



2021 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

Readers Emeritus: Mrs Christine Keenan
Mr Howard Watson

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL (2021)

Church wardens: Mr Bob Collins
Ms Elisabeth Sawle

Deanery Synod representatives:

Mr Bob Collins
Mr Tim Burridge
Mrs Veronica Roper
Mrs Viv Clayton

PCC Members: (end of 3-year term in brackets, currently have 1 vacancy)

Mrs Donna Jones (2022)
Mrs Patricia Swallow (2022)
Mr Ian Murray (2022)
Mrs Veronica Roper (2022)

Miss Victoria Swallow (2023)
Mrs Janet Deakin (2023)
Mr Paul Armitt (2023)
Mr Matthew Watson (2023)

Mrs Judith Pearson (2024)
Mrs Sue Leigh (2024)
Mrs Sue Flitcroft (2024)

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 REPORT

At the time of the APCM (8th May 2022) the electoral roll is made up of 55 names

Church attendance October 2021

Average adult attendance 27
Average child attendance 2

Worshipping Community Totals 2021

0-17	0
18-69	23
70+	37

Occasional offices 2021

Baptisms	5
Confirmations	0
Marriages	1
Funerals held in church	6
Funerals held at Crematorium	2

CLERGY REPORT

As I look back over 2021 in the middle of coping with the ongoing pandemic and all the impacts and effects it had on us, I have to say that my overwhelming thought is gratitude. Gratitude to God for his goodness and kindness to us in the midst of such a turbulent year; as churches we were able to continue to grow and to thrive. We saw lots of exciting things happening and no report would be able to fit in all our blessings, but I just want to highlight some key areas to you.

Firstly, the arrival of Rev Bryn Naylor along with Rhiannon, Max, Grace, and Ella was a huge blessing to us in the plurality. For me personally, having a colleague to pray with and work closely and share the ministry

with has been a source of great joy. I know you will all agree with me on acknowledging how well Bryn and the family have settled in among us and how much we have already benefitted from his ministry, and the gifts and skills he brings to our parishes. We look forward to continuing to see him grow and develop his ministry with us in the coming years.

Secondly, as churches we continued to work well together and develop our ministry and presence in our communities in all kinds of ways. A real highlight for me was when in September after months of meeting online our two PCCs held their first in person meeting together and there was such a buzz in the room as everyone chatted and got to know new people and shared real joy at being able to meet together. It is so good to see them working together while keeping due diligence on looking after our individual churches. We also saw this working together displayed most positively in our community through the Bishops Challenge weekend, over the course of a sunny September Saturday we were able to welcome Bishop Julian, Bishop Philip and Bishop Jill to our fun day as we saw lots of people abseil from Holy Trinity tower and have fun raising money for our churches. It was an incredible team effort from some very willing and able volunteers and special mention must go to the Scouts who did an excellent job of setting up and running some games for us. This was followed by a wonderful celebration Sunday the next day when we welcomed Bishop Julian to preach for us and had so many people in church receiving their certificates and enjoying worshipping together. The Tearfund afternoon tea in the summer was also the first large social event we had held where people felt confident to come and meet together again in larger numbers and share in fellowship with one another whilst raising money for a very worthy cause.

Making Disciples

Despite having to stop public worship for a number of weeks early in the year, we managed to ensure that everyone continued to have access to worship in some form or another. We have continued to live stream our Sunday morning services, and this has seen us reaching out beyond the church walls to draw other people into our worship. By the end of the year, we had established a pattern of worshipping in 4 different congregations across the plurality; at 9.15am on Sundays at All Saints, later at 11.15am at Holy Trinity. Our family orientated worship service '4forAll' is now held every Sunday at 4pm open to everyone and on Wednesdays we also 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. We have also reintroduced our monthly informal worship on a Sunday evening for those who would like to experience more Holy Spirit focused worship.

At Easter we were able to worship together again in a variety of ways and styles although still with some restrictions. We were able to hold our Memorial Service again in November and were delighted to welcome over 70 people into church for that service. We also held Remembrance Day services which were well attended and had a week of prayer and lament with evening reflections which were poorly supported. At Christmas we held a whole range of services in both locations and outside and welcomed lots of people to come and celebrate the good news of Christmas.

We have had two house groups running this year and had a small extra group meeting for Lent. Our teaching series in our sermons have covered different books of the bible as well as some themed series and we also used lectionary readings at different points in the year.

Being Witnesses

We continued prayer walking our parishes at different points in the year and also launched a new group aimed at families with babies and children (see additional report). We delivered leaflets at various points in the year to promote our services and activities to the people in our community and I am immensely grateful to all those who volunteer to serve in this way. As previously mentioned, our Bishop's Challenge Day was a huge day of witness in our community, and we also held a light party for families at the end of October.

Occasional Offices: funerals, baptism and weddings continued to be a huge part of our outreach to our communities last year, spending time drawing alongside families, meeting with them and ministering to them and continuing those connections after the services. Across the plurality there were 20 funerals, 9 baptisms and 6 weddings in 2021.

We were also able to give many people across our plurality a blessing box in the run up to Christmas, we supported our local foodbanks on several occasions, and we also tithed some of our income to different charities, using what God has blessed us with to bless others.

Growing Leaders

I am so grateful for all the ways in which people serve across our two churches in a variety of roles and always incredibly grateful for people's generosity in their time and skills for the benefit of our church communities. We have lots of people operating in leadership areas, wonderful work done by our ministry team and PCCs and their sub-committees of finance, fundraising and buildings and we were also delighted to be able to recommend and support Tash Green in beginning her Local Licensed Ministry Course with the Diocese of Blackburn. We also welcomed Sue Flitcroft as our parish administrator and this has been a great blessing to the ministry across the plurality, removing some of the administrative burden from me. Sue completed the Administration module of the Blackburn Diocese Authorised Lay Ministry course in the Autumn term of 2021.

Inspiring Children & young People

Although our numbers of families are still low, we were delighted to see a positive response to the 4forAll Service and have seen our families really committing to that service. We were also able to hold a Holiday Club outside All Saints in August where we had great fun together. We were also able to continue offering regular weekly worship at Higher Walton school, for parts of the year this was pre-recorded, in other parts of the year it was outside in the playground competing with the noise of the traffic and it ended the year back in the school hall. We were also able to welcome the school into church in limited numbers for the Year 6 leavers service and their Christingle/Carol Service where they were able to make use of our live streaming facilities for parents and families to join us virtually!

2021 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. I am 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. I look forward to what our Lord has in store for us in the coming years.

Rev Hannah Boyd

CURATE'S REPORT

2021 was a big year for the Naylor family – making the move from Durham, where we had been living while I trained for ordained ministry, to Hoghton, was a big transition for all of us: new house, new jobs, new school, new nursery. But we feel that we were able to settle in well, not least because of the efforts of the church families to make us feel welcome, particularly in all your work to get the Vicarage in Hoghton ready before our arrival.

Since being ordained in July, my time in Hoghton and Higher Walton has both affirmed and challenged me in my ministry. There has been lots to learn as I have begun to put into practice the training that I undertook, and in amongst that there have been many highlights to reflect on: holiday club during the summer was a fantastic time to engage with young people in our churches and communities; setting up Trinity Tots and seeing that flourish has been a source of real joy; and abseiling down the tower at Holy Trinity was something I had not been expecting out of my curacy (definitely a once in a lifetime thing). Being involved in the day-to-day ministry of the parishes has also been a real privilege, not only being able to get to know you, and to lead us in worship and preach, but also being involved in baptisms and funerals and celebrating my first Christmas as an ordained minister.

Speaking personally, beginning this curacy was a daunting prospect: finally beginning the ministry that I felt God had been calling me to, not really knowing what to expect, and not having the chance to meet many of you before starting. However, I have benefitted hugely from the support and experience of a brilliant training incumbent in Hannah and have also greatly appreciated all your words of encouragement and kindness over the first 6 months of my ministry here. I am grateful that God called me to this place at this time and am looking forward to seeing how God will continue to use and grow me during the rest of my curacy here.

Rev Bryn Naylor

SAFEGUARDING

Details of Holy Trinity Church safeguarding officers can be found on the notice board in church and on the website should you need to contact us at any time.

At the PCC meeting on the 8th March 2022, the PCC adopted the Church of England Safeguarding Policy, Promoting A Safer Church, along with the Church of England Policy Statement on the Recruitment of Ex Offenders.

All PCC members are currently completing the Church of England National Basic Awareness Training course. Both myself (Sue Leigh) and Elisabeth Sawle will be attending the higher level training as Parish Safeguarding Officers.

Sue Leigh

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Six full PCC meetings were held in 2021. Meetings in January, March, May and July were held via Zoom, whilst the meetings in September and November were held in person. There was an average 78% 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. All members participated in joint sessions of the PCC Tonight training. This is a six session module developed by the Church Pastoral Aid Society (CPAS) and covers issues including the purpose of the PCC, the best way to conduct meetings, mission and community. Following the joint sessions, the PCCs held separate meetings to follow the agenda specific to each PCC.

Two extraordinary PCC meetings were held. One in January to discuss the suspension of in-person worship due to COVID and one in June to discuss two drainage issues.

Sue Flitcroft

HOUSEGROUP REPORT

The 3Bs (Bible, Brew and Biscuit) group continues to meet regularly, and at the start of 2021 we were still using Zoom. What a real delight it was to meet together in person once more and fulfil the brew and biscuit part of our group name! This is a time when we can chat and get to know each other better and support each other through highs and lows. Our biggest high was 'helping' Wish and Matt with their lockdown wedding.

In 2020 we studied Pete Greig's book *How to Pray* but we were always puzzled by our unanswered prayers. So in 2021 we looked at his book entitled *God on Mute* which we found very enlightening, and although we may not have discovered all the answers we are assured of them in the life to come.

We tend to follow the sermon series, using these as a starting point for our discussions, and so we have also looked at the Lord's Prayer and the book of Jonah. The climate crisis has been very prominent in our thinking and so we did a short series entitled *Hope in God's Future*.

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

FINANCE REPORT

As in 2020, Covid had an impact on giving in 2021, especially when the church was closed. However, I am pleased to report that the amount worshippers gave through standing orders rose significantly. This meant we could rely on a regular monthly income and pay our Parish Share in full. In October we joined the Parish Giving Scheme as a parish. By December, 23 people had signed up and this number has increased since,

most changing from standing order but some from envelope or occasional giving. Thank you for this. It means that not only do we receive the majority of our income in one regular monthly payment, but that the Gift Aid tax relief follows automatically within days. I would urge you to consider the scheme if you have not already done so.

I should like to thank Sue Leigh for her work in claiming the back dated Gift Aid which we had not been able to claim due to various administration problems, none of which were our fault, this brought in over £15,600.

In 2020 we were able to cover the cost of capital projects such as the electrical and drainage work, thanks to your generous donations and support of fundraising events. We are grateful too for the sterling efforts of Judith Pearson and Viv Clayton to raise over £2021 towards the projector and screen. We next have to find the money for the 2022 heating project, but by the end of 2021 we already had over £11,000 towards the cost. Through donations we have also been able to purchase a defibrillator. We continue in our belief that God will provide for the stewardship of His church.

I should like to thank Owen Leigh for being the official examiner of the 2021 accounts, and the Finance Committee for their ongoing input and support.

Jan Deakin

DEANERY SYNOD REPORT

Synod met twice in 2021. The first meeting in March was held on Zoom and the guest speaker was the Very Revd Peter Howell-Jones, Dean of Blackburn Cathedral. Peter said that he had been at the Cathedral for four years and like parishes, the Cathedral faced problems. They had spent seventeen years planning and building the Cathedral Court which had distracted from mission. It had also meant financial struggles. He focussed his talk on how to communicate with the congregation during lockdown highlighting online worship, support for choristers and a weekly letter for senior citizens.

The October meeting was held in person at Leyland St James with Revd Nick McKee as our guest. Nick is the Diocesan Vocations Director, and his talk was called "What is Church?". His presentation dealt with the four strands of Lay Ministry; these are informal, authorised lay ministry, licensed lay ministry and Church Army Evangelists. Informal deals with welcomers and sidespeople, minimal training was required which would be mostly at parish level although some diocesan training was available. Authorised lay ministry was for preaching, youth and children ministry, pastoral care amongst others; the training was a ten-session module run by the diocese and held diocesan recognition. Licensed lay ministry (formerly known as Reader Ministry) required a two year training course held at Emmanuel Theological College (run by northern dioceses including Blackburn). Church Army Evangelists were trained at Sheffield over three years.

Elections for the lay deanery officers and standing committee which should have taken place were deferred to 2022.

Bob Collins

MUSIC REPORT

The ladies have carried on singing for Communion, and I have continued to play organ and piano as required. Stephen Boyd has also covered some Sundays and other services where I wasn't available.

We managed to get through Christmas, with a shortened Carol Service, early Midnight Communion at 9.30pm (for which I was grateful), and, I believe, several Christingle Services!

I was happy to have the Hoghton in Harmony singers at the Carol Service to swell the ranks and it was good to see the choir stalls full.

Up to this year, I have had the job of choosing the hymns, but this is now done by Hannah and Bryn. This is probably wise, since I tended to go with the Lectionary for the week, and we don't now follow the Lectionary so carefully, apart from the Collect.

I still prefer to choose what is sung by the ladies at Communion, only because I know what is in their repertoire, as there is no time for a practice now, unless I ask them to come early to service and miss ringing. After morning service is too late, except for the very occasional time.

I am grateful to all those who support the music-making in Church. Thank you.

Donna Jones

FABRIC REPORT

The Building Team have been consulting with John Book who is the Diocesan Advisory Committee for the Care of Churches authority on heating, and he sent out tenders to replace the current system with a new type of boiler linked to a radiator network. John has been monitoring installations using this new type of boiler and they have not measured up to the efficiency rating promised. This has prompted a rethink on the type of heating to be used (the radiator network will still be required) so we have not yet decided on the final way forward.

During heavy rain, water tended to flow down the cellar steps indicating a blockage in the drains. Investigation revealed a broken section outside the tower; this section has been renewed. We also discovered during the digging of the electrical trench for the church hall that the foul drain leading into the farmyard was blocked; after clearing, a camera inspection revealed that the pipework was broken over much of the length. The whole section of drain up to the wall next to the farmyard has been replaced.

We still have an issue with water ingress problems relating to the roof; this required scaffolding to be erected for a closer inspection of the faults. Unfortunately, the faculty required took longer than anticipated and we are still pushing for the work to be completed. The gutters have been cleaned.

Bob Collins

FUNDRAISING REPORT

Opportunities to fundraise and socialise were put on hold much of the year. However, we do thank Viv and Judith for their amazing feat of walking over 2021 miles each over the year and raising an amazing £2031. We had competitions and an egg roll down the church tower at Easter but this was all remotely done as we were still living with restrictions.

The postponed Afternoon Tea from 2020 was held in August and was the first time we were able to meet without Covid restrictions and the atmosphere was electric in the Church Hall. The proceeds for this were split between the church and Tearfund.

We joined with All Saints to hold the Bishops Challenge when many people abseiled down the church tower and we raised a staggering £7,000. Many thanks to all who helped to make this a success, and particularly to our three Bishops who participated in various ways in the event.

The Ceilidh planned for harvest became a quiz as we were being Covid aware, and in November we joined many other churches around the UK for The Big Quiz Night to raise money for Tearfund. Sadly the Christmas Quiz was postponed due to an upsurge in Covid cases, but many thanks to Sylvia and Russell who, undaunted, are mixing Christmas with Easter in a big quiz.

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 the next two years, so do please support us in all our ventures

Elisabeth Sawle

BELLRINGERS REPORT

The year began very quietly for us bellringers, as the pandemic restrictions prevented us from meeting and ringing until May.

Our first ring since March 2020 was on Sunday 23rd May, when we rang 6 bells for half an hour.

We had to ring in masks, and with both windows wide open, each ringer only touching their own rope so no swapping around!

We did ring for a wedding in June, but as we were both having to self-isolate due to contact with covid we had to bow out of that and also the following Sunday. Joan Houghton from Whittle le Woods very kindly stepped in to fill gaps.

As restrictions lifted in July, we began meeting again on Wednesday evenings for our weekly practice. However, everyone was feeling a bit cautious and so we decided to leave it a bit longer until mid September. We were still ringing every Sunday though.

On Sunday 30th October we formed a band and rang for the joint service at All Saints.

Further restrictions meant that in December we had to start wearing masks again which is really not pleasant at all when ringing bells! Added to that we had to have both windows wide open so came to ringing well wrapped up and the layers stayed firmly on!!

We did ring for the Midnight Communion on Christmas Eve, so ended the year on a slightly more “normal” note.

Ray & Viv Clayton

MOTHERS' UNION REPORT

Unfortunately due to COVID we have been unable to meet till October, but we have kept in contact with members either by telephone, email & church, thank you to the committee for keeping in contact with members. We have continued to make 'Crosses in your Pocket' for both churches which are given to the baptism families & wedding couples and Royal Preston Hospital & Chorley District Hospital. We also provide knitted hearts for the hospitals & Pauline makes beautiful cards for the Wedding couples .

We give a special Bible story book to the Baptism children.

It has been a sad year – Della Knowles, Doris Wilkinson & Margaret Burrige have passed away who we sorely miss.

Della started the Branch 40 years ago and held different positions in the branch including Deanery Literature Representative, she was the instigator of the making of the banner.

We started in October with Holy Communion taken by Rev Hannah & Rev Bryn which was a very moving service – much appreciated, thank you.

In November we had a very successful Christmas Flower Demonstration by Laura from 'Call me Flower.'

Judith has put together a very interesting programme for 2022.

I would like to thank the Committee for all their hard work & support in many ways also to the members being loyal throughout the year.

NOW WE LOOK FORWARD TO 2022 – helping at home & overseas.

MOTHERS' UNION THEME FOR 2022 – 'HOPE & CONFIDENCE'

Everyone is most Welcome to the meetings - 3rd Tuesday 2pm to 4pm in Holy Trinity Church Hall.

Veronica Roper, Branch Leader

STAMP TRIMMING

After what seemed a very long time of not being able to meet, September saw us reunited to share stories and news over tea and cake. We are a small group from the community united in a desire to help *Stamp out Leprosy*. Maybe people have been writing more letters during lockdown but the stamps have continued to flow in. Keep saving your stamps please, and do join us on the 4th Wednesday of most months, all you need to bring is a pair of scissors and a desire to chat.

Elisabeth Sawle

TRINITY TOTS

Last summer a family got in touch to ask if we had plans to set up a baby and toddler group once restrictions had eased. We were keen to meet this need as soon possible, particularly as we had the perfect venue at Holy Trinity Church Hall, and so in August we had a planning meeting where a group of potential church volunteers met with the family who had been in touch. We agreed that at its core we wanted to provide a safe, welcoming space for parents, carers, and their children to come together to chat, play, enjoy refreshments and get to know each other and members of our church community. Each session would have play time, craft materials, refreshments, and some singing. We wanted to provide good quality toys and members of our churches were extremely generous in donating these – we had to buy very few additional items because we received so much.

Trinity Tots launched on 17th September and meets every Friday, 9.00-10.30. We initially advertised with posters locally and we also advertise on Facebook, where there is a dedicated Trinity Tots page. By the end of 2021 we had welcomed almost 30 different families in total and on a weekly basis we averaged between 8 and 10 families. We do not charge for entry because we want those who come to know that this is our way of serving them. However, we have had to place a discreet donations tin near the door because parents/carers have been so persistent in wanting to contribute something. In 2021 this received almost £100, which has been used to purchase healthy children's snacks each week and to buy advent calendars from The Meaningful Chocolate company, which we handed out to all families just before Christmas.

The group has had a brilliant start and has proven to be a fantastic way of reaching out and serving our community. And this is thanks to the hard work and dedication of all the volunteers involved, who each week provide a warm welcome, great company, and fantastic cake!

Rev Bryn Naylor