



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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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 Wiggly 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

<p>Your Reference: PR1017619</p> <p>Our Reference: PR1017619</p> <p>Contact: D Booth, Fire Safety Inspector, Bates, Booth & Partners Ltd Tel: 0161 5050013</p>	 <p>GREATER MANCHESTER FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE</p> <p>Chief Fire Officer David Russell, FRM, MBE Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service 145 Bold Road Salford Manchester M6 7JL Telephone 0161 736 3000 Fax 0161 743 1177 www.manchesterfrs.gov.uk</p>	<p>Article 9 (1) of the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 Carry out a suitable and sufficient Fire Risk Assessment.</p> <p>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</p>
<p>Rev Steven Openshaw, 37 Gisburn Drive, Walshaw, Bury, BL8 3DH.</p>		<p>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.</p> <p>The Fire Risk Assessment should address the following issues:</p>
<p>Date 29/06/21.</p> <p>Dear Steven,</p>		<p>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.</p>
<p>THE REGULATORY REFORM (FIRE SAFETY) ORDER 2005</p> <p>RESPONSIBLE PERSON: PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL STEVEN OPENSHAW</p> <p>PREMISES: CHRIST CHURCH HIGH STREET WALSHAW BURY BL8 3AG</p>		<p>All emergency escape lighting systems should be regularly tested and maintained to an appropriate standard.</p>
<p>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:</p>		<p>The existing fire alarm procedure should be tested on a regular basis to ensure satisfactory audibility throughout the building.</p>
<p>Area(s) of Non-Compliance:</p>		<p>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).</p>
<p>Risk Assessment A Fire Safety Risk Assessment has not been carried out.</p>		<p>All portable fire extinguishers should be periodically inspected, maintained and tested in accordance with a relevant standard.</p>
		<p>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.</p>
<p>PREVENTING PROTECTING RESPONDING www.manchesterfrs.gov.uk</p>		<p>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.</p>
<p>Article 13 (1) (b) & 13 (2) of the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005</p>		<p>Fire Fighting and Fire Detection</p>
<p>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.</p>		<p>The firefighting equipment is not easily accessible</p>
<p>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</p>		
<p>Fire exits and doors on escape routes could not be easily and immediately opened from the inside</p>		
<p>Article 14 (2) (f) of the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005</p>		
<p>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.</p>		
<p>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.</p>		
<p>A fire safety adviser will be able to suggest alternatives to conventional fire precautions, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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. 		
<p>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:</p>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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. 		
<p>Article 14 (2) (g) of the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 The escape routes were not provided with adequate signage</p>		
<p>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.</p>		
<p>Emergency Routes and Exits</p>		
<p>The escape routes did not have adequate emergency lighting in case of failure of normal lighting circuits</p>		
<p>Article 14 (2) (h) of the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005</p>		
<p>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.</p>		
<p>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.</p>		
<p>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.</p>		
<p>Inadequate safety training is provided to enable the employees to safeguard themselves and other persons on the premises</p>		
<p>Article 21 (2) (a) of the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005</p>		
<p>At the time of the inspection there was no record or knowledge of staff receiving any fire training.</p>		
<p>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.</p>		
<p>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.</p>		
<p>Should you wish to discuss the matter further please do not hesitate to contact the above-named Officer</p>		
<p>Yours faithfully</p>		
<p> On behalf of the Greater Manchester Combined Authority</p>		

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 Whhite*

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	Total		
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 .