strategy meeting held in July to review “what is good” and with discussion of future needs and preparation for non-eucharistic services when necessary.
- Autumn and Christmas Services agreed.
- The Bible Course - September to November 2025
- Messy Momentum Pilot for young people at Year 6 and over with family. To be known as “Friday Night Messy”.
- Price of The Parish Magazine agreed to be increased for 2026.
- Arrangements for Christmas Fair and Raffle.
- Recycling - a halt to the collection of Medicine Blister packs during winter until further notice.
- Christmas Dinner on Jesus - Team collection of boxes of mints.
- Lent, Holy Week and Easter services agreed.
- Covenant for clergy care and well-being - national proposal for discussion
- Walls and trees in the churchyard, and clearing of ivy.
- New Children’s Society representative due to resignation of Diane Cashmore.
- Sabbatical for Revd Angela - three months from 12th April to July 2026.
- Retirement of Rector Carol Pharaoh in September 2026.

Notice of fundraising and social events at St Katharine’s, and reports on past events and activities.

Public Documents

Once approved by the Chair and PCC, the minutes of PCC meetings become a public record. A file with copies of the minutes is kept in the church office and is available to inspect on request.

CHURCHWARDENS' CHURCH FABRIC REPORT 2025

St Katharine's remains very much the focus of Christian worship within the village and is also being used more frequently as a community space for various activities.

We are very fortunate that Rev Angela and the other members of the clergy team have maintained our pattern of worship, although this will be sorely tested in the months ahead, as Rev Angela takes a well-earned sabbatical and Rev Carol Pharoah has announced her retirement in September.

The church building is in a reasonable state of repair with work outstanding from the last Quinquennial report. During the year we have had to carry out urgent repairs on the church roof after the ingress of water where slates had slipped or gone missing. We were able to contract Matrix building services to carry out temporary repairs, however, there is a large chunk of work, classed as "urgent and immediate" that is still outstanding. Matrix hope to complete the outstanding work following the Lent and Easter period but it will come at a considerable cost, somewhere in the region of £9,000 plus VAT. As the Listed Places of Worship grant scheme has now ended, we can no longer claim for VAT costs.

The implementation of our faculty regarding "Making Space to Grow" is now completed with the fitting of the storage cupboard at the back of church made from the removed pews. It is proving to be a most useful addition for the Wiggle Worship community and other groups.

The faculty for the new Audio/Visual system was approved and the equipment now fitted and operational. After a few teething problems the system has settled down and is enhancing the spiritual life of the church.

Implementation and the fitting of a new stained-glass window in memory of Sal Keegan, is now under way and we hope to fit this in June or July of this year.

There has been an unfortunate collapse of approximately two meters, to the Church northern boundary wall which will require the services of a specialist wall repairer. Again, this will require a large amount of money to carry out the repair.

A big vote of thanks goes to all the volunteers, who worked to clear the ivy and other growing media that had attached itself to the boundary wall.

The Churchwardens would like to record our thanks to all volunteers, church officials and the PCC, who contribute to the many activities that take place at St Katharine's. We are truly blessed with individuals who participate in organising our range of services and activities.

We look forward to the coming year and the challenges that it presents, and hope and pray for a successful outcome to all our endeavours.

Chris Skinner, Churchwarden



DEANERY SYNOD REPORTS (MISSION COMMUNITIES)

10th May 2025 at Bishop Bridgeman CE School *(Notes taken from Minutes of the meeting)*

Apologies sent by Revd Angela, Sheila Kinrade, Barbara Worsley and Mary Pryle.

Worship was led by Ima Lomax, Deanery Support Officer

Minutes of the Previous Meeting held on 12 February 2025 were received and approved.

Emerging Strategy, Deanery Report for APCMs & PCCs

The Area Dean said that it is important to maintain channels of communication at every level.

from Bishop's Council downwards. No comments about the documents circulated after the last deanery synod had been received from PCCs. The focus of the Deanery Synod now moves from Mission Communities to the four Key Themes:

- Growing Younger;
- Church Planting and Revitalisation;
- Developing Missional Leaders
- Parish Renewal

Called, Chosen, Commissioned – Rachel Watts, Director of Vocations

Canon Watts said that vocation is for all of us, and could be 'just' to be a disciple of Christ. Being a churchwarden, a PCC member or a Deanery Synod Representative are all examples of vocation. Our calling may change over time. We may feel happy and comfortable in our current situation or drawn to move on to something different. We should also consider the needs of our churches – noticing a need and thinking 'maybe I could do that' could be a challenge to step out of one's comfort zone. No-one is worthy – God calls us out of our insecurities as the people we are and knows all about us.

After prayer, members were invited to choose a picture from a very wide selection, and to share with neighbours how the picture related to their calling.

Group Discussion & Prayers for Priority Areas – What is God calling us to? After a break, members went into groups to discuss the diocese's four priorities: A discussion document (attached) was provided which included a Bible passage and questions to inform the conversation and prayer about each priority.

Sharing and Reflection Comments from the discussions included: Clergy in the MCs are working together, but the laity aren't necessarily aware of this. Laity don't have as many opportunities to work together; this is needed because there are fewer clergy. We need to get better at helping people outside the church to find the right church for them, Is it possible to cover all the bases by having more MC-wide activities? If we focus on parish renewal, the other priorities will fall into place.

No other business and the meeting finished with prayers of blessing and the Grace

10th November 2025 at St Matthew, Little Lever *Notes taken from Minutes of the meeting)*

Attended by Revd Angela, Sheila Kinrade and Barbara Worsley. Apologies from Mary Pryle.

Worship was led by the Area Dean. We shared a service of Celtic Evening Prayer with a reflection "What are we looking forward to?". Hold on to hope and avoid cynicism.

Minutes of the Previous Meeting held on Saturday May 10th 2025 were approved.

Matters Arising . The Area Dean reminded members that the current triennium will finish next year, so elections for Deanery Synod reps will be part of the APCMs in 2026. He encouraged those present to stand again.

Deanery, Diocesan and National Updates:

Closure of churches: St Paul Astley Bridge; St Cahd, Tonge Fold and St Philip, Bolton le moors – these churches to close due to safety issues with buildings. Alternative venues would be used for services.

Various vacancies across the Bolton West area were noted and discussed.

Diocesan Strategy & Funding Bid: A major bid will be submitted to the Church Commissioners in December. The diocesan priorities and strategies are outlined in the PowerPoint which accompanies these minutes. Funding is being sought for specific posts and projects: More resource churches and more support for the existing ones; Support for parishes for missional activities and where there are financial challenges.

Living in love and faith: Conversations on matters explored in the LLF process have been paused for the time being. There is a feeling, particularly in the House of Bishops, that these issues are too divisive to pursue for the moment.

Wellbeing: Revd Canon Anne Edwards, Bishop's Chaplain. A PowerPoint presentation. She outlined the ways in which wellbeing can be an issue for church leaders, lay and ordained. Those present were invited to discuss, in small groups, the questions in her last slides.

The Lay Chair noted with disappointment that the Clergy Covenant did not also relate to the wellbeing of lay officers, such as Wardens, who are often under considerable pressure. He suggested that the Synod refer that concern upwards to the Diocesan Synod by means of a resolution, for possible referral to the General Synod,

expressing disappointment that the approach set out in the Clergy Covenant does not also clearly include the wellbeing of lay officers and supporters; requesting that this be raised at national level with a view to revising (or replicating) the Covenant to recognise the need to take account of the needs of lay people. To enable this, he suggested that Synod authorise the Standing Committee to take the issue forward and compose a suitably worded resolution for consideration at the next meeting. This was agreed.

Fr Robert Eloff was concerned that synod was being asked to vote on something without sufficient debate. He recognised the importance of the wellbeing of laity but emphasised the Clergy Wellbeing covenant on its own was necessary. Revd Dave Thompson suggested the document should be called the Ministerial Covenant, not the Clergy Covenant. Canon Edwards encouraged everyone present to take the matter back to their PCCs and above all to keep praying.

There was no other business. The meeting finished with prayers of blessing and the Grace.

12th February 2026 at St John, Wingates *(From Notes taken by Mary Pryle)*

Attended by Revd Angela, Barbara Worsley and Mary Pryle.

We were greeted with welcome refreshments at the start of the meeting on a cold and damp evening.

The meeting started with welcome from the Area Dean, Revd Simon Cook, with Lay Chair, Keith Lewis.

Diocese Strategy: John Walsh, Churchwarden at Bolton Parish Church, gave an update on the Diocese Strategy and funding. The Church Commissioners have awarded the Manchester Diocese £9.9 million over four years to be used to support the Diocesan strategy in the four areas agreed as:

- *Parish Renewal*
- *Growing Younger*
- *Church Planting and Revitalisation*
- *Developing Missional Leaders*

We were encouraged to look at our churches and parishes to see what do we need, what do we have already, what are our dreams? The central team would be looking at new opportunities and planning for the future. It was suggested we could organise a survey for the local community, to put forward ideas. It was suggested the four areas of strategy could form the basis for future PCC meetings.

Living in Love and Faith: Revd Simon Cook gave an update on LLF (Living in Love and Faith). He acknowledged the pain and hurt brought by the decision at General Synod to stop the work on the process. The motion for a blessing for single sex marriage was not approved. And the proposal for prayers for single sex couples was not taken further. Revd Cook urged those present to pray for all those involved in the process and affected by these decisions.

Covenant for the Wellbeing of Clergy: The meeting then moved on to the discussion of the Covenant for the wellbeing of clergy (and lay officers) as suggested by the Church of England. Further discussion was needed before this could be agreed nationally. There would be a Conference for Lay Leadership and Officers on 25th April at Bishop Bridgeman School, 10am to 12.30pm. This would be looking at Our Wellbeing as Lay Leaders, and the Deanery Plan.

From the invitation....."*Building on our last conference in 2024, it's an opportunity to **recognise, affirm and say thank you for the amazing contributions of lay people** in our deanery. This conference is a time for **all lay parish volunteers** to come together for worship and encouragement and time to reflect on the challenges of volunteering for church roles amid the busyness of life. Above all, it's a time to value and affirm you **as leaders** in your parishes, whether you think you are or not!*"

Succession Planning was put to the group as this is the year to elect new Deanery Synod Representatives to serve from 1st July 2026. A new Lay Chair was also needed with the retirement of Keith Lewis as Lay Chair of the Bolton West Mission Community. Those present were urged to consider putting themselves forward for this post.

Good news from the area came up next.....

- Revd Carol Pharaoh spoke about the new WW1 Memorial Board now on view at St John, Wingates. Communication with local residents had led to work in the churches and schools to commemorate those from the area who had not returned from the war. Following up on addresses from the time had brought some interesting conversations and information, and to some people attending the service held to install the Board at St John's.
- The representative from St Paul's Church, Astley Bridge, spoke about their sadness at closure of the church due to safety issues with the building, but also the positive outcomes with the use of the school. The congregation had been made very welcome to the school for Sunday services. Numbers had grown with a regular attendance now of about 70 people.

Lastly, Revd Hannah Lane from Bolton Parish Church gave a Powerpoint Presentation on the work Bolton Parish are doing to identify areas for development and growth.

The meeting closed with prayer at 9.30pm.

CHILDREN AND FAMILIES AT ST KATHARINE'S - Ministry Report

Sunday School We have an average of 7-8 children per weekly session, sometimes as many as 12 attend. The ages range from 4-13 years. We have 3 or 4 sessions per month depending on the length of the month. A register is completed at each session and we have registration forms that are completed by parents for new comers, these also detail Data Protection consideration.

We use 'Living Stones' children's worship book as well as linking this to the Church of England Lectionary.

We currently have 3 Leaders and 3 helpers who are all DBS checked and Safeguarding trained. We follow Safer Recruiting guidance. We ensure we have safeguarding details displayed in our Sunday School room.

We have started a venture where parents are able to drop children off for the Sunday School (once registered) and collect them after. We have found that some parents are starting to stay later to find out what the children have been learning. The children will now go straight upstairs to Sunday School as they arrive, to allow enough time for the teaching and activities and so they can come down to join the Church family in readiness for communion.

We have books available to the children during the service that explains communion in a child friendly way. We help the children to follow along. This has helped them to feel more part of the Church as a whole and to take part in the Church programme. The children are encouraged to use the hymn books and are getting good at finding the hymns and singing along. A good number of children are also taking part in Messy Church.

Two children have recently had their first communion. They attended a preparation class for this at St James', Daisy Hill.

All Age Worship happens once a month on the second Sunday. It is geared to a family service where the children are fully involved. We have built up good connections with Blackrod Church School, and an employee at the school, who is also a parent, has helped to continue to build this connection. All Age is also an outreach in the community.

Frequently the Sunday School and school children have contributed to producing pieces of art to be used as part of the Church service. The All Age Worship Team meet each month to plan the service, it involves a theme, a talk, songs and prayers, the emphasis being on inclusivity and an accessible introduction to the Gospel.

Messy Church has been going for 5 years. Its success continues. On average we have 30 children and their parents per session. The parents stay with the children and are encouraged to get involved helping their children with the activities. The age range is 3- 11 years. We have 5 crafts following a theme that ties in with the Church year. Margaret Sumner heads the crafts. We have between 18-20 helpers.

The format involves an introduction from the Leader, taking part in crafts, singing a song connected to the theme, with percussion instruments, and then all sitting down for a meal together. It is evident that the children get a lot out of the session, including socializing with each other, as well as the parents building up friendly relationships with other parents.



Hannah was confirmed at St Bartholomew's Church in 2025 with Bishop Matthew.

Over the past few months we have seen new families attending. We advertise on the church Facebook page, Sunday service sheet and monthly magazine. Families also come due to word of mouth.

We adhere to Church safeguarding guidelines throughout the session and safer recruiting for volunteers.

Messy Momentum St Katharine's is privileged to be part of a two year pilot scheme for Messy Momentum. We started this three months ago and so far have held 3 sessions, once a month. This is run by 5 volunteers. At the first session 11 children attended, on the second 9 with parents.

It has similarities to Messy Church but for older children, 9-16 years, starting at 6.30pm for 90 minutes. The emphasis is for parents to take a major role in the session, staying with their children and being fully involved with the meal, discussions and crafts. There is a 'youth club' feel about it and also a sense of 'ownership' of the sessions is encouraged.

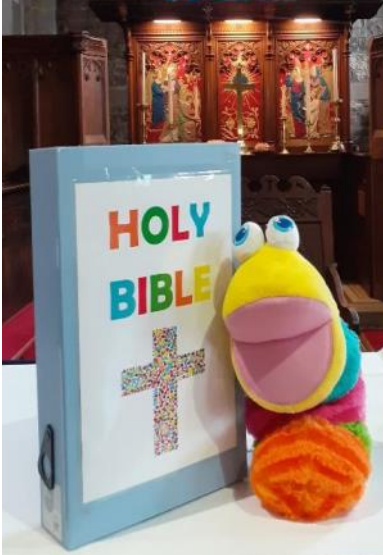
Messy Momentum aim is the 'next step' for growing the faith journey of children and their parents.

Each session has a theme. As the children arrive there are games they can take part in until the session starts. We eat together and then have a discussion together at the tables – using Bibles to link in with the talk. All are encouraged to take part and ask questions.

There are 3 activities afterwards linking in with the talk, again parents are encouraged to be fully involved. We ask those who have attended to fill in a feedback sheet, children and adults. It is in the early stages but we are encouraged by the feedback we have received and the enjoyment and participation we have seen from children and parents alike and look forward to seeing where the Pilot takes us.

There is no charge for any of these groups and activities.

Jane Kenyon, ALM, Children and Families Ministry



Wiggle Worship Baby and Toddler Group

In 2025 we averaged over 20 children at Wiggle Worship each week and we have 5 regular volunteers and an additional person from a rota of volunteers.

The format of Wiggle Worship remains unchanged. The children all make a craft that relates to the weekly story and then they sing songs and hear stories from Wiggle the Bible bookworm. The stories do not always come from the Bible and sometimes we use a children's novel (like Giraffes Can't Dance and Elvis) and explain the theme of the book in relation to God's word. There's always time for prayer, play and refreshments and toast for those who come in early after dropping a sibling at school.

At the end of 2025/beginning of 2026 we combined Wiggle Worship with Baby Rhyme Time to become Wiggle Worship Baby and Toddler Group following changes to availability of volunteers. Our combined session now runs every Monday in term time, 9am – 11.15am and is led by Janet Hollick and Sue Parry who are hugely grateful to Barbara Miccoli, Agnes Taylor, Kris Stott, Diane Cashmore, Jackie Sorry and Kath Ashton. Jacqui Greenbank retired at

the beginning of 2026 and we are grateful to her for many weeks of washing up and making toast.

Monday mornings are an absolute joy as we continue to make friendships with the children, their mums and dads and grandparents. We have seen several of our Wiggle children baptised during the year and now see some of them in church on Sundays. We are always happy to welcome new members to the team. Commitment can be weekly or as part of a rota. Please get in touch if you would like to help.

Wiggle in School During 2025, it became necessary to terminate Wiggle's involvement in Blackrod Church School because of the availability of volunteers. This decision was taken with great sadness and it is hoped that we can return at a future date.

Time Out Time Out was a monthly meeting for young mums. It was a chance for friendships to be forged. Although no longer meeting at St Katharine's in 2026, the group may continue to meet elsewhere in the future.

Janet Hollick (07514041611 for further details about any of the groups)

FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE AT ST KATHARINE'S

Sunday School For all school age children on Sundays at 11am in the Upper Room, except on the 2nd Sunday of the month which is All Age Worship.

For children in church - There are activity bags and toys for children not attending Sunday School - for use in the pews or lower room during services. Please help yourself to these or ask the sidespeople.

There is a "Family corner" in church.

Wiggle Worship: Baby & Toddler Group on Mondays at 9.00am in term-time for babies and toddlers, with parents or carers.

Messy Church on the last Saturday of each month

from 4 - 6pm, for fun, food and activities.

Ignite Youth for young people in Year 6 and above. Monthly at St John's, Wingates, at 7-8.30pm.

St Katharine's Church



baby and toddler group

Mondays in term time

9am - 11.15am

Suitable for preschool children

**Stories,
songs and dance,
nursery rhymes,
free play and
refreshments**



Free to all (but donations welcome)

Ignite Youth Westhoughton

Ignite Youth is a space where our young people across the Team in Year 6 or above can meet each month for Teen Youth Church (TYC). We have now been going for 5 years and are so thankful to God for giving us the volunteers and to parents for encouraging our youth to attend Ignite Youth.

We continue to meet at St John's and our thanks go to all the Team PCCs and churches for their prayers and support. Also, to Tim Eden (St John's treasurer) for administering the funds.

We are blessed to have had 21 young people attending over the year. Numbers have settled at around 12 each session. We have continued to link Ignite Youth attendance with the Team confirmation classes but this year we haven't had any new Year 6's to join after the summer. However, we are pleased to see our older age group continue to attend and some are now helping with activities.

We focus on a bible passage, prayer and bible breakdown, including enjoying games and activities linked to the topic. Topics have included "New Year – New Start" and "Beyond Summer" focusing on resilience; Lent sessions on praying and pancakes; and Harvest focus on our food miles.

We really value the time spent sharing over "take away" food. This year we had a very special Summer BBQ where we invited parents to attend, and Alison & Sarah from Places Project came along too. We have fun evenings, including showing the film "Jurassic Park" and our Christmas Party.

The young people held a competition to design a new logo this year and voted on the best one from Elizabeth. We are now using this on all of our posters and communications.

As always, at Harvest, they collected for Urban Outreach at Harvest, focussing on the items that are not always thought about, including toiletries, baby items and cleaning items. These were greatly appreciated.

We want to say a big thank you to the volunteers Claire, Tracey, Janet and Rhea from across the team who help support running Ignite Youth. We continue to pray that more volunteers will come forward from other churches as we need more support and ideas. We especially wish to thank Caroline for all her help as she stepped down to focus on her family commitments. We wish her God's blessing as she continues to serve in the church.

We continue to be involved with Bolton West Mission Community Youth attending the youth leaders' meetings and encouraging our young people to attend Catalyst events. In February, we went to Hollywood Bowl in Horwich and there were around 50 young people including 14 from Ignite.

In June, 5 of our young people attended the Catalyst Youth Weekend with around 32 from other groups. John & Rachel Kell led 3 sessions on "Life in all its fullness" and there were amazing times of reflection, bible activities, worship and fun together.

In October, Dean & Lostock hosted the event on "Justice Mission" and 7 attended from Ignite. More events are already planned for 2026 including holding the weekend event on 20/21 March!

Please pray continually for Ignite Youth as we go into this New Year with a special month led by the Places Project focusing on their gifts. As the year continues, how we as leaders seek to keep it fresh and imaginative for our young people to help them continue to follow Jesus.

Andy Glynn & Evelyn Eden

Food, fun and faith for Year 6 and above. Please come and join us each month between 7-8.30pm.

igniteyouthwesthoughton@gmail.com



GROUPS AND GATHERINGS

✝ **THE BELLS AND BELL RINGERS** St Katharine's has six bells, but at the moment not enough ringers to ring every Sunday. Mike Kay, Tower Captain, says.... "With the help of the Horwich ringers, we ring at St. Katharine's on the 2nd Sunday of the month for the All Age Worship service. In general, the timing of Sunday morning services at Blackrod and Horwich prevent us from ringing at both churches regularly."

✝ If you are interested in learning to ring, please contact Mike Kay, 01204 691544.

✝ **CONNECT** meets every Tuesday at 10.30am for 2 hours. Aiming to give a warm welcome to a friendly space and mainly attended by retired members of the village. Again, it is a place to build friendships old and new and offer support to each other. Toasted teacakes, cake and a hot brew are all offered free of charge.

✝ **BLACKROD MEN'S FELLOWSHIP** We are an informal group of like-minded people who meet on a monthly basis for a variety of social events and get togethers. We have a varied program of events including walks, museum visits and meals. We are always pleased to see new faces, so why not come and bring a friend. For more details, please contact our Chairman: Keith McCabe (Tel: 07708 96285) We email the full details prior to each event, so if you would like to know what's happening we will add you to the circulation list.

✝ **LADIES WHO LUNCH** A monthly gathering to enjoy a nice lunch in good company. Visits to local restaurants or pubs with food are arranged and transport is arranged for those who need it. A men's table is also offered. Proceeds from the monthly raffle go towards a local charity.

✝ **TIME OUT** was created to be a child-free zone with 2 hours once a month to sit down and have some 'Me-time.' Although no longer in place at St Katharine's in 2026, we hope those who made it "their space" may continue elsewhere with our best wishes. Many thanks to Janet Hollick and helpers for organising the group for the last eighteen months.

✝ **ST KATHARINE'S FLOWER CLUB** A get-together on the first Friday of each month in church for those interested in flowers and floral art. Some months it's a workshop when members bring flowers and make their own arrangements. Advice and encouragement always on hand. Regular demonstrations from visiting professionals show what can be done, and offer advice on care of flowers and foliage. Everyone is welcome. Refreshments available for £3 each, and a chance to enter the raffle. Thanks to the Flower Team.

✝ **AFTERNOON MATINEE Our monthly film show.** Each month there is a film shown in the upper room. All are welcome and there is a stair lift if needed. Doors open from 1.00pm and the film starts at 1.30pm. No need to book, just come along. Refreshments included at £3.

✝ **STITCH AND KNIT GROUP** The group meets on Monday mornings 10am to 12 noon in the Upper Room. We are currently working on articles for a stall at the Scarecrow Festival. We also continue to knit in support of several charities, including:

- Prem baby hats, bonnets and boots for Bolton Hospital, also little capes for still-born babies
- Hearts for Wigan hospital, Worry monsters, for children at Wigan & Leigh Hospice, Izzy dolls for Fort Alice
- Teddies for Animals Asia, a charity that works towards ending the captivity and caging of bears
- Hats, scarves, gloves, jumpers, teddies and Izzy dolls for Ukraine

✝ We also have links with the charity 'Beautiful Hands', through a midwife, Alison, who was trained in Blackpool and now works providing support and training in Laos, where it is very much needed. Through a link in Preston, we send vests, hats, booties, teddies and Izzy dolls, out to Alison in Laos.

✝ **MONDAY NIGHT READING CLUB** meets on the last Monday each month at 7.30pm in church. We share the delights (or otherwise) of the book we are reading. Bring it along, share with us your thoughts on it and give and hear suggestions for authors and books. It's a chance for a brew and a chat. Free. All welcome.

✝ **BLACKROD COMMUNITY WALKING GROUP** began a few years ago in response to the call for "Fresh Expressions of Church". Ann McMillan, a keen walker and member of St Katharine's Choir, devised a series of walks in the local area combined with a bit of history. We lost Ann a few years ago, but the group have continued to explore local places and enjoy gathering for lunch at the end of (sometimes) challenging rambling each month, regardless of the weather! All welcome. See the Facebook page for details of the next walk and pictures of the previous month.

As a church, we are committed to supporting all age groups in Blackrod. Details of all activities are available in our Parish Magazine which can be delivered to any household in Blackrod, or you can pick it up from the Family Shop (formerly Spar), and Blackrod Emporium. Or look on our Facebook page to see what's happening at <https://www.facebook.com/StKatharinesChurch>



FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER 2025

Charity Commission No: 1144084

Once again, we look back to a memorable year, sharing many hours together and celebrating what is good about living in a village like Blackrod. It's not been the easiest financially, lots of hard decisions have had to be made, and there is no promise that 2026 will be any easier! St Katharine's Church continues to live on and provide a place of worship and friendship for everyone. If you are represented in any part of this report, please accept our heartfelt thanks for supporting us to the best of your ability, it is hugely appreciated.

Please refer to the Year End spreadsheets on pages 22-23 whilst reading this report.

The balance sheet shows where we started in January and where we were in December and the prepayment figure is the insurance we have paid to cover 2026. All our "funds" are held separately in the No 1 savings account to attract interest, and the longer-term savings are held in No 2 account. £13,000 of that balance will be paid away during 2026 as it was a bequest from our friend Sal Keegan, to install a stained-glass window dedicated to her husband and son so the funds will then drop below £40,000.

Funds held: Afternoon Matinee £500; Stitch & Knit £431; Memorial £915; Youth £1,787; Bells £718; Coffee Mornings £3,557; Organ £6,287; Restoration £6,584.

INCOME

Planned giving through standing orders and envelopes has dropped by £1,000 over the year, mainly as long standing donors have sadly passed away. We are grateful for their support over many years and we now have to replace their generosity.

The non gift aided figure has risen slightly as have the plate collections, so there is a glimmer of hope! The donations given towards the cost of candles and maintenance of the churchyard are very welcome, the rest is covered from your regular giving. The general donations are back to previous levels and include donations made through the use of the QR code and Sumup.

The new free standing Sumup device given to us by Manchester Diocese will hopefully attract donations from those attending occasional services, including baptisms and weddings, and some of that showed during the Christmas period.

The Sunday donations for a cup of tea or coffee, as well as a Warm Spaces grant from Bolton Council, have covered all the coffee shop expenses, which includes refreshments for Connect, Wiggle Worship and Baby Rhyme Time. New mats for the children also came from a Bolton Council grant, and other support came from the Mayor's Charity in Blackrod. Thank you to Janet Hollick for applying for the grants and for a personal donation to Wiggle in memory of Mike.

Connect on Tuesday mornings continues to welcome 20+ visitors each week for a drink, refreshments and a chat.

Margaret Sumner and her team work hard to provide 40+ children and their families attending Messy Church with a special experience of crafts, learning, prayer, singing and food! Thank you to all who help each month and for the grants they have received from the Mayor's Charity, Scarecrow Festival and the Educational Trust.

The Sunday School team also received support from the Educational Trust and all this helps us to continue strong connections with the children and their families. Many of these young people go on to help during the main services as acolytes, stewards and help in Sunday School.

Following the decision to upgrade the audio-visual system in church, an appeal was made for help with the £6,500 needed. Help came, from three generous donations given anonymously, a bequest from Margaret Thorne, a grant from Horwich Rotary Dragon's Den and topped up by funds in the Memorial savings account. Sincere thanks to all who gave and to Alasdair Ness and Paul Cashmore who spent endless hours installing all the equipment in church - it is working really well and we are very grateful to them both.

At the same time the long wait for the removal of some of the pews in church happened and this has given us much more space enjoyed by all the children's groups, the monthly Flower Club, Wreathmaking sessions, Connect and fundraising events throughout the year.

Storage has always been a problem in our growing church, four of the pews were sold and the remaining wood was used to make a cabinet which houses all the toys used at Wiggle Worship sessions. Some of the remaining wood is being carved into holding crosses and will hopefully be available to buy at the Spring Fair.

Thank you for all the donations you have made in memory of loved ones and for the floral arrangements we see nearly all the year round, especially at the big festivals. We are so fortunate to have such an excellent team of flower arrangers who produce wonderful displays for us all to enjoy.

The Restoration Fund collects donations for the extra jobs which need to be done and a donation of £950 from Blackrod Town Council covered the joiner's bill for the reorganisation of the pews, Blackrod Together paid for the flagpole repair and Ladies Who Lunch paid for new banners advertising the services during the week ahead. There were many smaller donations and we were able to have the tower room ceiling repaired and painted, new flags to fly from the tower, the stone floor repair in the porch, downspouts and gutters cleared, annual maintenance for the clock, chairlift, heating boilers, fire extinguishers and floodlights replaced.

Afternoon Matinee provides a great selection of films for all who come along for an afternoon tea, warmth and a good story! Many thanks to Vivien Birchall and her team who provide it all and made a donation of £500 towards our heating bill - thank you so much.

The upper room also provides a monthly space for Time Out who enjoy light refreshments and a good natter, and Stitch and Knit meet weekly producing various items for charitable causes both at home and abroad.

Gift aiding is such an important part of the donations you give to St Katharine's and many thanks to Chris Skinner who has worked hard to reclaim over £11,000 of the tax you have already paid, so thank you for this great opportunity to raise extra funds.

Our fundraising remains vital to our finances and also to give us the opportunity to work together and enjoy events at St Katharine's. We started the year with Teatime Delights in the freezing cold £547; Spring Fair £1,275; Plant Sale £2,144; Scarecrow Festival £3,197; Quiz Night £289; Phoenix Nights concert £414; Christmas Fair £4,144; Christmas Post £148; Gravepots £419 and Wreathmaking £2,348.

Special thanks must go to Margaret Sumner for the Plant Sale, Diane and Paul Cashmore for the Quiz, Joyce Robinson and the Flower team for the grave pots, and Jacqui Greenbank for the Wreathmaking. The Events team have worked hard behind the scenes to pull it all together, and a million thanks to everyone in the congregation who made cakes, bought tickets, donated raffle prizes and manned the stalls. Once again the support from the village community was amazing and made it all worthwhile. When expenses were deducted over £10,000 has been raised.

HSBC run a scheme for recognising staff who help at charitable events and Andrea Hall helped us at two of the big occasions earning £441 for church funds - many thanks.

If you could nominate St Katharine's through Easy Fundraising when you buy online this is another way to help which will cost you nothing - please have a word with Mary Pryle. Last year we received £288, it all mounts up!!

The coffee morning team have supported many events throughout the year by providing refreshments as well as the book stall, jigsaw sales and raffles and raised £1,950. So they covered the increased cash prizes at the Christmas Fair.

Blackrod Community Choir have enjoyed another year of hiring our church building for Saturday practices and we have enjoyed giving them a home.

Interest on our savings is paid at 4.2% and gave us £2,524 last year, a little less than 2024 but nevertheless a welcome boost.

Sadly, we lost 18 friends from our congregation and shared the loss with their families at the All Souls service on 2nd November. We celebrated the marriages of Sarah and Ryan Sharp in July and Dusty and James Farthing in August - we wish them well. Other fees cover the burial of ashes, sexton fees and the reading of banns for weddings held elsewhere.

Pilates classes and Blackrod Community Choir practices are held weekly, Blackrod WI meet monthly and there have been seven hirings of the upper room throughout the year.

The Parish Magazine subscriptions generated £2,488 of income and we extend our sincere thanks to Mary Pryle who, month on month, produces an excellent publication giving information about what's happening at St Katharine's to 350 families. Whilst the magazine is now printed by Craftprint, all the weekly pew sheets, special service booklets and all our posters are produced by Mary. However, due to a big rise in the cost of paper particularly, our costs have risen and left us having no alternative but to increase the price of the magazine to £10 per annum for 12 copies - still fantastic value for money. Only three payments for adverts were collected this year, so there is more to come.

Thanks to Diane Cashmore and Deborah Howard for organising the distribution of the magazines each month and to all the deliverers for their time throughout the year.

Heat donations are charged at every funeral and wedding across the team and this has helped massively as our gas bill has soared by £1,600 during 2025 and electricity by £600. We are very grateful to Afternoon Matinee who donated £500 from their funds to help us. Across the team the rates and water rates for the vicarages, as well as the clergy expenses for communications and travel, are shared between the four team churches and St Katharine's is usually owed a refund which was much the same as last year.

The charity figures are the same coming in and being paid out. Through the year £509 was collected for the Children's Society in their boxes organised by Diane Cashmore, and a clothes sale raised an extra £384. Barbara Worsley handed out the USPG boxes and raised £333 for bible mission. Our Harvest charity last year was Speakeasy and the collection raised £708 as well as a private cheque for £100 from an anonymous donor. The collection plate at the funeral of Stan Phillips was nominated by the family to be sent to the Alzheimer's Society and £128 was passed on. The collection at the Service of Remembrance was £255 and passed on to the Royal British Legion.

Our sincere thanks to Barbara Miccoli and her team for organising the envelope collection throughout the village for Christian Aid and it raised £1,335. Barbara also held two car boot sales which raised a further £544 for the charity.

Since the closure of the RBS in Horwich we have made other arrangements for obtaining float change for our events.

The fees passed on to the Diocese for funerals and weddings are set by the Church of England, and the fees for verger, organist and the bells are set within the Team.

Our total income for 2025 was - £130,677.56.

EXPENDITURE

As we had slightly less fundraising events last year the expenses were also less and the coffee shop expenses remained almost exactly the same.

Stewardship envelopes costs were almost £200 and this year we needed to stock up on one-off envelopes for occasional giving. Hopefully the Sumup machine will replace the need for these in future times.

The Parish Share was £48,000 last year and the PCC struggled and debated as to how we could cover this cost as regular giving had not increased as we had hoped. Just to remind everyone the parish share is calculated on various income surveys we all complete during the year and from that our potential income can be calculated. Every church in the country pays their share to their Diocese and it covers half the stipendiary payroll, housing costs, educational support and Diocesan operating costs.

Volunteers at St Katharine's underwent Safeguarding training last year as well as those who offered to get additional training to work with our young people, and for that there is no extra cost to the parish. We received a grant of £4,555 last year from the Diocese to carry out repairs to our tower and received almost £1,000 for fully paying our parish share. If we hadn't paid in full in 2024 we would not have qualified for either of those payments. So, the decision was made to transfer £5,000 out of our savings and pay in full, hoping that, if people respond to our plea to review their giving, or new supporters take up regular standing orders, we could maybe return it.

After overpayments in 2023 & 2024 Garyth's remuneration is returning to a normal pattern and we continue to be thankful for his contribution to our weekly worship. Garyth and the choir work hard to bring extra joy to our services as recently experienced over Christmas. Sometimes we need to bring another organist in if Garyth isn't available and those fees amounted to £420.

Revd Angela tries hard to keep her expenses as low as possible and searches out the best phone and communication deals, which is why her expenses have increased only marginally. As the ministry within our team has shrunk, the calls on her time have increased and we are grateful that she manages to introduce courses and offer bible classes as much as she can. The PCC are responsible for the council tax and water rates for the vicarage and, as already mentioned, these are shared throughout the team.

The expenses for Wiggle Worship and Baby Rhyme Time do overlap and from January 2026 some of their time will be shared. This follows Shannon Burton's appointment to cover for maternity leave at Blackrod Church School and we wish her well and thank her for all she has done at BRT. The Wiggle team are operating under their budget, as are the Messy Church team so well done. Stitch & Knit, Time Out and Afternoon Matinee all operate within their own budgets.

Ecclesiastical Insurance cover our insurance and the increase in 2025 was manageable at £150 but 2026 is a different story. You will see under Prepayments on the balance sheet what we have had to pay to cover the premium for next year - an increase of £564. They have explained that the increase is due to a high amount of claims but unfortunately there are not a lot of companies equipped to quote for a Grade 2 listed church building with all that they contain.

The general maintenance figure has jumped up due to the £2,640 we spent on having the tower room ceiling repaired and repainted as advised on our Quinquennial inspection but the cleaning expenses bill has fallen by a third. We are indebted to the dedicated team of volunteer cleaners and brass polishers that make this building sparkle - a huge thank you from us all.

Sincere thanks to Jonathan Bowker and Dennis Flatters who keep our churchyard immaculate for 6 months of the year. Ivy has caused a certain amount of damage on our boundary wall this year and we are grateful to Margaret Sumner and her team for removing the rest of it before more damage is done.

Our office bill for telecommunications and other small stationery expenses has dropped slightly, postage is up slightly due to buying in stamps before the price rise. Stationery costs have returned to normal following a big order coming in at the end of 2024.

PCC expenses and gratuities remembered five 90th birthdays, five congratulations and four get wells throughout the year, provided Messy Church and Sunday School children with Easter eggs, and handouts were given out at the Blackrod Festival in September. We sent a £100 donation towards the cost of running Ignite, which is a teenage group who meet at St John's, Wingates, attended by some of our children.

For some reason our candle bill has halved and has been almost covered by donations coming through the candle tray. Bread and wine purchases happened at the very start of the year, and the very end which has made the figures look a bit unbalanced!

Donations for flowers go into the Memorial Fund with other donations and are used to pay for flowers all year including Easter, Harvest and Christmas. Last year each child baptised received a Bible, and the Sunday School children received a book at Christmas. Flowers were given and received to all on Mothering Sunday. Items used during Lent and Holy Week services, including palms, were financed from here as well as those needed for All Souls Day.

We are very grateful to Margaret Sumner and her team for planting our pathway and tubs throughout the year. If you would like to remember a loved one in church with flowers, please have a word with Chris Skinner who can help you.

We are required to pay for six licences which cover permission to play and print music and all our printing done under copyright. St Katharine's Church is registered with the Information Commissioner's Office for data protection and we hold a lottery licence for the Christmas raffle. The Canva subscription helps Janet Hollick with all that she puts on Facebook for everyone to advertise things that are happening at St Katharine's, and we are grateful for the time she spends putting them together.

Organ tuning is done by Nicholsons twice a year, the dates of which changed during 2024, but they are set again now, just before Easter and Harvest.

Bank charges started for us two years ago when our income rose over £100K pa.

The utility bills have rocketed during the year as they have for everyone else. We are with British Gas for our two heating systems, one of them switched to a new deal in February 2026 and we will look for a reduced deal when the other contract ends in 2027. E-On are still our electricity suppliers with a deal that also ends in 2027.

We do our best with trying to heat this building, but it is difficult with a high roof and draughts coming from everywhere. It takes 10 hours for the church to reach a reasonable temperature, but the smaller rooms need only a couple of hours.

The subscription to Parish Pump is used for illustrations and articles for some of our church publications and Craftprint print the Parish Magazine. There were two increases in their charges last year probably due to paper and ink costs as we find in church office.

The printer which we owned had come to the end of its days and we are back to renting from Eurodigital. So we shall see how that pans out over the year. The first month's rental of £54 is included and the rest is our annual usage.

The pew removal cost £950 covered by Blackrod Town Council; AV System cost £6,506. £4,000 of this came from three anonymous donations; the building of the storage cupboard made by Walkers Conservation £4,080; the 5-yearly electrical survey £888; and architect's fees £1,085, all came from our savings and many donations to the Restoration fund throughout the year.

The charity funds were passed on and we thank all who organised or helped with raising those funds. Diocesan fees and fees for the verger, organist and bells are provided by the bereaved families and paid out monthly.

Personal thanks go to the Churchwardens and their helpers who count, record and bank the money each week, and to our Hon Auditor, Joan Trevena, who does a great job every year.

So, there we have it! Contrary to what some people may believe each Church of England church financially stands alone with no help from any other source - not from Manchester Diocese or anywhere else. We can apply to businesses for grants for specific projects but not for the day to day running of our church. It is up to us to finance our own church and to provide a place of worship for the Blackrod community as many have done before us. None of us want to see cutbacks, so we pray that going forward our congregation and the community continue to support us and enable us to carry on with all that happens at St Katharine's.

Jean Hibbert, PCC Treasurer

<u>ST KATHARINE'S CHURCH, BLACKROD</u> <u>CHARITY NO: 1144084</u>		
<u>BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31st DECEMBER 2025</u>		
75,234.04	PCC Balance at 1 st January	93,894.50
+17,655.46	Excess of expenditure/income	<u>-4,997.85</u>
		<u>88,896.65</u>
1,005.00	Float held for events	<u>1,005.00</u>
93,894.50	PCC balance at 31 st December	89,901.65
<u>STATE OF PARISH FUNDS</u>		
11,183.43	Royal Bank of Scotland	10,188.29
1,005.00	Float held for events	1,005.00
4,955.73	Prepayments	5,519.82
18,066.10	Central Board of Finance No 1	20,779.13
<u>58,684.24</u>	Central Board of Finance No 2	<u>52,409.41</u>
93,894.50		89,901.65

St Katharine's Church - Charity No: 1144084 - Balance Sheet

CODE	DESCRIPTION	INC / EXP	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
1a	PLANNED GIVING - GIFT AID	INCOME	£23,822.00	£24,752.00	£23,569.00	£23,108.00	21,762.05
1b	ENVELOPES - GIFT AID	INCOME	£8,356.44	£6,940.38	£6,242.15	£5,149.19	5,515.89
			£32,178.44	£31,692.38	£29,811.15	£28,257.19	£27,277.94
2a	PLANNED GIVING - NON GIFT AID	INCOME	£2,798.00	£2,368.00	£3,438.00	£3,448.00	3,663.00
2b	ENVELOPES - NON GIFT AID	INCOME	£6,394.90	£6,926.75	£7,802.51	£8,153.70	8,497.30
			£9,192.90	£9,294.75	£11,240.51	£11,601.70	£12,160.30
3a	PLATE COLLECTIONS	INCOME	£2,654.36	£5,170.69	£5,440.84	£4,902.52	5155.79
3b	ONE OFF ENVELOPES	INCOME	£183.65	£519.88	£576.12	£99.00	62.92
			£2,838.01	£5,690.57	£6,016.96	£5,001.52	£5,218.71
4a	DONATIONS - GENERAL	INCOME	£1,552.80	£651.93	£1,562.84	£2,746.30	1,488.04
4b	DONATIONS - DEMIJOHN	INCOME	£193.50	£448.11	£643.85	£507.76	372.03
4c	DONATIONS - CANDLES	INCOME	£147.03	£403.59	£308.91	£292.76	317.56
4d	DONATIONS - CHURCHYARD	INCOME	£775.00	£20.00	£40.00	£70.00	70.00
4e	DONATIONS - COFFEE SHOP	INCOME	£67.33	£325.52	£1,096.61	£1,053.27	1,146.79
4f	DONATIONS - MEMORIAL FUND	INCOME	£1,997.60	£1,696.90	£2,152.64	£2,298.35	12,832.61
4g	DONATIONS - RESTORATION FUND	INCOME	£3,737.66	£9,137.93	£1,950.00	£4,690.28	7,333.57
4h	DONATIONS - ORGAN FUND	INCOME	£1,135.00	£784.62	£510.00	£717.15	355.00
4j	DONATIONS - BELLRINGERS	INCOME	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£46.00	0.00
4k	DONATIONS - YOUTH - WW,BRT,AA	INCOME	£934.22	£2,022.50	£344.42	£1,430.78	1142.50
4m	AFTERNOON MATINEE	INCOME		£65.00	£300.00	£300.00	200.00
4n	TIMEOUT	INCOME			£171.76	£267.76	480.72
4o	MESSY CHURCH & SUNDAY SCHOOL	INCOME			£1,955.35	£1,140.00	2,160.11
4p	STITCH & KNIT	INCOME		£535.07	£264.05	£210.00	196.00
			£10,540.14	£15,491.10	£11,300.43	£15,770.41	£28,094.93
5a	TAX RECOVERED - HMRC	INCOME	£10,107.66	£10,013.39	£9,764.12	£10,998.13	11,037.31
7a	LEGACIES	INCOME		£2,000.00		£13,000.00	
				£2,000.00	£0.00	£13,000.00	£0.00
3a	GRANTS	INCOME	£1,500.00	£1,800.00	£456.00	£5,455.00	
3b	GRANTS - LISTED PLACES OF WORSHIP	INCOME	£3,386.33	£3,909.66	£0.00	£1,639.87	
			£4,886.33	£5,709.66	£456.00	£7,094.87	£0.00
9a	FUNDRAISING	INCOME	£6,306.12	£11,291.44	£11,077.86	£19,773.13	15,785.95
9b	FUNDRAISING - COFFEE MORNINGS	INCOME	£323.90	£1,658.28	£2,481.18	£2,383.85	1,949.91
			£6,630.02	£12,949.72	£13,559.04	£22,156.98	£17,735.86
10	INTEREST	INCOME	£43.78	£798.12	£2,736.64	£3,523.78	2,524.20
			£43.78	£798.12	£2,736.64	£3,523.78	£2,524.20
11a	PCC FEES - FUNERAL	INCOME	£2,197.00	£2,278.00	£2,651.00	£2,373.00	2768.00
11b	PCC FEES - WEDDING	INCOME	£2,285.00	£1,176.00	£396.00	£652.00	1,297.00
11c	PCC FEES - OTHER	INCOME	£81.00	£348.00	£17.00	£87.00	351.00
			£4,563.00	£3,802.00	£3,064.00	£3,112.00	£4,416.00
12a	ROOM HIRE	INCOME	£703.00	£1,529.50	£1,932.50	£1,960.00	2,129.00
12b	MAGAZINE SALES	INCOME	£2,042.27	£2,386.10	£2,331.84	£2,261.91	2,257.56
12c	MAGAZINE ADVERTS	INCOME	£1,260.00	£1,135.00	£1,580.10	£810.00	230.00
			£4,005.27	£5,050.60	£5,844.44	£5,031.91	£4,616.56
13a	HEAT DONATIONS	INCOME	£1,437.01	£3,000.00	£2,770.00	£2,754.50	2,283.00
13b	REFUNDS	INCOME	£4,626.48	£2,099.83	£3,692.10	£2,835.32	2,838.60
			£6,063.49	£5,099.83	£6,462.10	£5,589.82	£5,121.60
14a	CHARITIES	INCOME	£2,274.43	£4,821.25	£3,776.77	£1,997.87	4,197.15
14b	FLOATS	INCOME	£410.00	£945.00	£2,405.00	£753.00	
14c	DIOCESAN FEES	INCOME	£3,604.00	£2,634.00	£1,864.00	£3,465.00	4,455.00
14d	FEES FOR VERGER, ORGANIST, BELLS	INCOME	£1,207.00	£1,685.00	£2,791.00	£3,405.50	3,822.00
			£7,495.43	£10,085.25	£10,836.77	£9,621.37	£12,474.15

17a	COST OF FUNDRAISING	EXPENDITURE	£534.23	£2,533.03	£2,894.90	£5,654.91	5,044.53
17b	COFFEE SHOP	EXPENDITURE	£134.16	£360.61	£891.86	£1,024.57	1,020.11
17c	STEWARDSHIP COSTS	EXPENDITURE	£265.97	£217.72	£187.69	£187.69	391.92
			£934.36	£3,111.36	£3,974.45	£6,867.17	£6,456.56
18a	MISSION GIVING FROM PCC FUNDS	EXPENDITURE		£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	0.00
18b	DONATIONS FROM PCC FUNDS	EXPENDITURE		£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	0.00
				£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
19a	PARISH SHARE	EXPENDITURE	£47,948.00	£48,900.00	£43,892.64	£45,102.20	47,080.00
			£47,948.00	£48,900.00	£43,892.64	£45,102.20	£47,080.00
20a	ORGANIST FEES - GARYTH	EXPENDITURE	£3,757.00	£4,453.00	£5,504.00	£5,915.00	4,682.00
20b	ORGANIST FEES OTHER	EXPENDITURE	£130.00	£100.00	£174.00	£238.00	420.00
			£3,887.00	£4,553.00	£5,678.00	£6,153.00	£5,102.00
21a	MINISTRY EXPENSES - REV WYNNE	EXPENDITURE	£1,249.31	£1,538.40	£1,324.68	£1,371.93	1,426.26
21b	MINISTRY EXPENSES - OTHER	EXPENDITURE	£0.00	£20.00	£0.00	£20.00	0.00
21c	VICARAGE EXPENSES - RATES & WATER RATES	EXPENDITURE	£3,006.96	£3,101.92	£3,248.49	£3,451.20	3,787.25
21d	VICARAGE - MAINTENANCE	EXPENDITURE	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	0.00
			£4,256.27	£4,660.32	£4,573.17	£4,843.13	£5,213.51
22a	YOUTH - WW,BRT,AA	EXPENDITURE	£734.15	£861.36	£639.19	£909.17	816.55
22b	MESSY CHURCH & SUNDAY SCHOOL	EXPENDITURE	£632.41	£643.19	£1,517.36	£1,954.81	2,151.07
22c	STITCH & KNIT	EXPENDITURE		£220.00	£0.00	£220.00	275.00
22d	TIME OUT	EXPENDITURE			£265.81	£151.46	517.65
22e	AFTERNOON MATINEE	EXPENDITURE		£65.00	£0.00	£0.00	
			£1,366.56	£1,789.55	£2,422.36	£3,235.44	£3,760.27
23a	INSURANCE	EXPENDITURE	£4,136.23	£4,222.13	£4,644.25	£4,807.94	4,955.73
23b	GENERAL MAINTENANCE & REPAIRS	EXPENDITURE	£6,608.94	£6,891.66	£6,271.73	£4,461.77	7028.16
23c	CLEANING MATERIAL & KITCHEN EXPENSES	EXPENDITURE	£263.91	£358.72	£989.05	£954.24	671.80
23d	CHURCHYARD MAINTENANCE	EXPENDITURE	£4,601.87	£1,658.44	£1,636.82	£1,615.44	1,572.00
23e	TELEPHONE, INK & OFFICE EXPENSE	EXPENDITURE	£892.57	£2,701.57	£1,279.17	£1,091.64	923.74
23f	POSTAGE	EXPENDITURE	£325.20	£191.66	£48.15	£75.00	177.20
23g	STATIONARY	EXPENDITURE	£235.69	£208.70	£249.35	£346.21	196.84
23h	PCC EXPENSES & GRATUITIES	EXPENDITURE	£1,712.68	£1,489.02	£901.55	£537.58	901.44
23i	CANDLES	EXPENDITURE	£952.23	£717.12	£802.53	£786.62	373.28
23j	UPKEEP OF SERVICE - BREAD & WINE	EXPENDITURE	£148.60	£226.80	£322.95	£222.19	575.95
23k	BOOKS, MUSIC, ROBES & FLOWERS	EXPENDITURE	£1,634.11	£3,156.91	£2,604.34	£1,765.97	2,278.77
23l	SUBSCRIPTIONS & AUDIT EXPENSES	EXPENDITURE	£55.00	£140.00	£239.99	£1,447.37	1,284.39
23m	ORGAN TUNING	EXPENDITURE	£499.20	£514.80	£829.20	£303.60	648.00
23n	BANK CHARGES	EXPENDITURE			£52.94	£856.31	889.89
			£22,066.23	£22,477.53	£20,872.02	£19,271.88	£22,477.19
24a	GAS	EXPENDITURE	£2,989.13	£3,382.78	£5,389.88	£7,382.98	8,948.29
24b	ELECTRICITY	EXPENDITURE	£780.00	£780.00	£750.00	£1,005.11	1,599.87
24c	WATER RATES	EXPENDITURE	£48.17	£275.82	£445.57	£699.98	496.10
			£3,817.30	£4,438.60	£6,585.45	£9,088.07	£11,044.26
25a	MAGAZINE - PARISH PUMP SUBS & REFS	EXPENDITURE	£124.73	£85.49	£58.98	£0.00	52.99
25b	MAGAZINE	EXPENDITURE	£1,516.00	£1,974.00	£1,884.40	£2,509.86	3,050.00
25c	PRINTER COSTS - RENT	EXPENDITURE	£1,862.06	£1,676.09	£744.00	£760.31	1,091.83
			£3,502.79	£3,735.58	£2,687.38	£3,270.17	£4,194.82
27a	MAJOR REPAIRS & ARCHITECT FEES	EXPENDITURE	£18,107.25	£31,309.97	£3,158.63	£14,237.23	13,508.71
			£18,107.25	£31,309.97	£3,158.63	£14,237.23	£13,508.71
28a	CHARITIES	EXPENDITURE	£2,282.43	£4,539.74	£4,196.25	£1,999.93	4190.09
28b	FLOATS	EXPENDITURE	£410.00	£945.00	£2,405.00	£1,758.00	0.00
28c	DIOCESAN FEES	EXPENDITURE	£2,908.00	£3,119.00	£2,028.00	£3,034.00	4,066.00
28d	FEES FOR VERGER, ORGANIST, BELLS	EXPENDITURE	£1,404.00	£1,892.00	£2,193.00	£3,239.00	3,872.00
			£7,004.43	£10,495.74	£10,822.25	£10,030.93	£12,128.09
0	TRANSFER	OTHER					4710.00

CODE	DESCRIPTION	INC / EXP	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
	TOTAL EXPENDITURE		£112,890.19	£135,471.65	£104,666.35	£122,099.22	£135,675.41
	EXCESS / INCOME - EXPENDITURE		-£14,345.72	-£17,794.28	£6,425.81	£18,660.46	-£4,997.85
	Adjustment 2019/2020		£5.61				
	Total		-£14,340.11				



Please note:
Photographs in this report were chosen at random to represent life at St Katharine's. Thank you to the photographers.

Accounts

FINANCIAL REPORT FOR ST KATHARINE'S CHURCH, BLACKROD – 31st DECEMBER 2024

Charity commission No 1144084

It's the time of year when we look back with thankfulness that once again, due to the generosity of so many people in the community, we have covered all our financial commitments and look forward to the year ahead continuing to serve the people of Blackrod and sharing their needs.

The first sheet shows our balance carried forward from 2023 and for the first time our excess of income over expenditure is split into two, showing a cash float and together those figures amount to £18,660.46 which matches the last page of the breakdown.

Our funds at the end of 2024 amounted to a current account balance of £11,183.43, a cash float of £1005, the insurance premium for 2025 was £4,955.73 and our two savings accounts.

No 1 account holds all our nominated funds: Afternoon Matinee £300; Stitch & Knit £569; Memorial Fund £5301; Youth Fund £1837; Bellringers Fund £718; Coffee Mornings £1584; Organ Fund £5809; Restoration Fund £1948. These total £18,066.10.

No 2 account holds our longer term savings, including the legacy, £58,684.24.

Income:

Planned giving, either by standing order or envelope, is the financial backbone of our church and allows us to plan the year ahead knowing there will be the funds to cover our needs.

The only money we receive is from you – the congregation and supporters of St Katharine's Church and as prices rise for everyone, so it does for church, so it is vital that we all review our giving on an annual basis. We have 119 regular givers at St Katharine's and if each of us were to increase our giving by just £1 per week it would be an increase of over £6000! Our regular income in 2024 was £39,859 – the first time it has dropped below £40K in the last 5 years so please help if you can.

Plate collections and one off donations have also taken a dip but general donations have increased and been used for funding various maintenance jobs. The coffee shop has benefitted from grants which Janet applied for under the Warm Spaces initiative – the 2023 funding arrived late so the figure includes 2 payments for £220 and we are grateful to Bolton MBC for this support. We now see over 20 visitors each Tuesday who call in for some refreshment and company and the addition of an extra pew which has been moved into the lower room has been very welcome.

Donations have also been received in memory of loved ones for the Memorial fund and the Organ fund for which we are very grateful. The Restoration fund has received many personal donations, one from the Scarecrow Festival, one enabling us to have the front noticeboard refurbished and also through the use of the QR codes displayed on the pews. We also received funds from the winding up of the Peter Tyrer Trust, Blackrod Town Council for regular maintenance to the upkeep of the clock, Stitch & Knit group, Ladies Who Lunch, and Blackrod Together as we prepared for the changes to take place within church.

Our Youth sections – Wiggle Worship and Messy Church have received financial support from Blackrod Town Council, Bolton Council and the Blackrod Educational Trust by way of grant support covering heat, refreshments and craft materials and we are very grateful for their help.

The Afternoon Matinee, Stitch and Knit and Time Out are all self funding and their expenses are covered by their members. You are welcome to come along to any of these groups and full details are in the parish magazine.

Christ Skinner, our Gift Aid Officer has worked hard to reclaim as much as possible from the tax you have already paid on your donations resulting in an increase of £1200. If you need to know more about stewardship or gift aid do have a word with either Chris or myself.

We received a legacy following the death of Sal Keegan which she willed to provide a panel of stained glass in memory of her husband and her son. The drawings have been done and approved at PCC level and now go on for a faculty sanction from Manchester Diocese and installation by the team at Design Lights.

A grant was applied for to Manchester Diocese following problems with the tower roof which cost £9838, we received half - £4555 and could also reclaim the VAT back on the work carried out – a further £1639. A grant from Benefact Trust (part of Ecclesiastical Insurance) of £900 has been received and will be used towards the storage facility soon to be built in church.

Fundraising brought in a massive increase of £8,500 over the year resulting in almost £20k to help with the predicted rise in energy costs, proposed alterations to church and ongoing maintenance of our church building. Huge thanks to the Events team who worked tirelessly throughout the year and to all of you who offered your help and support whenever it was needed. Teatime Delights started us off in February followed by the Spring Fair, Happy Voices concert, Colours Fashion Show, Plant Sale, Scarecrow Festival, Brixi Singers, Middleton Band concert, Christmas Fair, Christmas Post and the Hoover Band concert at the end of the year. Sincere thanks to the Flower team who produced grave pots and planters and to Jacqui Greenbank for ten wreath making sessions which saw 60 people come along to make their arrangements and raised over £1000 for church funds. As you read this report please accept our deepest thanks for every cake you baked, drinks you made or stalls you manned, items you bought, donations you gave - it has been an incredible year.

We were so very sad to have lost Maureen Birchall in the spring – she had worked hard for many years organising our New to You book stall and we miss her dearly. She knew what everyone read and their favourite authors, but we have been very thankful for the teams who have offered to carry on with her good work. The monthly coffee morning team have had another good year providing refreshments, raffle and jigsaw sales as we enjoy the singing brought to us by Blackrod Community Choir under the direction of Sue Stirzaker. Sue sings regularly with the Halle Choir in Manchester and also trains local youth bands in our area. They are always interested to welcome new members and the choir practice every Saturday morning in St Katharine's Church.

One good thing to come from the last year is that interest rates averaged 4.7% and increased our return on savings by £800 which has covered the bank charges of £856 we now pay as our income exceeded £100K.

All our fees are set by the Church of England and local fees by our team clergy.

Room hire is paid regularly by Pilates, Blackrod Community Choir, Blackrod W.I and whenever a request is made to use our building.

The Parish magazine is the best communication tool we have and we are indebted to Mary Pryle who through thick and thin produces a wonderful magazine month on month and very

professionally put together. Mary also produces our weekly pew sheets, All Age Worship service sheet and special services throughout the year, posters, tickets – the list is endless. Sincere thanks for all you do for us Mary it is appreciated. Thanks also to Deborah and Diane and all those who deliver the magazines throughout the village and beyond. A small amount is taken, along with the fees for weddings and funerals, to offset some of the cost of heating during the winter and for grass cutting during the summer months.

Rev Angela and all members of the clergy in our team are able to claim expenses to cover car fuel and travel as well as broadband and telephone costs and the PCCs pay for the council tax and water rates for each vicarage. These costs are shared between the four churches and, as we pay out the most we always receive a refund. The figure is artificially low for 2024 as we are still waiting for the final figures to be claimed.

St Katharine's has always tried to include the needs of others in our fundraising and collections and this year the recipients were USPG lent boxes - £298; Derian House - £50; Children's Society - £258; Royal British Legion plate collection - £202; our Harvest collection went to Operation Smile £1122; a collection towards a leaving gift for Rev Andy Jones as he moved to pastures new - £45 and a retiring collection for Gaza sent via Christian Aid.

Diocesan fees are set for weddings and funerals and these are sent to Manchester at the end of every month and fees for the services of an organist, vergers and bells are now also paid monthly.

Our income for 2024 was therefore - £140,759.68

Expenditure

As more events and entertainment have been organised during the year so to the costs increase and we are grateful to the coffee morning team for financial help during the biggest of these – the Scarecrow Festival, Plant Sale and the Christmas Fair. Stewardship costs provide the envelopes for those wishing to support us on a weekly basis.

The Parish Share of £46,000 has been paid in full once again and we received £897.80 from the encouragement scheme for full payment in 2023. Also full payment allowed us to claim the grant of £4,555 for repairs on the tower roof, our share for 2025 is £48,000 less last year's incentive. This figure is based on the various anonymous surveys you complete in October to give us an idea what our potential income could be. Our share pays for half the stipendiary payroll, housing costs, educational support and diocesan operating costs as well as training courses held by Zoom and at the diocesan office in Bury. Several PCC members are undergoing ALM training at the moment to work with our young people and to widen our worship support. Safeguarding training has also been renewed for all PCC members and those working with children and vulnerable adults - support has been available for us all from the staff in Bury.

We are grateful to Garyth for his continuing presence at the organ and for leading the choir through their practices for all the major services during the year. Sincere thanks to Ruth P, Sharron Ingram and Peter Wynne for stepping in when required. Ministry and vicarage costs have already been covered.

All our youth groups are working within the budget set by their grants and we are grateful to the leaders and everyone who gives their time and dedication to allow these special experiences to happen. The parents and grandparents have also enjoyed being able to share these special times with other families well away from the dark days of covid restrictions. The same is true for the members attending Stitch and Knit each week, and monthly to Afternoon Matinee, Time Out and the Flower Group - we give thanks for all the leaders who organise the sessions and provide a warm welcome to everyone.

The insurance on a Grade 2 listed building is what it is and is a very specialised commodity. Ecclesiastical covered our claims quickly following the attempted breakins and it is reassuring to have their support should we need it. Many thanks to Bob Chapman who deals with our insurance matters when required.

As we come to the end of our work on completing the Quinquennial Inspection the regular repairs have been less and the drop of £1800 shows this. All maintenance and annual inspections have been carried out as required.

Cleaning and kitchen expenses as well as churchyard expenses are all as expected and we are very grateful to Jon Bowker and Dennis Flatters for keeping our churchyard in such excellent condition.

All office expenses are as expected and the contract with BT works well for us. With more communication done by email than ever, stationery and stamps are under control and a big paper delivery came in just before Christmas.

90th birthdays have been remembered, flowers after hospital stays and accidents, the collection at the confirmation service goes to the Bishop's fund for ordinands £50, the parish top up to the collection for Rev Andy Jones £70 and children's book prizes £54 are the PCC expenses.

The cost of the candles and the oil is fairly static at £786 and the donations that come through the candle tray amounted to £300 to offset this cost. Bread and wine purchases since 2020 show the growing confidence in communicants to take the wine once again.

Most of the expenditure highlighted in books etc is covered from the Memorial Fund and £1023 has been spent on flowers throughout the year including Mothering Sunday, Harvest, Christmas, weekly flower arrangements when required, palms and the pathway. If you wish to remember a loved one on their anniversary or birthday there is a calendar list in church or have a word with Chris Skinner and the flower team will be happy to arrange the flowers for you. We are indebted to Margaret Sumner and her team for keeping our tubs and the path looking beautiful. The children all receive a baptism bag when they are christened containing a bible, Wiggle Worship leavers receive a bible as they leave us to go to school, All Souls items are given to bereaved families at the service in November, so nobody is forgotten. The overall cost is less in 2024 as the licence payment cost which was £1086 is now shown on the next line as part of the subscription figure and represents all copyright costs covering hymns, music and publications.

Organ tuning dates have been changed by Nicholsons which made the 2023 figure seem high and the 2024 figure lower.

We felt the full impact of bank charges in 2024 as we topped the £100k income threshold and even though we are still a registered charity bank charges apply. Happily the increase in the interest we received on our savings covers this extra expense.

The huge rise in energy costs has hit us this year as you will know from your own bills at home. We are now with British Gas Lite for all our gas supplies as advised by Parish Buying for the amount we use and we are grateful for their advice on forthcoming contract offers. E-on are still our electricity suppliers.

Although when the east wind blows our church can still feel cold and it is a difficult space to heat satisfactorily. We do our best and the heating comes on at 1am for an 11am Sunday service and during the coldest part of the winter it was on all Saturday night. The tower, upper and lower rooms are easier to heat and only require two hours to make a difference. Water rates have gone in the same direction.

Parish Pump subscription has been paid which helps so much in the preparation of the parish magazine and is now shown with other subs in line 23!

The combined income from magazine sales and adverts covers the cost of printing the magazine so we were able to avoid an increase this year.

The contract agreed with Eurodigital continues to show a good saving since we purchased our own reconditioned printer two years ago.

Repairs to the tower roof were £9110.40 and architect's fees for the year were £729. The new chairs will arrive in March costing £4398 and we look forward to using them in the new space provided.

Charities, floats and fees have all been covered in the income report.

Sincere thanks to the wardens and helpers who count the money each week, balance it and then bank it for us. Heartfelt thanks to Joan Trevena for continuing as our Hon Auditor and saving yet more fees – you are all appreciated so much.

Thank you for taking the time to read this report and if you would like to become a member of the PCC and help with planning for the future of St Katharine's Church please have a word with Rev Angela, Sheila Kinrade or Chris Skinner. We hope to hear from you soon.

St Katharine's Church - Charity No: 1144084 - Balance Sheet

CODE	DESCRIPTION	INC / EXP	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
1a	PLANNED GIVING - GIFT AID	INCOME	£22,993.50	£23,822.00	£24,752.00	£23,569.00	£23,108.00
1b	ENVELOPES - GIFT AID	INCOME	£13,655.60	£8,356.44	£6,940.38	£6,242.15	£5,149.19
			£36,649.10	£32,178.44	£31,692.38	£29,811.15	£28,257.19
2a	PLANNED GIVING - NON GIFT AID	INCOME	£1,886.00	£2,798.00	£2,368.00	£3,438.00	£3,448.00
2b	ENVELOPES - NON GIFT AID	INCOME	£3,425.39	£6,394.90	£6,926.75	£7,802.51	£8,153.70
			£5,311.39	£9,192.90	£9,294.75	£11,240.51	£11,601.70
3a	PLATE COLLECTIONS	INCOME	£1,495.16	£2,654.36	£5,170.69	£5,440.84	£4,902.52
3b	ONE OFF ENVELOPES	INCOME	£404.50	£183.65	£519.88	£576.12	£99.00
			£1,899.66	£2,838.01	£5,690.57	£6,016.96	£5,001.52
4a	DONATIONS - GENERAL	INCOME	£4,179.76	£1,552.80	£651.93	£1,562.84	£2,746.30
4b	DONATIONS - DEMIJOHN	INCOME	£57.00	£193.50	£448.11	£643.85	£507.76
4c	DONATIONS - CANDLES	INCOME	£161.33	£147.03	£403.59	£308.91	£292.76
4d	DONATIONS - CHURCHYARD	INCOME	£50.00	£775.00	£20.00	£40.00	£70.00
4e	DONATIONS - COFFEE SHOP	INCOME	£99.52	£67.33	£325.52	£1,096.61	£1,053.27
4f	DONATIONS - MEMORIAL FUND	INCOME	£4,702.70	£1,997.60	£1,696.90	£2,152.64	£2,298.35
4g	DONATIONS - RESTORATION FUND	INCOME	£50.00	£3,737.66	£9,137.93	£1,950.00	£4,690.28
4h	DONATIONS - ORGAN FUND	INCOME	£1,040.00	£1,135.00	£784.62	£510.00	£717.15
4j	DONATIONS - BELLRINGERS	INCOME	£20.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£46.00
4k	DONATIONS - YOUTH - WW,BRT,AA	INCOME	£518.00	£934.22	£2,022.50	£344.42	£1,430.78
4m	AFTERNOON MATINEE	INCOME			£65.00	£300.00	£300.00
4n	TIMEOUT	INCOME				£171.76	£267.76
4o	MESSY CHURCH & SUNDAY SCHOOL	INCOME				£1,955.35	£1,140.00
4p	STITCH & KNIT	INCOME			£535.07	£264.05	£210.00
			£10,878.31	£10,540.14	£15,491.10	£11,300.43	£15,770.41
6a	TAX RECOVERED - HMRC	INCOME	£10,083.52	£10,107.66	£10,013.39	£9,764.12	£10,998.13
			£10,083.52	£10,107.66	£10,013.39	£9,764.12	£10,998.13
7a	LEGACIES	INCOME			£2,000.00		£13,000.00
					£2,000.00	£0.00	£13,000.00
8a	GRANTS	INCOME		£1,500.00	£1,800.00	£456.00	£5,455.00
8b	GRANTS - LISTED PLACES OF WORSHIP	INCOME		£3,386.33	£3,909.66	£0.00	£1,639.87
				£4,886.33	£5,709.66	£456.00	£7,094.87
9a	FUNDRAISING	INCOME	£4,308.54	£6,306.12	£11,291.44	£11,077.86	£19,773.13
9b	FUNDRAISING - COFFEE MORNINGS	INCOME	£565.55	£323.90	£1,658.28	£2,481.18	£2,383.85
			£4,874.09	£6,630.02	£12,949.72	£13,559.04	£22,156.98
10	INTEREST	INCOME	£385.83	£43.78	£798.12	£2,736.64	£3,523.78
			£385.83	£43.78	£798.12	£2,736.64	£3,523.78
11a	PCC FEES - FUNERAL	INCOME	£1,653.00	£2,197.00	£2,278.00	£2,651.00	£2,373.00
11b	PCC FEES - WEDDING	INCOME	£882.00	£2,285.00	£1,176.00	£396.00	£652.00
11c	PCC FEES - OTHER	INCOME	£124.00	£81.00	£348.00	£17.00	£87.00
			£2,659.00	£4,563.00	£3,802.00	£3,064.00	£3,112.00
12a	ROOM HIRE	INCOME	£482.00	£703.00	£1,529.50	£1,932.50	£1,960.00
12b	MAGAZINE SALES	INCOME	£2,002.23	£2,042.27	£2,386.10	£2,331.84	£2,261.91
12c	MAGAZINE ADVERTS	INCOME	£310.00	£1,260.00	£1,135.00	£1,580.10	£810.00
			£2,794.23	£4,005.27	£5,050.60	£5,844.44	£5,031.91
13a	HEAT DONATIONS	INCOME	£1,293.00	£1,437.01	£3,000.00	£2,770.00	£2,754.50
13b	REFUNDS	INCOME	£2,243.31	£4,626.48	£2,099.83	£3,692.10	£2,835.32
			£3,536.31	£6,063.49	£5,099.83	£6,462.10	£5,589.82
14a	CHARITIES	INCOME	£2,320.52	£2,274.43	£4,821.25	£3,776.77	£1,997.87
14b	FLOATS	INCOME	£990.00	£410.00	£945.00	£2,405.00	£753.00
14c	DIOCESAN FEES	INCOME	£2,716.00	£3,604.00	£2,634.00	£1,864.00	£3,465.00
14d	FEES FOR VERGER, ORGANIST, BELLS	INCOME	£1,996.00	£1,207.00	£1,685.00	£2,791.00	£3,405.50
			£8,022.52	£7,495.43	£10,085.25	£10,836.77	£9,621.37

CODE	DESCRIPTION	INC / EXP	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
	TOTAL INCOME		£87,093.96	£98,544.47	£117,677.37	£111,092.16	£140,759.68
17a	COST OF FUNDRAISING	EXPENDITURE	£1,106.94	£534.23	£2,533.03	£2,894.90	£5,654.91
17b	COFFEE SHOP	EXPENDITURE	£6.30	£134.16	£360.61	£891.86	£1,024.57
17c	STEWARDSHIP COSTS	EXPENDITURE	£264.41	£265.97	£217.72	£187.69	£187.69
			£1,377.65	£934.36	£3,111.36	£3,974.45	£6,867.17
18a	MISSION GIVING FROM PCC FUNDS	EXPENDITURE			£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
18b	DONATIONS FROM PCC FUNDS	EXPENDITURE			£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
					£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
19a	PARISH SHARE	EXPENDITURE	£46,670.00	£47,948.00	£48,900.00	£43,892.64	£45,102.20
			£46,670.00	£47,948.00	£48,900.00	£43,892.64	£45,102.20
20a	ORGANIST FEES - GARYTH	EXPENDITURE	£2,757.00	£3,757.00	£4,453.00	£5,504.00	£5,915.00
20b	ORGANIST FEES OTHER	EXPENDITURE	£65.00	£130.00	£100.00	£174.00	£238.00
			£2,822.00	£3,887.00	£4,553.00	£5,678.00	£6,153.00
21a	MINISTRY EXPENSES - REV WYNNE	EXPENDITURE	£1,477.49	£1,249.31	£1,538.40	£1,324.68	£1,371.93
21b	MINISTRY EXPENSES - OTHER	EXPENDITURE	£10.00	£0.00	£20.00	£0.00	£20.00
21c	VICARAGE EXPENSES -RATES & WATER RATE	EXPENDITURE	£2,931.54	£3,006.96	£3,101.92	£3,248.49	£3,451.20
21d	VICARAGE - MAINTENANCE	EXPENDITURE	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
			£4,419.03	£4,256.27	£4,660.32	£4,573.17	£4,843.13
22a	YOUTH - WW,BRT,AA	EXPENDITURE	£11.00	£734.15	£861.36	£639.19	£909.17
22b	MESSY CHURCH & SUNDAY SCHOOL	EXPENDITURE	£849.20	£632.41	£643.19	£1,517.36	£1,954.81
22c	STITCH & KNIT	EXPENDITURE			£220.00	£0.00	£220.00
22d	TIME OUT	EXPENDITURE				£265.81	£151.46
22e	AFTERNOON MATINEE	EXPENDITURE			£65.00	£0.00	£0.00
			£860.20	£1,366.56	£1,789.55	£2,422.36	£3,235.44
23a	INSURANCE	EXPENDITURE	£4,136.23	£4,136.23	£4,222.13	£4,644.25	£4,807.94
23b	GENERAL MAINTENANCE & REPAIRS	EXPENDITURE	£2,964.46	£6,608.94	£6,891.66	£6,271.73	£4,461.77
23c	CLEANING MATERIAL & KITCHEN EXPENSES	EXPENDITURE	£800.94	£263.91	£358.72	£989.05	£954.24
23d	CHURCHYARD MAINTENANCE	EXPENDITURE	£1,040.00	£4,601.87	£1,658.44	£1,636.82	£1,615.44
23e	TELEPHONE, INK & OFFICE EXPENSE	EXPENDITURE	£1,408.18	£892.57	£2,701.57	£1,279.17	£1,091.64
23f	POSTAGE	EXPENDITURE	£129.28	£325.20	£191.66	£48.15	£75.00
23g	STATIONARY	EXPENDITURE	£282.91	£235.69	£208.70	£249.35	£346.21
23h	PCC EXPENSES & GRATUITIES	EXPENDITURE	£433.43	£1,712.68	£1,489.02	£901.55	£537.58
23i	CANDLES	EXPENDITURE	£458.20	£952.23	£717.12	£802.53	£786.62
23j	UPKEEP OF SERVICE - BREAD & WINE	EXPENDITURE	£31.30	£148.60	£226.80	£322.95	£222.19
23k	BOOKS, MUSIC, ROBES	EXPENDITURE	£1,343.14	£1,634.11	£3,156.91	£2,604.34	£1,765.97
23l	SUBSCRIPTIONS & AUDIT EXPENSES	EXPENDITURE	£1,044.30	£55.00	£140.00	£239.99	£1,447.37
23m	ORGAN TUNING	EXPENDITURE	£924.70	£499.20	£514.80	£829.20	£303.60
23n	BANK CHARGES	EXPENDITURE				£52.94	£856.31
			£14,997.07	£22,066.23	£22,477.53	£20,872.02	£19,271.88
24a	GAS	EXPENDITURE	£3,434.25	£2,989.13	£3,382.78	£5,389.88	£7,382.98
24b	ELECTRICITY	EXPENDITURE	£930.00	£780.00	£780.00	£750.00	£1,005.11
24c	WATER RATES	EXPENDITURE	£147.28	£48.17	£275.82	£445.57	£699.98
			£4,511.53	£3,817.30	£4,438.60	£6,585.45	£9,088.07
25a	MAGAZINE - PARISH PUMP SUBS & REFS	EXPENDITURE	£54.98	£124.73	£85.49	£58.98	£0.00
25b	MAGAZINE	EXPENDITURE	£121.00	£1,516.00	£1,974.00	£1,884.40	£2,509.86
25c	PRINTER COSTS - RENT	EXPENDITURE	£1,745.59	£1,862.06	£1,676.09	£744.00	£760.31
			£1,921.57	£3,502.79	£3,735.58	£2,687.38	£3,270.17
27a	MAJOR REPAIRS & ARCHITECT FEES	EXPENDITURE	£6,131.45	£18,107.25	£31,309.97	£3,158.63	£14,237.23
			£6,131.45	£18,107.25	£31,309.97	£3,158.63	£14,237.23
28a	CHARITIES	EXPENDITURE	£2,331.05	£2,282.43	£4,539.74	£4,196.25	£1,999.93
28b	FLOATS	EXPENDITURE	£990.00	£410.00	£945.00	£2,405.00	£1,758.00
28c	DIOCESAN FEES	EXPENDITURE	£2,637.00	£2,908.00	£3,119.00	£2,028.00	£3,034.00
28d	FEES FOR VERGER, ORGANIST, BELLS	EXPENDITURE	£2,030.00	£1,404.00	£1,892.00	£2,193.00	£3,239.00
			£7,988.05	£7,004.43	£10,495.74	£10,822.25	£10,030.93
x0	TRANSFER	OTHER					

TOTAL EXPENDITURE

£91,698.55 £112,890.19 £135,471.65 £104,666.35 £122,099.22

CODE	DESCRIPTION	INC / EXP	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
	EXCESS / INCOME - EXPENDITURE		-£4,604.59	-£14,345.72	-£17,794.28	£6,425.81	£18,660.46
	Adjustment 2019/2020			£5.61			
	Total			-£14,340.11			

ST KATHARINE'S CHURCH, BLACKROD
CHARITY NO: 1144084

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31st DECEMBER 2024

68808.23	PCC Balance at 1 st January	75234.04
+6425.81	Excess of expenditure/income	+17655.46
	Float held for events	<u>1005.00</u>
75234.04	PCC balance at 31 st December	93894.50

STATE OF PARISH FUNDS

9015.14	Royal Bank of Scotland	11183.43
	Float held for events	1005.00
4807.94	Prepayments	4955.73
18502.41	Central Board of Finance No 1	18066.10
<u>42908.55</u>	Central Board of Finance No 2	<u>58684.24</u>
75234.04		93894.50

PCC Chairman:

PCC Treasurer:

Hon Auditor:

Accounts

FINANCIAL REPORT FOR ST KATHARINE'S CHURCH BLACKROD – 31st DECEMBER 2023

Charity Commission No 1144084

As always the year end figures give us an idea of things that have gone well and how we can improve, but it's always an indication of what we need to do to move forward and ensure that St Katharine's Church in Blackrod has a solid financial foundation and can continue to serve the needs of our community.

Income:

Planned giving, which is gift aided, is the most effective way that donors can help St Katharine's to pay their way and it can be given either by standing order or through our envelope scheme. During 2023 £29,811 was gift aided and donations of £11,240 were non-gift aided. Please prayerfully consider whether you could become part of our stewardship programme by standing order or envelope, and add gift aid, you would be helping us so much. The only funding we can rely on is from you – our congregation. If you feel you can help please have a word with Jean or Chris, our Gift Aid Secretary, we would be very happy to discuss this further with anyone needing more information.

Sincere thanks to those who are already supporting the giving programme and have done so for some time. If you haven't reviewed your donation for a while you can increase it any time you wish and let's see if we can help as many as possible to switch to gift aid.

Plate collections have increased by £271 to £5440 and one off envelopes totalled £576 up by £56. Our various funds are supported by many people – sometimes in memory of a friend or relative, sometimes towards the upkeep of our church building. General donations amounted to £562 and was then boosted by a very generous donation of £1000 given anonymously. The demijohn received an extra £200 in donations from the generosity of more people who visited our church building. The candle tray collected £309 and whilst this figure is £100 less than last year it does help to offset the annual cost of our candles which was £803.

Many thanks to the team who man the kitchen for our coffee time after services, and on many other occasions, throughout the year. The Warm Spaces initiative was set up towards the end of 2022 and our churchwarden Janet Hollick applied for grants from Bolton BMC (£220) and Asda Foundation (£500) of which half was for refreshments and half for a heat donation. This has enabled Connect to open every Tuesday morning for anyone wanting an hour or so of company, tea and toast – thank you to all who have volunteered to help out once a month and to those who bake for us. Over £600 has come from Sunday mornings and several smaller donations throughout the year. We have spent £892 on coffee, tea, biscuits, teacakes and the replacement of two flasks.

Over £2000 has been donated to the Memorial Fund in memory of loved ones throughout the year and this has covered the cost of all the flowers we see in church during the year, confirmation bibles, Sunday School gifts, sanctuary lamp and Easter palms. Funds from one of the monthly coffee mornings provided the topup for the Christmas flowers.

Following the appeal for the restoration of the clock during 2021/2022 there have been 4 donations to the Restoration Fund as well as a regular monthly gift of £70 and an anonymous donation of £1000. Payments from this fund totalled £3158 and covered the replacement of the shaped tower window costing £2595 including fitting and £501 final invoice from the retention of the roof repairs completed in 2022.

Donations for the Organ Fund came in remembering friends and family and these funds are being accrued in the No 1 savings account as any restoration work on the organ tends to be costly so the more we can put aside the easier it will be when repairs are needed.

The Leaders of Wiggle Worship, Messy Church and Sunday School have secured funding during the year so the former youth fund has been split into two sections. The youth account receives an anonymous monthly donation which totalled £144 in 2023 and Wiggle Worship received donations of £201. This fund covered expenses for crafts, books, toys, cups and polo shirts for Wiggle Worship, Baby Rhyme Time and All Age Worship.

Donations totalling £440 from Blackrod Town Council and Bolton Council had been secured but did not arrive until January so will show in the 2024 accounts.

Messy Church and Sunday School have also received funding of £200 from the Scarecrow Festival, £600 from BSACC and £400 from the Educational Trust, as well as donations totalling £755. During the year £750 has been spent on food for the family teas and £767 on plates, bowls, craft materials and Christmas selection boxes and chocolate.

Time Out has been added to our activities since August and the PCC offered start up funding for this group of ladies once a month in the upper room. Initial needs were glasses and cheeseboards costing £54 and since then income from subs etc has been £171 and expenses on refreshments £211.

The Stitch and Knit account and Afternoon Matinee are run by members and are within the church accounts for audit purposes only. Neither have had any withdrawals during the year.

As already mentioned Chris Skinner was unable to claim as much tax back from HMRC as the gift aid totals were less but £9764 is a fantastic help to church funds and many thanks to Chris and all those who have gift aided their donations.

In March we were able to claim a grant towards heating bills from the Diocese and were awarded £456.

Fundraising went well again throughout the year and gave us the opportunity to work together and £11,777 was raised. I have also shown the expenses to the main events:

Spring Fair:	£940 income – expenses £166 (coffee morning fund donated £50)
Plant Sale:	£1889 income – expenses £848 including £706 for plants
Scarecrow Festival:	£2320 income – expenses £312 (coffee morning fund donated £125)
Christmas Fair:	£4346 income – expenses £690 (coffee morning fund donated £356)

Other events throughout the year included the Memory Lane photograph day, table top sales and thanks to Paul, Diane and Mary for the quizzes, Flower Team for the gravepots and the Christmas Post team once again. Expenses are shown above as well as prizes, serviettes, pens, tablecloths and 2 flasks.

Easy fundraising topped £200 this year supported by those who shop online with no cost to the donor. If you wish to support church in this way please nominate St Katharine's and carry on shopping – holidays and insurance etc can also generate funds which helps to bump up the figures. Please ask Mary Pryle or any member of the Events team for more information or just check online with Easy Fundraising.

The monthly coffee mornings continue to do well and visitors enjoy singing by the Blackrod Community Choir during the first half of the morning. An increase of £800 has meant the funds covered expenses for the bell ringing event and the Carol service as well as those shown above. Interest rates have increased during the year and £2736 was paid on funds held in our two savings accounts held with CCLA.

Sadly we said good bye to 24 members of our community who held services at St Katharine's and we celebrated one wedding.

The Pilates class continues to use our upper room on Monday afternoon and Blackrod Community Choir practice most Saturday mornings. Blackrod WI have had a full year with us now and meet

monthly. Blackrod Community Group have recently joined us and meet alternate months. We provide a home for Stitch and Knit, Afternoon Matinee and Time Out as well as all the youth groups as part of our mission outreach and apply for funding where we can.

The income from magazine sales and advertising has covered all the costs of printing once again as well as membership of Parish Pump and Lectionary online as well as all our stationery needs. We changed our printers in the autumn and now support Craftprint in Horwich who are doing a great job. Sincere thanks to Mary Pryle who continues to put all our magazine articles together every month and meet the printing deadlines, as well as producing our weekly pew sheet and leaflets for special services throughout the year. On top of that Mary designs and prints all our posters and tickets needed for events – a huge job and we are very grateful. Another change this year with the distribution is that Colin Chater retired from delivering all the magazines every month to the deliverers, a job he has done so well for over 10 years in all weathers – thank you so much Colin. Taking up the reins are Deborah Howard and Diane and Paul Cashmore who will share the job and we are grateful for their help and commitment.

Heat donations are requested as part of every funeral and wedding fee which takes part in the Westhoughton team and during the summer when no heating is required these funds are used for gardening and grass cutting expenses.

Rev Angela and all members of the clergy team are able to reclaim expenses for petrol and travel as well as telephone and broadband provision and the PCC cover the cost of rates and water rates on the vicarage. These costs are shared fairly between all the churches and as we pay the most we usually get a refund. Added to that this year we also received £1790 from the insurance claim following the burglaries in the summer.

Charities we supported throughout the year were: Children's Society boxes £282 and the Christingle collection £174; Christian Aid collection £1208 and £367 for the Turkish appeal in September 22 passed through Christian Aid. Our Harvest collection was in support of NW Air Ambulance £770; half share of the Memory Day to the Popplewell Trust £285; USPG Lent boxes £271; Holy Trinity from funds raised at the bellringing event £115; British Legion collection £205 and the plate collection in memory of Margaret Dickie £100 to The Christie Hospital. Thank you to Barbara Worsley who organised the collection for USPG; Diane Cashmore for support with the Children's Society and Barbara Miccoli and team for the Christian Aid collection.

Thank you to everyone who has donated items through the Grub tub, stamp collection, candles and tins for Ukraine and for the amazing collection at the Toy Service and to all who have made sure that these gifts are delivered to Bolton Lions & Fort Alice.

Floats are used throughout the year for all the coffee mornings and the big events and repaid before the year end.

Diocesan fees and fees for the verger, organist and bell ringer are collected more now by the BACS system and are paid out at the end of each month.

Expenditure

The cost of fundraising and coffee shop expenses has already been covered.

Stewardship - as more supporters are now preferring to pay by standing order we had fewer envelopes printed so a slight reduction is shown.

The Parish Share has once again been paid in full thanks to your support and commitment during 2023. The figure is based on the various surveys you have completed and used to cover half of the stipendiary payroll, housing costs, educational support and diocesan operating costs. We received a £1000 refund from the Diocese for paying in full and we hope that will be repeated in 2024.

Once again we count our blessings that we have Garyth as our resident organist and that we have a great choir. Other fees are just to cover holidays – a special thank you to Ruth P, Sharron Ingram and Peter Wynne for stepping in when required.

Ministry and vicarage expenses already covered.

Following funding from different places for different age groups in order to comply with their restrictions, Wiggle Worship and Baby Rhyme Time have been separated from Messy Church and Sunday School and All Age Services does what it says on the tin! WW and BRT expenses are mainly books and craft materials, Messy & SS cater for an older age group. Expenses for Messy includes items needed for providing tea for the children and their families - £720 for food, £64 for extra cutters, plates and beakers; £120 for Christmas gifts and approx. £536 for craft materials. All the teams do an amazing job welcoming the children and their families into church, sharing and understanding the word of God and taking home a memory of their time with us.

Time out has already been mentioned.

Our insurance is provided by Ecclesiastical and they paid what was due when we needed to make a claim. Thanks to Bob Chapman for sorting that out when we needed it. There is always an adjustment on the balance sheet as the renewal is due and paid in December but covers the following year.

General maintenance has remained steady at around £6k in recent years but would have been less on this balance sheet had it not been for the break in repairs which cost just over £2000 of which £1790 was reclaimed. This year's expenses included:

Lightening conductor check and maintenance £910; Boiler maintenance and new electronic controller for heating church £815; 3 Electrical jobs £562; gutter clearance x 2 £540; Acorn Stairlift annual maintenance and contract £495; new flags £270; 2 loose headstones fixed back in place £100;

Pat testing, carpet cleaning, fire extinguisher check and first aid box updates all together £400.

Cleaning materials and kitchen expenses remain around the same but we also purchased a new Gtech carpet sweeper for £290 – which was stolen and replaced again.

Churchyard expenses reverted to normal expenditure for cutting the grass and we are very grateful to Jonathan Bowker and Denis Flatters for keeping on top of things. Also thanks to Margaret Sumner for keeping the front pathway looking superb throughout the year.

Office expenditure is back to previous levels and covers ink for work done offsite and diaries. We have signed a new contract with BT which will save us around £70pa. for phone and broadband . Postage down as emails take over and stationery covers all the paper we use throughout the year. PCC expenses and gratuities include Hygene and Catering online courses; coasters for All Souls, Wiggle and Mother's Day; gift for the honorary auditor; retirement gifts for Ian and Colin our magazine deliverers and our Churchwarden Janet and refreshments; remembering a 90th, 80th and an 18th and flowers for some who have been poorly; subs for our teenagers to attend Ignite at St John's Wingates.

Candle purchases throughout the year amounted to £802 offset by donations of £309 and bread & wine costs rose slightly once again as communicants continue to gain confidence after the covid epidemic.

The bulk of the expenses for books and flowers etc have been provided by donations in the Memorial fund; flowers - £555, presentation bibles - £157, baptism packs £100, palms -£46 as well as £120 from Coffee Morning funds. The largest expense is the amount we have to cover for the 6 copyright licences covering music, hymns and all publications which amounted to £1038.

Books to cover special services and study groups - £225. Other smaller expenses were children's Easter eggs, Lectionaries, Crib service glowsticks, Remembrance Sunday poppy wreath and the blue tooth speaker stolen during the break in and later refunded by the insurance claim.

Canva publisher app, lottery licence for Christmas raffle tickets, Data Development annual support for the gift aid scheme and ICO subs for data protection amounted to £240.

Organ tuning seems high but only because Nicholsons have changed their visits from mid summer and Christmas to Easter and Harvest and £262 of this figure covered December 2022.

For the first time in 2022/2023 we moved over the £100K income threshold allowed by RBS to run the account for free and from November we now have monthly bank charges to cover.

The heating for the main body of church is provided by British Gas at a cost of £2549 and, as our contract with Opus who covered the upper and lower rooms on a different meter ended in Feb 23 we moved to British Gas Lite. The cost for this is £2840 but Opus did not offer another contract so we took the best option we had.

SSE had our electricity contract and we had a good 3 year deal with them but had to renegotiate as it ended in Feb 2024. We have moved to the cheapest deal available which is with Eon and they offer renewable fuel at no extra charge.

As with everything water rates have also - now £445.

The magazine has been discussed in the income - £1884 until October when CZ Design ceased to be. The double issue printed by Craftprint will appear in the 2024 accounts.

As hoped the switch to Eurodigital has reduced our costs significantly and £744 is for usage only as we paid for the new printer from a legacy received in 2022.

The tower window in the clock chamber was seriously rotten and needed to be replaced. This has been done by Wallworks at a total cost of £2600 and the retention money on the roof repairs of £500 has been paid to Walkers and £62 fees to the architect.

Charities, floats and fees all discussed in the income section.

The difference between the excess of income figure on the balance sheet of £6262.12 and that shown on the summary £6425.81 is £163.69. This happens when we make allowance in the prepayments section for the insurance figure paid in the 2022 accounts £4644.25 actually covers 2023 and £4807.94 covers 2024 – a difference of £163.69.

The bank balance of £9015.15 and all items are cleared.

CBF No 1 account – balance £18502. This contains all our separate “funds” – Memorial - £5318; Youth – £1837; Bellringers - £692; Coffee Mornings – £2475; Organ – £5316; Restoration - £1985; Stitch & Knit - £579; Afternoon Matinee - £300.

CBF No 2 £42908. These are our reserves.

The PCC are aware that we are only in this solid position as a result of how the community support St Katharine's Church and we hope you feel we are managing these finances with care and consideration. It has taken a lot of work by volunteers over the last twelve months and there are a few gaps appearing on various rotas and indeed on the PCC. If you feel you can help in any way please speak to our Churchwarden Sheila Kinrade or Rev Angela – it would be great to hear from you.

Accounts

FINANCIAL REPORT FOR ST KATHARINE'S CHURCH – CHARITY NO. 1144084 – 2022

Please read the following report in conjunction with the balance sheet which follows.

Writing this report feels a bit like watching the Phoenix rise from the ashes of covid! We have looked out for each other, seen a need and acted on it and continued to search out how we can help to support those around us. New initiatives have been organised to allow people to come together – young and older – and our congregation numbers are back to pre-covid times. All this is much more important than pounds, shillings and pence – although we do need your financial support to allow us to grow and offer yet more worship opportunities to the people in our community.

So, I hope this report will help to put some meat on the bones of the figures in the balance sheet – please always know if I can help with any questions regarding finance I will be happy to do so. Just give me a ring on 01204 691575 or see me in church.

Our planned giving schemes help us to do just that – plan! We can rely on the envelopes coming through the collection plate (£13,867) and the standing order payments dropping directly into the church bank account (£27,120) and together these cover our regular expenditure, excluding the Parish Share.

Plate collections and gifts in the “one off” envelopes (£5,690) are much appreciated and do help with the many extras that crop up throughout the year. If you do support St. Katharine's by donating in this way, please consider switching to regular giving through the envelope scheme or by standing order. If you are a tax payer it would allow us to claim back the tax you have already paid on your gift which would add another 20% to your donation. If you have any queries about this just ask me or our Gift Aid Secretary – Chris Skinner.

Thanks to everyone who generously donated to any of our church funds during 2022 you have helped tremendously. People have directed most of their support to the restoration of the three clock dials (£9,279) which now look resplendent and oh how we missed them! The demijohn has provided the opportunity for visitors to show their appreciation for what we are trying to improve at St Katharine's and the candle tray collection has covered half of the cost of candles during the year.

Many thanks to the willing volunteers who have stepped up to help in the coffee shop after services and encouraged us to stay and have a chat – your donations have covered the cost of providing drinks and biscuits for many occasions throughout the year! Loved ones who have gone before us are remembered through the Memorial Fund which funded children's bibles, altar linen, palm crosses, items for the baptism bags, confirmation gifts, 2 chairs with arms and tops up the flower fund when needed. The Organ Fund grows by donations throughout the year and when we had a problem with the blower back in April it was reassuring to know we had the £1900 to cover the repair.

Stitch and Knit have decided to move their bank account and consolidate it with the church accounts but it will be run by them – income 4i & expenditure 28e.

Our Youth Sections – Sunday School, Messy Church, Wiggle Worship and Baby Rhyme Time have all benefitted from donations from Blackrod Education Trust, Blackrod Town Council, Bolton Council Community Trust, The Mayor's Fund and the Scarecrow Festival, totalling £1470 with the remaining income coming from individual donations. Through your generosity we are able to provide the equipment, craft resources and refreshments for all the children's sessions and we are hugely grateful to all the volunteers who make these times such fun.

Sincere thanks to our Gift Aid Secretary, Chris Skinner, who regularly reclaims the tax paid by us all from HMRC which in 2022 amounted to just over £10,000. This gives us a huge boost in fulfilling all our financial obligations during the year including the Parish Share.

St Katharine's was kindly remembered with a legacy in the will of Audrey Fairhurst during the year, and it enabled us to buy an ex-demo printer outright when our contract with Arena came to an end. The cost was £1680 but we are now able to avoid ongoing rental costs month on month.

We received a grant from Allchurches Trust of £1800 to help with the cost of the repairs to the stone mullions which amounted to £20,000.

As a registered charity with a listed building we are able to reclaim the VAT from Listed Places of Worship paid on restoration work which needed to be done and we claimed £3,909 from the roof repair and the restoration of the stone mullions.

With restoration work to be done and storm damage to be repaired we needed to really step up with fundraising activities and this we certainly did, doubling our efforts as we were allowed to open up after the covid restrictions. It took a lot of courage from a lot of people but the Blackrod community backed us to the hilt and over £11,000 was raised. The results:

Spring Fair - £1296; Plant sale - £1661; Scarecrow Festival - £2170; Band concert - £924; Christmas Fair - £3491; Gravepots - £270; Christmas Post 2021 raised £204 (paid in 2022) and £236 in 2022; Bric a Brac £160, and throughout the year cards, jigsaws, pens, and history book sales amounted to over £500.

Easyfundraising (which comes from items you buy online) raised £319 and if you are an online shopper and would like to nominate St Katharine's as your charity please have a word with any of the Events team or Mary Pryle and we can explain how it works.

All fundraising comes with expenditure and in 2022 all expenses, which amounted to £1468 for the Fairs etc, were covered by the efforts of the monthly Coffee Morning team and all who regularly support them. The plant sales and the band concert tickets covered the expenses from those two events but the monthly refreshments, book sales and raffle covered everything else.

The interest income of £798 was paid on the two savings account we have and are shown on the balance sheet.

St Katharine's Church supported the families during 21 funerals during 2022 and 6 burial of ashes and our thoughts are with you all. We shared the celebrations of 4 weddings and many baptisms too.

Our facilities are used weekly by the Pilates class on Monday evenings and Blackrod Community Choir on Saturday mornings, and in July Blackrod Women's Institute joined us to use the Upper Room. Their room hire helps with our heating bills.

350 magazines are printed every month off site. The sales income, and the advert fees cover the cost of the printing - £1974, the Parish Pump fees and stationery costs. We are deeply grateful to Mary Pryle who still puts the magazine together every month, to Colin Chater who delivers to the delivery team and to the willing volunteers who get them through the letter boxes.

A heat donation is requested from every wedding and every funeral as the heating is on 9 hours before the event and in the winter months overnight. £70 was the suggestion which operates throughout the Westhoughton team. During the summer when the heat is not required funds are diverted to help with the cost of cutting the churchyard grass.

Rev Angela and the clergy at St Bartholomew's, St John's Wingates and St James' Daisy Hill are allowed to claim for telephone, postal and petrol expenses and the relative PCC's are obliged to pay the rates and water rates on the various vicarages. These expenses are shared and this usually means that we receive a refund on a quarterly basis.

Charity collections amounted to £4821:

Disasters Emergency Committee – Afghanistan £179; Ukraine £288 + £117; Pakistan £160, all donated from retiring collections after services in church.

Breast Cancer Charity – £100; World Day of Prayer £155; Lent boxes for USPG £270; International Aid Trust – Harvest collection £879 + a £40 personal cheque; British Legion £226 collection at the Service of Remembrance; Children's Society boxes £296 and the Christingle collection £258; Christian Aid £1892;

Special thanks to Barbara Miccoli and the Christian Aid team who went above and beyond in their efforts to raise the funds for the charity with a concert, sponsored steps, as well as the house to house collection through the parish magazine.

Diane Cashmore headed the Children's Society team and Barbara Worsley organised the lent box collection – thank you to all who donated.

There was also an overwhelming response to the Toy Service and toys were passed on to Fort Alice Women's Refuge in Bolton. Weekly the donations for the grub tub are taken along to Urban Outreach by Peter Wynne for the food bank.

Floats used throughout the year at different events are drawn and repaid within the accounts.

Diocesan fees are collected as instructed in line with national guidelines and passed on as are the fees for the verger, organist and bell ringer. Fees for one of the weddings were paid some time ago and transferred when the event took place consequently there is a difference between the income and expenditure figures for 2022.

EXPENDITURE

Cost of fundraising already covered.

Coffee shop expenditure is almost covered by the weekly donations.

Stewardship costs cover the printing of the weekly envelopes and these costs have been reduced as people change to standing order donations.

Parish Share is paid by every parish in the country and is based on the results of various surveys that you have answered during the year. It is used to pay half of the stipendiary payroll, housing costs, educational support and diocesan operating costs. We have been able to pay our full share once again in 2022 through your continued support and will receive approx. £1000 as a bonus for paying in full.

We are blessed to be able to enjoy the talented expertise of Garyth week on week and the singing of the choir under his direction. It makes the joys of Easter and Christmas extra special. Also, thanks to Ruth P, for stepping in when required.

Ministry expenses have been covered earlier along with the vicarage expenses.

Apart from the use of the youth donations discussed earlier the funding received has covered the purchase of tables and chairs, musical instruments and everything needed to celebrate worship with this wide age range of children. Books, jigsaws, storage boxes, toys, disco lights, Christmas gifts as well as craft materials from Pritt sticks to diamonds and rubies!

Messy Church has also received grants and funding to help with the food costs for the children and families – so welcome in these uncertain times and £520 of their specified expenditure has provided their tea at the end of the Saturday sessions. The teams work so hard to make these times memorable for everyone – you are appreciated.

The Film Club had to close during covid but it is wonderful to see that Vivien Birchall and her team have started up during the year as Afternoon Matinee and is now self-financing but has the full support of the PCC in case of need.

Our insurance has been renewed with Ecclesiastical Insurance who specialise in covering church buildings at a cost of £4644.25.

General maintenance this year covered electrical work £869; fire alarm & new battery £360; roof repairs £1890; replacement flags – St George and the Union Jack; heating checks £531; organ blower & electrics £2287; cleaning of some windows, carpet and gutters totalling £475. Cleaning and kitchen equipment £359.

Outside, the Eco corner was set up with the pond pots, compost and plants. The whole churchyard had many cuts and trims from April through to November totalling £1590 – many thanks to Denis Flatters and Jonathan Bowker for keeping on top of things.

Office expenses included £695 for the BT telephone; extra printer ink £218; leaflet stand £28; smaller office supplies £79 and the payment to Eurodigital for the printer £1680, covered with the legacy gift. Postage stamps and paper purchases are as shown.

PCC expenses included refunding £410 to the Diocese as they had paid twice for the setting up of Wiggle Worship! Rhea Howard & Barbara Miccoli attended a First Aid course - £333; new tree lights £63; Christmas services banner £84; flowers, gifts for two 80th birthdays, a golden and a diamond wedding, and Bishop Mark's retirement all totalled £160; hot water bottles in the choir £32; Songs of Praise biscuits £27; leaving

gift for our churchwarden Ruth and various items for the buffet; The Memorial fund paid for the console table; baptism bibles and Sunday School presentation books.

Candles cost £717 and £313 was donated through the candle tray; bread & wine £227.

Worship items £656; flowers £672; 6 licences for music £968; 2 chairs with arms £254;

Baptism welcome packs £365; confirmation bibles & prize giving £103; children's bibles £28; lectionaries £63; netting for the flower curtain £45. Most of this was covered by the Memorial Fund.

Lottery licence, Data Development support and Information Commissioner Office totalled £140.

2 visits to tune the organ by Nicholsons £515;

Our gas is provided by British Gas for the body of church and Opus Energy for the upper & lower rooms and under the tower. Our contract with Opus ends in Feb 23 and when the British Gas contract ends in May 24 we hope to combine the two. SSE are our electricity providers until June 24.

Waterplus rates were £276.

Magazine - shows the annual cost of printing by CZ Design. We paid £146 per month from January – June, and £178 from July with a £30 excess for a colour magazine in January. The cost reflects the national increase of paper in this year. The CRUX magazine of the Manchester Diocese is now provided free and copies are available from church. The subscriptions to Parish Pump and the Lectionary online amounted to £47.99, and we refunded £37.50 to a business that had ceased trading shortly after paying for the advert.

Our rental of £247 per quarter for the printer ended in February and our contract with Arena ended in November. The deal we have arranged with Eurodigital began in December so we are hoping to see significant savings during 2023.

The clock restoration was £9,279; the conservation work on the stone mullions was £19,539 and £2491 for architect fees. £3909 in VAT was claimed back.

Charities, floats, fees all discussed.

During the year the Stitch and Knit group decided to consolidate their funds into the church account but it will be run as a separate fund for their use.

As you will see the deficit this year is £17,194.21 due in the main to the repairs to the stone mullions and the roof. These funds have been taken from our reserves.

The difference between the excess of expenditure figure on the analysis - £17,616.33 and that shown in the accompanying balance sheet £17,194.21 is the difference between the 2022 and 2023 insurance figures - £422.12 as the payment needs to be shown in the year which it covers.

The bank account is £9758.66 with all items cleared.

CBF No 1 contains all our "Funds" – Memorial - £4831; Youth – 1962; Bellringers - £692; Coffee Mornings – 1810; Organ - £4911; Restoration - £747; Stitch & Knit - £315; Afternoon Matinee - £200, which totals £15,468.

CBF No 2 - £39,915 are our reserves, down by £20K this year as we utilised some of these for the restoration work. £5,000 was also transferred over to the bank account as a buffer in case we were short for paying the insurance bill. This amount will be transferred back in the new year.

I do hope you feel that the PCC are using the money wisely which you have so generously given to St Katharine's. We shall continue to manage the finances with care and ensure we can pay our way in the foreseeable future whilst maintaining the building for future generations. None of this would be possible without your support, be it financial, volunteer hours on one of the rotas, helping with the youth groups or in one of the roles within our church services. If you would like to be more involved just have a word with Rev Angela or the churchwardens and thank you for taking the time to read this report.

Jean Hibbert – PCC Treasurer.

Accounts

FINANCIAL REPORT – DECEMBER 2021

INCOME

During the many times that the church building was closed during the pandemic it has been such a relief to know that planned giving from all those who made the decision to pay by standing order would be continuing to cover our regular bills month on month, and we are indebted to them. So our gas, electricity, water rates, printer rental, phone, churchyard maintenance and repairs were all being taken care of, and a few more members of the congregation took up this option during the year and income coming directly into the bank rose by £1741 to £26,620 (1a+2a).

The amount given through the envelope scheme fell by £2330 to £14751 (1b+2b), partly due to families making the switch to direct payments and also some of our church members sadly passed away. I must add a huge thank you to all those who dropped their envelopes off regularly throughout the lockdowns, to me or to the Vicarage, ensuring that their money was helping us through. Those who were able allowed us to claim back the tax they had paid on their giving through the gift aid scheme with HMRC and we recovered £10,107 (6a), a very slight rise on 2020. I am very grateful to Chris Skinner, our Gift Aid Secretary for all the work he does in making regular claims on our behalf. If you would like to join the standing order or envelope scheme, or to know more about gift aid please speak to Jean Hibbert (01204 691575) or Chris Skinner (01204 691097).

As our services were allowed to restart in church the donations on the collection plate, and via one off gift aid envelopes, increased by almost £1000 to £2838.

Donations continued to come in through various channels, 43 donations were received for our Chip in for Church appeal in the spring amounting to £421; £193 arrived through the demijohn and £147 in the candle box. Following the efforts of the ECO team led by Janet our ECO garden came to fruition; as well as a grant from Bolton CVS, £755 was received in donations. The coffee shop has done well to raise £67 in donations in the few weeks we have been allowed to reopen and sincere thanks to those who have offered to come back on the rota.

As the year rolls by memories of loved ones are remembered by family and friends with donations to the Memorial Fund which rose to almost £2000. (Last year's fund was swelled by 2 donations of £1000 each and was used in January this year to restore the Chisenhale hatchment hung in the tower room).

The Restoration Fund has been boosted by £2200 in donations for the clock repair and donations for the organ fund of £1135 have increased that fund to just over £4K.

We were grateful to receive a £500 grant for Messy Church from Blackrod Town Council in the summer and £409 has been received from Manchester Diocese in a grant for expenses to set up Wiggle Worship. £25 was given in donations from families. All the Youth groups have thrived during 2021 thanks to a dedicated group of leaders and volunteers and we are truly grateful for the time they have given to set these groups up.

We received a grant of £1500 from Bolton Voluntary Services towards the expenses of setting up the benches, pathway and other expenses in the ECO garden. The grant also covered the cost of creating an exterior recycling unit to allow people in the community to leave items when church was closed. For this work, combined with other actions inside and outside church, we received a Bronze ECO church award from ARocha, a Christian charity working for the protection and restoration of the natural world and committed to equipping Christians and churches in the UK to care for the environment.

As we are a Grade 2 listed building we are allowed to reclaim the VAT from Listed Places of Worship which we pay on repairs to the church building and the architect fees attached to them. In 2021 this amounted to £3386 for expenses connected to the roof repairs.

Fundraising started again, initially we couldn't be inside so we took to the streets with our Popup shops selling books, raffles, bric a brac and planters. So many people came along to support us and over the four months we raised £1106. Undaunted, when the weather sent us inside church, we sold cakes, books and had a tombola adding £515 to the funds. Throughout the year the sale of booklets and cards raised £118, spring planters £145, mini plant sale £323, Christmas cards £300 and grave pots £250. The Festive Fair brought in an amazing £3200 despite Father Christmas having to stay away and £50 was received for our recycling efforts.

Easyfundraising is exactly what it says and we receive a donation every time subscribers spend online. It raised £300 for church funds and if you would like to know more about it have a word with Mary Pryle or any member of the Events team.

Sincere thanks to all members of the team and to those who helped with the setting up. If I mention names someone will get missed – so a huge thanks to all who provided, supported, spent or bought, and to the community for helping us to get through another tough year.

The Christmas post raised just over £200 but arrived too late to be included in the 2021 figures but thanks to all the posties – see you in December!!

We were able to start the coffee mornings again in September and to welcome Blackrod Community Choir to sing for us during the first half of the morning. Books, tea and toast and a raffle are the staples with an extra surprise when we can! A lovely opportunity to spend an hour or so catching up with friends, being entertained and £324 was raised for church funds.

As it is for everyone else the interest drops every year but we have to grin and bear it!

During 2021 five happy couples celebrated their weddings but sadly 17 funerals were held for members of our community and our thoughts and prayers are with their families.

Other fees cover issuing duplicate certificates etc.

Janina and her Pilates classes were able to restart and it was good to welcome her back to the village and to use our upper room. £703 in room hire fees helps so much with the heating costs.

Magazine sales increased slightly to £2042 as they became a vital means of communication between what was happening in church and the village. Huge thanks to Mary for continuing to organise the information and getting it to the printers each month – an enormous effort for which we are very grateful. Thanks also to Colin Chater who month by month delivers the magazine to the deliverers and to that stoic team who get them through the letterboxes. What a great team effort it is.

It would have been unfair to continue to charge our magazine advertisers when the magazine was not being printed and delivered hence the low income in 2020. Subscriptions are now coming in again for the adverts and we would like to thank the local businesses for their continued support and we wish them well as they restart their businesses.

A donation towards the heating is requested for every wedding and every funeral to help with the energy bills and in the summer it is used to offset the grass cutting bills to keep the churchyard looking tidy. Just a bit of information – the heating for the main body of church goes on 6 hours before every service, funeral or wedding and every time it is in use - it's a huge space to heat! It also kicks in automatically in the depths of winter when temperatures drop below 11deg to protect the building.

As we are part of the Westhoughton team ministry the running costs (rates and water rates) of the four vicarages, and the expenses claimed by the ministers for phones, mobiles, broadband and travel are shared in proportion to the size of each parish share. So every quarter the expenses are calculated and we usually receive a refund from the other three churches, which this year totalled £1943. We had purposely let our balance with SSE build up during the time of lockdown and uncertain income, but we felt this was the time to bring £1000 back into our accounts so it was reclaimed. We switched providers (just in time!) for our gas to British Gas and received a further refund from SSE of £837. We had a refund from the Diocese of £301 for a cancelled wedding, £136 in fees was returned by the bell ringer, organist and verger, and we refunded £409 which was a duplicated payment from the Diocese.

Charities we supported throughout the year were Fairtrade when we sold Easter eggs for them amounting to £105 and also returned a small profit of £28. £551 plus £95 in personal cheques was sent to Christian Aid as no house to house collections were advised. £20 arrived after the cheque had been sent so it will be included in the 2022 collection. £307 was raised through the Children's Society boxes and another £206 at the Christingle collection in November.

The lent box appeal raised £300 for USPG and £111 from the confirmation collection was sent to the Diocese for the training of ordinands. Our Harvest appeal this year was in aid of Guide Dogs for the Blind and £410 came in along with a £25 personal cheque. The collection at the Service of Remembrance was £234 and given

to the local branch of the British Legion. The Toy service was another wonderful success and £45 was given in cash along with many gifts of toys for the Fortalice refuge in Bolton. A late donation of £5 was forwarded to the DEC Afghan appeal at the start of the year and a retiring collection at the end of the year raised £180 and will show in the 2022 accounts.

We are so grateful to members of the congregation who organised all these appeals and to the Blackrod community who donated so much in a very difficult year.

Floats amounting to £410 were drawn for our fundraising activities through the year and returned. Fees due to the Diocese for all the funerals, burials of ashes and weddings carried out in 2021 amounted to £3604 and fees to pay the vergers, organist and bellringer at these services amounted to £1207. £146 is held in cash as emergency fees to cover in case the funeral director pays by cheque.

Our total income for 2021 was £98,444.

EXPENDITURE

Less events meant less expenditure on fundraising so we spent £50 on card and envelopes to print the Easter and Christmas cards and £30 on mince pies after the Carol Service. The remaining £455 was spent on the Festive Fair preparations - £175 cash prizes for the raffle, £62 for printing raffle tickets, £10 for cake ingredients and £30 for cake bags. Planters, pots and plants were bought for £178, arrangements created and there were enough plants to redo the front path and containers. Traditionally the Christmas Fair expenses have come from the profit made on the coffee mornings but as these hadn't happened for the bulk of the year the payments came from church funds.

Coffee shop restocking amounted to £134 and new stewardship envelopes cost £266.

The parish share was paid in full once again and you all played your part well to support the Diocese and pay for ministerial training and stipends throughout the area. Our payment, plus a bonus paid of £952 for paying in full in 2020, paid the 2021 share of £48,900.

We continue to be blessed by the talent of our organist Garyth and we look forward to singing the new setting he has composed for our services. The figure was lower last year as Garyth donated one of his quarterly fees back to church and into the organ fund. The payments made on the three occasions when Garyth was unable to play came to £130 and we are grateful to Ruth and Peter for helping out.

Angela's and the vicarage expenses totalled £4256 throughout the year and £1943 was refunded from the other churches in the team as mentioned earlier.

The youth provision in church continues to expand through Sunday School, All Age Worship, Messy Church and this year Wiggle Worship arrived at St Katharine's to provide a welcome for toddlers, babies and their parents and carers. The set up items for WW, tables, chairs and playmats cost £300 and £109 was spent on teaching aids for the group. All of this was reimbursed by a grant from the Diocese shown in the income. The donation of £500 from Blackrod Town Council covered the cost of the musical instruments - £222, and the rest provided lockdown activity bags (and chocolate) to celebrate Easter, which were put together for all the children registered with us at a cost of £300. We are immensely grateful for this financial boost. Food for the three Messy Church sessions since September was £222.

Craft materials cost £61 and melamine bowls and plates replaced the paper ones at a cost of £50 which can be used by all the groups. The total cost of our youth activities was £1367, donations covered £934 and church funds provided the remaining £433.

During the year a new youth club was launched at St John's, Wingates and each church pledged to donate £100 to the set up costs and it is good to know that some of our young people are enjoying the experience.

Unfortunately because of covid restrictions the Memory Lane Film Club and Senior Moments have been unable to restart and eventually we would need a new team to take up the sterling job which was covered by Val Marron and her team of helpers.

Insurance for 2021 was £4136 and the next 12 months showed a slight rise to £4222 as can be seen on the balance sheet.

General maintenance on all our homes comes at a price and even more so on a listed building! We have been wanting to have the hatchment restored which hangs in the tower room as it had appeared on our quinquennial report, and thanks to the generosity of the families of Rev Alan Wolstencroft and Nellie Whittle we were able to have this done in their memory at a cost of £1850. Do have had a look if you haven't seen it and the history is interesting too. All our bulbs and fittings were changed over to LED at a cost of £1116.

The loop system was overhauled and two microphones were replaced and thanks to Allan Spibey the sound is better than it's been for years - £536. The older blue chairs upstairs had been well used for 20 years and were showing signs of wear, as were the volunteers who were having to move them around for different weekly events!

12 new folding chairs were bought which has also helped with our storage problems - £527 and extra tables downstairs - £264. The annual maintenance and new taps in the old vestry came to £627 and replacement flags for the flagpole were £234. The recent decorating in the stairs, lower room, toilets, kitchen and office - £800 and it looks so much brighter and welcoming. Thanks to Stuart Howard St. Katharine's church can now accommodate live streaming – materials £117. Gutter cleaning - £280, fire alarm annual check - £103. Total cost £6454 and the remainder covered locks, batteries, window clean, extinguisher check and extra storage boxes.

Cleaning materials & kitchen expenses included a Gtech carpet sweeper £160 and boxes for the recycling centre £20. We are extremely grateful to Howard and Sue Parry who have helped us with all our cleansing needs, and spray and sanitising equipment throughout the lockdown. Without their generosity this expenditure would have been a lot more – sincere thanks to you both.

Handrails were erected on both sides of the pathway down to the lower churchyard at a cost of £784 and the grass cutting cost £1470. This included a late bill from 2020 and some trimming of the shrubs. The benches, tubs and plants came to £1025; the recycling unit was £360 and the manual preparation of both areas was £955 – totalling £2348 and the grant previously referred to was £1500, donations received amounted to £755 and the balance of £93 came from the churchyard fund.

BT charges dropped to £746 in 2021 following a renegotiation of the rental charges and there were fewer calls made from the office. £62 for a whiteboard and £85 for the technical support for the Gift Aid system made up the £893 budget.

Postages – restocking of stamps early in 2021 cost £114 and increased the figures and stationery costs dropped again by £50 to £235 as the magazine is now printed offsite.

PCC expenses and gratuities: initially this seems like a huge increase but it includes 2 refunds, one was a cancelled wedding, and they totalled £917 so the actual figure is reduced to £795. Thank you to Tom and Freda Smith, and Pat and Roy Fazakerley, as they retired after many years of stapling the monthly magazine; happy retirement to Val Marron as she finished her stint as church warden; and goodbye to Pat Z as she left the choir and moved to Kettering.

We remembered three 80th birthdays, Garyth Ingram's 50th and Rhea Howard's 21st, Two 60th wedding anniversaries and two 70th wedding anniversaries; and six get well flowers.

A donation to A Rocha in connection with the ECO garden support; a thank you to our honorary auditor for her time and expertise; the annual donation to our bellringers of £70 was returned and donated to the clock appeal – thank you. St Katharine's Church was included in Blackrod Cricket Club's "Brick in the Wall" appeal.

The spending on candles and oil increased as church opened more and visitors took comfort in the fact that they could use the candle tray again to remember loved ones. Similarly as communion started again supplies of bread and wine were replenished.

Books, music etc – the 8 licences continue to be our largest expense - £922; flowers given in services – Mother's Day etc £124; All Souls bookmarks £28; lectionaries £53; Yearbooks £28; Wedding service register £23. New banners were produced advising the community of the new youth services costing £270 and sweatshirts and hoodies for the All Age volunteers £186.

The ICO licence covering Data Protection and the Lottery licence covering the annual raffle costs £55.

£500 for two organ tunings by Nicholsons. £2374 for gas to heat our church building – hopefully our switch to British Gas will turn out to be an advantage. The heating for the upper and lower rooms comes from Opus Energy and the cost was £615. We have been open more than last year, we had refunds from SSE as shown in the income of £1837 so it is impossible to compare at this point.

We pay £65 per month for our electricity and we are slightly in credit with SSE our provider. The wastewater bill was £48 and the water rates will be claimed again at some point as they were suspended during the pandemic.

The Parish Pump subs amounted to £56 the same as last year, and we also refunded £68 to a business that had ceased trading during the pandemic and he had paid to advertise in the magazine.

The Magazine shows the annual cost for printing the magazine by CZ Design – it was a great decision as things turned out. We paid £121 per month until September when it increased to £137 per month.

The printer rental from Arena amounted to £989 and we are due to discuss the next contract soon as the 5 year agreement is almost at an end. Our needs have changed in the last 12 months and we shall meet with reps from Arena, who have been very helpful and reliable, and Eurodigital to see what they have on offer. We are also billed for what we print and the total of that came to £873.

Major repairs are all roof connected - £13685 in May and a new access window in July - £2357. The architect's fees attached to these jobs was £1737 and £327 respectively. The work was all carried out by Walkers Construction and they have done more repairs to the slates in January 2022 following the winter storms.

Charities and floats have already been mentioned in the income section.

Diocesan fees income was £3604, a cheque for £485 was sent in January 2022 for the December fees which leaves a difference of £211 which was the refund made for the cancelled wedding paid for in 2020.

As mentioned in the income, fees totalling £1207, + 147 emergency fees in the safe, total £1354. £1404 was paid away, a £50 fee was then donated to the clock fund, hence the difference.

If you remember we set up a new system during the first lockdown to be more compatible to the diocesan returns and discovered a small error in the accounts 2019/2020. There is no way of changing the accounts so the auditor suggested we show an adjustment for the difference which represented the increase in the insurance payment in 2020. If you have any queries about this please get in touch with me and I will explain.

Special thanks must go to Rev Angela and our clergy team, to Garyth and the choir who have taken part in the online services throughout the pandemic and kept us focussed on what is important. Also to both Churchwardens who have always been one step ahead and kept us safe. To the youth team who have looked after the children's needs and kept Sunday School going, Messy Church, All Age Worship and now Wiggle Worship. There is a service for everyone and the congregations are growing. None of this would have been possible without the hundreds of hours of voluntary time given by so many – a true team effort and thank you.

So we move on, wondering what the next twelve months will bring. But before we do, thank you so much once again for all the support from the people of Blackrod who have walked beside us through all the trials and worries of the last year. You have allowed us to keep St Katharine's going for all who need somewhere to worship, find security and peace. Well done.

Jean Hibbert, PCC Treasurer

ST KATHARINE'S CHURCH, BLACKROD
CHARITY NO: 1144084

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31st DECEMBER 2021

104947.14	PCC Balance at 1 st January	100342.55
<u>-4604.59</u>	Excess of income/expenditure	<u>- 14340.11</u>
100342.55	PCC balance at 31 st December	86002.44

STATE OF PARISH FUNDS

7320.40	Royal Bank of Scotland	6958.61
4136.23	Prepayments	4222.13
12633.85	Central Board of Finance No 1	13955.05
<u>76252.07</u>	Central Board of Finance No 2	<u>60866.65</u>
100342.55		86002.44

PCC Chairman:

PCC Treasurer:

Hon Auditor:

FINANCIAL REPORT – DECEMBER 2021

INCOME

During the many times that the church building was closed during the pandemic it has been such a relief to know that planned giving from all those who made the decision to pay by standing order would be continuing to cover our regular bills month on month, and we are indebted to them. So our gas, electricity, water rates, printer rental, phone, churchyard maintenance and repairs were all being taken care of, and a few more members of the congregation took up this option during the year and income coming directly into the bank rose by £1741 to £26,620 (1a+2a).

The amount given through the envelope scheme fell by £2330 to £14751 (1b+2b), partly due to families making the switch to direct payments and also some of our church members sadly passed away. I must add a huge thank you to all those who dropped their envelopes off regularly throughout the lockdowns, to me or to the Vicarage, ensuring that their money was helping us through. Those who were able allowed us to claim back the tax they had paid on their giving through the gift aid scheme with HMRC and we recovered £10,107 (6a), a very slight rise on 2020. I am very grateful to Chris Skinner, our Gift Aid Secretary for all the work he does in making regular claims on our behalf. If you would like to join the standing order or envelope scheme, or to know more about gift aid please speak to Jean Hibbert (01204 691575) or Chris Skinner (01204 691097).

As our services were allowed to restart in church the donations on the collection plate, and via one off gift aid envelopes, increased by almost £1000 to £2838.

Donations continued to come in through various channels, 43 donations were received for our Chip in for Church appeal in the spring amounting to £421; £193 arrived through the demijohn and £147 in the candle box. Following the efforts of the ECO team led by Janet our ECO garden came to fruition; as well as a grant from Bolton CVS, £755 was received in donations. The coffee shop has done well to raise £67 in donations in the few weeks we have been allowed to reopen and sincere thanks to those who have offered to come back on the rota.

As the year rolls by memories of loved ones are remembered by family and friends with donations to the Memorial Fund which rose to almost £2000. (Last year's fund was swelled by 2 donations of £1000 each and was used in January this year to restore the Chisenhale hatchment hung in the tower room).

The Restoration Fund has been boosted by £2200 in donations for the clock repair and donations for the organ fund of £1135 have increased that fund to just over £4K.

We were grateful to receive a £500 grant for Messy Church from Blackrod Town Council in the summer and £409 has been received from Manchester Diocese in a grant for expenses to set up Wiggle Worship. £25 was given in donations from families. All the Youth groups have thrived during 2021 thanks to a dedicated group of leaders and volunteers and we are truly grateful for the time they have given to set these groups up.

We received a grant of £1500 from Bolton Voluntary Services towards the expenses of setting up the benches, pathway and other expenses in the ECO garden. The grant also covered the cost of creating an exterior recycling unit to allow people in the community to leave items when church was closed. For this work, combined with other actions inside and outside church, we received a Bronze ECO church award from ARocha, a Christian charity working for the protection and restoration of the natural world and committed to equipping Christians and churches in the UK to care for the environment.

As we are a Grade 2 listed building we are allowed to reclaim the VAT from Listed Places of Worship which we pay on repairs to the church building and the architect fees attached to them. In 2021 this amounted to £3386 for expenses connected to the roof repairs.

Fundraising started again, initially we couldn't be inside so we took to the streets with our Popup shops selling books, raffles, bric a brac and planters. So many people came along to support us and over the four months we raised £1106. Undaunted, when the weather sent us inside church, we sold cakes, books and had a tombola adding £515 to the funds. Throughout the year the sale of booklets and cards raised £118, spring planters £145, mini plant sale £323, Christmas cards £300 and grave pots £250. The Festive Fair brought in an amazing £3200 despite Father Christmas having to stay away and £50 was received for our recycling efforts.

Easyfundraising is exactly what it says and we receive a donation every time subscribers spend online. It raised £300 for church funds and if you would like to know more about it have a word with Mary Pryle or any member of the Events team.

Sincere thanks to all members of the team and to those who helped with the setting up. If I mention names someone will get missed – so a huge thanks to all who provided, supported, spent or bought, and to the community for helping us to get through another tough year.

The Christmas post raised just over £200 but arrived too late to be included in the 2021 figures but thanks to all the posties – see you in December!!

We were able to start the coffee mornings again in September and to welcome Blackrod Community Choir to sing for us during the first half of the morning. Books, tea and toast and a raffle are the staples with an extra surprise when we can! A lovely opportunity to spend an hour or so catching up with friends, being entertained and £324 was raised for church funds.

As it is for everyone else the interest drops every year but we have to grin and bear it!

During 2021 five happy couples celebrated their weddings but sadly 17 funerals were held for members of our community and our thoughts and prayers are with their families.

Other fees cover issuing duplicate certificates etc.

Janina and her Pilates classes were able to restart and it was good to welcome her back to the village and to use our upper room. £703 in room hire fees helps so much with the heating costs.

Magazine sales increased slightly to £2042 as they became a vital means of communication between what was happening in church and the village. Huge thanks to Mary for continuing to organise the information and getting it to the printers each month – an enormous effort for which we are very grateful. Thanks also to Colin Chater who month by month delivers the magazine to the deliverers and to that stoic team who get them through the letterboxes. What a great team effort it is.

It would have been unfair to continue to charge our magazine advertisers when the magazine was not being printed and delivered hence the low income in 2020. Subscriptions are now coming in again for the adverts and we would like to thank the local businesses for their continued support and we wish them well as they restart their businesses.

A donation towards the heating is requested for every wedding and every funeral to help with the energy bills and in the summer it is used to offset the grass cutting bills to keep the churchyard looking tidy. Just a bit of information – the heating for the main body of church goes on 6 hours before every service, funeral or wedding and every time it is in use - it's a huge space to heat! It also kicks in automatically in the depths of winter when temperatures drop below 11deg to protect the building.

As we are part of the Westhoughton team ministry the running costs (rates and water rates) of the four vicarages, and the expenses claimed by the ministers for phones, mobiles, broadband and travel are shared in proportion to the size of each parish share. So every quarter the expenses are calculated and we usually receive a refund from the other three churches, which this year totalled £1943. We had purposely let our balance with SSE build up during the time of lockdown and uncertain income, but we felt this was the time to bring £1000 back into our accounts so it was reclaimed. We switched providers (just in time!) for our gas to British Gas and received a further refund from SSE of £837. We had a refund from the Diocese of £301 for a cancelled wedding, £136 in fees was returned by the bell ringer, organist and verger, and we refunded £409 which was a duplicated payment from the Diocese.

Charities we supported throughout the year were Fairtrade when we sold Easter eggs for them amounting to £105 and also returned a small profit of £28. £551 plus £95 in personal cheques was sent to Christian Aid as no house to house collections were advised. £20 arrived after the cheque had been sent so it will be included in the 2022 collection. £307 was raised through the Children's Society boxes and another £206 at the Christingle collection in November.

The lent box appeal raised £300 for USPG and £111 from the confirmation collection was sent to the Diocese for the training of ordinands. Our Harvest appeal this year was in aid of Guide Dogs for the Blind and £410 came in along with a £25 personal cheque. The collection at the Service of Remembrance was £234 and given

to the local branch of the British Legion. The Toy service was another wonderful success and £45 was given in cash along with many gifts of toys for the Fortalice refuge in Bolton. A late donation of £5 was forwarded to the DEC Afghan appeal at the start of the year and a retiring collection at the end of the year raised £180 and will show in the 2022 accounts.

We are so grateful to members of the congregation who organised all these appeals and to the Blackrod community who donated so much in a very difficult year.

Floats amounting to £410 were drawn for our fundraising activities through the year and returned. Fees due to the Diocese for all the funerals, burials of ashes and weddings carried out in 2021 amounted to £3604 and fees to pay the vergers, organist and bellringer at these services amounted to £1207. £146 is held in cash as emergency fees to cover in case the funeral director pays by cheque.

Our total income for 2021 was £98,444.

EXPENDITURE

Less events meant less expenditure on fundraising so we spent £50 on card and envelopes to print the Easter and Christmas cards and £30 on mince pies after the Carol Service. The remaining £455 was spent on the Festive Fair preparations - £175 cash prizes for the raffle, £62 for printing raffle tickets, £10 for cake ingredients and £30 for cake bags. Planters, pots and plants were bought for £178, arrangements created and there were enough plants to redo the front path and containers. Traditionally the Christmas Fair expenses have come from the profit made on the coffee mornings but as these hadn't happened for the bulk of the year the payments came from church funds.

Coffee shop restocking amounted to £134 and new stewardship envelopes cost £266.

The parish share was paid in full once again and you all played your part well to support the Diocese and pay for ministerial training and stipends throughout the area. Our payment, plus a bonus paid of £952 for paying in full in 2020, paid the 2021 share of £48,900.

We continue to be blessed by the talent of our organist Garyth and we look forward to singing the new setting he has composed for our services. The figure was lower last year as Garyth donated one of his quarterly fees back to church and into the organ fund. The payments made on the three occasions when Garyth was unable to play came to £130 and we are grateful to Ruth and Peter for helping out.

Angela's and the vicarage expenses totalled £4256 throughout the year and £1943 was refunded from the other churches in the team as mentioned earlier.

The youth provision in church continues to expand through Sunday School, All Age Worship, Messy Church and this year Wiggle Worship arrived at St Katharine's to provide a welcome for toddlers, babies and their parents and carers. The set up items for WW, tables, chairs and playmats cost £300 and £109 was spent on teaching aids for the group. All of this was reimbursed by a grant from the Diocese shown in the income. The donation of £500 from Blackrod Town Council covered the cost of the musical instruments - £222, and the rest provided lockdown activity bags (and chocolate) to celebrate Easter, which were put together for all the children registered with us at a cost of £300. We are immensely grateful for this financial boost. Food for the three Messy Church sessions since September was £222.

Craft materials cost £61 and melamine bowls and plates replaced the paper ones at a cost of £50 which can be used by all the groups. The total cost of our youth activities was £1367, donations covered £934 and church funds provided the remaining £433.

During the year a new youth club was launched at St John's, Wingates and each church pledged to donate £100 to the set up costs and it is good to know that some of our young people are enjoying the experience.

Unfortunately because of covid restrictions the Memory Lane Film Club and Senior Moments have been unable to restart and eventually we would need a new team to take up the sterling job which was covered by Val Marron and her team of helpers.

Insurance for 2021 was £4136 and the next 12 months showed a slight rise to £4222 as can be seen on the balance sheet.

General maintenance on all our homes comes at a price and even more so on a listed building! We have been wanting to have the hatchment restored which hangs in the tower room as it had appeared on our quinquennial report, and thanks to the generosity of the families of Rev Alan Wolstencroft and Nellie Whittle we were able to have this done in their memory at a cost of £1850. Do have had a look if you haven't seen it and the history is interesting too. All our bulbs and fittings were changed over to LED at a cost of £1116.

The loop system was overhauled and two microphones were replaced and thanks to Allan Spibey the sound is better than it's been for years - £536. The older blue chairs upstairs had been well used for 20 years and were showing signs of wear, as were the volunteers who were having to move them around for different weekly events!

12 new folding chairs were bought which has also helped with our storage problems - £527 and extra tables downstairs - £264. The annual maintenance and new taps in the old vestry came to £627 and replacement flags for the flagpole were £234. The recent decorating in the stairs, lower room, toilets, kitchen and office - £800 and it looks so much brighter and welcoming. Thanks to Stuart Howard St. Katharine's church can now accommodate live streaming – materials £117. Gutter cleaning - £280, fire alarm annual check - £103. Total cost £6454 and the remainder covered locks, batteries, window clean, extinguisher check and extra storage boxes.

Cleaning materials & kitchen expenses included a Gtech carpet sweeper £160 and boxes for the recycling centre £20. We are extremely grateful to Howard and Sue Parry who have helped us with all our cleansing needs, and spray and sanitising equipment throughout the lockdown. Without their generosity this expenditure would have been a lot more – sincere thanks to you both.

Handrails were erected on both sides of the pathway down to the lower churchyard at a cost of £784 and the grass cutting cost £1470. This included a late bill from 2020 and some trimming of the shrubs. The benches, tubs and plants came to £1025; the recycling unit was £360 and the manual preparation of both areas was £955 – totalling £2348 and the grant previously referred to was £1500, donations received amounted to £755 and the balance of £93 came from the churchyard fund.

BT charges dropped to £746 in 2021 following a renegotiation of the rental charges and there were fewer calls made from the office. £62 for a whiteboard and £85 for the technical support for the Gift Aid system made up the £893 budget.

Postages – restocking of stamps early in 2021 cost £114 and increased the figures and stationery costs dropped again by £50 to £235 as the magazine is now printed offsite.

PCC expenses and gratuities: initially this seems like a huge increase but it includes 2 refunds, one was a cancelled wedding, and they totalled £917 so the actual figure is reduced to £795. Thank you to Tom and Freda Smith, and Pat and Roy Fazakerley, as they retired after many years of stapling the monthly magazine; happy retirement to Val Marron as she finished her stint as church warden; and goodbye to Pat Z as she left the choir and moved to Kettering.

We remembered three 80th birthdays, Garyth Ingram's 50th and Rhea Howard's 21st, Two 60th wedding anniversaries and two 70th wedding anniversaries; and six get well flowers.

A donation to A Rocha in connection with the ECO garden support; a thank you to our honorary auditor for her time and expertise; the annual donation to our bellringers of £70 was returned and donated to the clock appeal – thank you. St Katharine's Church was included in Blackrod Cricket Club's "Brick in the Wall" appeal.

The spending on candles and oil increased as church opened more and visitors took comfort in the fact that they could use the candle tray again to remember loved ones. Similarly as communion started again supplies of bread and wine were replenished.

Books, music etc – the 8 licences continue to be our largest expense - £922; flowers given in services – Mother's Day etc £124; All Souls bookmarks £28; lectionaries £53; Yearbooks £28; Wedding service register £23. New banners were produced advising the community of the new youth services costing £270 and sweatshirts and hoodies for the All Age volunteers £186.

The ICO licence covering Data Protection and the Lottery licence covering the annual raffle costs £55.

£500 for two organ tunings by Nicholsons. £2374 for gas to heat our church building – hopefully our switch to British Gas will turn out to be an advantage. The heating for the upper and lower rooms comes from Opus Energy and the cost was £615. We have been open more than last year, we had refunds from SSE as shown in the income of £1837 so it is impossible to compare at this point.

We pay £65 per month for our electricity and we are slightly in credit with SSE our provider. The wastewater bill was £48 and the water rates will be claimed again at some point as they were suspended during the pandemic.

The Parish Pump subs amounted to £56 the same as last year, and we also refunded £68 to a business that had ceased trading during the pandemic and he had paid to advertise in the magazine.

The Magazine shows the annual cost for printing the magazine by CZ Design – it was a great decision as things turned out. We paid £121 per month until September when it increased to £137 per month.

The printer rental from Arena amounted to £989 and we are due to discuss the next contract soon as the 5 year agreement is almost at an end. Our needs have changed in the last 12 months and we shall meet with reps from Arena, who have been very helpful and reliable, and Eurodigital to see what they have on offer. We are also billed for what we print and the total of that came to £873.

Major repairs are all roof connected - £13685 in May and a new access window in July - £2357. The architect's fees attached to these jobs was £1737 and £327 respectively. The work was all carried out by Walkers Construction and they have done more repairs to the slates in January 2022 following the winter storms.

Charities and floats have already been mentioned in the income section.

Diocesan fees income was £3604, a cheque for £485 was sent in January 2022 for the December fees which leaves a difference of £211 which was the refund made for the cancelled wedding paid for in 2020.

As mentioned in the income, fees totalling £1207, + 147 emergency fees in the safe, total £1354. £1404 was paid away, a £50 fee was then donated to the clock fund, hence the difference.

If you remember we set up a new system during the first lockdown to be more compatible to the diocesan returns and discovered a small error in the accounts 2019/2020. There is no way of changing the accounts so the auditor suggested we show an adjustment for the difference which represented the increase in the insurance payment in 2020. If you have any queries about this please get in touch with me and I will explain.

Special thanks must go to Rev Angela and our clergy team, to Garyth and the choir who have taken part in the online services throughout the pandemic and kept us focussed on what is important. Also to both Churchwardens who have always been one step ahead and kept us safe. To the youth team who have looked after the children's needs and kept Sunday School going, Messy Church, All Age Worship and now Wiggle Worship. There is a service for everyone and the congregations are growing. None of this would have been possible without the hundreds of hours of voluntary time given by so many – a true team effort and thank you.

So we move on, wondering what the next twelve months will bring. But before we do, thank you so much once again for all the support from the people of Blackrod who have walked beside us through all the trials and worries of the last year. You have allowed us to keep St Katharine's going for all who need somewhere to worship, find security and peace. Well done.

Jean Hibbert, PCC Treasurer

Accounts

St Katharine's Church, Blackrod

ANNUAL REPORT 2021

For presentation at the
ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING
Thursday 21st May 2021 at 7.00pm



 **THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND**
Diocese of Manchester

**CHURCH
FOR A
DIFFERENT
WORLD**

ST KATHARINE, BLACKROD

Welcome to St Katharine's, Blackrod, part of the Daisy Hill, Westhoughton and Wingates Team of churches.

St Katharine's is a family friendly church, and all are welcome. We have a lively Sunday School which meets during the Sunday morning service.

We have a hearing system, and facilities for those with disabilities, including a stair-lift to the upper room.

We are open for private prayer on Thursday and Saturday mornings, as well as our regular Sunday and Tuesday services.

The church is a Grade 2 listed, stone building, mostly rebuilt in early 1900's, with a bell tower dating from the 16th Century. The church was re-ordered in 2000 to create meeting rooms up and downstairs, and an office, kitchen and toilets.

Our peal of six bells was recently restored and we have a growing team of bellringers.

The Church is dedicated to Saint Katharine of Alexandria whose feast day falls on 25th November.



The Team Ministry: Blackrod, Daisy Hill, Westhoughton & Wingates

Team Rector: The Revd Carol Pharaoh

The Vicarage, Church Street,
Westhoughton, BL5 2BG
Telephone 01942 859251
Email: carol.pharaoh@gmail.com



Vicar: The Revd Angela Wynne

St Katharine's Vicarage,
Blackhorse Street, Blackrod, BL6 5EN
Telephone: 01204 468150
Email: Revawynne@gmail.com

GET IN TOUCH

Email: stkatharineschurch@btconnect.com

Websites: www.stkatharine.net

www.westhoughtonchurches.org.uk

Facebook: St. Katharine's Church, Blackrod

PARISH OFFICE

Telephone: 01204 469220

(Please note: the office is not in use everyday so your call may not be answered straight away. Please leave a message and we will get back to you as soon as we can).

Opening Times:

To book rooms and general enquiries:

Tuesdays 10am - 12 noon

To arrange Baptisms, Weddings,
and meet with the Vicar: **Thursdays 7 - 8 pm**

SERVICES AT ST KATHARINE'S

Sundays 11.00am The Parish Eucharist
Tuesdays 9.30am Holy Communion

Saints' Days and Holy Days as shown in the Parish Magazine

Online services at <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCDx266HLh9ShYeBJnON8ODg>

FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

Contact: Sylvia Gregory **Tel:** 01204 468716

Sunday School For all school age children on Sundays in term time at 11am in the Upper Room.

For children - There are activity bags and toys for children not attending Sunday School - for use in the pews or lower room during services. Please help yourself to these or ask the sidespeople.

There is a "Family corner" in church for babies and toddlers.

Messy Church on Saturdays each month from 4 - 6pm, for fun, food and activities.

ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENT

YEAR ENDING 31 DECEMBER 2020

<u>CONTENTS</u>	<u>Page</u>
PCC Membership from 1st October 2020	3
The Electoral Roll 2020-2021	3
Team Rector report	4
Minutes of Annual Vestry Meeting held on 1st October 2020	5
Minutes of Annual Parochial Church Meeting held on 1st October 2020	5
Report on the proceedings of the Parochial Church Council	8
Church Fabric Report	10
Deanery Synod Reports	11
Youth Report	12
Child Protection report 2020-21	12
Policy Statement on Children, Young People and the Church of St Katharine, Blackrod	13
Child Protection Policy	14
Policy Statement on the Safeguarding of adults	16
Safe Church Policy	16
Financial Statement	17
Balance sheet and Year end to 31st December 2020	21

PCC MEMBERSHIP 2020-2021

Incumbent: The Revd Angela Wynne.

Churchwardens: Valerie Marron and Janet Hollick.

Deanery Synod Representatives:

Sheila Kinrade, Valerie Marron, Sue Parry, and Barbara Worsley.

PCC Members:,

Bob Chapman (Co-opted), Ellis Collier, Jennifer Collier, Sylvia Gregory, Jean Hibbert, Mike Hollick, Hazel Lord, Barbara Miccoli, Ruth Sharrock (Co-opted), Chris Skinner, Janet Smith, Jackie Sorry, Margaret Sumner, (Vacancy).

Auditor: Joan Trevena

Sidespersons:

Ellis Collier, Jennifer Collier, Bill Day, Mike Hollick, Bob Chapman, Hazel Lord, Ruth Kellie, Dilys Garritt, Brenda Thomas, Margaret Ryding, Doreen Cornes. Nicholas Smith.

THE ELECTORAL ROLL

ST KATHARINE'S, 2020-2021

The Electoral Roll is the list of names and addresses of a Church's membership. Every person listed on the Electoral Roll is eligible to attend the Annual Parochial Church Meeting and vote.

A new roll was created in 2019 and is renewed every six years. This year and subsequent years up to 2025, the Electoral Roll will only be amended with any new names that have been added, and names of those who are no longer members will be taken off.

No-one over 18 can be elected to the PCC until they have been Electoral Roll members for 6 months. People under the age of 18 can be elected to the PCC from their 16th birthday.

There are now 132 names on the Electoral Roll for the APCM 2021.

Sheila Kinrade, Electoral Roll Officer

TEAM RECTOR'S REPORT 2020

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

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

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

As for individuals and families, the plans we had for our churches had to be cancelled, postponed or put on hold. Our weekly activities, even our worship stopped. Then we started to rethink our norms. In stopping doing our normal activities, we were freed to do other activities. We had to think about what was important. Some of the things we thought important turned out not to be that important.

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

There was a lot to celebrate in the year and there was some very good news for the future too. In January, we said a fond farewell to our Curate, Kirsty. We celebrated her ministry at a special service early in the new year and, a few of us, were privileged to be at her licensing service as Priest-in-charge at St John's, Hopwood and St Luke's, Heywood. In June we heard the great news that Andy Jones would be joining us as Team Curate in July 2021. In December we heard that Revd Dr Malcolm Wearing would be joining us as Self-Supporting Minister/Associate Priest in the Team in January 2021 with special responsibilities for St James'. Both these men, I am confident, will be real assets to our Team Ministry

I must say a huge thank you to you all but I would like to say a special thank you to some specific people. To Angela who is an excellent and valued colleague. To Janet and Val, for their excellent work as Church Wardens. Thank you to PCC members, Sidespeople and the group of cleaners. THANK YOU to all those who offer their gifts and time in any way and THANK YOU to you all for your support. Please be assured you are valued and appreciated.

As to the future, there is still uncertainty and there is still much to be resolved. There are radical changes a foot in our Diocese and Deanery which will affect us. All things won't go back to the way they were before the pandemic. Bishop David has asked that we think and plan carefully to build back better. With all of this, I pick up that there is some optimism and people are hopeful for the future. I also pick up there is much fatigue. We need to be mindful of both of these realities, making sure our hope is focussed in the right place and that we take time to resource ourselves, making sure we are always gracious to one another.

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

Revd Carol Pharaoh

ANNUAL VESTRY MEETING - Thursday 1st October 2020 at 7.00pm by Zoom

Present in person: Revd Angela Wynne (Chair), Bob Chapman, Jean Hibbert, Janet Hollick, Mike Hollick, Ruth Kellie, Sheila Kinrade, Hazel Lord, Valerie Marron, Barbara Miccoli, Sue Parry, Mary Pryle (Minutes), Shirley Rowlandson, Heather Sharp, Janet Smith, Jackie Sorry, Margaret Sumner, Barbara Worsley.

By Zoom: Helen Gambles, Chris Skinner, Ellis Collier, Jennifer Collier.

1. Introduction

Revd Angela welcomed all to the meeting and began the evening with prayer.

Those present were reminded that the Vestry Meeting was open to all parishioners. Rev Angela gave thanks for the use of technology enabling those who could not be present in person to join the meetings using Zoom video conferencing.

2. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Sylvia Gregory, Carol McCabe, Brian McCabe, George Hibbert, Robin Sharp, Peter Wynne, Ruth Sharrock.

3. Minutes of the Annual Vestry Meeting held on 11th April 2019

The Minutes were accepted as a correct record.

4. Election of Two Churchwardens

As there were no new nominations for Churchwarden there was no need for an election. Valerie Marron and Janet Hollick had agreed to continue their terms of office.

Revd Angela thanked the Churchwardens for their invaluable support during the past year.

Valerie Marron gave thanks to Revd Angela for her work and support for St Katharine's Church and the other churches in the team. The Coronavirus restrictions had made the role even more demanding and the Churchwardens appreciated Revd Angela's ability to listen and welcome new ideas.

The Annual Vestry Meeting closed at 7.20pm.

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING - Thursday 1st October 2020 at 7.15pm

Present in person: Revd Angela Wynne (Chair), Bob Chapman, Jean Hibbert, Janet Hollick, Mike Hollick, Ruth Kellie, Sheila Kinrade, Hazel Lord, Valerie Marron, Barbara Miccoli, Sue Parry, Mary Pryle (Minutes), Shirley Rowlandson, Heather Sharp, Janet Smith, Jackie Sorry, Margaret Sumner, Barbara Worsley

By Zoom: Helen Gambles, Chris Skinner, Ellis Collier, Jennifer Collier.

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Sylvia Gregory, Carol McCabe, Brian McCabe, George Hibbert, Robin Sharp, Peter Wynne, Ruth Sharrock.

2. Introduction

Revd Angela introduced the meeting and reminded those attending that only those persons whose names were on the current Electoral Roll were entitled to be present.

Copies of the Annual Report for 2020 had been made available to parishioners previously via the website and A Church Near You.

3. Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting held on 11th April 2019

The Minutes were accepted as a correct record, proposed by Janet Hollick and seconded by Valerie Marron.

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

4. Reports

Revd Angela drew attention to the printed Annual Report of St Katharine's 2020 which contained full reports on the following:

Church Electoral Roll Sheila Kinrade, Electoral Roll Officer, stated that there were now 135 names on the roll.

Parochial Church Council PCC: Details of the proceedings of the PCC during 2019/20 were given in the report. The PCC Secretary gave brief details of the work of the PCC through the year and highlighted how busy members had been. The PCC had met nine times, and the standing committee had also met regularly up to March 2020. PCC members had attended training sessions, and any actions agreed during meetings had been addressed promptly and successfully. Decisions had been taken following full discussion of the issues and openness was encouraged.

Issues discussed included the proposals for change in the Manchester Diocese, and the 10 year strategy which included the move to reduce from 20 to 7 Deaneries. The PCC was also informed of the Diocesan Board of Finance deficit of £600K, since known to be in excess of £2million.

The PCC were regularly informed of updates regarding the vacancy for a vicar at St James, Daisy Hill. Due to the reduced number of clergy in the team, it was agreed to change the pattern of services within the team including holding the 8.00am service on Sundays at St Katharine's fortnightly. PCC Members were thanked for their support and attendance at meetings.

Revd Angela commented that although 2019 had been a very busy year, some planned programmes and activities had not been put into practice due to the Coronavirus restrictions in 2020, including the plans for a Team Youth Church.

The Financial Affairs of the Parish: The financial report and accounts included a breakdown of expenditure and income. Total expenditure to 31st December 2019 was £96,324, and income was £128,905. The parish was grateful to former resident, Helen Steadman, who had left a legacy to St Katharine's of £34,464. The balance at end of the year was £104,947.14. There were no questions.

Jean Hibbert, PCC Treasurer, thanked everyone for their support for St Katharine's, and commented on the current situation and the challenge to raise funds during the Coronavirus restrictions. It had not been possible to organize a stewardship campaign again this year. Mrs Hibbert was thanked for all her hard work in continuing to keep the books balanced.

Fabric Report: Janet Hollick commented that the church building overall was in a good state of repair. A faculty was granted in 2019 to repair the guttering and pointing, but the work was put on hold due to the Coronavirus lockdown, and eventually completed in May 2020.

The architect had visited in September 2020 to prepare the Quinquennial report. It was expected that repairs to the roof and the restoration of the Chisenhale Hatchment would be completed later in 2020.

Mrs Hollick gave information regarding the ongoing problems with the organ which had stopped working in November 2019. Three companies had been approached to inspect the organ and provide estimates for the work required, which had been identified as replacement of the transmission, and electrical rewiring.

The quotes had been received as: David Wells & Co - £25,000+; Nicholson & Co - £28,000+; Henry Willis & Sons Ltd - £12,000+.

Henry Willis & Sons had produced a completely different report to the first two companies, stating that the organ needed the addition of two anti-concussion bellows, but did not need the transmission system to be replaced at this time. On this basis, the other two companies had been invited to revisit and review their findings.

It was proposed that £30,000 of the savings fund could be put to one side to provide for future work.

Thanks were recorded to Peter Wynne for his advice and work with the above, and Garyth Ingram for his support.

Questions: Jackie Sorry queried the three quotes given and was informed that as Nicholsons was contracted to service the organ annually, a representative had not visited St Katharine's to inspect the organ this time, but had based their report on previous visits.

Sue Parry questioned the current state of the organ and whether this would be likely to fail during a service, in particular a wedding or funeral. Janet Hollick informed that the electrical work to replace the wiring would be addressed, and commented that Nicholsons had stated they did not undertake electrical work of this nature.

Shirley Rowlandson queried the repairs to the pipes in 2008 when parishioners made donations and their names were written on the pipes. Would the names remain on the pipes if repairs were in progress? Janet Hollick replied that Willis had proposed to change the pipes but the names would be secured.

Janet Hollick was thanked for the report.

The Proceedings of the Deanery Synod: Reports on the three meetings held in the year 2019-20 were included in the Annual Report with thanks to Barbara Worsley.

Margaret Ryding and Ruth Kellie were stepping down as Deanery Synod representatives this year. Both had served for many years and thanks were recorded for their commitment and service. Ruth Kellie commented that she had been involved since the 1970s and it had been a privilege to represent St Katharine's.

Youth Report: Sylvia Gregory was thanked for her report on activities in 2019. Messy Church monthly sessions had continued to be well attended and enjoyed by all, with thanks to all the organisers and helpers. Sunday School children were enthusiastic and had been involved in various aspects of the Sunday services. Numbers attending varied and, although there had been a trial to keep Sunday School running through the year, it had since been agreed to return to sessions in term-time only.

Revd Angela commented on discussions for the Team Youth Church which was planned to start in early 2020, but had to be put on hold due to the Coronavirus lockdown.

Child Protection Report and Policy Statement: This was included in the report and assumed read.

Policy statement on the safeguarding of adults: This was included in the report and assumed read.

Safe Church Policy: This was included in the report and assumed read.

5. Election of Representatives of the Laity to the PCC.

The following members had come to the end of their Term of Office: Bob Chapman, Helen Gambles, Sue Parry, Mary Pryle, Ruth Sharrock, and were thanked for their service.

There were six vacancies for PCC Members. The following were elected to serve for three years: Mike Hollick, Hazel Lord, Barbara Miccoli, Chris Skinner, Janet Smith.

The following members had agreed to continue to serve for the duration of their terms of office: Ellis Collier, Jennifer Collier, Sylvia Gregory, Jean Hibbert, and Margaret Sumner.

There was one vacancy remaining.

6. Appointment of Auditor to the PCC

Revd Angela queried if the current auditor, Joan Trevena, was willing to continue, and the Treasurer indicated that she was. Joan Trevena was appointed as auditor.

7. Any Other Business

There were no items of Any Other Business.

8. Vicar's report

This year the APCM planned for April had to be postponed due to COVID19 and the lockdown restrictions imposed in mid-March. The Diocese extended the term of office for Churchwardens, PCC members and Deanery Synod members until the 31st October 2020. All those elected today will serve until the next APCM which will be sometime before 31st May 2021.

This APCM covers the church's life for the calendar year January to December 2019. As we look back they seem like halcyon days when we could open the church doors, squeeze in as many as we could for the major festivals of the year; proud of our standing room only at the crib service; when we could sing and raise our voices in praise; hug and share the peace; have coffee and share fellowship after the services. We could plan fund-raising and social events inside church and outside.

The schools came to celebrate Christmas and Easter and the school's Y6 leavers' service took place here. The bells had started to ring out once more on Sunday mornings as a new team was established under the leadership of Mike Kay the Bell captain. The church gave a warm welcome to families who joined us for those life events that we are so much a part of; Baptisms Weddings and Funerals.

Also last year we served the community with Stitch & Knit, Senior Moments, the Flower Club. In the summer holidays we acted as a pick-up point for Bolton Lunches and the uptake was much higher than the previous year. Messy Church grew from strength to strength; Open Church on Thursday and Saturday mornings and Wednesday monthly Prayer Meditations were all thriving.

We continued to seek new ways of serving the community; we started Memory Lane, a new film club for those with dementia, and plans were well under way for a dementia friendly service. We wanted to hold a Taize style service. We continued to build up our ecumenical relationships with the Lent Meditations and the World Day of Prayer and the Remembrance Day service. We've also become a recycling hub for crisp packets, cat food pouches and more, thanks to Pat Z. Last year we hosted the entertainments and refreshments after the Blackrod Christmas Tree light switch-on ceremony.

All this indicates that St Katharine's is a thriving church with a real desire to serve the community and proclaim the Good News of the Gospel.

You can read in the reports how all that was possible. Through good organisation and governance on the part of the PCC and wider congregation, through generosity both in terms of financial giving and the giving of time and talents to the church in God's service. My sincere thanks go to all of for playing your part in the life of our church.

My particular thanks go to the churchwardens, Valerie and Janet for their commitment and for being my anchor, my critical friend. I know I can trust their judgements and that they will do what they have committed to do; our treasurer Jean has done a fabulous job and kept the finances in order expertly juggling the various funds to maximise their effectiveness. And not forgetting her magnificent efforts in steering the Events committee to bring us some memorable social and fundraising events; Our PCC secretary Mary, again keeping me in order with a very gentle hand and just getting on with her tasks, in addition to all the work she puts into the magazine.

And then there's the many people who make Sunday worship the uplifting spiritual experience we've grown to love. Garyth and the choir, Brian's team of servers and acolytes, the sidespeople, the lay assistants, the readers and intercessors, the flower arrangers, the coffee shop ladies; sincere thanks to those who organise these rotas. Of course I can't not mention our retired priests, Carol and Heather and of course, Alan, whose desire was to be of service for as long as he was able. He certainly achieved that and will be missed for his wit and wisdom and his genuine concern for others.

I could go on and on but at the centre of it all it's the PCC who work together that enable this church to flourish as it does and who also support me and my colleagues in our ministry and outreach of the church. So a huge thank you to you all.

Looking ahead we now face a massive challenge. We don't know when we can return to those carefree days pre-covid. The eagerness to get back into church and make it available for the community has been wonderful. We have been blessed with helpful support and people willing to step outside their comfort zones. The challenge now is how do we continue to grow and flourish in these present circumstances? What will I be saying at the next APCM which is only 6 months away?

Here are some of those challenges as I see them

- How are we to enable everyone to worship well? Including children and families.
- How can we grow disciples and encourage people in their faith?
- How can we provide the best experience for families who come for baptisms, couples wanting to be married, and families saying goodbye to loved ones?
- How do we best communicate with the community?
- How can we really connect with those not on line?
- How do we fundraise?

This coming year we will need to be more creative, more flexible, more willing to change the way we do things and try new things. What lessons have we learnt from lockdown? What do we need for the future? How can we adapt so that when the next lockdown happens we are prepared?

These will be the questions the new PCC needs to address. Thank you to those who are to serve this year. What an exciting time to be involved! Please remember to pray for them and to ask God to guide us as we steer our church through these uncharted waters.

God bless, Angela.

The meeting closed with prayer at 8.00pm

PROCEEDINGS OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL: APRIL 2020-MARCH 2021

In an extraordinary year of lockdowns and restrictions due to the Coronavirus pandemic, the PCC continued to work with the Vicar to run the church building and promote the mission of the church in the Parish of Blackrod. The church building was first closed due to the Coronavirus lockdown from 22nd March to end of June 2020. Private prayer was permissible from the end of June. Services of public worship resumed on Sundays and Tuesdays from 19th July 2020. A second lockdown started from 4th January to end of February 2021.

During the closures the PCC met by email several times to consult and approve various actions, including.....opening the church for private prayer and public worship, for funerals, and to approve the quotes for roof repairs. In September, October and December 2020 the PCC met in person in church with some members who were shielding being able to attend via Zoom technology. During the second lockdown in 2021, meetings in February and March were held via Zoom.

Although it was a strange time - not being able to meet in person, wearing masks, keeping our distance when we could meet - it is worth acknowledging how quickly PCC members were able to adapt to the changes and embrace the new technology in order to ensure the smooth running of services and business at St Katharine's. Cleaning routines, booking systems, Track & Trace recording, and office working routines were quickly put in place with thanks to the churchwardens.

The Standing Committee – Revd Angela, Lay Vice-chair, Churchwardens, Secretary and Treasurer, also communicated regularly during the year by email. The Churchwardens met regularly with Revd Angela. Attendance at meetings was very good.

Appointment of Officers at the PCC meeting held on 1st October 2020:

The following were appointed as officers of the PCC to serve for the year up to the APCM 2021:

- | | |
|--|---|
| – Lay Vice-Chair | Chris Skinner |
| – PCC Treasurer | Jean Hibbert |
| – PCC Secretary | Mary Pryle |
| – Electoral Roll | Sheila Kinrade |
| – Health & Safety | Sheila Kinrade and Mike Hollick |
| – Standing committee | Chair, Lay Vice-Chair, Churchwardens, Treasurer, Secretary. |
| – Deputy Churchwarden: | Ruth Sharrock |
| – Deputy Treasurer: | Bob Chapman and Mike Hollick |
| – Gift Aid Officer/ Charity Commission Co-ordinator: | Chris Skinner |
| – Child Protection: | Helen Gambles |
| – Lead Recruiter: | Mary Pryle |
| – Youth/ Sunday School representatives: | Sylvia Gregory, Ruth Sharrock, and Margaret Sumner. |

*Appointment of sidespersons. The following were appointed as sidespeople at the PCC meeting held on 1st October 2020: Ellis Collier, Jennifer Collier, Bill Day, Mike Hollick, Bob Chapman, Hazel Lord, Ruth Kellie, Dilys Garritt, Brenda Thomas, Margaret Ryding, Doreen Cornes, Nicholas Smith.

Deanery Synod: Valerie Marron, Sheila Kinrade, Sue Parry and Barbara Worsley were elected as Deanery Synod representatives to serve for three years.

Agenda items raised and discussed during the year included the following email consultations held during the lockdown:

18th June: The PCC approved the proposal for St Katharine's Church to open for private prayer from 30th June 2020 on Tuesday and Saturday mornings from 10am to 12 noon.

7th July: The PCC, being satisfied that the necessary risk assessments had been undertaken and the Church had done everything in its power to mitigate against the risk of Covid19 being contracted whilst in church, agreed that services of public worship should recommence on the 12th July 2020.

8th July: The PCC agreed that volunteers and employees who are in the Clinically Vulnerable Group may undertake activities within the church if they are willing to do so.

15th July: The PCC, having reviewed Risk Assessments for General, and Covid 19 related arrangements, and the Risk Assessment for use of the upper room, approved the proposal for the Pilates classes to resume in the Upper room from 25th July in line with the government guidelines.

16th July: To approve the collection of data for purposes of NHS Test and Trace.

28th July: To approve the Risk Assessment for funerals to be held in church again.

18th August: Harvest Charity 2020 - Suggestions received were Christian Aid, Medics sans Frontieres, Sightsavers. The PCC voted to support MSF (Medics sans Frontieres).

9th October: The PCC agreed to the proposal for repairs to the church roof over the East Window which would need use of a cherry picker.

It was an extraordinary period of time! Monday 14th September 2020 saw the first PCC meeting held in church for six months. Meetings continued in person from then on with the usual reports.

Matters discussed at meetings and decisions taken included the following:

Services in church: The Confirmation Service due to be held in October 2020 was postponed until a later date. Baptisms were put on hold until 2021. Weddings were allowed with 15 people in attendance. Funerals were allowed with 30 people in attendance. Online services were continuing each week with participation by people across the team. *(These services are available to watch on the Youtube channel).*

The churchwardens attended the Archdeacon's Visitation via Zoom on 4th November 2020.

The Parish Magazine: The PCC approved the proposal to outsource the printing and stapling of the Parish Magazine. During the lockdown the magazine and a weekly newsletter had been made available online via the website. From December 2020 the magazine would be printed by CZ Designs Ltd.

ICO (Information Commissioner's Office): Following the death of Gerry Kay in August 2020, Ellis Collier volunteered to take on the role of ICO representative.

Christmas Dinner on Jesus (Urban Outreach): The team agreed to provide 500 boxes/ packets of savoury crackers this year.

Carbon Neutral church: The PCC agreed to look at improving the energy footprint of the church in line with the Diocesan Eco Church programme. A working party was formed and an ECO Action plan produced based on five areas: Worship/Teaching resource, Building, Land, Community, and Lifestyle.

Stepping Stones for Growth: Revd Angela and Barbara Miccoli attended the Zoom clergy training session on 7th November 2020. The main theme was: "Where you can see God in the Community?" The PCC were encouraged to watch the videos available on the Manchester Diocese Youtube channel and a plan would be made for the future when restrictions were reduced .

Vacancy at Daisy Hill: A curate had been appointed to the Team who would, with his family, live in the St James' Vicarage, from March 2021.

The PCC agreed unanimously to the proposal to appoint Revd Dr Malcolm Wearing as Self Supporting Minister at St James, Daisy Hill. The appointment been approved by the Archdeacon, and the Licensing of Revd Malcolm would take place on Thursday 7th January 2021 at St James, Daisy Hill.

Sub-Committees

Reports were received from the following subcommittees covering the various areas of church work: Pastoral, Worship, Stewardship, Buildings and Maintenance, Outreach (Events, Senior Moments and Flower Club), Children's Work, and Communications.

Copies of the Minutes of PCC meetings are available for public view in the office once they have been approved by the PCC.

Mary Pryle, PCC Secretary.

**With reference to the new Church Representation Rules 2020: Rule M6(6) The Annual Meeting may not appoint sidesmen; the duty to do so is imposed on the PCC by section 2(2)(f) of the Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956. Please contact the PCC Secretary if you wish to see a copy of the new Rules 2020.*

CHURCH FABRIC REPORT

The restrictions of 2020 were a challenge to all and the churchwardens would like to thank everyone for their understanding of the restrictions and rules which were imposed in church during the year. The church doors were locked between March and June and then reopened after several versions of the risk assessment, introduction of hand sanitiser, a one-way system and 2 metre floor markings. It was indeed a strange year. The very thought of having to book a place for a service in church and to worship whilst wearing a face covering is alien to everyone but sadly became a reality. The preparations to reopen church were lengthy and time consuming and, amidst all the chaos of a pandemic, St Katharine's continued to throw up the challenges associated with a Grade 2 listed building.

The Organ

In the early part of 2020, we inherited problems with the organ which had cut out on a couple of occasions at the end of 2019. An electrician made a repair which remained good throughout 2020. We were assisted throughout by Peter Wynne who brought his experience to bear, contacting 3 companies for quotations for a new transmission for the organ. Ultimately, the PCC decided to heed the advice from Nicholson's who reported, 'The transmission dates from the Smethurst rebuild of 1970. It is well made and despite its 50 years of use is still working perfectly. This is quite impressive – the technology is of early design and involves ladder switches and relays that usually begin to give trouble by this stage. There is no need to replace the system at the present time, given that it is working so effectively. Our experience with similar systems elsewhere, however, is that it is likely to start giving trouble in the next 10 to 15 years or so, if not before, and the church should plan for its replacement in the medium term.' The cost of a future restoration would be approx. £30k.

The church building

The guttering on the southside of church was repaired using Flashband by Mark Sheehan Home Improvements and the gutters were cleared by Nathan Dutton from Complete Clean Cleaning Solutions in the first quarter of the year. The east and west wall repairs and revision of the guttering/run off on the south side of the church roof was completed by Bullens and signed off by the architect in June. The cost was £3,900. Bullens were contacted again to repair the church roof over the chancel, above the East window. The work needed a cherry picker to be sited on the carpark adjacent to church and was completed in September. The work cost £2,500.

The Quinquennial Inspection took place in June and the architect highlighted a number of areas of the church roof/flashing which need repairing in the valley of the church roof over the nave. The first quotation of £22k for the work on the church roof was received from Bullens in December and two further quotes were sought. These repairs are ongoing at the beginning of 2021. In addition, repairs to the church clock and to the handrail to the lower churchyard are also required.

The Chisenhale hatchment

A faculty was sought for the repair and restoration of the Chisenhale hatchment. The work was completed in December by Vanessa Andrew, Fine Art Conservator, at a cost of £1850. It now hangs in all its splendour in the tower room.



Before (far left)
and after (left) restoration.

Live Streaming of services

The PCC began to consider installing equipment to live stream services.

Eco church

The carbon footprint of St Katharine's was calculated and the Eco team was formed to inform the PCC of ways in which this can be reduced in line with the Church of England's national environmental programme which exists to enable the whole Church to address (in faith, practice and mission) the issue of climate change and care for creation.

Janet Hollick, Valerie Marron (Churchwardens)

DEANERY SYNOD REPORTS

Meeting held via Zoom on 10th June 2020 (Notes taken from Minutes of the meeting)

Address by the Bishop of Bolton: Bishop Mark reflected on how we are having to learn to be a Church in a new way, the Church is more than the physical building, it is about people and the community. Bishop Mark shared instances of good things happening during the lockdown:

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

Updates from around the Deanery were given from each church. Most had produced services and other activities on-line and found alternative ways to keep in touch with parishioners.

Treasurers Report: It was reported that the diocese are forecasting a shortfall this year of £2-2.5 m.

Bishop Mark Ashcroft commended those parishes who still continue to pay their full parish share and encouraged parishes to consider finding different ways of asking for giving, and also to consider that reserves saved for a rainy day may have to be used this year as sustainability is a very significant issue.

The final figure at the end of February was £462,442. This was 89% of the total allocation.

Acknowledgement was made to Pam Smith for her work as Synod secretary.

Closing Prayers: Nicola led the closing prayers. Bishop Mark ended the meeting with a blessing

Meeting held via Zoom on 14th October 2020

The new measures for the Deaneries would come into operation on 21st June 2021. They would then be known as *Mission Communities*. This was the last meeting for current synod members, and there would be an online informal meeting of the Deanery Synod on the 14th October. This will be primarily an opportunity to share updates of what has been happening in our churches in these unusual times and a time for us to pray together. We hope that in the Spring there will be a Deanery Celebration Service as the first of the new Synod.

Valerie Marron

Meeting held via Zoom on 23rd February 2021

The meeting, the first of the new Synod, took place via Zoom. It opened with prayer led by the Area Dean, The Revd Vinny Whitworth, and with a welcome for all new members.

The first item on the agenda was a request for reports from around the parishes. All contained similar accounts of maintaining parish life via Zoom and much was carrying on, nevertheless, in a very positive mood. Normal services were suspended in many with expectations of a full resumption on Easter Sunday. All were looking forward to that.

The Area Dean then moved on to the main item, which was to implement, via the views of everyone present, any addition we might want to make to the Deanery response to the Diocesan initiative to form Mission Communities. Sub groups were formed for further discussion which was relayed back after an appropriate interval. There were concerns, largely to do with the size of one of the Communities and the difficulty of engaging in meaningful pastoral work within it, especially with cuts anticipated in stipendiary clergy. The future role of the existing clergy is also unclear. Giving might be under threat if the loyalty of givers became less determined by their immediate area.

Much appreciation was expressed at the success, friendship and cooperation we have enjoyed as a Deanery over many years and reluctance to abandon that under the new initiative. More positively, it was suggested that we hold the Diocese in prayer during this time of financial chaos and in the hard decisions to be made.

In celebration of the years of the Deane Deanery, a Service of Celebration is planned for 18th May at a venue to be decided, with hopes that we might be able to share, not only in thanksgiving and joy, but also in tea and cakes.

There was little to report elsewhere from the Area Dean or the Lay Chair, everything being affected by the current lockdown. Sylvia Smith, who had been Lay Chair for eleven years, stated she would not be continuing in the role after July when the Deane Deanery will be merged with the larger Bolton Deanery. She expressed her sadness and was warmly thanked and included in the prayers which closed the meeting led by the Revd Terry Clark.

Barbara Worsley

Diocesan Synod EGM on 30th September 2020

Valerie Marron attended the meeting by Zoom as representative of the Deane Deanery on the Diocesan Synod, and reported to the PCC on the issues raised as follows:

There would be a reduction of 12 stipendiary ministers by 2022.

37 churches in the Deane Deanery did not pay the Parish Share in full last year.

The discussion and agreement programme re: Parish Share had been suspended with some changes made, and a plan to lower the amounts per month next year.

Church leaders who had been in isolation had decided not to go forward next year.

The meeting acknowledged the movement "Black Lives Matter", and discussion followed, with the suggestion for black ministers to be placed in "white" areas.

The virtual EGM of the Manchester Board of Finance also took place on 30th September. A special resolution was passed to enable members to allow electronic voting and communications.

Information was given re: the Budget for 2021-2022. It was predicted that the deficit for 2021 would be £1,722,000.

Valerie Marron

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE AT ST KATHARINE'S



Youth Report

This past year has been challenging for many people not least our youngsters. We have been unable to continue with Sunday school and now that restrictions are slowly being lifted we are considering how to move along with our sessions.

Messy church also had to stop but we have tried to keep children connected by doing Advent and Easter messy bags, which seem to have been well received. See the pictures below.

Our main problem with that was, due to GDPR, we didn't have addresses so we had to rely on Facebook and word of mouth. We have put forms in the bags for people to give us their contact details, however, the take up of that has been very poor.

Revd Angela has said she is happy for us to do bags for Pentecost so that is yet to be planned for the end of May.

Sylvia Gregory, Ruth Sharrock, Margaret Sumner

Nicholas (above) and Isabelle (below) investigate the Messy Church Easter pack at home.

Child Protection Report 2020-2021

Child Protection Co-ordinator – Helen Gambles.

Lead Recruiter – Mary Pryle, Assistant Lead Recruiter – Janet Hollick.

DBS Clearance – Disclosure and Barring Service

All Lay Assistants, Sunday School Leaders, helpers and volunteers who have contact with children and/or vulnerable adults in church, had taken part in Diocesan Safeguarding Training.

Mary, Janet and Helen would like to thank all involved for their co-operation.

Youth Work The Sunday School was unable to meet during the times when the church was closed for the lockdown, however, leaders had kept in touch with the members by letter and through the church Facebook page.

Youth Work continues to be an Agenda item at PCC Meetings. Three Sunday School Leaders are PCC Members and give regular updates.

The PCC would like to thank Sylvia and her helpers for their time and hard work.

Fire Practices No fire drills were held whilst the church was closed in 2020, and to date in 2021.

Finally, no matters of concern have been brought to our attention over the previous year.

Helen Gambles.



Policy Statement on Children, Young People and the Church of St Katharine, Blackrod

This statement was agreed at the PCC meeting held on 15th March 2021.

As members of this church, we commit ourselves to the nurturing, protection and safekeeping of all, especially children and young people

- It is the responsibility of each one of us to prevent the physical, sexual and emotional abuse of children and young people and to report any abuse discovered or suspected
- We recognise that our work with children and young people is the responsibility of the whole church
- Our church is committed to supporting, resourcing and training those who work with children and young people and to providing supervision
- Our church is committed to following the policy and procedures published by the Diocese
- The parish will adopt good practice guidelines
- Each worker with children and young people must undertake diocesan Safeguarding training, know the guidelines and undertake to follow them. Each shall be given a copy of the Parish's agreed procedures and good practice guidelines.
- As part of our commitment to children and young people, the PCC has appointed Helen Gambles to be the Child Protection Coordinator, and Mary Pryle to be Lead Recruiter, and Janet Hollick as Assistant Lead Recruiter.

Children and young people are an important part of our Church today.

They have much to give as well as to receive. We will listen to them.

As we nurture them in worship, learning, and in community life, we will respect the wishes and feelings of children and young people.

This church appoints those named below to represent the concerns and views of children and young people at our meetings and to outside bodies.

Contact details

Child Protection Coordinator, Helen Gambles
Lead Recruiter, Mary Pryle
Assistant Lead Recruiter, Janet Hollick

01942 832255 / 07752729509
01204 697763
01942 731164 / 075140419611



Above left: Happy Christmas! Messy Church bags for Advent were collected from the church doors observing social distancing, wearing face masks, and using a one-way system!

Above right: Collecting Christingle at Home activity bags from church when we were unable to hold the usual Christingle service

**Background**

St Katharine's Church recognises the importance of its work with children and young people in developing and promoting Christian attitudes, and in the role played by volunteers in carrying forward this mission. The Church also recognises that it has a responsibility for the health and safety of all who worship in and visit its buildings. Specific to this policy, St Katharine's seeks to ensure that children and young people are kept as safe from harm as they can be, in an environment which promotes their safety and wellbeing. This policy is one of a number of policies which underpin the Diocesan umbrella policy "A Safe Church" which has been adopted by St Katharine's.

In ensuring that it does all in its power to provide a safe environment, the Church will operate within the guidelines of the Manchester Diocese, as laid out in "Safeguarding Children". The Church will also attempt to work within guidelines issued by CCPAS (Churches' Child Protection Advisory Service)/31:8 and recognised children's charities, and will seek to promote good practice identified by these organisations and the Diocese.

Aims

- To ensure that all groups and activities operate in a way which will ensure the safety and wellbeing of the children and young people.
- To ensure those with responsibility for leading and working with children's groups belonging or affiliated to the Church are suitable for their role
- To ensure that best practice is identified and regular training provided to recognised leaders and helpers
- To ensure that procedures comply with equality and diversity and data protection legislation
- To ensure that effective monitoring and evaluation is in place so that there is compliance with procedures, and high standards are maintained in the care of children and young people.

Objectives

- To ensure that all leaders and helpers are recruited through appropriate procedures which include obtaining personal references and completing Disclosure & Barring Service (DBS) checks at enhanced level
- To ensure that leaders and helpers are appropriately inducted into their role
- To ensure that leaders and helpers complete the diocese training, and are kept up-to-date with child protection issues
- To ensure that best practice is identified and incorporated into up-date training
- To ensure that operating procedures, processes and planned activities are risk assessed to minimise risk to children and young people
- To ensure that information and data held on leaders, helpers, children and young people is handled in accordance with data protection legislation
- To ensure that the PCC receives regular information regarding children's and young people's activities

Organisation & Responsibilities**The PCC is responsible for:**

- the annual review and up-dating of this policy and the associated procedures
- the ongoing monitoring and evaluation of this policy and the associated procedures
- the annual appointment of a Child Protection Co-ordinator

The Church Child Protection Co-ordinator is Helen Gambles and Lead Recruiter is Mary Pryle and they are responsible for:

- ensuring that recruitment, induction, training and up-dating of leaders and helpers takes place in accordance with diocesan and CCPAS/31:8 recommendations.
- continuing communications with leaders and helpers of Church and associated organisations
- reporting twice yearly to the PCC on compliance and effectiveness of child protection procedures, and compiling an annual report for the Church's Annual General Meeting
- ensuring that the policy statement and the annual report are published at the Annual General Meeting
- ensuring that there is a Child Line poster on a noticeboard in all places where children and young people meet
- keeping a record of disclosure dates and numbers for children's leaders
- keeping a record of successful completion of on-line training, and registering this with the diocese

- keeping a record of up to date training and attendance at training events
- ensuring that records are kept in accordance with Data Protection legislation

The Incumbent or Pastoral Assistant is responsible for:

- counselling volunteers who are found to be unsuitable for work with children and young adults

Outcomes

Compliance with: -

- “A Safe Church Policy”, the Diocesan umbrella policy adopted by St Katharine’s.
- “Safeguarding Children”, the child protection document produced by the Diocese of Manchester Child Protection legislation
- Recommendations of the CCPAS/31:8, NSPCC and Child Line

The PCC approved the revision of this policy on 15th March 2021 to be presented at the APCM.

100 “Messy Church Advent at Home” bags had been made up and collected from church by families. Here are pictures of some of the children and their work at home in December 2020.



POLICY STATEMENT ON THE SAFEGUARDING OF ADULTS

This statement was adopted by St Katharine's Church at a PCC meeting, and will be reviewed each year to monitor the progress which has been achieved.

We recognize that everyone has different levels of vulnerability and that each of us may be regarded as vulnerable at some time in our lives.

1. As members of this parish we commit ourselves to respectful pastoral care for all adults to whom we minister.
2. We commit ourselves to the safeguarding of people who may be vulnerable, ensuring their well-being in the life of this church.
3. We commit ourselves to promoting safe practice by those in positions of trust.
4. The parish commits itself to promoting the inclusion and empowerment of people who may be vulnerable.
5. It is the responsibility of each of us to prevent the physical, emotional, sexual, financial and spiritual abuse of vulnerable people and to report any such abuse that we discover or suspect.
6. We undertake to exercise proper care in the appointment and selection of those who will work with people who may be vulnerable.
7. The parish is committed to supporting, resourcing, training and regularly reviewing those who undertake work amongst people who may be vulnerable.
8. The parish adopts the guidelines of the Church of England and the Diocese.

Each person who works with vulnerable people will agree to abide by these recommendations and the guidelines established by this church.

SAFE CHURCH POLICY

This church appoints Janet Hollick to represent the concerns and views of vulnerable people at our meetings and to outside bodies.

As a church community, we are committed to:

- The care, nurture of and respectful pastoral ministry with all children and adults
- The safeguarding and protection of all children and adults
- The establishment of safe, caring communities which provide a loving environment, where there is a culture of 'informed vigilance' regarding the dangers of abuse, which:

For children and young people

- values them for who they are, and nurtures their positive development
- enables them to participate fully and contribute to their church community
- protects them from actual or potential harm

For adults who may be vulnerable, including those suffering domestic abuse

- ensures that all people feel welcomed, respected and safe from abuse
- encourages those who may be vulnerable
 - to lead as independent a life as possible,
 - to choose how to lead their life, and
 - to be active contributors to the church community
- protects those who may be vulnerable from actual or potential harm

For all people

- enables and encourages concerns to be raised and responded to openly and consistently
- offers support and care for those suffering, or who have suffered, from any form of abuse
- promotes respect, and the value of each person as a child of God

We are therefore committed to best practice according to the national policies and guidelines of the Church of England, in the protection of children and vulnerable people; in the recruitment, training and supervision of all who exercise a pastoral ministry; and in responding to any allegations or complaints.

This policy is reviewed each year by the Parochial Church Council and re-affirmed at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting.

**Because we understand that:
God has a special care for those who struggle
All of us at different periods of our lives are vulnerable and in need of help.
We can make a difference.**

FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER 2020

Charity Commission No: 1144084

FINANCIAL REPORT – DECEMBER 2020

I think we can all say that, as we celebrated the New Year we never could have envisaged what a year it would be and the challenges we would all have to face to get us through a Covid-19 pandemic. With friendship, support, love and prayers, to say nothing of the vaccine, surely better days are ahead and we look to the future and, moving on, what our individual roles will be.

Financially, I have been concerned for the last few years that the computer package on XP which I inherited many years ago did not fit into the modern requirements for recording our finances as easily as it could. So I looked around for an alternative and decided on Money Manager which hopefully will make life so much easier when the time comes for a new Treasurer to take over. Lockdown seemed like a good opportunity to make the transition to the new package and personalise it to meet the needs of St Katharine's going forward. The new system also fits easily into the requirements laid out on the annual Return of Parish Finance, is accessible on a laptop and we have a licence which will allow a future treasurer to download it on to their own devices at home should they wish.

However, it has required a new format for the end of year figures which will hopefully be clearer for those reading this report now and in the future. I have tried to compare what I can from last year and explain the differences as best I can, but with the variants the pandemic has caused and the change in layout it has been tricky! If anyone has any questions or queries about anything at all please just get in touch.

The balance sheet shows our financial position at the start of 2020, we had an excess of expenditure over income and our balance at the end of 2020 was £100,342.55.

This was made up as shown by our bank balance, our insurance premium for 2021 and the two savings account balances.

We hold our two savings accounts in the Central Board of Finance of the Church of England:

CBF No 1 has a closing balance of £12,633.85 and is made up of:

Memorial Fund £7,165; Youth £1162; Bellringers £692; Coffee Mornings £675; Organ Fund £2,908; Restoration Fund £31.

CBF No2 hold the remaining funds from the Wilson and Steadman legacies – £76,252.07

You will notice that the PCC decided to transfer £10,000 into the current account at the start of the pandemic to act as a buffer for our expenses as we had no idea what our income would be. It is hoped that once restrictions ease we will be able to restore some of that balance to be used for major expenditure in the future.

INCOME

If we look at sections 1-2 as a whole this year you can see the huge shift in financial support we have received during 2020. Gift aided donations increased as more parishioners allowed us to claim tax relief on their giving, by standing order and in envelopes, others increased their giving where they could and some joined the planned giving scheme for the first time. This resulted in a change of £4,716 overall, and although £3,187 was lost in plate collections over the year, the total of our planned giving increased by £1,529. This will give us a stronger position going forward and as a result we were able to reclaim £10,083 from HMRC, (6a) an increase of £1,825. Many thanks to Chris Skinner who worked very hard with the figures last year and claimed every bit he could so it's a great result. One off envelopes increased by just £12!

Section 10 covers all the donations we have received and it is easier to see them all in one place.

General donations included donations from the Flower Club, Memory Lane, Film Club and Blackrod Town Council towards the maintenance of the church clock, all totalling £700. The PCC agreed that when the Film Club and Memory Lane are able to open again we will replenish their funds.

Many thanks to Sarah Skinner who suggested a Giving Tuesday and this generated 39 donations from many different sources amounting to £1,358.

Sue Taylor applied for match funding for the help she gave at the 2019 Christmas Fair, and we received an anonymous gift of £1,000 – thank you to you all.

The demijohn collection, bells, churchyard and Restoration funds were all down and we were also £400 down on coffee shop donations. Although lower, we did receive £200 in candle donations which covered half of the annual spend.

On the other hand the Memorial Fund increased by £2,448 following many donations throughout the year in memory of loved ones. Two donations of £1,000 each came from the families of The Venerable Alan Wolstencroft and Nellie Whittle, and were used to cover the cost of the recently restored Chisenhale hatchment which can be seen in the lower tower room.

Following the problems with the organ towards the end of 2019, donations increased by £650, and donations towards our youth activities were received from Blackrod Educational Trust and from Blackrod

Town Council showing an increase of £113.

Ruth Sharrock gave a donation to cover the cost of Comfort and Joy booklets for each Messy Church family.

Our fundraising took a fairly big hit – down by £6,122! However, we made the most of the few opportunities we had and brought in £565 from 3 coffee mornings, £325 from the Quiz Night way back in February 2020, £702 from the Spring Fair and Sue Taylor claimed another £500 from her employers HSBC as match funding from the fair. The Popup shops raised £2,045 and the Christmas Post brought in £311 which was a record.

Throughout the year the recycling efforts raised £82 and the sale of various items - £43. Many thanks to Pat Z for encouraging us to concentrate more on recycling going forward. Mary P has tried to encourage us to use Easyfundraising whilst shopping online and in the year of lockdown more people did and raised £300 – great result! Special thanks to all who helped in any way and to the people of Blackrod who supported us.

Interest from our savings accounts came to £385 which was lower as the rates dropped again, we had to use some of our funds for maintenance work and these will be outlined in the expenditure section of the balance sheet.

Fees - there were three weddings during January and February and several cancellations. Sadly St Katharine's held sixteen funerals for members of the congregation, and we hold them and their families in our thoughts and prayers during this traumatic year.

Room hire was halved as Janina was forced to close her Pilates class in our upper room and we look forward to welcoming her back when regulations ease.

Parish Magazine - Most of the magazine collections happen in January and February so the sales income was only slightly affected and was down by £200. The fees for advertising are spread throughout the year and none has been collected since March, partly because of lockdown and partly as it seemed unfair to charge when no magazines were being printed. Sincere thanks to Mary Pryle for putting together the weekly newsletter to keep us all in touch and for making sure information was available on our website.

Heat donations made via weddings and funerals were stable and during the summer months these funds were used to cover grass cutting services in the churchyard.

The ministry expenses are shared as Revd Carol and Revd Angela cover services throughout the team. We cover Angela's working expenses, broadband, telephone and rates for the Vicarage and St Bart's do the same for Revd Carol. St John's and St James' pay a share of these which are calculated in proportion to our individual parish shares and in 2020 we received refunds amounting to £1,589.

Following the work done by Bullen's we claimed for a VAT refund of £654 from Listed Places of Worship and that makes the refunds up to £2,243.

All the items in section 14 do not constitute part of the income for St Katharine's – these items are just processed through our account:

Home charities this year included £629 for the Children's Society through the collecting boxes and we are grateful to Diane Cashmore for organising this. Sadly the Christingle service didn't happen so there was no collection for this charity.

Two donations from members of the congregation totalling £50 were made towards the work of Urban Outreach and we are grateful to all who use the grub tub and leave items at the vicarage for this worthy cause especially during this year of extra hardship. Many thanks to Peter Wynne and Bob Chapman who make sure your gifts reach the Bolton centre.

Following Lee Richardson's funeral in March, £117 was left on the collecting plate in church and it was sent to the British Heart Foundation in Lee's memory as the family's chosen charity.

Another casualty of the lockdown was our Toy Service so we were asked by Fortalice and the NSPCC if people would give donations instead of toys this year. Once again people rallied, chose their charities, and we were able to send £380 to Fortalice and £220 to the NSPCC and this is why the "Home" total is slightly higher.

It was the turn of an Overseas charity to benefit from our Harvest collection and this year the PCC voted for Medicine Sans Frontier and once again there was a huge response and we were able to send £575 from St Katharine's.

There could be no national door to door collection for Christian Aid this year but £86.20 was donated and sent on along with many personal donations which were sent online to the charity.

The Lent boxes were collected and counted for the last time by Ruby and Charlie Parr and we thank them for the effort they have put in over the last few years on behalf of USPG. £264 was sent on to them. Happily, Barbara Worsley has agreed to continue this collection to support missionary work throughout the world, so please have a word with Barbara if you would like a collecting box and she will drop one off.

The floats are drawn for use at our events and repaid immediately afterwards.

The payments for each wedding and funeral service include fees which are due to the Diocese as well as

fees for the verger, bells and organist and we pass them on.

The total of our overall income was £87,093.96 which looks like a huge drop from last year but remember 2019 figures included the gift from Helen Steadman's estate of £34,464 so we should be very thankful indeed.

Total income for 2020 was £87,093.96

EXPENDITURE

Fundraising: during the Christmas sales we spent £96 on items for the 2021 Fair which we still have, and £36 on replacement Christmas lights. Expenses for the Quiz Night were £165 and £129 for the Spring Fair. Our stock of St Katharine's pens and other gifts was replenished from National Pen at a cost of £479, a Bex Bissell sweeper £25, food trays £25 and a contactless device £22. Fresh pies to sell at the Popup shop came from The Pieman and cost £130.

Coffee shop stock was minimal and our **stewardship envelopes** had increased slightly.

We managed to pay the **parish share** in full but only after transferring £10,000 from our savings and it is hoped that we can work to replace these funds as soon as possible.

Organ - due to church being closed for much of the year Garyth donated one of his quarterly fee payments back to church, hence the reduced figure, and we have missed his music so much throughout the year.

As explained earlier the **Vicarage costs and Angela's expenses** are shared between St Katharine's, St James', St John's and St Bartholomew's and £1,535 from them is shown in the refunds.

Messy Church has been a huge success and it was wonderful that the leaders were able to provide "takeaway" bags for the children for Christingle and Advent, as well as two Messy Church sessions before lockdown. Donations have provided most of this funding topped up from funds in the youth savings pot in Savings account No 1.

The insurance cover from Ecclesiastical Insurance was almost the same and many thanks to Bob Chapman who keeps an eye on all insurance checks.

General maintenance was up last year mainly due to having our 5 yearly electrical inspection costing £666. 3 new fitments for the switch to LED lighting cost £80, but with labour and VAT the bill totalled £207.

Thermal Heating did the annual boiler check costing £264 and we needed a new programmer costing £155.

Guardian Electrical did three checks on the fire alarm system - £309; Fireace did the annual check on the fire extinguishers - £60; the gutters were all cleared by Nathan Dutton - £280 and various bulbs and batteries cost £127 throughout the year.

Five flags were purchased during the year, St George's and the Union Flag, and we have had the last 3 "netted" in the hope that it will reduce the wear on the actual flags and the netting replaced significantly cheaper than keep replacing the flags - £575. Many thanks to Mike Kay for keeping an eye on tower related issues!

Mr Clayton our clock engineer retired around the first lockdown but when he came for the last time he did say we needed some restoration work done on the dials and the clock face itself and recommended Lancashire Clockmakers who would be able to do the work. Their engineer came and we have his estimate of £4,280 which includes replacing the glass with Perspex, treating the rust on the dials and the bevel sets at his workshop and setting at all up again. The visits were £120 and £200 and we received £150pa from Blackrod Town Council towards these costs. The work will take place in late spring when hopefully the weather will be kinder.

Cleaning and kitchen expenses - in January we had the carpet cleaned in the upper room - £110 and replenished paper products for the kitchen and toilet - a total of £129.

Then Covid hit us and we bought extra cleaning equipment, dusters, brushes, gloves, masks, visors, wall sanitisers and the bags to fill them total - £561. At this point we need to say a huge thank you to Howard Parry who has provided us with a constant supply of sprays for use after every service and an initial massive spray of the church building. This would have cost us a lot of money and we shall be forever grateful. Also at this point thank you to our Churchwardens and their team of helpers and stewards who have regularly cleaned our church building to enable us all to attend church whenever we could, operated track and trace, and have kept us safe.

Churchyard expenses were up by £140 as we had 2 extra cuts front and back this year.

Telephone expenses, ink and office equipment totalled £1,408 - BT rental and phone charges were £909 - we have just renegotiated this deal and there should be a £270 saving in 2021. Ink cartridges reimbursed totalled £378 as volunteers were printing at home when there was no access to the church office. The shredder was £55, and Money Manager computer system £66.

Postage was down by £80; **_stationery** was halved to £283 probably due to the magazine not being produced for 8 months.

Gratuities included a leaving gift for Kirsty Screeton as she left St John's; a donation to our

bellringers to travel to ringing events (this didn't happen in 2020 so they will hold it over for use in 2021 fingers crossed); four floral gifts following bereavements, a 60th and two 80th birthdays, a diamond wedding anniversary and two thank "you's" – totalling £433.

Candles purchased for all events totalled £458 which was down by £85 – half was recovered by candle donations. **Bread and wine** just £31.

Section 23k totalled £1,343 made up of: Lectionaries - £79; Christmas CD's - £23, and £176 for Comfort & Joy books for everyone on the Electoral Roll and Messy Church families (with thanks to Ruth Sharrock). All Souls service expenses £103; Christingle expenses £84 and a sign for Open Church £36.

Paid from Memorial Fund expenses were Dementia rugs £42; robes for our young people £132; Easter and Harvest flowers £131, and pew cushions £537.

Many thanks to all those who provided flowers for church when we were open for services.

Subscriptions amounted to £1,044 last year and included £20 each for a Lottery licence for our Christmas Fair raffle and Deane Deanery subs. £35 for Data protection fees and £85 for Data Development cover to support Chris with the Gift aid calculations. We need eight licences to cover all the copyright fees, and they have cost us £884.

Organ costs increased last year following the problems at the end of 2019 and we are grateful to DB Electrical for helping us out at very short notice to fix the problems - £438. Nicholson's carried out two organ tunings totalling £487.

Our gas bills were down by £686 although we have had the church heating on twice a week to keep the fabric aired as well as for all services throughout the year.

The electricity was down by £150 and **water rates** down by £549 as they were suspended whilst we were closed.

Magazine subscriptions for Crux and Parish Pump are as shown, and the **paper usage** covers the cost of the printing offsite for the December magazine so expenses are down by £928.

Printer costs are the rental to Siemens - £1049 and usage costs to Arena - £697.

Our major repairs doubled from last year - £3,920 for the repairs to the East Wall and £2,210 for the repairs on the roof slates – the work done on each occasion by Bullen's under the scrutiny of our architect Graham Holland. The payments cleared out our Restoration Fund and were topped up from the Memorial Fund and our current account.

Charities we have discussed – plus £10 donation to the Rainbow House, the Tree Barn charity, as a thank you for all the greenery given to us for Christmas decoration by Chris Hodge.

Floats are the same as the income; **Diocesan fees** expenditure is slightly less as we were due a refund early in the year. There is £34 in cash in the church safe which was unused from a funeral at the end of the year.

Total expenditure for 2020 was £91,698.55

Once again there are hundreds and hundreds of hours of voluntary help included yet unseen in these accounts from many, many people and without them we could not have carried on.

Hopefully you have been able to share the online services and newsletters to keep you in touch with your church and we thank all those who have made these possible throughout the Westhoughton team.

Sincere thanks to our honorary Auditor Joan, for all the help and support she offers so willingly to me, and to all those in the Blackrod Community who stepped forward when we needed you most – an enormous thank you. We hope and pray that we can carry on and provide a place of worship, security and peace for all who need it.

God bless. **Jean Hibbert, PCC Treasurer**



ST KATHARINE'S CHURCH, BLACKROD
CHARITY NO: 1144084

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31st DECEMBER 2020

£ 72366.24	PCC Balance at 1 st January	£104947.14
<u>32580.90</u>	Excess of expenditure/income	<u>-4604.59</u>
104947.14	PCC balance at 31 st December	100342.55

STATE OF PARISH FUNDS

6271.43	Royal Bank of Scotland	7320.40
4130.62	Prepayments	4136.23
8634.34	Central Board of Finance No 1	12633.85
<u>85910.75</u>	Central Board of Finance No 2	<u>76252.07</u>
104947.14		100342.55

PCC Chairman:

PCC Treasurer:

Hon Auditor:

St Katharine's Church - Charity No: 1144084 - Balance Sheet

CODE	DESCRIPTION	INC / EXP	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
1a	PLANNED GIVING - GIFT AID	INCOME	£22,993.50				
1b	ENVELOPES - GIFT AID	INCOME	£13,655.60				
			£36,649.10	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
2a	PLANNED GIVING - NON GIFT AID	INCOME	£1,886.00				
2b	ENVELOPES - NON GIFT AID	INCOME	£3,425.39				
			£5,311.39	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
3a	PLATE COLLECTIONS	INCOME	£1,495.16				
3b	ONE OFF ENVELOPES	INCOME	£404.50				
			£1,899.66	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
4a	DONATIONS - GENERAL	INCOME	£4,179.76				
4b	DONATIONS - DEMUOHN	INCOME	£57.00				
4c	DONATIONS - CANDLES	INCOME	£161.33				
4d	DONATIONS - CHURCHYARD	INCOME	£50.00				
4e	DONATIONS - COFFEE SHOP	INCOME	£99.52				
4f	DONATIONS - MEMORIAL FUND	INCOME	£4,702.70				
4g	DONATIONS - RESTORATION FUND	INCOME	£50.00				
4h	DONATIONS - ORGAN FUND	INCOME	£1,040.00				
4i	DONATIONS - COFFEE MORNINGS	INCOME					
4j	DONATIONS - BELLRINGERS	INCOME	£20.00				
4k	DONATIONS - YOUTH	INCOME	£518.00				
			£10,878.31	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
6a	TAX RECOVERED - HMRC	INCOME	£10,083.52				
			£10,083.52	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
7a	LEGACIES	INCOME					
8a	GRANTS	INCOME					
8b	GRANTS - LISTED PLACES OF WORSHIP	INCOME					
9a	FUNDRAISING	INCOME	£4,308.54				
9b	FUNDRAISING - COFFEE MORNINGS	INCOME	£565.55				
			£4,874.09	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
10	INTEREST	INCOME	£385.83				
			£385.83	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
11a	PCC FEES - FUNERAL	INCOME	£1,653.00				
11b	PCC FEES - WEDDING	INCOME	£882.00				
11c	PCC FEES - OTHER	INCOME	£124.00				
			£2,659.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
12a	ROOM HIRE	INCOME	£482.00				
12b	MAGAZINE SALES	INCOME	£2,002.23				
12c	MAGAZINE ADVERTS	INCOME	£310.00				
			£2,794.23	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
13a	HEAT DONATIONS	INCOME	£1,293.00				
13b	REFUNDS	INCOME	£2,243.31				
			£3,536.31	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
14a	CHARITIES	INCOME	£2,320.52				
14b	FLOATS	INCOME	£990.00				
14c	DIOCESAN FEES	INCOME	£2,716.00				
14d	FEES FOR VERGER, ORGANIST, BELLS	INCOME	£1,996.00				
			£8,022.52	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
	TOTAL INCOME		£87,093.96	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00

CODE	DESCRIPTION	INC / EXP	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
17a	COST OF FUNDRAISING	EXPENDITURE	£1,106.94				
17b	COFFEE SHOP	EXPENDITURE	£6.30				
17c	STEWARDSHIP COSTS	EXPENDITURE	£264.41				
			£1,377.65	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
18a	MISSION GIVING FROM PCC FUNDS	EXPENDITURE					
18b	DONATIONS FROM PCC FUNDS	EXPENDITURE					
19a	PARISH SHARE	EXPENDITURE	£46,670.00				
			£46,670.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
20a	ORGANIST FEES - GARYTH	EXPENDITURE	£2,757.00				
20b	ORGANIST FEES OTHER	EXPENDITURE	£65.00				
			£2,822.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
21a	MINISTRY EXPENSES - REV WYNNE	EXPENDITURE	£1,477.49				
21b	MINISTRY EXPENSES - OTHER	EXPENDITURE	£10.00				
21c	VICARAGE EXPENSES - RATES & WATER	EXPENDITURE	£2,931.54				
21d	VICARAGE - MAINTENANCE	EXPENDITURE					
			£4,419.03	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
22a	YOUTH ACTIVITIES	EXPENDITURE	£11.00				
22b	MESSY CHURCH	EXPENDITURE	£849.20				
22c	SENIOR MOMENTS	EXPENDITURE					
22d	MEMORY LANE FILM CLUB	EXPENDITURE					
			£860.20	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
23a	INSURANCE	EXPENDITURE	£4,136.23				
23b	GENERAL MAINTENANCE & REPAIRS	EXPENDITURE	£2,964.46				
23c	CLEANING MATERIAL & KITCHEN EXPENSE	EXPENDITURE	£800.94				
23d	CHURCHYARD MAINTENANCE	EXPENDITURE	£1,040.00				
23e	TELEPHONE, INK & OFFICE EXPENSE	EXPENDITURE	£1,408.18				
23f	POSTAGE	EXPENDITURE	£129.28				
23g	STATIONARY	EXPENDITURE	£282.91				
23h	PCC EXPENSES & GRATUITIES	EXPENDITURE	£433.43				
23i	CANDLES	EXPENDITURE	£458.20				
23j	UPKEEP OF SERVICE - BREAD & WINE	EXPENDITURE	£31.30				
23k	BOOKS, MUSIC, ROBES	EXPENDITURE	£1,343.14				
23l	SUBSCRIPTIONS & AUDIT EXPENSES	EXPENDITURE	£1,044.30				
23m	ORGAN TUNING	EXPENDITURE	£924.70				
			£14,997.07	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
24a	GAS	EXPENDITURE	£3,434.25				
24b	ELECTRICITY	EXPENDITURE	£930.00				
24c	WATER RATES	EXPENDITURE	£147.28				
	Stationary		£4,511.53	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
25a	MAGAZINE - ~~CHURCH~~ & PARISH PUMP SUPPLY	EXPENDITURE	£54.98				
25b	MAGAZINE - PAPER USAGE	EXPENDITURE	£121.00				
25c	PRINTER COSTS - RENT	EXPENDITURE	£1,745.59				
			£1,921.57	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
27a	MAJOR REPAIRS & ARCHITECT FEES	EXPENDITURE	£6,131.45				
			£6,131.45	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
28a	CHARITIES	EXPENDITURE	£2,331.05				
28b	FLOATS	EXPENDITURE	£990.00				
28c	DIOCESAN FEES	EXPENDITURE	£2,637.00				
28d	FEES FOR VERGER, ORGANIST, BELLS	EXPENDITURE	£2,030.00				
			£7,988.05	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
x0	TRANSFER	OTHER					
TOTAL EXPENDITURE			£91,698.55	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
EXCESS / INCOME - EXPENDITURE			-£4,604.59	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00

Class	Net Income	Net Expenditure
19a Parish Share		46,670.00-
20a Organist fees - Garyth		2,757.00-
20b Organist fees - other		65.00-
21a Ministry expenses - Rev Wynne		1,477.49-
21b Ministry expenses - other		10.00-
21c Vicarage expenses - rates & water rates		2,931.54-
21d Vicarage - maintenance		
22a Youth activities		11.00-
22b Messy Church		849.20-
22c Senior Moments		
22d Memory Lane Film Club		
23a Insurance		4,136.23-
23b General maintenance and repairs		2,964.46-
23c Cleaning material & kitchen expenses		800.94-
23d Churchyard maintenance		1,040.00-
23e Telephone, ink & office expenses		1,408.18-
23f Postage		129.28-
23g Stationery		282.91-
23h PCC expenses and gratuities		433.43-
23i Candles		458.20-
23j Upkeep of services - bread & wine		31.30-
23k Books, music, robes		1,343.14-
23l Subscriptions & audit expenses		1,044.30-
23m Organ tuning		924.70-
24a Gas		3,434.25-
24b Electricity		930.00-
24c Water rates		147.28-
25a Magazine ~~costs~~ parish pump subs		54.98-
25b Magazine - paper usage		121.00-
25c Printer costs - rent		1,745.59-
27a Major repairs & architect fees		6,131.45-
28a Charities		2,331.05-
28b Floats		990.00-
28c Diocesan fees		2,637.00-
28d Fees for verger, organist, bells		2,030.00-
x0 Transfer		
Grand Total	87,093.96	91,698.55-
Cash Flow		4,604.59-
Cash Flow / Income %	5.29-	



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/
members of

PCC St Katharines Church, Blackrod

On accounts for the year
ended

31/10/20

Charity no
(if any)

1144084

Set out on pages

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended

Responsibilities and
basis of report

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

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

Independent
examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention (other than that disclosed below *) in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- ~~accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or~~
- ~~the accounts do not accord with the accounting records~~

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

* Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.

Signed:

J Trevena

Date:

12/10/21

Name:

JOAN TREVENA

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

Address:

10 LYMBRIDGE DRIVE
BLACKROD
BOLTON BL6 5TJ



ST KATHARINE'S CHURCH, BLACKROD
CHARITY NO: 1144084

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31st DECEMBER 2020

£ 72366.24	PCC Balance at 1 st January	£104947.14
<u>32580.90</u>	Excess of expenditure/income	<u>-4604.59</u>
104947.14	PCC balance at 31 st December	100342.55

STATE OF PARISH FUNDS

6271.43	Royal Bank of Scotland	7320.40
4130.62	Prepayments	4136.23
8634.34	Central Board of Finance No 1	12633.85
<u>85910.75</u>	Central Board of Finance No 2	<u>76252.07</u>
104947.14		100342.55

PCC Chairman:

PCC Treasurer:

Hon Auditor:

FINANCIAL REPORT – DECEMBER 2020

I think we can all say that, as we celebrated the New Year we never could have envisaged what a year it would be and the challenges we would all have to face to get us through a Covid-19 pandemic. With friendship, support, love and prayers, to say nothing of the vaccine, surely better days are ahead and we look to the future and, moving on, what our individual roles will be.

Financially, I have been concerned for the last few years that the computer package on XP which I inherited many years ago did not fit into the modern requirements for recording our finances as easily as it could. So I looked around for an alternative and decided on Money Manager which hopefully will make life so much easier when the time comes for a new Treasurer to take over. Lockdown seemed like a good opportunity to make the transition to the new package and personalise it to meet the needs of St Katharine's going forward. The new system also fits easily into the requirements laid out on the annual Return of Parish Finance, is accessible on a laptop and we have a licence which will allow a future treasurer to download it on to their own devices at home should they wish.

However, it has required a new format for the end of year figures which will hopefully be clearer for those reading this report now and in the future. I have tried to compare what I can from last year and explain the differences as best I can, but with the variants the pandemic has caused and the change in layout it has been tricky! If anyone has any questions or queries about anything at all please just get in touch.

The balance sheet shows our financial position at the start of 2020, we had an excess of expenditure over income and our balance at the end of 2020 was £100,342.55.

This was made up as shown by our bank balance, our insurance premium for 2021 and the two savings account balances.

We hold our two savings accounts in the Central Board of Finance of the Church of England:

CBF No 1 has a closing balance of £12,633.85 and is made up of:

Memorial Fund £7,165; Youth £1162; Bellringers £692; Coffee Mornings £675; Organ Fund £2,908; Restoration Fund £31.

CBF No2 hold the remaining funds from the Wilson and Steadman legacies – £76,252.07

You will notice that the PCC decided to transfer £10,000 into the current account at the start of the pandemic to act as a buffer for our expenses as we had no idea what our income would be. It is hoped that once restrictions ease we will be able to restore some of that balance to be used for major expenditure in the future.

INCOME

If we look at sections 1-2 as a whole this year you can see the huge shift in financial support we have received during 2020. Gift aided donations increased as more parishioners allowed us to claim tax relief on their giving, by standing order and in envelopes, others increased their giving where they could and some joined the planned giving scheme for the first time. This resulted in a change of £4,716 overall, and although £3,187 was lost in plate collections over the year, the total of our planned giving increased by £1,529. This will give us a stronger position going forward and as a result we were able to reclaim £10,083 from HMRC, (6a) an increase of £1,825. Many thanks to Chris Skinner who worked very hard with the figures last year and claimed every bit he could so it's a great result. One off envelopes increased by just £12!

Section 10 covers all the donations we have received and it is easier to see them all in one place.

General donations included donations from the Flower Club, Memory Lane, Film Club and Blackrod Town Council towards the maintenance of the church clock, all totalling £700. The PCC agreed that when the Film Club and Memory Lane are able to open again we will replenish their funds.

Many thanks to Sarah Skinner who suggested a Giving Tuesday and this generated 39 donations from many different sources amounting to £1,358.

Sue Taylor applied for match funding for the help she gave at the 2019 Christmas Fair, and we received an anonymous gift of £1,000 – thank you to you all.

The demijohn collection, bells, churchyard and Restoration funds were all down and we were also £400 down on coffee shop donations. Although lower, we did receive £200 in candle donations which covered half of the annual spend.

On the other hand the Memorial Fund increased by £2,448 following many donations throughout the year in memory of loved ones. Two donations of £1,000 each came from the families of The Venerable Alan Wolstencroft and Nellie Whittle, and were used to cover the cost of the recently restored Chisenhale hatchment which can be seen in the lower tower room.

Following the problems with the organ towards the end of 2019, donations increased by £650, and donations towards our youth activities were received from Blackrod Educational Trust and from Blackrod Town Council showing an increase of £113.

Ruth Sharrock gave a donation to cover the cost of Comfort and Joy booklets for each Messy Church family.

Our fundraising took a fairly big hit – down by £6,122! However, we made the most of the few opportunities we had and brought in £565 from 3 coffee mornings, £325 from the Quiz Night way back in February 2020, £702 from the Spring Fair and Sue Taylor claimed another £500 from her employers HSBC as match funding from the fair. The Popup shops raised £2,045 and the Christmas Post brought in £311 which was a record.

Throughout the year the recycling efforts raised £82 and the sale of various items - £43. Many thanks to Pat Z for encouraging us to concentrate more on recycling going forward. Mary P has tried to encourage us to use Easyfundraising whilst shopping online and in the year of lockdown more people did and raised £300 – great result! Special thanks to all who helped in any way and to the people of Blackrod who supported us.

Interest from our savings accounts came to £385 which was lower as the rates dropped again, we had to use some of our funds for maintenance work and these will be outlined in the expenditure section of the balance sheet.

Fees - there were three weddings during January and February and several cancellations. Sadly St Katharine's held sixteen funerals for members of the congregation, and we hold them and their families in our thoughts and prayers during this traumatic year.

Room hire was halved as Janina was forced to close her Pilates class in our upper room and we look forward to welcoming her back when regulations ease.

Parish Magazine - Most of the magazine collections happen in January and February so the sales income was only slightly affected and was down by £200. The fees for advertising are spread throughout the year and none has been collected since March, partly because of lockdown and partly as it seemed unfair to charge when no magazines were being printed. Sincere thanks to Mary Pryle for putting together the weekly newsletter to keep us all in touch and for making sure information was available on our website.

Heat donations made via weddings and funerals were stable and during the summer months these funds were used to cover grass cutting services in the churchyard.

The ministry expenses are shared as Revd Carol and Revd Angela cover services throughout the team. We cover Angela's working expenses, broadband, telephone and rates for the Vicarage and St Bart's do the same for Revd Carol. St John's and St James' pay a share of these which are calculated in proportion to our individual parish shares and in 2020 we received refunds amounting to £1,589.

Following the work done by Bullen's we claimed for a VAT refund of £654 from Listed Places of Worship and that makes the refunds up to £2,243.

All the items in section 14 do not constitute part of the income for St Katharine's – these items are just processed through our account:

Home charities this year included £629 for the Children's Society through the collecting boxes and we are grateful to Diane Cashmore for organising this. Sadly the Christingle service didn't happen so there was no collection for this charity.

Two donations from members of the congregation totalling £50 were made towards the work of Urban Outreach and we are grateful to all who use the grub tub and leave items at the vicarage for this worthy cause especially during this year of extra hardship. Many thanks to Peter Wynne and Bob Chapman who make sure your gifts reach the Bolton centre.

Following Lee Richardson's funeral in March, £117 was left on the collecting plate in church and it was sent to the British Heart Foundation in Lee's memory as the family's chosen charity.

Another casualty of the lockdown was our Toy Service so we were asked by Fortalice and the NSPCC if people would give donations instead of toys this year. Once again people rallied, chose their charities, and we were able to send £380 to Fortalice and £220 to the NSPCC and this is why the "Home" total is slightly higher.

It was the turn of an Overseas charity to benefit from our Harvest collection and this year the PCC voted for Medicine Sans Frontier and once again there was a huge response and we were able to send £575 from St Katharine's.

There could be no national door to door collection for Christian Aid this year but £86.20 was donated and sent on along with many personal donations which were sent online to the charity.

The Lent boxes were collected and counted for the last time by Ruby and Charlie Parr and we thank them for the effort they have put in over the last few years on behalf of USPG. £264 was sent on to them. Happily, Barbara Worsley has agreed to continue this collection to support missionary work throughout the world, so please have a word with Barbara if you would like a collecting box and she will drop one off.

The floats are drawn for use at our events and repaid immediately afterwards.

The payments for each wedding and funeral service include fees which are due to the Diocese as well as fees for the verger, bells and organist and we pass them on.

The total of our overall income was £87,093.96 which looks like a huge drop from last year but remember 2019 figures included the gift from Helen Steadman's estate of £34,464 so we should be very thankful indeed.

Total income for 2020 was £87,093.96

EXPENDITURE

Fundraising: during the Christmas sales we spent £96 on items for the 2021 Fair which we still have, and £36 on replacement Christmas lights. Expenses for the Quiz Night were £165 and £129 for the Spring Fair. Our stock of St Katharine's pens and other gifts was replenished from National Pen at a cost of £479, a Bex Bissell sweeper £25, food trays £25 and a contactless device £22. Fresh pies to sell at the Popup shop came from The Pieman and cost £130.

Coffee shop stock was minimal and our **stewardship envelopes** had increased slightly.

We managed to pay the **parish share** in full but only after transferring £10,000 from our savings and it is hoped that we can work to replace these funds as soon as possible.

Organ - due to church being closed for much of the year Garyth donated one of his quarterly fee payments back to church, hence the reduced figure, and we have missed his music so much throughout the year.

As explained earlier the Vicarage costs and Angela's expenses are shared between St Katharine's, St James', St John's and St Bartholomew's and £1,535 from them is shown in the refunds.

Messy Church has been a huge success and it was wonderful that the leaders were able to provide "takeaway" bags for the children for Christingle and Advent, as well as two Messy Church sessions before lockdown. Donations have provided most of this funding topped up from funds in the youth savings pot in Savings account No 1.

The insurance cover from Ecclesiastical Insurance was almost the same and many thanks to Bob Chapman who keeps an eye on all insurance checks.

General maintenance was up last year mainly due to having our 5 yearly electrical inspection costing £666. 3 new fitments for the switch to LED lighting cost £80, but with labour and VAT the bill totalled £207.

Thermal Heating did the annual boiler check costing £264 and we needed a new programmer costing £155.

Guardian Electrical did three checks on the fire alarm system - £309; Fireace did the annual check on the fire extinguishers - £60; the gutters were all cleared by Nathan Dutton - £280 and various bulbs and batteries cost £127 throughout the year.

Five flags were purchased during the year, St George's and the Union Flag, and we have had the last 3 "netted" in the hope that it will reduce the wear on the actual flags and the netting replaced significantly cheaper than keep replacing the flags - £575. Many thanks to Mike Kay for keeping an eye on tower related issues!

Mr Clayton our clock engineer retired around the first lockdown but when he came for the last time he did say we needed some restoration work done on the dials and the clock face itself and recommended Lancashire Clockmakers who would be able to do the work. Their engineer came and we have his estimate of £4,280 which includes replacing the glass with Perspex, treating the rust on the dials and the bevel sets at his workshop and setting at all up again. The visits were £120 and £200 and we received £150pa from Blackrod Town Council towards these costs. The work will take place in late spring when hopefully the weather will be kinder.

Cleaning and kitchen expenses - in January we had the carpet cleaned in the upper room - £110 and replenished paper products for the kitchen and toilet – a total of £129.

Then Covid hit us and we bought extra cleaning equipment, dusters, brushes, gloves, masks, visors, wall sanitisers and the bags to fill them total - £561. At this point we need to say a huge thank you to Howard Parry who has provided us with a constant supply of sprays for use after every service and an initial massive spray of the church building. This would have cost us a lot of money and we shall be forever grateful. Also at this point thank you to our Churchwardens and their team of helpers and stewards who have regularly cleaned our church building to enable us all to attend church whenever we could, operated track and trace, and have kept us safe.

Churchyard expenses were up by £140 as we had 2 extra cuts front and back this year.

Telephone expenses, ink and office equipment totalled £1,408 – BT rental and phone charges were £909 – we have just renegotiated this deal and there should be a £270 saving in 2021. Ink cartridges reimbursed totalled £378 as volunteers were printing at home when there was no access to the church office. The shredder was £55, and Money Manager computer system £66.

Postage was down by £80; **stationery** was halved to £283 probably due to the magazine not being produced for 8 months.

Gratuities included a leaving gift for Kirsty Screeton as she left St John's; a donation to our bellringers to travel to ringing events (this didn't happen in 2020 so they will hold it over for use in 2021 fingers crossed); four floral gifts following bereavements, a 60th and two 80th birthdays, a diamond wedding anniversary and two thank "you's" – totalling £433.

Candles purchased for all events totalled £458 which was down by £85 – half was recovered by candle donations. **Bread and wine** just £31.

Section 23k totalled £1,343 made up of: Lectionaries - £79; Christmas CD's - £23, and £176 for Comfort & Joy books for everyone on the Electoral Roll and Messy Church families (with thanks to Ruth Sharrock). All Souls service expenses £103; Christingle expenses £84 and a sign for Open Church £36.

Paid from Memorial Fund expenses were Dementia rugs £42; robes for our young people £132; Easter and Harvest flowers £131, and pew cushions £537.

Many thanks to all those who provided flowers for church when we were open for services.

Subscriptions amounted to £1,044 last year and included £20 each for a Lottery licence for our Christmas Fair raffle and Deane Deanery subs. £35 for Data protection fees and £85 for Data Development cover to

support Chris with the Gift aid calculations. We need eight licences to cover all the copyright fees, and they have cost us £884.

Organ costs increased last year following the problems at the end of 2019 and we are grateful to DB Electrical for helping us out at very short notice to fix the problems - £438. Nicholson's carried out two organ tunings totalling £487.

Our gas bills were down by £686 although we have had the church heating on twice a week to keep the fabric aired as well as for all services throughout the year.

The electricity was down by £150 and **water rates** down by £549 as they were suspended whilst we were closed.

Magazine subscriptions for Crux and Parish Pump are as shown, and the **paper useage** covers the cost of the printing offsite for the December magazine so expenses are down by £928.

Printer costs are the rental to Siemens - £1049 and useage costs to Arena - £697.

Our major repairs doubled from last year - £3,920 for the repairs to the East Wall and £2,210 for the repairs on the roof slates – the work done on each occasion by Bullen's under the scrutiny of our architect Graham Holland. The payments cleared out our Restoration Fund and were topped up from the Memorial Fund and our current account.

Charities we have discussed – plus £10 donation to the Rainbow House, the Tree Barn charity, as a thank you for all the greenery given to us for Christmas decoration by Chris Hodge.

Floats are the same as the income; **Diocesan fees** expenditure is slightly less as we were due a refund early in the year. There is £34 in cash in the church safe which was unused from a funeral at the end of the year.

Total expenditure for 2020 was £91,698.55

Once again there are hundreds and hundreds of hours of voluntary help included yet unseen in these accounts from many, many people and without them we could not have carried on.

Hopefully you have been able to share the online services and newsletters to keep you in touch with your church and we thank all those who have made these possible throughout the Westhoughton team.

Sincere thanks to our honorary Auditor Joan, for all the help and support she offers so willingly to me, and to all those in the Blackrod Community who stepped forward when we needed you most – an enormous thank you. We hope and pray that we can carry on and provide a place of worship, security and peace for all who need it. God bless.

Jean Hibbert, PCC Treasurer