2. ANNUAL REPORT – *Jean Ferguson, Andrew Phillips 12th April 2026*

- MISSION STATEMENT as agreed in 2025 Report
- AIM AND PURPOSES as agreed in 2025 Report
- OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES as agreed in 2025 Report

Achievements and Performance in 2025-26

People

- Rev Lynn Caudwell was installed as Vicar by Rt. Rev. Sam Corley, Bishop of Stockport on 15 October 2025. Since 2002 St. Christopher's has had a Priest-in-Charge. Bishop Sam explained that returning a Vicar to St Christopher's Parish confirms and celebrates all the Christian work that is being done here. It also makes us more secure as an independent parish. Rev Lynn has continued to inspire us through incorporating the Five Marks of Mission throughout St Christopher's as well as implementing a study programme, Jesus Shaped People (JSP) and a new children's service, Teddy and Dolly
- Rev Lynne Bowden and her husband Paul invited us all to a day of prayer on 17 May in preparation for Thy Kingdom Come. This is an annual season of prayer, from Ascension Day to Pentecost, where we are encouraged to pray for the world to know God through Jesus. Rev Lynne also conducts the Not Just Sunday worship services each Wednesday morning using the Celtic inspired Wee Worship Book and incorporates some of the text as part of the JSP course. These are well attended by about a dozen people and the hope this year is to expand the tea and coffee gathering before the service, to invite others who are not members of the church to drop in for company and a chat
- Our Ordinand, Melissa Wearden, joined us in October 2024 and will be with us for three years as she studies for the priesthood. Melissa leads services including the All Age Worship services and this year's reflection service on Good Friday. She preaches at other services and is the Youth and Junior Church Co-ordinator. She has started "Refresh", a successful evening Youth Group held at the vicarage or at her Mum's house. She takes some assemblies at Pott Shrigley school and will be co-leading the book groups from April
- Occasional Worship Leaders (OWLS): as well as helping to lead services Annie Palace, Sally Winstanley and Mike Akerman organized a dramatic retelling of the Palm Sunday events, which included several members of the congregation
- It is with deep regret that we mark the passing of our esteemed Reader Emeritus, Dr. John Ryley in September. John was an active church member for many years and regularly preached at St. Christopher's. He also was an avid contributor to *HotPott* particularly keeping us abreast of our missionary families in the articles he wrote for Missionary Matters

Activities

- Sunday services continue at 8:30am and 10:45am and the mid-week service has been expanded to include 45 minutes before the services for coffee, cake and biscuits, in the hope of encouraging the local community, passing walkers, cyclists or visitors to drop in for a chat
- Book Groups continue to thrive, with a fifth group about to start. The series of four books offer spiritual direction through the study of four women's lives and has had a remarkable effect on those who have taken part. The next book to be tackled is a study of depression and explores the need for God's help
- Sadly, Little Doves had to be discontinued, mostly dictated by the lack of parking facilities during term time, but we thank Victoria Price and Angie Bird for their sterling efforts
- We celebrated that four of our young people and one adult were confirmed by Bishop Sam on 16 February. Following this Rev Lynn sought permission from the Diocese to hold classes (which have now completed) to prepare a small number of children under the official age for confirmation, to receive Holy Communion
- The Christmas services were, as always, extremely well attended, including our four very full *Carols by Candlelight* services and a beautiful Pott Shrigley School Nativity. 682 people were counted attending our four Carols by Candlelight services
- Throughout the year several other special services were held, including a Pet Service, a Songs of Praise Service and a Good Friday Service followed by a Parish walk led by Will Gem. In addition, the Rose Queen Festival (for the first time on a Sunday) began with a church service, conducted by our ordinand Melissa during which the Rose Queen and Rose Bud were crowned

- During the week of Prayer for Christian Unity, we held a Taizé-inspired worship service, with contemplative songs and prayers addressing global and local concerns. We were joined by friends from neighbouring churches and parishes
- The Prayer Group continues to meet in church each Tuesday evening while an online prayer group meets via the SPICE Pott Whatsapp group, at the same time
- Since the first Prayer Walk on 01 February 2025, we have continued, under the guidance of Yvonne Foster, to walk the parish once a month while praying for everyone living, working, farming and studying here
- The Pastoral Team once again organised a Service of Remembering. This included prayers for those deceased recently or at an earlier time. Everyone was invited to write the name of their loved ones on a card to be lodged on the altar and to light a candle in their memory before prayer
- We have hosted two baptism services, five weddings, six funerals and three memorials/internments
- The Bell ringers joined with ringers all over Britain to mark both the 80th anniversary of VE day in May and VJ day at 6:30 pm on 15 August - marking the end of WWII. The Tower Captain has also offered tours of the bell tower to the local cadet force
- Bollington Air Cadets have appointed Rev Lynn as their padre and have been welcomed into the church for a service each year. Now they are exploring the possibility of adding bell ringing to their Duke of Edinburgh Award tasks, as well as arranging for the Tower Captain giving them a tour of the bell tower
- Fund raising events were held throughout the year to fund a new church organ. A quiz and an exhibition of church kneelers, which raised £560, were augmented by a generous anonymous donation enabling the purchase of a new organ to go ahead. We look forward to its delivery very soon
- We continue to support Silk Life Food Bank with many generous donations and especially those at Harvest and during the Christmas Reverse Advent Calendar campaign
- Earlier in 2025 the PCC asked the congregation for their views on how the services were conducted and on potential building interior changes. To do this, a questionnaire was issued. This had 67 responses and the results were incredibly useful to support what we do next as a church. The results were both posted on the church noticeboard and published in HotPott Sept 2025
- Youth Church and Junior Church continue to be well attended with new leaders joining the team. Junior Church started to use the JSP material, and the children have responded with great enthusiasm. Youth Church continues to meet every two weeks and included activities such as attending Amplified at Tytherington Family Worship Church, a BBQ and the start of a Youth Alpha course in October
- JSP is a programme of 15 weeks studying a way to get to know Jesus better through a Whole Church Discipleship Adventure. Rev Brendan Bassett came to introduce the concept to the congregation and Rev Lynn introduced it in the Sunday services as well as Rev Lynne in the NJS services and the Children and Youth groups used it in their time together, as well as small home groups
- A new Teddy and Dolly service was held in church after school on Monday 09 February 2026. Children, their parents, and some staff members heard a bible story adapted in a story shared by Teddy and Dolly, sang a worship song and prayed then enjoyed coffee, juice and biscuits before taking home a Teddy bookmark skilfully made by Irene North. There are plans to hold a Teddy and Dolly service every half term
- Rev Lynn has announced plans to hold an Away Day at Savio House, on 04 July, following on the success of one previously held there which was attended by many of our parishioners. The topic will be Jesus Shaped People and how we as a congregation can put the teachings into practice
- As a church we are beginning to look at how we can be more environmentally aware. We have begun by using proper cups instead of paper ones and asking that people bring their own if they can. We have silk flowers in church instead of flowers and plants that die quickly and have asked that people sign up to direct giving, either by standing order or by using the card machine at the back of church. Discussions are underway to see if we might be interested in signing up to the Rocha initiative
- The Diocese has recently suggested that some churches may consider becoming a Pilgrim Church welcoming passers-by to come in, explore the history of the church and hopefully feel moved to find out more about God. This is something we as a congregation we may wish to consider

The Parish of St. Christopher's Pott Shrigley

1513 Financial statement for the year ending 31st December 2025

PAYMENTS	2024	2025
	£	£
Grants To Charities	8,200	10,211
Parish Share	57,226	58,943
Clergy Expenses (Working)	2,389	3,408
Clergy Expenses (Housing)	4,493	4,191
Church Upkeep	8,949	11,714
Upkeep Of Services	4,149	5,223
Churchyard Upkeep	1,191	1,558
Trading	6,182	8,695
Church Mission	234	324
Major Works	1,675	22,056
Salaries & Support Costs	0	0
Bank Charges	0	0
TOTAL PAYMENTS	**£94,688**	**£126,323**

RECEIPTS		
Covenants & Gift Aid	57,511	75,657
Income Tax Recovered	12,254	10,872
Uncovenanted Planned Giving	5,050	11,900
Collections At Services	5,451	4,189
Sundry Donations	6,220	5,098
Grants	0	0
Legacies	6,248	22,003
Fundraising	1,517	613
Investment Income	4,796	4,565
Trading	14,261	11,315
Insurance Claims & Other Income	0	0
TOTAL RECEIPTS	**£113,308**	**£146,212**

TRADING P & L BALANCE	£18,620 Surplus	£19,889 Surplus
Bank Account Balance 1st January	£139,553	£158,173
Bank Account Balance 31st December	£158,173	£178,062
Total Funds 1st January 2025	**£158,173**	
Plus: Surplus for Year	£19,889	
Total Funds 31st December 2025	**£178,062**	

I confirm this statement to be a true and accurate account of the payments and receipts of the PCC of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Pott Shrigley. Charity No. 1193382.

Signed by the Independent Examiner Carl Harris Dated 07/05/2026

Print Name: CARL HARRIS

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