



# 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, 18<sup>th</sup> 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 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 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 18<sup>th</sup> 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 21<sup>st</sup> 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**

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**Please have this report with you at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting which will be held on Thursday, 18<sup>th</sup> 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 31<sup>st</sup> 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:**

17<sup>th</sup> March 2024

## Christ Church Walshaw - Accounts 2023

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

<i>Receipts</i>				<b>2022</b>	<b>Variance</b>	<b>Notes</b>
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	
<b>Total giving</b>	41558	0	1416	42974	1882	
Legacies			0	6000	-6000	2
Dividends & Interest	2255	535	66	2856	1166	
Recurring Grants	50		50	50	0	3
Non-recurring Grants	330		330	1250	-920	4
Listed Places of Worship Scheme	507		507	631	-124	
Fees	1459		1459	2761	-1302	5
Fund raising events	2454		2454	46	2408	
Rental Income			0	250	-250	
Baby & Toddler Group	1738		1738	1172	566	
Community Choir	1513		1513	600	913	
<b>Total Income (excl. giving)</b>	10306	535	66	10907	-3543	
<b>Total Receipts</b>	51864	535	1482	53881	-1661	
<i>Transfers</i>						
From Deposit to General	4681					
From General to Building Fund			354			
<b>Total Receipts &amp; Transfers</b>	56545	535	1836			

## Christ Church Walshaw - Accounts 2023

<i>General Account</i>	<i>Deposit Account</i>	<i>Building Fund</i>	<i>Total</i>
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<i>Payments</i>			<i>2022</i>	<i>Variance</i>	<i>Notes</i>
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	
<b>Total Payments</b>	57328	0	57328	55146	2182
<i>Transfers</i>					
From Deposit to General	4681				
From General to Building Fund	354				
<b>Total Payments &amp; Transfers</b>	57682	4681	0		
<b>Closing Balance Dec 2023</b>	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	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

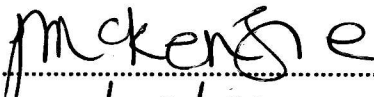
n.b. the funds within these trusts are all restricted and as such can only be used for the purposes designated at the time of establishment.

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

I report on the accounts for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> 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:**

17<sup>th</sup> March 2024