

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

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Westhoughton, BL5 2BG
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Vicar: The Revd Angela Wynne

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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

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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/flashings 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 SUP	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-	



**CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES**

**Independent examiner's
report on the accounts**

Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

**Report to the trustees/
members of**

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