



THE PARISH OF ST. BARTHOLOMEW WESTHOUGHTON



St. Bartholomew

St. George

St. Thomas



Annual reports for 2025

Presented to the APCM

Monday 27th April 2026



The Parish of St Bartholomew Westhoughton

St Bartholomew St George St Thomas

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING:
MONDAY 27th APRIL 2026, 7.30pm
ST BARTHOLOMEW'S CHURCH

AGENDA

1. Welcome and Opening Prayers
2. Apologies for absence - *received prior to meeting: Pat James, George Twist, John Thompson, Helen Thompson*
3. Minutes of the Annual Meetings held on Monday 28th April 2025 *[which are attached below]* and matters arising

Annual Meeting of Parishioners:

Election of two churchwardens for the year 2026 - 2027

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

1. Elections and appointments:
    i. Two deputy wardens each for St Bartholomew's, St Thomas's and St George's (who will be ex-officio members of the Parochial Church Council)
    ii. Representatives [three] for Deanery Synod for the period 2026 – 2029 (who will be ex-officio members of the Parochial Church Council)
    iii. Two further representatives from St Bartholomew's, St Thomas's and St George's to serve as members of the Parochial Church Council
    iv. Up to eight people to serve as members of each of the church councils of St Bartholomew's, St Thomas's and St George's
    v. Appointment of Independent Examiner

2. Annual Reports for 2025:
    i. Team Rector's Report
    ii. Churchwardens' Report
    iii. Secretary's Report on the Proceedings of the PCC
    iv. Church Electoral Roll Report
    v. Honorary Treasurer's Presentation of Accounts
    vi. Safeguarding Officer's Report

3. Any Other Business relevant to an annual meeting *(chair to be notified BEFORE the meeting begins)*

4. Date of future Meetings:
    - Archdeacon's visitation – **all dates given on page 6**
    - Next PCC meeting – to be set
    - Annual Parochial Church Meeting 2027 Monday 26th April

5. Closing prayers

There will be a short meeting of the newly constituted Parochial Church Council immediately following the Annual Parochial Church Meetings

AGENDA

1. Appointment of
    a. PCC treasurer
    b. PCC secretary
    c. Vice chair of the PCC
    d. Safeguarding officer
    e. PCC Standing Committee *[usually Rector, vice chair, Parish wardens, secretary, treasurer]*

2. Co-option, if required, of further PCC members

3. Appointment of Sidespeople

4. Any other urgent business

Parish of St Bartholomew Westhoughton
St Bartholomew, St George, St Thomas

Meeting of the APCM Monday 28th April 2025 at 7.30pm

held at St Bartholomew's Church

Attendance: Revd Carol Pharaoh (chair), Ed McHale (Acting Secretary), Christine Andrews, Jean Tonge, John Owen, Lynn Owen, Sarah Barry, Pat James, Joan O'Reilly, Graham Andrews, Rachel Dawber, Helen Thompson, John Thompson, Fran Bissett, Carole Bullough, Caroline Eaton, Hilary Moore, Carole Walsh, June Crook, Susan Aveyard, Alan Morris, Revd Angela Wynne,

Apologies: George Twist, Elaine Simkin, Angela Greenall, Jacquie Madeley

AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION and ACTION
Apologies for Absence	Attendance and apologies were noted on the signing in sheets and are listed above.
Introductions:	The rector welcomed everyone to the AGM and opened the meeting with a reading from Acts chapter 1 and the collect for the week.
Minutes of Previous meetings	The minutes of the previous APCM held on the 29th April 2024 had been circulated to those signing up to attend the meeting electronically or in a paper form. These were accepted unanimously by the meeting.
Annual Meeting of Parishioners: Election of Two Parish Wardens 2025 - 26	Joan O'Reilly and Ed McHale had both consented to stand and had been duly proposed and seconded. There being no further nominations, they were appointed to the two posts of Parish Wardens for the forthcoming year.
Annual Parochial Church Meeting	**Elections and Appointments** The following were all duly proposed seconded and appointed
Deputy Wardens: [2 per church]	**St Bartholomew's**: Christine Andrews / *VACANCY* **St George's:** Hilary Moore / Pat James **St Thomas**' Graham Andrews / *VACANCY*
Deanery Synod: 4 representatives	Christine Andrews, Elaine Simkin and Joan O'Reilly are in post leaving one vacancy to be filled. It was noted that these posts were for a three year period running until the 2026 AGM.
Elected Members to PCC: [2 per church]	The following were all duly nominated, seconded & appointed **St Bartholomew's:** Jean Tonge / Rachel Dawber **St George's:** Jacquie Madeley / Sarah Barry **St Thomas':** *VACANCY / VACANCY*
Elected Members to DCCs	The following were all duly nominated, seconded & appointed **St Bartholomew's** – Ollie Younge, Linda Casson, Carole Bullough, George Twist, Caroline eaton **St Thomas'** – Claire Smith **St George's** - John Thompson, Angela Greenall, June Crook, Carole Walsh,

	Thanks were recorded to those who have served on our committees through the year.
Appoint of Independent Examiner	Nigel Ginniff has indicated his willingness to continue and was proposed by Graham Andrews, seconded by Elaine Simkin and duly appointed.
Annual reports	
Team Rector Churchwardens PCC secretary Church Electoral Roll Honorary Treasurer & Independent Examiner Safeguarding Group reports	Those received in time had all been circulated prior to the meeting either by e-mail or as a paper copy. It was noted that the six-yearly complete revision of the electoral roll had been completed and stood at 99 as of the date of this meeting. There were 2 further names to be added when the roll could be reopened following this AGM. The reports were accepted *en bloc* unanimously with thanks to all who had prepared them.
AOB	On behalf of the parish, Ed thanked the clergy for their leadership through the year.
Date of future meetings	**Archdeacon's Visitation** – Tuesday 18th June 7:30pm at Bolton Parish Church is our most local service but other dates and venues are available. Future dates for the PCC / committee meetings will be circulated following this meeting. This meeting was closed and followed by a brief meeting of the newly elected PCC [minuted separately] and cheese and wine served in the parish room.

THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND Diocese of Manchester | CHURCH FOR A DIFFERENT WORLD

DIOCESE OF MANCHESTER 2026
ARCHDEACONRIES OF MANCHESTER, ROCHDALE, BOLTON AND SALFORD

To the Rector, Vicar or other Officiating Minister of:

_____

This notice must be displayed on the principal door of your church.

ARCHDEACONS' VISITATIONS 2026

CHURCHWARDENS WILL BE ADMITTED AT THE FOLLOWING VISITATION SERVICES, COMMENCING AT 7:30PM UNLESS OTHERWISE INDICATED:

ARCHDEACONRY OF BOLTON

Monday 1 June	St Mary Rawtenstall
Wednesday 10 June	St Peter w St Philip Bolton
Wednesday 8 July	Christ Church Walshaw

ARCHDEACONRY OF MANCHESTER

Thursday 4 June	St Michael with All Angels Lawton Moor
Wednesday 10 June	St Matthew with St Mary Crumpsall
Wednesday 17 June	Manchester Cathedral

ARCHDEACONRY OF ROCHDALE

Tuesday 2 June	Christ Church Ashton
Tuesday 9 June	St Chad Rochdale
Thursday 18 June	Oldham Parish Church
Monday 22 June	St Luke Heywood

ARCHDEACONRY OF SALFORD

Wednesday 3 June	St Peter Swinton

It is a legal requirement for all churchwardens to be admitted into office

The act of admission at the Visitation is an important and significant event for your Parish.

The Venerable the Archdeacons of Manchester, Rochdale, Salford and Bolton further request that members of the clergy should be present at the Visitation to support the lay officers of the Parish. All members of parochial church councils are also invited to accompany the churchwardens and sidespeople.

NOTES FOR CLERGY AND NEWLY ELECTED CHURCHWARDENS:

- If a churchwarden cannot attend the date for the visitation service for their deanery, they may attend and be admitted at any alternative visitation service in the diocese.
- An elected churchwarden will lose the right to be admitted into their office if they do not attend a visitation service or complete alternative arrangements (which must be made directly with either an Archdeacon or the Diocesan Registrar) before **31 AUGUST** in the year in which they have been elected at the annual meeting of parishioners.
- All churchwardens (whether elected for the first time or re-elected for a further term) must make the declarations for the due execution of their office. Online forms can be found on the diocesan website www.manchester.anglican.org by searching for 'churchwarden admission'.

DONNA MYERS, Diocesan Registrar,

St John's House, 155-163 The Rock, Bury, BL9 0ND

TEAM RECTOR'S REPORT 2025

'I hereby command you: Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.' (Joshua 1.9 NRSVA)

Courage. Each church school has a set of Christian values which aim to integrate faith into learning and development. These values aim to shape moral character as well as academic learning, rooted in the teachings of the bible and in prayer. Key values such as love, respect, compassion, service, forgiveness and truthfulness are often included in a school's Christian value list. Whilst these are all commendable values to hold, the Christian value 'courage' seldom makes an appearance. I think this is a shame. Courage coupled with strength, resilience and perseverance are qualities very much needed on the Christian journey. Courage is being brave even when we are worried or scared and problems seem insurmountable. Courage is facing our fears and standing up for what's right. Courage is standing up for our beliefs and for those who can't speak up for themselves. Courage is never giving up. Courage is encouraging others and helping others. Courage is believing we can do anything with God at our side.

A highlight of 2025 in the life of our parish of course was our 30th anniversary celebrations of the rebuilding of St Bartholomew's Church following the devastating fire in 1990. Many of you witnessed this traumatic event in the history of Westhoughton and were a part of the planning and processes to rebuild, resulting in the opening of the new beautiful and practical building we have today. I have read reports and heard stories which show clearly the immense courage and perseverance people had in seeing this project to completion. It was great to invite clergy whose ministry and association with the parish, both before and after the fire, helped shape the parish we are today. It was especially poignant to invite Rev'd Simon Tatton-Brown to be part of the main celebration weekend. It was a privilege for me to get to know Simon and hear his many tales of the courage and generosity shown by many people in the church and community during the rebuilding process. What an achievement then and how amazing to see and reflect on how the life and the work of the church and parish has developed since. It was fantastic to invite and welcome many people to these events. A huge thank you to the many who made our celebrations so special and memorable.

Of course, the life and our worship continue apace in many other varied and wonderful ways. You can read more about what's happening specifically at St Bart's, St George's and St Thomas's Church elsewhere in the various reports from our Team Vicar Angela, Church Wardens reports, and other groups in our parish. At a parish level, we continue to work hard at developing and refining Café Church so that it is a place and a time where families can come and explore faith together in an informal, fun and creative way. Our schools ministry continues to be an important area where both relationships are formed and blossom and our faith is taught and shared. Our parish Wiggle Worship group continues to thrive and provide much needed support to young families. We continue to support individuals and families at key life moments through our baptism, marriage and funeral ministry. All of this takes a great deal of time and effort. Many give tirelessly of their time and talents to the parish. Often it feels like an uphill struggle as there is more to do in terms of pastoral care, governance and safeguarding and not enough volunteers to share the load. We need to

have courage and confidence that the God who loves us so much will provide everything that we need, often in unexpected and surprising ways.
It has been so good to see people continue to grow in their faith and their service of God. It takes courage to step out and continue to serve God in any area of ministry but also, sometimes, making ourselves available to help in new areas of church service. For some this might be reading in church for the first time. For others it might be pursuing an authorised role in the church. In 2025 our Authorised Lay Minister (ALM) Christine Andrews was reauthorised for a further 3 years in her role in Worship & Liturgy. Ed McHale and Joan O'Reilly continue to serve God in their Church Warden roles, ably and conscientiously assisted by our Deputy Wardens, Christine Andrews, Graham Andrews, Pat James and Hilary Moore. Elaine Simkin's amazing energy in her role as Reader Emeritus continues to be widely appreciated. We thank Elaine too for her role as church treasurer, along with Claire Smith and John Thompson, and our parish Treasurer Graham Andrews. Thank you to Andrew Jolley for his work as Gift Aid Secretary. Thank you to Jean Tonge for being such a caring and efficient verger, as well as coordinating Luncheon Club and ensuring we have beautiful flowers at church to aid our worship. Thank you to all the sidespeople, cleaners and refreshment providers. Thank you to Joan O'Reilly for being our Parish Safeguarding Officer, a role which is becoming increasingly, and rightly so, demanding and detailed. Thank you to Ed McHale for his work as organist and musical director, not to mention all the parish administration and PCC and DCC Secretary responsibilities he takes on so ably and competently. Thank you to the choir and bell ringing team and our Tower Captain Ryan Battersby. Thank you to all Sunday School teachers, Youth Workers, those who read the bible in our churches, those who lead intercessions and School Governors across our parish. Thank you to DCC and PCC members, Deanery Synod members and the St Bart's Building Committee. When writing these reports there is always a risk that I have inadvertently missed someone, not because the role is any less significant but because of the sheer volume of good work being done. If I have missed anyone out, I am sorry but please do know that I appreciate all that you do and the life and worship of this parish would not be the same without you and the contribution you make. Thank you to you all once again for all you do. Thank you to all who use their gifts and abilities and give their money to further our life and worship together.

In 2025 our Reader Emeritus Alan Morris decided it was time to retire. We thank him for all that he has done in the decades of faithful service he has given. It would be hard to count how many people have benefitted from Alan's extraordinary ministry. I personally have benefitted from his warmth and wisdom. I miss leading worship with him but am so profoundly grateful for having had the privilege of doing just that throughout my ministry in the Team. We pray that God will richly bless him and Kath as they continue their faith journey.

Now to touch on things that have not been going so great. Firstly, our parish finances are not in good shape. Astronomical rises in energy costs and significant problems with St Bart's Church building have meant that we sadly and reluctantly were not able to pay the parish share in full. The PCC is looking at how to reduce costs but it is beholden on us all to look at our financial giving and see if God is asking us to be more generous in giving to him what he rightly deserves. God wants to see us being courageous in our financial giving as well as the giving of our time and talents.

There is much more I could talk about. In terms of our Team life, Ignite Youth group, our Team Youth Church, continues to flourish in amazing ways, with young people exploring and growing in faith and the group being blessed with new leaders from across the team. As a Team we continue to provide opportunities for people to come together to study the bible. These groups are always hugely rewarding and are appreciated by many. That's not to say that it would be very pleasing to see more people take advantage of these opportunities. Please do think and pray about whether God is prompting you to be courageous and give one of these groups a try. I'm sure if you do, you will find it challenging but immensely rewarding.

In 2025 Alisdair Cole completed his Reader Training. We thank God for all that Alisdair brings, not just to St John's Church Wingates where he is based, but our wider Team too. Alisdair works immensely hard and his ministry is bearing fruit. Of note too is that our Associate Priests Carol McCabe and Heather Sharp, based at St Katharine's Blackrod, decided to retire. We thank them for their years of service too. We pray that God will richly bless them as they continue their faith journey.

A final thanks to my wider Team colleagues, Angela Wynne, Malcolm Wearing, Alisdair Cole, Christine Radford, Vincent Radford, wider Team Church Wardens and Deputy Wardens and ALMs. I couldn't do what I do without you and you remain a constant inspiration and strength to me. God bless you in all you are and all you do.

All we have done, all we have achieved are important in the way we share our faith and seek to bring others to know God better. For many of us there has been personal issues and struggles in 2025. Because of these, sometimes we must take a step back for a while or even for good. It takes courage to faithfully follow, especially when the future is unclear. There is much hidden on the road ahead which none of us can prepare for or guard against. Thankfully, we know that we can rely on God and are assured of his protection and strength. With him we can be bold, confident, even audacious. As Psalm 23 reminds us, even walking through the valley of the shadow of death, we have nothing to fear because God is with us.

So, let's be inspired by one final bible verse; -
'Jesus said, I have said this to you, so that in me you may have peace. In the world you face persecution. But take courage; I have conquered the world!' (John 16. 33 NRSVA)

With love and prayers.
Rev'd Carol Pharaoh

Parish Churchwardens' Report for 2025 – to be presented at the 2026 AGM



At the 2025 APCM Joan O'Reilly and Ed McHale were re-elected to the post of Parish Wardens.

During the year, we have been able to run many events with a gradual evolution and development:

- For safety and security reasons we're trialling running Office Hour for booking baptisms only on Saturday mornings by appointment. This seems to be working well and maintains a consistency in booking forms which have been revised.
- The Monday morning 9:30-11:00am Toddler Group and Wiggle Worship has continued steadily in term time.
- The Civic Service for Mayoral Sunday was held in May. Following discussions with the Town Council about possible moving to a different day of the week or time, we have agreed to keep it on the second Sunday of may immediately after the local elections for the time being.
- In March 2025 Sacred Heart RC church hosted the 2025 World Day of Prayer Service. It was held an afternoon rather than the evening. This has some advantages but does limit attendance to those available during the day and ideally would be run twice. In March 2026 we hosted it at St Bartholomew's but still only ran an afternoon event. The literature at the service omitted any mention of St George's church and this must be remedied next year. It would be useful if more people from across our parish were invited to any planning meetings.
- Remembrance Sunday services continued, again limiting attendance at the 10:00am Civic Service. This is followed by the Act of Remembrance at the War Memorial planned in conjunction with the Town Council which ran more smoothly than in 2024.



- The town council repeated the new format with Switching on of the Town Lights forming part of a day of events which moved to Advent Sunday rather than the last Saturday in November and without the Carol Service in St Bartholomew's. This was a very successful event and easier to manage than the ticketed, limited attendance event available in church. To avoid clashes, we delayed the annual Christingle service by a week and this didn't affect attendances and may be a better date as it is closer to Christmas.



- A Confirmation Service was held in May at St Bartholomew's led by the Bishop of Bolton, Revd Dr Matthew Porter. This year we ran the two longer Saturday preparation sessions which worked well. The summer date fits better with Sunday School / Ignite Youth terms and our young people are encouraged to attend Ignite Youth as part of the confirmation preparations.
- We continue to admit children to Holy Communion on Mothering Sunday following a short preparation session.

- Ignite Youth continues to meet monthly at St John's Wingates on a Saturday evening and is running well.



- In spring we were able to run a full programme of Lent, Holy Week and Easter services including the Easter Experience and a Lent Bible study on Tuesday evenings at St Bartholomew's. We continued the Stations of the Cross on a Monday evening as a lay led service and rewrote this. On Good Friday we held a Young People's drop in workshop at St Bart's at a new time of 10:00am – noon between the more formal services at St James' and St Katharine's churches. This proved very popular with many craft events and attracted a good attendance.



- In May, we held a team Ascension Day service at St Bartholomew's at 7:30pm. We also held a Civic Service in conjunction with the Town Council to mark the 80th Anniversary of VE Day and the dedication of a new British Legion standard. Although well advertised and with musical appearances at the organ from Glenn Miller and Vera Lynn, this was not well supported.
- We continue to run a large number of baptism services. Many thanks to those who give up their Sunday afternoons to staff these. We also run a baptism preparation evening each month; many thanks to Carole Bullough who organises the baptism preparation session attendances with parents and godparents and also writes out all the certificates and candles for the services.



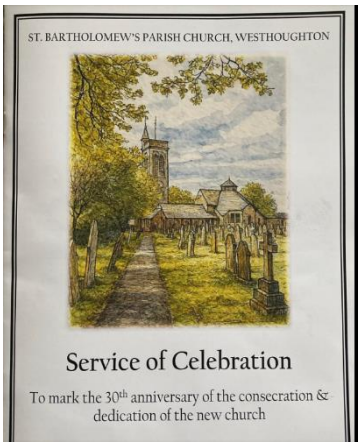
- There were very few wedding services in 2025 though there are more booked for 2026. We still have a large funeral ministry.
- Cafe church services have run on a Wednesday at St Bart's from 3:45 -4:30pm during term time and are proving very popular. A letter was sent to parents discussing participation at these and it was agreed by the organising team to move these to fortnightly from weekly to ease the workload for the team who plan and staff these as well as providing refreshments.
- The All Souls Memorial Service was held and attracted a greater attendance than in 2024.
- With the Pretoria Pit anniversary falling on a Sunday, we held the usual anniversary at 7:45am on 21st December in Ditchfield Gardens but moved the Commemoration Service to Monday 22nd to avoid Church Carol Services. Despite the torrential rain on the Sunday, both these events were very well attended [the service on the Monday having double the attendance of recent years] and we are very grateful to the Head boy and Head girl at Westhoughton High School who cane to read the bible readings excellently during their Christmas holidays.

- We ran a full programme of Christingle and Christmas Services. We ran lay led crib services at St Thomas' [which had a larger attendance than in 2024] and St George's [which proved very popular]. We brought the St George's service forward to 5:00pm in 2025 as the 6:00pm start can finish too late for some families. We are looking to maintain this in future.
- For the Christmas Dinner on Jesus in 2025, we collected after dinner chocolate mints.
- Local schools returned to hold their Christmas events at St Bartholomew's.
- The monthly Wednesday Communion Service followed by Luncheon Club continued at 11:00am at St Bart's with thanks to all who run this. We continue to run monthly services at Thurstons and Woodlands and take communion to a small number of people in their own homes.
- In May, we were able to hold the Christian Aid collections in our churches.
- Revd Dr Malcolm Wearing organised a Team Retreat in May 2025 and is planning a further one for May 2026.
- We continue to go into schools to lead assemblies and a year group attends St Bartholomew's once per month from all our church schools for a joint service. We also ran an "Experience Creation" event for year 5 children. We had learned from 2024 the amount of staffing required to set up, run and clear away for this event which helped it run more smoothly
- Our bell ringers continue to provide and excellent addition to our worship on Sundays and at weddings / funerals and for national events. We welcome regularly teams of visiting ringers and in 2025 welcomed once again Father Christmas for a charity appeal in aid of Christies.



The major event for St Bartholomew's was celebrating the 30th anniversary of the opening and consecration of the new building. The Covid pandemic in 2020 had prevented us marking the 150th anniversary of the opening of the Victorian church and the 25th anniversary so we made the most of this.

We launched the events on St Bartholomew's Patronal Festival which fell on St Bartholomew's day in 2025 and was [to the minute] the 155th anniversary of the previous building; we followed this with our customary "bring and share" lunch. In the Pewsheet Plus we ran series of articles from St Bartholomew's day until the anniversary weekend following the history of St Bartholomew's church through the ages. Clergy returning to preach included Revd Anne Gilbert [daughter of previous curate and rector Revd Fred Gilbert], former rector Canon Chris Bracegirdle, former curate Revd Kirsty Screeton and, for the 30th anniversary weekend, rector at the time of the fire, rebuilding and reopening, Revd Simon Tatton-Brown.



The weekend was marked with an Open Day on Saturday 25th October with many displays and activities. On Sunday we had the Festival Service in the morning with a specially printed souvenir service booklet. In the afternoon, choirs from across

the Team joined together to lead us in our "Songs of Praise" Service in which members of our congregation told us of their favourite hymns which we then sang together. In November we held the 30th Anniversary Organ Recital marking 30 years since the opening recital.

We also ran a "30 for 30" fundraising campaign raising money towards replacing the rotting church doors and windows at the entrance. St Bartholomew's school also joined us in an art competition, the winning entries of which were made into a 2026 calendar, again sold to raise funds for church maintenance.



Congratulations!

To all at St Bartholomew's school who took part in our art competition to mark the St Bartholomew's church 30th anniversary. The winning entries were by:

Year 1 Uyioghosa
William
Year 2 Zach
Jasmine D
Year 3 Savannah
Thea J
Year 4 Alice K
Jaxon
Year 5 Esme B
Hugo
Year 6 Charlie
Erica












We've had these made into a 2026 Calendar which can be ordered from church now at the bargain price of £5.00, the perfect Christmas gift! Please sign up to order one.



Publicity:
The expanded Pewsheet Plus and is now e-mailed out to 90 - 95 people each week [with a hard copy to those who have requested one] in addition to the smaller pewsheet distributed at our services.

Following review, the website looked outdated and was not maintained, so the PCC have decided to abandon the current site and move to the free "A Church Near You" website. This seems to be working, but again falls on the churchwardens to maintain. St George's church are looking at the possibility of a dedicated page on the school website.

We still continue to produce posters and publicity for services and events which appear on the internal and external church noticeboards, St Bart's railings and, again thanks to Joan O'Reilly, in shops & sites through the town.

All of this falls upon the churchwardens and there is currently no support or back-up available to cover illness or holidays.

Staffing:
We held a meeting with wardens to look at the Team Strategy for services and service cover with more limited staffing across the Team and fed this back to individual church committees with time for questions and discussion.

At the 30th anniversary, Alan Morris decided to stand back from his role as reader [after 57 years] and we were able to make a presentation and thank him for his ministry in our parish over many years.

Parish Share / Finances:
We did not meet our parish share in 2025. There are many issues with parish finances especially at St Bartholomew's facing steep rises in the costs of gas and electricity in addition to building maintenance work, and at St Thomas' with its continued low level of giving.

In October we ran concurrent Stewardship campaigns at both St Bartholomew's and St George's [the **5**% in 202**6** tagline at St George's being a highlight].This has raised awareness of the costs of running our churches and the need for additional support to run events. We need to continue this annually

The Parish social events committee has organised a number of events throughout 2025 continuing into 2026with events including

- Houghton Weavers Concert
- The annual Bolton Chamber Orchestra Concert [co-ordinated by Ed McHale]
- Organ Recital marking World Organ Day in May [co-ordinated by Ed McHale]
- St Bartholomew's coffee mornings
- A concert in September by the Happy Voices Choir Christmas concert by Westhoughton Community Choir [co-ordinated by Ed McHale]



- An autumn fair [much appreciated by stall holders and those attending]





St. Bartholomew's Building:
During the year a Buildings and Maintenance committee met, currently chaired by Ed McHale, to prioritise work across the church and tower.

Membership: *Revd Carol Pharaoh [rector], Joan O' Reilly, Ed McHale [Parish Wardens], Graham Andrews [PCC Treasurer], Ged Robinson-Todd [Bell Ringers], Ryan Battersby [Tower Captain], Revd Malcolm Wearing [Team Vicar].*

All the usual testing of electrical and emergency equipment has been completed along with routine annual services and maintenance.

In 2025 / 26 we had a number of additional building works:

- There are ongoing issues with boiler failures and the heating failed or worked partially between September 2025 – January 2026. We are not satisfied with the work undertaken by Mercers for the amounts we pay them and are looking to replace them in 2026.
- Following a number of false starts, we asked Moda to undertake the roof repairs and these have been completed with some funding from the diocese. The window in the choir vestry has been resealed to see if this stops leaks.
- The area of land behind the columbarium is being mown and looked after regularly and we need to look at how we use it as memorial site for ashes, and apply for faculty.
- We are waiting for the architect to work with Robinsons to initiate the preliminary dry rot works in the tower, following a joint site visit and a further report. Funding from ring-fenced money should cover this.
- Following the failure of some lights in the church, particularly over the choir gallery, we have started to look at options for replacing the bulbs with LED lighting that would be cheaper to run and help with Eco Church status. Designs for a new lighting system were expensive and we are reviewing the options still. After a lighting failure we have replaced some of the fittings at a cost of £1,900.
- The costs of churchyard maintenance have been reviewed but there is no other viable option available at the moment.
- Designs for replacing the main entrance doors and windows that are rotting, in a like-for-like manner have been received and have been submitted for faculty

approval. There is some Diocesan funding for tis work but this will require fund-raising if it is to be completed.

- We have received the operating instructions for the external lighting and got it to work for the Christmas Midnight service. One of these lights is out currently but this seems to be an issue with the fitting rather than a failed bulb and replacement should be covered by the five year warranty.
- The flagpole that was damaged in a storm was replaced with the aid of funding from Westhoughton Town Council
- The broken door on the external noticeboard was repaired

Civic Events:

Pauline Hann, Westhoughton Town Clerk with whom we had worked on civic events recently retired and we have been working with her successor, Sarah Holliday, in planning events.

We apologise if we've missed anything and thank all those who work across all our churches, in many other unsung roles, who keep the many activities across the parish running so well. It must be noted, however, that much is done by a very small group of people and we need to look at involving a greater number of volunteers and succession planning if we're going to be able to continue to run the number of events that we do across the year.

This is especially so with the announcement of the retirement of our Team Rector, Revd Carol Pharaoh, on September 30th this year. There will be a lot of additional work in covering services, planning the Team future, working on Parish profiles and job / role descriptions and this cannot fall on the usual small group of people.

Nothing happens without an enormous amount of planning, co-operation and paperwork and we're grateful to Christine Andrews, Pat James and Graham Andrews and Hilary Moore who serve as deputy wardens in the parish taking on a lot of additional duties at the different churches as well as our readers and clergy.

Joan O'Reilly – Parish Warden

Edward McHale – Parish Warden

2025/2026

PCC Treasurer's report to Annual Parish Meeting regarding 2025 accounts

1. Income

Overall income was £6223 higher than in 2024 at £105129[1].

Looking first at direct giving, this was a pleasing £4735 higher in 2025 than in 2024, both planned giving (envelopes and Standing orders) and loose plate having increased.

Other voluntary giving was down on 2024 by £3878. £3674 of the decrease came from wedding and funeral fees at £19302, part of which is subsequently paid to the diocese. Other voluntary income was broadly the same in total.

Appeals income was higher than in 2024 by £523 but is still low for the whole parish at £764.

The value of our investments rose by £619 in 2025. This is not a real gain unless we sell the investments, but needs to be shown as a consolidation adjustment to balance the books. Bank interest fell by £1496 compared with 2024. This reflects the fall in our interest gaining assets following the overall deficit in 2024.

The income from the 200 club fell by £95 in 2025 following a reduction in the number of members taking part. St Bartholomew's church had an income of £275 from room hire in 2025. This was £740 in 2024 and £2078 in 2023.

Clergy cost sharing within the Team reflects the total clergy costs for the four parishes in the Team, split in the ratio of the four Parish Share allocations. The cost sharing procedure brought us a reimbursement of £1150 from the other parishes.

Each of the three district councils in our parish pays money to the PCC towards the shared PCC expenses including parish share. Again, this is not real income for the PCC, just a transfer within the parish, and so is removed from the external account with a consolidation adjustment. This year the PCC received £41195 from the three district councils, almost the same as in 2024. The £10679 HMRC refund, which is £419 more than 2024, is not included in the £41195, as the claim is made for us by the diocese and they retain the refund towards our parish share.

In 2025 the parish received a grant from the diocese of £6600 towards the cost of roof repairs at St Bartholomew's. There were no significant extraordinary income items in 2024

In summary, some ups and some downs leading to an income £6223 higher than in 2024.

[1] Numbers in this report have been rounded to the nearest pound

2. Expenditure

Headline:

Our Parish Share, previously known as quota, increases each year by 5% under the terms of our agreement with the diocese. The parish share for 2025 was £52500 of which we paid £44679, or 85%, including the HMRC refund. In 2024 the parish share was £50000 and we paid in full by taking money out of reserves.

In detail:

In 2025 we paid £5321 less to parish share than in 2024. As the parish share had gone up by £2500 we were £7821 short. The lower wedding and funerals income than in 2024 resulted in a £3196 lower payment to Manchester Diocese, with organist and choir costs reduced by £790 and payments to bellringers reduced by £1200. Church service expenses were £263 higher than in 2024

Our payments under the outreach heading were £224 higher than in 2024 with most of this coming from increased expenditure on events.

In 2024 we spent nearly £14000 on external pathway lighting at St Bartholomew's using the Joyce Cunliffe legacy money. The £15957 expenditure on buildings and church maintenance in 2025 represents a real increase over 2024 once these lighting costs are taken out. Utilities costs, almost all at St Bartholomew's, are an ever-increasing concern. In 2025 we spent £14430 on utilities which is £3453 more than in 2024. Just for interest, utilities cost us £5825 in 2021.

Administration costs at £8560 are lower than in 2024 but this is largely because there was a refund of wedding fees included in 2024.

Grants and expenses of trading were £2620 higher than in 2024, almost wholly due to a parish grant to St Thomas school towards repairs to the leaking roof. St Bartholomew's and St George's schools routinely receive grants from their district church councils.

Overall, the total expenditure for the parish of £117915 was £13773 lower than in 2024, almost matching the extra £14000 spent on external lighting in 2024. The deficit for the parish decreased from £32782 in 2024 to £11391 in 2025

Statement of main assets.

The revaluation of investments up by £619 has already been mentioned.

The total held in various St Bartholomew's funds was £39164, down from £50799 resulting from the £11634 St Bartholomew's deficit. As in the notes to the accounts, £7144 is designated for St Bartholomew's church building and tower work. St Thomas ran a small surplus of £44 and St Georges ran a deficit of £290 for the year

The total monetary assets of the parish at 31st December 2024 were £93151 which was £12786 lower than the previous year.

G P Andrews, PCC Treasurer, 15/04/2026

PCC Secretary Report 2025/6

PCC Members April 2025 – APCM April 2026

*****Clergy:**
Team Rector – Revd Carol Pharaoh
Team Vicar – Revd Angela Wynne

*****Readers Emeritus:**
Alan Morris / Elaine Simkin

*****Churchwardens:**
Joan O'Reilly *[Safeguarding Officer]* / Ed McHale *[PCC lay chair / secretary]*

*****Deputy Wardens:**
St. Bartholomew – Christine Andrews / *vacancy*
St George – Hilary Moore / Pat James
St. Thomas – Graham Andrews *[PCC Treasurer]* / *vacancy*

*****Deanery Synod Representatives:** *serve until APCM in 2026*
Christine Andrews / Elaine Simkin / Joan O'Reilly / *vacancy*

Elected Members:
St. Bartholomew – Jean Tonge / Rachel Dawber
St George – Jacquie Madeley / Sarah Barry
St. Thomas – *vacancy* / *vacancy*

*** = *ex officio members*

At its first meeting immediately following the APCM, the PCC appointed the sidespeople for 2025/6 and appointed to post
Graham Andrews PCC Treasurer
Ed McHale PCC Vice Chair / PCC Secretary
Rector / Wardens / PCC Secretary / PCC Treasurer to form the Standing Committee

The PCC has met regularly during the year with standing agenda items including

- reports from individual church committees
- reports from church schools within the parish [noting the changes in head teachers and appointing school governors]
- Treasurer's report
- Electoral roll updates

During the year,

- we have accepted the 2025 Diocesan fees for occasional offices and the revised fees
- dealt with St Bartholomew's building matters requiring PCC approval.

Ed McHale PCC Secretary

St. George's Church Committee report 2025 for 2026 APCM:

Clergy Revd Carol Pharaoh

Churchwardens:

Joan O'Reilly / Ed McHale *[committee chair / secretary]*

Deputy Wardens:

Pat James / Hilary Moore

PCC Reps:

Jacquie Madeley / Sarah Barry

Elected Reps: John Thompson *[treasurer]*, Angela Greenall, Sarah Barry, June Crook, Carole Walsh



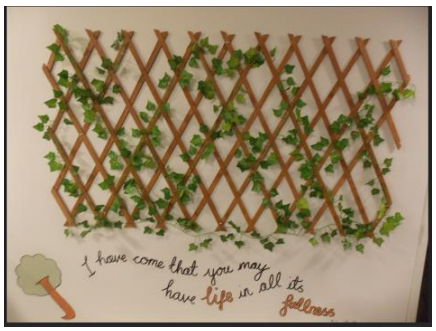
Staffing issues are the main determinant of the St George's service plan. We are currently running a service pattern with Communion services on the first and third Sundays and Services of the Word on the other Sundays. We have welcomed Revd Angela Wynne to lead some of the communion services and James Young to lead some Services of the Word in addition to our Revd Carol Pharaoh and Elaine Simkin.

Attendances at St George's are increasing, especially since September 2025 and it is good that we are able to welcome new families into the church.

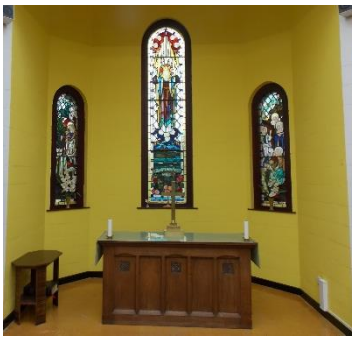




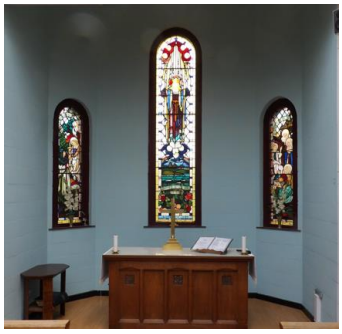
Over the year we have been developing our termly Café Church Services which we run in house and prove very popular. We ran a very successful Café Church style Nativity Service and Crib service and one at Harvest. There is a lot of work in preparation, setting up, clearing away and providing refreshments but it is a ministry that we need to develop and continue.



Sunday School continues and meets on the first and third Sundays during the first part of the Communion Service and is flourishing. We have a good number of leaders including some very keen and able young leaders. The Sunday school have been meeting in the school room recently and routinely take part in a "Show and Tell" where we can all see what they have been doing. They are also excellent Bible readers at our services.

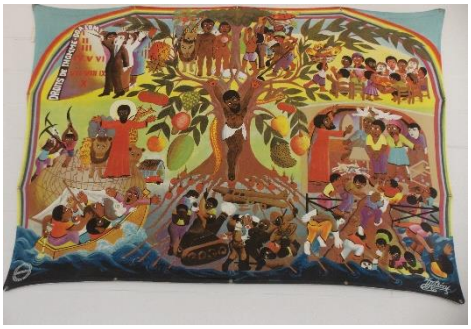


Further building work had been completed in school during the year including the replacement of the school hall floor and the installation of new boilers – there have been mentions that it is even too warm of a Sunday! The hall and sanctuary area have been redecorated to replace a very vivid yellow with a calmer blue. I think I'm in a minority of one in preferring the fluorescent "Hi Viz" yellow.



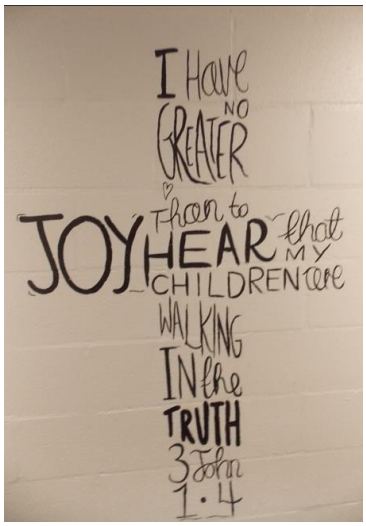


The dance group hiring the hall on Saturday afternoons continue to set out the church and this is generally working well.



During the year:

- we celebrated the anniversary of opening on St George's day. We welcomed some members of the school who led us in our and Harvest service.



- we ran stalls at the St Bartholomew's autumn fair, raising approximately £200 for St George's with second hand books and a wine raffle that sold out on the day [a first, thanks to Geoff Madeley].

- we welcome young people took communion for the first time following the Belonging to God course and to the Confirmation Courses.

- we have been able to provide refreshments after the service on special occasions

- John Thompson has been looking at the St George's Eco Church proposals, recognising that as a church meeting in a school, our options are limited

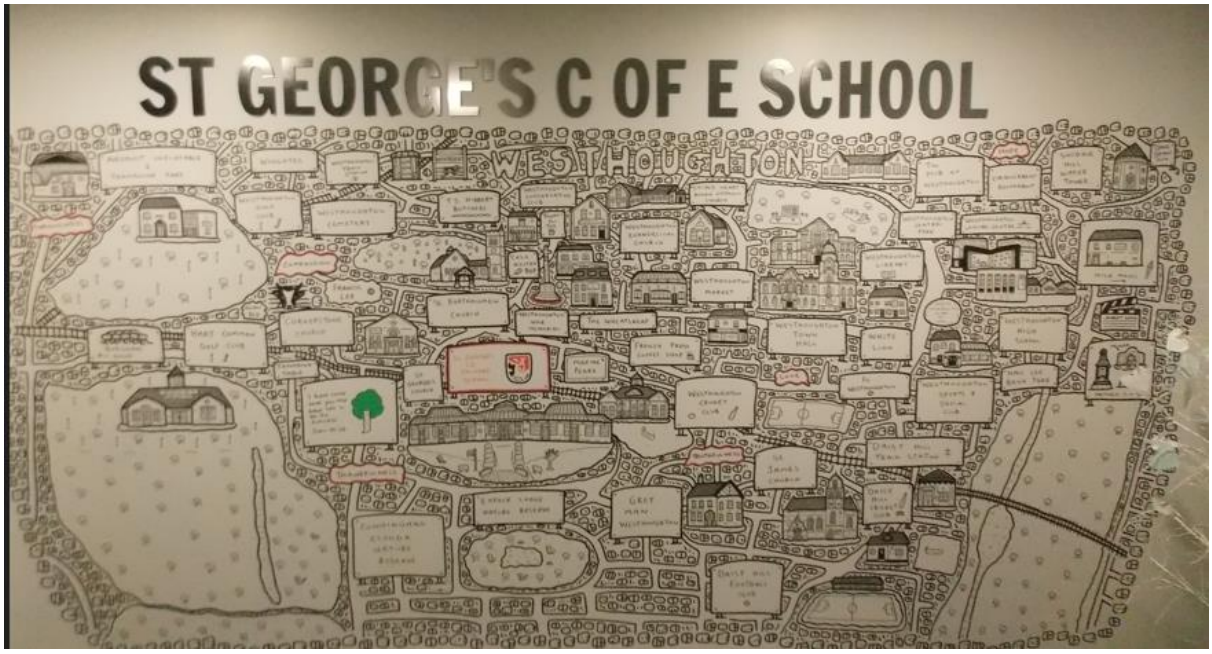
- we ran our stewardship campaign again in October with the tagline **5** in 202**6** showing that we need to raise income by 5% to stand still. The response to this has been very positive.



We are grateful to all at St George's for their generous giving meaning that we have paid our portion of the Parish Share in 2025 especially the majority of people who give to the church by direct debit / envelopes. We have also done the usual fund-raising during the year including both an Advent and Lent challenge as well as the smarties tube challenge.

Many thanks also to the committee for their tireless work each week especially John & Helen Thompson [for the powerpoints, financial stewardship and music], Samuel Greenall & Oliver Walsh [for running powerpoint services], Pat James and Hilary Moore who undertake the wardens' duties and represent us on the parish committees and to all who serve on the St George's committee.

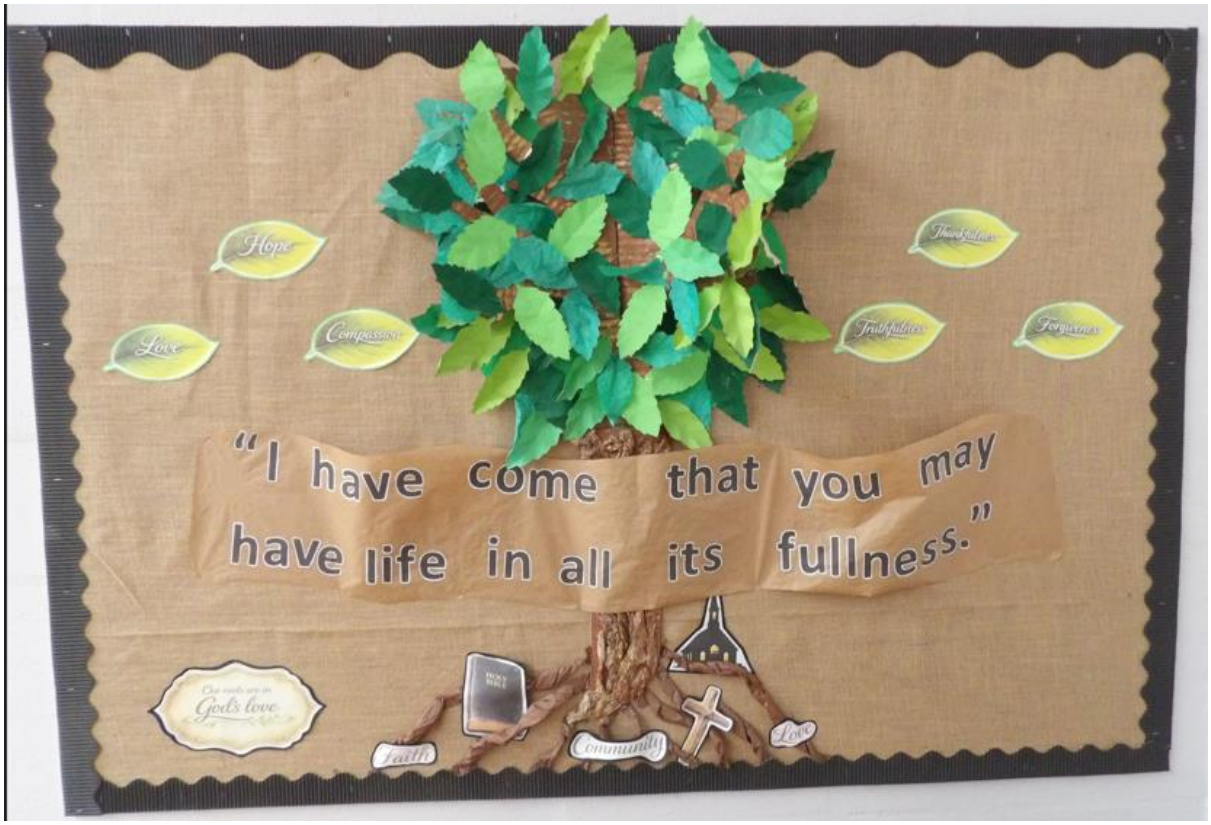
In 2025 we were pleased that James Young was appointed as Head teacher and that Pat James was appointed to the School Governing Body and this has really helped in building links between the church and school.



In 2026 we're looking forward to developing these links further, especially as we mark the 30th anniversary of the opening of the church and school on St George's Day.

Ed McHale

St George's Committee Chair / Secretary



St. Bartholomew's Church Committee report 2025 for 2026 APCM:

Clergy Revd Carol Pharaoh *[chair]*

Readers Emeritus Alan Morris / Elaine Simkin

Churchwardens:
Joan O'Reilly / Ed McHale *[vice chair / committee secretary]*

Deputy Wardens:
Christine Andrews / *vacancy*

Deanery Synod Representatives:
Christine Andrews / Elaine Simkin [*St Bart's treasurer]* / Joan O'Reilly

PCC Reps:
Jean Tonge / Rachel Dawber

Elected Reps:
Ollie Younge / Linda Casson / George Twist / Carole Bullough / Caroline Eaton

St Bartholomew's committee has met regularly in 2025/6

During the year [*see also churchwardens' report above for many more details*]:

- There have been updates on the various building projects underway, including the external lighting and initial dry rot treatment and investigation in the church and tower; internal lighting; roofing repairs.
- There is a regular financial statement from the treasurer
- Relevant services and events are discussed
- There is feedback from Sunday School, St Bartholomew's school
- We have discussed church security and Safeguarding Issues including Safer Recruitment policies
- We review Church health and Safety issues
- A major event was planning the events to mark the 30th anniversary of the current building.

Ed McHale
St Bartholomew's Committee Secretary

St Thomas' Team Vicar's Annual Report 2025-2026



The Church Council met formally 3 times last year. Members are myself as Team vicar Revd Angela Wynne, Joan O'Reilly & Ed McHale Church as Parish wardens, Graham Andrews - Deputy warden, Claire Smith Treasurer, council member Christine Andrews. There are vacancies on the church Council. As usual , my thanks go to the Church Council for their support and especially to Graham our Deputy Warden, Claire our treasurer and Christine our ALM who unfailing open up and make the church ready for worship, cleaning, hoovering, setting out the chairs and pews, looking after the sound system, the audio visual on Café Church Sundays and welcoming the congregation. Christine sets up the altar for Communion and washes the altar linen and keeps us supplied with candles, Mother's day flowers and cards, Easter eggs, Christingles. Without their dedication St Thomas' would be unable to open.

Claire counts the money each week, keeps the accounts in order and claims back our gift aid. When Graham and Christine are on holiday Claire steps up to open up and prepare the church. Many thanks to her for all she does.

Graham organises the Reading and Sidespersons rota and we have a regular list of people willing to read and assist. Thank you to all those who contribute in any way to our worship. Your support is very much appreciated. Some of our young people volunteer to welcome people to church and to read the lessons.

As usual finance is one of our major concerns. We're not short of ideas for fundraising but with such a small core of people we are not able to host a large fundraising event. We participate in the yearly Stewardship campaign to make people aware of our needs. We reissued the Welcome to St Thomas' leaflet and information is available at each service. We have had some encouraging fundraising at the PTFA Christmas Fair and at the Parish Autumn Fair. We have held raffles for Easter Eggs and a Christmas hamper. More people are using the QR code in church.

Sunday School is a challenge. We regularly get 15-20 or more children. We had two Sunday School classes up to Christmas when one of our leaders stepped down due to health issues. We have three volunteers to lead and help who are completing DBS checks and Safeguarding training.

Services

We have roughly half Eucharistic, half non-Eucharistic services. Christine leads a SOTW along with Parish Reader Elaine at other times. Once a month we swop the pews for tables and use the school AV system for a more informal Café Church style service. This is very popular with families.

There is a very loyal core of older people who support us financially and practically as much as they are able. We celebrated Mothering Sunday, Harvest and In November we held a **Remembrance Day service** with an act of Remembrance at the War Memorial.

We continue to have occasional Baptisms after the main service. St Thomas' provides an intimate friendly space for a small family gathering. Thank you to Graham and Claire who stay behind to support.

At Christmas we supported Christmas Dinner on Jesus, Fort Alice with our Toy Service and we held our Carol Service. On Christmas Eve we held a Crib Service and Christingle. Thank you to Christine who organised transportation, speaker for Toy Service and led our Crib Service.

The major building repair this year was to the stained glass window on the Cancel wall. The wind had blown off the perplex sheets exposing the window to the elements. Our thanks go to Les Downes who assisted with the repair and to Mr Southern who was the School Caretaker who also helped.

Looking ahead…

The priorities for the coming year will continue to be how we can improve our fundraising
And how we can engage with the families so that they have a meaningful worship time.
Your prayers that such help may be forthcoming would be very much appreciated.
Every Blessing
Revd Angela Wynne, Team Vicar. April 2026

Data Protection Report for 2026 AGM

Our church forms including remain compliant with the Data Protection laws.

As a Parish we continue to e-mail out the weekly pewsheet and occasional special advertising. Regular attendees from our congregation have signed up or e-mailed to request which publications they wish to receive and can withdraw approval at any time by e-mailing the Parish office.

Baptism / wedding families who have indicated consent when booking will receive the special advertising. Anyone can remove their names from this contact list simply by sending an email reply.

We are not aware of any non-compliance with Data Protection in 2025 and no complaints have been raised. The policy was reviewed and there were no revisions to the policy made in 2025.

The churchwardens continue to oversee Data Protection but would be pleased to hand this on to a Data Protection Officer appointed by the PCC now that the policies are in place and the workload known.

Ed McHale

St. Bartholomew's Church Choir Report for 2026 AGM

The choir have continued to contribute to worship by singing a full complement of hymns at Sunday services and have contributed anthems and special pieces at services in Advent, Lent and Easter.

Highlights of the year included joining with church choirs across the team for our 30th Anniversary weekend services including the Celebration Communion Service and the Songs of Praise service. The Parish Carol Service is always major achievement.

My thanks must go to those who come and practice weekly whatever the conditions. We have faced a lot of issues over the last 12 months and it's good that we can act together as a support group. We continue to pray for Brian Cato, Sandra Dickinson and Carole Bullough.

We were also sad to hear of the death of Edith Ibbotson who was a stalwart member of the choir when I was first appointed. Despite her blindness, she participated fully coping with the stairs and armed with a set of braille hymns. It was good that we were represented at her funeral at Christ Church, heaton.

Recruiting new members is always difficult. We are always open to new members of any age – please just come and have a word with me.

Ed McHale

Director of Music

Safeguarding Report 2025

All who work with children and young people, including Sunday School, choir, bellringers, Café Church, Toddler Group with Wiggle Worship, or who take home communion have an up-to-date DBS.

- St Bartholomew's 19 DBS

- St George's 6 DBS

- St Thomas 3 DBS

Some still need to complete the online training.

In our parish, at time of writing, I have no issues regarding Safeguarding.

Thank you to all who work with our children and young people.

Joan O'Reilly
Safeguarding Officer.

Ignite Youth Westhoughton [Team Youth Church]

Ignite Youth is a space where our young people across the Team in Year 6 or above can meet each month for Teen Youth Church (TYC). We have now been going for 5 years and so thankful to God for giving us the volunteers and to parents for encouraging our youth to attend Ignite Youth. We continue to meet at St John's and our thanks go to all the Team PCCs and churches for their prayers and support. Also, to Tim Eden (St John's treasurer) for administering the funds.

We are blessed to have had 21 young people who have attended over the year. Numbers have settled at around up to 12 each session. We have continued to link Ignite Youth attendance with the Team confirmation classes but this year we haven't had any new Year 6's to join after the summer. However, we are pleased to see our older age group continue to attend and some are now helping with activities.

We focus on a bible passage, prayer and bible breakdown based including enjoying games and activities linked to the topic. Topics have included "New Year – New Start" and "Beyond Summer" focusing on resilience; Lent sessions on praying and pancakes; and Harvest focus on our food miles. We really value the time spent sharing over "take away" food. This year we had a very special Summer BBQ where we invited parents to attend too and Alison & Sarah from Places Project came along too. We have fun evenings too, including showing the film "Jurassic Park" and our Christmas Party.

The young people held a competition to design a new logo this year and voted on the best one from Elizabeth. We are now using this on all of our posters and comms.

As always, at Harvest they collected for Urban Outreach at Harvest, focussing on the items that are not always thought about including toiletries, baby items and cleaning items. These were greatly appreciated.

We want to say a big thank you to the volunteers Claire, Tracey, Janet and Rhea from across the team who help support running Ignite Youth. We continue to pray that more volunteers will come forward from other churches as we need more support and ideas. We especially wish to thank Caroline for all her help as she stepped down to focus on her family commitments. We wish her God's blessing as she continues to serve in the church.

We continue to be involved with Bolton West Mission Community Youth attending the youth leaders' meetings and encouraging our young people to attend Catalyst events. In February, we went to Hollywood Bowl in Horwich and there were around 50 young people including 14 from Ignite. In June, 5 of our young people attended the Catalyst Youth Weekend with around 32 from other groups. John & Rachel Kell, led 3 sessions on "Life in all its fullness" and there were amazing times of reflection, bible activities, worship and fun together. In October, Dean & Lostock hosted the event on "Justice Mission" and 7 attended

from Ignite. More events are already planned for 2026 including holding the weekend event on 20/21 March!

Please pray continually for Ignite Youth as we go into this New Year with a special month led by the Places Project focusing on their gifts. As the year continues, how we as leaders seek to keep it fresh and imaginative for our young people to help them continue to follow Jesus.

Andy Glynn & Evelyn Eden

Deanery Synod - Bolton Deanery Synod

Deanery Synod representatives and clergy from Westhoughton Parish have attended the meetings throughout 2025. The representatives are Christine Andrews, Joan O'Reilly and Elaine Simkin.

The February meeting welcomed Bishop Matthew and Diocesan Secretary Helen Platts, who outlined the four diocesan themes—Growing Younger, Church Planting and Revitalisation, Developing Missional Leaders and Parish Renewal—alongside commitments to racial justice, net zero and safeguarding, A discussion followed as to how parishes might respond.

In May, Canon Rachel Watts led reflections on vocation, encouraging both clergy and laity to recognise vocation callings in others. Members then prayed and discussed the four vision priority areas. The need for clearer communication and greater lay collaboration across Mission Communities was highlighted.

The November meeting continued to focus on the Diocesan vision, opening with worship and updates on church closures, ongoing clergy vacancies, and diocesan strategy and funding progress. It also included wellbeing input from Revd Canon Anne Edwards and dedicated time for members to reflect on encouragements, challenges, and key messages to take back to their parishes.

Rev'd Carol Pharaoh

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Bartholomew including the churches of St Bartholomew's, St George's and St Thomas'

2025 Accounts

2024 (£)	INCOME	St Thomas	St Bart's	St George's	PCC	Consolidation adjustment	TOTAL 2025 (£)
	DIRECT GIVING						
26492.50	Gift aided planned giving-envelopes and SO	4482.00	14573.26	11121.00	175.00		30351.26
13506.53	Other planned giving-envelopes and SO	2100.00	10648.54	1050.50	0.00		13799.04
0.00	Other gift aided donations		0.00		0.00		0.00
9740.50	Loose plate collections (inc Sunday Schools)	1198.48	7955.33	750.50	0.00		9904.31
10259.33	Tax refund on gift aid giving	1895.21	5520.91	3263.10	0.00		10679.22
0.00	Memorial donations				0.00		0.00
59998.86		9675.69	38698.04	16185.10	175.00	0.00	64733.83
	OTHER VOLUNTARY INCOME						
1451.30	Gift day and general donations	341.00	3822.79	414.08	0.00		4577.87
0.00	Donations for youth work				0.00		0.00
22975.70	Weddings & Funerals		19302.00		0.00		19302.00
10.00	Book of Remembrance		0.00		0.00		0.00
5529.40	Events, Concerts and Refreshments	537.66	2678.95	100.80	0.00		3317.41
348.00	Votive candle stand		439.10		0.00		439.10
0.00	Donations for flowers	0.00			0.00		0.00
1200.00	Income from bell ringing		0.00		0.00		0.00
31514.40		878.66	26242.84	514.88	0.00	0.00	27636.38
	APPEALS						
95.59	Christian Aid		308.99		0.00		308.99
0.00	Donations for Royal British Legion		0.00		0.00		0.00
0.00	Bishop's fund				0.00		0.00
0.00	Children's Society		0.00		0.00		0.00
145.00	Gift for minister			0.00	0.00		0.00
0.00	Tower fund		0.00				0.00
0.00	Miscellaneous appeals		454.93		0.00		454.93
240.59		0.00	763.92	0.00	0.00	0.00	763.92
	INCOME FROM INVESTMENTS						
1096.40	Revaluation of investments					618.67	618.67
2699.50	Bank interest	35.97	1164.14	3.74	0.00		1203.85
231.96	Dividends				202.82		202.82
0.00	Received from trust funds				2300.00	-2300.00	0.00
4027.86		35.97	1164.14	3.74	2502.82	-1681.33	2025.34

	INCOME FROM TRADING						
1560.00	200 club				1465.00	0.00	1465.00
0.00	Sale of magazines and advertising space					0.00	0.00
740.00	Room Hire		275.00			0.00	275.00
2300.00		0.00	275.00	0.00	1465.00	0.00	1740.00
	OTHER SUNDRY INCOME						
0.00	Transfers between accounts	0.00	0.00		41194.90	-41194.90	0.00
780.29	Clergy cost sharing within the Team				1149.56		1149.56
0.00	Sundries		480.00				480.00
780.29		0.00	480.00	0.00	42344.46	-41194.90	1629.56
	EXTRAORDINARY ITEMS						
0.00	Insurance reimbursement		0.00			0.00	0.00
29.24	Cash not banked, not included elsewhere	0.00				0.00	0.00
0.00	Diocesan grants		0.00		6600.00	0.00	6600.00
14.75	Balancing adjustment	0.00	0.00			0.00	0.00
43.99		0.00	0.00	0.00	6600.00	0.00	6600.00
98905.99	**INCOME TOTALS**	10590.32	67623.94	16703.72	53087.28	-42876.23	105129.03

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Bartholomew including the churches of St Bartholomew's, St George's and St Thomas'

2025 Accounts

2024 (£)	EXPENDITURE	St Thomas	St Barts	St George's	PCC	Consolidation adjustment	Total 2025 (£)
	WORK OF THE CHURCH						
	Leadership						
1001.61	Ministerial expenses		410.00		190.00		600.00
0.00	PCC expenses (including parish share)	7250.00	23532.00	10412.90		-41194.90	0.00
50000.33	Cof E parish share	1895.21	5520.91	3263.10	34000.00		44679.22
0.00	Clergy cost sharing within the Team				0.00		0.00
0.00	Deanery & other subscriptions				0.00		0.00
51001.94		9145.21	29462.91	13676.00	34190.00	-41194.90	45279.22
	Services						
10880.00	Manchester DBF (weddings & Funerals)		7684.00		0.00		7684.00
965.36	Church Services expenses	37.78	1035.13	10.56	145.00		1228.47
6398.50	Organists and choir		5455.50	153.00			5608.50
1633.00	Vergers		1734.00		0.00		1734.00
1200.00	Payments to bell ringers		0.00		0.00		0.00
21076.86		37.78	15908.63	163.56	145.00	0.00	16254.97
	Outreach						
46.34	Training and education (inc Sunday School)	0.00	0.00	21.60	0.00		21.60
0.00	Urban outreach				0.00		0.00
652.00	Luncheon Club		677.10		0.00		677.10
750.00	Concerts and events		900.00	0.00	0.00		900.00
278.07	Youth work		0.00		351.85		351.85
1726.41		0.00	1577.10	21.60	351.85	0.00	1950.55
	Buildings and Equipment						
3142.04	Rectory Council tax / water rates				2478.83		2478.83
9251.76	Church maintenance (incl. cleaning)	108.10	6646.77	70.00	9132.00		15956.87
17019.90	Churchyard maintenance		5060.00				5060.00
0.00	Rectory / Vicarage maintenance				0.00		0.00
10976.71	Utilities		14360.08	70.00			14430.08
178.31	Flowers and materials	207.72			0.00		207.72
0.00	Purchase of church equipment		731.60	15.57	0.00		747.17
40568.72		315.82	26798.45	155.57	11610.83	0.00	38880.67

	Adminstration						
1147.83	Printing, postage and stationery	0.00	0.00	0.00	976.74		976.74
1200.00	Sundry		0.00				0.00
748.01	Equipment maintenance / rental		0.00	3.60	648.00		651.60
1848.54	Telephones and internet		501.45		694.99		1196.44
325.00	Website fees				325.00		325.00
267.00	Copyright licence	176.00		100.00			276.00
0.00	Bank charges						0.00
345.82	Planned giving envelopes				241.78		241.78
4418.62	Insurance	867.04	3342.88	682.90			4892.82
0.00	Stewardship campaign materials				0.00		0.00
0.00	Transfers between accounts	0.00	0.00		0.00	0.00	0.00
10300.82		1043.04	3844.33	786.50	2886.51	0.00	8560.38
	GRANTS						
0.00	Children's society		236.23		0.00		236.23
3233.22	Church Schools		1123.00	2190.83	2300.00		5613.83
25.00	Royal British Legion Poppy appeal		0.00	0.00	0.00		0.00
0.00	Church council grants to School Governors				0.00		0.00
95.59	Christian Aid		308.99		0.00		308.99
0.00	Bishops fund				0.00		0.00
0.00	Miscellaneous						0.00
185.00	Gift for minister				0.00		0.00
3538.81		0.00	1668.22	2190.83	2300.00	0.00	6159.05
	EXPENSES OF TRADING						
890.00	200 Club winners plus licence fee				890.00		890.00
0.00	Crux magazine	0.00	0.00		0.00		0.00
890.00		0.00	0.00	0.00	890.00	0.00	890.00
	EXTRAORDINARY ITEMS						
-122.50	Write-back of uncashed cheques from previous year	0.00			-60.00		-60.00
0.00	Transfer to PCC		0.00				0.00
2707.00	Unpresented cheques not included elsewhere		0.00				0.00
2584.50		0.00	0.00	0.00	-60.00	0.00	-60.00
131688.06	**EXPENDITURE TOTALS**	10541.85	79259.64	16994.06	52314.19	-41194.90	117914.84
-32782.07	**NET SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)**	48.47	-11635.70	-290.34	773.09	-1681.33	-12785.81

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Bartholomew including the churches of St Bartholomew's, St George's and St Thomas'

2025 Accounts

2024 (£) TOTAL	STATEMENT OF MAIN ASSETS	St Thomas	St Bart's	St George's	PCC	Consolidation adjustment	Total 2025 (£)
	Investments and bequests						
6684.42	White Horse School - sale of nursery				4686.93		4686.93
15677.19	G&A Grundy Memorial Fund-income to St Barts				15050.45		15050.45
9068.86	Hart Common Sunday School and mission Church				9479.28		9479.28
4188.94	Thomas Smith bequest				4188.94		4188.94
383.76	Banco Santander Shares				916.24		916.24
0.00	Monies held in diocesan account				0.00		0.00
36003.17		0.00	0.00	0.00	34321.84	0.00	34321.84
	Bank accounts and cash balances						
	St Bartholomew's						
5757.52	Current Acc 40013757		7644.83				7644.83
	Unpresented cheques		0.00				0.00
3104.96	Gift aid account 80773344		5683.20				5683.20
38537.41	CBF Deposit Fund 624108001D		22537.41				22537.41
328.46	Choir		237.96				237.96
2802.85	Belfry Fund		2802.85				2802.85
268.15	Luncheon Club		257.40				257.40
50799.35		0.00	39163.65	0.00	0.00	0.00	39163.65
	St George's						
2448.85	Current Account			1894.85			1894.85
334.07	Clubs and Societies reserve			337.81			337.81
-325.00	Unpresented cheques						0.00
65.08	Cash in hand						0.00
2523.00		0.00	0.00	2232.66	0.00	0.00	2232.66
	St Thomas's						
522.66	Current Account	539.22					539.22
29.24	Cash not yet banked	0.00					0.00
3028.06	Memorial Fund	2955.93					2955.93
365.34	Flower Fund	498.62					498.62
3945.30		3993.77	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3993.77
	PCC						
12666.15	Current Account				13439.24		13439.24
105936.97	Asset totals	3993.77	39163.65	2232.66	47761.08	0.00	93151.16

The use of the following funds is restricted: G&A Grundy Memorial Fund, Sale of White Horse nursery, Thomas Smith bequest, St Thomas Memorial fund.

£6,944.15 in the St Bartholomew's accounts is designated to the Tower fund.

£199.50 in the St Bartholomew's accounts is designated to the St Bartholomew's Church, tower and churchyard.

CHARITY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Section A Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/ members of	Charity Name The PCC of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Bartholomew, Westhoughton		
On accounts for the year ended	31st December 2025	**Charity no (if any)**	1136063
Set out on page			

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the period ended 31st December 2025.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Trust, 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 Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed the 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 which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did 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 order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:	Nigel Ginniff	**Date:**	16th April 2026
Name:	Nigel Ginniff		
Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any):	Barrister at Law of England and Wales		
Address:	13 Bankside Westhoughton BL5 2QP		