



2024 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 Daniel Abraham

Readers Emeritus: Mrs Christine Keenan
Mr Howard Watson

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL (2024)

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)

Mr Ian Murray (2025)

Mrs Holly Watson (2025)

Mr Matt Watson (2025)

Miss Victoria Swallow (2026)

Mrs Janet Deakin (2026)

Mrs Marilyn Gibson (2026)

Mrs Judith Pearson (2027)

Mrs Sue Leigh (2027)

Mrs Sue Flitcroft (2027)

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 (19th May 2024) the electoral roll is made up of 54 names

Church attendance October 2024

Average adult attendance 29

Average child attendance 9

Worshipping Community Totals 2023

0-17	17
18-69	39
70+	31

Occasional offices 2023

Baptisms	11
Confirmations	2
Marriages	0
Funerals held in church	3
Funerals held at Crematorium	1

CLERGY REPORT

As I look back and reflect on 2024 the word that springs to mind is flourishing. In 2024 we saw so much of our churches life and ministry flourishing and really felt settled as a community of believers in our local community. I hope you enjoy reading about some of the highlights below.

Making Disciples

- Four congregations meeting across the plurality weekly, worshipping God and growing in faith.
- Parade services continuing to grow and thrive at Holy Trinity.
- Three house groups meeting weekly with people going deeper in their faith.
- Celebration Sundays happening bi-monthly, it is always a real joy to worship together. We also worshipped together to celebrate the major festivals of Christmas and Easter.
- We baptised several adults who all completed Hope Explored before their baptism
- During Lent we had a Pathways to Prayer course led very ably by Gill Ireland which gave those who attended a real opportunity to grow in their life of prayer.
- During Holy Week and throughout Thy Kingdom Come we had daily devotional emails and booklets for those not online, written by a mixture of leaders from within the church. They received positive feedback and really helped people connect with God in a different way.
- In the autumn we saw the launch of Pints of View, the men's fella'ship group meeting in the Boar's Head pub. This is enabling men to grow in faith whilst drawing in others to the life of faith.

Being Witnesses

- Both churches ran a huge number of successful fundraising events, many of which had opportunities in them for us to share the gospel with people and to build relationships. I am incredibly grateful to all those who work so tirelessly to put these events on.
- We continued with our programme of outreach to families through the Pancake Party, Easter Extravaganza, Light Party, Teddy Bears Picnic and Holiday Club
- Our pet service following another successful dog show was the best attended yet with several visitors.
- The Harvest Ceilidh was a wonderful all age event which welcomed people from all parts of our community, our groups and our church families and we had a brilliant time.
- We also held six other events over harvest as part of Bishop Philip's Harvest Heptathlon and were able to donate food to the foodbank and send much needed fund to the Bishop's harvest appeal.

- We began a partnership with Trinity Methodist church and established a monthly bereavement café reaching out to people in the community. This has been very well received and appreciated by the community.
- We prayer walked our parishes three times throughout the year, asking God's blessing to be upon our local communities. We also introduced some litter picking into this initiative, so we are making a real difference to our local environment.
- At Christmas we ran an extremely successful Journey to Bethlehem, transforming All Saints into an interactive live nativity. Thanks to generous funding from the diocese, we were able to supply a coach so that every pupil from Coupe Green Primary school was able to visit, as well as the children from Higher Walton CE school, our uniformed groups and the local community. Over the two weeks we welcomed almost 300 children and 130 adults. Thanks to everyone involved, it was a real team effort and a wonderful highlight of the year.
- Christmas also saw our Breakfast with Santa, all age nativity, an afternoon tea and a range of wonderful and varied services all of which had visitors attending.
- I was also invited to be the mayor's chaplain for the year and although not directly linked to the plurality this gave me wonderful and unexpected opportunities to share the gospel in a whole host of settings including doing a thought for the day before each of the full council meetings at South Ribble Council.
- There were also baptisms, weddings and funeral where we were able to meet people and share Jesus with them at whatever stage of the journey of life, they find themselves.

Growing Leaders

- None of the things already mentioned would be possible without the incredible army of volunteers of all ages who serve and use their time, skills and gifts for the kingdom work. I am immensely grateful to each and every person who has served the life of our plurality in some way in 2024.
- At the start of the year, we said goodbye to Rev Bryn Naylor as he left his curacy early to take up his first incumbency, a sign of a successful curacy completed with us!
- We were delighted to welcome Rev Danny Abraham among us in July, following his ordination. Danny has settled in well and is already a valuable part of our leadership team.
- We reestablished pastoral visiting teams to go and visit housebound members of the plurality.
- We saw several of our young people serving and flourishing on the Holiday Club team alongside twenty other leaders from across the plurality some serving for the first time.
- All our PCC sub-committees are now lay led by a member of the PCC, freeing up valuable clergy time.
- Our young people got involved in leading services which was wonderful to see and enables us all to value the contribution our children and young people make to our communities.

Inspiring Children and Young People

- Trinity Tots continues to flourish and thrive, now led with over 25 families connected and a wonderful team of faithful volunteers.
- There were 65 children at our fabulous Holiday Club which we held at Coupe Green Primary for the first time.
- Youth Group and Kingdom Kids both began meeting fortnightly and have seen steady numbers attending alongside growth in faith for all ages. Both of these groups are led by volunteers from across the plurality.
- Some of our young people attended youth events at St Luke's, Blackburn showing them that they are not the only young people following Jesus.
- Our youth group held a successful car wash, went on some trips and also ably got involved in leading services at both churches.
- We held a 'Back to School' service at Higher Walton school which was well attended.
- There were over 110 children at our Easter Egg hunt.
- We took weekly worship in Higher Walton school, every class came to All Saints as part of an RE topic and most of the classes also came to be part of our Thy Kingdom Come prayer stations. We also held assemblies in Coupe Green Primary for Easter and Harvest.

2024 was a year of flourishing in all areas of our plurality life and although there were losses, difficulties and challenges along the way, we rejoice that we get to serve a God who is faithful, provides for all our needs and remains the same yesterday, today and forever. It remains the greatest privilege and pleasure to serve as incumbent in this plurality and I am expectant and excited for the next stage of the journey with God.

Rev Hannah Boyd
Incumbent

SAFEGUARDING

This year a lot of time has been spent getting all the parish safeguarding paperwork up to date. This has included all relevant persons completing application forms for their volunteering role, references taken and interviews for the roles undertaken. These roles include Holiday Club, Kingdom Kids, Youth Group and some roles at Trinity Tots.

DBS checks are up to date for all required people which includes the above along with PCC members, and we continue to complete all necessary training on the diocese website. There are different modules for different roles in the church and myself and Elisabeth (safeguarding officers) have also completed Safer Recruitment, Leadership, modern slavery and human trafficking modules.

A list is held by Rev Hannah to ensure all training is kept up to date.

Safeguarding is an agenda item for all PCC meetings. This gives us a chance to discuss any items that need bringing to the attention of the PCC and also to ensure each PCC member is aware of their obligation to ensure the welfare of all vulnerable groups, including children and vulnerable adults is a priority for all.

If anyone reading is unsure what to do if they have any safeguarding concerns please speak to Rev Hannah, Sue Leigh, Elisabeth Sawle or the Safeguarding Team at Blackburn Diocese. All the telephone numbers are on the notice board and on our website.

The diocese set up a dashboard/portal for each parish to update all items that come under safeguarding. This has been available for a few years, and we now work on this on a monthly basis and is discussed at safeguarding meetings to ensure we are protecting all persons with the right paperwork, training and people in place.

Safeguarding is extremely important in our parish. We want to ensure we continue to have a safe church with a safe environment for everyone.

Sue Leigh
Safeguarding Officer

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Six full PCC meetings were held in 2024. All meetings were held in person. There was an average 84% attendance by members at each meeting. There was one extraordinary meeting held in January to approve the design of the new noticeboard and to agree to proceed with purchase. The sub-committees were lay-led with attendance by Rev Hannah according to the new structure.

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 the Policy on Recruitment of Ex-Offenders, the Policy on Promoting a Safer Church and the Data Privacy Notice. There were preliminary discussions about All Saints, Higher Walton and Holy Trinity, Hoghton moving from the existing plurality of two separate benefices to a united parish.

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 2024 across the plurality on different days of the week and all groups included members of both churches. Between them they covered topics such as Frontline Sundays, Greater Things, Generosity, and subjects chosen by the different groups. During Lent we met together for Pathways to Prayer, a truly inspiring series led by different people. 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 2024, through regular giving and fund-raising events. By the end of 2024 thirty-five 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 and £9,000 from Gift Day.

To cover the costs of running the church, especially electricity charges, we have had to rely on other sources of funding especially fund-raising, which made a very welcome net profit of £7,503. Thanks are due to all who contributed in any way. The pew cushions and noticeboard were paid for from donations and the contents of Smartie tubes! Expenditure on major projects, such as drainage and the church hall roof, were funded from our investments. That money was left as a legacy many years ago, for which we are truly thankful. Perhaps you would think about leaving a legacy in your will?

2024 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 2024 accounts, and to the finance committee for their ongoing input and support.

Janet Deakin
Treasurer

DEANERY SYNOD REPORT

The meeting in February was held at Hoghton Holy Trinity and was hybrid involving YouTube. The guest speaker was Rt Revd Jill Duff. Her theme was theme “Lighting the Beacons” the title of her recent book. A new Deanery Secretary, Susan Phillips, was appointed and a new clergy member of the committee, Ian Sarginson. Diocesan Synod elections are due this year and members were urged to think of applying or encouraging parishioners to consider.

The June meeting was held at Leyland St John. The speakers were Ffion Tisnell and Hannah Donavan, both from Preston Minster. Their talk was focussed on 18 – 30-year-olds and they explained the work they were doing came from a church plant from Holy Trinity Brompton 5 years ago.

PTO clergy had an entitlement to join deanery synods and Leyland can have two; these are David Phillips and Richard Plant. Diocesan Synod elections had taken place and again Leyland had not filled their quota; there were four clergy and three laity leaving vacancies for 7 clergy and 6 laity.

The October meeting was held at Rufford St Mary with Revd Canon Professor John Rodwell, Diocesan Environment Officer. He spoke about “Creation Care and Carbon Net Zero”. The annual report of the Standing Committee was given by the Area Dean; nominations had been received for some of the vacancies for Diocesan Synod, Sam Crossley and Ian Sarginson to the clergy and Tracey Johnson to the laity.

Bob Collins
Deanery Rep

FABRIC REPORT

The heating system has been operating just using the heat pumps to keep costs down. During the winter months the electricity charges have rocketed; Hannah has been in touch with Mark Ireland and Jen Read for a meeting to discuss the problems.

A survey was carried out which shows the outfall heads down towards the Lych Gate, the camera wouldn't go any further; a suggestion to dig up the path to find any blockage was rejected on cost and because it would mean demolishing the gate. Another contractor has suggested resurveying the outfall taking the camera further.

The Church Hall roof has damaged ridge tiles replaced. The west side windows have been repainted. The cooker has been checked for safety.

Investigation has taken place to install solar panels; one quote has been received and alternative suppliers are being sought.

Car park disabled signs have been replaced where damaged. The main car park entrance sign has been replaced. Signage was placed alongside the roadside wall but was either removed or broken. The graveyard notices have all been replaced with new ones updating the information.

There have been complaints throughout the year with the standard of grass cutting and a decision on whether to keep the same contractor or move will be taken in the new year; an alternative quote has been obtained.

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 began the year with a joint quiz in aid of Tearfund, a wonderful walk to the Singing Ringing Tree in the summer, a further croquet afternoon, more cheese, wine and chocolate, a brilliant Dog Show and rounded the year off by celebrating with Houghton in Harmony, and of course Santa's Quiz.

In October we joined with All Saints for a fantastic Ceilidh and hot pot supper.

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

Throughout 2024 we rang for service most Sundays, and also at All Saints, Higher Walton for the bi-monthly joint celebration services.

We had 8 regular ringers throughout the year, and practiced most Wednesday evenings apart from our joint practices at Samlesbury every other first Wednesday of the month. Their ringers joined us for practice on the alternate first Wednesdays.

We rang for one wedding at Higher Walton

In January we went out for a meal and were joined by fellow ringers from Brindle and Samlesbury. There was a meeting of the Preston branch of the Lancashire Association of church bellringers at Holy Trinity which provided background music whilst the dog show was taking place!

On Sunday 3rd November we rang for an extra 10 minutes before the service and the congregation donated to the Bishop's harvest appeal for this. We raised £37.

Earlier in the year, Ray applied for a grant from the Harold and Alice Bridges trust to pay for a full set of new ropes, which was granted and they were received and fitted in October.

On 30th December 4 members of our band plus 4 additional ringing friends rang a quarter peal to commemorate 200 years of worship at Holy Trinity and also in memory of Rev'd Eric Wagstaffe, previous incumbent here.

Viv Clayton
Churchwarden

MOTHERS' UNION FRIENDSHIP GROUP

We have monthly meetings & lunches, attend Diocesan & Deanery Festivals, meetings, Quiet days at various venues across the Diocese, recently we attended the commissioning of our new Diocesan President – Susan Willoughby at Blackburn Cathedral - York MU Province & Blackburn Diocese MU banners were carried, Bishop Philip commissioned Susan & the service was attended by clergy & MU members from the branches in the Diocese. Susan has taken over from the outgoing President – Gill Ireland. We are invited to join St Leonards, Walton Le Dale MU monthly meetings where we are most welcome.

Easter 2024 we knitted Easter chicks and sold them at both churches – the donations were given to the MU 'Away from it All' project which includes the Caravan Holidays at Morecambe & for Bishop Philip's Diocesan holidays for the young people. The caravan holidays are for families, single parents & grandparents who are unable to afford a holiday – referrals are by the clergy, health visitors & social workers.

September 2024, we had a very successful Coffee Morning for the 'Summer of Hope' – MU project which is donated to help Worldwide projects – we have members in 83 countries – one of the projects is the Literacy & Development programme which enables members & husbands to read & write & eventually have their own businesses.

Christmas 2024 we visited Arrowsmith Care Home, Gregson Lane where we gave each resident a wooden cross, one lady was so thrilled as she had just lost her cross, the residents starting singing carols, it was a worthwhile visit.

Knitted blankets – both adult & baby blankets have been given to the Christian Community Larder, St Aidan's, Bamber Bridge.

Mothering Sunday – for 35 years we have bunched the daffodils for distribution at Holy Trinity Mothering Sunday service which we enjoy doing to support the church.

Thank you very much for the support we receive in our various activities.

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 third birthday in September and Trinity Tots continues to grow in strength and friendship. We now have around 30 children with their carers, 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 children receive a book when they leave us to go to "big" school.

Since December we incorporated an activity to link with the Christmas Story, and all the children received a book from Bible Society.

The families are always invited to church events, and it is wonderful to see some of the families coming.

Many thanks to all the volunteers who support us in any way, 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, Jan Deakin, Marilyn Gibson

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 84%

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.