

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF HOLCOMBE AND HAWKSHAW

England & Wales - Charity number 1176184

Details

Other names	HOLCOMBE AND HAWKSWAW PCC, THE PARISH OF HOLCOMBE AND HAWKSHAW
Status	Registered
Legal form	Other
Registered	2017-12-08
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	St. Marys Vicarage Bolton Road Hawkshaw Bury BL8 4JN
Phone	01204888060
Email	info@holcombehawkshaw.org
Website	http://www.holcombehawkshaw.org/

Activities

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

Activities: We are a large parish firmly rooted in the Church of England. We have 3 worship centres based in Ramsbottom, Bury, Greater manchester.

Classification

- **How:** Makes Grants To Individuals, Makes Grants To Organisations, Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Provides Services
- **What:** Religious Activities
- **Who:** Children/young People, Elderly/old People, People With Disabilities, Other Charities Or Voluntary Bodies, The General Public/mankind

Geography

- Bolton
- Bury

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£150,728	£162,662	-	-
2023-12-31	£170,227	£197,965	-	-
2022-12-31	£136,787	£116,692	-	-
2021-12-31	£132,440	£106,444	-	-
2020-12-31	£114,898	£107,017	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Rev Paul Henry Sumsion	Chair	2017-04-24
Claire Elizabeth Carsley		2023-05-02
Dr Richard John Byrom		2025-05-12
Edward John Slattery		2025-05-12
Elizabeth Anne Webber		2021-05-24
JEAN ANNE HOUGHTON		2019-04-29
JUDITH HORROCKS		2025-05-12
Jane Lizette Fletcher		2023-05-02
Julie Ruth Smale		2023-05-02
Keith Bernard Jones		2023-05-02
MISS JO VENN		2017-04-24
Penelope Hanley		2021-05-24
Peter James Hardcastle		2023-05-02
REV VIC FLETCHER		2019-04-29
Rev Matthew Jon Brinicombe		2023-05-02
Rev ROBERT AIREY		2019-04-29
Rosmary Owen Artley		2021-05-24
STEPHEN NEWHOUSE		2019-04-29
Sheila Margaret Partridge		2023-05-02

Accounts

Annual Report

Yearbook 2024



**What's been happening
in the Parish?**



**Parish of
Holcombe &
Hawkshaw**

Loving God, loving neighbours; sharing Jesus with you.

This year the Yearbook and the Annual Report,
will be formally presented at the

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Emmanuel Church Centre,
Longsight Road,
Holcombe Brook,
Bury
BL8 4DB
7.30pm for 8.00pm.

28th April 2025

Vision Statement

“In our Parish:

- We will welcome others and serve the community through our love and care.
- We want to provide inspirational worship in various styles to meets the needs of all.
- Our teaching, based on the authority of the Bible, aims to connect faith to daily life, sustaining, encouraging and challenging everyone.
- We aim to have welcoming and warm buildings that enable us to worship, glorify God and aid mission.
- We seek to reach out through God’s love of all people, sharing the joy and wonder of the faith we have in our daily life with Jesus and growing his worldwide church in faith, hope and love.

The Parochial Church Council
Updated: 1st February, 2014

This booklet gives information about the activities of the various Parish Organisations and the Parish Annual Report.

Once again it is the product of teamwork by many people. Sincere thanks go to contributors who responded so promptly and made this Report possible.

We hope you will find the contents both interesting and informative.

Any errors are the responsibility of contributors/editor.



**Parish of
Holcombe &
Hawkshaw**

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Annual Report & Financial Statement 2024

The Parish of Holcombe and Hawkshaw

Emmanuel Church, Holcombe.

and

Emmanuel Church Centre,
Longsight Road, Holcombe Brook.

and

St. Mary, Hawkshaw.

In the Deanery of Bury and Rossendale,
Mission Community 3: Ramsbottom and Tottington,
The Diocese of Manchester.

**Annual Report
and
Financial Statements
of the
Parochial Church Council**
For the year ended 31st December, 2024.

Rector & Mission Community Leader:

The Rev'd. Paul H. Sumsion,
The Vicarage,
Bolton Road,
Hawkshaw,
Bury.
BL8 4JN.

Bank: Royal Bank of Scotland

Insurers: Ecclesiastical Insurance.

Honorary Treasurer: David Lomax.

Gift Aid Secretary: Pam Jones.

Independent Examiner: Stuart Moulton.

Annual Report for 2024

Statement:

The PCC of the Parish of Holcombe and Hawkshaw has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent, the Rev'd. Paul Sumsion, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelical, social and ecumenical. It also has maintenance responsibility for S^t Mary, Hawkshaw, Emmanuel Church, Holcombe and Emmanuel Church Centre and Canon Lewis Hall, Longsight Road, Holcombe Brook.

Membership of the PCC:

Members of the PCC are either ex officio or elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting in accordance with the Church Representation Rules.

During the year the following served as members of the PCC:

Incumbent: The Rev'd. Paul Sumsion, *Chairman & Rector.*

Associate Ministers: The Rev'd. Vic. Fletcher.

Curate: Rev'd. Matthew Brinicombe,
(from 6th March 2023).

Ex Officio Members:

Wardens: Mr. Peter Hardcastle, *from May 2021,*

Mr. Stephen Newhouse, *from May 2019, (Lay Vice-Chairman of PCC).*

Representatives on the Deanery Synod: *until 2026*

From Emmanuel and Emmanuel Church Centre:

Jo Venn *from May 2023* and Stephen Newhouse.

From S^t Mary's, Hawkshaw: Keith Jones and Jean Houghton.

Elected Members:

Fourteen members are elected at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting.

Those elected at the APCM. in April 2024, were:

Jane Fletcher (to May 2024), Penny Hanley, Judith Horrocks, David Lomax, Edward Slattery, Jo. Sumsion, Liz. Webber *and* Stuart Wilkinson,

Rev. Robert Airey, Rosemary Artley, Claire Carsley, Cath Lansdale (to May 2024), Sheila Partridge, Julie Smale and Steven Richardson.

Readers and Deputy Wardens are not ex officio members of the PCC, but are able to stand for election at the APCM.

Readers:

Mr. Michael Burton,
Mr. Richard Byrom,
Mrs. Ethel Houghton,
Mrs. Jane Fletcher,
Mrs. Jo Sumsion, *(also elected to the PCC and has been Children and Families Ministry Facilitator from September 2021).*

Deputy Church Wardens

Emmanuel Church Holcombe:

Susan Nuttall with *one vacancy*.

Emmanuel Church Centre:

Julie Smale and Jo. Venn.

St. Mary's Hawkshaw:

Eddie Slattery and Ray Houghton.

Structure:

(1) Standing Committee/Leadership Teams:

We are required by law, not only to have a Parochial Church Council, duly elected to represent our parishioners, but also a Standing Committee, which can attend to urgent parish business between PCC meetings, if necessary.

In between PCC meetings the Parish Leadership Team, (of which the Standing Committee is part), Emmanuel, Holcombe Leadership Team, Emmanuel Church Centre Leadership Team and St. Mary, Hawkshaw Leadership Team meet regularly. Each Leadership Team organises working groups within their own church.

Standing Committee: *Rev. P. Sumsion, Wardens: Peter Hardcastle & Stephen Newhouse, Treasurer: David Lomax and PCC Secretary: Penny Hanley.*

The Parish Leadership Team:

Rev. P. Sumsion, Rev. R. Airey, Barbara Atkin, Peter Hardcastle, Michael Burton, Rev. Vic. Fletcher, Ethel Houghton, David Lomax, Stephen Newhouse, Jo Venn, Rev. Matthew Brinicombe, Penny Hanley (PCC Secretary) and Jo Sumsion, (as Children and Families Ministry Facilitator).

Emmanuel Holcombe Team Report 2024

The Emmanuel, Holcombe Team met five times during the year. We continue to have Health and Safety and the Quinquennial Inspection as agenda items at each of our meetings.

Building

- Leaks to the clock tower and intermittent leaks in other area continue to be a concern. Several leaks to the roof were mended and quotes obtained for work to the tower. Grants may be available for this work.
- We continue to consider CCTV/streaming services (with resulting improvements to security) Plans are in hand to install WiFi using the School network so services can be streamed and a card reader used for donations.

Funding Work

- We continue to look at ways of improving the building, several items for the Faculty from 2023, are still outstanding as Funds do not allow progress. Grants may be available.
- Repair work has been identified which will again require substantial fund: Pointing to some outside walls and chimney, repairs to clock tower floor, bird proofing tower, replacement of damaged toilet door.
- Stephen and Barbara held three Quizzes at ECC, which were very well supported, (with thanks to those who

helped with running the evenings and provided food). Around £1800 has been raised from the Quizzes.

The Way forward

- **Breakfast Before Church** (four this year) with Bacon butties, etc. (with thanks to Matthew). Thanks to regular congregation and especially the choir for supporting these services. We will continue to try to make our worship appropriate to a range of parishioners.
- **A School Celebration Service** (Previously Sermons Sunday), was held in February with 102 adults and 72 children attending. In September we held a New Headteacher Celebration Service when Amy Longstaff was commissioned, with representatives from the Community, Diocese, Parish and School contributing.
- **Parade Services** continue to be poorly attended.
- **Sidespeople Meeting in June:** Sidespeople again met in June. We discussed how we do things and made several suggestions for improving our welcome. We also looked at paperwork and how that should be completed. We decided that it would be good to repeat yearly and enjoyed a social time together.
- **Focal Leader:** The PCC approved Stephen Newhouse as Focal Leader for Emmanuel, (an application was submitted early in 2025).

- **Mission community walk:**
28th September, Emmanuel was open from 11am until 1pm providing a rest place and refreshments which were greatly appreciated.
- **A Crib Service** was again well attended and great fun for children and adults attending. More helpers needed next year.
- **The Annual Ellen Strange Walk** took place in July (Saturday this year). We opened the church to the walkers, providing refreshments and a space for those who couldn't do the walk to wait, (during this time some crafts were done). A Ukulele band entertained after lunch. Thanks to volunteers who served refreshments and made everyone welcome.
- **Annual Cycle Hill Climb.** We once again host the annual hill climb in October, following the service, (which started at 10am) we provided refreshment and a quiet place for competitors and spectators.
- **Weekly Coffee Morning.** Jo Sumsion, with the help of Margaret Cockcroft, continues the Weekly Coffee mornings for parents and carers of our School children on Wednesday at 9am, which continues to attract around 8 or 9 adults and a couple of toddlers each week.
- **Eco Church.** We have continued to work to make progress with our Eco Church status, Pat Lainton is our "Eco Champion" In September we were

awarded our Bronze certificate. We now must plan to jointly with our two other centres to make progress towards the Silver award.

- **Caretaker: Unfortunately,** Tony had to retire due to ill health, his work was covered by members of the congregation, but we are actively looking to employ someone in the New Year.
- **Several Working Parties** were held in the church and church yard tidying and doing minor repairs.
- **Opening Church**
We experimented with opening the building following Sunday services, but people coming into church were low. Perhaps look at this again next year.

Comment

As always, we are extremely grateful to the number of people who contribute to the upkeep and life of our church, by giving their time, money, advice and prayers. We continue to have monthly working parties which are supported by as dedicated team of about eight people from all over the parish. cleaning, tidying and clearing and mending

Membership:

Rev. Paul Sumsion, Rev. Robert Airey, Claire Baggoley, Michael Burton and Stephen Newhouse, Jo Sumsion and this year we welcomed: Pat Lainton, Cathryn Lansdale, Margaret Cockcroft, Rosemary Artley and Matthew Brinicombe to our team.

St. Mary, Hawkshaw Team Report 2024

The Hawkshaw team met six times during the year and addressed the following:

New eco heating project: Throughout the year the heating sub-committee met, taking professional advice, with the aim of coming up with the optimum solution for updating our ageing and unreliable heating system. The centre team was regularly kept informed of progress. The complete replacement of our heating system will be broken down into different phases, each requiring a monumental fundraising effort. Cake stalls were held on a regular basis, specifically for the purpose of raising awareness of the project and enabling people to play a small part where they could.

Welcome: An overhaul of the entrance area to make it less cluttered and more welcoming resulted in the display table being reorganised, unnecessary furniture removed, flowers placed in the porch and doors fully opened in good weather. Training took place for welcomers with lanyards to be worn by those on duty. A wheelchair was purchased in case of need and new fluffy blankets provided.

Building improvements: The flooring in both toilets, the kitchen and rear vestibule was replaced. Some of the lights were replaced with LEDs. A new television screen was installed to the south side of the chancel giving a much sharper, clearer picture than that

produced using the projector. The communion rails and kneelers were removed as people receiving communion now do so standing up. A decision was also made not to replace the broken water heater in the kitchen for safety reasons.

Building repairs: Several slates came loose on the church roof and work was carried out clearing gutters and putting the roof back in good order.

Communication: During the year a rolling PowerPoint presentation of notices was introduced to reduce, if not negate, the need for reading out a list of notices at the beginning of each service. This also included a prayer of thanks for the offering.

Churchyard: Railings between the church and the school were installed very efficiently. A handrail by the steps down onto the grass at the back of church was erected and the churchyard bench was refurbished. Unfortunately the council treated the grass around the graves with weed killer in early summer which left an unsightly mess through until late autumn, upsetting many – and rightly so. A problem was identified with low branches threatening to damage the west perimeter wall and a tree surgeon was contacted for advice. During the year plans were made to maximise the grave space and incorporate a memorial garden.

Health and Safety: A new fire plan was drawn up and published and all electrical items were PAT tested.

Community links: No gala took place in Hawkshaw in 2024. However the church hosted the village bonfire which was very well attended and safely stewarded by a team of volunteers.

School links and children's

activities: We ran our holiday club just after Easter and a "Go Wild" after-school 6-week course during the summer term. In the October half term break we held a fun day and a light party. School were keen to rekindle links with church and invited us to attend their Harvest service.

Eco Church: Hawkshaw Church managed to secure a Bronze award by the end of the year thanks to our Eco Champion Jennie Ringer who organised a final push with a team to plant bulbs and install bird boxes and feeders.

Penny Hanley

On behalf of the Hawkshaw Team

Membership

Peter Hardcastle, Paul Sumsion, Eddie Slattery, Jean Houghton, Ray Houghton, Ethel Houghton, Richard Byrom, Matthew Brinicombe, Eric Shortt, Jennie Ringer, Vic Fletcher, Jo Sumsion, Jane Fletcher, Stuart Wilkinson and Penny Hanley.

Emmanuel Church Centre Team Report 2024

We are so very lucky at the ECC to have such a wonderful loving group of people who not only worship God together, but enjoy each others company in and out of the church throughout the week.

Sadly, there are some who can no longer join us on a Sunday but aim to come to a Thursday communion, others remain part of our fellowship either through home communion or at Hewlett Court or other Residential homes from members of the Pastoral Team .

We have so many helpers who keep an eye on our maintenance, health and safety and cleaning at the centre as well as those who make cakes, take bookings, give out books, count money . We are often told that we are a welcoming community and although we have sadly lost valuable members over the year who have gone to be with Jesus we have also welcomed new friends who have got fully involved.

Thanks to all who lead our services from the other two worship centres and thank you to Sheila and Christine who faithfully lead our music.

Emmanuel Church Centre reflects its Christian presence, not just on a Sunday, but every day of the week and involves many many people coming through our doors.

Our Golden Jubilee Renovation Fund

has raised nearly £10,000 towards refurbishing the toilets and bringing the

building up to standard before 2026.

Thank you to all who have donated to this and to Gloria who has made gorgeous cards for sale to boost this fund.

Services: This year as well as having our regular services we have had our Taizé services, Quiet mornings as well as hosting World Day of Prayer and Mission Community and Churches Together in Ramsbottom services. We host Campfire Church in our garden and welcome many families who thoroughly enjoy these services.

Work on building: During the year we have continued to maintain the building and new UPVC Cladding replaced the old wooden structure. We were lucky to gain a lottery grant for this.

We also replaced the entrance doors with up to date fire doors and had a new outside kitchen door.

Social events: Throughout the year we have had many social and fund raising events including a Fashion Show, Car Boot sales, Last Night of the Proms, Drop in Lunches, Words and Music and lots of raffles. We have celebrated lots of BIG birthdays with the obligatory delicious cake from Annette and fizz.

Thank you to all who sign up to read or lead the Intercessions.

D-Caff have now been in our building for over 12 months and are going from strength to strength.

Garden: There are many times and services that include reflection and the Garden continues to bring peace and joy to so many and we are heartily grateful to Barbara, Steve, Christine and Phil for their constant attention and hard work to continue to keep it looking beautiful throughout the year.

Working Parties: We hold monthly working parties inside and out of the building and welcome newcomers to join our merry little group.

Thanks and Invitation: A big thank you to Gloria, Romey and Alan who have been faithful members of our team for many years and thank them for all they have done as they step down from our committee. If you would like to join us you would be more than welcome.

The team is:

Paul Sumsion Matthew Brincombe, Stephen Newhouse Julie Smale, Claire Carsley, Barbara Atkin, Geoff Clare, Gwen Barnes, Sheila Partridge, Ann Milius and Jo Venn.

PCC Review of the Year 2024

The PCC met six times throughout 2024 with an average of 14 members attending each meeting with the Parish Leadership Team (PLT) meeting in the intervening weeks. At all PCC meetings the financial position of the parish was discussed and reports were received from each of our three worship centres.

The following matters were addressed:

Parish Finances: During 2024 the PCC was able to approve the payment of our Parish Share in full which will enable the parish to apply for grants as the need arises. The PCC agreed that 10% of disposable funds should go to mission. The money raised by the Sumsion family to fund their work with Tearfund, subsequently cancelled due to Covid, was also discussed. The family decided that £500 of that should go to mission and the rest for bursaries for young people. A stewardship campaign entitled "Giving in Grace" was launched in May and June with the intention of encouraging greater participation in the work of the parish and an increase in free will offering.

Mission: This included: continued support for the provision of Warm Spaces during the winter months; the hosting of a team from Capernwray Bible College to do outreach within the parish; a "Go Wild" after-school 6-week course during the summer term; introduction of Intergenerational Praying Friends whereby mature Christians within the church would

support a child or young person in prayer and vice versa; preparations for #doyouknowHim?2 with Churches Together in Ramsbottom.

Our Church Primary Schools: The year opened with the PCC approving the move towards St Mary's CE Primary School in Hawkshaw becoming part of Sycamore Multi Academy Trust. The PCC was pleased to learn that Amy Longstaff was appointed Head Teacher at Holcombe Emmanuel CE Primary School. Foundation governors at both schools were reappointed by the PCC as their terms of office came up for renewal.

Buildings: During the autumn the wall on the north side of Canon Lewis Hall started to bow out and investigations ensued in an attempt to find the cause. The wall was boarded up inside the hall to allow these to proceed, and for the hall to continue to be functional.

Mission Action Plan: The focus of this was to explore new ways to grow the church by encouraging younger members and families. It also required that we look at the welcome we provide in our buildings, our use of social media and general communication. A Stepping Stones for Growth course was organised in the late spring.

Mission Community: The selection and appointment of Focal Leaders was discussed and Holcombe Church nominated Stephen Newhouse as their Focal Leader, endorsed by the PCC. A Mission Community walk was organised in September, the route

taking in all eight churches and finishing with a barbecue at ECC.

each centre should take responsibility for the first aid kit.

Authorised Lay Ministry: Judith Horrocks undertook the necessary training and was authorised as a Lay Minister during the year with Barbara Atkin being re-authorised.

Rev Robert Airey: We celebrated 25 years since Robert was ordained at the end of June. His status as OLM in the parish changed when he turned 70 and he now continues to officiate with the permission of the Bishop, being licensed to the Diocese and specifically to the Mission Community.

Eco Church: Jennie Ringer took on the role of Eco Champion for Hawkshaw Church, joining Claire Carsley for ECC and Pat Lainton for Holcombe Church. All three centres achieved the bronze award. The PCC looked into the viability of installing an electric vehicle charging point in the car park at ECC. Matthew Brinicombe took on the job of researching various options. This process is still ongoing.



*Penny Hanley
PCC Secretary*

Safeguarding: Liz Webber served as Safeguarding Officer throughout 2024 during which time she kept the PCC updated on new directives including a requirement for all members to undertake training on domestic abuse. Digital reporting forms were also introduced.

Health and Safety: During November a first aid course was arranged which was attended by a good number from the church and wider community with a list of qualified First Aiders now available at each worship centre. It was agreed that a nominated person at

Safeguarding Report 2024

Policies and Practice

The clergy and PCC of the Parish of Holcombe and Hawkshaw continue to meet the requirements issued by the House of Bishops on matters relating to the safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults. Safeguarding remains a standing item on every PCC agenda.

Safeguarding policies are reviewed and approved annually by the PCC. They are fully aligned with the House of Bishops' Safeguarding Policy and Practice Guidance, meeting statutory requirements while remaining relevant to our local context.

In November 2023, the PCC adopted a Junior Leaders Policy to ensure that our young leaders are appropriately safeguarded. Junior leaders, who can be aged 16 up until their 18th birthday, are still considered children from a safeguarding perspective. However, we also recognise the importance of equipping them with an understanding of safeguarding relevant to their role. I am pleased to report that since last year's AGM, all our current Junior Leaders have now completed the required safeguarding training. The Junior Leaders Policy will continue to be reviewed annually by the PCC.

Safer Recruitment

All volunteers requiring DBS clearance have obtained one within the last three years, in accordance with diocesan requirements. Thank you to everyone who has willingly engaged with this process, it is much appreciated and reinforces our commitment to making our church community as safe as possible. This also highlights our recognition that the safety

and wellbeing of all children and vulnerable adults in our parish remain of utmost importance.

Training

The Church of England continues its commitment to creating a church that is safer for everyone. As such, safeguarding training is mandatory for all individuals who work with children, young people, and/or vulnerable adults in any role within the church including all PCC members as they directly oversee this work. This training must be renewed every three years although it must be noted that there has been some delay in updating some Leadership Training due to lack of availability at these courses.

Anyone who is required to complete safeguarding training but has not yet done so is removed from rotas until they are able to fulfil this essential requirement. I am pleased to report that the overwhelming majority complete their training promptly and enthusiastically. Thank you all for your cooperation, it demonstrates our shared commitment to safeguarding in our parish.

Safeguarding Concerns and Incidents

Since the last APCM, four safeguarding concerns have been raised. Each concern was reported to the Manchester Diocese Safeguarding Team within the required time frame and logged appropriately on their system. All necessary actions were taken.

I would like to extend my gratitude to everyone for your collective effort in making our churches as safe as possible. Your commitment to safeguarding is vital and deeply appreciated.

Liz Webber
14.03.25

Safeguarding Policy

The following policy was agreed at the Parochial Church Council (PCC) meeting held on **17th March 2025**.

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 PC 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 **Mrs. Liz Webber** as the Parish Safeguarding Officer

Incumbent: **Reverend Paul Sumsion**.

Churchwardens: **Mr. Peter Hardcastle & Mr. Stephen Newhouse**.

Date: **17th March 2025**

Fabric Report 2024

We can report that the buildings, fittings and items belonging to the Parish are generally in good repair, although certain areas have been identified which will require attention soon, with resulting expenditure. All portable electrical equipment has been PAT tested.

Emmanuel Church, Holcombe

We continue to investigate ways of improving the building. Several leaks were identified and some repairs made, and gutters cleared. Quotes were obtained for other work bird proofing the tower and repairing higher level floor and improving drainage.

Damage to toilet door needs attention and the need to point several areas of outside wall has been identified.

Several Working Parties were held in the church and church yard tidying and doing minor repairs.

There are still outstanding sections of the last Faculty which require completing.

Emmanuel Church Centre

Our Golden Jubilee Renovation Fund has raised nearly £10,000 towards refurbishing the toilets and bringing the building up to standard before 2026. Thank you to all who have donated to this and to Gloria who has made gorgeous cards for sale to boost this fund.

During the year we have continued to maintain the building and new uPVC Cladding replaced the old wooden structure. We were lucky to gain a lottery grant for this.

We also replaced the entrance door and outside kitchen door with up to date exit doors.

In late 2024 we discovered that the

outside wall (north side, to petrol station), was slipping on the damp proof course. A temporary supporting partition was built, whilst investigations took place. We took advice from our architect and employed a Structural Engineer. It was hoped that the fault may be covered by our insurance. Subsequently the insurers advised the work would not be covered. We are looking at solutions and possible available grants.

St Mary's, Hawkshaw

Church is used every day except school holidays, so apart from general wear and tear and some cosmetic touches it is in reasonable order.

Two 3-phase power sockets have been installed as an emergency measure in case of a heating system failure.

An annual contract has been taken out for the high level maintenance of all gutters and down pipes, to ensure they are free from debris and flowing correctly, and to repair/replace any slipped/defective slates. (12 slipped or missing slates were repaired during the August visit). An essential repair was carried out in August on the south-east elevation of the vestry to mitigate water ingress. The north entrance roof (bell tower) covering is nearing the end of its life after numerous patch-ups. A re-roof of this area will be needed in the near future.

The boundary wall on the west side by the brook is being damaged by overhanging heavy limbs of a tree. This will need attention. One of the entrance gate posts is in a poor condition and will need a partial rebuild. There are two badly bowed leaded lights to the north elevation, these will need removing and re-leading in the near future.

Unfortunately over summer the council sprayed around the gravestones and other areas instead of strimming, leaving it rather unsightly. We are grateful to Eric for his work in maintaining the rest of the grounds.

With regards to our two projects, heating and kitchen/toilet: a faculty has already been approved for the kitchen/toilet; the faculty for the new heating system is being prepared.

General Comments

We thank everyone who works quietly behind the scenes cleaning, washing the linen, cleaning the brass and silver, flower arranging or sound, PA and streaming technicians, Deputy Wardens, lesson readers, those who prepare prayers each week, etc. and last, but not least, the sidemen and women who play such an important role in welcoming people to our services.

The practical help and financial assistance of many people from across the parish continues to play a major part in the care of the buildings, and our grateful thanks go to everyone who has contributed in any way.

*Peter Hardcastle,
Stephen Newhouse.
Churchwardens March 2025*

Deanery Synod 2024

the Deanery of Bury and Rossendale

The meetings of Synod give representatives valuable opportunities to meet and discuss matters with members of other parishes across the deanery. Each parish is entitled to representation according to their size. Our Electoral Roll entitled us to four members, who serve a three year term of office.

The Deanery Synod met four times this year.

In February we met via Zoom

Ima Lomax opened the meeting with prayers and a hymn.

Eco Church

Kath Pollard had recently visited St John the Baptist, Bircle, to talk about eco matters.

The Eco tips fact sheet was to be sent out again to help everyone to continue to recycle and renew. Kath reminded everyone about the monthly Eco Champions meeting; all are welcome to attend.

Revitalisation Fund

Ima Lomax, our Deanery Transformation Officer, spoke about the Revitalisation Fund and its availability to all churches. A grant of up to £3000, can be given to fund schemes/events.

Communication

Gemma Gardiner our Diocese Communications Team Manager, stressed how good communication in all its forms is vital for reaching those who are not yet part of our congregations. We needed to think about where our audience comes from and where people find us and engage with the church today. The most accessible platform is ACNY, (A Church Near You).

Social media is vital for growth in our churches

Gemma stressed the need to share news and photos to get our stories out there.

She encouraged us all to sign up to the Diocese, weekly E-news.

In May we met at St George's Church, Unsworth

Ima Lomax sang to the congregation and Rev'd Steph Mahwinney led the prayers.

Eco Church

Kath reported that the following churches had received Eco Awards:

Silver Award - St Peter's, Bury

Bronze Award – St John the Baptist, Bircle; St Mary the Virgin, Bury; St Andrew's, Hillock and Emmanuel Church Centre.

Kath stressed the continued importance of pushing Eco matters in our churches, especially considering the many natural disasters around the world.

Group Discussion

Donna Williams, (Area Dean) introduced the session with reference to the recent clergy course on 'Growing Younger.' She encouraged us to look at the 'PRAY' booklet –

P-practising

R- resourcing

A-adapt

Y- you

The Mission Communities then broke into discussion groups who reported back with progress made so far.

In September we met at St Paul's, Kersal Moor

Donna Williams introduced Amelia Brummitt (Assistant Deanery Enabler.) Amelia had just been appointed and was setting up a Deanery Hub for youth workers.

Dan Mullaney led our opening worship.

Eco Church

Kath Pollard gave us an update.

St Mary's Radcliffe had attained a Bronze award.

She remarked that some churches were observing 'Creationtide'.

Keith Watkinson and Kath were going to run a 'Eco Stepping Stones' event at St Mary's, Radcliffe. Other courses by Kath and Donna Williams may in the New Year.

In November we met at St. Mary's Church, Rawtenstall

Our opening worship was led by Rod Bevan.

Eco Matters

Kath Pollard gave us an update. An Eco stepping stones event will take place in June at St John's House. She reminded us that all churches need an Eco Champion and needed to be in place as soon as possible. We were all encouraged to push towards Silver awards.

Emmanuel, Holcombe and St. Anne's, Tottington had gained Bronze awards and Christ Church, Ainsworth have reached Silver.

Growing

Donna Williams shared targets for 2030 and compared them with where we are now (data from her recent questionnaire).

	2024	2030
Focal Leaders	12	41
Mission communities with map	5	5
New church plants	2	3
Pre school-congregations	3	10
Fresh expression congregations	3	8
Revitalisation of small churches	1	3
No of Churches closed	2	4
No of enquirers courses	3	7
No of life events (Marriage and funerals only)	399	550

There will be money from Church Commissioners to achieve these goals.

Several events were being planned to help with this growth. A Clergy Vision Day with Archdeacon Rachel and the Lay Leaders Conference on March.2025.

Donna referred to her Questionnaire on Growing, Nurturing & Serving.

She stressed the ongoing need for growth and was pleased with the growing number of groups for children and young people and their link to worship. The deanery Hubs will help with this. Growth in church attendance is also important. We need to increase by 6 people a year in each worship centre! There are positive signs of growth and we needed to pray this continues.

The session concluded with Breakout Groups in Mission Communities.

Q – ‘Where are there signs of growth in our churches’

*Keith Jones, Jean Houghton,
Stephen Newhouse and Jo Venn .*

Mission Giving Committee

Every year we as a parish aim to give 10% of our offerings to charity as our Mission Giving. This is as well as supporting charities individually such as Transforming Lives for Good and Compassion and parish giving to the Children’s Society through the boxes, Bury Hospice in lieu of sending Christmas cards and our weekly donations to the Porch Project.

At present we give to local ,national and international charities to express our Mission at Home and our Mission Abroad. These have included South American Missionary Society, Church Missionary Society, Philippine Outreach Centre, Wycliffe Bible College, as well as supporting the Schwartz family, Christian Aid, Scripture Union and the Church Army.

*Vic Fletcher
Mike Burton
Ethel Houghton
Jo Venn*

Parish Pastoral Care Team 2024

As we try to do each year, the Pastoral Team have met on three occasions since the last APCM. Our main focus is to see that the ongoing pastoral care of people within our parish is met in some way and we try to ensure, if possible, that nobody gets overlooked. Pastoral care is not however, just the sole responsibility of the pastoral team or clergy, but it is every Christian's responsibility, as we were called by Jesus to care particularly for people in need, of any kind, as well as for each other. So please, if you are visiting someone, or phoning someone, or are in contact in any other way with anyone in need of being shown the love of Jesus by our Parish, will you please let one of the pastoral team know, so that we can get a better picture about whether pastoral needs are being met in some way or not.

Thank you.

- Home communion can also be arranged if that is what someone requests and one of our ALMs would be responsible for seeing that this happens.
- The Pastoral Team is also responsible for seeing that the Mothering Sunday flower distribution happens, as well as that of the plants and cards that go out in the name of the Parish at Harvest time.
- We also arrange for the annual "*Remembering Loved Ones Service*", in November. The service is held in the garden at ECC so that bereaved people in the Parish are able to remember their loved ones.
- Holy Communion is celebrated in Hewlett Court once a month by members of the team.

Much of what we do often seems to centre around the older members of our Parish, as many of the needs of our younger parishioners are met through the work of Jo Sumsion, our Children and Families Ministry Facilitator and you will find a report of her work elsewhere in this report.

Trying to see that the Parish's data base of contact details is maintained and that the funeral list is up-dated regularly, as well as seeing that anyone, who is housebound and no longer able to worship with us in person, is remembered at particular times of the year. We try to achieve this by sending an appropriate card.

All these are part of what we do, along with trying to keep abreast of developments in the ways we might become better able to meet the pastoral needs of the people in the Parish's care.

From time-to-time, there are many other things that we pick up, to see that they are done and members of the team are involved in seeing that Warm Spaces happen in the wintertime, which is part of Drop-In at ECC and that the monthly Sizzlers group happens at St.Mary's. We have contact with various hospital chaplaincies and care homes, as well as links with some bereavement support charities.

If you want any further information about any of this or if you feel you could help with pastoral care within our Parish, please contact any one of the team:-

Jean Houghton and Jen Hardcastle, (St.Mary's); Susan Nuttall and Robert Airey (Holcombe); Romey Simpson and Barbara Atkin (ECC); Rev. Paul Sumsion and Rev. Matthew Brinicombe.

Children and Families Ministry Report

Campfire Church

Campfire Church is now an established new worshipping community with a core group of regular members.



We continued to learn about Jesus' miracles from January to July and since September we have based our sessions on the Lord's Prayer.

We have had a variety of visits from Deanery Enablers from other deaneries and folk involved in the Children Changing Places project in Bolton Deanery. These have been with the aim of finding out what we do in order to see how Campfire Church would work in other contexts.

Yorkshire Camps



In February we took KS3 children to Yorkshire camps; many had been when they were younger, so it was good to be able to extend to this older age group.

In March we made a return trip with our KS2 children. Both weekends were full of fun, activities, Bible teaching and games.

Capernwray

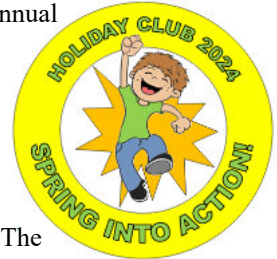
In March we hosted a team of five students from Capernwray Bible College.

They visited Drop In and Warm Spaces, led Prayer Spaces and collective worship in both schools, led a Sunday evening service, shared their stories in morning worship around the parish and joined in with Open the Book, Campfire Church and youth activities. Thank you to Jean and Alan, Jo and Rob, Vic and Jane for hosting and the many people who provided meals for them.



Holiday club

We held our annual holiday club during the school Easter holidays. The theme was the events following the resurrection: The Road to Emmaus, the Second Miraculous Catch of Fish, Ascension and Pentecost. The attendance levels were just as good as 2023 and close to a manageable limit for the number of volunteers.



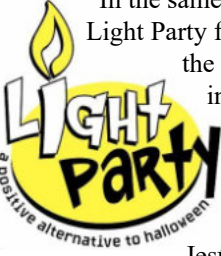
Fun Day

We held a fun day during the October half term. The morning ran a very similar schedule to a holiday club morning, but children brought a packed lunch and then chose two activities for the afternoon from craft, Lego, games, board games, blindfold trail and fire lighting. 35 children attended.

A message from one parent:

"I just wanted to send a message to thank you and everyone who made yesterday a fantastic time for the children! C.. had a really great time and he was telling me all about his day when he came home. He liked all the activities and being with his friends too. The fire lighting and marshmallows were a big hit!"

Light Party



In the same week, we hosted a Light Party for all children in the church family and invited all children in both schools. There were light themed games and craft, teaching on Jesus as the Light of the World, hot dogs and jelly for tea and some spectacular donut bobbing! A fun time was had by all!

Hawkshaw on Sundays

A highlight for all the church family was celebrating baptisms by full immersion with four of our children and young people as they declared their faith in Christ as their own.

We also prepared three children to be admitted to communion before confirmation.

Children and youth groups at Hawkshaw continue to meet twice a month in school (preschool – Year 5) and in the Cellar (Year 6 and up) during the morning service. Numbers are consistent, with 25 children on the registers.

We continue to promote intergenerational worship on the other two Sundays each month, providing a space where people of all ages benefit from worshipping together and all can be involved as part of the church family.

We have introduced a system of ‘Praying Friends’ where families with children and older folk can be linked up to pray for and offer support to each other across the generations. Those who have taken up this opportunity have benefitted from it.

Schools work

Collective worship

We continue to lead whole school collective worship in both of our church schools each week. We lead special services in the respective churches for both schools at Harvest, Christmas Easter and the end of the school year.

Open the Book

(See separate report)

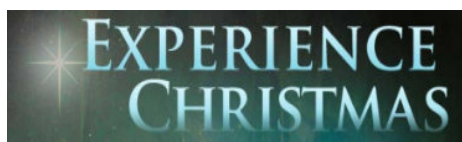
Celebration Sunday

Continues to be an important date in the diary for February in the annual cycle of events of Emmanuel School. The children of Emmanuel school are becoming well versed in introducing the service, leading the liturgy, prayers, Bible reading, drama and singing. It’s so good to see our church and school families joining together to celebrate in worship in this way.

Experience Easter and Christmas

Was all ready to run for Holcombe Brook Primary, when it had to be cancelled due to a last minute local authority inspection at the school.

Thank you to all the volunteers who had done so much to prepare for the event. Efforts were not wasted as some of the stations were used for the Quiet Morning and the Easter services at Emmanuel Church Centre.



Experience Christmas went ahead much more successfully, (on the days of their actual Ofsted inspection!)

We received letters of thanks from the children:

"I wanted to say a big thank you for the amazing experience at your church last week. It was such a special day to me and my friends."

"Thank you for being so welcoming to us all. Thank you for all of your time and effort."

"My favourite part I enjoyed was creating the presents for baby Jesus and learning that God gave Jesus as a gift to us."

Prayer Spaces



We have continued to run Prayer Spaces in both church schools during the year; firstly with the Capernwray team on the theme of Lent, then for Advent. Each session takes a year group of around 16 children in small groups around four activities enabling them to engage in prayer in a variety of ways.

Go Wild!



We ran the "Go Wild!" outdoor after school club based on Scripture Union material for six weeks in the summer term. 11 children from St Mary's (out of a maximum 12 we could cater for) took part. Activities including den building, orienteering, blindfold trails and fire lighting helped us to explore Jesus' teaching.

Transition work

Transition

In July we held sessions for the Year 6 pupils at St. Mary's and Emmanuel schools on their transition to secondary school. We did this using four Prayer Spaces activities.

We presented Year 6 leavers with a holding cross and a card at their leavers' services. The card contained the words of the Numbers 6 blessing which were prayed over the children at the end of the services.

Bibles

Once again, Bibles were presented to all Year 3 children at Emmanuel and St. Mary's, and those in higher years who had joined the schools since the previous presentations, at the school harvest services.



New headteacher commissioning service

We are delighted to welcome Mrs. Amy Longstaff to her post as substantive head teacher of Emmanuel school. Children, staff, governors, members of the community and representatives of the diocese were involved in her commissioning service at Emmanuel Holcombe on Sunday 29th September.

Coffee mornings

The weekly coffee mornings for parents and carers at St Mary's and Emmanuel have continued throughout the year. The numbers are small, but the support and friendship within these groups is appreciated by all those involved.



Thank you!

None of our ministry with children and families could take place without the vast number of volunteers involved. Thank you to all of you who 'do' and all who pray.

My prayer for all of us, and all those we minister to, is:

"that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God."

Ephesians 3:16-19

Report for the Bridge, Bentley and Ramsbottom Trust for 2024.

The work of the Trust has continued during the year with Trustees actively looking for ways to help those in need. Please read the promotional information below and if we can help anyone in need please let them know about the Trust.

The Expenditure for the year was £6,003.99.

Grants were awarded in the following ways:

(16) Welfare, and (2) Educational grants.

The Bridge, Bentley, Ramsbottom Trust was created as an amalgamation of the John T. Bridge and three other smaller charitable trusts in 2002.

Small grants available for all ages

Do you, or anyone you know, live within the following post codes: all BL0 or all BL8 or these parts of BL9: BL9 5, BL9 6, BL9 7 or BL9 0

Struggling to pay for a much needed item, e.g. Stair lift, walking frame, specially adapted prams, etc.?

We have helped families with school uniform costs.

We can help with the cost of training courses.

We can help with Further and Higher Educational one off grants for: books/equipment, field trips, travel costs, etc.

Can we make life a little easier? Let us know if you are in need.

The Bridge Bentley Ramsbottom Trust has small grants available to those living within post codes BL0, BL8 or the following parts of BL9: BL9 5, BL9 6, BL9 7 or BL9 0.

Financial Statements of the Parochial Church Council

For the year ended
31st December, 2024.

Holcombe and Hawkshaw Parochial Church Council

STATEMENT OF INCOME FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

	Holcombe and Hawkshaw 2024	
	£	£
Voluntary Income		
Planned Giving - Gift Aid	66,689.53	
Planned Giving - Un-gifted	2,568.78	
One off Gift Aid	2,900.34	
Cash/Collections	5,873.35	
Income tax recovered	18,803.60	
Fund Raising Events	3,201.70	
Magazine	480.60	
Use of Church Buildings	7,335.46	
		107,853.36
Other Ordinary Income		
Dividends and Interest	1,334.42	
Fees to PCC	10,099.10	
		11,433.52
Extraordinary Income		
Restricted Donations	10,018.29	
(i) Grants	20,988.64	
Special Appeals	434.00	
		31,440.93
Total Income 2024		150,727.81
Income 2023		170,226.91

Notes

- (i) £19,000.00 Grant received for ECC Cladding
1988.64 revitalisation funding grant

Holcombe and Hawkshaw Parochial Church Council
STATEMENT OF EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

	2024	
	£	£
The Ministry		
Ministry Expenses	9,445.82	
Support & Education	2,776.22	
		12,222.04
The Church and Services		
Energy	17,071.38	
Water	1,456.56	
Cleaning	380.00	
Insurance	8,203.05	
Upkeep of Services	8,268.57	
Church Maintenance	11,600.52	
Churchyard	6,914.03	
		53,894.11
Other Ordinary Expenditure		
Wages	13,611.47	
Magazine	-	
Fund Raising costs	480.00	
Verger/Organist	1,527.99	
		15,619.46
The Diocese		
Parish Share	43,000.00	
Other Diocese costs	5,002.00	
		48,002.00
Payments to Missions/Charities		
Mission/Charities	1,765.00	
		1,765.00
Extraordinary Expenditure		
Energy Savings Fund	-	
ECC Golden Jubilee Renovation Fund	23,277.60	
Holcombe Building Fund	507.11	
Hawkshaw Building Fund	350.00	
Hawkshaw Heating Fund	6,525.00	
Mission Funding	500.00	
		31,159.71
		162,662.32
Total Expenditure 2024		
Expenditure 2023		197,964.58

YEAR END STATEMENT 2024

Bank Balances 31 December 2024	Total
Current Account	-
Deposit Account	56,737.99
Direct Giving Accounts	2,874.97
Restricted Funds Account	844.46
Cash	-
	<hr/>
	60,457.42
Less Unpresented cheques	-
Year End Total	<hr/> 60,457.42 <hr/>

Restricted/Designated Funds

Energy Savings	5,000.00
ECC Golden Jubilee Renovation	6,327.74
Holcombe	7,420.13
Hawkshaw	656.00
Hawkshaw Heating	42,097.69
Mission and Christian Camp (ex Malawi)	1,431.64
	<hr/>
	62,933.20 <hr/>

Working Balance (i) 6,062.82

Notes (i)

2024 2nd half Gift Aid received in January.

Gift Aid required to pay Parish Share and Rector Expenses & Parish Expenditure

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AT 31 DECEMBER 2024

	Balance 31/12/2023	Balance 31/12/2024
<u>Investments</u>		
Santander Shares	313.11	456.12
CCLA Investment	4,127.76	4,221.01
CCLA - Restricted Holcombe Endowments	1,011.18	1,061.72
	5,452.05	5,738.85
<u>Bank Accounts</u>		
Current Acc	-	-
Deposit Acc	77,013.27	56,737.99
Direct Giving Acc	3,084.87	2,874.97
Restricted Acc	832.39	844.46
Cash Not banked	-	-
	80,930.53	60,457.42
<u>Adjustments</u>		
2024 Gift Aid return	-	11,416.35
Rector Parish Expenditure	-	- 872.05
Rector Expenses	-	- 2,005.70
	-	8,538.60
TOTALS	86,382.58	74,734.87

Notes

2024 2nd half Gift Aid received in January.

Gift Aid required to pay Parish Share and Rector Expenses & Parish Expenditure

Yearbook 2024



Drop in /Open the Book meal.

Saturday 12th May
10.00am to 2.00pm
Emmanuel Church
Canon Lewis Hall
Car Park
Longsight Road
Holcombe Brook
BL8 4DB

Saturday 11th May
10.00am to 2.00pm
Emmanuel Church Centre
Canon Lewis Hall
Car Park
Longsight Road,
Holcombe Brook
BL8 4DB




Car boot Sale



Car boot Sale

Cars: £10 Vans: £15
In advance please
No trade
Set up from 8.00am
Cheques made payable to "Parish of Holcombe and Hawkshaw P.C.C."
For more information email carboot@holcombeandhawkshaw.org
01763 517163
Consent granted by Bury Council

Cars: £10 Vans: £15
In advance please
No trade
Set up from 8.00am

Cheques made payable to "Parish of Holcombe and Hawkshaw P.C.C."
For more information email carboot@holcombeandhawkshaw.org
Consent granted by Bury Council



'Remembering Loved Ones'

Sunday 3 November

2 – 3pm in the garden at Emmanuel Church Centre or inside if it is wet.

An opportunity for anyone to remember their loved ones who have died whenever that has occurred.

There will be a short act of worship at 2pm and again at 3pm and an opportunity for the laying of flowers or stones at the foot of the cross in the garden if anyone wishes to do that as an act of remembrance. Come at any time from 2pm to 3pm and stay for as long as you want.

It is also hoped to have a short prayer walk with prayer stations to aid reflection around bereavement that will be set up in the Church Centre.

Remembrance Sunday is on Sunday 10th November, when there will be the usual acts of Remembrance at each Centre at or during morning worship.

The Children's Society



Thank you

Your House Box Network is bringing hope to young people. Your box collection has raised

£ 750

Cake Stall

St. Mary, Hawkshaw

After Service (about

12noon)

7th July

Towards New Heating

System.



QUIZ NIGHT

Saturday 24th February

7 for 7.30pm

Emmanuel Church Centre,
Canon Lewis Hall,
Longsight Road,
Holcombe Brook
BL8 4DB



Teams:
two to six (max).
£5 per person
includes supper
and tea/coffee (BYOB)

Tickets: at each worship centre or speak to Stephen Newhouse 01706 412657;

stephen.newhouse@sky.com

Proceeds to Emmanuel, Holcombe Building Fund

Saturday 16th November

7 for 7.30pm



£6 per person
includes supper, tea/coffee (BYOB)

Emmanuel Church Centre
Canon Lewis Hall,
Longsight Road,
Holcombe Brook,
BL8 4DB

Teams:
two to six
(max.)

Tickets at each worship centre or speak to Stephen Newhouse 01706 412657

stephen.newhouse@sky.com

Proceeds to Holcombe Building Fund

There is to be a
Mission Community Walk.

Calling at each of the churches in the Community
 Below are the times for the walk
on Saturday 28th September.



The walk covers approximately
 10 miles in total.

Come and walk it all or join in for a section.

We expect that walkers will be departing from each church at some point while it is open.

Sign up sheets at each Worship Centre or email Paul
paul@holcombehawkshaw.org

Maps will be available at each church.

	Walk commences at 10am	Open from for chat/rest/refreshments
1	Edenfield	9-11am
2	St Philip's Stubbins	10.15-11.15
3	St Paul's Ramsbottom	10am-12noon
4	St Andrew's Ramsbottom	11am-12.30pm
5	Emmanuel Holcombe	11.15-12pm
6	St Mary's Hawkshaw	12.15-2pm
7	St Anne's Tottington	1.30-3.30pm
8	Emmanuel Church Centre	3-7pm BBQ starts at 4pm

29th September
6.30pm Mission Community
Evening Worship
at Emmanuel Church Centre

FRAUD AWARENESS

Come along to our fraud awareness talk to know the latest scams and how to protect yourself and others.

WHAT WE WILL DISCUSS:

- Latest scams/frauds
- Online safety
- Keeping safe from scams
- Free materials
- Famous stories/cases
- How to report fraud

A joint meeting by Mothers' Union and Bury North Trefoil,

but open to all.

Tuesday 4th June at 2.00pm

£3 inc. Refreshments#
Emmanuel Church Centre
Longsight Road, BL8 4DB



ActionFraud
 100% Charitable Income - 0% VAT
actionfraud.police.uk

Words and Music for Christmas



Words and Music for Christmas



Half-term holiday events in Hawkshaw Church



FUN DAY ~ Tuesday 22 October: 9.30am till 3pm
 Bring a packed lunch

LIGHT PARTY ~ Thursday 24 October: 4pm till 6pm

Booking required – email: Jo@holcombehawkshaw.org

Monday
22nd April



Fashion Show
by Fizz

Parish of Holcombe & Hawkshaw

Ladies fashions for all ages and sizes.

Tickets: £5
(inc. glass of fizz)

Clothes bought on the night
(cash, cheque, debit/credit cards.)

Fizz fashion

Doors open
7.15pm for 7.45pm start.
Emmanuel Church Centre
Longsight Road
Holcombe Brook
BL8 4NB
Contact: Jo 07921517063
Sheila 01204 882459

Saturday *The Joy of Christmas*
7th December

Reception with mince pies
and mulled wine
7.00pm for 7.30pm

Parish of Holcombe & Hawkshaw

Words and Music
for Christmas

Entertainment for the
Christmas period.

A Parish Event
Everyone welcome

£5.00

Canon Lewis Hall
Emmanuel Church Centre
Tickets at each Worship Centre



Soup Company

Once again this year has brought in record numbers for our Soup Company on the second Thursday of every month especially just before Christmas for the Hall Users Christmas Carol Service that followed the December one.



Children from Emmanuel Holcombe School made everyone cards and decorations.

Sadly Romey hung up her apron, but we thank her for the many years of service. Everyone misses her delicious Chicken and Sweetcorn Soup, Meringues and Trifle.

The soups available, continue to be varied whether Pumpkin, Broccoli and Stilton or Pea and Ham, there are always at least eight to choose from and vegetarians, vegans and lactose intolerant are always catered for.

Many arrive from 12 noon to enjoy each others company and after Soup and Garlic Bread, go on to enjoy Annette's delicious puddings, such as: Tiramisu and gorgeous cakes. Christine also provides fruit pies each month.

Thank you, to all our helpers and guests. Donations are given to church funds and last year this raised over £600. We meet every month except August.

If you haven't yet experienced the soup lunch, come along as you would be made very welcome indeed.

Jo Venn



Another year of great fellowship, good company, conversation and of course tea, coffee, biscuits and often cake made by Annette.

We meet at Canon Lewis Hall on Monday mornings 1.00am - 12 noon.

We have a lunch twice a year, which we share with Open the Book team, who rehearse at the same time in the church, bible stories to present to the children at Holcombe Brook School each Wednesday.

Still carrying on from last year, 'Warm Spaces' following on from 'Drop - in', a simple soup lunch which is enjoyed by all with further company until mid afternoon.

I wish to thank Diane and Pauline for taking over from me while I was absent (on sick leave!).

We are open to anyone who would enjoy the company, why not come and try the friendship, any Monday morning between 10.00am and 12 noon.

Ann Millius



Hall Things Bright and Beautiful

We continue to maintain the Reflective Garden at the rear of the Hall, and it continues to be a very popular sanctuary for many people and a useful place for many different groups.

This year we would especially like to thank all the helpers who carried on with the work while Barbara was unable to assist due to a broken ankle. Everything was made ready for winter by planting bulbs and cutting back bushes – it looks great, thanks to everyone.



During the year, amongst other work, we added one more bench, re-laid one of the paths and tidied up the front four boxes. Our main job now is to keep the area colourful and welcoming for visitors.

The work is funded by the sale of jam, marmalade and cards, so please keep buying them so that we can ensure a lovely spot for the future.

*For the Hall Things Bright and Beautiful Team.
Barbara Newhouse*



Emmanuel Holcombe Choir

The autumn and early winter were marked for us by sad events with the deaths of Pauline Howker and Richard Carr. Both had sung with Holcombe Choir for many years, and Pauline was still attending choir practices only a couple of weeks before she died. We remember them with affection and miss them greatly.

Good Friday was very early in 2024 – before the start of British Summer Time. This may have been one of the reasons for the low attendance at our service on that day. It was a good service, and as usual we welcomed Naomi Jahoda who sang ‘He was despised’ from ‘The Messiah’. We hope that this year the lighter evening will encourage more people to be present. On Easter Day 2024 our anthem ‘God so loved the world’ was appreciated by members of the congregation.

After quite a lot of preparation, in June we sang ‘Thou wilt keep Him in perfect peace’ by Herbert Sumson, Paul’s grandfather. It was the first time Holcombe Choir had sung it since 2010. One or two extra singers joined us for this, including Paul himself. We were grateful to Geoff Stokes for supporting Robert singing tenor.

This year the ‘Come and Sing’ Choral Evensong took place in September to avoid any impact of holidays. Again, our anthem was one which required much revision: Bairstow’s ‘Save us, O Lord, waking.’ It would be good to sing it again before we forget it! As in June we persuaded extra singers to help with the tenor part. This was most beneficial.

In November we repeated the Remembrance anthem (David Ogden’s

‘We will remember them’) which we first sang in 2023, singing it as a hymn during the administration of communion and as an anthem at Choral Evensong.

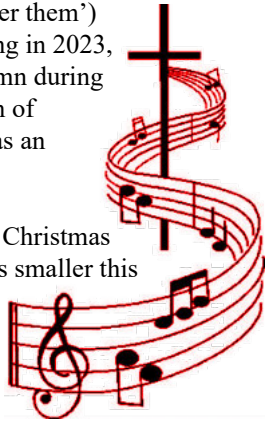
Our children’s Christmas singing group was smaller this year, but all were keen singers and did well. I could hear every voice when they sang at the Carol Service. As last year we had distributed flyers at the carol singing round the tree in Holcombe, and attendance was good.

We have been pleased that Marcia Hollis has been able to sing with us on several occasions and has attended many of our choir practices.

The 3pm timing of Choral Evensong in the winter is clearly helpful. That of severe winter weather and illness has been much less so, and we lost two choir practices soon after Christmas. We are hoping that the worst is now over for this winter!

As always I would like to thank John Fairclough, who plays for the Carol Service, Choral Evensong and the Good Friday service, and to Brian and Jill Hunt who have brought him to services and practices when it has been dark. Thanks are also due to several members who contribute in various ways to the smooth running of the choir.

Rosemary Artley
5.3.2025



St. Mary's Church of England Primary School

St Mary's CEP School, at the heart of the community!

St Mary's CEP School is so fortunate to be at the heart of a wonderful community. Hawkshaw is such a beautiful village. We have been working with Community Buds and the Village Forum to build even stronger relationships. To celebrate Harvest our families donated items for Kindness Packs which were then distributed by our children to nominated neighbours. Our choir loved performing at the Methodist Christmas Tree Festival and Sizzling Senior's Christmas Party. To support Ramsbottom Pantry we continually collect food and toiletries. In addition we had a cereal box domino rally. This provided 100 full boxes of cereal for the charity. We also supported Red Nose Day and Children in Need. Our children appreciate that they are very fortunate and love to help others in Bury and beyond. We have raised vital funds for the LEARN charity which supports Shree Gyanjyoti Community School in Nepal. We had a Sweet Treat Tombola and a Musical Evening allowing a large number of children to share their amazing talents whilst raising money and awareness for the charity.

The staff also enjoy supporting other schools. Mrs Falshaw is a SATs Writing Moderator for Bury LA. Mrs Clark is a SIAMS Inspector for the North West and a Diocesan Hub Leader. I continue to be a Head Teacher Mentor for recently appointed Head Teachers. We recently invited all the Sycamore Trust Senior Leaders to our Wider Curriculum

Showcase. All teachers shared with pride the impressive personal development opportunities provided for our children. In May we organised a very exciting Cross Country Championship for all the Sycamore Trust schools. We benefit from being situated next to a challenging Cross Country Course.



This year we have received a variety of awards including the SACRE Award for Widening Achievement in Religious Education. We were deemed to be the second best school in Bury based on a wide range of criteria including Ofsted reports, parental views and achievement by School Guide. We had the highest attendance of all primary schools in Bury. Children clearly love coming to our happy and loving school.

After 20 years of being the proud Head Teacher of St Mary's CEP School and a forty one years of being a teacher in Bury, it is now the right time to fully retire at Easter 2025. It has been a privilege to help nurture so many delightful children. I have been so fortunate to enjoy working with so many wonderful families feeling trusted and appreciated. The staff teams I have worked in have all been passionate about providing excellent care and quality teaching. It has been so wonderful to watch children grow and develop from their first day at St Mary's to leaving ready for High School. I have had a career bursting with happy memories. Thank you to everyone who has supported St Mary's over the last twenty years.

Mrs Skinner

Head Teacher

Emmanuel Holcombe Church of England Primary

Growing together in love and learning, through faith, family and friendship.

"Live a life filled with love, following the example of Christ."

The Emmanuel Holcombe school and church family is a flourishing community. In the year 2024-25, we have had much to celebrate!

Church Links

School truly thrives when the links

between our school family and our church family are strong. In February the pupils led our



'Celebration Sunday' service, which was enjoyed by all. We focused on one of our Christian values – forgiveness. In March, we welcomed the Capernwray Bible College students into school. Our new friends led worship and helped to run the 'Prayer Spaces' project in school. At the beginning of April, pupils enjoyed spending time in church for 'Experience Easter' and participated in our Easter Service.

Faith Ambassadors

Our Faith Ambassadors have an important role in school, leading



Monday Worship and helping lead on the Christian distinctiveness of our school. They have also participated in an Inter Faith Day in Bury, learning about World Faiths, and the importance of tolerance and understanding.

Supporting Charities

Our charitable work is very important to us at Emmanuel Holcombe and this year we asked our parents to not buy staff Christmas gifts but instead



donate to Ramsbottom Pantry. Our Year 5 and 6 pupils walked down with our donations and spent the afternoon, learning about how the pantry works. We also supported Children in Need and 'Wear it Pink for Breast Cancer – a charity very close to our hearts at Emmanuel.

Rich Curriculum

We have worked hard to ensure that our pupils



experience a rich and varied curriculum, which includes a wide range of trips, visitors, workshops and residential. Oak Class had a 2-day Anne Frank workshop in school, linked to their English unit; KS2 went to the Bridgewater Hall to watch the Raga Jyoti performance, based on Indian Music; Beech class participated in a bowling and a cricket tournament and an Egyptian workshop at Bolton Museum; pupils from Year 4 – Year 6 performed with Young Voices at the Coop Live Area.

days and weeks for our pupils. This year all children participated in Citizens of the World Theme Week and a Christmas Theme Week based on Dickens 'A Christmas Carol.' In February all pupils participated in a music theme week, culminating in a performance of 'Music Throughout the ages.'

*Sending our love and prayers to you all.
Amy Longstaff
Headteacher*



Theme Weeks

We love to organise a range of theme



Warm Spaces

'Share with the Lord's people who are in need'

Romans 12:13



Warm Spaces has met on Monday lunch times as a continuation of Drop-In since 28th October 2024, except for two weeks over the Christmas holiday period and when there has been a 'Drop-In' meal. We will continue to meet until 17th March and restart, with the approval of PCC, and sufficient support from volunteers, on 27th October 2025 after the clocks change, (BST ends).

Ten volunteers are on the rota, providing a simple soup lunch and some sweet treats.

We are regularly serving 17 – 22 portions of soup. Most participants are staying on after 'Drop – In,' but we have seen some new faces.

The session is always well appreciated and provides a warm and social gathering for those for whom the dark, cold, winter days may be challenging.

Thank you to all the volunteers and to all who have joined us for lunch this winter. A special thank you to Annette, who has volunteered every week and usually provides the delicious cake.

*Jean Houghton
February 2025*

Afternoon Fellowship 2024



The group still continues, although the members are fewer, but it has still been an enjoyable year.

• **January**
Jo talk and pictures on her

pilgrimage to Assisi.

- **February** - Claire talk and pictures on her holiday to Mexico
- **March** - Veterans Choir which was our fellowships birthday celebration
- **April** - Roberts Rambles
- **May** - The Kellingtons who showed us a film titled The Yorkshire Coast
- **June** - Robert again helped out with a talk about Scottish Gardens
- **July** - cancelled
- **August** - no meeting
- **September** - Musical afternoon given by our resident pianist, Sheila, music, songs and readings in dialect.

Then bad news; it was decided to close perhaps for six months due to my surgery.

As you all know, I am recovering well, so just watch out for our re-opening 28th April at 2pm. Our meetings are on the 4th Monday of the month at 2pm Emmanuel Church Centre, we would welcome new members.

If you are interested in joining us, please phone:--

Mrs Pauline Keighley 01204 884476

Mrs Ann Milius 01204 880677

Afternoon Pilgrim Group



Have you ever been part of a House Group either in our parish or a previous one? Was it useful? Did it help to explore your faith and read parts of the Bible that you hadn't read before?

That is what our Pilgrim groups throughout the Parish do. There are daytime and evening meetings. (Please ask if you need more details).

The ECC Pilgrim group usually meet on a Tuesday afternoon from 2pm and there are on average 12 to 14, as we were delighted to have some new members this year, even if the winter months and illness meant that a few regulars couldn't attend. It is a very inclusive group of men and women and we have studied the Bible Society material during the year and Romans linking in with the sermons before and after Christmas.

Linda prepares appropriate prayers for the start and finish of the meeting and refreshments and Annette's delicious cake completes an enjoyable, thought provoking and spirit led afternoon.

If you would like to join us speak to one of us.

Jo and Linda

ECC Prayer Group

We meet every Monday morning at 9.00 am. There is generally someone from each of the three churches and thereby



including all the prayer needs of our parish and numbers vary from one person to about ten, we never miss a week.

We use the Iona Morning Prayer leaflet; someone leads and the rest of us join in with written responses.

We begin with worship:

O God You summon the day to dawn..... Great is your name, Great is your Love, etc.

Then Confession:

Lord, bring new life where we are worn and tired., New love where we have turned hard hearted, Forgiveness where we feel hurt and where we have wounded, And the joy and freedom of your Holy Spirit where we are prisoners of ourselves. God pronounces pardon and grants us the right to be begin again.

We share two readings and a moments reflection, then time for open prayer. Mainly for the week's activities. The members who are ill or bereaved.

We join together in a prayer for ourselves appealing for wisdom, understanding and sensitivity:

Bring us to the days ending blessed through having shared the day's beginning.

We say the Lord's prayer and then have a blessing.

In all, it is a very good way to start the week.

10th Ramsbottom Guides

2024 has been another busy year for the Guides, and has seen the Unit grow as we've welcomed several new members.



The girls continue to follow the Girlguiding program and have earned Theme Awards and Skills Builders as well as completing countless Unit Meeting Activities from Robot Building and Bowled Over to Paper Pilots and Splatter.

We've been creative making boxes from recycled Christmas cards, painted elephant money boxes, made and played jelly baby table football and enjoyed winter Olympics themed evenings to name a few.

We've also contributed to the new Guide uniform design project by adding our ideas, cooked pancakes on tin cans, had a film night, played games, dodged doughnuts, and been crafty making Fimo friends, paper bowls and weather forecasters.

As ever the summer saw us enjoying the great outdoors, with a water themed night, wide games and the obligatory evenings of fire lighting and campfire cooking.

It has been lovely to welcome new members in the year, and we've waved goodbye to others who have moved on.

As ever, we couldn't do this without the help of our volunteers, so it's 'Thank You!' for everything they do.

Guider: Susan Watson

19th Ramsbottom Brownies

Brownies is still very enjoyable; we have about 20 girls who have achieved great things this year and had some great times in the meetings and elsewhere.



Unfortunately, due to family pressures, Lisa has taken time out but happily we have been lucky enough to welcome Sophie as a temporary leader. We also welcomed back Mary who has finished her university studies and joined us again as a Leader. Without them we would be struggling, please volunteer to be a Guider if you are at all interested in giving opportunities to young girls.

As usual, the girls have completed themes, badges and awards. The pinnacle is achieving Gold, and we are pleased that so many of our girls do get there. We have worked on environmental issues, had campfires, crafted, played games, giggled and laughed and one of the most favourite things to do is go in the kitchen and make the refreshments – a simple task but highly prized!

St. John Ambulance came to teach the Brownies First Aid, and the summer term ended with a visit to Ski Rossendale for a tubing session.

Girls come into the pack at 7 and leave us for Guides at 10, hopefully during that time they have grown in their confidence and will then continue keeping their promise for the rest of their lives.

19th Ramsbottom Brownies. Guiders:

Lisa Fildes Coulborn,

Mary Souter, Sophie Whitham and

Barbara Newhouse.



I was on the bus into Bury the other day and a small child (year 2) called Lily said to her mummy "I know that lady she dresses up and comes into our school and tells us about Jesus. I like it"

Her mum looked at me and smiled wondering whether her daughter or I had delusions. "She is right" I said and explained that we are part of the team called Open the Book that come in every Wednesday from our parish. To prove it I signed good morning to her daughter and good morning friends and explained that it was 2 way learning. If this is not mission I don't know what is. I then invited them to come over sometime for campfire church.

Behind this chance encounter are all the rehearsals on a Monday morning which are great fun. Sheila, Cath and Stephen have always prepared well and keep us on our toes. It is great fun and fellowship and we enjoy a coffee both before and then afterwards with Drop In . One week you might be a narrator or reading the Introduction, the next week



you may be acting out a part or a person in the crowd. We have wonderful children volunteers who are rewarded with a sticker if they have taken part. Their acting is often better than ours and certainly better than mine.

Why not come and join us on a

Monday morning between 10 and 12 noon and see if it is for you?

We have also been involved in Experience Christmas and Experience Easter and get to meet all the pupils in the three schools in our parish.



Who knows what seeds we may be sowing?

What we lack in Dramatic ability, we make up for in enthusiasm, so why not join us you will not regret it. Contact Sheila if you would like to give it a try, come and have a look any Monday morning, from 10am until 12 noon in term time.

Canon Lewis Hall (Adult and pre- school(0-4years) Playgroup

(March 2023 – March 2024)

How to describe last year – perhaps one of change! You may have already noticed the heading of our report. Yes, after much thought we are no longer known as Traveller's but as Canon Lewis Hall Playgroup. We took this decision when numbers were low after October ½ term and people were telling us that they thought you had to be part of the travelling community to come along (we inherited the name when we took over approximately 25 years ago).



Despite the name change it's been business as usual. The year's flown by, we've met 35 times and we can honestly say that no two weeks are the same. Though the children are always full of energy and imagination. The playdough table is still the favourite and it's amazing where the playdough ends up at the end of the afternoon! (Did you know dinosaurs and dolls like eating it and then we had the mystery of the 4 missing rolling pins, later to be found posted through the petrol



tank flap on the Little Tike car!)

We raised £40 for BBC Children-In-Need in November, then in December Father Christmas took time to come and visit us.



Throughout the year, we have had various craft sessions making lamb shaped Easter Cards, Gonk fridge magnets, snowman masks and more. Samples of craft activities along with details of when we meet and lots of photos can be found on our notice board in the hall. We now also have a dedicated email address, so people are free to contact us at any time for further information.



canonlewishallplaygroup@gmail.com

In the last couple of months both of us have become Grandparents for the first time. After talking to grandparents and other adults who come along, we now fully appreciate how important such groups are not only for the children, but also for the adults! Everyone's welcome so please come along!

Kathryn Fry & Julia Grant

Mothers' Union.



Firstly, can I congratulate our member Gwyneth on her 70th Mothers' Union. Secondly, a "big Thank You" to our church members and friends for supporting our musical fund-raising events and helping us raise £516 to help families in need.

During the last year we have travelled from one side of the world to the other with Jo Venn sharing her stories about a trip down Route 66 in America and Julie Smaile sharing her stories of her trip to India. We have enjoyed different musical events with the Bury Veterans Choir and the Strummers with live music and our great friend Richard Hall sharing part of his music collection with us. We also joined with the Trefoil Guild when Peter McAvoy came to talk to us about fraud scams and gave us lots of useful advice. A talk with a difference was given to us by Sally Hilditch who told us about weaving with demonstrations.

On the social side, we have enjoyed Afternoon Tea during the summer and a Christmas Lunch, both at Park Farm. We have also met with other Mothers' Union groups at our Deanery festivals during the year.

Although we are a small branch of the Mothers' Union, we are in good heart and looking forward to our meetings this year with a variety of speakers and fund raising events.

*Robert Airey
Correspondence Secretary.*

Rector: Rev. Paul Sumsion,
The Vicarage,
Bolton Road,
Hawkshaw,
Bury,
BL8 4JN
01204 888060.



Associate Ministers:

Rev. Robert Airey	01706 224743
Rev. Vic. Fletcher	01204 882750
Curate:	
Rev. Matthew Brinicombe	07447 976308

Readers:

Mr. Michael Burton,	01706 822664.
Mr. Richard Byrom,	01204 883110.
Mrs. Ethel Houghton	01254 704758.
Mrs. Jane Fletcher	01204 882750.
Mrs. Jo Sumsion	01204 888060

Children and Families' Ministry Facilitator:

Mrs. Jo Sumsion	01204 888060
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Church Wardens:

Mr. Stephen Newhouse (Lay Chair PCC).	
	01706 412657.
Mr. Peter Hardcastle	01204 853999

Why not visit our website:

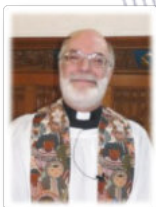
www.holcombehawkshaw.org

Each Sunday There is a service at each worship centre and the 10.45am service at St. Mary, Hawkshaw is "streamed live" on YouTube and is available all week, so you can watch it at any time.

Just visit our website www.holcombehawkshaw.org.

We have also been sending out regular e-mails with news updates, so if you haven't received those please email a request to

stephen.newhouse@sky.com



Rev. Robert Airey



Rev. Vic. Fletcher



Rev.
Matthew Brinicombe

Annual Report and Yearbook 2024



Holcombe and Hawkshaw Parochial Church Council

STATEMENT OF INCOME FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

	Holcombe and Hawkshaw 2024	
	£	£
Voluntary Income		
Planned Giving - Gift Aid	66 689 53	
Planned Giving - Un-gifted	2 568 78	
One off Gift Aid	2 900 34	
Cash/Collections	5 873 35	
Income tax recovered	18 803 60	
Fund Raising Events	3 201 70	
Magazine	480 60	
Use of Church Buildings	7 335 46	
		107 853 36
Other Ordinary Income		
Dividends and Interest	1 334 42	
Fees to PCC	10 099 10	
		11 433 52
Extraordinary Income		
Restricted Donations	10 018 29	
(i) Grants	20 988 64	
Special Appeals	434 00	
		31 440 93
Total Income 2024		150 727 81
Income 2023		170 226 91

Notes

- (i) £19,000.00 Grant received for ECC Cladding
1988.64 revitalisation funding grant

Holcombe and Hawkshaw Parochial Church Council

STATEMENT OF EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

	2024	
	£	£
The Ministry		
Ministry Expenses	9 445 82	
Support & Education	2 776 22	
		12 222 04
The Church and Services		
Energy	17 071 38	
Water	1 456 56	
Cleaning	380 00	
Insurance	8 203 05	
Upkeep of Services	8 268 57	
Church Maintenance	11 600 52	
Churchyard	6 914 03	
		53 894 11
Other Ordinary Expenditure		
Wages	13 611 47	
Magazine	-	
Fund Raising costs	480 00	
Verger/Organist	1 527 99	
		15 619 46
The Diocese		
Parish Share	43 000 00	
Other Diocese costs	5 002 00	
		48 002 00
Payments to Missions/Charities		
Mission/Charities	1 765 00	
		1 765 00
Extraordinary Expenditure		
Energy Savings Fund	-	
ECC Golden Jubilee Renovation Fund	23 277 60	
Holcombe Building Fund	507 11	
Hawkshaw Building Fund	350 00	
Hawkshaw Heating Fund	6 525 00	
Mission Funding	500 00	
		31 159 71
		162 662 32
Total Expenditure 2024		
Expenditure 2023		197 964 58

YEAR END STATEMENT 2024

Bank Balances 31 December 2024

Total

Current Account	-
Deposit Account	56 737 99
Direct Giving Accounts	2 874 97
Restricted Funds Account	844 46
Cash	-
	<hr/>
	60 457 42
Less Unpresented cheques	-
Year End Total	<hr/> <hr/>
	60 457 42

Restricted/Designated Funds

Energy Savings	5 000 00
ECC Golden Jubilee Renovation	6 327 74
Holcombe	7 420 13
Hawkshaw	656 00
Hawkshaw Heating	42 097 69
Mission and Christian Camp (ex Malawi)	1 431 64
	<hr/>
	62 933 20

Working Balance (i)

6 062 82

Notes (i)

2024 2nd half Gift Aid received in January.

Gift Aid required to pay Parish Share and Rector Expenses & Parish Expenditure

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AT 31 DECEMBER 2024

	Balance	Balance		
	31/12/2023	31/12/2024		
Investments			Share Price	Shares
Santander Shares	313 11	456 12	362	126
CCLA Investment	4 127 76	4 221 01	2029 33	208
CCLA - Restricted Holcombe Endowments	1 011 18	1 061 72		
	5 452 05	5 738 85		
Bank Accounts				
Current Acc	-	-		
Deposit Acc	77 013 27	56 737 99		
Direct Giving Acc	3 084 87	2 874 97		
Restricted Acc	832 39	844 46		
Cash Not banked	-	-		
	80 930 53	60 457 42		
Adjustments				
2024 Gift Aid return	-	11 416 35		
Rector Parish Expenditure	-	- 872 05		
Rector Expenses	-	- 2 005 70		
	-	8 538 60		
TOTALS	86 382 58	74 734 87		

Notes

2024 2nd half Gift Aid received in January.

Gift Aid required to pay Parish Share and Rector Expenses & Parish Expenditure



Section A Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/ members of	Parish of Holcombe & Hawkshaw, Lancashire		
On accounts for the year ended	31/12/2024	Charity no (if any)	
	Set out on pages Trace Sep 25 B1,B2,B3,A1,A2,A3 & Summary of Traceability		

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended **31/12/2024**

**Responsibilities and
basis of report**

As the charity's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.


**Independent
examiner's statement**

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination (other than that disclosed below *) which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report 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:  **Date:** 29/9/2025

Name: Stuart Mout

Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any): AAT membership number: 20269328

Address: 9 Hunstanton Drive, Bury. BL8 1EG

Section B**Disclosure**

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.

I have carried out the independent examination

I have noted an increase in Direct On-Line banking payment and have followed some transactions but not selected – all found to be accurate and traceable. I found that there is now very little direct Cheques issued (7 within 2024). As this is the case Cheque book stubs were not given to verify 'paper copy' but traces were completed without Cheque book stubs with no cause for concern.

I have cross referenced financial statements with links back to accounting records: - Bank statements, Receipts, Bank Details & Summary (held by Treasurer), Invoices.

I have selected various sample receipts & payments and traced back through all accounting sheets including Bank Statements. Details of one sample – see **'Trace Sept 25 B1, B2 & B3'**.

I have selected various sample payments on Bank Statements and traced back through all accounting sheets Receipts. Details of one sample – see **'Trace Sept 25 A1, A2 & A3'**.

I have selected various Incomes and follow back 'Direct Giving' money transfers and 'Weekly Giving' and am satisfied that these accounts give no cause for concern.

See **'Summary of Traceability'**

I have reviewed the minutes of the PCC and I have obtained background information on the PCC, how it is organised. The parish includes St. Mary's Hawkshaw & Emmanuel Holcombe and within the Parish there are 3 churches - St. Mary's (Hawkshaw), Emmanuel Church (Holcombe Village) & Emmanuel Church Centre (Holcombe).

7 sheets attached: -

Trace Sept 24 B1, B2, B3

Trace Sept 24 A1, A2 & A3

Summary of Traceability

Accounts



**Parish of
Holcombe &
Hawkshaw**



**What's been happening
in the Parish?**

Annual Report & Yearbook 2023

Loving God, loving neighbours; sharing Jesus with you.

This year the Yearbook and the Annual Report,
will be formally presented at the

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Emmanuel Church Centre,
Longsight Road,
Holcombe Brook,
Bury
BL8 4DB
7.30pm for 8.00pm.

29th April 2023

Vision Statement

“In our Parish:

- We will welcome others and serve the community through our love and care.
- We want to provide inspirational worship in various styles to meet the needs of all.
- Our teaching, based on the authority of the Bible, aims to connect faith to daily life, sustaining, encouraging and challenging everyone.
- We aim to have welcoming and warm buildings that enable us to worship, glorify God and aid mission.
- We seek to reach out through God’s love of all people, sharing the joy and wonder of the faith we have in our daily life with Jesus and growing his worldwide church in faith, hope and love.

The Parochial Church Council
Updated: 1st February, 2014

This booklet gives information about the activities of the various Parish Organisations and the Parish Annual Report.

Once again it is the product of teamwork by many people. Sincere thanks go to contributors who responded so promptly and made this Report possible.

We hope you will find the contents both interesting and informative.

Any errors are the responsibility of contributors/editor.



**Parish of
Holcombe &
Hawkshaw**

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Annual Report & Financial Statement 2023

The Parish of Holcombe and Hawkshaw

Emmanuel Church, Holcombe.

and

Emmanuel Church Centre,
Longsight Road, Holcombe Brook.

and

St. Mary, Hawkshaw.

In the Deanery of Bury and Rossendale,
Mission Community 3: Ramsbottom and Tottington,
The Diocese of Manchester.

**Annual Report
and
Financial Statements
of the
Parochial Church Council**
For the year ended 31st December, 2023.

Rector & Mission Community Leader:

The Rev'd. Paul H. Sumsion,
The Vicarage,
Bolton Road,
Hawkshaw,
Bury.
BL8 4JN.

Bank: Royal Bank of Scotland

Insurers: Ecclesiastical Insurance.

Honorary Treasurer: David Lomax.

Gift Aid Secretary: Pam Jones.

Independent Examiner: Stuart Moulton.

Annual Report for 2023

Statement:

The PCC of the Parish of Holcombe and Hawkshaw has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent, the Rev'd. Paul Sumsion, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelical, social and ecumenical. It also has maintenance responsibility for S^t Mary, Hawkshaw, Emmanuel Church, Holcombe and Emmanuel Church Centre and Canon Lewis Hall, Longsight Road, Holcombe Brook.

Membership of the PCC:

Members of the PCC are either ex officio or elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting in accordance with the Church Representation Rules.

During the year the following served as members of the PCC:

Incumbent: The Rev'd. Paul Sumsion, *Chairman & Rector.*

Associate Ministers: The Rev'd. Robert. W. Airey.
The Rev'd. Vic. Fletcher.

Curate: Rev'd. Matthew Brinicombe,
(from 6th March 2023).

Ex Officio Members:

Wardens: Mr. Peter Hardcastle, *from May 2021,*

Mr. Stephen Newhouse, *from May 2019, (Lay Vice-Chairman of PCC).*

Representatives on the Deanery Synod: *until 2025*

From Emmanuel and Emmanuel Church Centre:

Claire Baggoley *to May 2023,* Jo Venn *from May 2023* and Stephen Newhouse.

From S^t Mary's, Hawkshaw: Keith Jones and Jean Houghton.

Elected Members:

Fourteen members are elected at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting, (seven from the congregations of Emmanuel, Holcombe or Emmanuel Church Centre and seven from the congregation of S^t. Mary, Hawkshaw).

Those elected at the A.P.C.M in April 2023, were:

from S^t Mary's Hawkshaw:

Richard Byrom *to May 2023,* Ethel Houghton *to May 2023,* Tim Webber *to May 2023,* Jane Fletcher, Penny Hanley, Edward Slattery, Jo. Sumsion, Liz. Webber and Stuart Wilkinson.

from Emmanuel, Holcombe and Emmanuel Church Centre were:

Richard Byrom *to May 2023,* Jo Venn *to May 2023,* Rosemary Artley, Claire Carsely Cath Lansdale, David Lomax, Sheila Partridge, Julie Smale and Steven Richardson *from July 2023.*

Readers and Deputy Wardens are not ex officio members of the PCC, but are able to stand for election at the APCM.

Readers:

Mr. Michael Burton, *(also Deputy Warden, - Emmanuel).*
Mr. Richard Byrom,
Mrs. Ethel Houghton, *(also elected to the PCC).*
Mrs. Jane Fletcher, *(also elected to the PCC).*
Mrs. Jo Sumsion, *(also elected to the PCC and has been Children and Families Ministry Facilitator from September 2021).*

Deputy Church Wardens

Emmanuel Church Holcombe:

Michael Burton and Susan Nuttall,

Emmanuel Church Centre:

Julie Smale and Jo. Venn.

St. Mary's Hawkshaw:

Eddie Slattery and Ray Houghton.

Structure:

(1) Standing Committee/Leadership Teams:

We are required by law, not only to have a Parochial Church Council, duly elected to represent our parishioners, but also a Standing Committee, which can attend to urgent parish business between PCC meetings, if necessary.

In between PCC meetings the Parish Leadership Team, (of which the Standing Committee is part), Emmanuel, Holcombe Leadership Team, Emmanuel Church Centre Leadership Team and St. Mary, Hawkshaw Leadership Team meet regularly. Each Leadership Team organises working groups within their own church.

Standing Committee: *Rev. P. Sumsion, Wardens: Peter Hardcastle & Stephen Newhouse, Treasurer: David Lomax and PCC Secretary: Penny Hanley.*

The Parish Leadership Team:

Rev. P. Sumsion, Rev. R. Airey, Barbara Atkin, Peter Hardcastle, Michael Burton, Rev. Vic. Fletcher, Ethel Houghton, David Lomax, Stephen Newhouse, Jo Venn, Rev. Matthew Brinicombe, Penny Hanley (PCC Secretary) and Jo Sumsion, (as Children and Families Ministry Facilitator).

Emmanuel Holcombe Team Report 2023

The Emmanuel, Holcombe Team met six times during the year.

We continue to have Health and Safety and the Quinquennial Inspection as agenda items at each of our meetings.

Building

- Our plans for **building work** were finally approved by the DAC early in 2022, quotations were obtained for work to the Toilet and South aisle area in addition to the quote already received for work to providing a new refreshments area. The total sum needed was approximately £60,000. As sufficient funds were not available for the whole project it was decided that the new “**accessible toilet**”, was a priority and so an order was placed with Derek DeAth Ltd and work completed in May 2023 at a cost of approximately £22,000. We managed to save £4000 as we completed an Eligibility Declaration for VAT relief meaning the work could be zero rated for VAT. The new toilet has been greatly appreciated by all.
- In December the new retractable **projection screen** was installed by ourselves, although work to positioning the “fixed projector still has to be arranged. The rest of the project, (Kitchen and South Aisle) will require a substantial amount of money being raised and/or obtained from Grants. There is approximately £6500 left in

the Building Fund. Fundraising events are planned for 2024.

- **Destratification Fans:** After ESOS Surveys at St Mary and comments about fans it was decided to leave the installation of fans, as they advised they would not prove beneficial for the use we have for the building.
- **Stolen Flags:** Unfortunately, in April several flags were stolen for the main path, (undoing the pointing work which had just been completed). The cost of replacement was mostly met by the insurers.
- In May we had a number of **leaks repaired** to the roof, particularly on the south aisle side.
- We are considering **CCTV/streaming services**, (with resulting improvements to security) and the use of a card reader for donations. Budget prices have been obtained for changes to the audio system to facilitate streaming. We are looking to introduce wifi to allow streaming and use of card reader.
- We had several **working parties** throughout the year, when a dedicated number of volunteers tidied and made several repairs to the Church and Yard.
- **Caretaker:** Unfortunately, Tony has been off work ill from October, much of the resulting work being done by members of the congregation

The Way forward

Much of the later meetings were concentrated on how we retain present congregation and move forward. Were present service times attractive to families? What type of service should we be offering?

- **Experience Christmas** was held in Holcombe Church in December.

The children seemed to enjoy the event, fully taking part, asking questions and producing items on the theme. Parents were invited to come into church after school and quite a number did, looking at work and asking questions.

- In November we held our first **Breakfast Before Church** at our Shoebox/Parade service. It was well attended, (partly due to a presentation being made to a long serving Scout Leader). Areas for improvement were identified for the next Parade in February 2024.
- **Timing of Choral Evensong** – agreed to return to having the Service at 3pm during the winter months, which it was hoped would encourage attendance before darkness and would save on energy bills.
- In September a **Coffee Morning** was arranged attracting around 50 people and raised \$443 for **McMillan Cancer Care**.
- **Sidespeople Meeting in June:** a meeting of sidespeople discussed how we do things and made several suggested improvements. We also looked at paperwork and how that should be completed. We decided that it would be good to repeat yearly.

Family and Children Provision

- Jo Sumsion, with the help of Margaret Cockcroft, continues the Weekly Coffee Mornings for parents and carers of our School children on Wednesday at 9am, these continues to attract around 8 or 9 adults and a couple of toddlers each week.

- **Presenting Bibles to our school children:** It was felt that we should change the presentation of Bible to the start of Year 3. This would require, (in the first year), that years 3, 4 5 and 6 would all receive a Bible. The resulting larger expenditure would even out in following years. At the end of year 6 it is suggested a small token gift, (book mark or similar), could be made. St. Mary's also adopted the same procedure

Eco Church

We have continued to consider our response to achieve Eco Church status, In May Pat Lainton volunteered to be Holcombe's "**Eco Champion**" and attended training at St John's House, Bury along with Claire Carsley (ECC Champion). We still have several areas to improve on before we would qualify for a "bronze award".

Comment

Our thanks go to the numerous people who offer their time, skills, advice and support to all of the work at Emmanuel, Holcombe, we are extremely grateful.

Membership:

Rev. Paul Sumsion, Rev. Robert Airey, Claire Baggoley, Michael Burton, Rev. Matthew Brinicombe and Stephen Newhouse.

We were sad to lose Jennifer Burton in November, she will be greatly missed as a member of the Holcombe Team and indeed throughout the parish.

St. Mary, Hawkshaw Team Report 2023

The Hawkshaw team met three times during the year and addressed the following issues:

Welcome teams: Ways of enhancing our welcome on Sunday mornings were discussed.

Heating: Discussions took place throughout the year regarding the unreliability of our current heating system and the best options for a new, greener and more efficient system. Advice was taken and other churches were visited to see what would work best for us. The preference was for air source heat pumps with radiators and back-up from solar panels. A consultant would need to be appointed to prepare plans and funds would have to be raised. In the meantime repairs to the current system have been carried out and the boiler has been serviced.

Chairs: Repairs were carried out on several chairs and it was agreed to purchase more armchairs. The company no longer did the same colour fabric and a contrasting colour was chosen which works well with the existing furniture. Six new chairs were bought.

Comedy evening: This was arranged in November and was a great success.

New toilet: Following the installation of a new more eco-friendly toilet work needed to be carried out to finish off the surrounds. This was completed with the exception of the flooring which was to take place early in 2024, including the floor in the vestry lobby and toilet.

Wheellie bins: A new brown bin was

obtained for organic waste and all bins were labelled in the hope that members of the public would use them correctly

Hawkshaw Gala: Our involvement in the Hawkshaw Gala was very meaningful with the church running the barbecue on behalf of the Village Trust. A cake stall raised £610 towards the heating fund plus other members of the parish provided a tent for prayer and reflection.

Flowers: Following several requests for there to be flowers in church on a regular basis it was agreed to establish a rota for people to donate either money or flowers.

Cleaning: This has been carried out by volunteers. We asked that the school cleaner would come into church after the school has used the building during the school day just to check that everything has been left in good order.

Graveyard bench: An offer to refurbish the bench in the graveyard was received from a local family.

Screen visibility: Suggestions for improving the visibility of the projector screen were explored. This matter is as yet unresolved.

Village bonfire: This attracted a huge number of people and was a great success. It was agreed that making and burning a Guy was not necessary, nor desirable. We sold pies and the Methodists sold drinks. The fireworks were provided by the Village Trust and the costs were covered by donations on the night.

Christmas services: It was decided not to try to include a children's Nativity in the carol service on Christmas Eve. An All-age Nativity was arranged for the previous Sunday morning which was very well supported.

Penny Hanley

Emanuel Church Centre Team Report 2023

Emmanuel Church Centre has had an excellent year, due to each and every member bringing their unique contribution to our fellowship and worship. We have had our normal pattern of services, Taize services as well as midweek communions. We marked the Coronation of the King with an afternoon tea, as well as marking the occasion with worship.

Resurfacing the Car Park

Thanks particularly go to Dave Rigby who gave freely of his time and expertise to oversee and manage the project. It has led to the Car Park being used by other groups such as Hewlett Court and Dog Training Group.

Events

We continue to hold regular events, both as fundraisers and social events and more and more people have got involved, particularly with Words and Music. Last Night of the Proms, and Drop In Lunch have resumed, much to everyone's pleasure.

We are never short of volunteers to get involved and the Flower Rota, Readers, Sidespeople and Intercessions Rotas are willingly filled.

We are delighted that D-Caff have chosen to hold their monthly meetings at the Centre, which is easily accessible. Campfire Church has thrived and more families from our schools have joined us. The Garden is an excellent venue for the Remembering Service, for Contemplation at Quiet Mornings as well

as welcoming visitors every day and dog walkers or to sit in its splendour.

Thank you to all those who help at the Working Parties especially Barbara, Stephen and Christine for their constant upkeep. It is a symbol of God's Creation, Beauty, Hope and Peace and is enjoyed by all.

People

As stated earlier, every member of our community brings their own God Given Gifts, whether contemplative prayer, printing our wonderful magazine, giving out books, counting the money, making tea and coffee or providing delicious cakes.

Thanks to Stephen and John for laying our new foyer carpet tiles and the general maintenance throughout the year. Thank you to Matthew, Paul and all who lead our services and Sheila and Christine for their musical talents and to Geoff and Pauline for organising the bookings and setting up each week.

Warm Spaces has been held at the Centre and is a parish wide initiative with over 20 meetings each Monday during the winter months.

We have launched our Golden Jubilee Renovation Fund to bring the Centre up to scratch by 2026, when we celebrate 50 years of worshipping God on this site.

Members of the ECC Team:

Rev Paul Sumsion, Rev Matthew Brinicombe, Stephen Newhouse, Julie Smale, Claire Carsley, Gloria Metcalfe, Romey Simpson, Geoff Clare, Gwen Barnes, Alan Goldsmith, Sheila Partridge, Ann Milius and Jo Venn

Mission Giving Committee

Every year we as a parish aim to give 10% of our offerings to charity as our Mission Giving. This is as well as supporting charities individually such as Transforming Lives for Good and Compassion and parish giving to the Children's Society through the boxes, Bury Hospice in lieu of sending Christmas cards and our weekly donations to the Porch Project.

At present we give to local ,national and international charities to express our Mission at Home and our Mission Abroad. These have included South American Missionary Society, Church Missionary Society, Philippine Outreach Centre, Wycliffe Bible College, as well as supporting the Schwartz family, Christian Aid, Scripture Union and the Church Army.

Every year we also give money to our two schools Emmanuel Holcombe and St Mary's Hawkshaw as well as providing Bibles.

As a group we are using Lent and Easter to re-look at our giving as a Parish and ask for your prayers to ensure that we maximise our resources for the best way to do God's work throughout the world.

*Vic Fletcher
Mike Burton
Ethel Houghton
Jo Venn*

PCC Review of the Year 2023

The PCC met six times during 2023 with an average of 16 members attending each meeting. In addition, the Parish Leadership Team (PLT) met in the intervening weeks and the Standing Committee, comprising Rector, Church Wardens, Treasurer and PCC Secretary met on one occasion. Such committees have delegated authority to approve or initiate certain measures if necessary.

The following matters were discussed by the PCC during 2023.

Finances:

Throughout the year the PCC received regular updates on the parish's financial position from the Treasurer. Despite levels of giving remaining fairly static the funds available did not stretch far enough to pay the required amount of Parish Share once other commitments were met. (See Annual Accounts) Thankfully the Diocese provided £8,000 towards heating costs.

Several large purchases were made including new armchairs for Hawkshaw Church, a new (second-hand) photocopier, Open The Book membership fees and children's bibles. Increases in pay were approved for personnel employed by the parish.

A free card reader was obtained for Hawkshaw Church which has proved extremely useful during services and social or mission events. Paying for a second card reader with a multi-functional SIM was approved for Holcombe.

A grant funding training session was arranged during November, the cost of this being shared with some other churches in the area.

Paul's sabbatical: During the summer Paul entrusted the chairmanship of the PCC to Stephen Newhouse while he spent three months on sabbatical. The Church Wardens took responsibility for the parish and the Revs Vic Fletcher, Robert Airey and Matthew Brinicombe covered all clerical matters arising.

Mission Communities: A Mission Community walk took place at the end of September linking all eight churches and finishing with a barbecue at ECC. This was well supported.

Mission: Some of the areas of mission supported by the PCC include:

- **Stepping Stones for Growth** – Hawkshaw Church hosted this course for members of Bury and Rossendale Deanery, which was felt by all to have been very useful in terms of focusing our mission. It was agreed to repeat this course for members of the parish at the beginning of 2024.
- **Capernwray visit** – the parish hosted a team of four students from Capernwray Bible College during March.
- **The King's coronation** was celebrated at ECC.
- **Hawkshaw Gala in July** – the parish ran the barbecue on behalf of Hawkshaw Village Trust and provided a cake stall and a tent for prayer and reflection, giving a meaningful presence at that event.

- **Children's bibles** – it has been customary to present each year 61 pupil at the two church primary schools with a bible. However, it was agreed to move this to the year 3s in order that they may benefit from having their own bible throughout key stage 2. Therefore, during 2023 and for that year only, it was necessary to purchase 4 times as many bibles as usual (120). A generous donation was received towards the cost.
- **Open the Book** – 15 members of the church became full members of OTB, receiving a new version of the book at a cost of £20 each.
- **Warm spaces** – the PCC agreed that the parish should provide soup and fellowship at ECC throughout the winter months.
- **Light party** – this was held in Hawkshaw Church for children as an alternative to Halloween.
- **Hawkshaw bonfire** – this free annual event takes place in the church yard with bonfire and firework display as a joint exercise with the Village Trust.

Church buildings:

During 2023 the PCC approved the refurbishment of the toilet at Holcombe Church and the purchase of six new armchairs for Hawkshaw Church. The Standing Committee agreed to the appointment of a heating engineer to advise on a new heating system at Hawkshaw Church.

The car park at ECC was resurfaced as a result of tenacious fundraising and a successful grant application, the total more than covering the cost of the work. Thus the remaining funds have been

allocated to a further fund for repairs and improvements to ECC.

Plans for the new kitchen at Hawkshaw were agreed and submitted to the DAC for approval. However, this was not forthcoming during 2023.

In June ECC suffered a burglary resulting in the loss of many valuable items. Losses were also incurred by the Scouts. An insurance claim enabled the restoration of most of the items and cash although several valuables cannot be replaced. Holcombe Church also suffered the theft of flag stones.

Eco-church: During the year ECC appointed Claire Carsley as their Eco-champion with a view to focussing on measures to improve our eco credentials. Pat Lainton agreed to the position of Eco-champion for Holcombe Church. Hawkshaw Church has yet to make an appointment. Claire and Pat attended relevant training provided by the Diocese.

Working Genius: Paul introduced the PCC to a thesis by Patrick Lencioni setting out six different areas of expertise. He asked that each member identify where their own strengths lie, so that each mission undertaken could benefit from a range of talents.

Authorised Lay Ministry: Several of our ALMs were re-commissioned at Manchester Cathedral during September.

Safeguarding: An update on safeguarding matters was given at each PCC meeting. Liz Webber (Safeguarding Officer) highlighted the need for all members to complete DBS checks and

carry out the necessary training. A Junior Leader Policy was adopted for those helpers under 18.

School Governors: The PCC appointed new governors at both primary schools as vacancies arose.

Grave space: Applications for grave space were approved.

Penny Hanley, PCC Secretary

Safeguarding Report 2023

Policies and Practice

The clergy and PCC of the Parish of Holcombe and Hawkshaw continue to meet the requirement issued by the House of Bishops, on matters relating to the safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults. Safeguarding continues to be a standing item on every agenda of the PCC's meetings.

Safeguarding policies are reviewed and approved by PCC annually. They are all in line with the House of Bishops' Safeguarding Policy and Practice Guidance and meet statutory requirements whilst remaining relevant to our particular context.

In November 2023, the PCC also adopted a Junior Leaders Policy to ensure we safeguard our young leaders appropriately for their age. Junior leaders can be age 16 up until their 18th birthday, therefore it is important they are still treated as children from a safeguarding perspective. That said, we are in the

process of ensuring all of our Junior Leaders have received basic Safeguarding training, as we feel this is still relevant to their role. The Junior Leaders Policy will also be reviewed annually by the PCC.

Our Safeguarding posters were temporarily changed during Paul Sumsion's sabbatical to include contact details for Robert Airey. We felt this was particularly important during the summer months, when holidays were being taken to ensure at least one Safeguarding contact was always available. We have also edited our posters slightly for use in the Cellar to make them more accessible and easier to understand for young people.

Safer Recruitment

All volunteers who require DBS clearance have had one within the last three years, as per the diocesan requirements. Thank you to everyone who has willingly gone through this process, your cooperation has been much appreciated and goes a long way in helping to give out the message that we strive to be as safe as possible in all that we do. It also shows that we recognise that the safety and wellbeing of all the children and vulnerable adults in our Parish is of upmost importance.

Training

The Church of England continues to work towards creating a church that is safer for everyone. Therefore, active engagement with Safeguarding training is mandatory for everyone who has a role within the church, which includes children, young people and/or vulnerable adults. It is a requirement that this training is renewed every three years.

Anyone within the Parish who has

been asked to complete the training, but hasn't been able to is removed from their prospective rotas, until they feel able to commit to this important requirement.

I am pleased to report that the overwhelming majority are quick and keen to complete their training as and when required. Thank you so much for your cooperation with this, as again it shows that we take safeguarding in our parish seriously.

Safeguarding Concerns and Incidents

There have been five Safeguarding concerns raised since the last APCM. All concerns were passed on to the Manchester Diocese Safeguarding Team within the required time frame and logged on their system. All appropriate action was taken.

I want to finish by saying thank you to everyone for the collective effort in making our churches as safe as we can.

*Liz Webber
06.03.24*

Safeguarding Policy

The following policy was agreed at the Parochial Church Council (PCC) meeting held on **18th March 2024**.

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 PC 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 **Mrs. Liz Webber** as the Parish Safeguarding Officer

Incumbent: **Reverend Paul Sumsion**.

Churchwardens: **Mr. Peter Hardcastle & Mr. Stephen Newhouse**.

Date: **18th March 2024**

Fabric Report 2023

We can report that the buildings, fittings and items belonging to the Parish are generally in good repair, although certain areas continue to require ongoing attention, with resulting expenditure.

Emmanuel Church, Holcombe

As reported last year the DAC approved the Faculty for the work to Kitchen, Toilet, South Aisle, Projection screen and De-stratification fans, quotations were obtained. As available funds were insufficient to start in all areas, a decision was made that the “Accessible Toilet” was needed, as a matter of urgency. Derek DeATH Ltd were appointed and the toilets were completed in May. We obtained an Eligibility Declaration for VAT relief meaning the work could be zero rated for VAT.

The projection screen was erected by ourselves at the end of the year and is in use. The location of the permanent projector has yet to be decided. Grant funding is being pursued for the remaining work.

In April flags were stolen from the main path, the cost was met by our insurers.

The leaks to the south aisle mentioned in last year’s report have been repaired. Although work to the tower is still outstanding.

Several Working Parties were held in the church and church yard tidying and doing minor repairs.

Emmanuel Church Centre

The focus of our efforts this year has been the re-surfacing of the car park. We secured money from the GARL Foundation as well as fundraising events and donations from our members and friends to raise the £58,000 needed. In July the car park was resurfaced to make it

easily accessible for all, with a natural ramp for wheelchairs into the building and even mobility scooter spaces and plenty of accessible parking spaces. The focus for the coming year is to work towards updating the building in time for the 2026 Golden Jubilee of the Centre.

St Mary’s, Hawkshaw

Overall, the church is good condition. A Quinquennial inspection was conducted in June.

A five-year electrical system inspection was conducted and passed. There are various roof repairs awaiting attention from the December and January storms. A new floor covering has been laid in the toilets and kitchen. The new kitchen plans and the new heating system plans are making progress. Redecoration of the high level has begun.

The grounds/gardens and graveyard are well maintained and in good order.

General Comments

A great deal of work is undertaken by members of the different congregations, and without their efforts the Parish would have to meet bills of ever-increasing size, and the thanks of all of us are due to these workers.

We thank everyone who works quietly behind the scenes cleaning, washing the linen, cleaning the brass and silver, flower arranging or sound, PA and streaming technicians, Deputy Wardens and last, but not least, the sidemen and women who play such an important role in welcoming people to our services.

The practical help and financial assistance of many people continues to play a major part in the care of the buildings, and our grateful thanks go to everyone who has contributed in any way.

*Peter Hardcastle, Stephen Newhouse.
Churchwardens March 2024*

Deanery Synod

2023 - the Deanery of Bury and Rossendale

The meetings of Synod give representatives valuable opportunities to meet and discuss matters with members of other parishes across the deanery. Each parish is entitled to representation according to their size. Our Electoral Roll entitled us to four members, who serve a three year term of office..

The Deanery Synod met four times this year.

In January we met via Zoom.

Canon Rachel Mann led a short act of worship.

'Eco Church'

Kath Pollard reported on a visit to A "Gold Award Church" : Christ Church Toxteth. These are a few of their successful ideas - A community compost scheme, Food bank, Cafe/Warm space, Tent inside church, to help reduce energy costs in winter and encouraging walking/cycling to church. Many of the ideas we are already doing in part in our own churches.

Kath urged us to remind our congregations, on a weekly basis about the importance of caring for our fragile world.

Priority Focus: Growing (Archdeacon Jean)

Archdeacon Jean reflected on how we need to grow in prayer as a community. She spoke about the need to be grounded in prayer and how we can all be disciples

with a direction and vision, underpinned by prayer.

Main Business was: Focal Leadership (Beverly Angier)

Many of our parishes are still at the beginning of this journey and had not identified their leaders.

Beverly reiterated that the model of ministry we have inherited of; 'one parish, one church and one vicar' is no longer sustainable. Focal ministry is a complementary pastoral ministry, rooted in a specific community and affirming the local and wider church.

In April we met at St. Mary, Rawtenstall

Canon Rachel Mann (Area Dean) welcomed everyone to our first face to face meeting of the year. Rev'd Samuel Hameem led an Evening Prayer.

Eco Church

Parishes had registered and there were more bronze award recipients. Kath gave us some simple ideas/tips she had picked up from other Deaneries, to help us all reduce our Carbon Footprint.

Main Business was - Mike McGurk, Head of Evangelism & Growth

He explored church growth and how we might bring people into our worshipping communities and stressed the need to pass on the good news to the next generations.

We need to create a culture of invitation to our church and find ways to make them user friendly, building on what we already have.

Mike believes Church growth needs to be a regular item at PCC meetings and

Enquirers courses should be offered in every church. Our churches need to be '*Fit for Mission in a different World*' and we need to maximise every opportunity for growth.

He suggested that each Mission Community might like to appoint an 'Environment/Eco Champion'

In September we met at All Saint's Church, Elton, Bury

Revd Donna Williams, (Acting Area Dean) welcomed everyone to the meeting, especially Bishop Matthew Porter, Ima Lomax and new members and led Evening Prayer.

Eco Church

Six Eco Champions have been commissioned in the Diocese; Kath Pollard, three are from our Deanery. St Paul's Church, Constable Lee have recently been awarded a 'Silver' Eco award.

Main Business was - Bishop Matthew

Bishop Matthew introduced himself and gave a brief resumé of his life and faith.

The main emphasis of his talk was on 'What it means to be a Christian' and 'When and where we experience the Grace of God.' He asked us to question the gift of Grace and how we receive and dispense it, in our Diocese, Deanery and at parish level.

In small groups we discussed what we could give to our churches.

Time, using gifts to help others, a warm space, prayer in the streets, welcoming new people to our churches, perseverance and being open and non-judgemental were

the main shared points; concluding that Grace is essential to our faith.

In November we met via Zoom

Revd Donna Williams welcomed everyone to the meeting and led reflective prayers/music to begin the meeting.

Eco Church

Kath Pollard updated us on recent Eco Awards in the Deanery

Main Business: Kim Morgan – Jones (Head of Lay Development)

Kim began by reminding us of the Diocese vision for Growing, Nurturing and Serving. She gave an overview on how we can encompass the three visions and focused on how we can be Nurturing. She stressed the importance of making a focused place for Discipleship and Evangelism in our churches.

Our Deanery is ahead of the game in terms of Lay Development. Kim talked about future opportunities within the Diocese

- ALM and General Pathway courses in 2024, open to all.
- Support for Church Officers – Drop ins for Churchwardens and support for Treasurers and safeguarding officers.
- #MoreThanSunday, which explores seven simple points to link Sunday and the rest of the week.
- The Transforming Prayer Community initiative, which shares prayer for all times, for everyone. Further details can be found on Diocese website.

Keith Jones, Jean Houghton and Stephen Newhouse, Claire Baggoley to April 2023, Jo Venn from April 2023.

March 2024

Report for the Bridge, Bentley and Ramsbottom Trust for 2023.

The work of the Trust has continued during the year with Trustees actively looking for ways to help those in need. Please read the promotional information below and if we can help anyone in need please let them know about the Trust.

The Expenditure for the year was £6,883.04.

Grants were awarded in the following ways:

- (1) 'One off' book grants to university students, (23) Welfare, and (3) Educational grants.

The Bridge, Bentley, Ramsbottom Trust was created as an amalgamation of the John T. Bridge Trust and three other smaller charitable trusts in 2002.

**The five Trustees treat each application in strictest confidence.
Applications are welcomed from people of any faith or none.**

Small grants available for all ages

Do you, or anyone you know, live within the following post codes: all BL0 or all BL8 or these parts of BL9: BL9 5, BL9 6, BL9 7 or BL9 0

Struggling to pay for a much needed item, e.g. Stair lift, walking frame, specially adapted prams, etc.?

We have helped families with school uniform costs.

We can help with the cost of training courses.

We can help with Further and Higher Educational one off grants for: books/equipment, field trips, travel costs, etc.

Can we make life a little easier? Let us know if you are in need.

The Bridge Bentley Ramsbottom Trust has small grants available to those living within post codes BL0, BL8 or the following parts of BL9: BL9 5, BL9 6, BL9 7 or BL9 0.

Financial Statements of the Parochial Church Council

For the year ended
31st December, 2023.

Holcombe and Hawkshaw Parochial Church Council

STATEMENT OF INCOME FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

		Holcombe and Hawkshaw 2023		
		£	£	£
Voluntary Income				
Planned Giving - Gift Aid	63,379.51			
Planned Giving - Un-gifted	4,554.94			
One off Gift Aid	600.00			
Cash/Collections	6,786.58			
Income tax recovered	16,669.89			
Fund Raising Events	1,795.02			
Magazine	581.70			
Use of Church Buildings	6,722.00			
			101,089.64	
Other Ordinary Income				
Dividends and Interest	1,331.39			
Fees to PCC	13,637.00			
			14,968.39	116,058.03
Extraordinary Income				
(i) Restricted Donations	41,282.65			
(ii) Energy Grants	4,940.00			
Insurance Claims	7,108.67			
Special Appeals	837.56			
			54,168.88	170,226.91
Total Income 2023			170,226.91	
Income 2022				136,787.28
Notes				
(i) £30,000 grant for ECC Car Park				
(ii) £4,940 grant from the Diocese to assist with high energy costs and Warm Spaces				

Holcombe and Hawkshaw Parochial Church Council

STATEMENT OF EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

	2023		
	£	£	£
The Ministry			
Ministry Expenses	5,890.67		
Support & Education	4,081.15		
		<u>9,971.82</u>	
The Church and Services			
Energy	18,239.59		
Water	717.64		
Cleaning	0.00		
Insurance	7,993.89		
Upkeep of Services	8,830.91		
Church Maintenance	7,747.68		
Churchyard	844.34		
		<u>44,374.05</u>	
Other Ordinary Expenditure			
Wages	16,339.56		
Magazine	0.00		
Fund Raising costs	1,132.83		
Verger/Organist	2,607.00		
		<u>20,079.39</u>	
The Diocese			
Parish Share	40,000.00		
Other Diocese costs	3,035.00		
		<u>43,035.00</u>	
Payments to Missions/Charities			
Mission/Charities	2,194.56		
		<u>2,194.56</u>	119,654.82
Extraordinary Expenditure			
ECC Car Park	54,229.22		
Holcombe Church (Toilets)	21,463.21		
Hawkshaw	320.00		
Hawkshaw Heating	980.00		
Insurance Work	1,317.33		
		<u>78,309.76</u>	197,964.58
Total Cash Expenditure 2023			<u><u>197,964.58</u></u>
Expenditure 2022			116,691.55

YEAR END STATEMENT 2023

Bank Balances 31 December 2023

Total

Current Account	-
Deposit Account	77,013.27
Direct Giving Accounts	3,084.87
Restricted Funds Account	832.39
Cash	-
	<hr/>
	80,930.53
Less Unpresented cheques	
Year End Total	<hr/> 80,930.53 <hr/>

Restricted/Designated Funds

Energy Savings	5,000.00
ECC Golden Jubilee Renovation	7,503.74
Holcombe	6,530.24
Hawkshaw	1,006.00
Hawkshaw Heating	42,740.00
Mission and Christian Camp (ex Malawi)	1,931.64
	<hr/>
	64,711.62 <hr/>

Working Balance **16,218.91**

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AT 31 DECEMBER 2023

	Balance 31/12/2022	Balance 31/12/2023
Santander Shares	313.11	418.95
Esther Martha Greenhalgh Charity Fund	3,780.38	4,127.76
CCLA - Restricted Holcombe Endowments	976.34	1,011.18
<u>Bank Accounts</u>		
Current Acc	-	-
Deposit Acc	92,230.36	77,013.27
Direct Giving Acc	12,615.39	3,084.87
Restricted Acc	822.45	832.39
Cash Not banked	-	-
	110,738.03	86,488.42
Less Cheques unpresented	-	-
	110,738.03	86,488.42
TOTALS	110,738.03	86,488.42

Yearbook 2023



New Car Park



After





Matthew's Licensing



Last Night of the Proms - Preparation



Macmillan Coffee Morning



Coronation



Blooms

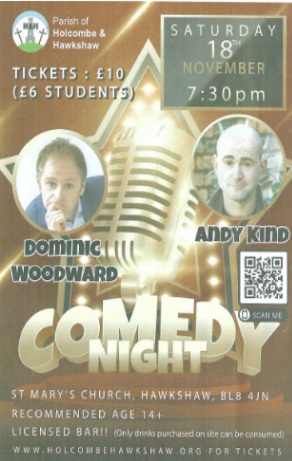


Brownies decorate garden

Parish of Holcombe & Hawkshaw

SATURDAY 18th NOVEMBER 7:30pm

TICKETS : £10 (£6 STUDENTS)



DOMINIC WOODWARD **ANDY KIND**

COMEDY NIGHT

ST MARY'S CHURCH, HAWKSHAW, BL8 4JN
RECOMMENDED AGE 14+
LICENSED BARI! (Only drinks purchased on site can be consumed)
WWW.HOLCOMBEHAWKSHAW.ORG FOR TICKETS

an evening of fun and Games for All!

GAME NIGHT

St. Mary's Church, Hawkshaw, BL8 4JN
Saturday March 4th, 5:00pm onwards

Further info: Jo: 01204 888060 | jo@holcombehawkshaw.org

Friday 3 March: 6-9pm
Cellar Club does **TASKMASTER** with pizzas

Further info: Jo: 07747 520124 | jo@holcombehawkshaw.org

All (11-18s) Welcome!

It's time for Coffee Morning and you're invited

To Emmanuel Church Holcombe Village

Saturday 23rd September 2023
10.00am to 1.00pm

All welcome
inc. Well behaved dogs - with owners!

Enjoy coffee, tea and cake
In peaceful surroundings and help to fund
Macmillan Cancer Care Support
Further details - 07756492097

MACMILLAN CANCER SUPPORT

Saturday 13th May 10.00am to 2.00pm

Emmanuel Church Centre
Canon Lewis Hall
Car Park
Longsight Road, Holcombe Brook, BL8 4DB

CAR BOOT SALE

In aid of Car Park Fund

Parish of Holcombe & Hawkshaw

Cars: £10 Vans £15
In advance please No trade
Set up from 8.00am Refreshments available

Cheques made payable to: "Parish of Holcombe and Hawkshaw P.C.C."

For more information email: carboot@holcombehawkshaw.org
Consent granted by Bury Council

Saturday 2nd December *Joy of Christmas*

Reception with mince pies and mulled wine
7.00pm for 7.30pm

Words and Music for Christmas

Entertainment for the Christmas period.

A Parish Event Everyone welcome
£5.00

Canon Lewis Hall
Emmanuel Church Centre
Tickets at each Worship Centre

Sunday 7th May

All Age Worship at 10.45am
Outdoor behind church followed by bring and share picnic and some games.
St. Mary, Hawkshaw

Afternoon Tea 3pm
Emmanuel Church Centre
Free, but please sign up at each centre.


Emmanuel Church, Holcombe
"Come and sing"

As part of our Coronation Celebration we are holding a special service.

Choral Evensong at 6.30pm

Political campaign: The war in which everybody shoots straight from the hip - R. Morkley

There is to be a **Mission Community Walk.**



Calling at each of the churches in the Community

Below are the provisional times for the walk **on 30th September.**

The walk covers approximately 10 miles in total.
Come and walk, it all or join in for a section.
We expect that walkers will be departing from each church at some point while it is open.
Maps will be available at each church.
More details and information on how to sign up to follow, in September.

Walk commences at 10am	Open for for chat/tea/refreshments
1. Ederfield	9-12am
2. St Philip's Stubbins	10.15-11.15
3. St Paul's Ramsbottom	10am-12noon
4. St Andrew's Ramsbottom	10am-12.30pm
5. Emmanuel Holcombe	11.15-12pm
6. St Mary's Hawkshaw	11.30-2pm
7. St Anne's Tottington	1.30-3.30pm
8. Emmanuel Church Centre	2-7pm (BIB) starts at 4pm

Last Night of the Proms

Another opportunity to share this wonderful event with friends

Saturday 9th September
Emmanuel Church Centre.
Supper 7pm (prompt start)
Potato Pie Supper
Raffle
BYOB

Tickets £7
at each Worship Centre
or speak to
Stephen Newhouse
01706 412657
stephen.newhouse@sky.com

Some of the events of 2023

Soup Company



Soup Company has gone from strength to strength this year, meeting the second Thursday of every month except August. We regularly brings in an average of 30 people who come to enjoy delicious heart warming soups, as many as 10 varieties on occasions with everyone's favourites as well as new ones this year like Pork Consommé, Game Soup and Minestrone.

We cater for all, including the lactose intolerant, vegan and Gluten free.

Starting from 12 noon for coffee or tea followed by soup and garlic bread, we then enjoy Christine, Romney and Annette's deserts, meringues, pies and cakes.

Sadly we lost one of our soup makers, Jenny and we miss her and her Nana's soup.

Thanks to Pam and all who help to set up, serve and wash up.

If you have never been you don't know what you are missing. We can provide transport.

Jo Venn



Drop in continues to attract new people, not all of whom are church members. Visitors are sure of a warm welcome, fellowship, good company and conversation. We meet at Canon Lewis Hall each Monday morning between 10.00am and 12 noon. We also offer teas/coffee, (and usually cake and biscuits).

We continue to have our annual lunches, which we share with our friends from the Open the Book Team, They rehearse Bible stories at the same time (10 am to 1'2noon), which they then present to Holcombe Brook C.P. School each Wednesday. We continue to get to know each other over a cuppa and a chat!

This year, during the winter months, the Parish offered "Warm Spaces" each Monday from 12noon and so a few members stayed for a simple Soup Lunch and further company until mid afternoon.

Why not come an along any Monday morning between 10:00 and 12:00 noon.

Hall Things Bright and Beautiful

What a wet year!

Quite a few of our working parties to upkeep the reflective garden were washed out. However, overall, we managed to keep on top of the maintenance to ensure that everyone can keep using, enjoying and just sitting quietly in the area.

Not a great deal has changed this year, but one or two deer have become new residents. Also, we have created a new secluded sitting area to house our latest donated bench.

Thanks to donations of chipped bark, we have kept on top of the pathways and trails for the children to enjoy. It also helps to keep down the weeds.

Hopefully there will be plenty of colour in the spring. In between bouts of

rain, quite a number of bulbs have been planted by willing hands.

I would like to thank everyone who continues to help in the garden in any way, without that support we would not have such a pleasant garden area open for all the community to enjoy.

Barbara Newhouse



St. Mary's Church of England Primary School

St. Mary's continues to provide a celebrated Wider Curriculum helping children to flourish with opportunities for strong personal growth. The children have a choice of extra curricular clubs which are interest led. All teachers offer KS1 and KS2 clubs including Choir, Art, Textiles, Computing, Board Games, and various sports. I am delighted that our out of school club, Busy Bees, is thriving offering wraparound care from 7.30am until 5.00pm. All the children in Year 3 and 4 learn to play djembe drums, samba drums, and glockenspiel. They perform confidently as a class led by Bury Music Service. These opportunities help children to develop their personal interests and talents.

Last July we achieved the Dyslexia Aware Quality Mark after many years of developing our inclusive practice. We strive to support all children and remove barriers to learning. The award was presented in Church by the assessors to Dominic Woodward our SEND Link Governor.

We launched our new website in June 2023. Please take a look at stmaryshawkshaw.com. Staff are able to update information and share events. The website gives a good insight into life at St Mary's. Another highly valued communication tool is ClassDojo. We can share information with parents so easily which keeps everyone informed and up to date with school events.

We really appreciate the strong links we have with our Church community. Jo Sumsion and Matthew Brinicombe lead weekly

Collective Worship. We have also taken part in Experience Easter, Experience Christmas and the Moving Up afternoon led by church members. We were grateful to be supported on our Flourishing in Nature Day where we shared activities with Faith Teams from 8 local schools. We were able to plan the day using the Church building and beautiful surrounding area. The day was made extra special by a visit from Bishop Mark and Terry Hart. As a small thank you for the support we receive, our choir performed at the Sizzling Seniors Christmas party and the Methodist Christmas Tree Festival.

St Mary's is moving towards joining Sycamore Multi Academy Trust. We gained consent from the Parochial Church Council in January, we consulted with parents in February, and will be presenting to the Diocesan Board at the end of March 2024. We are already working collaboratively with staff from the six schools in Sycamore MAT. To share good practice across the Trust, we were asked to present a Wider Curriculum Showcase for the Trust leaders in March. We are benefiting significantly from being part of a thriving group of schools. By joining a multi academy trust we are ensuring the sustainable future for St Mary's School in Hawkshaw.



*Geraldine Skinner,
Head Teacher*

The Emmanuel Holcombe school and church family is a thriving community. Together, we have achieved so much this year and we are delighted to share some of the highlights.

Church Links

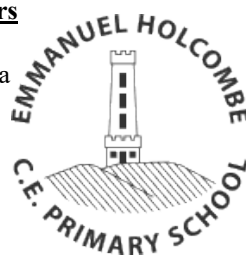
As always, we enjoy our close links with our church family. In February the pupils led our 'Celebration Sunday' service, which was enjoyed by all. In March we welcomed the Capernwray Bible College students into school, to lead worship and help run the 'Prayer Spaces' project in school and at Easter we held our annual Holy Week activities and Easter Service.



Faith Ambassadors

Our Faith

Ambassadors have a prominent role in school, leading Monday Worship once a fortnight. They have also participated in an Inter Faith Day in Bury, learning about World Faiths and then joined pupils from other C of E primary schools in Bury for a 'Flourishing in Nature Day.'



Supporting Charities

Our charitable work is very important to us at Emmanuel Holcombe and this year we asked our parents not to buy staff Christmas gifts, but instead to donate Christmas pyjamas, for those families less fortunate than us. We have also supported Children in Need, Comic Relief and Jeans for Genes.

Rich Curriculum

We have worked hard to ensure that our pupils experience a rich and varied curriculum, which includes a wide range of trips, visitors, workshops and residentials. Year 3 and 4 pupils spent one night on their residential to Hadrian's Wall and the Roman site Vindolanda; our choir performed the youth opera 'The Magic Flute' at Bury MET; our KS1 pupils joined schools across Manchester for a musical performance of 'Jack and the Beanstalk'; our school council visited the Mayor and her chambers and welcomed the Lady Mayor for a tour of Emmanuel Holcombe; Key Stage Two watched the Halle Orchestra at the Bridgewater Hall; Year 3 and 4 pupils welcomed an Anglo Saxon warrior into school for the day and learned about the history of this period; Year 5 and 6 enjoyed class visits to the Police museum, as part of their 'Crime and Punishment' topic and attended a Lowry workshop as



part of our art curriculum. We also welcomed artists David France and Sally Goulding, who led watercolour workshops with KS2. We were also delighted to be named the top performing school in Bury for our SATs results.

Theme Weeks

We love to organise a range of Theme days and weeks for our pupils. This year we have celebrated World Book Day; Black History Month; British Values theme week; organised a Christmas week based on the book ‘the Snowman’ by Raymond Briggs; participated in a music theme week, culminating in a performance of ‘The Magic of the Musicals’; organised ‘Well-being Wednesdays’, with whole school walks up Holcombe Hill.



Sending our love and prayers to you all.

Amy Longstaff

Acting Headteacher

Emmanuel Holcombe CE Primary School

Emmanuel Holcombe Choir

The past year has been rather more predictable than the previous one. There have been no really major events comparable with the Platinum Jubilee Choral Evensong, but we have done quite a lot and learned more new music.

Once again we were pleased to welcome Naomi Jahoda to sing for us at the Good Friday service. At Easter we revived Boyce's 'Alleluia', which worked well. At our April service of Choral Evensong we had an Introit as well as an anthem in honour of our guest, Rachel Mann.

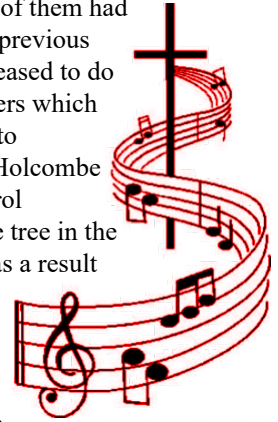
In May we invited others to join our choristers at Choral Evensong and attracted a small number of people. It would probably help if we advertised it sooner. Perhaps it could be made known more widely? We would certainly like to have another go this year.

We are working to revive some music we haven't sung for a while, as well as learning new material and maintaining other items in our repertoire.

For Remembrance Sunday we learned David Ogden's 'We will remember them', and we also sang it as an anthem the following Sunday. I would like to repeat it this year to ensure that it stays in our repertoire.

At Christmas we revisited some music, as well as learning a new Rutter carol. We had a good group of 12 children, all from Holcombe Brook Primary School, who

sang well. Three of them had sung with us the previous year and were pleased to do so again. The flyers which were distributed to members of the Holcombe Society at the carol singing round the tree in the village worked: as a result some of them swelled our numbers at the Carol Service.



It has not been a good year for everyone: in particular we have missed Claire and very much look forward to her return when it is possible.

We have been pleased to welcome Marcia Hollis on several occasions, and we have been grateful to Keith Ball who sang with us on Good Friday last year, as well as Rosemary Burton who helped us at the Carol Service at short notice.

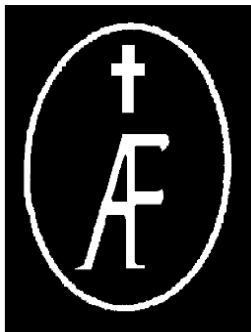
This winter Choral Evensong has moved to 3pm, and I have the impression that those who attend – both choir and congregation – appreciate being able to avoid going out in the dark. It will revert to the 6.30 slot once British Summer Time starts. We have not had to cancel any services because of the weather, but it does seem to snow on Thursdays more often than on most other days, so we did lose two choir practices!

I would like to thank John Fairclough, who plays for the Carol Service, Choral Evensong and the Good Friday service, and I am grateful to several members who contribute in various ways to the smooth running of the choir.

Rosemary Artley
12.3.2024

Afternoon Fellowship 2023

We are still managing to keep going with only a small membership and with the help of church people who give us very interesting talks.



- **January:** The Kellingtons.
- **February:** Robert's Rambles.
- **March:** Holcombe Brook School Choir which was our Fellowships Birthday Anniversary.
- **April:** Rev. Matthew Brinicombe our curate.
- **May:** Sheila our church pianist who gave us a very good musical afternoon.
- **June:** Bessie Crompton gave a talk about the Methodist church in Brandleshome.
- **July:** Robert's Rambles once again stepping in to help us when no speaker was booked.
- **August:** Outing for a lunch at The Bistro which was enjoyed by all.
- **September:** Gloria---her own written poetry as usual excellent.
- **October:** Remembering by Bessie
- **November:** Robert's Christmas Rambles.
- **December:** Carol Service for all hall users, with Christmas refreshments .

Another year over, ending with the sudden death of a very dear member and friend Evelyn Ivison on December 17th, she will be greatly missed.

Our meetings are on the 4th Monday of the month at 2pm Emmanuel Church Centre, we would welcome new members. We have some very interesting talks coming in January and February 2024 and The Veterans 'Choir in March.

For any information please contact:

Mrs. Pauline Keighley 01204 884476

Mrs. Ann Milius 01204 880677

ECC Prayer Group

The Group continues to prepare and deliver Quiet Mornings on the third Tuesday of each month except August and December. Although words and music associated with a theme is chosen for each morning, it is always stressed that this is time and space is an opportunity for each person present to step out of the busyness of their life and to meet with God in a way that is meaningful and unique to them.



Attendances average about 19 people present on the morning, drawn from across our Mission Community as well as Radcliffe and Bolton, but the booklet produced for each morning is often taken to friends of attendees and is also sent to approximately 34 more people, who cannot attend in person for a variety of reasons and who welcome the material to use at home.

So around 50-60 people have access to our Quiet Morning material most months. ECC was once again open on Good Friday morning from 10am to 12 noon to offer space and time for reflection and prayer. To help with this, if people chose to use them were a set of prayer stations based on the book 'Walking the Way of the Cross' by Stephen Cottrell, Paula Gooder and Philip North with pictures by Nicholas Markell.

Three Taizé Prayer Services were held at ECC during 2023 in the usual Sunday morning slot.

A warm invitation is extended to anyone who would like to join us in any of these times of prayer and reflection.

Afternoon Pilgrim Group



Our Tuesday afternoon Pilgrim goes from strength, both in numbers and in deepening and developing our faith together, in a supportive and loving environment.

On average 10 to 12 of us meet together, starting the year with the Prayer Course with Peter Grieg. This led us to Lent, when we were part of the Ramsbottom Churches together Lent course and were joined with fellow Christians from neighbouring churches. This was good, and gave us both a challenge and a fresh insight, leading us to Easter. It was called; 'Journeying to the Cross' and was an exploration of videos by local clergy.

In the Summer we followed the Pilgrim 'Beatitudes', as we had not covered this first time round. At present we are following the current Bible Society Bible Course.

Each course has offered something different and allowed us to talk freely about our life experiences, faith and prayer life. An added bonus is Annette's delicious cake to have with our cuppa, what could be better?

If you are interested in joining us, just speak to one of us

Linda and Jo

19th Ramsbottom Brownies

We are happy to report that we have a lovely thriving pack of 23 Brownies, who enjoy our varied meetings, which aim to have fun while developing individual and team skills.



During the year we have been extremely pleased that our girls gained 10 Bronze, 5 Silver and 2 Gold Awards. That is such an achievement and special congratulations go to Amelie Fildes Coulborn and Katie Tunbridge, to achieve Gold is super special.

To gain these awards and other badges, the Brownies took part in games, campfires, craft, performances, community and other challenges. We had a lovely evening making our own pizzas, at the Campsite in Edenfield, with a little archery as well.

Congratulations to Lisa who has qualified as a Brownie Leader and now takes charge of our Pack, we are so fortunate to have her. Thanks to all our Leaders for their dedication to Brownies.

Sadly, we have lost one of our leaders, Janet Halliwell-Sandiford who died on New Year's Eve. She will be greatly missed by us all.

We have been able to pass on some of our girls to the Guide Section and look forward to another exciting year, with new Brownies on the waiting list to join us in 2024. We hope to fill the year with fun adventures.

Guiders: *Lisa Fildes Coulborn, Mary Souter, Julie Ringer and Barbara Newhouse.*

10th Ramsbottom Guides

2023 was our first full year returning to "real" weekly Guide meetings and was as busy as ever.



The girls have followed the Girlguiding program completing Unit Meeting Activities and Skills Builders, testing their negotiation skills, problem solving, improvising with props, and looking for the man in the moon. They started the year completing their Confectioner badge, making rocky road, shortbread and peppermint creams.

We've made marshmallow catapults, taken part in the Smarties fundraising challenge for Waddow, cooked pancakes on tin cans, had a film night, played games including duster hockey, dodged doughnuts, and been crafty making Fimo friends, bead bowls and upcycling old jars into Christmas decorations.

The summer saw us enjoying the great outdoors, with an evening hike followed by the obligatory chippy visit, and exercising our culinary skills with campfire cooking.

It has been lovely to welcome new members in the year, and we've waved goodbye to others who have moved on.

As ever, we couldn't do this without the help of our volunteers, so it's 'Thank You!' for everything they do.

Guider: *Susan Watson*



What we lack in Dramatic ability, we make up for in enthusiasm, so why not join us you will not regret it. Contact Sheila if you would like to give it a try, come and have a look any Monday morning, from 10am until 12 noon in term time.

During term time, every Monday sees a band of willing thespians from Open the Book having fun, rehearsing our weekly Bible Story before taking it, on a Wednesday morning, to Holcombe Brook Primary School where we are greeted like long lost friends. When the pupils meet us in and around the vicinity particularly the Co-op they excitedly tell their parents and grandparents that we come into their school.

Sheila and Cath keep us in order and we enjoy the fellowship and hospitality of Drop In every Monday.

Our costumes and props are home made and very eco friendly. We involve the children, who eagerly volunteer, which they love, not least for the stickers. Some of our audience love looking at their grandparents in a different light.

We have also been drafted in to help with Experiencing Christmas and Experiencing Easter with all three schools in the Parish and Ofsted have commented on the value of our contribution.





Children and Families Ministry Report 2023

Campfire Church

Campfire Church continued throughout 2023. We continued to learn from Jesus' parables from January to July and since September we have based our sessions on the miracles of Jesus. Our aims are spelt out in our home-written Campfire Church prayer:



“Loving God, we have come to Campfire Church to worship you. In our prayers, help us speak with you. In our singing, help us to praise you. As we listen to your word, help us to learn from you. May we bless one another in the time we spend together. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.”

Our activities have included baking bread on the fire, blindfold trails, willow weaving, treasure and scavenger hunts, water games, pebble painting and den building. We have a core group of families who attend each month and it's a good sign that the children don't want to leave at the end of the sessions!

Earlier in the year I was invited to speak at the ALM worship training on Fresh Expressions and shared our experience of starting and running a Fresh Expression of church.

Capernwray

In February we hosted another team of four students from Capernwray Bible College. They visited Drop In and Warm Spaces, led a Sunday evening service and All Age worship at Hawkshaw, shared their stories in morning worship around the parish, helped to lead Prayer Spaces in both schools, took part in school RE lessons and collective worship and joined in with youth activities. Thank you to Penny and Vic and Jane for hosting and the many people who provided meals for them.



Yorkshire Camps

In March we made a return trip to Yorkshire Camps with our KS2 children. It was another fun weekend full of activities, Bible teaching and games.



Holiday club

This year we held our annual holiday club during Holy Week. We followed the theme of Easter from the raising of Lazarus, the anointing of Jesus at Bethany, the Triumphal Entry and the Last Supper, following through with the events of Good Friday and Easter Sunday at our Easter services.



This was much better attended than our summer clubs have been in recent years and so we plan to continue to hold a club in the school Easter holidays.

Hawkshaw on Sundays

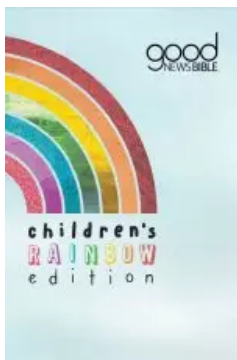
Children and youth groups at Hawkshaw continue to meet twice a month in school (preschool – Year 5) and in the Cellar (Year 6 and up) during the morning service. There are 26 children registered.

We have continued to develop our intergenerational worship on the other two Sundays each month, providing a space where people of all ages benefit from worshipping together as the church family.

Schools work

Bibles

The headline of this year in our schools' work is that we were able to give Bibles to all children in KS2 across both



schools – 120 of them! This was in the transition to giving children Bibles at the beginning of Year 3 rather than at the end of Year 6. They were presented at the school harvest services.

The rationale for the change is that we want to join in with children's journey of faith, including Bible reading, as they are with us in primary school and through our strong home/school/church links. (We also gave Bibles to children of the same age who are part of our church

family at Hawkshaw and Campfire Church, but attend other schools).

Thank you to all those individuals who made this possible by donating money for the Bibles.

Collective worship

We continue to lead whole school collective worship in both of our church schools each week, Robert and Matthew are involved in this too. Each week, I have continued to lead class worship at Emmanuel for a different class each half term.

Open the Book

(See separate report page 40)

Celebration Sunday

Is continuing to be embedded as an important date in the diary in the annual cycle of events of Emmanuel School and, since last year, has moved to February. The children of Emmanuel school are becoming well versed in introducing the service, leading the liturgy, prayers, Bible reading, drama and singing. It's so good to see our church and school families joining together to celebrate in worship in this way.

Experience Easter

This year it was the turn of our church schools to 'Experience Easter'. (We alternate doing the Experiences between the two smaller schools and Holcombe Brook Primary each year.)

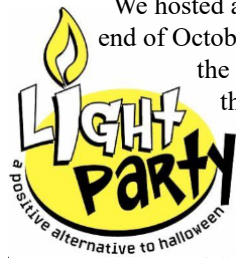


We decided to do Experience Easter outside again, having

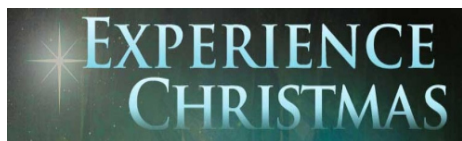
had glorious weather two years ago. Unfortunately half of the sessions were rained off. This year we plan to move back to the indoor version!

Light Party

We hosted a Light Party at the end of October for all children in the church family and those in KS2 in the schools. There was a small uptake of 17, but it was an encouraging start for a new venture. With light themed games and craft, teaching on Jesus as the Light of the World and, of course (!), hot chocolate and cookies. We hope to repeat it again next year, with a greater take up.



Experience Christmas



Over two days in two churches in December all the children at St Mary's and Emmanuel got to 'Experience Christmas'. Feedback from children and staff was overwhelmingly positive, which is testament to the hard work of all the volunteers. We were able to give each child the Bible Society's Christmas booklet for the year: 'A Christmas Rhyme' for the younger ones and 'Festive Fred' for the older ones. We also gave the Christmas devotional booklet 'Join the Song' to all members of staff.

We kept the churches open after school and invited the children to bring their parents and carers to Experience Christmas for themselves. There was a good uptake with 12-15 parents visiting in each church.

We also held special services for our schools at harvest, Christmas and Easter.

Over this year we have been building links with two specialist provision schools run by Halliwell Homes. The children attended Emmanuel School's harvest service and took part in a Christingle service during the school day, with the older children from Emmanuel. They also received a Bible or storybook appropriate to their age at the harvest service.



Prayer Spaces

We have continued to run Prayer Spaces in schools at various points during the year; firstly with the Capernwray team, on the theme of justice, which was the schools' value for that half term, then on Pentecost and also as part of a faith day on creation for all C of E primary schools in Bury. Each session takes a year group of around 16 children in small groups, around four activities, enabling them to engage in prayer in a variety of ways.

Transition work

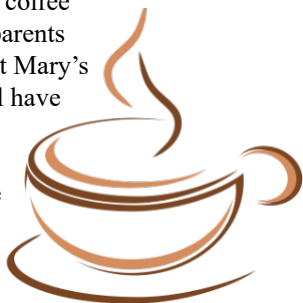
In July we held sessions for the Year 6 pupils at St. Mary's, Emmanuel and Holcombe Brook Primary Schools on their

transition to secondary school. We did this using four Prayer Spaces activities.

For the final time as we have now changed to giving Bibles in Year 3, we presented each Year 6 student from Emmanuel and St Mary's with a copy of the Bible at their Leavers' Services.

Coffee mornings

The weekly coffee mornings for parents and carers at St Mary's and Emmanuel have continued throughout the year. There are a growing number of parents and



grandparents who attend. Relationships continue to be formed and the support and friendship within these groups is appreciated by all those involved.

Thank you

Thank you to all who are involved in our ministry with children and families. None of this could happen without the vast number of volunteers who teach, craft, play, chat, pray, act, plan and lead. Thank you to everyone who can no longer 'do', but prays for us.

"Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever!

Amen."

Ephesians 3:20-21

Traveller's (Adult and Toddler Group)

(March 2023 – March 2024)

We finished last year's report saying we were looking forward to another busy year and what a busy year it has been! Just last term we averaged 8 adults and 16 children, which may not sound a lot, but once the children are busily playing with all the toys, the hall is full!

We meet during term time only and charge £2 per family, the subs collected go towards: -

- Refreshments (tea, coffee, juice & biscuits).
- Colouring sheets & Craft activities (this year Sunflower Fridge Magnets, Coronation Windmills and Robin Christmas Tree decorations).
- Christmas Presents and leaving gifts for the children starting school.
- Canon Lewis Hall Hire Charges..

Having built up some funds we decided to purchase some new feeder cups and toys; Playdough pizza oven, shopping trolley, Little Tikes Petrol pump, fairy dressing up outfit and a Pepper Pig Bus. All of the toys have proven to be popular, though none more so than Pepper Pig, as one little girl always finds the Pepper Pig characters and carries them round all afternoon!



At Easter, we held an Easter Egg Hunt, the children enjoyed this so much we had another Treasure Hunt looking for Pudsey and his friends at our BBC

Children In Need fundraising afternoon. We matched the money raised out of funds and were able to send a £60 donation from everyone at Traveller's.

There was also great excitement, (and of course a few tears) when Father Christmas came to visit us.



A special highlight of the year was a surprise birthday party and a wonderful cake, (thank you Julia!)

Everyone attending Traveller's is friendly, supportive and will welcome

new faces. For more details and photographs please see our notice board in Canon Lewis Hall. Finally at the end of the afternoon everyone helps



tidy up at the end of the session and providing the toys go back in the cupboard in a certain way, we can just about close the cupboard door!

Kathryn Fry & Julia Grant

Cellar and Youth at Hawkshaw

The cellar at Hawkshaw Church is a wonderful space for our youth people! It is equipped with pool, table tennis, football and air hockey tables. It has a wonderful casual atmosphere for conversation and games, with plenty of space for sitting and chatting on the sofas, (though adults need mind their heads). Weather permitting it is great to play outside on the grass, or otherwise upstairs in the church building. We also have permission to use the school yard.

We are open to years 7–9 on Thursday evenings during term time. We love hosting a space for young people to feel loved and welcome, to chat with us and to meet up with each other. I particularly really appreciate all the leaders Penny, Ian, Layna, Callum, Eddie, Tim, Isaac and Liam (and me) – you are wonderful, and Cellar youth club could not run without your tireless enthusiasm and generous sacrifice of their evenings.

Our evenings together include a time when we sit on the sofas and explore an aspect of Christian faith and discuss big questions! It has been very exciting to see young people rise to group discussion so enthusiastically. Similarly, we often split into two groups to play wide games upstairs/outside or have an opportunity to play games or craft more quietly inside cellar – as always we have really appreciated the guidance of the young



people and what they would like to do in this time: As this is THEIR space, and we are just there to provide that space for them.

We started the year with around thirty young people coming regularly, but as always when the nights get colder and darker and we move indoors, the numbers diminished too. We now have regular average attendance of fifteen young people which is very encouraging.

This has been a wonderful year for cellar, and we are excited for the future! If there is anyway we would appreciate more support, it would be in praying for more team members, to ensure that we can continue to run regularly and smoothly, offer each team member more down time and ideally also be able to play football outside in the schools' yard – which would likely keep some retention of numbers from the summer, (which we have permission to do, but not enough team).

*Much love and blessings,
Matthew Brinicombe*

Rector: Rev. Paul Sumsion,
The Vicarage,
Bolton Road,
Hawkshaw,
Bury,
BL8 4JN
01204 888060.



Associate Ministers:

Rev. Robert Airey	01706 224743
Rev. Vic. Fletcher	01204 882750
Curate:	
Rev. Matthew Brinicombe	07447 976308

Readers:

Mr. Michael Burton,	01706 822664.
Mr. Richard Byrom,	01204 883110.
Mrs. Ethel Houghton	01254 704758.
Mrs. Jane Fletcher	01204 882750.
Mrs. Jo Sumsion	01204 888060

Children and Families' Ministry Facilitator:

Mrs. Jo Sumsion	01204 888060
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Church Wardens:

Mr. Stephen Newhouse (Lay Chair PCC).	
	01706 412657.
Mr. Peter Hardcastle	01204 853999

Why not visit our website:

www.holcombehawkshaw.org

Each Sunday There is a service at each worship centre and the 10.45am service at St. Mary, Hawkshaw is "streamed live" on YouTube and is available all week, so you can watch it at any time.

Just visit our website www.holcombehawkshaw.org.

We have also been sending out regular e-mails with news updates, so if you haven't received those please email a request to

stephen.newhouse@sky.com



Rev. Robert Airey



Rev. Vic. Fletcher



Rev.
Matthew Brinicombe

Annual Report and Yearbook 2023



Holcombe and Hawkshaw Parochial Church Council

STATEMENT OF INCOME FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

	Holcombe and Hawkshaw 2023		
	£	£	£
Voluntary Income			
Planned Giving - Gift Aid	63,379.51		
Planned Giving - Un-gifted	4,554.94		
One off Gift Aid	600.00		
Cash/Collections	6,786.58		
Income tax recovered	16,669.89		
Fund Raising Events	1,795.02		
Magazine	581.70		
Use of Church Buildings	6,722.00		
		101,089.64	
Other Ordinary Income			
Dividends and Interest	1,331.39		
Fees to PCC	13,637.00		
		14,968.39	116,058.03
Extraordinary Income			
(i) Restricted Donations	41,282.65		
(ii) Energy Grants	4,940.00		
Insurance Claims	7,108.67		
Special Appeals	837.56		
		54,168.88	170,226.91
Total Income 2023			<u><u>170,226.91</u></u>
Income 2022			136,787.28

Notes

- (i) £30,000 grant for ECC Car Park
- (ii) £4,940 grant from the Diocese to assist with high energy costs and Warm Spaces

Holcombe and Hawkshaw Parochial Church Council

STATEMENT OF EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

	2023		
	£	£	£
The Ministry			
Ministry Expenses	5,890.67		
Support & Education	4,081.15		
		9,971.82	
The Church and Services			
Energy	18,239.59		
Water	717.64		
Cleaning	0.00		
Insurance	7,993.89		
Upkeep of Services	8,830.91		
Church Maintenance	7,747.68		
Churchyard	844.34		
		44,374.05	
Other Ordinary Expenditure			
Wages	16,339.56		
Magazine	0.00		
Fund Raising costs	1,132.83		
Verger/Organist	2,607.00		
		20,079.39	
The Diocese			
Parish Share	40,000.00		
Other Diocese costs	3,035.00		
		43,035.00	
Payments to Missions/Charities			
Mission/Charities	2,194.56		
		2,194.56	119,654.82
Extraordinary Expenditure			
ECC Car Park	54,229.22		
Holcombe Church (Toilets)	21,463.21		
Hawkshaw	320.00		
Hawkshaw Heating	980.00		
Insurance Work	1,317.33		
		78,309.76	197,964.58
Total Cash Expenditure 2023			197,964.58
Expenditure 2022			116,691.55

YEAR END STATEMENT 2023

Bank Balances 31 December 2023

	Total
Current Account	-
Deposit Account	77,013.27
Direct Giving Accounts	3,084.87
Restricted Funds Account	832.39
Cash	-
	<hr/>
	80,930.53
Less Unpresented cheques	
Year End Total	<hr/> 80,930.53 <hr/>

Restricted/Designated Funds

Energy Savings	5,000.00
ECC Golden Jubilee Renovation	7,503.74
Holcombe	6,530.24
Hawkshaw	1,006.00
Hawkshaw Heating	42,740.00
Mission and Christian Camp (ex Malawi)	1,931.64
	<hr/>
	64,711.62 <hr/>

Working Balance **16,218.91**

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AT 31 DECEMBER 2023

	Balance 12/31/2022	Balance 12/31/2023	Share Price	Shares
Santander Shares	313.11	418.95	332.5	126
Esther Martha Greenhalgh Charity Fund	3,780.38	4,127.76	1984.5	208
CCLA - Restricted Holcombe Endowments	976.34	1,011.18		
<u>Bank Accounts</u>				
Current Acc	-	-		
Deposit Acc	92,230.36	77,013.27		
Direct Giving Acc	12,615.39	3,084.87		
Restricted Acc	822.45	832.39		
Cash Not banked	-	-		
	110,738.03	86,488.42		
Less Cheques unpresented	-	-		
	110,738.03	86,488.42		
TOTALS	110,738.03	86,488.42		

Notes



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/
members of

Parish of Holcombe & Hawkshaw, Lancashire

On accounts for the year
ended

31/12/2023

Charity no
(if any)

Set out on pages

Trace Sep 24 B1,B2,B3,B4,A1,A2,A3 & Summary of Traceability

Responsibilities and
basis of report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended **31/12/2023**

As the charity's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent
examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination (other than that disclosed below *) which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report 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:

Date:

10/9/2024

Name:

Stuart Moulit

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

AAT membership number: 20269328

Address:

9 Hunstanton Drive, Bury. BL8 1EG

Section B**Disclosure**

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.

I have carried out the independent examination
I have noted an increase in Direct On-Line banking payment and have followed some transactions but not selected – all found to be accurate and traceable. Cheque book stubs were not given to verify 'paper copy' but traces were completed without Cheque book stubs.

I have cross referenced financial statements with links back to accounting records: - Bank statements, Receipts, Bank Details & Summary (held by Treasurer), Invoices.

I have selected various sample receipts & payments and traced back through all accounting sheets including Bank Statements. Details of one sample – see **'Trace Sept 24 B1, B2 & B3'**.

I must mention that while moving over to Direct Banking does give confidence in traceability the continued use of Cheque books should be filled in correctly and be accountable. I have noted one cheque (**Trace Sept 24 B4**) which I could not verify for what or to whom it was given. On completing my examination, I found three other cheques that could not be verified, while these sums do not warrant further examination I can only advice that all sums should be traceable, but I am satisfied that these accounts give no significant cause for concern.

I have selected various sample payments on Bank Statements and traced back through all accounting sheets Receipts. Details of one sample – see **'Trace Sept 24 A1,A2 & A3'**.

I have selected various Incomes and follow back 'Direct Giving' money transfers and 'Weekly Giving' and am satisfied that these accounts give no cause for concern.

See **'Summary of Traceability'**

I have reviewed the minutes of the PCC and I have obtained background information on the PCC, how it is organised. The parish includes St. Mary's Hawkshaw & Emmanuel Holcombe and within the Parish there are 3 churches - St. Mary's (Hawkshaw), Emmanuel Church (Holcombe Village) & Emmanuel Church Centre (Holcombe).

8 sheets attached: -

Trace Sept 24 B1, B2, B3 & B4

Trace Sept 24 A1, A2 & A3

Summary of Traceability

Accounts



HOLIDAY CLUB FOR AGES 5-11
ST MARY'S CHURCH HAWKSHAW
 25-29 JULY 2022 : 9.30-12.30
 CONTACT PENNY HANLEY : 07870 578 632
 INFO@HOLCOMBEHAWKSHAW.ORG
 DONATIONS OF £3 PER DAY APPRECIATED

Saturday 8th October
10.00am to 2.00pm
 Emmanuel Church Centre
 Canon Lewis Hall
 Car Park
 Longlight Road,
 Holcombe Brook
 BL5 4DS

CAR BOOT SALE

Car: £10 Items £10
 No cash
 Sun 10am-2pm
 Sun 2pm-4pm

Chapman made possible by: Parish of Holcombe and Hawkshaw P.C.C.
 For more information email: carboot@holcombehawkshaw.org
 Consent granted by Bury Council

Fashion Show by Fizz

Monday 21st November

Emmanuel Church Centre
 Longlight Road
 Holcombe Brook
 BL5 4DS

Doors open 7.00pm
 Ladies fashions for all ages and sizes.

Tickets: £5
 (All over 21 years)
 Available from
 9392 9392

Buy on the night
 (cash, cheque debit/credit cards.)

Annual Report and Yearbook 2022



Alternative Last Night of the Proms

Another opportunity to see the world famous BBC Proms at the Royal Albert Hall
Saturday 10th September
 Emmanuel Church Centre,
 Longlight Road,
 Holcombe Brook
 Bury
 BL5 4DS

Tickets £7
 at Emmanuel Church Centre
 01756 432022
 01756 432022
 holcombe@holcombehawkshaw.org

Parish of Holcombe & Hawkshaw



What's been happening in the Parish?

Loving God, loving neighbours; sharing Jesus with you.

This year the Yearbook and the Annual Report,
will be formally presented at the

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Emmanuel Church Centre,
Longsight Road,
Holcombe Brook,
Bury
BL8 4DB
7.30pm for 8.00pm.

2nd May 2023

Vision Statement

“In our Parish:

- We will welcome others and serve the community through our love and care.
- We want to provide inspirational worship in various styles to meet the needs of all.
- Our teaching, based on the authority of the Bible, aims to connect faith to daily life, sustaining, encouraging and challenging everyone.
- We aim to have welcoming and warm buildings that enable us to worship, glorify God and aid mission.
- We seek to reach out through God’s love of all people, sharing the joy and wonder of the faith we have in our daily life with Jesus and growing his worldwide church in faith, hope and love.

The Parochial Church Council
Updated: 1st February, 2014

This booklet gives information about the activities of the various Parish Organisations and the Parish Annual Report.

Once again it is the product of teamwork by many people. Sincere thanks go to contributors who responded so promptly and made this Report possible.

We hope you will find the contents both interesting and informative.

Any errors are the responsibility of contributors/editor.



**Parish of
Holcombe &
Hawkshaw**

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Parish of Holcombe & Hawkshaw
Annual Parochial Church Meeting Minutes
Emmanuel Church Centre, Monday 25th May 2022 at 8pm

Present:

Three Clerks in Holy Office,

Rev. Paul Sumsion, Rev. Robert Airey and Rev. Ian Fleming.

And the following lay members of the parish:

S. Partridge, J. Burton, P. Hanley, J. M. Venn, M. Burton, C. Baggoley, S. Newhouse, B. Newhouse, S. Wilkinson, J. Houghton, J. Sumsion, S. Byrom, R. Byrom, B. Atkin, J. Smale, P. Jones, J. Smale, C. Holt, A Millius, G. Goldsmith, J. Horrocks, G. Booth, G. Metcalfe, L. Jackson, P. Hardcastle and E. Slattery.

PART A: A Meeting of Parishioners (Vestry Meeting)

1 Opening Prayer: The Rev. Paul Sumsion opened the meeting with prayer.

2 Chairman's Remarks: Pastoral Schemes and 'former' parishes

The Rev. Paul Sumsion said that in 2009 the scheme was not ratified by Bishops Council, he considered the informal scheme we have now was a good way to work with the rule book to fall back on. The view of the PCC is that it is important that there is representation from each centre of worship aiming for at least two from each centre at PCC.

Agreed by members.

3 Election of two Church Wardens, (one from each former parish)

The nominations for Church wardens were Peter Hardcastle and Stephen Newhouse, there were no other nominations, and they were both duly elected

All agreed.

PART B APCM

4 Apologies for Absence received from:

Rosemary Artley, David Lomax, Muriel Warburton, Neville Holt, Glenis Lomax, Martin Lomax, Keith Jones, Dot Yardley, Ethel Houghton, David Horrocks, Peter Hardcastle, Geoff Clare and Pauline Clare.

5 Minutes of last year's meeting of parishioners and APCM

There was one amendment: the Rector's report regarding Quiet Mornings should read Gloria Metcalfe not Romey Simpson.

The amendment was agreed and it was proposed by Jenny Burton seconded by Rev. Ian Fleming that the minutes be received and accepted.

All agreed.

6 Presentation of the revised church electoral roll by Sheila Partridge.

Total of 193, two people have been added and one removed.

7 Presentation of Annual Reports and Accounts for Holcombe and Hawkshaw 2021

There was one amendment the reference to St. Mary's Tottington should read St. Anne's Tottington in the paragraph New Deanery.

Agreed with amendment and accepted unanimously.

8 Election of Church Officers

a. Deputy Church Wardens (2 for each centre of worship)

St. Mary, Hawkshaw:

Eddie Slattery & Ray Houghton

Emmanuel Church Centre:

Jo Venn & Julie Smale, (was nominated by Jo Venn, seconded by

Sheila Partridge).

Emmanuel, Holcombe:

Susan Nuttall & Mike Burton, (was nominated by Jenny Burton seconded by Robert Airey).

All elected unopposed.

b. Representatives of the laity to the Deanery Synod

from Holcombe: Claire Baggoley and Stephen Newhouse

from Hawkshaw: Jean Houghton and Keith Jones.

Agreed unanimously.

c. Representatives of the laity on the PCC

Richard Byrom, Stuart Wilkinson, Liz Webber, Ethel Houghton, Penny Hanley, Eddie Slattery, Jo Sumsion, David Lomax, Jo Venn, Michael Burton, Rosemary Artley and Sheila Partridge.

Julie Smale was nominated by Jo Venn seconded by Sheila Partridge.

Tim Webber was nominated by Jean Houghton seconded by Jo Venn.

All duly elected.

9 Appointment of an Independent Examiner

Stuart Moulton from St. Anne's Church, Tottington was nominated as the independent examiner .

Proposed by Stephen Newhouse, seconded by Jenny Burton.

Agreed unanimously.

10 Rectors Report

Looking Back

The Rector reflected that there has been a year of hard work in the last year and a lot of uncertainty, however much has restarted and been re-envisioned.

People

He remembered that sadly we have lost Margaret Rothwell, Michael Booth, Pam Fawcett, Marjorie Worrall, Stella Slater, Phyllis Hope, Philip France and Colin Gaskell.

The Rector extended thanks to the Church Wardens: Stephen and Peter, the Deputy Wardens: Gwen, Jo, Michael, Susan, Ray and Eddie and also Robert, Vic., Ian and the Readers: Michael, Richard, Ethel, and Jane and from last summer Jo Sumsion, who was newly licensed as a reader, and has been employed as Children and Families Ministry Facilitator.

The Rector also thanked all those who help in admin, maintenance, finance and hospitality, schools engagement and so much more.

Worship

The Rector reflected that worship is still a little bit different, there is still some social spacing and the common cup is still not shared. Covid rates are still high, but worship has been offered on line as well as in person. Some resources have been available by post or email which has enabled better connection including creativity for Christmas and the Churches Together in Ramsbottom sermon series for Lent. There has also been outdoor worship at various points. However, the choir are back, the music group are gathering, sound and video are in use, prayers are being said, people are meeting with God and the Gospel is being preached and taught.

Mission

The Rector reported that Camp Fire Church has started and there are connections with church schools with Experience Christmas, Experience Easter and Open the Book. There are Sunday school groups and a fresh focus on effective All age worship.

There are also Quiet Mornings, a marriage preparation course, Bereavement care, Drop in, Sizzling Seniors, Soup company, Mothers Union and Afternoon Fellowship.

The Rector said that he knew he had missed out a lot and urged people to look in the annual report to see more! He thanked Stephen for his exemplary work on the annual report and the magazine.

Looking forward

The Rector stated that the values agreed by the PCC to be behind all we do are Generous Hospitality, Growing Faith, Worshipful, Recognising and Responding to need, Compassionate, Bible-based teaching and Missional, all giving a framework of values to measure ourselves against – does what we do look and feel like an expression of Christian Community, reaching out with the love of Jesus to our wider community and the world?

Mission Communities

The Rector explained that this is a Manchester Diocese initiative, supported by the Church Commissioners, to see us working together better with those in the immediate area of our parish, Ramsbottom and Edenfield Team Ministry and Tottington parish. The Rector announced that the Bishop had appointed him as Mission Community Leader. In Ramsbottom the Mission Community is already strong, due to an excellent Churches Together group.

He advised that we are looking to find Focal Leaders for each church, and that we may look for ways of making this a shared role, but the aim is to have a ‘go-to’ person, to be there each week for a congregation. The wider aim is to see our congregations grow in faith, depth and number.

The hope is to look for the places where there is good practice and to encourage each worship centre to flourish in a few things, rather than to try to be all things to all people.

Worship

The Rector continued by saying that the small groups would be restarting soon, in church buildings for the time being.

Mission

The Rector reiterated that mission needs to continue to be at the heart of what we do. We are tasked with building up the kingdom of God in this place. It is God’s mission in which we share. Where there are barriers we hope to overcome them together. Our buildings should serve this mission, not the other way round. The three buildings need significant work and there is a real challenge financially. We will look for grants to help, but we will also need to look at our giving as individuals, to see if we can contribute more from all that God has given to us, Paul added that there will be a letter sent out to parishioners regarding this soon. The financial challenge is also around energy use; the rising costs of energy has hit us harder than some, due to our energy supplier at Holcombe going bust, the gas bill was £5000 for February for the three centres. But it is time to look at how we use our energy, in order to play our part in bringing down our carbon footprint, greater efficiency in heating and lighting are needed, this too is part of the mission of God as we look after the world God has given us as stewards. And lastly we have a challenge of people; –Thank God for each of the people here – each of you

are unique, called by God and valued by Him and us. But please pray that God would send us more people with the time and energy to help this vision become reality.

The Rector observed that we still sometimes struggle with communication too, however he, Stuart and the PCC have been working on an intranet to help with this, and we are moving back to printed news sheets being available as well as magazines.

The Rector concluded that under God each of our centres of worship can have a place in His plans and a future, if we will play our parts in making that happen... Our response is encapsulated in our mission statement:
Loving God, Loving Neighbours; sharing Jesus with you.

11 Matters of general parochial interest

- A question was asked from the floor about Focal Leaders.
The Rector replied that this has been tried in rural locations where in each church someone, (either lay or ordained) is in church week by week and growth happened.
It is hoped to appoint the focal leaders within six months to a year.
- A question was asked about time scales when intranet would be available.
The Rector replied that it would be rolled out to the PCC first and training would be available.
- A question was asked if there was a time scale for the common cup to be used at communion.
The Rector replied that this would need to be approved by the Bishop.

12 Notices and thanks from the chair

The Archdeacons visitation for Bury & Rossendale Deanery 2022
Choose from: Tuesday 7th June. St. Nicholas, Newchurch 7pm.
or: Wednesday 8th June. All Saints, Stand 7.30pm.

Next PCC: Monday 16th May 2022 7.15pm for 7.30pm.

The Rector thanked everyone for attending, Stephen Newhouse thanked Paul, Jo and their family for their work over the past 12 months.

13 Closing prayer and Blessing

Paul closed the meeting with the collect for the 24th April and a blessing.

The Parish of Holcombe and Hawkshaw

Emmanuel Church, Holcombe.

and

Emmanuel Church Centre,

Longsight Road,

Holcombe Brook.

and

St. Mary, Hawkshaw.

In the Deanery of Bury, the Diocese of Manchester.

Annual Report

and

Financial Statements

of the

Parochial Church Council

For the year ended 31st December, 2022.

Rector:

The Rev'd. Paul H. Sumsion,
The Vicarage,
Bolton Road,
Hawkshaw,
Bury.
BL8 4JN.

Bank: Royal Bank of Scotland

Insurers: Ecclesiastical Insurance.

Honorary Treasurer: David Lomax.

Gift Aid Coordinator: Judith Horrocks.

Independent Examiner: Stuart Moulton.

Annual Report for 2022

Statement:

The PCC of the Parish of Holcombe and Hawkshaw has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent, the Rev'd. Paul Sumsion, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelical, social and ecumenical. It also has maintenance responsibility for S^t Mary, Hawkshaw, Emmanuel Church, Holcombe and Emmanuel Church Centre and Canon Lewis Hall, Longsight Road, Holcombe Brook.

Membership of the PCC.:

Members of the PCC are either ex officio or elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting in accordance with the Church Representation Rules.

During the year the following served as members of the PCC:

Incumbent: The Rev'd. Paul Sumsion, *Chairman & Rector.*

Associate Ministers: The Rev'd. Robert. W. Airey.
The Rev'd. Vic. Fletcher.

Curate: Rev'd. Ian Fleming, *(to September 2022).*

Ex Officio Members:

Wardens: Mr. Peter Hardcastle, *from May 2021,*

Mr. Stephen Newhouse, *from May 2019, (Lay Vice-Chairman of PCC).*

Representatives on the Deanery Synod: *until 2023*

From Emmanuel and Emmanuel Church Centre:

Claire Baggoley and Stephen Newhouse.

From S^t Mary's, Hawkshaw: Keith Jones and Jean Houghton.

Elected Members:

Fourteen members are elected at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting, (seven from the congregations of Emmanuel, Holcombe or Emmanuel Church Centre and seven from the congregation of Hawkshaw, S^t. Mary).

Those elected at the A,P.C.M in April 2022, were:

from S^t Mary's Hawkshaw:

Richard Byrom, Penny Hanley, Ethel Houghton, Edward Slattery, Jo. Sumsion, Liz. Webber, Tim Webber *from May 2022 and* Stuart Wilkinson.

from Emmanuel, Holcombe and Emmanuel Church Centre were:

Rosemary Artley, Michael Burton, David Lomax, Sheila Partridge, Julie Smale *from May 2022 and* Jo Venn.

Readers and Deputy Wardens are not ex officio members of the PCC, but are able to stand for election at the APCM.

Readers:

Mr. Michael Burton, *(also Deputy Warden, (Emmanuel) and elected to PCC).*

Mr. Richard Byrom, *(and elected to the PCC).*

Mrs. Ethel Houghton, *(also elected to the PCC).*

Mrs. Jane Fletcher, *(also elected to the PCC).*

Mrs. Jo Sumsion, *(also elected to the PCC and has been Children and Families Ministry Facilitator from September 2021).*

Deputy Church Wardens

Emmanuel Church Holcombe:

Michael Burton and Susan Nuttall,

Emmanuel Church Centre:

Julie Smale *from May 2022* and Jo. Venn.

St. Mary's Hawkshaw:

Eddie Slattery and Ray Houghton.

Structure:

(1) Standing Committee/Leadership Teams:

We are required by law, not only to have a Parochial Church Council, duly elected to represent our parishioners, but also a Standing Committee, which can attend to urgent parish business between PCC meetings, if necessary.

In between PCC meetings the Parish Leadership Team, (of which the Standing Committee is part), Emmanuel, Holcombe Leadership Team, Emmanuel Church Centre Leadership Team and St. Mary, Hawkshaw Leadership Team meet.

Each Leadership Team organises working groups within their own church.

The Parish Leadership Team:

Rev. P. Sumsion, Rev. R. Airey, Barbara Atkin, Peter Hardcastle, Michael Burton, Rev. Vic. Fletcher, Ethel Houghton, David Lomax, Stephen Newhouse, Jo Venn, Rev. Ian Fletcher to July 2021 and Jo Sumsion as Children and Families Ministry Facilitator.

Emmanuel Holcombe Team Report 2022

The Emmanuel, Holcombe Team met three times during the year.

We continue to work our way through the list of required work from the last Quinquennial Inspection. In addition to general building work, at each meeting we consider Health and Safety concerns, we held our first “practice evacuation” during a service this year to identify any concerns in the safe and speedy evacuation in the event of a fire. Minor items were noted and acted upon.

Covid 19 Restrictions

In effect restrictions were removed by mid-year, although we continue to offer Communion in one type to those who prefer not to take the wine.

Building work

Our plans for building work were approved by the DAC early in the year, detailed drawings were prepared and quotations obtained for the Toilet and South Aisle Area, whilst we have some money in the Building Fund, quite a large sum will need to be raised through donations, grants and fundraising, etc. to enable the full implementation of our plans.

There have been numerous minor repairs throughout the year including refinishing the clergy vestry outer door and the “hidden” north side door. The path was partially re-pointed with plans to complete in the spring/summer of 2023. Repairs were made to the flower boxes in the Lych gate.

Services

Agreed Service pattern:

1st Sunday 11am - All Age Worship at which most Baptisms would be performed.

3rd Sunday 11am - Parade about six per year, others will be All Age Services

2nd and 4th Sunday 11am - Holy Communion.

3rd Sunday 6.30pm - Choral Evensong 1662 with about four Choral Holy Communions throughout the year.

In an effort to reinvigorate the attendance at Parade Services the May, July and September Parades were held at ECC as part of the Campfire Church Service, with more than normal attending. Uniformed groups were invited to lead prayers and take part in the Lesson reading, (Brownies volunteered to perform a dramatized reading).

Family and Children Provision

Jo Sumsion with the help of Margaret Cockcroft, continues the Weekly Coffee mornings for parents and carers of our School children on Wednesday at 9am, (also Tuesday at St. Mary’s), which has been successful in attracting around 8 or 9 adults and a couple of toddlers each week.

Eco Church

We have started to consider our response to achieve Eco Church status, having drafted our survey answers, we are working on raising awareness in the congregation and improving areas which are stopping us achieving an award.

Comment

Our thanks go to the numerous people who offer their time, skills, advice and support to all of the work at Emmanuel, Holcombe, we are extremely grateful.

Membership:

Rev. Paul Sumsion, Rev. Robert Airey, Claire Baggoley, Jennifer Burton, Michael Burton and Stephen Newhouse.

Emanuel Church Centre Team Report 2022

We are delighted to report that we at the Centre are bucking the trend of the Church of England in terms of growth. We may still be small in number, but such is the warmth of fellowship at the Centre our newcomers have felt very welcome and joined in our faith, prayer life, and worship as well as providing valuable help with activities and jobs.

We have been glad to have had our full year of services, as well as special Taizé services and midweek communions. We also held a Remembering Service in November. There are many activities at the Hall which are well supported by Church members.

Resurfacing car park

Our major project this year has been raising money for the resurfacing of the Car Park which still remains our biggest accessibility problem. Despite numerous bids for grants which have only brought in £1500 we have built on George's legacy and are now up to £26500.

We still have some way to go, but the two Car Boot Sales held at the Centre, the superb Fashion Show and Words and Music have helped bring in much needed cash as well as providing good fun.

Events

Talking of fun, we celebrated the late Queen's Platinum Jubilee with 70 guests enjoying an Afternoon Cream tea and bubbly together with some film footage and singing.

We are delighted that our congregation are so willing to get involved with reading the lesson, leading prayers, being sidespeople, arranging flowers and providing hospitality.

Garden

The garden continues to give great pleasure to all who visit as well as providing the home for Campfire Church which brings families down to the Centre. Thanks to Barbara and Stephen and the Hall Things Bright and Beautiful Team for their continuous work and for arranging the Working parties to maintain the continual growth and colour whether it is leaf collecting or bulb planting.

The Centre has seen new curtains in the Hall provided by Drop In and some much needed Tidy ups.

People

Sadly we have lost valuable Church members in Martin, Wilson and George B this year, but it was good to hold celebrations for their lives involving the Centre and see their names on our memory board for the future.

Alex has now moved to Epworth Grange, but we keep in touch and thank her and so many others for all that they have done to make our present Centre what it is today.

Thanks to John for all his maintenance, Tony for caretaking, Geoff and Pauline for bookings and Sheila and Christine for our lovely music and any I have not named including our Church leaders for their support and contribution.

Comment

With Drop In, Quiet mornings, Soup Company, Travellers, Pilgrim Group, Prayer Time and Warm Spaces there is something for everyone and not just on a Sunday, to live and grow your faith and commitment to God and your neighbour.

Members: Rev. Paul Sumsion, Gwen Barnes, Geoff Clare, Alan Goldsmith, Ann Milius, Sheila Partridge, Romey Simpson, Gloria Metcalfe, and Jo Venn.

St. Mary, Hawkshaw Team Report 2022

Hawkshaw team met twice during 2022.

The following items were addressed:

- **Covid:** As levels of Covid diminished so the measures put in place in church were relaxed. It was agreed to continue to provide hand sanitizer and reconsider arrangements should Covid levels increase.
- **Church rotas:** Penny volunteered to send texts each week to remind people when it was their turn to do prayers, read, or serve coffee, etc, during the service on Sunday mornings.
- **Cleaning:** Rather than pay for a cleaner it was decided that a few volunteers would do the cleaning in church between them.
- **Village matters:** Jubilee celebrations – the church was involved in plans for "Hawkshaw in Bloom" and street parties, and a picnic lunch took place in church on the Sunday.
- **Hawkshaw Gala** 8 and 9 July – we ran the barbecue on Saturday afternoon and held a morning service in the marquee on Sunday.
- **Bonfire night** – this was held behind the church and was free to the public.
- **Christmas lights** – an illuminated angel and shepherds adorned the church, with a star over the entrance, and wise men and a camel lit up the side of the vicarage. A singing group led carols at the Wagon and Horses.

Repairs:

- **Decorating** – the window sills and walls underneath were redecorated.
- **Gateposts** – prices were obtained for repairing the gateposts at the entrance to the church yard. After inspection it was agreed that they did not present an immediate risk of collapse.
- **Bell tower** – the leak in the roof needed repairing.
- **Gutters** – these needed unblocking and resealing.
- **New kitchen plans:** The congregation was invited to view and comment on the plans for the proposed kitchen and toilet refurbishment. The cost of this was estimated to be around £100,000.
- **New toilet:** As an immediate improvement it was decided that the existing toilet should be replaced with a more eco-friendly dual flush model at a cost of approximately £350.
- **Heating system:** The heating system in church is urgently in need of replacing. There is money available for this in the short term but specialist advice needed to be sought in order to ensure the most appropriate and green system was chosen.
- **Arrangements for Advent:** As in previous years chairs were set out in the round during Advent.
- **Holy communion:** As many people were still wary of sharing the common

cup at communion it was suggested that individual cups of non-consecrated juice be made available as an alternative, albeit not as part of the Eucharist itself. This has proved popular.

- **Prayer ministry:** Following a break due to Covid, prayer ministry during Holy Communion was reintroduced in the autumn.
- **Hawkshaw Church USP:** With the introduction of Mission Communities each church was to identify its strengths and, therefore, the specific contribution it could make within the Community. In Hawkshaw our focus was thought to be on families and children's ministry, with lively, informal worship.
- **Eco-church:** It was agreed we should look into Eco-Church registration as a way of improving our green credentials.
- **Fire drill:** The deputy Church Wardens were appointed Fire Wardens with fire safety/escape training required for all sides people. A fire drill was not required for the congregation. However details of escape routes and a plan for evacuation were.
- **Health and safety re serving coffee:** The team considered the practicalities of serving coffee after the service and allowing safe access to the toilet. Changes were made to the position of the table and bins accordingly.
- **Stacking of chairs:** In order that the chair legs do not scratch the paintwork

when chairs are stacked against the wall it was decided to stress the need to use the trolley and leave a gap of six inches. Notices were posted to this effect.

- **Wheelie bins:** It was decided to look into the possibility of having an additional bin. The cost has since been found to be prohibitive.
- **Storage of gas cylinders:** It was agreed to purchase an open cage in which to house gas cylinders (for the barbecue) safely. This was to be sited in the church yard, behind the church, against the west perimeter wall.

Penny Hanley

PCC Review of the Year 2022

The PCC met 6 times during 2022 with an average of 17 members attending each meeting. In addition, the Parish Leadership Team (PLT) met in the intervening weeks with delegated authority to approve or initiate certain measures where necessary.

The following subjects were discussed by the PCC during 2022.

Treasurer's Report:

The PCC received regular updates on the parish's financial position. It was clear that meeting our financial obligations would be a challenge during 2022 and the PCC considered ways of reducing outgoings, improving income and encouraging greater giving where possible. These included being more energy efficient, getting a card reader for one-off donations, revisiting charges for the use of Canon Lewis Hall and having a focus on stewardship as a teaching theme.

Mission Communities:

Paul was appointed Mission Community Leader for Mission Community 3 in the Deanery of Bury and Rossendale with each worship centre within the Community having its own Focal Leader (yet to be appointed). He discussed his intention to convene a group with representatives from each parish whose skills complement each other, and also identify existing strengths and particular ministries within each church. Examples would include work with young people, quiet/reflective worship, traditional or lively worship, community

projects etc.

During the year The Ramsbottom and Edenfield team said goodbye to Andy Lindop, and Ian Fleming was seconded as curate in charge to this team. The PCC was also informed of the future move of Hugh Bearn from St. Anne's Tottington.

Covid:

During the course of the year the influence of Covid 19 receded and thus fewer precautions were observed in the church buildings. However it was agreed to be mindful of those still nervous of busy gatherings. Holy Communion returned to being available in two kinds and wafers replaced by bread. It was agreed to offer non-consecrated juice in individual cups to serve as a reminder of Christ's blood for those not wishing to drink from a shared cup.

Lay training:

Jean Houghton and Keith Jones undertook "Prayer and Spirituality" training module and Melanie Fielding undertook a "Children and Families" module.

PCC Tonight:

During the year the PCC worked through a training course in the form of 6 sessions covering subjects including the purpose and function of a PCC plus various aspects of church life. The material was found to be very useful.

Living in Love and Faith:

This was a course open to all adults in the church looking at a Christian response to matters of sex and relationships. The general consensus and feelings of those who attended were fed back to the Diocese and onward to the General Synod. Approximately 20 people took part.

Intranet:

In order to improve communications and enable people to access any information relevant to them an Intranet has gradually been developed. This will allow for greater connectivity across the parish.

Safeguarding:

This has been given top priority in terms of ensuring that all members of the parish who take responsibility for young people and vulnerable adults have the appropriate DBS and have completed safeguarding training.

Team reports:

The PCC received regular up-dates from each worship centre.

Eco-church:

It was agreed that we should aim towards gaining an Eco-church award. This would require a commitment to reducing our carbon footprint wherever possible, recognising the challenges presented by our old buildings. It was considered to be a worthwhile exercise if only to encourage better practice across the parish. Various questionnaires require completing covering the different areas of church life, worship, buildings and stewardship.

Energy audits:

These were carried out at the end of 2022.

Building improvements:

Proposals for improvements to Hawkshaw Church continue to make slow progress through the relevant Diocesan committee and approval for work at Holcombe Church has been received. Information on building projects is given

in the Fabric Report. Other issues addressed during the year include the pump to the septic tank at ECC, roof repairs at Holcombe and at Hawkshaw and the heating system at Hawkshaw.

Capernwray students:

The parish welcomed a team of 4 young people from Capernwray Bible College for 7 days at the beginning of March. They were able to engage with schools and in parish activities and their visit served as a great witness.

Pre-ordination placement:

In April we were joined by Bob May from St. Andrew's Church, Radcliffe, prior to his ordination in July. We wish him well in his continued ministry.

Jubilee celebrations:

Various activities were arranged for the Jubilee weekend. An afternoon tea took place at ECC and a picnic lunch after morning service at Hawkshaw Church. A choral evensong was held at Holcombe where the choir was joined by several others to sing Zadok the Priest.

Warm spaces: As part of the Churches Together in Ramsbottom initiative in December we began inviting people to enjoy a soup lunch at ECC on Mondays following Drop-in. Publicity for this was a little delayed but it is now advertised widely in the Ramsbottom area where there is a warm space open in one of the churches 6 days a week.

*Penny Hanley,
PCC Secretary*

Safeguarding Report 2022

Policies and Practice

The clergy and PCC of the Parish of Holcombe and Hawkshaw continue to meet the requirement issued by the House of Bishops on matters relating to the safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults. Safeguarding continues to be a standing item on every agenda of the PCC meetings.

All safeguarding policies are reviewed and approved by PCC annually. They are all in line with the House of Bishops' Safeguarding Policy and Practice Guidance and meet statutory requirements whilst remaining relevant to our particular context.

We have recently added posters at each of our church buildings which have very clear contact details and instructions on what to do should anyone be concerned about a child or vulnerable adult within our Parish. These posters contain photos of both Paul Sumsion and myself, Liz Webber, to ensure it's very clear to everyone who should be approached should any concern arise.

Safer Recruitment

All volunteers who require DBS clearance have had one within the last three years, as per the diocesan requirements. Thank you to everyone for their willingness to go through this process, your cooperation has been much appreciated and goes a long way in helping to give out the message that we strive to be as safe as possible in all that we do. It also shows that we recognise

that the safety and wellbeing of all the children and vulnerable adults in our Parish is of utmost importance.

Training

In April 2021, the Church of England published a new Safeguarding Learning and Development Framework. The focus of this framework is on developing a positive culture of safeguarding within the church, rather than simply focusing on process. Training must be updated every three years in order to satisfy Diocesan requirements.

I'm pleased to report that all, but two volunteers have completed their training modules and again want to thank everyone for their willingness in playing their part in making our Parish a safer place.

Safeguarding Concerns and Incidents

There have been four Safeguarding concerns raised since the last APCM. All concerns were passed on to the Manchester Diocese Safeguarding Team within the required time frame and logged on their system. All appropriate action was taken.

I want to finish by saying thank you to everyone for the collective effort in making our churches as safe as we can.

*Liz Webber
9th March 2023*

SAFEGUARDING POLICY

PROMOTING A SAFER CHURCH

The following policy was agreed at the Parochial Church Council (PCC) meeting held on 13th March 2023 .

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 (P.S.O.) 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 (D.S.A.) 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: Mrs. Liz Webber as the Parish Safeguarding Officer

Incumbent: *Reverend Paul Sumsion.*

Churchwardens: *Mr. Peter Hardcastle & Mr. Stephen Newhouse.*

Date: 13th March, 2023

Deanery Synod

2022 - the Deanery of Bury and Rossendale

The meetings of Synod gives representatives valuable opportunities to meet and discuss matters with members of other parishes across the deanery. Each parish is entitled to representation according to their size. Our Electoral Roll entitled us to four members.

The Deanery Synod met three this year.

In February we met via Zoom.

Canon Rachel Mann led a short act of worship.

Main Business was – ‘Stepping Stones for Growth’ led by Mike Starkey

Mike is Head of Church Growth and his talk was a resume of the Zoom course he had led during lockdown. The course is available on YouTube and the Diocese Website, which outlines in detail, the six steps to growth.

There is suspicion around church growth and people traditionally find it hard to talk about it. He is working on two key themes for growth – ‘Fresh & Refresh.’

‘Fresh’ is setting up new initiatives and congregations, satisfying local needs.

‘Refresh’ is helping existing parishes to grow and draw in new people in a simple attainable way.

He explained, the key is to try new ventures and to match the requirements of parishes with the local needs of the community. Initiatives must be easy to achieve and support is available from teams from churches where growth is happening. Mission Communities were being set up to encourage sharing and growing for the future.

In June we met at Bury Parish Church

Canon Rachel Mann (Area Dean) welcomed everyone to our first face to face meeting of the year. Rev’d Julian Heaton led

an Evening Prayer for the Feast of Justin the Martyr.

Main Business was - Eco Church

The main topic was ‘How Deaneries Can Engage with the Diocese Eco Strategy,’ which was led by Rev’d Clive Hamilton.

The Eco Strategy

1. Eco Church.
2. Energy Footprint Engagement (EFT)
3. Net Zero Journey by 2030.
The Five Themes of Eco Church.
 - a) Worship and teaching.
 - b) Management of church buildings.
 - c) Management of church land.
 - d) Community and Global engagement.
 - e) Lifestyle.

Rev’d Clive talked us through the Eco Church website and used this as the basis of his talk.

www.ecochurch.arocha.org.uk

He encouraged all churches to sign up and achieve an Eco award.

Rev’d Clive talked about reducing our carbon footprint and again referred us to the Church of England website where there is a section on ‘Environment & Climate Change.’

He suggested that each Mission Community might like to appoint an ‘Environment/Eco Champion’.

In October we met at St. John & St. Mark Church, Bury

Evening prayer was led by Ian Banks (Reader at St. John & St. Mark’s).

Main Business was - Deanery Mission Action Plan .

Rachel Mann made a visual presentation of the emerging Deanery Mission Action Plan (DMAP) (2026).

Rachel stressed that it was a working/living document which will be reviewed regularly. She outlined the challenges and opportunities within the Deanery and related them to this document.

At the heart of the DMAP are the Mission goals of Growth, Nurturing, Serving and

Sustainability. Rachel looked at the headings in turn, displaying statistics and examples/ideas to achieve each goal.

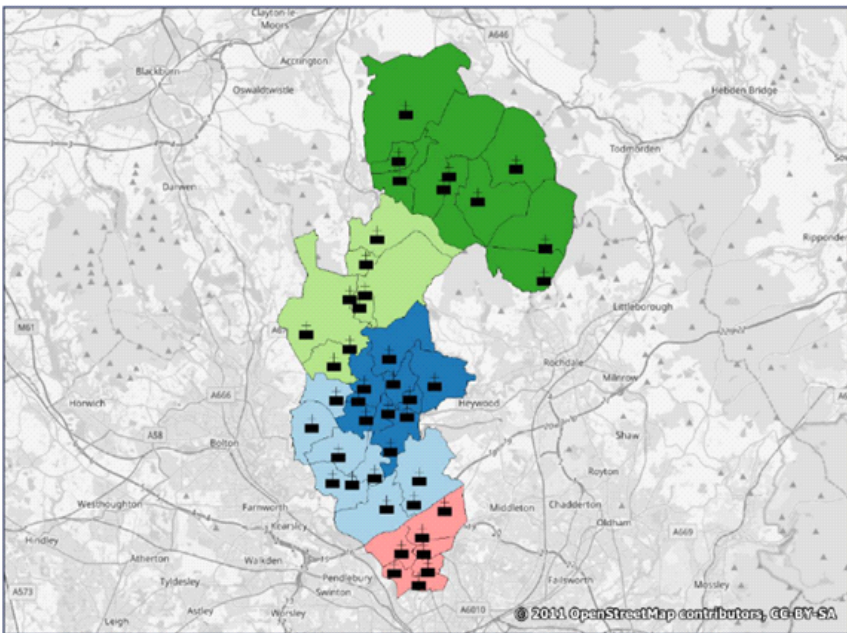
The DMAP was positively received by members.

Mission Communities have been finalised and leaders appointed:

- Mission Community 1 Rev'd Donna Williams
- Mission Community 2 Rev'd Julian Heaton
- Mission Community 3 Rev'd Paul Sumsion
- Mission Community 4 Rev'd Rod Bevan
- Mission Community 5 Rev'd Shaun Conlon

Parish Representatives on the Deanery Synod
*Claire Baggoley, Keith Jones,
 Jean Houghton and Stephen Newhouse.
 March 2023*

Bury & Rossendale Deanery



Contains Ordnance Survey data. © Crown copyright and database right 2020.

Mission Community	Population 2020	Total All Age Average Weekly Attendance 2019	Target Stipendiary Allocation 2026
1	69,461	813	4
2	62,513	994	3
3	28,058	597	2
4	48,966	507	3
5	43,157	448	2.5
Total	252,155	3,359	14.5

Fabric Report 2022

A great deal of work is undertaken by members of the different congregations, and without their efforts the Parish would have to meet bills of ever-increasing size, and the thanks of all of us are due to these workers. We are pleased to report that the buildings, fittings and items belonging to the Parish are generally in good repair, although certain areas continue to require ongoing attention.

Emmanuel Church, Holcombe

The DAC have at last approved the Faculty for the work to Kitchen, Toilet, South Aisle, Projection screen and Destratification fans. Our architect has drawn up detailed drawings and we have received quotations for much of the work. Some of which may be completed by ourselves.

A problem with rain leaking into the church from the clock tower and also through lead flashing on the south aisle, was partially solved, but more extensive work will be required. Repairs to the pointing of the path, repairs to the Lych gate, refinishing the Clergy vestry door and the “hidden” door have been completed.

Emmanuel Church Centre

The building and surrounding gardens are in a generally good state of repair, due in no small part to the dedicated work of volunteers and regular working parties. The focus of our efforts this year have of course been the re-surfacing of the car park. Fundraising, a small grant and a legacy have contributed to the fund, but much is still required before the project can commence.

St Mary’s, Hawkshaw

The building is in a reasonable condition. Roof repairs took place in June and we await repairs to the south facing roof from the January storm.

Inside church the north and south lower walls of the nave were repaired and redecorated in August. The rear toilet walls have been repaired and redecorated (Aug 22) and a new dual flush eco friendly toilet has been fitted (February 2023).

An electrical inspection was passed in November. The fire extinguishers were certified in December. The boiler was serviced and passed in August. An energy audit took place at the end of November and has highlighted areas of the church that will help us to become more energy efficient and provide a sustainable and comfortable environment to support the continual use of our church.

General Comments

Much of the planned projects, at all three buildings, will be dependent upon obtaining funding from donations and outside sources.

We thank everyone who works quietly behind the scenes cleaning, washing the linen, cleaning the brass and silver, flower arranging or sound, PA and streaming technicians, Deputy Wardens and last, but not least, the sidemen and women who play such an important role in welcoming people to our services.

The practical help and financial assistance of many people continues to play a major part in the care of the buildings, and our grateful thanks go to everyone who has contributed in any way.

*Peter Hardcastle, Stephen Newhouse.
Churchwardens March 2023*

Report for the Bridge, Bentley and Ramsbottom Trust for 2022.

The work of the Trust has continued during the year with Trustees actively looking for ways to help those in need. Please read the promotional information below and if we can help anyone in need please let them know about the Trust.

The Expenditure for the year was £3,466.

Grants were awarded in the following ways:

- (1) 'One off' book grants to University students, (14) Welfare.

The Bridge, Bentley, Ramsbottom Trust was created as an amalgamation of the John T. Bridge and three other smaller charitable trusts in 2002.

**The five Trustees treat each application in strictest confidence.
Applications are welcomed from people of any faith or none.**

Small grants available for all ages

Do you, or anyone you know, live within the following post codes: all BL0 or all BL8 or these parts of BL9: BL9 5, BL9 6, BL9 7 or BL9 0

Struggling to pay for a much needed item, e.g. Stair lift, walking frame, specially adapted prams, etc.?

We have helped families with school uniform costs.

We can help with the cost of training courses.

We can help with Further and Higher Educational one off grants for: books/equipment, field trips, travel costs, etc.

Can we make life a little easier? Let us know if you are in need.

The Bridge Bentley Ramsbottom Trust has small grants available to those living within post codes BL0, BL8 or the following parts of BL9: BL9 5, BL9 6, BL9 7 or BL9 0.

Financial Statements of the Parochial Church Council

For the year ended
31st December, 2022.

Holcombe and Hawkshaw Parochial Church Council

STATEMENT OF INCOME FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

	Holcombe and Hawkshaw 2022		
	£	£	£
Voluntary Income			
Planned Giving - Gift Aid	61,689.33		
Planned Giving - Un-gifted	2,058.54		
One off Gift Aid	1,275.00		
Cash/Collections	6,873.77		
Income tax recovered	23,616.93		
Fund Raising Events	3,892.53		
Magazine	241.30		
Use of Church Buildings	6,562.00		
		<u>106,209.40</u>	
Other Ordinary Income			
Dividends and Interest	1,088.51	(includes £2,013 fees	
Fees to PCC	9,259.00	paid to Diocese)	
		<u>10,347.51</u>	<u>116,556.91</u>
Extraordinary Income			
Restricted Donations	15,127.83		
Yorshire camps	150.00		
Diocesan Grants	4,500.00		
Special Appeals	452.54		
		<u>20,230.37</u>	<u>136,787.28</u>
Total Income 2022			<u><u>136,787.28</u></u>
Income 2021			132,440.04

Holcombe and Hawkshaw Parochial Church Council

STATEMENT OF EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

	2022		
	£	£	£
The Ministry			
Ministry Expenses	7,061.59		
Support & Education	2,551.08		
		9,612.67	
The Church and Services			
Energy	19,625.23		
Water	1,051.84		
Cleaning	0.00		
Insurance	7,536.76		
Upkeep of Services	6,080.40		
Minor Repairs, Fire Inspection	9,593.88		
Churchyard	723.60		
		44,611.71	
Other Ordinary Expenditure			
Wages	17,711.09		
Magazine	0.00		
Fund Raising costs	2,806.90		
Verger/Organist	1,560.00		
		22,077.99	
The Diocese			
Parish Share	30,000.00		
Other Diocese costs	2,864.20		
		32,864.20	
Payments to Missions/Charities			
Mission/Charities	2,003.44		
		2,003.44	111,170.01
Extraordinary Expenditure			
ECC Car Park	1,830.00		
ECC	0.00		
Holcombe Church	2,742.54		
Hawkshaw	949.00		
Hawkshaw Heating	0.00		
		5,521.54	116,691.55
Total Cash Expenditure 2022			116,691.55
Expenditure 2021			106,443.86

Bank Balances 31 December 2022

Total

Current Account	-
Deposit Account	92,230.36
Direct Giving Accounts	12,615.39
Restricted Funds Account	822.45
Cash	-
	<u>105,668.20</u>
Less Unpresented cheques	
Year End Total	<u>105,668.20</u>

Restricted/Designated Funds

Gardening (ECC)	-
ECC Car park	26,270.39
Holcombe	27,993.45
Hawkshaw	1,326.00
Hawkshaw Heating	36,250.00
Malawi	1,931.64
	<u>93,771.48</u>

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AT 31 DECEMBER 2022

	Balance 31/12/2021	Balance 31/12/2022
Santander Shares	351.54	313.11
Esther Martha Greenhalgh Charity Fund		3,780.38
CCLA - Restricted Holcombe Endowments	985.45	985.45
<u>Bank Accounts</u>		
Current Acc	-	-
Deposit Acc	69,395.50	92,230.36
Direct Giving Acc	15,356.32	12,615.39
Restricted Acc	820.65	822.45
Cash Not banked		-
	86,909.46	110,747.14
Less Cheques unpresented	-	-
	86,909.46	110,747.14

Yearbook

2022

Soup Company



This year we have been back to normal with Soup Company meeting every month except August on the 2nd Thursday. Our numbers have grown reaching the dizzy heights of 40 at our Christmas lunch in December which was followed by the Users of the Hall Carol Service instead of the normal Holy Communion which we have. The ladies from Afternoon Fellowship provided us with delicious festive refreshments after the Carol Service.

We have had as many as 11 different varieties of soup on offer including some new ones like Game soup and Chicken Leek and Potato as well as our old favourites so there really is something for everyone and a wide choice for vegetarians and Vegans.

We officially start at 12.30pm., but people arrive for an early cuppa and a chat. This year we have had several visitors from other churches to see how we do it with a view to starting their own. Our Home made Garlic Bread is very popular as are Romey and Annette's cakes, Truffles and especially Lemon Meringue Pie.

Thanks to all who make soup and particularly those who attend and share Fellowship together.

In these days of austerity and cost of living difficulties you can be sure of a warm welcome and a satisfying lunch and we welcome the donations given which go to Church funds to help maintain our buildings.

If you have not yet tried it come along.

Jo Venn



We have welcomed new members over the last twelve months and sadly said our farewells to others.

The fellowship continues. We always seek a friendly environment in which people can meet informally over a cuppa – conversation is constant!

It is over these regular get-togethers that, some old acquaintances are renewed and new friendships formed. It was lovely to welcome the Capernwray students recently and our new curate Matthew.

The 'Warm Spaces' endeavour is a continuation of the Monday morning session and it is good to have help from Emmanuel and St. Mary's in providing a warm soup lunch for our guests.

We also enjoy the company of the 'Open The Book' team; they are back to rehearsing on Mondays in the church behind the screen. Our Winter Lunch on March 20th will be shared with them and as ever our culinary efforts are much appreciated and the preparations beforehand enjoyed by all taking part.

We always look forward to seeing new faces and never close unless circumstances are exceptional. The late Queen Elizabeth's state funeral being one where almost all wanted it acknowledged in their own homes.

Hopefully we keep going and prayerfully extend a welcome to anyone wanting a bit of company and a brew – there's biscuits too!

Gloria Metcalfe

St. Mary's Church of England Primary School

It's been another happy year at St. Mary's Primary School. We have been able to share lots of whole school activities both in, and beyond school. We all topped up our cultural capital by watching the Snow White pantomime at Victoria Halls. All the children enjoyed the longstanding Christmas tradition. The children then confidently performed 'Humph the Camel' and 'The Greatest Showman' to very appreciative audiences.

Earlier in the year the older children and Mrs. Jolley had the chance to work with Bury Music service and two other schools to perform Engelbert Humperdinck's 'Hansel and Gretel' at Bury Met. It was a great introduction to opera and a wonderful opportunity for the children to perform at a professional theatre. Long lasting memories were made!

Our quality music curriculum enabled us to achieve the Music Mark. All the children in KS2 are taught percussion by Bury Music Service staff. They have performed impressively the glockenspiel, djembe drums and samba at church services. Our choir has also sung beautifully at a range of events throughout the year. I'd like to thank Jo Sumsion for the support she gives to Mrs. Marfell-Cadman who leads our school choir.

I have personally been delighted to reduce my working week by 20%. Each Friday Mrs. Clark is the head teacher giving her a fabulous opportunity, which in turn facilitates succession planning. Mrs. Clark is doing a great job and has been strongly supported by staff and parents. In

addition, Mrs. Clark has successfully completed her training to be a School Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools inspector.



The staff have been expertly led by Mr. Butt to develop a new website. We have been busy preparing the documents for the web pages. We will be so excited to launch the new website very soon.

Our strong Science Curriculum is led by Mrs. Falshaw. She enthusiastically provides opportunities for the children to investigate and gain first hand experiences. She has organised educational trips to The Great Science Share at Manchester University, and a river study at Bolton Environmental Centre. The children share a great interest in the World of Science with Mrs. Falshaw.

After 48 years John Ratcliffe is retiring from St. Mary's Governing Board. John has been a conscientious and passionate governor who contributed significantly to the ongoing success of St. Mary's. He took his responsibilities seriously and served with integrity. I would like to thank him sincerely for his dedication to the children and staff at St. Mary's.

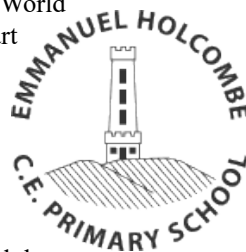
Kind regards

Geraldine Woodward
Head Teacher

The Emmanuel Holcombe school and church family is a thriving community. Together, we have achieved so much this year and we are delighted to share some of the highlights.

We always strive to provide a rich and varied curriculum for our pupils, which includes a wide range of trips, visitors, workshops and residential. Year 5 and 6 pupils spent two nights on their residential at Waddow Hall; our choir performed the

we have celebrated World Book Day; had an art week; held a 'Polar Express' whole school book week; organised anti-bullying sessions; enjoyed a week of 'Music from Around the World', led by Katie Geelan, (you may have spotted us in the Bury Times!);



youth opera 'Hansel and Gretel' at Bury MET and performed Christmas Carols within the community; our school council visited the Mayor and her chambers; Key Stage Two watched the Hallé Orchestra at the Bridgewater Hall; Year 3 and 4 pupils visited Bolton Museum and children across the school enjoyed workshops on the Vikings, Space and Rocks and Soils.

organised 'Well-being Wednesdays', with whole school walks up Holcombe Hill; and participated in an Easter Week, with 'Experience Easter' workshops led by members of the Parish. Key Stage Two pupils also enjoyed 'Prayer Spaces', led by Reverend Paul Sumsion and Jo Sumsion.



We love to organise a range of Theme days and weeks for our pupils. This year

Our Faith Ambassadors have an increasingly prominent role in school, leading Monday Worship once a fortnight.



We also enjoyed a lovely picnic at the Emmanuel Centre with Gloria and Betty!

Our charitable work is very important to us at Emmanuel Holcombe and this year we asked our parents to not buy us Christmas gifts, but instead donate to the Ramsbottom Pantry. Our Year 5 and 6 pupils then walked down with our donations and learned about how food banks operate. We have also supported Children in Need, Comic Relief and Jeans for Genes.



Sending our love and prayers to you.
*Amy Longstaff Acting
Headteacher
Emmanuel Holcombe CE Primary
School*





After our short meeting season, we started 2022 with our regular meetings and in good heart.

We started off the New Year looking at the Mothers' Union theme of "Transformation Now", looking at what we have done, what we are doing and what we would like to do in the future, with several plans being made.

On a musical note, with other members of the Parish, we had an entertaining and informative time with Richard Hall, when he presented "Banned by the BBC", songs that the BBC have not played over the years, which proved a surprising variety. Again, with friends and members of the Parish we had a wonderful sing-a-long with "The Strummers" and we all proved to be in reasonably good voice.

In May, Ian Fleming came to talk to us about his journey of faith and his work as a Curate in the Parish. The Summer months saw us having an afternoon tea at Summerseat Garden Centre and joining with Greenmount W. I. for an Afternoon Tea and Quiz to celebrate the Jubilee of our Queen.

During the Autumn we celebrated Holy Communion at our September meeting and then celebrated the 80th birthday of one of our members with an Afternoon Tea. We had our usual Christmas Lunch in December at the Sykeside Restaurant, which was greatly enjoyed. We also hosted the Bury Deanery Mother's Union Advent

Service at the Emmanuel Church Centre, where we were joined by members from all over the Bury area.

In the early part of this year, we joined with the Lent Course for two of our meetings and shared in "The Journey to The Cross" with them.

A sad part of the last year was when two of our members Colleen and Kath passed away, two long-standing and much loved members of our Branch and, along with their families, we miss them being with us.

We hold our meetings on the first Tuesday of each month at 2pm., in the Emmanuel Church Centre and all are welcome, have a look at the parish magazine and news sheet for details of our meetings and feel free to come and join us.

*Robert Airey
Correspondence Officer.*

Afternoon Fellowship 2022

We have had a varied program throughout the year,

January: The Kellingtons film show

February: Elfie talk on Austria.

March: Bessie talk Exchange Holiday.

April: Ian Fleming "My life as a Curate during lockdown".

May: Robert (stepped in) a very interesting talk about the "Sea Cadets"

June: Jo Venn 'My home in France' which was enjoyed by all, lovely photos and details of the area, along with stories of her family and guests.

August: Robert talk "Robert's Rambles"

September: Sheila "Musical Afternoon", music and some amusing readings, a lovely afternoon, as usual.

October: Gloria entertaining us with her own written poems, which were very good, as always.

November: Mary "Presentation on costumes, design and making" a very interesting behind the scenes talk,

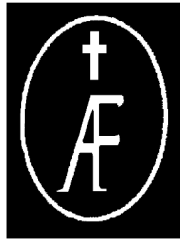
December: Carol Service for "All Hall Users" well attended, followed after with Christmas tea.

We still have very few members and managing to keep going with the help of members and church friends, thank you everyone.

If anybody would be interested in joining please contact:--

Mrs Pauline Keighley 01204 884476

Mrs Ann Milius 01204 880677



ECC Prayer Group

The Group continues to prepare and deliver Quiet Mornings on the 3rd Tuesday of each month, (except July and December).

These offer time and space for



personal prayer and reflection, with theme-based words and music, presenting an opportunity to step out of the busyness of life and meet with God in a way that is meaningful and unique to each individual.

Attendances have continued to increase, averaging 22 people, and as well as people from our own parish, we regularly welcome folk from other churches in Ramsbottom, Rossendale, Radcliffe and Bolton. The accompanying booklets are also sent out to a growing number of people, who are not able to attend for various reasons, and a total of around 60 people now have access to the Quiet Morning material.

As usual, the ECC was open on Good Friday, this year from 10.00a.m to 12 noon. Prayer stations based on John Pritchard's exploration of "Symbols of the Crucifixion" provided the focus for personal prayer and reflection.

Five "Taizé Prayer" services were held in 2022 in the usual Sunday morning worship slot.

A warm invitation is extended to anyone who would like to join us in any of these times of prayer and reflection.

Emmanuel Holcombe Choir

A year ago I commented that life had been full of surprises. The trend has continued!

Last March, we were delighted to hold our Good Friday meditation in person for the first time since 2019. We were sorry that Beryl was away, but it was nonetheless good to welcome Naomi back to sing for us. It is a service which is much valued by the participants.

On the same evening I was approached by Robert and Mike who had had a good idea. (People in our parish and especially the choir are full of them, as will become apparent.) To celebrate Queen Elizabeth's Platinum Jubilee they suggested that a special additional service of Choral Evensong would be appropriate. The choir, when consulted, approved wholeheartedly. We had begun to learn a short anthem – Creation's Hymn by Beethoven, which is a joyful celebration and, conveniently, not too difficult.

Not long after this, a member of the choir said at our practice: 'We could sing 'Zadok the Priest''. I pointed out our small numbers and thought that was the end of the matter. Then an email arrived with a copy of 'Zadok the Priest' attached. Again my first thought was that it was impossible, but I began to wonder if a 'Come and Sing' event, a bit like a small-scale version of the 'Messiah' Singing



Day might be feasible. At choir practice I pointed out the difficulties of singing 'Zadok the Priest'. Then came the suggestion: it could be a 'Come and Sing' occasion. Several people seemed independently to have had the same idea. Paul agreed to it, Stephen produced an attractive flyer and we started publicising it. In the end we had a choir of about 28 singers, Mel Plumley played the organ for us, and I did my best to keep everyone together. We invited the visiting singers to a choir practice and provided all of them with the music for the hymns, chants and two anthems. The choristers brought along additional members of the congregation, and it was a lovely occasion, appropriately rounded off by a loyal toast and the opportunity to chat. I am grateful to all those who contributed in so many different ways. Good ideas really do enrich our lives.

After this excitement life returned to a more normal routine. We have sung Choral Evensong most months, and we had our traditional Carol Service in

December. The children who sang with us were, I think, the youngest on average who have ever been part of this service, but they were good musicians who sang well from the start. We were again grateful to Keith Ball for augmenting our tenor section.

We have learned some more new music since last June, and I hope other pieces will follow. Brian Hunt now sings regularly with us. He has also rescued some very damaged hymn books, making them safe to use again. In our February Choral Evensong we were joined by Marcia Hollis, a friend of Jill Hunt, who seems to know everyone at Holcombe! We hope she will be able to sing Choral Evensong with us regularly.

I would like to thank John Fairclough, who plays for the Carol Service and Choral Evensong, and I am grateful to several members, who contribute in various ways to the smooth running of the choir.

*Rosemary Artley
1.3.2023*

Music at Hawkshaw

Our year of music at St. Mary's during 2022 was one of a general return to a cautious normality.

We now have a settled team of myself, Jo and Caleb Sumsion as leaders with Dot, Jane, Loraine, Susan, David, Keith and Isaac with Sue adding organ on occasion.

Thanks to each of them for everything they contribute.

Highlights from the year included another set of outdoor services during the summer months. These always include more demand in setting up technology so a special thanks to David, Stuart and Rob who have become pros at outdoor broadcasting. The sermon series on females from the Bible also allowed us a spot of lyric writing with a challenge set to write more verses for 'All Through History' to incorporate each female we studied in the series.

At Christmas, the carol service music was again organised by Jo. Thanks to the musicians and singers involved. December also included a Campfire Church with carols and a special treat of Caleb Sumsion on accordion!

We also continue to welcome St. Mary's School choir to participate in leading songs on a regular basis. Many of us will have felt joy at seeing a large group of children joining the musicians at the front of church, waving flags and shaking percussion and singing.

Finally, it leaves me to say that if anyone is reading this and feels a tug to get involved in the musical worship life of the church, please don't hesitate to let someone know. We will sadly be losing Caleb in the autumn so our team will always benefit from fresh faces.

Tim Webber

Hall Things Bright and Beautiful

There have not been any major changes within the area, one or two extra decorative animals have appeared, some commemorative bushes have been planted plus lots more bulbs for the Spring.



I am glad that the garden continues to be used by many people, including the uniformed organisations. It is also good to see the children running around and enjoying the space at Campfire Church meetings along with the chance to toast goodies around the campfire afterwards.

I hope the garden will continue to give to us all, for many years to come.

Barbara Newhouse

*For the Hall Things Bright and
Beautiful Team.*

Nature never stops!

You can't stop the progress of nature, so during this year the garden has matured and given us, yet again, a changing, but still wonderful place of peace and an area for activities.

As things mature, the garden changes, the bushes need more trimming and thinning, paths disappear as the edges encroach, the moles send up numerous piles of earth and the weeds manage to come through the matting! So thank you to everyone who comes along at various times and to our monthly garden working parties to keep on top of what nature throws at us.





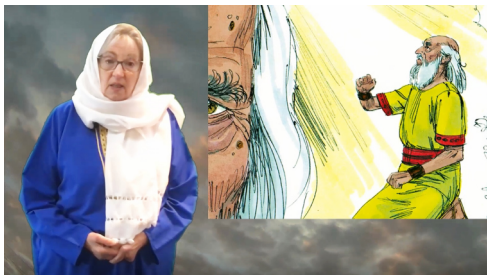
We are now fully back in school after the Pandemic and welcome the new Headteacher Mr. Westerby to Holcombe Brook Primary School. The team continue to bring Bible stories to life and take them in to the school each week.

The team have grown in number and we welcome our two Pats, (Law and Lainton) as well as Julie Smale and Claire Carsley. At present we are rehearsing on Mondays followed by a cuppa and performing on Wednesdays, but great fun is had by all. Sadly we lost one of our number Colin Gaskell this year, who had added a great deal to our team.

The children enjoy taking part and chanting as appropriate with us. The stories are rich and varied and we thank Sheila and Cath for leading us and keeping us in order each week. The team have also been involved in Experience Christmas and Experience Easter for all our schools in the parish ensuring that our Christian traditions and heritage are brought to life for the children.

In order that maximum coverage of the stories are given for use in schools Stephen has videoed them as well, they can be seen via YouTube.

If you would like to be involved in any way see Sheila. You will be sure of a warm welcome.



Afternoon Pilgrim Group



We have continued to hold our Afternoon Pilgrim group at the Church Centre this year and are delighted that we have maintained our numbers with some joining us for the first time, as others have not managed to come from time to time. We have been studying the 'I am' sayings which went well and we covered a lot of ground. Our latest course has been the Prayer Course with 8 sessions from 'Why Pray?' to 'Spiritual Warfare', with Adoration, Petition, Intercession, Unanswered Prayer, Contemplation and Listening in between.

The group gives us time together to grow in faith and to discuss with each other aspects of our own lives.

We discussed what made the Pilgrim group valuable to us and these were some of the answers. Names withheld to protect the innocent!!!

- Its value 2/6p which was a lot of money in our youth.
- It gives us a different view point from Sunday Worship.
- It is good to share experiences.
- I enjoy listening to other people.
- The group helps with cohesion between services.
- It encourages your faith.
- It allows you to ask questions without feeling silly as you know you won't be considered dumb.
- You can voice your opinion and know it will be listened to.
- It is important to make time to come to the group at busy times.

- It allows people to open up about their own lives as they are among friends.
- We develop as Christians.
- I like the prayers they always seem to hit the spot.

So there you have it, why not join one of the groups at a time that suits you best? You will be sure of a warm welcome, as well as a cuppa and even a piece of Annette's delicious cake, as long as there is a cup of tea for laddie.

Linda and Jo

19th Ramsbottom Brownies

We are happy to report that we have a lovely thriving pack of 23

The logo for the Brownies pack, featuring the word "Brownies" in a yellow, rounded font with a small star above the 'i', enclosed in a yellow rounded rectangle with a drop shadow.

Brownies, who enjoy our varied meetings, which aim to have fun while developing individual and team skills.

During the year we have been extremely pleased that our girls gained 10 Bronze, 5 Silver and 2 Gold Awards. That is such an achievement and special congratulations go to Amelie Fildes Coulbourn and Katie Tunbridge, to achieve Gold is “super special”.

To gain these awards and other badges, the Brownies took part in games, campfires, craft, performances, community and other challenges. We had a lovely evening making our own pizzas, at the Campsite in Edenfield with a little archery as well.

Congratulations to Lisa who has qualified as a Brownie Leader and now takes charge of our Pack, we are so fortunate to have her. Thanks to all our Leaders for their dedication to Brownies.

Sadly, we have lost one of our leaders, Janet Halliwell-Sandiford, who died on New Year’s Eve. She will be greatly missed by us all.

We have been able to pass on some of our girls to the Guide Section and look forward to another exciting year, with new Brownies on the waiting list to join us in 23. We hope to fill the year with fun adventures.

Guiders: *Lisa Fildes Coulbourn, Mary Souter, Julie Ringer and Barbara Newhouse.*

10th Ramsbottom Guides

The year began with the Guides continuing where they left off in

2021, meeting virtually by Zoom, enjoying games, origami, hedgehog themed evenings and craft. We celebrated Thinking Day with a quiz, treasure hunt and Passport game.



In July, we ended the term by meeting face to face for the first time in over two years, enjoying outdoor games and a campfire with marshmallows, s’mores.

The end of September saw us return to the Hall and our normal weekly ‘real’ meetings.

The girls have followed the Girlguiding program completing Unit Meeting Activities and Skills Builders, making butter, learning about banking, sound effects, as well as Cow and Polar Bear challenge badges. We’ve had a film night, played games, including duster hockey, dodged doughnuts, and been crafty painting silk and decorating buns.

We’ve welcomed new members in the year, and others have retired, but very sadly also lost one of our Leaders, Janet, who passed away unexpectedly at the end of the year.

As ever, we couldn’t do this without the help of our volunteers, so it’s ‘Thank You!’ for everything they do.

Guider: *Susan Watson*

Children and Families Ministry Facilitator

Church based work Campfire Church

In the depths of January we began a new fresh expression of church. We meet one Sunday a



month around the fire in the garden of Emmanuel Church Centre for teaching, worship and games in a context that suits some better than a formal church service. We drink hot chocolate and often cook snacks on the campfire. From January to July we based our sessions on the 'I am' statements of Jesus and since September we have been looking at Jesus' parables. Our aim is to build a new worshipping community and develop the faith of every individual.

Thank you to Paul, Ian, Layna, Stephen, Barbara, Jo, Pat, Claire, Loraine, Robert and Isaac for planning, leading, lighting fires, lifting and shifting and, of course, the hot chocolate.

Marriage Preparation Course

In February we ran a marriage preparation course for couples, using Care for the Family's 'Built to Last' material. Four couples attended and appreciated the course.

Thank you to Robert, Romey, Jen and Barbara for hosting.

Capernwray

In March, we hosted a team of four students from Capernwray Bible College. They visited



various groups around the parish: Drop In, Soup Company and the parents' coffee mornings. They shared their stories at Sunday morning services, led evening worship at Hawkshaw, and spoke at Cellar. They helped in classes and led collective worship in both schools. A family games night was very well attended with 80-90 participants and it was encouraging to see a good number of new faces from our school connections.

Thank you to Penny, for organising the games night and so many others for meals!

Yorkshire Camps

Also in March, we took a group of 14 children



age from 8 -13 to Yorkshire Camps for a weekend of Bible teaching, outdoor activities and lots of fun and games.

Thank you to Layna for giving up your weekend.

Holiday Club

The theme of holiday club this year was 'Fired Up,' exploring passages in the Bible where God appears through fire. (Moses, Daniel, Elijah, Pentecost.) Having done all the planning and preparation, Penny was out



of action with Covid, which was very disappointing for her and a challenge for the rest of the team! We had 35 children each day and 80 people for the Thursday evening celebration and service.

Our biggest thanks to Penny who did everything beforehand, then couldn't be there. To Paul, Ian, Layna, Peter, Jen, Geraldine, Yvonne, Dot, Jean, Loraine, Callum, Caleb, Isaac and Sydney for being there and still smiling at the end of the week. And to Tom, Alan and the BBQ team.

Hawkshaw on Sundays

Sunday school at Hawkshaw continues to meet twice a month in school (preschool – Year 5) and in the Cellar (Year 6 and up) during the morning service. There are 26 children registered.



Thank you to Barbara, Jannine, Rachael, Hannah, Suzanne, Kim, Darren, Penny and Becky for the love you show for the children in your care.

The other Sundays in the month at Hawkshaw are All Age services. Developing intergenerational worship continues to be a priority for the team leading the services. We have welcomed six new families to the church community during 2022 and we are delighted to have them worshipping with us.

Thank you to our service leaders, clergy, lay ministers, pray-ers, Bible readers, musicians, tech team, welcomers and coffee brewers, who help us to provide inspiring worship and real community to draw people to Jesus.

Schools work Collective Worship

We continue to lead whole school collective worship in both church schools each week. Paul, Ian (until September), Robert and Jo Dolman (Bolton circuit Methodist youth worker), are all involved. Each week, I have continued to lead class worship at Emmanuel, for a different class each half term.

The Open the Book group have finally been able to return to live performance – see their separate report – what an amazing team! Thank you all!

Easter in Schools

We took part in the Easter theme week at Emmanuel. Class by class, the whole school came to church and were led through the Easter story from Palm Sunday to the resurrection, (using the Lion Storyteller Bible) and joined in prayer activities for each part of the narrative.

Thank you to Robert, Penny, Stephen, Barbara and Jo V who made it happen in my Covid absence.

Experience Easter for Holcombe Brook Primary school was initially postponed due to snow! However, we were able to reschedule for the first week of term after Easter and had much better weather. 150 children from the school came over two afternoons, to take part in activities enabling them to reflect on the Easter story.

Thank you to Paul, Ian, Robert, Mike, Claire, Pat, Sheila, Stephen, Barbara, Penny, Gwen, Ann, Linda and Dot for giving the children this opportunity to hear the Good News of Jesus.

Celebration Sunday

After a gap of three years due to Covid, we were able to reintroduce an annual joint school and church service. ‘Sermons Sunday’ was relaunched as ‘Celebration Sunday’, which took place on 26th June at Holcombe. The children of Emmanuel school introduced the service, leading the liturgy, prayers, Bible reading, drama and singing.

Thank you to Rosemary, the choir, Caleb and Isaac for leading worship.

We have also held special services for our schools at harvest and Christmas.

Transition Work

In July, we held sessions for the Year 6 pupils at St. Mary’s, Emmanuel and Holcombe Brook Primary schools, using the ‘It’s Your Move’ material from Scripture Union, to help them to prepare for the transition to secondary school. As usual, we presented each Year 6 student from Emmanuel and St Mary’s with a copy of the Bible, at their Leavers’ Services.

St. Mary’s School Choir

I have continued to be involved with St. Mary’s choir. Some families have continued to join us to sing at All Age worship. In the lead up to Christmas we also performed at Sizzling Seniors and Hawkshaw Christmas tree festival. Children also joined us for the church carol service.

Thank you to Sarah Marfell-Cadman, (assistant head at St. Mary’s) for your support and time given in this joint venture.

Christmas in Schools

Having had plans thwarted by Covid last year, we were able to do Experience Christmas for Holcombe Brook Primary School over two days at Emmanuel Church Centre. 165 children explored the Christmas story, through the interactive stations.

Thanks to Paul, Robert, Mike, Stephen, Barbara, Penny, Claire, Cath, Jo V, Pat, Pat, Loraine, Dot, Linda, and Ann, again, for being so willing to dress up.

Prayer Spaces In Schools is a 24:7 Prayer Movement initiative to enable children and young people, of all faiths and none, to explore life’s questions, spirituality and faith in a safe, creative and interactive way. In December, we were able to set up a prayer space at Emmanuel School for the Key Stage 2 children to reflect on Advent. We had four stations inside our big green Campfire Church gazebo (our Prayer Space) inside the school hall, with themes of Preparing Hearts, Rejoice, Hopes and Dreams, Christmas Journey. We were able to leave aspects of the stations in each class and communal worship areas for further reflection and prayer.

Thanks to Paul, Jen, Peter and Loraine for joining me in a new thing.

Coffee Mornings

The weekly coffee mornings for parents and carers at St. Mary’s and Emmanuel have continued throughout the year. There is a small, but regular uptake of the offering of good coffee and even better cake! Relationships are being built and the support and friendship within these groups is appreciated by all those involved.

Thank you to Yvonne and Penny (Hawkshaw), and Margaret (Holcombe) for turning out faithfully each week, whatever the weather and getting alongside our parents and carers.

Final thanks

As you can see, there are a large number of people involved in our children and families' ministry. A big thank you to Liz Webber, our parish safeguarding officer, who is never (seemingly!) flustered when I send her another list of people who need training and checks and so patiently supports and guides volunteers through the process.

We would not be able to carry out any of this ministry with children and families without having DBS checks and safeguarding training in place.

The cases of historic sexual abuse uncovered in the Church of England show that, sadly, the church was not always a safe place to be. With openness and a willingness for scrutiny, we can ensure that there is no place in the church for abuse to hide.

Thank you to everyone for all you do to make ours a safer church.

Finally - the biggest thanks goes to God, who gives us new life and hope through the death and resurrection of his Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ, and who is the reason we do everything we do.

*Jo Sumsion
January 2023*

Sizzling Seniors

We continue to meet on the 1st Thursday of every month, except August, at St. Mary's with a fairly stable attendance of

around 20, men and women! We enjoy a good chat over tea, coffee and yummy cake, not forgetting the

toasted teacakes, which remain a firm favourite even in the heat of summer!!

Many love a crossword to figure out together, along with Bird bingo some weeks, or dominoes and a very low key raffle! We aim to have a different theme most months, with a 'Pause for thought' – a short Christian reflection along the same lines! A different theme gives variety to our activities – with talk of holidays past over afternoon tea, soup and festive puddings for a Christmas flavoured gathering. We've planted bulbs in spring and have all gone home with chocolate hearts and candles as we've reflected on God's amazing love for Valentines Day!

If anyone can't get to the group any week we try to call and take them something from our get together, so they know they are not forgotten!

If anyone would like to join us you'd be most welcome!

The Sizzlers Team
Jane, Jen, Jean and Ethel.



Traveller's (Adult and Toddler Group)

Annual Report (March 2022 – February 2023)

“Bless their little hearts” was a comment made by a visitor, as she watched the children playing happily in the hall. Some weeks we are busy, other weeks less so, that’s the nature of running such a group. But we hope that we create happy memories,

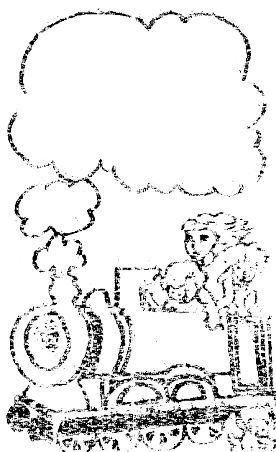
not only for the children, but for the adults as well, (we encourage parents to pop back and let us know how the children are doing, once they’ve started school).

One family who had been coming along to Traveller’s for over 8 years, starting with her eldest son, told us that whenever they drive past the hall her daughter waves!



We continue to alternate the toys, bikes one week then play tents the next, however, the playdough is out every week as it is a firm favourite.

The children don’t need to be persuaded to take part in any of the craft sessions. Some of the items we made last year included Easter Crowns, Jubilee windmills (for our Jubilee Party), flowers,



Pudsey masks, (for our Pudsey Bear afternoon), Christmas character masks which impressed Father Christmas when he visited us! Items made are displayed along with the dates

we meet and lots of photographs and information on our notice Board at Canon Lewis Hall.

We are looking forward to yet another busy year. If you’ve never been why not come along and join us on Wednesday afternoons (term time only) from 1.30pm to 3.00pm.



Kathryn Fry & Julia Grant

Cellar and Youth at Hawkshaw

The cellar at Hawkshaw Church is the perfect space for our youth club, equipped with pool, table tennis, football and air hockey tables, not to mention coffee tables, plus a few sofas on which to chill out. Of course we also have plenty of space for games in the church and grass for outside activities.

We are open to years 7 – 9 on Thursday evenings during term time. We are so grateful for these facilities and the opportunity to welcome young people to meet up with each other and, if they wish to do so, meet up with Jesus too. Ian and Layna have led this ministry brilliantly, and continue to do so despite Ian's secondment to the Ramsbottom and Edenfield Team.

Each session includes a time when we sit round and explore some aspect of Christian faith, sometimes using bible passages or perhaps hearing testimonies. There are also The Big Questions! The inevitable difficult questions asked by inquiring minds. It has been very encouraging to see young people engage so enthusiastically and Ian has risen to the challenge with some inspiring answers.



The numbers attending have fluctuated during 2022, but perhaps between 10 and 15 young people have come regularly. Whilst it is always encouraging to have standing room only, slightly smaller, more manageable numbers can sometimes offer a more relaxed atmosphere. However, there are many attractions and choices out there for young people and it's up to us as a church to seek ways to offer an exciting alternative. Ideas on a postcard please ... !

We are blessed with a fantastic team of leaders, namely: Ian, Layna, Callum, Geoff, Anne (finished her tour of duty in the summer), Eddie, Tim, Isaac, Liam, Tony (doing D of E) and me. Thanks to all.

Penny Hanley

Rector: Rev. Paul Sumsion,
The Vicarage,
Bolton Road,
Hawkshaw,
Bury,
BL8 4JN
01204 888060.



Associate Ministers:

Rev. Robert Airey 01706 224743
Rev. Vic. Fletcher 01204 882750

Readers: Mr. Michael Burton, 01706 822664.
Mr. Richard Byrom, 01204 883110.
Mrs. Ethel Houghton, 01254 704758.
Mrs. Jane Fletcher 01204 882750.
Mrs. Jo Sumsion 01204 888060

Children and Families' Ministry Facilitator:

Mrs. Jo Sumsion 01204 888060

Church Wardens:

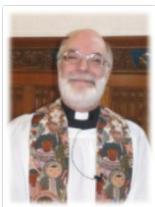
Mr. Stephen Newhouse (Lay Chair PCC).
01706 412657.

Mr. Peter Hardcastle 01204 853999

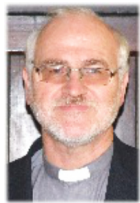
Why not visit our website: www.holcombehawkshaw.org

Each Sunday There is a service at each worship centre and the 10.45am service at St. Mary, Hawkshaw is "streamed live" on YouTube and is available all week, so you can watch it at any time. Just visit our website www.holcombehawkshaw.org.

We have also been sending out regular e-mails with news updates, so if you haven't received those please email a request to stephen.newhouse@sky.com



Rev. Robert Airey



Rev. Vic. Fletcher



Rev.
Matthew Brinicombe

Annual Report and Yearbook 2022



Holcombe and Hawkshaw Parochial Church Council

STATEMENT OF INCOME FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

	Holcombe and Hawkshaw 2022		
	£	£	£
Voluntary Income			
Planned Giving - Gift Aid	61,689.33		
Planned Giving - Un-gifted	2,058.54		
One off Gift Aid	1,275.00		
Cash/Collections	6,873.77		
Income tax recovered	23,616.93		
Fund Raising Events	3,892.53		
Magazine	241.30		
Use of Church Buildings	6,562.00		
		###	
Other Ordinary Income			
Dividends and Interest	1,088.51		
Fees to PCC	9,259.00		(includes £2,013 fees)
		10,347.51	116,556.91
Extraordinary Income			
Restricted Donations	15,127.83		
Yorshire camps	150.00		
Diocesan Grants	4,500.00		
Special Appeals	452.54		
		20,230.37	136,787.28
Total Income 2022			<u>136,787.28</u>
Income 2021			132,440.04

paid to Diocese)

Holcombe and Hawkshaw Parochial Church Council

STATEMENT OF EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

	2022		
	£	£	£
The Ministry			
Ministry Expenses	7,061.59		
Support & Education	2,551.08		
		9,612.67	
The Church and Services			
Energy	19,625.23		
Water	1,051.84		
Cleaning	0.00		
Insurance	7,536.76		
Upkeep of Services	6,080.40		
Minor Repairs, Fire Inspection	9,593.88		
Churchyard	723.60		
		44,611.71	
Other Ordinary Expenditure			
Wages	17,711.09		
Magazine	0.00		
Fund Raising costs	2,806.90		
Verger/Organist	1,560.00		
		22,077.99	
The Diocese			
Parish Share	30,000.00		
Other Diocese costs	2,864.20		
		32,864.20	
Payments to Missions/Charities			
Mission/Charities	2,003.44		
		2,003.44	111,170.01
Extraordinary Expenditure			
ECC Car Park	1,830.00		
ECC	0.00		
Holcombe Church	2,742.54		
Hawkshaw	949.00		
Hawkshaw Heating	0.00		
		5,521.54	116,691.55
Total Cash Expenditure 2022			116,691.55
Expenditure 2021			106,443.86

YEAR END STATEMENT 2022

Bank Balances 31 December 2022

	Total
Current Account	-
Deposit Account	92,230.36
Direct Giving Accounts	12,615.39
Restricted Funds Account	822.45
Cash	-
	<hr/>
	105,668.20
Less Unpresented cheques	
Year End Total	<hr/> 105,668.20 <hr/>

Restricted/Designated Funds

Gardening (ECC)	-
ECC Car park	26,270.39
Holcombe	27,993.45
Hawkshaw	1,326.00
Hawkshaw Heating	36,250.00
Malawi	1,931.64
	<hr/>
	93,771.48 <hr/>

Working Balance **11,896.72**

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AT 31 DECEMBER 2022

	Balance 12/31/2021	Balance 12/31/2022
Santander Shares	351.54	313.11
Esther Martha Greenhalgh Charity Fund		3,780.38
CCLA - Restricted Holcombe Endowments	985.45	976.34
<u>Bank Accounts</u>		
Current Acc	-	-
Deposit Acc	69,395.50	92,230.36
Direct Giving Acc	15,356.32	12,615.39
Restricted Acc	820.65	822.45
Cash Not banked		-
	86,909.46	110,738.03
Less Cheques unrepresented	-	-
	86,909.46	110,738.03
TOTALS	86,909.46	110,738.03

Notes

Ester Martha Greenhalgh Charity Fund re-assigned to the Parish

No recent valuation received for Holcombe Endowments



Section A Independent Examiner's Report

**Report to the trustees/
members of** Parish of Holcombe & Hawkshaw, Lancashire

On accounts for the year ended	31/12/2022	Charity no (if any)	
---	------------	--------------------------------	--

Set out on pages Trace Aug 23 - A1, Trace Aug 23 - B1 (2 pgs), Trace Aug – B2, Summary of Traceability

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended **31/12/2022**

**Responsibilities and
basis of report**

As the charity's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

**Independent
examiner's statement**

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination (other than that disclosed below *) which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report 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:  **Date:** 30/8/2023

Name: Stuart Moulton

**Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body
(if any):** AAT membership number: 20269328

Address: 9 Hunstanton Drive, Bury. BL8 1EG

Section B

Disclosure

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.

I have carried out the independent examination.
I have noted an increase in Direct On-Line banking payment and have followed some transactions but not selected – all found to be accurate and traceable. Any issues have been noted below.

I have cross referenced financial statements with links back to accounting records: - Bank statements, Receipts, Bank Details & Summary (held by Treasurer), Invoices.

I have selected various sample receipts & payments and traced back through all accounting sheets including Bank Statements. Details of one sample – see 'Trace Aug23 B2'. I could not locate Invoice/Receipt for the 'Fire Extinguisher Rental' for this transaction – this may be a yearly agreement and so not noted in the mth Chq dated.

I have selected various sample receipts & payments, bank transfers and traced back through all accounting sheets including Bank Statements. Details of one sample – see 'Trace Aug B1'. Although all items correspond a note for continuity :- if continuing to provide printout of 'Bank Transfers' with accounts ALL bank transfers should be presented in the accounts. I could not find a print out of the part Bank transfer of a payment (£85) but this is found & noted in all other documented evidence & Bank Statements

I have selected various sample payments on Bank Statements and traced back through all accounting sheets Receipts. Details of one sample – see 'Trace Aug 23 A1'.

I have selected various Incomes and follow back 'Direct Giving' money transfers and 'Weekly Giving' and am satisfied that these accounts give no cause for concern.

See 'Summary of Traceability'

I have reviewed the minutes of the PCC and I have obtained background information on the PCC, how it is organised. The parish includes St. Mary's Hawkshaw & Emmanuel Holcombe and within the Parish there are 3 churches - St. Mary's (Hawkshaw), Emmanuel Church (Holcombe Village) & Emmanuel Church Centre (Holcombe).

Three sheets attached: -

Trace Aug A1, Trace Aug23 B2, Trace Aug23 B1.
Summary of Traceability

Accounts

Annual Report 2021 and Yearbook 2021/2022

Loving God, loving neighbours; sharing Jesus with you.



**Parish of
Holcombe &
Hawkshaw**

**What's been happening
in the Parish?**

This year the Yearbook and the Annual Report,
will be formally presented at the

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Emmanuel Church Centre,
Longsight Road,
Holcombe Brook,
Bury
BL8 4DB
7.30pm for 8.00pm.

25th April 2022

Vision Statement

“In our Parish:

- We will welcome others and serve the community through our love and care.
- We want to provide inspirational worship in various styles to meet the needs of all.
- Our teaching, based on the authority of the Bible, aims to connect faith to daily life, sustaining, encouraging and challenging everyone.
- We aim to have welcoming and warm buildings that enable us to worship, glorify God and aid mission.
- We seek to reach out through God’s love of all people, sharing the joy and wonder of the faith we have in our daily life with Jesus and growing his worldwide church in faith, hope and love.

The Parochial Church Council
Updated: 1st February, 2014

This booklet gives information about the activities of the various Parish Organisations and the Parish Annual Report.

Once again it is the product of teamwork by many people. Sincere thanks go to contributors who responded so promptly and made this Report possible.

We hope you will find the contents both interesting and informative.

Any errors are the responsibility of contributors/editor.



**Parish of
Holcombe &
Hawkshaw**

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Report
2021**

**Yearbook
2021**

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The Parish of Holcombe and Hawkshaw Annual Parochial Church Meeting Minutes

Monday 24th May 2021 by Zoom 8pm.

Present:

Two Clerks in Holy Office, Rev. Paul Sumsion and Rev. Ian Fleming,
And the following lay members of the parish:
S. Partridge, J. Burton, P. Hanley, J. M. Venn, M. Burton, C. Baggoley, S. Newhouse,
S. Wilkinson, J. Houghton, L. Fleming, L. Webber, T. Webber J. Sumsion, R. Sumsion,
D. Lomax, R. Artley, S. Byrom, R. Byrom, B. Atkin, R. Simpson, B. Whittle,
V. Whittle, J. Smale, K. Jones, P. Jones, E. Houghton, R. Houghton and D. Yardley,

PART A: A Meeting of Parishioners (Vestry Meeting)

1 Opening Prayer; The Rev. Paul Sumsion opened the meeting with prayer

2 Chairman's Remarks: The Rev. Paul Sumsion outlined the proceedings
The A.P.C.M. consists of 2 parts, part A the Vestry meeting to elect Church Wardens where attendees do not have to be on parish electoral roll, but have to be on the council electoral roll. Part B is the Annual Parochial Church Meeting where attendees are only eligible to vote if on parish electoral roll.

Paul said this is a sad year as we have lost Michael Booth a sitting Church Warden. Michael made a huge contribution to the life of the parish. He grew up in Hawkshaw and at Maine Road in 1961 at a Billy Graham rally, gave his life to Jesus. He was a gentle, wonderful caring Christian and we are all sorry for Geraldine's and the family's loss.
He will be greatly missed.

The procedures for voting by Zoom was explained.
Former parishes see item 11.

Patronage of parish.

After the death of Frederick Whowell, his widow passed the Whowell family share of the patronage to the CPAS patronage board early in 2020. The patronage for the Parish of Holcombe & Hawkshaw is now shared jointly between the CPAS Patronage Board and The Rector of Bury. Patrons have an important role when appointing incumbents to the parish.

3 Election of two Church Wardens (one from each former parish)
The nominations for Church wardens were Peter Hardcastle and Stephen Newhouse, there were no other nominations, and they were both duly elected all agreed.

PART B: A.P.C.M.

4 Apologies for Absence received from
B. Newhouse, G. Lomax, M. Lomax, R. France, J. Oliver, P. Lainton, N. Holt, C. Holt, G. Metcalfe, P. Hardcastle, J. Hardcastle and Rev. R. Airey.

5 Minutes of last year's vestry meeting and A.P.C.M. were received with an amendment to the 2020 Rectors Report, which should read:
'In February 2020 a smaller team from Capernwray Bible College joined us in the parish for ten days for a local mission and discipleship week, which went well. Just three weeks later, as we were preparing for Easter, with plans for further mission, bible study and worship, Covid 19 changed all of this and the church buildings were closed from March 22nd 2020'.
Amendment item 6: Presentation of electoral Roll should read 67 not 61 from former Parish of Hawkshaw.

All amendments agreed and the minutes were received and accepted.

6 Presentation of the revised church electoral roll by Sheila Partridge
Total of 194: 123 from Holcombe and 71 from Hawkshaw.
The new members were welcomed.

7 Presentation of Annual Reports and Accounts for Holcombe and Hawkshaw 2020.
Accepted unanimously. Thanks were extended to Stephen Newhouse for producing the annual report and year book.

8 Election of Church Officers

a. Election of Deputy Wardens:

Deputy Church Wardens for St Mary's Hawkshaw

Eddie Slattery and Ray Houghton

Elected unopposed.

Deputy Church Wardens for Emmanuel Church Centre

Jo Venn and Gwen Barnes

Elected unopposed.

Deputy Church Wardens for Emmanuel Holcombe

Susan Nuttall and Mike Burton

Elected unopposed.

b. Parochial representatives of the laity to the Deanery Synod

from Holcombe: Claire Baggoley and Stephen Newhouse.

from Hawkshaw: Jean Houghton, with one vacancy.

In the meeting, Keith Jones was nominated to serve on the Deanery Synod, nominated by Ethel Houghton seconded by Stuart Wilkinson.

Agreed unanimously.

c. Representatives of the laity to the P.C.C.

Jenny Burton, Mike Burton, Jo Venn, David Lomax, Ethel Houghton, Richard Byrom, Penny Hanley, Stuart Wilkinson. Liz Webber
Eddie Slattery, Rosemary Artley and Sheila Partridge.

All agreed unanimously and duly elected to serve on the P.C.C.

The Rev. Paul Sumsion extended a big thank you to the Wardens, Deanery Synod representatives and P.C.C. members and thanked Ruth Sumsion, Jane Fletcher and Geraldine Booth for their work on the P.C.C.

9 Appointment of an Independent Examiner

Stuart Moulton from St Anne's Church, Tottington was nominated as the independent Examiner.

Proposed by David Lomax, seconded by Jenny Burton

Agreed unanimously.

10 Rectors Report

- The Rector reflected on events since the last A.P.C.M. on 12th October 2020 and extended his thanks to all who bring the good news of the Gospel and show a Christian presence in our community.
- To the Quiet morning team, Linda Jackson, Romey Simpson and Barbara Atkin, to the musicians, members of the choir, Sheila and Rosemary, the Sumsions and Tim Webber.
- To those who work with children, the youth team, the Open the Book team and to Stephen Newhouse for recording the stories with the green screen that were sent to the three schools, to Ian and Layna Fleming and to Kathryn and Julia for running the Travellers.
- To all the governors of St Mary's and Emmanuel Holcombe schools for their continuing hard work.
- To those who have contributed to outreach and care to the elderly.
- To those who run the uniformed organisations
- To all those who have made the Parish work during this time of Covid including the P.C.C. and P.L.T. and the Rector's PA, Elaine.
- The Rector extended a huge thank you and a warm welcome to all those who have joined us.
- He said that it had been a tough year in the community, there had been grief, loss and anxiety and we have said goodbye to many of our friends.
- The P.C.C. have been working on values. These are behind what we do and should inform our response to different situations: Generous Hospitality,

Growing Faith, Worshipful, Recognising and responding to need, Compassionate, Bible-based Teaching, Missional. There is a real need to be growing. Two of the three congregations are older and greyer, we need to create better links with children and families but there is a lot which is good.

11 Matters of general parochial interest

- Stephen Newhouse offered thanks to Paul, Jo, Ruth, Caleb and Isaac Sumsion for their work over the past 15 months.
- A question from the floor enquired whether it was necessary to still refer in A.P.C.M.'s and voting to the former parishes of Holcombe and of Hawkshaw. Paul explained that when the two parishes became one in 2008 provision was made for the two former parishes in the notes to the scheme in regard for numbers of places on the Parochial Church Council. The pastoral scheme was approved by the Church Commissioners under the Pastoral Measure 1983. Under the Church Representation Rules (rule 12) we are able to change the representation to the P.C.C. in a way that better reflects the development of the parish. However, there is a process to follow, which means that we cannot change the arrangements for immediate effect in this meeting. A way forward would be for the P.C.C. to review the arrangements and, if required there could be a special church meeting about this.

12 Notices and thanks from the chair

- a. Archdeacons visitation: via Zoom for Church Wardens only this year, Dates still to be confirmed, but possibly Tuesday 9th June 2021.
- b. Next P.C.C.: 7.30 pm by Zoom on Monday 8th June 2021.

13 Closing prayer and Blessing

The Rev. Ian Fleming closed the meeting with prayer and a blessing at 8.45pm.

The Parish of Holcombe and Hawkshaw

Emmanuel Church, Holcombe.

and

Emmanuel Church Centre,

Longsight Road,

Holcombe Brook.

and

St. Mary, Hawkshaw.

In the Deanery of Bury, the Diocese of Manchester.

Annual Report

and

Financial Statements

of the

Parochial Church Council

For the year ended 31st December, 2021.

Rector:

The Rev'd. Paul H. Sumsion,
The Vicarage,
Bolton Road,
Hawkshaw,
Bury.
BL8 4JN.

Bank: Royal Bank of Scotland

Insurers: Ecclesiastical Insurance.

Honorary Treasurer: David Lomax.

Gift Aid Coordinator: Judith Horrocks.

Independent Examiner: Stuart Moult.

Annual Report for 2021

Statement:

The P.C.C. of the Parish of Holcombe and Hawkshaw has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent, the Rev'd. Paul Sumsion, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelical, social and ecumenical. It also has maintenance responsibility for S^t Mary, Hawkshaw, Emmanuel Church, Holcombe and Emmanuel Church Centre and Canon Lewis Hall, Longsight Road, Holcombe Brook.

Membership of the P.C.C.:

Members of the P.C.C. are either ex officio or elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting in accordance with the Church Representation Rules.

During the year the following served as members of the P.C.C.:

Incumbent: The Rev'd. Paul Sumsion, *Chairman & Rector.*

Associate Ministers: The Rev'd. Robert. W. Airey.

The Rev'd. Vic. Fletcher.

Curate: Rev'd. Ian Fleming.

Ex Officio Members:

Wardens: Mr. Peter Hardcastle, *from May 2021, Michael Booth to May 2021*
Mr. Stephen Newhouse, *from May 2019, (Lay Vice-Chairman of P.C.C.).*

Representatives on the Deanery Synod:

From Emmanuel and Emmanuel Church Centre:

Claire Baggoley and Stephen Newhouse.

From S^t Mary's, Hawkshaw: Geraldine Booth *to May 2021*, Keith Jones *from May 2021* and Jean Houghton.

Elected Members:

Fourteen members are elected at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting, (seven from the congregations of Emmanuel, Holcombe or Emmanuel Church Centre and seven from the congregation of Hawkshaw, S^t. Mary).

Those elected at the A,P.C.M in May 2021, were:

from S^t Mary's Hawkshaw:

Richard Byrom, Jane Fletcher *to May 2021*, Penny Hanley, Ethel Houghton, Ruth Sumsion *to May 2021*, Edward Slattery *from May 2021*, Stuart Wilkinson, Liz. Webber and Jo Sumsion (*co-opted from July 2021*).

from Emmanuel, Holcombe and Emmanuel Church Centre were:

Rosemary Artley, Jennifer Burton, Michael Burton, David Lomax, Sheila Partridge, and Jo Venn, (with one vacancy).

Readers and Deputy Wardens are not ex officio members of the P.C.C., but are able to stand for election at the A.P.C.M.

Readers:

Mr. Michael Burton, *(also Deputy Warden, (Emmanuel) and elected to P.C.C.)*.

Mr. Richard Byrom, *(and elected to the P.C.C.)*.

Mrs. Ethel Houghton, *(also elected to the P.C.C.)*.

Mrs. Jane Fletcher, *(also elected to the P.C.C.)*.

Mrs. Jo Sumsion, *(also co-opted onto P.C.C. and has been Children and Families Ministry Facilitator from September 2021)*.

Deputy Church Wardens

Emmanuel Church Holcombe:

Michael Burton and Susan Nuttall,

Emmanuel Church Centre:

Gwen Barnes and Jo. Venn.

St. Mary's Hawkshaw:

Richard Byrom *(to May 2021)*, Eddie Slattery *(from May 2021)* and Ray Houghton.

Structure:

(1) Standing Committee/Leadership Teams:

We are required by law, not only to have a Parochial Church Council, duly elected to represent our parishioners, but also a Standing Committee, which can attend to urgent parish business between P.C.C. meetings, if necessary.

In between P.C.C. meetings the Parish Leadership Team, (of which the Standing Committee is part), Emmanuel, Holcombe Leadership Team, Emmanuel Church Centre Leadership Team and St. Mary, Hawkshaw Leadership Team meet.

Each Leadership Team organises working groups within their own church.

The Parish Leadership Team:

Rev. P. Sumsion, Rev. R. Airey, Barbara Atkin, Michael Booth to May 2021, Peter Hardcastle (from May 2021), Michael Burton, Rev. Vic. Fletcher, Ethel Houghton, David Lomax, Stephen Newhouse, Jo Venn, Rev. Ian Fletcher and Jo Sumsion (from September 2021 as Children and Families Ministry Facilitator).

Emmanuel Holcombe Team Report 2021

2021 was unsurprisingly a strange year.

The Emmanuel, Holcombe Team met three times during the year. Of course many of the regular activities and some minor building work did not take place.

Covid 19 Restrictions

We were able to hold regular service this year, with various restriction such a social distancing, one way systems, mask wearing, etc.

Building work

Our plans for building work were put to the DAC and their feedback generally supported our plans, but required clarification of some areas of work, resulting in some changes to plan drawings and the updated plans being submitted in the second half of 2021. We expect approval early in 2022. There have been numerous minor repairs throughout the year

Services

The decision to stop the 8am Holy Communion Service 1662 was taken as numbers attending had dropped, (even before the pandemic), to around five people, (including Clergy, Warden and Assistant).

We continued to provide video Choral Evensong and Compline until July when actual services re-started. It had been decided that Choral Evensong would re-join our schedule of services, with an evening Holy Communion 1662 about four times per year.

Family and Children Provision

Jo Sumsion started Weekly Coffee Mornings for parents and carers of our School children on Wednesday at 9am, (also Tuesday at St Mary's), which has been successful in attracting around 8 or 9 adults and a couple of toddlers each week.

For the future we are looking at family provision with a possible Café Church and have re-introduced regular Family and Parade Services.

Our thanks go to the numerous people who offer their time, skills, advice and support to all of the work at Emmanuel, Holcombe, we are extremely grateful.

Membership:

Rev. Paul Sumsion, Rev. Robert Airey, Claire Baggoley, Jennifer Burton, Michael Burton, and Stephen Newhouse.

Emanuel Church Centre Team Report 2021

This year has certainly shown us that the church is the people not just a building. We were all delighted to return as a fellowship together, but we had kept in contact by phone or in person.

Some of our groups and organisations are back as normal and there have been Services with and without masks. We have been delighted to be able to sing again in Church. Thanks must go to Sheila and Christine who bring us wonderful music before and after the service and lead our singing of hymns.

The garden has been kept as beautiful as ever thanks to Barbara, Stephen and Christine and we have had several working parties outside.

Once again we have held a Remembering Event in November around the Cross outside and we had Campfire Carols in December. This was a foretaste of Campfire Church that started in January with songs, prayers, a talk and activities for young and old alike with warming hot chocolate and gorgeous cookies.

A working group painted the worship centre, enjoying each other's company.

Thanks to Glenis for her flowers throughout the year and to Alex for all she has done for the centre over the years.

We thank John Partridge for all his work on maintaining the building and to

Tony Bliss for keeping the centre clean and tidy.

We may be small in number, but you can always be sure of a warm welcome and we have been delighted to welcome new members who have felt that the sharing of faith and fellowship is a tangible part of E.C.C.

Members: Rev. Paul Sumsion, Gwen Barnes, Geoff Clare, Alan Goldsmith, Ann Milius, Sheila Partridge, Romey Simpson, Gloria Metcalfe, and Jo Venn.

St. Mary, Hawkshaw Team Report 2021

No Report Received

Fabric Report 2021

Due to the continuing Coronavirus Pandemic a lot of the usual building work has been restricted. The general condition of all three buildings is however generally satisfactory and where there are defects and problems they are being noted and remedied when possible. Much work has been done in continuing to ensure the buildings were Covid safe, including the drawing up of a comprehensive Risk Assessments, devising one way systems, spacing seating, provision of sanitiser, etc.

Emmanuel Church, Holcombe

We continue to rely on our band of volunteers who do many minor repairs. The plans for the development within the building have developed further this year. The DAC are considering our responses to concerns they had raised. We believe the Faculty will be approved early in 2022.

There is a problem with rain leaking into the church from the clock tower and also through lead flashing on the south aisle, the problem is being investigated.

Emmanuel Church Centre

The building and surrounding gardens are in a generally good state of repair, due in no small part to the dedicated work of volunteers, which has continued, during the pandemic. At one working party a group painted the E.C.C. interior walls.

The five yearly electrical system inspection was conducted with only minor recommendations, and several electrical repairs being completed at the same time.

St. Mary's, Hawkshaw

The grounds/garden and graveyard are well maintained and in good order. There are signs of general wear and tear in the

church building which is to be expected as the building is used a lot; so interior decoration will have to be addressed soon.

Some thought needs to be given to a replacement heating system in the near future.

It is a continuous battle with slipping slates and leaking gutter systems, but overall these have held up reasonably well under some testing times.

Feedback from the DAC with regards to the kitchen/toilets/sound desk/storage plans showed that they approved in principle but at present cannot support the proposal, resulting in some changes to plan drawings and fresh plans will be submitted in 2022.

General Comments

We thank everyone who works quietly behind the scenes cleaning, washing the linen, cleaning the brass and silver, flower arranging or sound, PA and streaming technicians, Deputy Wardens and last, but not least, the sidemen and women who play such an important role in welcoming people to our services.

The practical help and financial assistance of many people continues to play a major part in the care of the buildings, and our grateful thanks go to everyone who has contributed in any way.

*Peter Hardcastle and Stephen Newhouse.
Churchwardens March 2022*

P.C.C. Review of the Year 2021

The P.C.C. met eight times during 2021, all but two of the meetings taking place via Zoom. An average of 17 members attended each meeting. In addition, the Parish Leadership Team (P.L.T.) met every few weeks via Zoom with delegated authority to approve or initiate certain measures where necessary, reporting back to P.C.C.

So much of the business of both the P.C.C. and P.L.T. centred around the impact of Covid 19, discussing ways to mitigate its damaging effect on the church's ability to worship together, provide for fellowship and spread the gospel.

The following matters were considered during the year:

Treasurer's Report:

The P.C.C. received an update on our financial position at each meeting. Following the previous year's success in paying the Parish Share in full, David Lomax advised that there would be a shortfall of £4,000 during 2021.

Covid Restrictions:

The P.C.C. ensured that all government rules and Church of England advice was adhered to throughout the year. Much of the planning relating to Covid was conducted at P.L.T. meetings allowing for a more timely response to the ever-changing situation. Services continued to

be streamed online and other activities such as Open the Book were pre-recorded and available on YouTube. In July a survey was carried out to gauge the feelings of the congregations in regard to the relaxing of Covid-safe measures. The responses from this online survey informed the P.C.C.'s decisions.

Holy Communion:

There is a legal requirement to provide Holy Communion within the parish and the Bishop must be informed of any changes in pattern. While Covid levels were very high, Holy Communion took place twice a month at Holcombe and once a month at E.C.C. only. As the year progressed a more comprehensive pattern emerged across the parish, but with Holy Communion being in one kind, (bread only) with wafers instead of bread as a temporary measure.

Mission Communities:

The Diocese will be divided into 33 Mission Communities, the Bury and Rossendale Deanery comprising five Mission Community areas. This will come into effect during 2022. The P.C.C. discussed the implications of such a pooling of resources and the need to replace retiring stipendiary clergy.

Mission and Outreach:

Experience Easter took place outside for our two church schools. Easter trails for families were organised at all three centres. "Thy Kingdom Come" booklets were distributed between Ascension and Pentecost. Digital Family Prayer Adventure maps were also distributed through the schools. There was an opportunity to remember departed loved-ones at E.C.C. in November. Experience

Christmas took place in Hawkshaw and Holcombe Churches, but had to be abandoned for Holcombe Brook Primary School due to rising Covid infections.

With Jo Sumsion's role as Children and Families Ministry Facilitator commencing in September opportunities for mission and outreach were identified. These included a weekly morning drop-in for parents of school children at both Holcombe and Hawkshaw and the introduction of Camp-fire Church at E.C.C.

Children's Work:

The year started with little scope for providing substantial children's and young people's work. Work sheets were made available for younger children at Hawkshaw Church during services and, as restrictions lifted, activities were provided outside. However, from September, Cellar youth club and Sunday School resumed.

Ordination and Licensing:

During July Ian Fleming was ordained and Jo Sumsion was licensed as Lay Reader.

Children and Families Ministry Facilitator:

In 2021 the P.C.C. approved funding for the employment of a Children and Families Ministry Facilitator to work 15 hours per week. The position was duly advertised and following a rigorous interview process carried out by a small team, the P.C.C. was delighted to appoint Jo Sumsion to the position. Jo thus started in her new role in September. Jo Venn agreed to be her line manager and will continue to monitor and support Jo's progress going forward.

Safeguarding:

During the course of the year Liz Webber took over from Elaine Allum as Safeguarding Officer. The members of the P.C.C., along with people in various other relevant roles, were required to undertake online safeguarding training.

Health and Safety:

A revised Health and Safety policy and new Emergency Plan were approved by the P.C.C.

Buildings:

Various plans for projects to improve facilities at both Holcombe and Hawkshaw Churches made slow progress through the Diocesan Advisory Committee and the P.C.C. was kept updated as relevant.

Church Groups:

Regular groups such as mid-week meetings resumed from September.

Training:

A.L.M. training was approved for several members of the parish and First Aid training took place in November.

Michael Booth:

Sadly, during the year we lost Michael Booth, Churchwarden, Lay Reader and long-serving member of the P.C.C.. His death has left a huge gap in the life of our Parish, particularly within the Hawkshaw family, and he will be greatly missed.

Verger:

Eric Shortt was appointed Verger at Hawkshaw Church.

School Governors:

The P.C.C. endorsed the appointments of several members of the church to the governing bodies of our church schools.

George Sandiford Legacy:

A legacy of £25,000 was received from George Sandiford who worshipped at Emmanuel Church Centre.

Penny Hanley, P.C.C. Secretary

Report for the Bridge, Bentley and Ramsbottom Trust for 2021.

The work of the Trust has continued during the year with Trustees actively looking for ways to help those in need. Please read the promotional information below and if we can help anyone in need please let them know about the Trust.

The Expenditure for the year was £5724.

Grants were awarded in the following ways:

- (1) 'One off' book grants to University students, (23) Welfare, and (1) Educational.

The Bridge, Bentley, Ramsbottom Trust was created as an amalgamation of the John T. Bridge and three other smaller charitable trusts in 2002.



Bridge Bentley Ramsbottom Trust has small grants available to those in need living within a three mile radius of Emmanuel, Holcombe Church, Holcombe or those living within the Bury Deanery as defined on 1st January 2020.

The five Trustees treat each application in strictest confidence. Applications are welcomed from people of any faith or none.

The Diocese of Manchester, the Deanery of Bury and Rossendale Synod Report 2021

The meetings of Synod gives representatives valuable opportunities to meet and discuss matters with members of other parishes across the deanery. Each parish is entitled to representation according to their size. Our Electoral Roll entitled us to four members.

The Deanery Synod met two this year.

New Deanery

This year saw the formation of a new Deanery: the former Bury, Rossendale, Radcliffe and Prestwich deaneries were combined to form **ONE** deanery: the Deanery of Bury and Rossendale with **ONE** area Dean. The new Area Dean is Revd Canon Dr. Rachel Mann, who was Area Dean of Withington, Incumbent of St. Nicholas Burnage and Curate of St. Chad Ladybarn (Manchester Diocese). In June, Mrs. Kathryn Pollard was appointed as Deanery Lay Chair.

The inaugural meeting was held on 6th July, via Zoom with a further meeting in September, also via Zoom.

The year has again been overshadowed by the Covid Pandemic.

As reported last year the main focus of this year has been the formation of the Mission Communities throughout the diocese. Our deanery is to be divided into five Mission Communities. Our parish will be Mission Community 3 comprising Holcombe and Hawkshaw, Ramsbottom Team and St. Anne, Tottington.

Mission Community Leader

We will start this new way of working from January 2022. As part of that process it is hoped to make appointments of all Mission Community Leaders between January and June 2022. P.C.C.'s, Wardens and congregations were asked to put names forward late in 2021.

Focal Leader

Within the each Mission Community, every centre of worship will have a named focal leader who will provide the pastoral care for that centre. This will be either a stipendiary priest, (who may also be the mission community leader), another ordained minister, or a lay person – such as a Reader, or Authorised Lay Minister (A.L.M.), or any other suitable lay person – who is appointed to the role. There will be a focus on developing specific ministries and skills to meet the needs of local people. They should be appointed by 2023

*Claire Baggoley, Keith Jones,
Jean Houghton and Stephen Newhouse.
March 2022*

The Rector's Report will be given verbally at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting on the 25th April

Safeguarding Report 2021

Psalm 82 verse 3 says, 'Defend the weak and the fatherless, uphold the case of the poor and the oppressed. Rescue the weak and the needy and deliver them from the hand of the wicked.' As a church, we want to ensure that the children and vulnerable adults in our community are protected. We recognise the calling and duty to love and care for the vulnerable and marginalised and protect all from abuse. The Parish of Holcombe and Hawkshaw continue to follow the Bishops' Safeguarding Policy and Practice Guidance and continue to review our own Safeguarding Policy annually.

I recently took over the role of Parish Safeguarding Officer from Elaine Allum, which coincided with groups restarting following closures due to the Coronavirus Pandemic and a change in policy which now requires DBS checks and Parish Safeguarding Training to be updated every three years as opposed to five years, as it had been previously. This has meant a lot of people have needed DBS checks updating in the past few months and I'm extremely grateful to everyone who has completed applications during this time. Many people have also completed their Diocesan Safeguarding Training, though we still have a number of people needing to do this, in order to ensure we meet the criteria as set out by the diocese. Part of the problem has been due to the leadership courses being oversubscribed, I hope these will become more readily available during the coming months.

There has been one safeguarding report which has needed to be investigated over the last year.

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility. Ensuring your DBS and Safeguarding Training requirements are up to date, alongside acting on any concerns you might have, regarding children and vulnerable adults, is absolutely necessary for all those in qualifying roles.

Thank you to everyone, for the collective effort in making our churches as safe as we can.

*Liz Webber
22nd February, 2022*

SAFEGUARDING POLICY PROMOTING A SAFER CHURCH

The following policy was agreed at the Parochial Church Council (P.C.C.) meeting held on 14th March 2022 .

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 (P.S.O.) to work with the incumbent and the P.C.C. 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 (D.S.A.) 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: Mrs. Liz Webber as the Parish Safeguarding Officer

Incumbent: Reverend Paul Sumsion.

Churchwardens: Mr. Peter Hardcastle & Mr. Stephen Newhouse.

Date: 14th March, 2022

Financial Statements of the Parochial Church Council

For the year ended
31st December, 2021.

Holcombe and Hawkshaw Parochial Church Council

STATEMENT OF INCOME FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

	Holcombe and Hawkshaw 2021		
	£	£	£
Voluntary Income			
Planned Giving - Gift Aid	61,424.17		
Planned Giving - Un-gifted	2,088.42		
One off Gift Aid	312.50		
Cash/Collections	4,411.57		
Income tax recovered	16,501.11		
Fund Raising Events	158.04		
Magazine	36.20		
Use of Church Buildings	3,912.50		
			<u>88,844.51</u>
Other Ordinary Income			
Dividends and Interest	31.36		
Fees to PCC (includes £2,013 fees paid to Diocese)	6,074.00		
			<u>6,105.36</u>
			<u>94,949.87</u>
Extraordinary Income			
Restricted Donations	33,630.00		
Legacy	500.00		
Headstone	144.00		
Insurance Claim	2,859.20		
Special Appeals	356.97		
			<u>37,490.17</u>
			<u>132,440.04</u>
Total Income 2021			<u><u>132,440.04</u></u>
Income 2020			<u>114,897.73</u>

Holcombe and Hawkshaw Parochial Church Council

STATEMENT OF EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

2021

£ £ £

The Ministry

Ministry Expenses	12,726.10		
Support & Education	1,977.10		
		14,703.20	

The Church and Services

Energy	8,577.87		
Water	596.56		
Cleaning	0.00		
Insurance	7,302.58		
Upkeep of Services	5,005.69		
Minor Repairs, Fire Inspection	7,087.00		
Churchyard	1,483.20		
		30,052.90	

Other Ordinary Expenditure

Wages	13,417.46		
Magazine	0.00		
Fund Raising costs	0.00		
Verger/Organist	435.00		
		13,852.46	

The Diocese

Parish Share	41,000.00		
Other Diocese costs	2,013.00		
		43,013.00	

Payments to Missions/Charities

Mission/Charities	1,674.00		
		1,674.00	103,295.56

Extraordinary Expenditure

ECC Garden	163.86		
ECC	622.44		
Holcombe Church	1,987.00		
Hawkshaw	375.00		
Hawkshaw Heating			
Holcombe Organ			
		3,148.30	106,443.86

Total Cash Expenditure 2021			106,443.86
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Expenditure 2020			107,016.55
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YEAR END STATEMENT 2021

Bank Balances 31 December 2019

Total

Current Account	-
Deposit Account	69,395.50
Direct Giving Accounts	15,356.32
Restricted Funds Account	820.65
Cash	-
	<u>85,572.47</u>
Less Unpresented cheques	
Year End Total	<u>85,572.47</u>

Restricted/Designated Funds

Gardening (ECC)	-
ECC	17,527.56
Holcombe	30,735.99
Hawkshaw	2,275.00
Hawkshaw Heating	30,000.00
Malawi	1,931.64
	<u>82,470.19</u>

Working Balance

3,102.28

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AT 31 DECEMBER 2021

	Balance 31/12/2020	Balance 31/12/2021
Santander	310.55	351.54
CCLA - Restricted Holcombe Endowments	995.51	985.45
<u>Bank Accounts</u>		
Current Acc		-
Deposit Acc	44,958.28	69,395.50
Direct Giving Acc	13,797.28	15,356.32
Restricted Acc	820.53	820.65
Cash Not banked		-
	60882.15	86909.46
Less Cheques unrepresented	0.00	0.00
	60882.15	86909.46
TOTALS	60882.15	86909.46

Yearbook 2021

Soup Company

For the first part of the year we were still on weekly deliveries, but we were delighted to be up and running again after the Summer. September saw us start again. We have met the second Thursday of every month for delicious home made soups and cakes and have had as many as 30 people, including deliveries to those who are still isolating.



The group is exactly as it was meant to be, good soup and good company and this is followed by a communion service.

But don't just take it from me; this is what some of our members say:

'Excellent food', David.

'Friendly Company', Ross.

'Very satisfying', Ken.

'Good selection of soups and lovely Company', Elfie.

'It makes my day and it is nice to be waited on', Muriel.

'It makes a Thursday special', Betty

'Very enjoyable company and food'.
Susan.

'Lovely to go out and meet friends when you are on your own', Ann.

'So many choices of soups and desserts we are spoilt', Maureen.

'Food, Friends and Fellowship',
Annette.

This says it all. With up to seven choices of soup, and trifle or cakes to enjoy there is something for everyone especially vegetarians.

Thanks as always to: Romey, Annette, Jenny and Christine, for their culinary skills and to all our friends who make Soup Company the great place it is.

If you have never been, you are missing a treat.

Jo Venn

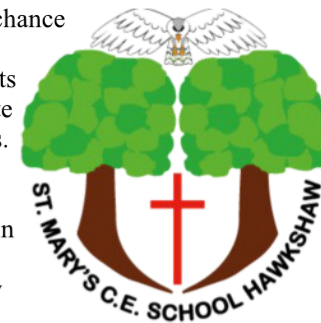
St Mary's Church of England Primary School

As a school community we really appreciate being able to 'Believe and Achieve Together'. The St Mary's family is back together and thriving. The children are thrilled to be able to play out freely, share whole school collective worship, and attend after school clubs. We are welcoming visitors into school and we have been able to arrange educational trips. The whole school attended The Octagon Theatre in Bolton to watch Peter Pan. It felt like a huge celebration. Class 4 were able to visit Yorkshire Camps for outdoor challenges and a residential stay. Children are able to enjoy much wider and enhancing experiences.

We have re-formed School Council and Faith Ambassadors allowing children to have a voice and to be able to influence decisions. The School Council have selected the charities we are going to support this year. We have an ongoing project to collect food for Ramsbottom Pantry. We also acted as a collection point for the Ukraine emergency supply appeal. We have recently created a passionate group called Planet Protectors. They have completed an audit and have chosen areas to improve. The main project aims to reduce our consumption of gas and electricity. We are making a whole school effort. We are also collecting crisp packets for recycling until July 2022. The children are so proud of our school and are relentless in their passion to contribute. We are truly blessed.

After two years we have been able to have face to face Parents' Evenings and services in church with parents. We have

missed the chance to share achievements and celebrate with parents. The live Nativity production in church was treasured by parents and grandparents.



We are so thankful to our PTA who arrange fun activities for our families. They have raised enough money to update the Information Technology devices used by the children and staff. We are so excited to have a full class set of the latest Chromebooks and group sets of iPads. The quality equipment will enable us to provide outstanding Information Technology teaching. We cannot thank the PTA enough.

We are delighted with our new stylish railings and gates. They have increased site security and help us all to feel safer in school. We have applied for SCA funding via Manchester Diocese to complete the project by adding railings to the church and playground boundary. We await their response.

We are grateful for all the wider opportunities we are now able to provide for our children and are thankful for the support we receive from St Mary's Church community. A special thanks to Jo Sumsion who has led our choir, arranged Thursday collective worship, and provided refreshments for parents every Tuesday morning.

Kind regards

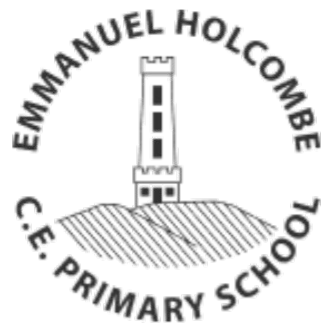
Geraldine Woodward
Head Teacher

What another unusual year. This time last year we were in the second national lockdown and were hoping that 2022 would start virus free. Unfortunately, this is not the case and we are continuing to live with the daily interruptions the virus brings. Not all is downtrodden and glum though. We have achieved some amazing things this year that we would like to share.

We were delighted to be able to work closely with the church at Easter to hold the Experience Easter extravaganza on the land at the back of school. We also held our Easter service outside and it was lovely to all be together again.



We continue to embrace positive mental health and wellbeing as part of our curriculum following the lockdowns. As part of the curriculum, we make good use



of our immediate local area with children walking on the moors and into the woods on a weekly basis. Please give us a wave if you see us out and about.

Returning to school in September with less Covid restrictions was fantastic. We were finally able to come together for worship, work across classes, be on the playground together and get back our family feel to school. We thoroughly enjoyed holding our Harvest festival and our carol concert in church this year. The children were fantastic and you could hear every word they said in both services.

Following the success of the Easter story extravaganza, we enjoyed the Christmas extravaganza which gave the children the opportunity to explore the Christmas story in a different way. We are extremely grateful for all those who planned and led this event.

We were also able to hold our nativity performances in school welcoming parents and grandparents to watch. The children made us laugh out loud with their expressions and dances- a welcome relief at the end of another challenging year. We said farewell to Mrs. Sanderson at Christmas after 9 years of working at school and wish her all the best in her new position.

Returning from the Christmas holidays has seen a spike in infection rates in the borough and we are hoping that this will cause us minimum disruption in school. We are all ready with our online learning,



although we hope we can continue with face to face learning for as long as possible.

Please keep us in your thoughts and prayers.

*Catherine Bennett
Headteacher*

*Emmanuel Holcombe
Primary School*

Mothers' UNION

Like many other organisations, the Mother's Union did not meet from March 2020 until September 2021, because of the Coronavirus epidemic.

Our speakers at our last few meetings included our own Pauline Howker, who spoke about the "garden services" from Canterbury Cathedral; Gloria Metcalfe who read us a selection of her poetry and Richard France who shared with us several of the monologues written by his father, Philip, about Holcombe church life and times at their home at Dickfield.

In December, we held our usual Christmas Lunch at the Sykeside Hotel, despite it being a wet and windy day, there was a warm welcome and good food when we got there.

Despite our short meeting season up to this report, we did manage to have two Annual General Meetings, one postponed from 2021 and our regular one in February this year. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Committee members for all their hard work over this last year.

We have a full programme over the next year, meeting on the first Tuesday of each month in the Emmanuel Church Centre at 2.00pm. All are welcome. So please keep an eye on our Notice Boards, the church magazine and the regular weekly emails about church events.

Robert Airey
Correspondence Officer.



There is better news in this year's report!

The Drop In is open – with caution. There are presently fewer people gathering than when we re-opened last July, but the pre-Christmas rise in Covid infections forced some members to isolate or shield. As government advice changes and restrictions lift, more might well return.

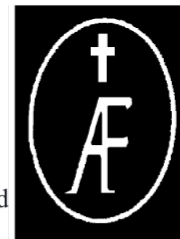
There is such need for fellowship and conversation is a real means of being together – particularly for those who live alone.

As ever, we offer tea, coffee and biscuits to accompany our chats and all are welcome each Monday morning 10.00am until mid-day.

Gloria.

Afternoon Fellowship

We re-started 2021 on September 13th with only four members, and were able to have a good catch up chat.



September 27th: Gloria gave readings of her own written poems. *Seven members.*

October 11th: Sheila provided a musical afternoon, which as always is wonderful, *only five members today.*

October 20th: Robert very interesting talk with the title of "Perfumes in the Bible". *Six members.*

November 8th: Bessie "Remembrance Readings" with photos and stories of interest. *Five members.*

November 20th: Robert "Ladies in the Bible". *Ten members today!*

December 6th: Robert shared "Different Christmas Stories". Lots of facts and stories. What would we do without Robert helping us out!! *Six members.*

December 20th

Joint Carol Service for all Hall users. *Good attendance.*

New Year we started to meet once a month starting with "A Different Israel" by Mr. & Mrs. Kellington. Film show and talk.

Which very well presented.

We are always pleased to welcome new members, please come and join us, we need you! on the 4th Monday of the month, with interesting talks and of course tea and biscuits.

More details from:-

Mrs. Pauline Keighley 01204 884476
Mrs. Ann Milius 01204 880677
Ann Milius.

E.C.C. Prayer Group

Activities during 2021 were severely reduced by the Covid pandemic.

The usual opportunity for private prayer and reflection on Good Friday



(2nd April) was significantly pared down, with E.C.C. open from 10a.m.-12 noon with much-reduced input.

Mindful of the need for opportunities to reflect on the events of the preceding year, all three worship centres offered "My Pandemic Experience" for a couple of hours on five days in May. Based on material produced by CPAS, interactive prayer stations on the themes of Thanksgiving, Lament, Learning and Prayer were set up as an aid to personal prayer.

As circumstances changed and restrictions slightly eased, an updated version of this, "Looking Back & Moving On", was offered at E.C.C. on Friday evening and Saturday morning of 15th & 16th October.

Also in October, the usual monthly **Quiet Mornings** resumed. These had clearly been missed as there were record attendances for the 3 months up to the end of the year. (An average of 21 people)

Taize services also resumed, with one on the evening of 3rd October (Harvest) and one as the morning service at E.C.C. on Advent Sunday (28th November).

We hope to offer opportunities for reflection and meditative worship throughout 2021, and a warm invitation is extended to anyone who would like to join us at any of these events.

Emmanuel Holcombe Choir

Another year has passed in which life has been full of unexpected turns.

This time last year we were still in lockdown, and though there was no law requiring us to close the churches, it was felt to be safer.

So we started meeting on Zoom for our choir practices, and while this has its limitations, it was better than nothing. In addition to our music-making, it gave us a little more social contact than we would have had otherwise. Our Good Friday service took place on Zoom with the help of some recordings.

It was not till late July that we resumed choir practices in person. After so many months of hearing none of the other voices, we had to practise listening to one another again and found ourselves doing more unaccompanied singing than usual in order to focus on this.

The first Sunday when singing was permitted in services was an emotional occasion for choir and congregation alike.

In the autumn we moved back into the choir stalls, though with more space between singers than there used to be. Eventually Choral Evensong resumed. Even now, it is shorter than before the pandemic, but we are looking forward to singing the Lord's Prayer at some point in the future.

We had a relatively normal carol service, to which a group of children contributed. This was the period when

there were large numbers of Delta cases, and then Omicron took off, so some children did have to miss practices as a result of Covid. It was a great relief that enough children were well on the day of the service.

We are sad that we have had to say our final farewell to Colin, who was a member of the choir for thirty years. But it was good to play our part in the celebration of his life. We miss him, Hilda and several other members whose health has deteriorated: Richard Carr, Doris Lockett, Pat Carver and Gwyneth Adshead. We are sorry that Beryl now prefers to sit in the congregation when she is here, but we understand her reasons. We are grateful for all she has done for the choir over many years.

We are glad that John Fairclough has returned to play for us, and he has agreed to take choir practices for me should the need arise. But I have no plans to break any more bones.

We occasionally welcome people from elsewhere to augment our forces. We were pleased that Keith Ball was able to sing with us at the carol service and Colin's funeral. When there are two basses but no tenor, Richard France often supplies the missing part, which is most helpful. Jill Hunt's husband Brian will also be singing bass with us from time to time, and we appreciate his contribution.



Rosemary Artle
19.2.2022

Music at Hawkshaw

Our year of music at St Mary's during 2021 was one of a gradual and cautious return to some level of normality, albeit an often very different normal than what we had previously known. As soon as Christmas 2020 was out of the way, we were plunged back into a national lockdown and services were back solely online. We took advantage of all the Sumsion family's recorded music from the previous summer and were able to take it in turns streaming live music as part of the services recorded on a Sunday morning in a near empty church. Thanks, as ever, to Jo, Paul, Ruth, Caleb and Isaac as well as the streaming team of Stuart, Rob, David and the much-missed Michael Booth for getting us through those dark months.

From March, the country and our churches began to reopen and services began taking place again. No congregational singing was allowed but we were able to sing over the congregation and restore a degree of normality to our services.

In May, Jo and Paul organised the first of a number of outdoor services in which we were, at last, able to sing again. There was a real sense of joy at these services and members of other local churches joined us for the opportunity to sing God's praises as a church once more. Another special thanks to David, Stuart and Rob who added live online outdoor broadcasts to their CV's.

Early July saw the Iron Man return to Bolton and we were able to provide musical encouragement to the riders on their way past St. Mary's, that is until the heavens opened and we had to make a swift retreat inside. Thanks to Jo, Paul, Caleb, Isaac and Ruth for going along with my plans to turn them into a jazz band.

From September, we welcomed back our team of singers – David, Dot, Jane and Susan - who had been unable to participate over lockdown due to social distancing requirements. It was also wonderful to welcome Loraine and Keith to the team and we are now able to rotate singers and musicians which is a lovely position to be in. Thanks also to Caleb Sumsion

who stepped up to leading and choosing songs by himself and has done an excellent job.

Sadly, September was also a time to say goodbye to Ruth Sumsion, who, after achieving spectacularly in her A levels, departed for Lea Abbey in Devon. Thank you Ruth for all you have given to St Mary's.

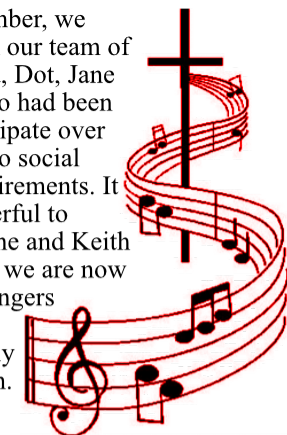
At Christmas, the carol service music was again organised by Jo. Thanks to the musicians and singers involved. December also saw the first Campfire Churches in which we were able to sing Christmas carols around a warm fire. These continue to go from strength to strength in 2022.

With Jo's new role in the parish, we were also able to begin welcoming St Mary's School choir to participate in leading songs on a regular basis. Many of us, will have felt the emotion of seeing a large group of children joining the musicians at the front of church, waving flags and shaking percussion and singing the words from 'The Blessing':

*May His favour be upon you
And a thousand generations
And Your family and your children
And their children, and their children*

May these words be our prayer for our families, friends, churches and communities over the next year and beyond.

Tim Webber



Hall Things Bright and Beautiful 2021.

Nature never stops!

While working in the garden, many of the visitors have said to me that during lock down, the garden was a life saver. That is so wonderful and makes me feel really pleased that the team put all the effort into making the garden happen six years ago. The garden is used so much by so many people for so many varied reasons it really makes it all so worthwhile. Nothing so, so about it!

Maintenance has been kept up, we have managed a few working parties as restrictions eased, but mainly our thanks go again to Christine who keeps on weeding, cutting back and generally keeping on top of things while the more major projects are dealt with.

It is lovely to see the flowers come up again each year and also to plant bedding and see it thrive. Thanks to kind donations during the year, we have added: a small pond at the front of the garden; a bench in the middle; a wood shelter for



the campfire area and a few new bushes - and lots and lots of bulbs.

Also due to other donation, we have been able to re-fill most of the barked areas to keep down the weeds and maintain the path ways.

The rabbits seem to have left the garden, (the flowers have not been eaten for a while now), but we still have visits from deer, and numerous types of birds especially our friendly Robin and something that visits every day, to scratch up the bark along the left side path. Our aim is to encourage wild life, by keeping some areas uncultivated as well as having the more formal beds. So far there seems to be a good workable balance.

Thank you to everyone who has helped with the garden in any way whatsoever. The team will carry on cutting grass maintaining the area and keeping the garden a pleasant, useful and enjoyable place to be.

*Barbara Newhouse
For the Hall Things Bright and Beautiful Team.*



What it used to look like in 2015

Open the book

Open the Book has taken a different format this year due to the Pandemic, but nevertheless we have provided Assemblies based on Bible Stories for St Mary's Hawkshaw, Emmanuel Holcombe Primary School and Holcombe Brook Primary. These have involved the team, which includes members from each of our worship centres, meeting at the Centre, socially distanced and at intervals with Sheila organising it well and Stephen filming and editing the introductions, stories and conclusions.

We have had very favourable comments from all our schools and our assemblies have also been part of the daily Acts of Worship in Primary Schools in the Wigan and Blackburn Dioceses. Such is the power and versatility of modern Technology.

Although we have not managed to visit the schools in person, except for 'Experiencing Easter', we have been in touch. Experiencing Easter happened in Holy Week when the team re-enacted the Easter Story in Emmanuel Church. The pupils took a full part: writing prayers; throwing anything they wanted to say sorry for in the Courtyard remembering where Peter denied Jesus three times;



visiting the Garden of Gethsemane; making their own Easter Gardens and praying and making crosses; seeing the empty tomb and sowing seeds representing new life.

Sadly, we lost one of our very dear members this year, Colin Gaskell, who has played and dressed as many Biblical characters over the years. He was loved by us all for his sense of humour and fun and will be remembered particularly when we think of how he loved to see his grandsons when we visited Holcombe Brook Primary.

The team have worked well despite restrictions, but we are looking forward to meeting together on a Monday morning, to have the fun and banter we love whilst preparing to educate our young people spiritually.

If anyone wishes to join our happy band, we are always looking for new members.

Holiday Club

It was great to be able to welcome so many children back to holiday club after the previous year's lockdown restrictions. For many of the very youngest children it was a brand new

adventure to be able to be free to have fun with friends and enjoy games and activities outside of the home or school bubble.

Holiday club ran during the second week of August. Our theme for the week was Hawkshaw Rock. There are several angles of attack for this from having a sticky encounter with a tooth-rotting delight; or by getting down with the beat of our resident band; through to building lives on something, (or someone) solid. I think we managed all three!

Our stories followed the "Open the Book" format with narration plus drama starting with, of course, the Wise and Foolish Builders. The following days saw the Good Samaritan, the Lost Coin, the Unmerciful Servant and the story of the Talents getting the treatment from our troupe of thespians. As usual we enjoyed plenty of crafts and games, albeit mindful of the ever present danger of Covid that could so easily have put the kibosh on proceedings. But God kept us all safe all week!



On the Thursday evening we invited children, parents and members of the Church family to a barbecue with yet another story, this time of the Wedding Banquet. This was very well attended by children and parents and it was a great opportunity to be able welcome new families after such a long, fallow period. It would have been even better if more of our regular congregation could have been able to join us! But thanks go to those who did managed to come and support us in this vital mission.

Of course, many thanks go to the fantastic team who helped all week. You know who you are! But particularly to Ruth, Caleb and Isaac without whom the week wouldn't have rocked so well!

Penny Hanley

19th Ramsbottom Brownies

We have had a 'Zoom Year!'

Successful, but different. While on Zoom, the Brownies enjoyed games and activities as well as achieving a great deal within the Programme. We also grew in numbers, but it has been so wonderful to get back to face – to – face meetings since September.

The new Brownie programme has six Themes available for each girl to achieve. This happens over the three years with the pack. Lois was our first Brownie to get two Themes and gain her Bronze Award. Since then, another three Brownies have also managed this wonderful achievement and we are so pleased for them – next step, Silver and Gold – no mean feat.



We plan to re-start other 'back to normal' activities eventually, but for now, one step at a time!

We are lucky to have enough leaders to spread out the workload and we are all enjoying being with the girls and working through the activities aimed at developing many useful skills in a fun way.

We are also pleased to welcome two young ladies who are working with us to fulfil their Duke of Edinburgh Service to the Community. It is lovely for the Brownies to share time with younger helpers.

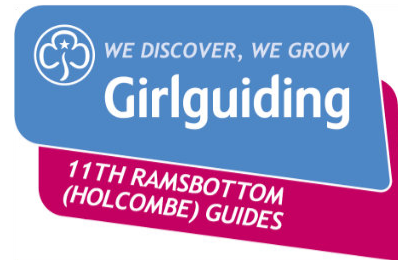
Lisa Coulborn, Janet Halliwell, Mary Souter and Barbara Newhouse.

10th Ramsbottom Guides

In November, after a break of 20 months due to Covid, 10th Ramsbottom Guides began meeting virtually by Zoom. We've enjoyed virtual scavenger hunts, Christmas crafts making reindeer and stars, played pass the pigs, as well as adapting the Guiding program for the virtual world. We're looking forward to meeting outdoors in the not too distant future.

I'm delighted to welcome Kathryn Fry to the unit as a leader, and grateful for her helping to get us "Zooming"!

As ever, we couldn't do this without the help of our volunteers, so it's 'Thank You!' for everything they do.



Annual Report 2021

There's a saying that goes *"All good things come to an end"* and unfortunately that's what happened on Friday 16th July, 2021. The 11th Ramsbottom (Holcombe) Guides held its last meeting. Before Covid, we used to meet every Friday at Emmanuel Holcombe School but for the last 12 months we have been keeping in touch via our weekly Zoom Meetings. With numbers being low, some girls moving on to 6th form college and the leaders taking the decision to step down, the unit was closed.

It was an extremely difficult decision as we have been Guiders at Holcombe together for the last 28 Years (though I had been at Holcombe Guides for 38 years and Janet joined us from another Guide Company). Janet should have been

awarded her 30 years long service award from Girlguiding, but unfortunately, it's been delayed.

So, following our 34th & last Zoom meeting, we all took the short trip to Canon Lewis Hall,

where we could see each other face to face again, (socially distanced) for the first time in 484 days. Here



we presented the girls with a goodie bag of gifts and photographs and wished them "Good luck for the future". Janet was presented with a rose plant, as gift from the Guides to recognise her 30 years' service. We both want to say a big thank you to the Guides and their parents for the lovely flowers and cards they gave us.

Finally, we would like to thank everyone who over the years has helped and supported Holcombe Guides in any way, it was and has been greatly appreciated. As Guiders, we have had the honour, privilege and pleasure of knowing that we have helped 100's of girls on their guiding journey.

Kathryn Fry & Janet Howarth



Children and Families Ministry Facilitator

In July we held sessions for the Year 6 pupils at St. Mary's, Emmanuel and Holcombe Brook Primary schools, using the 'It's Your Move' material from Scripture Union to help them to prepare for the transition to secondary school.

In July we also began to prepare for restarting Sunday school at Hawkshaw after the long break due to restrictions. Leaders met together to plan and prepare to make sure that everything was in place for the start of the September term when, finally, the groups would be able to meet again.

In planning for September, I could see the need for parents, particularly those new to the schools, to have the opportunity to meet together and get to know each other, especially after spending 18 months in lockdown with their little ones. Weekly coffee mornings have started in St Mary's and Holcombe for the respective parents and carers, after they have dropped off at school and there's always plenty of cake!

We have contact with our church schools each week. We lead whole school collective worship on a rota - Paul, Ian and Robert and Jo Dolman, (Bolton circuit Methodist youth worker) - are all involved. Each week, I have been into Emmanuel to lead class worship for a different class over a half term. We have explored the values of generosity and compassion.

I have also been helping to run the choir at St. Mary's and a good number of children and their families have joined us to sing with the church music group for All Age Worship.

We've also held special services for our schools at Harvest and Christmas.

In December, we were able to invite the schools into church to Experience Christmas at Emmanuel and St. Mary's. One at a time, each class joined us for a session to explore the Christmas story with interactive storytelling and reflective activities. Unfortunately, with the rise in Covid rates towards the end of term, we had to cancel the two days we had planned to take Holcombe Brook Primary school through a similar experience at Emmanuel Church Centre. We hope to be able to offer them Experience Easter Outside.

Last term we were also planning towards the starting up of Campfire Church, which met for the first time on 9th January. This is a new initiative aimed at engaging and encouraging people of all ages to meet with God and grow in faith while meeting in an outdoor environment. We plan to meet on the second Sunday of each month at 3pm in the garden of Emmanuel Church Centre. I have been successful applying for a grant from the diocese's Family Worship and Beyond Fund for Campfire Church and we have been given the full £750 towards the start up and running costs.

Looking forward, we will be running Marriage Preparation on two Saturdays in February, supporting family life from the outset, and we are planning to take the children in Year 3 to Year 6 for a weekend to Yorkshire camps in March.

Thank you to all the volunteers who work tirelessly and inspire in so many ways. Our children and families' ministry could not happen without each one of you.

*Jo Sumsion
January 2022*



Cellar and Youth at Hawkshaw

In this last twelve months we have (finally!) been able to restart the Cellar Youth Group. Since we joined the parish last year, Cellar was something that we had heard so much about, and without exception everyone we spoke to were hugely grateful to the work Richard and Sue put into the group for so many years.

So, after a nearly two-year break, it was with great joy that we relaunched in September 2021. We are blessed to have roughly 25 young people on the books from school years 7-9 and most weeks we have 15-20 of them in attendance.

We began last year by using some material from Scripture Union called Rooted which got us back on our feet, then firmly established as a group once again. This year, we're looking at John's gospel and will be following the same pattern through Lent as the rest of the churches across Ramsbottom Churches Together.

Huge thanks are due, in no particular order, to Anne, Geoff, Penny, Isaac, Callum, Paul, Maria and Layna for the time they dedicate to preparing each week, and for the kindness and wisdom they each bring to the group each week too. We couldn't do it without you all!



Equally huge thanks, of course, are due to our young people too! The energy and interest you all bring are what make cellar the blessing that it is.

This year, too, we have introduced a new group form our older teens in years 10 -13. Once a month, Roast Club meets in the Cellar and all who attend are treated to a full roast dinner. Caleb Sumsion can be thanked for the challenge of delivering a full roast dinner to cellar. It took a bit of thinking, and I had to buy a new shelf for the oven, but now we've got it down to a smooth operation.

So far, Roast Club has had a pattern of "ask me anything" sessions, which has definitely made me think on my feet! We're excited to see that the next few months will bring!

Ian

Sunday School at Hawkshaw

The year began in lockdown and so we were unable to hold our Sunday morning children's groups for the first part of the year. We continued to provide activity pack during the All Age morning worship. Many thanks to Penny Hanley for coming up with new ideas each week which were linked to the theme of the service.

As the weather improved and restrictions lifted, some sessions were held outside, using games and activities to teach the Bible to the children. The children thoroughly enjoyed the interaction with each other, after so many months of restrictions.



Finally in September, we restarted groups for children aged 3 to 11. These are held twice a month during the morning service, with the other services being All Age. The children have been learning about some of the miracles of Jesus using material from Scripture Union.

We have had several families joining the church over the past few months and are very pleased to welcome these new children into Sunday school.

Thanks go as always to the group leaders who make running our children's groups possible.

*Jo Sumsion
January 2022*

Afternoon Pilgrim Group

We were glad to meet up again for Pilgrim group again this Autumn after the Pandemic break. We had an average of 14 of us meeting on Tuesday afternoons to look in depth at the 'I am' sayings. Starting with I am the Good Shepherd and finishing with I am the Alpha and Omega the truth and the life we discussed our faith and how God meets us on a daily basis in the good and challenging times of our lives. The Pandemic certainly tested us and gave us time to reflect on life, its



blessings and its problems. The group share in confidence and faith is nurtured.

We were very sorry to lose a few members who had been with us from the beginning and had not come back yet, either through caution or transport difficulties, but pleased to welcome several new members.

Jo. Venn

Traveller's (Adult and Toddler Group)

Annual Report (March 2021 – February 2022)

Finally, on the 8th September, 2021 after an 18-month break, we were able to re-open our doors and welcome everyone back to Travellers. Although, we had kept in touch with everyone via WhatsApp, what a surprise we had, when one boy who was only three months old when we had to close, came in walking and talking!

We have had to make changes so that we follow the relevant guidelines (windows open, table and chairs cleaned, everyone sanitise their hands plus lots more!). Although, we don't put out as many toys, there's still lots to go around and all of them are cleaned before they are put back in the cupboard.

We have purchased a Princess Castle Play tent and Dinosaur Pop up Tent, which the children have great fun playing in.

In November, we held our Pudsey Bear Afternoon where the children took part in a treasure Hunt and made a magic wand helping to raise £75 for BBC Children In Need. We've also made snowmen, gingerbread men, Christmas tree decorations and Father Christmas visited us and brought everyone a present.

On average six adults and 12 children come along each week, recently a Grandma came with her daughter and Granddaughter, she was telling us that she

used to bring her daughter when she was little back in 1996 and was now looking forward to bringing her Granddaughter. So, if you've never been why not come along and join us on Wednesday afternoon, (term time only) from 1.30pm. to 3.00pm., (full details are on our notice board in the Hall).



For your notes . . .

Rector: Rev. Paul Sumsion,
The Vicarage,
Bolton Road,
Hawkshaw,
Bury,
BL8 4JN
01204 888060.



Associate Ministers:

Rev. Robert Airey 01706 224743
Rev. Vic. Fletcher 01204 882750
Curate: Rev. Ian Fleming, 07543213743

Readers:

Mr. Michael Burton, 01706 822664.
Mr. Richard Byrom, 01204 883110.
Mrs. Ethel Houghton, 01254 704758.
Mrs. Jane Fletcher 01204 882750.
Mrs. Jo Sumsion 01204 888060

Children and Families' Ministry Facilitator:

Mrs. Jo Sumsion 01204 888060

Church Wardens:

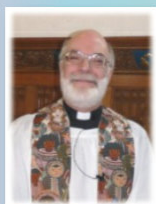
Mr. Stephen Newhouse (Lay Chair P.C.C.).
01706 412657.
Mr. Peter Hardcastle 01204 853999

Why not visit our website:

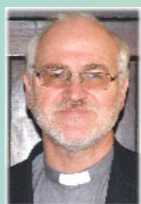
www.holcombehawkshaw.org

Each Sunday There is a service at each worship centre and the 10.45am service at St. Mary, Hawkshaw is "streamed live" on YouTube and is available all week, so you can watch it at any time. Just visit our website www.holcombehawkshaw.org.

We have also been sending out regular e-mails with news updates, so if you haven't received those please email a request to stephen.newhouse@sky.com



Rev. Robert Airey



Rev. Vic. Fletcher



Rev. Ian Fleming

Annual Report and Yearbook 2021



Holcombe and Hawkshaw Parochial Church Council

STATEMENT OF INCOME FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

	Holcombe and Hawkshaw 2021		
	£	£	£
Voluntary Income			
Planned Giving - Gift Aid	61,424.17		
Planned Giving - Un-gifted	2,088.42		
One off Gift Aid	312.50		
Cash/Collections	4,411.57		
Income tax recovered	16,501.11		
Fund Raising Events	158.04		
Magazine	36.20		
Use of Church Buildings	3,912.50		
		88,844.51	
Other Ordinary Income			
Dividends and Interest	31.36		
Fees to PCC	6,074.00		(includes £
		6,105.36	94,949.87
Extraordinary Income			
Restricted Donations	33,630.00		
Legacy	500.00		
Headstone	144.00		
Insurance Claim	2,859.20		
Special Appeals	356.97		
		37,490.17	132,440.04
Total Income 2021			<u>###</u>
Income 2020			###

2,013 fees paid to Diocese)

Holcombe and Hawkshaw Parochial Church Council

STATEMENT OF EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

	2021		
	£	£	£
The Ministry			
Ministry Expenses	12,726.10		
Support & Education	1,977.10		
		14,703.20	
The Church and Services			
Energy	8,577.87		
Water	596.56		
Cleaning	0.00		
Insurance	7,302.58		
Upkeep of Services	5,005.69		
Minor Repairs, Fire Inspection	7,087.00		
Churchyard	1,483.20		
		30,052.90	
Other Ordinary Expenditure			
Wages	13,417.46		
Magazine	0.00		
Fund Raising costs	0.00		
Verger/Organist	435.00		
		13,852.46	
The Diocese			
Parish Share	41,000.00		
Other Diocese costs	2,013.00		
		43,013.00	
Payments to Missions/Charities			
Mission/Charities	1,674.00		
		1,674.00	103,295.56
Extraordinary Expenditure			
ECC Garden	163.86		
ECC	622.44		
Holcombe Church	1,987.00		
Hawkshaw	375.00		
Hawkshaw Heating			
Holcombe Organ			
		3,148.30	106,443.86
Total Cash Expenditure 2021			###
Expenditure 2020			###

YEAR END STATEMENT 2019

Bank Balances 31 December 2019

	Total
Current Account	-
Deposit Account	69,395.50
Direct Giving Accounts	15,356.32
Restricted Funds Account	820.65
Cash	-
	<hr/> 85,572.47
Less Unpresented cheques	
Year End Total	<hr/> ### <hr/>

Restricted/Designated Funds

Gardening (ECC)	-
ECC	17,527.56
Holcombe	30,735.99
Hawkshaw	2,275.00
Hawkshaw Heating	30,000.00
Malawi	1,931.64
	<hr/> ### <hr/>

Working Balance **3,102.28**

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AT 31 DECEMBER 2021

	Balance 12/31/2020	Balance 12/31/2021
Santander	310.55	351.54
CCLA - Restricted Holcombe Endowments	995.51	985.45
<u>Bank Accounts</u>		
Current Acc		-
Deposit Acc	44,958.28	69,395.50
Direct Giving Acc	13,797.28	15,356.32
Restricted Acc	820.53	820.65
Cash Not banked		-
	60882.15	86909.46
Less Cheques unrepresented	0.00	0.00
	60882.15	86909.46
TOTALS	60882.15	86909.46



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/
members of

Parish of Holcombe & Hawkshaw, Lancashire

On accounts for the year
ended

31/12/2021

Charity no
(if any)

Set out on pages

1,2 and Trace July22 A1, Trace July22 B1, Summary of Traceability

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31/12/2021

Responsibilities and
basis of report

As the charity's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent
examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination (other than that disclosed below *) which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report 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:

Date:

15/7/2022

Name:

Stuart Moulton

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

AAT membership number: 20269328

Address:

9 Hunstanton Drive, Bury. BL8 1EG

Section B**Disclosure**

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.

I have carried out the independent examination
I have noted an increase in Direct On-Line banking payment and have followed some transactions but not selected – all found to be accurate and tracable.

I have cross referenced financial statements with links back to accounting records: - Bank statements, Receipts, Bank Details & Summary (held by Treasurer), Invoices.

I have selected various sample receipts & payments and traced back through all accounting sheets including Bank Statements. Details of one sample – see **'Trace Jul22 B1'**.

I have selected various sample payments on Bank Statements and traced back through all accounting sheets Receipts. Details of one sample – see **'Trace Jul22 A1'**.

I have selected various Incomes and follow back 'Direct Giving' money transfers and 'Weekly Giving' and am satisfied that these accounts give no cause for concern.

See **'Summary of Traceability'**

I have reviewed the minutes of the PCC and I have obtained background information on the PCC, how it is organised. The parish includes St. Mary's Hawkshaw & Emmanuel Holcombe and within the Parish there are 3 churches - St. Mary's (Hawkshaw), Emmanuel Church (Holcombe Village) & Emmanuel Church Centre (Holcombe).

Three sheets attached: -
Trace Jul22 A1
Trace Jul22 B1
Summary of Traceability

Accounts

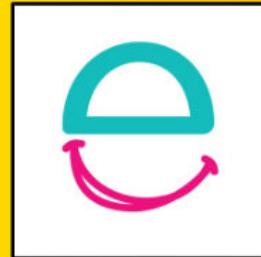
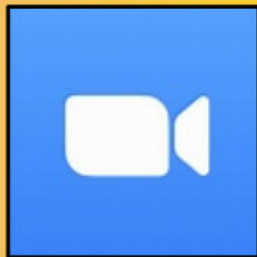
Annual Report and Yearbook 2020



**Parish of
Holcombe &
Hawkshaw**



**What's
been
happening in
the Parish?**



Loving God, loving neighbours; sharing Jesus with you.

This year the Yearbook and the Annual Report, will be formally presented at the

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

St. Mary,
Hawkshaw,
Bury
BL8 4JN
7.45pm for 8.00pm.

24th May 2021

The Meeting will also be available via Zoom

Email: info@holcombehawkshaw.org for link.

Vision Statement

“In our Parish:

- We will welcome others and serve the community through our love and care.
- We want to provide inspirational worship in various styles to meet the needs of all.
- Our teaching, based on the authority of the Bible, aims to connect faith to daily life, sustaining, encouraging and challenging everyone.
- We aim to have welcoming and warm buildings that enable us to worship, glorify God and aid mission.
- We seek to reach out through God’s love of all people, sharing the joy and wonder of the faith we have in our daily life with Jesus and growing his worldwide church in faith, hope and love.

The Parochial Church Council
Updated: 1st February, 2014

This booklet gives information about the activities of the various Parish Organisations and the Parish Annual Report.

Once again it is the product of teamwork by many people. Sincere thanks go to contributors who responded so promptly and made this Report possible.

We hope you will find the contents both interesting and informative.

Any errors are the responsibility of contributors/editor.



**Parish of
Holcombe &
Hawkshaw**

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Yearbook 2020

As a result of Covid 19 restrictions
many groups have not met this year.

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Parish of Holcombe & Hawkshaw
Annual Parochial Church Meeting Minutes
Held at Hawkshaw Church
Monday 12th October 2020 and by Zoom

Present in the building:

Four clerks in holy orders: Revs P. Sumsion, R. Airey, I. Fleming, V. Fletcher and the following lay members of the parish:

S. Partridge, J. Burton, P. Hanley, J. Venn, M. Burton, C. Baggoley, S. Newhouse, S. Wilkinson, J. Houghton, D. Yardley, M. Booth, G. Booth, J. Fletcher, L. Fleming, L. Webber and T. Webber.

In attendance by Zoom:

L. Jackson, J. Sumsion, R. Sumsion, D. Lomax, R. Artley, S. Byrom, R. Byrom, B. Atkin, S. Nuttall, E. Slattery and R. Simpson.

PART A: Meeting of Parishioners (Vestry Meeting)

1. Opening Prayer: led Rev. Paul Sumsion.

2. Chairman's Remarks: Rev. Paul Sumsion.

The proceedings were outlined. They consist of 2 parts, part A the Vestry meeting to elect Church Wardens where attendees do not have to be on the parish electoral roll, but otherwise need to be resident in the parish. Part B is the Annual Parochial Church Meeting where attendees are only eligible to vote if on the parish electoral roll.

3. Election of two Church Wardens (one from each former parish).

The nominations for Church wardens were Michael Booth and Stephen Newhouse. There were no other nominations, and they were both duly elected. All agreed.

PART B: A.P.C.M.

4. Apologies for Absence received from:

B. Newhouse, H. Gaskell, C. Gaskell, G. Lomax, M. Lomax and Y. Taylor.

5. Minutes of last year's vestry meeting and A.P.C.M., were received and accepted by 13 in church and seven by Zoom - 20 in total. There were three abstentions with no votes against.

6. Presentation of the revised church electoral roll by Sheila Partridge.

Total of 188. 121 from Former Parish of (Hereafter F.P.O.) Holcombe and 61 from F.P.O. Hawkshaw. 13 people have been added, four removed - three sadly died and one moved away.

7. Presentation of Annual Reports and Accounts for Holcombe and Hawkshaw 2019

Accepted unanimously.

8. Election of Church Officers

A. Deputy Church Wardens for St Mary's Hawkshaw

Richard Byrom and Ray Houghton.

Elected unopposed.

Deputy Church Wardens for Emmanuel Church Centre

Jo. Venn and Gwen Barnes.

Elected unopposed.

Deputy Church Wardens for Emmanuel Holcombe

Susan Nuttall and Mike Burton.

Elected unopposed.

B. Parochial representatives of the laity to the Deanery Synod

from F.P.O. Holcombe: Claire Baggoley and Stephen Newhouse.

from F.P.O. Hawkshaw: Jean Houghton and Geraldine Booth.

Agreed unanimously.

C. Representatives of the laity to the P.C.C.

F.P.O. Holcombe:

J. Burton, M. Burton, J. Venn and D. Lomax. (With three vacancies).

F.P.O. St Mary's:

E. Houghton, R. Byrom, R. Sumsion, J. Fletcher, P. Hanley,

S. Wilkinson and L. Webber.

All duly elected to P.C.C.

D. Sidespeople for Emmanuel Church Centre, Emmanuel Holcombe and St Mary's, Hawkshaw

Emmanuel Church Centre:

Barbara Atkin, Linda Jackson, Jo Venn, Gwen Barnes,

Romey Simpson, Pauline Clare and Geoff Clare.

Emmanuel Holcombe:

Vera Green, Jennifer Burton, Janice Chisholm, Judith Oliver,

Pat Lainton, Wendy Fell, Susan Nuttall and Barbara Newhouse.

St Mary's Hawkshaw:

Dot Yardley, Judith Horrocks, Ray Houghton,

Edward Slattery, Robert Critchley, Peter Hardcastle, Jenny Hardcastle,

Eric Shortt, Jean Houghton, Ross Manning, Sheila Lofthouse,

Johnson and Andrew Hey.

All agreed unanimously.

The Rev. Paul Sumsion extended a big thank you to the Wardens, sidespeople, Deanery Synod representatives and the P.C.C.

9. Appointment of an Independent Examiner

Stuart Moulton from St Anne's Church, Tottington was nominated as the Independent Examiner.

Agreed unanimously.

10. Rector's Report

2019

- The Rector commenced his report by reflecting that 2019 had been a very busy and good year for the parish.
- The '# do you know Him?' campaign that Ramsbottom Churches Together had put on included bible studies, sermons, outreach and various other events worked jointly across Ramsbottom.
- This was commissioned by the Bishop of Bolton just as the team from Capernwray Bible College arrived for their initial weekend at the end of January. Their visit for ten days of outreach took place at the end of February, which was a great boost to the start of the campaign. The #dykH? Campaign continued through until just after Easter, and although it was hard work, it included many events including services, a youth weekend, "blokes" and ladies nights and a series of outreach events including a notable visit from the Springs Dance Company to Hawkshaw Church.
- As the year progressed there were our schools' Sermons Services and a Garden Party at the Church Centre in June.
- A very enjoyable Scratch Messiah was held in Emmanuel Church in July and a Psalms weekend in September with Rev. Dr. Simon Stocks teaching on the psalms over the weekend.
- During this time we were also able to have conversations with the Diocese, which would result in the appointment of Ian Fleming as a full-time stipendiary curate from July 2020.
- The Rector also continued as chaplain to the Cadets and has helped with cub camps and various school events.

2020

- At the beginning of beginning of 2020 there were plans for the Capernwray team to come to the parish on 23rd March and we were looking forward to Easter with plans for Bible study, mission and worship. Covid 19 changed all of this and the church buildings were closed from 24th March 2020.
- In order to re-open safely, risk assessments of each building had to be undertaken.
- The Rector thanked Stephen Newhouse and Michael Booth for the painstaking work on these risk assessments, Stuart Wilkinson for developing the new website and producing the DVD's of the services that have been distributed to those in the parish unable to access the on line worship. Thanks also to Michael Burton and Robert Airey for the on-line Evensong and Compline services and to Stephen for recording and editing them.
- Thanks to all who have contributed by preaching, reading the lessons and leading the intercessions.

- Thanks to Jo, Ruth, Caleb and Isaac for the worship songs during the on-line services.
 - Thanks also to the “Stream Team”.
 - Thanks to Sheila Partridge and Stephen and all the Open the Book team for producing the Bible stories that went into our primary schools and to Penny for her work with the puppets.
 - Thanks to, Barbara, Linda, Romey, Jean, Jane, Susan and Hilda for their pastoral care work and to Ian and Layna, who are introducing innovative ways to engage with children.
 - The result was worship in a different way and Paul was proud of the quality that has been achieved.
 - Jo Venn thanked Paul for all his work.
-
- Going forward, one of the challenges facing the Parish Leadership Team and the P.C.C. will be to rebuild church communities.
 - Some parishioners have drifted away and there is a need to reach out to them.
-
- In terms of finances, Manchester Diocese has a £3 million deficit, although they have received £1.2 million extra from the Church Commissioners to help. The Rector emphasised that therefore there is a real need for us to pay the parish share if at all possible.

11. Matters of general parochial interest

There were no matters raised.

12. Notices and thanks from the chair

Paul extended a welcome to Ian and Layna Fleming and thanked the clergy and reader team.

A: Archdeacons Visitation: via Zoom for Church Wardens only this year.
Dates still to be confirmed.

B: Next P.C.C.: 7.30 pm by Zoom on Monday 9th November 2020.

12. Closing prayer and Blessing

Paul closed the meeting at 8.35pm with prayer and a blessing.

The Parish of Holcombe and Hawkshaw

Emmanuel Church, Holcombe.

and

Emmanuel Church Centre,

Longsight Road,

Holcombe Brook.

and

St. Mary, Hawkshaw.

In the Deanery of Bury, the Diocese of Manchester.

Annual Report

and

Financial Statements

of the

Parochial Church Council

For the year ended 31st December, 2020.

Rector:

The Rev'd. Paul H. Sumsion,
The Vicarage,
Bolton Road,
Hawkshaw,
Bury.
BL8 4JN.

Bank: Royal Bank of Scotland

Insurers: Ecclesiastical Insurance.

Honorary Treasurer: David Lomax.

Gift Aid Coordinator: Judith Horrocks.

Independent Examiner: Stuart Moulton.

Annual Report for 2020

Statement:

The P.C.C. of the Parish of Holcombe and Hawkshaw has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent, the Rev'd. Paul Sumsion, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelical, social and ecumenical. It also has maintenance responsibility for St. Mary, Hawkshaw, Emmanuel Church, Holcombe and Emmanuel Church Centre and Canon Lewis Hall, Longsight Road, Holcombe Brook.

Membership of the P.C.C.:

Members of the P.C.C. are either ex officio or elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting in accordance with the Church Representation Rules.

During the year the following served as members of the P.C.C.:

Incumbent: The Rev'd. Paul Sumsion, *Chairman & Rector.*

Associate Ministers: The Rev'd. Robert. W. Airey.

The Rev'd. Vic. Fletcher.

Curate: Rev'd. Ian Fleming.

Ex Officio Members:

Wardens: Mr. Michael Booth, *from May 2017, (also Reader).*
Mr. Stephen Newhouse, *from May 2019, (Lay Vice-Chairman of P.C.C.).*

Representatives on the Deanery Synod:

From Emmanuel and Emmanuel Church Centre:

Claire Baggoley and Stephen Newhouse.

From St. Mary's, Hawkshaw: Geraldine Booth and Jean Houghton.

Elected Members:

Fourteen members are elected at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting, (seven from the congregations of Emmanuel, Holcombe or Emmanuel Church Centre and seven from the congregation of Hawkshaw, St. Mary).

Those elected at the A.P.C.M in October 2020, (lateness due to Covid 19 restrictions) were:

from St. Mary's Hawkshaw:

Eric Shortt to November 2020.

Richard Byrom, Jane Fletcher, Penny Hanley, Ethel Houghton, Ruth Sumsion, Stuart Wilkinson and Liz. Webber (from November 2020).

from Emmanuel, Holcombe and Emmanuel Church Centre were:

To November 2020: Heather Ainscough, Gwen Barnes and Linda Jackson.

Jennifer Burton, David Lomax, and Jo Venn.

From November 2020: Michael Burton, with Rosemary Artley and Sheila Partridge co-opted November 2020, (with one vacancy).

Readers and Deputy Wardens are not ex officio members of the P.C.C., but are able to stand for election at the A.P.C.M.

Readers:

Mr. Michael Booth, *(also Warden)*.
Mr. Michael Burton, *(also Deputy Warden and elected to P.C.C.)*.
Mr. Richard Byrom, *(also elected to the P.C.C.)*.
Mrs. Ethel Houghton, *(also elected to the P.C.C.)*.
Mrs. Jane Fletcher, *(also elected to the P.C.C.)*.

Deputy Church Wardens

Emmanuel Church Holcombe:

Michael Burton and Susan Nuttall *from October 2020,*

Emmanuel Church Centre:

Gwen Barnes and Jo. Venn.

St. Mary's Hawkshaw:

Richard Byrom and Ray Houghton *from May 2019.*

Structure:

(1) Standing Committee/Leadership Teams:

We are required by law, not only to have a Parochial Church Council, duly elected to represent our parishioners, but also a Standing Committee, which can attend to urgent parish business between P.C.C. meetings, if necessary.

In between P.C.C. meetings the Parish Leadership Team, (of which the Standing Committee is part), Emmanuel, Holcombe Leadership Team, Emmanuel Church Centre Leadership Team and St. Mary, Hawkshaw Leadership Team meet.

Each Leadership Team organises working groups within their own church.

The Parish Leadership Team:

Rev. P. Sumsion, Rev. R. Airey, Barbara Atkin, Michael Booth, Michael Burton, Rev. Vic. Fletcher, Ethel Houghton, David Lomax, Stephen Newhouse, Jo Venn and Rev'd Ian Fletcher (from July 2020).

Emmanuel Holcombe Team Report 2020

As will no doubt be repeated elsewhere in the Annual Report and Yearbook . . . 2020 was a strange year!

The Emmanuel, Holcombe Team met in February, but were unable to meet again in person at all during the year. We did however, meet several times via Zoom.

Of course most of the planned activities and some minor building work did not take place.

Covid 19 Restrictions

- When the first lockdown was imposed the building did not hold any services after the 15th March until 12th July. We then held regular services each Sunday until 1st November when further restrictions meant services were again suspended. We were able to resume services from 6th December and managed to have two Carol Services, (socially distanced) and a Crib Service attended by 23 adults and 8 children, with Services taking place until 10th January 2021 when another lockdown resulted in the P.C.C. deciding to suspend services once more.
- Each time we re-opened there was much work done in preparation with Risk Assessments, one way systems, hand sanitising stations, signage and “socially distanced” seating.

- The choir were able to pre-record some items for the regular Choral Evensong and Compline services which we started online in June.

Building work

Our plans for building work were put to the DAC and eventually we got some feedback, (due to the DAC not meeting formally until quite late in the year).

The feedback generally supported our plans, but included suggestions and required clarification of some areas of the work, resulting in some changes to plan drawings. The updated plans will be submitted in 2021.

In October, a regular service to the clock identified a fault with the striking mechanism requiring urgent remedial work. We were fortunate to receive two generous donations which met the cost in full.

Our thanks go to the numerous people who offer their time, skills, advice and support to all of the work at Emmanuel, Holcombe. We are extremely grateful.

Stephen Newhouse

Membership:
*Rev. Paul Sumsion, Rev. Robert Airey,
Claire Baggoley, Jennifer Burton,
Michael Burton and Stephen Newhouse.*

Emanuel Church Centre Team Report 2020

The buildings might be closed, but the church is open. This has been true of us for the majority of the year. We have not managed to have any bookings or meetings and all groups and organisations that have met here have had to be suspended meetings or have met via Zoom.

We did open, when able to, during July and August and at odd weeks for private prayer, which was welcomed. We also had one Thursday Communion which was Covid safe and 13 people attended. In December we were open and even had our Carol Service whilst humming the traditional Carols in a decorated church with the usual Advent wreath and crib.

On the other hand, the Reflective Garden has come into its own and many people, of all ages, have found rest and solace here as well as using it as a place to meet in the open air with others. Barbara, Stephen, Christine and others have gone there independently to continue to maintain the garden and keep it looking nice for us all. The Dundee Lane Art group met there socially distanced to paint. In November there was an open air Remembering event which was a moving occasion.

Inside the improvements and maintenance have continued with the toilets and "PAIS" room being painted and work on the emergency lighting and alarms and doors taking place. Thanks to John Partridge for his ongoing work and to Tony Bliss for keeping it clean.

We hope that it will not be long before we are worshipping at the centre again.

Jo Venn

Membership: Rev. Paul Sumsion, Gwen Barnes, Geoff Clare, Alan Goldsmith, Ann Milius, John Partridge, Alex Percy, Romey Simpson and Jo Venn,

St. Mary, Hawkshaw Team Report 2020

***No
Report
Received***

Fabric Report 2020

Due to the Coronavirus Pandemic much of the work planned for the buildings has been delayed. The general condition of all three buildings is however satisfactory and where there are defects and problems they are being noted and remedied. Much work has been done in making the buildings Covid safe, including the drawing up a comprehensive Risk Assessments, devising one way systems, spacing seating, provision of sanitiser etc.

Emmanuel Church, Holcombe

The plans for work within the building have developed further this year. Detailed plans have been drawn up by our architect and submitted to the D.A.C. However due to the pandemic the D.A.C. has not met very often. Feedback was eventually received generally supporting our plans, but requiring clarification of some areas of work, resulting in some changes to plan drawings and plans will be submitted in 2021. The yearly inspection of the tower clock identified a problem with the striking mechanism requiring urgent remedial work. We were fortunate to receive two generous donations which met the cost in full.

Emmanuel Church Centre

The building and surrounding gardens are in a generally good state of repair, due in no small part to the dedicated work of volunteers, which has continued, (socially distanced) during the pandemic. Unfortunately no working parties were possible this year.

Following a Fire Inspection and subsequent Risk Assessment quite a number of items were raised needing our attention. Some of the remedial work was undertaken by John Partridge and Stephen Newhouse, but work to the emergency lighting and alarm systems was undertaken professionally. We were fortunate to receive substantial donations which covered the full cost of the professional

work. During lockdown the toilets and “PAIS room” were re-painted. The fencing to the side the building had to be replaced, (work undertaken by Stephen and Barbara). The material costs were covered by monies in the Garden Fund. Thanks to all who work tirelessly on the building and garden.

St Mary’s, Hawkshaw

The church and grounds are in good order, with no significant problems – just a loose slate or two to secure. During 2020 we were making good progress with plans for a new kitchen and toilets, before the first Covid lockdown enforced a halt. Instead we have done risk assessments to reopen the building for worship and worked on facilities for live streaming worship.

We are very grateful to Eric Shortt for his work in maintaining the grounds. As we approached Christmas we were able to join in with Hawkshaw village lights, erecting lights and silhouettes that told some of the Christmas story. Thanks to all who contributed to that project. Re-pointing the boundary wall, building a kitchen, replacing the heating system and upgrading the toilets are all plans that we need to work on for the future.

General Comments

We thank everyone who works quietly behind the scenes, (even during the three Lockdowns), cleaning, washing the linen, cleaning the brass and silver, flower arranging or sound, PA and streaming technicians, Deputy Wardens and last, but not least, the sidemen and women who play such an important role in welcoming people to our services.

The practical help and financial assistance of many people continues to play a major part in the care of the buildings, and our grateful thanks go to everyone who has contributed in any way.

*Michael Booth, Stephen Newhouse.
Churchwardens March 2021*

P.C.C. Review of the Year 2020

Unsurprisingly, 2020 turned out to be an unusual year for the P.C.C.

We met six times throughout the year, the first two 'in the flesh' and the remainder via Zoom, with an average of 16 members attending each meeting. Many of the plans made during the previous year had to be abandoned or put on hold, and new plans were devised, amended and occasionally superseded by yet newer plans. However, the mission and function of the P.C.C. remained unchanged, albeit subject to a new timescale.

Due to the uncertainty of the constantly changing picture, and the need to respond appropriately to new government regulations, the Parish Leadership Team met via Zoom on a 2-weekly basis from the end of March to take any urgent decisions on behalf of the P.C.C.

During the year the following matters were addressed:

FINANCE:

We were made aware by Manchester Diocese that, exacerbated by the pandemic, their financial position was grave and that they were looking to parishes to pay as much of their parish shares as possible. To this end, and despite the turmoil of the last year, the P.C.C. was able to meet our parish share commitment in full.

With people staying away from our church buildings there were very few cash

donations on the plates each week. There was therefore a drive to encourage parishioners to move from using envelopes and cash donations to paying their offering directly into the bank. We also introduced a "giving button" on the parish website. With income from hire charges vastly reduced, particularly at the E.C.C. and also continuing to pay the wages of our caretaker and Paul's admin assistant, we came through the year financially intact. There were of course savings on energy bills plus the reimbursement of Gift Aid, but the P.C.C. approved expenditure on technical equipment for streaming services and various amounts towards mission and outreach such as books for schools.

Stuart Moulton from St. Anne's Tottington was appointed as Independent Examiner for the parish accounts.

SERVICES:

At the end of March our church buildings were closed for the first lockdown. Worship moved online with the Sumsion family providing the music and members of the church contributing virtually and remotely. As restrictions relaxed in summer, so our churches were able to open again, incorporating a Covid-secure version of Holy Communion, while also retaining the online services.

Our priority as a P.C.C. was to protect the congregation, keeping our buildings safe and enabling social distancing. Whilst every effort was made to provide as fulfilling an experience as possible, the number of people attending worship in person was low. However, the online services would appear to have been

widely viewed with DVDs provided for those without internet access.

A survey was conducted to ascertain the views of church members, to gauge levels of confidence with regard to a return to church and to invite comments on the online provision etc.

In the Autumn the decision was made to live-stream morning worship from Hawkshaw church and to continue to retain this facility into the future with the hope that a wider cohort of people, for whom church attendance may be inconvenient or unfamiliar, would be drawn into God's kingdom.

Christmas Carol Services were held in all three centres using a booking system, with the congregation only able to listen to carols rather than sing. However, one service took place outside at Hawkshaw allowing for congregational singing.

MISSION:

We started the year providing meals to the night shelter at the Bethany Project in Bury, but fortunately (before the funding for the project came to an end), as a result of lockdown in March, accommodation was found for many of the homeless and our help was no longer needed. Light in the darkness!

The visit of four students from Capernwray Bible College in February was a great success and the confidence, maturity and faith they demonstrated, both as individuals and as a team, was inspiring.

However so many plans for mission during 2020 had to be cancelled or cut short. The plan for Experience Easter was

axed, as was the Sumsion family's mission with Tearfund in Malawi due to take place in August. Having signed up to TGL Make Lunch project, training for this was due to take place and it was our intention to provide lunches along with activities and bible stories at E.C.C. in place of our usual holiday club. Sadly this was unable to go ahead.

PASTORAL CARE:

The Covid pandemic left many of our more elderly members in a vulnerable position and great efforts were made, particularly by our pastoral care team, to keep in regular contact and give support where needed. For those unable to access online worship DVD's were distributed, as were hard copies of the magazine, and soup and cakes etc. were delivered to several people who were shielding. Pastoral cards were distributed throughout the parish and Wiltshire Farms Christmas dinners provided to those who would normally attend the CTR Christmas lunch at E.C.C.

CURATE:

During the year the P.C.C. welcomed Ian Fleming and his wife Layna to the parish. The property in Fernview Drive was not vacated in time for their arrival, but they were able to move into St. Paul's Vicarage in Ramsbottom. Ian's ordination took place in Bolton Parish Church in September.

SCHOOLS:

During February St. Mary's School celebrated its 150th anniversary and the parish presented staff, governors and dignitaries with commemorative mugs. Plans to create an Experience Easter mission at the three centres had to be

abandoned due to Covid restrictions. Maxine Lomax and Paul stepped down as joint chair of governors at St Mary's School. They were replaced by Ned Solanki, who was recommended by the Diocese. The P.C.C. approved various other appointments to the governing bodies at both St. Mary's and Holcombe schools, including Ian Fleming's appointment at Holcombe and Ian Smart, Methodist Minister, at St Mary's.

PATRONAGE:

During the year the patronage of St. Mary's Church, Hawkshaw was transferred from the Whowell family, following the death of Fred Whowell, to be shared between CPAS and the Rector of Bury.

READER MINISTRY:

In July the P.C.C. endorsed Jo Sumsion's application to undertake training for Reader Ministry.

SOCIAL EVENTS:

Several events that had been planned at the beginning of 2020 had to be cancelled due to Covid restrictions. Others were able to go ahead via Zoom such as the Tearfund quiz and Christmas Words and Music.

*Penny Hanley,
P.C.C. Secretary*

Bridge Bentley Ramsbottom Trust

Offering help to those in need. Charity No. 504625

Report for the Bridge, Bentley and Ramsbottom Trust for 2020.

The work of the Trust has continued during the year with Trustees actively looking for ways to help those in need. Please read the promotional information below and if we can help anyone in need please let them know about the Trust.

- The Expenditure for the year was £4981. Grants were awarded in the following ways:
(-) 'One off' book grants to University students, (17) Welfare, (1) Educational.

The Bridge, Bentley, Ramsbottom Trust was created as an amalgamation of the John T. Bridge and three other smaller charitable trusts in 2002.

Small grants available for all ages

Do you, or anyone you know, live within three miles of Emmanuel Church, Holcombe or live within the Bury Deanery?

Struggling to pay for a much needed item, e.g. Stair lift, walking frame, specially adapted prams, etc.?

We have helped families with school uniform costs.

We can help with the cost of training courses.

We can help with Further and Higher Educational one off grants for: books/equipment, field trips, travel costs, etc.

Can we make life a little easier? Let us know if you are in need.

The Bridge Bentley Ramsbottom Trust has small grants available to those in need living within a three mile radius of Emmanuel, Holcombe Church, Holcombe or those living within the Bury Deanery as defined on 1st January 2020.

**The five Trustees treat each application in strictest confidence.
Applications are welcomed from people of any faith or none.**

All correspondence to:

The Secretary, Mrs. B .A. Newhouse, 21 Robert Street, Stubbins, Ramsbottom, Bury, Lancs. BL0 ONQ

Email: banew@sky.com

Website www.bbrtrust.co.uk

The Rector's Report
will be given verbally at the
Annual Parochial Church Meeting
on the 24th May

The Diocese of Manchester, the Deanery of Bury Synod Report 2020

The meetings of Synod gives representatives valuable opportunities to meet and discuss matters with members of other parishes across the deanery. Each parish is entitled to representation according to their size.

Our Electoral Roll number entitled us to four members..

The Deanery Synod met three times this year:

In January we met for a special meeting at All Saint's, Elton to discuss the proposed changes to the structure of the deaneries. The deaneries had been consulted on the proposed changes to the setup of the deaneries in 2019, (reported last year). Those plans are now going ahead, with the existing twenty deaneries being combined into seven new, larger deaneries. The Bury, Rossendale and Radcliffe and Prestwich deaneries will form ONE deanery with ONE Area Dean. Plans to implement the changes by January 2021 were held up due to the pandemic, but should now be in place by summer 2021, with Area Deans appointed by June 2021.

In February we met at St. John's with St. Marks with Gordon Clark, Bury Debt Centre Manager for Christians Against Poverty (CAP). He gave a clear and insightful presentation into the work,

processes and ethos of CAP, and the particular debt work currently being developed in Bury, with a mix of engaging video clips and a PowerPoint presentation. He encouraged churches to consider how our churches and parishes might work with CAP, in referrals, in supporting their work as partner churches, and through prayer. Above all, he emphasised the opportunities for Christian witness and ministry through the work of CAP, and the high regard with which it is held in the wider public consciousness, for example by the media financial expert Martin Lewis.

At the **Zoom meeting in November** the briefing document: "Transforming Manchester Diocese – Proposals for Mission Communities", was introduced and discussed and showed Parishes being grouped together in Mission Communities.

Each Mission Community would:

“ • have a missional leader • who is ministering and working with a diverse team with a range of skills • made up of a number of other stipendiary posts • and other named focal leaders, including lay leaders, readers and self-supporting ordained ministers • who are all supporting multiple congregations • and a variety of expressions and traditions of church • taking place at different times and in different venues and also virtually • which are attractive to a wide range of people of all ages – young children and their parents, and young adults, as well as older

people • all accountable to each other as well as their local congregations • all sharing resources • and all working to encourage and support our church members in deepening and sharing their faith • as well as engaging with key local partners – interfaith, ecumenical, schools and social action. • Priority will be given to collaborative working... • ...and multiple places, contexts, styles and traditions of worship”

Clergy, P.C.C.’s, Wardens and congregations will be consulted with implementation in the second half of 2021.

*Claire Baggoley, Geraldine Booth, Jean Houghton and Stephen Newhouse.
March 2021*

Safeguarding Report 2020

Since writing my report last year, the world around us has changed beyond belief. The church has been unable to run any of the children's groups that are usually offered, which means that the church has had much less contact with the children who are usually seen during the year. Unfortunately, abuse involving children and vulnerable adults will have continued, and at a much higher level than during 'normal' times. For many children, school and out of school clubs and activities are a safe environment for them to be in and sadly, many children much prefer these places to their own homes. However, these have been restricted or unavailable, which means that many signs of abuse will not have been picked up on. Cases of domestic abuse have also increased massively during this time, and children are often caught up in this too.

It will therefore be even more important, once we are able safely to run our groups again, that everyone involved is aware of what to look for and what must happen should a child choose to disclose to you. Where appropriate please take this time to review your training, look up online refresher courses and feel confident in the steps that you would take. Having a child disclose to you is a privilege as it shows that you are someone that the child feels safe with and able to help them. The steps that you take need to be the correct ones, so that the matter can be dealt with appropriately.

Please don't think that abuse doesn't happen here, because it can happen

anywhere, and any concerns, however minor they may seem, must be documented and reported to me. It could be a small part in a puzzle that adds significantly to the bigger picture.

A yearly reminder to all group leaders, please remember that any new volunteers must be DBS checked before commencing work on a regular basis, so please contact me to arrange this at elaine.allum@btinternet.com.

As always, thank you to all our volunteers that work around the parish with both children and adults, because your care and attention can and does help to make sure we are there to provide support where needed.

Elaine Allum
17th February 2021

SAFEGUARDING POLICY

PROMOTING A SAFER CHURCH

The following policy was agreed at the Parochial Church Council (P.C.C.) meeting held on 15th March 2021 .

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

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

The Parish will:

- Create a safe and caring place for all.
- Have a named Parish Safeguarding Officer (P.S.O.) to work with the incumbent and the P.C.C. 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 (D.S.A.) 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 Mrs. Elaine Allum as the Parish Safeguarding Officer

Incumbent: *Reverend Paul Sumsion.*

Churchwardens: *Mr. Michael Booth & Mr. Stephen Newhouse.*

Date: 15th March 2021

Financial Statements of the Parochial Church Council

For the year ended
31st December, 2020.

STATEMENT OF INCOME FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020**Holcombe and Hawkshaw
2020**

£ £ £

Voluntary Income

Planned Giving - Gift Aid	57,138.37		
Planned Giving - Un-gifted	5,805.24		
One off Gift Aid	3,446.20		
Cash/Collections	5,388.50		
Income tax recovered	21,081.12		
Fund Raising Events	1,621.95		
Magazine	481.85		
Use of Church Buildings	1,874.50		
		<u>96,837.73</u>	

Other Ordinary Income

Dividends and Interest	53.36		
Fees to P.C.C.	9,192.00		
(includes £3,207.40 fees paid to Diocese)		9,245.36	106,083.09
		<u>9,245.36</u>	

Extraordinary Income

Restricted Donations	8,281.64		
Refunds	270.00		
Special Appeals	263.00		
		<u>8,814.64</u>	<u>114,897.73</u>

Total Income 2020			<u><u>114,897.73</u></u>
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Income 2019			<u><u>125,971.53</u></u>
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STATEMENT OF EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

	2020		
	£	£	£
The Ministry			
Ministry Expenses	6,089.38		
Support & Education	1,566.60		
		<u>7,655.98</u>	
The Church and Services			
Energy	9,181.31		
Water	288.85		
Cleaning	0.00		
Insurance	7,292.78		
Upkeep of Services	3,882.74		
Minor Repairs, Fire Inspection	9,266.70		
Churchyard	1,234.20		
		<u>31,146.58</u>	
Other Ordinary Expenditure			
Wages	9,682.56		
Magazine	0.00		
Fund Raising costs	0.00		
Verger/Organist	235.00		
		<u>9,917.56</u>	
The Diocese			
Parish Share	47,000.00		
Other Diocese costs	4,994.00		
		<u>51,994.00</u>	
Payments to Missions/Charities			
Mission/Charities	4,187.00		
		<u>4,187.00</u>	<u>104,901.12</u>
Extraordinary Expenditure			
ECC Garden	315.43		
ECC	1,800.00		
Holcombe Church			
Hawkshaw			
Hawkshaw Heating			
Holcombe Organ			
		<u>2,115.43</u>	<u>107,016.55</u>
Total Cash Expenditure 2020			<u><u>107,016.55</u></u>
Expenditure 2019			137,140.57

YEAR END STATEMENT 2020

Bank Balances 31 December 2020	Total
Current Account	-
Deposit Account	44,958.48
Direct Giving Accounts	13,797.28
Restricted Funds Account	820.53
Cash	-
	<u>59,576.29</u>
Less Unpresented cheques	
Year End Total	<u><u>59,576.29</u></u>
Restricted/Designated Funds	
Gardening (ECC)	147.37
ECC	-
Holcombe	29,472.99
Hawkshaw	-
Hawkshaw Heating	23,750.00
Malawi	1,931.64
	<u>55,302.00</u>
Working Balance	4,274.29

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AT 31 DECEMBER 2020

	Balance 31/12/2019	Balance 31/12/2020
Santander	364.21	310.55
CCLA - Restricted Holcombe Endowments	986.63	995.51
<u>Bank Accounts</u>		
Current Acc	-	-
Deposit Acc	43,103.03	44,958.48
Direct Giving Acc	6,940.64	13,797.28
Restricted Acc	819.79	820.53
Cash Not banked	831.65	-
	53045.95	60882.35
Less Cheques unrepresented	0.00	0.00
	53045.95	60882.35
TOTALS	53045.95	60882.35

Yearbook

2020

Social Liaison Group Report 2020

The Group only commits to organising **ONE** event at each centre of worship each year. However many other events are usually organised by others throughout the parish.

Plans for 2020 announced in last year's report were mostly postponed. This year, however a few "Virtual Social events" did take place :

Tearfund Big Quiz: Held on 1st November via Zoom . We had a great evening, enjoying each other's company and the quiz questions, as well as a video update on some of Tearfund's work.

Words and Music for Christmas: 12th December - A small band of volunteers managed to put together an enjoyable evening via Zoom. Most contributions were pre-recorded, (observing social distancing), in front of a green screen with appropriate backgrounds added later. Our thanks particularly go to Sheila Partridge for keeping us all in line and organising the "safe" recording schedule.

We hope to be able to start events sometime in 2021.

Membership:

*Gwen Barnes, Geraldine Booth,
Michael Booth, Jennifer Burton,
Stephen Newhouse, Sheila Partridge,
and Dot Yardley.*

Soup Company



Normally, we have eleven meetings of the Soup Company in a year, with the opportunity for over 20 people to meet to enjoy a variety of soups and cakes, as well as chance to chat. This year it has been different.

We have still managed to make soup and deliver to, on average, 16 people who normally come to Soup Company or who used to have it delivered or live on their own. Instead of being once a month it has been delivered every Tuesday apart from the month of August. The recipients have been given cake, a card with a message, as well as soup in a jar and news of each other exchanged.

Thank you to Romey, Jenny and Annette for their culinary skills.
If you know of anyone who would like to receive soup even after we start up again please contact Jo on 07921517063 or 01204 885653.

Jo. Venn.

A year of three parts.

It has been a year of three parts. Initial lockdown, full reopening, and more recently the partial closure of school. It has been the most challenging and uncertain year for pupils, families and staff.

We have managed to respond to the ever changing national guidance keeping our whole community safe. We have needed to excel at being adaptable and flexible. We have worked together as a school family team feeling totally supported by our new Chair of Governors Ned Solanki MBE.

The task of delivering high quality face to face teaching alongside remote teaching for 2 year groups has been extremely demanding for the teachers. This has been needed when children were off school during the Autumn Term and during the Spring Term partial closure. During the first lockdown we provided childcare for ten children per day. Since January we have been teaching 50 pupils in school as children of critical workers or identified vulnerable children.

So many school events were adapted. We had a memorable outdoor leavers' service and a pre-recorded Nativity. As we couldn't offer a totally safe Open Day we created a virtual tour for the website. Mr. Butt received an Oscar for his exceptional directing skills! Please take a look on our school website

www.stmaryshawkshaw.com.

We had to think creatively during the Autumn Term to ensure we still shared fun and celebrated key events in the religious calendar. The four Advent services were led by each class and then shared on ClassDojo. Celebration assemblies

happened weekly throughout the Autumn Term with the public

presentation of certificates.

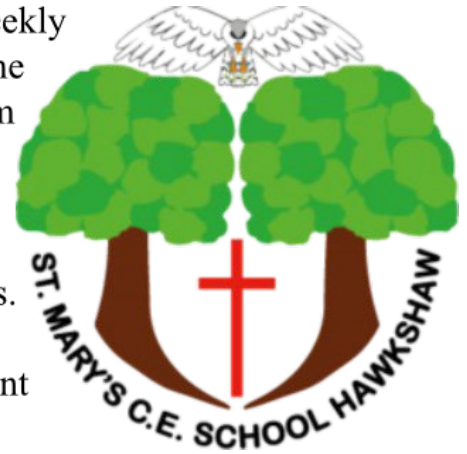
We became quite confident

in delivering whole school Zoom

assemblies which became the highlight of my week!

As Father Christmas was unavailable for visits he sent a personalised video.

Later that day his two cheeky elves appeared with gifts for everyone.



Over this difficult 12 months we have got to know parents more intimately, strengthening our relationship with families. The ClassDojo allowed parents and teachers to exchange messages and photos directly throughout everyday. We will continue to build on these positive relationships as we look forward to more predictable times ahead.

*Geraldine Woodward
Head Teacher.*

2020

An unusual year

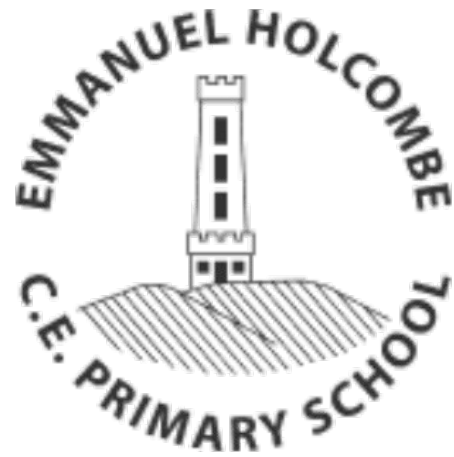
This has been a very unusual year for us all. When we first closed our doors to all but key workers and vulnerable children back in March 2020, we thought it would be for a few weeks. We didn't expect to still be offering remote education almost a year later.

From September 2019, staff were beginning to look at the benefits of using an online learning programme called Seesaw to share and record learning at school and at home. However it was still a very steep learning curve when all learning went online in March. Thankfully, Mrs. Clough is an ambassador for Seesaw and was able to deliver regular training to up skill all staff. Due to this, we were able to offer direct teaching on a daily basis with children able to send work back to their teacher. It enabled us to maintain a good relationship with children and families over the first lockdown.

Staff's willingness to open over the Easter holidays and the half term created a great team feeling and it is a pleasure to work with such caring and dedicated staff.

We were also able to complete a significant amount of work on the land at the back of school which has created three learning areas, a mud kitchen, a water kitchen, sandpits and a fairy garden. The children love exploring and playing in these new areas.

As we welcomed more and more children back to school over the summer term, we made full use of our amazing



local area with the children enjoying daily walks to see the llamas, climb up to Peel Tower and some classes even managed to make it to Pilgrims Cross.

On the last day of the summer term, we enjoyed a socially distanced afternoon tea in the playground with gazebos, bunting and fresh flowers to say farewell to Mrs. Clark after 17 years of service at Emmanuel Holcombe. It was lovely to see so many parents, governors and members of the community celebrate with us and clap Mrs. Clark out of school.

Our return to school in September saw us embrace our recovery curriculum for the first two weeks. We enjoyed walks on the moors and to the woods, focused on sharing feelings and emotions and held class birthday parties to celebrate all those who had had a birthday in lockdown. This allowed all to rebuild relationships, promote wellbeing, celebrate being back together and enjoy each other's company.

Although it was lovely to have school reopen to all children, school life was very different from normal. Words that were not normally used became part of normal conversation such as bubbles, furlough, self-isolate and quarantine. We would 'lose bubbles' for two weeks at a time with staff, children and parents switching back to online learning. Strict timetables of playtimes, moving in the corridors and even staff room seating were implemented

and we continued to miss our regular visitors in school to work with the children as only allowed essential staff were allowed in school.

We were able to adapt many of our Christmas celebrations with our youngest children – Acorn class- producing the nativity story and Willow, (year 1 and 2 children) entertaining us with a different version of the nativity- ‘No Room’. These were recorded and sent out to families to enjoy. We shared our handmade Christmas cards with members of the local community and received many lovely messages of thanks. Our Christmas dinner, class parties and a virtual visit from Father Christmas all helped to put us in the festive mood.

We said farewell to Mrs. Jude and Miss Green at Christmas and welcomed Mrs. Hannah Bulmer and Mrs. Hughes to the team. Despite having only one day, (4th January) with all the children, both staff are settling in well.

Another lockdown has seen us returning to online learning whilst caring for children in school although it has enabled us to dedicate time to sorting and organising different areas and allowed Mrs. Dearden time to finish off the amazing paintings she had started during the last lockdown and create new art work in the library.

We are really looking forward to being able to welcome everyone back into school soon and if you would like to become more involved in the life of the school, please do get in touch.

Catherine Bennett
Head teacher

Porch project



Despite the pandemic, we have still managed to donate bags of food each week to the Porch Project who have needed our donations more than ever this year.

Thank you to the children from Emmanuel School who brought in goods as part of their Harvest Thanksgiving and all who have donated money for this worthy cause, either on line or to buy food each week. It is delivered to Greenheys Crescent where there is a “Covid secure” plastic box to receive it all.

Jo Venn

Mothers' UNION

Like most of our Church organisations our Branch of the Mother's Union started off the year with high hopes and a full programme of events and visits planned for the year. Then in March, we all came to a halt after our Annual General Meeting.

During the year members have been in regular contact with each other by telephone, card, letter and "through the window" visits, although sadly, we lost two of our "Indoor" members, Stella Slater and Betty Forrest.

Some of our members were involved in knitting and sewing for various charities and Norma Blackshaw's skills were highlighted in our Diocesan Newsletter during the year. We also managed to send donations to the, "Make a Mothers Day" and the, "Away from it all" charities organised by the national and diocesan Mother's Union. The diocesan office also supported us by organising events online for members who were able to access them.

Our Christmas Eve "Crib Service" had a very different feel with Ian, our Curate, organising several "volunteers" to be interviewed as characters from the Christmas story with family members coming dressed as their favourite character, but not, unfortunately, able to gather around the Crib as we have done in previous years.

Hopefully as we move through Spring into Summer, we will be able to meet again and resume our meetings in perhaps a different form.

Robert Airey.

Drop In

This report will be brief; like so many other organisations our meetings were curtailed a year ago and, as yet, we cannot offer a date when we might resume.



Many have missed the regular Monday morning get-togethers, but safety must be our priority.

Hopefully the efficiency of the vaccine and the steady numbers receiving its protection will afford all of us more freedom before long.

Meantime best wishes to all our members – keep in touch with one another!

When we are permitted we will be open throughout the year each Monday and all are welcome for friendship, fellowship and of course tea, coffee and biscuits between 10.00am and 12 noon at Canon Lewis Hall.

God Bless,

Gloria.

Afternoon Fellowship Report 2020

Only five meetings this year:

January 12th -

Members Day
and sales table.

January 27th -

The Kellingtons
film show on
Andorra.

February 10th -

The Pinders film
show USA part 2.

February 24th -

Capenwray students, an
interesting afternoon telling us all
about themselves and their work.

March 9th -

Birthday Celebrations (39 years)
Holcombe Brook Choir came to
entertain us. A lovely afternoon
ending with tea and cake.

Then of course lockdown started.

When we start having meetings again the
group meet on the 2nd and 4th Mondays
of the month at 2 o'clock and we are
always pleased to welcome new members.

Please come and join us. If you need more
details contact :---

Mrs. Alex Percy

Tel 01204 888603

Mrs. Pauline Keighley

Tel 01204 884476

Mrs. Ann Milius

Tel 01204 880677



Sizzling Seniors Report.

It has been a very different year for our Sizzlers from what it might have been. Firstly, we lost one of our faithful and much loved members.

Marjorie Worrall died in March 2020, after a long and courageous battle with cancer. She is greatly missed. She loved her coffee and cake, along with a good chatter with her friends and enjoyed having a go at the crossword.

So with the Pandemic we have not met at all this year, but we have kept in touch with all our regulars. As well as keeping in touch on the phone, along with the rest of the congregation, we have carried out drop off's, to bring a bit of cheer, encouragement and a reminder of God's abiding presence through the difficult time that it has been.

We have dropped off seasonal goody bags for Easter and Christmas with crosswords, Christmas cake or Easter buns, a 'Pause for thought', reflections for Advent and Lent and a new mask expertly made by Paula. They have had chocolate treats, eggs, hearts for Valentine's Day, Afternoon tea in a box in the summer. soup in the winter and various other little goodies all delivered by us the team and keeping safe distancing.

The team has been meeting via Zoom and outside to distribute the goody bags.

Everyone is looking forward to meeting up again as we are too.

*Sizzling Seniors Team
Jane, Paula, Ethel, Jen., Paula and Jean.*

Emmanuel Holcombe Choir

When I wrote my last report exactly a year ago I was looking forward to returning to church and choir practices after an enforced absence. In fact, I was looking forward to returning to normal life! How ironic!

Church services and choir practices ceased last March, and some members of the choir have been unable to attend either since then, though we have tried to keep in touch with one another.

It was encouraging when services were again permitted last summer, and in the autumn we started to plan recordings of Choral Evensong to be streamed on YouTube. This led to a few socially distanced choir practices combined with recording sessions, and those involved were delighted to be singing in church again. We were even able to provide a small group of robed singers for Stella

Slater's funeral. Our activities were again suspended in November, but we had already begun to plan the Carol Service, so that we could record the remaining items in early December, and two Carol Services took place on December 20th.

Not only that, but the congregation joined in with the singing of the final carol outside the building.

We were ready to record more items for Choral Evensong in January when the next lockdown began, and the P.C.C. decided, with regret, that services should again be discontinued.

By this time, however, several choir members had some experience of Zoom, and a couple of on-line rehearsals had taken place before the Carol Service.



Recording a Hymn



When it became clear that attending services and singing together would be impossible for some time, I decided to restart our weekly practices on Zoom.

This seems to be worthwhile. Our numbers have grown in response to my invitation to others to join us, and we are now practising for longer each week. After warming up our voices we sing some of the hymns suggested for the following Sunday, and we work on the Good Friday music from 'The Cross of Christ'. We hope that our Good Friday service will take place this year, and it is likely to be on Zoom. All being well, there will even be a recording of Naomi's solo. I am also thinking about Easter music.

We are sad that some of our older members are unable to participate in our activities at present, as a result of health

problems, and we send our best wishes to Gwyneth, Richard Carr, Beryl, Doris, Pat, Colin and Hilda. We hope that some of those who are currently absent, may eventually be able to return.

When services resume, I hope that we will fairly soon be able to provide more music for recordings. We are looking forward to meeting again in person. But until we can hold choir practices regularly in church, I shall continue to offer Zoom rehearsals.

My hope is that in six months' time, life will be more normal, and we can plan for more inclusive traditional Christmas services.

Rosemary Artley
3.3.2021

Music at Hawkshaw

2020 has been a year like no other for music at Hawkshaw. On Friday 20th March, we recorded music in church for the first online service to be broadcast on the following Sunday. On Monday 23rd it was announced that church buildings would be closed and we prepared to start recording from home. Despite our combined backgrounds in music and physics, neither of us have trained in sound engineering and the early weeks were a steep learning curve. Paul worked wonders with the new technology, producing sound and video recordings to enable the church community to continue to worship. For the next four months we transformed our lounge into a recording studio on a weekly basis. Ruth, Caleb and Isaac committed many hours to make the recordings for the Sunday 'Web Worship'. We recorded almost 50 songs over the spring and summer.

In September we were allowed to have live music for worship in the church building. It was a very emotional moment

to be able to lead God's people in worship in person for the first time in six months, even if most of the congregation couldn't join in. Again, we benefited from having a family band as we were able to lead the



music without social distancing from each other. We are very grateful to Tim Webber for his participation too, sometimes solo, and other times together with us in a COVID secure way.

Live streaming presented yet more new challenges – creating a balanced sound that was good in the building, but also recorded well for the online congregation. Thanks go to the AV and streaming team – Michael, David, Stuart and Rob – who continue to work behind the scenes each week.



First "On-line" service Mothering Sunday 22 March



Moving towards Christmas, we were able to contribute towards the parish online carol service. Ruth, Isaac, Caleb and Eddie Slattery formed a brass quartet which, along with Tim, recorded the backings for the carols. Our wonderful group of singers were then able to come and sing, socially distanced, along to our pre-recorded tracks. Many thanks to Tim for the music editing and Paul for the video editing.

It was with great delight that we received the news just before Christmas that singing would be allowed outdoors. On a cold Sunday evening, we gathered outside church and in the school playground for a service telling the story of Christmas through carols. Thanks again to Ruth, Caleb and Isaac for accompanying the carols.

During the week before Christmas, we were also able to bless the neighbourhood with some socially distanced carol singing. Thank you to everyone who took part.

We don't know what 2021 will bring for music in church, or when we will be able to worship together without restrictions, but my prayer for us all, in the words of Psalm 96, is that we will:

- '1 Sing to the Lord a new song;
sing to the Lord, all the earth.
- 2 Sing to the Lord, praise his name;
proclaim his salvation day after day.
- 3 Declare his glory among the nations,
his marvellous deeds among all
peoples'.

Amen!

*Jo Sumsion
February 2021*

2020 started off in the usual way, with the team going into Holcombe Brook Primary School presenting assemblies by acting out Bible stories each Tuesday morning.

In mid-March we were advised not to go into schools to protect ourselves. Then the week after, the schools had to close and we were in lockdown!

Nothing happened then until during the summer holidays when Stephen and Barbara experimented, recording a Bible Story (Noah), using a green screen, so that different backgrounds could be inserted and only using a Narrator and a Storyteller.

It worked very well, so we decided to record the stories using any members who were happy to go to the Church Centre, socially distanced of course! We drew up a timetable for the various volunteers, so that a minimum number of people were involved at any one time. Over two mornings, we were able to cover enough stories to take us up to Christmas.

Stephen took the recordings away and found some wonderful illustrations to use as backgrounds. They were then circulated, weekly, to Holcombe Brook, Holcombe and Hawkshaw Schools. He also included them on the weekly Parish Update.

Stephen and Barbara experimented again before Christmas, with the pair of them acting out different characters in a story. Stephen used his technical wizardry to mix and match the clips to produce a



wonderful performance of the “Angel’s visit to Mary and Joseph”. This was sent to the schools and was included in the “Words and Music” evening.

All of the children in our three schools received a copy of “It Begins in Bethlehem” a Nativity Rhyme for Christmastime produced by the Bible Society.

We have had some super feedback from the schools showing that our assemblies really are appreciated. We have also had requests from Wigan Authority and Blackburn Diocese and they are also sharing our stories, our message is spreading!!

Many thanks to Stephen for all the time and expertise he has used producing the stories and circulating them.

We are looking forward to the time when we can have our weekly meetings- we have all been missing the good fellowship and fun!

Sheila Partridge



Using Green Screen.

In the beginning - Creation

God's Friend Abraham

A special promise - Noah

The walls fall down

The Great Escape

The First Christmas

07 The Secret Baby

The long Journey

Teleprompt.

19th Ramsbottom Brownies



The very weekend, back in March, when we were about to start a series of six organised weekend rambles, everything came to a full stop! The Brownies have not met in person since.

However, there is hope - we are really enjoying Zoom virtual meetings. We have laughed, learnt and enjoyed jokes and activities. There are positive firsts for us as well!

- First online meeting
- First virtual Christmas party.
- First 'Zoom' sock puppet show.
- The most wonderful First is that two new Brownies made their promises online.

It is really wonderful news that we are still recruiting. Sadly, however, during lockdown several of our girls moved on to Guides, without us being able to see them in person to wish them well.

Positivity, that is what we are keeping in mind and we shall be back sometime in 2021, offering our normal face to face Brownie activities and enjoying each others company.

Brown Owl: Julie Smith

Tawny Owl: Barbara Newhouse

Snowy Owl: Janet Halliwell



Cellar and Youth at Hawkshaw

Early in 2020 we were blessed with a visit by a small team from Capernwray Bible College. They did school assemblies, lunch clubs and RE lessons at St Mary's and Emmanuel, they led Sunday School and Pathfinders. They helped at Cellar and took our Sunday services. They spent the Friday evening with the older youth, joining in with our Bible study, completing an 'Escape Room' and eating pizza and ice-cream at the Vicarage.

Cellar, Pathfinders and the youth Bible study met as usual until the Government's 'stay at home' message on 16th March. Youth groups have not been permitted to meet face to face at any point since then under the various local restrictions we have been under.

Over Easter we signposted parents to various resources from Youth for Christ and Scripture Union.



In July we met virtually with the Year 6's for a Question and Answer session about moving up to secondary school. Thanks to Ruth, Caleb and Isaac for fielding the many and various questions raised.

We do hope that 2021 will see a return to youth groups meeting in person. Until then, we have begun to meet on Zoom.

As always, a big thank you to all our leaders – we couldn't do it without you. A special thank you to Mandi Tomkinson who, after 6 years of leading Pathfinders, is moving on to serve the church in new ways.

*Jo Sumsion
February 2021*

Children's Work 2020

Our Sunday School at Hawkshaw Church ran as usual until the end of

March, when churches across the UK closed. At this point there wasn't much we could do to engage with our little ones and no-one would have known at that time just how long it would be before we would see them again!

When it became clear that Holiday Club would not be taking place either, Paul, Jo and I got together to hatch a new plan. We decided to put together some puppet shows and crafts, all accessed via YouTube. In order to comply with social distancing measures the Sumsion family made an excellent team of puppeteers with me keeping back behind the camera. Over four weeks at the end of July / beginning of August we reprised the story of Daniel. This was backed up with crafts, (mostly centred around lions!), which were made up into craft packs and delivered each week. Ian and Layna helped me make some YouTube videos demonstrating how to make each craft. Considering we hadn't seen any children

for months, the take up was very healthy with about 35 packs requested each week. After that, we filmed a few more puppet shows to use in morning services, including a set of four Christmas stories.

Even once we were able to open the churches up again for Sunday worship, Sunday School was still not permitted. There was also little scope for making worship family-friendly with an



imperative to sit still and keep 2 metres apart. So we introduced activity packs at Hawkshaw church with colouring, puzzles, word searches, stories etc., to help children participate in the services. These have proved popular with the

few families who have ventured back into the building.

Please pray for our families during this difficult time. We look forward to rebuilding relationships and beginning new ones, helping our precious children come to know and love Jesus.

Penny Hanley.

Hall Things Bright and Beautiful 2020.

Nature never stops!

Even though we have been restricted, the garden has not.

The bulbs still delighted us, flowers still bloomed, trees grew their leaves, grass needed cutting etc., etc.,

It has been good to have somewhere to go as part of daily exercise, to sit or to work, to be quiet or to let off steam – so glad the garden is there for everyone – so many people have used it.

Waiting for the cycle to start again now! No stopping nature.

Thank you to everyone for your continued donations in any shape or form towards the maintenance and enhancement of the garden. We are very grateful.

*Barbara Newhouse,
For the Hall Things Bright
and Beautiful Team*





11th Ramsbottom (Holcombe) Guides Annual Report 2020

We finished last year's report saying: "we are all now looking forward to the challenges and activities that lie ahead this year". Little did we know that shortly after the report was written, all face-to-face Guide meetings would be suspended by Girlguiding UK due to COVID-19.

Initially, we kept in touch with the Guides via their parents with weekly texts. Then we moved onto our "Holcombe Guides WhatsApp Group". Again, weekly messages were sent along with badge work, and "Adventures at Home" activities from Girlguiding UK. We also sent photographs from previous years asking the Guides "do you remember this"?

In September, thanks to a partnership agreement between Girlguiding and Zoom we applied for and were awarded a Zoom Pro Account. So, on the 2nd October, 2020 we held our very first virtual Guide meeting via Zoom. It was strange at first and a very steep learning curve for the

leaders!!! Our weekly Zoom meetings have been very varied, including scavenger hunts, quizzes, bingo, craft activities, BBC Children in Need Theme Night, Halloween Theme evening, we all made a cake in a mug, compass points drawings, Charades, Pictionary, exercise session and much more!! Parents even joined us briefly one evening, to present badges to their daughters gained prior to the lockdown.

We have tried to maintain some normality by holding our virtual meetings on Friday evenings' starting at the same time and the girls wear their uniform. We all know it's such a difficult time. The girls are enthusiastic and are enjoying seeing each other, (originally, we had planned for the meetings to last between 30 – 40 minutes, but now they regularly go on for an hour!!). The Zoom Meetings are scheduled to continue until the 21st May, 2021 and we do know that a few of the older guides are planning to move on. With numbers quite low already, we will just have to wait and see what happens next!!

*Kathryn Fry
Janet Howarth
(Guiders).*

Traveller's (Adult and Toddler Group)

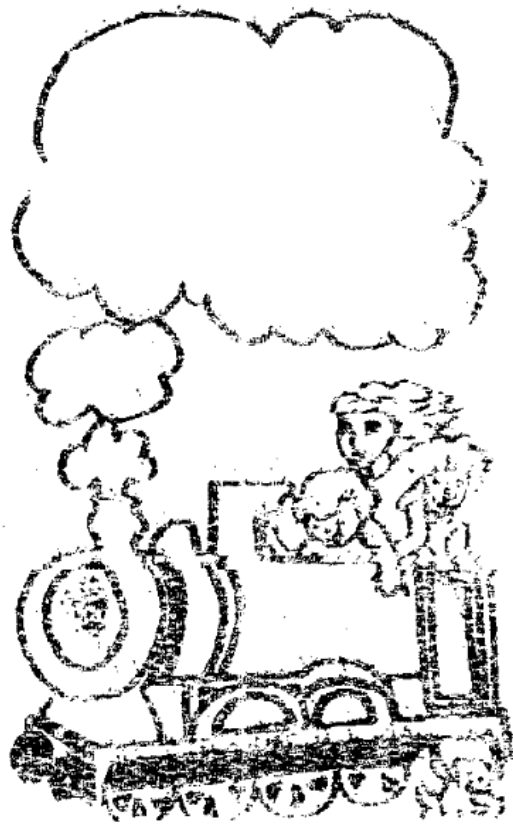
Annual Report (March 2020 – February 2021)

Usually we have so much to tell you about our previous year at “Traveller’s”, though this has now changed because of COVID 19.

We thought we were well prepared for the virus because weeks before we were asking people to wash their hands on arrival. We reviewed the refreshments and which toys were put out. Then at the end of the afternoon we wiped down all the toys along with door handles etc. Sadly, at that time no one could have possibly realised the true extent of the virus. The National lockdown followed and we were forced to close our doors on Wednesday 18th March, 2020.

Like many other playgroups we have been unable to re-open since then. We have managed to keep in touch each term via text with the parents, grandparents and childminders who used to come along each week. So, we have received updates on how everyone is keeping. Young children grow and develop so quickly. In fact one little boy has even started to walk when the last time we saw him he couldn't sit up on his own!

We always like to make a fuss of the children leaving us to start school. Sadly, all we could do this year was to send a



“good luck text”. But what a nice surprise to receive a photograph of one little boy standing very proudly in his new school uniform.

We are looking forward to the time when we can re-open again and continue to run a happy, safe and welcoming Adult and Toddler Group. When this happens please remember to come along and join us on Wednesdays (term time only) from 1.30pm to 3.00pm.

*Kathryn Fry, Julia Grant
& Doris Lockett*

Rector: Rev. Paul Sumsion,
The Vicarage,
Bolton Road,
Hawkshaw,
Bury,
BL8 4JN
01204 888060.



Associate Ministers:

Rev. Robert Airey 01706 224743
Rev. Vic. Fletcher 01204 882750
Curate: Rev. Ian Fleming. 07543213743

Readers:

Mr. Michael Burton, 01706 822664.
Mr. Richard Byrom, 01204 883110.
Mr. Michael Booth, 01204 884648.
Mrs. Ethel Houghton 01254 704758.
Mrs. Jane Fletcher 01204 882750.

Church Wardens:

Mr. Stephen Newhouse (Lay Chair P.C.C.).
01706 412657.
Mr. Michael Booth (Reader)
01204 884648.

Why not visit our website: www.holcombehawkshaw.org

During these strange times and whilst some will still be self isolating our Pastoral Team have been maintaining contact by phone, if you would like to talk, ask a question or pass on information please give us a call.

Each Sunday There is a service at each worship centre and the 10.45am service at St. Mary, Hawkshaw is “streamed live” on YouTube and is available all week, so you can watch it at any time. Just visit our website www.holcombehawkshaw.org.

Facebook: search for the [Parish of Holcombe and Hawkshaw](#)

Twitter: [@holchawcofe](#) or just search for The Parish of Holcombe and Hawkshaw

Instagram: [Holcombe and Hawkshaw](#)

We have also been sending out regular e-mails with news updates, so if you haven't received those please email a request to stephen.newhouse@sky.com

Annual Report and Yearbook 2020



Holcombe and Hawkshaw Parochial Church Council

STATEMENT OF INCOME FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

	Holcombe and Hawkshaw 2020		
	£	£	£
Voluntary Income			
Planned Giving - Gift Aid	57,138.37		
Planned Giving - Un-gifted	5,805.24		
One off Gift Aid	3,446.20		
Cash/Collections	5,388.50		
Income tax recovered	21,081.12		
Fund Raising Events	1,621.95		
Magazine	481.85		
Use of Church Buildings	1,874.50		
		96,837.73	
Other Ordinary Income			
Dividends and Interest	53.36		
Fees to PCC	9,192.00		(includes £
		9,245.36	106,083.09
Extraordinary Income			
Restricted Donations	8,281.64		
Refunds	270.00		
Special Appeals	263.00		
		8,814.64	114,897.73
Total Income 2020			<u>###</u>
Income 2019			###

3,207.40 fees paid to Diocese)

Holcombe and Hawkshaw Parochial Church Council

STATEMENT OF EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

	2020		
	£	£	£
The Ministry			
Ministry Expenses	6,089.38		
Support & Education	1,566.60		
		7,655.98	
The Church and Services			
Energy	9,181.31		
Water	288.85		
Cleaning	0.00		
Insurance	7,292.78		
Upkeep of Services	3,882.74		
Minor Repairs, Fire Inspection	9,266.70		
Churchyard	1,234.20		
		31,146.58	
Other Ordinary Expenditure			
Wages	9,682.56		
Magazine	0.00		
Fund Raising costs	0.00		
Verger/Organist	235.00		
		9,917.56	
The Diocese			
Parish Share	47,000.00		
Other Diocese costs	4,994.00		
		51,994.00	
Payments to Missions/Charities			
Mission/Charities	4,187.00		
		4,187.00	104,901.12
Extraordinary Expenditure			
ECC Garden	315.43		
ECC	1,800.00		
Holcombe Church			
Hawkshaw			
Hawkshaw Heating			
Holcombe Organ			
		2,115.43	107,016.55
Total Cash Expenditure 2020			###
Expenditure 2019			###

YEAR END STATEMENT 2019

Bank Balances 31 December 2019

	Total
Current Account	-
Deposit Account	44,958.48
Direct Giving Accounts	13,797.28
Restricted Funds Account	820.53
Cash	-
	<hr/> 59,576.29
Less Unpresented cheques	
Year End Total	<hr/> ### <hr/>

Restricted/Designated Funds

Gardening (ECC)	147.37
ECC	-
Holcombe	29,472.99
Hawkshaw	-
Hawkshaw Heating	23,750.00
Malawi	1,931.64
	<hr/> ### <hr/>

Working Balance **4,274.29**

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AT 31 DECEMBER 2020

	Balance 12/31/2019	Balance 12/31/2020
Santander	364.21	310.55
CCLA - Restricted Holcombe Endowments	986.63	995.51
<u>Bank Accounts</u>		
Current Acc	-	-
Deposit Acc	43,103.03	44,958.48
Direct Giving Acc	6,940.64	13,797.28
Restricted Acc	819.79	820.53
Cash Not banked	831.65	-
	53045.95	60882.35
Less Cheques unrepresented	0.00	0.00
	53045.95	60882.35
TOTALS	53045.95	60882.35



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/
members of

Parish of Holcombe & Hawkshaw, Lancashire

On accounts for the year
ended

31/12/2020

Charity no
(if any)

Set out on pages

1,2 and Trace July21 A1, Trace July21 B1, Summary of Traceability

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended **31/12/2020**

Responsibilities and
basis of report

As the charity's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent
examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination (other than that disclosed below *) which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report 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:

Date:

1/7/2021

Name:

Stuart Moul

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

AAT membership number: 20269328

Address:

9 Hunstanton Drive, Bury. BL8 1EG

Section B**Disclosure**

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.

I have carried out the independent examination and although minor I wish to highlight that were four occasions in the Cheque book I examined where no date is recorded.

I have noted an increase in Direct On-Line banking payment and have followed some transactions but not selected – all found to be accurate and tracable.

I have cross referenced financial statements with links back to accounting records: - Bank statements, Receipts, Bank Details & Summary (held by Treasurer), Invoices.

I have selected various sample receipts & payments and traced back through all accounting sheets including Bank Statements. Details of one sample – see **'Trace Jul21 B1'**.

I have selected various sample payments on Bank Statements and traced back through all accounting sheets Receipts. Details of one sample – see **'Trace Jul21 A1'**.

I have selected various Incomes and follow back 'Direct Giving' money transfers and 'Weekly Giving' and am satisfied that these accounts give no cause for concern.

See **'Summary of Traceability'**

I have reviewed the minutes of the PCC and I have obtained background information on the PCC, how it is organised. The parish includes St. Mary's Hawkshaw & Emmanuel Holcombe and within the Parish there are 3 churches - St. Mary's (Hawkshaw), Emmanuel Church (Holcombe Village) & Emmanuel Church Centre (Holcombe).

Three sheets attached: -

Trace Jul21 A1

Trace Jul21 B1

Summary of Traceability