



ANNUAL REPORT 2025 FOR THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF HIGHER WALTON, ALL SAINTS & HOGHTON, HOLY TRINITY

Aim and Purposes

All Saints', Higher Walton & Holy Trinity, Hoghton 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, the free-standing modular unit in the grounds of All Saints and the Church of Holy Trinity, Hoghton and the church hall in the grounds of Holy Trinity.

Objectives and Activities

The PCC is committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship at our Churches and to become part of our parish community. 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 (2025)

Church Wardens Stephen Houghton
Geoff Woods
Viv Clayton
Elisabeth Sawle

Deanery Synod representatives:

Paul Armitt
Vacancy x3

PCC Members:

Term Finishes in 2026	Term Finishes in 2027	Term finishes 2028
Jan Deakin	Sue Leigh	Matt Watson
Marilyn Gibson		Holly Watson
Vicky Swallow		Nicola Craven
Harry Hartley		Brad Eccles
Mick Hogarth		Tash Green
Sandra Houghton		

PCC Officials:

Chairperson	Rev'd Hannah Boyd
Secretary	Vicky Swallow
Treasurers	Mr Stephen Houghton & Mrs Janet Deakin
Electoral Roll Officer	Mrs Barbara Niven & Mr Bob Collins
Safeguarding Officers & Ms Elisabeth Sawle	Miss Natasha Green & Mrs June Westby, Mrs Sue Leigh

Electoral Roll Report

At the time of the APCM (20/01/2026) the electoral roll is made up of 96 names

Church Attendance October 2025

All Saints	Holy Trinity
Average adult attendance: 45	Average adult attendance: 27
Average Child Attendance: 4	Average Child Attendance: 4

Worshipping Community Totals 2025

	All Saints	Holy Trinity
0-17:	7	17
18-69	17	37
70+	45	33

Occasional Offices 2025

	All Saints	Holy Trinity
Baptisms	1	11
Confirmations	4	0
Marriages	1	2
Wedding Blessings	1	0
Funerals held in church	4	7
Funerals held at the crematorium	1	1

CLERGY REPORT

As I look back and reflect on 2025 the word that springs to mind is fruitful. We saw so much of our churches life and ministry bearing fruit, new people joining us, people coming to faith, making public confession of their faith and growing in faith. Our ministry team grew with the fantastic appointment of Tash Green as our Ignite leader and we continued to be creative and thrive in all kinds of ways.

Making Disciples	Being Witnesses
<p>All our congregations saw new people joining them in 2025 and every Sunday at both churches we now have children joining us for worship.</p> <p>We continue to offer a variety of services which are well prepared, imaginative and encourage us all to grow in faith.</p> <p>We ran Alpha for a large group of people and off the back of that added another house group so that we now have four groups meeting in homes and the men's Pints of View group meeting in the pub.</p> <p>We have also been able to offer Bible study for the adults who join us at Kingdom Kids. Our sermon series continue to teach and challenge us whilst learning about the Bible. We continue to have faithful generous givers who support the ministry of the parish, thank you to you all.</p>	<p>Once again, we have run a huge number of fundraising events all of them reaching out to people in a variety of contexts, enabling us to raise much needed funds and spread the gospel to people in our communities.</p> <p>There were lots of events for children and families: Easter Egg hunt, Holiday Club, Light Party, Teddy Bears Picnic, Breakfast with Santa.</p> <p>We have continued to prayer walk the parishes whilst doing litter picking.</p> <p>Our men's group is a great presence in the Boars Head pub.</p> <p>Occasional offices have continued with opportunities to meet people and talk about Jesus and church in a natural way.</p>
Growing Leaders	Inspiring children and young people
<p>We were delighted to appoint Tash Green as our Ignite leader, Tash started work in August and has definitely hit the ground running!</p> <p>Our incredible army of dedicated volunteers continues to serve our parish and ensure that we can run the incredible number of creative events, activities and outreach opportunities that we do. I am so thankful for every person who uses their God given gifts to serve week in, week out.</p> <p>Rev Danny was ordained a priest in June, and it has been wonderful to have another priest in the parish.</p> <p>Our young people continue to serve in a variety of ways including regularly getting involved in services as well as holiday club.</p> <p>The majority of PCC sub-committees continue to be lay led.</p> <p>We have a pastoral visiting team well established and active.</p>	<p>We welcomed over 350 children and 106 adults to Christmas Through the Keyhole and had a wonderful time telling the Christmas story in a creative and powerful way.</p> <p>Our youth group has tripled in numbers in the past year which is wonderful.</p> <p>Kingdom kids has grown in number and depth of faith and has a real sense of community and faith.</p> <p>We have children attending worship weekly and now have a rota of volunteers ready to welcome them regardless of age.</p> <p>We continue to offer weekly worship in Higher Walton CE school and have also offered some assemblies in Coupe Green Primary School.</p> <p>All children from Higher Walton school have been to church for a variety of RE lessons and we have taught some RE lessons in both local schools.</p>

*Rev Hannah Boyd
Incumbent*

SAFEGUARDING

Safeguarding continues to be a priority at every PCC meeting, with any matters arising and being dealt with quickly. Safeguarding training has been completed by those who need to for the relevant roles they hold. Safeguarding Sunday was supported as a parish and included how safeguarding is for everyone. For most of the year the Dashboard online hub has been in the high 90%. DBS's continue to be updated as and when they are required and completed for any additional people that they are required for. There have been no safeguarding issues reported in 2025. Both churches work closely together on both Adult and Under 18 Safeguarding matters.

*Natasha Green & Sue Leigh
Safeguarding Officers*

ALL SAINTS BUILDING & FABRIC

The two main projects undertaken in 2025 were: 1) the installation of new steps to allow safer access to the war memorial in the Churchyard, and 2) an improved lighting system installed in the main body of the Church.

Other tasks completed included: new facias on the garage, further repairs to areas of the roof, and changes to storage arrangements in the Church to improve aesthetics and create more useable space/seating.

Routine maintenance and servicing activities were also carried out, including clearing the church gutters, fire equipment checks, pest control activities, lightning conductor test, footpath improvements, PAT testing, and the annual servicing of the heating system.

Planning has started for a toilet and improved catering facilities inside the main body of the Church. To support this a Statement of Needs has been produced, and a new drain survey undertaken.

2026 will focus on continued work on the recommendations from the Quinquennial report and a DAC Clock inspection report, and more detailed planning for the internal Church alterations.

*Brad Eccles
Chair of sub-committee*

HOLY TRINITY BUILDING & FABRIC

During the winter months the electricity charges had rocketed so permission was granted for services to be held in the church hall until the weather improved; further consultations took place which indicated that we had been using the system incorrectly so changes to the operation have taken place which has reduced the electricity costs

Drainage round the church continues to be an issue; following unsuccessful attempts to organise another survey of the existing outflow, a meeting took place with our architects and tenders are being sought to run a new drain from the tower and south side running into the manhole currently used by the blue pipe.

Investigation into installing solar panels has revealed that the roof would not support the weight so the plan was dropped. The work on the roof held over from the previous year has been completed.

Following concerns about cracks in the fabric of the church, a structural engineer carried out a survey internally and externally and indicated that there are no serious issues of concern. The bushes at the back of the ashes area had become unmanageable and overgrown so the decision was taken to remove them completely; this has been done and new planting will take place in the new year. One of the trees in the car park split so was removed and another in the new churchyard which was encroaching onto the path was cut back.

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*

ALL SAINTS FINANCES

2025 has again been another challenging year.

Our forecast is set as a balanced budget. Voluntary Giving achieved 100% of target, mainly thanks to the increased giving via the Parish Giving Scheme. Thanks to all givers.

A special mention about Fundraising which raised an incredible £7466 from our well organised and successful events.

Several lines of expenditure exceeded target, church maintenance included the enhancements at the war memorial, churchyard maintenance saw £110 rise per fortnight for grass cutting, insurance increased £100 per month from July.

New lighting inside church has been a vast improvement, cost £6300.

Gas and electricity were under budget and we hope to see lower costs next year with our new suppliers.

With the agreement of Blackburn Diocese our Parish Share commitment was reduced by £10000, enabling us to pay their new figure of £30289 in full

Gift Day has been another success raising £9751 against our target of £10000. Some of this has already paid out for more roof repairs, a drain survey and the bulging wall inspection.

As always thanks to Lillian Orrell for looking after the banking, and Jane Maddock for managing the Gift Aid.

*Stephen Houghton
Treasurer & Churchwarden*

HOLY TRINITY FINANCES

I start by thanking you all for your financial support in 2025, through regular giving and fund-raising events. By the end of 2025, 34 people were using the Parish Giving Scheme, many raising their contribution in line with inflation. We receive the majority of our income in one regular monthly payment, with the Gift Aid tax relief following automatically within days. Sue Leigh makes additional claims as appropriate.

2025 was another challenging year financially, but we have come through. God continues to provide. Given our high electricity costs this year, the diocese reduced our Parish Share to £30,000 from over £38,000, a great help.

Even so, to cover the costs of running the church, we have had to rely on other sources of funding. Fund-raising brought in a net profit of £7,104; many thanks to all who contributed in any way. The Gift Day Blue Pipe Removal appeal raised £8,700, ready for when the drainage work is completed. We also received a bequest of £5,000. Perhaps you would think about leaving a legacy or bequest in your will?

I wish to thank Janet Southern for examining the accounts, and the Finance Committee for their ongoing input and support.

*Janet Deakin
Treasurer*

DEANERY SYNOD

Deanery Synod met three times in 2025; the first and last meetings were open and organised by diocesan staff. The meeting in March was held at Penwortham St Mary and featured the Renewal of the Diocesan Vision led by Carolyn Barton.

The June meeting was held at Hoghton Holy Trinity and featured the AGM. Following the reports the Area Dean spoke about the Diocesan Year of Prayer for Growth and Renewal asking members to consider what encouragements and frustrations had parishes encountered. After table discussions two members related what had been happening in their parishes; other feedback from the tables included praying in different ways and using Psalms.

The September meeting was held at Leyland St John with Revd Steve Haskett, Diocesan Renewal Programme Lead. He encouraged parishes to hold Parish Mission Weekends in September 2026.

In September Revd Andy Meeson resigned as Area Dean to take up the post of Bishop's Chaplain; following consultation, Bishop Philip appointed Revd Hannah as his replacement and she was commissioned at a special service at Holy Trinity on Monday 20th October.

Bob Collins

HOUSEGROUPS

There were five groups meeting throughout 2025 across the plurality on different days of the week and all groups included members of both churches. Between them they covered topics and courses such as Keys to Freedom, Hear our Prayer, Acts, Luke, Alpha and the Bible course.

We would all highly recommend you join a group as it provides a wonderful opportunity to grow as a Christian, to be part of a community which can support you on your journey as a disciple. All our groups are relaxed and informal and having questions not answers is the best way to approach it!

Rev Hannah Boyd

PINTS OF VIEW

Over the course of 2025, the Men's P.O.V Group has experienced steady but measurable growth, both in numbers and in spiritual depth. Attendance has increased throughout the year, reflecting a growing commitment and an openness to welcoming new people into the group.

Key focuses during 2025 were the deepening of prayer lives and engagement with evangelism. Regular times of shared prayer have strengthened mutual accountability and spiritual maturity, while thoughtful discussion around evangelism has encouraged members to live out their faith more intentionally in everyday contexts.

In preparation for the coming year, the group is actively working toward a model in which leadership is shared, with the aim of becoming at least fifty percent lay-led during 2026. This development is intended to encourage wider participation, nurture emerging leaders, and ensure the long-term sustainability of the fellowship.

In addition, the group has formed strong and positive connections with people in the local pub community as a whole. These relationships have provided natural opportunities for conversation, hospitality, and witness, demonstrating the group's commitment to faith lived out beyond formal church settings.

There have also been several social events aimed at strengthening and developing friendships within the group, and these have been well-attended.

Rev Danny Abraham

SOCIAL AND FUNDRAISING

All Saints had a very successful fundraising year, with over £7000 being raised and therefore exceeding the budget total set at the start of the year – thanks be to God! There have been a wide variety of events, including the two annual fairs, a talent show and an afternoon tea to name just a few, and many of these have drawn in people from outside the church who have experienced and heard about the love of God for themselves through that event, people's witness and evangelistic talks. A huge thanks to the whole team who make these events possible!

The Fundraising team at Holy Trinity have worked hard once again and also raised over £7000. We held a variety of events including a Murder Mystery Night, British Night, the Dog Show and a Christmas Afternoon Tea, and I would like to express my thanks to Lizzie and Stephen for letting us use their farm for the Dog Show. Unfortunately, the Prestathlon had to be cancelled due to bad weather. 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.

Rev Danny Abraham & Elisabeth Sawle

KINGDOM KIDS

Kingdom kids has continued to meet every other week this year, with regular commitment from those who attend. Since September we have been able to add a parent's house group style section while the children are together. The sessions continue to start with food together, games, songs, discussion, stories and activities. The sessions are well attended with conversations continuing after the session has finished. The children have enjoyed helping in parts of the Sunday services too.

*Tash Green
Ignite Leader & Children's work coordinator*

YOUTH GROUP

Youth group continues to meet every other week and has tripled in number this year. This group consists of a mix of ages from 9/10(year 5) up to 16. The sessions involve some free time for the young people to spend time together, games, discussions around a bible passage and life and activities. The young people also enjoyed doing the car wash again this year, one young person attended the diocese Abide event in March and 3 young people have signed up for the Satellites trip planned for this year with the opportunity for more to join. Some of the young people have been involved in Sunday services and one young person asked her parents to bring her to a service.

*Tash Green
Ignite Leader & Children's work coordinator*

SCHOOLS WORK

This year has seen our schools work at Higher Walton continue and expand. Hannah, Danny and I lead school worship on rotation, since September this has been on a Thursday morning. We have also led whole school worship in church with parents at harvest, Christmas, Easter, Mother's Day and the year 6 leavers service. Since September I have been running a lunch time Lego club,

mainly with the year 3/4 children. Here they hear a bible story and then get to make something that relates out of Lego. As they build, we chat about the story and what they are building. I have also been spending the morning in school, helping and getting to know the children and staff. Since September I have also been going into Coupe Green, where I also do the Lego club which has been very popular and spaces have filled up fast. The group follows the same pattern as Higher Walton but has been done across from year 1 to year 6. I've also been spending the afternoon in school helping out and getting to know the children and staff. Danny and I did a Christmas assembly for years 1-6.

Both schools attended Christmas through the keyhole and really enjoyed it and talked about it on my visits after.

*Tash Green
Ignite Leader & Children's work coordinator*

TRINITY TOTS

Trinity Tots continues to grow in strength and friendship, we celebrated our fourth birthday in September. We have around 20 'regular' children with their carers each week and the hall is filled with laughter and chat. This year we saw some of our 'founder' members (who were only babies) leaving for 'big school'. They sometimes return during school holidays as we continue to be open, and it is lovely to see how they develop. One parent whose child started school now comes and volunteers every week.

We always finish with a Bible story and a song and the enthusiasm of adults as well as children is fantastic.

The families are always invited to church activities, and it is wonderful to see 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, Jan Deakin, Marilyn Gibson

LADIES GROUP

We had the usual meeting pattern of a meal out in July, and 10 other monthly meetings with either a speaker or activities. These included very diverse talks including Guide dogs for the blind, North West blood bikes, Extraordinary women of Winckley Square, Victorian times by Yvonne in Victorian costume, Funny way to make a living, Flower arrangements and Visiting China.

The activities included Sharing Memories, Bring and buy sale plus a Beetle Drive, a walk starting from Brindle Lodge in August and a Christmas party with games.

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

Meeting attendance this year was again around 25 each month from a membership of 30ish, with some new, leavers and sometimes non-attenders. The annual subscription per member remained at £15 for the year with a meeting charge of £2 as previously. From January 2026 the annual subscription will be £20 due to the rising cost of the hall hire charge.

Janet Bradley continues as Bookings Secretary for the speakers and temporary Treasurer.

*Margaret Arton
Leader*

MOTHERS UNION FRIENDSHIP GROUP

During 2025 we have supported Mothers' Union projects - AWAY from it ALL - donations to Bishop Philip's Borwick Hall Holiday and the Caravan Fund for the MU caravan at Morecambe which helps families to have quality time together.

SUMMER of HOPE - tea in the garden. We are very grateful for the support.

Jill and Pauline made Christmas CROSSES in your POCKET which were given to each resident at Arrowsmith Lodge Care Home. We continue to give the Crosses to the Lead Chaplain at Royal Preston Hospital - in his own words 'helps with his ministry.'

We knitted teddies are donated to the Family Unit at Wymott Prison and then the teddies with an adoption certificate are given to the children at the Family Days.

We supported the Diocesan Sharing Day at Garstang Golf Club when we had speakers from the MU York Province.

Pauline has moved to Cambridgeshire; we thank her for all her hard work and commitment within MU & we wish her well.

BELL RINGING

It has been a quiet year on the whole for the Hoghton bellringing team.

We lost one of our ringers when Donna moved to Wales so we now have 7 regular ringers, Ray, Viv, John, Jan, Ian, Judith and Marcus.

We have managed to ring for most Sunday services plus a few at All Saints.

In January we met for a meal at the Cavendish, joined by our ringing friends from Brindle and Samlesbury and this was enjoyed by all.

We rang for 3 weddings, 2 at Hoghton and 1 at Higher Walton, and also for Harry Calderbank's funeral at All Saints and Jennifer Preston's at Holy Trinity.

We rang the bells half muffled for Remembrance Sunday.

*Viv Clayton
Churchwarden*

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. At All Saints & Holy Trinity 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. 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. Holy Trinity Church is situated on Old Blackburn Road, Hoghton.

The parish 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.