

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF CHRIST CHURCH WALSHAW

England & Wales · Charity number 1146943

Details

Other names PCC OF CHRIST CHURCH WALSHAW

Status Registered

Legal form Previously excepted

Registered 2012-04-19

Register [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

Contact

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Activities

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

Activities: We are the Parochial Church Council of Christ Church Walshaw, Bury.

Classification

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

Geography

- Bury

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-12-31	£50,782	£53,738	-	-
2024-12-31	£71,710	£95,617	-	-
2023-12-31	£53,881	£57,328	-	-
2022-12-31	£55,542	£55,146	-	-
2021-12-31	£50,672	£56,972	-	-
2020-12-31	£60,329	£94,184	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Francis George Yung		2022-04-01
GORDON FRASER CLARK		2024-05-01
Helen Sandra Clark		2022-04-01
Janet Mary Hardman		2022-04-01
Joanne Claire Haslam		2022-04-01
Katharine Mary Clarke		2024-06-01
MR BILL CLARKE		2012-04-17
Rev Stephanie Mawhinney		2024-10-01
Stephen Frederick Mawhinney		2025-02-01

Accounts



CHRIST CHURCH WALSHAW

REPORTS OF CHURCH GROUPS FOR 2025/2026

It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To the thirsty I will give water without cost from the spring of the water of life

Revelation 21:6

Please have this report with you at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting which will be held in church on Thursday, 16th April 2026 at 7.30 p.m.

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AUDIO VISUAL TEAM

We have a dedicated team of people who work hard, usually quietly in the background, to ensure everyone can interact fully with the services. This allows people to hear clearly and have easy access to visual aids to worship, including written, picture and video resources.

The teams take responsibility for setting up and running the sound system, and preparing the PowerPoints used for the order of service and then operating them through the service. Needless to say, I am very grateful for every member of the team who plays a vital role in ensuring the smooth running of the services.

The audio-visual team for Sunday services is made up of Andrew Benson, Bill Clarke, Nicola Gordon, David Hemsall and myself. We do not have any reserves who are able to step in at the last minute which adds pressure on those already working hard.

We are looking to add more people to help with both the sound and visual teams.

The PowerPoint team make effective use of the new laptop and broadband connection. Audio recordings to aid worship are now used in most services. The team would like to investigate the possibility of permanently fixing the projecting equipment securely to provide a higher quality, reliable image.

A faculty application to upgrade the speakers in church has been approved by the Diocesan Advisory Committee. This gives permission to mount 4 speakers to columns in the nave using brackets which tighten round the column to prevent any damage to the marble. The PCC have sought quotes from 3 companies and the aim is that the work will be completed as soon as possible once the PCC selects their preferred quote.

HELEN CLARK

BABY AND TODDLER GROUP

The Baby and Toddler group was established in 2017 as a key part of the church's mission strategy to share the good news of Jesus with families with young children. This focus continues, and the group engages with the families and their children to strengthen the link with our church community. We provide a safe space for parents, carers and their little ones to make friends and have fun.

The group follows a two year plan with Christian input through story, songs, craft activity and simple prayers using Makaton signing. Chris Whitmore and Julie Benson attend a hub meeting every half term to join with other church groups to discuss ideas and take advantage of training opportunities. On 8th November, Julie and Chris attended an Early Years Conference at St John's House and on 22nd November we also participated in a course run by the Diocese of Manchester entitled: 'Children's Ministry Training'. The aim was to: explore faith, play, inclusion and participation. Hopefully some of the team will attend the National Playtime Conference in Wigan which takes place on Saturday 19th September 2026 as this is an excellent opportunity to develop new ideas, view up to date resources and refresh one's own enthusiasm for this form of ministry. Exact numbers of those attending will be established nearer the time.

At the end of the Autumn term, we spent three sessions retelling the Christmas Story using a new text written by Stephanie Openshaw and some very simple Christmas carols. In the final session we also had a visit from Santa who presented children with a copy of the book so that the little ones could revisit and enjoy the story at home with their family. A number of Christmas boxes were made up by our playgroup members.

At Easter we intend to cover the main events using the Play Along Bible written by Bob Hartman. This text covers the events of Easter in a very simple form. Copies of the Awesome Easter Surprise will be presented as an Easter gift so that our toddlers can share the Easter story at home in more depth with their families.

The average attendance is between 25 and 35 children a week. There is a cap of 50 children registered at any time. Those who have not attended for an extended period of time are contacted at the end of term to check they still want a place. With so many little ones leaving in the summer, we thought that we may struggle with numbers in September but this has not been the case. Lots of new members have joined us and the group continues to thrive. Last month we purchased a new Bluetooth speaker in order to make our story time and singing slot more enjoyable. With the increase in numbers, it was necessary to improve our music provision.

Visits from Michelle Nicholson and her colleague Rachael from the Early Years Team at Christ Church Walshaw School have not happened during this academic year but contact with Michelle Nicolson has been made via Steph and hopefully this can be re-established in order to strengthen links between the school and church.

At the moment the group charges £2 a child to attend, and there is no suggestion to change this. Fewer parents are carrying cash and the card reader is available to use. One family also contributes to our Porch Box every week.

We would like to thank everyone who assists in any way with helping to make this group a success. At the moment there are 7 people in the team though numbers have fluctuated due to circumstances. We are extremely grateful for the assistance that members of the congregation

provide in setting up on Sunday after the service. Particular thanks go to Gordon, Helen, Janet and Peter who have stepped in on a number of occasions when the team has been depleted.

It is a privilege and a pleasure to be involved in this Ministry, and we would welcome anyone who would like to join the team. We are open to new ideas and passionate for our group to develop and move forward.

Area for Development

We have been running for a number of years now and although we have lots of toys, some of the more traditional wooden toys are in need of sprucing up! Alan has begun to repaint the wooden ride on toys using paint that is safe for toddlers and we hope to renovate the doll's house furniture soon. We would like to invest in a wooden shop to add to our small world play area so if anyone comes across one, please let us know.

BABY AND TODDLER TEAM

BUILDING PROJECTS TEAM

Those involved in the past year's work include Andrew Benson, Bill Clarke, David Hemsall (Convenor) and Norman Rigby. Access for the disabled has been the principal project on which the team has worked. A briefing paper having been sent to our church architect Rebecca Grimshaw, she has responded in terms best described as down-to-earth.

The team's declared preference being for a permanent ramp (rather than electro-mechanical devices), the architect indicated her understanding of her predecessor Ian Lucas's proposal from 2014-2015. Her professional experience has led her to signal the likely difficulty in securing the requisite Faculty for significant changes to the exterior of a Grade 2* listed building.

In addition to securing the Diocesan Advisory Council's consent, such a project will also need conventional Planning Permission from the local authority. Any such scheme is likely to encounter resistance from interest groups such as the Victorian Society.

Having said that she would not wish Christ Church to expend significant sums on a project which would be likely to fail, Rebecca understands that Christ Church must have a project plan in order to attract match-funding from grant making bodies. The government's recently announced replacement of the Listed Places of Worship Scheme may well make any project even more difficult to implement. None the less, the team will inch things forward as it may.

DAVID HEMPSALL

CHILDREN'S CHURCH

I am the main leader, but parents help when they are able, joining in with the action songs, singing and asking the children to listen and pay attention to me when appropriate. Lucinda has shared resources for lessons she has found on line, which I have found useful. However as the children are very young, the parents are restricted in how much they can do to help. It would therefore be useful to have an assistant leader. The older children do help the younger children by reading Children's Bible Stories and other stories related to lessons.

Attendance has been good over 2025 and 2026, ranging from 2 to 7 children every Sunday and 2 to 3 parents. The age range is challenging with ages ranging from 2 years and under, 3 years, 5, 7, 8 and 12 years. I try to have age appropriate resources covering pre-school and the older children (word searches and cross words). I do craft activities that all the children can do. We also play games if there is time at the end of teaching time.

In 2025 I covered a range of topics from the Old and New Testament. We always have Wiggle Worm Worship with singing and prayer times. Children and adults choose songs and what they would like us to pray for.

We had 7 adults and 5 children taking part in our alternative nativity The Grumpy Innkeeper on 21st December 2025. It was lovely to have positive feedback from members of the congregation about our performance.

In January and February 2026 we have covered Jesus' life ministry, the parables, Jesus' baptism and teaching on Colossians 3:12 based on covering ourselves with compassion, patience, humility and gentleness. I am currently using the children's story book 'Let your light shine', which describes how children show each other compassion and are related to school life and home scenarios at pre-school level of teaching.

I have used role play for a man who was paralysed and lowered through a roof and for the story of the Good Samaritan.

The change to the length of teaching time in Children's Church on Sunday mornings is better now, because we go out later before the bible readings and sermon. I have toys available for younger children if parents want to stay in with their children, before or after the teaching in Children's Church.

When it is Holy Communion I encourage parents and children to stay in church for the prayer after communion.

I invited our Diocesan Youth Worker Amelia Brummit to support me on Sunday 1st February 2026. She provided me with useful advice and ideas which I can use in the future. Amelia said she enjoyed spending time with us.

The older children aged 7 and 8 are enthusiastic readers and have grown in confidence over the past year. In fact they are willing to take an active part in our All Age Services. They have written out their own prayers to read on Sunday 15th February. One child will also be reading on the 15th. I am very happy the children feel confident and able to contribute in Church Services. Hopefully the opportunities we give them to take part at church will also help them in school and throughout their lives.

JULIE BENSON

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN BURY (Referred to as CTB in this report)

CTB is an inter-denominational network of churches committed to working together to make Jesus known to Bury residents. I have been Christ Church's representative for many years, and there is space for another one or two people from Christ Church if anyone is interested.

Participating churches

Church of England: St John's Birtle, United Benefice of West Bury, Christ Church Walshaw, St Peter's, Bury Parish Church, All Saints Elton, St Stephen's, St Thomas's, Walmersley Rd Benefice

Methodist: Tottington, Brandlesholme, Bolton Road, Seedfield, Jericho

United Reformed: Bury URC

Baptist: Bury Baptist

Salt and Light: Bury Christian Fellowship

Pentecostal: Metro Christian Centre, Audacious Bury

Catholic: St Clements (previously Guardian Angels, Elton), St Hildas, St Joseph and St Marie.

Salvation Army: Bury group

Activities

CTB meet 6 times per calendar year at various locations including Bury United Reform Church, Bolton Rd Methodist Church, Metro Christian Centre, the Salvation Army Centre, and St Clements (previously Guardian Angels), Elton.

On an ongoing basis CTB supports, promotes, and in some cases organises the following **ongoing projects**:

- **The Bury Project (CAP Debt Centre) – involving at least 5 members of our church**
- **Town Centre Chaplaincy**
- **'Open the Book' work in schools – involving 3 members of our church**
- **Bury Street Pastors – involving 1 member of our church**
- **Churches Together Facebook page**
- **Churches Together Prayer List for member churches**
- **Zoom prayer meetings**
- **Carol singing in Bury Market**
- **Good Friday walk of witness**
- **Christian Aid collection in Bury Town Centre**
- **Prayer in the Park (Clarence Park)**

Other missional items discussed and supported include:

- **Craig Giles** efficiently coordinated the 2025 **Good Friday Walk of Witness**. Various learning points will be incorporated into the 2026 walk.
- **Prayer in the Park** (Clarence Park) took place on 7th June 2025.
- **CAP** – Jackie Cooke (Bury Christian Fellowship) stepped back from being a debt coach in May 2025, and Hannah Sadler (Radcliffe Road Baptist church) joined as a debt coach in the Summer. Gordon Clark continues to lead the work, but is hoping to hand over much of the debt coaching work to Hannah and the rest of the team. Summer and Christmas client parties were held with an evangelistic focus.
- **Bury Street Pastors** continues to need new volunteers. There has also been pressure to find a new base to work from.
- The **Christmas Toy appeal** was coordinated by Churches Together, with particular support from members of Seedfield Methodist Church and others. 220 toys were donated with 130 families being helped. This was less than in 2024.
- The **Millgate Chaplaincy** is going well with Tristan Sherwin (Metro Christian Centre), Daniel Harris (United Reformed church), and Julian Wolstencroft (Audacious) working as a team on a voluntary basis.
- **Student café** – Tristan Sherwin, Paul Greenless (Bury Baptist church), and Russell Phillips (Radcliffe Road Baptist church) are jointly organizing a weekly café in Bury Baptist church for students from Holy Cross and Bury College.
- **The Quiet Revival** – has been discussed a couple of times. Comments have been made from various churches about people turning up with serious questions. One suggestion was to run the Bible Society's Bible Course as a joint effort. We were reminded that young people don't understand Christian jargon, and so we need to work hard at communicating effectively.
- The **Open the Book** team continues to go into Primary schools acting out gospel accounts.
- A **mass Carol Sing** by Churches Together took place in the Millgate on Saturday 7th December. This becoming an annual fixture, and is highly recommended.
- David Somerville (Seedfield Methodist church) has been chairing the Bury Faith Forum. They issued a statement of solidarity following the Heaton Park synagogue attack.
- Bury URC held an **Alpha course** last Spring.
- In September the local **Bible Society action group** held their annual meeting, at which the Bishop of Bolton gave the address.
- **Growbaby** is an initiative by St Peter's on Manchester Road, to provide a resource centre for young families to receive gifts of items they would not otherwise be able to afford. It is open every Tuesday morning.
- **Gather** is the name of a piece of work being undertaken to compile a database of social action projects being run by our churches.
- **Joint services** – some churches in Bury are now holding occasional joint services. e.g. the Walmersley Benefice and the Salvation Army are meeting together on the last Sunday of the month. The service is called **Sunday@Seven**.

The meetings always include space for individual churches to share good things happening, and this is always encouraging. Meetings always end with a time of prayer.

GORDON CLARK

CHURCHYARD

A very quiet year in the churchyard with little activity. The efforts to deal with the remaining shoots of Japanese Knotweed do seem to be working although it still pops up in a few places but is steadily getting fewer. The wet weather in the autumn and winter has reduced the number of hours spent cutting back the brambles etc.

The trimmer mower (basically a powerful strimmer on wheels) is starting to show its age and isn't as effective as it used to be. It needs a service but I think we are getting to the point where a new machine is probably required.

Camelot Garden Services continue to do a good job in cutting the grass in the graveyard and around the entrance.

BILL CLARKE

COMMUNITY CHOIR

The Community choir continues to thrive with current regular members of between approx. 30 and 40.

We meet weekly, term-time 7.15 – 8.45pm.

In 2025 we held two concerts - one in June, joined by Helmshore Ukelele group as our guests, raising £500 for The Bury branch of The Samaritans. Julie a spokesperson for The Samaritans attended the concert and spoke to the audience about the group. Our second concert was in December and we were joined by Tottington Public Band as our guests and we raised £560 which was split between the Band and Porch Boxes.

Our very active Social Group continue to organise events in the school holidays including meals out and various activities, this social side is a big part of our choir.

We have purchased two banners to be displayed on the Church railings. One to advertise an upcoming concert and one to promote the choir inviting new members. We have had 5 new members since the beginning of 2026.

The choir is enjoyed by all, and friendships continue to be formed.

ANGELA ASHWORTH

CRAFT GROUP

Christ Church's Craft Group was established in the spring of 2025 to undertake projects to benefit the Church or community.

Tasks completed to-date include:

- Harvest-themed banners
- Blankets for the congregation to use during the service when it's cold in church
- Baptism shawls as a gift for children being baptised
- Knitted garments for a baby charity

Current projects include:

- Pentecost- themed banners
- Poppies for a Remembrance Day display
- Baptism shawls

The group meet monthly and have a regular membership who share their skills and bring ideas to the group.

We would love to welcome new members whatever their skill level.

We would also welcome suggestions for future projects or donations of materials for specific activities

JOANNE MCKENZIE

DEANERY SYNOD

Deanery Synod is a collaboration of Anglican churches covering the whole of Rossendale and Bury.

There were 3 normal meetings held during 2025 in May (St Mary's Hawkshaw), September (St Margaret's Prestwich), and November (St Mary's, Rawtenstall). In addition to this, an Early Years Day conference was held on Saturday 8th November.

The purpose of the meetings is to share positive stories of what churches are doing around the deanery, and to receive specific updates from diocesan officials and others.

Rev Donna Williams (Area Dean) chaired the September meeting, and Kath Pollard (Lay Chair) chaired the May and November meetings.

Each meeting has a 'main topic'. In 2025 these were:

May – Phil Cansdale introducing himself as the new Director of `mission and Ministry. Phil led a Bible study on Ezekiel 27: 1- 14 – the valley of the dry bones, posing questions for group discussions.

September -Canon Anne Edwards gave a presentation on Clergy and Lay wellbeing.

November -Abby Clephane-Wilson gave a presentation about safeguarding.

I represented Christ Church at the May meeting, and Steph at the September and November meetings.

If anyone is interested in representing Christ Church on deanery synod and would like to know more about what is involved, please feel free to discuss with Steph or me, or simply ask someone to nominate you for election at the APCM.

GORDON CLARK

FABRIC & MAINTENANCE TEAM

Role and Responsibilities

- The FMT provides guidance and leadership to the PCC on matters concerning the upkeep of the church buildings and land.

Membership

- The FMT is open to anyone and ideally will include a minimum of two members of the PCC. The members in 2025 were Andrew Benson (Chairman), Helen Clark (Warden), Bill Clarke, and Norman Rigby.

2025 activities

Whilst the FMT did not meet in 2025, it continued to monitor the building and grounds condition providing updates to PCC:

- Ongoing maintenance works to
 1. roof area (regular gutter and downspout clearance, plus repairs to damaged areas of slates on North side of chancel)
 2. church yard - regular activities by Bill Clarke.
 3. Church clock
- Annual portable electrical appliance testing – not completed in 2025 although testing equipment was recalibrated in September. NB. ad hoc visual checks made to appliance plugs and cables and all ok.
- A proposal for replacement of the external notice board is still under review.

The FMT also continued to work with the Building Projects Team including a review of future improvements to pedestrian access via the main entrance.

Future

- The team needs to recruit new members if it is to deliver its responsibilities successfully.
- It is planned to review and prioritise the work identified in the last Quinquennial inspection. And at the same time keep on top of any issues with the church roof, heating system and the access roads and parking.

ANDREW BENSON

FINANCE COMMITTEE

The committee comprises Andrew Benson, Bill Clarke, David Hemsall (Convenor) and Steph Mawhinney. Whilst the committee has not met during the past year, it will do so to review the state of the finances after work to upgrade the sound system loudspeakers is completed. This is necessary to assess what further progress may be made on the several projects – both routine and strategic – currently in hand.

The government’s scrapping of the Listed Places of Worship Scheme under which churches could apply to reclaim some or all of the VAT incurred in repair and development, though expected, is very disappointing. In the recent past, Christ Church has been able to benefit considerably from the scheme. What replaces it- £92 million over four years – is considerably less generous, so this is a blow.

DAVID HEMPSALL

GIFT AID OFFICER

The following amounts were paid into the Manchester Diocese Account and go towards the Parish Share.

Date	Amount	Total Payment Made
Jan – June 2025		
Gift Aid	£3708.25	
GASDS (Small Donations)	£551.29	£4259.54
July – December 2025		
Gift Aid	£3799.83	
GASDS (Small Donations)	£526.35	
Repayment Interest	£12.50	£4338.68
2025 Total		£8598.22

- Helen Clark emailed the church logo, for the thank you letters to all donators in December 2025, but none have been produced to date. Bill Clarke and myself have also requested that thank you letters be produced by the Diocese. Diane did produce thank you letters earlier in the year – many thanks to Diane.
- A thank you to Helen, Bill and Diane for all their support in collecting reports that are used in the gift aid claims.

CHRISTINE LANCASHIRE

LINK GOVERNOR

I am Link Governor to Christ Church Walshaw Primary School, part of the Sycamore Trust of Schools, which also includes St John's, St Thomas', Holy Trinity, Radcliffe Hall CE/Methodist and St Stephen's and now Christ Church Ainsworth. 7 Primary schools in total, all with a shared vision taken from Jeremiah 29:11 "For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not harm you, plans to give you a hope and a future".

I know the schools in the trust have core Christian values, which I have seen evidence of in both my role as a Governor and by visiting 2 of the schools (Christ Church Walshaw and Holy Trinity) with The Bible Society "Open The Book Team". This initiative brings the bible to life through role play, telling Old and New Testament Bible stories for 5 or 6 weeks at each school. I am currently at Christ Church with The Open the Book team for 5 weeks looking at the Easter Story. Leadership is very good in the schools and they support one another well.

At the last Governor meeting on 25th November 2025, we learnt that Christ Church Walshaw has 14 pupils in Nursery and 17 in Reception. Most of the children in Reception are meeting phonics targets and reading is strong across the school. Additionally, Mathematics across the school is improving. There are a total of 220 pupils at Christ Church Walshaw.

Pupil voice is important within the schools and after school clubs - the idea for a Chess Club came from the children, which now includes other board games. There is a Pupil Parliament and Central School Council. In the future there may be opportunities for outside agencies to run clubs, which will provide the school with additional funding.

Governors at Christ Church have completed Safeguarding and Cyber Security training in both 2025 and 2026.

I have regularly undertaken monitoring visits at the school, including helping in Early Years, observing learning through play, reading and RE link visits.

On 16th December 2025 I helped to put on The Christmas Experience for years 1 to 6, with Steph and Steve Mawhinney, Janet Hardman, Helen Clark and Amelia Brummitt. The Experience went very well.

I visited the Early Years Unit on Friday 6th March 2026 to monitor Reception Class reading and learning through play. I was very happy with my visit and witnessed excellent staff engagement with the pupils. The pupils were respectful and listened within my group of readers. Pupils' safety is paramount and all staff take great care of them when teaching pupils both inside the classroom and in the outside play areas.

JULIE BENSON

MISSION ACTIVITY

Mission activity has taken a number of forms over the last 12 months

Mission partners

We continue to support a range of mission partners both financially and through prayer. These include The Bible Society, CAP, Street Pastors and Tearfund

We have also held services devoted to some of these charities

Additionally, via individual giving we support Porch Box and Compassion providing food donations to the former and sponsoring two children through the latter

The Church's Mission Team is now disbanded but it would be valuable to re-establish this group to maintain both giving and connection to these key causes

Mission Community

We are an active part of a Mission Community which covers Unsworth, Hillock, Radcliffe, Walshaw and Ainsworth

We are represented at the Mission Community sub-groups

The purpose of these groups is look at ways in which the churches of the Mission Community can work together to nurture faith and serve the wider community. This has included initiatives such as litter picking, charity collections and providing Christmas and Easter-themed books to local schools

We have also undertaken joint faith-based activities such as prayer walks, Zoom prayers and the Bee Inspired service

Additional Mission Activity

As a church we continue to reach out to our local community through events such as choir, cake and chat, toddler group and the Valentine's Day event

JOANNE MCKENZIE

MUSIC GROUP

Members: Kate Clarke, Angela Ashworth, Jo Haslam, Alaina Anderson, Paul Rigby (guitar) Steve Mawhinney (piano)

The music group supports and leads the musical aspects of worship. We meet at 9.30 -10.30 to rehearse the music. It is hoped that the songs sung 5 minutes before the service help to prepare and focus the congregation before the service starts. Songs for the service are chosen by the service leaders. The music group leader chooses the songs before the service and any communion hymns. I also notify the CCLI about the songs we are using in the services to enable copyright payments.

We still need to use a number of videos when instrumentalists are away. The group would be delighted to welcome additional members. Phil Cansdale is also hoping to play the piano if available.

The group was augmented by a number of the congregation for our carol service and Ruth Boaden kindly played the piano.

The group is always happy to consider new material to introduce to services (so please feel free to speak to one of us if you have any suggestions).

We would also like to express our thanks for the supportive comments received from many of you.

KATE CLARKE

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL REPORT

The PCC has met six times during the year (May 2025 – March 2026). The council is made up of 14 members. Andrew Benson joined the PCC in September 2025 as a co-opted member as Treasurer, who will eventually take over the role from Bill following a shadowing period.

There are currently 4 vacancies within the PCC due to 4 members retiring from their roles and 2 vacancies within Deanery Synod.

Attendance has been as follows: Rev Steph Mawhinney 6 /6, Helen Clark 5/6, Joanne McKenzie 6/6, Janet Hardman 6/6, Jo Haslam 5/6, Frank Yung 5/6, Norman Beswick 0/6, Chris Lancashire 3/6, Nicola Gordon 4/6, Gordon Clark 4/6, Bill Clarke 6/6, Kate Clarke 6/6, Andrew Benson 5/6, Steve Mawhinney 4/6, Craig Giles 1/2.

On Saturday 31st May 2025, members of the PCC spent a day together worshipping, praying and reflecting about where God may be leading our church. We were very encouraged as we took some time out to think about what is good about our church and came up with some new ideas including:

- Advertising events with banners attached to the railings
- Starting a cake and chat drop-in session on Tuesdays
- Introduction of a craft group to make new banners for church as well as knitting / crocheting blankets
- Bible course

During the year we have discussed a wide range of issues including

- Broadband Policy
- Repair / replacement of car park bollards
- Introduction of a Smart Meter
- Development of Letting Policy
- Speaker upgrade
- Harvest festival quiz
- Safeguarding policy
- Church website / social media
- Disabled access
- Church insurance
- Update of GDPR form

- Valentine event

In addition, we have discussed regular reports submitted by the following teams:

Finance, Pastoral Care Team, Fabric and Maintenance Team, Building Projects Team, Safeguarding, Mission Team, Craft group, Baby and Toddler Team, Community Choir, Audio/Visual Team, Music Group, Refreshment Team, Children's church and Link governor.

JANET HARDMAN

PASTORAL CARE TEAM

The Pastoral Care team was formed in April 2022. The first team meeting was held on 21st June 2022.

The Pastoral Team introduced a referral form so people who wanted help or someone to talk to could refer themselves. It could also be completed by another member of the congregation or friend on behalf of someone who was in need, but only on the condition that they had given their permission in advance. It was also agreed that the person in need does not need to attend church, but they should be known to a church member.

Norman Beswick stepped down from the coordination role of the team last year but is still very much an integral part of the team with his pastoral work.

Our Mission Statement was reviewed at the end of 2025, and it was felt that no amendments were required.

The team have met three times since May 2025 to discuss support required and also for each other.

Although there have been no new referrals for a while, the team continue to offer support to people who are experiencing difficulties in their lives within the church family and most recently to new visitors to our church. We have, however, received prayer requests via the referral / prayer request form. Support also continues to those individuals who are already known to the team via phone calls and visits. Mavis continues to send bereavement / get well cards. It is also pleasing to see that pastoral support is going on by church members who are not formally on the Pastoral Team.

The team would welcome new members to help strengthen our work.

JANET HARDMAN

PRAYER MEETING

The Prayer Meeting takes place in church on the first Tuesday of each month

The meeting starts at 7.30pm and lasts for an hour.

It is an opportunity for members of the fellowship to come together in corporate prayer.

Before the time of prayer starts, there is an opportunity to share any specific issues requiring prayer. Any prayer requests left in the box in church are also included

The meeting starts with a Bible passage to lead us into an attitude of prayer.

Group members will then pray as led by the Holy Spirit. Prayers are said aloud and in people's hearts. We pray for the world, specific situations, the church, the local community and for individuals. Our prayers reflect the church season and will lift before the Lord upcoming services and activities

There is a core of people who regularly attend the meeting, and I would encourage other members of the fellowship to attend and receive the blessing that comes from praying together.

JOANNE MCKENZIE

SAFEGUARDING & POLICIES

Alaina and Jo took over as Safeguarding Officer and Deputy Officer in January 2026. Since we have been in post we have not been aware of any safeguarding issues within church or outside of church affecting church members. We have set up an email contact ccwsafeguarding@gmail.com and posters are displayed throughout the Church.

We have a fantastic group of volunteers in the Pastoral care team, children's church and parent and toddler group. We are fortunate that the overwhelming majority of these volunteers have been in safeguarding roles previously in their careers which is really positive for us as a church.

We have ensured that relevant people in church have completed the relevant Church of England online safeguarding training. We have discussed safeguarding training with volunteers and some have completed this online. Anyone who wishes to complete this training please speak to either Alaina or Jo for further details.

There are now leaflets and information regarding Domestic Violence within the Church and Alaina and Jo are looking into further safeguarding training they may need. They are both trained to high levels within their careers; however the Church of England also offer training they will look into completing in the coming months.

Alaina and Jo will also look into meeting up with their counterpart at St Andrews church as Steph and they feel this would be useful in their role.

As always, we would appreciate some help from new volunteers for Children's church.

ALAINA ANDERSON / JO HASLAM

VICAR'S REPORT

As I continued to settle in and find my feet during 2025, I have continued to be very grateful for the many people who play their part, often in quiet and unseen ways, to enable the church to continue to flourish. Many thanks to you all – everything you do adds up to our church giving glory to God here in Walshaw.

We have continued to serve the wider community, through the toddler group and community choir, both of which continue to thrive. We repeated the Valentine's Activity Afternoon which had been very popular with local families in 2024. This was enjoyed and appreciated by the many who came, though numbers were slightly lower than the previous year. During the summer we also started a weekly "Cake & Chat", which attracted a variety of people over the first few weeks. With fewer people attending as the days got darker and colder, we decided to put it on hold for the winter, but we plan to resume after Easter 2026.

As well as following the lectionary readings for the regular festivals of the Church year, our Sunday worship featured sermon series on Faith, understanding Communion and the life of King David. During the autumn we followed the Bible Course, both in Sunday sermons and in two midweek groups, aiming to get a better overview of the big story of the Bible. Several people also attended a Lent Group studying the book of Hebrews.

The PCC had an away day at Barrow Bridge Church in May, spending time in worship and prayer and reflecting about where God may be leading Christ Church. Several ideas that came out of that day have already been implemented, including Cake and Chat, the Bible Course and the revival of the craft group, which has already produced some beautiful new banners with more on the way. We also celebrated harvest with a harvest supper and quiz. Ideas for more social events and activities to make use of our outdoor space are yet to happen.

I have continued to develop relationships with Christ Church School, leading collective worship every other week. In the summer we wished Sarah Howard well as she retired as head teacher, then in September we welcomed Kay James as the new head of school. We prayed for Kay in her new role when she visited church for Back to School Sunday. We have worked together to increase the number of times the school visits church, with services for Harvest, Christmas and Easter, and Kay welcomed a team of church volunteers to spend a day in school leading Experience Christmas. The younger children have also visited for Wiggle Easter and Christmas and a Wiggle Welcome for the new families joining in the autumn. Amelia Brumitt, our Deanery Enabler, and I also led a staff meeting to help the team understand the theological basis for the school's vision, and were very proud to hear soon afterwards that the school received a very positive report following the statutory inspection of its distinctiveness as a church school (SIAMS).

Throughout the year our faithful church family have continued to gather for worship, many doing so whenever they can despite managing significant health and other personal challenges. We have also welcomed new people to the church, some visiting and others who have continued to worship with us, an encouraging sign of growth. Six children were baptised as part of our morning worship, and another was welcomed at a separate service of thanksgiving. As usual, the Christmas services saw many people from our wider community gather to celebrate together, especially at the Christingle service.

One final thank you to all those who support Christ Church through prayer, whether on your own, at our services or at our monthly prayer meeting. God has been faithful in 2025 and we look forward to seeing what he has in store for us in 2026.

Rev Steph Mawhinney



CHRIST CHURCH WALSHAW

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND ACCOUNTS OF THE PCC FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

It is done. I am the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To the thirsty I will give water without cost from the spring of the water of life.

Revelation 21:6

Please have this report with you at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting which will be held on Thursday at 7.30 p.m.

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INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE PCC OF CHRIST CHURCH WALSHAW

I report on the accounts for the year ended 31st December 2025.

Respective responsibilities of Trustees and Independent Examiner

As trustees of the charity, the members of the PCC are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. They consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 ("The 2011 Act") and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act); and
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent Examiner's Statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the accounts.

Independent Examiner's statement

In the course of my examination, no matters have come to my attention

1. which give me reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect, the requirements
 - to keep proper accounting records in accordance with s.130 of the 2011 Act); or
 - to prepare accounts which accord with these accounting recordshave not been met; or
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:

Peta D Benson ACA

Date: 15/03/2026

Christ Church Walshaw - Accounts - 2025

	<i>General Account (Unrestricted use)</i>	<i>Deposit Account (Designated & Restricted use)</i>	<i>Building Fund (Designated use)</i>	<i>Total</i>
Opening Balance Jan 2025	11259	22743	16980	50982

<i>Receipts</i>			2024	Variance	Notes		
Tax efficient planned giving	30991	708	31699	27131	4568	1	
One off Gift Aid	413		413	2075	-1662		
Tax Recovered			0	8923	-8923	2	
Other regular planned giving	2426		2426	3146	-720		
Collections of loose cash at services	2931		2931	2202	729		
All other giving	540		540	1243	-703		
Total giving	37301	0	708	38009	44720	-6711	
Legacies	0		0	2000	-2000		
Dividends & Interest	3047	330	170	3547	4156	-609	3
Recurring Grants	50		50	50	0	4	
Non-recurring Grants	5260		5260	0	5260	5	
Listed Places of Worship Scheme			0	6224	-6224		
Fees	328		328	1668	-1340		
Hire Charges	300		300	0	300	6	
Trust Accounts			0	9171	-9171		
Baby & Toddler Group	1429		1429	1413	16	7	
Community Choir	1805		1805	2308	-503	8	
Total Income (excl. giving)	12219	330	170	12719	26990	-14271	
Total Receipts	49520	330	878	50728	71710	-20982	
Transfers							
From Deposit to General	7025						
From General to Deposit		7115					
From General to Building Fund							
Total Receipts & Transfers	56545	7445	878				

Christ Church Walshaw - Accounts - 2025

General Account	Deposit Account	Building Fund	Total
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<i>Payments</i>			2024	Variance	Notes	
Overseas missions societies	800	800	0	800	9	
Christian Relief and Dev. Agencies	800	800	0	800		
Home mission and other Church Soc.	1275	1275	203	1072		
Secular Charities		0	25	-25		
Parish Share/Quota	15290	15290	25000	-9710	10	
Incumbent working expenses	-11	-11	142	-153	11	
Parsonage	2199	2199	1089	1110	11	
Church running expenses	24675	24675	20534	4141	12	
Church maintenance	1651	1651	1558	93	13	
Upkeep of Services	2440	2440	1217	1223	14	
Upkeep of churchyard	2220	2220	7309	-5089	15	
Major Repairs & Improve.		0	37342	-37342		
Support costs	619	619	353	266	16	
Baby & Toddler Group		0	154	-154		
Community Choir	1000	1000	400	600		
Church administration	780	780	293	487	17	
Total Payments	53738	0	0	53738	95619	-41881
Transfers						
From Deposit to General		7025				
From General to Deposit	7115					
From General to Building Fund						
Total Payments & Transfers	60853	7025	0			
Closing Balance Dec 2025	6951	23163	17858	47972		

Notes to accompany 2025 accounts.

General Account - Unrestricted – Funds that can be used for any purpose approved by the PCC.

Deposit Account (part) and Building Fund - Designated – Funds that have been allocated to a particular purpose by the PCC.

Deposit Account (part) - Restricted – Typically funds from a bequest or grant where there were instructions set on their use.

There has been an issue with the Building Fund accounts during 2025. Due to Barclays reviewing accounts to meet their anti-money laundering commitments, they locked the accounts in July preventing any activity including deposits. This highlighted amongst other things the issue of the signatories on the account being out of date. A Benson as treasurer for those funds has been trying to resolve this issue and it will be sorted asap in 2026.

1. Giving

There was a welcome increase in giving during 2025. The card reader continues to be used this year mainly down to the Baby & Toddler group and Community Choir using it for their fees although we did see it used especially during services such as the Christingle.

2. Gift Aid

You will notice that there was no tax recovered recorded in the accounts as this was paid directly to the Diocese and credited towards the Parish Share as we now participate in the Gift Aid Lite scheme. A sum of £12,354.62 was received. This included claims from 2024 and 2025. See item 10 below for further information on the share.

3. Dividends and interest

The majority of the money we receive comes from two trusts which pay interest into the general account. This amounted to £2438 from the Hibbert and Middleton Trusts. There was also £609 for the Nancy Howarth Trust which is currently being held in the church accounts until the trustees open a dedicated bank account.

4. Recurring Grants

We continue to receive a small grant towards the maintenance of the war graves.

5. Non-Recurring Grants

A grant of £5,000 was received from the Diocese following the installation of the energy saving lighting in 2024. There was also a donation of £160 from Barchester Health Care towards the Cake&Chat initiative. Finally, following the installation of a new electricity smart meter, Scottish Power donated a £100 Amazon voucher.

6. Hire Charges

Following a request from the academy trust that runs Christ Church School, it was arranged for them to hold a large meeting in church. A fee of £300 was agreed that covered use of the building, heating and internet access for the day. Their feedback was positive and so it is likely further bookings may take place.

7. Baby & Toddler Group

The group continues to meet during term times on Wednesday mornings and make a small charge for attending. This money is paid in cash or via the card reader, any expenditure for things such as craft resources is paid for from these funds.

8. Community Choir

The community choir meets on Wednesday evenings and the members pay a small charge for attending. They were able to make donations to Samaritans (£500) following the summer concert and to Porch Boxes (£300) and the Tottington Brass Band (£200) from the Christmas Concert.

9. Mission Support

We were able to provide some support to the church's mission partners in 2025.

Bible Society	£800
Tearfund	£800
The Bury Project (CAP)	£800
Street Pastors	£300

10. Parish Share

The assessment for 2025 was £26,250. This was met in full consisting of £15,289.88 paid directly by Christ Church and £12,354.62 as tax recovered via the Gift Aid Lite scheme. As it was difficult to know how much tax would be recovered and to avoid not meeting the assessment, the share was overpaid by £1,394.50. This overpayment will be credited towards the 2026 Share which is set at £27,563 less £525 from the encouragement scheme (achieved when a parish pays regularly and completely every 3 months). So with the overpayment added in this takes it down to £25,643 for 2026.

11. Incumbent Expenses and Vicarage

As Revd. Mawhinney has chosen to live in 37 Gisburn Drive, the Christ Church vicarage, it made sense for us to continue to pay the council tax, water charges and ground rent and then claim 50% back from St Andrew's. The increase from 2024 reflects that until September 2024 the vicarage was exempt from council tax as it was unoccupied.

Revd. Mawhinney submits her expenses to us monthly which we reimburse to her and then claim 50% back from St Andrew's. Obviously if her claim is for something specific to one parish or the other that parish would pay 100%. The odd figure for 2025 reflects the situation where some claims for 2024 were paid by Christ Church in 2024 but not reimbursed by St Andrew's until January 2025.

12. Church running expenses.

- Electricity: £1,764.
- Gas: £10,787.
- Insurance: £11,551. We have been insured with Ecclesiastical Insurance for many years but as the premium was getting so high we have found an alternative that is still recommended by the Diocese.

The premium from Trinitas for 2026 is £7,294 which is a considerable saving with almost identical cover.

- Water Charges: £573.

13. Church maintenance

- Clock servicing: £348.
- Heating servicing: £496.
- Organ tuning: £342.
- Recalibration of portable appliance test equipment £97.

14. Upkeep of Services etc.

A major item here relates to the replacement of the church laptop used to run the PowerPoint slides during services. The old laptop was struggling with playing videos, was running an out of date version of Windows and could not be upgraded. There was also a need to allow better access to web based resources. The following items were purchased:

- Dell Laptop £434
- Wi-Fi Router £65
- Wi-Fi Extender £53
- Anti-virus software £10
- Data SIM costs £9 per month
- Microsoft 365 licence £free (under a special deal for charities)

Additionally, the following expenditure was made

- Repairs to hearing aid loop system £240
- CCLI copyright licence: £453
- New bins : £179
- Printing etc.: £371

15. Churchyard

We continue to employ Camelot Garden Services to cut the grass in the graveyard and around the entrance: £2,160.

16. Support Costs

- Easter and Christmas books £461

17. Church Admin

- Church website costs £213.59
- Photocopier £190

W S Clarke

February 2026

INVESTMENTS

Securities held on behalf of Christ Church Walshaw by the Manchester Diocesan Board of Finance.

Trust Title	Nominal Value	Cost Book Value	Income Received	Market Value	
	No. of shares			2025	2024
Mrs Leigh (deceased) Lady Chapel (CB3010563-001) Fixed interest	1,448.00	£2,095.88	Paid into Lady Chapel deposit trust	£2,212.11	£2,159.26
Mrs Leigh (deceased) Lady Chapel (CB3010794-001) Deposit	2,837.02	£2,335.91	Interest retained	£2,837.02	£2,641.56
M A Hibbert Trust (CB3010756-001) Investment fund	2,431.83	£27,836.28	£1562.45 (paid into general account)	£53,982.49	£56,230.48
Constance Middleton Trust (CB3010927-001) Deposit	19669.33	£19669.33	£875.58 (paid into general account)	£19,669.33	£19,669.33

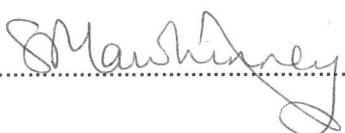
n.b. the funds within these trusts are all restricted and as such can only be used for the purposes designated at the time of establishment.

Liabilities Nil

Accounts for the Financial Year ending 31 December 2025

Approved by the Parochial Church Council meeting held on : 23 March 2026

and signed on their behalf by :

.......... Chairman

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE PCC OF CHRIST CHURCH WALSHAW

I report on the accounts for the year ended 31st December 2025.

Respective responsibilities of Trustees and Independent Examiner

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Signed:

Peta D Benson ACA

Date: 15/03/2026

Accounts



CHRIST CHURCH WALSHAW

REPORTS OF CHURCH GROUPS FOR 2024/2025

**See, I am doing a new thing!
Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?
I am making a way in the wilderness
and streams in the wasteland**

Isaiah 43:19

Please have this report with you at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting which will be held in church on Thursday, 10 April 2025 at 7.30 p.m.

REPORT	PAGE	REPORT	PAGE
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Parochial Church Council	2	Gift Aid Officer	10
Audio Visual Team	3	Health and Safety Officer	10
Baby & Toddler Group	4	Link Governor	11
Building Projects Team	4	Missions Team	12
Children's Church	5	Music Group	13
Churches Together in Bury	6	Pastoral Care Team	13
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Community Choir	7	Safeguarding Policy	Appendix 1
Deanery Synod	8		
Fabric and Maintenance	8		

VICAR'S REPORT

I was licensed as vicar of Christ Church on Wednesday 2nd October, so my report can only cover from that date to the end of 2024. First, let me thank every member of the church for the wonderfully warm welcome that Steve and I have received, and your patience and understanding as I learn how to manage my responsibilities both here and at St Andrew's, Radcliffe. We are really enjoying becoming part of this lovely church family and look forward to the years ahead.

I also want to thank everyone who has played a part in ensuring that the church has not only survived but thrived during such a long wait for a new vicar. From keeping on top of maintenance of the church and grounds, making sure the church follows good safeguarding practice, keeping the finances in good shape and keeping worship going on a Sunday, to the wide range of regular and occasional ways the church engages with the community, this is a church whose members have shared in its continued life rather than putting things on hold during the interregnum.

I made a conscious choice when I first started not to try and impose my ideas on the church but to take time to get to know you and to work out together where God may be leading us in this new phase. It's impossible to mention everything in a short report, but during this initial phase of learning about the church and the parish, I have seen much to encourage me that God is at work here, which you can read about in the other reports for individual ministries. I have been particularly encouraged by the monthly prayer meeting, where church members gather to pray for the church's ministry, the needs of church members and the needs of the wider world. I have also been renewing links with Christ Church CE Primary School, leading their collective worship once a fortnight.

Looking ahead, I am planning to take the new PCC for an away day at Barrow Bridge Church in Bolton, a chance to come together as a team to worship and pray and to seek to renew our vision for the work of this church over the next few years. Broadly speaking, I hope that together we can serve our community and the wider world, sharing the Gospel and growing as followers of Jesus. I am excited that Christ Church is already doing so much in all these areas, and always open to ideas of where God may be leading us.

Rev Steph Mawhinney

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL REPORT

The PCC has met six times during the year. The council is made up of 12 members with one current vacancy. Helen and Joanne co-led the meetings prior to Rev Steph Mawhinney joining in October 2024. There is currently 1 vacancy within the PCC and 2 vacancies within Deanery Synod.

Attendance has been as follows: Rev Steph Mawhinney 3/3, Helen Clark 6/6, Joanne McKenzie 4/6, Janet Hardman 4/6, Jo Haslam 4/6, Frank Yung 6/6, Norman Beswick 5/6, Chris Lancashire 5/6, Nicola Gordon 3/6, Gordon Clark 4/6, Bill Clarke 6/6, Kate Clarke 5/5.

During the year we have discussed a wide range of issues including

- Eco church and how we can introduce this
- Improvement to sound system
- Ash Trees – removal due to disease
- Laptop and Broadband – purchase of new laptop and introduction of Broadband
- Electrical Works – completed to improve lighting within Church

- Parish Share – to agree a more realistic amount
- Review of church fees
- Energy contracts

In addition, we have discussed the regular reports submitted by the following teams:

Finance, Pastoral Care Team, Fabric and Maintenance Team, Building Projects Team, Safeguarding, Health and Safety Team, Mission Team, Baby and Toddler Team, Community Choir, Audio/Visual Team, Music Group, Refreshment Team.

Janet Hardman

Audio- Visual Report

We have a dedicated team of people who work hard, usually quietly in the background, to ensure everyone can interact fully with the services. This allows people to hear clearly and have easy access to visual aids to worship, including written, picture and video resources.

The teams take responsibility for setting up and running the sound system, and preparing the PowerPoints used for the order of service and then operating them through the service. I am very grateful for every member of the team who plays a vital role in ensuring the smooth running of the services.

The audio-visual team for Sunday services is made up of Andrew Benson, Bill Clarke, Nicola Gordon, David Hemsall and myself. We do not have any reserves who are able to step in at the last minute which adds pressure on those already working hard.

We are looking to add more people to help with both the sound and visual teams.

The PowerPoint team have recently purchased a new laptop and installed broadband using money from a legacy to the church to fund these. These purchases will allow those leading and preaching to use a wider range of resources successfully.

The sound team are looking at the possibility of upgrading the speakers to improve the sound quality. Discussions are ongoing with various companies to investigate possibilities and prices.

Repair work has been undertaken to the loop system which had been damaged by spilt liquid. This means those with hearing aids can once again link directly to anything coming through the speakers, meaning they can hear those preaching and leading more clearly.

Helen Clark

BABY AND TODDLER REPORT

The Baby and Toddler group was established in 2017 as a key part of the church's mission strategy to share the good news of Jesus with families with young children. This focus continues, and the group engages with the families and their children to strengthen the link with our church community. We provide a safe space for parents, carers and their little ones to make friends and have fun.

The average attendance at present is between 22 and 33 children a week. There is a cap of 50 children registered at any time with a waiting list. Those who haven't attended for an extended period of time are contacted to check they still want a place.

The group follows a two-year plan with Christian input through the story, songs and craft activity. Chris Whitmore and Julie Benson attend a hub meeting to join with other church groups and receive ideas and training. On 21st September 2024 Chris and Julie attended the Playtime National conference in Bradford, to discover fresh ideas on how to improve our provision and help move the group forward. In February we both attended the Growing Younger Together Conference held at Bury Church School and intend to take part in the next event which is scheduled for June.

Visits from Michelle Nicolson and her colleague Rachael from the Early Years Team at Christ Church Walshaw School have continued this year in order to strengthen links between school and church.

At the moment the group charges £2 a child to attend, and there is no suggestion to change this. Less parents are carrying cash and the card reader is available to use.

We would like to thank everyone who assists in any way with helping make this group a success. At the moment there are 8 people in the team who are involved with planning, setting up/putting away, and running the sessions. New volunteers who are able to help either with the set up on a Sunday morning or on a Wednesday morning are very welcome.

Baby & Toddler Group Team

BUILDING PROJECTS TEAM

Following on from last year's report, the work of re-wiring and re-illuminating Christ Church has been completed. After a two-year wait, the appropriate Faculty was granted and barely a fortnight later, the contractors Barlows began work. The work was completed as per the projected 5-week timeframe: unfinished items were finished and snagging issues addressed.

Whilst the project has been a success, there are adjustments to be made. In particular, the number of luminaires will be reduced and those that remain will be re-directed to reduce glare and to improve the visibility of PowerPoint presentations on-screen. Accessing the lights is a tad problematical and members of BPT are looking at an optimal solution.

The cost of the project came in below the original budgetary estimate of £35,000. The lighting supplied by Salthouse Sales cost £9,797.94; Barlows' installation costs – materials and labour - came to £21,320.00; the total cost, therefore amounted to £31,117.94. This attracted a VAT liability of £6,223.59 which the Treasurer was able to recover in full through the Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme. In addition, the project – specifically the LED lighting – attracted a Quick Win grant of £5,000 by virtue of addressing the diocese's green agenda.

Thanks are due, first, to Norman. Besides supplying the lighting, he managed the project throughout. Secondly, Bill and Andrew have been thoroughly supportive. What's been accomplished might well have fallen within the purview of the Fabric & Maintenance Team but Andrew took the view that as the project pre-dated the establishment of FMT and progress in planning and the Faculty application was already well advanced, it would be sensible to leave things as they were.

Bill has been quietly reassuring throughout. Indeed, bringing the whole project to a conclusion has proved a model of teamwork achieved through good communication, both formal and informal.

What next? Whilst draught-proofing falls within the purview of FMT, access for the disabled remains on the BPT's draft agenda. On receipt of a formal instruction from the PCC, your scribe will invite the church architect, Rebecca Grimshaw, to draw up plans. Doing so will, of course, involve not-inconsiderable expense and in any brief to be given, reference to the scheme drafted by our late church architect may well prove instructive.

David Hemsall

CHILDREN'S CHURCH REPORT

I'm the main leader for the group, with assistance from Alaina Andeson, Andrea Llywelyn-Jones and Gill Pilkington. We now meet most Sundays except when we are in Church for All age Services throughout the year. Children's Church are willing to share the action songs and prayers during the All Age services as long as we are given notice.

I'm delighted to report that we have four to five regular attendees, two younger children with their parents, and older independent children. There ages ranging from 18 months to 8 years. Since February this year, I was pleased to see a pupil in year 4 at Christ Church Walshaw Primary School return with his older brother and his parents. They came to the Valentine event and decided to join us on the Sunday, when we had games and used the small parachute for the first time indoors. He has carried on coming to the group.

I hope to develop stronger links between Church and School in my role as link Foundation Governor, encouraging families to join us at church services.

We have Wiggle worship songs and prayers, nursery songs and a range of other Christian action songs viewed through my laptop. There are always colouring handouts and craft activities for the children to complete. When appropriate I have also used games to engage the children during our times together. We love to share what we have done with the congregation.

The teaching topics range from Old Testament characters, Psalms and stories from Jesus' life. Currently I am working to a plan since January through to April, which I have displayed on the Children Churches notice board, and handed out copies to the parents and children.

I have attended Baby and Toddler Hub sharing, with Christine Whitmore. Steph Openshaw shared her latest book "It's Going to be Fine!" which Baby and Toddler and Children's Church are using over Easter. It would be good to use in a service, as it has a similar format to the books I have used at our Christmas Nativities over the past two years. Additionally, I am using the activity pack which goes with it.

I am going on a Wiggle Worship Workshop on Thursday 15th May at St John's House in Bury. This will help me to use Wiggle more effectively.

I'm willing to carry on with the current set up. However I would like more assistants to volunteer, as depending on the activity we need more helping hands.

I am very grateful to Gill Pilkington to agreeing to cover the fourth Sunday of every month when Children's Church meets. Parents are very supportive and help to engage children as much as possible (Not always easy with toddlers).

I'm grateful for my current assistants and regular attendees, parents and children.

Julie Benson

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN BURY (referred to as CTB in this report)

CTB is an inter-denominational network of churches committed to working together to make Jesus known to Bury residents. I have been Christ Church's representative for many years, and there is space for another one or two people from Christ Church if anyone is interested.

Participating churches

Church of England: St John's Birtle, United Benefice of West Bury, Christ Church Walshaw, St Peter's, Bury Parish Church, All Saints Elton, St Stephen's, St Thomas's, Walmersley Rd Benefice

Methodist: Tottington, Brandlesholme, Bolton Road, Seedfield, Jericho

United Reformed: Bury URC

Baptist: Bury Baptist

Salt and Light: Bury Christian Fellowship

Pentecostal: Metro Christian Centre, Audacious Bury

Catholic: Guardian Angels, St Hildas, St Joseph and St Marie.

Salvation Army: Bury group

Activities

CTB meet 6 times per calendar year at various locations including Bury United Reform Church, Bolton Rd Methodist Church, Metro Christian Centre and the Salvation Army centre.

On an ongoing basis CTB supports, promotes, and in some cases organises the following **ongoing projects**:

- **The Bury Project (CAP Debt Centre) – involving at least 5 members of our church**
- **Town Centre Chaplaincy**
- **'Open the Book' work in schools – involving 3 members of our church**
- **Bury Street Pastors – involving 1 member of our church**
- **Churches Together Facebook page**
- **Churches Together Prayer List for member churches**
- **Zoom prayer meetings**
- **Carol singing in Bury Market**
- **Good Friday walk of witness**
- **Christian Aid collection in Bury Town Centre**
- **Prayer in the Park (Clarence Park) 18th May 24**

Other missional items discussed and supported include:

- The **Salvation Army** under the capable leadership of Cor and Angelique Van der Woude opened a **new Food pantry and drop-in centre** to partially replace the Manna House provisions which have now closed.
- Bury URC are running an **Alpha course** this Spring.
- **Joint services** – some churches in Bury are now holding occasional joint services. e.g. the Walmersley Benefice and the Salvation Army are meeting together on the last Sunday of the month. (Further information from me if you are interested).
- **Cygnets hospital**, a mental health hospital off Bolton Road, has space for some more chaplaincy work. Kathy Selby of Bolton Rd Methodists will be retiring next year.
- **Night Shelter** – Bolton Rd Methodist church have run a night shelter for homeless people during the sub-zero cold weather.

The meetings always include space for individual churches to share good things happening, and this is always encouraging. Meetings always include prayer.

Gordon Clark

CHURCHYARD REPORT

The main change in the churchyard this year was the removal of five large trees that were suffering from ash dieback. In 2022 following a number of trees coming down in storms during the spring, we had a tree safety survey carried out. This was to identify any urgent actions that needed to be carried out. Thankfully, there were none that needed immediate work although it did reveal that all the ash trees in the yard were suffering from dieback and were at risk of shedding branches. The PCC decided that five trees in particular were a problem as they were located around the graveyard and so represented a risk to visitors and graves. Three of them also overhung neighbouring properties along the northern boundary fence.

Following application for a faculty to carry out the work, the trees were cut down to ground level and the timber removed. As the trees were very large this was an expensive job, costing over £5100. In due course we intend to plant new native trees to replace them.

We continue to employ Camelot Garden Services to cut the grass in the graveyard and around the entrance.

Bill Clarke

COMMUNITY CHOIR

The choir continues to be successful and is enjoyed by all. We have regular numbers between 35 and 45.

In the last 12 months we have held two concerts in the church. The Summer concert with guest performances by Helmshore Ukelele Group was very well attended and £310 was raised for Porch boxes. The Christmas concert was also very well attended and £411 was raised for Porch boxes.

Our Social Group continues to organise our social events in the school holidays, including meals out, a pub get together, a social in church in the summer and a singalong musical event in Bolton. Most of the choir members get involved with the social side of the choir and this helps greatly with forming friendships within the choir.

Angela Ashworth

DEANERY SYNOD REPORT

Deanery Synod is a collaboration of Anglican churches covering the whole of Rossendale and Bury. There have been 4 meetings during 2024 in February (Zoom), May (Unsworth), September (Kersal Moor) and November (Rawtenstall). The purpose of the meetings is to share positive stories of what churches are doing around the deanery, and to receive specific updates from diocesan officials and others.

Rev Donna Williams (Area Dean) chairs the meetings.

Some meetings have a speaker (such Bishop of Bolton, Matthew Porter talking about the Diocese's 'Growing Younger' strategy). Other meetings include discussions based in mission community groups where ideas are shared. The progress being made by some churches on the 'Eco church' initiative is also frequently reported.

If anyone is interested in representing Christ Church on deanery synod, and would like to know more about what is involved, please feel free to discuss with me, or simply ask someone to nominate you for election at the APCM.

Gordon Clark

FABRIC AND MAINTENANCE REPORT

Role and Responsibilities

- The FMT provides guidance and leadership to the PCC on matters concerning the upkeep of the church buildings and land.

Membership

- The FMT is open to anyone, and ideally will include a minimum of two members of the PCC. The members in 2024 were Andrew Benson (Chairman), Helen Clark (Warden), Bill Clarke, and Norman Rigby.

2024 activities

Whilst the FMT did not meet in 2024, it continued to monitor the building and grounds condition providing updates to PCC:

- Ongoing maintenance works to
 1. roof area (regular gutter and downspout clearance, plus completion of pointing to ridge tiles)
 2. church yard - regular activities by Bill Clarke.

- Annual portable electrical appliance testing – not completed in 2024 due to testing equipment being out of calibration, however ad hoc visual checks made to appliance plugs and cables and all ok.
- A proposal for replacement of the external notice board with 2no in the existing position NB. This is now under review to determine best position for 2no separate noticeboards.
- Review of the existing Church Clock maintenance requirements plus consideration of the option to replace the mechanical mechanism with an electronic one – NB. rejected after consideration of costs and potential opposition from listed buildings bodies.

The FMT also continued to work with the Building Projects Team on the successful replacement of the church lighting system.

Future

- The team needs to recruit new members if it is to deliver its responsibilities successfully.
- It is planned to review and prioritise the work identified in the last Quinquennial inspection. And at the same time keep on top of any issues with the church roof, heating system and the access roads and parking.

ANDREW BENSON

FINANCE COMMITTEE

FinCom held a Zoom meeting on 13 February 2025. Members - Andrew Benson, Bill Clarke, David Hemsall and Steph Mawhinney - took the opportunity to review the state of finances following completion of the re-wiring and re-illumination project, the costs of which appear in the Building and Projects Team (BPT) report.

The team focussed initially on a short, broad-brush paper produced by the Treasurer which summarised the state of play. Discussion then broadened. It was agreed that, despite the welcome reduction in Parish Share, it was desirable – even essential – to increase revenue beyond the monthly receipts of ±£3K (plus any fees payable). A number of options were considered, including a Stewardship Campaign and hiring out facilities. It was agreed that work should be undertaken to implement ideas.

Looking ahead, members of committee identified likely areas of expenditure by both BPT and the Fabric & Maintenance Team (FMT) and considered the possibility – subject to compliance with the terms of deeds - of liquidating funds held in trust. Whilst a great deal has been achieved this past twelve-month, work goes on: 'twas ever thus.

In closing, members of the committee wish to commend the continuing contribution of the Treasurer. Bill goes about his work quietly and efficiently. There is never any fuss. The fellowship may feel reassured that – Bill's wish to step aside in favour of someone else notwithstanding – its resources are in safe hands. To Treasurer Bill, a sincere "Thank you" is due.

David Hemsall

GIFT AID OFFICER

After many years dedicated service as Christ Church's gift aid secretary, Diane stepped down from the role after the APCM last year. We would like to express our grateful thanks to Diane for her accurate work in claiming gift aid on donations given to church.

The PCC made the decision to join the diocesan Gift Aid Lite scheme. This means that the diocese act on the church's behalf to claim the tax back from HMRC. The scheme is free, and tax claimed back goes towards paying the parish share. We are grateful to Chris Lancashire who has taken on the role of gift aid secretary and is working with the officers at the diocese to process gift aid claims.

As it has taken a while to make the changes with HMRC, a claim has not yet been made for gift aid for the period 1st January 2024 to 31st December 2024, or for small donations (£30 or less) under the Gift Aid Small Donations Scheme (GASDS) between 7th April 2024 and 31st December 2024. Claims will be made for these donations in the coming months. It is anticipated that gift aid will be claimed on £29,169.00 of individual donations, and £3,710.81 of small donations under GASDS. This should result in a tax claim of approximately £8220. Once outstanding donations have been claimed, we will move towards claiming the tax back monthly.

We are grateful to taxpayers who have completed a gift aid form so that tax can be claimed back on donations. If you are a taxpayer, and haven't completed a gift aid form, please see Chris Lancashire. Maximising what we can claim from HMRC is important to supplement the church's income.

HELEN CLARK

HEALTH AND SAFETY OFFICER

1. Purpose of Paper

- 1.1 To provide PCC members with an update on Health and Safety Issues pertinent to the current reporting period
- 1.2 To outline maintenance or adaptation activity within the Church that may involve Health and Safety Considerations during next few months

2. Outstanding H&S issues

- 2.1 No outstanding issues carried over from 2024
- 2.2 Fire safety procedures implemented 2024 remain current
- 2.3 PAT testing equipment has been purchased. Further details of church members able to carry out PAT testing is required

3. Remedial work undertaken within Church over previous 12 months

- 3.1 Replacement lighting throughout the church has been undertaken without any health and safety issues apparent
- 3.2 Work within the tower room, left the large hatch open and propped against a wall. There was a potential hazard had this fallen and landed in the church office, or damaged the ceiling causing debris to fall. This was particularly concerning as youth groups were meeting in the office at the time.

Recommendation: all contractors working within the church building are made aware of groups who will be using the various parts of the buildings, and where required, areas are taped off to prevent access during building or remedial work

4. Risk assessment updates

4.1 Risk assessment reviews will be undertaken during April 2025 for all groups using the church buildings. Work to be carried out in partnership with the Church Warden.

Mike Lancashire

LINK GOVERNOR REPORT

I was appointed on 4/09/23 as a Foundation Governor at Christ Church Walshaw CE Primary. We meet as a local academy committee. We are part of the Sycamore Academy Trust.

There are now six schools looked after by the trust which are as follows: Christ Church Walshaw CE Primary School, Radcliffe Hall CE/Methodist Primary School, St John's CE Primary School, and St Stephen's CE Primary School, Holy Trinity C of E Primary School and St Thomas's CE Primary School. Each school has a local committee who take care of individual school affairs. We are all informed about how each school is performing in reports at Governor meetings. We are answerable to the Trust Committee board.

I attended the last Governor meeting on 19th November 2024 at Christ Church Walshaw. The school is looking into Letting out the school to outside groups to boost up their income and serve the community. Parent Governor Dominique Stead was appointed as stand in chair of governors. Year one has a full time TA, but the other year groups have part time TA's. The school would like more parent helpers and volunteers, such as governors going in to assist teachers where possible.

I have visited Christ Church last year as the Religious Education Link, visiting all the classes. Very interesting visit with great RE corners in each classroom, with bible stories about Jesus and other Old and New Testament characters as well as resources on other faiths and festivals. Children's comments are in a book journal and their thoughts and prayers are displayed. The school choose a theme to explore once a term.

December 9th 2024 before Christmas I visited the Early years event and parents were also invited. The Christmas event had activities for the pupils to interact with, dressing up photo booth, card and wreath making and a Santas workshop and post office..... I interacted with parents and pupils. It was an enjoyable experience for everyone.

We have distributed the Bible Society Books to Christ Church Walshaw for pupils in key stage one and key stage two.

I have excellent links with the Early year Reception Teacher Mrs M Nicholson and HLTA Nursery Lead Mrs R Mackay, who regularly visit our Wednesday Baby and Toddler group. We have two families from our Baby and Toddler group who have chosen Christ Church Walshaw since visiting the school, starting either September 2025 or 2026. More may follow.

I intend to visit Christ Church Walshaw again in March 2025.

The next Governor meeting I will be attending is on the 1st April.

Wiggle Worm Worship is used every week in the Early years Department at Christ Church Walshaw CE Primary School to engage pupils during lessons at the start of the day. I have observed pupils at the school interacting positively to seeing Wiggle Worm and joining in with him in the times of prayer and worship.

Wiggle is a familiar sight in schools around Bury and pupils love him. I use Wiggle in Children's Church at the beginning of every lesson to encourage children to look and listen and pay attention to the words of prayers and action worship songs.

I would also like Wiggle to be used in Baby and Toddler sessions, so children can get used to seeing him as part of their routine, before they start school. I am on a course Thursday 15th May 2025 to find out more on how I can use Wiggle Worm more effectively. The Diocesan Children's Worker Joanne Haslam has spoken to me about using Wiggle Worm because he provides a link between church and school.

Julie Benson

MISSION COMMUNITY REPORT

Christ Church is part of the Whitefield and Radcliffe Mission Community, which also includes Christ Church Ainsworth, St Andrew's Radcliffe, Emmanuel Radcliffe, St Thomas and St John Radcliffe, St Mary's Radcliffe, All Saints Stand, St Andrew's Hillock and St George's Unsworth. Joanne McKenzie, Andrew Benson and now Rev Steph Mawhinney attend regular meetings to consider how these churches can support one another and work together in mission. The former mission community leader, Donna Williams, was licensed as our Area Dean in January and Alison Hartley of Christ Church Ainsworth has now taken on this role.

During Lent, each church in the Mission Community hosted a short service of prayer midweek and invited people from the other churches to attend. There was also a focus around prayer between Ascension and Pentecost. On Ascension Day one prayer walk began at Christ Church and visited the other churches in the northern half of the community, joining a second prayer walk which had begun at St George's and walked from the south for a service of Holy Communion led by Bishop Mark Davies at St Thomas' and St John's, Radcliffe. This was followed by a short time of prayer on Zoom every evening until Pentecost Sunday.

There has been a focus on helping our churches become more environmentally friendly this year. Several churches have achieved their Bronze Eco Church Award. In July, each parish organised a litter picking event around the church. Several have gone on to make this a monthly event. We are also seeking to co-ordinate attempts to encourage recycling of items the Council does not collect. Old pairs of glasses, hearing aids, bras, keys, foreign currency, stamps, printer and photocopier cartridges are now collected in each church and different people arrange for them to be collected for recycling.

As in previous years, there was a short time of prayer every evening during Advent on Zoom, with different churches taking it in turns to lead. Andrew also organised the purchase of books to give away at Christmas services and in church schools, taking advantage of the cheaper price available for bulk orders.

As a church we have served our community this year through activity such as litter picking and a successful Valentine's event. We also continue support a range of mission partners through prayer and giving. These include including Porch Box, CAP, Street Pastors, Bible Society and Tearfund, Members of the fellowship, including Children's Church, support a child and a young woman through Compassion.

JOANNE MCKENZIE

MUSIC GROUP REPORT

Members: Kate Clarke, Angela Ashworth, Jo Haslam, Alaina Anderson, Paul Rigby (guitar)

The music group supports and leads the musical aspects of worship. We meet at 9.30 -10.30 to rehearse the music. It is hoped that the songs sung 5 minutes before the service help to prepare and focus the congregation before the service starts.

Leaders send me their song choices for the service and I usually choose the songs before the service and the communion hymns. The songs are then sent to the group - this really needs to be before Wednesday lunchtime. I also notify the CCLI about the songs we are using in the services to enable copyright payments.

Given our smaller size, we need to use a greater number of videos when people are away. The group would be delighted to welcome additional members.

The group was augmented by a number of the congregation for our carol service and Ruth Boaden kindly played the piano and Jane Clark played her flute. We also attended the carols at Highbank. Alan Whitmore also played guitar during a few Christmas services.

The group is always happy to consider new material to introduce to services (so please feel free to speak to one of us if you have any suggestions).

We would also like to express our thanks for the supportive comments received from many of you.

Kate Clarke

PASTORAL TEAM REPORT

BACKGROUND:

The Pastoral Care team was formed in April 2022 following the Rev Steve Openshaw and Steph Openshaw leaving the church. Steve had invited me to form a team of church members with some experience of helping people in need. The first team meeting was held on 21st June 2022. The names of people with health or other problems were passed on to Frank Yung or myself.

At subsequent meetings it was decided to formalize our work. This included a statement of our aims and principles, establishing a referral system and how we could help and support the people referred. The statement was adopted in February 2024 and ratified by the PCC shortly afterwards.

Over the past 12 months we have made several changes. Firstly, we were concerned that there were gaps. We were not always aware of who needed help. In response to this we produced a referral form so people who wanted help or someone to talk to could refer themselves. It could also be filled by another member of the congregation or friend on behalf of someone who was in need, but only on the condition that they had given their permission in advance. It was also agreed that the person in need does not need to attend church, but they should be known to a church member.

The work consists of contacting the person asking for help by telephone, sending get well cards, sympathy cards when there was a death in the family or a friend or sending just a letter letting them know we are thinking about them and praying for them. These messages have been welcomed and comforting.

In some cases, we have offered to do a home visit, and this has been well received.

To give you an insight into the extent of our work, in the past 12 months many telephone messages of support have been made together with some 60 cards and letters, the majority of which have been written by Mavis on behalf of the church and the Pastoral Team. Also, over 40 home visits have been made during this period.

Summary:

Over the last four years the Pastoral Team has been on a journey. We have seen God at work in people's lives and in our lives. With God's help we have been able to bring comfort, peace and hope to those people struggling with life's trials and challenges. We thank God for the privilege of serving Him through the work of the pastoral care done in His name.

Norman Beswick

SAFEGUARDING OFFICER REPORT

Since I have been in post as Christ Church Safeguarding officer, I have not been aware of any safeguarding issues within church or outside of church affecting church members.

We have a fantastic group of volunteers in the Pastoral care team, children's church and parent and toddler group. We are fortunate that the overwhelming majority of these volunteers have been in safeguarding roles previously in their careers which is really positive for us as a church.

I have spoken with safeguarding at St Johns House in Bury with the view that Kathryn Ford safeguarding officer comes into church to offer face to face safeguarding training with volunteers however at present Kathryn has recently returned to her role after sickness leave and is still not driving and this is not possible at present. I have discussed safeguarding training with volunteers and some have completed this online.

I have met with Steph our vicar recently and it was identified that there was nothing in church regarding domestic abuse/ violence such as leaflets with information and contact numbers for help and support and as such I have been booked onto Domestic Violence training at St Johns House on the 06 03 25. I am also undertaking further training regarding safeguarding on the 01 04 25 and the 05 04 25.

I have also discussed meeting up with my counterpart at St Andrews church with Steph as I feel this would be useful in my role.

As always, we would appreciate some help from new volunteers for Children's church.

Andrea Llywelyn-Jones



CHRIST CHURCH WALSHAW

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND ACCOUNTS OF THE PCC FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

**See, I am doing a new thing!
now it springs up; do you not perceive it?
I am making a way in the wilderness
and streams in the wasteland** *Isaiah 43:19*

Please have this report with you at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting which will be held on Thursday, 10 April 2025 at 7.30 p.m.

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INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE PCC OF CHRIST CHURCH WALSHAW

I report on the accounts for the year ended 31st December 2024.

Respective responsibilities of Trustees and Independent Examiner

As trustees of the charity, the members of the PCC are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. They consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 ("The 2011 Act") and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act); and
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent Examiner's Statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the accounts.

Independent Examiner's statement

In the course of my examination, no matters have come to my attention

1. which give me reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect, the requirements
 - to keep proper accounting records in accordance with s.130 of the 2011 Act); or
 - to prepare accounts which accord with these accounting recordshave not been met; or
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:

Peter D Benson ACA

Date:

16th March 2025

Christ Church Walshaw - Accounts - 2024

	<i>General Account (Unrestricted use)</i>	<i>Deposit Account (Designated & Restricted use)</i>	<i>Building Fund (Designated use)</i>	<i>Total</i>
Opening Balance Jan 2024	4979	54805	15105	74888

<i>Receipts</i>				2023	Variance	Notes	
Tax efficient planned giving	25715		1416	27131	26434	697	1
One off Gift Aid	2075			2075	2506	-431	
Tax Recovered	8923			8923	7932	991	
Other regular planned giving	3146			3146	2734	412	
Collections of loose cash at services	2202			2202	2270	-68	
All other giving	1243			1243	1099	144	
Total giving	43304	0	1416	44720	42975	1745	
Legacies	2000			2000	0	2000	2
Dividends & Interest	3290	761	105	4156	2855	1301	3
Recurring Grants	50			50	50	0	4
Non-recurring Grants				0	330	-330	
Listed Places of Worship Scheme	6224			6224	508	5716	5
Fees	1668			1668	1459	209	
Fund raising events				0	2454	-2454	
Trust Accounts		9171		9171	0	9171	3
Baby & Toddler Group	1413			1413	1738	-325	
Community Choir	2308			2308	1513	795	
Total Income (excl. giving)	16953	9932	105	26990	10907	16083	
Total Receipts	60257	9932	1521	71710	53882	17828	
Transfers							
From Deposit to General	42502						
From General to Deposit		508					
From General to Building Fund			354				
Total Receipts & Transfers	102759	10440	1875				

Christ Church Walshaw - Accounts - 2024

General Account	Deposit Account	Building Fund	Total
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<i>Payments</i>				2023	Variance	Notes
Overseas missions societies			0	0	0	6
Christian Relief and Dev. Agencies			0	1000	-1000	
Home mission and other Church Soc.	203		203	500	-297	
Secular Charities	25		25	20	5	
Parish Share/Quota	25,000		25,000	23500	1500	7
Incumbent working expenses	142		142	0	142	
Parsonage	1,089		1,089	-424	1513	8
Church running expenses	20,534		20,534	19198	1336	9
Church maintenance	1,558		1,558	10255	-8697	10
Upkeep of Services	1,217		1,217	1045	172	11
Upkeep of churchyard	7,309		7,309	1980	5329	12
Major Repairs & Improve.	37,342		37,342	0	37342	13
Support costs	353		353	124	229	
Baby & Toddler Group	154		154	0	154	
Community Choir	400		400	0	400	14
Church administration	293		293	131	162	
Total Payments	95,617	0	0	95,617	57329	38288
Transfers						
From Deposit to General		42,502				
From General to Deposit	508					
From General to Building Fund	354					
Total Payments & Transfers	96,479	42,502	0			
Closing Balance Dec 2024	11,259	22,743	16,980	50,981		

Notes to accompany 2024 accounts.

General Account - Unrestricted – Funds that can be used for any purpose approved by the PCC.

Deposit Account (part) and Building Fund - Designated – Funds that have been allocated to a particular purpose by the PCC.

Deposit Account (part) - Restricted – Typically funds from a bequest or grant where there were instructions set on their use.

1. Giving

Giving was generally at similar levels to 2023. The card reader has seen more use this year mainly down to the Baby & Toddler group and Community Choir using it for their fees. The system was reconfigured so that giving can be identified between the church and the two groups.

The tax recovered (£8923) was against the giving in 2023.

After many years of sterling service Diane Ewart-Jones is stepping down as Gift-Aid Officer. The PCC have decided to join the Diocesan Gift Aid Lite scheme. Gift Aid Lite is a free, HMRC-approved service which assists with the administration and claiming of donations made through Gift Aid and the Gift Aid Small Donations Scheme (GASDS). All monies reclaimed through Gift Aid Lite will be paid directly to the Diocesan Board of Finance (DBF) and then credited to the Parish Share account of the church. Previously most of the money recovered was used towards meeting the share so this is not a real difference for us. Any excess, after meeting the share, will be sent to us.

2. Legacies

We were the recipients of a legacy from the estate of Joan Owen. The PCC have decided that we should use some of it to replace the laptop used to run the PowerPoint during services.

3. Dividends and interest

The increase this year is primarily down to an exceptional item. There are a number of trusts associated with the church, which you can see on the final page of the accounts and some of these pay dividends into the bank account. In addition there is a trust which, while not connected with the church, has the vicar and church wardens as trustees, this is the Nancy Howarth Trust. The purpose of this trust is “assistance for poor people over the age of 50 living in the parish of Walshaw” and the vicar and wardens were probably appointed trustees as they were regarded as pillars of the local community! Due to lack of activity, Barclays closed the bank account associated with the trust and after much effort the funds were transferred into the church account on a temporary basis while we were in the interregnum. This amounted to £9,171 paid into the deposit account and £730 interest. A new account external to the church will be established in 2025 and this money transferred out.

4. Recurring Grants

We continue to receive a small grant towards the maintenance of the war graves.

5. Listed Places of Worship Scheme

Following the work carried out to improve the lighting in church we were able to reclaim all the VAT associated with the work, both fittings and installation. As usual this money will be transferred into the deposit account ready for the next set of improvements to the building.

6. Mission Support

During 2024 there was no financial support given to our mission partners beyond the giving to Compassion via the jar. £203 was given to the Church of England Children’s Society from the Christingle Service

7. Parish Share

The original assessment for 2024 was £45,284, which was simply unachievable and the Diocese recognized this. Helen Clark and I attended a meeting with representatives from the Diocese to discuss this and we were

very pleased when they agreed to a much more realistic figure of £25,000. We were able to meet this in full even though this was more than we paid in 2023. The assessment for 2025 is a 5% increase which £26,250.

8. Vicarage

While the vicarage was empty there were no council tax or water charges to pay. Revd. Mawhinney was appointed in the summer of 2024 and she took up her post from October 2024. She is the incumbent for both Christ Church Walshaw and St Andrew's Radcliffe, so her costs are shared between the two parishes. As she has chosen to live in 37 Gisburn Drive, the Christ Church vicarage, it made sense for us to continue to pay the council tax, water charges and ground rent and then claim 50% back from St Andrew's. To keep things as simple as possible Revd. Mawhinney submits her expenses to us monthly, I then claim 50% back from St Andrew's. Obviously if her claim is for something specific to one parish or the other that parish would pay 100%.

9. Church running costs.

- Electricity: £1,024. Our new contract started at the end of January 2024 so this reflects the higher tariff that we are now on.
- Gas: £7,837. The current contract runs until November 2025.
- Insurance: £11,190.
- Water Charges: £484.

10. Church maintenance

- Clock servicing: £317.
- Heating servicing: £384.
- Organ tuning: £322.
- Lightning conductor test: £222.

11. Upkeep of Services etc.

- CCLI copyright licence: £441
- Replacement microphone: £102
- Printing etc.: £371

12. Churchyard

The major expense was the removal of 5 ash trees located around the graveyard that were suffering from ash dieback and so represented a risk to visitors and graves from falling branches. Three of them also overhung neighbouring properties. The cost of this work was £5,160. In due course we intend to plant new native trees to replace them.

We continue to employ Camelot Garden Services to cut the grass in the graveyard and around the entrance: £1980.

13. Major Repairs & Improvements

The big task in 2024 was the improvements to the lighting inside and outside church, mainly replacing all the halogen floodlights with energy efficient LED spotlights. The hardware was sourced by Norman Rigby at a very competitive price (£11,757) and installation was carried out by Barlows (UK) Ltd for £25,583. As mentioned earlier we were able to reclaim the VAT on the works (£6,224).

14. Community Choir

The revenue from the choir's Christmas concert of £400 was donated to Porch Boxes.

W S Clarke

20 January 2025

INVESTMENTS

Securities held on behalf of Christ Church Walshaw by the Manchester Diocesan Board of Finance.

Trust Title	Nominal Value	Cost Book Value	Income Received	Market Value	
				2024	2023
Mrs Leigh (deceased) Lady Chapel (CB3010563-001) Fixed interest	£1,448.00	£2,095.88	Paid into Lady Chapel deposit trust	£2,159.26	£2,095.98
Mrs Leigh (deceased) Lady Chapel (CB3010794-001) Deposit	£2,641.56	£2,335.91	Interest retained	£2,641.56	£2,456.48
M A Hibbert Trust (CB3010756-001) Investment fund	£2,431.83	£27,836.28	£1,525.97 (paid into general account)	£56,230.48	£54,972.25
Constance Middleton Trust (CB3010927-001) Deposit	£19669.33	£19669.33	£1,024.04 (paid into general account)	£19,669.33	£19,669.33

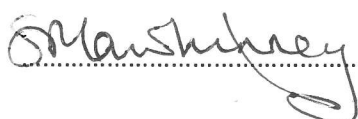
n.b. the funds within these trusts are all restricted and as such can only be used for the purposes designated at the time of establishment.

Liabilities Nil

Accounts for the Financial Year ending 31 December 2024

Approved by the Parochial Church Council meeting held on : *20th March 2025*

and signed on their behalf by :

 Chairman

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE PCC OF CHRIST CHURCH WALSHAW

I report on the accounts for the year ended 31st December 2024.

Respective responsibilities of Trustees and Independent Examiner

As trustees of the charity, the members of the PCC are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. They consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 ("The 2011 Act") and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act); and
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent Examiner's Statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the accounts.

Independent Examiner's statement

In the course of my examination, no matters have come to my attention

1. which give me reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect, the requirements
 - to keep proper accounting records in accordance with s.130 of the 2011 Act); or
 - to prepare accounts which accord with these accounting recordshave not been met; or
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:

Peter D Benson ACA

Date:

16th March 2025

Accounts



CHRIST CHURCH WALSHAW

REPORTS OF CHURCH GROUPS FOR 2023/2024

**Wait for the LORD;
Be strong and take heart
And wait for the LORD**

Psalm 27, 14

Please have this report with you at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting which will be held in church on Thursday, 18th April 2024 at 7.30 p.m.

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PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL REPORT

The PCC has met six times during the year. The council is made up of 11 members with two current vacancies. Helen and Joanne have co-led the meetings.

Attendance was as follows: Angela Ashworth 4/6, Norman Beswick 4/6, Helen Clark 6/6, Bill Clarke 6/6, Chris Lancashire 4/6, Janet Hardman 6/6, Jo Haslam 3/6, Nicola Gordon 3/6, Gordon Clark 2/6, Joanne McKenzie 5/6, Frank Yung 6/6.

There have also been 5 extraordinary meetings to discuss proposals given by the Diocese in which Rachel Mann was in attendance for several of the meetings.

During the year we have discussed a wide range of issues including appointment of a school link governor, Safeguarding policy, energy contracts, the possibility of fitting a defibrillator in church, PCC fees, advertising for Christmas services, Parish Share and Gift Aid. We have updated the Churchyard policy and submitted a faculty for improvements to the lighting and signage of the church.

In addition, we have discussed the regular reports submitted by the following teams:

Finance, Pastoral Care Team, Fabric and Maintenance Team, Building Projects Team, Safeguarding, Health and Safety Team, Mission Team, Baby and Toddler Team, Community Choir, Audio/Visual Team, Music Group, Refreshment Team.

This past year we have held several community events within the church including a summer concert, Christmas concerts, Coronation tea and Valentine craft day. These were extremely well attended and supported.

Janet Hardman - PCC Secretary

Audio- Visual Report

We have a dedicated team of people who work hard, usually quietly in the background, to ensure everyone can interact fully with the services. This allows people to hear clearly and have easy access to visual aids to worship, including written, picture and video resources.

The teams take responsibility for setting up and running the sound system, and preparing the PowerPoints used for the order of service and then operating them through the service. Needless to say, I am very grateful for every member of the team who plays a vital role in ensuring the smooth running of the services.

The audio-visual team for Sunday services is made up of Andrew Benson, Bill Clarke, Nicola Gordon, David Hemsall and myself. We do not have any reserves who are able to step in at the last minute which adds pressure on those already working hard.

We are looking to add more people to help with both the sound and visual teams.

Helen Clark

Baby and Toddler Group Report

The Baby and Toddler group was established in 2017 as a key part of the church's mission strategy to share the good news of Jesus with families with young children. This focus continues, and the group engages with the families and their children to strengthen the link with our church community.

The weekly attendance at present is between 27 and 32 children, this is an increase compared to last year when weekly attendance was approximately 20. There is a cap of 40 children registered at any time, but at the moment, for various reasons, there are 53 children registered with 15 on a waiting list. Those who haven't attended for 4 weeks are contacted to check they still want a place.

The group follows a two year plan with Christian input through the story and craft activity. Chris Whitmore and Julie Benson attend a hub meeting to join with other church groups and receive ideas and training.

At the moment the group charges £2 a child to attend, and there is no suggestion to change this. Less parents are carrying cash and the card reader is available to use.

We would like to thank everyone who assists in any way with helping make this group a success. At the moment there are 8 people in the team who are involved with planning, setting up/putting away, and running the sessions. New volunteers who are able to help either with the set up on a Sunday morning or on a Wednesday morning are very welcome.

Baby & Toddler Group Team

Building Projects Team Report

At last year's APCMs, the team reported: "An application for the requisite Faculty has been lodged." The diocesan website shows that this was received by the diocese on 15 April but not read until two months later on 12 June. Silence followed. Informal enquiries elicited no explanation as to why no response was forthcoming from the Diocesan Advisory Committee (DAC) which is tasked to vet all applications. Exasperation set in.

On 24 October, a letter was hand-delivered addressed to the Revd Alan Simpson at St John's House. In the past, relations with the DAC Secretary have been good, so the letter was both candid and courteous. It included the following paragraph: "Simply put, over six months since submitting our application, I have heard absolutely nothing. Given that the diocesan website advertises DAC meetings as occurring monthly, I find it impossible to fathom how it is that

our modest proposal has not progressed.” A week later, the secretary to the DAC emailed to advise that matters were now in hand and proffering advice on how best to expedite matters. Several further exchanges followed.

To cut to the chase, the DAC met on 6 November 2023 and a further six weeks later, on 18 December, notification was posted that the committee had approved the application for onward transmission to the Chancellor. Since then, the requisite public notice has been displayed and it is hoped the Chancellor’s endorsement will shortly be sent to the Registry to allow the Faculty to be issued.

There are two issues here. First, diocesan procedures are Byzantine in their complexity. Secondly – and more importantly – there has been no explanation of why it was that our application was stalled for over six months. Insider information is that the application was considered but no decision taken. It seems that it was only unofficial lobbying on our part that achieved such movement as there has been.

To conclude what has been a saga: the Faculty may be expected in the not-too-distant future. In a resolution passed on 10 December 2023, the PCC mandated BPT to press ahead with engaging our preferred contractor to undertake the work, subject to revised quotations being acceptable. Frankly, the DAC’s delay means that the quotations which formed part of the Faculty application will have risen, albeit modestly. At the time of writing, however, advice from the Treasurer and from contractors and suppliers suggest that the project remains on budget. All being well, therefore, we may anticipate work commencing towards the middle of this year, thereby minimising disruption.

David Hempsall

Children’s Church Report

I’m the main leader for the group, with assistance from Alaina Andeson, Andrea Llywelyn-Jones and Gill Pilkington. We now meet every Sunday.

I’m delighted to report that we have four regular attendees with their parents, ages ranging from 11 months to 7 years. We have five other children who are registered with us who attend infrequently.

We have Wiggle worship songs and prayers, nursery songs and a range of other Christian songs too. There are always colouring handouts and craft activities for the children to complete.

The teaching topics range from Old Testament characters, Psalms and stories from Jesus’ life.

I’m willing to carry on with the current set up. However I would like more assistants to volunteer, and one other leader to cover either one or two Sundays each month.

I’m grateful for my current assistants and regular attendees.

Julie Benson

Churches Together in Bury (CTB) Report

CTB is an inter-denominational network of churches which commit to working together to make Jesus known to Bury residents.

Participating churches in 2023

Church of England: St John's Birtle, United Benefice of West Bury, Christ Church Walshaw, St Peter's, Bury Parish Church, All Saints Elton, St Stephen's, St Thomas's, Walmersley Rd Benefice

Methodist: Tottington, Brandlesholme, Bolton Road, Seedfield, Jericho

United Reformed: Bury URC

Baptist: Bury Baptist

Salt and Light: Bury Christian Fellowship

Pentecostal: Metro Christian Centre, Audacious Bury

Catholic: Guardian Angels, St Hildas, St Joseph and St Marie.

Salvation Army: Bury group

Activities

CTB met 6 times in 2023, usually at Bury United Reform Church who are always very supportive of collaborative mission in Bury. Each meeting allowed plenty of time for churches and individuals to share news about outreach, or joint witness projects.

CTB supports, promotes, and in some cases organises the following **ongoing projects**:

- The Bury Project (CAP Debt Centre) – involving at least 5 members of our church
- Town Centre Chaplaincy
- 'Open the Book' work in schools – involving one member of our church
- Bury Street Pastors – involving two members of our church
- Churches Together Facebook page
- Churches Together Prayer List for member churches
- Zoom prayer meetings

CTB also organises the following **events**:

- Carol singing in Bury Market
- Good Friday walk of witness
- Christian Aid collection in Bury Town Centre

Other missional subjects considered in 2023, include:

- The work of the Bible Society
- Greater Together Manchester wanting to work with churches on providing support on mental health issues.
- Open Doors
- Praise in the Park (Clarence Park 18th May 2024)
- New young people's group for years 11, 12 and 13 being hosted by Metro Christian Centre and being supported by St Peter's
- A pilgrimage around the churches of Bury by John Westwell of Seedfield Methodists.

The meetings always include space for individual churches to share good things happening, and this is always encouraging. Meetings always include prayer.

I have been the only representative on Churches Together for several years, and there are places for one or two more representatives from Christ Church. It would be great if the new PCC could consider appointing others to represent Christ Church on this encouraging forum.

Gordon Clark

Churchyard Report

We have continued to employ Camelot Garden Services to mow the graveyard, garden of remembrance and the areas around the entrance. The work is done well, without any need for prompting from us although the cost has risen to £110 per visit (18 in total).

We continue to monitor the state of the trees in the yard, it does look like some are coming to the end of their life, mainly those suffering from ash die back.

Relatively little work was done in the wooded areas at the bottom of the yard beyond further tidying following the trees coming down during the storms in spring 2022. This is pretty much finished although a couple of large trunks have been left lying down as they are too big to move!

A slight issue is the developing potholes in the driveway especially in the corners at the back of church. These will be filled as best we can, but drivers need to take the corners slower to avoid churning up the surface as it is just loose chippings. Also, there is increasing damage being caused to the grass adjacent to the driveway as cars cut into it. Please park carefully so that other drivers can get past without needing to come off the driveway. This especially applies to those who park on the west and north sides of the building.

Bill Clarke

Community Choir Report

The community choir continues to meet each Wednesday during term time. We have had new people join and weekly attendance is now back to pre-pandemic levels of between 30 and 40 people.

Choir members value the time singing, but also appreciate being able to mix and socialise during the break. The special social activities are very popular and well attended.

The Christmas concert, when we were joined by Tottington Public Band, was very well received. The choir members chose to give donations to Guide Dogs for the Blind, Salvation Army and Cystic Fibrosis Trust. We look forward to putting on a summer concert in June 2024.

Angela Ashworth and Helen Clark

Fabric and Maintenance Report

Role and Responsibilities

- The FMT provides guidance and leadership to the PCC on matters concerning the upkeep of the church buildings and land.

Membership

- The FMT is open to anyone, and ideally will include a minimum of two members of the PCC. The members in 2023 were Andrew Benson (Chairman), Helen Clark (Warden), Bill Clarke, Mick Cant and Norman Rigby.

2023 activities

The FMT met on 24/08/23, and made a report to PCC on 06/09/23. The latter included:

- Updates on maintenance works to
 1. roof area (regular gutter and downspout clearance, plus pointing to ridge tiles)
 2. clock tower (completion of dealing with leaks from the bell area)
 3. church yard (clearance of fallen trees, in addition to regular activities by Bill Clarke).
- Annual portable electrical appliance testing.
- A proposal for replacement of the external notice board.
- Review the existing Church Clock maintenance requirements & look for funding sources, plus consider the option to replace the mechanical mechanism with an electronic one (?)

The FMT also continued to work with the Building Projects Team on the replacement of the church lighting system.

Future

- The team needs to recruit new members if it is to deliver its responsibilities successfully.
- It is planned to review and prioritise the work identified in the last Quinquennial inspection (2022). And at the same time keep on top of any issues with the church roof, heating system and the access roads and parking.

Andrew Benson

Finance Committee Report

There has been no formal meeting of FinCom over the past 12 months. Committee members have been kept up-to-date informally by the Treasurer. Three issues remain current.

First, funds for the re-wiring and re-illumination remain ring-fenced. Secondly, the Treasurer has continued to use his good judgment in paying whatever proportion of the Parish Share may be affordable after meeting unavoidable expenses, such as utility bills and insurance. The share stands at more than £40,000. Irrespective of any formulae which may be applied, members of FinCom regard this as inequitable.

Thirdly, the Treasurer reported that Barclays bank had declared one part of the Constance Middleton Trust account to be dormant because of inactivity. At the time of writing, the Treasurer is in the throes of resolving this matter and has rightly decided that the matter cannot be declared closed until the sum involved is transferred to a CCW account which is accessible. He is to be congratulated on his dealing with what could have proved a tricky matter. The present *rapporteur* is a trustee of a charitable foundation in Blackburn which has encountered a similar problem with NatWest which has dragged on for over 18 months without any resolution.

Finally, FinCom thanks the Treasurer most warmly for his conscientious stewardship of the fellowship's resources and hopes that a successor may come forward ere very long.

David Hempsall

Gift Aid Officer Report

The impact of the cost-of-living crisis continues to be felt. After the 30% drop when Covid struck, Planned Giving has almost stabilised. In 2023-2024 the total on which tax could be claimed was £26,676.82 (as against £26,945.00 in the previous year) a decline of just 1.5%. The tax claimed amounted to £6,669.20 (as against £6,736.25 in 2022-2023).

The claim for GASDS (Gift Aid Small Donations Scheme) has to be submitted after 6 April 2024 so I hope to be able to report the exact figure to the APCMs on 18 April.

Diane Ewart-Jones

Health and Safety Report

1. Purpose of Paper

- 1.1 To provide PCC members with an update on Health and Safety Issues pertinent to the current reporting period
- 1.2 To outline maintenance or adaptation activity within the Church that may involve Health and Safety Considerations during next few months

2. Outstanding H&S issues

- 2.1 No outstanding issues carried over from 2023
- 2.2 Fire safety procedures implemented in 2022 remain current
- 2.3 PAT testing equipment has been purchased. Further details of church members able to carry out PAT testing is required

3. Proposed adaptation and remedial work with the Church

- 3.1 Fabrication of drainage units for the kitchen to enable safe unloading of the dishwasher is being considered by the fabric and maintenance committee.
- 3.2 Plans will be assessed to ensure that risks to people working in the kitchen are Minimised
- 3.3 Further work regarding replacement lighting within the Church is to take place and Health and Safety practices will be included within this work.

Mike Lancashire

MISSIONS TEAM

Please see separate report.

Music Group Report

Members: Kate Clarke, Angela Ashworth, Jo Haslam, Paul Rigby (guitar), Alan Whitmore (guitar), Hannah Rowe (one Sunday/ month but currently not singing due to childcare)

The music group supports and leads the musical aspects of worship. We meet at 9.30 - 10.30 to rehearse the music. It is hoped that the songs sung 5 minutes before the service help to prepare and focus the congregation before the service starts.

Leaders send me their song choices for the service, and I usually choose the songs before the service and the communion hymns. The songs are then sent to the group - this really needs to be before Wednesday lunchtime. I also have to notify the CCLI about the songs we are using in the services to enable copyright payments.

Given our smaller size, we have needed to use a greater number of videos when people are away. The group would be delighted to welcome additional members. It is hoped that Ruth Boaden will soon be playing piano for us once a month.

We are also having problems with the sound system and are yet to find a solution. A speaker plays the music videos for the music group but can only be played at low volumes before it affects the main congregation speakers; and the guitarists often cannot actually hear the singers at all (which is not ideal!).

The group was augmented by a number of the congregation for our carol service. During this, we also sang the new version of the First Nowell which had been written for the Church of England 'follow the Star- join the song' campaign. I would like to thank Ruth and the singers for their hard work in learning the different parts.

The group is always happy to consider new material to introduce to services (so please feel free to speak to one of us if you have any suggestions).

We would also like to express our thanks for the supportive comments received from many of you.

Kate Clarke

Pastoral Care Team Report

1. Mission Statement

- To show God's love and care, based on the ministry and life of Jesus
- To respond to people within the church family who are experiencing difficulties in their lives and who would like to talk to someone. This might include illness, loneliness, the loss of a loved one, anxiety and worry etc.
- To respond to people in need who live in the local community, who are not members of our church

2. Introduction

The Pastoral Care Team has been running for 2 years.

At the first meeting held on 21st June 2022 the following items were discussed and agreed:

1. The purpose of the team
2. The referral process
3. Underlying principles
4. Role of the team members
5. Parameters of its work

3.Underlying Principles

These include the basic principles of care as laid down when helping people in need. These principles include:

- Empathy and sensitivity
- Openness and non-judgemental
- Respect for the individual
- Confidentiality
- All our actions, when helping others should be motivated by love.

4.Referral Process:

- If any member of our church family would like help, they can initially speak to either myself or Frank Yung or complete a self-referral card
- If the request is made on behalf of someone else their permission should be obtained
- For those with no connection with our church their permission should also be obtained together with their contact details and any additional relevant information e.g. physical or mental health concerns.

5. Roles within the Team

In my role as team coordinator my responsibilities include:

- Allocating the person seeking help to a member of the team, as far as possible matching the person with the most appropriate team member
- Helping and supporting individual team members
- Holding team meetings from time to time to review the work of the team and to share our experiences of helping those in need

After some discussion we identified the following roles and ways of working for the team:

- To talk to those seeking help to ascertain their needs and what support we can provide. It will be important to listen carefully and sensitively to what the person is saying
- To make contact by telephone, sending texts, cards and messages of support as appropriate
- To pray for or with the person being supported
- To offer to visit people in their homes where this is appropriate or requested

6.Parameters and Other Issues

- Visits to people's homes will need to be closely monitored. Where the person concerned is a church member or has been involved with the church over several years it may be appropriate for just one team member to visit. In other circumstances team members might visit people in pairs
- For a single woman living alone a female member of the team will be allocated or it could be a couple
- Once a referral has been allocated the same person will continue to provide help and support for as long as is needed
- People with very specific needs e.g., physical, emotional, or mental health problems, victims of violence or abuse will need to be handled very sensitively and may need to be referred to external services. These referrals should initially be passed onto me
- Some of the problems people are experiencing may be linked to the rise in the cost of living. It may be possible to provide practical help in some instances.

Summary:

The last two years have been a learning experience and a rewarding one. we have seen God at work in people's lives. With God's help we have been able to bring comfort, peace and hope to those struggling with life's trials and challenges. We have also experienced God's work in our lives. We thank God for his goodness and for the privilege of serving him through the work of caring for others.

Team Members are: Norman Beswick, Marie Beswick, John Clayton, Mavis Glenholme, Andrea Llywelyn-Jones, Ann Rigby, Rev Eric Ruehorn, Elsie Taylor, Frank Yung, Susan Yung

Norman Beswick
Pastoral Care Team Coordinator

Safeguarding Report

I have been in post as safeguarding officer since 2022 and have more recently managed to navigate the minefield of DBS checks with 31;8 . This organisation has been very helpful and supportive.

To date I have had discussions with Julie Benson co coordinator of the Children's church group and baby and toddler group in relation to safeguarding procedures.

I have had discussions with all of the volunteers from the children's groups ie Children's church, baby and toddler group and also the pastoral care team and have conducted numerous DBS checks. I also need to complete all DBS checks on PCC members. Two of

the Pastoral care team who complete home visits have been DBS checked and another member of the team is DBS checked by the Diocese.

I now work with a Deputy Safeguarding officer, Alaina who is also fully DBS checked. She also helps with Children's church and has been fantastic in bringing her knowledge and experience to the role. We have looked at the Christ Church Walshaw Safeguarding policy which is agreed by the PCC on a yearly basis and have no concerns in relation to this.

Many of the volunteers at Christ church Walshaw have a rolling DBS and I am notified for those members who are not and who need to be DBS checked after three years.

We have had no safeguarding incidents to date in church or in relation to any children or vulnerable adults or concerns regarding any church members which is positive.

I do hope that we can arrange some training later in the year from Church House in relation to some safeguarding training.

Andrea Llywelyn-Jones

Link Governor Report

I was appointed on 4/09/23 as a Foundation Governor at Christ Church Walshaw CE Primary.

We meet as a local academy committee. We are part of the Sycamore Academy Trust.

There are additionally three other schools looked after by the trust which are as follows: Red Hall CE Methodist Primary School , St John's CE Primary School, and St Stephen's CE Primary School. Each school has a local committee who take care of individual school affairs. We are all informed about how each school is performing in reports at Governor meetings.

We are answerable to the Trust Committee board. Last September 2023 I visited the school to observe Wiggle Worship performed by Joanne Haslam the Children's Diocesan Youth Worker in the Early Years Department. On the same day I stayed for Mrs Howard's Harvest assembly (I was introduced to the children as a new Governor) and was shown around the school building visiting all the classes.

I have completed online training on Safeguarding Children in Education and Being an Effective Link Governor.

Tuesday 5th March was my first Governor meeting at Christ Church Walshaw.

Six attended the local academy committee, including the chairperson Mrs Katherine Ashworth. Mrs D Stead Parent Governor was appointed at the meeting as Vice Chairperson. Head Teacher Mrs Sarah Howard went through the Head Teachers report which showed us the pupils progress in all year groups. Maths and Science is very strong in

all the years. English is average in most age groups and is seen as an area for improvement, especially handwriting. Mrs Howard and her Assistant Head Teacher Mrs R Hudson are overseeing teaching handwriting strategies for improvement at Christ Church. Work will be done in writing for a purpose.

One of the ideas is to write to the council about the state of our roads covered in potholes.

Mrs Howard and Mr Young (CEO Sycamore Academy Trust) are visiting schools outside of the Trust, who also need additional guidance from the school teaching alliance in handwriting. Holy Trinity CE Primary School is one of the schools.

Applications to Christ Church Walshaw Reception class is down this year for September, which is at thirty-four applications. Only fifteen applications have Christ Church as their first-choice school.

Mrs Howard asked me if as a church we can do anything to help the future applications from parents. I replied, I do promote CCW as an excellent school as a consideration to parents and carers who come to Mother and Toddlers and Children's Church. I said since we have been without a priest numbers of young families have reduced. It would make a difference if we had a priest. Mrs Stead said she would also promote CCW as a consideration for parents at Mulberry Bush Nursery where her son attends.

We discussed further why CCW isn't getting as many applications as in the past. One reason may be there aren't many young families in our area, or else church schools are not as popular as they once were.

Mrs Howard asked me if she could send a representative from the schools Early Years Department to visit Mother and Toddlers. I said we would be delighted for someone to visit us.

HLTA Mrs R Mackay who is the Nursery Lead at CCW will be visiting us some time this year.

I mentioned I enjoy leading Children's Church at Walshaw every week, helping weekly at Mother and Toddlers and being in the 'Open The Book' team. Open The Book team will be at CCW assemblies one day a week for 6 weeks in the Spring Term. This information was welcomed by the Governors.

I asked Mrs Howard when the school would be able to come into Church; she has given me three dates in May. I shared this information with Joanne Mackenzie.

I look forward to further developing the partnership between Church and School.

Julie Benson

PRAYER MEETING REPORT

The Prayer Meeting takes place in church on the first Tuesday of each month

The meeting starts at 7.30pm and lasts for an hour.

It is an opportunity for members of the fellowship to come together in corporate prayer.

The meeting starts with a Bible passage to lead us into an attitude of prayer. There is also a chance to raise any particular issues that require prayer including any requests that have been made by members of the fellowship.

Group members will then pray as led by the Holy Spirit. Prayers are said aloud and in people's hearts. We pray for the world, specific situations, the church and for individuals.

There is a core of people who regularly attend the meeting and it was a real blessing when we were joined by members of Christchurch Ainsworth in March

I would encourage other members of the fellowship to attend and receive the blessing that comes from praying together.

Joanne McKenzie

DEANERY SYNOD REPORT

Deanery synod met 3 times during the year in September, November and February. The purpose of deanery synod is to share positive stories of what churches are doing around the deanery, and to receive specific updates from diocesan officials and others.

Rev Donna Williams (Area Dean) chairs the meetings. Winter meetings are generally held on ZOOM.

Most meetings have a speaker from the diocese talking about their respective areas of responsibility. In the last year the speakers have been:

- Bishop of Bolton, Matthew Porter
- Head of Lay Development, Kim Morgan-Jones
- Diocesan Communication Team Manager, Gemma Gardiner

Other items discussed during the year have included:

- Eco church – progress of churches across the deanery
- A new funding opportunity called ‘the revitalisation fund’ where parishes can apply for up to £3,000
- Communication strategies of our churches.

If anyone is interested in representing Christ Church on deanery synod, and would like to know more about what is involved, please feel free to discuss with me, or simply ask someone to nominate you for election at the APCM.

Gordon Clark



CHRIST CHURCH WALSHAW

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND ACCOUNTS OF THE PCC FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

Please have this report with you at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting which will be held on Thursday, 18th April 2024 at 7.30 p.m.

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INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE PCC OF CHRIST CHURCH WALSHAW

I report on the accounts for the year ended 31st December 2023.

Respective responsibilities of Trustees and Independent Examiner

As trustees of the charity, the members of the PCC are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. They consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 ("The 2011 Act") and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act); and
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent Examiner's Statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the accounts.

Independent Examiner's statement

In the course of my examination, no matters have come to my attention

1. which give me reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect, the requirements
 - to keep proper accounting records in accordance with s.130 of the 2011 Act); or
 - to prepare accounts which accord with these accounting recordshave not been met; or
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:

Peter D Benson ACA

Date:

17th March 2024

Christ Church Walshaw - Accounts 2023

	<i>General Account (Unrestricted use)</i>	<i>Deposit Account (Designated & Restricted use)</i>	<i>Building Fund (Designated use)</i>	<i>Total</i>
Opening Balance Jan 2023	6116	58950	13269	78335

<i>Receipts</i>				2022	Variance	Notes	
Tax efficient planned giving	25018		1416	26434	27260	-826	1
One off Gift Aid	2506			2506	140	2366	
Tax Recovered	7932			7932	8375	-443	
Other regular planned giving	2734			2734	1924	810	
Collections of loose cash at services	2269			2269	2757	-488	
All other giving	1099			1099	636	463	
Total giving	41558	0	1416	42974	41092	1882	
Legacies				0	6000	-6000	
Dividends & Interest	2255	535	66	2856	1690	1166	2
Recurring Grants	50			50	50	0	3
Non-recurring Grants	330			330	1250	-920	
Listed Places of Worship Scheme	507			507	631	-124	4
Fees	1459			1459	2761	-1302	
Fund raising events	2454			2454	46	2408	5
Rental Income				0	250	-250	
Baby & Toddler Group	1738			1738	1172	566	
Community Choir	1513			1513	600	913	
Total Income (excl. giving)	10306	535	66	10907	14450	-3543	
Total Receipts	51864	535	1482	53881	55542	-1661	
Transfers							
From Deposit to General	4681						
From General to Building Fund			354				
Total Receipts & Transfers	56545	535	1836				

Christ Church Walshaw - Accounts 2023

General Account	Deposit Account	Building Fund	Total
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<i>Payments</i>			2022	Variance	Notes	
Overseas missions societies		0	0	0	6	
Christian Relief and Dev. Agencies	1000	1000	1381	-381		
Home mission and other Church Soc.	500	500	500	0		
Secular Charities	20	20	25	-5		
Parish Share/Quota	23500	23500	26500	-3000	7	
Incumbent working expenses		0	427	-427		
Parsonage	-427	-427	1170	-1597	8	
Church running expenses	19198	19198	15344	3854	9	
Church maintenance	10255	10255	5705	4550	10	
Upkeep of Services	1045	1045	975	70	11	
Upkeep of churchyard	1980	1980	2856	-876		
Major Repairs & Improve.		0	0	0		
Support costs	126	126	25	101		
Baby & Toddler Group		0	40	-40		
Church administration	131	131	198	-67		
Total Payments	57328	0	0	57328	55146	2182
Transfers						
From Deposit to General		4681				
From General to Building Fund	354					
Total Payments & Transfers	57682	4681	0			
Closing Balance Dec 2023	4979	54805	15105	74889		

Notes to accompany 2023 accounts.

General Account - Unrestricted – Funds that can be used for any purpose approved by the PCC.

Deposit Account (part) and Building Fund - Designated – Funds that have been allocated to a particular purpose by the PCC.

Deposit Account (part) - Restricted – Typically funds from a bequest or grant where there were instructions set on their use.

1. Giving

Again in 2023 the level of giving has fallen and would have been worse were it not for several significant gifts made at the end of the year to boost our contribution towards the parish share and the increasing costs of heating and lighting the building. The card reader and QR code facility receive some usage although not, perhaps, as much as we hoped.

The tax recovered was against the giving in 2022. After many years of sterling service Diane Ewart-Jones is stepping down as Gift-Aid Officer and so the PCC is looking for someone to step into her shoes.

2. Dividends and interest

Increases in interest received reflects the higher rates being offered by the banks etc.

3. Grants

We continue to receive a small grant towards the maintenance of the war graves. There was also an additional grant from the Diocese towards energy costs.

4. Listed Places of Worship Scheme

We were able to reclaim the VAT on the final repairs to the clock which seems to have resolved the series of problems that have occurred over the last couple of years. This is to be transferred to the deposit account as the Keswick Bequest, which is held in that account, was used to fund this work.

5. Fundraising

This was the money raised via the Crowdfunder organised by Gordon Clark.

6. Mission Support

Bury Project (CAP)	£500
Bible Society	£500
Tearfund	£500

7. Parish Share

We managed to pay about 57% of the assessment for 2023 which was £41167. The assessment for 2024 is £45284 a further increase of £4117.

8. Vicarage

During this year, whilst Steve and Steph were still resident in the vicarage, they paid the council tax and water charges back to us. When they moved out and the vicarage became vacant, no charges are payable so we got a rebate back from the council and Water Plus.

9. Church running costs.

- Electricity: we paid £293 but on top of that the credit we had built up has fallen from £850 to £447 so the true cost of the electricity was about £693. Our new contract starts at the end of January 2024 so we will see this rise significantly as the rate charged has increased.
- Gas: £7685.08 - up from £4031 in 2022, reflecting the new contract that began in November 2022.
- Insurance: £10782.41
- Water Charges: £437.17

10. Church maintenance

- Clock repairs: £2149.20.
- Heating repairs and maintenance: £1165.20
- Organ tuning and removal of protective covering (originally put up for the restoration project and left in place for the reordering): £677.52.
- Roof maintenance: £5700.

11. Upkeep of Services etc.

- CCLI copyright licence: £613.28
- Replacement microphone and new inputs for the guitars: £178.67

W S Clarke

18 March 2024

INVESTMENTS

Securities held on behalf of Christ Church Walshaw by the Manchester Diocesan Board of Finance.

Trust Title	Nominal Value	Cost Book Value	Income Received	Market Value	
			2023	2023	2022
Mrs Leigh (deceased) Lady Chapel (CB3010563-001) Fixed interest	£1,448.00	£2,095.88	Paid into Lady Chapel deposit trust	£2,095.98	£1,978.11
Mrs Leigh (deceased) Lady Chapel (CB3010794-001) Deposit	£2,456.48	£2,335.91	Interest retained	£2,456.48	£2,335.91
M A Hibbert Trust (CB3010756-001) Investment fund	£2,431.83	£27,836.28	£1,494.35 (paid into general account)	£54,972.25	£50,207.32
Constance Middleton Trust (CB3010927-001) Deposit	£19669.33	£19669.33	£131.05 (paid into general account)	£19,669.33	£19,669.33


n.b. the funds within these trusts are all restricted and as such can only be used for the purposes designated at the time of establishment.

Liabilities Nil

Accounts for the Financial Year ending 31 December 2023

Approved by the Parochial Church Council meeting held on :

and signed on their behalf by :


 Chairman
 21/03/24

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE PCC OF CHRIST CHURCH WALSHAW

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Signed:

Peter D Benson ACA

Date:

17th March 2024

Accounts



CHRIST CHURCH WALSHAW

REPORTS OF CHURCH GROUPS FOR 2022/2023

Jesus looked at them and said, "With man this is impossible, but not with God; all things are possible with God."

Mark 10, 27

Please have this report with you at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting which will be held in church on Thursday, 20 April 2023 at 7.30 p.m.

Report	Page	Report	Page
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Audio-Visual Team	3	Gift Aid Officer	7
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Building Projects Team (BPT)	4	Missions Team	8
Children's Church	5	Music Group	8
Churches Together in Bury (CTB)	5	Pastoral Care Team	9
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Community Choir	6	View from the Pew	10
Fabric Maintenance Team (FMT)	7	<i>Annex 1, Safeguarding policy</i>	11

Parochial Church Council

The PCC has met seven times during the year. Council is made up of nine people. In addition to elected and *ex officio* members, Nicola Gordon was co-opted to add her expertise having recently been a church warden and, latterly, Norman Beswick has been co-opted as coordinator of the Prayer Ministry group. We have been blessed by Janet Hardman giving her time to act as PCC secretary. Helen and Joanne have co-led the group.

Attendance has been as follows: Angela Ashworth 3/7, Norman Beswick 3/4, Helen Clark 7/7, Bill Clarke 7/7, Janet Hardman 7/7, Jo Haslam 5/7, Nicola Gordon 4/7, Chris Lancashire 4/7, Joanne McKenzie 7/7, Paul Rigby 3/7, Sue Schwarz 4/7, Frank Yung 7/7.

During the year we have discussed a wide range of issues: how to reintroduce Holy Communion; how to manage the rising costs of heating the church; making the staging safer by adding wooden panels from the old pews; the timing of services and refreshments; the appointment of a new church architect; the outcomes from the Living in Love and Faith consultation; the mission community; reservation of grave plots. In addition, council has drafted and submitted a Parish Profile as part of the process for finding a new incumbent.

We have also had a meeting with Rachel Mann, our Area Dean, during which the PCC was able to ask for clarification on various points. In particular we discussed Holy Communion, the *Living in Love and Faith* consultation, and the mission community.

Joanne and Helen have also met with Rachel Mann several times during the year when we have discussed the appointment of a new incumbent and the general organisation of the church. Rachel has also supported the church by suggesting clergy who can help with services and has answered any queries regarding church regulations.

Helen Clark, Co-Chair

Audio-Visual

We have a dedicated team of people who work hard, usually quietly in the background, to ensure everyone can interact fully with the services. This allows people to hear clearly and have easy access to visual aids to worship, including written, picture and video resources.

The team takes responsibility for setting up and running the sound system, and preparing the PowerPoints used for the order of service and then operating them through the service. I am very grateful for every member of the team who plays a vital role in ensuring the smooth running of the services.

We have recently rearranged equipment for the Music Group so its members can now hear the songs played through the sound system. This seems to work successfully, and as we used more videos of songs in services, is essential to enable the Music Group to lead worship.

The audio-visual team for Sunday services is made up of Andrew Benson, Bill Clarke, Nicola Gordon, David Hemsall and myself. We do not have any reserves who are able to step in at the last minute which sometimes adds pressure on those already working hard. That is why we are looking to add more people to help with both the sound and visual teams.

Helen Clark

Baby & Toddler Group

Throughout the past year, the group has been led in the manner established by Steph Openshaw. Having attended with my eldest daughter before taking over, I was able to see how – and how successfully – she ran the group.

Christine Whitmore and I meet with other baby and toddler groups (including Steph's own) to acquire resources that help nurture and teach young children through stories and songs. Wiggle, the puppet, is especially popular and the children love seeing him. The sessions also provide an opportunity for the adults to learn and get support from one another.

We meet regularly on a Wednesday morning. During the session, the children can play, read, create different crafts, and build up their social skills. Parents can meet, chat and encourage one another as well as playing with the children. We find it important to continue God's work through conversations, listening and encouraging. Throughout the stories, songs and craft, we always have a Christian theme. We let people know about what is happening at church and invite people to come along.

Team members have been very supportive of one another. We are now quite a sizeable group which, besides Christine and me, includes Alan, Amanda, Frank, Julie, Mavis, Nicola, Olga and Sue. We find it important to pray before each session and deputise if someone is absent. I recently had a baby and whilst I was off, the team carried on and stepped in to lead the story time.

It is wonderful to see so many at the group. As it has become more popular, we have recently had to start a waiting list. We had to do this for the safety of the volunteers and families. Once a space becomes available, however, we let those families waiting know of the vacancy.

I want to thank everyone who welcomed me into my new role. I have really loved leading the sessions and getting the chance to work alongside and meet some amazing people.

Please continue to pray for the team who dedicate their time and commitment to the group. Please pray too for the families as they continue to come, join in and hear about God.

Thank you all for your continuing support,

Hannah Proctor

Building Projects Team

In this year's report, the team can point to progress being made in addressing all the issues outstanding twelve months ago.

Following the resignation – and subsequently and sadly, the sudden demise – of our previous church architect, six architectural practices were approached. Two declined because of pressure of business, one because of impending retirement and two simply did not respond. Faced with what appeared to be Hobson's Choice, two members of the fellowship went to meet Rebecca Grimshaw in her offices in Wigan. Her practice, established by her father with whom Christ Church had a fleeting association over a decade ago, is housed in a modest Georgian terrace on the outskirts of the town: a marked contrast with the accommodation of our previous architects Smithers Pursloe (formerly Byrom Clark Roberts) adjacent to the Lancashire County Cricket ground at Old Trafford.

Rebecca was presented with a considerable amount of data about CCW, including information about the Phase 1 works, the proposed re-wiring and re-illumination of the interior and the Quinquennial Inspection report of 2017. Having had the time to digest the documentation and with the PCC's *fiat*, Rebecca was asked if she was interested in taking on the role: she agreed in the most positive of terms.

That being so, she was soon called into action by the diocese. Her appointment coincided exactly with the statutory Quinquennial Inspection which she and a colleague conducted on Wednesday, 2 November, a day when the Baby & Toddler Group was in full swing. Rebecca's draft report was received within a week; corrections were made and the final report hauled up with the diocese and with CCW almost by return. Pleasing to report, her findings contained absolutely no surprises.

In the meantime, research to re-wire and re-illuminate the interior has progressed satisfactorily. An application for the requisite Faculty has been lodged with only some minor details awaiting

finalisation. Two competitive quotations having been received, a decision has to be made about precisely which lighting units are installed. Two samples have been trialled, one in the south aisle and one above the font in the north transept. The objectives remain the same: first, to light the interior better; secondly, to do so more economically. The existing halogens are inefficient and awkward to maintain (as those venturing up the wooden ladder to replace blown bulbs will attest!), so replacing them with the sorts of modern, long-life LED units under consideration will reduce lighting's electrical consumption by around 70%, thereby reducing bills and also going some way towards meeting the diocesan green agenda.

David Hempsall

Children's Church

Children's Church meets every second and fourth Sunday in the month and provides age-appropriate teaching and generally follows the topic of the day in the main church service. Sometimes this may change depending on the text chosen for the service and the time of year.

The group was led one Sunday per month each by Nicola Parkinson and Kate Stedman respectively; that was until November 2022 when Kate stepped down due to family commitments and Julie Benson joined as a leader.

I began leading at the 2022 Remembrance Service which greatly encouraged me to continue in this important role. We looked at soldiers paying the ultimate price of dying for their country to stop the spread of evil. We remembered how Jesus gave his life for us to save us from the consequences of our sin: John 3, 16. The children made poppies and wreaths to remember soldiers who had died in the world wars and present-day conflicts.

During the second Sunday of December, we had planned the nativity to be performed on the following Sunday. As Nicola Parkinson (4th Sunday leader) was unwell, Vicky Clarke and I led the nativity based on Matthew 2, 2-12. There were 8 children taking part and we all enjoyed the experience. We received lovely and encouraging comments from the congregation who told us that they too had enjoyed the children's performance.

In January 2023, Nicola Parkinson decided to step down from leading Children's Church, so I now lead on both Sundays in the month. Please pray for Vicky Clarke, Susan Schwarz and me as we continue to make the sessions engaging and interesting for the children and their parents.

Julie Benson

Churches Together in Bury (CTB)

CTB is an inter-denominational network of churches which commit to working together to make Jesus known to Bury residents.

Participating churches in 2022

Church of England: St John's Birtle, United Benefice of West Bury, Christ Church Walshaw, St Peter's, Bury Parish Church, All Saints Elton, St Stephen's, St Andrew's Radcliffe

Methodist: Tottington, Brandlesholme, Bolton Road, Seedfield, Jericho

United Reformed: Bury URC

Salt and Light: Bury Christian Fellowship

Pentecostal: Metro Christian Centre, Audacious Bury

Catholic: Guardian Angels, St Hilda's, St Joseph and St Marie.

Content of meetings

CTB met 6 times in 2022, usually at Bury United Reform Church who are always very supportive of missional activity in Bury. Each meeting allowed plenty of time for churches and individuals to share news about outreach, or joint witness projects.

CTB support, promote and, in some cases help to organize, the following **ongoing projects**: The Bury Project (CAP Debt Centre), Town Centre Chaplaincy, 'Open the Book' work in schools, Bury Street Pastors, CTB Facebook page, CTB Prayer List for member churches.

CTB also organises the following **annual events**: Carol singing in Bury Market, Good Friday walk of witness, Christian Aid collection in Bury Town Centre.

Various other subjects have also been discussed in 2022, including: July 2022 Festival Manchester, the work of the Bible Society, Good News for Everyone, Home for Good, and the launch of a South Asian Christian Fellowship in Bury.

The meetings always include space for individual churches to share good things happening in their areas and this is always encouraging. Meetings always include prayer.

There are places for one or two more representatives from Christ Church, and it would be great if the newly constituted PCC could consider appointing others to represent Christ Church to this exciting forum.

Gordon Clark

Churchyard

This year Camelot Garden Services have continued to mow the graveyard, Garden of Remembrance and areas around the driveway. The company has transferred to Tom Farley's son but the work continues to be done well and without any issues although, like everything else, the cost has gone up (now £100 per visit).

The task of dealing with the Japanese Knotweed continues although there are very few shoots coming through now so, maybe, we are winning that particular battle.

In February, Storm Eunice had a significant impact in the yard, bringing down a very large birch tree – probably one of the biggest trees we had. Luckily, it did no damage as it fell down the yard and not into the boundary wall. Shaun Grainger, who normally does the work on the roof for us, spent several days making the area safe and cutting up a lot of it although much remains and is too big to move. Tidying the area affected is ongoing.

As some of the trees nearer High Street are showing signs of ash dieback disease, a Tree Safety Survey was carried out in September. You might have noticed the identification numbers pinned to the trees. Although some trees are in a poor state, none urgently requires action but do need to be monitored. Some will need to be taken down in due course and may drop branches in the meantime, but as they are not overhanging the road or close to the graveyard, they don't represent a significant risk.

There was a working party held in the autumn which achieved a lot especially tidying the perimeter of the Garden of Remembrance and around the first vicar's grave. Further sessions will be held in the upcoming spring. Thank you to everyone who helps keep the yard tidy: it is often commented upon by visitors.

Bill Clarke

Community Choir

The Community Choir continues to meet each Wednesday during term time. We have had a number of new people join us and weekly attendance is now approximately 30 people. Rehearsals have

returned to pre-pandemic length of 1.5 hours, with a break for refreshments in the middle. Choir member value the time singing and also the opportunity to mix and socialise.

We are hoping to put on a concert towards the end of June: more details will follow in due course.

Angela Ashworth and Helen Clark

Fabric & Maintenance Team [FMT]

FMT's role is to provide guidance and leadership to the PCC on matters concerning the upkeep of the church buildings and land.

Membership is open to anyone and ideally includes a minimum of two members of the PCC. The current members are Andrew Benson (Chairman), Helen Clark (Warden) and Norman Rigby. In addition, Bill Clarke is an honorary member in recognition of all his work maintaining the church building and grounds.

Whilst the FMT neither met formally last year nor made any reports to PCC, it continued to work closely with the Building Projects Team to ensure that any future works undertaken will enhance the facilities without detriment to the church building.

In the past twelve months, a lot of work has been quietly and unobtrusively undertaken. This has included maintenance works to the roof area (gutter and downspout clearance), clock tower (dealing with leaks from the bell area) and church yard (clearance of fallen trees in March and a Tree Safety Survey undertaken in September (cf. p.5, *supra*). The church clock has required both routine maintenance and additional repair: this is not surprising as being over 130 years old, it is showing signs of its age. The heating system has undergone routine servicing and some tweaking to optimise performance.

The team is always forward-looking. To discharge its responsibilities successfully, the team would like to add to its numbers. In the coming year, FMT plans to prioritise the work identified in the most recent Quinquennial Inspection completed late 2022 and, at the same time, keeping on top of any recurring issues with the church roof, heating system, access roads and parking.

Andrew Benson

Finance Committee

The committee had expected to meet on the change of Treasurer but, as this did not occur as anticipated, there has been no meeting. None the less, the Treasurer has kept the committee apprised of significant developments. One member of FinCom having been incapacitated, the committee seeks to recruit another member.

David Hemsall

Gift Aid Officer

The impact of the cost-of-living crisis is being felt. After dropping by over 30% when Covid struck, Planned Giving shows little sign of recovery. In 2022-2023 the total on which tax could be claimed was £26,945.00 (as against £28,179.00 in the previous year). The tax claimed amounted to £6,736.25 (as against £7,044.75 in 2021-2022).

The claim for GASDS (Gift Aid Small Donations Scheme) has to be submitted in April 2023 and I expect to be able to report the exact figure to the PCC in due course.

Diane Ewart-Jones

Health & Safety Officer

There are no outstanding issues. The fire safety procedures recommended in last year's report have been implemented: prompt compliance was pleasing. It has been decided that CCW should purchase its own PAT testing machine as free access to the requisite equipment is no longer possible. On the plus side, the purchase will pay for itself in a couple of years.

Mick Cant

Missions Team

There has been no activity recently by the Missions Team for the following reasons:

- Activity ceased when Jane Barnes (who was our secretary) left. Jane was an excellent secretary and was our link with CROSSLINKS. This connection finished when the missionary we were supporting came back to the UK to take up a parish ministry.
- Jeanette Howe - our very faithful link with TEAR Fund - acted as minute secretary. We miss her very much. Jeanette regularly organised a TEAR Fund speaker and other events in support of TEAR Fund.
- With the onset of Covid the Team didn't meet and meetings have yet to resume. The pandemic has also had an effect on our missionary giving.

In the past our main missionary funding has been directed towards the Bible Society, TEAR Fund, Crosslinks and Musalaha (though links with this last organisation were very tenuous).

From various sources, mainly from members of the congregation, support has been directed towards the following: Christians Against Poverty (CAP), Street Pastors, Compassion; the Christingle collection, the Christmas card collection.

I would very much like to call a meeting of the supporters of our main groups with a view to revising and revitalising the missionary interest of our fellowship. If possible, this could perhaps coincide with some input in our regular Sunday worship over a period of weeks. Members of our fellowship (especially newer members) need to be made aware of our long-standing commitment to the worldwide mission of our church. This could be one of the items on the agenda of our next meeting.

The Missions Team thanks all who generously support the ongoing, worldwide and local outward-looking ministry of our church. It's obvious that the finances of our church are very much stretched just now but this ministry is part of the gospel commitment and an indication of the spiritual health of the fellowship. Those serving God on the 'front line' of the ministry at home and abroad deserve and expect our support.

I would ask the PCC to reiterate the fellowship's ongoing support for the Bible Society, TEAR Fund, CAP and Street Pastors.

The Revd Eric Ruehorn

Music Group

The group consists of vocalists - Kate Clarke, Angela Ashworth, Jo Haslam, Hannah Proctor - and instrumentalists Paul Rigby and Alan Whitmore (both guitar).

The group supports and leads musical aspects of worship. Each Sunday, it meets from 09.30 -10.30 to rehearse. The songs sung for 5 minutes before the start of the service are intended to prepare and focus members of the congregation before the service begins.

Given our smaller size, we have had to use a greater number of videos when people are away. We would be happy to welcome additional members, particularly any talented pianists willing to offer the

church their musical gift. We are all grateful to pianist Ruth Boaden who has occasionally been able to play for our services.

Members are sent the song choices a few days before the service so that, if necessary, they can look at/listen to any songs with which they may not be familiar.

The group is always happy to consider new material to introduce to services, so please feel free to speak to one of us if you have any suggestions.

Music Group members would also like to express their appreciation of the kind and supportive comments received from so many of you.

Kate Clarke

Pastoral Care Team

The Pastoral Care Team was set up at the beginning of the Interregnum in May last year. Members include Marie and Norman Beswick, John Clayton Mavis Glenholme, Andrea Llewelyn-Jones, Frank and Susan Yung with Eric Ruehorn acting in an advisory role.

The overall aim is to provide pastoral support to members of the congregation in the absence of a vicar. The purpose of the team, its underlying principles, the process for referring people and the role of team members are set out in a document produced in September 2022. Copies of this document are to be found on the table at the back of Church.

What is working well? Since the last report to the PCC in January over twenty-five home visits have been made by members of the team. Many more messages, including phone calls, get well and thinking of you cards and bereavement cards have been sent. Mavis Glenholme, who is unable to visit members of the congregation, has sent the majority of these messages. The home visits have been particularly well-received. A small petty cash account has been set up to support the work of the team.

What issues are there to be addressed? We feel that there are some people in the congregation who may have slipped through the net and would welcome some support. We aim to rectify this, in part by producing a brief information leaflet. Any referrals can be made through me or any other member of the team. In the longer term we need to attract younger people to the team. If you are interested and want to know more, please speak to Frank Yung or myself.

Norman Beswick

Safeguarding Officer

I have been in post as the Safeguarding Officer for Christ Church Walshaw since the summer of 2022. Unfortunately, I received no hand-over material from Steve Openshaw as regards DBS checks. I have also yet to undertake any formal Diocesan safeguarding training as a result of my full-time employment as a Social Worker and, therefore, having many work and other evening commitments. I plan book myself into the next round of training.

I have had discussions with the majority of church volunteers involved in children's groups. I am aware that some of these volunteers are DBS cleared on an annually recurring basis by the Diocese. A number of church members have emailed me in relation to their rolling yearly DBS checks.

Julie Benson is co-ordinating safeguarding administration of the Baby & Toddler Group and there are a number of volunteers assisting Julie. The group is very successful and very well attended. Julie is fully DBS checked and her clearance is one of those renewed on a yearly basis. Julie has also been co-ordinating Children's Church which again is well attended by a regular group of children.

After a long and convoluted process, I am now registered with our host DBS-checking organisation. Thirty One Eight. I am aware that a number of our church family do need DBS checks, such as some members of the Missions, Baby & Toddler and Children's Church groups. There is a cost to our church for these checks which is approximately £5 per person: that being so, I shall need authorisation from the PCC to commence these additional checks. If individuals are not on a yearly rolling DBS check, then these need to be carried out every three years.

I am not aware of any safeguarding issues at church at present and now feel that I am finding my feet in this important role. In closing, on 23 March 2023, the PCC undertook the statutory annual review of its Safeguarding Policy; the up-to-date policy is shown as *Annex 1* on page 11.

Andrea Llywelyn Jones

View from the Pew

Following the vicar's untimely retirement in 2022, the fellowship has been largely dependent upon its own resources. Many of those who stepped up to the plate during the previous interregnum of 2014-2016 have once again given generously of their time and talent. It's been good too that they've been supplemented by others who've joined Christ Church since then. Our thanks are due to all of them. This especially applies to Helen Clark (Warden) and Joanne McKenzie (Mission and Ministry Co-ordinator) not only in their separate roles but also as Co-Chairs of the PCC. Both have suffered significant family bereavement during the past year which makes their ongoing commitment all the more remarkable.

Numbers attending weekly services have held up well, averaging over 40 in the past twelve months and comparing very favourably with the previous interregnum when attendance hovered around the 35 mark. What has previously been referred to as "the extended Church family" – that is folk attending on an infrequent basis – is rather larger, as reflected in the Directory issued in July 2022 after a long delay caused by the pandemic. It is hoped that publication will revert to a biennial pattern in future.

Services have followed a varied, monthly pattern as leaders have found their feet. There has been plenty of variety although – the sound system being more than adequate – voice projection from the front remains uneven. We've been particularly fortunate to enjoy the ministry of the Revd Debra Johnstone who presided at services of Holy Communion for a six-month period and delivered sermons notable for their succinct delivery of the message. One senior member of the fellowship remarked on how, in the course of twelve months, the fellowship has been treated to sermons, talks and even an address!

However styled, sermons have prompted some discussion and debate. So too has the unavoidable adoption of videos when the Music Group has been unable to lead with its full complement. Some members of the fellowship, whilst recognising the necessity, have not always been enamoured of the songs selected but, rather than commenting *sotto voce*, folk should take advantage of the Music Group's openness to suggestions (cf. p.8, *supra*). Indeed, two-way communication between the leaders and the led is as healthy as it is essential at a time when Christ Church is necessarily so dependent upon its own human resources.

In what has been a very difficult year, those who've contributed in any way to the welfare of the fellowship deserve a pat on the back (or several pats in several cases) but – and here comes the inevitable sting in the tail! – our individual and collective efforts need to be sustained and even enhanced in future. What lies ahead isn't yet entirely clear. There will be bumps in the road but the hard-core members who attend in such consistent and encouraging numbers will ensure, God willing, that Christ Church continues to prosper.

David Hempsall

Annex 1: Safeguarding Policy

The policy was approved by the PCC at its meeting on 23 March 2023, thereby fulfilling the requirement for annual review, amendment (if necessary) and endorsement.

In accordance with the Church of England Safeguarding Policy our church is committed to:

- Promoting a safer environment and culture.
- Safely recruiting and supporting all those with any responsibility related to children, young people and vulnerable adults within the church.
- Responding promptly to every safeguarding concern or allegation.
- Caring pastorally for victims/survivors of abuse and other affected persons.
- Caring pastorally for those who are the subject of concerns or allegations of abuse and other affected persons.
- Responding to those that may pose a present risk to others.

The Parish will:

- Create a safe and caring place for all.
- Have a named Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO) to work with the incumbent and the PCC to implement policy and procedures.
- Safely recruit, train and support all those with any responsibility for children, young people and adults to have the confidence and skills to recognise and respond to abuse.
- Ensure that there is appropriate insurance cover for all activities involving children and adults undertaken in the name of the parish.
- Display in church premises and on the Parish website the details of who to contact if there are safeguarding concerns or support needs.
- Listen to and take seriously all those who disclose abuse.
- Take steps to protect children and adults when a safeguarding concern of any kind arises, following House of Bishops' guidance, including notifying the Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser (DSA) and statutory agencies immediately.
- Offer support to victims/survivors of abuse regardless of the type of abuse, when or where it occurred.
- Care for and monitor any member of the church community who may pose a risk to children and adults whilst maintaining appropriate confidentiality and the safety of all parties.
- Ensure that health and safety policy, procedures and risk assessments are in place and that these are reviewed annually.
- Review the implementation of the Safeguarding Policy, Procedures and Practices at least annually.

Each person who works within this church community will agree to abide by this policy and the guidelines established by this church.

This church appoints Andrea Llywelyn-Jones as the Parish Safeguarding Officer.

PCC CO-CHAIR SIGNATORIES:

Helen Clark (Church Warden)

Joanne McKenzie (Mission and Ministry Coordinator)

DATE: 29 March 2023



CHRIST CHURCH WALSHAW

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND ACCOUNTS OF THE PCC FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

Jesus looked at them and said, "With man this is impossible, but not with God; all things are possible with God."

Mark 10, 27

Please have this report with you at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting which will be held on Thursday, 20 April 2023 at 7.30 p.m. **Please note that these accounts are in draft form, requiring first, the Independent Examiner's signing-off and, secondly, approval by the PCC.**

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Notes to accompany 2022 Accounts	4-6
Investments /PCC Approval of Accounts	7

Christ Church Walshaw - Accounts - 2022

	<i>General Account (Unrestricted use)</i>	<i>Deposit Account (Designated & Restricted use)</i>	<i>Building Fund (Designated use)</i>	<i>Total</i>			
Opening Balance Jan 2022	4615	61808	11518	77941			
					2021	Variance	Notes
Receipts							
Tax efficient planned giving	25844		1416	27260	28085	-825	
One off Gift Aid	140			140	180	-40	
Tax Recovered	8375			8375	7864	511	
Other regular planned giving	1924			1924	2015	-91	
Collections of loose cash at services	2757			2757	2545	212	
All other giving	636			636	305	331	
Total giving	39676	0	1416	41092	40994	98	1
Legacies	6000			6000	5000	1000	2
Dividends & Interest	1625	58	7	1690	1472	218	
Recurring Grants	50			50	50	0	3
Non-recurring Grants	1250			1250	880	370	4
Listed Places of Worship Scheme	631			631	675	-44	5
Fees	2761			2761	520	2241	
Fund raising events	46			46	600	-554	6
Rental Income	250			0	0	0	
Baby & Toddler Group	1172			1172	481	691	
Community Choir	600			600	0	600	
Total Income (excl. giving)	14385	58	7	14450	9678	4772	
Total Receipts	54061	58	1423	55542	50672	4870	
Transfers							
From Deposit to General	3546						
From General to Deposit		631					
From General to Building Fund			329				
Total Receipts & Transfers	57607	58	1752				

Christ Church Walshaw - Accounts - 2022

						General Account	Deposit Account	Building Fund	Total		
Payments				2021	Variance					Notes	
Overseas missions societies			0	1000	-1000					7	
Christian Relief and Dev. Agencies	1381		1381	500	881						
Home mission and other Church Soc.	500		500	500	0						
Secular Charities	25		25	20	5						
Parish Share/Quota	26500		26500	22200	4300					8	
Incumbent working expenses	427		427	925	-498						
Salaries, wages & honoraria			0	0	0						
Parsonage	1170		1170	3485	-2315					9	
Church running expenses	15344		15344	15840	-496					10	
Church maintenance	5705		5705	3491	2214					11	
Upkeep of Services	975		975	867	108					12	
Upkeep of churchyard	2856		2856	1840	1016					13	
Major Repairs & Improve.			0	5097	-5097					14	
Support costs	25		25	187	-162						
Baby & Toddler Group	40		40	709	-669						
Church administration	198		198	311	-113						
Total Payments	55146	0	0	55146	-1826						
Transfers											
From Deposit to General		3546									
From General to Deposit	631										
From General to Building Fund	329										
Total Payments & Transfers	56106	3546	0								
Closing Balance Dec 2022	6116	58320	13270	77706							

Notes to accompany 2022 accounts

Unrestricted – Funds that can be used for any purpose approved by the PCC.

Designated – Funds that have been allocated to a particular purpose by the PCC.

Restricted – Typically funds from a bequest or grant where there were instructions set on their use.

1. Giving.

The level of giving fell this year, especially tax efficient giving and this is limiting what we as a fellowship can do both within this building, across the parish and beyond. Thank you to all of you who have continued to give via bank transfers and I urge those who contribute via the plate to consider switching to a standing order if possible. Our Gift Aid Officer, Diane Ewart-Jones, puts in an enormous amount of work to ensure that we claim back every penny we can from HMRC. Some use has been made of the card reader with just over £150 given via card transactions.

Please remember that we receive no financial support towards the maintenance and upkeep of the building from any external sources beyond occasional grants – it is your giving that keeps this building usable.

2. Legacies.

We benefited from two gifts from the estates of Richard Nuttall Hamer and Barbara Smethurst.

3. Recurring Grants.

We continue to receive a payment to maintain the Commonwealth War Graves.

4. Non-recurring Grants.

We received £1250 via the Diocese from the Church of England as a recognition of the increased energy costs that all parishes are experiencing. A further grant maybe available for those parishes that saw significant price increases or have additional missional activity related to the energy crisis such as providing Warm Spaces. Application for this is being considered by the PCC.

5. Listed Places of Worship Scheme,

As Christ Church is a 2* listed building we can reclaim the VAT on some major works carried out on the building, in this case we were able to claim against the recent clock repairs.

6. Fund Raising Events

This money was the final money for ticket sales that were not refunded.

7. Mission Partner Support and other donations

Tearfund	£881 (incl. ticket receipts for Faith in Musicals)
Christians against poverty	£500
Bible Society	£500
British Legion Poppy Appeal	£25

Sadly, the financial situation we found ourselves in this year has resulted in a much-reduced level of support than we would normally achieve.

8. Parish Share

Once again, we fell far short of paying our Parish Share – just £26,500 of the assessment of £37,425. For 2023 the assessment has risen to £41,167 and unless something remarkable happens we will fall short once again

9. Parsonage

This item covers the contributions the PCC makes to the cost of 37 Gisburn Drive for the council tax, water charges and ground rent. Since Revd. Openshaw retired we have been able to reclaim these costs from, initially the Diocese and since September from Revd. Openshaw while he is still in residence.

10. Church running expenses

Insurance	£9802
Gas	£4031
Electricity	£1173
Water Plus	£337

Our gas contract ran out in November and although Gordon Clark put in an enormous effort to negotiate a new one as you can guess the cost increase has been considerable, roughly trebling. We remained with our existing supplier, Crown Gas and Power, as they offered the best deal and service we could find at the time. The cost of gas and electricity use in church represents a major issue going forwards.

We were well in credit on our electricity account and so the DD was reduced in the summer to slowly return it to a sensible level.

11. Church Maintenance

Heating system service etc.	£372
Clock	£3821
Organ	£164
Roof etc.	£786
Dishwasher repairs	£281
Fire extinguisher rentals etc.	£281

The clock has proved to be rather unreliable over the last year or so requiring various repairs which have proved quite costly, and it is still not running acceptably. We were able to reclaim the VAT element of the works via the Listed Places of Worship scheme.

12. Upkeep of services

Copyright & video licence £568

13. Upkeep of churchyard

Clearing fallen tree after storms £430

Tree Safety Survey £556

Mowing etc. £1800

The tree survey was carried out as we had some concerns over the safety of some of the trees in the yard. A number are suffering from ash die back but don't represent a current risk although they will be monitored going forwards.

14. Major repairs & improvements

None this year although work is ongoing to upgrade the lighting and electrics.

W S Clarke
PCC Treasurer
January 2023

INVESTMENTS

Securities held on behalf of the PCC by the Manchester Diocesan Board of Finance.

Trust Title	Nominal Value	Cost Book Value	Income Received	Market Value	
				2022	2021
Mrs Leigh (deceased) Lady Chapel (CBF 1192F) Fixed interest	£1,448.00	£2,095.88	Paid into Lady Chapel deposit trust	£1,978.11	£2,287.70
Mrs Leigh (deceased) Lady Chapel (CBF 1215D) Deposit	£2,335.91	£2,335.91	Interest retained	£2,335.91	£2,248.78
M A Hibbert Trust (CBF 1451S) Investment fund	£2,431.83	£27,836.28	£1,494.35 (paid into general account)	£50,207.32	£56,872.48
Constance Middleton Trust (CBF 1941D) Deposit	£19669.33	£19669.33	£131.05 (paid into general account)	£19,669.33	£19,669.33

n.b. the funds within these trusts are all restricted and as such can only be used for the purposes designated at the time of establishment.

Liabilities

Nil

Accounts for the Financial Year ending 31 December 2022

Approved by the Parochial Church Council meeting held on :

and signed on their behalf by :

H S Clark

..... Chairman

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE PCC OF CHRIST CHURCH WALSHAW

I report on the accounts for the year ended 31st December 2022.

Respective responsibilities of Trustees and Independent Examiner

As trustees of the charity, the members of the PCC are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. They consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 ("The 2011 Act") and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent Examiner's Statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the accounts.

Independent Examiner's statement

In the course of my examination, no matters have come to my attention

1. which give me reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect, the requirements
 - to keep proper accounting records in accordance with s.130 of the 2011 Act); or
 - to prepare accounts which accord with these accounting recordshave not been met; or
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:



Date:

09.04.23.

Accounts



CHRIST CHURCH WALSHAW

REPORTS OF CHURCH GROUPS FOR 2021/2022

**But as for you, be strong and do not give up,
for your work will be rewarded**

2 Chronicles 15:7

**Please have this report with you at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting which will
be held in church on Thursday, 24 March at 7.30 p.m.**

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Community Choir	7	<i>Annex 2, Safeguarding policy</i>	11

Vicar

As I write this, it is two years since the pandemic began and still we aren't back to normal. Just as in the first year of the pandemic we, as a church, have had to be creative in how we deliver ministry and mission. The pandemic has also impacted on how we worship, how we share in Holy Communion, on pastoral services and baptisms and more.

Since our last APCM in May last year, we have been worshipping in church, though not always singing, and when we have been singing, it's not always been with the help of the music group. We are still not sharing the cup during Holy Communion though this may become an option in the near future.

Attendance at worship is continuing to grow though we are still not back up to pre-pandemic congregation levels, the average congregation in 2019 being 84. This reflects a national trend. At the time of writing, our average congregation on a Sunday is 59 compared to 40 in May last year. There have been some very memorable services with good-sized congregations including our Harvest service and our All-Age Advent service

It really is great that our young families are slowly returning to worship with us. However, it is also sad that some folk have not returned to church as we approach the end of the pandemic. We miss them and hope they will return to our church family or find a new home in another church. This said, we also rejoice that new folk have joined our church family and are joining in with the ministry and mission of the church too.

Unfortunately, a number of weddings due to take place during 2021 had to be postponed, as were a number of baptisms. However, I am so pleased that we have been able to re-commence baptisms and thanksgivings. Between July 2021 and late February 2022, five children and three adults have been baptised at Christ Church, plus our own granddaughter Erin's Thanksgiving. Another five baptisms are due to take place before the end of April with another Thanksgiving too; more are scheduled after that. Praise be: it's looking like a bumper 12 months for Baptisms and Thanksgivings! Weddings also re-commence next month with Nicola and Phil's marriage, with another three scheduled for this year and one already in the diary for 2023. This means we are back to normal for weddings.

We have had just three funerals and three 'burial of ashes'. This is a little below our average pre-pandemic numbers but, once again, this reflects a national trend.

Prayer is very important for the followers of Jesus and in the life of a healthy church and in September we resumed our monthly prayer meetings in church on the second Tuesday of each month. Prior to that, as an alternative, up to the summer holidays we had our online, fortnightly '10 minutes with God' which gave us an opportunity to pray together while still at a distance. We had up to 35 people joining us in any one week. I am so grateful to those who helped with this initiative.

After quite a long time not being able to go in to meet with the residents at Walshaw Hall, it was good to be able to resume this ministry in September and to lead the residents and staff in worship. This included leading a service with carols in Advent. We also led carols at the Priory in December too.

While our Mission Group has become smaller during the pandemic, we have continued to support our mission agencies in prayer and financially, though our giving has had to be cut to reflect the reduced income of the church. We have had three Mission Sundays for the Bible Society, Tearfund and Christians Against Poverty over the last few months and we have continued to update our church family in respect to our support for Compassion too. I am hoping we will be able to have Salim Munayer from Musalaha join us before I leave at the end of April if at all possible. Our church family has continued to be brilliant throughout the pandemic in supporting Porch Boxes Foodbank by bringing their donations to church and our community too has been very generous by dropping items off at the vicarage.

In the summer of last year Paul Rigby and Jane Kenyon completed their training as Authorised Lay Ministers, Paul specialising in Worship and Jane in Pastoral Care. Joanne McKenzie also completed a general lay ministry pathway with the diocese on Mission & Evangelism. Congratulations to them all!

Our work with children and young families is so important and it has continued throughout the pandemic.

- The Baby & Toddler Group has continued to work very hard to engage with young families and their little ones in church, outside in our grounds and online too. There's more information on this on pages 5-6.
- Steph and I also continued to lead school assemblies using recordings and face-to-face too. I have also led various RE classes - and more - in school and in our church building. Topics have included looking at our church building, baptism and Holy Communion. The school has promoted and engaged with a number of our Sunday services, including our Back to School all-age service, this year bringing something special through the school choir's participation. In 2021 it was lovely to have the Year 6 Leavers' Service in church after having had the 2020 service online. It has also been a delight for me to attend Christmas productions at school: 'A Wriggly Nativity' from the Early Years and Foundation Stage children, and 'Ned's Christmas Discovery' from the children in Key Stage 1.
- During the last year we have continued our partnership work with Richard and Lisa at the Victoria Walshaw. Our Harvest 'Wellie' weekend went down a storm and lots of our young families and children from the school joined in as we led our community in singing carols as the Christmas lights were switched on.
- Finally over the summer we promoted the diocesan online Summer Holiday Club: 'W2G' for primary aged children throughout August.

Our worship on Sundays has now returned to its pre-pandemic rhythm and the children love our fortnightly Children's Church with their new leaders, Nicola, Kate, Vicky and Sue. While we periodically sang outside when we couldn't sing inside church, it's great to have the music group back as they lead us in our sung worship in church and I am delighted that we now have two new worship leaders in Paul Rigby and Jo Haslam. We have also introduced our Children's Corner and Doodle Pads for older children to help them to engage with our worship and/or to help their parents to join with us in our praise. Unfortunately we felt we had to cancel our Christmas Carol and Christingle services as, at the time, infection rates were rising and we were anticipating large numbers coming along. We did, however, have a lovely service at the Victoria Walshaw: 'Carols, Holy Communion & a Pint' with a short message from Mark Knight from St Anne's Tottington. Our Advent All-Age Service was so special too, with the Children's Church nativity tableau and the school choir: 131 people came to this service.

We have continued to get alongside members of our community through our Walshaw Community Choir. The choir continued to meet online during the pandemic but it started to sing again in church in September. I know members of the choir are so pleased to be back as it's not only about the singing: it's about relationships, caring for one another and so much more.

Communication for church has been a bit of a priority for me during this time, as it has been during the whole of my time in Walshaw. I am still producing fortnightly newsletters which are sent out to nearly two hundred church and non-church people by email. It is also posted online on our website. Our website is still attracting lots of views (130 people each month on average over the last 3 months) and our Facebook page now has 796 followers (up from 664 in May last year) and our Twitter Account has 154 followers too.

In closing, while some may think the church closed during the pandemic or that the church was only providing a limited service, in fact the opposite is true. I am so grateful to all the members of our church family who have led in the ministries I have shared, those who have promoted them and those who have joined in with them. I appreciate too all of you who have stepped up a gear to look after, care for and pray for one another in such difficult circumstances.

We have much to look forward to in the coming year,:

- we will start to play our part in our new Mission Community, working in collaboration with the other churches in our area
- we will have people in new positions including Joanne McKenzie as Lay Lead on Ministry and Mission

- we will have different people supporting us from our Mission Community, including The Revd Debra Johnstone who will be coming to join us for worship on a fortnightly basis, preaching and leading in Holy Communion as well as officiating in baptisms in the coming months.

Looking ahead, I will be doing new things (though at the moment I don't know what they will be). Steph and I will be moving to a new house and new church (though at the moment we don't know where they will be). One thing is for certain: Jesus will be with us all as he has been over this last year. He will guide us, take care of us and provide for us if we stay close to him and we keep our eyes fixed on him.

Please continue to pray for one another, as well as for Steph and me when you are able. You will all continue to be in our prayers.

Every blessing

Steve Openshaw

Parochial Church Council

Council has met five times since the APCMs of 2021. Whilst the routines have been despatched efficiently, consideration has been given to newly emergent issues. These have included the pros and cons of extending technological coverage of services (borne of the experience of online service coverage during the height of the pandemic), practical considerations ahead of the building being opened up for hire by outside organisations and the like. Three issues, however, have dominated council deliberations.

First, there has been the ongoing issue of resources, financial and human. As the Treasurer's report – shown as *Financial Statements and Accounts* - illustrates, the pandemic has kept finances straitened. Whilst income has increased a tad on 2020-2021, there is almost no room for manoeuvre. Capital expenditure has been paused as any proposals must prove to be cost-effective. With utility bills rising sharply, prudence is that name of the game. As regards personnel, not least to ease the burden of responsibility on long-serving contributors, it will be essential for more members of the church family to come forward and offer their services.

Secondly – and allied to the previous paragraph – there has been the diocese's proposal to establish Mission Communities. This is not the place to rehearse all the arguments. Everything revolves around the stated need in our area to reduce the number of stipendiary clergy from 4.5 to 3.5. Christ Church's proposals for links with three other, like-minded local congregations having been rejected, CCW is to be part of a nine-church Mission Community comprising churches of very different traditions which extends from Rossendale to the boundaries of Prestwich. The proposals first mooted have been subject to an enormous amount of to-ing and fro-ing. Those who attended a meeting at which the proposals were initially outlined were frankly outraged by minutes of the meeting which, in their recollection and judgment, bore no relation at all to what had been said. It is fair to say that Council remains extremely unhappy with what is yet another example of "top-down" imposition with scant attention being paid to the views of individual congregations.

Thirdly, Council was deeply saddened to learn of Steve Openshaw's decision to retire in April 2022. A number of members of Council met for preliminary discussions with Terry Clark, one of the Simeon's Trustees who are our patrons. Work is already in hand to deal with the inevitable interregnum and it will be useful to have previous experience on which to call. None the less, with everything else that is going on – not least the imposition of Mission Communities – challenging times lie ahead which is why it will be so important for everyone who can to step up to the plate.

Attendances were as follows: Steve Openshaw 5/5; Angela Ashworth 3/5; Bill Clarke 5/5; Sharon Dudley 3/3; Nicola Gordon 2/5; Christine Lancashire 4/5; Joanne McKenzie 3/5; Paul Rigby 4/5; Susan Schwarz 4/5; Pat White 2/5.

David Hemsall (Report derived from PCC Minutes)

Audio- Visual Report

We have a dedicated team of people who work hard, usually quietly in the background, to ensure everyone can interact fully with services. This allows people to hear clearly and have easy access to visual aids to worship, including written, picture and video resources.

The teams take responsibility for setting up and running the sound system and for preparing the PowerPoints used for the order of service and then operating them through the service. Needless to say I am very grateful to every member of the teams who play a vital role in ensuring the smooth running of the services. In particular I would like to thank Bernie Garnett for her dedication in helping to run the sound system for services and special concerts in the past. Bernie has now moved out of the area and, therefore, no longer attends Christ Church.

The audio team for Sunday services is made up of Bill Clarke, Nicola Gordon and myself. The visual team is made up of David Hemsall, Andrew Benson, Bill Clarke and Gordon Clark. At present, we have no reserves who are able to step in at the last minute: this adds pressure on those who are already working hard.

That is why we are looking to add more, new people to both teams. Both are manned by folk who are already taking on other, additional responsibilities within the church. It is a concern that we are so dependent on people who are already very committed.

Helen Clark

Baby & Toddler Group (B&TG)

The past year (and more) has been very strange and has meant that there have been times when the B&TG has been unable to meet. Work has continued, however, as we have found new ways of connecting with and caring for our young families.

Since our last APCM in May 2021, we have had

- 'Picnic Praise' a number of times in June and July outside on the grass in front of church up to the summer holidays
- 'B&TG Live Online' on Facebook through to the summer holidays, and
- Normal Wednesday 'B&TG' sessions in church from September (though we had to have a temporary pause in January to February).

When it came to Harvest, the children and their families brought to church items for Porch Boxes Foodbank and we had a lovely time going to the Victoria Walshaw in December decorating our Christmas Tree and decorating Christmas Tree biscuits.

Many of our families also joined us on various special occasions, including for our 'Welly Trail' and 'Welly Service' celebrating Harvest; singing Christmas carols at the Christmas tree lights switch-on at the Victoria Walshaw in December; and our All-Age Advent Service when the children and their carers sang their Christmas song. The children were very brave (and so were their parents too!).

B&TG continued to provide us with opportunities to get alongside people during the very difficult times they were experiencing and to pray with and for them. Thank you to the members of our church prayer chain who have partnered with us in the ministry.

Over the last year a number of our young families have started to worship with us on a regular basis and since the last APCM, two of our little ones have been baptised. We are really looking forward to four more being baptised on Easter Sunday this year.

Our B&TG provides a great foundation for children as they go on to school and it has been lovely to see that, during school assemblies, our alumni are the children most likely to engage with what is going on, and who know the answers to questions about God and His Son Jesus, God's love for us, how God is at work in creation, and more.

We have an absolutely fantastic and committed team at B&TG. Please hold them and their ministry in your prayers and especially Hannah who is taking over leadership of the group after Easter.

Finally, we are regularly encouraged from those we minister to through B&TG. This should be an encouragement for our whole church family. Here is part of an email recently received from a carer:

“Although I haven’t attended the church services, the Church has been a place of sanctuary where I have met so many lovely people.”

Thank you, church family, for supporting this ministry.

Steph Openshaw

Building Projects Team

Whilst the pandemic has effectively precluded the team’s meeting, there has been some forward movement after the trauma of last year.

First of all, the Phase 1 works – aka the Re-ordering – have now been signed off. It was disappointing that there remained issues to be resolved, albeit very minor, as late as November 2021.

Secondly, the PCC agreed with the team’s recommendation that, following the church architect’s unsatisfactory performance in producing plans for the interior re-illumination of the building, Christ Church should dispense with his services. The usual courtesies in this sort of sensitive situation having been observed, the architect – with regret – tendered his resignation. Attempts to identify and appoint a successor are now beginning to bear fruit.

Thirdly, the team was unanimous that any project to replace the now obsolescent halogen bulbs which illuminate the interior should be coupled with re-wiring the interior: this has been an issue for a number of years. Enquiries having been made of the Diocesan Advisory Committee (DAC) to establish whether or not re-wiring together with the replacement of existing lighting with LED units of similar design would require a faculty, the answer was disappointing. Even though the work will involve no material alteration to the internal appearance of the building, a faculty is required.

That being so – and with valuable input from a recently arrived member of the fellowship - work is progressing on a proposal to be put to the DAC. To date, this includes installing lighting units on a trial basis to establish their suitability on both practical and aesthetic grounds. In addition, the BPT has put out a request for input to identify suitable electrical contractors from whom quotations for the work may be sought. To date, three suggestions have been made. The team’s preference is, of course, for any contract to be placed locally. Pulling all this together means that the application to the DAC for a faculty will incorporate both a design proposal and an outline costing in the hope that this might help expedite matters. Work on this is now well advanced.

David Hemsall

Churches Together in Bury (CTB)

I continue to attend CTB meetings and they remain a good forum for collaborative mission within the town and one of which Christ Church Walshaw needs to be part. It was CTB who collectively developed the vision for the work of Christians Against Poverty in the town and so, at each meeting, I am expected to report on how the CAP work is going.

Membership by churches is not compulsory and many choose not to participate. Those who do, however, are part of this inter-denominational network committed to work together to see Jesus made known to Bury residents.

Member churches include: from the Church of England: St John's Birtle, United Benefice of West Bury, Christ Church Walshaw, St Peter's, Bury Parish Church, All Saints Elton; Methodist: Tottington, Brandlesholme, Bolton Road, Seedfield, Jericho; United Reformed: Bury; Salt and Light: Bury Christian Fellowship; Pentecostal: Metro Christian Centre, Audacious Bury; and Roman Catholic: Guardian Angels, St Hilda's.

As to meeting content, CTB met six times during the last year. Each meeting allows plenty of time for churches and individuals to share news or seek help with outreach projects. To get a flavour of the discussions and themes, this is a list of issues CTB has considered: Homeless provision and prevention, post-Covid Movement 4 Recovery, July 2022 Festival Manchester, Bury town centre Christian Aid collection (24 May 2022), COP26, new church plant in Chesham, new church plant in Radcliffe (part of the Antioch network), Caritas Red Door provision to homeless, welcoming Afghan refugees to Bury, Prayer for the Planet, Church leaders' letter to the Prime Minister regarding the ending of the £20 weekly uplift to Universal Credit, Open the Book in schools, Walk through the Bible in schools, planning the Bury Market Carol singing, planning the Good Friday Walk of Witness in Bury town centre, establishment of a Food Pantry at the Manna House, a request for help to lead services in a care home, the work of TLG on Chesham estate, welcoming newcomers to an area by checking house sale statistics, and the work of the CAP debt centre.

The meetings always include space for individual churches to share good things happening in their area. This has demonstrated that there are some great things happening in Bury and that many are committed to working together to see the kingdom of God built in our communities.

Praying together has been facilitated by fortnightly Zoom prayer meetings which continue to be held on Fridays at 7.00pm for 40 minutes. We 'pray round the town' and on some occasions also focus on particular missional projects. Different people take a turn leading and it is always a joy to link up with brothers and sisters from other churches in this way. These meetings are open to ANYONE, so please ask me if you would like the Zoom link and dates so you can participate. As with our prayer meetings, silent prayer is as important as spoken prayer!

Do, please, contact me if you have any specific questions about Churches Together. There is room for one or two more representatives from Christ Church and it would be great if someone else could join me and then report back to the church leadership and PCC.

Gordon Clark

Community Choir

The Community Choir resumed meetings on 15 September 2021 for just an hour each week. We have been careful to include measures to help keep everyone safe which has encouraged some perhaps more nervous people to join us. We have had an average attendance of about 20 people each week with a few new members joining us. This is about half the pre-pandemic attendance but those who do attend are keen to meet and share time together.

We are delighted that we have a new pianist, Ruth Boaden. Whilst we all miss Brenda, we are delighted to welcome Ruth to the choir and she has already become a valued part of our community. Whilst we don't yet have plans to hold any concerts, we hope to be able to organise some soon provided, of course, that the situation continues to improve.

Angela Ashworth and Helen Clark

Fabric and Maintenance Team [FMT]

The FMT provides guidance and leadership to the PCC on matters concerning the upkeep of the church building and yard. Membership is open to anyone and ideally will include a minimum of two members of the PCC. Current members are Andrew Benson (Chairman) and Pat White. Bill Clarke is an additional, honorary member of the team, in recognition of all his work maintaining the church building and grounds.

Whilst the FMT neither met formally last year nor made any reports to PCC, the team continued to work with the Building Projects Team to ensure that any future works undertaken would not be detrimental to the church building.

None the less, whilst the pandemic has loomed large over the past twelve months, a range of work has been carried out. This has included maintenance to the roof area and clock tower, including pointing and unblocking drainage outlets. In addition, the fingers on the church clock have been adjusted and refurbished, quite possibly for the first time since the clock was installed about 130 years ago! Thanks are due to Mick Cant for taking on the role of clock-winder. In addition, in the background, the heating system has been subject to routine monitoring, adjustment and maintenance.

Looking ahead, the team needs to recruit new members if it is to deliver its all responsibilities successfully. This year, FMT plans to tackle the backlog of work identified in the Quinquennial inspection of 2017, many items having had to be held over because of the pandemic. At the same time, the team will need to keep on top of any issues which may arise with the church roof, heating system and the access roads and parking.

Andrew Benson

Gift Aid Officer

The impact of the pandemic over two years is now plain to see. As notified separately by the Treasurer. The amount of Planned Giving on which tax could be claimed was £28,179.00 (as against £27,419.87 in 2020-2021 and £45,848.94 in 2019-2020). The tax claimed amounted to £7,044.75 (as against £6,854.97 in 2020-2021 and £11,462.23 in 2019-2020).

The claim for GASDS (Gift Aid Small Donations Scheme) has to be submitted in April 2022, that is after the APCMs. I expect to be able to report the exact figure to the PCC in due course.

Diane Ewart-Jones

Health & Safety

In the past year, there have been two matters on which to report. First, in January 2021, all the relevant electrical items kept in church were PAT (Portable Appliance Test) tested by me. Whilst there is no fixed date for re-testing, for our usage it would be reasonable to undertake this exercise every 12 months and it is my intention that this programme should be completed by the time of the APCMs

Secondly, a Fire Safety Inspection was carried out by an officer from Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service in June 2021. The full report is shown as **Annex 1** on page 10. Whilst it made for uncomfortable reading at the time, all the issues raised in the report have now been addressed. I met the inspecting officer in church informally some weeks after the inspection and, pleasing to report, he declared himself satisfied both with the remedial work which had been carried out and with the progress being made in staff training. That being so, no further action was necessary on his part. The inspection gave us a timely “kick in the pants” and, as a result, we now have a much safer environment when the building is in use.

Finally, I would like to record my thanks to everyone who volunteered to undertake fire safety training and also to those who have assisted me in dealing with the issues raised.

Mick Cant

Music Group

The group includes vocalists - Kate Clarke, Angela Ashworth, Jo Haslam, Hannah Rowe and Stuart McKenzie - and guitarists Paul Rigby and Alan Whitmore.

Unfortunately Covid-19 has greatly reduced the amount of singing we have been able to do over the past twelve months but the group has now reformed to lead singing during services. Paul and Alan accompany us on the guitars and we are grateful to Ruth Boaden for coming to play piano just before Christmas. It was a matter of great regret that the ever-popular Carol Service had to be cancelled on the day because of the high Covid figures.

We are delighted that Hannah has recently joined the group. If anyone else would like to join us, do please let me know. Talented pianists will be particularly welcome! If you have suggestions for new songs, then please also speak to any one of us. We rehearse Sunday mornings from 9.30. It is hoped that the songs sung for the five minutes or so before the service starts help to prepare and focus members of the congregation before the service starts (following our refreshments).

Many thanks to those of you who give us messages of encouragement: they are much appreciated.

Kate Clarke

Safeguarding

For most of the last year, Jane Kenyon has been our designated Safeguarding Officer, working with our Safeguarding Group (Helen Clark, Frank Yung, Pat White and Joanne McKenzie) to ensure the protection and care of children and vulnerable adults connected with our church.

Jane's work included ensuring everyone who needed a DBS (police check) had one as well as being the person to contact if anyone had any concerns which needed looking at. Jane did a terrific job but, towards the end of 2021, she stepped back from the role having moved to the other side of Bolton and to a church near where she is living.

We are therefore currently praying for, and looking to recruit a new Safeguarding Officer. In the meantime I have been the person to contact if anyone has any safeguarding concerns. Over the course of the last year there have been no safeguarding concerns raised either with Jane or with me.

Our APCM the meeting is required to consider –and, if appropriate - approve our current Safeguarding Policy statement. This policy statement, based on a template provided by the Church of England, is attached as **Annex 2**, on page 11 and has not changed materially since it being approved last year.

Steve Openshaw

Annex 1

Your Reference PR1017619

Our Reference PR1017619

Contact: D Booth, Fire Safety Inspector,
 D.Booth@greatermanchesterfire.gov.uk
 Tel: 01615056613

Rev Steven Openshaw,
 37 Gisburn Drive,
 Walshaw,
 Bury,
 BL8 3DH.



GREATER MANCHESTER
 FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE

Chief Fire Officer
 David Russell, FRM, FRSA, FRIG
 Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue
 Service
 145 Bold Road
 Salford
 Manchester M7 1US
 Telephone 0161 736 3000
 Fax 0161 743 1077
 www.greatermanchester.gov.uk

Article 9 (1) of the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005
 Carry out a suitable and sufficient Fire Risk Assessment.

Article 9 (3) (a) of the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 The Fire Safety, Risk Assessment has not been reviewed on a regular basis

At the time of the inspection it was found that The Fire Safety Risk Assessment available was not suitable and sufficient. It was also found that it has not been reviewed on a regular basis.

The Fire Risk Assessment should address the following issues:

Door(s) used for means of escape are to be kept unlocked and unfastened at all times when persons are in the premises. If for security reasons it is essential to keep such door(s) secured, it should be by means of a panic latch, panic bolt or some other approved type emergency lock which ensures that the door can be opened readily by persons escaping from the building, without having to use a key.

All emergency escape lighting systems should be regularly tested and maintained to an appropriate standard.

The existing fire alarm procedure should be tested on a regular basis to ensure satisfactory audibility throughout the building.

All exits affording, or giving access to, means of escape (other than exits in ordinary use) are to be distinctively and conspicuously marked by a 'FIRE EXIT' sign (above each of the door(s) concerned).

All portable fire extinguishers should be periodically inspected, maintained and tested in accordance with a relevant standard.

It is strongly recommended that all tests, (fire alarms, emergency lighting, extinguishers etc.), staff training and evacuation drills are recorded in a suitable Log Book.

All stairways, passageways and corridors forming part of the means of escape are to be kept free from obstruction and storage of any combustible furniture and/or material.

Responsibility for complying with the Fire Safety Order rests with the 'Responsible Person'. In a workplace, this is the employer and any other person who may have control over any part of the premises, e.g. the manager or owner. In all other premises, the person or people in control of the premises will be responsible. If there is more than one 'Responsible Person' in any type of premises e.g. a complex, all must take all reasonable steps to cooperate and coordinate with each other.

Fire Fighting and Fire Detection

The firefighting equipment is not easily accessible

Date 29/06/21.

Dear Steven,

THE REGULATORY REFORM (FIRE SAFETY) ORDER 2005

RESPONSIBLE PERSON: PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL
 STEVEN OPENSHAW

PREMISES: CHRIST CHURCH
 HIGH STREET
 WALSHAW
 BURY
 BL8 3AG

Following the recent inspection of the premises above, the verbal opinion expressed by the above named Officer in respect of a minor breach(s) of the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 is hereby confirmed as follows:

Area(s) of Non-Compliance:

Risk Assessment

A Fire Safety Risk Assessment has not been carried out.



PREVENTING PROTECTING RESPONDING www.greatermanchesterfire.gov.uk

Article 13 (1) (b) & 13 (2) of the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005

During the inspection several extinguishers were found to be missing from their correct locations. All extinguishers should be stored correctly in a designated, accessible location as identified in a fire risk assessment.

Portable fire fighting equipment up to 4kg in weight should be wall mounted by the use of suitable brackets so as to position the handle approximately 1.5m from the floor. Larger extinguishers should be mounted so as to position the handle approximately 1m from the floor. Alternative arrangements may be acceptable.

Fire exits and doors on escape routes could not be easily and immediately opened from the inside

Article 14 (2) (f) of the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005

Door(s) used for means of escape are to be kept unlocked and unfastened at all times when persons are in the premises. If for security reasons it is essential to keep such door(s) secured, it should be by means of a panic latch, panic bolt or some other approved type emergency lock which ensures that the door can be opened readily by persons escaping from the building, without having to use a key.

The advice and/or consent of a building control body or any other relevant bodies (e.g. English Heritage) should form part of any fire risk assessment that impacts on the character of the building (e.g. replacement of doors, fittings, wood paneling and décor) or material changes to existing escape routes.

A fire safety adviser will be able to suggest alternatives to conventional fire precautions, such as:

- A fire engineering solution
- Upgrading existing doors and partitions in a sympathetic manner to improve their fire resistance; and
- Consider the installation of specialist fire-detection or suppression systems.

As the design and nature of the historic building precludes the introduction of conventional fire safety features, it may be necessary to manage the building in such a way that:

- Limits the number of occupants, either staff or members of the public, inside the building;
- Limits activities in the building; and
- Provides adequate supervision within the building.

Article 14 (2) (g) of the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 The escape routes were not provided with adequate signage

During the time of the inspection, it was noted that there was no fire action notices located within the premises. These should be displayed on all escape routes, final exits and other relevant areas as deemed necessary by your FRA.

Emergency Routes and Exits

The escape routes did not have adequate emergency lighting in case of failure of normal lighting circuits

Article 14 (2) (h) of the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005

At the time of the inspection the EL available consisted of 1 battery operated torch. Your risk assessment should identify the relevant level of emergency lighting required and were to position it.

The primary purpose of emergency escape lighting is to illuminate escape routes, but it also illuminates safety equipment. The size and type of the premises and the risk to the occupants will determine the complexity of the emergency escape lighting required.

In small premises borrowed light (e.g. from street lighting) or torches may be appropriate whereas a more comprehensive system is likely to be needed in larger or more complex premises.

Inadequate safety training is provided to enable the employees to safeguard themselves and other persons on the premises

Article 21 (2) (a) of the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005

At the time of the inspection there was no record or knowledge of staff receiving any fire training.

It is strongly recommended that all tests, (fire alarms, emergency lighting, extinguishers etc.), staff training and evacuation drills are recorded in a suitable Log Book.

Failure to comply with the Regulations is an offence, which may result in the Fire and Rescue Authority issuing an Enforcement Notice to ensure compliance.

Should you wish to discuss the matter further please do not hesitate to contact the above-named Officer

Yours faithfully

On behalf of the
 Greater Manchester Combined Authority

Annex 2

Safeguarding Policy: The policy was approved by the PCC on 04 May 2021; it requires annual review, amendment (if necessary) and endorsement.

In accordance with the Church of England Safeguarding Policy our church is committed to:

- Promoting a safer environment and culture.
- Safely recruiting and supporting all those with any responsibility related to children, young people and vulnerable adults within the church.
- Responding promptly to every safeguarding concern or allegation.
- Caring pastorally for victims/survivors of abuse and other affected persons.
- Caring pastorally for those who are the subject of concerns or allegations of abuse and other affected persons.
- Responding to those that may pose a present risk to others.

The Parish will:

- Create a safe and caring place for all.
- Have a named Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO) to work with the incumbent and the PCC to implement policy and procedures.
- Safely recruit, train and support all those with any responsibility for children, young people and adults to have the confidence and skills to recognise and respond to abuse.
- Ensure that there is appropriate insurance cover for all activities involving children and adults undertaken in the name of the parish.
- Display in church premises and on the Parish website the details of who to contact if there are safeguarding concerns or support needs.
- Listen to and take seriously all those who disclose abuse.
- Take steps to protect children and adults when a safeguarding concern of any kind arises, following House of Bishops guidance, including notifying the Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser (DSA) and statutory agencies immediately.
- Offer support to victims/survivors of abuse regardless of the type of abuse, when or where it occurred.
- Care for and monitor any member of the church community who may pose a risk to children and adults whilst maintaining appropriate confidentiality and the safety of all parties.
- Ensure that health and safety policy, procedures and risk assessments are in place and that these are reviewed annually.
- Review the implementation of the Safeguarding Policy, Procedures and Practices at least annually.

Each person who works within this church community will agree to abide by this policy and the guidelines established by this church.

This church appoints Jane Kenyon* as the Parish Safeguarding Officer

Incumbent *Steve Openshaw*

Churchwarden *Pat White*

Christ Church Walshaw - Accounts - 2021

	General Account (Unrestricted use)	Deposit Account (Designated & Restricted use)	Building Fund (Designated use)	Total
Opening Balance Jan 2021	6452	67938	9852	84242

Receipts				2020	Variance	Notes
Tax efficient planned giving	26769		1316	28085	26826	1259
One off Gift Aid	180			180	355	-175
Tax Recovered	7864			7864	12959	-5095
Other regular planned giving	2015			2015	1667	348
Collections of loose cash at services	2545			2545	1948	597
All other giving	305			305	797	-492
Total giving	39678	0	1316	40994	44552	-3558
Legacies	5000			5000	50000	-45000
Dividends & Interest	1465	6	1	1472	1546	-74
Recurring Grants	50			50	50	0
Non-recurring Grants	880			880	4	876
Listed Places of Worship Scheme	675			675	6127	-5452
Fees	520			520	961	-441
Fund raising events	600			600	411	189
Rental Income				0	32	-32
Baby & Toddler Group	481			481	398	83
Community Choir				0	800	-800
Total Income (excl. giving)	9671	6	1	9678	60329	-50651
Total Receipts	49349	6	1317	50672	104881	-54209
Transfers						
From Deposit to General	6135					
From General to Building Fund			349			
Total Receipts & Transfers	55484	6	1666			

Christ Church Walshaw - Accounts - 2021

		General Account	Deposit Account	Building Fund			
Payments					2020	Variance	Notes
Overseas missions societies	1000			1000	1250	-250	7
Christian Relief and Dev. Agencies	500			500	1850	-1350	
Home mission and other Church Soc.	500			500	1505	-1005	
Secular Charities	20			20	179	-159	
Parish Share/Quota	22200			22200	25000	-2800	8
Incumbent working expenses	925			925	1078	-153	
Salaries, wages & honoraria				0	3738	-3738	
Parsonage	3485			3485	3355	130	9
Church running expenses	15840			15840	15351	489	10
Church maintenance	3491			3491	4371	-880	11
Upkeep of Services	867			867	1347	-480	12
Upkeep of churchyard	1840			1840	2195	-355	13
Major Repairs & Improve.	5097			5097	30994	-25897	14
Support costs	187			187	312	-125	
Baby & Toddler Group	709			709	99	610	15
Parish Magazine				0	0	0	
Church administration	311			311	1560	-1249	
Total Payments	56972	0	0	56972	94184	-37212	
Transfers							
From Deposit to General			6135				
From General to Building Fund	349						
Total Payments & Transfers	57321		6135	0			
Closing Balance Dec 2021		4615	61809	11518	77942		

Notes to accompany 2021 accounts

Unrestricted – Funds that can be used for any purpose approved by the PCC.

Designated – Funds that have been allocated to a particular purpose by the PCC.

Restricted – Typically funds from a bequest or grant where there were instructions set on their use.

1. Giving.

The level of giving was about the same as last year despite us worshipping in church more this year. Thank you to all of you who have continued to give via bank transfers and I urge those who contribute via the plate to consider switching to a standing order. Our Gift Aid Officer, Diane Ewart-Jones, puts in an enormous amount of work to ensure that we claim back every penny we can from HMRC. The tax recovered reflects the giving in the previous year which resulted in a significant reduction. Some use has been made of the card reader with just over £100 given via card transactions.

Please remember that we receive no financial support towards the maintenance and upkeep of the building from any external sources – it is your giving that keeps this building usable.

2. Legacies.

We benefited from a gift from the estate of a former member of our fellowship, Colin Wood, whom I'm sure many of you remember.

3. Recurring Grants.

We continue to receive a payment to maintain the Commonwealth War Graves.

4. Non-recurring Grants.

We received £130 from Ecclesiastical Insurance as part of the scheme they offer, that when a home insurance policy is taken out with them by a member of the fellowship, they donate to our church.

The Baby and Toddler group received a grant of £750 from the Diocese for some additional equipment which is detailed under point 15 below.

5. Listed Places of Worship Scheme,

As Christ Church is a 2* listed building we are able to reclaim the VAT on some major works carried out on the building, in this case the final costs of the reordering and masonry repairs.

6. Fund Raising Events

This money was the return of the deposit that was paid towards the Faith at the Musicals event.

7. Mission Partner Support and other donations

Musalaha	£500
Tearfund	£500
Christians against poverty	£500
Bible Society	£500
British Legion Poppy Appeal	£20

Sadly, the financial situation we found ourselves in this year has resulted in a much reduced level of support than we would normally achieve.

8. Parish Share

Once again we fell far short of paying our Parish Share – just £22,200 of the assessment of £36,961. For 2022 the assessment has risen yet again to £37,425 and unless something remarkable happens we will fall short once again

9. Parsonage

This item covers the contributions the PCC makes to the cost of 37 Gisburn Drive for the council tax, water charges and ground rent.

10. Church running expenses

Insurance	£9572
Gas	£4499
Electricity	£1485
Water Plus	£303

11. Church Maintenance

Heating system service etc.	£449
Clock	£1582
Organ	£312
Roof etc.	£730
Fire extinguisher rentals etc.	£390

12. Upkeep of services

Copyright & video licence	£601
PPE and other Covid materials	£78

13. Upkeep of churchyard

Mowing etc.	£1840
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14. Major repairs & improvements

Purchase of flexible staging	£228 (additional panels to increase width)
Reordering works	£3924 (final invoice)
Initial review of lighting	£945

15. Baby & Toddler Group

With the grant received from the Diocese a projector, screen, boombox and accessories were purchased.

W S Clarke

PCC Treasurer

January 2022

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE PCC OF CHRIST CHURCH WALSHAW

I report on the accounts for the year ended 31st December 2021.

Respective responsibilities of Trustees and Independent Examiner

As trustees of the charity, the members of the PCC are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. They consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 ("The 2011 Act") and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act); and
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent Examiner's Statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the accounts.

Independent Examiner's statement

In the course of my examination, no matters have come to my attention

1. which give me reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect, the requirements
 - to keep proper accounting records in accordance with s.130 of the 2011 Act); or
 - to prepare accounts which accord with these accounting recordshave not been met; or
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:



Date:

11 - 03 - 22 .

Accounts



CHRIST CHURCH WALSHAW

REPORTS OF CHURCH GROUPS FOR 2020/2021

Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me.

John 14: 1

Please have this report with you at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting which will be held on Thursday, 13 May 2021 at 7.30 p.m.

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Vicar

2020 was certainly an unusual year and for many one which brought much upset and sadness. So many people were poorly; many lost their jobs or went on to reduced incomes; many even lost loved ones in very distressing circumstances to the coronavirus.

The restrictions also brought lots of heartache and upset for those who had been planning weddings for 2020 and those who were hoping to be baptised in the year too; but, in the end, these life events have had to be postponed until 2021 or even 2022! Whilst funerals have continued, they were very different, what with the limit on numbers who could attend and no singing as, indeed, has been the case with all our services in church. Much of this continues today and we should continue to hold in prayer our family and friends, our community, our nation and people around the world.

The year started off with lots of excitement as we prepared for - and celebrated - our newly re-ordered building. If you remember we had a weekend of celebrations, open to the public on the Saturday and then on the Sunday we had Bishop David come along and help us celebrate with a service of Holy Communion.

In February we had *Flippin' Pancakes*, a pancake party which also raised some funds for Christians Against Poverty. We were also looking forward to our Tearfund *Faith at the Musicals* concert as well as the British Army Brass Band being with us. In March, we were fast heading towards Easter: holding an Ash Wednesday service in church and starting our Lent course at the Victoria Walshaw with around 20 people each week joining together to study the Book of Hebrews. We were really enjoying learning together for the first three weeks of the course and then **IT** hit!

The restrictions came in and then they were on and off, all meaning we missed celebrating Easter and having Remembrance Sunday in church but enabling at least some of us still to have our annual church meetings face to face, as well as reduced Harvest and Christmas celebrations in our beautiful building. Concerts were cancelled or postponed and the restrictions also meant my institution as Vicar in church in September was limited in the numbers who could attend, when I would have loved the whole church family to attend; so we shared it live online too.

For much of the year, however, we had no services in church, no prayer meetings, people working at home, schools closed and more. None the less, God enabled us to continue to 'be' and 'do' Church: we continued to be 'open for business but not business as usual'.

So we continued to pray: through our prayer chain, at home on our own using prayer booklets and resources online provided by the church, as well as on the telephone using Daily Prayer provided by the national Church. We prayed for the same things on the same days and, more than this, our community joined with us as prayer resources were shared via Face Book and Twitter and were received very enthusiastically by our neighbours. We prayed with others on the National Day of Prayer and throughout Lent. Towards the end of the year, Joanne started to help us pair up with others with Prayer Pals so that we could pray with others when we could and how we could, by telephone, online or even on a socially distanced walk. This year, 2021, we began our Tuesday evenings '10 minutes with God', short times of prayer online led by different members of our church family, which has around 40 people each week joining in!

We continued to worship together with services online, recorded initially and then a mixture of online live and in-church for those who were able to come. Within this, on a regular basis, we shared in Communion - Spiritual Communion while we couldn't meet and then a hybrid of Holy/Spiritual Communion when we could worship in church, so that those who were unable to attend could still participate fully. We managed to continue to share in the spiritual and actual breaking of bread!

Sharing our worship online meant that while we have been unable to go into Walshaw Hall over the last few months, we have been able to share our weekly worship with the residents online. We have also found that folk who never came to worship in church before the pandemic have started to join us regularly now online.

More than this, during these difficult times, we have been able to develop worship in new and exciting ways for children and young people - and their families - who we encouraged to use our website at school and

through the use of social media, including Toddler Worship Online with Wiggle; Play & Pray activities for young families; and Worship Videos online (for kids of any age) including songs we will all be very familiar with: Create in Me, My Lighthouse and more: all songs the children at our church school know.

During the year we found new ways of growing as disciples of Christ. While our sermons were a little shorter on recorded services and while home group couldn't meet, we started our 'Going Deeper' programme: weekly links to teaching from well-respected Christians from around the world as well as our Books of the Month, some brand new and some classics but new to us. Again these have been really well received and have covered a vast range of topics including the pandemic, corporate racism, the conflict in the Holy Land, pilgrimage and more.

In the lead-up to Christmas many of us followed an Advent course at home as we 'watched and waited' and during Lent of this year we followed a series of five lectures from Tim Keller on 'Being Human', as well as a series of reflections and times of prayer during Holy Week led by Joanne.

While we haven't been able to spend time with one another socially face-to-face, we have checked up on one another on the telephone, through our fast-developed pastoral scheme when the pandemic first struck, as well as informally too. We have also looked after one another practically including helping with the shopping when, for example, people were shielding and poorly.

Again technology has been so helpful, enabling our Walshaw Community Choir to continue to meet, even though they can't sing, to enjoy quizzes, chats and more on a weekly basis. This has been so important as the social side of the choir is just as important as the singing (if not more so).

While many of our regular mission activities have had to be suspended, we have been able to continue our part in God's mission in new and very exciting ways. So, we have been able to continue to reach out to children and young people and young families through Baby & Toddler Group Online and giving out craft activity bags to our tots too on a fortnightly basis for a period in 2020. We also shared Easter activity bags with children from church and our community in 2021.

Steph and I have been able to still engage with Christ Church Walshaw Primary School through recorded assemblies which have included songs, videos, prayers and a message. In September, we sent 'starter bags' in to school with a special message to those beginning school for the first time.

We have had 'Fun & Faith' links on our website for Children & Young people to have fun as they think about the things of God.

While we were unable to have our Carol Service and Christingle, we had instead our 'Star Festival' and 'Nativity Trail' through the village: both ways of sharing the Nativity story and the fact that #JesusIsTheStarOfChristmas in ways which were safe for all our community to join in with... and how they did! Participants included local businesses, primary and secondary schools and the initiative was adopted by other parishes in Bury too! We also encouraged our church family and community to join the diocesan Carol Service online when we were unable to have one in our church building.

Of course, where we could, we continued with our other current mission initiatives. So during 2020 we continued to support our mission partners in Bury and beyond, in prayer and financially, as well as Santiago through Compassion. As the needs of our local community increased in respect to food poverty, we were able to continue to collect for our local food bank Porch Boxes. More than this, we invited our community to join in; and 'join in' they did, dropping off donations at the vicarage each week. The response of our church family and our community has been and continues to be phenomenal and I would encourage you to keep it up.

So many people from our church family have contributed to our continuing ministry and mission during these difficult times. I am so grateful to you all for your partnership in ministry. Thank you to all of you.

However, we have not been on our own in all of this. God has been so faithful to us. He has enabled us to worship him and share in Holy Communion; He has provided us with ways for us to grow in Christ; He has enabled us to pray at home and with others in new ways; and we have been able to love and care for one

another - and members of our community - with His help too. He has also provided new and exciting ways for us to live out the vision for Christ Church Walshaw: to live and share the Good News of Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory.

Steve Openshaw

Parochial Church Council

It was inevitable that COVID 19 would have an impact on council's activities. None the less, since the last annual report in April 2020, council has met on six occasions, four of them on Zoom. As a consequence, a great deal of business has been effectively discharged. These included the meeting in February when, with a single item agenda, members of council produced a road-map to re-opening following the most recent lockdown.

The most important item on the Agenda was the Licensing Service held on 16 September. Whilst numbers attending were necessarily limited by then then-prevailing restrictions, it was a joyous occasion, overseen by Bishop Mark. The occasion was also important in consigning to history one awkward piece of nomenclature: "Priest-in-Charge" has been put to bed and favour of Vicar. This has come with a sense of relief all round as it secures the Revd Steve's status once and for all.

Whilst there was the Service of Celebration in January 2020 to mark completion of the Phase 1 Works to re-order the interior, work to sign off the project remains incomplete. Some snagging issues are still not wholly resolved and, at the time of writing, all the requisite paperwork has not yet been supplied. Further details appear in the report of the Building Projects Team where information about the proposed re-lighting of the church interior is also set out. For members of the team and of council – on whose agenda the works have been a near-fixture - this has been a source of frustration.

Having said that, there has been one unqualified success. Following research and a visit to an outfit in Blackburn, staging was ordered, delivered, assembled and installed. This will provide additional flexibility in services and – when it comes to it – other, externally generated events. For these last, a hiring policy has been approved.

As to personnel, council agreed unanimously to support two members of the fellowship – Jane Kenyon and Paul Rigby – in their undertaking the Foundations for Ministry course, training as Authorised Lay Ministers. Jane's specialism is in pastoral work whilst Paul's is in worship. Council approved a slew of Eucharistic Assistants, a routine but very important part of its annual administrative cycle.

Good management in meetings meant that time has been allocated efficiently and effectively to the necessary routines. Those flowing from the APCMs, held on 07 October because of the pandemic, were despatched in rapid order: the appointment of officers and their deputies, membership of committees, groups and teams. In addition, there have been some extremely important issues to address.

Amongst these, finance has been a concern. Giving has dropped enormously as the Treasurer's report, shown in the Notes to the *Financial Statement and Accounts*, demonstrates. The huge fall in income meant that council had to prioritise expenditure very carefully and that has had a significant and entirely negative impact on our ability to pay Parish Share and support our mission partners. Whilst there will be many churches in much the same position, it is essential that as the situation returns to what will necessarily be a new normal, the fellowship takes on board what is required for Christ Church to thrive.

There have also been hugely significant issues, externally generated, with which council has had to grapple. The first had been ongoing for some time: this was the proposal to abolish the existing area deaneries and replace them with larger deaneries overseen by a salaried Area Dean. Christ Church is now part of an area deanery stretching from Prestwich in the south to the southern boundary of Burnley in the north. Whilst contributions were invited to discussion of the proposals, it was patently a "done-deal", and so comments proffered by members of council were superfluous. It is fair to say that the appointment of our new Area Dean – the Revd Rachel Mann - has caused controversy.

So too has the diocesan document entitled *Living in Love & Faith*. This seeks to address, *inter alia*, issues of sexuality which have for so long proved difficult for the Church of England. The General Synod is expected to pronounce in 2022 but it seems inevitable that whatever is decided about, for example, same-sex marriages, will prove divisive both across and within churches.

Closer to home, the pandemic caused council to consider sustaining the live streaming of services in the long term and a working party has been established to consider how this might proceed. It was also agreed that the existing Mission Action Plan had reached its end-time and a meeting is planned when circumstances permit it to consider a new plan. Amongst other things, this will want to consider ideas to draw closer to like-minded fellowships in our area. Whilst this has for long been part of Christ Church's own agenda, it has been accelerated by the diocese's proposals for Mission Communities which seek to address the ongoing decline in the numbers of stipendiaries by sharing personnel and resources more effectively.

After what has been a difficult year, let us hope and pray that the coming twelve months will be just a mite less challenging for council!

Attendance during the past twelve months has been split between the "old" [shown with an *] and "new" as the APCMs at which new members of council were elected were delayed until 07 October.

Angela Ashworth 4/4, Alan Barnes* 5/6, Bill Clarke* 5/6, Diane Ewart-Jones* 2/2, Bernie Garnett 3/4, Nicola Gordon* 4/6, David Hemsall * 6/6, Jane Kenyon 4/4, Chris Lancashire 4/4, Joanne McKenzie 4/4, Steve Openshaw* 6/6, Anne Rigby* 1/2, Paul Rigby 4/4, Susan Schwarz 3/4, Pat White* 5/6.

David Hemsall

Audio-Visual Team

I'd like to express my thanks to everyone in the team who work to create and run PowerPoints for the services and operate the sound system. When church has been open during the past year, these people have continued to provide an invaluable service.

Once again I would like to ask for more help in both the sound and visual teams. We are in need of people joining us to help maintain cover each week without a few people becoming burnt out. Please do speak with me if you feel you are able to help in any way at all.

Helen Clark

Baby & Toddler Group

The last year or so certainly presented us with challenges! How could we continue to stay connected with young families when we were unable to meet on our usual Wednesday mornings, and when they were probably more in need of support and more than at any other time?

Thank you God for technology!

During the last twelve months or so we have shared with young families:

- 19 live Baby & Toddler Group sessions online: action stories, songs and more following the format of the last 15 minutes of our usual sessions in church
- 13 Wiggle Worship times: action Bible stories and songs plus prayers with Wiggle & Steph
- And numerous Play & Pray activity cards: online cards with links to Bible stories, like Noah and Joseph, as well as action faith songs too.

The take-up of these online activities has been tremendous, from families we already had contact with prior to the pandemic as well as with new families.

In addition over the last year, we have been so encouraged by the number of tots and their carers who have joined in with our various community activities and initiatives, many of them sending us pictures of themselves having a great time. These have included collecting activity bags for alumni Baby & Toddler

group tots, our Advent Star festival, our Nativity Trail around the village and, coming up to this Easter, collecting Easter activity bags.

Finally it's been lovely during the year to hear how the children and their carers have missed our church activities, as well as our all-age services and Children's Church so much. They're all looking forward to starting back as soon as they are able and, in some cases, with their new brothers and sisters who weren't even born before the pandemic. It's also been great to hear how so many of our tots from Baby & Toddler Group, now they are 'grown up', enjoy seeing Steve and me in our online assemblies at Christ Church CofE Primary School, coming home and telling their parents, "I saw Steph and Steve on telly!"

We are all really looking forward to things getting back to normal and developing new ways of staying connected with our alumni including through a new mid-week Family Service. Please hold this in your prayers.

Steph Openshaw

Building Projects Team

Whilst Covid 19 has had an impact on everyone, the team has continued to operate, albeit remotely and by email. Members have had five significant issues with which to deal.

First, there has been snagging issues flowing from the Phase 1 works, that is items requiring attention before the project could be finally signed off. Whilst there were relatively minor, getting them sorted took a great deal of time and persistence. It was only in February 2021, over a year since the Service of Celebration which marked the completion of the re-ordering, that the defects were made good. Having said that, some of the remedies applied may prove insubstantial but it is felt that these may well be addressed on a DIY basis.

Secondly, both the architect and contractor were slow to produce the necessary certifications and documentation for the Phase 1 works. At the time of writing, these remain incomplete: the Operating & Maintenance manual, for example, has yet to be approved by BPT. This last, as its title suggests, is essential.

Thirdly, as an add-on to the project to re-illuminate the church interior, the church architect was asked to provide a back-of-the-envelope costing to provide exterior lighting along the lines of the present illumination which provides limited flood-lighting to the east and west of the building, the former providing some illumination to the car-park. In response, the architect produced an off-the-shelf solution. This suggested the installation of 6 metre light lamp standards around the periphery of the roadway at a cost well in excess of £40,000. Consultations with St Paul's, Walkden where a similar set-up had been installed suggested very strongly that the installation there had proved costly to install, costly to maintain and costly to make good the several deficiencies. That being so, the team decided unanimously to abandon the scheme proposed as it represented very poor value for money, given the desire first to direct available funds to the interior re-lighting project.

Fourthly, what of the interior? The architect was asked informally to provide an estimate for the project: given the nature of the interior and his desire to "give a sense of theatre", he offered between £30-35,000. In February 2020, he was formally engaged to develop the project, having previously approached a design company, Concord-Sylvania. Communicating between the architect and BPT then became very sporadic: he was re- rather than pro-active, responding to prompts rather than initiating communication. He was twice reminded of the £30-35,000 figure which he had suggested and which CCW was in a position to fund. In his responses, it was clear that he was getting very little from the consultants he had engaged and in December 2020, he advised that he had dispensed with the firm's services, engaging a new outfit, Illuma, based in Derbyshire. Warden Pat hosted a visit by Illuma's representative and in February 2021, the architect relayed to BPT an outline design and a costing (of which, more in a moment). In barely two months, Illuma's involvement had moved from on-site visit to proposal.

Following up what the Convenor had termed the "erosion of confidence" amongst the team in an email to the architect, his line manager intervened. On 23 February, there was an uncomfortable three-way Zoom

meeting at which, without prior warning, the architect advised that the cost of the project would amount to £50,000 plus VAT, some of which might be recoverable. The Convenor played a very straight bat, saying that he would need to consult members of the BPT. His discomfort was considerable: amongst issues which it would be inappropriate to itemise here, it was clear that the architect had disregarded two reminders of what the team regarded as an affordable order of cost. Members of the team registered their views and, with the full backing of the PCC, it was decided that pending any positive come-back from the architect, the project would be put on hold for the present.

Fifthly, in his email setting up the 23 February Zoom meeting, the architect's line manager had written: "I can understand your concerns with regard to the slow progress of the lighting project. Whilst we have been reliant upon, and badly let down by, Concord lighting, we should have been more proactive in reviewing the situation with you.... Our intention has always been to provide a proposal that works for you and meets the requirement of your budget. Should you decide that you no longer wish for us to work for you in this capacity I would be disappointed but fully understand." Given what has transpired, therefore, there remains on the table a proposal to dispense with the services of the architect who was appointed in 2011 in open competition. The new council formed after the APCMs will be asked to decide, one way or the other, in the light of any further exchanges between the architect and BPT, bearing in mind that the church has to have an approved architect to meet diocesan requirements.

David Hemsall

Churches Together in Bury (CTB)

It has been a privilege to attend CTB meetings for several years now, and it continues to be a good forum for collaborative mission within the town. I attend each meeting to report on the CAP work I am involved in. There is space for one or two more representatives from Christ Church, should anyone want to come.

Membership is not compulsory, and many churches choose not to participate. Those who do however are part of an inter-denominational network wanting to work together to see Jesus made known to Bury residents.

Churches Together is not simply an informal discussion group but rather a properly constituted group with an annual meeting and elections. This year Nigel Thompson (Bury Christian Fellowship) has been Chairperson, with Ann Joyce (St John's, Birtle) being Secretary, and David Sutherland (Bury Christian Fellowship) being Treasurer. Meetings are held on Zoom on a bi-monthly basis.

A very significant development this year has been the increase in prayer taking place between churches. A fortnightly Zoom prayer meeting is held on Fridays at 7pm for 40 minutes, and these have been well attended. Sometimes 8 or 9 churches have been represented. Just recently we have been 'praying round the town', taking different postcode areas each time. Attendees have the opportunity of suggesting areas for prayer focus, and can lead if they would like to. I always find the meetings very encouraging, and come away feeling blessed to be part of such a diverse Christian community. These meetings are open to anyone, so please assign a few minutes on a Friday night to pray for the town and its residents.

The work of the Bury CAP Debt Centre was developed through meetings of Churches Together, and other significant mission projects are also given publicity and support. For example the excellent work based at The Manna House where hundreds of meals are provided each month for vulnerable people, as well as social support, or the excellent Trust House community centre in Whitefield, where Metro Christian Centre lead a team of volunteers doing similar work to the Manna House. Both projects provide plenty of opportunities to support those in need.

Another development this year has been the development of a CTB Facebook page, specifically to publicise mission activities, which churches can work together on. Please follow the page if you would like to keep in touch.

The meetings always include space for individual churches to share good things happening in their areas. This has revealed that there are some great things happening in Bury, and that many are committed to working together to see the kingdom of God built in our communities.

Do please contact me if you have any specific questions about Churches Together.

Gordon Clark

Churchyard

As might be expected, work done in the yard this year was limited. Camelot continued to visit and cut the grass in the graveyard, Garden of Remembrance and around the entrance so that all was kept tidy. We had to call in the tree surgeons to prune the ash tree adjacent to the houses on the north side as a number of branches had come down and it was overhanging the property. Beyond that, I did what I could to keep the brambles at bay and treat the remaining Japanese knotweed that persists in coming up. A "Thank you!" to John Clayton for sorting out the bins each week: it would be much easier if people used the correct bins for the green and general waste! A "Thank you!" too to the other nameless people who do bits and pieces in the yard, even if it's just a bit of litter picking.

Bill Clarke

Community Choir

As everyone will be aware, the Community Choir hasn't been able to meet together for the last year. We have been very fortunate that the choir's social committee has been very proactive in organising weekly Zoom meetings over this period. This has allowed a group of people to continue to meet together and they have enjoyed quiz and activity nights. At various times during this period Angela has reminded us of the value of the choir by sending videos of the choir singing our favourite songs.

We are all really looking forward to a time when we can meet again when we hope to renew old friendships and welcome new people. Community groups will be even more important as we come out of the pandemic and we know the choir will have a valuable part to play in the recovery.

Angela Ashworth and Helen Clark

Gift Aid Officer

As reported separately by the Treasurer in the *Financial Statement and Accounts* (see Note 1), the amount of Planned Giving on which tax could be claimed has declined to £27,419.87 (from £45,848.94 in 2019-2020). The tax claimed amounted to £6,854.97 (as against to £11,462.23 in 2019-2020).

The tax reclaimed from GASDS (Gift Aid Small Donations Scheme) amounts to £1,006.77, claimable on donations totalling £4027.09. All totals remain significantly below the figures from last year.

Diane Ewart-Jones

Safeguarding

Over the last year, the Safeguarding Team has not met as often as usual, due very largely to our not being in Church.

However, we have had an online meeting recently. One of the issues raised was the outside lighting, particularly to the back of the church where the car park is situated. It is our understanding that the Building Projects Team is looking into this and it is hoped that some of the money bequeathed to the Church may be utilised for this purpose.

A member of the Safeguarding Team asked if there were any funds available via the Diocese Safeguarding Team in relation to securing suitable exterior security lighting. I have subsequently made contact with the DCS to ask this question and I am awaiting its response.

We hope that once church returns to normal, Children's Church will have a register for all children attending which will include a record of parents and their contact numbers.

Having undertaken online training in regard to processing DBS check, I have been carrying out a number of DBS checks with new members of the PCC. These need to be fully processed.

We now have an agreed Safeguarding Policy in place in accordance with the Church of England's guidelines. The policy is scheduled for approval by the PCC on 4 May 2021, following its annual review and will be put to the APCMs for ratification on 13 May 2021.

In accordance with the Church of England Safeguarding Policy our church is committed to:

- Promoting a safer environment and culture.
- Safely recruiting and supporting all those with any responsibility related to children, young people and vulnerable adults within the church.
- Responding promptly to every safeguarding concern or allegation.
- Caring pastorally for victims/survivors of abuse and other affected persons.
- Caring pastorally for those who are the subject of concerns or allegations of abuse and other affected persons.
- Responding to those that may pose a present risk to others.

The Parish will:

- Create a safe and caring place for all.
- Have a named Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO) to work with the incumbent and the PCC to implement policy and procedures.
- Safely recruit, train and support all those with any responsibility for children, young people and adults to have the confidence and skills to recognise and respond to abuse.
- Ensure that there is appropriate insurance cover for all activities involving children and adults undertaken in the name of the parish.
- Display in church premises and on the Parish website the details of who to contact if there are safeguarding concerns or support needs.
- Listen to and take seriously all those who disclose abuse.
- Take steps to protect children and adults when a safeguarding concern of any kind arises, following House of Bishops guidance, including notifying the Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser (DSA) and statutory agencies immediately.
- Offer support to victims/survivors of abuse regardless of the type of abuse, when or where it occurred.
- Care for and monitor any member of the church community who may pose a risk to children and adults whilst maintaining appropriate confidentiality and the safety of all parties.
- Ensure that health and safety policy, procedures and risk assessments are in place and that these are reviewed annually.
- Review the implementation of the Safeguarding Policy, Procedures and Practices at least annually.

Each person who works within this church community will agree to abide by this policy and the guidelines established by this church.

This church appoints Jane Kenyon as the Parish Safeguarding Officer

Incumbent: **Churchwardens:** (signed)

For the record, the PCC has complied with the duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 (duty to have regard to House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults).

Jane Kenyon



CHRIST CHURCH WALSHAW

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND ACCOUNTS OF THE PCC FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

**Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God;
trust also in me.**

John 14: 1

Please have this report with you at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting which will be held on Thursday, 13 May 2021 at 7.30 p.m.

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INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE PCC OF CHRIST CHURCH WALSHAW

I report on the accounts for the year ended 31st December 2020.

Respective responsibilities of Trustees and Independent Examiner

As trustees of the charity, the members of the PCC are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. They consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 ("The 2011 Act") and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act); and
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent Examiner's Statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the accounts.

Independent Examiner's statement

In the course of my examination, no matters have come to my attention

1. which give me reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect, the requirements
 - to keep proper accounting records in accordance with s.130 of the 2011 Act); or
 - to prepare accounts which accord with these accounting recordshave not been met; or
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:


K. COLEMAN

Date: 16-04-2021.

Christ Church Walshaw - Accounts - 2020

	<i>General Account (Unrestricted use)</i>	<i>Deposit Account (Designated & Restricted use)</i>	<i>Building Fund (Designated use)</i>	<i>Total</i>
Opening Balance Jan 2020	47546	17902	8097	73545

<i>Receipts</i>				2019	Variance	Notes	
Tax efficient planned giving	25430		1396	26826	32898	-6072	
One off Gift Aid	355			355	12654	-12299	
Tax Recovered	12959			12959	10416	2543	
Other regular planned giving	1667			1667	1940	-273	
Collections of loose cash at services	1948			1948	3250	-1302	
All other giving	797			797	1484	-687	
Total giving	43156	0	1396	44552	62642	-18090	1
Legacies		50000		50000	11251	38749	2
Dividends & Interest	1505	36	5	1546	1549	-3	
Recurring Grants	50			50	6778	-6728	3
Non-recurring Grants	4			4	71500	-71496	
Listed Places of Worship Scheme	6127			6127	30375	-24248	4
Fees	961			961	2919	-1958	
Fund raising events	411			411	0	411	
Rental Income	32			32	125	-93	
Mums & Toddlers	398			398	674	-276	
Community Choir	800			800	500	300	
Leigh Chapel Trust				0	20000	-20000	
Total Income (excl. giving)	10288	50036	5	60329	145671	-85342	
Total Receipts	53444	50036	1401	104881	208313	-103432	
Transfers							
From Building Fund to General							
From General to Building Fund			354				
Total Receipts & Transfers	53444	50036	1755				

Christ Church Walshaw - Accounts - 2020

General Account	Deposit Account	Building Fund	Total
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<i>Payments</i>				2019	Variance	Notes
Overseas missions societies	1250		1250	1250	0	5
Christian Relief and Dev. Agencies	1850		1850	1368	482	
Home mission and other Church Soc.	1505		1505	1400	105	
Secular Charities	179		179	228	-49	
Parish Share/Quota	25000		25000	29066	-4066	6
Incumbent working expenses	1078		1078	1395	-317	
Salaries, wages & honoraria	3738		3738	4838	-1100	7
Parsonage	3355		3355	3255	100	8
Church running expenses	15351		15351	18521	-3170	9
Church maintenance	4371		4371	2756	1615	10
Upkeep of Services	1347		1347	864	483	11
Upkeep of churchyard	2195		2195	1764	431	12
Major Repairs & Improve.	30994		30994	200272	-169278	13
Support costs	312		312	407	-95	
Mums & Toddlers	99		99	93	6	
Parish Magazine			0	100	-100	
Church administration	1560		1560	761	799	14
Total Payments	94184	0	0	94184	268338	-174154
<i>Transfers</i>						
From Building Fund to General						
From General to Building Fund	354					
Total Payments & Transfers	94538	0	0			
Closing Balance Dec 2020	6452	67938	9852	84242		

Notes to accompany 2020 accounts

The layout of the accounts has been simplified this year as the vast bulk of the reordering works on the building had been completed. There was some work still to be completed but this is explained below.

Unrestricted – Funds that can be used for any purpose approved by the PCC.

Designated – Funds that have been allocated to a particular purpose by the PCC.

Restricted – Typically funds from a bequest or grant where there were instructions set on their use.

1. Giving.

It seems to be the same story every year now with the level of giving dropping. Obviously the closure and restricted use of the church building for services has reduced the numbers through the door and hence the giving via the plate. Thank you to all of you who have continued to give via bank transfers and I urge those who contribute via the plate to consider switching to a standing order. Our Gift Aid Officer, Diane Ewart-Jones, puts in an enormous amount of work to ensure that we claim back every penny we can from HMRC. We have a card reader and tablet so that people who no longer carry cash can continue to contribute via their card; either chip-and-pin or contactless. Also there are links to our "Give a Little" page from the church website.

2. Legacies.

We benefited from a gift from the estate of our good friend Keith Norton this year which we hope to use to continue work on improving the church building.

3. Recurring Grants.

We continue to receive a payment to maintain the Commonwealth War Graves.

4. Listed Places of Worship Scheme,

As Christ Church is a 2* listed building we are able to reclaim the VAT on some major works carried out on the building

5. Mission Partner Support and other donations

Musalaha	£1250 (2019 contibution)
Tearfund	£1850
Christians against poverty	£1250
Simeon Trustees	£175
Bishops Ordination Fund	£80
Bury Hospice	£182 (Christingle 2019)
British Legion Poppy Appeal	£17

The donations to Musalaha and the Bible Society were delayed in 2020 due to cash flow issues but we do intend to address this as soon as we can.

6. Parish Share

Sadly we were unable to pay the share in full in 2020 for the first time in a number of years. We had already doubts on whether we could meet the considerably higher assessment of £35,972 and with the impact of the falling income we were only able to pay £25,000 (plus £594.17 from the Encouragement scheme as we had paid in full in 2019). We will not be eligible for the Encouragement scheme in 2021 of course. The assessment for 2021 is even higher at £36,961.

7. Wages, salaries & honoraria

Gordon Clark's funded role assisting Rev Openshaw finished in January. There was a surplus of £3,267 remaining from the grant we received from the Diocese for this, and it was repaid to them.

8. Parsonage

This item covers the contributions the PCC makes to the cost of 37 Gisburn Drive for the council tax, water charges and ground rent..

9. Church running expenses

Insurance	£9113
Gas	£4787
Electricity	£1028
Telephone	£151
Water Plus	£273

The electricity contract comes to an end in March 2021 and a new contract has been agreed with Scottish Power. The telephone line into the church office has been ceased as it was rarely used.

10. Church Maintenance

Heating system service etc.	£705
Clock	£259
Organ	£156
Roof etc.	£2925
Fire extinguisher rentals	£259

11. Upkeep of services

Copyright & video licence	£614
Kitchen equipment	£318
PPE and other Covid materials	£191

12. Upkeep of churchyard

Tree pruning	£540
Mowing etc.	£1615

13. Major repairs & improvements

Purchase of flexible staging	£5997
Masonry repairs following removal of Drugasar heaters	£22,496
Reordering works	£2452

There should be one final invoice payable to the builders for the kitchen etc. once the few outstanding snags are resolved.

14. Administration etc.

Photocopier purchase	£1200
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(fully funded by grant received in 2019)

W S Clarke

PCC Treasurer

January 2021

INVESTMENTS

Securities held on behalf of the PCC by the Manchester Diocesan Board of Finance.

Trust Title	Nominal Value	Cost Book Value	Income Received	Market Value	
			2020	2020	2019
Mrs Leigh (deceased) Lady Chapel (CBF 1192F) Fixed interest	£1,448.00	£2,095.88	Paid into Lady Chapel deposit trust	£2,449.29	£2,367.05
Mrs Leigh (deceased) Lady Chapel (CBF 1215D) Deposit	£2,183.21	£2,183.21	Interest retained	£2,183.21	£2,093.84
M A Hibbert Trust (CBF 1451S) Investment fund	£2431.83	£27,836.28	£1,395.62 (paid into general account)	£49,722.90	£46,511.18
Constance Middleton Trust (CBF 1941D) Deposit	£19669.33	£19669.33	£109.48 (paid into general account)	£19,669.33	£19669.33

n.b. the funds within these trusts are all restricted and as such can only be used for the purposes designated at the time of establishment.

Liabilities

Nil

Accounts for the Financial Year ending 31 December 2020

Approved by the Parochial Church Council meeting held on : *1st May 2021*

and signed on their behalf by :

S.P. O'Farrell Chairman

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE PCC OF CHRIST CHURCH WALSHAW

I report on the accounts for the year ended 31st December 2020.

Respective responsibilities of Trustees and Independent Examiner

As trustees of the charity, the members of the PCC are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. They consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 ("The 2011 Act") and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act); and
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent Examiner's Statement


My examination was carried out in accordance with General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the accounts.

Independent Examiner's statement

In the course of my examination, no matters have come to my attention

1. which give me reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect, the requirements
 - to keep proper accounting records in accordance with s.130 of the 2011 Act); or
 - to prepare accounts which accord with these accounting recordshave not been met; or
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:


K. COLEMAN

Date: 16-04-2021.