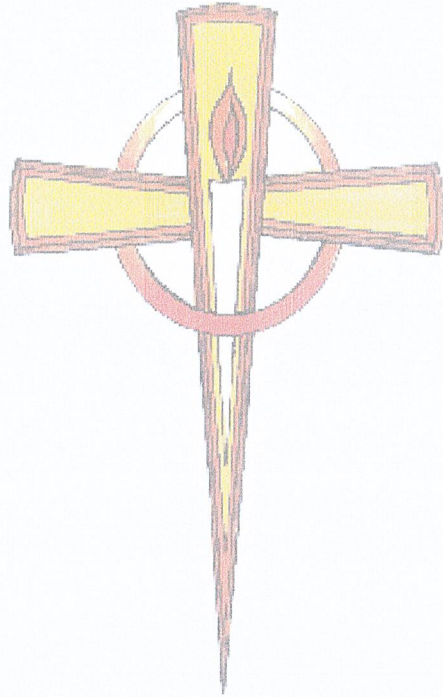


PARISH OF CHRIST CHURCH WALMERSLEY

IN THE UNITED BENEFICE OF WALMERSLEY ROAD

IN THE DEANERY OF BURY AND ROSSENDALE

AND THE DIOCESE OF MANCHESTER



ANNUAL REPORT 2023/24 & FINANCIAL STATEMENT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2023

The Parish of Christ Church, Walmersley, Bury – Annual Report of the Parochial Church Council for the year ended 14th April 2024

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

Lay Chair Canon Barbara C Taylor

Retired Clergy Revd Keith Trivasse
Revd Margaret Trivasse

Reader Mr Ian Banks
Reader Emeritus Mrs Margery Spencer
Reader Emeritus Mrs Barbara Silvester.
ALM Emeritus Mr Nigel Silvester

Church Wardens Mrs Jennifer Wood
Mr Jason Edwards

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

Lay Chair Canon Barbara C Taylor

Treasurer Canon Barbara C Taylor

Secretary Mr Ian W Riddick

Representatives
Deanery Synod Canon Barbara C Taylor
Canon Catherine R Hilton

Elected Members Mr Ian Riddick
Mr Geoffrey Hamilton
Mrs Patricia Stokes
Mr Geoff Stokes
Mrs Hazel Bamford
Mrs Lillian Lees

Reader Representative Mrs Barbara Silvester

Sidespersons

Mrs K Whipp
Mr I W Riddick
Mr Geoff Hamilton
Miss P Hoyle
Mr. Bill Noble
Ms Amy Paterson

Other Officers

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

Electoral Roll Officer Mrs Hazel J Bamford

Planned Giving & Gift Aid Mr Robert Taylor

Independent Examiner Mr Alastair Gillian DipFS ACIB

ELECTORAL ROLL REPORT

April 2024, there are currently 72 people on the Electoral Roll,
Hazel J Bamford
Electoral Roll Officer.

Wardens Report 2023-2024

I would like to thank everyone for supporting us during interregnum, it seems a long time since Dave left us.

Ian Banks has done a fantastic job ringing around retired ministers so that he could complete a rota to enable church services to carry on, as well as doing a full-time job, with the help of course from Margery, Barbara and Nigel, Cath Hilton, and Rosemary Taylor. We lost Keith Trivasse due to ill health but hope he continues to come to church services when he is well enough.

Barbara and Nigel decided to retire from leading church services so that they could concentrate on their families.

We have lost some of the older members of the congregation, but their memories will be with us and the time that they gave to church life.

We had problems over the Christmas period with the heating in Church and heating and electrics in the hall, thank you to all this caused an inconvenience to for your patience.

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 that do tea and coffee after the services and the garden maintenance team - what would we do without you all.

I 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.

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

On a happy note, we will soon have our New Minister Reverend Harvie Nicol and his wife Sally. Harvie is to be Licensed at St John with St Mark on Wednesday 17th April at 7-30 pm. His first service is a joint service at Christ Church, on Sunday 21st at 10-30 am. Please pray for Harvie and Sally as they start their new life in the Walmersley Benefice.

God Bless You All

Jason and Jennifer

PCC Secretary's report 2023/24

Secretary's summary report of meetings through the year.

1. 6th March 2023: Because of a recent issue it was decided that a sheet should be given out regarding Burials and Funerals showing the church regulations. It was also suggested that a notice should be put up with the correct wording at the entrance to the remembrance garden and possibly something in the magazine. Wording must be approved to add a person to an existing gravestone. A question was raised regarding the amount of money in the Baldingstone trust fund. This is waiting change in the trustees. It was noted that we can only use the accumulated interest and it was suggested by the PCC that we provide £100 for the scout's trip from the fund. This was proposed by Barbara Silvester and seconded by Cath Hilton, all were in favour. A heating quote for £1,392.00 had been received from Alexander Brown Heating for the replacement of valves, clocks and wiring for the central heating system in the church hall. The PCC agreed that we should proceed with the work. Sale of Christ Church field, no new information available at the moment the matter is still with Bury Council planning department. The secretary to add Mission Community as a heading on all future agendas. The question of the replacement of bibles in the pews will be further discussed at the ministers' meeting.

2. 12th April 2023: A letter had been received from the Area Dean and the Deanery Budget Secretary thanking the PCC for the payment of the parish share to the diocese. The Treasurer presented the accounts for 31st March 2023. It was noted in the treasurer's report that we had received a bequest from Kath Parkinson. We had also received a further £330 energy grant from the diocese. Work has been undertaken on the church hall heating system. The bill for £1,764.00 for the repair of the heating and improvement of the heating controls has been paid. Regarding the Mission Community, it was decided that the secretary would offer the new Bishop of Bolton the use of church hall at Christ Church during his Mission Community visit on the 19th of July 2023. The patronage trustee forms have been completed and sent off to the diocesan registrar so that the two new trustees can be added to the patronage trustee register. Work continues on the parish profile and the parish representatives have been appointed.

3. May24th 2023: A short PCC meeting was held after the 2023 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. Electoral roll officer Hazel Bamford

Treasurer: Barbara Taylor. Gift Aid Bob Taylor

Secretary: Ian Riddick.

4. 5th July 2023: The secretary had received an email from Donna Myers confirming the appointment of the new trustees Geoffrey Hamilton and Pamela Hoyle. There was a discussion regarding the offertory plate and whether we should recommence using the offertory bags. The PCC decided to recommence using the offertory bags. Organisation for the Mission Community visit of the Bishop on the 19th of July continues. Cath Hilton had attended a safeguarding network meeting before the PCC meeting. She reported that the safeguarding coordinators were now renamed safeguarding officers.

Property committee: The property group have cleared the tower roof and have obtained a quote for the removal of the tree from the side of the tower. A further quote is being obtained. The lay chair note that certain comments had been received from St John with St Mark's regarding the Benefice Profile which had been circulated to both PCC's. The Lay chair had amended the Benefice Profile accordingly. On the 18th of July the Springside School leavers are attending a service in church. It was decided that we would purchase a pen for each of the leavers and that we would provide refreshments at the service.

5. 11th July 2023: Joint PCC meeting.

The items on the agenda were as follows.

1. The nomination of parish representatives for the benefice.
2. Approval of the joint parish profile.
3. Request the presenting Patron to consider advertising the vacancy.

Item 1.

- Each of the parish representatives were proposed and seconded as follows
- **David Robinson** – proposed Keith Duckworth, seconded Ian Riddick.
- **Ian Banks** – proposed John Brennan, seconded Trishia Stokes.
- **Barbara Taylor** – proposed Jennifer Wood, seconded Julian Hartley.
- **Catherine Hilton** – proposed Kelly Watson, seconded Geoff Stokes.

All were in favour.

Item 2.

The joint Parish Profile was proposed for approval by Lillian Lees and seconded by Keith Duckworth. All were in favour.

Item 3.

- The joint PCC decided to request the patron to advertise the vacancy - this was proposed by Jason Edwards and seconded by David Robinson. All were in favour.

6. 3rd August 2023: Barbara Silvester proposed stopping the copper collection in church. This was seconded by Lillian Lees and then voted on all were in favour

The treasurer had circulated the current financial report to all the PCC members.

It was noted that the Gift Aid on planned giving and tax reclaimed under the Small Donations Scheme for the year to 5 April 2023 amounted to £8214.17

It was decided that the property group would make temporary repairs to the floorboards and treat the areas with woodworm killer.

The secretary was asked to get a quote for rebuilding the section of wall next to the ash tree on School Lane, which may need to be rebuilt if the tree is felled.

The fundraising and social committee proposed that a Christmas tree festival could be held in church in December 2023.

Stepping Stones for Growth, it was noted that a start had been made with the school leavers service where the church provided pens for the leavers and there were refreshments served after the service

7. 7th September 2023: It was noted that we had received a refund from the gas company of £1016.50.

Miss Nancy Hall had left a legacy of £1500. The will states that the money is to be used for the religious and other charitable work of the church without distinction between capital and income thereof.

The congregations of St John with St Mark's and Christ Church had collected £500 for Keith Trivasse. A cheque, retirement card and flowers had been presented to him.

A quote for a new printer is being obtained via Jennifer Wood (church warden)

Planning permission has been granted by Bury Council to Morris homes for building on the church field. Morris homes has a period of time to review the planning decision and the section 106 agreement.

The property group had made temporary repairs to the floorboards and treated the timbers in the church hall.

The committee reported that they had heard from Oaktree services to say that the preservation officer at the council had granted permission for them to carry out the tree pruning and removal work in the church yard.

It was noted that the scarecrow festival would be between the 5-11th of October with the scarecrows displayed in the churchyard.

The secretary was asked to get an electrician to review the problems of the electricity going off in the church hall.

During the meeting on safeguarding the question of someone being alone in church and requiring assistance was discussed.

The collection at the Christingle service raised £320 with some boxes being handed in afterwards.

12. 6th February 2024: The treasurer reported that there were no unusual items of income. The parish share will be £2500 per month going forward.

The printing costs are £234 per quarter plus £110 protection per annum paid in January.

The treasurer noted again that we are running at a monthly deficit and that this is not sustainable. The Mission Action plan section entitled Nurturing was discussed.

The abnormal costs had been received from Morris Hames and a second opinion had been sought.

Cath Hilton had prepared a document regarding a previous point raised in the PCC about the safety of people working alone in the church.

The property group reported that they had created a further row of spaces for memorial stones in the remembrance garden.

The PCC were asked to produce a list of events for 2024 and send it to the lay chair by the 21st of January 2024.

It was also noted that the PCC should consider giving more to charity as we historically did give 10% of profits from events to a charity chosen by the PCC.

13. 12th March 2024: An opening prayer for peace was led by the Lay Chair.

The treasurer had circulated the finance report and summary. The Treasurer stated that we for once had a small surplus last month, this will however dramatically change next month as we have already paid some significant amounts. As at today's date, March expenses have exceeded receipts by £10,050.21

The PCC had received an email from Rosemary Taylor, advising that she would be restarting the Bury Rangers (this is the next age group up from Guides) they will be meeting along with the guides on a Monday evening in the Church Hall from 7.30-9pm.

There was nothing further to report on the sale of the church field, we are awaiting answers from the Diocesan Registrar.

The account for the Baldingstone Trust fund had now been reopened by Barclays Bank.

Cath Hilton our safeguarding officer was asked to draft a notice to be put up in church and the church hall regarding safety when working alone in church or the church Hall.

The Big Church Picnic was discussed. This is to take place at a venue to be decided at the end of June or early July.

The PCC secretary volunteered to try and make progress with the ECO church project.

There will be an Art Group display of paintings in the church Hall on the 27th of June from 10am to 12 noon.

Ian Riddick

PCC Secretary April 2024

Financial Review 2023

Our thanks to all who maintained or increased their giving in 2023. Planned giving levels fell by 6.06% (2022 – 4.06%), mainly as the result of those who have died. Plate collections increased slightly after the fall last year (down 10% in 2022). An element of this is undoubtedly the regular, albeit not significant, use of the contactless device which we received through the Church of England's rollout. It is expected that this will be most used at occasional services but it needs to be promoted.

Yet again we were able to pay the requested Parish Share of £27,900, benefitting by £620 from the Encouragement Scheme as we continue to pay 1/12 each month. The Parish Share for 2024 is £30,034, 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 £2,500 per month.

We have been fortunate in receiving two legacies this year, totalling £8,214. Proceeds from Thursday Lunches enabled donations of £825 to Church funds and we are grateful for several other donations which total almost £2,000.

Excluding costs in 2022 regarding the sale of the church field, and allowing for the fact there have been no clergy or vicarage expenses in 2023, total expenditure is higher than in 2022. Some of this relates to the cost of utilities (and we still are not in a satisfactory agreed position at the year-end) and some is explained by the notes (4 and 5) on expenses to our buildings.

Monthly expenditure continues to regularly exceed our monthly income. Although the accounts show a surplus of income over expenditure of £6,755 plus £641 in restricted funds, the legacies more than account for this.

It is vital that we each consider whether our giving has risen in line with the increasing cost of living. We are extremely fortunate now in that most planned giving comes by standing order and does not rely so much on the filling of weekly envelopes. However, the downside is that it is easy to continue at the same level. Ideally everyone needs to review their position at least annually and see whether they are able to adjust the amount.

We still await the receipt of monies following the sale of the church field. This will be £3 million pounds, the value placed on the land by the Charity Commission. From that there will be fees to pay, to those who have worked tirelessly on our behalf for many, many years. We also have a loan to repay to the Diocesan Board of Finance which underwrote the costs incurred opposing the application for Village Green status. It is important that everyone appreciates the necessity to use this enormous sum wisely to ensure the future of Christ Church in the Benefice of Walmersley Road, in whatever form that may take.

I make no apology for repeating what I have said in past years, that we need to be in a position to lead the Parish of Christ Church Walmersley forward as a living, vibrant, enthusiastic, growing body of Christians, with a mission to spread God's love throughout our community. We shall not do that unless each of us is willing to commit ourselves spiritually, practically and financially and I would ask everyone to prayerfully consider again their commitment to Christ Church.

Canon Barbara C Taylor
Hon Treasurer

April 2024

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF
CHRIST CHURCH WALMERSLEY BURY

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31 DECEMBER 2023

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 2023, 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

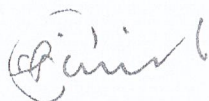
Basis of independent examiner's report

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

22nd May 2024

CHRIST CHURCH WALMERSLEY PCC
 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

Receipts & Payments A/C	Unrestricted Funds		Restricted Funds		Total 2023	Total 2022
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Receipts						
Planned Giving	23,942				23,942	25,678
Tax efficient		26,198			2,256	2,211
Other	2,256	3,847			3,847	3,779
Open collections		8,124			8,124	8,641
Income tax recovered		8,214			8,214	-
Legacies		1,980		450	2,430	654
Donations [see note 3a]		-			-	-
Miscellaneous income [see note 7]		-			-	60,000
Unusual income [see note 8]		-			-	
Activities generating funds [see note 3b]		1,556			1,556	2,198
Church activity [see note 3c]		18,047		864	18,911	15,245
Investment income (bank interest)		451		50	501	45
		68,417		1,364	69,781	118,451
Payments						
Diocesan Parish Share		27,280				(30,420)
Other payments [see note 3d]		34,382		723	(62,385)	(56,424)
		(61,662)		(723)		
Balance - Receipts / Payments		6,755		641	7,396	31,607
Statement of Funds						
Balances at 1 January 2023		53,667		6,214	59,881	28,274
Increase in Funds		6,755		641	7,396	31,607
Balances at 31 December 2023		60,422		6,855	67,277	59,881

CHRIST CHURCH WALMERSLEY PCC
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

Represented by:

	Unrestricted Funds		Restricted Funds		Total 2023	Total 2022
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Cash Funds at 31 December 2023						
Barclays Current Account	11,481		562			12,097
Barclays Deposit Account 1	48,691		6,266			7,669
Barclays Deposit Account 2	250		27			40,038
Cash in Hand						77
		<u>60,422</u>		<u>6,855</u>	<u>67,277</u>	<u>59,881</u>

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, trimmers and various gardening implements;
 DIY equipment including ladders and steps.
 Laminator - plus stock of paper etc;
 I.T. & media equipment and stationery items;
 Mobile telephone and contactless devices;
 Tea urns, kitchen equipment and stock of cutlery & crockery;
 Quantity of chairs & tables.

The attached notes on pages 3/5 form part of these financial statements.

Barbara C Taylor
 Approved by the PCC on 29 May 2024 and signed on their behalf by Canon Barbara C Taylor (Lay Chair) and Mrs Jennifer Wood (Warden)

Prepared by Canon Barbara C Taylor (PCC Treasurer)
 Examined and found correct by Mr Alastair Gillian DipFS ACIB

**CHRIST CHURCH WALMERSLEY PCC
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**

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 2023 £	Total 2022 £
a. Donations				
Sundry	1,980	450	2,430	654
b. Activities generating funds				
Fund raising events	603			1,183
Thursday Lunches donations	826			950
Printing sales	87			30
Tea and coffee after services	40			35
	1,556	-	1,556	2,198
c. Church Activity Receipts				
Fees	3,523			1,721
Church Hall room hire	12,388			10,306
Magazine sales	1,026			619
Flowers	-	864		1,049
Energy costs grant	330			1,250
Contribution to church heating	780			300
	18,047	864	18,911	15,245
d. Church Activity Payments				
Insurance	8,549			8,181
Utilities	10,625			9,628
Administration	248			233
Hall cleaning	2,073			2,194
Clergy expenses (incl housing)	-			3,053
Magazine printing costs	1,310			1,063
Other printing costs	1,014			470
Printer leasing	331			-
Organist fees	2,160			1,960
Worship resources	1,248			948
Mission costs	839			333
Costs of contactless devices	18			-
Flowers	-	723		805
Fundraising expenses	31			782
Church building [note 4]	1,281			1,658
Church Hall building [note 5]	2,552			303
Church Grounds	2,078			528
Legal fees re conditional sale of church field	-			24,060
Miscellaneous expenditure [note 6]	25			225
	34,382	723	35,105	56,424

CHRIST CHURCH WALMERSLEY PCC
 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

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

	£		£		£
Church	53,667	Opening Balance	68,417	Unrestricted income	60,422
			(61,662)	Unrestricted expenditure	
			Closing Balance		
Choir	450	Opening Balance	4	Plus Interest	454
Lychgate	634	Opening Balance	5	Plus interest	639
Disabled Access	1,520	Opening Balance	12	Plus Interest	1,532
Repairs / Renovation	2,640	Opening Balance	21	Plus interest	2,661
Church Flowers	597	Opening Balance	864	Plus donations interest	
			5	Less purchases	743
			(723)	Closing Balance	
Altar Linen	373	Opening Balance	3	Plus interest	376
Thursday Lunches	-		450	In memory of J Lomax	450
Total Balances	59,881				67,277

Safeguarding Policy – Promoting a safer church,

The following policy was approved by the PCC by email on the 12th April 2024

In accordance with the Church of England Safeguarding Policy our church is committed to:

Promoting a safer environment and culture.

Safely recruiting and supporting all those with any responsibility related to children, young people and vulnerable adults within the church.

Responding promptly to every safeguarding concern or allegation.

Caring pastorally for victims/survivors of abuse and other affected persons.

Caring pastorally for those who are the subject of concerns or allegations of abuse and other affected persons.

Responding to those that may pose a present risk to others.

The Parish will:

Create a safe and caring place for all.

Have a named Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO) to work with the incumbent and the 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 Cath Hilton

Churchwardens: Jennifer Wood, Jason Edwards.

Date: 12th April 2024

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.

Barbara C Taylor
PCC Lay Chair
April 2024