



**ROSSENDALE  
TEAM**

Making Jesus Known

**Parish of Christ Church with St John Bacup  
in the Deanery of Bury & Rossendale,  
Diocese of Manchester**

**Annual Accounts and Reports for the year  
January 2023 to December 2023**

**Prepared for the Annual Parochial Church  
Meeting to be held on 19th May 2024**

**Christ Church with St John, worshipping in  
Central Church, Burnley Road,  
Bacup, OL13 8AB**

## **Administrative information**

Christ Church with St John is situated in Bacup, Rossendale. It is part of the Bury & Rossendale Deanery in the Diocese of Manchester within the Church of England. The correspondence address is The Vicarage, Greensnook Lane, Bacup.

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is a charity excepted from registration with the Charity Commission. However, in 2022 the PCC became a registered charity; charity number: 1199393

As Charity Law requires we state that no member of the PCC received payment for carrying out their duties in this past year.

## **Church Officials**

### **Ministry Team**

<b>Team Rector</b>	Rev'd Rod Bevan
<b>Team Vicar</b>	Rev'd Janet O'Neill
<b>Focal Leader</b>	Rev'd Leila Allen
<b>Team Curate</b>	Rev'd Laura Brinicombe

### **Structure, governance and management**

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. All Church attendees are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC.

#### **Members:**

Rev'd Janet O'Neill	(Chair)
Rev'd Leila Allen	(Focal Leader)
Nikki Bell	(Church Warden)
Valerie Howarth	(Secretary, until May 2023)
Mel Gowing	(Treasurer)
David Barron	
Barbara Monks	
Steph Taylor	(from May 2023)
Jade Lowry	(co-opted in September 2023)

#### **Other Church officers:**

Valerie Howarth	Electoral Roll Officer
Mel Gowing	Gift Aid Secretary and Envelope Secretary
Rachel Bulcock.	Safeguarding Officer

## **Bankers**

The Parish banking account is with Santander UK plc

## **Insurance**

The Insurers for the Parish are Ecclesiastical Insurance, Beaufort House, Brunswick Road, Gloucester.

## **Legal Adviser**

Donna M. Myers, Diocesan Registry, St John's House, 155 to 163 The Rock, Bury BL9 0ND

## **Independent Examiner**

John Fielding, 73 Bankside, Bacup, OL13 8HP

# **Christ Church with St John PCC Report 2023**

## **Objectives and Activities**

Christ Church with St John PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent, the Rev'd Janet O'Neill or her successors, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. Our vision is in 'Loving Christ, Loving Bacup & Stacksteads': Growing faith, Growing as Family, Loving our community.

## **Church attendance**

There are 29 parishioners on the Church Electoral Roll.

The average weekly attendance for Sunday morning worship in person, counted during October 2023, was 34 adults and 4 children.

There were 4 funerals held in Crematoriums or Cemeteries and 5 baptism services at church.

## **PCC Secretary Report**

The PCC over the course of the last year has prayerfully discussed a variety of issues and would like to express its gratitude to all those that serve within the life of the church.

PCC met 6 times in 2023, our APCM was held on May 7<sup>th</sup> 2023, and a special joint PCC meeting with Holy Trinity with St Saviour was held in November.

During the year Rev'd Laura Brincombe took a lead role in developing and introducing digital giving in to the life of Christ Church as a means of hopefully increasing giving and income. On behalf of the PCC, Laura applied to the Diocese for a free contactless giving machine, which we subsequently received. Throughout 2023, PCC continued to monitor the £200,000 investment of the George Mills legacy.

This has been invested in an ethical investment portfolio and has, in its first year, borne some early fruit, standing at a value of £212,700 at the end of 2023. PCC receive regular, quarterly reports on the performance of the investment. This investment is to provide funding for future missional activity.

Over the course of the year PCC have focused on the missional life of the church, especially through the development of missional action points. From these PCC has looked to support Living Room, Make n Take and Bacup Family Centre. Living Room, which started as a 'Warm Space' in November 2022 has gone from strength to strength. It now welcomes around 50 guests each week. Make n Take which is similar to Messy Church meets quarterly and is a free event for families. Due to low attendance, the decision was made to move from Saturday morning to a Friday after school time and this has proved hugely successful.

Christ Church with St John has a long history of supporting Bacup Family Centre and PCC have been delighted to continue to do this. The work of the Family Centre is invaluable to the most vulnerable in our community and Rev'd Leila Allen ensures the link between church and Family Centre remains strong. In 2023 PCC took the decision to support the Family Centre financially, through a one-off gift and two fund raisers. Steph Taylor, our Authorized Lay Minister, led a summer jumble sale which helped to raise much needed funds for the Family Centre.

Christ Church with St John have continued in our joint building arrangement with Central Methodist Church in 2023. However, in 2023 we were made aware that the Methodists had received an offer to buy their building. PCC have spent much of the year exploring what this could mean for our worshipping community. PCC members have spoken to our church family members and the overwhelming feeling was people wanted to stay together as an Anglican worshipping community.

Holy Trinity with St Saviour has been identified as a fragile church, this is where the Diocese of Manchester identifies a church as vulnerable across a number of areas. 2023 saw Holy Trinity facing a number of building issues and their PCC spent much time looking at options going forward. In November 2023 Christ Church and Holy Trinity PCCs met together to explore the possibility of the two church families joining together. After prayerful consideration, both PCCs wanted to go forward with this idea and a proposal to formally explore coming together was accepted.

2023 wasn't always an easy year for PCC and we thank each of its members for their prayerful support and wisdom.

**Rev'd Janet O'Neill, PCC Chair**

**Valerie Howarth, PCC Secretary (until May 2023)**

## Team Vicar report 2023

In December 2022, we welcomed Rev'd Samuel Hameem to the Rossendale Team as Team Vicar. During 2023, our Team Rector, Rev'd Rod Bevan re-organised the stipendiary clergy's responsibilities. Samuel now has oversight of St Mary's, Rawtenstall, St Paul's, Constable Lee and St Mary & All Saints, Goodshaw; Rod has oversight of St Anne's, Edgeside and St Nicholas', Newchurch and I have oversight of Holy Trinity with St Saviour, Christ Church with St John, St Bartholomew's, Whitworth and St John's. Facit.

As Team Vicar this means the majority of my time is split between these 4 parishes. However, each of the stipendiary clergy also have responsibilities across the Team which see us visiting and working with churches outside the scope of our direct oversight. In particular my areas of responsibility cover children's ministry, the Team's digital presence and lay development. In 2023, this work saw the introduction of '*Wiggle Worship*' to our Team Toddler Groups, building of relationships with our local primary schools, the development of a Team Facebook page, and the continuation of our weekly online service. Fortnightly, I also lead the Wednesday BCP (1662) Eucharist service at St Nicholas', Newchurch.

As Team Vicar I work across a number of local schools, taking assemblies in Holy Trinity (alongside Derek), Britannia, St John's with St Michaels and St Bartholomew's. Beside assemblies we are often asked to go into school to talk about the Christian faith in RE lessons. I am also a School Governor at Holy Trinity School and St John's with St Michael's School. These links with our local schools are invaluable and are helping to build real bridges between church and the wider community.

Early in 2023, Councillor Andrew Walmsley asked if I would be his Mayoral Chaplain for the year and it has been a great privilege to take on this role. It has enabled me to learn about, and connect with, a wide range of groups across Rossendale. One of the Mayor's chosen charities this year has been Bacup Family Centre, so it has been wonderful to support him in his work to raise funds for them.

I could not do any of this without the invaluable support of Derek and Leila as Focal Leaders, and the churchwardens in all 4 parishes: Peter, Nikki, Julie, Rod, Anne and Sue. I give thanks to God for them daily. The work they do is often unseen by many, but is most definitely seen and appreciated by me.

Our Team Curate, Rev'd Laura Brinicombe, was made Priest in July 2023 and it was a great joy to receive Communion from her for the first time. Laura has continued to thrive in her second year with us in the Rossendale Team. She is a gifted preacher, with valuable pastoral skills, she is creative and full of energy and ideas. In May last year she became Mayoral Chaplain for Whitworth Mayor, Councillor Mike Royds and began to focus some of her ministry in Whitworth. She became a Governor at St

Bartholomew's School and took regular assemblies there. In November Laura and her husband, Matthew, were delighted to welcome their daughter Sarah, so the Brinicombes ended 2023 with a slightly larger family than they started the year with! Laura will be on maternity leave until December 2024.

Christ Church and Holy Trinity continue to work closely together with online Night Prayer and The Well, Ladies Lunch, the Beaconsfield Drop-in and Men's Fellowship all seeing people from both congregations join them. We also ran a '*Start!*' course in 2023, which is a seeker course, aiming to offer a space where people new to Christianity can explore what it is to follow Jesus.

Our seasonal *Make n Take* and weekly *Living Room* events could not happen without the work of amazing volunteers from both churches. We made the decision in 2023 to move *Make n Take*, (which is like Messy Church), to a Friday after-school time, as opposed to a Saturday morning, and that has worked extremely well. Families seem to be more able to join us straight after school rather than at the weekend. *Living Room* continues to thrive, we get between 40 and 60 guests each week. The feedback we get is overwhelmingly positive with adults saying they value the chance to talk to other adults, that it takes away the worry of where at least one meal that week is coming from; and the children are always wanting to know what's happening at 'Wednesday Club!' In 2023, we also began a new monthly Sunday early evening service, '*Cornerstone*,' held in the worship room at Central Church. We are joined each month by people from across the Team.

During 2023, we were informed that in all likelihood Central Methodist will be selling the Chapel, hall and meeting rooms. They are struggling financially and are not able to maintain the building in current circumstances. This has repercussions for us as church. After speaking to church family members, Leila and PCC members reported that overwhelmingly people said they want to stay together, and therefore PCC made the decision to explore coming together with Holy Trinity with St Saviour for worship. I thank PCC for their sensitivity, discernment and wisdom as these discussions progressed throughout the year.

Christ Church with St John will face changes in the coming year, but we will face them together, alongside the God who loves us beyond measure. It is the greatest honour and privilege of my life to live and minister here in Rossendale, and 2023 saw me coming to appreciate even more what folk in this wonderful community are capable of. Team ministry has been very different for many of us, the coming years might look very different for many of us, but together, with God, we will continue to make Jesus known, nothing will change that.

**Rev'd Janet O'Neill**  
**Rossendale Team, Team Vicar**

## **Focal Leader Report**

During the course of 2023 Manchester Diocese appointed Beverley Angier as Focal Ministry Officer; her role is to promote and develop the role of Focal Leader across the various Mission Communities in the Diocese as well as supporting Focal Leaders who are in post and those considering taking up the role. Beverley also has a role in networking and contributing to the national Focal Leader agenda

As a result of Beverley's appointment a 40 page booklet has been produced for parishes called 'Explore – a resource for churches'. The booklet outlines the conversations and processes that parishes can explore when seeking the right person to be Focal Leader. In many ways, because of the unique situation that Rossendale found itself in this process was not in place when our Focal Leaders were identified; nonetheless the booklet will provide valuable insight for the future.

In October 2023 a commissioning service was held for Focal Leaders from the Rossendale, Radcliffe and Whitefield Mission Communities was held at St Mary's Rawtenstall and following on from that service interviews with several (Derek being one of them) of those commissioned appeared in the Manchester Diocesan E News.

Prior to the service a focus day was held at St John's House in Bury and the idea moving forward is that two or three of these focus days will take place each year. Beverley also produces a Focal Leader update via e-mail and Zoom 'peer group' gatherings lasting no more than one hour are planned. The idea behind all this is to foster a sense of community among Focal Leaders who come from a variety of backgrounds and missional context.

In terms of my role in the life of Christ Church it continues in much the same way through my involvement in leading Sunday worship, this has increased and I now take three out of four services with the support of both Revds. Janet and Derek. I continue to be the point of contact for church members and increasingly for members of Central Methodist, as well as supporting Janet our Team Vicar and the other officers and PCC in their respective roles and in the exploration and decision making of the what, where and how of the future for Christ Church.

As Focal Leaders in the Rossendale Mission Community we continue to meet on a regular basis with our stipendiary Clergy colleagues to share and plan. Three of our parishes have yet to appoint Focal Leaders and so it is the Churchwardens from those parishes attend the meetings.

Living Room (LR) continues to meet and up to now we have met weekly during term-time. LR continues to be a real blessings as relationships grow with the many families who attend from both communities of Bacup and Stacksteads area. LR almost became a victim of its own success as attendance grew, however, ever though a cap was put in place on the numbers who could safely attend there has been a natural slowing down and a steady average attendance of 40 – 50 per week.

During the year, as time has allowed, I have continued with home visits, baptism, funerals and share in Home Holy Communion with those who can no longer attend Church.

**Revd. Leila Allen, SSM**

## **Christ Church – Fabric Report 2023**

As a church community we continue to share on a 50/50 basis with Central Methodist the running costs for the building including ongoing repairs and maintenance which have been predominantly repairs to appliances as well as repair costs following vandalism.

Central made the decision to not worship in the Chapel over the winter months of 2022/23 and has now resulted in them worshipping in the Irwell Room and the decision was made to continue with this arrangement indefinitely to save on utility bills. As such the Chapel is not now used for Sunday morning worship.

In the main this works for both worshipping communities with little disturbance during morning worship. However, their move to the Irwell room has left no space for Christ Church Children's Church (Sunday school), the option to use the hall is only a viable alternative space during the warmer months as the hall is a very cold space. Our aim is to provide a warm and welcoming space where our community feels at home and comes to enjoy our space, friendship and fellowship and worship with us, with this in mind, a building and worship space has taken on considerable consideration as we seek God's amazing guidance and provision.

Central's move of regular worship to the Irwell Room has resulted in their reviewing of the sustainability of continuing in such a large building when considering finance and demographic of congregation. And so, part way through 2023 Christ Church was informed that Central had held initial discussions with a developer who would be interested in acquiring the whole site for redevelopment as housing and including the provision of a new church building albeit on a much smaller scale.

As a PCC we have never really had a clear picture of what this development might look like or timescales involved, but as the year progressed it became clear that Central were of the view that their future could possibly lie elsewhere and were hopeful that we at Christ Church would join them on that journey; this prompted much reflection by P.C.C members and congregation, reflecting on our journey together so far, which on many occasion has not been easy, sharing the same space was a concern, and at times has proved challenging.

Furthermore, our morning worship styles differ, and Christ Church is wanting to embrace more fully community outreach, and provide family services for the growing number of families that we have contact with. What was important within any decision making was our future direction and vision for the future, to which both Churches appear to be on different roads. For Christ Church, our focus is on where

God leading us and how we reach out to our community, embracing and welcoming those we have made contact with, for example our Living Room families.

During this time however other issues have arisen and Christ Church PCC, were made aware of the challenges facing Holy Trinity with their building and initial discussions between both PCC's indicated that the future worship, mission and ministry lay more with Holy Trinity than with Central.

And so, with that in mind the realisation is that during 2024 further discussions with both Central and Holy Trinity will be needed as we seek God's will in the best way forward for our church.

**Revd. Leila Allen.**  
**Focal Leader, SSM.**

## **Deanery Synod Report**

Bury and Rossendale Deanery met four times during the course of 2023 and a brief summary of the business of each meeting is as follows.

In January, Synod met on Zoom and the main focus at that meeting was Beverley Angier presenting on Focal Leadership and breakout rooms were used to discuss with the opportunity to feedback.

Archdeacon Jean spoke on how we need to grow in prayer as a Mission 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.

In March we learned that Archdeacon Jean would be leaving Manchester Diocese to take up a new appointment as Archdeacon of Bournemouth.

We subsequently learned that The Revd Canon Dr Rachel Mann our Area Dean for Bury and Rossendale has been appointed as the new Archdeacon of Salford and Bolton and she was licensed on 4<sup>th</sup> July 2023.

In April, Synod met at St Mary's Rawtenstall.

The main speaker was Rev Canon Mike McGurk. He explored church growth and how we might bring people into our worshiping 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.

At this meeting we were due to discuss Nurture but the speaker was unable to attend.

We discovered that the Rev Canon Donna Williams would be our acting Area Dean and in November 2023 the announcement was made that the appointment was being made permanent with licensing taking place in January 2024

During 2023 our Deanery we also welcome Imergine Lomax as Deanery Transformation Officer for Bury and Rossendale.

In September, Synod met at All Saints Church, Elton, Bury. As this was the first meeting of the new triennium appointments to various offices were made. The main agenda item was the visit of Bishop Matthew who introduced himself and gave a brief resumé of his life and faith.

He thanked us for following Christ and the church.

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.

Responses included: 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, Synod met on Zoom. The main agenda item was delivered by Kim Morgan-Jones who is 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 3 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 7 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.

The session ended in prayer and reflection, in breakout groups.

Deanery Synod meetings are always informative and a great way to meet others from across our large Deanery and so all elected representatives are encouraged to attend wherever possible.

**Rev Derek Allen.**

## **Local Authorized Ministry Report**

My name is Stephanie Taylor and I am an ALM at Christ Church with St John. Just a little information about what an ALM is. ALM stands for *Authorized Lay Minister*. This means I have been authorized by the Bishop of Manchester to minister in church, in the area of Evangelism and Discipleship.

I decided to do an ALM course after completing Alpha courses and then the Foundations to Ministry (FFM) course. I did these courses as I thought I had not connected with God as much as I could and to try and find out more about myself and what my faith means to me, and these were the best ways to do that.

Since then, I have found out that I am being called to do something more within our churches, so I am chasing this feeling and hoping to get to the place God is calling me to.

I chose the Evangelism and Discipleship ALM course as I want to get more people in church so they can feel love from God like I do. I want those who have not experienced God's love, warmth and peace in their hearts to be able to at some point in their lives no matter how old they are, they should at some point experience the amazingness of our heavenly father.

Since joining Christ Church I have got to know the congregation and the community around church. I have been involved with a couple of activities within church before joining PCC. Since joining the PCC I have organized a couple of fundraising fairs for Bacup Family Centre and become more involved in community activities. I have really enjoyed getting to know most of you and will look forward to getting to those who I don't quite know just yet.

My goal is to try and get more people into our church family and make it grow bigger. I am wanting more families and young people coming to join our family and spread the good word about how wonderful our God is.

I am planning on doing more fundraising fairs, another jumble sale and many more fun filled activity days. So our community can come together and talk about faith and to see what our church is like.

One of the main groups I have been involved with is our Living Room which is run weekly throughout the school term. By doing this I have got to know the families really well and the struggles some of them face and I'm hoping to work along side them to be able to support them in any which way I can.

**Steph Taylor, Authorized Local Minister**

# **Safeguarding Report**

Safeguarding remains at the forefront of all that we do in the life of our Churches in Bacup and Stacksteads.

In the past year, all Safeguarding Policies have been refreshed again to show our commitment to the safety of all of those that are part of our worshipping families, and the wider community that we serve in the parish. A copy of these documents are held in church, and are on the Notice Board for all to have sight of.

My role of Safeguarding Officer continues, and I have added safeguarding in relation to domestic abuse to my training as a Safeguarding lead.

This year, we have seen the success of our Living Room project grow even further, which was developed so that the local community had somewhere warm, welcoming, and available for all those that would like to come along and share a meal and activity in the early evening. The success of this has again been overwhelming. DBS checks for all those who volunteer within it have been sought, and have taken longer than anticipated, as our Check agency, say that there is no requirement for volunteers here to be police checked, however the diocese tell us otherwise, and we feel strongly that there is absolutely a requirement to ensure the safety of all volunteer staff and participants alike. This work is ongoing. Safeguarding training has now been completed by all volunteer staff.

Within this reporting year, we have had 3 safeguarding alerts. These have been shared within the whole Rossendale team, and only one was very local to us. Although it is always concerning to receive such alerts, it is encouraging to know that we have a fantastic network that always shares information that will ultimately help to keep everyone safe. All procedures in line with Diocesan Safeguarding procedures, and also ours were followed in relation to the alerts.

As always, I would like to remind all of our church families that we are here to ensure the safeguarding of all parishioners. Also, that Safeguarding is EVERYONE's responsibility. If anyone ever has any worries about a friend or acquaintance, please do always bring this to the attention of the clergy or myself. We have received special training to help in such circumstances and we have a network of help from the diocese and support and advice is available for all. Any discussion that's had, of a safeguarding nature for yourself or others is held in confidence and with sensitivity and will be passed to the diocese or authorities if necessary.

**Rachel Bulcock, Safeguarding Officer**

**Policy Statement on the safeguarding of Children & Young People**  
**Christ Church with St John, Bacup**  
**This statement was agreed at the PCC meeting held on: 21<sup>st</sup> April 2024**

- As members of this church, we commit ourselves to the nurturing, protection and safekeeping of all, especially children and young people.
- It is the responsibility of each one of us to prevent the physical, sexual and emotional abuse of children and young people and to report any abuse discovered or suspected.
- We recognise that our work with children and young people is the responsibility of the whole Church.
- Our church is committed to supporting, resourcing and training those who work with children and young people and to providing supervision.
- Our church is committed to following the policy and procedures published by the Diocese. The parish will adopt good practice guidelines which includes carrying out all relevant safeguarding checks on those who work with children and following safer recruitment guidelines.
- Each worker with children and young people must undertake diocesan Safeguarding training, know the guidelines and undertake to follow them. Each shall be given a copy of the Parish's agreed procedures and good practice guidelines.
- As part of our commitment to children and young people, the PCC has appointed **Rachel Bulcock** to be the Parish Safeguarding Co-ordinator
- Children and young people are an important part of our Church today. They have much to give as well as to receive. We will listen to them. As we nurture them in worship, learning, and in community life, we will respect the wishes and feelings of children and young people.

**This church appoints Rachel Bulcock to represent the concerns and views of children and young people at our meetings and to outside bodies.**

**Signed by:**

**Incumbent:** *J.O'Neill*

**Rev'd Janet O'Neill**

**Churchwarden:** *L.Allen*

**Rev'd Leila Allen,**

**(Focal Leader on behalf of Nikki Bell, churchwarden on maternity leave.)**

**Parish Safeguarding-Co-ordinator:** *R.Bulcock*

**Rachel Bulcock**

**Date: 21<sup>st</sup> April 2024**

**Policy on the Safeguarding of Adults in the Church**  
**This statement was adopted by Christ Church with St John**  
**Church Council meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> April 2024**

**This policy will be reviewed each year to monitor the progress which has been achieved.**

1. We recognize that everyone has different levels of vulnerability and that each of us may be regarded as vulnerable at some time in our lives.
2. As members of this parish we commit ourselves to respectful pastoral care for all adults to whom we minister.
3. We commit ourselves to the safeguarding of people who may be vulnerable, ensuring their well-being in the life of this church.
4. We commit ourselves to promoting safe practice by those in positions of trust.
5. The parish commits itself to promoting the inclusion and empowerment of people who may be vulnerable.
6. It is the responsibility of each of us to prevent the physical, emotional, sexual, financial and spiritual abuse of vulnerable people and to report any such abuse that we discover or suspect.
7. We undertake to exercise proper care in the appointment and selection of those who will work with people who may be vulnerable.
8. The parish is committed to supporting, resourcing, training and regularly reviewing those who undertake work amongst people who may be vulnerable.
9. The parish adopts the guidelines of the Church of England and the Diocese. The parish will adopt good practice guidelines which includes carrying out all relevant safeguarding checks on those who work with adults who are vulnerable and will follow safer recruitment guidelines.
10. Each person who works with vulnerable people will agree to abide by these recommendations and the guidelines established by this church.

**This church appoints Rachel Bulcock to represent the concerns and views of vulnerable people at our meetings and to outside bodies.**

**Signed by:**

<b>Incumbent:</b>	<i>J.O'Neill</i>	<b>Rev'd Janet O'Neill</b>
<b>Churchwarden:</b>	<i>L. Allen</i>	<b>Rev'd Leila Allen,</b>
<b>(Focal Leader on behalf of Nikki Bell, churchwarden on maternity leave)</b>		
<b>Parish Safeguarding-Co-ordinator:</b>	<i>R.Bulcock</i>	<b>Rachel Bulcock</b>

**Date: 21<sup>st</sup> April 2024**

### **Electoral Roll Report**

Notice was displayed at Christ Church with St John on the 24<sup>th</sup> March 2024 and revision of the roll commenced on 7<sup>th</sup> April 2024, ending on 21<sup>st</sup> April 2024.

One person has come forward to have their name entered on the electoral roll.

No names have been removed from the electoral roll

The revised number on the electoral roll is now 30.

**Val Howarth, Electoral Roll Officer**

### **Financial Report 2024**

**Banking:** Christ Church with St John, Bacup use Santander Banking.

**Independent Examiner:** John Fielding

The following Financial Report was approved by the PCC meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> April 2024 and is signed on its behalf by:

Rev'd Janet O'Neill, Chair of PCC and Rev'd Leila Allen, Focal Leader.

**CHRIST CHURCH WITH ST JOHN, BACUP (CHARITY NUMBER: 1199393)**

**Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Christ Church with St John, Bacup**

I report on the accounts of the Trust for the year ended 31 December 2023, which are set out on pages 2 to 5.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

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

It is my responsibility to:

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

**Basis of independent examiner's report**

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

**Independent examiner's statement**

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act

have not been met; or

(2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Fielding & Co.  
Fielding & Co  
Accountants  
73 Bankside Lane  
Bacup  
Lancashire  
OL13 8HP

9<sup>th</sup> April 2024

Balance Sheet for the year ended 31st December 2023

Assets held at 31st December 2023

Cost of Investment RE G.E.M. Estate  
Cash at Bank at 31/12/23  
Parish Share Account

	Unrestricted		Restricted	G.E.M.	2023	2022
	General Fund	Reserve	Laiety Training	Investment	Total	Total
	£ 4,840.70	£ 43,874.12	£ 2,048.88	£ 200,000.00	£ 200,000.00	£ 200,000.00
	£ 8.34				£ 50,763.70	£ 59,035.03
					£ 8.34	£ 492.75
<b>Totals</b>	£ 4,849.04	£ 43,874.12	£ 2,048.88	£ 200,000.00	£ 250,772.04	£ 259,527.78
<u>Represented by:</u>						
Balances at the bank at 1st January 2023	£ 1,323.34	£ 56,677.76	£ 1,033.93	£ 200,000.00	£ 259,035.03	£ 264,479.16
Surplus/Deficit for the year	-£ 8,674.30	£ 396.36	£ 14.95		-£ 8,262.99	-£ 4,951.38
Transfer between accounts +ve	£ 12,200.00	£ -	£ 1,000.00		£ 13,200.00	£ 406,000.00
Transfer between accounts -ve	£ -	-£ 13,200.00	£ -		-£ 13,200.00	-£ 406,000.00
<b>Balances at 31st December 2023</b>	£ 4,849.04	£ 43,874.12	£ 2,048.88	£ 200,000.00	£ 250,772.04	£ 259,527.78
<b>Portfolio Market Valuation at 31st December 2023</b>					£ 216,955.45	# £ 201,237.53

# Christ Church Income and Expenditure Summary 2023

INCOME					
			General Fund 2023		2022 Comparison
Christian Giving	1	£	10,301.88		£ 10,185.74
Grants & Donations	2	£	11,315.31		£ 8,673.43
Rents received	2a	£	-		£ 652.50
Income Tax Reclaimed	3	£	2,351.91		£ 2,242.21
Credit - Parish share c/f from 2022	3a	£	492.75		
PS Encouragement Scheme	3b	£	208.08		£ 204.00
Church Fees	4	£	907.00		£ 795.00
Social Events	5	£	778.24		£ -
Bank Interest	6	£	411.31		£ 119.62
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>		<b>£</b>	<b>26,766.48</b>		<b>£ 22,872.50</b>
EXPENDITURE					
Grants & Donations	7	£	5,938.20		£ -
Wider C of E	8	£	11,444.40		£ 10,404.00
Vicarage Costs	9	£	2,892.09		£ 3,254.24
Church Expenses	10	£	7,391.10		£ 10,104.79
Upkeep of Services	11	£	1,694.17		£ 1,806.05
Childrens Work	12	£	56.37		£ 440.11
Mission and other Ministries	13	£	4,589.14		£ 1,302.32
Fees paid for services etc	14	£	1,024.00		£ 472.00
Repair Reserve	15				
Sequestration Account	16	£	-		£ 40.37
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>		<b>£</b>	<b>35,029.47</b>		<b>£ 27,823.88</b>
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>		<b>£</b>	<b>26,766.48</b>		<b>£ 22,872.50</b>
<b>LESS TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>		<b>£</b>	<b>35,029.47</b>		<b>£ 27,823.88</b>
<b>SURPLUS/DEFECIT FOR THE YEAR</b>		<b>-£</b>	<b>8,262.99</b>		<b>-£ 4,951.38</b>

# Christ Church Notes 2023

		2023	2022
1	<u>Christian Giving</u>		
	Covenanted Giving	£ 6,350.00	£ 5,850.00
	Open Plate Giving	£ 3,413.47	£ 3,737.93
	Other offertory non-gift aided	£ 500.00	£ 550.00
	Easyfundraising	£ 38.41	£ 47.81
	Sum Up Contactless	£ -	
		<b>£ 10,301.88</b>	<b>£ 10,185.74</b>
2	Grants and Donations		
	Various Donations	£ 1,750.00	£ 907.50
	George Eastwood Mills Legacy	£ -	£ 4,845.47
	Warm Space/Living Room	£ 7,824.44	£ -
	Transfer from Deposit Account	£ -	£ -
	Contribution from Team churches	£ 1,740.87	£ 1,547.61
	Other contributions from Holy Trinity	£ -	£ -
	Sequestration from DBF	£ -	£ 1,372.85
		<b>£ 11,315.31</b>	<b>£ 8,673.43</b>
2a	Rents from hire of Central	£ -	£ 652.50
3	Gift Aid Lite	£ 2,351.91	£ 2,242.21
3a	Credit - Parish share c/f from 2022	£ 492.75	£ -
3b	Encouragement Scheme	£ 208.08	£ 204.00
4	Church Fees	£ 907.00	£ 795.00
5	Social Events		
		£ -	£ -
	Summer Fair/Jumble	£ 778.24	£ -
		<b>£ 778.24</b>	<b>£ -</b>
6	Bank Interest	£ 411.31	£ 119.62
7	Grants and Donations		
	Bacup Family Centre	£ 5,938.20	£ -
		£ -	£ -
		<b>£ 5,938.20</b>	<b>£ -</b>
8	Wider C of E	£ 11,444.40	£ 10,404.00
9	Vicarage Costs		
	Water Rates	£ 705.17	£ 649.20
	Council Tax	£ 2,186.92	£ 2,605.04
		<b>£ 2,892.09</b>	<b>£ 3,254.24</b>

<b>10</b>	<b>Church Expenses</b>		
	Insurance	£ 671.58	£ 643.00
	Training Costs	£ -	£ 11.95
	Central Methodist	£ 6,222.42	£ 9,063.35
	Postage	£ 2.60	£ 16.49
	Retirement & ordination gifts	£ 143.50	£ -
	Cutting grass at old Christ Church	£ 351.00	£ 370.00
		£ 7,391.10	£ 10,104.79
<b>11</b>	<b>Upkeep of Services</b>		
	Newsletter costs	£ -	£ 10.00
	Church Supplies	£ 153.52	£ 314.42
	CCLI License	£ 347.88	£ 329.54
	Clergy Expenses	£ 908.16	£ 879.44
	IT subscriptions & software/consumables	£ 284.61	£ 272.65
		£ 1,694.17	£ 1,806.05
<b>12</b>	<b>Childrens Ministry</b>	£ 56.37	£ 440.11
<b>13</b>	<b>Mission and other Ministries</b>		
	Schools Ministry	£ 200.80	£ 51.00
	Hardship Fund	£ 159.00	£ 60.00
	Make N Take	£ 259.89	£ 224.56
	Living Rooms	£ 3,940.45	£ 759.12
	Start Course	£ -	£ 166.50
	General Mission	£ 29.00	£ 41.14
		£ 4,589.14	£ 1,302.32
<b>13a</b>	<b>Eden Extra</b>	£ -	£ -
		£ -	£ -
<b>14</b>	<b>Fees for Services &amp; Exp</b>		
	Fees to DBF	£ 843.00	£ 472.00
	Internal fee/expenses paid	£ 160.00	£ -
	Fees for contactless payment	£ 21.00	
		£ 1,024.00	£ 472.00
<b>15</b>	<b>Repair Reserve</b>		
<b>16</b>	<b>Sequestration Account</b>	£ -	£ 40.37

		2022 Actuals £	2023 Estimated £	2024 Budget £					
<b>Expenditure</b>	(Notes)								
<b>Cost of generating funds</b>									
Cost of fundraising activities		0	0	0					
<b>Church activities</b>									
Mission giving and donations		0	5,938	5,000					
Diocesan parish share contribution		10,404	11,444	11,853					
Salaries, wages and honoraria		0	0	0					
Clergy and staff expenses		879	908	700					
<b>Church expenses</b>									
Mission and evangelism costs									
Living Room		759	3,940	3,230					
Make N Take		225	260	300					
Children and Schools		491	257	350					
Miscellaneous		311	188	250					
Church running expenses - insurance		643	672	700					
Church running expenses - miscellaneous		996	1,116	1,200					
CCLI Licence		330	348	375					
Church utility bills etc - Central Methodist		9,063	6,222	7,000					
Vicarage Costs									
Council Tax		2,605	2,187	2,400					
United Utilities		649	705	750					
Sequestration		40	0	0					
Cost of trading		0	0	0					
<b>Major capital expenditure</b>									
Major repairs to the church building									
Major repairs to church hall / other PCC property including redecoration									
New building work to the church, church hall, clergy housing or other PCC property									
<b>Other expenditure</b>									
Other payments / expenditure not already listed									
<b>Total expenditure / projected expenditure</b>		<b>27,395</b>	<b>34,185</b>	<b>34,108</b>					
<b>Income</b>									
<b>Voluntary giving</b>									
Regular giving		5,850	6,350	6,350					
Collections at services		3,738	3,413	3,380					
All other giving and voluntary receipts, including special appeals (recurring and one off)		598	539	600					
Gift Aid recovered (regular giving and one-off donations)		2,242	2,352	2,432					
Encouragement Scheme		204	208	215					
Legacies received (capital value)		4,845	0	0					
Grants (including recurring and one-off)									
General church funds		908	1,750	500					
Living Room		0	7,824	500					
<b>Activities for generating funds</b>									
Fundraising activities (gross proceeds)			778	750					
<b>Income from investments</b>									
Dividends, interest, income from property etc		120	411	420					
<b>Church activities</b>									
Fees retained by PCC (weddings / funerals)		323	64	0					
Trading activities (gross proceeds) NOT fundraising		653	0	0					
<b>Other incoming resources</b>									
Other receipts / income not already listed									
Sequestration monies freceived from DBF		1,373	0	0					
Contributions to Vicarage Costs from others		1,548	1,741	2,362					
<b>Total income / projected income</b>		<b>22,402</b>	<b>25,430</b>	<b>17,509</b>					
<b>Surplus/Shortfall</b>		<b>-4,993</b>	<b>-8,755</b>	<b>-16,599</b>					

