THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST BRIDE'S, OLD TRAFFORD

England & Wales · Charity number 1146679

Details

Other names	THE PARISH CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST. BRIDE'S,OLD TRAFFORD, ST. BRIDE'S PCC, OLD TRAFFORD
Status	Registered
Legal form	Previously excepted
Registered	2012-03-29
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	8 Albion Street Old Trafford Manchester M16 9LZ
Phone	01612263047
Email	info@stbrides.uk
Website	www.stbrides.org.uk

Activities

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

Activities: Provision of regular public worship open to all, sacred space for prayer and contemplation, pastoral work and promotion of the whole mission of the Church.

Classification

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

Downloaded from opencharities.uk/ew/1146679

Geography

- Trafford

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-12-31	£67,215	£57,545	-	-
2024-12-31	£70,569	£66,277	-	-
2023-12-31	£85,211	£87,474	-	-
2022-12-31	£84,319	£79,680	-	-
2021-12-31	£82,834	£88,659	-	-
2020-12-31	£133,737	£124,931	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Linda Penrose	Chair	2017-04-09
Anthony Trivino		2026-04-26
Arash Dinarvand		2026-04-26
Clare Mary Myring		2024-04-21
Graham Cooper		2026-04-26
John Myring		2016-04-10
Milad Ebrahimpour		2026-04-26
Rev Katrin Alldavoodi		2026-04-26
Siavosh Ahmadi		2026-04-26
Solomon Olubiyi Adebayo		2026-04-26
Tima Jalili		2026-04-26

Downloaded from opencharities.uk/ew/1146679

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST BRIDE'S, OLD TRAFFO

England & Wales - Charity number 1146679

Accounts

St Bride's Church

Annual Report 2025

Charity Number: 1146679
Address: St Bride's Church, St Brides Way, Manchester, M16 9NW
Website URL: https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/15896/

St Bride's Church, Old Trafford Annual Parochial Church Meeting

26th April 2026

Our Annual Church Meeting is an opportunity to deal with the business of the church, to discuss issues that are concerned with our community life, and to think creatively about our future as we follow God's leading. Inside this booklet are reports on the activities of the church, which I ask you to read, and so be able to come to the meeting with well-prepared questions and ideas for discussion.

Thank you for all that you have done and contributed during this past year, but, most of all, thank you for being part of the family here at St Bride's. "So then, have your minds ready for action. Keep alert and set your hope completely on the blessing which will be given you when Jesus Christ is revealed." – 1 Peter 1:13 (GNB)

ST BRIDE'S CHURCH
St Bride's Way, Manchester, M16 9NW
Parish Office: 0161-226 3047 | Email: admin@stbrides.uk

RECTOR: REV'D PETER MATTHEWS (until 15th March 2026)
St Bride's Rectory, 33 Shrewsbury Street, Manchester, M16 9BB
Tel: 0161-226 1251 | Email: peter@stbrides.uk

ASSOCIATE PASTOR: REV'D KATRIN ALLDAVOODI
6 Heaton Moor Road, Stockport, SK4 4NS
Tel: 07916 151348 | Email: katrin@stbrides.uk

CHURCHWARDEN 2025/2026
Anthea Thomson, 28 Basford Road, Firswood, Stretford, M16 0GE
Tel: 07384 004805 | Email: anthea@stbrides.uk

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL SECRETARY 2025/2026
Susie Crossman, 50 Milton Grove, Manchester, M16 0BP
Tel: 07898 588772 | Email: susie@stbrides.uk or PCCsecretary@stbrides.uk

BANKERS:
The Royal Bank of Scotland, Drummond House Branch, 1 Redhaughs Avenue, Edinburgh, EH12 9 JN
The Cooperative Bank, 1 Balloon Street, Manchester, M60 4EP

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER
Mr. John Holdsworth B.A., F.C.C.A., C.Ed.

The Parochial Church Council is a charity registered with the UK Charity Commission:
Number: 1146679

St Bride's Church

Contents	Page
Rector's Introduction	5
Agenda For Annual Meetings	6
Annual Meeting of Parishioners Minutes (2025)	7
Annual Parochial Church Meeting Minutes (2025)	8
Associate Pastor's Report	9
Church Warden's Report	12
Electoral Roll Report	13
Secretary to the PCC Report	14
Fabric and Health & Safety Report	15
Safeguarding Report	16
Treasurer's Report	19
The Project	26
Children's Ministry	27
Prayer Report	29
Church Activities in 2025	30
Notes	31

Rector's Introduction

Welcome to the St Bride's Report for 2025.

Within these pages, you will find an overview of the activities, achievements, and progress our church community has made over the past year. In addition, the report includes our financial statements and key policy documents. While these may seem dry at first glance, they are an integral part of documenting who we are, what we stand for, and the work we undertake together as a church family. I encourage you to read through and reflect on all that God has been doing among us.

This year, we have been blessed to continue our services and ministries, focusing on the Gospel readings from the lectionary — primarily from Luke — alongside a Psalm to help shape and centre our Sunday worship. These passages have formed the foundation of our preaching, inspiring and guiding our community week by week.

Several members of St Bride's and St John's also met together during Lent and continued throughout the year in what we called a Refresh Group — a Discovery Bible Study group exploring the following Sunday's Gospel reading. It has been wonderful to see people grow with confidence and openness in their faith.

This report also highlights some of the ways we are serving and making a difference within our local community and, through things like the St Bride's Project, even further afield.

Looking ahead to 2026, my prayer and vision for St Bride's is that you will continue to be a welcoming and serving church, while boldly sharing the Good News of Jesus — making a tangible impact by forming deeper connections and nurturing more disciples. I also pray that the process of preparing and advertising for the next Rector of St Bride's will go smoothly, and that the right person will be appointed to lead well and journey faithfully with you - as I take up a new role as full time Area Dean of Manchester South and Stretford.

Thank you for your dedication, your faith, and your invaluable contributions to this church family. May God bless you abundantly.

Rector: Rev. Peter Matthews (until 15/03/2026)

St Bride's Church

Agenda for the 2025 Annual Parishioners' Meeting
1. Prayer 2. Apologies for absence 3. Minutes of the 2024 meeting 4. Election of Churchwardens 5. Closure and prayer
Agenda for the2025 Annual Parochial Church Meeting
1. Prayer 2. Election of members of the Parochial Church Council 3. Adoption of Minutes of the APCM 2025 4. Identification of issues for discussion at the APCM or future PCC meetings 5. Rector's Report 6. The Electoral Roll 7. Report by the Secretary of the PCC 8. Election of member as Deanery Synod Representatives (for 3 years) 9. Election of members of the Parochial Church Council 10. Fabric, Health and Safety Report 11. Safeguarding Officer's Report 12. Treasurer's Report and Presentation of Accounts for 2025 and the Independent Examiner's Report for 2025 13. Appointment of an Independent Examiner for 2026. 14. Report on The Project 15. Report on Children's Ministry 16. Prayer Report 17. Church Activities 18. Any other urgent business 19. Closure and prayer

2025 Meeting of Parishioners Minutes
St. Bride's Church - Meeting of Parishioners (Open to everyone on the Electoral Roll of the Church plus all Local Government Electors in the Parish)

Date:	2025-05-11
Attendance:	Linda Penrose (LP), Jeanette Mclaughin (JM), Maxine Khoyte (MK), Scott Hewitt (SH), Cannie Fung Waiyez (CFW), Paul Fung Po Wen (PFPW), Solomon Adebayo (SA), Penny Matthews (PM), Anthea Thompson (AT), Alma Weekes (AW), John Myring (JM), Clare Myring (CM), Lynda Sterling (LS), Peter Matthews (PM), Jenni Williams (JW), Susanna Hewitt (SusH), Rachel Dean (RD), Norine Mottershead (NM), Geraldine Roswell (GR), Fred Waters (FW), Lloyd Matthews (LM), Sabina Sohail (SS)
Apologies:	Graham Cooper (GC), Ann-Marie Williams (AMW), MJ Sharp (MS), Cara Crossman (CC), Susie Crossman (SC), Ameneh Asadi (AA)

1. Prayer: Peter Matthews opened the meeting with prayer
2. Apologies for absence – see above
3. Minutes of the 2024 meeting – these minutes were approved by the PCC on 29.5.2024
4. Election of Churchwarden. *Anthea Thompson was duly elected.*

St Bride's Church

2025 Annual Parochial Church Meeting Minutes

Date:	2025-04-11
Attendance:	Linda Penrose (LP), Jeanette Mclaughin (JM), Maxine Khoyte (MK), Scott Hewitt (SH), Cannie Fung Waiyez (CFW), Paul Fung Po Wen (PFPW), Solomon Adebayo (SA), Penny Matthews (PM), Anthea Thompson (AT), Alma Weekes (AW), John Myring (JM), Clare Myring (CM), Lynda Sterling (LS), Peter Matthews (PM), Jenni Williams (JW), Susanna Hewitt (SusH), Rachel Dean (RD), Norine Mottershead (NM), Geraldine Roswell (GR), Fred Waters (FW), Lloyd Matthews (LM), Sabina Sohail (SS)
Apologies:	Graham Cooper (GC), Ann-Marie Williams (AMW), MJ Sharp (MS), Cara Crossman (CC), Susie Crossman (SC), Ameneh Asadi (AA)
	1. Introduction and welcome 2. Minutes of the APCM 2024 -These minutes were approved by the PCC on 29th May 2024. 3. Identification of issues for discussion at the APCM or future PCC meetings – None noted. 4. Rector's Report - PM added CM has now been Licensed as a Lay Minister at St. Bride's Church. 5. Report of Electoral Roll – Number on the revised Electoral roll is 30. 6. Report on Secretary to the PCC. 7. Elections: a) Election of Deanery Synod Representatives (for 3 years) – Previous representative SH described the role. No-one volunteered. b) Election of Members of the Parochial Church Council: CM standing for re-election, JW also standing. Both duly elected. PM thanked everyone on PCC for their hard work this year. 8. Report on Fabric, Health and Safety 9. Report of Parish Safeguarding Officer - PM reminded everyone that safeguarding is the responsibility of us all. a) Parish Policy on Safeguarding Children - This was read out in the meeting. b) Parish Policy on Safeguarding Adults -This was read out in the meeting. JW with CM are officers for vulnerable adults. 10. Report on the Treasurer and Presentation of Accounts for 2024 and Independent

Examiner Report for 2024

JM added that the accounts have been prepared and are available for people to read. The deficit is still the problem. The Diocese has allowed us to cut our Parish Share from £22,000 to £15,000. We need to increase our income.

Questions all members of the church should think about:

a) Do you give regularly and if so, have you reviewed the amount lately?
b) Do you "Gift Aid"?
c) What can we do with the building to increase income, and can you help?
d) How can we fundraise?

What is your response to these questions?

The Quinquennial inspection has been done but the report has not been received to date.

PM thanked JM for all his hard work and said he wants St Bride's to be a generous church that can bless others.

11. The Project - PM thanked LP for her work on the project

12. Report of Bizzy B's – PM thanked LP, CM AND JM for their work on the project

13. Selection of Sidespeople - PM asked people to consider taking on the role.

14. Report of Welcome and Warm Space – PM reported there is a need for more volunteers to enable Warm Space to happen when he is unavailable.

15. Report of Prayer – PM thanked all those who have helped with prayer and reminded everyone they are welcome to join in.

16. AOB: JW asked if we could record sermons (just audio) to help those housebound. This will be looked into.

17. Meeting ended with prayer for the work of the church.

St Bride's Church

Annual Report of the Associate Minister: Rev'd Katrin Alldavoodi
The Farsi Congregation (14th Sept 2025 – 14 April 2026

Written by	Rev'd Katrin Alldavoodi	**Date**	April 16, 2026.

Since arriving at St Bride's Church on 14th September 2025, the Farsi-speaking congregation has continued to grow as a worshipping community rooted in Scripture, prayer, and discipleship. Many members of this congregation were previously part of a Farsi ministry context and have now become an integral part of the life of St Bride's, bringing with them a deep spiritual hunger and a vibrant expression of faith.

The congregation gathers weekly for a Farsi-speaking Sunday service, centered on worship, biblical teaching, and prayer, with an average weekly attendance of over 85 people. A live worship team leads the congregation in sung worship, which forms a significant and life-giving part of the service. Notably, the service is largely led and facilitated by members of the congregation themselves — individuals who have been discipled and equipped, and who now demonstrate growing confidence and spiritual maturity. This reflects both the fruit of intentional ministry and the grace of God at work among the people.

Alongside the Sunday gatherings, a midweek teaching and prayer meeting takes place each Tuesday. This is held both in person and online: approximately 20 people attend in person each week, and a further 15 join via Zoom due to distance or other practical constraints. These meetings provide a vital space for ongoing teaching, discipleship, and pastoral support.

A notable characteristic of the Farsi congregation is its young and growing demographic, with many families and children. A Sunday School ministry has been established to serve the younger members of the community, offering a safe and nurturing environment in which they can learn the Christian faith and grow in their relationship with Christ.

Over recent months, we have witnessed profound spiritual growth within the congregation, including several baptism services and ongoing preparation for baptism. One of the most powerful and visible aspects of these occasions has been the testimonies shared by those coming to faith. These testimonies speak of deep and personal encounters with Jesus Christ — encounters that continue to transform lives today. They stand as a compelling witness to the living reality of the Gospel, revealing that Christ is still at work, calling people, meeting them in their need, and leading them into new life.

The emphasis of this ministry has therefore not only been on sacramental life, but also on intentional and sustained discipleship, ensuring that those who come to faith are rooted, supported, and encouraged to grow in maturity.

The Farsi congregation is also actively engaged in the wider life of St Bride's. As part of our regular contribution, the congregation takes responsibility each Sunday for the general cleaning of the church, including hoovering, tidying, and cleaning all toilet facilities. This practical service is offered with a spirit of humility and stewardship.

In addition, there have been several opportunities for shared celebrations and fellowship with the English congregation. These have included joint participation in Christian festivals, as well as community events such as Nowruz celebrations and the farewell event for Rev'd Peter. On these occasions, members of the Farsi congregation have participated actively in planning, organizing, and providing food, contributing significantly to the life and unity of the church.

This ministry carries a distinct pastoral and missional dimension. Many within the congregation come from migrant backgrounds and, in some cases, from contexts where the Christian faith has been difficult or costly to practice. The church therefore becomes not only a place of worship, but also a place of belonging, restoration, and hope. The proclamation of the Gospel in the heart language of the people remains central, enabling a deeper encounter with Scripture and with Christ himself.

At the same time, there remain practical challenges, including the need for appropriate space, access to suitable audiovisual equipment, and the coordination of shared facilities. As the congregation continues to grow, these needs will require ongoing attention and support.

Looking ahead, the vision is to continue strengthening discipleship, to nurture future leaders from within the congregation, and to deepen integration within the wider life of St Bride's. There is also a growing awareness of the importance of supporting the next generation and enabling families and young people to flourish in faith.

In conclusion, it is important to frame this ministry within the wider biblical vision of unity in the Body of Christ. The Church is called to be one in Jesus Christ, transcending differences of language, culture, and background.

As we read in Epistle to the Ephesians 2:14:
"For he himself is our peace, who has made the two groups one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility."

And in Epistle to the Galatians 3:28:
"There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus."

Likewise, First Epistle to the Corinthians 12:13 reminds us:
"For we were all baptized by one Spirit so as to form one body… and we were all given the one Spirit to drink."

These scriptures call us to remain faithful and intentional in teaching and embodying this truth, so that the Church may grow into maturity. Our prayer is that both the Farsi-speaking and English-speaking congregations would not see themselves as separate, but as one body, living and serving alongside one another.

We are therefore committed to nurturing this unity with faithfulness and care, so that what has been given to us in Christ may be made visible among us — growing together in love, in truth, and in the shared life of the Gospel.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the PCC and to the wider St Bride's community for their continued welcome, generosity, and partnership in this ministry. It is a privilege to share in the mission of God together, and to witness the transforming work of Christ in the lives of so many.

St Bride's Church

The Church Warden's Report

Written by	Anthea Thompson	Date	March 28, 2026

There has been no church warden at St Bride's for the last six years. I was excited and enjoyed the challenge of taking up this role. So, I am going to tell you a bit about what I do.

I help Rev Peter in the day-to-day life of the church by supporting practical decisions. I also offer pastoral support to the congregation by supplying reading materials, for example, "Our Daily Bread" and "Word for Today", and other booklets.

I oversee maintenance, safety checks, and make sure the building is ready for services and events. I act as a bridge between the congregation and clergy, especially when concerns or ideas need to be communicated. I help to maintain peace and order in the church, and work in and keep an eye on the kitchen facilities, so that our church is a welcoming and hospitable space for everyone.

In 2026 I will keep a logbook to track the daily tasks which I carry out, to ensure that I comply with the statutory duties of the Church of England, e.g. ensuring that safeguarding and health-and-safety requirements are always met. I am enjoying these new responsibilities, and it feels good to be able to serve our church.

St Bride's Church

Electoral Roll Report

Written by	Susie Crossman	Date	April 12, 2026.

In 2025, a new Electoral Roll was compiled, and now, each successive year the Electoral Roll is revised. In 2026, notice of the revision of the Electoral Roll was given and displayed on the Church board from the 8th of March. No new members of the Roll can be added after 14th April, until after the Annual Parochial Church Meeting on 26th April 2026. This gives us time to compile and check the Annual Report of the Church before it goes to press on 16th April.

The Electoral Roll of 14th April 2026 recorded 68 names.

Since the last Annual Parochial Church Meeting on 11th May 2025 seven people have moved from parish, including our vicar, Peter Matthews, who has taken up the role of Area Dean. There are 38 additional members who applied to be recorded on the Electoral Roll. The majority of these new members joined us as members of the Farsi Congregation.

The Electoral Roll of 14th April recorded 68 members.

Demographic Composition of the Electoral Roll of 11th April 2026

People who live	2026	(2025)	% 2026	(% 2025)
In St Bride's Parish	20	13	29%	43%
Outside St Bride's Parish	48	17	71%	57%
In Old Trafford	30	23	44%	77%
Outside Old Trafford	38	7	56%	23%

St Bride's Church

The PCC Secretary's Report

Written by	Susie Crossman	Date	April 12th, 2026

1. At the beginning of 2025 the elected members of the PCC were Linda Penrose, Nathan Gonzalez, John Myring, Anne Marie Williams, Susanna Hewitt and Anthea Thompson.
2. Appointed to PCC in the APCM of April 2025: Jenni Williams, Clare Myring
3. Those leaving PCC as of the APCM of 2025: Nathan Gonzalez, Susanna Hewitt.
4. No appointment of Deanery Synod Representative positions in APCM of 2025.
5. Anthea Thompson was appointed as Church Warden.
6. The PCC appointed Susie Crossman to office as PCC secretary. Linda Penrose as Vice Chair. John Myring to the office of Treasurer.
7. The PCC met on five occasions after the APCM.
8. PCC Standing Committee met on four occasions between PCC meetings to deal with urgent business and to agree to the PCC Agenda.
9. Each Meeting included prayer, worship and or a Bible reading, routine reports on finance, safeguarding, small group projects, Mission and outward focus and Health and Safety.
10. Other business considered by PCC included business regarding building use and space hire.
11. The PCC also appointed MJ Sharp to set up a small group of volunteers from the congregation to work through and review the course on "Living in Life and Faith". This course explores church members to consider their attitudes of identity, sexuality, relationships and marriage in the light of today's Church understanding of Christian faith. MJ reported back to the PCC on the groups findings. The incoming PCC will decide when and where this course can form part of activities in 2026.

St Bride's Church

Fabric and Health & Safety Report

Written by	Anthea Thompson, Church Warden	**Date**	12th April, 2026

The St. Bride's building and site continue to see steady use, both for our regular activities (detailed elsewhere in this report) and by external groups

However, this year has continued to be challenging. The building faces several issues, primarily due to the deteriorating roof, which has caused leaks and subsequent problems. The boiler was repaired in 2024, and it continues to work well. The full pump replacement has been deferred to 2026. The underfloor heating in the Worship Space has been working well since it was repaired in 2024.

The ongoing issues, related to the leaky roof, highlight the scale of work still needed to bring the building to a better standard. These include adjustments and upgrading the fire alarm system and the emergency lighting in the upstairs areas. We are still in discussion with the Diocese about how best to go about paying for repairs to this issues. The main barriers are the high costs involved and the lack of personnel to organize and oversee maintenance. The Quinquennial Report was received in late 2025. It is still under review by the PCC.

I would like to extend heartfelt thanks to John Myring and Siavash Ahmadi for stepping in on numerous occasions to address urgent issues.

Looking ahead to 2026, it would be wonderful to see the building used more frequently — not just for church-related activities but also by the community. To achieve this, we need more organized individuals to take on the practical challenges of maintaining and improving the building. Addressing our financial challenges could also be supported by increasing space hire opportunities and prioritizing work to make the building watertight.

St Bride's Church

Safeguarding Report

Written by	Jenni Williams	Date	9 March, 2026

Safeguarding Report 2025/26

We are committed to the protection of all children and adults, especially those who may be vulnerable for varying reasons.

There are practices in place at St Bride's to keep children and adults safe.

The PCC of St Bride's Church adopts the House of Bishops' Safeguarding Policy and commits to responding promptly and appropriately to all safeguarding concerns in accordance with diocesan safeguarding procedures. St Bride's safeguarding policies are reviewed at the A.P.C.M each year. The policies help us to create a safe environment for both children and vulnerable people.

Safe recruitment and training procedures are in place to enable high standards of care. Any vacancies should be advertised with a job description. Volunteers need to make a 'Confidential Declaration' regarding their suitability to be involved in the area of work. The volunteer is required to make a paper application, and references will be taken up. There needs to be an interview and if the person appears to be suitable for the role an application can be made to the Disclosure and Barring Service. The Safeguarding Officer is informed of anything that would make the person unsuitable for the role. The volunteer is then required to take complete online training prior to taking on their new role. The Diocese provides training throughout the Diocese which the volunteer is required to attend. A record of agreement is signed, and they receive a copy of our 'Good Practice' guidelines.

The safeguarding board has the Children's and Vulnerable Adult's Safeguarding Policies on display as required by the Diocese. The Safeguarding Officer's photograph and contact telephone number are also on display.

The church website includes Safeguarding information.

It is important to state that Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility. If you have any concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me or the Diocesan Safeguarding Officer. Her contact information is on the Safeguarding board.

Jenni Williams
Parish Safeguarding Officer

St Bride's Church

Safeguarding Policy Statement on Children, Young People and the Church. St Bride, Old Trafford.			
Written by	Jenni Williams	**Adopted**	2nd June, 2025

This statement was agreed at the PCC meeting held on: 2nd June 2025

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

2. 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.

3. We recognise that our work with children and young people is the responsibility of the whole Church.

4. Our church is committed to supporting, resourcing and training those who work with Children and young people and to provide supervision.

5. Our church is committed to following the policy and procedures published by the Diocese.

6. The parish will adopt good practice guidelines.

7. 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 Jenni Williams to be the Parish Safeguarding Coordinator.

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

9. They have much to give as well as to receive.

10. We will listen to them.

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

Signed: Linda Penrose.
Role: Chairman of St Bride's PCC: Linda Penrose
Dated: 2/6/2025

St Bride's Church

Policy on the Safeguarding of Adults in the Church of St Bride's, Old Trafford			
Written by	Jenni Williams	**Adopted:**	2nd June, 2025

This statement was agreed at the PCC meeting held on: 2nd June 2025

This policy will be reviewed each year to monitor the progress which has been achieved.

1. 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.

2. As members of this parish we commit ourselves to respectful pastoral care for all adults to whom we minister.

3. We commit ourselves to the safeguarding of people who may be vulnerable, ensuring their well-being in the life of this church.

4. We commit ourselves to promoting safe practice by those in positions of trust.

5. The parish commits itself to promoting the inclusion and empowerment of people who may be vulnerable.

6. 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.

7. We undertake to exercise proper care in the appointment and selection of those who will work with people who may be vulnerable.

8. The parish is committed to supporting, resourcing, training and regularly reviewing those who undertake work amongst people who may be vulnerable.

9. The parish adopts the guidelines of the Church of England and the Diocese.

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

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

Signed: Linda Penrose.
Role: Chairman of the PCC, Linda Penrose
Dated: 2/6/2025

St Bride's Church

Treasurer's Report for Year to 31 st December 2025

Written by	John Myring	Date:	April 1 2026

Managing the Finances of the Church continues to be a challenge for the PCC. In last year's report I had hoped that it would get easier, but that hope was unfounded. Another reduction in regular giving and an ever-growing list of things that need to be done around the building continues to challenge the PCC as to what their financial priorities are.

It is worrying to report that during 2025 our Income from regular giving continued its slow decline, and the opportunities to generate income from people wanting to use the building were diminished. During the year discussions were held with the Diocese about the level of Parish Share that we could afford to contribute. An agreement was reached that we could reduce our annual contribution by 25% for 2025 and subsequent years, saving us around £5,000
a year. Running costs have decreased with reductions in energy costs, and a capping on what
was spent on maintenance, and other regular running costs have seen an overall reduction in
expenditure. The Financial impact of all this has meant that in 2025 we have an overall surplus £9,700 compared to the previous year's surplus of £4,300.

General Fund

The General Fund showed a small surplus. The Project working with the Red Cross in supporting Asylum seekers shows a substantial surplus, thanks to the efforts of the Big Breakfast Team and receipts of two substantial Grants. The General Fund is where the day-to-day Income and Expenditure of keeping the Church running is recorded. In 2025 our income exceeded our running costs by £3,000, a turn round from the deficit of £3,000 in 2024.

Overall, income was reduced by £3,500, or 7.5%. Year on year Regular Giving to Church declined a further by 7%. This trend must be addressed. Related Gift Aid income is also lower. Income from the use of the building is a further 10% lower. We continue to work out how we can sustain this and increase this income source.

Collections, Fundraising and other Donations show small increases over the previous year helped by the arrival of the Farsi Church in September. Overall, income is down by almost 7.5% on the previous year; running costs were reduced by almost 20% so there was an overall surplus of almost £3,000.

With careful management of costs, expenditure has been reduced by £9,500 from 2024, decreased by 19%. We had productive conversations with the Diocese which led to our Parish
Share contribution being reduced by over 25%. There were further reductions in Gas and Electric costs (£3,000). Maintenance costs are lower than previous year as a result of us doing
only what was essential and what we could afford. Lower water rates and careful management of other running costs reduced our overall expenditure by 19%.

The surplus of £3,000 in the year helped restore the level of the General Fund to almost £13,000, leaving the General Fund at a level that is only just acceptable. The proposed Budget for 2026 attempts to reflect the impact of known and anticipated changes to activities in the Church and our Building. We hope the reductions in regular giving from members of the Church can be reversed, but it is still felt to be very fragile. We continue to pray that new people joining us may help to reverse this falling trend.

Income from the use of the Church building is assumed to be similar. We continue to lack volunteers available to enable us to generate the income that we would like from the building we have been blessed with.

Overall, the Income in the proposed 2026 Budget shows a small decrease versus the actual income for 2025. In line with all the Parishes in Manchester Diocese we have had discussions about what level of Parish Share we can realistically afford to pay for in 2025 and future years. We have now agreed a reduction of over 25% to £15,000 as a basis for the next few years. Our energy costs have started to fall and have been fixed at a lower level for the next two years. Maintenance costs continue to be a big uncertainty and will have to be carefully managed to ensure we get the balance between what is essential and what we can afford. It continues to be the situation that there are a number of projects that could be done but the funding is not readily available. Work continues in controlling running costs,

but the emphasis must be on increasing income to a satisfactory level. The proposed Budget, with a much-reduced payment of the Parish Share, shows there will be a balanced budget in 2026. We have to work together to try and increase income in order to have the funding to address the maintenance wish-list.

Designated Funds

Overall, these showed a much healthier position this year, but as usual this statement doesn't fully reflect the blessings and challenges in a number of areas.

- Youth and Children's Work

  The Church has paused its Youth work and the ongoing activities with the Children have relatively small running costs so we can plan to go forward with sufficient resources. All expenditure in the year was covered by the Income that was received.

- St Bride's Project

  The Clients continue to attend every two weeks. This work is supported mainly by cash donation . The level of funding provided by the Red Cross was further reduced in 2025 to a minimal level. The Project is now only sustainable thanks to the hard work of our friends at the Big Breakfast. Their efforts are really appreciated as they contributed £10,000 in the year, which made the work possible. We were also blessed with receiving two grants totaling £7.000 in the year, giving us a cushion as we continue our work with some very vulnerable clients.

- Other Funds

  These funds are for income and related costs for Church activities that take place over the year.

We continue to thank God for his generosity and provision.

John Myring
PCC Treasurer March 2026

St Bride's Church

General Fund - Budget 2025
12 Months to 31st December

Written by	John Myring	Date:	2 March, 2026

Fund Name	Balance at 1/1/2025	Income	Expenditure	Balance at 12/31/2025
General Fund	£9,780	£42,721	£39,790	£12,711
St Brides Project (Red Cross)	£8,915	£22,435	£15,400	£15,950
Youth & Childrens Work	£17,899	£400	£1,104	£17,195
Other Designated Funds	£1,934	£1,659	£1,251	£2,342
Totals	**£38,528**	**£67,215**	**£57,545**	**£48,198**

Funds Represented by	1/1/2025	12/31/2025
Current Account - RBS	£500	£500
- Co - op		£10,688
Deposit Account - RBS	£35,438	£20,071
- Co - op		£15,024
Total Funds in Banks	£35,938	£46,283
Accounts Receivable - British Red Cross	£390	£300
Accounts Receivable - HMRC Gift Aid	£2,200	£1,615
Total Funds	**£38,528**	**£48,198**

		2025 Income	2025 Expenditure		2024 Income	2024 Expenditure	
General Fund	Regular Giving	£20,825			£22,388		
	Gift Aid Claimed	£5,238			£5,915		
	Collections & Donations	£4,257			£3,393		
	Income from Use of Building	£10,004			£11,114		
	Fundraising & Other Income	£2,397			£3,394		
	General Fund Income	**£42,721**			**£46,204**		
	Parish Share		£14,584	£14,584		£20,383	£20,383
	Church Maintenance		£3,608			£5,506	
	Cleaning		£0			£485	
	Church Running - Gas		£5,236			£7,497	
	Church Running - Electric		£4,939			£5,884	
	Church Running - Insurance		£1,788			£1,748	
	Church Running - Water		£927	£16,498		£1,014	£22,134
	Working expenses of Incumbent		£208			£338	
	Rectory Council Tax		£2,574			£2,397	
	Rectory Water rates		£500	£3,282		£770	£3,505
	Parish Training & Mission		£225			£0	
	Giving to Other Organisations		£0			£0	
	Upkeep of Services		£719	£944		£522	£522
	Church Office Phones & Internet		£777			£798	
	Running Costs & Sundries		£3,455	£4,232		£1,678	£2,476
	Governance Costs		£250	£250		£225	£225
	General Fund Expenditure		**£39,790**	**£39,790**		**£49,245**	**£49,245**

Designated Funds		2025 Income	2025 Expenditure	2024 Income	2024 Expenditure
Destitution Project	Donations, Gift Aid & Other Income	£14,265		£16,283	
	Grants from Organisations	£7,000		£0	
	Re-imbursement of Running Costs	£1,170		£5,048	
Other Funds	Donations, Gift Aid & Other Income	£1,659		£1,834	
Youth & Children's Work	Youth & Children's Work Expenses		£1,104		£1,206
Destitution Project	Project Running Costs		£15,400		£14,024
Other Funds	Purchase of Equipment		£180		£85
	Other Running Costs		£1,071		£1,717
	Total Designated Funds	**£24,494**	**£17,755**	**£24,365**	**£17,032**
	Total For Year	**£67,215**	**£57,545**	**£70,569**	**£66,277**

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE PCC OF ST. BRIDE'S OLD TRAFFORD

I report on the financial statements of the PCC for the year ended 31st December 2025, which are set out on pages 22 to 24

RESPECTIVE RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE PCC AND THE EXAMINER

As members of the PCC you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements; you consider that an audit is not required for this year under the Regulation and under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011(the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed. It is my responsibility to issue this report on;

- those financial statements under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- follow the procedures laid down in the general directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

This report, including my statement, has been prepared for and only for the charity's trustee as a body. My work has been undertaken so that I might state to the charity's trustee those matters I am required to state to them in an independent examiner's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, I do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's trustee as a body for my examination work, for this report, or for the statements I have made.

BASIS OF THIS REPORT

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the PCC and a comparison of the financial statements presented with those records. It also includes considering any unusual items or disclosures in the financial statements and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the financial statements present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S STATEMENT

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

- which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
    - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
    - to prepare financial statements which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 and have not been met; or
    - to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the financial statements to be reached.

- **SIGNED**

Date 8/3/2026

John Thomas Holdsworth BA, C Ed. J. T. Holdsworth BA, Ced.,

15 Lynmouth Avenue, Flixton, M41 6FB

St Bride's Church

The Project

Written by	Linda Penrose	Date:	April 1

The Project has continued to run for the whole of 2025. We met fortnightly and provided the asylum seekers with money. The British Red Cross have continued to offer face to face case work. We have continued to serve hot food, cooked each week initially by volunteer asylum seekers, and more recently, by volunteer chefs, served to people in their seats by more volunteer service users. It has been wonderful to partner in this way.

We continue to have prayer time at 11.30 am before opening at 12:00. Sometimes the prayers are in up to 5 languages.

We had a wonderful celebration meal for Refugee Week with food from all over the world. At Christmas we celebrated with a more substantial meal. Each service user received a Christmas gift, and we enjoyed Christmas songs from St Margarets School choir. Many thanks to all the people who worked together to make that happen.

Grace and Mark continue to do amazing work with the clothes stall, sorting and sourcing secondhand clothes and new underwear. Thank you for your hard work. We have also partnered with Reboot to provide new fitted shoes for service users.

As usual there are many people to thank for helping to keep things going, so if you are one of them, please consider yourself thoroughly thanked. Also, thanks to Big Breakfast, who have continued to fundraise for us, raising over £1000 monthly. Thank you. You are a true blessing to us. Throughout the year we have been delighted to have former service users return to celebrate with us when their applications have been accepted.

St Bride's Church

Children's Ministry: Bizzy B's

Written by	Clare Myring & Lind Penrose	Date:	April 1

Bizzy B's continued to flourish in 2025.

The Spring and Summer terms saw an average attendance each week of 43 adults bringing 48 children. The adults who bring their pre-school children include Mums and Dads, Grandparents, Aunties, Childminders (anyone is welcome!). And I'm glad to say the whole range of ethnicities represented reflects the population of Old Trafford.

The Autumn term saw a drop in numbers; 36 adults bringing 36 children, but this is still a healthy number, and in some respects makes things calmer. We began the term two weeks late due to volunteer holidays, and we believe another stay and play started on a Friday morning in Old Trafford during September which may have had an effect. However, those who come continue to express their gratitude for Bizzy B's and talk about the peaceful atmosphere and friendships they find there.

Linda and I would like to thank our wonderful team of volunteers. John faithfully sets up and packs away; Barbara and Natalie in the kitchen supply endless brews and snacks; Emma fills in so many of the gaps, and all the little ones and their grownups who help at 'tidy up time'. May God continue to bless this activity.

Clare Myring and Linda Penrose

St Bride's Church

Children's Ministry: Bible B's			
Written by	Clare Myring	**Date:**	April 1

In July 2025 we started a weekly meeting for children from 4 years old up to the age of 11 years (Primary School age) to share Jesus with them, and to have a more focused teaching time for them than is provided during the Sunday morning service. Initially, this group was started for our church children who come to Sunday service, and for them to then be able to invite their friends. and so, the group would grow.

We have been meeting on Friday afternoons at 16:45 until 18:15. The children chose the group name: Bible B's. They liked the link with our pre-school stay and play group Bizzy B's.

We now have a core group of up to six who are very faithful. Four of them regularly attend Sunday services; the other two are friends that they have brought along. It's a simple time: a game, a Bible story which the children then act out, a snack, some crafts, then finishing with a prayer time and a song. At present, we go through stories from the Old Testament, and the children thoroughly enjoy them.

Craft time Nov. 2025

Mary and Joseph Drama

The children enjoyed the Christmas session, when they were able to use the new costumes St Bride's had bought, to act out the story of the Nativity.

There photos of the Bible B's are in colour inside the back cover!

St Bride's Church

The Prayer Report

Written by	Clare Myring	Date:	April 8th 2026

We believe as a church that prayer should be central in all that we do. It is an important part of our faith and helps us to develop and deepen our personal relationship with Jesus and as we fellowship together.

There continue to be regular opportunities to meet to pray during the week. On Monday and Wednesday morning Peter and I often met at 8:00 to pray.

People request prayers in different ways which include the prayer box within church, the prayer email address, and the prayer WhatsApp group. This has enabled us to pray for specific requests when needed.

We have offered and prayed for people during the service.

Thank you to all who led the prayers during Sunday morning service.

St Bride's Church

Other Church Activities

Written by	Clare Myring and Susie Crossman	Date:	April 8th 2026

Refresh Group

A small Refresh group has begun to meet in church on Tuesday afternoons at 15:00. Members of this group come from both St. Bride's Church and St John's Church.

Peter Matthews introduced the idea of a group meeting together to enable people to grow in their faith, deepen their understanding of scripture, and to support one another. What we receive and learn extends into every part of our lives.

We gather, reconnect, worship, and reflect on the previous week. Then we look at the Gospel passage set for the next Sunday morning service, in the context of what it reveals about God and/or Jesus, and what it tells us about people and ourselves. We look for any command, promise or example given, and discuss how we will apply it, and who we can tell about it. We take turns in doing each part and have learned how to share in this group. We finish by praying for each other and leave refreshed!

We hope the group will grow and multiply. All are welcome to join us, and anyone can start their own group.

Clare Myring

Saturday Evening Fellowship

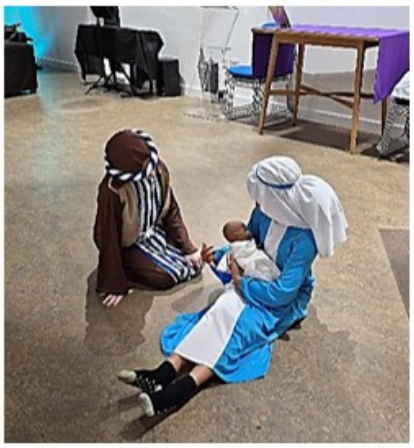
In January 2025, Susanna Hewitt started an informal Saturday evening gathering, for church members and their families and/or friends, to bring a snack to share and enjoy getting to know each other better. This usually occurred on the last Saturday evening of the month, from 17:00 to about 19:30. Each occasion was very different in its own special way. Sometimes we chatted together in small groups, played a game – or took part in a quiz. Other times we took time to reflect on deeper issues after the snacks were demolished and small chat had run dry. These evenings faded away after Susannah and Scott left us to move to Eccles as a pastor. They did, however, serve as icebreakers for social relationships in the church, as many of us had found that we each had much in common.

Watching "The Chosen"

During Lent in 2025, Peter and Penny Matthews invited those who were free on Wednesday evenings from 18:30 to the Rectory to join them in watching the second series of The Chosen. I found it so much more enjoyable to watch this series as a group, because after the episode, we took a little while to share our insight or ask for clarity on issues. These group discussions were invaluable. A good idea to look for other such opportunities?

Craft time Nov. 2025

Mary and Joseph Drama



St. Bride's Church
from Shrewsbury Street

Dawn on Easter Sunday, 2025.
The view that greeted us during the sunrise service.

Thank you for taking the time to read our annual report. We ask that you continue to pray for us as a church as we enter into this next annual year.

If you feel prompted or would like to support some of the projects or groups that happen throughout the week then please don't be afraid to get in touch.

May the Lord Bless you and keep you in His eternal love.

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST BRIDE'S, OLD TRAFFO

England & Wales - Charity number 1146679

Accounts

St Bride's Church

Annual Report 2024

St Bride's Church

St Bride's Church, Old Trafford Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Sunday 11th May 2025 at 10:30am

Our Annual Church Meeting is an opportunity to deal with the business of the church, to discuss issues that are concerned with our community life, and to think creatively about our future as we follow God's leading. Inside this booklet are reports on the activities of the church, which I ask you to read, and so be able to come to the meeting with well prepared questions and ideas for discussion.

Thank you for all that you have done and contributed during this past year, but, most of all, thank you for being part of the family here at St Bride's. "So then, have your minds ready for action. Keep alert and set your hope completely on the blessing which will be given you when Jesus Christ is revealed." – 1 Peter 1:13 (GNB)

ST BRIDE'S CHURCH
St Bride's Way, Manchester, M16 9NW
Parish Office: 0161-226 3047 | Email: admin@stbrides.uk

RECTOR: REV'D PETER MATTHEWS
St Bride's Rectory, 33 Shrewsbury Street, Manchester, M16 9BB
Tel: 0161-226 1251 | Email: peter@stbrides.uk

ORDAINED LOCAL MINISTER: REV'D VIV ECCLES
c/o St Bride's Parish Office, St. Bride's Way, Manchester, M16 9NW
Tel: 0161-226 3047 | Email: viv@stbrides.uk

CHURCHWARDENS
(vacant)

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL SECRETARY
Nathan Gonzalez, 8 Belmont Street, Old Trafford, Manchester, M16 9JW.
Tel: 07922057605 | Email: nathan@stbrides.uk or PCCsecretary@stbrides.uk

BANKERS:
Royal Bank of Scotland, Drummond House Branch, 1 Redhaughs Avenue,
EDINBURGH, EH12 9JN.

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER:
Mr. John Holdsworth B.A., F.C.C.A., C.Ed.

The Parochial Church Council is registered charity **no. 1146679**

St Bride's Church

Contents	Page
Rector's Introduction	5
Agenda For Annual Meetings	7
Annual Meeting of Parishioners Minutes	9
Annual Parochial Church Meeting Minutes	10
Electoral Roll Report	12
Secretary to the PCC Report	13
Fabric and Health & Safety Report	14
Safeguarding Report	15
Parish Policy On Safeguarding Children	16
Parish Policy On Safeguarding Adults	17
Treasurer Report	18
The Project	25
Bizzy B's	26
Welcome & Warm Space	28
Prayer Report	29

Rectors Introduction

Welcome to the St Bride's Report for 2024. Within these pages, you will find an overview of the activities, achievements, and progress our church community has made over the past year. In addition, the report includes our financial statements and key policy documents. While these may seem dry at first glance, they are an integral part of documenting who we are, what we stand for, and the work we undertake together as a church family. I encourage you to read through and reflect on all that God has been doing among us.

This year, we have been blessed to continue our services and ministries, focusing on the Gospel readings from the lectionary, primarily drawn from Mark. These passages have been the foundation of our sermons, inspiring and guiding our community. Furthermore, several members of St Bride's participated in a St John's Bible study group that commenced in the spring and also explored Mark's Gospel. Remarkably, one member of this group made the life-changing decision to become a follower of Jesus. This profound moment serves as a reminder of the eternal impact our words, actions, and relationships can have on the individuals within our community. This report highlights some of the ways we are serving and making a difference.

Looking ahead to 2025, my prayer and vision for St Bride's is that we grow into a church that reaches out even more boldly with the Good News of Jesus, making a tangible impact by forming deeper connections and nurturing more disciples.

Thank you for your dedication, your faith, and your invaluable contributions to this church family. May God bless you abundantly.

Peter

St Bride's Church

Agendas for Annual Meetings

Meeting of Parishioners (Open to everyone on the Electoral Roll plus all Local Government Electors in the Parish)

1. Prayer
2. Apologies for absence
3. Minutes of the 2024 meeting. (These minutes were approved by the PCC on 29th May, 2023)
4. Election of Churchwardens. Churchwardens are PCC members ex officio.

Annual Parochial Church Meeting (Open to everyone on the Electoral Roll of the Church. Non-voting observers are welcome.)

5. Apologies for absence
6. Minutes of 2024 APCM. (These minutes were approved by the PCC on 29th May, 2024)
7. Identification of issues for discussion at the APCM or future PCC meetings (Anyone on the Electoral Roll may suggest an item for discussion, but PLEASE be sure to let Peter Matthews or Nathan Gonzalez have notice of the item in advance)
8. Rector's Report
9. Report of Electoral Roll
10. Report of Secretary to the PCC
11. Officer Report from PCC Report on Fabric
12. Report of Parish Safeguarding Officer
13. Parish Policy on Safeguarding Children
14. Parish Policy on Safeguarding Adults
15. Report of Treasurer and Presentation of Accounts for 2024 and Independent Examiner for Report for 2024
16. Report for The Project
17. Report of Bizzy B's
18. Report for Welcome and Warm Space

19. Report for Prayer
20. Election of Deanery Synod Representatives (for 3 years)
21. Election of Members of the Parochial Church Council
22. Selection of Sidespeople
23. Issues for discussion at the APCM (as raised with the rector or PCC secretary 24 hours prior to the meeting)
24. Praying for the work of the church

St Bride's Church

Meeting of Parishioners Minutes

Date:	21st April 2024
Attendance:	Nathan Gonzalez (NG) Susanna Hewitt (SH) Scott Hewitt (SH) Linda Penrose (LP) John Myring (JM) Peter Matthews (PM) Penny Matthews (PM) Clare Myring (CM) Rachel Dean (RD) Jenni Williams (JW) Anthea Thompson (AT) Graham Cooper (GC) Chara Hosie (CH) John Hosie (JH) Roger Gill (RG) Noor Gill (NG) Ruben Gill (RG) Faiza Gill (FG) Ambrina Gill (AG) MJ Sharp (MS) Linda Sterling (LS) Malc Sterling (MS) Alma Weekes (AW) Rob Eccles (RE) Viv Eccles (VE) Fred Walters (FW) Kai Fu (Carlos) Law (KFL) Hin Chi (Ginny) Wong (HCW) Wai Yee Cannie Fung (WYCF) Po Yuen Paul Kung (PYPK) Sangwahi Nkhwazi (SK)
Apologies:	Douglas Matthews (DM) Susie Crossman (SC)

Meeting Minutes:

Meeting of Parishioners (Open to everyone on the Electoral Roll plus all Local Government Electors in the Parish).

Meeting of Parishioners (Open to everyone on the Electoral Roll plus all Local Government Electors in the Parish)

1. Prayer
2. Apologies for absence
3. Minutes of the 2023 meeting (These minutes were approved by the PCC on 14th May, 2023)
4. Election of Churchwardens 2023/2024. Churchwardens are PCC members ex officio.

No Candidates stood for churchwarden - No Candidates elected for churchwarden.

.

Meeting Concluded 10:44 am

St Bride's Church

Annual Parochial Church Meeting Minutes

Date:	21st April 2024
Attendance:	Nathan Gonzalez (NG) Susanna Hewitt (SH) Scott Hewitt (SH) Linda Penrose (LP) John Myring (JM) Peter Matthews (PM) Penny Matthews (PM) Clare Myring (CM) Rachel Dean (RD) Jenni Williams (JW) Anthea Thompson (AT) Graham Cooper (GC) Chara Hosie (CH) John Hosie (JH) Roger Gill (RG) Noor Gill (NG) Ruben Gill (RG) Faiza Gill (FG) Ambrina Gill (AG) MJ Sharp (MS) Linda Sterling (LS) Malc Sterling (MS) Alma Weekes (AW) Rob Eccles (RE) Viv Eccles (VE) Fred Walters (FW) Kai Fu (Carlos) Law (KFL) Hin Chi (Ginny) Wong (HCW) Wai Yee Cannie Fung (WYCF) Po Yuen Paul Kung (PYPK) Sangwahi Nkhwazi (SK)
Apologies:	Douglas Matthews (DM) Susie Crossman (SC)

1. Annual Parochial Church Meeting (Open to everyone on the Electoral Roll of the Church. Non-voting observers are welcome.)

Whole Church Said hi to Viv who joined over the phone as she could not be with us in person. Viv is celebrating it being 30 years since becoming a minister.

2. Apologies for absence

3. Minutes of 2023 APCM. (These minutes were approved by the PCC on 14th May, 2023)

4. Identification of issues for discussion at the APCM or future PCC meetings (Anyone on the Electoral Roll may suggest an item for discussion, but PLEASE be sure to let Peter Matthews or Nathan Gonzalez have notice of the item in advance)

GC asked for Time to read the report as it was sent out late.

5. Rector's Report

6. Report of Electoral Roll

NG to take on electoral roll officer.

7. Report of Secretary to the PCC

Corrections Standing Committee met on 6 occasions not 2.

8. Officer Report from PCC Report on Fabric

9. Report of Parish Safeguarding Officer

PM mentioned a massive thank you to Angela Cooper for her service as our Safeguarding Officer. PM also outlined the importance of a safeguarding officer and as AC is now stepping down we need one. If someone feels prompted, then please come chat to PM.
New safeguarding officer to re-write the safeguarding policies.

10. Parish Policy on Safeguarding Children
Read out by CM.

11. Parish Policy on Safeguarding Adults
Read out by LP.

12. Report of Treasurer and Presentation of Accounts for 2023 Independent Examiner for 2023.

JM Gave a brief talk about the church's financial situation.
PM Briefly spoke about our expectation that we do not want people to give what is not practical and for individuals to 'live'. However, for those with more flexible income to consider what they give.
CM Briefly spoke about giving and our future 'giving Sunday'.
JM Proposed the accounts, GC Seconded, Carried Unanimously.

13. Report for The Project

14. Report of Bizzy B's

15. Report for Welcome and Warm Space

16. Report of Church Administration

17. Report for Prayer

18. Election of 1 Deanery Synod Representatives (for 3 years)
No one stood for Election of Deanery Synod.

19. Election of 2 Members of the Parochial Church Council
PCC welcomed Susie Crossman and John Myring onto PCC.

20. Selection of Sidespeople

21. Issues for discussion at the APCM (as identified above)

22. Praying for the work of the church

St Bride's Church

Electoral Roll Report

Written by	Nathan Gonzalez and Clare Myring	Date	April 2025

Introduction

This report provides an overview of the Electoral Roll for the past year prior to the APCM of 2025. The purpose of the Electoral Roll is to maintain an up-to-date record of individuals eligible to participate in governance and decision-making processes within the church.

- The total number of individuals on the Electoral Roll remains at 50.
- No new registrations or removals were recorded.

The electoral roll will be renewed in April 2025 before the APCM of 2025.

St Bride's Church

Secretary to the PCC

Written by	Nathan Gonzalez	Date	20.09.2024

1. At the beginning of 2024 the elected members of the PCC were Susanna Hewitt, Linda Penrose, Nathan Gonzalez, Clare Myring, Douglas Matthews, Chara Hosie, Viv Eccles, Anne Marie Williams and Anthea Thompson.
2. Appointed to PCC in the APCM of April 2024, Susie Crossman and John Myring.
3. Those leaving PCC as of the APCM of 2024; Douglas Matthews, Chara Hosie, Viv Eccles.
4. No Appointment of Deanery Synod Representative positions in APCM of 2024.
5. Still no Appointed Church Warden.
6. The PCC appointed Nathan Gonzalez to office as PCC secretary. Linda Penrose as Vice Chair. John Myring to the office of Treasurer.
7. The PCC met on five occasions after the APCM.
8. PCC Standing Committee met on four occasions between PCC meetings to deal with urgent business and to agree to the PCC Agenda.
9. Each Meeting included prayer, worship and or a Bible reading, routine reports on finance, safeguarding, small group projects, Mission and outward focus and Health and Safety,.
10. Other business considered by PCC included business regarding building use and space hire.

Nathan Gonzalez, PCC Secretary

St Bride's Church

Fabric and Health & Safety Report

Written by	Peter Matthews	**Date**	24.01.2025

The St. Bride's building and site continue to see steady use, both for our regular activities (detailed elsewhere in this report) and by external groups. Notably, The Urban Fitness Collective CIC (Tuf*C) utilises Room 4 as an office and meeting space, and MSC Food Bank operates on Wednesdays to deliver its vital services.

However, this year has not been without challenges. The building has faced several issues, primarily due to the deteriorating roof, which has caused leaks and subsequent problems. The boiler also required significant maintenance, and the electronic lock on the office door ceased functioning. While we've managed to repair the boiler to some extent, a full pump replacement is planned for 2025. Additionally, the underfloor heating in the Worship Space stopped working toward the end of 2024, just before Christmas. Fortunately, that repair should be completed by the time this report is published.

These ongoing issues highlight the scale of work still needed to bring the building to a better standard. The main barriers are the high costs involved and the lack of personnel to organise and oversee maintenance. I would like to extend heartfelt thanks to Nathan Gonzalez and John Myring for stepping in on numerous occasions to address urgent issues.

On the positive side, we've been diligent in maintaining regular checks on the lift, which remains in excellent condition, on the gas boiler, and on the fire alarm system. Unfortunately, water damage has affected a sensor upstairs, and corrosion has impacted an alarm button downstairs, both of which require attention. We still have a need to replace the emergency lights for all the rooms upstairs and are in discussion with the diocese for how best to go about this.

Looking ahead to 2025, it would be wonderful to see the building used more frequently—not just for church-related activities but also for community events. To achieve this, we need more practical and organised individuals to take on the challenges of maintaining and improving the building. Addressing our financial challenges could also be supported by increasing space hire opportunities and prioritizing work to make the building watertight.

The Quinquennial Report is scheduled for the first quarter of 2025.

Peter

St Bride's Church

Safeguarding Report

Written by	Jenni Williams	Date	19.02.2025

We are committed to the protection of all children and adults, especially those who may be vulnerable for varying reasons.

There are practices in place at St Bride's to keep children and adults safe.

St Bride's has adopted safeguarding policies which should be reviewed at the A.P.C.M each year. The policies help us to create a safe environment for both children and vulnerable people.

Safe recruitment and training procedures are in place to enable high standards of care. Any vacancies should be advertised with a job description. Volunteers need to make a "Confidential Declaration" regarding their suitability to be involved in the area of work. The volunteer is required to make a paper application and references will be taken up. There needs to be an interview and if the person appears to be suitable for the role an application can be made to the Disclosure and Barring Service. The Safeguarding Officer is informed of anything that would make the person unsuitable for the role. The volunteer is then required to take and complete online training prior to taking on their new role. The Diocese provides training throughout the Diocese which the volunteer is required to attend. A record of agreement is signed, and they receive a copy of our 'Good Practice' guidelines.

The safeguarding board has the Children and Vulnerable Adult's Safeguarding Policies on display as required by the Diocese. The Safeguarding Officer's photograph and contact telephone number are also on display.

The church website includes Safeguarding information.

It is important to state that Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility. If you have any concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me or the Diocesan Safeguarding Office.
(Contact information is on the Safeguarding board.)

St Bride's Church

Parish Policy On Safeguarding Children

Written by	Jenni Williams	**Adopted**	January 2025

This statement was agreed at the PCC meeting held on: 8th January 2025

1. As members of this church, we commit ourselves to the nurturing, protection and safekeeping of all, especially children and young people.
2. 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.
3. We recognise that our work with children and young people is the responsibility of the whole Church.
4. Our church is committed to supporting, resourcing and training those who work with children and young people and to provide supervision.
5. Our church is committed to following the policy and procedures published by the Diocese.
6. The parish will adopt good practice guidelines.
7. 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 Jenni Williams to he the Parish Safeguarding Coordinator.

- 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.

St Bride's Church

Policy on the Safeguarding of Adults in the Church

Written by	Jenni Williams	**Adopted:**	January 2025

This statement was agreed at the PCC meeting held on: 8th January 2025

This policy will be reviewed each year to monitor the progress which has been achieved.

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

2. As members of this parish, we commit ourselves to respectful pastoral care for all adults to whom we minister.

3. We commit ourselves to the safeguarding of people who may be vulnerable, ensuring their well-being in the life of this church.

4. We commit ourselves to promoting safe practice by those in positions of trust.

5. The parish commits itself to promoting the inclusion and empowerment of people who may be vulnerable.

6. 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.

7. We undertake to exercise proper care in the appointment and selection of those who will work with people who may be vulnerable.

8. The parish is committed to supporting, resourcing, training and regularly reviewing those who undertake work amongst people who may be vulnerable.

9. The parish adopts the guidelines of the Church of England and the Diocese.

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

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

St Bride's Church

Treasurer's Report for Year to 31 st December 2024

Written by	John Myring	Date:	February 2025

Managing the Finances of the Church continues to be a challenge for those involved. In last year's report I had hoped that it would get easier, but that hope was unfounded; another deficit and an ever-growing list of things that need doing around the building.

During 2024 our Income from regular giving continued its slow decline, and the opportunities to generate income from people wanting to use the Building were diminished. Fortunately, running costs have decreased with reductions in energy costs, and a capping on what was spent on maintenance and other regular running costs have seen an overall reduction in expenditure. The Financial impact of all this has meant that in 2024 we have an overall surplus of £4,300 compared to the previous years' deficit of £2,300. The General Fund continues its trend of being in a deficit. The Project, working with the Red Cross in supporting Asylum seekers, shows a substantial surplus, thanks to the efforts of the Big Breakfast Team.

General Fund

The General Fund is where the day-to-day Income and Expenditure of keeping the Church running is recorded. In 2024 our running costs exceeded our income by £3,000, a small increase from the deficit of £2,300 in 2023. Overall, income was reduced by £7,800, a worrying 15%. Year on year Regular Giving to Church declined a further by 7%, a trend that seems unlikely to be reversed in 2025, and related Gift Aid income is also lower. Income from the use of the building is 1/3rd less than previous year; we continue to work out how we can sustain this and increase this income source. We were also surprised by an unexpected rebate of our energy costs from prior years of £2,050. Collections, Fundraising and other donations show small increases over the previous year. Overall, income is down by almost 15% on the previous year; running costs were reduced by 12.5% so there was still an overall deficit of £3,000.

With careful management of costs expenditure has been reduced by £7,000 from 2023, a decrease of 12%, This is primarily due to the lower Gas and Electric costs (£5,000), lower water rates and careful management of other running costs. Maintenance costs are similar year on year as a result of us doing what was essential and what we could afford. Our Parish Share contribution (being our single largest cost) was similar to 2023.

The deficit of £3,000 in the year further reduced the level of the General Fund to below £10,000, leaving the General Fund at a level that is only just acceptable.

The proposed Budget for 2025 attempts to reflect the impact of known and anticipated changes to activities in the Church and our Building. We hope the reductions in regular giving from members of the Church reverses, but it is still felt to be very fragile. We continue to pray that new people joining us may help to reverse this falling trend. Income from the use of the Church building is assumed to be similar. We continue to lack the volunteers available to enable us to generate the income that we would like from the Building we have been blessed with. Overall, the Income in the proposed 2025 Budget shows a small decrease versus the actual income for 2024.

In line with all the Parishes in Manchester Diocese we have had discussions about what level of Parish Share we can realistically afford to pay in 2025 and future years. We have now agreed a reduction of over 25% to £15,000 as a basis for the next few years. Our energy costs have started to fall and have been fixed at a lower level for the next two years. Maintenance costs continue to be a big uncertainty and will have to be carefully managed to ensure we get the balance between what is essential and what we can afford. It continues to be the situation that there are a number of projects that could be done but the funding is not easily available.

Work continues in controlling running costs but the emphasis must be on increasing income to a satisfactory level. The proposed Budget, with much reduced payment of the Parish Share, shows there will be a balanced budget 2025. We have to work together to try and increase income in order to have the funding to address the maintenance wish list.

Designated Funds

Overall these funds showed a much healthier position in the year, but as usual this statement doesn't reflect fully the blessings and challenges in a number of areas: -

- Youth and Children's Work – The Church has mainly paused its Youth work and the ongoing activities with the Children have small running costs. We can plan going forward with sufficient resources. All expenditure in the year was covered by the Income that was received.
- St Brides Project – The Clients continue to attend every two weeks and are supported mainly by cash donations. The level of funding provided by the Red Cross has reduced significantly in 2024. The Project is now only sustainable thanks to the hard work of our friends at the Big Breakfast. Other funding is proving difficult to achieve so their efforts are really appreciated as they contributed over £11,500 in the year which makes th work possible.
- Other Funds – These funds are for income and related costs for Church activities that have taken place over the year.

We continue to thank God for His generosity and provision.

St Bride's Church

General Fund - Budget 2024
12 Months to 31st December

Written by	John Myring	Date:	04.03.2024

St Brides Church Old Trafford

Income & Expenditure 12 months to 31st December 2024

Fund Name	Balance at 1/1/2024	Income	Expenditure	Balance at 12/31/2024
General Fund	£12,821	£46,204	£49,245	£9,780
St Brides Project (Red Cross)	£1,608	£21,331	£14,024	£8,915
Youth & Childrens Work	£17,905	£1,200	£1,206	£17,899
Other Designated Funds	£1,902	£1,834	£1,802	£1,934
Totals	**£34,236**	**£70,569**	**£66,277**	**£38,528**

Funds Represented by	1/1/2024	12/31/2024
Current Account	£500	£500
Deposit Account	£25,733	£35,438
Total	£26,233	£35,938
Accounts Receivable - British Red Cross	£381	£390
Accounts Receivable - HMRC Gift Aid	£3,559	£2,200
Accounts Receivable - Total Energies Gas A/c	£2,381	£0
Accounts Receivable - Various Church Users	£1,682	£0
Total Funds	£34,236	£38,528

		2024 Income	2024 Expenditure		2023 Income	2023 Expenditure	
General Fund	Regular Giving	£22,388			£24,149		
	Gift Aid Claimed	£5,915			£6,345		
	Collections & Donations	£3,393			£2,395		
	Income from Use of Building	£11,114			£16,455		
	Fundraising & Other Income	£3,394			£4,653		
	General Fund Income	**£46,204**			**£53,997**		
	Parish Share		£20,383	£20,383		£20,380	£20,380
	Church Maintenance		£5,506			£5,682	
	Cleaning		£485			£524	
	Church Running - Gas		£7,497			£9,800	
	Church Running - Electric		£5,884			£8,531	
	Church Running - Insurance		£1,748			£1,722	
	Church Running - Water		£1,014	£22,134		£2,017	£28,276
	Working expenses of Incumbant		£338			£222	
	Rectory Council Tax		£2,397			£2,283	
	Rectory Water rates		£770	£3,505		£767	£3,272
	Parish Training & Mission		£0			£25	
	Giving to Other Organisations		£0			£0	
	Upkeep of Services		£522	£522		£537	£562
	Church Office Phones & Internet		£798			£1,093	
	Sundries		£1,678	£2,476		£2,506	£3,599
	Governance Costs		£225	£225		£225	£225
	General Fund Expenditure		**£49,245**	**£49,245**		**£56,314**	**£56,314**
Designated Funds							
Youth & Children's Work	Donations, Gift Aid & Other Income	£1,200			£2,324		
Destitution Project	Donations, Gift Aid & Other Income	£16,283			£10,949		
	Grants from Organisations	£0			£1,500		
	Re-imbursement of Running Costs	£5,048			£14,296		
Other Funds	Donations, Gift Aid & Other Income	£1,834			£2,144		
Youth & Children's Work	Youth & Children's Work Expenses		£1,206			£265	
Destitution Project	Project Running Costs		£14,024			£28,590	
Other Funds	Purchase of Equipment		£85			£563	
	Other Running Costs		£1,717			£1,742	
	Total Designated Funds	**£24,365**	**£17,032**		**£31,213**	**£31,160**	
	Total For Year	**£70,569**	**£66,277**		**£85,210**	**£87,474**	

	St Brides Church Old Trafford General Fund - Budget 2025 12 Months to 31st December		
	2024 Budget	2024 Actuals Full Year	2025 Budget Proposed
INCOME			
Regular Giving - Church	£21,580	£22,388	£22,000
Collections Donations & Fund Raising	£3,840	£3,931	£3,780
Income from Use of Building	£9,130	£11,114	£11,450
Gift Aid Reclaimed	£5,890	£5,915	£5,800
Energy Rebate from Previous Year	£0	£2,050	£0
Energy Rebates (Solar)	£750	£806	£800
Total Income for Year	£41,190	£46,204	£43,830
EXPENDITURE			
Parish Share	£20,465	£20,383	£15,000
Gas	£6,720	£7,497	£5,416
Electric	£6,292	£5,884	£5,171
Water	£1,050	£1,014	£1,000
Insurance	£1,744	£1,748	£1,788
Maintenance & Cleaning			
Maintenance & Decorating	£6,410	£5,506	£7,250
Cleaning Contract & Supplies	£1,320	£485	£900
Incumbents and Curates Expenses			
Vicars expenses	£300	£338	£360
Rectory Costs			
Council Tax	£2,400	£2,397	£2,580
Water Rates	£800	£770	£500
Office & Administration			
Church Office Phones & Internet	£1,020	£798	£780
Audit Fee	£250	£225	£250
Bank Charges	£360	£216	£120
Services & Mission			
Giving	£750	£0	£0
Alpha/Mission	£250	£0	£0
Church Breakfast	£500	£0	£0
CCLI & Other Licences	£550	£522	£670
Sundries	£2,400	£1,462	£2,400
Total Expenditure for Year	£53,581	£49,245	£44,185
Surplus/(Deficit) for Period	-£12,391	-£3,041	-£355
Regular Giving - Youth & Children's Work	£1,200	£1,200	£1,200
Youth & Children's Work Expenditure	£600	£1,206	£1,000

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE PCC OF ST. BRIDE'S OLD TRAFFORD

I report on the financial statements of the PCC for the year ended 31st December 2024, which are set out on pages 21 to 23

RESPECTIVE RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE PCC AND THE EXAMINER

As members of the PCC you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements; you consider that an audit is not required for this year under the Regulation and under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011(the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed. It is my responsibility to issue this report on;

- those financial statements under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- follow the procedures laid down in the general directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

This report, including my statement, has been prepared for and only for the charity's trustee as a body. My work has been undertaken so that I might state to the charity's trustee those matters I am required to state to them in an independent examiner's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, I do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's trustee as a body for my examination work, for this report, or for the statements I have made.

BASIS OF THIS REPORT

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the PCC and a comparison of the financial statements presented with those records. It also includes considering any unusual items or disclosures in the financial statements and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the financial statements present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S STATEMENT

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

- which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
    - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
    - to prepare financial statements which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 and have not been met; or
    - to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the financial statements to be reached.

• **SIGNED** John T. Holdsworth BA, CEd

Date 1/3/2025

John Thomas Holdsworth BA, C Ed.

15 Lynmouth Avenue, Flixton, M41 6FB

St Bride's Church

The Project

Written by	Linda Penrose	Date:	5/03/2025

The Project has continued to run for the whole of 2024.

We met fortnightly and provided the asylum seekers with money. The British Red Cross have continued to offer face to face case work despite considerable staff changes.

We have continued to serve hot food, cooked each week by volunteer asylum seekers and served to people in their seats by more volunteer service users. It has been wonderful to partner in this way.

We continue to have a prayer time at 11.30 am before opening at 12.00 – sometimes with prayers in up to 5 languages.

We had a wonderful celebration meal for Refugee week with food from all over the world.

At Christmas we were treated to Ethiopian Christmas fare and each service user received a Christmas gift. Many thanks to all the people who worked together to make that happen.

Grace and Mark continue to do amazing work with the clothes stall, sorting and sourcing secondhand clothes and new underwear. Thank you for your hard work.

We have also partnered with Reboot to provide new fitted shoes for service users.

As usual there are many people to thank for helping to keep things going, so if you are one of them, please consider yourself thoroughly thanked.

Also, thanks to Big Breakfast who have continued to fundraise for us, not batting an eyelid when BRC changed their financing suddenly and drastically. The Big Breakfast raised over £1000 immediately and has continued to do so monthly. Thank you. You are a true blessing to us.

Throughout the year we have been delighted to have former service users return to celebrate with us when their applications have been accepted.

Bizzy B's

Written by	Clare Myring	Date:	18/03/2025

All ready!

2024 was a year that saw a lot of changes at Bizzy B's behind the scenes, but I'm happy to say the little people who come with their parents and carers were not affected and continue to come and enjoy Friday mornings filled with play, fun, friendship and love.

Our first two terms followed the normal routine, with Mother's Day and Father's Day marked with chocolate gifts, and Easter with the telling of the Easter story at Singing Time, and of course, Easter eggs for everyone. However, our team leader Charlotte Bushell gave us notice with sadness that she was returning to work full-time and would not be continuing in September. We are so grateful to Charlotte for her love for Bizzy B's and her hard work, leadership, and example. You can be sure the team has missed her.

In the summer Linda Penrose and I stepped up to share overall responsibility for Bizzy B's, but we really cannot do it without the ongoing support of our lovely volunteers. Barbara and Natalie provide endless brews and the appreciated fruit and toast for Snack Time.

Emma is our all-rounder, doing a bit of everything as needed. John organises the getting out of the equipment, with the help of people who come early (especially Razia), and putting this away. We now have a team taking it in turns to do Singing Time: Jayne, Hannah, Andy, Jenni, and Ron have all had a go! Linda and I guard the door to welcome everyone and prevent escapes! Everyone has done an amazing job, and we cannot thank you enough for the way we all work together to make sure the children have fun and the grownups can relax.

We had a maximum of 59 adults bringing 66 children in one week, but we average around 50 children who come each week. We collected food for the Booth Centre and MSC Food Bank in October to mark Harvest time and we celebrated Christmas with a visit from Wiggle the Worm who told the Christmas story (with the help of Jo Haslem, Manchester Diocese Early Years Advisor) and provided a gift of board books (The Nativity) for the children.

Jo told us one of the parents said, despite the mayhem going on all around, she finds Bizzy B's a calm and peaceful place, a refuge. Someone told me it is a sanctuary. It is our prayer that everyone who comes through the door will be blessed and know the love of God.

In action! Bizzy B's Photo's Nov/Dec 2024 (Permissions given)

St Bride's Church

Welcome & Warm Space

Written by	Peter Matthews	Date:	January 2025

Welcome Space has been running most Tuesdays from noon until 2 p.m., and often a bit longer, throughout the year. It provides a welcoming environment where anyone can come to sit, chat, or simply enjoy some peace and quiet. There's always food and drink available — mostly snacks, but occasionally something more substantial, like cheese on toast with salad.

While we haven't seen large crowds, a small core group of 8 to 10 regular attendees has formed, and on one occasion, we welcomed over 20 visitors. Being open and accessible has also led to people dropping by to ask about community services or church events. We've had opportunities to give away a couple of Bibles and pray with individuals for various needs.

Over the year we've seen relationships deepen and strengthen, and it's clear that Welcome Space has become a valued part of the week for some. When we've had to close, it's been noticeably missed.

To continue running effectively, we need more volunteers, particularly Christians, ideally from local churches. Looking ahead, it would be wonderful to reintroduce a Christian small group that could meet after Welcome Space. This would provide an opportunity to guide interested attendees toward deeper connections and faith-based discussions while they're already available.

On a personal note, I've found Welcome Space to be a fantastic way to get to know people better—not just through shared meals or playing the tabletop games available but also by serving alongside them.

St Bride's Church

Prayer Report

Written by	Jenni WIlliams	Date:	February 2025

We believe as a church that prayer should be central in all that we do. It is an important part of our faith and helps us to develop and deepen our personal relationship with Jesus and as a fellowship together.

There continues to be regular opportunities to meet to pray outside of Sunday mornings. People have gathered regularly on Monday and Wednesday mornings and on Monday evenings to pray.

People have requested prayers in different ways which have included the prayer box within church, the prayer email address and the prayer WhatsApp group. This has enabled us to pray for specific requests when needed.

We have offered and prayed for people during the service.

Thank you to all who led the prayers during the Sunday morning service, it has been very much appreciated.

I would like to ask for more people to get involved with leading the prayers during the service.

If you feel you would like help, please come and talk to me as support and guidance can be given if required.

Thank you for taking the time to read our annual report. We ask that you continue to pray for us as a church as we enter into this next annual year.

If you feel prompted or would like to support some of the projects or groups that happen throughout the week then please don't be afraid to get in touch.

May the Lord bless you and keep you in His eternal love.

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST BRIDE'S, OLD TRAFFO

England & Wales - Charity number 1146679

Accounts

St Bride's Church

Annual Report 2023

Charity Number: 1146679
Address: St Bride's Church, St Brides Way, Manchester, M16 9NW
Website URL: https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/15896/

St Bride's Church

St Bride's Church, Old Trafford Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Sunday 21st April 2024 at 10:30am

Our Annual Church Meeting is an opportunity to deal with the business of the church, to discuss issues that are concerned with our community life, and to think creatively about our future as we follow God's leading. Inside this booklet are reports on the activities of the church, which I ask you to read, and so be able to come to the meeting with well prepared questions and ideas for discussion.

Thank you for all that you have done and contributed during this past year, but, most of all, thank you for being part of the family here at St Bride's. "So then, have your minds ready for action. Keep alert and set your hope completely on the blessing which will be given you when Jesus Christ is revealed." – 1 Peter 1:13 (GNB)

ST BRIDE'S CHURCH
St Bride's Way, Manchester, M16 9NW
Parish Office: 0161-226 3047 | Email: admin@stbrides.uk

RECTOR: REV'D PETER MATTHEWS
St Bride's Rectory, 33 Shrewsbury Street, Manchester, M16 9BB
Tel: 0161-226 1251 | Email: peter@stbrides.uk

ORDAINED LOCAL MINISTER: REV'D VIV ECCLES
c/o St Bride's Parish Office, St. Bride's Way, Manchester, M16 9NW
Tel: 0161-226 3047 | Email: viv@stbrides.uk

CHURCHWARDENS 2022/2023:
(vacant)

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL SECRETARY 2022/2023
Nathan Gonzalez, 8 Belmont Street, Old Trafford, Manchester, M16 9JW.
Tel: N/A | Email: nathan@stbrides.uk

BANKERS:
Royal Bank of Scotland, Drummond House Branch, 1 Redhaughs Avenue,
EDINBURGH, EH12 9JN.

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER:
Mr. John Holdsworth B.A., F.C.C.A., C.Ed.

The Parochial Church Council is registered charity **no. 1146679**

Contents	Page
Rector's Introduction	5
Agenda For Annual Meetings	6
Annual Meeting of Parishioners Minutes	8
Annual Parochial Church Meeting Minutes	9
Electoral Roll Report	12
Secretary to the PCC Report	13
Fabric and Health & Safety Report	14
Safeguarding Report	15
Parish Policy On Safeguarding Children	17
Parish Policy On Safeguarding Adults	18
Treasurer Report	19
The Project	27
Bizzy B's	28
Welcome & Warm Space	32
Church Administrator Report	34
Prayer Report	36

Rectors Introduction

Welcome to our St Bride's Report for the year 2023. Inside you will find descriptions of some of the things we have been doing and you will also find our financial statements and important policy documents. Don't let this put you off! Please read and enjoy as this document is kept as a record of who and what we are and what we are about.

It has been brilliant to see so many new people becoming part of us, coming from diverse backgrounds has given us opportunities to hear different languages in our gatherings - as well as enjoy different wonderful foods - barbeques can never be the same!

Our theme for the year was Closer and so most of our sermons were about how we are called from afar to follow Jesus, getting closer to him to then remain there while resting in his presence and so abiding in him.

The big change for me, and so bringing change to St Bride's, is that in May I became Rector of St John the Evangelist on Ayres Road, holding it in plurality with St Bride's. For me this means two churches and two PCCs. I began by being at one church on a Sunday rather than flitting backwards and forwards. This means I can be there for conversations after the service and for any other Sunday events, but it also means I am not at St Bride's for half of all Sundays and in the week, I am not always available. It has been good to see the growth in relationships that have occurred as so many are welcoming and helping new people become settled.

My hopes for 2024? That we grow ever closer to Jesus and each other as we encourage and build one another up while ministering to those around us.

Thank you for all you have been doing and for being part of this church family. God bless you. Peter.

Agenda for Annual Meeting

Meeting of Parishioners (Open to everyone on the Electoral Roll plus all Local Government Electors in the Parish)

1. Prayer
2. Apologies for absence
3. Minutes of the 2022 meeting (These minutes were approved by the PCC on 30th May, 2022)
4. Election of Churchwardens for 2024/2025 Churchwardens are PCC members ex officio.
5. Annual Parochial Church Meeting (Open to everyone on the Electoral Roll of the Church. Non-voting observers are welcome.)
6. Apologies for absence
7. Minutes of the 2022 (These minutes were approved by the PCC on 30th May, 2022)
8. Identification of issues for discussion at the APCM or future PCC meetings (Anyone on the Electoral Roll may suggest an item for discussion, but PLEASE be sure to let Peter Matthews or Nathan Gonzalez have notice of the item in advance)
9. Rector's Report
10. Report of Electoral Roll
11. Report of Secretary to the PCC
12. Officer Report from PCC Report on Fabric
13. Report of Parish Safeguarding Officer
14. Parish Policy on Safeguarding Children
15. Parish Policy on Safeguarding Adults
16. Report of Treasurer and Presentation of Accounts for 2023 Independent Examiner for 2023/2024
17. Report for The Project
18. Report of Bizzy B's
19. Report for Welcome and Warm Space

20. Report of Church Administration
21. Report for Prayer

22. Election of 1 Deanery Synod Representatives (for 3 years)

23. Election of 2 Members of the Parochial Church Council

24. Selection of Sidespeople

25. Issues for discussion at the APCM (as identified above)

26. Praying for the work of the church

St Bride's Church

Meeting of Parishioners Minutes

Date:	23rd April 2023
Attendance:	Nathan Gonzalez (NG) Linda Penrose (LP) Chara Hosie (CH) John Hosie (JH) Jeanette Mclaughin (JM) Anthony Taivino (AT) MJ Sharp (MS) Maxine Kohyte (MK) Scott Hewitt (SH) Cannie Fung Waizz (CFW) Savio Chin (SC) Letty Chin (LC) Solomon Adebayo (SA) Doug Matthews (DM) Karl Matthews (KM) Bex Matthews (BM) Rachel LI (RL) Koay Wang (KW) Teresa C (TC) Pheba C (PC) Penny Matthews (PM) Anthea Thompson (AT) Alma Weeks (AW) Ann-Marie WIlliams (AMW) Angela Cooper (AC) Roger Gill (RG) Ambrina Gill (AG) Laura Crossman (LC) Susie Crossman (SC) John Myring (JM) Clare Myring (CM) Sarah Myring (SM) Lynda Sterling (LS) Peter Matthews (PM) Libby Adderly (LA) Jenni Williams (JW) Susanna Hewitt (SH)
Apologies:	Graham Cooper (GC) Viv Eccles (VE) Rob Eccles (RE)

Meeting Minutes:

Meeting of Parishioners (Open to everyone on the Electoral Roll plus all Local Government Electors in the Parish).

1. Prayer
2. Apologies for absence

One Notice of absence sent from GC emailed through on 20.04.2023

3. Corrections for Annual Report

Rev'd not rev for Viv Eccles
PCC Secretary is Nathan Gonzalez
Page 11 paragraph 2 Safeguarding report: no 'in'

4. Minutes of the APM 2021 meeting (These minutes were approved by the PCC on 5th May, 2022)

5. Election of Churchwardens for 2022/2023 Churchwardens are PCC members ex officio.

No Candidates stood for Churchwarden - No Candidates elected for church warden.

6. Psalm 16
7. Worship
8. Reading: Luke 24:13-35
9. Talk
10. Peace

St Bride's Church

Annual Parochial Church Meeting Minutes

Date:	23rd April 2023
Attendance:	Nathan Gonzalez (NG) Linda Penrose (LP) Chara Hosie (CH) John Hosie (JH) Jeanette Mclaughin (JM) Anthony Taivino (AT) MJ Sharp (MS) Maxine Kohyte (MK) Scott Hewitt (SH) Cannie Fung Waizz (CFW) Savio Chin (SC) Letty Chin (LC) Solomon Adebayo (SA) Doug Matthews (DM) Karl Matthews (KM) Bex Matthews (BM) Rachel LI (RL) Koay Wang (KW) Teresa C (TC) Pheba C (PC) Penny Matthews (PM) Anthea Thompson (AT) Alma Weeks (AW) Ann-Marie WIlliams (AMW) Angela Cooper (AC) Roger Gill (RG) Ambrina Gill (AG) Laura Crossman (LC) Susie Crossman (SC) John Myring (JM) Clare Myring (CM) Sarah Myring (SM) Lynda Sterling (LS) Peter Matthews (PM) Libby Adderly (LA) Jenni Williams (JW) Susanna Hewitt (SH)
Apologies:	Graham Cooper (GC) Viv Eccles (VE) Rob Eccles (RE)

Annual Parochial Church Meeting (Open to everyone on the Electoral Roll of the Church. Non-voting observers are welcome).

1. Minutes of the APCM 2021 (These minutes were approved by the PCC on 5th May 2022)

2. Identification of issues for discussion at the APCM or future PCC meetings (Anyone on the Electoral Roll may suggest an item for discussion, but PLEASE be sure to let Peter Matthews or Nathan Gonzalez have notice of the item by Wednesday, 20th April 2023.)

3. Rector's Report

PM Mentioned about the changes to his role and being in plurality with St John's Church, Old Trafford and his time now being split.

4. Report of Electoral Roll

CM We have an idea of the numbers that are members. You must be over 16 and worshiped here for 6 months or longer.

5. Report of Secretary to the PCC

6. Officer Report from PCC Report on Fabric

GC sent Questions in advance regarding the report on fabric. Regarding the future proposal for the door system.
PM Raised the issue of not having church wardens to help with maintenance of the church.
It is not PM's role to maintain the church, he is a church leader.

A big thank you to Susanna Hewitt for time contributed to help sorting some maintenance of the building.
Thank you to all who have done stuff around the building.

7. Report of Parish Safeguarding Officer

PM thanked AC for her work as Safeguarding Officer.

8. Parish Policy on Safeguarding Children

This was read out in the meeting.

9. Parish Policy on Safeguarding Adults

This was read out in the meeting.

10. Report of Treasurer and Presentation of Accounts for 2022 Independent Examiner for 2023/2024

CM raised that LP and CM have been joint treasurers.
CM mentioned that JM has been supporting them with all the financial work for the past year. CM expressed thanks to JM for his support.
CM raised the JM cannot be the treasurer 'forever'.
JM has expressed his intention to stand as PCC treasurer for next year (2023/2024)
CM thanked everyone who financially gave to the church.
CM reminded us of the truth that 'God Provides'.

Deuteronomy 14:22-29 - Our giving is an act of worship.
1 Peter 5: 7

JM suggests to the church to think about our 'tithe' and what we can give to the church.
JM reminded the church that we do accept church via standing orders, Contactless donation machine and cash.
JM reminded we can complete a Gift Aid Report

The Independent Examiner is John Holdsworth and has said yes to continuing.
PM thanks him, CM, LP and JM for their hard work.

11. Report of Small Groups (Create 'n' Connect)

12. Report of Bizzy B's

PM thanked Charlotte for her work as the lead of Bizzy B's.
PM mentioned that Charlotte is stepping down and encouraged us to pray for the next leader whoever it may be going forward.

13. Report of Cross Yoga

14. Verbal Report of Prayer from Chara Hosie

Prayer is happening in St Brides and God is at work.
Formal times of Prayer - During the Services (E.G Prayer for Ukraine), Monday Evenings at 7pm,

Monday - Thursday 9am Morning Prayers (Uses the C of E Daily Prayer and Praying through prayer requests from the post box)
CH mentioned other times of prayer such as before the project and Bizzy B's
Prayer walking is happening on a Wednesday at 7:30am
2x 24-hour prayer times that happened this year
Others have been involved in leading at Manchester House Of Prayer. If you would like to know more speak to Jenni Williams or Susanna Hewitt.
CH mentioned that JW is exploring the ALM pathway in Prayer.
CH mentioned that Cross Yoga has been useful in supporting the contemplation in prayer.
CH mentioned the Lectio Prayer app that people can also use for their prayer.

15. The Project

PM thanked LP for her work on the project

16. Report of Church Administration

NG Thanked everyone for their work and support so far.

17. Election of 2 Deanery Synod Representatives (for 3 years)

Susanna Hewitt Elected as Deanery Synod Rep. Unopposed

18. Election of 4 Members of the Parochial Church Council

Re Election Linda Penrose
Newly Elected Ann Marie Williams and Anthea Thompson

PM thanked everyone on PCC for their hard work this year.

19. Praying for the work of the church

CH Led us in Prayer with the Lords Prayer

20. Meeting Closed in worship

St Bride's Church

Electoral Roll Report

Written by	Nathan Gonzalez & Clare Myring	Date	21.04.2024

The Electoral Roll for St Bride's Church on 21st April 2024 numbered 50 people.
There have been no changes since the last APCM.

In 2023 we have had 4 new families join the church, with a total of 10 new people becoming regular members. These changes are not yet reflected on the Electoral Roll.

So we have a working electoral roll of 50 people.

Nathan Gonzalez (PCC Secretary) & Clare Myring (Electoral Roll Officer)

St Bride's Church

Secretary to the PCC

Written by	Nathan Gonzalez	Date	27.02.2024

1. At the beginning of 2022 the elected members of the P.C.C were Susanna Hewitt, Linda Penrose, Douglas Matthews, Nathan Gonzalez, Chara Hosie, Clare Myring, Viv Eccles
2. Appointed to PCC in the APCM of April 2023, Ann Marie Williams, and Anthea Tompson.
3. Appointed to PCC as Deanery Synod Representative in the APCM of April 2023, Susanna Hewitt
4. Still no Appointed Church Warden and 1 Deanery Synod Representative position.
5. The PCC appointed Nathan Gonzalez to office as PCC secretary. Linda Penrose as Vice Chair. John Myring Co Opted onto the PCC to the office of Treasurer.
6. The PCC met on 6 Occasions. All in person for PCC members other than Viv Eccles Who could not be present with us but attended over Zoom.
7. PCC Standing Committee met on 6 occasions between PCC meetings to deal with urgent business and to agree to the PCC Agenda.
8. Each Meeting included prayer, worship and or a Bible reading, routine reports on finance, safeguarding, small group projects, Mission, Health and Safety, and contributions from Nathan Gonzalez regarding Church Administration who is no longer in post. Each meeting concluded with a review and prayer.
9. Other business considered by PCC included business regarding building use and space hire with Ramp Church.

Nathan Gonzalez, PCC Secretary

St Bride's Church

Fabric and Health & Safety Report

Written by	Peter Matthews	**Date**	12.03.2024

The church building has become a place of leaks due in part to bad quality of build, poor design of drainage and buildup of debris in the gutters which needs removing regularly. Without church wardens we haven't had anyone who has been able to concentrate on keeping up to date with tasks and so to then deal with some long standing issues. While Nathan was administrator, he was able to begin organising some of what needed doing yet as we go into 2024 the eight years of building use are showing their toll on the fabric. The space is excellent and enjoyed by many and we hope to improve on our care and maintenance of this wonderful resource that we thoroughly believe God has gifted us.

There were no major health or safety issues to report, just some minor injuries mostly in the kitchen with abrasions and small burns.

St Bride's Church

Safeguarding Report

Written by	Angela Cooper	Date	06.02.2024

1. **Responsibilities**

The Church of England is committed to the protection of all children and adults, especially those who may be vulnerable, for example due to illness or disability. St Bride's has adopted safeguarding policies which should be reviewed at the A.P.C.M each year. The policies help us to create a safe environment for both children and vulnerable people. They are designed to ensure that volunteers are better prepared to respond to suspicion or allegation of abuse whether the alleged abuse is outside or within the church; also, that the risk be reduced of someone using a position in the church to exploit a person. Safe recruitment and training procedures are in place to enable high standards of care.

2. **No-one should drift into helping**

Any vacancies should be advertised with a job description. Volunteers need to make a 'Confidential Declaration' regarding their suitability to be involved in the area of work. The volunteer is required to make a paper application and references will be taken up. There needs to be an interview and if the person appears to be suitable for the role an application can be made to the Disclosure and Barring Service. The Safeguarding Officer is informed of anything that would make the person unsuitable for the role. **The volunteer is then required to take complete on-line training prior to taking on their new role; this involves both Basic and Foundation training and applies to Children's Workers, Church Wardens, and PCC members. These are available via the following link: https://safeguardingtraining.cofeportal.org/ Anyone who struggles with technology should contact Amanda on 0161 828 1465 to book a face-to-face training session at St John's House,155-163 The Rock, Bury, BL9 0ND.** A record of agreement is signed, and they receive a copy of our 'Good Practice' guidelines.

3. **Support**

Working as teams and offering encouragement and constructive criticism is the best safeguard against poor morale and slipping standards.

4. **Risks**

If the church does not strive to adhere to the policy, the church's insurance company may refuse to deal with a claim by a child that he or she has been harmed by the negligence of someone acting on behalf of the church. By their hiring agreement the Arabic Church undertakes to follow our child protection policy.

5. **Practicalities**

The safeguarding board has the Children's and Vulnerable Adult's Safeguarding Policies on display as required by the Diocese. The Safeguarding Officer's photograph and contact telephone number are also on display (also required by the Diocese).

A copy of the Diocesan Safeguarding Policy is available in the church foyer where anyone can access it if they so wish.

The church website includes Safeguarding information.

Angela Cooper (Parish Safeguarding Administrator)

St Bride's Church

Parish Policy On Safeguarding Children

Written by	Angela Cooper	**Adopted**	May 2017

This statement was agreed at the Parochial Church Council meeting held on 8th May 2017.
It will be read at the Annual General Meeting held in the month of April each year where progress in carrying it out will be monitored.

Children and young people are part of our church. They have much to give as well as to receive. We will listen to them. As we nurture them in worship, learning, and community life, we will take into account the wishes and feelings of children and young people.

- 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, or to prevent the continuation of, any physical, sexual, and emotional abuse of children and young people of which we become aware, and to report any abuse discovered or suspected.
- We recognize that our work with children and young people is the responsibility of the whole church.
- 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 observe 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 P.C.C. has appointed Angela Cooper to be the Parish Safeguarding Officer from April, 2018.

St Bride's Church

Policy on the Safeguarding of Adults in the Church

Written by	Angela Cooper	**Adopted:**	May 2017

This statement was adopted by St. Bride's Church at a Parochial Church Council meeting held on 8th May 2017

This policy will be reviewed each year to monitor the progress which has been achieved.

1. 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.
2. As members of this parish we commit ourselves to respectful pastoral care for all adults to whom we minister.
3. We commit ourselves to the safeguarding of people who may be vulnerable, ensuring their well-being in the life of this church.
4. We commit ourselves to promoting safe practice by those in positions of trust.
5. The parish commits itself to promoting the inclusion and empowerment of people who may be vulnerable.
6. 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.
7. We undertake to exercise proper care in the appointment and selection of those who will work with people who may be vulnerable.
8. The parish is committed to supporting, resourcing, training and regularly reviewing those who undertake work amongst people who may be vulnerable.
9. The parish adopts the guidelines of the Church of England and the Diocese.
10. Each person who works with vulnerable people will agree to abide by these recommendations and the guidelines established by this church.

St Bride's Church

Treasurers Report for Year to 31 st December 2023

Written by	John Myring	**Date:**	04.03.2024

Managing the Finances of the Church is an ongoing challenge; I would like to hope that it will get easier, but I fear it will be an ongoing challenge.

During 2023 whilst regular giving continues its slow decline, we have been blessed with opportunities to generate income from people wanting to use the Building. Unfortunately, the running costs have escalated, with energy, maintenance and other regular running costs increasing by 80% in just a year.

The Financial impact of this has meant that in 2023 we have an overall deficit £2,200 compared to the previous years' surplus of £4,600. The General Fund is responsible for this loss; the Project working with the Red Cross in supporting Asylum seekers shows a small deficit, mainly due to the timing of receipts from Fundraising efforts of the Big Breakfast Team, whilst the Youth and Children's Fund continues to grow, although this growth has now slowed.

General Fund

The General Fund is where the day-to-day Income and Expenditure of keeping the Church running.

is recorded. In 2023 our running costs exceeded our income by £2,300, a small increase from the deficit of £750 in 2022. Overall income increased £12,800, an encouraging 34%. Year on year Regular Giving to Church declined further by 6%, a trend that seems likely to happen into 2024. And as a consequence, our related Gift Aid income is smaller. Income from the use of the building more than trebled against the previous year; our challenge is now to sustain that level of income in coming years. We were also blessed by a one-off grant from the Diocese of £2,800 to help with the energy costs explosion that all Churches suffered. Collections, Fundraising, and other donations show small increases over 2022. Overall, our income was up 31% on the previous year, but this did not cover the 34% increase in our running costs.

An increase of £14,400 in expenditure is higher running costs in most areas. Energy Costs increased 75% year on year (these have now been capped and are beginning to decline). Maintenance costs are up by 80% and show no signs of declining and our Parish Share contribution (being our single largest cost) was 10% higher. Gas & Electric costs increased a staggering £650 per month over the previous year. Opportunities for savings elsewhere were limited, so the year-on-year increase in expenditure was 34%.

The deficit of £2,300 in the year reduced the level of the General Fund to £12,810 at the year end, leaving the General Fund in a reasonable position. The continuing high level of fuel costs and maintenance expenditure that are included in the 2024 give much concern over the future financial health of the Church.

The proposed Budget for 2024 attempts to reflect the impact of known and anticipated changes to activities in the Church and its Building. We continue to see reductions in regular giving from members of the Church; we can only pray that new people joining us may help and reverse this trend. Income from the use of the Church building will be much lower; the harsh reality is that we do not have the volunteers available to enable us to generate the income that we would like to from the building we have been blessed with. Overall, the Income in the proposed 2024 Budget shows a worrying 25% decrease versus the actual income for 2023.

Unfortunately, it doesn't seem realistic to forecast such a significant reduction in expenditure. Our Parish Share is now agreed for the next three years the challenge for us will be to meet it in full. Our energy costs have started to fall and are being closely monitored but are still a major part of our running costs. Maintenance costs continue to be a big uncertainty particularly relating to the roof of the Church building; there are a number of projects that could be done but the funding is not easily available.

Work continues in controlling running costs, but the emphasis must be on increasing income to a satisfactory level. The proposed Budget, with full payment of the Parish Share, shows

there will be a significant deficit in 2024 of over £12,000; which will wipe out the General Reserve and is not a position that can be repeated in future years; we just won't have the money unless we increase our Income streams.

Designated Funds

Overall, these showed a balanced position in the year, but as usual this statement doesn't reflect fully the blessings and challenges in a number of areas: -

Youth and Children's Work – The Church has paused its Youth work and the ongoing activities with the Children have small running costs; we can plan going forward with sufficient resources.

St Brides Project – the Clients are attending every two weeks and being supported by cash donations, funded by the Red Cross, and from the efforts our wonderful friends at the Big Breakfast. Other funding is proving difficult to achieve so their efforts are really appreciated as they contributed over £10,000 in the year, which makes the work sustainable and enables us to top up the money provided by the Red Cross.

Other Funds – These funds are for income and related costs for Church activities that have taken place over the year.

We continue to thank God for his generosity and provision.

John Myring
PCC Treasurer
March 2024

St Bride's Church

General Fund - Budget 2024
12 Months to 31st December

Written by	John Myring	Date:	04.03.2024

		2023 Budget	2023 Actuals Full Year	2024 Budget Proposed
	INCOME			
Regular Giving - Church		£21,050	£24,149	£21,580
Collections Donations & Fund Raising		£2,240	£3,448	£3,840
Income from Use of Building		£7,025	£16,455	£9,130
Gift Aid Reclaimed		£5,450	£6,345	£5,890
Energy Grant from Diocese		£500	£2,830	£0
Energy Rebates (Solar)		£750	£770	£750
Total Income for Year		£37,015	£53,997	£41,190
	EXPENDITURE			
Parish Share		£20,335	£20,380	£20,465
Gas		£5,160	£9,800	£6,720
Electric		£9,000	£8,531	£6,292
Water		£300	£2,017	£1,050
Insurance		£1,722	£1,722	£1,744
Maintenance & Cleaning				
Maintenance & Decorating		£3,920	£5,682	£6,410
Cleaning Contract & Supplies		£240	£524	£1,320
Incumbents and Curates Expenses				
Vicars expenses		£510	£222	£300
Rectory Costs				
Council Tax		£2,280	£2,283	£2,400
Water Rates		£425	£767	£800
Office & Administration				
Church Office Phones & Internet		£810	£1,093	£1,020
Audit Fee		£250	£225	£250
Bank Charges		£420	£373	£360
Services & Mission				

Giving		£750	£0	£750
Alpha/Mission		£750	£25	£250
Church Breakfast		£500	£300	£500
CCLI & Other Licences		£500	£537	£550
Sundries		£2,400	£1,833	£2,400
Total Expenditure for Year		£50,272	£56,314	£53,581
Surplus/(Deficit) for Period		-£13,257	-£2,317	-£12,391

		2023 Income	2023 Expenditure		2022 Income	2022 Expenditure	
General Fund	Regular Giving	£24,149			£25,765		
	Gift Aid Claimed	£6,345			£6,471		
	Collections & Donations	£2,395			£2,235		
	Income from Use of Building	£16,455			£4,715		
	Fundraising & Other Income	£4,653			£1,963		
	General Fund Income	**£53,997**			**£41,149**		
	Parish Share		£20,380	£20,380		£18,420	£18,420
	Church Maintenance		£5,682			£3,153	
	Cleaning		£524			£136	
	Church Running - Gas		£9,800			£5,240	
	Church Running - Electric		£8,531			£5,226	
	Church Running - Insurance		£1,722			£1,581	
	Church Running - Water		£2,017	£28,276		£293	£15,629
	Working expenses of Incumbant		£222			£375	
	Rectory Council Tax		£2,283			£2,173	
	Rectory Water rates		£767	£3,272		£411	£2,959
	Parish Training & Mission		£25			£651	
	Giving to Other Organisations		£0			£0	
	Upkeep of Services		£537	£562		£533	£1,184
	Church Office Phones & Internet		£1,093			£1,011	
	Sundries		£2,506	£3,599		£2,472	£3,483
	Governance Costs		£225	£225		£225	£225
	General Fund Expenditure		**£56,314**	**£56,314**		**£41,900**	**£41,900**
Designated Funds							
Youth & Children's Work	Donations, Gift Aid & Other Income	£2,325			£2,756		
Destitution Project	Donations, Gift Aid & Other Income	£10,949			£17,193		
	Grants from Organisations	£1,500			£5,000		
	Re-imbursement of Running Costs	£14,296			£16,899		
Other Funds	Donations, Gift Aid & Other Income	£2,144			£1,322		
Youth & Children's Work	Youth & Children's Work Expenses		£265			£646	
Destitution Project	Project Running Costs		£28,590			£35,314	
Other Funds	Purchase of Equipment		£563			£187	
	Other Running Costs		£1,742			£1,633	
	Total Designated Funds	**£31,214**	**£31,160**		**£43,170**	**£37,780**	
	Total For Year	**£85,211**	**£87,474**		**£84,319**	**£79,680**	

St Brides Church Old Trafford

Income & Expenditure 12 months to 31st December 2023

Fund Name	Balance at 01/01/2023	Income	Expenditure	Balance at 31/12/2023
General Fund	£15,138	£53,997	£56,314	£12,821
St Brides Project (Red Cross)	£3,453	£26,745	£28,590	£1,608
Youth & Childrens Work	£15,845	£2,325	£265	£17,905
Other Designated Funds	£2,063	£2,144	£2,305	£1,902
Totals	**£36,499**	**£85,211**	**£87,474**	**£34,236**

Funds Represented by	01/01/2023	31/12/2023
Current Account	£500	£500
Deposit Account	£30,478	£25,733
Total	£30,978	£26,233
Accounts Receivable - British Red Cross	£2,138	£381
Accounts Receivable - HMRC Gift Aid	£3,383	£3,559
Accounts Receivable - Total Energies Gas A/c	£0	£2,381
Accounts Receivable - Various Church Users	£0	£1,682
Total Funds	£36,499	£34,236

St Bride's Church

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE PCC OF ST. BRIDE'S OLD TRAFFORD

I report on the financial statements of the PCC for the year ended 31st December 2023, which are set out on pages to .

RESPECTIVE RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE PCC AND THE EXAMINER

As members of the PCC you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements; you consider that an audit is not required for this year under the Regulation and under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011(the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed. It is my responsibility to issue this report on;

- those financial statements under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- follow the procedures laid down in the general directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

This report, including my statement, has been prepared for and only for the charity's trustee as a body. My work has been undertaken so that I might state to the charity's trustee those matters I am required to state to them in an independent examiner's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, I do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's trustee as a body for my examination work, for this report, or for the statements I have made.

BASIS OF THIS REPORT

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the PCC and a comparison of the financial statements presented with those records. It also includes considering any unusual items or disclosures in the financial statements and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the financial statements present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S STATEMENT

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

- which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
    - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
    - to prepare financial statements which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 and have not been met; or
    - to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the financial statements to be reached.

- **SIGNED** John T. Holdsworth BA, C.Ed.

Date 3rd April 2024.

John Thomas Holdsworth BA, C Ed.

15 Lynmouth Avenue, Flixton, M41 6FB

St Bride's Church

The Project

Written by	Linda Penrose	Date:	23.03.2024

The Project has continued to run for the whole of 2023. We have met fortnightly and provided the asylum seekers with money. The British Red Cross have continued to offer face to face case work despite considerable staff changes.

We have continued to serve hot food, cooked each week by volunteer asylum seekers and served to people in their seats by more volunteer service users. It has been wonderful to partner in this way. We continue to have a prayer time at 11.30am before opening at 12 – sometimes with prayers in up to 5 languages.

At Christmas we were treated to Ethiopian Christmas fare and each service user received a Christmas gift. Many thanks to all the people who worked together to make that happen.

As usual there are many people to thank for helping to keep things going, so if you are one of them please consider yourselves thoroughly thanked.

Also thanks to Big Breakfast who have continued to fundraise for us, without whose contribution we would be struggling as Trafford Housing Trust have been taken over by a company who do not offer community grants.

We had a great time celebrating refugee week .

Throughout the year we have been delighted to have former service users return to celebrate with us when their applications have been accepted.

Bizzy B's

Written by	Charlotte Bushell	**Date:**	16.04.2024

Bizzy B's is a popular place to be on a Friday morning! (There are about 50 children and their grown-ups.) Bizzy B's is a stay and play, pre-school group for any parents, carers, and their children in the Old Trafford area (M15 and M16 postcodes) held on Friday mornings at St. Bride's Church. The aim of the group is to provide a safe and welcoming place where families can come to spend time together, meet and connect with other people in the neighborhood who are at a similar life stage. Those who come not knowing anyone, are introduced to others in the group.

The volunteers kindly serve this community of Old Trafford and the leaders aim to show Jesus' love to everyone who comes to Bizzy B's. We've been really encouraged by how appreciative people are of Bizzy B's; people seem to enjoy the space at St. Bride's church as it's big, light, and bright and there is space to be outside.

We want Bizzy B's to always be outward focussed, so new people are welcomed in. We want it to be a diverse group of families reflecting the community of Old Trafford. And for it to be a safe place where people are comfortable at church because of the peace of the Holy Spirit and the love of Jesus the volunteers share.

The play equipment and toys are kept clean and in good working order. The garden space and outside equipment is always popular when it's dry. We have a song time, when we all come together at the end of the session and we have a snack time for the children and offer (much needed!) tea and coffee and some treats to grown-ups!

Throughout the Bizzy B's year, it's great to mark the Christian calendar and the positive seasonal celebrations to offer a change to what can become the repetitive rhythm of parenting little ones, to bring encouragement and opportunities to share Jesus' love. We invite the Bizzy B's community to church services and events throughout the year.

We marked Easter with a craft and explaining the significance of Easter for Christians. We've given flowers, gifts and cards of encouragement for Mother's and Father's Day, and at Christmas we had a special Bizzy B's gathering with treats, Christmas carols and time to share the real meaning of Christmas through the nativity story. We also gifted all the children a Christmas book to take home.

Our group of volunteers are faithful, fun and amazing people. Charlotte Bushell leads Bizzy B's with Linda Penrose and Clare Myring. John Myring kindly sets up and clears away for us. Barbara and Nat run the kitchen and Emma helps out with everything! We also have a few

volunteers from the Bizzy B's community, but more volunteers are always welcome, if you know anyone who would like to get involved, do get in touch! Charlotte will be stepping down from leading the team this summer, so please pray for the team as we look to recruit new volunteers and leaders.

St Bride's Bizzy B's

on your coming in and on your going out.

St Bride's

Bizzy Bee's

Fridays
10-
11.30am

Hullard Park

Stay and play, chat, make friends and have fun!

July
&
Aug

St Bride's Church

Welcome & Warm Space

Written by	Peter Matthews	Date:	13.3.2024

Welcome Space was Warm Space in the winter months! Both were the time for the church to be open on a Tuesday afternoon with free refreshments available throughout and a place for people to come to chat, or not, and to play some tabletop games if they like and a few people have come along to regularly help out.

A community exercise group began to use the main space for an hour when the weather was too bad for them to be in the park. The numbers haven't ever been high but there are plenty of times we get new people and visitors. The pile of bibles and gospels slowly goes down from these kind of events as people every now and then ask about them and if they can have one. We never refuse and we let them know they can come along to us to chat about anything interesting or confusing that they may find.

St Bride's Church

Church Administrators Report

Written by	Nathan Gonzalez	**Date:**	04.03.2024

Over the course of the past two years, we have seen a growth in regular revenue as a result of space hire in the church building. With this we have seen connections with social enterprises and local charities to support us in our mission and vision as a church who want to serve and love the local community and for people to come to know the presence of Christ who walks with us every day.

Though I write this report for the last APCM and am no longer the Church Administrator. The Church Administration is in a much better position than it was two years ago. Some achievements from last year include.

- Ramp Church
- GDPR Compliance and organisation of church records
- Invoices and Receipts for space hire
- Regular checking of Inbox and mailbox
- Writing and Updating Policies and Procedures.
- Formation of the Church Calendar

These are only some of the achievements as Administrator for St Brides and although I am no longer in post as of the end of 2023. It has been a privilege to have been able to support St Brides.

It is my recommendation to the PCC of 2024 - 2025.

- To really consider securing funding or allocating a budget and advertising for a Church Administrator to support and enable the church. I am aware cost is sometimes a worry for the future however It is my belief that having an

Administrator role will pay for itself and support the long term sustainability for the church.

- Complete and Accept a Church Business Plan or Strategic Plan to support with a clear vision and long term administrative and operational sustainability.

St Bride's Church

Prayer Report

Written by	Jenni WIlliams	**Date:**	15.04.2024

Prayer is extremely important in building our relationship with Jesus and as a church we believe it should be central in all that we do.

There have been regular opportunities to meet to pray outside of Sunday mornings, people have gathered regularly on Monday and Wednesday mornings and on Monday evenings to pray.

We have an email address and a prayer box where people have requested prayer for specific things.
We have offered and prayed for people during the service.

The prayer rota has been developed so more people can lead us in prayers on a Sunday Morning.

Thank you to all who have served in this way, it has been very much appreciated.

If you feel you would like to be involved in leading the prayers, please come and talk to me.

Jenni Williams

Thank you for taking the time to read our annual report. We ask that you continue to pray for us as a church as we enter into this next annual year.

If you feel prompted or would like to support some of the projects or groups that happen throughout the week then please don't be afraid to get intouch.

May the Lord Bless you and Keep you in his eternal love.

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST BRIDE'S, OLD TRAFFO

England & Wales - Charity number 1146679

Accounts

Annual Report 2022

St Bride's Church, Old Trafford Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Sunday 23rd April 2023 at 12.30pm

Our Annual Church Meeting is an opportunity to deal with the business of the church, to discuss issues that are concerned with our community life, and to think creatively about our future as we follow God's leading.

Inside this booklet are reports on the activities of the church, which I ask you to read, and so be able to come to the meeting with well prepared questions and ideas for discussion.

Thank you for all that you have done and contributed during this past year, but, most of all, thank you for being part of the family here at St Bride's.

"So then, have your minds ready for action. Keep alert and set your hope completely on the blessing which will be given you when Jesus Christ is revealed." – 1 Peter 1:13 (GNB)

ST BRIDE'S CHURCH
St Bride's Way, Manchester, M16 9NW
Parish Office: 0161-226 3047 | **Email:** admin@stbrides.uk

RECTOR: REV'D PETER MATTHEWS
St Bride's Rectory, 33 Shrewsbury Street, Manchester, M16 9BB
Tel: 0161-226 1251 | Email: peter@stbrides.uk

ORDAINED LOCAL MINISTER: REV. VIV ECCLES
c/o St Bride's Parish Office, St. Bride's Way, Manchester, M16 9NW
Tel: 0161-226 3047 | Email: viv@stbrides.uk

CHURCHWARDENS 2022/2023:
(vacant)

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL SECRETARY 2022/2023
Graham Cooper, 119, Northumberland Road, Manchester, M16 9PY.
Tel: 0161-872 4140 | Email: admin@stbrides.uk

BANKERS:
Royal Bank of Scotland, Drummond House Branch, 1 Redhaughs Avenue, EDINBURGH, EH12 9JN.

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER:
Mr. John Holdsworth B.A., F.C.C.A., C.Ed.

The Parochial Church Council is registered charity ***no. 1146679***

Contents

Rector's Introduction	2
Agenda For Annual Meetings	4
Annual Meeting of Parishioners Minutes	5
Annual Parochial Church Meeting Minutes	6
Electoral Roll Officer Report	8
Secretary to the PCC Report	9
Fabric and Health & Safety Report	10
Safeguarding Report	11
Parish Policy On Safeguarding Children	12
Parish Policy On Safeguarding Adults	13
Treasurer Report	14
Create 'n' Connect	20
Bizzy B's	22
Cross Yoga	24
Church Administrator Report	25
The Project	28

Rector's Introduction

Welcome to our St Bride's Report for the year 2022. Inside you will find descriptions of some of the things we have been doing and you will also find our financial statements and important policy documents. Don't let this put you off! Please read and enjoy as this document is kept as a record of who and what we are and what we are about.

I thank everyone for all your faithfulness in prayer, service and worship through the year as we all worked out our priorities and needs as things opened up from the pandemic and then had the effects upon us from the Russian invasion of Ukraine and the death of Queen Elizabeth II.

With all the changes happening around, both in the nation and in the world, it felt timely to look at Apostle Peter's and Apostle John's letters to the church. So at most of the Sunday services, we got to learn about being a Christian as an individual as well as how we should be growing up as a church through difficult times. As the year went by the layout of the church for Sundays evolved from still quite formal to being with the sofas and chairs arranged around tables and some tables for the, mostly, children to work on creative things so we could be all together worshipping, listening and praying. We had some special services with a baptism and a couple of reaffirmations of baptism with full immersion, a wedding and a special commemoration service for the late Queen Elizabeth II for which we had an open book of condolences for people to write in.

It was fantastic to see a couple of members become Authorised Lay Ministers this year after some training and so as a church, we were led into having Welcome Space which has brought us to connect with new people and to reconnect with others from the community and further afield. As we have tried new things we have seen opportunities to pray with people and to share the message of hope we have in Jesus - and there has been a lot of listening, chatting, tea and coffee drinking and eating. Who can resist Linda P's cakes and biscuits?! Because of this time, we have been able to stretch ourselves and run a Warm Space for Tuesdays and Wednesdays to serve the community by offering a free place to be when energy prices have skyrocketed. Some things haven't worked out the way we'd like but it's important to try them. A breakfast available most mornings didn't have much of a take-up but it did mean the kitchen and systems to use it were prepared and tweaked ready for the things we are now doing.

My hopes for 2023? That we will become closer to Jesus and that this will impact us not just as individuals but also as a church and how we relate to the community God has placed us in. I hope we see people transformed as they become Christians and grow in their relationship with God.

Thank you for what you have been able to do and for being you and being part of this church family. God bless you.

Peter Matthews *(Rector)*

Agenda For Annual Meetings

23rd April 2023

Meeting of Parishioners
(Open to everyone on the Electoral Roll plus all Local Government Electors in the Parish)

1 Prayer
2 Apologies for absence
3 Minutes of the 2022 meeting
These minutes were approved by the PCC on 5th May, 2022
4 Election of Churchwardens for 2023/2024
Churchwardens are PCC members ex officio.

Annual Parochial Church Meeting
(Open to everyone on the Electoral Roll of the Church. Non-voting observers are welcome)

1 Apologies for absence
2 Minutes of the 2022 meeting
These minutes were approved by the PCC on 5th May, 2022
3 Identification of issues for discussion at the APCM or future PCC meetings
Anyone on the Electoral Roll may suggest an item for discussion, but PLEASE be sure to let Peter Matthews or Nathan Gonzalez have notice of the item by Wednesday, 19th April, 2022.
4.1 Rector's Introduction
4.2 Report of Electoral Roll Officer
4.3 Report from PCC
4.4 Report on Fabric
4.5 Report of Parish Safeguarding Officer
4.6 Parish Policy on Safeguarding Children
4.7 Parish Policy on Safeguarding Adults
5.1 Report of Treasurer and Presentation of Accounts for 2022 and
5.2 Independent Examiner for 2023/2024
6.1 Report of Small Groups
6.2 Report of Bizzy B's
6.3 Report of Cross Yoga
6.4 Report of Church Administration
7 Election of 2 Deanery Synod Representatives *(for 3 years)*
8 Election of 4 Members of the Parochial Church Council
9 Selection of Sidespeople
10 Issues for discussion at the APCM *(as identified above)*
11 Praying for the work of the church

Annual Meeting of Parishoners Minutes

24th April 2022

In Attendance:
Kwami Ankrah, Angela Cooper, Graham Cooper *(minutes)*, Rachel Dean, Nathan Gonzalez, Susanna Hewitt, Jeanette McLaughlin, Douglas Matthews, Penny Matthews, Rev. Peter Matthews *(chair)*, Clare Myring, John Myring, Linda Penrose, Ann-Marie Williams, Jenni Williams.

Apologies were received from:
Robert Eccles, Rev. Vivien Eccles, Scott Hewitt, Chara Hosie.

1 Rev. Peter Matthews opened the meeting in prayer.
2 The minutes of the meeting held on 18th April, 2021, which had been approved by the Parochial Church Council on 10th May, 2020, were approved.
3 There were no nominations for candidates for election as churchwardens for the year 2022/2023.

Annual Parochial Church Meeting Minutes

24th April 2022

In Attendance:
Kwami Ankrah, Angela Cooper, Graham Cooper *(minutes)*, Rachel Dean, Robert Eccles *(by Zoom)*, Rev. Vivien Eccles *(by Zoom)*, Nathan Gonzalez, Susanna Hewitt, Jeanette McLaughlin, Douglas Matthews, Penny Matthews, Rev. Peter Matthews *(chair)*, Clare Myring, John Myring, Linda Penrose, Ann-Marie Williams, Jenni Williams.

1 **Apologies were received from:**
Scott Hewitt, Chara Hosie.

2 The minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting held on 18th April, 2021, which had been approved by the Parochial Church Council on 10th May, 2021, were approved.

3 No items for discussion had been notified in advance to the chair or to the secretary.

Officers' Reports

4.1 Rev. Peter Matthews read the Policy Statement on Children, Young People and the Church of St. Bride's, Old Trafford, which with the appointment of Angela Cooper as safeguarding officer, was approved by the P.C.C. on 10th May, 2021.

4.2 Rev. Peter Matthews read the Church's Policy on Safeguarding of Adults in the Church, which was approved by the P.C.C. on 10th May, 2021. He expressed his thanks to Angela Cooper for her work behind the scenes.

4.3 The reports of the Rector including Fabric, and of the Electoral Roll Officer, the Secretary to the P.C.C., and the Safeguarding Officer were received.

Finance

5.1 John Myring presented the annual financial report adding that during the Covid-19 pandemic the financial position of St. Bride's Church, the Diocese of Manchester, and the Church of England had deteriorated seriously, and with reduced income and rapidly rising costs St. Bride's Church did not have sufficient money in the general account to pay the regular instalments of the parish share to the Diocese. He said that only about 40% of church members were giving regularly from their personal income. He confirmed that he was not standing for re-election to the P.C.C., and he would not continue as church treasurer, as he had previously indicated over 2 years, but he would try to train his successor.

5.2 He proposed the reception of the report and the appointment of John Holdsworth as Independent Examiner for the forthcoming year. Proposed by John Myring, seconded by Graham Cooper, carried unanimously.

Reports of Activities

6.1 The reports on Prayer Ministry, Small Groups, and Bizzy B's, were received.

6.2 Peter Matthews drew attention to the re-naming of the Destitution Project as the Project, and a report on the Project was received.

6.3 Peter Matthews reported that the Big Breakfast was being constituted as a separate charitable organisation. John Myring reported that the Big Breakfast was raising significant contributions to the funding of the Project.

Elections

7.1 There were no lay candidates nominated for the 2 vacancies to represent the church with the clergy on the new larger deanery of Manchester South and Stretford.

7.2 The following 3 lay people were elected to sit on the Parochial Church Council for 3 years leaving 1 vacancy for 2 years caused by the resignation of Rowena Ablett:
Nathan Gonzalez, Clare Myring, Ann-Marie Williams

7.3 There were no items requested for discussion.

7.4 Church members joined in prayer.

Electoral Roll Officer Report

The Electoral Roll for St Bride's Church on 31st December 2022 numbered 66 people.

There have been some changes since the last APCM, which will be reflected in the roll by the time the next meeting happens in April 2023.

At the time of writing 15 people appear to no longer be members of St Bride's, due to changing churches or moving away from the district, and one of our family is now with God.

So we have a working electoral roll of 50 people.

Clare Myring *(Electoral Roll Officer)*

Secretary to the PCC Report

1. At the beginning of 2021 the elected members of the PCC were Susanna Hewitt, Linda Penrose, Douglas Matthews, Kwami Ankrah, and Chara Hosie.
2. Appointed to PCC in the APCM of April 2022, Nathan Gonzalez, Clare Myring and Viv Eccles.
3. Still no Appointed Church Warden and Deanery Synod Representatives.
4. The PCC appointed Nathan Gonzalez to office as PCC secretary. Linda Penrose as Vice Chair. Linda Penrose and Clare Myring as Co Treasurers. Clare Myring as Electoral Roll Officer.
5. The PCC met on 6 Occasions. All in person for PCC members other than Viv Ecces Who could not be present with us, but attended over Zoom.
6. The PCC Standing Committee met on 6 occasions between PCC meetings to deal with urgent business and to agree to the PCC Agenda.
7. Each Meeting included prayer, worship and or a Bible reading, routine reports on finance, safeguarding, Small group projects, Mission, Health and Safety, and contributions from the Church Administrator managing day to day operations. Each meeting concluded with a review and prayer.
8. Also in attendance at PCC meetings this year was Ordinand in Training Sweetline Burnell and Ann Marie Williams.
9. Other business considered by PCC included Various Policies such as 'Lone Working Policy', business regarding building use and space hire with our new neighbours 'In Health' and also Mission discussions around 'MSC Food Bank', Children and Youth, how we are to move forward with Church services on youtube and a church Strategic Business Plan.

   Nathan Gonzalez *(Secretary to the PCC)*

Fabric and Health & Safety Report

Thank you to everyone who has helped out and supported the upkeep and maintenance of the building. Thanks to collective hard work the building has been cleaned on multiple church cleaning days and other occasions by amazing people who have got a lot done in relatively short periods of time.

Over this year with seeing more use of the building we have seen an increase in wear and tear, more noticeably the original thin paint has begun to come off some of the walls. There has been a little bit of decorating done to tidy up the decor by the emergency stairs which is where we had the unwanted excitement of one of the glass panels of the balustrade spontaneously exploding which was fixed at our own expense in October on 6/10/2022. The Gutters were cleaned and cleared on 14/03/2022. We still haven't been able to get to the bottom of what is wrong with the roof that is causing irregular leaking into the building.

The safety systems of the building and the lift have been inspected and we have checked the fire alarm 31 out of 52 weeks and the emergency lighting 4 out of 12 months, so there is room for improvement. The emergency lighting requires sorting out due to failure of some of the mercy lights.

Thankfully the only injuries reported through the year are two minor cuts on fingers.

A security issue took place in September 2022, where a man entered the building and was checking for things in the rooms. In our response we have been reminded to keep doors locked when there is no-one in a room, or working alone in the building. Furthermore, measures were implemented to ensure individuals took care about manning the outside doors. In this respect it has been quite helpful that the front doors are no longer automatic after the transformer at White City burnt out causing an electrical spike!

Going forward we are putting together a maintenance schedule and working strategically to be able to respond practically to any potential health and safety issues that may arise in the next year. Without churchwardens we have had to fill in as much as possible with a lot of the big issues we've faced falling upon the rector, treasurers and our administrator.

Peter Matthews *(Rector)*

Safeguarding Report

• **Responsibilities**
The Church of England is committed to the protection of all children and adults, especially those who may be vulnerable, for example due to illness or disability. St Bride's has adopted safeguarding policies which should be reviewed at the A.P.C.M each year. The policies help us to create a safe environment for both children and vulnerable people. They are designed to ensure that volunteers are better prepared to respond to suspicion or allegation of abuse whether the alleged abuse is outside or within the church; also, that the risk be reduced of someone using a position in the church to exploit a person. Safe recruitment and training procedures are in place to enable high standards of care.

• **No-one should drift into helping**
Any vacancies in should be advertised with a job description. Volunteers need to make a 'Confidential Declaration' regarding their suitability to be involved in the area of work. The volunteer is required to make a paper application and references will be taken up. There needs to be an interview and if the person appears to be suitable for the role an application can be made to the Disclosure and Barring Service. The Safeguarding Officer is informed of anything that would make the person unsuitable for the role. The volunteer is then required to take complete online training prior to taking on their new role. The Diocese provides training throughout the Diocese which the volunteer is required to attend. A record of agreement is signed, and they receive a copy of our 'Good Practice' guidelines.

• **Support**
Working as teams and offering encouragement and constructive criticism is the best safeguard against poor morale and slipping standards.

• **Risks**
If the church does not strive to adhere to the policy, the church's insurance company may refuse to deal with a claim by a child that he or she has been harmed by the negligence of someone acting on behalf of the church. By their hiring agreement the Arabic Church undertakes to follow our child protection policy.

• **Practicalities**
The safeguarding board has the Children's and Vulnerable Adult's Safeguarding Policies on display as required by the Diocese. The Safeguarding Officer's photograph and contact telephone number are also on display (also required by the Diocese).

A copy of the Diocesan Safeguarding Policy is available in the church foyer where anyone can access it if they so wish. The church website includes Safeguarding information.

Angela Cooper *(Parish Safeguarding Administrator)*

Parish Policy On Safeguarding Children

This statement was agreed at the Parochial Church Council meeting held on 8th May 2017. It will be read at the Annual General Meeting held in the month of April each year where progress in carrying it out will be monitored. Children and young people are part of our church. They have much to give as well as to receive. We will listen to them. As we nurture them in worship, learning, and community life, we will take into account the wishes and feelings of children and young people.

- 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, or to prevent the continuation of, any physical, sexual, and emotional abuse of children and young people of which we become aware, and to report any abuse discovered or suspected.
- We recognize that our work with children and young people is the responsibility of the whole church.
- 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 observe 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 P.C.C. has appointed Angela Cooper to be the Parish Safeguarding Officer from April 2018.

Parish Policy On Safeguarding Adults

This statement was adopted by St Bride's Church at a Parochial Church Council meeting held on 8th May 2017. This policy will be reviewed each year to monitor the progress which has been achieved.

1. 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.
2. As members of this parish we commit ourselves to respectful pastoral care for all adults to whom we minister.
3. We commit ourselves to the safeguarding of people who may be vulnerable, ensuring their well-being in the life of this church.
4. We commit ourselves to promoting safe practice by those in positions of trust.
5. The parish commits itself to promoting the inclusion and empowerment of people who may be vulnerable.
6. 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.
7. We undertake to exercise proper care in the appointment and selection of those who will work with people who may be vulnerable.
8. The parish is committed to supporting, resourcing, training and regularly reviewing those who undertake work amongst people who may be vulnerable.
9. The parish adopts the guidelines of the Church of England and the Diocese.
10. Each person who works with vulnerable people will agree to abide by these recommendations and the guidelines established by this church.

Treasurer Report

This does not make happy reading. The major issue is that known costs are escalating and there are increasing maintenance costs in a building that is now 7 years old and has to be kept compliant and safe for use both by the Church fellowship and the General Public, and at present we don't have the income to meet these costs.

Income

As has been previously highlighted Regular Giving from our Congregation and the associated Gift Aid Claims continues to fall. My understanding of the situation and information about regular givers means that it will be close on 20% lower than 2022, a really worrying situation.

Income from use of Buildings. The income from the Arabic Church Big Breakfast and Bizzy B's is steady. With the Food Bank receiving funding, they are paying £220 per month, which is good news. When you read this the good folk from In Health will have finished their time with us; this contributed an income of £5,600, which whilst useful , still does not get us close to the levels required.

Collections and Donations are thankfully rising , and we may get a further Energy Grant for the Warm Space costs.

Overall, these assumptions give an Increase of Income of £3,000 (7.5%) against 2022.

Expenditure

This Budget reflects a massive 43% increase in expenditure because of the following increase in most of our running costs.

Parish Share. The Diocese has mandated an across the board increase of 10% in Parish Share for all parishes. This is partially to meet their rising costs but also to address the shortfall in Parishes not paying their full shares in recent years giving them a large deficit that they are struggling to cover. In real terms for us this is an extra £2,000 versus 2022. The reality at present is we as a Parish don't have this, and it will be up to the PCC to decide how much we can afford to contribute.

Energy Costs. Gas & Electric costs, as we all know, continue to soar. The Treasurers have just finalized new deals to reduce our costs, and exercise which has proved to be both time consuming and frustrating. At present I have assumed a 72% (£8,000) increase year on year, and hopefully we have placed some sort of better controls on these costs.

Maintenance Costs. These continue to escalate as items crop up in the building (eg the temperature in the Worship Hall or leaks in the back stairs and/or kitchen) Again this is an area that is mainly unknown. We have a duty of care as the building is used by more and more people, but this comes with price tags that are often larger than we would like, and can probably afford.

Other Costs – probably more easily identified, but still the assumptions give an overall 10% increase in running costs

Summary

The assumptions above lead to a projected deficit of just almost £16,000. With the available funds at the start of the year of £15,000, this leaves NOTHING in the funds for future years, or contingency for any unexpected items.

John Myring

St Brides Church Old Trafford
Income & Expenditure 12 months to 31st December 2022

Fund Name	Balance at 1/1/2022	Income	Expenditure	Balance at 12/31/2022
General fund	£15,889	£41,149	£41,900	£15,138
St Brides Project (Red Cross)	-£325	£39,092	£35,314	£3,453
Youth & Childrens Work	£13,735	£2,756	£646	£15,845
Other Designated Funds	£2,561	£1,322	£1,820	£2,063
Totals	**£31,860**	**£84,319**	**£79,680**	**£36,499**

Funds Represented by	1/1/2022	12/31/2022
Current Account	£500	£500
Cheque presented in previous Year	£1,545	£0
Deposit Account	£25,926	£30,478
Total	£27,971	£30,978
Accounts Receivable - British Red Cross	£2,315	£2,138
Accounts Receivable - HMRC Gift Aid	£1,574	£3,383
Total Funds	£31,860	£36,499

		2022 Income	2022 Expenditure		2021 Income	2021 Expenditure	
General Fund	Regular Giving & Collections	£25,765			£25,857		
	Gift Aid Claimed	£6,471			£6,042		
	Collections & Donations	£2,235			£649		
	Income from Use of Building	£4,715			£2,260		
	Fundraising & Other Income	£1,963			£697		
	General Fund Income	**£41,149**			**£35,505**		
	Parish Share		£18,420	£18,420		£18,140	£18,140
	Church Maintenance		£3,153			£4,322	
	Cleaning		£136			£0	
	Church Running - Gas		£5,240			£1,950	
	Church Running - Electric		£5,226			£2,612	
	Church Running - Insurance		£1,581			£1,567	
	Church Running - Water		£293	£15,629		£190	£10,641
	Working expenses of Incumbant		£375			£174	
	Rectory Council Tax		£2,173			£2,093	
	Rectory Water rates		£411	£2,959		£534	£2,801
	Parish Training & Mission		£651			£865	
	Giving to Other Organisations		£0			£1,000	
	Upkeep of Services		£533	£1,184		£479	£2,344
	Church Office Phones & Internet		£1,011			£3,604	
	Sundries		£2,472	£3,483		£1,756	£5,360
	Governance Costs		£225	£225		£225	£225
	General Fund Expenditure		**£41,900**	**£41,900**		**£39,511**	**£39,511**
Designated Funds							
Youth & Children's Work	Donations, Gift Aid & Other Income	£2,756			£2,775		
Destitution Project	Donations, Gift Aid & Other Income	£17,193			£8,085		
	Grants from Organisations	£5,000			£5,000		
	Re-imbursement of Running Costs	£16,899			£31,058		
Other Funds	Donations, Gift Aid & Other Income	£1,322			£411		
Youth & Children's Work	Youth & Children's Work Expenses		£646			£200	
Destitution Project	Project Running Costs		£35,314			£47,889	
Other Funds	Equipment & Relocation Expenses		£187			£299	
	Other Running Costs		£1,633			£760	
	Total Designated Funds	**£43,170**	**£37,780**		**£47,329**	**£49,148**	
	Total For Year	**£84,319**	**£79,680**		**£82,834**	**£88,659**	

St Brides Church Old Trafford
General Fund - Budget 2023
12 Months to 31st December

	2022 Budget	2022 Actuals Full Year	2023 Budget Proposed
INCOME			
Regular Giving - Church	£20,100	£25,765	£21,050
Collections Donations & Fund Raising	£500	£2,235	£2,240
Income from Use of Building	£4,240	£4,715	£7,025
Gift Aid Reclaimed	£4,800	£6,471	£5,450
Energy Grant from Diocese	£0	£1,250	£500
Energy Rebates (Solar)	£700	£713	£750
Total Income for Year	£30,340	£41,149	£37,015
EXPENDITURE			
Parish Share	£18,500	£18,420	£20,335
Gas	£2,500	£5,240	£5,160
Electric	£3,000	£5,226	£9,000
Water	£240	£293	£300
Insurance	£1,600	£1,581	£1,722
Maintenance & Cleaning			
Maintenance & Decorating	£5,000	£3,153	£3,920
Cleaning Contract & Supplies	£1,000	£136	£240
Incumbents and Curates Expenses			
Vicars expenses	£300	£375	£510
Rectory Costs			
Council Tax	£2,200	£2,173	£2,280
Water Rates	£555	£411	£425
Office & Administration			
Church Office Phones & Internet	£960	£861	£810
Church Office Copier	£550	£150	£0
Audit Fee	£250	£225	£250
Bank Charges	£540	£389	£420
Services & Mission			
Giving	£750	£0	£750
Alpha/Mission	£500	£651	£750
Church Breakfast	£450	£0	£500
CCLI & Other Licences	£500	£533	£500
Sundries	£1,200	£2,083	£2,400
Total Expenditure for Year	£40,595	£41,900	£50,272
Surplus/(Deficit) for Period	-£10,255	-£751	-£13,257
Regular Giving - Youth & Children's Work	£2,400	£2,756	£2,400
Youth & Children's Work Expenditure	£1,200	£646	£1,000

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE PCC OF ST. BRIDE'S OLD TRAFFORD

I report on the financial statements of the PCC for the year ended 31st December 2022, which are set out on pages to .

RESPECTIVE RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE PCC AND THE EXAMINER

As members of the PCC you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements; you consider that an audit is not required for this year under the Regulation and under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011(the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed. It is my responsibility to issue this report on;

- those financial statements under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- follow the procedures laid down in the general directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

This report, including my statement, has been prepared for and only for the charity's trustee as a body. My work has been undertaken so that I might state to the charity's trustee those matters I am required to state to them in an independent examiner's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, I do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's trustee as a body for my examination work, for this report, or for the statements I have made.

BASIS OF THIS REPORT

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the PCC and a comparison of the financial statements presented with those records. It also includes considering any unusual items or disclosures in the financial statements and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the financial statements present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S STATEMENT

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

- which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
    - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
    - to prepare financial statements which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 and have not been met; or
    - to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the financial statements to be reached.

- **SIGNED** John T. Holdsworth BA., C.Ed.,

Date 1/3/2023

John Thomas Holdsworth BA, C Ed.

15 Lynmouth Avenue, Flixton, M41 6FB

Truly He taught us to love one another
His law is love and His gospel is peace
Chains shall He break for the slave is our brother
And in His name all oppression shall cease

Create ‘n’ Connect

Create ‘n’ Connect has now run for its first full year after starting in November 2021.

Throughout the year there’s been a range of creative forms displayed and shared at the gatherings, including: Scrapbooking, Knitting, Cross-Stitch, Art, Drawing, Painting, Poetry, Writing, Songwriting.

We have tried to meet fortnightly on Tuesday evenings for our open Create ‘n’ Connect times from 7pm-9pm as well as having some Songwriting evenings in the latter part of the year set aside to write for our local community at St Bride’s. There was a Songwriting Day at the start of April and our first ‘Time To Share’ evening in October.

Throughout the year we had 12 unique participants attend, which includes a couple of volunteers who set up, pack down and host the time. Most regularly there have been 3-4 people at a gathering, with a max of 7 on a couple of occasions, and a total of 27 gatherings.

As part of our gatherings there’s opportunity to fellowship and connect over drinks and sometimes food; time to worship, pray and share what we’ve been working on, talk about creative successes or challenges and to work individually or be creative together.

We’ve had prompts from our church Bible readings and themes this year, as well as other creative prompts and exercise ideas alongside other simple resources available for people to use should they wish.

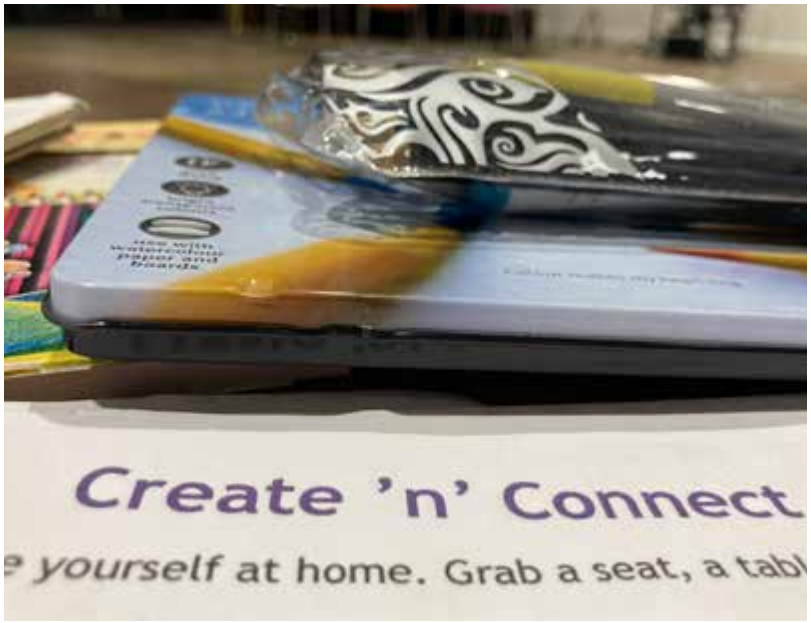
One of the most valuable things we’ve found for those coming to Create ‘n’ Connect has been intentionally prioritising and putting time aside to be creative and to share with other creatives, where it can be hard to do that on our own at home or in the busyness of everything else coming together has been really helpful.

At times we’ve struggled to consistently host the evenings fortnightly due to other commitments and having a small team available. This has also made setting dates in advance and therefore being able to reach out to and invite other people to come, a bit more challenging.

Hopes

- To continue with regular Create ‘n’ Connect gatherings twice each month as well as a songwriting evening for St Bs set aside too.
- To engage with more people in the local community who could make use of the time and space set aside to be creative and connect with other creatives.
- To have more opportunities to share our creative skills, ways of working and ideas and encourage each other, including having a ‘Time to Share’ gathering once a term.
- Hoping to enable and encourage creatives to share and bless others in the wider community with their craft and creativity in a variety of ways too.
- Where possible to make more connections and encourage some more collaboration among creatives within the church and local community.

Susanna Hewitt *(Worship Lead)*



Bizzy B's

Bizzy B's is a stay and play, pre-school group for any parents, carers, and their children in the Old Trafford area (M15 and M16 postcodes) held on Friday mornings at St Bride's Church. The aim of the group is to provide a safe and welcoming place where families can come to spend time together, meet and connect with other people in the neighbourhood who are at a similar life stage. Bizzy B's reflects of the diverse community of Old Trafford, and those who come not knowing anyone, are introduced to others in the group. The volunteers kindly serve this community of Old Trafford and the leaders aim to show Jesus' love to everyone who comes to Bizzy B's.

The play equipment and toys are kept clean and in good working order. The garden space and outside equipment is always popular when it's dry. We have a rolling snack time across the morning and offer (much needed!) tea and coffee and some treats to grown-ups!

Bizzy B's is a popular place to be on a Friday morning! (About 50 children and their grown-ups.) We've been really encouraged by how appreciative people are of Bizzy B's; people seem to enjoy the space at St Bride's church as it's big, light, and bright and there is space to be outside.

Throughout the Bizzy B's year, it's great to mark the Christian calendar and the positive seasonal celebrations to offer a change to what can become the repetitive rhythm of parenting little ones, to bring encouragement and opportunities to share Jesus' love.

We marked Easter with a craft explaining the significance of Easter for Christians. We've given flowers, gifts and cards of encouragement for Mother's and Father's Day, and at Christmas we had a special Bizzy B's gathering with treats, Christmas art (thanks to Lynda Sterling), Christmas carols and time to share the real meaning of Christmas through the nativity story. We also gifted all the children a Christmas book to take home.

Our group of volunteers are faithful, fun and amazing people. Charlotte Bushell leads Bizzy B's with Linda Penrose and Clare Myring. John Myring kindly sets up and clears away for us. Barbara and Nat run the kitchen and Emma helps out with everything! We also have a few volunteers from the Bizzy B's community, but more volunteers are always welcome, if you know anyone who would like to get involved, do get in touch!

We now share the building on a Friday morning with an NHS screening clinic. We have made a few changes to how we use the building and have to be mindful of security and being vigilant to keep everyone as safe as possible.

We want Bizzy B's to always be outward focussed, so new people are welcomed in. We want it to be a diverse group of families reflecting the community of Old Trafford. And for it to be a safe place where people are comfortable at church because of the peace of the Holy Spirit and the love of Jesus the volunteers share.

Charlotte Bushell *(Bizzy B's Lead)*

Cross Yoga

I have been teaching christian yoga in St Brides for around 3 months now. It has been a real joy to see a little community form, and journey with the attendees week-to-week.

Thank you to St Brides PCC for allowing us to use the space to move, breathe, pray, and meditate on God's word together.

Libby Adderley *(Cross Yoga)*

'I've found that it has improved my mental and physical health but also has been a great time to pray and focus on God. It's been fab to explore new ways to move my body in a safe and welcoming space.'

Church Administrator Report

It felt important for a report to be written from the administrator to be part of the contribution to the APCM.

1. Church Administration is in a much better position as it was when I first began exploring this work and its workload back in March 2022. We have seen a growth in revenue to the church through building use and space Hire. Coordinated and organised by myself and Peter Matthews to have with us 'In Health' and 'MSC Food Bank' and other one off Space hire Events. Looking at the budget for 2023 although still seeing a shortfall we are potentially better off.

2. More importantly than revenue increases we are seeing that more and more people are coming in and out of the building and making connections with us as a church. New people attending church services, completing connect forms, and even asking about volunteering at warm spaces. People feel more at home.

3. Policies, Procedures and processes are slowly being formed on a situational basis based on discussions or responding to situations where we have gaps in our policies. It is my belief thee are still some policies, and processes to be written, reviewed, considered and implemented, but this process is not to be rushed and something everyone who serves the church or even attends must be on board with.

4. As our overall administration is improving there is an increase in the workload needed and required from me as administrator. Not only just checking the mailbox, but writing Policies, attending meetings, administrating for warm space and other projects whilst Peter is away, drafting Invoices, templates, forms and communicating with businesses to attend to our needs for maintenance support.

5. Although not officially accepted by PCC, we have seen a fulfilment of the business plan and it would be my intention to explore making edits to this plan to fit our current situation and look at planning ahead.

Nathan Gonzalez (*Church Administrator)*

The Project

The Project has continued to run for the whole of 2022 under similar covid restrictions as in 2021.
We have met fortnightly and provided the asylum seekers with money instead of food parcels. The British Red Cross have continued to offer face to face case work despite considerable staff changes –congratulations to Julia on the birth of her daughter.

We were very excited to be able to begin to serve hot food, cooked each week by volunteer asylum seekers and served to people in their seats by more volunteer service users. It has been wonderful to partner in this way. We now also have a prayer time at 11.30am before opening at 12 –sometimes with prayers in up to 5 languages.

At Christmas we were treated to Ethiopian Christmas fare and each service user received a Christmas gift. Many thanks to all the people who worked together to make that happen.

As usual there are many people to thank for helping to keep things going, so if you are one of them please consider yourselves thoroughly thanked.

Also thanks to Big Breakfast who have continued to fundraise for us.

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST BRIDE'S, OLD TRAFFO

England & Wales - Charity number 1146679

Accounts

Annual Report 2021

St Bride's Church, Old Trafford

St Bride's Church, Old Trafford Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Sunday 24th April 2022 at 12.30 pm

Our Annual Church Meeting is an opportunity to deal with the business of the church, to discuss issues that are concerned with our community life, and to think creatively about our future as we follow God's leading.

Inside this booklet are reports on the activities of the church, which I ask you to read, and so be able to come to the meeting with well prepared questions and ideas for discussion.

Thank you for all that you have done and contributed during this past year, but, most of all, thank you for being part of the family here at St Bride's.

"So then, have your minds ready for action. Keep alert and set your hope completely on the blessing which will be given you when Jesus Christ is revealed." – 1 Peter 1:13 (GNB)

St Bride's Church
St Bride's Way, Old Trafford, Manchester, M16 9NW.
Parish Office: 0161-226 3047 Email: admin@stbrides.uk

Rector: Rev'd Peter Matthews
St Bride's Rectory, 33, Shrewsbury Street, Old Trafford, Manchester, M16 9BB.
Tel: 0161-226 1251 Email: peter@stbrides.uk

Ordained Local Minister: Rev. Viv Eccles
c/o St Bride's Parish Office, St. Bride's Way, Old Trafford, Manchester, M16 9NW.
Tel: 0161-226 3047 Email: viv@stbrides.uk

Churchwardens 2021/2022:
(vacant)

Parochial Church Council Secretary 2021/2022
Graham Cooper, 119, Northumberland Road, Old Trafford, Manchester, M16 9PY.
Tel: 0161-872 4140 Email: graham@stbrides.uk

Bankers:
Royal Bank of Scotland, Drummond House Branch, 1 Redhaughs Avenue, EDINBURGH, EH12 9JN.

Independent Examiner: Mr. John Holdsworth B.A., F.C.C.A., C.Ed.

The Parochial Church Council is registered charity no. 1146679

Contents

Rector's Introduction	2
Agenda For Annual Meetings	4
Annual Meeting of Parishioners Minutes	5
Annual Parochial Church Meeting Minutes	6
Electoral Roll Officer Report	8
Secretary to the PCC Report	9
Fabric Report	10
Safeguarding Report	11
Parish Policy On Safeguarding Children	12
Parish Policy On Safeguarding Adults	13
Treasurer Report	14
Prayer	21
Small Groups	22
St Bride's Project	23
The Big Breakfast	24
Bizzy B's	26

Rector's Introduction

Well done for hanging in there with us through 2021 and welcome to this our St Bride's Report for the year. Inside you will find descriptions of some of the things we have been able to do as the Covid-19 Pandemic has continued on, and you will also find our financial statements and important policy documents.

A huge thank you everyone for your faithfulness in prayer, service and worship as 2021 has been another difficult year as we all wrestled with staying connected and being a church community even if many of us were still unable to meet in the building face to face.

At the beginning of the 2020 report I had the hopes we would be more prayerful and attentive to the voice of the good shepherd, especially as many of us had the gift of more time. Of course we had changing recommendations, regulations and laws which needed to be addressed, so causing lots of adjustments needed on how we did things, but it was wonderful to see prayer requests still coming onto social media with our Heavenly Father answering and a number of people stepping up where others had had to step back.

We worked our way through first of all Luke's Gospel and then the Acts of the Apostles focussing on a chapter each Sunday to give us something to wrestle with, talk about in the week and to see what God was telling us from his scripture for today. Seeing why and how the church began and was formed was a help for us at this time.

My hopes for 2022? More prayer and becoming more like Jesus, especially for the communities around us here in Old Trafford. As we connect better with people we will learn of their needs and so, having opportunities to express God's love, we will need greater patience, gifting and understanding... in other words there will have to be more prayer and more of God's Holy Spirit so we can become more like Jesus!

Again, thank you, not only for what you have been able to do but for being you and being part of this church family. God bless you. Peter.

Reverend Peter Matthews, Rector of St Bride's

Agenda For Annual Meetings

24th April 2022

Meeting of Parishioners

(Open to everyone on the Electoral Roll plus all Local Government Electors in the Parish)

1 Prayer
2 Apologies for absence
3 Minutes of the 2021 meeting
These minutes were approved by the PCC on 10th May, 2020
4 Election of Churchwardens for 2022/2023
Churchwardens are PCC members ex officio.

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

(Open to everyone on the Electoral Roll of the Church. Non-voting observers are welcome.)

1 Apologies for absence
2 Minutes of the 2021 meeting
These minutes were approved by the PCC on 10th May, 2021
3 Identification of issues for discussion at the APCM or future PCC meetings
Anyone on the Electoral Roll may suggest an item for discussion, but PLEASE be sure to let Peter Matthews or Graham Cooper have notice of the item by Wednesday, 20th April, 2022.
4.1 Rector's Introduction
4.2 Report of Electoral Roll Officer
4.3 Report from PCC
4.4 Report on Fabric
4.5 Report of Parish Safeguarding Officer
4.6 Parish Policy on Safeguarding Children
4.7 Parish Policy on Safeguarding Adults
5.1 Report of Treasurer and Presentation of Accounts for 2021
5.2 Independent Examiner for 2022/2023
6.1 Report of Small Groups
6.2 Report of the Project
6.3 Report of Bizzy B's
6.4 Report of Youth Work
6.5 Report of Prayer
6.6 Report of our friends the Big Breakfast
7 Election of 2 Deanery Synod Representatives (for 3 years)
8 Election of 3 Members of the Parochial Church Council
9 Selection of Sidespeople
10 Issues for discussion at the APCM (as identified above)
11 Praying for the work of the church

Annual Meeting Of Parishioners Minutes

18th April 2021

In Attendance:
Rowena Ablett, Kwami Ankrah, Angela Cooper, Graham Cooper (minutes), Zekel Daley, Chara Hosie, Rebecca Matthews, Douglas Matthews, Penny Matthews, Rev. Peter Matthews (chair), Clare Myring, John Myring, Linda Penrose.

Apologies were received from:
M-J Sharp.

1 Rev. Peter Matthews opened the meeting in prayer.

2 The minutes of the meeting held on 31st October, 2020, which had been approved by the Parochial Church Council on 26th November, 2020, were approved.

3 There were no nominations for candidates for election as churchwardens for the year 2021/2022.

Annual Parochial Church Meeting Minutes

18th April 2021

In Attendance:
James Ablett, Rowena Ablett, Kwami Ankrah, Angela Cooper, Graham Cooper (minutes), Zekel Daley, Rev. Viv Eccles, Scott Hewitt, Susanna Hewitt, Chara Hosie, Douglas Matthews, Penny Matthews, Rev. Peter Matthews (chair), Rebecca Matthews, Clare Myring, John Myring, Linda Penrose.

1 Apologies were received from:
Rob Eccles, M-J Sharp.

2 The minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting held on 31st October, 2020, subject to the substitution of "5" for "6" in paragraph 10, were approved. The minutes had been approved by the Parochial Church Council on 26th November, 2020.

3 No items for discussion had been notified in advance to the chair or to the secretary.

Officers' Reports

4.1 The Rector's Introduction was received, and he was thanked for all his work during the last year in the midst of the Covid-19 pandemic.

4.2 The reports of the Electoral Roll Officer and the P.C.C. Secretary were received, and thanks were expressed for the reports.

4.3 There was no report from the Stretford Deanery Synod, as there had been no elected lay representative to the Deanery Synod from the parish. It was noted that new larger deaneries were due to replace the present deaneries later in 2021.

4.4 The Safeguarding Officer's report was received. She read the Policy Statement on Children, Young People and the Church of St. Bride's, Old Trafford, which with the appointment of Angela Cooper as safeguarding officer, was approved by the P.C.C. on 26th November, 2020.

4.5 Rev. Peter Matthews read the Church's Policy on Safeguarding of Adults in the Church, which was approved by the P.C.C. on 26th November, 2020. He expressed his thanks to Angela Cooper for her work behind the scenes.

4.6 The Fabric report was received. An unresolved leak in the roof above the emergency staircase was noted.

Finance

5 John Myring presented the annual financial report noting that the parish share had been paid on time, and that there was a surplus at the end of 2020. Although, during the Covid-19 pandemic church members' financial support had been largely maintained, a reduction of about £6,000 in income was to be anticipated in 2021, leading to an expectation of a deficit exceeding £2,700 at the end of 2021. He gave notice that he would carry the role of treasurer for only one more year, and would assist his successor to take up the role. He proposed the reception of the report and the appointment of John Holdsworth as Independent Examiner for the forthcoming year.
Proposed by John Myring, seconded by Linda Penrose, carried unanimously.

Reports of Activities

The report on Other Events and Gatherings like small groups was received.

6.1 The report on St. Bride's Youth was received, and thanks expressed to Doug Matthews for his

Annual Parochial Church Meeting Minutes (cont.)

18th April 2021

6.2 service to young people and his service to the church's technological communications, which had been even more important during the Covid-19 pandemic.

6.3 The report on St. Bride's Kids was received with thanks to the team, and attention was drawn to the new monthly on-line sessions for children and families.

6.4 The report on the Project was received with thanks to Linda Penrose and her team working with the British Red Cross.

6.5 The report on the Big Breakfast was received with thanks to Tony Vino and his team, who had continued to raise money for the Project during the period when breakfast could not be served because of the Covid-19 pandemic, and who had also introduced more volunteers to assist in delivering the Project.

The report on Bizzy B's was received with thanks to Charlotte Bushell and her team.

6.6 The report on the Church Week-end Away at Scargill House in the Yorkshire Dales was
6.7 received with thanks to the organisers, Clare and John Myring. The theme had been community and God's generous hospitality, and the response following it had been to some extent thwarted by the restrictions of the Covid-19 pandemic which became effective during the week after the event.

Elections

7 There were no candidates nominated for the 2 vacancies for lay people to represent the church with the clergy on Stretford Deanery Synod for 3 years. (It was noted that in 2021 the deanery was to be amalgamated with 2 other deaneries, but with the same representation from parishes as currently.)

8 The following 4 lay people were elected to sit on the Parochial Church Council for 1, 2 or 3 years according to lots drawn, leaving 1 vacancy for a lay person on the Council:

Susanna Hewitt (proposed by Doug Matthews and Linda Penrose)
Chara Hosie (proposed by Linda Penrose and John Myring)
Douglas Matthews (proposed by Graham Cooper and Rachael Smith)

Kwami Ankrah, Rev. Viv Eccles, John Myring, and Linda Penrose continue to serve out the terms for which they were elected in 2020, with Rev. Peter Matthews as chair by virtue of his office as Rector.

There were no items requested for discussion.

9 Church members joined in prayer.

10

Electoral Roll Officer Report

In 2017 a new Electoral Roll was compiled, and in each subsequent year the Electoral Roll has been revised.

In 2022 the revised Electoral Roll will have been published on 27th March, 2022. No new members of the Roll can be added after 13th March, until after the Annual Parochial Church Meeting on 24th April, 2022. To be printed in the Annual Report this report will go to press before 13th March, 2022, but gives information available at the time of writing.

The Electoral Roll on 21st March, 2021, recorded 63 names.

Since the last Annual Parochial Church Meeting on 18th April, 2021, no-one has requested that their name should no longer appear on the Electoral Roll, but one member has sadly died.

Since the last Annual Parochial Church Meeting 4 additional members have applied to be recorded on the Electoral Roll.

The Electoral Roll on 28th February, 2022, recorded **66** names..

Demographic Composition of the Electoral Roll on 28th February, 2022.

The figures for the Roll on 21st March, 2021, appear in brackets below.

18 (17) people live in St. Bride's parish	27%	(27%)
48 (46) people live outside St. Bride's parish	73%	(73%)
42 (40) people live in Old Trafford	64%	(63%)
24 (23) people live outside Old Trafford	36%	(37%)

Of the people living outside Old Trafford 18 (17) live very close to the boundary of Old Trafford.

Graham Cooper, Electoral Roll Officer

Secretary to the PCC Report

1 At the beginning of 2020 the elected members of the P.C.C. were Alison Bell, Angela Cooper, (Deanery Synod representative), Graham Cooper (secretary and electoral roll officer), Robert Eccles, David Henningham, Sam Marriott, Douglas Matthews, Clare Myring (vice-chair), John Myring (treasurer), and Linda Penrose, with a casual vacancy for a lay member and a casual vacancy for a Deanery Synod representative. Rev. Peter Matthews (chair) and Rev. Viv Eccles were members by virtue of being clergy. There were no churchwardens.

2 Because of restrictions imposed from March, 2020, by the Covid-19 pandemic the A.P.C.M. was delayed until 31st October, 2020, and the following people were then elected to positions on the P.C.C for the number of years shown in brackets: Kwami Ankrah (3), Douglas Matthews (1), John Myring (2), Linda Penrose (3), and Fred Waters (1), leaving 4 unfilled vacancies, and 2 unfilled vacancies for Deanery Synod representatives. Rev. Peter Matthews continued as chair by virtue of his office as rector. No-one was elected as a churchwarden. Rev. Viv Eccles' status as a member of the clergy changed because of her age, and she was no longer eligible for a seat on the P.C.C. by virtue of her office.

3 The P.C.C. co-opted Graham Cooper, and appointed for the year: Linda Penrose – vice-chair; John Myring – treasurer; Graham Cooper – secretary and electoral roll officer.

4 The P.C.C. met on 6 occasions. The last 4 meetings were virtual meetings by Zoom because of the Covid-19 pandemic restrictions, and only the last meeting in 2020 was a meeting of the newly elected P.C.C. The Standing Committee met between P.C.C. meetings to deal with urgent business and to agree the next P.C.C. agenda.

5 The P.C.C. complied with the duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 (duty to have regard to the House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults).

6 Each meeting included prayer and usually a Bible reading, routine reports on finance, safeguarding, children, youth, maintenance of the building with health and safety, and concluded with a review of how the meeting had gone.

7 The P.C.C. responded to a diocesan consultation on proposed new large area deaneries. In the proposal Old Trafford would be part of a deanery extending from Flixton to Fallowfield and from Wythenshawe to St. Ann's Square in the centre of Manchester. Another diocesan consultation concerned new mission districts comprising several parishes: the draft proposal was for a mission district comprising All Saints and St. Matthew's Churches, Stretford, St. Hilda's Church, Firswood and Gorse Hill, and St. Bride's and St. John the Evangelist's Churches in Old Trafford.

8 Other business considered by the P.C.C. included a giving policy, the week-end away, the mission action plan, and most notably responding to the restrictions caused by the Covid-19 pandemic. The church was organised for socially distanced attendance, services were live-streamed, and meetings were held by zoom.

Graham Cooper, Secretary

Fabric Report

Outside space

It was fantastic to see people out in the church garden clearing away weeds as part of their worship on occasion and it's always great to see things like the bins have been quietly sorted out by Fred Waters, thank you.

Inside space

Decorating:

We left the emergency stairwell to fully dry and will decorate it once we know we are not getting any more leaks.

Kitchen:

The kitchen began to get used more and more as the year went on and with information for kitchen users being available it has actually become cleaner and cleaner!

Office

The printer/copier came to the end of contract and we purchased a multifunctional printer that will reduce our costs considerably.

Fire alarm and emergency lighting:

These have been regularly checked on contract and are working well.

Boiler:

The boiler has been serviced and there was a problem that lasted a few months but some sensors were changed and it is back running well.

Signage and work for being COVID-19 secure:

Signage for the building was adjusted as regulations and recommendations changed. Thank you everyone for your understanding, patience and care for others more vulnerable than yourselves.

Cleaning:

Cleaning has been an issue but it has been great that those who have been able have come along and done some of the 'nasty' jobs around the place. You are stars!

Thank you in particular to Linda Penrose and John and Clare Myring for all the time and effort they have put into making sure so much of this work has been achieved throughout this second difficult year.

Safeguarding Report

Responsibilities

The Church of England is committed to the protection of all children and adults, especially those who may be vulnerable, for example due to illness or disability. St Bride's has adopted safeguarding policies which should be reviewed at the A.P.C.M each year. The policies help us to create a safe environment for both children and vulnerable people. They are designed to ensure that volunteers are better prepared to respond to suspicion or allegation of abuse whether the alleged abuse is outside or within the church; also, that the risk be reduced of someone using a position in the church to exploit a person. Safe recruitment and training procedures are in place to enable high standards of care.

No-one should drift into helping

Any vacancies in should be advertised with a job description. Volunteers need to make a 'Confidential Declaration' regarding their suitability to be involved in the area of work. The volunteer is required to make a paper application and references will be taken up. There needs to be an interview and if the person appears to be suitable for the role an application can be made to the Disclosure and Barring Service. The Safeguarding Officer is informed of anything that would make the person unsuitable for the role. The volunteer is then required to take complete on-line training prior to taking on their new role. The Diocese provides training throughout the Diocese which the volunteer is required to attend. A record of agreement is signed, and they receive a copy of our 'Good Practice' guidelines.

Support

Working as teams and offering encouragement and constructive criticism is the best safeguard against poor morale and slipping standards. The support of our youth and children's workers with prayer is the collective responsibility of the church.

Risks

If the church does not strive to adhere to the policy, the church's insurance company may refuse to deal with a claim by a child that he or she has been harmed by the negligence of someone acting on behalf of the church. By their hiring agreement the Arabic Church undertakes to follow our child protection policy.

Practicalities

A new safeguarding board in the narthex has the Children's and Vulnerable Adult's Safeguarding Policies on display as required by the Diocese. The Safeguarding Officer's photograph and contact telephone number are also on display (also required by the Diocese).

A copy of the Diocesan Safeguarding Policy is available in the church foyer where anyone can access it if they so wish.

The church website includes Safeguarding information.

Angela Cooper, Parish Safeguarding Officer

Parish Policy On Safeguarding Children

This statement was agreed at the Parochial Church Council meeting held on 8th May 2017. It will be read at the Annual General Meeting held in the month of April each year where progress in carrying it out will be monitored. Children and young people are part of our church. They have much to give as well as to receive. We will listen to them. As we nurture them in worship, learning, and community life, we will take into account the wishes and feelings of children and young people.

- 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, or to prevent the continuation of, any physical, sexual, and emotional abuse of children and young people of which we become aware, and to report any abuse discovered or suspected.
- We recognize that our work with children and young people is the responsibility of the whole church.
- 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 observe 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 P.C.C. has appointed Angela Cooper to be the Parish Safeguarding Officer from April 2018.

Parish Policy On Safeguarding Adults

This statement was adopted by St Bride's Church at a Parochial Church Council meeting held on 8th May 2017. This policy will be reviewed each year to monitor the progress which has been achieved.

1 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.

2 As members of this parish we commit ourselves to respectful pastoral care for all adults to whom we minister.

3 We commit ourselves to the safeguarding of people who may be vulnerable, ensuring their well-being in the life of this church.

4 We commit ourselves to promoting safe practice by those in positions of trust.

5 The parish commits itself to promoting the inclusion and empowerment of people who may be vulnerable.

6 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.

7 We undertake to exercise proper care in the appointment and selection of those who will work with people who may be vulnerable.

8 The parish is committed to supporting, resourcing, training and regularly reviewing those who undertake work amongst people who may be vulnerable.

9 The parish adopts the guidelines of the Church of England and the Diocese.

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

Treasurer Report

Along with most other Church activities in 2021, the Financial position of the Church has been a challenge. The impact of the reduction in all our activities and interactions throughout the year having an significant adverse influence on our Financial situation. The end result has been that this report shows that 2021 has ended with substantial reduction in our Reserves. Overall, there was a deficit of £5,800, with the large losses in the General Fund and the Project, being somewhat mitigated by a surplus in the fund for Children and Youth Work. After the surplus of last year, the reductions in income have led to a £4,000 loss in the General Fund reducing the funds available. The St Bride's Project also has a deficit of £3,750, mainly arising from our inability to host Fundraising events that have supported it financially in previous years.

General Fund

The General Fund is where the day-to-day Income and Expenditure of keeping the Church running is recorded. In 2021 our running costs exceeded our income by £4,000, a significant change from the surplus of £2,200 in 2020. Overall income reduced by £9,300; over 20%. This has caused by a reduction of £7,600 or 23%, in income from Regular Giving to Church. The reasons behind this are manyfold; people moving to other churches, lockdowns causing people to change their patterns of attendance and related regular giving, and individual's changes in personal circumstances. Whilst these are all understandable, they come together to all have an impact on our regular income stream and with the related reduction in reclaimed Gift Aid has been the cause of the lower income. Also, with the curtailment of the activities of both the Big Breakfast and Bizzy B's income from their use of the building continues to be lower than previous years.

A reduction of £3,100 in expenditure is primarily due to a reduction in maintenance costs and the termination of the Curates Honorarium following her retirement in 2010. The deficit of £4,000 in the year reduced the level of the General Fund to £15,900 at the year end, leaving the General Fund in a satisfactory position, although the ongoing challenges of the pandemic and its impact on finances are becoming much clearer.

- Income in the year of £35,500 is significantly lower than the previous year; a reduction of over 20%. The overall level of Regular Giving and related Gift Aid has dropped alarmingly; individual members circumstances changed, and we have seen a worrying reduction in the numbers giving regularly during the year. Income from the use of the building continues at a lower level with the restrictions on its use in place throughout most of the year. Donations and Fundraising were still low. Over coming months we will need to focus on recovering the number of regular givers to ensure we take steps to return to a satisfactory financial position.
- Expenditure in the year of £39,500 is 7% lower than in 2020. The major item of expenditure is the Parish Share, paid to the Diocese, which is a contribution towards their costs of providing us with our incumbent. This year it was £18,100, reflecting the small increase in line with our agreement with the Diocese. The costs of running the building have reduced by £2,800. Maintenance costs have reduced slightly as have energy bills with the reduced use of the building. Clergy costs are lower with less activities and the retirement of our Curate during 2020. I am pleased to report that we were able implement our structured giving policy and give donations to activities with which the church has a connection in the year, which we hope and pray will have an impact on the work that they do.
- The proposed Budget for 2022 reflects the impact of known and anticipated reductions in giving from members of the Church. This is of real concern and the PCC and all members of Church have a joint responsibility to understand and address this problem. We are hopeful that

income from the use of the Church building may increase as activities that have been curtailed will resume. Expenditure will be higher, with the increase in Parish Share and provision for increasing costs of maintenance. It is anticipated that Energy cost will soar during the year, which we shall have to work hard to manage. The costs of the office copier have now terminated with a saving of over £2,500 in a full year. Much work will be needed in controlling running costs but the emphasis must be on restoring regular giving to a satisfactory level. It is to be expected that there will be a significant deficit in 2022 of £10,000; this can be funded out of the reserves, but is not a position that can be sustained.

Designated Funds

Overall these showed an overall deficit surplus in the year, but as usual this statement doesn't reflect fully the blessings and challenges in a number of areas: -

- Youth and Children's Work – The pandemic continues to have an impact on the work with our Youth and Children, and running costs continue have been significantly lower than previous years. We continue to be blessed that the financial support of this work has continued, and can plan going forward with sufficient resources.
- St Brides Project – the pandemic has meant that throughout the year the Clients could only attend every two weeks and were supported by enhanced cash donations, principally mostly funded by the Red Cross. We received a further Community Grant of £5,000 from Trafford Housing Trust which enabled us to continue to top up the money provided by the Red Cross. Despite them not being able to meet in person for most of the year, our friends in the Big Breakfast and continued to work online to support the Project and there various Fundraising contributed £4,200 in the year. The fund at the end of the year showed a small deficit but this should be eliminated as regular fundraising restarts early in 2022.
- Church Equipment. A further £300 was spent in the year on items to enable the Church to continue to meet online during the year,
- Other Funds – These funds are for income and related costs for Church activities that have taken place over the year.

As I step back from my time as Treasurer, I must share my concern as to the future position of the Finances of the Church. The position over the last 18th months, and looking forward into 2022 and beyond, has trends of income heading downwards and expenditure, with increasing energy costs and maintenance needs resulting in higher running costs. These conflicting trends will give higher annual deficits and reductions in the General Fund; a position that can only continue for a short time until serious financial difficulties are encountered.

To the people if St Bride's, I would ask all of us to consider carefully and prayerfully how we are able to respond to this. Thank you.

John Myring, PCC Treasurer

St Brides Church Old Trafford
Income & Expenditure 12 months to 31st December 2021

Fund Name	Balance at 1/1/21	Income	Expenditure	Balance at 12/31/21
General fund	£19,895	£35,505	£39,511	£15,889
Destitution Project (Red Cross)	£3,421	£44,143	£47,889	-£325
Youth & Childrens Work	£11,160	£2,775	£200	£13,735
Other Designated Funds	£3,209	£411	£1,059	£2,561
Totals	**£37,685**	**£82,834**	**£88,659**	**£31,860**

Funds Represented by	12/31/20	12/31/21
Current Account	£500	£500
Cheque presented in 2021 re 2022	£1,170	£1,545
Deposit Account	£30,435	£25,926
Total	£32,105	£27,971
Accounts Receivable - British Red Cross	£2,545	£2,315
Accounts Receivable - HMRC Gift Aid	£3,035	£1,574
Total Funds	£37,685	£31,860

		2021 Income	2021 Expenditure		2020 Income	2020 Expenditure	
General Fund	Regular Giving & Collections	£25,857			£33,642		
	Gift Aid Claimed	£6,042			£6,839		
	Donations	£649			£120		
	Income from Use of Building	£2,260			£3,420		
	Fundraising & Other Income	£697			£754		
	General Fund Income	**£35,505**			**£44,775**		
	Parish Share		£18,140	£18,140		£17,651	£17,651
	Church Maintenance		£4,322			£6,181	
	Cleaning		£0			£365	
	Church Running - Gas		£1,950			£1,955	
	Church Running - Electric		£2,612			£2,816	
	Church Running - Insurance		£1,567			£1,562	
	Church Running - Water		£190	£10,641		£564	£13,443
	Working expenses of Curate		£0			£1,012	
	Working expenses of Incumbant		£174			£1,142	
	Rectory Council Tax		£2,093			£1,999	
	Rectory Water rates		£534	£2,801		£275	£4,428
	Parish Training & Mission		£865			£180	
	Giving to Other Organisations		£1,000			£500	
	Upkeep of Services		£479	£2,344		£1,372	£2,052
	Church Office Phones & Internet		£3,604			£4,436	
	Sundries		£1,756	£5,360		£387	£4,823
	Governance Costs		£225	£225		£200	£200
	General Fund Expenditure		**£39,511**	**£39,511**		**£42,597**	**£42,597**
Designated Funds							
Youth & Children's Work	Donations, Gift Aid & Other Income	£2,775			£3,805		
Destitution Project	Donations, Gift Aid & Other Income	£8,085			£9,348		
	Grants from Organisations	£5,000			£8,300		
	Re-imbursement of Running Costs	£31,058			£61,820		
Other Funds	Donations, Gift Aid & Other Income	£411			£5,689		
Youth & Children's Work	Youth & Children's Work Expenses		£200			£1,619	
Destitution Project	Project Running Costs		£47,889			£73,348	
Other Funds	Equipment & Relocation Expenses		£299			£1,543	
	Other Running Costs		£760			£5,824	
	Total Designated Funds	**£47,329**	**£49,148**		**£88,962**	**£82,334**	
	Total For Year	**£82,834**	**£88,659**		**£133,737**	**£124,931**	

St Brides Church Old Trafford
General Fund - Budget 2022
12 Months to 31st December

	2021 Budget	2021 Actuals Full Year	2022 Budget Proposed
INCOME			
Regular Giving - Church	£28,350	£25,857	£20,100
Collections Donations & Fund Raising	£2,640	£649	£500
Income from Use of Building	£2,640	£2,260	£4,240
Gift Aid Reclaimed	£6,615	£6,042	£4,800
Energy Rebates (Solar)	£700	£697	£700
Total Income for Year	£40,945	£35,505	£30,340
EXPENDITURE			
Parish Share	£18,500	£18,140	£18,500
Gas	£2,200	£1,950	£2,500
Electric	£2,900	£2,612	£3,000
Water	£600	£190	£240
Insurance	£1,600	£1,567	£1,600
Maintenance & Cleaning			
Maintenance & Decorating	£7,000	£4,322	£5,000
Sanitary & Nappy Bins	£273	£0	£0
Cleaning Contract & Supplies	£700	£0	£1,000
Incumbents and Curates Expenses			
Curates Honorarium	£0	£0	£0
Vicars expenses	£900	£174	£300
Rectory Costs			
Council Tax	£2,080	£2,093	£2,200
Water Rates	£575	£534	£555
Office & Administration			
Church Office Phones & Internet	£825	£915	£960
Church Office Copier	£2,500	£2,689	£550
Audit Fee	£200	£225	£250
Bank Charges	£750	£514	£540
Services & Mission			
Giving	£1,200	£1,000	£750
Alpha/Mission	£300	£865	£500
Church Breakfast	£600	£0	£450
CCLI & Other Licences	£1,200	£479	£500
Sundries	£1,000	£1,242	£1,200
Total Expenditure for Year	£45,903	£39,511	£40,595
Surplus/(Deficit) for Period	-£4,958	-£4,006	-£10,255
Regular Giving - Youth & Children's Work	£3,255	£2,775	£2,400
Youth & Children's Work Expenditure	£1,000	£200	£1,200

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE PCC OF ST. BRIDE'S OLD TRAFFORD

I report on the financial statements of the PCC for the year ended 31st December 2021, which are set out on pages to .

RESPECTIVE RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE PCC AND THE EXAMINER

As members of the PCC you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements; you consider that an audit is not required for this year under the Regulation and under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011(the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed. It is my responsibility to issue this report on;

- those financial statements under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- follow the procedures laid down in the general directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

This report, including my statement, has been prepared for and only for the charity's trustee as a body. My work has been undertaken so that I might state to the charity's trustee those matters I am required to state to them in an independent examiner's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, I do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's trustee as a body for my examination work, for this report, or for the statements I have made.

BASIS OF THIS REPORT

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the PCC and a comparison of the financial statements presented with those records. It also includes considering any unusual items or disclosures in the financial statements and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the financial statements present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S STATEMENT

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

- which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
    - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
    - to prepare financial statements which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 and have not been met; or
    - to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the financial statements to be reached.

- **SIGNED** John T. Holdsworth BA, C Ed.

Date 7/3/2022.

John Thomas Holdsworth BA, C Ed.

15 Lynmouth Avenue, Flixton, M41 6FB

YIELD

Prayer

During the last year despite lockdowns morning prayer has been able to carry on via zoom which enabled more to join three days a week and now meeting in person- Monday and Wednesday at 9am. We have seen some amazing answers to prayer over the year.

Prayer is the underpinning of all we do at St Bride's not just on a Sunday - before Bizzy B's and the St Bride's Project the volunteers pray together for the day inviting the presence of God and expecting opportunities to show His love.

We have set up a prayer request box and prayer request cards which are being used and those who are in need of prayer receive that, often during morning prayer times, and the request is followed up.

The church WhatsApp has become a way to bring issues and requests for prayer to all those in the group and receive feedback on answers to prayer too.

There is the opportunity to pray in church on Monday evenings at 7pm and every morning except Fridays at 9am.

Small Groups

Small groups which meet in the week are one of the ways in which people encourage one another to serve God, keep looking to Jesus, learn to hear his voice, celebrate answers to prayer, and help one another in times of difficulty and doubt. Different groups have different approaches, and over time some start and some finish.

A Bible study group has met on Wednesday evenings since Covid-19 restrictions eased in the spring of 2021, firstly in the Rectory garden, and later at the home of the Myrings, the Coopers, or M-J Sharp. They have studied the Bible passage from the previous Sunday service, and prayed together. The average attendance has been 5 from a larger pool of attenders, some of whom take turns in leading the study.

On Monday afternoons a group, which is very variable in number and composition, has met to knit and chat together with Linda Penrose. It sometimes includes people who have no other contact with the church. During 2021 the group met in the park or in Shirley Lally's garden complying with whatever Covid-19 restrictions have been in force.

Every month in 2021 except August an ecumenical men's group has met for Bible study on one Saturday morning. Until the summer the group met electronically, and from September the group has met in a home and shared breakfast. The group has studied varied Bible passages including working over 3 months through the letter to Titus. The average attendance has been 6 from 4 churches.

Graham Cooper

St Bride's Project

The Project has continued to run for the whole of 2021 under similar covid restrictions as the latter half of 2020. We have met fortnightly and provided the asylum seekers with money instead of food parcels. From September the British Red Cross were able to reintroduce face to face case work so we adapted our setup accordingly to keep everyone safe.

We were very excited to be able to offer everyone a hot drink, cake and biscuits at our last drop in of the year. Each service user received a Christmas gift. Many thanks to all the people who worked together to make that happen, including 7 assylum seekers or former asylum seekers who acted as waiters to ensure everyone's safety.

As usual there are many people to thank for helping to keep things going, so if you are one of them please consider yourselves thoroughly thanked.

Also thanks to Big Breakfast who have continued to fundraise for us.

Linda Penrose, Project Lead

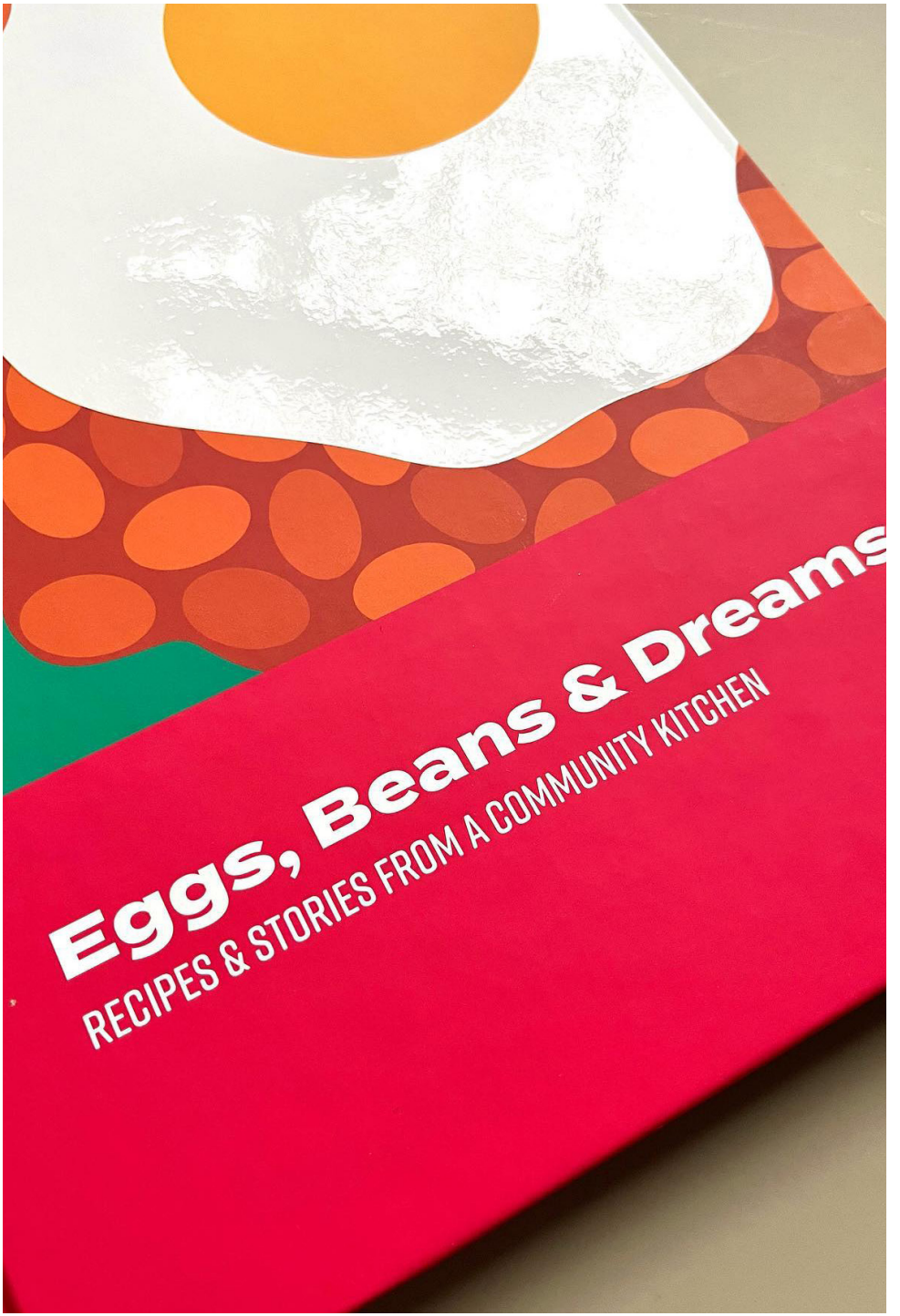
Our Friends, The Big Breakfast

At the beginning of 2021 the Covid-29 pandemic prevented people from meeting to eat breakfast together, but the Big Breakfast team were not dormant. They knew that the destitute failed asylum-seekers still needed support. The team put together a recipe book, which was published late in 2021, and raised over £1,000.00 for the good cause.

In November, 2021, the Big Breakfasters broke their long fast with the first Big Breakfast of the year in St Bride's Church.

In December the pandemic restrictions made another indoor breakfast too difficult, but there was another event outside the church, and many people placed an order for the recipe book.

Tony Vino, Founder of Big Breakfast


Eggs, Beans & Dreams
RECIPES & STORIES FROM A COMMUNITY KITCHEN

Bizzy B's

St Bride's Bizzy B's relaunched in September 2021, back in the church building. After lots of praying, cleaning, shopping, rebranding and risk assessing we re-opened the doors to welcome a community of Old Trafford parents and carers to come to Bizzy B's to connect and spend time together.

We've been careful to keep everyone as safe as possible during Bizzy B's over the last few months. We updated some play equipment and toys and had a clear out of some older, broken toys and ensured everything was cleaned before we re-opened. We've encouraged mask wearing and hand sanitising. We leave the doors to the garden open all morning and have some play equipment outside, which gets used in all weathers! We've stopped having a communal snack time and instead provide a snack zone which is cleaned regularly throughout the session. We still offer (much needed!) tea and coffee and some treats on special occasions!

It has been fantastic to have Bizzy B's meeting in person again and we are seeing the group becoming a popular place to be on a Friday morning! (About 40 children and their grown-ups.) We've been really encouraged by how appreciative people are of Bizzy B's and how pleased people are to be able to meet in such a big, light, bright space. For children to be able play with other children again and grown-ups to connect, make new friends and be encouraged. We're pleased to welcome a diverse group of people to Bizzy B's and lots of new families are finding the group and making it their regular Friday morning community.

Throughout the Bizzy B's year it's great to mark the Christian calendar and the positive seasonal celebrations to offer a change to what can become the repetitive rhythm of parenting little ones, to bring encouragement and opportunities to share Jesus' love. We look forward to marking Easter and sharing why it's the highlight of the Church calendar. As well as Mother's and Father's Day.

We look forward to seeing Bizzy B's grow and thrive as more restrictions are lifted and more families get to know about us. We want Bizzy B's to always be outward focussed, so new people are welcomed in. We want it to be a diverse group of families reflecting the community of Old Trafford. And for it to be a safe place where people are comfortable at church because of the peace of the Holy Spirit and the love of Jesus the volunteers share.

Our group of volunteers are amazing and even though we've had lots of cases of Covid and plenty of winter bugs to contend with, we've had enough people each week to make the group happen. It's been great to reunite our Bizzy B's team and put Bizzy B's back in everyone's diary.

Charlotte Bushell leads Bizzy B's with faithful members of St Brides helping run the group - Linda Penrose, Clare Myring and Barbara S. We also have a great group of volunteers from the Bizzy B's community. Nat volunteers in the kitchen, Emma helps out with everything! And some Bizzy B's grown-ups arrive early or stay late to help with set up and pack down. More volunteers are always welcome, if you know anyone who would like to get involved, do get in touch!

Charlotte Bushell, Bizzy B's Lead

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST BRIDE'S, OLD TRAFFO

England & Wales - Charity number 1146679

Accounts

Annual Report 2020

St Bride's Church, Old Trafford

St Bride's Church, Old Trafford Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Sunday 18th April 2021 at 1 pm

Our Annual Church Meeting is an opportunity to deal with the business of the church, to discuss issues that are concerned with our community life, and to think creatively about our future as we follow God's leading.

Inside this booklet are reports on the activities of the church, which I ask you to read, and so be able to come to the meeting with well prepared questions and ideas for discussion.

Thank you for all that you have done and contributed during this past year, but, most of all, thank you for being part of the family here at St Bride's.

"Be ready for whatever comes, dressed for action and with your lamps lit, like servants who are waiting for their master to come back from a wedding feast. When he comes and knocks, they will open the door at once." – Luke 12: 35-36 (GNB)

St Bride's Church
St Bride's Way, Old Trafford, Manchester, M16 9NW.
Parish Office: 0161-226 3047 Email: admin@stbrides.uk

Priest in Charge: Rev. Peter Matthews
St Bride's Rectory, 33, Shrewsbury Street, Old Trafford, Manchester, M16 9BB.
Tel: 0161-226 1251 Email: peter@stbrides.uk

Ordained Local Minister: Rev. Viv Eccles
c/o St Bride's Parish Office, St. Bride's Way, Old Trafford, Manchester, M16 9NW.
Tel: 0161-226 3047 Email: vivme@btconnect.com

Churchwardens 2020/2021:
(vacant)

Parochial Church Council Secretary 2020/2021
Graham Cooper, 119, Northumberland Road, Old Trafford, Manchester, M16 9PY.
Tel: 0161-872 4140 Email: graham@stbrides.uk

Bankers:
Royal Bank of Scotland, Drummond House Branch, 1 Redhaughs Avenue, EDINBURGH, EH12 9JN.

Independent Examiner: Mr. John Holdsworth B.A., F.C.C.A., C.Ed.

The Parochial Church Council is registered charity no. 1146679

Contents

Rector's Introduction	4
Agenda For Annual Meetings	6
Annual Meeting of Parishioners Minutes	7
Annual Parochial Church Meeting Minutes	8
Electoral Roll Officer Report	9
Secretary to the PCC Report	10
Safeguarding Report	11
Parish Policy On Safeguarding Children	12
Parish Policy On Safeguarding Adults	13
Fabric Report	14
Treasurer Report	16
Other Events And Gatherings	23
St Bride's Youth	24
St Bride's Kids	26
St Bride's Project	27
The Big Breakfast	30
Bizzy B's	33
Church Weekend Away at Scargill	34

Rector's Introduction

The year 2020 will not be easily forgotten as we began it with news of a strange disease making its way around the world causing governments to begin bringing in certain controls, and even lockdowns. It was no real surprise to find ourselves also brought to a shutdown with places of worship unable to hold services in their buildings. In March, after the church weekend away which, due to a new and persistent cough I was unable to go on, we began to stream Sunday worship services on our St Bride's Old Trafford Youtube channel. We made the decision to be as live as possible while other churches chose to pre-record aspects, and some all, of their services. We felt that resources were already out there which church members could access and we wanted to be gathered in time, if not in the same physical space, and use the chat function to build one another up and encourage the whole church. People from outside our normal catchment, but who predominantly have links to our church community, began to see us as their online church. As we were able to have limited numbers return for worship in the building from the Summer we formed an Admin Team to organise us and with the Steward Team have held Sunday Services both online and onsite, with the latter ending in communion.

Video chat (mostly using Zoom) became the main way to meet for small midweek groups, prayer meetings, occasional events and now and then Bizzy B's. A pastoral team was put together to make sure that people were made contact with, especially those with health issues or were isolated. Naturally people found this whole situation difficult and a number began to disconnect, with some then finding their way to link with other churches and then others realising that this was going to last more than a few weeks and in beginning to learn that these technological ways of being community were better than nothing, and in some cases had aspects that were more beneficial than how things were pre-covid-19 (the disease in question), they connected back in to St Bride's. Online messaging services like WhatsApp have become more important to ministry and it's been wonderful to see the prayerful care and concern people have shown each other especially in times of crisis and loss.

Beginning with the Wednesday evening meeting, and now becoming a whole church concern, it was felt that we should support St Moses in Uganda as they were (are) struggling far more through this time than us and we desire to help our brothers and sisters in Christ and those in dire need. To re-deepen our relationship with them has been an encouragement and blessing to us. Seeing the photos and videos sent to us to show that our giving has made a real difference has made even me quite emotional at times!

We don't know how 2021 will be but hopefully we will have learnt to be more prayerful and have become more attentive to the voice of our Good Shepherd and to know how better to follow his guidance.

Thank you all for your godly persistence, for your encouragement to those who have struggled at times and for your prayers, practical help and involvement. We have all, myself included, had dark days and times of struggle so the fact that you are still with us and part of the family of this small church here in the heart of Old Trafford is fantastic - and know that you are valued and appreciated.

Do please read the rest of this report and let us continue together in the ministry and mission that God has called us to, running the race that he has set before us.

God bless you in the name of Jesus,

Rev Peter Matthews, Rector of St Bride's

Agenda For Annual Meetings

18th April 2021

Meeting of Parishioners

(Open to everyone on the Electoral Roll plus all Local Government Electors in the Parish)

1 Prayer
2 Apologies for absence
3 Minutes of the meeting held on 31st October, 2020
These minutes were approved by the PCC on 26th November, 2020
4 Election of 2 Churchwardens for 2021/2022
Churchwardens are PCC members ex officio.

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

(Open to everyone on the Electoral Roll of the Church. Non-voting observers are welcome.)

1 Apologies for absence
2 Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting held on 31st October, 2020
These minutes were approved by the PCC on 26th November, 2020
3 Identification of issues for discussion at the APCM or future PCC meetings
Anyone on the Electoral Roll may suggest an item for discussion, but PLEASE be sure to let Peter Matthews or Graham Cooper have notice of the item by Tuesday, 13th April, 2021.
4.1 Report of Rector
4.2 Report of Electoral Roll Officer
4.3 Report from PCC
4.4 Report from Deanery Synod (Nothing to report)
4.5 Report of Parish Safeguarding Officer
4.6 Parish Policy on Safeguarding Children
4.7 Parish Policy on Safeguarding Adults
4.8 Fabric Report
5.1 Report of Treasurer and Presentation of Accounts for 2020
5.2 Budget for 2021
5.3 Independent Examiner for 2021
6.1 Report of Small Groups
6.2 Report of St Bride's Youth
6.3 Report of St Bride's Kids
6.4 Report of St Bride's Project
6.5 Report of Big Breakfast
6.6 Report of Bizzy B's
6.7 Report on Church Weekend Away at Scargill
7 Election of 2 Deanery Synod Representatives (for 2 years)
8 Election of 6 Members of the Parochial Church Council
Subject to drawing lots for 3 places for 3 years, 1 place for 2 years, and 2 places for 1 year
9 Issues for discussion at the APCM (as identified above)
10 Praying for the work of the church

Annual Meeting Of Parishioners Minutes

31st October 2020

In Attendance:
Angela Cooper, Graham Cooper (minutes), Susanna Hewitt, Chara Hosie, Douglas Matthews, Penny Matthews, Rev. Peter Matthews (chair), John Myring, Linda Penrose, M-J Sharp, Jennifer Williams.

Apologies were received from:
Alison Bell, Rachel Dean, Rob Eccles, Rev. Vivien Eccles, Clare Myring, Rebecca Rank, Lynda Sterling.

1 Rev. Peter Matthews opened the meeting with a reading from Philippians 3: 12-14, followed by prayer.
2 The minutes of the meeting held on 14th April, 2019, which had been approved by the
3 Parochial Church Council on 13th May, 2019, were approved.
There were no nominations for candidates for election as churchwardens for the year 2020/2021.

Annual Parochial Church Meeting Minutes

31st October 2020

In Attendance:

Angela Cooper, Graham Cooper (minutes), Catherine Fyfe, Scott Hewitt, Susanna Hewitt, Chara Hosie, Douglas Matthews, Penny Matthews, Rev. Peter Matthews (chair), John Myring, Linda Penrose, M-J Sharp, Jennifer Williams.

1 Apologies were received from:
Alison Bell, Rachel Dean, Rob Eccles, Rev. Vivien Eccles, Clare Myring, Rebecca Rank, Lynda Sterling.

2 The minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting held on 14th April 2019, which had been approved by the Parochial Church Council on 13th May 2019, were approved.

3 No items for discussion had been notified in advance to the chair or to the secretary.

Officers' Reports

4.1 Rev. Peter Matthews read the Policy Statement on Children, Young People and the Church of St Bride's, Old Trafford, which with the appointment of Angela Cooper as safeguarding officer, was approved by the PCC on 13th May 2019.

4.2 Rev. Peter Matthews read the Church's Policy on Safeguarding of Adults in the Church, which was approved by the PCC on 13th May 2019. He expressed his thanks to Angela Cooper for her work behind the scenes.

4.3 The reports of the Electoral Roll Officer, the Secretary to the PCC, the Deanery Synod Representative, and the Safeguarding Officer were received.

4.4 John Myring presented the Fabric Report adding that the redecoration of the worship space had now been completed with better quality paint, and the floor mended, but there was still a leak over the emergency staircase, on which he and Peter Matthews were taking professional advice in the hope that it might be repaired under the terms of the builder's indemnity contract.

Finance

5 John Myring presented the annual financial report adding that during the Covid-19 pandemic church members' financial support had been largely maintained leading to an expectation of a small surplus at the end of 2020, and he proposed the reception of the report and the appointment of John Holdsworth as Independent Examiner for the forthcoming year.
Proposed by John Myring, seconded by Angela Cooper, carried unanimously.

Reports of Activities

6 The reports on Prayer Ministry, Small Groups, St Bride's Youth, Bizzy B's, the Destitution Project, the Big Breakfast, and St Bride's Kids were received.

Elections

7 There were no candidates nominated for the 2 vacancies to represent the church with the clergy on Stretford Deanery Synod for 3 years. (It was noted that in 2021 the deanery was to be amalgamated with 2 other deaneries, but with the same representation from parishes as currently.)

8 The following 6 lay people were elected to sit on the Parochial Church Council for 1, 2 or 3 years according to lots drawn leaving 4 vacancies:
Kwami Ankra, Douglas Matthews, John Myring, Linda Penrose, Fred Waters

9 There were no items requested for discussion.

10 Church members joined in prayer.

Electoral Roll Officer Report

In 2017 a new Electoral Roll was compiled. In each subsequent years the Electoral Roll has been revised.

At the time of the last Annual Parochial Church Meeting on 31st October, 2020, the Electoral Roll recorded 63 names. Since that time there have been no names added or removed from the Roll.

The Electoral Roll on 21st March, 2021, recorded 63 names.

Demographic Composition of the Electoral Roll on 21st March, 2021.

The figures for the Roll on 14th April, 2019, appear in brackets below.

17 (12) people live in St. Bride's parish	27%	(22%)
46 (41) people live outside St. Bride's parish	73%	(78%)
40 (32) people live in Old Trafford	63.5%	(64%)
23 (21) people live outside Old Trafford	36.5%	(36%)

Of the people living outside Old Trafford 17 (15) live very close to the boundary of Old Trafford.

Graham Cooper, Electoral Roll Officer

Secretary to the PCC Report

1 At the beginning of 2020 the elected members of the P.C.C. were Alison Bell, Angela Cooper, (Deanery Synod representative), Graham Cooper (Secretary), Robert Eccles, David Henningham, Sam Marriott, Douglas Matthews, Clare Myring (Vice-Chair), John Myring (Treasurer), and Linda Penrose. Rev. Peter Matthews (Chair) and Rev. Viv Eccles were members by virtue of their office as clergy. There were no churchwardens.

2 Because of restrictions imposed from March, 2020, by the Covid-19 pandemic the A.P.C.M. was delayed until 31st October, 2020, and was held as a virtual meeting by Zoom, when the following people were elected to positions on the P.C.C. for the number of years shown in brackets: Kwami Ankrah (3), Douglas Matthews (1), John Myring (2), Linda Penrose (3), and Fred Waters (1) leaving 4 unfilled vacancies, and 2 unfilled vacancies for Deanery Synod representatives. Rev. Peter Matthews (chair) continued as chair by virtue of his office as rector. No-one was elected as a churchwarden. Rev. Viv Eccles' status as a member of the clergy changed because of her age, and she was no longer eligible for a seat on the P.C.C. by virtue of her office.

3 The P.C.C. co-opted Graham Cooper, and appointed for the year: Linda Penrose-vice-chair; John Myring-treasurer; Graham Cooper-secretary and electoral roll officer.

4 The P.C.C. met on 6 occasions. The last 4 meetings were virtual meetings by Zoom because of the Covid-19 pandemic restrictions, and only the last meeting in 2020 was a meeting of the newly elected P.C.C. The Standing Committee met between P.C.C. meetings to deal with urgent business and to agree the next P.C.C. agenda.

5 The P.C.C. complied with the duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 (duty to have regard to the House of Bishops ' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults).

6 Each meeting included prayer and usually a Bible reading, routine reports on finance, safeguarding, children, youth, maintenances of the building with health and safety, and concluded with a review of how the meeting had gone.

7 The P.C.C. responded to a diocesan consultation on proposed new large area deaneries. In the proposal Old Trafford would be part of a deanery extending from Flixton to Fallowfield and from Wythenshawe to St. Ann's Square in the centre of Manchester. Another diocesan consultation concerned new mission districts comprising several parishes: the draft proposal was for a mission district comprising All Saints and St. Matthew's Churches, Stretford, St. Hilda's Church, Firswood and Gorse Hill, and St. Bride's and St. John the Evangelist's Churches in Old Trafford.

8 Other business considered by the P.C.C. included a giving policy, the week-end away, the mission action plan, and most notably responding to the restrictions caused by the Covid-19 pandemic. The church was organised for socially distanced attendance, services were live-streamed, and meetings were held by Zoom.

Graham Cooper, Secretary

Safeguarding Report

Responsibilities

The Church of England is committed to the protection of all children and adults, especially those who may be vulnerable, for example due to illness or disability. St Bride's has adopted safeguarding policies which should be reviewed at the A.P.C.M each year. The policies help us to create a safe environment for both children and vulnerable people. They are designed to ensure that volunteers are better prepared to respond to suspicion or allegation of abuse whether the alleged abuse is outside or within the church; also, that the risk be reduced of someone using a position in the church to exploit a person. Safe recruitment and training procedures are in place to enable high standards of care.

No-one should drift into helping

Any vacancies in should be advertised with a job description. Volunteers need to make a 'Confidential Declaration' regarding their suitability to be involved in the area of work. The volunteer is required to make a paper application and references will be taken up. There needs to be an interview and if the person appears to be suitable for the role an application can be made to the Disclosure and Barring Service. The Safeguarding Officer is informed of anything that would make the person unsuitable for the role. The volunteer is then required to take complete on-line training prior to taking on their new role. The Diocese provides training throughout the Diocese which the volunteer is required to attend. A record of agreement is signed, and they receive a copy of our 'Good Practice' guidelines.

Support

Working as teams and offering encouragement and constructive criticism is the best safeguard against poor morale and slipping standards. The support of our youth and children's workers with prayer is the collective responsibility of the church.

Risks

If the church does not strive to adhere to the policy, the church's insurance company may refuse to deal with a claim by a child that he or she has been harmed by the negligence of someone acting on behalf of the church. By their hiring agreement the Arabic Church undertakes to follow our child protection policy.

Practicalities

It has proved difficult to practically help those wanting to take up posts on PCC to manage the technology involved in applying for a DBS certificate and completing the mandatory on-line training. Hopefully as restrictions ease it will become easier to assist those who are keen to serve in this way.

The Children's and Vulnerable Adult's Safeguarding Policies are on display in the narthex as required by the Diocese. The church website includes Safeguarding information.

The Safeguarding Officer's photograph and contact telephone number are on display in the Narthex (also required by the Diocese).

A copy of the Diocesan Safeguarding Policy is available on the bookshelf against the office wall in the church foyer where anyone can access it if they so wish.

Angela Cooper, Parish Safeguarding Officer

Parish Policy On Safeguarding Children

This statement was agreed at the Parochial Church Council meeting held on 8th May 2017. It will be read at the Annual General Meeting held in the month of April each year where progress in carrying it out will be monitored. Children and young people are part of our church. They have much to give as well as to receive. We will listen to them. As we nurture them in worship, learning, and community life, we will take into account the wishes and feelings of children and young people.

- 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, or to prevent the continuation of, any physical, sexual, and emotional abuse of children and young people of which we become aware, and to report any abuse discovered or suspected.
- We recognize that our work with children and young people is the responsibility of the whole church.
- 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 observe 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 P.C.C. has appointed Angela Cooper to be the Parish Safeguarding Officer from April 2018.

Parish Policy On Safeguarding Adults

This policy will be reviewed each year to monitor the progress which has been achieved.

1 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.

2 As members of this parish we commit ourselves to respectful pastoral care for all adults to whom we minister.

3 We commit ourselves to the safeguarding of people who may be vulnerable, ensuring their well-being in the life of this church.

4 We commit ourselves to promoting safe practice by those in positions of trust.

5 The parish commits itself to promoting the inclusion and empowerment of people who may be vulnerable.

6 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.

7 We undertake to exercise proper care in the appointment and selection of those who will work with people who may be vulnerable.

8 The parish is committed to supporting, resourcing, training and regularly reviewing those who undertake work amongst people who may be vulnerable.

9 The parish adopts the guidelines of the Church of England and the Diocese.

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

Fabric Report

Outside space

Big thank you to those who have made sure it is clean and tidy in our church garden and car park with a special thanks to Fred Waters and Simon Dean who have made sure the bins have been put out when they should have, that the weeds have been kept back, the lawn mown and pretty much anything that has been needed to be done.

Inside space

Decorating:

The damage from the water coming from the roof into the worship space and back stairwell was sorted and redecorated and refloored. We have made sure the roof is regularly cleared of debris but the back stairs is still getting water coming in as there is a problem with the roof itself which is being looked into.

Kitchen:

The extraction system was cleared, netting put on to stop any more pigeons getting inside and the whole of that and the kitchen deep cleaned.

Fire alarm and emergency lighting:

These have been regularly checked on contract and some of the emergency lights required new batteries.

Boiler:

The boiler has been serviced and the heating set up correctly for use with underfloor heating in a way that should require very little adjustment.

Signage and work for being COVID-19 secure:

Temporary signs have been placed around the site indicating directions of travel, sanitation procedures and other info as well as some semi-permanent signs like direction stickers and paint on the floor and ground.

Thank you to John and Clare Myring for all the time and effort they have put into making sure so much of this work has been achieved throughout this difficult year.

St Brides's Old Trafford
Treasurers Report for Year to 31st December 2020

It is with a sigh of relief that, despite all that has happened, (or not, in the case of Church activities), I am able to report that 2020 has proved to be a satisfactory year for the Church's finances. Overall there was a surplus of £8,800, with the majority of this due to the impact of activities of the Destitution Project. It is good to note that the General Fund has a small surplus of £2,200, continuing to maintain the level of funds here at a satisfactory level, and enabling the implementation of the PCC policy of making donations to other organisations. The Destitution Project had an overall surplus of £6,000, mainly reflecting the reimbursement of previous years' Running Costs from the British Red Cross.

General Fund

The General Fund is where the day to day Income and Expenditure of keeping the Church running is recorded. In 2020 our income exceeded our running costs by £2,200, a reduction on the surplus of £5,900 in 2019. Overall income reduced by £1,300 (3%), which in the circumstances was very encouraging. Regular giving and the related reclaimed Gift Aid rose by a small margin, and we are to give thanks that the majority of the congregation were able to continue their regular giving throughout the year. With the curtailment of the activities of both the Big Breakfast and Busy Bees income from their use of the building was down in the year. As we move into another year of Lockdown and economic challenges we all need to be aware of the impact this will have on the Church's income stream in the forthcoming year. An increase of £2,300 in expenditure is primarily due to increases in expenditure in maintenance, and this is a trend that is likely to continue in coming years. With the surplus we managed to increase the level of the General Fund to £19,900 at the year end, leaving the General Fund in a satisfactory position, although the challenges of the current crisis and its impact on finances are still slightly unknown.

- Income in the year of £44,800 is slightly lower than the previous year. The overall level of Regular Giving and related Gift Aid increased slightly year-on-year as individual members circumstances changed, and again the number giving regularly has increased in the year. Income from the use of the building was lower as the restrictions on its use were implemented. Donations and Fundraising were both lower, emphasizing the need to continue to focus on increasing the regular giving to ensure we maintain a satisfactory financial position.
- Expenditure in the year of £42,600 is 6% higher than in 2019. The major item of expenditure is the Parish Share, paid to the Diocese, which is a contribution towards their costs of providing us with our incumbent. This year it was £17,700, reflecting the small increase in line with our agreement with the Diocese. The costs of running the building have, as anticipated, increased by £2,100. Maintenance costs have increased significantly as the regular maintenance programme is started to be implemented, but there were savings with the Cleaning contract being suspended during the Building closure. Clergy costs were lower with less activities and the retirement of our Curate during the year. I

am pleased to report that we were able to give small donations to activities with which the church has a connection in the year, which we hope and pray will have an impact on the work that they do.

- The proposed Budget for 2021 reflects the impact of known and anticipated reductions in giving from members of the Church, together with a lower income from the use of the Church building as we have to anticipate that activities will continue to be curtailed for some months. Expenditure will be higher, with the increase in Parish Share and provision for increasing costs of maintenance. Work will continue in controlling running costs, but it is to be expected that there will be a deficit in the year, funded out of the reserves.

Designated Funds

Overall these showed a surplus in the year, a very changed picture from previous years, but as usual this statement doesn't reflect fully the blessings and challenges in a number of areas: -

- Youth and Children's Work – Following the changes to the work with our Youth and Children, running costs have been significantly lower than previous years. We continue to be blessed that the financial support of this work has continued, and we were able to ensure that all the young people who wanted to go to the Church Weekend away in early 2020 were able to do so.
- Destitution Project – the Pandemic meant that by April the entire way the project was run changed. Instead of receiving a hot meal and a weekly food parcel the Clients could only attend every two weeks and were supported by increased cash donations, mostly funded by the Red Cross. We were blessed by two Community Grants, totaling £8.300 from Trafford Housing Trust which enabled us to provide a little more money on top of that provided by the Red Cross. As the accounts show the running costs increased by almost 50% over the previous year and the re-imbursement from the Red Cross was more than double the previous years. We were also blessed that our friends in the Big Breakfast who usually met monthly in the building and contribute their surplus income to the project, moved online and continued to support the Project with various Fundraising activities so that the fundraising income was only 14% lower than the previous year. Unfortunately, due to the Global demands on their resources, British Red Cross had to reduce the funding available to their projects and the level of support to the Clients had to be reduced in the closing weeks of the year. One of the big uncertainties of the ongoing pandemic is how our clients are to be supported going forward; as the numbers of people in need show no signs of declining.
- Church Equipment. A further £1,500 was spent in the year, mainly on items to enable the Church to continue to meet through You Tube and Zoom during the year, and in making the building Covid secure, particularly for those that came for support through the Destitution Project.
- Other Funds – These funds are for income and related costs for Church activities that have taken place over the year, principally the Church Weekend at Scargill House in March.

John Myring PCC Treasurer February 2021

St Brides Church Old Trafford
Income & Expenditure 12 months to 31st Dec 2020

Fund Name	Balance at 01/01/2020	Income In Year	Expenditure In Year	Balance at 31/12/2020
General fund	£17,717	£44,775	£42,597	£19,895
Youth & Childrens Work	£8,974	£3,805	£1,619	£11,160
Destitution Fund (British Red Cross)	-£2,699	£79,468	£73,348	£3,421
Church Equipment	£2,479		£1,543	£936
Other	£2,408	£5,689	£5,824	£2,273
Totals	£28,879	£133,737	£124,931	£37,685
Funds Represented by	31/12/2019			31/12/2020
Current Account	£500			£500
Paid in 2020 re 2019	£1,135			£0
Cheques Drawn not processed	-£1,173			£0
Cheque presented in 2020 re 2021	£1,760			£1,170
Deposit Account	£24,619			£30,435
Total	£26,841			£32,105
Accounts Receivable - HMRC Gift Aid	£2,038			£3,035
- British Red Cross	£0			£2,545
Total Funds	£28,879			£37,685

		2020 Income	2020 Expenditure		2019 Income	2019 Expenditure	
General Fund	Regular Giving & Collections	£33,642			£32,435		
	Gift Aid Claimed	£6,839			£7,410		
	Donations	£120			£730		
	Income from Use of Building	£3,420			£4,440		
	Fundraising & Other Income	£754			£1,032		
	General Fund Income	**£44,775**			**£46,047**		
	Parish Share		£17,651	£17,651		£17,472	£17,472
	Church Maintenance		£6,181			£2,206	
	Cleaning		£365			£1,746	
	Church Running - Gas		£1,955			£2,233	
	Church Running - Electric		£2,816			£3,103	
	Church Running - Insurance		£1,562			£1,562	
	Church Running - Water		£564	£13,443		£0	£10,850
	Working expenses of Curate		£1,012			£1,650	
	Working expenses of Incumbant		£1,142			£1,236	
	Rectory Council Tax		£1,999			£1,905	
	Rectory Water rates		£275	£4,428		£526	£5,317
	Parish Training & Mission		£180			£1,210	
	Subscriptions		£0			£90	
	Giving to Other Organisations		£500			£0	
	Upkeep of Services		£1,372	£2,052		£681	£1,981
	Church Office Phones & Internet		£4,436			£3,793	
	Sundries		£387	£4,823		£670	£4,463
	Governance Costs		£200	£200		£200	£200
	General Fund Expenditure		**£42,597**	**£42,597**		**£40,283**	**£40,283**
Designated Funds							
Youth & Children's Work	Donations, Gift Aid & Other Income	£3,805			£4,455		
Destitution Project	Donations, Gift Aid & Other Income	£9,348			£10,839		
	Grants from Organisations	£8,300			£0		
	Re-imbursement of Running Costs	£61,820			£28,132		
Other Funds	Donations, Gift Aid & Other Income	£5,689			£3,564		
Youth & Children's Work	Youth & Children's Work Expenses		£1,619			£1,464	
Destitution Project	Project Running Costs		£73,348			£50,045	
Other Funds	Equipment & Relocation Expenses		£1,543			£1,191	
	Other Running Costs		£5,824			£2,357	
	Grants to Organisations		£0			£3,600	
	Total Designated Funds	**£88,962**	**£82,334**		**£46,990**	**£58,657**	
	Total For Year	**£133,737**	**£124,931**		**£93,037**	**£98,940**	

St Brides Church Old Trafford
Budget 2021
12 Months to 31st December

	2020 Budget	2020 Actuals Full Year	2021 Budget Proposed
INCOME			
Regular Giving - Church	£32,750	£33,506	£28,350
Regular Giving - Youth & Children's Work	£4,465	£3,805	£3,255
Collections Donations & Fund Raising	£1,630	£316	£2,640
Income from Use of Building	£4,320	£3,420	£2,640
Gift Aid Reclaimed	£7,865	£6,838	£6,615
Energy Rebates (Solar)	£700	£695	£700
Total Income for Year	£51,730	£48,580	£44,200
EXPENDITURE			
Parish Share	£18,000	£17,651	£18,500
Gas	£2,400	£1,955	£2,200
Electric	£3,200	£2,816	£2,900
Water	£600	£564	£600
Insurance	£1,560	£1,562	£1,600
Maintenance & Cleaning			
Maintenance & Decorating	£4,800	£6,181	£7,000
Sanitary & Nappy Bins	£546	£0	£273
Cleaning Contract & Supplies	£1,400	£365	£700
Incumbents and Curates Expenses			
Curates Honorarium	£1,650	£1,012	£0
Vicars expenses	£1,440	£659	£900
Rectory Costs			
Council Tax	£2,000	£1,999	£2,080
Water Rates	£575	£275	£575
Office & Administration			
Church Office Phones & Internet	£760	£811	£825
Church Office Copier	£2,532	£2,842	£2,500
Audit Fee	£200	£200	£200
Bank Charges	£600	£783	£750
Subscriptions & Payroll	£60	£0	£0
Services & Mission			
Youth Work	£1,200	£435	£500
Children's Work	£600	£40	£500
Youth & Children at Scargill W/End	£1,500	£1,144	£0
Giving	£0	£500	£1,200
Alpha/Mission	£300	£180	£300
Church Breakfast	£1,100	£276	£600
CCLI & Other Licences	£700	£1,096	£1,200
Sundries	£1,200	£870	£1,000
Total Expenditure for Year	£48,923	£44,216	£46,903
Surplus/(Deficit) for Period	£2,807	£4,364	-£2,703

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE PCC OF ST. BRIDE'S OLD TRAFFORD

I report on the financial statements of the PCC for the year ended 31st December 2020, which are set out on pages to .

RESPECTIVE RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE PCC AND THE EXAMINER

As members of the PCC you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements; you consider that an audit is not required for this year under the Regulation and under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011(the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed. It is my responsibility to issue this report on;

- those financial statements under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- follow the procedures laid down in the general directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

This report, including my statement, has been prepared for and only for the charity's trustee as a body. My work has been undertaken so that I might state to the charity's trustee those matters I am required to state to them in an independent examiner's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, I do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's trustee as a body for my examination work, for this report, or for the statements I have made.

BASIS OF THIS REPORT

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the PCC and a comparison of the financial statements presented with those records. It also includes considering any unusual items or disclosures in the financial statements and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the financial statements present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S STATEMENT

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

- which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
    - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
    - to prepare financial statements which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 and have not been met; or
    - to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the financial statements to be reached.

- **SIGNED** John T. Holdsworth BA, C.Ed.,

Date 21/2/2021

John Thomas Holdsworth BA, C Ed.

15 Lynmouth Avenue, Flixton, M41 6FB

Other Events & Gatherings

Throughout 2020 small groups and other gatherings and events have continued and moved to online only and many smaller ‘gatherings’ have been produced often on messaging apps found on smartphones. Morning prayer, Wednesday Night Homegroup and a Sunday evening gathering all became events held on Zoom, a video conferencing app. The morning prayer and Wednesday meeting also had a messaging group each where things of importance - and occasionally some silliness and fun! - were communicated, and we began to learn how we could pray for one another and build each other up without necessarily seeing one another. A WhatsApp group was continued for the Knitting Group and one was started for the parents of St Bride’s Kids and one was begun for the whole church. After the church service a Zoom fellowship meeting was set up so that some face time could be had for those who wanted and it has been great to even reconnect with people from St Bride’s past. When there were opportunities for twos or small groups to meet people were taking these up to help, pastor and pray for and with each other as well as ‘just’ spend time in each other’s company. Being in people’s homes via webcams and chatting while they prepare meals or lounge in their sofas has actually been on occasion fun, revealing and quite intimate! We still do look forward to the days when we can gather together in person once again and share food as well as fellowship.

St Bride's Youth

We started 2020 strong at St Bride's Youth. At Thursday Night Youth (formerly Youth Discipleship), we did Pete Greig's Prayer Course, which is an 8-week course all about what prayer is, how to do it, and why we do it, all using the structure of the Lord's Prayer.

Alongside Thursday's sessions, we were also running Alpha Youth on Friday nights, which we ran as a youth drop-in. The youth turned up, played some games such as table tennis, air hockey or giant knock-off Jenga, and then had some free takeaway. After eating we would then run the Alpha session from 8pm-8.30/45pm depending on the length of the video. We started with 7 youth joining us, which doubled the following 2 weeks and after that, we had around 20 regulars, plus the occasional extras.

It was great having them turning up weekly to have fun together, eat together and learn more about Jesus together, and it was a shame that we had to stop this weekly event once the lockdown started.

The first week of lockdown, we instantly started meeting on Thursdays using Zoom continuing the Prayer Course for the last couple of sessions.

Once the Prayer Course was over, we decided to spend the rest of the academic year looking at the same Bible passages that we were reading on Sundays with the Bible in a year. We invited all of the youth that joined us on Fridays to join us, which a couple of them accepted.

After the summer holidays, we continued meeting on Zoom with a year-long aim of looking at the Spiritual Disciplines. We started with the "vision series" for the youth, which, like 2019, was called Heart Conditions, looking at the condition of our hearts. We also looked at the disciplines of Study and Self-Examination.

During the lockdown and into December, we also ran a weekly 5-15 minute podcast on Youtube based on the Psalms. We had a couple of special guests such as Brittany White from Red Church in Melbourne, Australia and Beth and Jamie Pritchard from The Lantern Church in Wimborne, Dorset.

I'd like to thank the youth team: Rachel Dean, MJ Sharp and Malc Sterling for all of their help and hard work. Yes, the year has been tough and we have Zoom-fatigue, but it has been amazing seeing all that God has done.

Doug Matthews, Youth Lead

St Bride's Kids

Two children's groups ran on Sunday mornings from January to March 2020; our programmes were based on the bible readings used in the adults' group. The last time the children were able to meet together was during our Church Weekend Away at Scargill House where the in-house team provided fun activities for them.

A WhatsApp group was set up following the initial lockdown in March for parents and leaders to facilitate the sharing of ideas and activities for the children to enjoy and to encourage each other.

A few leaders met in the park to discuss the option of restarting groups. Group leaders were canvassed about contributing to face to face groups but at that time it was decided face to face was not a good idea. The option of Zoom was discussed but this was not met with much enthusiasm; there were concerns about using the technology and also of how beneficial it would be for the younger children.

At Easter some activity packs were distributed to some of the younger children for whom we had addresses.

In between lockdowns we had a socially distanced picnic in Hullard Park which a few families were able to attend.

Angela Cooper, Kids Team

St Bride's Project

The Project, serving destitute asylum seekers, in partnership with the British Red Cross, began 2020 in our usual way – providing food parcels and a hot meal every Thursday – but as the pandemic took hold it became increasingly obvious that we would need to change!

In early March we swiftly put social distancing measures , hand sanitisers etc in place but as lockdown approached we took the decision on March 19th to give 2 weeks support - one food parcel and £10 for the 2nd week, telling people to return on 2nd April, trusting that we would find a way to continue by then.

Following numerous Zoom meetings with BRC, continuous scrutiny of Government, Church of England and BRC regulations we established that a minimal service was feasible every 2 weeks. Many thanks to Peter and Laura who kept it going for the Church as most of the usual volunteers were instructed to shield. They established a system where service users queued outside at a distance and entered the building singly to receive their money, which had been enveloped in advance. BRC had moved their casework onto phone calls only so were in attendance only to record service users and direct newcomers to the phone service.

We had to resort to giving money each fortnight as buying and packing food became untenable. This put a huge strain on our budget but Praise God for Trafford Housing Trust who gave us an emergency grant and to the Big Breakfast team who continued to fund raise, in an increasingly varied and creative way, for us even though they couldn't meet . Thank you to John for going to the bank, Clare standing in for Laura, Graham for managing the grants and Tony and his team for fundraising.

As restrictions lifted slightly in August more of us were able to come to the building and we re-established the clothes stall – this time with new clothes only, quarantined for 72 hours. Many thanks to Grace, Mark and Gloria for managing this. As time went on we were able to recruit more people to steward and so enable 2or 3 service users to be in the building at a time. Thank you to all the Big Breakfast volunteer stewards. A big thank you to Laura who has spent the whole winter manning the queue outside in the cold!!

We managed to give everyone – 97 people – a gift at Christmas. Thank you to everyone involved in providing those. Special thanks to Ros in Liverpool and her son for providing 32 gift bags of presents for children.

Altogether a challenging year but Praise God for His provision.

Linda Penrose, St Bride's Project Lead

The Big Breakfast

Wow, what can I say, 2020 has been a big year for the Big Breakfast. On 8th February we celebrated our 3rd year anniversary.

The monthly event was well established bringing in over 120 customers each time and making north of £800 profit per event for the St Bride's Destitution Project.

At our anniversary event we made £895 profit. Not bad for 3 hours of cafe.

Alas with the Covid outbreak March was our last event. The heart of the project however remained the same, to support St Bride's Destitution Project, to bring the community together and to be a bridge between the church and the local area. Therefore we looked to continue the mission in innovative ways. In April 2020 we had an online gathering, hosted by Tony Vino with a live cooking demo from Bec Chow. Alongside that we set up a Just Giving to continue fundraising for the project. Our Just Giving raised over £1500. For May we had a Zoom family party games get together and launched another fundraiser this time raising £664.

In June we did a zoom gathering with Lynda Sterling running a family craft workshop. At July's gathering we had Louise from 'Simply Singing' running singing rounds, warm ups and tongue twisters alongside another Just Giving netting £420.

In August Janet ran a Big Breakfast fundraiser table on the OT Jumble Trail. The pandemic was dragging on and we wanted to get more creative in fundraising as well as look at a sustainable ongoing income if we found ourselves unable to host the live event for some time. Therefore in September we began the initiative to produce a Big Breakfast cookbook with recipes donated by supporters and Old Trafford residents to reflect the diversity of the area.

In October we put out to our supporters to provide new clothing to be supplied to be given out at the St Bride's Project.

For November we had another online gathering and a Just Giving fundraiser alongside this time raising £2115.

We produced a Big Breakfast fair trade tea towel, design by Stanley Chow. We printed 100, which sold instantly at £10 on ***thebigbreakfast.bigcartel.com***

Crowdfunder for cookbook was launched in earnest in November 2020 and we managed to raise £8,780 (+ est. £1757.75 giftaid) which was enough to fund the design and printing of the cookbook which will be released in 2021. Check out the video ***youtu.be/IM3l3MQpeug***

A local artist and BB Supporter Ana Lucia Cuevas designed and produced and sold posters donating profits going to The Destitution project.

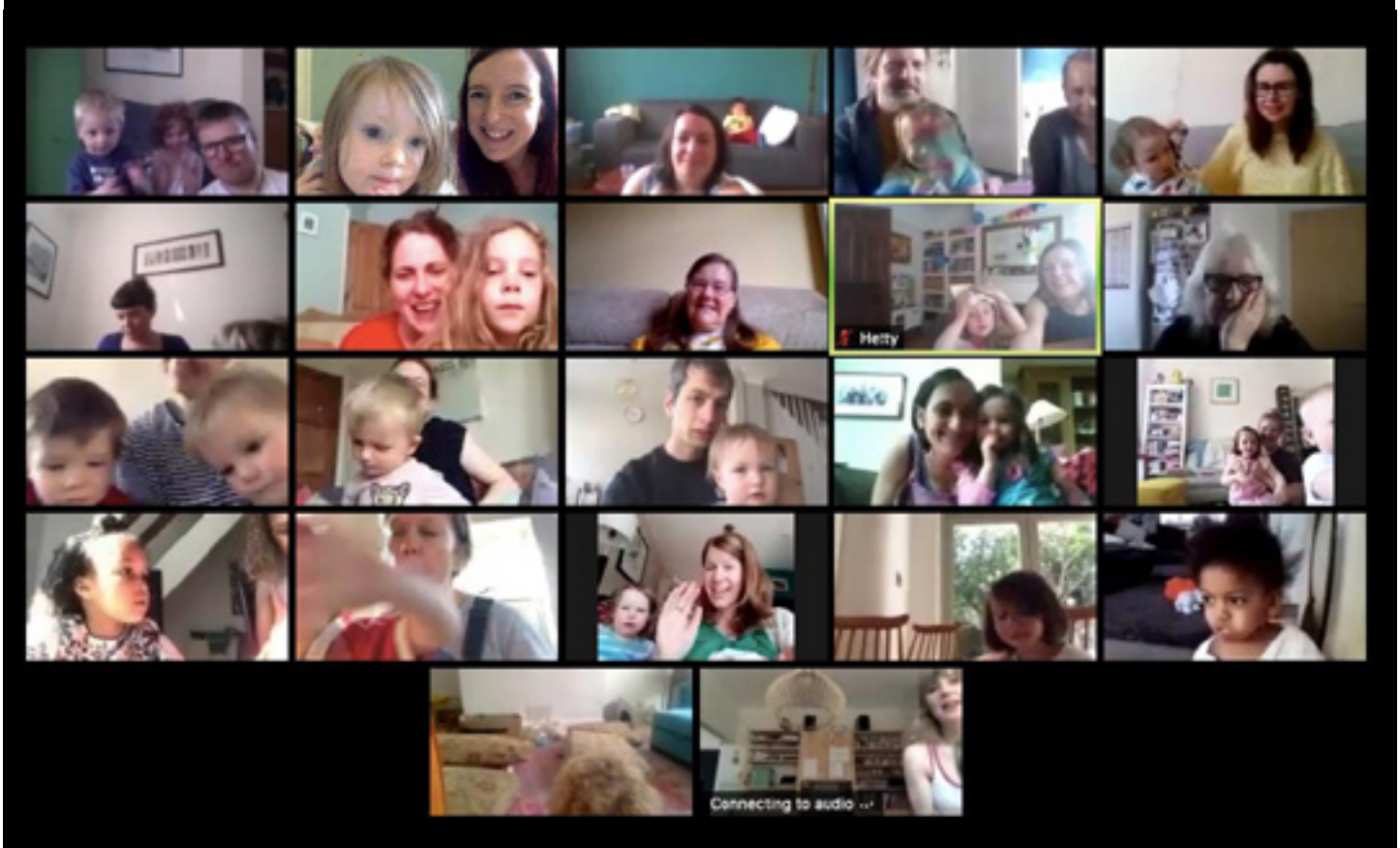
Sharon Church gracefully offered to host a paired down coffee and cake breakfast back in the Autumn, covid safe under the Tier system but as we got closer to the event the logistics and viral safety issues meant we cancelled. We are committed to bringing back the live gathering at St Bride's as soon as possible.

Big thanks to all our amazing supporters, volunteers and steering group. Special mention to Bec Chow who has been pioneering the CookBook and tea towels, Stanley Chow for his design support on the tea towels, Mishka our cookbook designer, and as always the continued leadership and support from Jo, Will, Alys, Louise, Ian, Janet, Grace, Mark and so many more.

Tony Vino, Founder of The Big Breakfast

THE
BIG
BREAKFAST
eat
share
give
OLD TRAFFORD

Charlotte Bushell


Hetty
Connecting to audio ...

Bizzy B's

As for so many, it has been an unusual year for Bizzy B's! At the start of 2020 Bizzy B's was thriving, serving our community of Old Trafford parents and carers by meeting at St. Brides church to connect and spend time together.

As the pandemic of Covid-19 prevented us from meeting in person, Bizzy B's moved onto Zoom and met online on a Friday morning. We would play games, share arts and crafts, read a story, sing songs and give time for each child to show and tell something that they wanted to share with the group.

In September 2020 our older Bizzy B's children moved on to school and nursery and people were tiring on meeting online as the pandemic continued to prevent us from meeting in person. There wasn't an uptake for our Zoom meetings, so Bizzy B's has been in a state of pause!

In January 2021 we were all set to launch a small Baby B's group for new parents, but as the country went back into lockdown and Covid case numbers were very high in the area we put the new group on pause.

The good news is that the roadmap to being able to gather again in person is becoming clearer and we would love to find a way to restart Bizzy B's outside in the Summer months and hopefully, eventually back in the church building.

Charlotte Bushell (who attends Ivy Church) leads Bizzy B's with faithful members of St Bride's helping run the group - Linda Penrose, Clare Myring, Barbara S and Penny Matthews. We look forward to rebuilding this team and growing again a committed core team of parent/carer volunteers. If you would like to get involved, please do get in touch!

Charlotte Bushell, Bizzy B's Lead

Church Weekend Away at Scargill

A good time was had at St Bride's Church weekend away at Scargill House in North Yorkshire in March 2020. It was the last bit of normality we had before everything changed because of the Covid pandemic, although already some people were self-isolating and were unable to come, including Peter, Penny, Doug, Viv and Rob, so our leadership missed out. A total of 50 of us went, which included 13 children 12 or under, and 5 young people 13-16.

Everyone appeared to enjoy themselves over the weekend. New friendships were made and old ones strengthened. People relaxed as time went on, and the children obviously felt at home as they played together. They also appeared to really enjoy the sessions held for them while the adults were meeting. The theme for the weekend was 'Community'. We had 3 teaching sessions for the adults, led by Phil Stone which were well attended and thought provoking.

The food was good and the Scargill kitchen attempted fairly successfully to cater for the special diets. Saturday evening we got together for 'St. Bride's Got Talent Version 2' where yet again a variety of talents were displayed!

BRIDES' GOT
LENT
Graham