2025 Report and Accounts for the Parochial Church Council of St Lawrence with St Paul Longridge

Aim & purposes

St Lawrence with St Paul Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent, in the promotion of the whole mission of the church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical.

The PCC is responsible for the upkeep of the two churches in the Parish, St Lawrence and St Paul.

Objectives and Activities

The PCC is committed to enabling as many people as possible to feel welcome at our churches and to become part of the worshiping community at St Lawrence with St Paul's. The PCC maintains an overview of worship throughout the parish and makes suggestions on how our services can involve the many groups that live within it. Our services and worship put faith into practice through prayer, scripture, music and sacrament.

When planning our activities for the year, we have considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and, in particular, the supplementary guidance on charities for the advancement of religion.

To facilitate this work, it is important that we maintain the fabric of the two churches within the parish.

Achievements and performance

1) Worship and Prayer

The PCC supports and offers a wide range of services, activities and events of spiritual, social and mental health benefit for our Longridge community. We hold two services on a Sunday: a 10am Holy Communion Service with Children's Church at St Paul's Church and a 6.30pm Evensong service at St Lawrence Church. There is also a 10am spoken Holy Communion service on a Thursday as well. We held 3 weddings, 13 baptisms and 37 funerals in 2025. All key Christian festivals were celebrated, and we continued to be active in the community through a host of events, such as community breakfasts and fairs, organised to welcome a wider group of people.
The PCC firmly believes that the Church can be an organisation of hope for all age groups, and this includes the fostering of faith in God and in love for the local community among the younger generation. We therefore continue to work closely with the local Church of England Primary School through assemblies and supporting a Junior Choir.

2) Deanery & Diocesan Synod

Parish representatives are on the Deanery Synod, with one of these also sitting on Diocesan Synod. This enables the PCC to have an important link with the larger church.

3) Fabric of the church

To ensure the maintenance and safety of our two-church buildings maintenance and servicing checks to the boilers, fire extinguishers, the Willis organ at St. Paul's and the clock on the tower at St. Lawrence are all scheduled and carried out annually. The topple testing of headstones in St. Lawrence churchyard continues to be carried out on a regular basis and a number of unsafe headstones have either been lead down or made secure.

A slips and trips assessment, initially focusing on areas accessed by the general public, has been carried out on both churches and approved on behalf of the PCC by the PCC Fabric/Eco committee

St. Lawrence Church.

Handrails have been fitted at the Garden of Remembrance in St. Lawrence to help people visiting that tiered area of the churchyard.

Following a successful appeal the Lychgate at St. Lawrence Church was restored in 2025 – the work completed to a high standard.

A Quinquennial Inspection of St. Lawrence Church took place in June 2025 and the recommendations are gradually being worked through.

St. Paul's Church.

Following annual maintenance checks, repairs were carried out to the North Porch roof and stonework, as well as the fitting of new drainpipes and the painting of pipes, gutters, entrance doors and air grilles.

Internally hand rails have been installed on the dais at St. Paul's as a H & S precaution.

Fixed Electrical testing is scheduled to take place in St. Paul's Church prior to Easter.

4) Pastoral Care

The Centenary room at St Paul's, and the Parish Room at St Lawrence's continue to provide a venue for various activities, religious, pastoral and charitable. Each Thursday the PCC supports a meeting of Walkie-talkies, a mother and toddler group. Coffee mornings are held in support of charitable causes. A Welcome Café runs on a Wednesday afternoon to offer a warm space, a neuro-deversity group supported by Lancashire County Council operates on a Thirsday afternoon and a local foodbank on a Friday morning. Charity events and collections have been organised for charities both at home and abroad. We also fund a scheme that supplies less well-off children with certain items of school uniform, which their families may not otherwise be able to afford. The room is also used for meetings by the Christian organisations such as the Mothers Union and the Tuesday Club, and secular societies such as the local history society. At St Lawrence Church Alcoholics Anonymous and Cocaine Anonymous group s run on Monday and Tuesday nights respectively.

We can offer home Communions to those that are house bound.
A bereavement service for those in need is offered by the PCC. Outreach groups visit the sick in hospital or home, and those who are noticed not to have been at church recently are, where practicable, contacted. Each Wednesday a weekly "drop in" service called BrewTime is held, and although not a religious meeting it offers chance for people to meet others, and dip into church.

5) Mission and Evangelism

Our parish magazine, The Log, is produced and distributed to parishioners ten times during the year. Several courses such as the Alpha Course and the Bible Course were held during the year which allowed regular and new people to access the church and the message of the Christian faith. Local and national charities such as The Children's Society, Home for Good and Safe Families have benefited from retiring collections, special events or specific donations throughout the year. We continue to support the Diocese Vision 2026, 'Local Churches, Transforming Communities' and we have our own church vision, 'Following Jesus in Loving Community' which supports this.

6) Ecumenical Relationships

The church is a member of the Churches Together in Longridge and District and a number of joint services were held throughout the year, including the Remembrance Sunday service, held at St Paul's and the Good Friday cenotaph service, which has multi-denominational input.

The Food Bank is staffed by volunteers from all the churches, and is run from the Centenary room at St Paul's.

7) Financial Review

In 2025 the total receipts were £199,072 of which £52,032 was received as restricted funds, £2,141 was designated funds and £144,899 was received as unrestricted funds. This represented an decrease in total income of £48,802. Planned giving, however, remained flat, with collections at services rising by £1,664. The PCC continues to promote the Parish Giving Scheme alongside 'card machine' giving, and Clergy will continue to promote 'giving through grace'. Other voluntary receipts fell, mainly due to donations received for the Audio-Visual project at St Pauls, and the Lychgate fund at St Lawrences in 2024.

Gift Aid claims were higher than in the previous year at £21,703 compared to £19,219 in 2024. We continue to promote the Parish Giving Scheme (PGS), where eligible donations through this route automatically have Gift Aid reclaimed by PGS, and is received in the same month as the donation. A number of Gift Aid claims were outstanding at the year end and will be received in 2026.

Fundraising revenue remained roughly the same at £11,772 and facilities rental income increased from £4,613, to £6,579. Fees for weddings and funerals remained roughly the same at £21,610. Investment income fell by £2,414 mainly to an decrease in the Haighton Dividend.

We were in receipt of a number of grants from the Diocese towards the cost improved access (hand rails inside St Pauls, and in the Churchyard at St Lawrences) as well as towards building works at St Pauls, these totalled £14,488.

£218,134 was spent in total, to provide the Christian ministry from St Lawrence with St Paul, including the contribution of £94,760 to the diocesan parish share which largely provides the stipends and housing for the clergy.

Expenditure was down on 2024, by £5,975. This reduction is due to less being spent on Repairs and Maintenance in 2025, £29,970 as opposed to £60,056 in 2024. (Included within the 2024 expenditure is the Audio-Visual Project at a total cost of £34,182).

Expenditure on energy was up by £6,541 in 2025. Churchyard expenditure also increase re works done to trees and the new handrails (the cost of the new handrails was covered by a grant). Clergy and staffing costs were up by £3,543, mainly due to agreed increases in pay rates.

The net result for the year was defict of £19,062 for the year – a position that meant we could not meet our reserves policy. Income from regular giving going forward will need to increase if we are to maintain the same level of Mission.

The value of a Central Investment Fund (CIF) share decreased over the course of the year, reducing the value of our holding from £272,264 to £263,071.

The United Utilities shares showed an increase of £4,818 following an increase in the share price. This is a paper gain only, as the shares are Endowed.

The breakdown of the income from these shares/investments is detailed within section 5c of the financial statements.

8) Reserves Policy

It is PCC policy to maintain an unrestricted reserve of £20,000 (in cash or unrestricted investments) in the event of needing to cover future shortfalls in income over expenditure. We failed to meet this policy in 2025 due to an excess of expenditure.

9) Volunteers

If a project requires a specific skill, volunteers may be co-opted onto the various sub-committees, or indeed the PCC, for that specific project.

None of the fund raising activities of the PCC would be possible without the dedicated help of volunteers, and the PCC would like to express its gratitude to all of those who have helped in any way, over the course of the last twelve months.

10) Structure, governance and management

The Parochial Church Council is a corporate body established by the Church of England. The PCC operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure. The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. At St Lawrence with St Paul, the membership of the PCC consists of the incumbent, curate, churchwardens, deputy churchwardens, secretary, treasurer, Deanery Synod representatives, Vision Champion, readers and members elected by those members of the congregation who are on the electoral roll of the church. The PCC members are responsible for making decisions on all matters of general concern and importance to the parish, including deciding on how funds of the PCC are

to be spent.

The full PCC met six times during the year, with an average attendance of 84%. Given its wide responsibilities the PCC has a number of committees each dealing with a particular aspect of parish life.

These committees, which include but are not restricted to worship, pastoral, social and stewardship (fabric and finance), are all responsible to the PCC and report back to it regularly, minutes of their meetings being received by the full PCC and discussed as necessary.

11) Administrative information

St Lawrence's Church is the Parish Church, and is situated on Lower Lane in Longridge. St Paul's Church is situated on Church Street. The parish is part of the Diocese of Blackburn within the Church of England. The PCC is a body corporate (PCC Powers Measure 1956, Church Representation Rules 2011) and is a registered charity, number 1134831.

The members of the PCC serving during the period of these accounts were:

Ex officio members:

-Incumbent:	The Reverend Mike Barton (chair)
-Curate	Reverend Simon King (Resigned 30 June 2025)
-Curate	Reverend Jessie Adesina (From 1 July 2025))
-Warden:	Dorothy Ann Little
-Warden:	Dorothy Laver
-Deputy Warden:	Graham Kelsall
-Deputy Warden:	Mae Hays
-Secretary:	Barbara Burton
-Treasurer:	Graham Kelsall
-Diocesan Synod Representative	Graham Kelsall
-Deanery Synod Representative:	Karen Louise Ellen Boardman (also Vision Champion)
-Deanery Synod Representative:	Graham Kelsall
-Deanery Synod Representative:	Chris Martin (Resigned 31/01/2025)
-Deanery Synod Representative:	Dorothy Laver

Elected Members:

Annamarie Rogers-Waterman
Barbara McCormick
David Hartley
Rosemary Lyons
Valerie Wardley (Resigned 19 May 2025)
Barbara Burton (Resigned 19 May 2025)
Michael Dawson (Resigned 19 May 2025)
Vernon Kinrade
Helen Clements
Philip Jones
Stephanie Willan
Robert Stephen Bretherton (Resigned 19 May 2025)
Andrew Filder
Mae Heys (Resigned 19 May 2025)
Amii Bateson
Terry Lewis (From 19 May 2025)
Ellen Dawson (From 19 May 2025)

Approved by the PCC on 17 March 2026 and signed on their behalf by the Reverend Mike Barton (PCC chairman)

Reverend Mike Barton  Date 16 April 2026

Independent Examiners report to the PCC of Membesr/Trustees of St Lawrence with St Paul Longridge

I report to the PCC members on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2025.

This report on the financial statements of the PCC for the year ended 31 December 2025, is in respect of an examination carried out in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 ("the Regulations") and section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

Respective responsibilities of the PCC and the examiner

As members of the PCC you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 ("the Regulations") and section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all applicable directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

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 charity 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 the 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.

Christine Richards FCA, Independent Examiner
Director of McDade Roberts Accountants Ltd
316 Blackpool Road
Fulwood
Preston
PR2 3AE

2 April 2026

Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2025
Receipts and Payments Accounts

	Note	Unrestricted Fund	Unrestricted Designated Fund	Restricted Fund	Endowment Fund	Total 2025	Total 2024
Receipts							
Voluntary receipts:							
Planned giving							
Tax efficient		£ 58,045	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ 58,045	£ 58,604
Not tax efficient		£ 7,116	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ 7,116	£ 6,512
Collections at Services		£ 7,245	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ 7,245	£ 5,581
All other giving/voluntary receipts	5a	£ 7,456	£ 2,141	£ 36,065	£ -	£ 45,662	£ 61,021
Gift Aid Recovered		£ 17,944	£ -	£ 3,759	£ -	£ 21,703	£ 19,219
		£ 97,806	£ 2,141	£ 39,824	£ -	£ 139,771	£ 150,937
Activities for generating Funds	5b	£ 14,280	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ 14,280	£ 13,501
Investment Income	5c	£ 418	£ -	£ 12,208	£ -	£ 12,626	£ 15,040
Church Activities	5d	£ 32,395	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ 32,395	£ 30,262
Other receipts	5e	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ 38,134
Total Receipts		**£ 144,899**	**£ 2,141**	**£ 52,032**	**£ -**	**£ 199,072**	**£ 247,874**
Church Activities:							
Parish Share		£ 94,760	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ 94,760	£ 89,217
Clergy and Staffing costs	5f	£ 27,804	£ -	£ 4,050	£ -	£ 31,854	£ 28,311
Church running expenses	5g	£ 40,244	£ 511	£ 48,407	£ -	£ 89,162	£ 105,002
Mission giving and donations	5h	£ -	£ -	£ 498	£ -	£ 498	£ 224
		£ 162,808	£ 511	£ 52,955	£ -	£ 216,274	£ 222,754
Cost of generating Funds		£ 1,860	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ 1,860	£ 1,355
Total Payments		**£ 164,668**	**£ 511**	**£ 52,955**	**£ -**	**£ 218,134**	**£ 224,109**
Excess of (payments) over receipts		£ (19,769)	£ 1,630	£ (923)	£ -	£ (19,062)	£ 23,765
Transfers between Funds	4	£ (14,758)	£ (2,680)	£ 17,438	£ -	£ -	£ -
Transfer Proceeds of investments sale		£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -
		£ (34,527)	£ (1,050)	£ 16,515	£ -	£ (19,062)	£ 23,765
Cash at bank and in hand at 1 Jan		£ 34,525	£ 1,650	£ 26,362	£ -	£ 62,537	£ 38,772
Cash at bank and in hand at 31 Dec		£ (2)	£ 600	£ 42,877	£ -	**£ 43,475**	£ 62,537
Cash Funds							
Bank Current Account		£ (2)	£ -	£ 13,754	£ -	£ 13,752	£ 9,110
S/O Account		£ -	£ 600	£ 2,488	£ -	£ 3,088	£ 22,104
New c/a Account		£ -	£ -	£ 4,197	£ -	£ 4,197	£ 228
New Deposit Account		£ -	£ -	£ 13,803	£ -	£ 13,803	£ 25,776
Central Deposit Fund		£ -	£ -	£ 8,635	£ -	£ 8,635	£ 5,319
		£ (2)	£ 600	£ 42,877	£ -	**£ 43,475**	£ 62,537
Other Monetary Assets							
Gift Aid recoverable						£ 10,000	£ 10,000
Investment Assets							
Investment Fund Shares at Market Value	2	£ -	£ -	£ 20,398	£ 242,673	£ 263,071	£ 272,264
Other Shares at Market Value	3	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ 41,925	£ 41,925	£ 37,107
		£ -	£ -	£ 20,398	£ 284,598	£ 304,996	£ 309,371

4 The movements in designated and restricted funds during the year were:

Restricted	Bal. B/fwd	Receipts	Payments	Transfers	Bal. C/fwd
AV equipment	£ (3,247)	£ 3,247	£ -	£ -	£ -
Children's Society	£ 139	£ 24	£ 163	£ -	£ -
Brewtime (Wellbeing Café now separate)	£ 708	£ -	£ 293	£ -	£ 415
Choir (Worship group now separate)	£ 937	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ 937
Churchyard	£ 1,113	£ 4,195	£ 14,978	£ 9,670	£ -
Flowers - St Paul	£ 184	£ 99	£ 125	£ -	£ 158
Flowers - St Lawrence	£ 1,829	£ 967	£ 458	£ -	£ 2,338
Future Projects	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -
St Pauls Repair Fund	£ -	£ 6,521	£ 11,940	£ 5,419	£ -
Maintenance	£ -	£ 5,320	£ 7,604	£ 2,284	£ -
Newsham Legacy	£ -	£ 2,536	£ 2,536	£ -	£ -
Organ Maintenance Fund	£ -	£ 538	£ 456	£ -	£ 82
Religious	£ 975	£ 1,074	£ 2,049	£ -	£ -
Royal British Legion	£ 189	£ -	£ 189	£ -	£ -
St Lawrence Repair Fund	£ 255	£ 7,167	£ 8,659	£ 1,237	£ -
Lychgate Fund	£ 14,643	£ 15,727	£ 1,767	£ (1,122)	£ 27,481
Uniform	£ -	£ 315	£ 520	£ 205	£ -
Walkie Talkies	£ 360	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ 360
Wellbeing Café	£ 16	£ 800	£ 216	£ (50)	£ 550
Worship Group	£ 100	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ 100
Youth	£ 2,842	£ 186	£ 1,002	£ (205)	£ 1,821
	£ 21,043	£ 48,716	£ 52,955	£ 17,438	£ 34,242

Restricted CBF CofE Funds	Bal. B/fwd	Receipts	Payments	Transfers	Bal. C/fwd
Haighton Legacy	£ 5,319	£ 3,316	£ -	£ -	£ 8,635
	£ 5,319	£ 3,316	£ -	£ -	£ 8,635

Unrestricted CBF CofE Funds	Bal. B/fwd	Receipts	Payments	Transfers	Bal. C/fwd
Oldreive Legacy	18	£ -	£ -	£ (18)	£ -
Donation	3	£ -	£ -	£ (3)	£ -
Greenall	1	£ -	£ -	£ (1)	£ -
	22	£ -	£ -	£ (22)	£ -

Designated	Bal. B/fwd	Receipts	Payments	Transfers	Bal. C/fwd
Tea/Coffee	£ 150	£ 1,881	£ 511	£ (1,420)	£ 100
Vicars Discretionary	£ 1,500	£ 260	£ -	£ (1,260)	£ 500
	£ 1,650	£ 2,141	£ 511	£ (2,680)	£ 600

5 Further Analysis of Receipts and Payments

	Unrestricted Fund	Unrestricted Designated Fund	Restricted Fund	Endowment Fund	Total 2025	Total 2024
Receipts						
a) All other giving/voluntary receipts:						
Donations	£ 2,894	£ 2,141	£ 21,577	£ -	£ 26,612	£ 40,742
Legacy	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -
Grants	£ -	£ -	£ 14,488	£ -	£ 14,488	£ 16,429
VAT recovered	£ 4,562	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ 4,562	£ 3,850
	£ 7,456	£ 2,141	£ 36,065	£ -	£ 45,662	£ 61,021
b) Activities for generating funds:						
Parish Fundraising	£ 11,772	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ 11,772	£ 11,333
Printing	£ 2,508	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ 2,508	£ 2,168
	£ 14,280	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ 14,280	£ 13,501
c) Investment Income:						
Dividends on CBF Investment Fund	£ -	£ -	£ 6,356	£ -	£ 6,356	£ 6,685
Bank and CBF Deposit Fund Interest	£ 418	£ -	£ 216	£ -	£ 634	£ 373
Haighton Dividend	£ -	£ -	£ 3,100	£ -	£ 3,100	£ 5,567
Newsham Legacy	£ -	£ -	£ 2,536	£ -	£ 2,536	£ 2,415
	£ 418	£ -	£ 12,208	£ -	£ 12,626	£ 15,040
d) Church activities:						
Fees for weddings and funerals	£ 21,610	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ 21,610	£ 21,522
Parish Magazine	£ 4,206	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ 4,206	£ 4,127
Facilities Rental	£ 6,579	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ 6,579	£ 4,613
	£ 32,395	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ 32,395	£ 30,262
e) Other receipts						
Sale of Investments	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ 38,134
	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ 38,134
Payments						
f) Clergy and Staffing Costs						
Parish Administrator	£ 7,499	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ 7,499	£ 7,489
Cleaning	£ 2,186	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ 2,186	£ 1,690
Director of Music & Organists	£ 7,686	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ 7,686	£ 5,765
Groundsman	£ 2,000	£ -	£ 4,050	£ -	£ 6,050	£ 6,050
Retired Clergy	£ 591	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ 591	£ 126
Vicars claimed expenses	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -
Council Tax	£ 6,185	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ 6,185	£ 6,039
Water	£ 1,657	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ 1,657	£ 1,152
	£ 27,804	£ -	£ 4,050	£ -	£ 31,854	£ 28,311
g) Church Running Expenses						
Repairs & Maintenance	£ 1,358	£ -	£ 28,612	£ -	£ 29,970	£ 60,056
Printing and Stationery	£ 6,760	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ 6,760	£ 5,932
Children's Church	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ 90
Vicars Discretionary	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ 50
Churchyard	£ -	£ -	£ 14,997	£ -	£ 14,997	£ 5,687
Costs of Services	£ -	£ 511	£ 2,820	£ -	£ 3,331	£ 2,666
Running Expenses	£ 723	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ 723	£ 4,645
Costs of fundraising	£ 1,780				£ 1,780	£ 1,355
Choir Fund/Worship Group/Organ Maintenance	£ -	£ -	£ 456	£ -	£ 456	£ -
Uniform Fund	£ -	£ -	£ 520	£ -	£ 520	£ 532
Youth Fund	£ -	£ -	£ 1,002	£ -	£ 1,002	£ 500
Postage & Communications	£ 1,275	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ 1,275	£ 2,136
Accountants fees	£ 1,200	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ 1,200	£ 1,140
Bank Charges	£ 275	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ 275	£ 222
Energy	£ 17,987	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ 17,987	£ 11,446
Insurance	£ 8,886	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ 8,886	£ 8,545
	£ 40,244	£ 511	£ 48,407	£ -	£ 89,162	£ 105,002
h) Mission Giving and Donations						
Children's Society	£ -	£ -	£ 163	£ -	£ 163	£ 224
Royal British Legion	£ -	£ -	£ 189	£ -	£ 189	£ -
Bishops Harvest	£ -	£ -	£ 146	£ -	£ 146	£ -
Longridge CofE School	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -
	£ -	£ -	£ 498	£ -	£ 498	£ 224