



2023 Report and Accounts for the Parochial Church Council of Hoghton, Holy Trinity

Aims and Purposes

Holy Trinity Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility of cooperating with the incumbent, the Reverend Hannah Boyd, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. The PCC is also specifically responsible for the maintenance of the Church of Holy Trinity, Hoghton and the church hall in the grounds of the church.

Objectives and Activities

The PCC is committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship at our church and to become part of our parish community at Holy Trinity. The PCC maintains an overview of worship throughout the parish and makes suggestions on how our services can involve the many groups that live within our parish. Our services and worship put faith into practice through prayer and scripture, music and sacrament.

When planning our activities for the year, we have considered the Commission's guidance on public benefit and, in particular, the supplementary guidance on charities for the advancement of religion. In particular, we try to enable ordinary people to live out their faith as part of our parish community through:

- Worship and prayer; learning about the Gospel; and developing their knowledge and trust in Jesus.
- Provision of pastoral care for people living in the parish.
- Missionary and outreach work.

To facilitate this work it is important that we maintain the fabric of the Church of Holy Trinity and the church hall.

CHURCH OFFICIALS

MINISTRY TEAM

Vicar: Rev'd Hannah Boyd
Curate: Rev'd Bryn Naylor (left February 2024 to become an incumbent)

Readers Emeritus: Mrs Christine Keenan
Mr Howard Watson

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL (2023)

Church wardens: Mrs Viv Clayton
Ms Elisabeth Sawle

Deanery Synod representatives:

Mr Bob Collins

Mr Paul Armitt

PCC Members:

(end of 3-year term in brackets)

Mrs Judith Pearson (2024)

Mrs Sue Leigh (2024)

Mrs Sue Flitcroft (2024)

Mr Ian Murray (2025)

Mrs Holly Watson (2025)

Mr Matt Watson (2025)

Miss Victoria Swallow (2026)

Mrs Janet Deakin (2026)

Mrs Marilyn Gibson (2026)

PCC Officials:

Chairperson

Rev'd Hannah Boyd

Lay Vice chairperson

Secretary

Mrs Sue Flitcroft

Treasurer

Mrs Janet Deakin

Electoral Roll Officer

Mr Bob Collins

Safeguarding Officers

Mrs Sue Leigh & Ms Elisabeth Sawle

ELECTORAL ROLL REPORTAt the time of the APCM (30th April 2023) the electoral roll is made up of 54 names**Church attendance October 2023**

Average adult attendance 35

Average child attendance 8

Worshipping Community Totals 2023

0-17	24
18-69	49
70+	31

Occasional offices 2023

Baptisms	5
Confirmations	0
Marriages	2
Funerals held in church	9
Funerals held at Crematorium	2

CLERGY REPORT

When I think back over 2023, the word that comes to mind is gratitude. We had an incredible year as a church in an amazing plurality. We got to do some wonderful things, had enormously successful events in all kinds of areas and we grew as a church in both depth of faith and number. One of our major achievements was the completion of the heating system and although this hasn't been as smooth as we would have wished I am deeply grateful for the faith and generosity that got us to the point of completion and extremely thankful to those individuals who have been working so hard behind the scenes to get it working as it should. We had a wonderful celebration with Bishop Philp when he came to bless the heating system and had a church full of people. We held several events to celebrate our two hundred years of life as a church with my personal favourite being our pilgrimage walk and service to St Andrew's in Leyland our mother church.

My heart is so full of gratitude to God for just how good he has been to us and how fruitful we have been in so many areas. Below are some highlights but it was an absolute pleasure and privilege to be the incumbent in a church celebrating its 200th anniversary of existence with so much life and hope around.

Making Disciples

We continue to meet in four congregations across the plurality, at 9.15am on Sundays at All Saints and at 11.15am at Holy Trinity. Our family orientated worship service '4forAll' is held every Sunday at 4pm and on Wednesdays we have a midweek 10am service held at All Saints. Each of these congregations is established and growing and allowing people to meet for worship at times and in ways that suit them and can be managed by our current resources. Our parade services held monthly with our uniformed organisations have continued to thrive and grow and we now have several families attending every month and getting involved.

Celebration services held bi-monthly with all four congregations worshipping together have proven to be a great blessing and encouragement to all and our first Easter Sunday worshipping together in Holy Trinity was amazing, with church packed and almost 30 children in attendance.

Our teaching series continue to help us learn more about the Bible and God and apply this to our lives. We had four house groups meeting throughout the year at one point with over thirty-five people involved. We also ran Christianity explored and Hope explored which were attended by people at all different stages on their faith journey.

Being Witnesses

Several events that we had run in 2022 happened again in 2023 with bigger numbers attending and feel like fixed features on our church calendar now. Our Easter Egg hunt had 100 children attending, Breakfast with Santa saw lots of families attending and many staying for the all age nativity service which followed on which was a wonderful occasion. The dog show was once again brilliantly organised and very well attended. There were lots of fundraising events which welcomed people from both church and community to come to know us.

We held an Easter Experience at All Saints and although this wasn't as well attended as we would have wished all the children from Higher Walton Primary School came and experienced the Easter story in a multi-sensory way. As part of the Coronation of King Charles III we held an outdoor service at Higher Walton Primary School which had lots of people with us and then on the Monday a group of people from across all congregations and several groups had a brilliant time litter picking in the rain!

We continue to reach out and minister to families through funerals and baptisms and the opportunity to meet with them at different stages of their life and share the good news of the gospel with them. We finished the year with a brilliantly run and organised Live Nativity around Coupe Green which saw people of all ages helping out and welcomed families to come and find out about the Christmas story.

Growing Leaders

There are many people, of all ages and stages of life, who give willingly of their time and skills to serve in a whole range of capacities across our plurality and we are so thankful for them. Many people got involved in all the events already listed above, some stepping out of their comfort zones, and enjoyed themselves while serving others and sharing the gospel. In September Tash Green was licenced as our Licenced Lay Minister in Blackburn Cathedral and we had a wonderful time celebrating with her and we are so blessed by all she willingly gives and brings to us.

Inspiring Children and Young People

Trinity Tots continued to grow and flourish in 2023 and is widely talked about as being one of the best groups in the local area, the team of volunteers who run that do an incredible faithful unseen work and we are so thankful for them. Kingdom Kids and youth group continued to meet monthly throughout the year encouraging and sharing the faith with young people and their families. We also held a Teddy Bears Picnic and invited all the baptism families from the previous four years to attend; we had a fun filled afternoon in the sunshine together. Our Holiday Club was once again an incredible success with 60 different children attending and volunteers of all ages and all congregations coming to support that work. School worship continues to happen weekly in Higher Walton School, as well as teaching RE lessons and visits to church by the classes for lessons and special services.

2023 has been a year of great blessings for us and although no blessing goes uncontested, we thank God for his faithfulness to us in everything. We are deeply grateful for all of those who in whatever way large or small contribute to the running and flourishing of our plurality, our public worship, our many events and activities and our life of faith together. We continue to look forward with expectation to what our Lord has in store for us in the coming years.

*Rev Hannah Boyd
Incumbent*

SAFEGUARDING

The diocese has produced a new Safeguarding Dashboard to be used by all parishes. This will enable all training, DBS results, recruitment and required paperwork to be kept together. Training for this system has been completed by Rev Hannah and myself (Sue Leigh).

Presently DBS checks and training have been completed by PCC members and children's helpers. Safeguarding continues to be an agenda item at all PCC meetings along with regular meetings with the safeguarding team.

*Sue Leigh
Safeguarding Officer*

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Six full PCC meetings were held in 2023. All meetings were held in person. There was an average 75% attendance by members at each meeting.

The meetings were held in conjunction with the PCC of All Saints, Higher Walton. Each meeting began with a joint session when the Vicar's Update and Safeguarding reports were presented. There were joint discussions when various documents were approved including risk assessments for Trinity Tots, Steps to Heaven, Kingdom Kids, Youth Group and worship services, Social Media Policy, Complaints Policy and revised Churchyard Guidelines. There were preliminary discussions

about the plurality approach to tackling domestic abuse with a view to agreeing a Parish Statement on Domestic Abuse in due course. There were joint discussions about our values across the plurality.

Following the joint sessions, the PCCs held separate meetings to follow the agenda specific to each PCC.

Sue Flitcroft
PCC Secretary & Parish Administrator

HOUSEGROUP REPORT

There were four house groups meeting throughout 2023 across the plurality on different days of the week and all groups included members of both churches. Between them they covered topics such as Confidence, a Devotional Journey, Fruitfulness on the Frontline, The Parables of Jesus, The Bible Jesus Read, Romans, Discipleship Explored, Philippians, The Me I want To Be and many others.

One group also organised the Prayer Stations in All Saints during the period between Pentecost and the Ascension.

We would all highly recommend that you join a house group as it provides a wonderful opportunity to grow as a Christian and to share fellowship.

Elisabeth Sawle, Stephen Niven, Tash Green & Hannah Boyd

FINANCE REPORT

I should like to start by thanking you all for your financial support in 2023, through regular giving and fund-raising events. By the end of 2023 thirty-three people were using the Parish Giving Scheme, with many raising their contribution in line with inflation. This means that not only do we receive the majority of our income in one regular monthly payment, but the Gift Aid tax relief follows automatically within days. We were able to pay our Parish Share in full from voluntary giving including the weekly offertory, but that left only £2000 towards the costs of running the church. We have had to rely on other sources of funding especially fund-raising, which made a very welcome net profit of £5,733. Thanks are due to all who made that happen.

The main financial focus of 2023 was paying further instalments towards the completed heating system. Excluding VAT which was reclaimed, we paid a further £40,000, the final total was £90,000 which was paid from cashing in some of our investment and the gift appeal, both in 2022. As you will be aware, electricity costs rose sharply, which was another major expense. We have now switched supplier and are able to monitor usage on a daily basis.

2023 was another challenging year financially, but we have come through. God continues to provide. Thank you all who have contributed. Thanks are due too to Janet Southern for examining the 2023 accounts, and to the finance committee for their ongoing input and support.

Janet Deakin
Treasurer

DEANERY SYNOD REPORT

Synod met three times in 2023.

The first meeting in February was held at Leyland St James and the guest speaker was Revd Adam Thomas, Director of Whalley Abbey. Adam spoke about the role Whalley Abbey played in the life of the diocese. The meeting remembered Dorothy Gardner, Deanery Secretary, who had passed away suddenly. Marc Wolverson announced that this was his last meeting as Area Dean having tendered his resignation to focus more on his parish.

The June meeting was held at Longton St Andrew. The Revd Andy Meeson was welcomed as the new Area Dean; he is Vicar of Leyland St John. An Assistant Area Dean in the person of Revd Mark Soady, Vicar of Rufford and Tarleton, has also been appointed. The guest speaker was Jen Read, Senior Church Buildings Officer as well as DAC Secretary. Her talk was focussed on open churches and tourism; opening up churches for visitors.

There was an additional meeting at New Longton All Saints; this was at the request of Bishop Philip as part of his journey round the diocese to meet deanery synods. It consisted of a Eucharist followed by refreshments and a talk by Bishop Philip outlining his plans for the future.

The October meeting was held at Penwortham St Leonard with Ven David Picken, Archdeacon of Lancaster, as our guest. David spoke about his responsibilities for inspiring children and young people and the importance of ensuring headteachers were committed Christians. Work with children & young people should be at heart of what we do as a Diocese we invest in church schools. Elections were held for the Standing Committee with Bob Collins, Bronwen Bracegirdle and John Ballam being re-elected and David Tuke elected as Treasurer; there was no candidate for Secretary. There was only one candidate for clergy, Revd David Whitehouse.

Your deanery reps are Bob Collins and Paul Armitt.

*Bob Collins
Deanery Rep*

FABRIC REPORT

The heating system was completed in March and the air source heat pumps switched on. There was a concern about high electricity usage, and it was discovered that there was heat creepage occurring; this was cured by the installation of an additional valve in the system. The system was switched off during the summer but was found not to be working when reactivated; it was discovered that due to flooding, some of the electrical system had shorted out so needed to be replaced. This will be covered by insurance. Control of the system is carried out using apps on the churchwarden's mobiles.

During heavy rain, we are still having an issue with water filling the cellar; this resulted in damage to the heating system. The sump pump proved to be inadequate for the task of clearing the water away, so a larger unit was installed taking the water to the drain in the new churchyard which goes down to Dover Lane. A survey was carried out by a specialist company with the recommendation that the drainage shaft by the path be CCTV checked to see where it went and where any blockage might be occurring; quotes will be obtained.

The Church Hall lighting has been improved with the fluorescent fittings removed and the downlights replaced with LEDs. The floodlight over the door and the porch light have also been replaced. Paper towel dispensers have been installed. Quotes have been obtained for replacing the kitchen floor with a non-slip option. The roof has damaged ridge tiles, so quotes have been obtained.

Remedial work has been carried out at the car park entrance where the surface had broken away. A dead ash tree overlooking the road has been removed and other work carried out on the trees in the churchyard and car park.

The church buildings continue to be kept in good order and repair; thanks go to those responsible for the upkeep.

Bob Collins
Chair of sub-committee

FUNDRAISING REPORT

The Fundraising team have worked hard during the year to raise much needed money and to celebrate the 200th anniversary of Holy Trinity. We held a successful Cheese, Wine and Chocolate evening, Viv and Judith organised a Grand Day Out when people walked all or some of the Lancashire Peaks, and Paul and Maggie Armitt kindly hosted a Croquet afternoon. I would like to express my thanks to Lizzie and Stephen for letting us use their farm for the Dog Show in September. It was very successful and will be bigger and better this year! In October we joined with All Saints for an Auction of promises and Jacob's Join. We were very privileged to have David Goodenough give a fantastic organ recital in November. At Christmas we held a raffle with some amazing prizes. We also had outreach events of a Pancake Party and Breakfast with Santa, both events being well supported by families.

I would like to express my thanks to all those who work so hard and tirelessly to ensure these events happen. We have many activities planned for this year, so do please support us in all our ventures.

Elisabeth Sawle
Churchwarden

BELLRINGERS REPORT

We rang for Sunday service most weeks and for the celebration services held at All Saints, Higher Walton.

We enjoyed our annual meal in January when we went to the Cavendish Arms along with some of our ringing friends from Brindle, Chorley and Samlesbury.

We rang for the coronation of King Charles III on 6th May and had a little party in the ringing room, eating delicious homemade quiche and cakes while watching the coronation on a laptop!

We rang for 2 weddings at Hoghton and 1 at Higher Walton.

3 of our ringers, Ray, Viv and John took part in an ART course on 27th May where they learned up to date teaching methods.

There was a Lancashire association training day held at Hoghton on 28th October.

We continue to practice on Wednesday evenings and on the first Wednesday of each month share a joint practice with the Samlesbury ringers, alternating the location.

Viv Clayton
Churchwarden

MOTHERS' UNION FRIENDSHIP GROUP

We had a busy year supporting the MU Worldwide Programmes and keeping to our Aims & Objectives. Unfortunately, we lost two members – Jackie Wilmer died after a long illness while Barbara White moved to Billericay to be near her family.

During Eastertime, we made Easter chicks, hedgehogs and bags which we sold at Holy Trinity & All Saints churches & other venues – donations are for the MU 'Away from it All' project – in the Blackburn Diocese we have a caravan at Morecambe, which gives people holidays who have problems. We would like to thank everyone for their generosity, donations & support, it means a lot to all the people who have needed the help, at home & abroad – we have received an appreciative email from Bev Julian CEO, Mary Sumner House, London.

We held a very successful Coffee Morning in aid of the MU 'Summer of Hope' which helps people Worldwide, raising an amazing £571.

In November we held our ever-popular Christmas Floral Demonstration with Laura from 'Call me Flower,' we raised £300 which was donated to the Literacy and Development Programme in Burundi In December we visited Arrowsmith Lodge Care Home and gave each resident a Knitted Bell they were delighted with them, they started dancing & singing carols – what joy it was to see their reactions.

We have a monthly meeting & lunch and if anyone would like to know more about MU, have a word with me – we are the largest Women's Christian Organisation in the World (we do have men) 4 million members in 83 countries.

Veronica Roper

STAMP TRIMMING

Many thanks to all those who save their stamps and so give a group of us the chance to meet each month to trim them and have a chat. We are from other churches and none where the clipping of scissors and conversation compete!

The Leprosy Mission no longer collect stamps so we now send them to Age Concern in Lancashire who are very grateful for them.

So do come and join us on the fourth Wednesday of most months and boost our numbers, or if you are unable to do so keep saving stamps, postcards and foreign money left over from holidays.

Elisabeth Sawle

TRINITY TOTS

We celebrated our second birthday in September and Trinity Tots continues to grow in strength and friendship. We now have around 30 children with their carers each week and the hall is filled with laughter and chat. It is wonderful to see the children develop from babies into toddlers and then they leave us to go to 'big school'. They sometimes return during school holidays as we continue to be open.

The families are always invited to church activities and it is wonderful to see some of the families now joining in and coming to these events.

Many thanks to the volunteers who support us making cakes, setting up and tidying away afterwards. We couldn't do it without you. If you feel you would like to join this group of volunteers please have a word, you would be very welcome.

Elisabeth Sawle

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. At Holy Trinity the membership of the PCC consisted of our vicar, churchwardens and members elected by those members of the congregation who are on the Electoral Roll of the church.

All those who attend our services / members of the congregation are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC.

PCC members are responsible for making decisions on all matters of general concern and importance to the Parish including deciding how the funds of the PCC are to be spent.

New members have the opportunity to receive initial training as to the workings of the PCC.

Attendance by members at PCC meetings was 75%

Given its wide responsibilities the PCC has a number of groups for dealing with a particular aspect of parish life. These include finance, fundraising and buildings, all are responsible to the PCC and report back to it regularly.

Administrative information

Holy Trinity Church is situated on Old Blackburn Road, Hoghton. It is part of the Leyland Deanery within the Diocese of Blackburn of the Church of England. The PCC is a body corporate (PCC Powers Measure 1956, Church Representation Rules 2011) and a registered charity with the Charity Commission.