



## **ANNUAL REPORT 2023 FOR THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF HIGHER WALTON, ALL SAINTS**

### **Aim and purposes**

All Saints' Church Higher Walton Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility of cooperating with the incumbent, the Reverend Hannah Boyd, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. The PCC is also specifically responsible for the maintenance of the Church of All Saints' Higher Walton and the free standing modular unit in the grounds of the church.

### **Objectives and Activities**

The PCC is committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship at our Church and to become part of our parish community at All Saints'. Our services and worship put faith into practice through prayer and scripture, music and sacrament. When planning our activities for the year, we have considered the Church Commission's guidance on public benefit. We try to enable all people to live out their faith as part of our parish community through:

- worship and prayer; learning about the Gospel; and developing their knowledge and trust in Jesus
- Provision of pastoral care for people living in the parish
- Missionary and outreach work

## **CHURCH OFFICIALS**

### **MINISTRY TEAM**

Vicar:	Rev'd Hannah Boyd
Curate:	Rev'd Bryn Naylor (left February 2024 to become an incumbent)

### **PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL (2023)**

**Church Wardens** Geoff Woods  
Stephen Houghton

### **Deanery Synod representatives:**

Margaret Arton	2023
vacancy	

**PCC Members:** (end of 3-year term in brackets, currently have 2 vacancies)

Sandra Houghton	2024
Gareth Maddock	2024
Keith Houston	2024

Brad Eccles	2025
Natasha Green	2025
Vacancy	

Harry Hartley	2026
Mick Hogarth	2026
Vacancy	

**PCC Officials:**

Chairperson	Rev'd Hannah Boyd
Lay Vice Chairperson	Mr Geoff Woods
Secretary	Mr Gareth Maddock
Treasurer	Mr Stephen Houghton
Electoral Roll Officer	Mrs Barbara Niven
Safeguarding Officers	Miss Natasha Green and Mrs June Westby

**Electoral Roll Report**

At the time of the APCM (21/5/2023) the electoral roll is made up of 80 names

**Church Attendance October 2023**

Average adult attendance: 28

Average Child Attendance: 6

**Worshipping Community Totals 2023**

0-17:	12
18-69	21
70+	39

**Occasional Offices 2023**

Baptisms	3
Confirmations	0
Marriages	0
Funerals held in church	7
Funerals held at the crematorium	3

## **CLERGY REPORT**

When I think back over 2023, the word that comes to mind is gratitude. We had an incredible year as a church in an amazing plurality. We got to do some wonderful things, had enormously successful events in all kinds of areas and we grew as a church in both depth of faith and number. One of our major achievements was the completion of the new access ramp outside church which has made entry into our beautiful building easy for all and is the result of faith and commitment from a lot of people.

My heart is so full of gratitude to God for just how good he has been to us and how fruitful we have been in so many areas. Below are some highlights but it was an absolute pleasure and privilege to be the incumbent in a church with so much life and hope around.

### **Making Disciples**

We continue to meet in four congregations across the plurality, at 9.15am on Sundays at All Saints and at 11.15am at Holy Trinity. Our family orientated worship service '4forAll' is held every Sunday at 4pm and on Wednesdays we have a midweek 10am service held at All Saints. Each of these congregations is established and growing and allowing people to meet for worship at times and in ways that suit them and can be managed by our current resources.

Celebration services held bi-monthly with all four congregations worshipping together have proven to be a great blessing and encouragement to all and our first Easter Sunday worshipping together in Holy Trinity was amazing, with church packed and almost 30 children in attendance.

Our teaching series continue to help us learn more about the Bible and God and apply this to our lives. We had four house groups meeting throughout the year at one point with over thirty-five people involved. We also ran Christianity explored and Hope explored which were attended by people at all different stages on their faith journey.

### **Being Witnesses**

Several events that we had run in 2022 happened again in 2023 with bigger numbers attending and feel like fixed features on our church calendar now. Our Easter Egg hunt had 100 children attending and there were lots of fundraising events which welcomed people from both church and community to come to know us.

We held an Easter Experience and although this wasn't as well attended as we would have wished all the children from Higher Walton Primary School came and experienced the Easter story in a multi-sensory way. As part of the Coronation of King Charles III we held an outdoor service at Higher Walton Primary School which had lots of people with us and then on the Monday a group of people from across all congregations and several groups had a brilliant time litter picking in the rain!

We continue to reach out and minister to families through funerals and baptisms and the opportunity to meet with them at different stages of their life and share the good news of the gospel with them. We finished the year with a brilliantly run and organised Live Nativity around Coupe Green which saw people of all ages helping out and welcomed families to come and find out about the Christmas story.

### **Growing Leaders**

There are many people, of all ages and stages of life, who give willingly of their time and skills to serve in a whole range of capacities across our plurality and we are so thankful for them. Many people got involved in all the events already listed above, some stepping out of their comfort zones, and enjoyed themselves while serving others and sharing the gospel. In September Tash Green was licenced as our Licenced Lay Minister in Blackburn Cathedral and we had a wonderful time celebrating with her and we are so blessed by all she willingly gives and brings to us.

## **Inspiring Children and Young People**

Trinity Tots continued to grow and flourish in 2023 and is widely talked about as being one of the best groups in the local area, the team of volunteers from both churches who run that do an incredible faithful unseen work and we are so thankful for them. Kingdom Kids and youth group continued to meet monthly throughout the year encouraging and sharing the faith with young people and their families. We also held a Teddy Bears Picnic and invited all the baptism families from the previous four years to attend; we had a fun filled afternoon in the sunshine together. Our Holiday Club was once again an incredible success with 60 different children attending and volunteers of all ages and all congregations coming to support that work. School worship continues to happen weekly in Higher Walton School, as well as teaching RE lessons and visits to church by the classes for lessons and special services.

2023 has been a year of great blessings for us and although no blessing goes uncontested, we thank God for his faithfulness to us in everything. We are deeply grateful for all of those who in whatever way large or small contribute to the running and flourishing of our plurality, our public worship, our many events and activities and our life of faith together. We continue to look forward with expectation to what our Lord has in store for us in the coming years.

*Rev Hannah Boyd  
Incumbent*

## **SAFEGUARDING**

All PCC members and Churchwardens are required to complete online Safeguarding training. The Basic training has been completed by all required parties, with the Foundations Course and Domestic Abuse Course being completed over the next month. As Safeguarding officer, I (Natasha Green) have completed the Leadership Safeguarding training course delivered by Blackburn Diocese.

DBS checks are up to date for all relevant persons, PCC members, Kingdom Kids and Youth Club helpers.

The Diocese have set up an online portal/safeguarding dashboard for churches to use to keep all records up to date. This has been updated with the relevant information and is up to date.

Safeguarding is an item on every PCC agenda and is discussed at every PCC meeting.

Safeguarding contact details can be found on the notice board at the back of church and on the All Saints church website.

*Natasha Green  
Safeguarding Officer for Under 18's*

## **SECRETARY**

Six full PCC meetings were held in 2023. Meetings in January, March, May, July September and November were all held in person again this year. There was an average 80% (2022 - 84%) attendance by members at each meeting.

The meetings were held in conjunction with the PCC of Holy Trinity, Hoghton. Each meeting began with a joint session when the Vicar's Update and Safeguarding reports were presented. All members attending the meetings participated in joint training sessions as well as contributing towards the creation and updating of the Mission Action Plan for both

Churches across the plurality. Following the joint sessions, the PCCs held separate meetings to follow the agenda specific to each PCC.

*Gareth Maddock*  
*PCC Secretary*

## **HOUSEGROUPS**

There were four house groups meeting throughout 2023 across the plurality on different days of the week and all groups included members of both churches. Between them they covered topics such as Confidence, a Devotional Journey, Fruitfulness on the Frontline, The Parables of Jesus, The Bible Jesus Read, Romans, Discipleship Explored, Philippians, The Me I want To Be and many others.

One group also organised the Prayer Stations in All Saints during the period between Pentecost and the Ascension.

We would all highly recommend that you join a house group as it provides a wonderful opportunity to grow as a Christian and to share fellowship.

*Elisabeth Sawle, Stephen Niven, Tash Green & Hannah Boyd*

## **FINANCIAL REVIEW**

2023 was an interesting year in terms of our financial performance.

We arranged for the historic funds accumulated in the accounts of Shuttlingfields Charity totalling £13872 to be distributed equally between ourselves, St Saviour's, St Leonard's and St Aidan's churches. Our share was put towards the new ramp.

The final bill on completion of the ramp was £42,759 including VAT which was reclaimable. The consultants were paid the balance of their bill £1117.

As well as all the generous giving internally from the 2022 Gift Day, regular donations and funds raised at our various events, we were very grateful to receive grants from the Laing Family Trust £2000, Mary Entwistle Foundation £1000 and Benefact Trust £1500, all of which went towards the ramp cost.

Following a severe frost just before Christmas 2022, pipes burst in the Greenhouse causing a great deal of damage. Fortunately, working with our insurance brokers Ecclesiastical the remedial work was completed satisfactorily, including a new carpet making the interior much more user-friendly.

With most funds allocated to the ramp and the ongoing increased utility bills, our giving to the Diocese for the Parish Share was proving a challenge. We had paid the arrears from 2021 £3184 but were a long way off the 2022 Parish Share £39,652. A meeting was arranged on zoom with members of the Diocese team and after an honest and productive session, they agreed to waive a substantial amount of the 2023 Parish Share if we could commit to paying £26,750 by the end of the year. This was a very generous package, and we expressed our gratitude. This revised figure was paid in full. The Diocesan team confirmed we should go ahead with our planned Gift Day for 2023 but allocate the funds to our 2024 Parish Share. This we did and our first payment this year was for £10,000. Thanks to all generous givers.

Thanks again to Jane Maddock for her sterling work as Gift Aid Secretary and to Lillian Orrell for organising the money and the banking. Thanks also to Stephen Niven for undertaking the independent examination of the Financial Accounts.

*Stephen Houghton*

## **SOCIAL AND FUNDRAISING**

2024 was another very successful year on the social and fundraising front.

Our small team works extremely hard to make our events so enjoyable and entertaining.

The objective, of course, was fundraising for the ramp and church activities and all events contributed significantly.

Hoghton in Harmony performed a wonderful concert in March, the proceeds of which were shared with St Catherine's Hospice (via Susan Mycock).

The two Stephen's (Niven and Houghton) hosted two quizzes in the year, both were well supported and well received.

Our Afternoon Tea was a particular success. More people attended than the year before and without exception the comments were very positive as regards the range and quality of food and the service. This event will be repeated.

The Car Wash was rescheduled from March to May due to frosty conditions. Tash, Stephen N & Wish plus the Youth Group had a busy and profitable morning in the church car park.

Again the two Stephen's organised what has now become our Annual Plant Sale. Harry Hartley joined the event with some of his own excellent plants. The weather was kind, and we had a good and profitable day. Refreshments were provided which always proves popular. Any surplus plants went to Viv Clayton's open garden.

With more adverse weather, the decision to hold the Summer Fair inside church was made on the Friday. Most of the Saturday was ok but torrential rain descended when we were packing up. The BBQ was held in the vicar's garage ably manned by Stephen N and Harry H. The event was a huge success despite being indoors. Very well supported and a credit to the organising team. Central Lancashire Community Band entertained us with a session of good music.

The Harvest Supper held at St. Aidan's was followed by an auction of goods and services. The items on offer were excellent, ranging from tickets for a Sale Rugby Union match to help with a tip run! Thanks to some generous bidding, £1000 was raised and shared between the two churches.

Our final event was the Christmas Fair. Again, this was a great success and the final amount raised exceeded previous years, all stalls contributing significantly! This event does not happen without a lot of hard work by a very small team to whom credit must be given.

*Sandra Houghton*

*Chair of sub-committee*

## **DEANERY SYNOD**

There were 3 Leyland Deanery meetings this year plus an extra meeting called by Bishop Philip. The February meeting was held at Leyland St James Church with the guest speaker being Rev Adam Thomas who was Director of Whalley Abbey at that time. He gave an inspiring and detailed talk about the changes that he and his team have implemented to turn around the finances to a £40,000 surplus for the first time in over 100 years. This has been done through prayer 4 times per day by the five-member prayer team.

The second meeting was held in June at St Andrew's Church, Longton. Rev Andy Meeson, vicar of St John's Leyland introduced himself as the new Area Dean following the retirement of Rev Marc Wolverson. He thinks that Deanery Synod is a good channel for pioneering ideas, support and resourcing for parish mission and ministry and is optimistic and

enthusiastic about what lies ahead. The Senior Church Buildings Officer, Jen Read, was the guest speaker. She spoke about the National Churches Trust 'Cherish' project this year which is focused on engaging missionally and spiritually with visitors and tourists by opening churches. - places of sanctuary, prayer, history, culture and shelter.

Bishop Philip arranged to meet all the deaneries in the Diocese to explain his vision for the Diocese and this was arranged for us on 25th September. He explained about the work going on with a big funding application to further the challenges of Vision 2026 to change lives and encourage growth in the Diocese with the ongoing parish renewal programme headed by Steve Haskett and his team.

The final meeting was held on 18th October at St Leonard's, Penwortham with the guest speaker being Ven David Picken, Archdeacon of Lancaster. His talk was about inspiring children and young people. When he came 4 years ago, he added work with children to Vision 2026 and stressed the importance of having Christian head teachers in our diocese. We have 2 in our parish already! He promoted the idea of starting a toddler group. Rev Bryn has already done that with Trinity Tots at Hoghton which is thriving. One tip was to engage with schools – Rev Hannah already does that by teaching classes, having year groups in church and being part of the governing body of Higher Walton School etc. Another tip was to talk to teenagers – just say hello!! The diocese provides some really good resource material including podlets.

*Margaret Arton  
Deanery Rep*

## **FABRIC**

2023 saw the completion of the fixed Access Ramp project, which also included the re-surfacing of the main footpaths. This project has greatly improved safe access to the Church and was completed within the budget constraints. This important project took up a great amount of time and budget for the year. However, despite this, several other tasks were completed including roof repairs and refurbishment of the Gas Meter enclosure, addressing damp issues in the Whittle Vestry and further refurbishment of the Whittle Vestry with the addition of new storage and chairs.

Routine maintenance and servicing activities were carried out, including clearing the church gutters, fire equipment checks, fixed wiring test, pest control activities, and the annual servicing of the heating system.

As a follow-up to the 2022 Quinquennial Survey further inspections/surveys were undertaken. Cracks in the Tower Walls were inspected. The finding was that they were likely to be stable, however, movement gauges have been installed to monitor any further movement. The Church was also visited by the Diocesan Arborist to risk assess the trees in the Churchyard. A plan for remedial and monitoring actions was put in place.

2024 will focus on continued work on the Quinquennial actions, resurfacing the central footpath in the New Churchyard, a hot water supply for the outside toilet and investigating a more sustainable heating system for the Church to support our "net Zero" ambitions.

*Brad Eccles  
Chair of sub-committee*

## **LADIES GROUP**

Our meetings continued to be held on the first Thursday of the month from 2pm to 4pm. In January instead of having a meal out at a restaurant, the ladies opted to have a celebration hot pot lunch at our normal meeting venue of Higher Walton Community Centre. The rest of the year had the usual meeting pattern of a meal out in July, and 10 other monthly meetings with either a speaker or activities plus we had a trial of a circular walk via Coupe Green in August. This proved to be enjoyable and successful with 10 members taking part and is to be next year's calendar now.

The group continues to support the Church social events by running a stall at both the summer and Christmas fairs.

The meeting attendance this year was around 25 each month from a membership of around 28 with some new members joining and others no longer able to come on occasions for various reasons.

The annual subscription per member remained at £15 for the year with a meeting charge of £2 as in previous years. Janet Bradley continued as Bookings Secretary for the speakers with Angela Moran as Treasurer. I am now a signatory together with Janet and Angela for the bank account which requires any 2 signatories on cheques.

*Margaret Arton*

## **STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT**

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. At All Saints the membership of the PCC consisted of our vicar, churchwardens and members elected by those members of the congregation who are on the Electoral Roll of the church.

All those who attend our services / members of the congregation are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC.

PCC members are responsible for making decisions on all matters of general concern and importance to the Parish including deciding how the funds of the PCC are to be spent.

New members have the opportunity to receive initial training as to the workings of the PCC. Attendance by members at PCC meetings was 80%

Given its wide responsibilities the PCC has a number of groups for dealing with a particular aspect of parish life. These include finance, fundraising and buildings, all are responsible to the PCC and report back to it regularly.

### **Administrative information**

All Saints' Church is situated on Blackburn Road, Higher Walton, Preston. It is part of the Leyland Deanery within the Diocese of Blackburn of the Church of England. The PCC is a body corporate (PCC Powers Measure 1956, Church Representation Rules 2011) and a registered charity with the Charity Commission.

Numbers Sheet Name	Numbers Table Name	Excel Worksheet Name
Sheet2	Table 1	<a href="#">Sheet2</a>
Sheet1	Table 1	<a href="#">Sheet1</a>
Sheet2	Table 1	<a href="#">Sheet2</a>



## **Receipts and Payment Account**

Whilst every effort has been made to ensure the calculations are correct you should perform your own checks on the arithmetic. The numbering for notes has been left as for the example. You will need to adapt this to suit your PCC. Knowledge of Excel is required to adapt the notes page for your PCC - these could be typed separately. Click on Sheet 1 below to access the accounts.

# Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Report to the trustees/  
members of

ALL SAINTS' CHURCH, HIGHER WALTON, PRESTON

On accounts for the year  
ended

31ST DECEMBER, 2023

Charity no (if any)

1153190

Set out on pages

1 & 2

(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

**Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner** The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year (under section 43(2) of the Charities Act 1993 (the Act)) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to

- examine the accounts (under section 43 of the Act),
- to follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 43(7)(b) of the Act), and
- to 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 Commissioners. 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 matter has come to my attention ~~(other than that disclosed below\*)~~

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect, the trustees have not met the requirements to ensure that:
  - proper accounting records are kept (in accordance with section 41 of the Act); and
  - accounts are prepared which agree with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Act; or
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

\* Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.

Signed:

S. Niven

Date:

12TH, FEBRUARY, 2024

Name:

STEPHEN NIVEN C.P.F.A.

**Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any):**

CHARTERED PUBLIC FINANCIAL ACCOUNTANT C.P.F.A.

Address:

126, HOGHTON LANE

HIGHER WALTON

PRESTON

PR5 4EH.