The Parish of Christ Church Heaton

in the Deanery of Bolton
and the Diocese of Manchester



ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2025

To be presented at the
Annual Parochial Church Meeting
Sunday 10th May 2026

THE PARISH OF CHRIST CHURCH HEATON
ANNUAL REPORT 2025

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Members of the Parochial Church Council
1st January 2025 - 31st December 2025

INCUMBENT
Revd. Dave Thompson

CURATES
Revd. Deborah Bithell
Revd. Matthew Burnell

CHURCHWARDENS
Irene Morris
Timothy Palmer

DEPUTY WARDENS
Holly Bonfield
Debbie Eccles

TREASURER
Andrew Minors

GENERAL SYNOD REPRESENTATIVE
Geoffrey Tattersall until 5th Jan 25

DIOCESAN SYNOD REPRESENTATIVES
Christine Syddall
Peter Syddall

DEANERY SYNOD REPRESENTATIVES (4 x Vacancies)
Hazel Tattersall

ELECTED MEMBERS (1 x Vacancy)
Shyamala Ariyaratnam until Nov 25
Holly Bonfield
Sandy Bowie until Apr 25
Cath Cole from Apr 25
Debbie Eccles
Andrew Holmes
Sarah Hunter
Pam Knight
Andrew Minors
Gai Murphy
Richard Newton
Joan Schofield until April 25
Stanley Wilson
David Youngman

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APPOINTMENT OF OFFICIALS

PCC CHAIRMAN (Ex Officio)	Revd. Dave Thompson
VICE CHAIRMAN	Irene Morris
CHURCHWARDENS	Irene Morris Timothy Palmer
DEPUTY WARDENS	Holly Bonfield Debbie Eccles
ASSISTANT WARDENS	Raj Ariyaratnam till Nov 25 Peter Chapman
TREASURER	Andrew Minors
PATRONAGE SCHEME SECRETARY	Andrew Minors
BOOK-KEEPER	Victoria Tattersall
MINUTES SECRETARY	Gai Murphy
ELECTORAL ROLL OFFICER	Victoria Tattersall
FREE WILL OFFERING SECRETARY	Hazel Tattersall
GIFT AID ADMINISTRATOR	Peter Hodson
CLERK OF WORKS	Vacant
CENTRE MANAGER	Vacant
CHRISTIAN AID REPRESENTATIVE	Elsie Peel
CHILDREN'S SOCIETY REPRESENTATIVE	Jane Chapman Julie Steele
EUCHARISTIC ASSISTANTS	Shyamala Ariyaratnam till Nov 25 Margaret Goudge Christine Hayes Richard Newton Heather Wilkinson Stanley Wilson
HEALTH & SAFETY OFFICER	Irene Morris
SAFEGUARDING OFFICER	Holly Bonfield

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APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES

STANDING COMMITTEE

Ex-Officio:	Revd. Dave Thompson	(Chair)
	Irene Morris	
	Timothy Palmer	
Elected by the PCC:	Andrew Minors	
	David Youngman	
	Holly Bonfield	

BUILDINGS AND FABRIC COMMITTEE

Ex-Officio:	Revd. Dave Thompson	
	Irene Morris	(Chair)
	Timothy Palmer	
Elected by the PCC:	Holly Bonfield	
	Cath Cole	
	Andrew Minors	
	Richard Newton	
	Geoffrey Tattersall till 5th Jan 25	
	Hazel Tattersall	
	Stanley Wilson	
	Andrew Holmes	

MISSION AND MINISTRY COMMITTEE

Revd. Dave Thompson	(Chair)
Raj Ariyaratnam until Nov 25	
Caroline Lade	
Debbie Eccles	
Laraine Mason	
Adam Syddall	
Hazel Tattersall	
Alison Perry	
Revd. Deborah Bithell	
Revd. Matthew Burnell	

SOCIAL AND FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE

Irene Morris	(Chair)
Revd. Deborah Bithell	
Debbie Eccles	
Pam Knight	
Revd. Matthew Burnell	
Linda Thompson	

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VICAR'S REPORT

It has been another encouraging and heartening year as Christ Church seeks to be in the words of the Diocesan strapline - *"A worshipping, growing and transforming Christian presence at the heart of every community".*

It is important that we as a church congregation look outwards to the needs of those beyond our four walls as well as maintaining a healthy worshipping community within the church buildings. The role of our Parish Centre is vital as we seek to achieve this, and I wish to thank all those who enable this resource to be such an asset to the community.

We have sought to make our children and young people an important part of our worship - and their involvement in both the Parade Services and 5th Sunday All Together Worship are an example of this. Thanks to all who lead our children and young people in their groups and also work hard at contributing to our Harvest Festival and Christingle Service amongst many others.

We have continued to support various outside agencies and last year, Christian Aid, Urban Outreach, The Destitution Project, Bolton Lions and Fortalice amongst others again have benefited from the kindness of our congregation.

It would be remiss not to acknowledge at this point the contribution made to Christ Church - and indeed the Church of England as a whole - by Geoffrey Tattersall. Geoffrey died at the start of the year and we continue to miss his wisdom and expertise in so many ways. His legacy at Christ Church will be felt for many years and for that we are truly grateful.

Highlights of the year included the ordination to the priesthood of our two Curates - Deborah & Matthew - in Manchester Cathedral in June. Two weeks later, Jennifer was licensed as Reader Emeritus within the Benefice.

In October we launched our Stewardship Campaign encouraging people to consider how much they give to the church in terms of time, talents and resources. Early indicators suggest that this campaign is proving fruitful.

I would like to thank my fellow clergy, Alan, David, Deborah & Matthew; Jennifer; churchwardens Irene & Tim; our administrator Victoria; treasurer Andrew and organist John and the choir. Thank you to everyone for your friendship and fellowship as we seek to take the Good News of our Lord Jesus Christ to the parish and beyond.

I close with some words from a former Archbishop of Canterbury, who when asked what was the purpose of the church replied: *"To demonstrate through its actions and words, that God's offer of unconditional love to every human being through Jesus Christ calls us to holiness and hope".*
May we all at Christ Church play our part in fulfilling this role to all who live, work or worship in our parish this year and always.

Dave Thompson, Vicar

ANNUAL REPORT ON THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Since the last APCM held on 27th April 2025, the PCC has continued to hold regular meetings and has met 7 times during the year, discussing the business and running of Christ Church (**"CCH"**). Revd. Dave Thompson has continued to guide us at each meeting and we are blessed to have his wisdom and patience in encouraging lively debate, discussion and resolution to the wide range of topics

brought to PCC. He is assisted ably by our Church Wardens, Irene Morris & Tim Palmer and deputy wardens, Holly Bonfield & Debbie Eccles.

Throughout the year, the PCC has dealt with its regular commitments and duties in relation to the financial affairs of CCH, the care and maintenance of its structure and its contents, as well as the spiritual life of the church.

The typical agenda for these meetings include, inter alia, a finance report; correspondence received; Young Church; committee reports; safeguarding and the Vicar's Reflections.

This year there has been considerable focus on the planning and implementation of the stewardship campaign, with four themes: Legacy giving; financial giving, giving of time and giving of talents. 500 stewardship packs were compiled and distributed. The PCC receives regular updates about the campaign, but did note the low response to the call to contribute time and talents. The PCC agreed that in providing the congregation with updates about the stewardship campaign, individuals would be asked to reflect on their contribution to church life.

The list of Eucharistic assistants was updated. Shyamala Ariyaratnam has stepped down and PCC recorded its thanks to her.

Hetlands is no longer a standing item on the agenda and significant progress has been made in resolving the outstanding issues related to the Scout Hut. A pared back plan for the repair of the Choir Vestry roof was approved.

In the coming year we celebrate 130 years of CCH and 125 years of the Mothers' Union.

The full list of PCC members is set out on page 3 of this annual report but, in summary, Pam Knight, Sandie Bowie and Joan Schofield retired at last year's APCM. Jennifer Royle attends PCC as part of her role as reader. There are still 4 vacancies on Deanery Synod. If anyone would like to fill one of these vacancies, please speak with the Revd. Dave Thompson.

Gai Murphy PCC Minutes Secretary

CHURCHWARDENS REPORT ON THE FABRIC, GOODS AND ORNAMENTS OF THE CHURCH AND CHURCH PROPERTIES

Church buildings and contents

As you are aware, the PCC had obtained plans and costs for the repair of the choir vestry roof and the refurbishment of the choir vestry area and that due to the rapid deterioration of the choir vestry roof the PCC made the decision to apply to the Diocese Faculty only for the repair of the choir vestry roof at this stage as this has now become an urgent need for repair.

The Diocese has now granted the faculty for the choir vestry roof repair, and the PCC have instructed our architect to commence with the council planning permissions required for the repair work.

During 2025 the PCC looked at the access and egress through the North and South entrance doors. The PCC have submitted a Faculty Application to the Diocese for additional grab handles on the North Porch door, and both the external and internal doors to the South porch. (Chalk marks can

still be seen on the sides of these doors to mark where the extra grab handles are planned. We are still waiting to hear back from the Diocese.

We are continuing with upgrading the external high-level lighting around the church as and when needed.

Church properties

The two Christ Church properties continue to be occupied. The Markland Hill property had a change of tenant during the year, whilst Welbeck Road has a long-term tenant. Repairs are always needed on properties and these are generally arranged through our agent but we also use our own contacts where we can ensure maximum cost savings.

Church grounds

All seasons continue to provide the main care of our gardens and moss removing needs, along with our valued volunteer gardeners who look after some of the flower beds within the grounds.

Once again, we thank the scouts and volunteers who undertook the mass clearing of the autumn leaves following the harvest service.

A big thank you to Holly who spearheads the cleaning and continued maintenance of the remembrance garden pond.

The PCC has obtained a recent Tree Survey of our magnificent trees, and we thank Andrew Minors for his help with keeping our trees in a safe condition

Church Centre

We wish to thank Janet Darwell for ensuring that the Centre and Church are clean and ready for our Centre users and Congregation. We would also like to thank the people who hire our Centre on a regular basis for their considerate use of our facilities.

Irene Morris - Church Warden **Tim Palmer - Church Warden**

ELECTORAL ROLL

The Electoral Roll contains 160 names. Since the last revision, 16 names have been added and 5 names have been removed.

Victoria Tattersall, Electoral Roll Officer

DEANERY SYNOD

The Bolton Deanery held 3 Synod meetings during 2025 with the Area Dean, Rev Simon Cook and the Lay Chair Mr. Keith Lewis taking the lead, ably assisted by Evelyn Weston the Deanery Secretary. The first meeting was held on 12th February at St Peter Halliwell. Following the usual items of Apologies, Minutes of the previous meeting and a short Reflection on 2 challenges from the Parable of the Good Samaritan by the Area Dean, we were given a presentation by Bishop Matthew and the Diocesan Chief Executive Helen Platts which covered the four themes; Growing Younger, Church Planting and Revitalisation, Developing Missional Leaders and Parish Renewal.

The illustrative material used can be found on the Diocesan website at:
https://www.manchester.anglican.org/about-us/vision/

On 10th May we met at Bishop Bridgeman School and the main item was a presentation by Rachel Watts, the Diocesan Director of Vocations, who was keen to explain that vocation is for all of us, and whilst it could be "just" to be a disciple of Christ, being a churchwarden, a PCC member or even a Deanery Synod Representative are all examples of vocation. We need to consider the needs of our churches and be open to the fact that our calling may change over time.

The final meeting of the year was held on 12th November at St Matthew Little Lever and the Area Dean reminded members that the current triennium finishes this year and elections to Deanery Synod will need to take place at the 2026 APCM. He then went on to note that 3 churches were either in the process of closing or having problems with their building. The building at St Chad Tonge Fold is currently closed as it is unsafe, and St Paul Astley Bridge and St Philip Bolton-le-Moors are in the closure process. We at Christ Church have been very fortunate to be able to welcome some of the worshippers from St Philip at our 9.30 service. There was information given about several vacancy updates and reference was made to both the Diocesan Strategy & Funding Bid to the Church Commissioners and to the Living in Love and Faith update from General Synod. The Bishop's Chaplain Canon Anne Edwards then gave a presentation about Clergy Wellbeing outlining ways in which wellbeing can be an issue for Church leaders, lay and ordained. There was much discussion and it was noted that the Clergy Covenant did not also relate to wellbeing of lay officers and church workers such as Wardens, PCC members, flower arrangers etc. The meeting was expected to vote on the Covenant but the strength of feeling that it related only to Clergy and did not include lay workers meant that no vote was taken.

Christ Church currently has had 5 seats on the Deanery Synod reducing to 4 this year. Only 1 of the 5 has been filled and it does not look good that Christ Church is unable to fill its allocation. In addition, we currently have 2 representatives on Diocesan Synod who sit as Ex Officio members of Deanery Synod. If engaging in the Synodical government of the Church is something that you would consider, please volunteer at the APCM. If it is something for which you would like further information, please speak to the Vicar.

SAFEGUARDING

There has been a continuing focus for the Safeguarding role this year on keeping required documentation up to date and visible. This includes having a clear safeguarding statement both on the website and on the A Church Near You website, plus phone numbers to report any concerns to. These are in place, though we are aware that our website still needs further attention to make it easier to find policies. The Safeguarding Policy can be found on the website and on the noticeboard inside the Centre, where other policies are also to be seen - Health and Safety, Data and Lone Working.

The Safeguarding Policy and Statement are reviewed annually at the APCM. There is a 'Who's Who of Christ Church?' posted in Church and in the Centre which includes the Parish Safeguarding Officer's contact details. A file containing the Safeguarding Policy and the Parish Safeguarding Guide is in the office and available for all volunteers to see. This year we have also added 'Ask Angela' type posters in different places.

With regard to training, there are five levels, the first three of which are relevant to volunteers here at Christ Church - Basic Awareness, Safeguarding Foundations and Safeguarding Leadership. PCC members are all required to undertake the first two levels plus have a DBS via the Church. Volunteers

in other Christ Church roles are required to undertake one or more of these sessions. Training for current PCC members is now almost up-to-date. At the time of the APCM 2026, both the training and DBSs will be in place for all PCC Trustees. This demonstrates the priority our PCC places on Safeguarding.

Basic Awareness and Foundations training is available to any member of the congregation and anyone who would like to take this up (it takes around 75 minutes and is done online) is very welcome to approach me to find out more. As of late 2025, I am now able to deliver these two levels and will be offering these during early 2026.

With regard to DBS requirement for other roles, this is a current focus.

Any safeguarding situations are dealt with appropriately and with the confidentiality required.

Holly Bonfield, Parish Safeguarding Officer

CHOIR

The Choir continues to sing at the 9.30. a.m. service and thoroughly enjoys being part of it. They also greatly value the social interaction with the members of the congregation in the centre afterwards. In addition, the lovely service of Evensong is held on the second and fourth Sunday of the month. This quiet dignified service is a gentle end to the day.

We had a Passiontide Devotion on Palm Sunday and sang Compline during Holy Week. The service of Compline is short and peaceful and one that was used to end the day.

The services for Harvest and the Commemoration of the Departed are regular in the calendar of the Choir.

We were very pleased to be asked to join the Parish Church Choir for the service to mark the 80th anniversary of VJ Day in August and will remember a very fine and emotional occasion. We also were part of the Advent Carol service at the Parish Church and enjoyed singing with the augmented choir under the direction of the Choir Master there, Philip O'Connor.

We do like being part of the Christmas services and really love watching the Young Church at the Christingle service. We presented our service of Nine Lessons and Carols and appreciated the readers who are part of it.

We are happy to have the help from the younger members of the Choir at the special services but we could do with more members and would very much welcome anyone who feels they would like to be involved in singing with us.

Our year finished on a very sad note on the loss of Elsie Aldred. Elsie has been a loyal and much-loved member of our Choir for over 25 years. Her last service with us was the Nine Lessons, one of her favourites. Her funeral was full of memories of a special lady and it was very nice afterwards to meet her family in the Centre.

It has been lovely to have our curate Matthew as part of our Choir We also thank Rev. David Griffiths for his taking of Evensong on occasions.

John F. Balshaw, Organist and Choirmaster

CRÈCHE

The crèche meets in the choir vestry during the 9.30am Family Communion Service and is for children from birth to starting school.

We have a core group of very regular attenders and have been delighted to welcome some new faces during the year as well.

We aim to promote Christian values through play. The children enjoy listening to stories, singing songs, craft activities and playing with the toys. We try to link the activities to bible stories and an appreciation of the world around us, while also providing a welcoming environment for parents to share worries, useful tips and experiences.

Katie Hodgkiss & Katie Dunne

LITTLE FISHES

Little Fishes has grown during 2025 with some of this growth being internal via our Creche. Sunday mornings have been active as we have continued to link our teaching to that of the liturgical calendar. The children love learning and are very enthusiastic. It's amazing to hear their views.

During Lent 2025 we were busy creating a Garden of Gethsemane collage, which the children proudly showed off at our Easter Sunday service in church. The collage was then displayed in our Parish during the Easter season.

None of it would be possible were it not for our volunteers, Sarah, Kat and Gai. They have some amazing craft ideas and the children love being called up at the end of the church service to 'show and tell'.

It was planned in September 2025 that some of our older ones who had moved into Y2 at school, would move up to Young Church. However, after discussion with them it was decided they would stay with Little Fishes until September 2026, when they will be moving into Y3 at school. All adults agreed with our little ones, as did Young Church.

Spoiler Alert!!!!..... We are looking forward to sharing with you in March/April 2027 what we have been up to this year.

Many thanks to our volunteers, without whom Little Fishes would not be possible.

Revd. Deborah Bithell
Curate

YOUNG CHURCH

Events of Holy week, Easter and Resurrection stories - learning reinforced by giving children pictures relating to these topics which they had to arrange in the correct order and stick on to a plain sheet of paper.

Large project on the story of Joseph - Learning reinforced with power points, drama, discussion and rearranging of pictures again as this was hugely enjoyed. A song was learned and a large coloured coat made by children drawing round their hands. This was displayed in the centre.
Ascension Day - Discussions focusing on "Saying Goodbye" linking Jesus' ascension with accounts from children's experiences of saying goodbye.
The Lost Sheep - Learning re-enforced by a poem on the story which was read out in church at the end of the service.
St Paul - Learning reinforced by word searches.
Presentations in Church:
Harvest Sunday - A poem on "The Sower" and a song 'Cabbage & Greens'
Christingle - A poem, songs, prayers and readings.

Additional Activities:

- A very successful chocolate "Roll Dice" at the Summer Fair.
- Collection of money for Christian Aid by holding buckets at the end of the service in Christian Aid week.
- Paper plate angels made for St Margaret's Christmas Tree Festival.
- Weekly donations to the Grub Tub for Urban Outreach from each child.
- Support for "Christmas Dinner on Jesus" for Urban Outreach and toys etc. for Bolton Lions Caring Christmas.

A great deal of time and effort is needed for the preparation of activities and Joanna particularly must be thanked for her carefully researched innovative ideas and activities. Time is frustratingly short in our sessions and often we cannot meet as the children are required to remain in church for the whole service.
Thank you to all our loyal leaders, Joanna, Pauline, Alison and our teenage helpers.

Julie Steele

MEN OF CHRIST CHURCH (MCC)

The year began, as always, towards the end of January, with the renewal of commitment service. Thanks are due to Revd. Dave Thompson for explaining and publicising the role of the MCC. The service appeared to be well received, with all men present joining in.

Early in March, the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Party duly took place in the Church Centre. Although not as busy as in the previous year, the event was considered a great success and, as always, I would specifically like to thank Adam Syddall for all his efforts in organising such a major event. I would also like to thank everyone who helped out and particularly those who cleaned up afterwards.

The first gardening day of the year was on 22 March, attended by the usual stalwarts and, thankfully, some newcomers too. Many thanks to all those who attended on the day and for their hard work, which is greatly appreciated and, particularly, the Revd. Dave Thompson for providing the Carrs pasties!

The MCC manned the Coffee Bar on Mothering Sunday, as per tradition, and, once again, special thanks are due to Adam Syddall for his organisation and help on the day.

The next event, in May, was a social drinks evening at Bob's Smithy, which was extremely convivial. The occasion coincided with a regular pub quiz night but no one was brave enough to comprise a

team!

Towards the end of July, we held an ecumenical bowls match against a team from St Thomas of Canterbury. It was considered to be a great success with a dozen parings playing, encouraged by a good crowd of support. The St Thomas of Canterbury team claimed the spoils "with a little help from their friends". It is hoped to repeat the event sometime later in the summer.

In August, after more than 12 years' service and with a heavy heart, Adam Syddall stepped down as secretary and member of the MCC in order to take up the vacant role of Beavers leader. To say that he is sorely missed, is an understatement as he has been an integral part of the MCC for such a long time and without his efforts the organisation would most surely have folded.

We held our AGM on 17 September, again at Bob's Smithy, at which the members of the committee were re-elected and those who attended had a very pleasant evening.

On 29 September, we held a joint meeting with the Mothers Union at which Emma Hutchinson, CEO of the Bolton Lads and Girls Club, gave an extremely interesting and informative talk. The meeting was well attended and enjoyed by everyone.

25 people attended the annual dinner in November, at Bolton Golf Club, which was considered to be a good turnout. The food was good, as indeed was the service. Together with a congenial atmosphere and good company, it all made for an excellent evening.

On a miserable and cold Saturday morning in November, a small but enthusiastic team of 6 MCC volunteers again tackled some of the overgrowth in the CCH gardens. It is hoped that this will now be a regular twice-yearly event.

The committee continues to comprise myself, Neville Beech, as Honorary Treasurer, with Andrew Minors, Carl Stilwell and the Revd. Dave Thompson as serving members.

As always, the MCC committee would appreciate any offers from anyone who would like to contribute to the work of the MCC to help maintain and organise our programme of events. At the same time, I would like to offer my thanks, and those of the committee, to everyone quietly fulfilling the many duties and roles without which CCH would not be able to thrive.

David Youngman, MCC Chairman

CHRIST CHURCH PLAYERS

Since the mid 1990's members of a reconstituted Christ Church Players have been performing for the delight of parishioners, friends and themselves alike! They began with a number of pantomimes performed by children and adults from young church and the congregation. Then in 2002 under the directorship of Jeanne Lonnen they performed the JB Priestly play 'When We Were Married' and have continued performing plays from then until today.

Following the pandemic the format changed to Murder Mystery plays which have been really well received with the 2025 performances making a net profit of £1,624.15. This enabled the Players to make donations of £250 to both Urban Outreach and the Destitution Project mainly from the raffle proceeds and also a donation to Church Funds of £1800.

This year we have been extremely fortunate to have a play written especially for us by our own Cath Cole. We are just about to begin casting and decide a date for performances, and we hope to announce some more definite plans soon.

Meanwhile the Players could not have achieved the success they have without an enormous amount of help from members of the congregation and friends - serving refreshments, selling raffle tickets, supporting performances and generally helping out; as well as sponsors who have donated generous raffle prizes. Special mention must go to Geoffrey and Judith Pearson who for so many years have masterminded props, production and direction, printing and much more, and also Pam and Paul Knight who have organised refreshments for every performance while also managing the box office.

However, if these endeavours are to continue, we will need again to reconstitute the Players in some form or other. So, if anyone reading this, and or you know someone who might be interested in acting, creative writing, costume design, set production etc. watch out for more information after our next performance.

Brenda Griffiths

LUNCHEON CLUB

Our Luncheon Club has continued to flourish, with an average attendance of 42 members. Although sadly we have lost quite a few of our longstanding members, fortunately we have also gained some new ones and especially it is good to see that some of these are men! It is always uplifting to see people enjoying themselves with good food and fellowship.

As always, numbers do fluctuate, depending on the weather and people's health. We feel that we give value for money as we are still able to keep the cost to £5, for our usual lunch of soup, pudding and cheese and biscuits, then in the summer months a ham salad in place of the soup. We also provide tea/coffee and have now instigated a jug of water and glasses on each table. We have also provided a very successful variety of interesting speakers. We always manage to have soup over despite giving out second helpings and we distribute this to members who are ill or housebound, which is always much appreciated. Our raffle, which at present is run by my husband Michael, is a good source of income for us. Although we do buy some of the prizes, members are very generous and donate items to supplement the raffle.

As always, I try to organise an interesting variety of speakers and entertainment throughout the year. In January, we welcomed Heather Berry, who told us about a very worthwhile local gardening project, which she has organised. Heather and her volunteers have transformed desolate local areas into flourishing community gardens. Our next speaker was Graham Nuttall, telling us about his work with the prison service "My Life Behind Bars". Then in March we had a return from our old favourites Anne and Gordon Sharpe (Spellbound Productions) showing their usual professional film show of places here and abroad.

Then in April Jackie Mafi entertained us with her very professional film show "Sweet Memories" with little known facts about our favourite sweets and this brought back fond memories for us from our childhoods. Our next speaker in May was Mr. Brian Topping "Tales of a Customs Officer Part 2" which was just as interesting and entertaining as Part 1! In June, Sue Holden gave us another light-hearted talk with humorous tales of husbands and wives from the past.

After our summer recess, we had another favourite of ours - Mr. Roger Browne, telling the story of Jerome Kern. As previously, he played some of the music to us and brought along a friend who sang

some of the well-known songs, accompanied by Roger; wonderful and very nostalgic! In October we had our own Cath Cole "From Bedpans to the Palace" telling us some of her life story - really fascinating. For the November meeting, our original speaker let me down at the last minute but as has happened previously, I managed to get David Lloyd to step into the breach once again, with another of his excellent film shows about the history of Bolton. He has helped us out previously and we are always very grateful to him.

Once again, the highlight of our year was being visited by the choir from St Peter's Smithills Deane School, who entertained us brilliantly with a compilation of Christmas songs which were a joy to listen to. Again, our thanks must go to Joanna Steele, Adele Whittingham and all the children for all the time and dedication they must have put in to producing such a wonderful performance. We do hope they will be with us again in 2026.

Once again, I have many thank yous to people involved in our Luncheon Club. Obviously, our team of dedicated volunteers from our Church who make the food - without them there would be no Luncheon Club. Also, thanks to those who work in the kitchen, serving, cleaning, washing and drying - all essential to the smooth running of the Club. Furthermore, thanks go to Janet Balshaw for being in charge of the soup in the kitchen. These people are all spearheaded by our fantastic Steph Oakley, who does a wonderful job, both making food and organising the kitchen. We are very appreciative of all that she does. A thank you also to Alan Pierce for saying different graces at each meeting.

Our grateful thanks to our efficient treasurer John Balshaw, collecting the money and keeping our finances in good order. My husband Michael has done sterling work each month organising the raffle, which helps hugely with our funds. I continue to send out birthday cards to each member, whilst Janet Balshaw has now taken over the Christmas cards and these are all appreciated by our members. Thanks to all our committee members for their loyal help and support, including Katie and Bev Hodgkiss who have now joined us. Katie works very hard for us, helping to set up the tables and has now taken over my job of washing the tablecloths each month, for which I am most grateful.

All these volunteers enable our Luncheon Club to flourish so successfully. Our sincere thanks to all involved.

Pauline Cull
Luncheon Club Organiser

THURSDAY CUBS

The Thursday Cubs have enjoyed a full and active year, with numbers remaining steady at around 18-20 Cubs. This is our preferred section size, allowing us to run three sixes effectively; numbers above this can become more challenging to manage and plan for. With fewer Cubs joining from Beavers over the past 12 months, we have been able to welcome new Cubs from the waiting list during the summer and autumn terms.

The Pack in 2025 consisted of 14 boys and 4 girls.

Although not as significant as last year, we continue to experience an issue with drop-outs from organised events. A great deal of work goes into planning and delivering our programme, so it can be disheartening when activities are poorly attended or when Cubs may miss key elements required for completion. We would therefore encourage parents, wherever possible, to support full attendance at events.

Church attendance had also been declining; however, following recent changes to the family services, it has been encouraging to see fuller pews in recent months.

Thursday Cubs have once again had a fun-filled year in 2025, supporting young people to develop skills for life through adventure, challenge, and personal development. We have continued our ethos of getting Cubs out and about as much as possible, offering a programme built on tried-and-tested favourities alongside new and engaging activities.

While there are too many activities to list in detail, highlights from the year include:

- January and February featured firm favourites such as Burns Night - *Clash of the Clans* and Pancake Night. The Cubs also worked towards their First Aid Badge with support from the Bolton Mountain Rescue Team and took part in a sponsored night hike.
- In March, we held our annual Minicamp, travelling to Manchester by bus and train to visit the National Football Museum and Rock Over Climbing, followed by a sleep over at the Scout Hall.
- The summer term was as busy as ever, with a strong focus on outdoor activities. The Guide Dogs returned to visit, and the Cubs proudly presented a cheque for £460 raised during our earlier night hike, while also helping complete their Disability Awareness Badge. The cubs also completed their Environmental Conservation Badge, including a talk from an environmental ambassador and a little pick around Moss Bank Way.
  A visit to Limbrick Fisheries gave the Cubs an introduction to fishing, with every Cub successfully catching at least two or three fish - some many more.
- Our annual summer camp was once again the highlight of the year. The Thursday Cubs camped at Bradley Wood near Brighouse, spending two nights under canvas and working closely together on a range of activities including fire lighting, hiking, air rifles, crate stacking, and zip lines.

District activities increased during the year, and despite the absence of an ADC Cubs, leaders across Bolton Moorland District worked together to ensure events continued.

We took part in the District Cyclist Badge in September, and October saw the welcome return of the District Football Competition after a six-year break. With support from leaders and parents from 17th Bolton Moorland acting as referees, 11 teams competed on a thoroughly wet afternoon, with Thursday Cubs returning home wet but worthy winners.

During the Autumn term, Cubs completed their Local Knowledge and World Challenge Badger. Activities included a visit to Bolton Town Hall for tea and biscuits and a guided tour with the Mayor, a visit to Bolton Central Mosque, and Cub-led presentation on countries of their choice.
We also continued our efforts to keep the dying art of conkers alive, holding our annual (fully risk-assessed) conker contest in early October.

Finally, a massive thank you to our leaders Bruce Horrocks, Stuart Horrocks, and Dan Barber, as well as our helpers Caitlyn Horrocks, Anis Patel and Ken Gilkes. Without their dedication and support, delivering such a varied and engaging programme would not be possible.

17th Bolton Moorland (Thursday) Cubs
Neil Rothwell - Cub Team Leader

WEDNESDAY CUBS

Over the past year the Cub Pack has taken part in a varied and engaging programme designed to build confidence, develop practical skills and encourage teamwork while having fun.

Our meetings have included a mixture of badge work, themed evenings and outdoor activities. Cubs celebrated events such as Burns Night, Chinese New Year, Pancake Night, Thanksgiving, while also developing new skills through activities including problem solving, geocaching, fire lighting, and den building. Cubs also worked towards badges including the Naturalist Badge and Cyclist Badge.

Outdoor experiences have been an important part of the program, with visits to Smithills Hall, Smithills Farm, Moss Bank Park, as well as a bat walk where Cubs learned about local wildlife and foraging. Cubs also explored the history and values of Scouting during a session about Robert Baden Powell.

During the year the Pack enjoyed a successful Pack Camp, while some of our older Cubs took part in a Leadership Night Away to help develop their confidence and leadership skills. The Pack also represented the Group in the District Football Tournament.

We were also delighted to award three Chief Scout's Silver Awards recognizing the dedication and achievements of our Cubs as they completed the highest award in the Cub Scout section.

Overall, it has been a busy and enjoyable year, giving Cubs the opportunity to learn new skills, try new experiences and build friendships while continuing to live the values of Scouting.

Marie Armour

17th Bolton Moorland Scout Troop

This year has been one of steady growth, strong engagement and plenty of memorable moments for the troop. We welcomed 15 new Scouts into the section, bringing fresh energy and enthusiasm. At the same time, 5 Scouts moved on – some aging out, others taking up new interests. It's a normal ebb and flow, but the overall picture remains positive, and the troop continues to thrive.

This influx means we have now reached our **maximum safe capacity of 24 Scouts**. While it is a positive sign that the troop continues to thrive, we are now operating a waiting list for new joiners. Managing our adult-to-scout ratio is currently our priority to maintain safety and engagement, so any help from parents or if any parents would like to step-up towards becoming a leader, we would gladly welcome them.

Programme Highlights & Skills

Our programme this year has been varied and full. Weekly sessions have covered practical skills such as fire lighting, DIY skills such as the bird boxes earlier this month, and map reading, alongside community and environmental work. We kicked off the year with the **Forester Badge** and progressed through a diverse range of challenges, including the **Craft Badge**, the **Entertainer Badge**, and a focus on fitness with the **Athletics Badge** sessions.

The Scouts also took part in vital conservation projects. This included **tree planting** with the **Woodland Trust** in January, **Balsam Bashing** in July, and as previously mentioned building **bird boxes** this month. These activities reinforced teamwork and responsibility while contributing to the local environment.

Visits & Culture

We have aimed to broaden horizons this year with several off-site visits. We explored different faiths with a visit to the **Zakariyya Mosque** in February as part of the World Faith Activity Badge and visited the **Salford Observatory** for an evening of astronomy. We also joined a **Facebook Live** session with **Tim Peake**, which sparked plenty of interest in space exploration and some good questions asked by our Scouts that Tim answered.

Outdoor Adventures & Camps

Our outdoor programme has been just as strong. The **Pike View Hike Camp** in March gave the Scouts three days of camping, hiking as a team testing their navigation skills and although we only had 1 team who completed the hike, I'm proud of all 5 teams that took part. **Bibby's Blowout** in May once again delivered four days packed with navigation, outdoor skills, and team challenges.

Other major highlights included our performance in **Scouts! The Musical** in June, the **'Escape Rammy'** event in July, and our recent **Bonfire Night event**. Just last week, we had a strong turnout for the **Manchester Monopoly Run**, which saw the Scouts navigating the city in a test of strategy and teamwork.

Community & Service

Community involvement continues to be a key theme. The annual leaflet delivery for Christ Church was completed previously, and we will be doing the next round on the 2nd December. If any leaders are able to support with that, it would be a big help, especially as David is unable to attend this year.

Badge Summary

This has been a strong year for badge progress across the troop, with **290 badges awarded in total.** Engagement across staged activity badges, interest badges and leader roles has been high, but the biggest area of achievement has been **Challenge Badges**, where several Scouts made significant progress.

Overall Activity

Across the year, Scouts earned a broad mix of badges covering outdoor skills, teamwork, creative work, faith awareness, nights away and leadership roles. High-volume badges included:

- **Athletics (19 awards)**
- **Craft (19 awards)**
- **Entertainer (19 awards)**
- **Hikes Away (19 awards)**
- **Nights Away (20 awards)**
- **My Faith - (11 awards)**
- **World Faiths - (18 awards)**
- **Forester - (16 awards)**

Challenge Badge Focus

Challenge Badges are the backbone of the Scout programme and require sustained effort across multiple skills. This year's key highlights:

- Adventure Challenge - 6 Scouts completed it
- Expedition Challenge - 4 completions
- Teamwork Challenge - 9 completions
- Team Leader roles (APL/PL/SPL) - 15 leadership roles awarded *(though some of these badges were to scouts that have now left)*
    - 8 Assistant Patrol Leaders
    - 5 Patrol Leaders
    - 2 Senior Patrol Leaders

These completions show real commitment and progress, especially given the level of planning, participation and teamwork required for each.

Engagement & Tenure Badges

Membership, Moving On and Joining In awards were issued consistently, reflecting the troop's growing numbers and steady participation throughout the year. **21 Joining-In awards** were issued, showing how many Scouts have remained engaged week-on-week.

Overall, this has been one of our strongest years for badge achievement. A combination of camps, hikes, outdoor skill sessions, creative activities, and faith/culture visits has contributed to **nearly 300 badges** being earned. Challenge Badge progress has been particularly notable and we will build on this momentum, with Scouts showing maturity, teamwork and real commitment across the programme. We plan to build on this momentum into next year providing opportunities for Scouts to earn more badges especially Challenge badges in the hope that in 2027 we can begin to reward Scouts with **Chief Scout Gold Award**

Thanks & Acknowledgements

A big thank you goes to the leadership team. David and Megan continue to give their time every week. Anis who supported the Scouts through arranging the Mosque visit and helping out with the Athletics badge. Bruce and Neil who stepped in when needed, and Marie who led the all-girls team and brought great enthusiasm during the Monopoly Run and most importantly were the winning team out of our troop. Their support is genuinely appreciated.

Looking Ahead

We had a busy finish to the year, and a strong start planned for the next.

- **25th Nov:** We have our planned visit to the mayors' office.
- **2nd Dec:** Leaflet delivery for Christ Church.
- **16th Dec:** End of term Bowling trip.

Operational Note: We do have a gap in cover for the week of the **9th December**. Two leaders are off, so any extra help that week would be greatly appreciated. The programme for that night is not fixed yet, though we may run fire lighting in the dark – a firm favourite – but that will depend on the weather.

To the Scouts – thank you for your enthusiasm, commitment and willingness to get stuck in. You make the troop what it is.

To the parents – your continued support, lifts, reminders and behind-the-scenes help do not go unnoticed. And to the volunteers working quietly in the background: thank you for keeping the troop running.

We end the year proud of the progress made and ready for another strong year ahead. Here's to more adventures, more skills learned and another year of Scouting at its best.

Hareth Al-Obaidi

17TH BOLTON MOORLAND (CHRIST CHURCH HEATON) BEAVER SCOUT GROUP

Our popular Beaver colony continues to operate at capacity and has a lengthy waiting list for new members. We strongly encourage the parents of prospective Beavers to get names on the waiting list well in advance of joining. Our Beavers age range is 5½ to 7¾ and we meet on Friday evenings from 6:30pm - 8pm.

Going into 2025, Shere Khan (Adele) was colony leader and continuing her 7-year association with the group though actively seeking somebody to take the reins. The calendar closely follows the school year and is split into three terms.

Here is just a flavour of some of our activities in 2025 which are too many to mention.....

Over the Winter/Spring term the Beavers engaged in spaghetti bridge building, making bird feeders, using old clothes to make cloth bags, litter picking around Doffcocker Lodge, fire lighting with flint and steel and designing Mothering Sunday mugs.

The Summer term highlights saw a hike up Walker Fold, toasting marshmallows, a walk around Smithills Hall and Country Park, a trip to Gulliver's World and water sports at Bibby's Farm.

The Beavers said goodbye to Shere Khan in July 2025 and we cannot thank her enough for all she did for the colony. So many children have benefitted from her strong and caring leadership. Fortunately, she is not lost to 17th Bolton as she continues to help with Wednesday Cubs.

For the Autumn term King Louie (Adam) took the reins aided by the ever-present and steady hand of Baloo (Dave) and greatly assisted by the team already in place of young leader Hathi (Liarna) and parent volunteer Ken. Another new member of the leadership team was Kaa (Ruth) who offers great support at meetings and has taken on much of the administration behind the scenes particularly regarding the tracking of badge work and planning meetings to cover so many elements of the awards available to our Beavers.

Highlights of the Autumn term were Orienteering around Moss Bank Park, a night hike around High Rid, our visit to Christ Church, Heaton - including bell ringing! - making (and burning) our Guy at the group bonfire night, constructing our award winning entry to the St Margaret's Christmas Tree Festival from recycled materials and our visit from Torr's Exotic Mobile Petting Zoo when our Beavers fearlessly handled tarantulas and snakes amongst other exotic animals.

Games such as Wink Murder, Captain's Calling, Keys in the Dark and Duck, Duck, Goose continue to be staple favourites at our Friday meetings.

Our presence at Church Parade services is growing and we regularly fill two pews. The Beavers and their parents and leaders enjoyed playing their part in helping to clear the leaves at church after the Remembrance Sunday parade.

Thank you to all those who have helped make Beaver's a success in 2025 including all the parent volunteers who are always willing to lend a hand.

King Louie, Baloo, Kaa and Hathi

MOTHERS' UNION

The Mothers' Union triennial theme for 2025-2027 is "Join Us, Join In!" which aims to both encourage new membership but also inspire existing members to actively participate in strengthening communities. We have seen considerable growth with our MU branch here at Christ Church during 2025 with the formation of a "planning group" who organised a successful Coffee Morning in November which raised £139 for branch funds. It was well attended and a lovely opportunity for friendship and fellowship before the rush of Christmas.

We continue to push the recruitment of new members. As always, it has been difficult to lose some of our members during 2025. We thank God for their commitment to Mothers' Union and for all that they were able to offer throughout their years of membership.

Mothers' Union is pleased to be able to continue to assist with Baptisms and the purchase of the Baptism books given to each family. The money raised at the Coffee Morning will contribute to these and to the purchase of Baptism anniversary cards. We would like to take this opportunity to extend our heartfelt thanks to Clare King who continues her role as Baptism Coordinator, and we would also like to take this opportunity to thank the volunteers on the rota. We are also hugely grateful to Margaret Goudge who continues in her position as Deanery Correspondent and to Lynne Fisher for assisting with email communications. Thank you.

As we move towards 2026, we have a New Year's Meal planned for January, an excursion planned for the Spring and a number of additional events already in the diary including a joint meeting with the MCC with a talk and supper. We are excited to celebrate two anniversaries in 2026! We will be celebrating both the 150th anniversary of the founding of Mothers' Union in Britain and also 125 years of MU here at Christ Church! We will also be celebrating the church's 130th anniversary, further highlighting what a significant role our branch and our members have played in the life of our church and its history.

We look forward to seeing what next year holds for our branch. One of our main goals for 2026 is to streamline the way subscriptions are paid and improve communications with our members, as well as exploring ways of ensuring we offer events suitable for our diverse membership.
Will you join us and join in? We hope so!

Ruth Syddall, Treasurer (on behalf of the Planning Group)

ABC Club

In September this year, a small group of volunteers restarted the ABC Club for babes and toddlers. After research was carried out into other groups and into some of the challenges we might encounter, we opened later in the month.

We took advice from the Diocese' Man Dio Growing Faith Early Years Adviser and were offered some possible funding. Meanwhile the PCC gave us a small grant, which was sufficient for the start.

Volunteers did a great job looking through all the resources in the walk in room upstairs in the Centre and reducing these to what was now appropriate and good quality. We are particularly grateful for the work on the shelves which has turned that room into a very useful space for storage now.

We marketed locally and have made a start. However, numbers are few. Though we have had a total of 12 children visiting, in a similar number of sessions, these have mainly been babies and their parents/carers. Only one or two toddlers have visited. Most weeks have seen one or two children and some weeks none at all. However, each of the parents/carers visiting have appreciated the time to sit and chat with the volunteers and other adults. At the end of 2025, as a result of ongoing training and other commitments, we found ourselves with volunteers but not a leader. We are still looking for a leader to have a vision to take us forward. At this point, we decided to keep going up to Half Term Spring 2026 and to review again then.

If you know anyone who has the time and the vision to re-energise this group and make it a success, please let Dave know.

Holly Bonfield

CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF CHRIST CHURCH HEATON

Registered Charity No 1132861

Financial Statements for the period 1st January 2025 to 31st December 2025

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Endowment funds £	TOTAL 2025 £	TOTAL 2024 £
Income and Endowments:						
Voluntary income	2{a}	74,370	7,510		81880	68,810
Church activities	2{b}	19,230			19230	17,508
Activities for generating funds	2{c}	2,952			2952	1,656
Investment income	2{d}	18,790			18790	22,771
Other incoming resources		263			263	6,670
Total Income		**115,604**	**7,510**	**0**	**123,114**	**117,415**
Expenditure:						
Church activities	3{a}	102,053			102,053	107,469
Raising funds	3{b}	103			103	132
Support costs	3{c}	547			547	2,552
Capital expenditure	3{d}				0	12,563
Extraordinary item (Rtn part grant)					0	0
Total Expenditure		**102,703**	**0**	**0**	**102,703**	**122,716**
Net income/(expenditure) before investment gains/(losses)		12,901	7,510	0	20,411	-5,301
Net gains/(losses) on investments		0	0	0	0	0
Net income/(expenditure)		**12,901**	**7,510**	**0**	**20,411**	**-5,301**
Transfers between funds		0	0	0	0	0
Other recognised gains/(losses):**		0	0	0	0	0
Net movement in funds		**12,901**	**7,510**	**0**	**20,411**	**-5,301**
Total funds brought forward		468,661	4,734	0	473,395	478,697
Total funds carried forward		**481,562**	**12,244**	**0**	**493,806**	**473,395**

** See note 1.2 pg 11

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF CHRIST CHURCH HEATON
Registered Charity No 1132861

Balance sheet as at 31st December 2025

		Unrestricted funds £	Restricted income funds £	Endowment funds £	Total this year £	Total last year £
Fixed assets						
Investment Property	(Note 1.2)	404,900	-	-	404,900	404,900
Total fixed assets		404,900	-	-	404,900	404,900
Current assets						
Stocks		-	-	-	-	-
Debtors	(Note 6)	13,325			13,325	12,748
Investments					-	-
Cash at bank and in hand	(Note 8)	67,605	12,244		79,849	77,194
Total current assets		80,930	12,244	-	93,174	89,942
Current Liabilities						
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	(Note 7)	4,268	-	-	4,268	21,447
Net current assets/(liabilities)		76,662	12,244	-	88,906	68,495
Total net assets/(liabilities)		**481,562**	**12,244**	**-**	**493,806**	**473,395**
Represented by:						
Funds of the Church	(Note 9)					
Restricted income funds			12,244	-	12,244	4,734
Unrestricted funds		481,562		-	481,562	468,661
Revaluation reserve		-	-	-	-	-
Total funds		**481,562**	**12,244**	**-**	**493,806**	**473,395**

Signed by two trustees on behalf of all the trustees	Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
		Chairman Andrew Minors Honorary Treasurer	

Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared under the Charities Act 2011 and in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006, together with applicable accounting standards and the Charities SORP.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention except for the valuation of investment assets, which are shown at market value.

The financial statements include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law. They do not include the accounts of church groups that owe their main affiliation to another body nor those that are informal gatherings of Church members.

Funds

General Funds
These represent the funds of the PCC that are not subject to any restrictions regarding their use and are available for application on the general purposes of the PCC.

Designated Funds
These are Funds designated for particular purposes by the PCC and are also unrestricted as the PCC can reassign those monies if it so desires.

Restricted Funds
These can only be used for their stated purpose(s).

The Church has the following specific funds -

Church Buildings and Grounds Maintenance Funds
To provide funds for the maintenance of the Church and its environs without recourse to realising fixed assets and to enable such maintenance to be undertaken at short notice.

Organ and Choir Funds
To provide funds for the maintenance of the Organ and support of the Choir.
A transfer from the General Fund can be made in lieu of the organists Honorarium subject to annual review

PCC Property Funds
To provide funds for the maintenance of the properties at Welbeck Rd and Markland Hill.

Church Organisations Fund
To provide funds for setting up new church organisations

Special Projects Fund
To provide funds for such individual projects as PCC decides

Incoming Resources

Voluntary income and capital sources

Collections are recognised when received by or on behalf of the PCC.

Planned giving receivable under Gift Aid is recognised only when received.

Income tax recoverable on gift aided donations is recognised when the donation is recognised.

Grants and legacies to the PCC are accounted for as soon as the PCC is notified of its legal entitlement and the amount due.

Income from investments

Dividends and interest are accounted for when receivable. Tax recoverable on such income is recognised in the same accounting year.

Rental income from the letting of church premises is recognised when the rental is due.

Gains and losses on investments

Realised gains or losses are recognised when investments are sold.

Unrealised gains or losses are accounted for on revaluation of investments at 31 December.

Resources used

Grants

Grants and donations are accounted for when paid over, or when awarded, if that award creates a binding obligation of the PCC.

Activities directly relating to the work of the Church

The parish share or diocesan quota is accounted for when paid. Any share unpaid is not accrued at the year end (unless a balance payment has been committed by the PCC) as no legal liability exists.

Fixed assets

Consecrated land and buildings and moveable church furnishings

Consecrated and beneficed property is excluded from the accounts by s.96(2)(a) of the Charities Act 1993

No value is placed on moveable church furnishings held by the churchwardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal since the PCC considers this to be inalienable property. All expenditure incurred during the year on consecrated or benefice buildings and moveable church furnishings, whether maintenance or improvement, is written off as expenditure on purchase.

Other fixtures, fittings and office equipment

Equipment used within the church premises is depreciated on a straight line basis over 4 years. Individual items of equipment with a purchase price of £4,000 or less are written off when the asset is acquired.

Investments

Investments are valued at market value at 31 December.

Current assets

Amounts owing to the PCC at 31 December in respect of fees, rents or other income are shown as debtors less provision.

Short-term deposits include cash held on deposit either with the CBF Church of England Funds or at the bank.

CHRIST CHURCH, HEATON
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER 2025

Fixed Assets
Investment Property

	39 Welbeck Rd Heaton	112 Markland Hill Heaton	Total
	£	£	£
Value B/Fwd	169950	134950	304900
Revaluation increase 2023	50000	15000	65000
Improvements 2023	0	35000	35000
Value C/Fwd	219950	184950	404900

Basis of Valuation

The brought forward property values are in accordance with Bairstow Eves marketing reports dated 28 February 2007.

Movable Church Furnishings

These are vested in the Church wardens on behalf of the PCC. They cannot be disposed of without a faculty and therefore no value is assigned to them. Expenditure on additions to such inalienable assets is written off on purchase

Land at Scout Hut, Markland Hill, Bolton

The land on which the Scout Hut was built was leased to the 17th Bolton (Christ Church Heaton) Scout group on 31 December 1963 for 25 years at a rent of One Shilling per Annum. This was renewed with effect from 25 December 1988 for a further 25 years then by counterpart lease dated 21st December 1994. As disposal of this asset is not possible for the foreseeable future, and income is effectively NIL, no value has been assigned to this property in the accounts accounts. The Scout Hut itself is not owned by the Church

2 Income and Endowments

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Endowment funds £	TOTAL 2025 £	TOTAL 2024 £
2{a} **Voluntary income**					
Gift Aided Planned Giving	42,328		-	42,328	40,952
Other Planned Giving	1,444		-	1,444	1,734
Collections at services	14,840		-	14,840	12,163
Gift Aid Recovered	12,758		-	12,758	12,000
Legacies	3,000			3,000	-
Other		7,510	-	7,510	8,631
Total	74,370	7,510	-	81,880	75,480
2{b} **Church activities:**					
PCC Fees (Weddings & funerals etc)	5,232	-	-	5,232	5,105
Parish Magazine (Sales)		-	-	-	-
Church Centre lettings	13,912	-	-	13,912	12,403
Other	86	-	-	86	-
Total	19,230	-	-	19,230	17,508
2{c} **Activities for generating funds:**					
Magazine (Advertising)	-	-	-	-	-
Fundraising events	2,952	-	-	2,952	1,656
Other	-	-	-	-	-
Total	2,952	-	-	2,952	1,656
2{d} **Income from investments:**					
Bank and CCLA interest	2,280	-	-	2,280	2,729
Dividend on CCLA Funds	91	-	-	91	73
Rental income from houses	16,418	-	-	16,418	19,968
Other	263	-	-	263	-
Total	19,052	-	-	19,052	22,771
TOTAL INCOME	**115,604**	**7,510**	**-**	**123,114**	**117,415**

Other information:

All income in the year, with exception of donations towards the Vestry Roof, were unrestricted

3 Expenditure

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	TOTAL 2025	TOTAL 2024
				£	£
3{a} **Church Activities**					
Donations to outside organisations	0	0	0	0	0
Diocesan Parish Share	50,500	0	0	50,500	48,000
Clergy Working expenses	2,017	0	0	2,017	1,427
Vicarage/other ministry expenses	4,240	0	0	4,240	4,060
Salaries & wages	6,859	0	0	6,859	7,360
Miscellaneous	779	0	0	779	310
	64,395	0	0	**64,395**	**61,156**
Church Running Costs					
Church running expenses	14,660	0	0	14,660	19,883
Church utility costs	5,618	0	0	5,618	9,519
Upkeep of services	576	0	0	576	166
Upkeep of churchyard	3,185	0	0	3,185	2,832
Parish Centre running costs	6,497	0	0	6,497	7,902
PCC property costs	5,492	0	0	5,492	4,129
Magazine costs	0	0	0	0	0
Cost of church administration	996	0	0	996	923
Organ & Choir costs	635	0	0	635	958
	37,658	**0**	**0**	**37,658**	**46,313**
3{b} **Raising funds**					
Fundraising/Stewardship	103	0	0	103	132
	103	**0**	**0**	**103**	**132**
3{c} **Support Costs**					
Independent Examiner	100	0	0	100	100
Professional Fees	0	0	0	0	2,143
Payroll Services	447	0	0	447	309
Total Support Costs	**547**	**0**	**0**	**547**	**2,552**
Total General Expenditure	**102,703**	**0**	**0**	**102,703**	**110,154**
3{d} **Capital Expenditure**					
Church buildings	0	0	0	0	10,276
PCC Properties	0	0	0	0	2,286
Total Capital Expenditure	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**12,563**
TOTAL OF ALL EXPENDITURE	**102,703**	**0**	**0**	**102,703**	**122,716**

4. Funds received as agent

Description/name of party	Related party (Yes or No)	Amount received This year £	Amount received Last year £	Amount paid out This year £	Amount paid out Last year £
Childrens Society	No	247	236	247	236
Christian Aid	No	1,078	-	1,078	-
	Total	**1,325**	**236**	**1,325**	**236**

5. Paid employees

5.1 Staff Costs

	This year £	Last year £
Salaries and wages*	6,759	7,360
Social security costs	-	-
Unfunded Apparitor	100	-
Pension costs (defined contribution scheme)	-	-
Other employee benefits	-	-
Total staff costs	**6,859**	**7,360**

***Parish Administrator**

5.2 Average head count in the year		This year Number	Last year Number
The parts of the charity in which the employees work	**Administration**	1	1
	Total	**1**	**1**

5.3 £100 of Honorarium payments were paid to Apparitors from General Funds
There were no ex-gratia payments to employees or others

6. Debtors and prepayments

Analysis of debtors		This year	Last year
		£	£
Trade debtors		525	0
Prepayments and accrued income		300	0
Tax recoverable under Gift Aid		12,500	12,748
	Total	**13,325**	**12,748**

7. Creditors and accruals

Analysis of creditors

	Amounts falling due within 1 year	
	This year	Last year
	£	£
Bank loans and overdrafts	-	-
Trade creditors	1,998	580
Accruals and deferred income	2,271	20,867
Total	**4,269**	**21,447**

8. Cash at bank and in hand

	This year	Last year
	£	£
Short term deposits	48,019	46,019
Cash at bank and on hand	31,831	31,175
Other		-
Total	79,849	77,194

9. Church funds

Details of material funds held and movements during the CURRENT reporting period

R - restricted income funds, including special trusts, of the charity; and UR - unrestricted funds

Fund names	Type R or UR *	Purpose and Restrictions	Fund balances brought forward	Income	Exp	Transfers In	Transfers out	Gains and losses	Fund balances carried forward
			£	£	£	£		£	£
General Fund	UR	Unrestricted fund for use on the general purposes of the PCC.	245	115,604	-99,318			-	16,040
Organ & Choir Fund	UR	Designated for maintenance of the organ and support for the choir. A transfer from General Funds can be made in lieu of organists honorarium reviewed annually.	16,001	-	-635	-	-	-	15,366
Organ & Choir Fund	R	Funds restricted by the respective donors for maintenance of the organ and support for the choir.	4,194	-	-	-	-	-	4,194
Church Buildings & Grounds maintenance	UR	Designated for the maintenance of the Church and associated grounds and buildings.	-	-			-	-	-
PCC Property Fund	UR	Representing value of 2 properties	404,900	-	-	-	-	-	404,900
PCC Property Maintenance Fund	UR	Designated for maintenance 2 properties	2,480	-	-2,750	-	-	-	-270
Special Projects Fund	UR	Designated for such Special Projects as PCC decides	42,414	-	-	-	-	-	42,414
Church Organisations Fund	UR	Designated for set up of future organisations	3,112	-	-	-	-	-	3,112
Church Buildings & Grounds maintenance	R	Restricted funds donated for specific projects	540	7,510		-	-	-	8,050
		Total Funds	473,395	123,114	-102,703	-	0	-	493,806

10. Transactions with trustees and related parties

Trustee remuneration and benefits

The following trustees received remuneration from the Church solely for duties carried out as Apparitor:

The Following Trustee received indirect benefit:

None

Financial Review

Regular giving and collections at services showed a modest increase on 2024 levels. Church Centre letting income and fees increased. There was a fall in rental income from the properties as the one on Markland Hill was empty for 4 months. A legacy of £3,000 was received and there were donations towards the cost of the choir vestry roof of £7,510 including one of £5,000. Grateful thanks are given to all the donors.

Gift Aid will be claimed on all personal donations where possible.

The Parish Giving Scheme was introduced in quarter 4 of 2025 as part of a Stewardship Campaign. Initial take up was hindered by some technical issues but each of the following few months has seen an increase in take up of the scheme with new regular donors joining and some existing donors increasing their giving.

It's a great scheme and easy to set up. Donors can elect to apply an annual inflationary increase to their giving if they wish and where applicable Gift Aid is claimed and received in the same month that a donation is received. That removes the need for a volunteer to make an annual Gift Aid claim manually saving a lot of time. Details can be found at **www.parishgiving.org.uk/givers**

Giving in any way is always appreciated and gratefully received. As time goes by though, it is becoming increasing difficult and time consuming to process cash donations. If you do give a regular cash donation via the Free Will Offering envelopes or the envelopes in the pews, please consider moving to the Parish Giving Scheme.

Donations can also be made via a debit/credit card using the machine at the back of church.

General expenditure has reduced mainly due to reduced costs of utilities, new contracts having been taken up at the back end of 2024. There has also been less expenditure of the church buildings and properties.

The amount of Parish Share requested was £50,500 and this was paid in full. As quarterly milestones in paying the Share were hit, a "discount" will be made to the 2026 Share.

The net result is an excess of income over expenditure of £20,411, some of that income being restricted to use on the choir vestry roof.

Andrew Minors
Honorary Treasurer
April 2026

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF CHRIST CHURCH, HEATON

I report on the accounts of the parish of Christ Church, Heaton for the year ended 31 December 2025.

Respective responsibilities of PCC and examiner

As members of the PCC you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act'). I report in respect of my examination of the accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the PCC and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by section 130 of the Act; or

2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or

3. the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Name: Kathryn Hodgkiss FCA Relevant professional qualification or body: ICAEW
Address: J F Balshaw & Co, 22 Shoreswood, Sharples, Bolton BL1 7DD Date: 24th March, 2026

