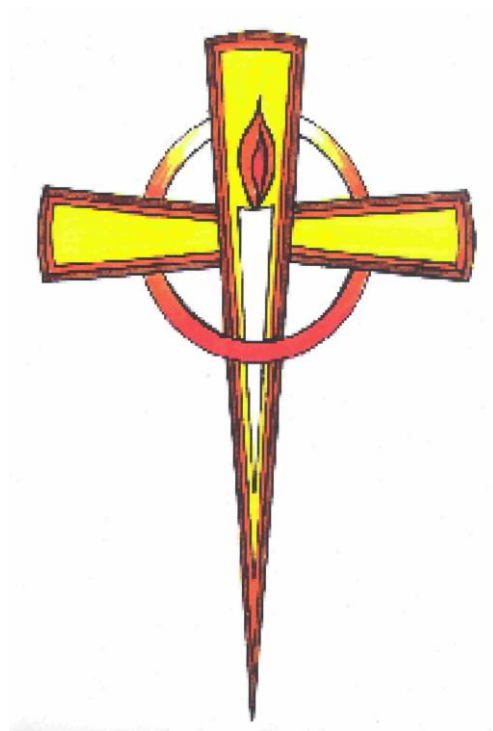


**- PARISH OF CHRIST CHURCH WALMERSLEY
IN THE UNITED BENEFICE OF WALMERSLEY ROAD**

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



**ANNUAL REPORT 2024/25 & FINANCIAL STATEMENT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2024**

The Parish of Christ Church, Walmersley, Bury – Annual Report of the Parochial Church Council for the year ended 18th May 2025

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

Vicar	Revd Harvie Nicol
Lay Chair	Canon Barbara Taylor
Reader	Mr Ian Banks
Reader Emeritus	Mrs Margery Spencer
Church Wardens	Mrs Jennifer Wood Mr Jason Edwards

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

Lay Chairman	Canon Barbara Taylor
Treasurer	Canon Barbara Taylor
Secretary	Mr Ian W Riddick
Representatives Deanery Synod	Canon Catherine Hilton Canon Barbara Taylor .
Elected Members	Mrs Hazel Bamford Mrs Denise Booth Mr Geoffrey Hamilton Mrs Lillian Lees Mr Ian Riddick Mr Geoff Stokes Mrs Patricia Stokes Miss Rosemary Taylor
Diocesan Synod	Canon Barbara Taylor Mr Alan Thew

Sidespersons

Mr Paul Chan
Mr Geoffrey Hamilton
Miss Pamela Hoyle
Ms Amy Paterson
Mr Ian W Riddick
Mrs Kathleen Whipp

Other Officers

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

Electoral Roll Officer Mrs Hazel Bamford

Planned Giving & Gift Aid Mr Robert Taylor

ELECTORAL ROLL REPORT

May 2025 there are currently 60 people on the Electoral Roll,
Hazel J. Bamford
Electoral Roll Officer.

WARDENS REPORT 2024-2025

Our new Minister Harvie Nicol was appointed to our Benefice in April 2024 but unfortunately became unwell with which he initially thought were migraines, but unfortunately it was much worse than he initially thought.

Harvie preached at the joint service on Easter Sunday and explained to us all that he was still our incumbent, but he needed the conversation with Human Resources (HR) as if he returned it would not be on a full time basis. We must all continue to pray for Harvie and Sally.

Ian Banks has again continued doing a fantastic job of ringing around retired ministers, with the help of course from Margery, Cath Hilton and Rosemary Taylor, so that he could complete a rota to enable church services to carry on, as well as doing a full-time job.

Our Church Boiler decided to break down completely in October and all Church services were in the Church hall. In February we had new boilers fitted and then Church was given a deep clean by a band of very helpful people and we are now back worshipping in church.

Thanks as always to the team that keep our church clean, the lady that cleans the brasses, the flower arrangers, the Hall cleaner, the ladies and sometimes men that do tea and coffee after the services and the garden maintenance team - what would we do without you all? Doesn't the church yard look great?

We would like to give a big thank you to Ian Riddick, church secretary, for all the work he does especially the work and many hours he has put in on the sale of the church field, we now need time to decide which is the way forward.

Thank you to Barbara Taylor our church treasurer and for keeping the PCC in check in her role as lay chair in the absence of a minister.

The Scarecrows visited us again and the theme was books, they will be here again in July and the theme is sport so get your thinking caps on.

We must not forget to thank Paul, Belinda and their magnificent team for the meal that they prepared for 43 people in the church hall.

God Bless You All

Jason and Jennifer

PCC SECRETARY'S REPORT 2023/24

Secretary's summary report of meetings throughout the year.

A short PCC meeting was held after the 2024 APCM for the election of officers of the PCC. Those elected were willing to stand again for the offices and elected were:

Lay Chair: Barbara Taylor

Treasurer: Barbara Taylor

Secretary: Ian Riddick

Electoral Roll Officer : Hazel Bamford

Planned Giving: Bob Taylor

8th May 2024

An email meeting was held to give authority for the secretary, the lay chair and Geoff Hamilton to sign the deed of transfer for the sale of the church field. All persons approved the signing of the deed of transfer to Morris Homes.

29th May 2024

Pens for school Leavers: Barbara Taylor showed the pens that the PCC had bought for the leavers of Springside school. Purchased with money from the Baldingstone school trust account.

Archdeacons Visitation: Will be at St Peter's on the 17th June at 7.30pm.

Scarecrow Festival: The treasurer had produced a flyer which was circulated at the PCC meeting.

Financial: The money for the sale of the field was noted as having been received and invested.

The vicar noted that we would leave it invested for the moment. The fees received for the local elections were £365. The vicar thanked the treasurer for all her work.

Appointment of Sidespersons: The following were appointed as sidespersons for 2024/25

Paul Chan, Ian Riddick, Geoff Hamilton, Pamla Hoyle, Kath Whipp, Amy Paterson.

Mission: The vicar commented as follows, how we spend the money from the sale of the church field will be when we know what we are here for. What is the point of Christ Church Walmersley? Was it for our benefactors or to the glory of God. We should Honour the past, Honour the present and Honour what we leave for the future generation.

Quinquennial Inspection: The secretary to advise the diocese that the inspection needs doing.

Electrical Inspection report: The secretary outlined the new report and that there was one item which needed immediate attention. This was the C2 earthing of the gas pipe in the church..

Church Notice Board: A new church Notice board was discussed and the vicar volunteered to get a quote for a new metal notice board.

Vicar's remarks: Thank you to everyone for the warm welcome I received. I will state that I do not want change for changes sake, I will however change things. I will discuss with the ministry team and work closely together with everyone.

We need to have our Mission Action plan and support the Mission Community.

22nd July 2024

Financial: The treasurer reported as follows. Income: Plate collections included £295 cash from two funerals and two baptisms. Hall hire includes £480 from 9th Bury Scout Group, being payment for the full year 2024,

Expenditure: Utilities includes a payment to SSE for gas of £4,097 following months of frustrating conversations. The contract ended on 31 May 2024 and we now have a new contract with E-on, brokered through Switch 365 Ltd. A final invoice has now been issued by SSE showing a credit due to us of £343.86 which will be claimed.

Pens, with a pouch, for Springside School Leavers, were purchased through the Baldingstone Trust at a cost of £70.48. These were again much appreciated.

We should look at applying for a diocesan grant for church Heating. A donation of £1000 was received towards the purchase of a new cooker for the church Hall

Mission Action Plan Discussion: The PCC were split up into 4 groups. The groups were each given plain sheets of paper and the following questions were discussed at length with each group writing down their answers to the questions.

1. Why do we want a church.
2. Who do we want to spread the good news to.
3. What will the church be like in 15 years' time, what is your dream vision for the future worship space you want to see and what does it look like. Worshipping, growing, nurturing.
4. We should consider the past, the present and the future in our thoughts.

Committees: There was a discussion on the existing committee's organisation and it was decided that the committees going forward would be as follows.

1. Standing committee: Harvie Nicol, Barbara Taylor, Jennifer Wood, Jason Edwards, Ian Riddick.
2. Church and Churchyard management committee. Jason Edwards, Geoff Hamilton, Ian Riddick, Geoff Stokes.
3. Pastoral committee. Barbara Taylor, Harvie Nicol, Jennifer Wood
4. Hall Management committee. Jennifer Wood, Lillian Lees+ volunteers (a pew message should be considered).

Outreach was posed as being a possible committee and Rosemary Taylor volunteered to be part of it. This committee structure and mission needs further discussion at the next PCC meeting. An individual will be needed to take on the role of Health and safety officer for the Church, Church yard and Church Hall.

It was noted that more volunteers for church cleaning were required.

It was considered for future discussion that the church should try to have an identifiable theme running through all its correspondence, signs, adverts, notice boards etc. Colour, design, artwork, lettering style to be considered.

24th September 2024

Matters arising : Lone working Conditions, a document with details on lone working was received by the PCC from Cath Hilton. This was discussed and it was approved by the PCC for distribution to all key holders.

Correspondence: Information on the annual church attendance count had been received by the standing committee members. The secretary reported that the Quinquennial inspection had been arranged for Wednesday the 13th of November with BTP architects.

Financial: The treasurer reported as follows. A figure of £365 was received for hall rental for the general election. A donation of £200 has been received to cover the balance of the cost of the new cooker. A further donation in September covered the installation.

£750 has been paid for work undertaken in August, to trees in the churchyard. A credit of £343.86 has been received from SSE on the cessation of the gas contract.

13th November 2024

Financial: The treasurer's report had been circulated to all PCC members. The yearly payment for organisations using the hall was discussed. A figure of £155 had been discussed this was proposed for acceptance by Jennifer Wood and seconded by Ian Riddick.

Church Heating: The church boiler had been condemned by our heating engineer Richard Alexander Brown. The Diocesan heating consultant visited the church on the 6th of November 2024. He was shown around the church and left to review all the inside aspects of the church heating. After he had finished a discussion was held on the types of heating. He stated that we would have to submit the necessary calculations to the diocese in support of a faculty application. He also suggested that he may be able to source someone to install the heating sooner than Richard Brown. If we decided to accept him to do a report and submit calculations it would cost Ax £800.

Gas Meter and QI inspection: The gas meter that supplies the church and the church hall has had a smart meter fitted by EON. The quinquennial church inspection was carried out on the 20th of November 2024 by our new church architect Adrian Pearson.

Plan for choosing a route forward for the church and the community. The method of deciding which way forward with our building restoration for worship and community use was discussed. A series of information sheets had been produced by the diocese of Hereford and subsequently issued in a different format by the Church of England. These have been forwarded to PCC members by Geoff

Stokes. It was stated at the meeting that a group of people would have to be formed to take on the responsibility for the different aspects of the work involved. The process is likely to take one to two years to complete before any work is started.

Safeguarding: All PCC members should take part in the online basic safeguarding course which is available online.

Lay Chair remarks: It is important that we consider inviting other than PCC members to assist in ECO church, Stewardship, sub committees and focus groups

AOB: There is to be a Lay readership conference on the 1st March 2025.

There is a growing younger conference on the 7th of February 2025.

The question of the new notice boards was discussed, it was decided to purchase two new notice boards from The Church Notice Board Company. Proposed Ian Riddick seconded by Tricia Stokes all were in favour. and it was noted that there needs to be a decision made on the lettering to finally proceed and order them.

10th December 2024

The following email was sent out to All PCC members for their approval to proceed with the quotation for a new heating boiler for Christ Church Walmersley.

To All,

*Please find attached the quotation for the new heating boiler for church as supplied by our heating engineer Richard Alexander Brown. the Standing committee are of a mind to proceed with a faculty application for this quotation. For installation in February 2025. **Will all members please review the quotation and forward their approval to proceed with this** to the secretary. Once I have everyone's approval I will submit a faculty application.*

regards Ian Riddick

PCC secretary.

All the members of the PCC responded by email with their approval to proceed.

14th January 2025

Matters Arising: A new water boiler had been ordered and installed. A new keyboard had been obtained by Tricia Stokes and Geoff Stokes. The standing committee had not met to discuss the new church notice boards.

Correspondence: the secretary had received an email from Amelia Brummitt about the Bury and Rossendale Growing Younger Conference at Bury Church High School. The Lay Chair had already circulated the PCC members with this.

Financial: The Treasurer reported on the current finances and circulated a copy of the December 2024 accounts to all PCC members, we also paid £2790 for a report on the field site survey. We now have a more accurate viewpoint regarding our utility bills. And again, we paid our parish share in full.

Church Heating: A faculty had been sent to the diocese in December for the installation of a new heating boiler for the church. This was assisted by communications from John Book the Diocesan heating advisor and Richard Alexander Brown our heating Contractor. The DAC approved the faculty as being a List B application which subsequently did not need a Full faculty. Permission has been received from the Archdeacon to install a new gas boiler in the church. This is due to be installed on the 17th of February over a period of two weeks. A grant has also been applied for part of the installation. Supported by an email from the secretary to Robert Chilton at the diocese.

Report /Actions On the condition of the church Hall: The report was discussed and the property group were asked to take a look at the action items to see what could be done in house and what we may need to purchase from outside.

A discussion was held regarding the future of the church and the church hall regarding improving the church and/or the church Hall as a community and worship centre. It was noted that the Diocese has produced information for the PCC to guide them through the process and actions necessary for any work in modifying the buildings. Each PCC member was encouraged to read chapter 1 of the Hereford Diocese "crossing the threshold toolkit" an internet reference will be sent to all PCC members by the secretary.

The lay chair recommended all PCC members to think about what skill sets they may have and also what skill sets other congregation members may have, as we will have need of expertise in many areas as we move forward.

Safeguarding: All PCC members were again asked to take part in the online basic safeguarding course which is available online at the diocese website.

AOB: On the 1st of February Paul and Belinda have organised a Chinese meal to celebrate the Lunar New Year. There are 40 tickets available at a cost of £10 each and are available from Jennifer Wood.

17th February 2025

Correspondence: An email was sent to the PCC by Harvie Nicol regarding a free energy audit by Arrow Energy from the diocese, the lay chair noted that the Arrow Energy person would visit on the 4th of March to carry out an energy audit. The Lay chair noted that there was a resignation letter from Ian Riddick who was retiring from the position of secretary and from the PCC. Geoffrey Hamilton said that the PCC appreciated everything that Ian had done over the years. The Lay chair asked people to think about things they could help with.

Financial: The church needs to register as a charity due to the church now holding responsibility for the funds from the sale of the church field.

Report/Actions on the Church Hall: Jennifer Wood reported that church hall was inundated with birthday party bookings. The churchyard group had done work on the church hall yard and work on the main hall flooring near the exit door.

Safeguarding: Cath Hilton reported that she was up to date with what is required on the safeguarding dashboard. Cath also explained the ex-offender's policy document to the PCC. An up-to-date list of Church activities needs to be on the safeguarding dashboard. PCC officers need to do the foundation course for safeguarding on the Manchester diocese safeguarding website. The ex-offender's recruitment policy was proposed for acceptance by Ian Riddick, seconded by Lillian Lees and all were in favour.

Church yard group: Geoff Hamilton reported that two trees with ash dieback had been removed. Two mowers had been sent for service and a new light had been fitted to the back door exit in the church hall yard.

Eco church: It was noted that Alan Thew and Geoff Stokes had taken on the responsibility for ECO church.

Mission community: There is to be a confirmation service at Christ Church later this year.

Barbara Taylor, Cath Hilton, and Rosemary Taylor attended the Growing Younger conference at Bury Church High School. Cath mentioned from the conference that 40% of practising Christians came to faith before the age of 5. Also, there were several Workshops at the conference;

Intergenerational, Planting seeds growing faith, youth sacred spaces, Christianity, Mindfulness, and wellbeing. There were notes regarding messy church, campfire church and pop-up nativity. There will be an article on the conference in the March magazine.

Barbara Taylor discussed outreach and noted that Harvie Nicol had given Rosemary Taylor the responsibility for outreach. There is to be a Harvest lunch, Scarecrow festival and a Christmas tree festival again this year.

Where To Next: there was a discussion but nothing was decided and we need the vicar back with us before we can move forward with plans for the future of the church.

18th March 2025

Correspondence: The secretary had received a Building Grant certificate from the Diocese, once this was signed and returned with copies of the new Boiler invoices a 50% grant would be paid by the Diocese.

Financial: The financial figures were noted as being the usual format but are not the final figures. We now need an auditor to review and sign off the accounts, the treasurer is investigating possible auditors. We also need to register as a charity as we are currently an excepted charity and no longer meet the criteria. The secretary raised the option for the future of using the funds that had built up in the Baldingstone trust account for Springside School children.

Safeguarding: Nothing to report, Cath Hilton thanked everyone for the safeguarding course results that had been completed.

Church yard group: The secretary noted that the lawnmowers and petrol containers must not be stored in church as this would invalidate our buildings insurance.

Pastoral: The lay chair proposed that the PCC spend £92 for Easter cards, seconded by the secretary, all were in favour.

Springside School Easter service in church is on the 3rd of April at 10am.

Rosemary reported on the VE day celebration, Alan Spencer to look at data on Rosemary's report.

The PCC agreed to go ahead with the VE day celebration. There was a further discussion among PCC members. It was considered to move the Christmas tree festival earlier than last year. There was a discussion on a hot cross bun event at 9.45am before the 10.30 service on Easter Day.

Vision for 2030: The Lay chair passed round papers to all PCC members to read and bring back with comments or questions for the next meeting.

Nurturing: The Revd, Canon Donna Williams spoke on Nurturing and in particular ways to improve our praying together.

In closing various parallel thoughts were expressed from various PCC members.

14th April 2025

The Lay Chair informed the PCC that Betty Winterbottom had died the previous day and a moment of silence was held whilst everyone remembered all that Betty had done for the PCC and the church over her lifetime.

Correspondence: The secretary had received correspondence from the diocese in regard to the upcoming APCM.

Financial: Geoff Hamilton gave congratulations to the treasurer on a good year's financial report. It was noted that we were on track to pay our Parish Share. A suggestion was put forward regarding having a box at the back of church to be used for anyone's unwanted foreign currency.

Safeguarding: The PCC safeguarding policy was proposed for approval by Tricia Stokes and seconded by Jennifer Wood. This was to be ratified at the APCM in May.

Committee reports

Church: The electrical work in church had been completed.

Church yard group: work had been done on the church cellar and one of the petrol mowers had been repaired.

Church Hall: It was noted that work needed to be done on the church hall roof to ensure there were no rainwater leaks and that the missing ceiling tiles needed replacing. Jason Edwards will get 2/3 quotes for the repair of the roof.

Mission community: It was noted that there was to be an Easter Vigil at St Mary the Virgin on Saturday the 19th April at 6.30pm and that the next mission community event will be on the 21st June 2025 with a possible focus on litter picking.

Outreach: There was a discussion on the details for the hot cross bun serving on Easter Sunday between the two morning services. There was a discussion on the theme of the Scarecrow festival due to be set up on the 10th July 2025. The organisation and details of the VE day celebration on the 6th May were discussed. Everyone was asked to look up old photos or newspaper articles relating to Walmersley or individuals in the second world war.

Lay Chair comments: The Lay chair outlined her thoughts on the comments on prayer at the last meeting from Revd. Canon Donna Williams. There was a general discussion on what we may do in connection with prayer groups, opening the church up on specific days and looking for people to lead us in prayer.

Ian Riddick

PCC Secretary April 2025

FINANCIAL REVIEW 2024

Our thanks to all who maintained or increased their giving in 2024. Planned giving levels remained stable, increasing by just 3.76% (2023 fell by 6.06%). There has been a significant increase in giving through the contactless device, £1505 in 2024 compared with £233 in 2023 and this is now shown as a separate element in the accounts. Plate collections increased by £613.

Yet again we were able to pay the requested Parish Share of £30,034, benefitting by £588 from the Encouragement Scheme as we continue to meet each quarterly milestone. The Parish Share for 2025 is £30,935, based on our average weekly attendance and median average income as returned each October. We have every intention of meeting this request and are paying £2,575 per month.

Proceeds from Thursday Lunches enabled donations of £1,231 to Church funds, various fundraising events added £514 and we are grateful for several other donations which total just over £3,000. Income from Church Hall lettings has increased by an amazing 23.8% but does of course bring associated expenses.

Our normal expenditure has increased by 25.6%. Some of this relates to the ongoing issue with utilities but all our contracts have now been renewed with different suppliers so it is hoped that payments will be far timelier in 2025. Some of the increase is explained in Notes 4,5 and 6.

However, monthly expenditure continues to regularly exceed our monthly income. Ignoring the unusual figures relating to the field sale, our General Fund would show a deficit of £8,682 and this is not sustainable. It remains vital that we each consider whether our giving has risen in line with the increasing cost of living. Ideally everyone needs to review their position at least annually and see whether they are able to adjust the amount.

I was taught not to use the word 'unique' lightly but 2024 has to have been, financially, a unique year.

Last year in this report I indicated that receipt of monies from the sale of part of the Church Field would also bring fees to pay for those who have worked in anticipation of covering their costs. The Diocese underwrote the costs we incurred opposing the application for Village Green status, so this loan had to be repaid. Note 8 in the accounts shows clearly details of the sale, and Note 9 shows items which in previous years have been paid from our general funds and have now been transferred back. The monies received are gaining a good rate of interest while invested in CCLA Investment Management, where they remain easily accessible once required.

We have £2.94 million in a fund designated for Future Development. This is not a restricted fund, it does not limit us to developing either one of our buildings. Whilst I appreciate that everyone would like to see progress, it will take time and much consultation to determine the way forward. It is essential that having 'sold the family silver' it is used to ensure the very best future for the Church here in Walmersley for many generations to come.

Through some very difficult years we have held to a vision of the Parish of Christ Church Walmersley moving forward as a living, vibrant, enthusiastic, growing body of Christians, with a mission to spread God's love throughout our community. That will need each and every one of us, committing spiritually, practically, and financially in addition to spending wisely our vastly higher reserves.

Canon Barbara C Taylor
Hon Treasurer

April 2025

**THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF
CHRIST CHURCH WALMERSLEY BURY**

**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31 DECEMBER 2024**

CHRIST CHURCH WALMERSLEY PCC
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

	Unrestricted Funds		Designated Funds		Restricted Funds		Total 2024	Total 2023
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	
Receipts & Payments A/C								
Receipts								
Planned Giving	Tax efficient	23,303				23,303	23,942	
	Other	3,881				3,881	2,256	
Electronic collections	Tax efficient	265				265	-	
	Other	1,240				1,240	233	
Open collections						4,227	3,614	
Income tax recovered						7,814	8,124	
Legacies						-	8,214	
Donations [see note 3a]						3,114	2,430	
Activities generating funds [see note 3b]						1,809	1,556	
Church activity [see note 3c]						20,948	18,911	
Investment income (bank interest)						843	501	
Investment income (CCLA interest)						48,247	-	
Unusual income (see note 9)						2,909,838	-	
						693	69,781	
						3,025,529		
Payments								
Diocesan Parish Share							(27,280)	
Other payments [see note 3d]						1,093	(35,105)	
						(1,093)		
						(76,526)		
Balance - Receipts / Payments						(400)	7,396	
						2,949,003		
Statement of Funds								
Balances at 1 January 2024						6,855	59,881	
						67,277		
Increase/(Decrease) in Funds						(400)	7,396	
						2,949,003		
Balances at 31 December 2024						6,455	67,277	
						3,016,280		

CHRIST CHURCH WALMERSLEY PCC
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

Represented by:

Cash Funds at 31 December 2024
Barclays Current Account
Barclays Deposit Account 1
Barclays Deposit Account 2
CCLA
Cash in Hand

	Unrestricted Funds		Designated Funds		Restricted Funds		Total 2024	Total 2023	
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
	3,160					6,346	12,043		
	14						6,266		
	48,440						48,691		
	15,894		2,942,191				-		
	126				109		277		
		67,634		2,942,191		6,455	3,016,280		67,277

Assets retained for church use

Assets recognised but not valued include:

- Church hall building;
- Area of land remaining at rear of church buildings known as "The Church Field";
- Mowers, strimmers and various gardening equipment;
- DIY equipment including ladders and steps;
- Laminator, stationery and general office items;
- I.T. & media equipment;
- Mobile telephone and contactless devices;
- Tea urns, kitchen equipment and stock of cutlery & crockery;
- Quantity of chairs & tables.

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

Prepared by Canon Barbara C Taylor [PCC Treasurer]

CHRIST CHURCH WALMERSLEY PCC
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

Notes to the Accounts

1. The financial statements of the PCC have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2011 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 2024	Total 2023
	£	£	£	£
a. Sundry donations				
b. Activities generating funds				
Fund raising events	514			603
Thursday Lunches donations	1,231			826
Printing sales	34			87
Tea and coffee after services	30			40
	1,809		1,809	1,556
c. Church Activity Receipts				
Fees	3,633			3,523
Church Hall room hire	15,335			12,388
Magazine sales	901			1,026
Flowers	-	599		864
Energy Costs grant	-			330
Contribution to church heating	480			780
	20,349	599	20,948	18,911
d. Church Activity Payments				
Insurance	8,794			8,549
Utilities	11,684			10,625
Administration	200			248
Costs to deduct from fee income	1,100			-
Costs of contactless device	30			18
Hall cleaning	2,145			2,073
Clergy expenses (incl housing)	1,808			-
Magazine printing costs	1,299			1,310
Other printing costs	308			1,014
Printer leasing	1,046			331
Organist fees	2,120			2,160
Worship resources	1,030	96		1,248
Mission costs	380			839
Flowers	-	541		723
Fundraising expenses	59			31
Expenses for Thursday Lunches	58	456		-
Church building [note 4]	3,195			1,281
Church Hall building [note 5]	4,251			2,552
Church Grounds [note 6]	3,480			2,078
Miscellaneous expenditure [note 7]	2,970			25
	45,957	1,093	47,050	35,105

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

Notes to the Accounts, continued

4. Church Building		£
Repairs to heating	1,405	
Electrical installation	960	
Fire extinguisher maintenance	76	
Roof repair (vestry)	350	
Organ maintenance	331	
General repairs	73	
	3,195	
		=====
5. Church Hall		£
Boiler service & plumbing repairs	498	
Electrical work & installation	1,625	
Fire extinguisher maintenance	76	
Replacement range cooker (covered by donations)	1,372	
Replacement water boiler	468	
New window pane	180	
General repairs	32	
	4,251	
		=====
6. Church Grounds		£
Felling of trees	3,230	
Lawnmower	200	
Sundries	50	
	3,480	
		=====

7. Miscellaneous expenditure

Review of field site by Hydrack	2,970
<hr/>	
	2,970
<hr/> <hr/>	

CHRIST CHURCH WALMERSLEY PCC
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

Notes to the Accounts, continued

8. Sale of part of land known as 'the Church Field'

Proceeds on sale of parcel of land to Morris Homes Ltd	£	£
Interest received on deposit monies		3,017,721
		<u>2,662</u>
		3,020,383
Less costs:		
Conditional contract fee	10,000	
Land agent fees	55,304	
Solicitors fees	6,651	
Repayment of loan from MDBF (re Village Green application)	38,590	
		<u>(110,545)</u>

Monies invested in CCLA

2,909,838

9. Reconciliation of Designated Fund for Future Development

Monies received in 2024	£	£	£
			2,909,838

Items accounted for in earlier years relating to the sale of land

Charity Commission report	2020	1,500
Solicitors' fee	2021	3,934
Land agent fee	2021	3,600
Solicitors' fees	2022	24,060

Non-returnable deposit

2021 17,200

Amount transferred back to General Fund

17,200 33,094 (15,894)

CCLA interest

48,247

Amount shown in new Designated Fund

2,942,191

MEMO: Agency Collection

Non PCC Fees received	£	£
Fees to Manchester DBF	(2,389)	2,389

Addendum - Charitable Donations at CCW 2024

Bury Homeless (Christmas Tree Festival)
Bury Hospice
Children's Society (Christingle and collecting boxes)
Christian Aid
Cleft
Jigsaw (Scarecrow Festival)
Porch
Press Red
Royal British Legion
Thursday Lunches

Tearfund
Guide Dogs for the Blind
Bury Hospice

Ongoing support continues to be given to:
Porch Box with donations of foodstuff, etc;
Salvation Army with donations of Christmas toys

CHRIST CHURCH WALMERSLEY PCC
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

Individual Funds			
Unrestricted		£	
Church	Balance b/f	60,422	
			£
	Unrestricted income	66,751	
	Adjustment re earlier years' costs	15,894	
		82,645	
	Unrestricted expenditure	(75,433)	67,634
Designated			
Future Development Fund			
	Income from Sale	2,909,838	
	Plus interest	48,247	
	Adjustment re earlier years' costs	(15,894)	
			2,942,191
Restricted			
Choir	Balance b/f	454	
	Plus interest	6	
	Less purchases	(96)	364
Lychgate	Balance b/f	639	
	Plus interest	9	648
Disabled Access	Balance b/f	1,532	
	Plus interest	21	1,553
Repairs / Renovation	Balance b/f	2,661	
	Plus interest	37	2,698
Church Flowers	Balance b/f	743	
	Plus donations	599	
	Interest	10	
	Less purchases	(541)	811
Altar Linen	Balance b/f	376	
	Plus interest	5	381
Thursday Lunches	Balance b/f	450	
	Plus interest	6	
	Less purchases	(456)	-
			6,455
Total Balances		67,277	3,016,280

[Bank interest on Deposit account 1 is allocated to all monies held in Restricted Funds but does not show above if the amount is less than £1]

[Bank interest on Deposit account 2 is allocated to General (Unrestricted) Funds]

[CCLA interest is allocated to the Designated fund for Future Development]

SAFEGUARDING POLICY – CHRIST CHURCH WALMERSLEY.

The following policy was approved by the PCC on the 14th April 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 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 (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 as the Parish Safeguarding Officer Catherine Hilton

Churchwardens: Jennifer Wood, Jason Edwards.

Date: 14th April 2025

REPORT OF THE PCC LAY CHAIR TO THE APCM 2025

The last year has been one full of highs and lows. (I'll let you decide how some of them fall)

I chaired last year's APCM as almost 18 months of vacancy drew to a close. Just three days later we gathered at St John with St Mark's Church for the licensing by Bishop Matthew of Harvie Nicol as the new incumbent of our benefice. The following Sunday he celebrated at a joint service here at Christ Church Walmersley.

In May we received the monies for the sale of part of the Church Field to Morris Homes. On and off for over 50 years people have worked with numerous potential buyers without final agreement but now was to be the time. This seems an appropriate place to pay tribute to Ian Riddick, as PCC Secretary. He, I'm certain, would not wish to quantify just how many hours he has spent on this matter and members of the PCC have valued greatly his commitment.

It was fantastic, with the fresh perspective of our new vicar, to begin the process of determining how best this money could be used to ensure the future of the Church in this area. It will be a long process of consultation and is a huge responsibility.

We celebrated Harvie's 25 years of ordained ministry at another joint service, with not one but two large cakes!

Just a month later we were sorry to hear that Harvie was unwell, and devastated to learn a little while later, after numerous tests, of the brain tumour and subsequent treatment. Harvie and Sally and their family remain at the forefront of all our prayers.

At the end of September, the church boiler finally gave up and we moved worship to the Hall as we went through the necessary procedures and awaited availability of the contractor. It was with joy (after a great commitment by a cleaning team) that we moved back to a warm church in March.

As Lay Chair (expecting to have had nothing to do in 2024!) I would like to thank the members of the PCC for working together so well and for their support of and patience with me. Along with many others in the congregation, and some in the community too, a massive amount of work has been achieved, as a quick look around Church and churchyard quickly reveals. It is dangerous to thank individuals as so much goes unseen. You know what you do, even if we do not, so I thank you on behalf of us all.

I am also extremely grateful for the support of Archdeacon Rachel (also in our prayers as she recovers from surgery) and our Area Dean, Donna, together with a wonderful group of clergy and laity who have enabled worship to continue without exception.

Harvie and Sally, whilst unable to be with us very often, have continued to inspire with their positivity and I am sure that has encouraged us all through this past year and will continue to do so throughout 2025. We experienced, together with our friends from down the road, a wonderful Easter Day service and were challenged by Harvie's words to us.

So, why do you come to church? What are you doing 'in the dash'?

How do you envisage the Church in Walmersley over the next 50, 100, 150 years? Please let us pray together that we in this generation can leave here in the Benefice of Walmersley Road a vibrant living witness to our Lord Jesus Christ.

Barbara C Taylor

PLANNED GIVING & GIFT AID

As at the end of the current financial year, there are 39 members in the Planned Giving Scheme.

Receipts through the scheme for the twelve months to 31st December 2024 totalled £27,143.50, an increase of £985.23 over the previous year.

Of the members 30 have signed Gift Aid declarations, resulting in an estimated tax rebate claim to be made of £5,790.

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)

SAFEGUARDING REPORT 2025

As Safeguarding Officer, I am regularly updating the Diocesan Safeguarding Parish Dashboard and have attended meetings at St John's House as necessary. All paperwork required by the Diocese for the APCM has been completed and submitted. All members of the PCC have completed the necessary Safeguarding Awareness training and have approved both the Safeguarding Policy and the Ex-Offender Recruitment Policy. I am currently renewing my Enhanced DBS certificate through the Diocesan processes and have up to date training in Basic Awareness and Foundation Level in Safeguarding; Safer Recruitment and People Management; Domestic Abuse; Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking. I have completed Prevent Duty training.

No safeguarding issues have been reported to me since the last APCM and therefore there have been no referrals to the Diocesan Safeguarding Officer.

The PCC are fully supportive of the Safeguarding Policies of the Diocese and Safeguarding appears on the agenda for every meeting.

Canon Catherine Hilton

REPORT OF THE PASTORAL COMMITTEE 2024

The committee formed by the PCC consists of H Nicol, J Wood (warden), D Booth, B Taylor, A Thew

B Silvester and M Spencer were co-opted.

Although the Committee has not met regularly in 2024 it has maintained most of its functions.

It has aimed to follow up when members of the congregation have been missing and to ensure that those who are ill or not forgotten and are offered home communion when appropriate.

At Harvest gifts of biscuits were distributed with a card to people in the parish, whilst Porch and Christian Aid provided a focus locally and worldwide.

Visits were made to the Priory at Easter, Harvest and Christmas. These are well received not only by residents and their families but by a significant proportion of the staff. Thank you to all who come along to provide readings and music.

Our link with Springside School remains strong, with school holding services in church at Easter, Y6 Leavers, Harvest and Christmas (despite a lack of heating!). The Baldingstone Fund again provided a pen for each leaver with the message "Be still and know" chosen by the Vicar. All were very enthusiastic about the Mothers' Union Angel Project too.

Easter and Christmas cards have again been distributed to a significant part of the parish. Thank you to all involved in the outreach, which we know to be effective.

Members attended the deanery conference on "Growing Younger" as we are mindful that one aspect of our focus is to continue to keep our ministry to young people under review. Currently there are very few children and young people in church regularly.

WE NEED A NAME!

For Christ Church to be a beacon of light in Walmersley for future generations, all we do should have the diocesan focus of "growing, nurturing, serving".

When committees were formed after the APCM 2024, it was felt important to have a group which focused on ways to help our church family grow closer and stronger, to strengthen relationships with our friends at St John with St Mark, and very importantly, to develop links with the people in our communities. Rosemary Taylor as a new member of the PCC had no preconceived notions of "I'm always on" and this was the area to which she felt drawn – so found she was given the task of co-ordinating the way we looked at this!

Unfortunately, this group was not given a name – so please put your thinking caps on. It needs people, not just PCC members, with a desire to fulfil its aims – is that you? Please have a word with Rosemary.

During this year there have been a number of opportunities to invite or involve those we know - family, friends, neighbours. The very successful community lunch continues on the third Thursday and sets us an example of how people are willing to join us, if they know what is happening.

Several coffee mornings have been held, mainly in aid of charity, and each time there is someone who hasn't been before who enjoys the fellowship.

Our second Scarecrow Festival involved a number of groups with no obvious connection to Christ Church Walmersley who were thrilled to have the opportunity to take part.

Sadly, the Christmas Tree Festival did suffer from being unable to use Church – so we hope 2025 will be bigger and better.

Opportunities to come together, whether over hot cross buns between services on Easter Day, at a Harvest Lunch, or the amazing Lunar New Year Celebrations all help us in our aims.

We need more ideas, we need a name, we need you! Please get involved and make your church known as a church welcoming to all.

COMMUNICATIONS REPORT TO THE APCM 2025

Magazine

130 magazines are printed each month but this has now been reduced to 120. The majority of these are delivered. We are extremely grateful to Val McDermott who continues to ensure they go out on time and to the number of volunteers who nobly distribute them each month.

The cost remains at £1 which would cover the cost if all copies were sold. However, the magazine is seen primarily as an outreach tool; in addition to regular attenders, it reaches and informs those who can no longer attend church due to age and infirmity and those whose attendance is often only for significant occasions but who still consider Christ Church to be their church.

The Editors (Barbara Taylor and David Robinson) welcome contributions to the magazine.

The magazine is uploaded on our websites and copies are there for you to look at from the creation of the benefice in 2010. If you have copies from earlier than this we are happy to add them to our archives, returning the original safely to you.

Website

<https://ccwalmersleybury.org.uk> receives a significant number of hits. It requires time and effort to keep it updated so any help would be valuable. It is possible simply to have control over an individual page so if anyone is willing to do this please ask. I would really encourage groups to take some control of individual pages by letting us have material even if not willing to tackle the IT aspect.

ACNY

A Church Near You is the Church of England's church-finder tool. This enables anyone to locate their parish church by simply entering their postcode, which can be useful for weddings, christenings and other special life events; or to find a church that provides a particular service such as children's groups, specific styles of worship or community action work. It is the 'go to' site for most people.

On special occasions especially it provides thousands of results for people. In the past 12 months there have been over 6000 'hits' on our page. As always, to keep it up to date requires time and some duplication but it does have an extremely wide audience.

Social Media

We attempt to reach a different demographic beyond our walls by using various social media accounts, which currently have only small followings (see below) so there is lots of scope to build these. However, this also takes time so again help would be valuable and enable us to increase our audience – more activity and more interesting posts equals more engagement.

Check us out on Facebook as Christ Church Walmersley (211 followers (143 in 2023)) and on Twitter (121 followers (113 in 2023)) and Instagram (58 followers (60 in 2023)) as CofE Walmersley (being joint benefice accounts) and importantly please share posts where appropriate in other groups of which you are a member.

YouTube

We do also have a little used CofE Walmersley YouTube channel. Ideas for ways we could beneficially use this as we move forward are very welcome.

We know that the banners displayed in the churchyard and fliers delivered to houses in the parish have more impact than many other forms of sharing information. However, personal invitation remains by far the most effective way of encouraging people to join us, whether for social events or worship.

Within our comfort zones, we each need to do our best to spread the word that Christ Church is here, welcoming all and wishing "to know, grow and show the love of God".

BURY & ROSSENDALE DEANERY SYNOD

There were four meetings in 2024 - three were in person and one on Zoom.

February (Zoom) - Gemma Gardiner, diocesan communications team manager, talked about the importance of good communication and use of accessible social platforms like "A Church Near You". There was also an update on Eco Church and the church Revitalisation Fund.

May (St George, Unsworth) – The main discussion was around the clergy course entitled "Growing Younger" with the various mission communities asked to share what was happening to encourage more engagement with children and families. We were able to talk about the Big Church Picnic planned in Clarence Park.

September (St Paul, Kersal Moor) - this was an opportunity to socialise with folk from other parts of the Deanery. Plus, the usual updates on eco church, parish share payments, 'what's on' and diocesan synod elections.

November (St Mary, Rawtenstall) – the Area Dean, Donna Williams, updated on the 2030 growth plans. There will be two events to help with this: a Clergy Vision Day and the Lay Leaders Conference at St John with St Mark Church. If each worship centre increased their numbers by 6 people a year, every year, then the target would be reached...

Ian Banks

BURY MISSION COMMUNITY

During the course of the year the Bury Mission Community were involved in various activities to enhance our Church life spiritually and socially. Leaders continued to meet quarterly on the last Monday of January, April, July and October to discuss activities and share news.

Worship once again included the opportunity to share the Easter Eve vigil celebration together at Bury Parish Church. Different people from across our churches led readings and brought paschal candles for blessing and dedication. During Lent, preachers from our various worship senses were invited to preach at the Sunday evensong service, also at Bury Parish Church. An important occasion was the Confirmation held at St Mary the Virgin for all churches in the Mission Community. The weekly Thursday night compline service on zoom did unfortunately cease at the beginning of the year, but it was commented that it had been good to try this event and the ones who were involved did enjoy the service.

The main event was the Picnic in the Park held in our benefice in Clarence Park at the end of June. This was Harvie's and Sally's initiative. A great deal of effort and time was put into the preparation for this event which was on an Olympics theme. Christ Church held a showjumping challenge and St John with St Mark a coconut shy. The event brought us all together from across the mission community and was a great opportunity to speak with people we wouldn't normally have met. People brought their picnics as well and the weather stayed fair!

Another event at the end of the year was a Tearfund Quiz to raise funds for the charity. We discovered who were the brightest people in our mission community. Although organised by St Peter's the event in November was held at St John with St Mark Hall.

The biggest achievement of the Bury Mission Community was the generosity of each to share resources and allow worship services to continue as normal. This was in evidence after Harvey's diagnosis in the summer.

David Robinson (amended for Christ Church -Barbara Taylor)

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN BURY

Part of Churches Together in England, this is an ecumenical group drawn from many churches in Bury, aiming to share the love of Christ to the people of our town. It meets every two months and everyone is welcome to come along to find out more.

Several significant events are held each year, beyond the meetings where concerns are shared, updates given, and requests put out. Each month on a Friday evening there is a zoom prayer meeting to which all are invited. The link can be found on the group's Facebook page.

Through the Bury Project a huge amount of work is done by Christians Against Poverty and more supporters are always welcome to join the team.

Two members (recently joined by a third) spend time in the Millgate Centre where they are developing great relationships with the staff of many stores in addition to the Centre management. The latter has resulted in the Millgate being the venue for several initiatives through the year.

"Play your hearts right" provided Valentine's fun in February.

The Walk of Witness on Good Friday (Bury URC, The Rock, Millgate Centre, Kay Gardens, St Marie's), with the Bishop of Manchester as a speaker in 2024, attracts shoppers especially in Millgate.

Pentecost 2024 was marked by a new initiative, "Prayer in the Park" using the facilities of Clarence Park to invite everyone to come together, worship God and pray for our town, our communities, our schools, our businesses. An interactive prayer trail, worship, prayer and testimony made an impact that it is hoped will be repeated in June 2025.

At All Souls a stand encouraged passers-by to tie a ribbon in memory of a loved one. Some good conversations ensued and one resulted in a pastoral visit to the hospice.

The annual Carol Service moved from near the market to a warmer spot within the Millgate, where one store switched off its background music for the duration so they could feel part of what was happening nearby.

Through this relationship with other churches, it is good to promote specific events in various places too – one example being the Press Red event organised in this benefice to raise awareness of Domestic Violence.

Just as we need to look beyond our parish boundaries, through the Mission Community, the Deanery and Diocese, so too do we need to learn with our ecumenical friends, not forgetting relationships with other faith groups.

Barbara C Taylor

CHRISTIAN MUSLIM FORUM – IFTAR MEAL.

On 23rd March 2025 twelve members of our Benefice joined the Muslim Christian Forum to celebrate Iftar, the breaking of the daily fast at sundown during Ramadan.

Before the meal we shared our views on Fasting. Tim Boaden from Seedfield/Jericho Methodist Church spoke of the meaning of Lent and Easter; and Imam Hassanat Ahmed of the Noor Ul Islam Mosque spoke of Fasting during Ramadan. During the month of Ramadan Muslims, who are able to, fast from dawn to dusk eating and drinking nothing including water. A common theme for both

faiths is the need to spend more time in prayer, fasting and alms giving – a time when we grow in our relationship with God.

Sunset was at 6.30pm when we sat down for a meal of samosa type starters, followed by savoury and sweet rice dishes, medjool dates and fresh fruit and desert.

Four members of Christ Church were new to the Mosque and were given a guided tour which they enjoyed.

With parts of the world in so much conflict, I thought it was good to see three of our founder members continue their long-established friendship- that is Reverend Keith Trivasse, Imam Hassanat Ahmed and Rabbi Warren Elf – a Christian a Muslim and a Jew together for the Iftar meal.

Long may our friendships continue to grow, Gillian Smith.

MEN OF THE BENEFICE REPORT 2024

The Men of the Benefice continued the practice of meeting once a month at a variety of locations and dates, with the exception of Bank Holidays.

We opened at the Towler at the end of January and were set a quiz by Colin Rigg, who usually sets us a good challenge with a variety of categories. Then in February we changed venues to Christ Church Hall and Andrew and Lillian Lees presented an informative talk on their work with the volunteer reserves for the RAF. This was a great evening of nostalgia, memorabilia and adventure and we enjoyed listening to stories of passion and dedication.

Andrew and Lillian also brought a booklet on historical Moorside memories to our meeting at The Towler in March, which included pictures of familiar areas around Walmersley Road.

From the Spring our meetings became more informal with general social and chat on various subjects such as Bury Football Club, historical stories, classic television and of course Church life. Mostly good humoured, but relevant to our current situations and lifestyles. We also found ourselves meeting at the Hark to Dandler on Walmersley Old Road for most of our meetings from Spring due to the busyness of The Towler on a Monday night. We settled into our alternative venue quite well though.

As has been the case for the last few years, Geoff Hamilton led us on a walk at the end of June when the daylight was at its longest. This was only attended by a small number of us as we walked from The Towler to the town centre through the Burrs Country Park, River Irwell and the Woodhill Road area. However, we made the numbers up when we met others at the Art Picture House for refreshment later.

Our September meeting got us talking about the Summer of sport and the ups and downs of that topic. It was felt there were more downs than ups!

Our best attended event of the year happened to be our Saturday breakfast at the Hark to Dandler in December, which had about 30 of us attending. Regular members along with spouses and friends enjoyed a full English breakfast with mountains of toast. Thanks to the staff for looking after us and providing a good service.

Thank you to everybody who attended MOB during 2024 and all who helped in anyway. Please look at what we are doing, and where, throughout 2025.

David Robinson & Barry Evans

OPEN GROUP REPORT 2024

The Open Group met monthly throughout the year on the second Wednesday, opening with a reflective Taizé evening for Lent which included prayer and interaction.

We welcomed Julian Hartley to our April meeting, who gave us an informative talk on the work of a funeral director. It may have sounded a difficult subject, but it gave us an insight into the parts of the bereavement process we do not usually know about.

Our former Incumbent, Reverend Ian Stamp, joined us in June for 'an evening with a few jokes'. We were not disappointed with the anecdotes, stories and one-liners. Church life was not spared from the humour and neither were each age group, young and old alike.

We had to have an unexpected change in July as our meeting clashed with a Euro 2024 England semi-final, so we had a look and discussion on small group ideas for Churches by the American Baptist Josh Hunt. Despite the unlikely possibility of many of these ideas materializing in our Church, it was remarked on how similar they were to the events at the Big Church Picnic in June. Midwifery was the theme for August and a talk by local midwife Larissa Heath. This talk covered the history of the profession and the modern practices. Then in September, Nigel Silvester presented a talk on his school days on the Isles of Scilly and Truro. This was new to us all as we are mostly familiar with school on the mainland, so to hear stories about having to travel to the mainland from the archipelago was eye-opening. There was also a school photo of Roger Taylor from Queen as part of the presentation!

In October, Ian gave us a streamlined version of an ALM training presentation for the Diocese, giving us an idea on how morning and evening worship is put together. We then linked this into our own worship services here in the Benefice and what we like or prefer.

We had a treat in November when Ruth Spencer talked to us about her experience of applying for the Great British Off. This gave us an insight into a process and the challenges brought by each stage. We were shown some fantastic bakes, but it was the inspiration behind the ideas that were most enlightening.

Although we had some great speakers in 2024, I should make a point of mentioning our Do-It-Yourself evening in May when we began the process of making a scarecrow for the festival at Christ Church. Despite the doubts (and there were a few at first) we had a great few meetings assembling Gangsta Granny, complete with swag bag. Judith Kelly, Veda Kinsey and Joan Robinson particularly embraced their creative talents.

All in all, a good year, and we ended in December with our Christmas get together. We thank Margaret Duckworth for her assistance at that evening.

David Robinson

MOTHERS' UNION

Branch Secretary's Report for 2024

The Mothers' Union theme of "Transformation NOW!" continued in 2024. If we look back over the three years I wonder what transformation we would see here in this branch?

We ended the year on a high, with great services of celebration and thanksgiving – in the Cathedral for Manchester Diocese and at Blackburn Cathedral for the Province of York. We gave thanks for Catherine Hilton's service as a worldwide trustee and rejoiced that Manchester is once again represented centrally, with Christine Sharp as the newly elected Provincial President. Here in Walmersley we ended the year with a Christmas meal at Park Farm.

We have been represented at events beyond our branch, such as the deanery festival at St Mary Rawtenstall, the archdeaconry festival at St Maxentius Bradshaw, a deanery afternoon tea and the Advent service and at the two Council meetings, now so conveniently held at St John's House. We continue, in Rosemary Taylor, to have a presence on the diocesan board of trustees.

Speakers this year have covered the charity Early Break, the work of Cleft lip and palate care, two Lenten and an Advent themed afternoons, a trip down the Mekong River. We thoroughly enjoyed an opportunity to “Ask Harvie” and to hear some personal thoughts on her life from Archdeacon Rachel Mann. We used ‘A Moment with God’ on the theme of Peace, enjoyed an evening of Celtic worship, took part in the wave of prayer service, and held a holy communion service. On a lighter note, maybe, we reminisced about our Schooldays, sang our way through a Lancashire Afternoon, had new experiences at a Games Evening, celebrated 115 years as a branch with a delicious bring and share spread.

We took part in the church’s Scarecrow Festival – our children’s book character being a lovely Goldilocks, sharing porridge with the three bears.

A highlight of 2024 must be our Angel Project. At the start of the year, it was agreed to knit angels which would be given to all children attending church over Christmas, together with the book ‘Meet the Cast’ from the charity Lifewords. I am not sure any of us believed, at the Knit-a-thon evening early in the year, just what was possible from members and some very good friends. The total was 421 angels, with an amazing 392 distributed to our uniformed organisations, Springside School pupils, children at the Priory Highbank Centre, and all children who came into both our churches over the Christmas period.

It has been an interesting year, working without a branch leader for the first time, and we must express our thanks to a very hard-working committee: Claire Altham, Denise Booth, Joan Riggs, Barbara Silvester, Barbara Taylor, Bob Taylor.

We had in 2024 a total of 27 members, although attendance at meetings is more like half that. However, we are one of only two branches remaining in our Mission Community. It would be great to welcome more into our branch fellowship, and it is proven that the most successful way of doing this is by personal invitation, so the responsibility of each member. However, our membership is of a worldwide movement which we can support in several different ways. It is a movement which campaigns – and perhaps we could do more to highlight this here in Walmersley. It needs money to carry out its work so maybe time for a fundraising event? It supports family life and there are many needs here in Manchester – thoughts of having a regular focus. Underpinning it all is prayer – such an important part and there are so many resources for us to use, and possibly to share more widely.

The theme for the triennium 2025-27 is “Join Us, Join In” – how can we at Christ Church use it to move both branch and movement forward?

Barbara Taylor
Branch Secretary

25TH BURY (CHRIST CHURCH) GUIDES

2024 has been another action-packed year for the guides. We have taken on various challenges, completed lots of badges with more bronze and silver awards being awarded and eaten plenty of toasted marshmallows!

We painted car hub caps which have been used as part of a community project at Clarence Park around the Top Green.

In the summer we went to Scarisbrick for our camp, which had an Olympics theme. Congratulations to Sarah who passed her Going Away With licence.

We finished the year with a Christmas visit to HUKD golf where we went crazy on the sport and fairground courses.

We have been active in Church life, attending Church Parade being involved in sketches, prayers and readings, joining in the Christingle service, displaying The Little Mermaid scarecrow and Little Donkey Christmas tree.

We have joined with other Guiding members and took part in Bury Division's Olympic event, and Lancashire South East County trip to Flamingo Land.

Rose took part in North West Region's fundraising skydive and we are waiting to see what she does next!

Guides have moved on to Rangers and other activities, but our numbers have not dropped. We have regularly been welcoming Brownies who have turned 10 and we have a waiting list of girls eager to join.

We look forward to continuing to thrive and look forward to more adventures to come.

BURY DIVISION RANGERS

September 2024 saw the reopening of Bury Division Ranger unit for girls age 14-18, following on from Guides, and meeting at CCW.

As it was a new group with members from varying units and schools, they spent the term getting to know each other and finding out each others likes and skills in preparation for planning their own programme in 2025.

They baked chocolate brownies, created mood board canvases, made friendship bracelets, had a fire and sparklers for Bonfire night and decorated bells for their 'Ding Dong Merrily on High' tree at the church festival.

2025 has already got lots of plans, including a camp, and new members preparing to join.

Christ Church Walmersley, Bury
Minutes of APCM Meeting
Sunday 14th April 2024 at 9.45 am

There were 24 members of the church present in church.

The meeting was opened by the Lay Chair, the names of the parishioners who had died over the previous year were read out by the lay chair and prayers were then said.

Apologies for Absence: none

Minutes of the APCM held 24th May 2023: These were printed and distributed to the attendees by the secretary and approved as a true and correct record with the following amendment. Barbara Taylor and Cath Hilton were elected as Deanery Synod representatives. Proposed Tricia Stokes, seconded Cath Hilton, all were in Favour.

Matters arising: None.

Treasurers report and Presentation of Accounts: The treasurers report and the unaudited finance report were included in the APCM report.

Appointment of Independent Examiner: The Independent Examiner Mr Alastair Gillian DipFS ACIB had indicated his willingness to act again. It was proposed by the lay chair that we continue to use Mr Gillian, seconded by Ian Riddick. All were in favour.

Presentation of the Electoral Roll Report: The Electoral roll report was printed in the APCM report and there were 72 persons on the Electoral roll when it closed. The electoral roll is a public document and you need to be on the electoral roll to vote at the APCM

PCC Secretary's Report: This was presented as written and is included in the annual 2023/24 report circulated at the meeting.

Warden's Report: This was presented as written and is included in the annual 2023/24 report circulated at the meeting.

Election of Wardens: Jennifer Wood and Jason Edwards had been proposed and seconded as wardens. There being no further nominations they were duly elected all were in favour.

Election of PCC members: There were six PCC vacancies, Patricia Stokes, Lillian Lees, Hazel Bamford, Rosemary Taylor and Denise Booth had been proposed. All were duly elected.

Ratification of Child Protection Policy: The policy had been approved by the PCC on the 8th of April 2024 and is included in the Annual Report. The policy was proposed for acceptance by Cath Hilton and seconded by Ian Riddick, All were in favour.

AOB: The Lay chair announced that the contract for the sale of the field would complete on the 14th of May 2024.

Thanks were proposed to Ian Riddick secretary for all the work he had done on the contract and also to Hilary for putting up with that.

Glennys Nichols gave the meetings thanks to the Secretary, Lay Chair, and the PCC for all the work they do.

Thanks were given from the meeting to Ian Banks for all his help in organising the support for services at Christ Church during the interregnum.

Report of the Lay Chair to the APCM held on 14 April 2024

Looking back at last year's report I found that we had just prepared the Profile for the Benefice and sent it to the Archdeacon and Area Dean for their comments. In fact, they both commended it, although the Area Dean made one suggestion about moving a section to an earlier point. Since then (and yes it has taken a long time), the Profile was made public, no doubt examined in detail, and we were given a time and place for interview. In due course an appointment was made, and we can finally look forward, later this week, to the end of this vacancy when Harvie Nicol is licensed to our Benefice.

I would like to take this opportunity to record our thanks to a number of people. First the visiting clergy and our own ministry team for leading worship throughout this period. This is a good point at which to thank Barbara Silvester, who has been over many years an elected member of the PCC, one of our representatives on deanery synod and latterly Reader representative on the Council. Now she is stepping back and we give thanks for her commitment to the governance of our Church as well as for her significant ministry as a Reader. Our Wardens, Jennifer and Jason, and Ian, as PCC Secretary, have shouldered a huge burden of administration for which we must be extremely grateful. They have been well supported by members of the PCC but also by so many, many others - thank you everyone.

For many years the topic of "the sale of the church field" has occupied far too much of our thoughts and our time. There has been lots of discussion in some quarters on "the way forward". It now seems we are very close to moving to further debate on what happens next. I am certain there will be no quick solution as there are so many factors to take into consideration, not least that of sustainability.

Last year I addressed the matter of growth, as required by our mission action plan and the diocesan vision of Church for a Different World. Growth in our own faith, helping others to grow in theirs, growing closer as the family of God, and growing in numbers if our churches are to meet the needs of our community as we move forward. In all honesty, our numbers will not have grown in this past twelve months. Sadly, we have lost several much-loved members of our family but there are signs of new growth too, for which we give thanks. Growth is essential and change will be inevitable if Christ Church is to remain, as so often described, a beacon of light in this community.

It is the responsibility of each of us to ensure new people feel welcomed and that opportunities are taken whenever possible. Think, for example, of all who come into church at each of the Springside School services, at Christingle, at Christmas. My thanks to those who were the inspiration behind, and all who worked tirelessly for, the Scarecrow Festival and Christmas Tree Festival - both of which involved and welcomed those from the community. Experience Easter re-emerged after quite a number of years. We can build on these and more in 2024. PCC members compiled a list of potential events - but need to know there is support from everyone.

As we look forward to the next step on our journey, revitalised, encouraged, and no doubt challenged, by our new priest, let us each commit ourselves to supporting him and demonstrating to the community of Walmersley that we are here to share the love of Christ.

Ian Riddick
PCC Secretary

CHRIST CHURCH WALMERSLEY
JOINT BENEFICE OF WALMERSLEY ROAD
AGENDA FOR ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING
18th May 2025
9.45am in Church

1. Welcome and opening prayer.
2. Apologies.
3. Minutes of the 2024 APCM (Written report)
4. Treasurer's report (Written) and presentation of accounts.
5. Electoral Roll (Written report).
6. PCC Secretary's Report (Written report).
7. Wardens Report (Written report).
8. Election of Wardens.
9. Election of Deanery Synod member.
10. Election of Parochial Church Council Members.
11. Ratification of Child and Vulnerable Adult Protection Policy.
12. Lay Chair Remarks.
13. Any Other Business.
14. Closing Prayers.

Afterwards there will be a brief meeting of the PCC.