



ANNUAL REPORT 2024 FOR THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF HIGHER WALTON, ALL SAINTS

Aim and Purposes

All Saints' Church Higher Walton 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 All Saints Higher Walton and the free standing modular unit 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 All Saints'. 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 Church Commission's guidance on public benefit. We try to enable all 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

CHURCH OFFICIALS

MINISTRY TEAM

Vicar:	Rev'd Hannah Boyd
Curate:	Rev'd Daniel Abraham

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL (2024)

Church Wardens	Stephen Houghton
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Deanery Synod representatives:

Margaret Arton
Vacancy

PCC Members: (end of 3-year term in brackets)

Brad Eccles 2025
Natasha Green 2025
Keith Houston 2025

Harry Hartley 2026
Mick Hogarth 2026
Sandra Houghton 2026

Geoff Woods 2027
Neil Skinner 2027 (resigned)
Joanne Ingham 2027

PCC Officials:

Chairperson	Rev'd Hannah Boyd
Secretary	Ms Joanne Ingham
Treasurer	Mr Stephen Houghton
Electoral Roll Officer	Mrs Barbara Niven
Safeguarding Officers	Miss Natasha Green and Mrs June Westby

Electoral Roll Report

At the time of the APCM (12/5/2024) the electoral roll is made up of 85 names

Church Attendance October 2024

Average adult attendance: 30

Average Child Attendance: 3

Worshipping Community Totals 2023

0-17:	9
18-69	17
70+	44

Occasional Offices 2023

Baptisms	8
Confirmations	0
Marriages	3
Funerals held in church	4
Funerals held at the 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 funerals 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 lay 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

All PCC members and Churchwardens are required to complete online Safeguarding training, which are the basic training, foundations training and domestic abuse course. All members whose training is or was due for renewal have been told and know when this needs to be completed by and have started to do so in relation to their renewal dates. As safeguarding officers, we also need to have completed the leadership safeguarding training course delivered by the diocese. June renewed hers this year. Those that need to complete the safer recruitment course and modern slavery and human trafficking course are doing so, this includes PCC members and those working with Children, young people and venerable adults.

DBS checks are up-to-date for all relevant persons, PCC members, Kingdom Kids and Youth Club helpers. We have also updated everyone's references and declarations where required for those working with children, young people and vulnerable adults.

The Diocese have set up an online portal/safeguarding dashboard for churches to use to keep all records up to date. This has been updated with the relevant information and is up to date. Tash has access to the All Saints Hub and checks it regularly to ensure that it is as up to date as possible and notes what needs to be covered at relevant meetings. The dash board is currently green and at 98% for the mandatory requirements, as of the 7th April 2025.

Safeguarding is an item on every PCC agenda and is discussed at every PCC meeting. The safeguarding team have met over the year to discuss any changes, training and any matters that have arisen.

Safeguarding contact details can be found on the notice board at the back of church and on the church website. We will also have a poster up with details of different organisations that offer support to those who need it.

Natasha Green & June Westby
Safeguarding Officers

SECRETARY

Six full PCC meetings were held in 2024, with meetings in January, March, May, July, September and November, plus one extraordinary meeting in April. There was an average of 84% attendance (2023 – 80%). One member resigned their position during this time.

The meetings were once again held partly with Holy Trinity Hoghton, joining together for the Vicars update and Safeguarding reports, and holding the remaining sections separately to follow the agenda specific to each PCC.

We have vacancies at this APCM for 4 PCC members and 2 Churchwardens.

Joanne Ingham
PCC Secretary

HOUSEGROUPS

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 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

FINANCIAL REVIEW

This was a decent year in terms of our financial performance. We were helped considerably by the Gift Day at the end of 2023 which by agreement with the Diocese was held over towards our 2024 Parish Share contribution.

It meant we were able to pay our 2024 Parish Share £38713 in full, an excellent achievement and thanks to all generous givers.

Our income pot was also boosted by the wonderful work of the Fundraising Team which contributed £7100 from our numerous events. Again, thanks to all concerned.

The Parish Giving Scheme is working well, and new members have joined in 2025. The scheme makes life so much easier and if you want to know more please speak to me.

Main expenditure items included the professional inspection of the rear wall of the church, the installation of hot water in the outside toilet, and tarmacing the path and car park in the new churchyard.

We finished the year with a surplus of £5747 of unrestricted funds, from which we have put £2500 into a separate deposit account in line with our Reserves Policy. We have a further £14533 in restricted funds.

Thanks again to Jane Maddock for her sterling work as Gift Aid Secretary and to Lillian Orrell for organising the money and the banking. Thanks also to Stephen Niven for undertaking the independent examination of the Financial Accounts.

Stephen Houghton

Treasurer & Churchwarden

SOCIAL AND FUNDRAISING

2024 was a very successful year on the social and fundraising front.

Our small team works extremely hard to make our events so enjoyable and entertaining.

The two Stephen's (Niven and Houghton) hosted two quizzes in the year, both well supported, well received, and entertaining!

Our Afternoon Tea was again a success. Well attended and without exception the comments were very positive as regards the range and quality of food and the service.

The Car Wash with Tash, Stephen N & Wish plus the Youth Group had a busy and profitable July morning in the church car park.

Again, the two Stephen's organised what has now become our Annual Plant Sale. Harry Hartley joined the event with some of his own excellent plants. The weather was kind, and we had a good and profitable day. Refreshments were provided which always proves popular. Our surplus plants were sold at the Summer Fair.

The Summer Fair inside church was very well organised and a great success. Very well supported and a credit to the organising team. Central Lancashire Community Band entertained us with a session of varied music.

Our final event was the Christmas Fair. Hoghton in Harmony provided some excellent festive entertainment. A record to total was raised.

These events do not happen without a lot of hard work by a very small team to whom credit must be given.

*Sandra Houghton
Chair of sub-committee*

DEANERY SYNOD

There were 3 Leyland Deanery meetings this past year with the members consisting of both clergy and deanery representatives from all the parishes in the deanery at each one. All members also receive Diocesan Synod and General Synod reports for information.

The 5th of February meeting was held at Holy Trinity, Hoghton as an experimental hybrid meeting with online and face to face members. The guest speaker was Bishop Jill who spoke about "Lighting the beacons". This was interspersed with questions for discussion in groups and her first question was asking us to imagine going to a desert island being only able to have one scripture verse or hymn with you. Which would you take and why?

The second meeting was held on 4th June at St John's Leyland which is the Area Dean's church, Rev Andy Meeson. He introduced the 2 speakers for the evening - Ffion Tisnell who is the Preston Minster Student Worker and University Chaplain plus Hannah Donavan who is the SPEAR Centre Manager at Preston Minster – "Working with young adults"

They work and engage with young people born between 1997 and 2010 i.e. the 18-30 age group known as Generation Z. This generation are found to be much more anxious with feelings of hopelessness re the economy etc. Many of them have a mental health crisis with loneliness, low commitment and tech reliant whilst caring about justice, bigger meanings and the supernatural. a survey of 1237 University students who are found to be less happy and hopeful. 53% have no religion but the rest are open to spirituality. 41% would listen to the story of Jesus now. The members then split into table groups to discuss various questions including "What are the challenges for young people in your parish? What are the opportunities to connect?"

The speakers also said that any issues raised all need engaging with great sensitivity. Church may not be that welcoming and they may feel ostracised. Don't shy away from the issues and be honest, loving and welcoming. Events don't always work and finding connections can be difficult. Try things and check afterwards – did it work? Yes – build on that but if it didn't try something else. Pray and be open to God about all this.

The final meeting was held on 23/10/24 at St Mary the Virgin Rufford Guest Speaker. The Revd Canon Prof John Rodwell Blackburn Diocese Environment Officer– "Creation Care and Net Carbon Zero". His question was "Are we grateful enough to God for Creation, energetic enough to preserve the Creation and, sorrowful enough to Him for our neglect and damage?"

*Margaret Arton
Deanery Rep*

FABRIC

2024 saw the re-surfacing of the carpark and central footpath in the New Churchyard. This has greatly improved safe access to the graves in the area which are frequently visited and tended. Several other tasks were completed including: a hot water supply in the toilet, completion of the gas meter cupboard repairs, further repairs to areas of the roof and repair of the corroded ventilation grills in the Church exterior walls.

Routine maintenance and servicing activities were also carried out, including clearing the church gutters, fire equipment checks, pest control activities, painting of the Greenhouse and the annual servicing of the heating system.

2025 will focus on continued work on the Quinquennial actions, repairs to the War Memorial and improving the lighting in the Church.

Brad Eccles

Chair of sub-committee

LADIES GROUP

Our meetings continued to be held on the first Thursday of the month from 2pm to 4pm apart from any election days.

In January we had a celebration hot pot lunch at our normal meeting venue of Higher Walton Community Centre.

The rest of the year had the usual meeting pattern of a meal out in July, and 10 other monthly meetings with either a speaker or activities. These included a very diverse set of talks on medical detection dogs, wild life photography, Hedgehog Rescue, Yvonne telling us about Elizabethan times whilst wearing an Elizabethan costume and a Customs and Excise Officer about his time at Heathrow

The activities included a bring and buy sale plus a canal cruise from Botany Bay and a circular walk starting from Brindle Lodge in August on a very hot day ending with an ice cream at Gregson lane.

The group continues to support the Church social events by running a chocolate and sweets stall at both the summer and Christmas fairs.

The meeting attendance this year was around 25 each month from a membership of around 30 with some new members joining and others no longer able to come on occasion for various reasons.

The annual subscription per member remained at £15 for the year with a meeting charge of £2 as in previous years. Janet Bradley continued as Bookings Secretary for the speakers with Angela Moran as Treasurer.

Margaret Arton

Leader

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. At All Saints the membership of the PCC consisted of our vicar, churchwarden 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

All Saints' Church is situated on Blackburn Road, Higher Walton, Preston. 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.