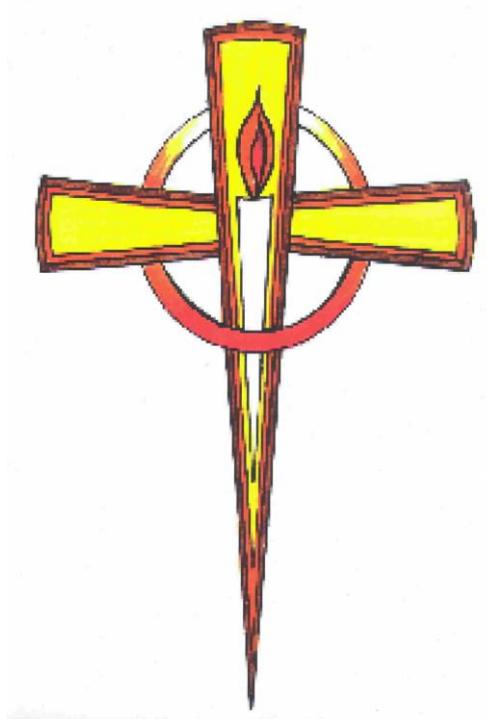


**PARISH OF CHRIST CHURCH WALMERSLEY
IN THE UNITED BENEFICE OF WALMERSLEY ROAD**

**IN THE DEANERY OF BURY
AND THE DIOCESE OF MANCHESTER**



**ANNUAL REPORT 2018/19 & FINANCIAL STATEMENT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2018**

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is a charity excepted from registration with the charity Commission.

Vicar	Revd. David Thompson
Asst. Priest	Revd. Paul Sanderson
Curate	Revd. Gill Barnett
Retired Clergy	Revd. Don Altham
	Revd. Ralph Mallinson
	Revd. Keith Trivasse

Readers	Mrs Barbara Silvester Mrs Pam Cowie Mr Darren Dunn
Reader Emeritus ALM	Mrs Margery Spencer Mr Nigel Silvester
Church Wardens	Mrs Jennifer Wood Mr Brian Crow

PCC Members who have served during the period of this report are:

Lay Chairman	Mrs Barbara Taylor
Secretary	Mr Ian W Riddick
Representatives Deanery Synod	Mrs Shelagh Beetson Mrs Barbara Taylor

Elected Members	Mr Ian Riddick Mr David Peters Mr Geoffrey Hamilton Mrs Patricia Stokes Mr Geoff Stokes Mrs Julie Tyrer Miss Pamela Hoyle Mrs Alison Fewtrell Mrs Hazel Bamford Mrs Lillian Lees
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Reader Emeritus Diocesan Synod	Mrs Margery Spencer Mrs Cath Hilton.
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SIDESPERSIONS

Miss P J Hoyle
Mrs J Slater
Mr D J Peters
Mrs K Whip
Mr I W Riddick
Mr W Noble
Mr G Hamilton
Mrs B Walker
Mr J Edwards

Other Officers

Child Protection & Safeguarding co-ordinator. Mrs Catherine Hilton.

Electoral Roll Officer	Mr David Peters
Planned Giving & Gift Aid	Mr Robert Taylor
Verger	Mr Jason Edwards
Independent Examiner	Mr Alastair Gillian DipFS ACIB
Acting Treasurer	Mr Brian Crow

ELECTORAL ROLL REPORT

As of the 14th April 2019, the number on the CCW Electoral Roll is 83, with non-residents totalling 15

David Peters

Electoral Roll Officer

Wardens report 2018

Another year has passed where do they go.

Thank you to Dave and his team of ministers who have spiritually enriched us.

We said good bye to Paul who was looking after St Stephens, but who has now taken over as their as their permanent minister, but I am sure he will still be around.

We also said goodbye to Gill as she took over her own church ministry but hopefully, she will still come out with GOA.

The electrics in church have been inspected and work has been done but we still need some work to be done. The lights and the heater in the church porch are not working due to damp and there has been an ingress of water in the tower,

We had a break in church by the vestry door, the door was smashed open and the frame broke away from the wall, damaging the plaster by the door were the lights are, they also broke the lock on the vestry door, luckily nothing was stolen but the damage needed repairing.

We have also had a few break ins in the hall and new locks and bolts have been put on the doors, can everyone be aware and vigilant if they are in the hall and last out to make sure all the doors are locked and the lights out.

The hall electrics have also been inspected

We have had the usual amount of Baptisms, Funerals, Internment of ashes but wedding ceremonies are down.

We said goodbye to Lucille Brown, George Fryer and Jim Melling. George's Bench which is at the back of church will go into the garden of remembrance soon. We are getting short of internment plots and are looking at digging a new site in front of the old gates in the garden of remembrance. (Is there any one with good muscles who are able to dig hard ground, the pay is the usual rate) We are looking at the price to hire small digger.

The maintenance team have been busy doing repairs with Jason and Barry busy clearing away debris in the grave yard.

Has anyone got a burning desire to ring the church bells for 10 minutes every Sunday, please see one of the wardens.

Thank you to everyone who supports the fundraising events, this money is used for church and hall repairs.

Thank you to everyone who supports the church in one way or another you are to many to mention but without you the church would not run as smoothly as it does.

Yours in Christ

Brian and Jennifer

PCC

The PCC has met 9 times since the last APCM; the meetings have been well attended.

The PCC has the responsibility of working with the minister of the Parish in promoting within the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the church: pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. It also has the maintenance responsibilities for the church building, church hall, churchyard and adjacent field.

The following are the main points discussed during 2018/2019

- The vicar noted that the large print hymn books have been ordered. Barbara Taylor has produced the cards for use by people in church during collection that pay by standing order.
- Nigel Silvester had sent in a sheet relating to the various copyright licences that the church holds. Nigel made the point that the church *does not have a licence to photocopy music nor to photocopy items from publications/documents published in the last 25 years*. The matter was discussed and it was decided not to take out any further licences but the PCC were made aware that we do not have a licence to copy the items in italics above. Everyone was asked to take note.
- It was reported that the Consultancy report detailing the findings of the Focus groups had been put on the church website.
- The Standing committee has met 4 times and has been in touch with the land agent dealing with the sale of the land. It was brought to the attention of the PCC that the standing committee had also included the area of the tennis courts in the sale. The standing committee had also proposed that no decision should be made on the church building options until the land is sold and the PCC know how much money is available. Both of these Standing Committee decisions were put to the PCC and voted on, all were in favour.
- It was agreed that we would have a specific area on one of the church notice boards which would give information on the sale of the land and this would be updated as further information become available. It was also decided to have frequently asked questions on the notice board along with answers.
- The secretary had been in touch with Jane Monks, Diocesan Registrar regarding the heads of terms contract with V9 the original proposed purchasers of the Land in 2012/13. Jane had replied that V9 had gone into liquidation and that as such could not sue anybody. She also reported that the heads of terms agreement were subject to contract which was never signed.
- It was noted that the Vicar, Barbara Taylor and Ian Riddick had visited St Pauls Kersal and All Saints Elton Churches as part of our fact finding for our church development.
- Nick Smeeton talked to the congregation about vocations at the joint service on the 29th April 2018.
- The vicar was pleased with the Stewardship campaign results. The new Bolton Archdeacon was to be commissioned at the cathedral on the 26th March and will move into the vicarage in Springside Road in early March.
- GDPR. Cath Hilton raised a question regarding the new General Data Protection Regulations which comes into force on the 25th May and how this would affect both PCC's. Further clarification was sought from the diocese.
- Brian Crow outlined the contents of the Financial accounts and a vote was taken to accept the audited accounts; all were in favour.
- The secretary was requested to make a road map of the decisions that will be taken in regard to the sale of the field.

- It was decided that the ABC pop in would be in the church hall on Tuesdays from the 11th of September at 9-15 to 10-15 am for all adults with young children. It was also decided to open the church from the 10th of September on Mondays at 8.30 to 9.30 am for tea and toast.

- The copper collection during the year raised £112, the children decide which charities benefit from the collection.
- Bids had been received regarding the sale of the field from a number of contenders and these had been reduced to a short list of five.
- The vicar advised that there was no necessity for people having baptisms to fill in the GDPR forms. However, it was noted that anyone holding names and addresses for people must keep them confidential
- It was noted that Jane Monks was in discussion with Morris homes on the Heads of Terms Contract.
- A new ALM position for the Benefice has been applied for by Ian Banks from St Johns.
- The 5 yearly electrical inspection was carried out on the church and church hall and a certificate was issued with actions to be carried out. There are still a number of category 2 and 3 items to be completed as a result of the inspection.
- The vicar and Hazel Bamford are working on leaflets that give a guide to Christ Church's history and also an information leaflet for any young person visiting the church.
- There is to be a new electoral roll in 2019
- Brian Crow was thanked for his work as acting treasurer during 2018
- The war graves commission sign is awaiting the archdeacon's permission signature.
- The deanery mission action plan was circulated by the vicar.
- The posters advertising the Thursday lunches has been effective and we should make the most of our prime location. it is a very good way of evangelizing.

Ian Riddick PCC Secretary.

Financial Review for year ended 31st December 2018

The financial statement shows our accounts to be in a healthy state to start 2019. But we did not manage to pay our full Parish Share commitment this year,

We were able to pay £24,000, a short fall of just over £6000. Our insurance was up by £2000, the Church repair bills were £4600 of which £3800 was for electrical upgrading. The hall boiler break down cost £1190 to put right, just to mention a few. The Financial Statement gives the full picture.

I must mention the effort put in by Barbara and Nigel Silvester and their kitchen volunteers that do a brilliant job with the Thursday lunches. The profit, the generous donations, giving by the friends and guests that enjoy the food have gone to help charities to the sum of £465, and over £600 donated to the church funds. Many thanks.

Brian Crow

Independent Examiner's Report

to

The Parochial Church Council of Christ Church, Walmersley

I report on the financial statements of the Charity for the year ended 31 December 2017, which are set out in the accompanying pages.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

As PCC members you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements. The PCC members consider that an audit is not required for this year (under section 144 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(1)(a) of the 2011 Act);
- to follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act);
- 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

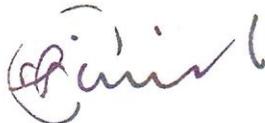
In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

(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.



Mr Alastair Gillian DipFS ACIB
53 Burnedge Fold Road
Grasscroft
Oldham
OL4 4EE

7th March 2019

Christ Church Walmersley Bury

Financial Statement for the year ended 31 December 2018

	Unrestricted Funds		Restricted Funds		TOTAL	TOTAL
	£	£	£	£	2018	2017
Receipts & Payments A/C						
Receipts						
Planned Giving	27,827.51					30,483
Tax efficient	2,840.12					3,809
Other		30,667.63				8,101
Open collections		4,169.59				1,421
Income tax recovered		8,630.79				
Donations		730.00	964.60	964.60		
Activities generating funds [see note 3b]		2,436.62				3,667
Church activity [see note 3c]		12,850.55	15.52	15.52		12,291
Investment income [bank interest]					980.12	1
			59,485.18		60,465.30	59,774
Payments						
Diocesan Parish Share	24,000.00					
Other payments [see note 3d]	32,174.31		1,150.28			73,198
			56,174.31			
Balance - Receipts / Payments	3,310.87		-	170.16	3,140.71	-
Bank Accounts 1st January	2,686.63					
Cash on Hand 1st January	691.97					
Bank Accounts 31st December	5,840.02					
Cash on Hand 31st December	885.37		3,346.79			
			8,074.03			
Increase/Decrease in Funds			35.92		3,140.71	5,204

Statement of Assets & Liabilities	Unrestricted Funds		Restricted Funds		TOTAL 2018	TOTAL 2017
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Cash Funds						
Barclays Current Account	6,773.02		7,669.92			
Barclays Deposit Account	885.37		373.32			
Cash on Hand at 31st December		7,658.39		8,043.24	15,701.63	16,861

Assets retained for church use

Assets recognised but not valued include:
 Church hall building
 Area of land at rear of church buildings known as "The Church Field" and including the former tennis courts [which are in a state of disrepair].
 Mowers, strimmers and various gardening implements.
 Photocopier, scan printer and laminator - plus stock of paper etc.
 Tea urns, kitchen equipment and stock of cutlery & crockery.
 Quantity of chairs & tables
 Junior Church I.T. & media equipment and stationery items.
 DIY equipment including ladders and steps.

Liabilities

Parish Share [unpaid] for years 1999/20006, 2009/2010 and 2014/2015 222,126

The attached notes on pages 3/6 form part of these financial statements.

Approved by the PCC on **20.3.2019** and signed on their behalf by Revd Dave Thompson [Vicar] *D. J. Thompson*

Prepared by Mr Brian Crow [Acting Treasurer]
 Examined and found correct by Mr Alastair Gillian DipfS ACIB

Notes to the Accounts

1. The financial statements of the PCC have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 using the Receipts & Payments basis
2. Other than reimbursement of expenses incurred and organist fees to Mr G Stokes, there were no other payments to PCC members.

3. Receipts & Payments Analysis

	Unrestricted Funds		Restricted Funds		TOTAL 2018		TOTAL 2017	
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
a. Donations	730.00	730.00	964.60	964.60	1,694.60		3,675.00	
				Flowers				
				C/yard				
b. Activities generating funds	1,876.14							
Fund raising events								
Thursday Lunches donations								
Printing sales	112.44							
Tea / coffee	224.24							
Misc income [see note 6]	223.80	2,436.62			2,436.62		2,399.00	
c. Church Activity	3,517.00							
Fees	8,552.25							
Church Hall room hire	781.30	12,850.55			12,850.55		11,557.00	
Magazine sales								
d. Church Activity Payments	8,084.65							
Insurance	6,083.26						6,004.00	
Gas/Water/Electricity	718.75						5,551.00	
Church Services			240.00				1,121.00	
Flowers			910.28				84.00	[linen]
Magazine printing	1,140.00						591.00	
Other printing costs	646.87						837.00	
Administration	2,429.82						1,070.00	
Hall cleaning	2,399.23						2,340.00	
Clergy expenses	2,285.06						3,863.00	
Organist fees	1,680.00						1,890.00	[organ fees]
Mission	38.46						94.00	
Church building [note 4]	4,645.85						6,655.00	
Church Hall building [note 5]	1,279.77						1,441.00	
Church Grounds	479.60						480.00	
Miscellaneous [note 6a]	262.99	32,174.31			33,324.59		7,250.00	
			1,150.28				39,271.00	

Individual Accounts [Apart from the Church Account all the accounts listed represent restricted funds]

	£		£	£
Church	Opening Balance	3,414.70	59,485	
			56,174	
			30	Closing Balance
				6,696
Choir	Opening Balance	687.64	240	
			1	Closing Balance
				449
B/W Flowers	Opening Balance	263.42	-	
			0	Closing Balance
				264
Lychgate	Opening Balance	630.13	1	Closing Balance
				631.32
Disabled Access	Opening Balance	1,511.00	3	Closing Balance
				1,513.84
Repairs / Renovation	Opening Balance	4,572.33	9	
			-	Closing Balance
				4,581
Church Flowers	Opening Balance	319.19	965	
			1	
			30	
			910	Closing Balance
				404
Ackworth Street Barrier	Opening Balance	-	-	
				-
Alter Linen	Opening Balance	216.18	0	Closing Balance
				217
Churchyard Maintenance	Opening Balance	43.00	-	
			0	
			-	Closing Balance
				43
Total Balances		11,657.59		14,798.30

[Bank interest is allocated to all funds held in the Restricted Account but not shown above where that amount is less than £1]

PLANNED GIVING & GIFT AID 2018

As at the end of the current financial year, there are 57 members in the Planned Giving Scheme.

Receipts through the scheme for the twelve months to 31st December 2018 totalled £30,667 an increase of £184 over the previous year.

Of the members 43 have signed Gift Aid declarations, resulting in an estimated tax rebate claim to be made of £6,950.

I would ask any taxpayers who have not already done so to consider completing a Gift Aid declaration. Each £10 given is then worth £12.50 to the church.

Thank you to all who are members of the Planned Giving Scheme for your committed giving.

Any new members will be more than welcome! I can be contacted in church; on 764 0483 or by e-mail taylorbob36@live.co.uk

Bob Taylor
Planned Giving Officer

“Freely you have received
Freely give.”

(St. Matthew 10 v 8).

Flower arrangers 2018

Each week one of the flower ladies, in her turn, from the rota will choose and purchase fresh flowers to create two arrangements for the chancel.

She will then use her skill and imagination to make these displays which will be bright and flamboyant or pale and fragile or any style in between.

The flowers are paid for by the Donor, in memory of a loved one or for a special occasion.

Thank you all who book a date and give donations. There are a few vacant dates left for this year.

Betty M Winterbottom.

Report of the Pastoral Committee to the Annual Parochial Church Meeting 29 April 2019

The committee is chaired by the Vicar, with B Taylor as Secretary.

PCC members are: P Hoyle, M Spencer, P Stokes, J Wood and co-opted is B Silvester.

The purpose of this committee, agreed by the PCC is:

“The Pastoral Committee serves to spread the gospel of Christ through the community, both spiritually and pastorally. It seeks to inform and encourage events or projects locally.”

It was agreed that the joint service on 30 September, held at Christ Church, would be a Celebration of Baptism involving all we could contact who have been baptised in recent years. This would be followed by a faith lunch. As this was also the final service for Gill Barnett, she led with a theme of "Journeys".

The effect of recent changes to data protection (GDPR) was considered. Taking advice from elsewhere it was felt that anyone requesting occasional offices is desirous of being considered part of the church family and therefore can be contacted with information about 'family events'.

Following the stewardship campaign the role of lay visitors to baptism families has been reintroduced. Anyone interested in joining a small team should speak to Barbara Silvester in the first instance.

Concern was expressed that the knitted teddies given to children at baptism do not have a CE label. This was rectified with teddies now being purchased not knitted.

The committee discussed pastoral visiting and the importance of people keeping the ministry team informed. A WhatsApp group is used by the committee members to exchange pastoral information.

The Prayer Chain has now effectively become a Prayer Hub with prayer requests being sent by text message.

It was agreed that funerals at the crematorium, led by ministers from the parish, would be included in the magazine in addition to the current entries from the registers.

Our ministry to young people is kept under review. Currently there are very few children and young people in church regularly.

Following similar discussions at St John with St Mark's, the Vicar spoke to scouting leaders at Christ Church regarding alternative timings for Parade Services. It was their wish to continue with the present attendance on second Sundays at 10.30am.

Consideration was given to keeping church open, following the number who used the building during the five open afternoons of Thy Kingdom Come. After discussion it was agreed to open 2-4 pm on Tuesday afternoons during July, August and September. It was also agreed that from 3 September church would be open from 8.30 – 9.30 am on Mondays for a tea and toast drop in.

The latter was not successful but it has been agreed that the afternoon sessions will be repeated in summer 2019 but brought forward to June, July, August (immediately following Thy Kingdom Come, for which church will be open w/c 3 June). More obvious roadside display options need to be considered.

By then it is also hoped to have guides available for the building.

Children at Christmas: It had been suggested a gift be purchased at Christmas for those children who attend church regularly. The Vicar purchased gifts, using interest from the Baldingstone Fund.

Mothering Sunday fell on 5th Sunday and therefore a joint service was held at 10.30am, at Christ Church. The service was led by members of Mothers' Union, using liturgy written by St Mellitus students for Mothers' Union. As this used imagery of the rose it was decided to give single red roses in place of the usual 5 daffodils.

At Easter, B & N Silvester accepted responsibility again for the Easter garden. The Easter cross was decorated with flowers brought by the congregation.

The Welcome cards, prepared by Mothers' Union, to be taken to those moving into new homes have been updated and will be promoted again.

Policy Statement on Children, Young People and the Church of Christ **Church Walmersley**

This statement was agreed at the PCC meeting held on: 29th April 2018

- 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 provide supervision.
- Our church is committed to following the guidelines and procedures published by the Diocese.
- The parish will adopt good practice guidelines.
- Each worker with children and young people must 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 **Cath Hilton** to be the Child Protection/ Safeguarding Coordinator.
- **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.**

Brownie Report for 2018

*Barbara Duncan, Laura Duncan, Anna Duncan, Eliza Bayfield,
Dorra Bayfield, Tessa Walker*

We still had 15 Brownies in our unit, and opened after Christmas with a 'Bring a board game' night. Girlguiding were bringing in a new style of programme and had sent all units a sample of activities that the girls could do, so for the first few weeks we sampled these new tasks. The Brownies are finding them very different to what they have tried before.

Thinking Day was held at Seedfield Church on a Friday evening and Mrs Duncan was presented with her 20yr Long Service Award. After the half term break, we put forward a camp to be held at the end of June in Springfield Park. There were 12 Brownies who wanted to go. This was to be camping in tents, a first for Brownies.

The camp was very exciting, as we had a day out on the Saturday. A bus ride from the park to Rochdale Station. A wait on the platform for the train to take us to Eureka (Halifax). Only for a late announcement that the train we wanted was cancelled. Northern Rail Guards were striking! Hurriedly we changed our plans and caught the train waiting in the other platform and went to Victoria Station, blagged our way through the barriers with our group ticket and caught the free bus to MOSI (Museum of Science and industry). Spent a good couple of hours there including eating lunch before heading back to Rochdale, this time using our group bus ticket. The Brownies entertained Passengers on the bus playing a game and singing. The weather for our Camp was fantastic.

The Autumn term began with 17 Brownies, a couple dropped out but then we had 3 new ones come along.

The new programme had issued more information and lots of worksheets, so our Christmas term was spent trying out these new ideas. It gives the girls a chance to develop some of their ideas and to comment on what they have discovered.

Dorra did not return after the Summer holiday and very soon Eliza followed her, but then Corby appeared wanting to volunteer, so we keep moving along.

The year ended with the annual Christingle service which the girls enjoy and the following week the Bury Division of Guiding went 10 pin bowling.

Barbara Duncan
Brownie Leader

9th Walmersley (Bury) 2018

So, what have the Scout sections been up to this last year?

9th Walmersley is still doing fantastically well; our Leaders' team is growing with 2 of our leaders finishing their training and achieving their Woods (Jackie Williams & Eliza Bayfield). Numbers for all sections are healthy with 15 Beavers, 16 Cubs, 12 Scouts and 5 Networkers.

We have our annual events which are always well supported:

- St George's Parade in Bury Town Centre.
- Poppy collection, prior to Remembrance Parade, is something we are always proud to support.
- Remembrance Parade in Bury and the Remembrance Walk to Pilgrims Cross on Holcombe Hill.
- Christmas Charity Boxes for the Salvation Army

Network

We have 5 Leaders who fall within this group, Melman (Matthew Smith) & Simba (Eliza Bayfield) with the addition of Freddie and Archie Nicol, who work with the Beavers, and James Weston, who works with the Cubs.

Explorers

We currently have no Explorers as they have all moved up to Leader positions but the success that they have had this last year has been phenomenal. James, Freddie and Archie all went to Switzerland to do their Explorer Belt which they received from our Madam Mayor Jane Black in February.



Scouts.

Scouts have also worked extremely hard this last year completing the Adventure, Skills, Personal, World, Teamwork & Team Leader Challenge Badges along with achieving over 13 Activity Badges. They attended the summer camp at Giants Seat which was a really successful and also took part in the winter camp this January at Ashworth Valley, a Site Service Camp at Linnet Clough in February and will hopefully be doing a camp in May to complete their Expedition Challenge. Our next summer camp is already booked for Bowley Camp Site in July where the boys will be challenged to sleep outside in hammocks (some of the leaders experimented with this on last year's camp and it was a huge success)!

Cubs.

2018 has been a fabulous year for the Cub section which continues to run at full capacity. We have had 7 boys achieve their Chief Scout Silver (the highest award in the Cub section) before

moving on to Scouts. The Group enjoyed a cold and snowy winter camp followed by a hugely successful and gloriously sunny summer camp which for many was their first time sleeping under canvas. Here the boys learnt many new skills as well as building fires and firing laser tags through the woods with the added bonus of watching England play in the World Cup! This year the boys took great delight in supporting the Salvation Army in their Christmas Appeal, and collected a valuable selection of Christmas gifts for those less fortunate than themselves. It's definitely been an action-packed year with boys earning numerous badges such as the Artist, Astronomy, Backwoods cooking, Global Issues, Naturalist, and Community Impact to name but a few.

Beavers.

The Colony has been on a hike up Holcombe Hill and through the Burrs. They have done two charity badges this year taking part in the Water Aid Badge and the Christmas Parcel Fund for the Salvation Army.

As is usual they have worked hard and completed lots of activity badges: Disability, Space, Explore, Safety, Hikes Away and Community which all work towards their Chief Scout Bronze Award. Four of the Beavers have achieved this award this year – of which they should be extremely proud as it is the highest award they can get as a Beaver.

Once again, we would like to give a huge Thank you to the Church Wardens, the PCC and members of the congregation for their continued support and welcome. Without the Church Hall and support of the Church there would be no 9th Walmersley and that would be tragedy.

In 2004 9th Walmersley celebrated 90years Scouting at Christchurch Walmersley which would mean that this is our 105th year together. We have been in touch with Head Office to confirm this is correct but they only have us registered from 1936 – can anybody help us with clarifying what year 9th Walmersley Scouts started?

Koda, Melman, Zazu, Akela, Baloo, Donatello, Boomer, Simba, Raphael & Leonardo.

Men of the Benefice report 2018

2018 may have been a year of change with both Gill & Paul moving on, but another significant one was the change of regular MOB venue to The Towler following the closure of The Sundial (it's since reopened though).

There were various talks throughout the year, including a discussion about 'All Things English' to mark our St. George's Day meeting and in October Jack Sutton spoke about his recent trip to Brazil.

Other events throughout the year included an evening walk in May led by Geoff Hamilton, which took us through Summerseat and The Burrs, with stops at The Footballers and The Brown Cow, and as it was a World Cup year, we took the opportunity to watch England's opening match against Tunisia on the screen in the Barrett Room.

Also, as this was Gill's last year, we allowed her to join us in The Sundial in September as our guest and to wish her all the best.

Our year ended in December with a good number of us joining together at the lady's favourite haunt, La Dolce Vita Italian restaurant, for a meal and socialise.

Thanks to all who joined us in 2018 and those who led evenings.

David Robinson

Walking group report 2018

During the course of 2018 the walking group met on a number of occasions for some new, and also some familiar walks.

We opened our programme on Epiphany with a walk around the three Reservoirs of Bolton, those being Jumbles, Turton & Entwistle and the Wayoh. We spent a good portion of this day on the Witton Weavers Way.

Extremely heavy snowfall caused us to postpone for the remainder of the winter so we resumed in April, and Geoff Hamilton took us on a tour of the old industrial mill ruins of Cheesden Valley and Deeply Vale. This was extremely informative and also produced a Website hit with its title of 'The Forgotten Valley' when reviewed on the St. John with St. Mark site.

May is now established as the Benefice walk and was once again linked in with the 'Thy Kingdom Come' prayer initiative. Paul was heavily involved with the St. Stephen's flower festival in June therefore we had an idea to walk from our Benefice, to St. Stephen's Elton, which we did via Affetside. This also gave us an opportunity to spend some time at the flower festival and enjoy lunch there.

You may recall we had a rather lengthy heat wave last summer, and it was during this spell in July that we walked one of our regular routes through Roch Valley Greenway, Springwater Park in Radcliffe and along the former Manchester, Bolton and Bury canal.

Our walk in August was led by Ralph through his former Parish in Unsworth, which also covered Simister, Egypt Farm and Heaton Park. This was a much drier affair than when we last did it, when we had mud up to our ankles.

We had a couple of breaks in the Autumn so our two walks were in October and December, and the first of these was led by Michael Ryan who took us across Fletcher Bank Quarry, through Nuttall Park and Summerseat, and down what is known to us as 'Horrible Hill' leading to Bleakholt and St. John in the Wilderness. In December we took the Metrolink to Victoria before walking back along the route of the Irwell Sculpture Trail via Peel Park, Kersal Dale and the Outwood Trail in the pouring rain.

It was a mixed bag last year, both with the routes and certainly the weather. It was great that Paul and Gill have continued to join us, despite both moving to pastures new.

Best Foot Forward, David Robinson

CHRIST CHURCH WALMERSLEY MOTHERS' UNION

BRANCH LEADER REPORT – February 2019

2018 saw another interesting mix of meetings held on the first and third Wednesday evenings of each month, although we did break with this in July when on a hot and sunny afternoon a number of members visited Pendle Heritage Centre for Afternoon Tea. This was in place of a summer evening meal.

We enjoyed a Christmas meal at the Red Hall with spouses and friends.

On Mothering Sunday, it was a pleasure to enrol Denise Booth into the branch.

Thanks go to our clergy and lay members in the Benefice who led us in Lenten reflections, Holy Communion and Evensong services during the year. These are always very moving, intimate and prayerful moments about each of us affirming our faith and reaching out to others in Jesus name.

Our membership remains stable and finances continue to allow us to make contributions in supporting MU projects within the Diocese. A new project this year is "Welcoming Strangers" and the branch will be supporting this.

Many thanks to members for their faithful support throughout the year and especially to Tricia Stokes- Secretary, Barbara Silvester- Treasurer and Ruth Butcher - Card Secretary along with all committee members.

The theme for this year is "Listen, Observe, Act - in step with God" and I hope to incorporate this in our opening worship at the start of each meeting.

September sees us reach 110 years of a Mothers' Union presence in Walmersley, a tremendous achievement, and we will be celebrating accordingly.

2019 sees the start of a new triennium with a new Worldwide President in Sheran Harper from Guyana. The York Diocesan President is June Houghton and York Zonal Trustee is our own Cath Hilton, maintaining Walmersley's link with Mothers' Union nationally for a further 3 years.

The Bury Deanery leader is Julie Lancaster.

New members will be especially welcome so if you know anyone who you think might be interested in joining this great organisation do please ask them to come along to a meeting with you.

Bob Taylor
Branch Leader

OPEN GROUP

The Open Group began its 2018 programme of events in March by inviting Reverend Keith Trivasse to talk a little about himself, and most importantly his ministry journey. This he did sat facing us in a chair, with members firing questions at opportune moments. This then gave Ian his incentive to do the same thing for the April meeting when we heard about his day job at Schawk and other things we may not have known about the Treasurer.

Geoff Stokes volunteered to lead us on his musical journey in May, a talk he had previously done for MOB the year before.

David Andrew spoke to us in June about articles from the Church Times and we also heard a little about two major Christian figures, John Wesley and Martin Luther.

Elizabeth Bailey, John and Margaret Brennan's daughter, spoke to us in July about her work as a Religious Education teacher at Turton High School. NB – Also the night of England's World Cup semi-final against Croatia, so thanks to all who came out for that one!

We heard from Nigel Silvester in September about 'Tales of a Scilly Man' and his work as a customs and excise officer, whilst our craft night with Linda in October changed at the last minute for a talk by Dave on significant things in his life, complete with a bag of visual aids.

Paul gave up some time from his ministry at St. Stephen's and was our speaker in November, and again chose to talk about himself, whilst our year ended with a Christmas get-together complete with quizzes, sandwiches, drinks and June's trifle.

This was the first year we completed a programme without actually putting one together at the start of the year, so thanks to all who volunteered to speak, some at the last minute!

David Robinson