St Bartholomew, Colne Parish Church
Church Street. Colne, Lancashire BB8 OLG

Healthy Churches Transforming Communities



REPORT AND ACCOUNTS OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL 2025

Aims and Purposes

St. Bartholomew's Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility of co-operating with Reverend Alex Oehring in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. The PCC is also specifically responsible for the maintenance of the Old Grammar School building known as the Parish Room in Colne.

Objectives and Activities

Trusting in the power of the Holy Spirit and the gospel of Jesus Christ, by 2030 we pray that we will see St. Bartholomew's Church filled with people singing praises to God.

Our priorities for seeing this vision come to life are:

1. **Accessible Worship**. We want to see a church that is joyful in its worship, with vibrant, varied and Spirit-filled services suitable for all.

   Therefore, we seek to provide**:**
   - Worship services that are Reflective and Contemplative.
   - Worship services that are Lively and Informal.
   - Worship services that are accessible to people who are new to church.
   - Worship services where families can worship together.
   - Worship services that people can invite friends to and where new people are welcomed in.

2. **Growing Together as Followers of Jesus**. We long for our congregation to be filled with men and women of all ages who are enthusiastic and confident in their faith and who desire to grow in love for God and for one another.

   We seek to provide**:**
   - Regular opportunities to study the Bible, so that we can grow in faith.
   - Opportunities to pray together throughout the week.
   - Opportunities for people to discern their calling and their spiritual gifts.
   - Ways for people to grow in their personal prayer life and Bible reading.
   - Groups for men, women and seniors to gather together, to grow in faith, and serve God's mission.
   - An effective pastoral ministry.

- Opportunities for people to invest in building friendships within the church.
- Create teams, according to their gifts, that will enable mission and service, and to raise new leaders.

3. **Sharing the Good News of Jesus**. We look forward to being a modern and accessible hub in the town of Colne. A place where we can share the love of Jesus Christ through word, action, and service.

   Therefore, we will seek to**:**
   - Use our church building as a place where people can gather and build friendships.
   - Host evangelistic outreach events with engaging speakers and prayer ministry.
   - Provide accessible courses that introduce people to the Christian Faith, twice a year.
   - Serve those who are in need in our town, both in practical and spiritual ways.
   - Inspire members of the congregation to share their faith.
   - Shape our buildings so that they can maximise our mission capability.

4. **Inspiring Families, Children and Young People**. We want to inspire a new generation of families, children and young people to sustain our Christian presence in Colne.

   Therefore, we seek to provide**:**
   - Engaging, Christ centred Sunday schools for 0-11s and 11-14s.
   - Accessible worship provision for families with young children
   - A youth group for 10-16s.
   - Accessible faith provision for 15-21s.
   - Events/ clubs that engage with families and young people.
   - Access to a summer Christian venture and/or Christian Festival.
   - Opportunities for over 11s to serve.
   - A Church Holiday Club for under 11s

Achievements and Performance

Accessible Worship

Our services provide a mix of worship and styles which provide for a breadth of spiritual needs. The addition of mobile video screens, now used for all of our services, helps newcomers who are no longer confronted with 3 or 4 books and gives us new opportunities for presenting the Word of God. Evensong services, reflective services at Christmas and Easter have expanded the style and range we offer.

Lively and informal All Age services continue to be a joy-filled expression of our worship to God and accessible to everyone. We believe we have a church where people can feel confident to bring friends to.

Growing Together as Followers of Jesus

This year we have provided opportunities for people to grow in their understanding of the Bible through three separate Bible Study Groups on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. We also ran a Bible Course from October to December. Morning Prayer at St. Bartholomew's has grown to three times a week. We want prayer to be the lifeblood of this church. The main purpose of a Pastor to lead the people in prayer and to enable their prayer lives to flourish, when church is praying, God moves in!

Three people attended MPower training this year. This is a course that encourages people to discover their spiritual gifts and how they might use them to serve God. Fifteen attended an ALM Pastoral Care course designed to equip us to meet the pastoral ministry needs within the community.

Women Together and Mothers Union events are well attended. Our rector led a Diocesan Men's Weekend in the Lake District in October 2024 with 50 attendees. In all of this we are engaging with new men and women.

We continue to provide social opportunities through various organised events. Friendship is so important as we journey in the Christian Faith. It contributes much to creating a healthy church.

Sharing the Good News of Jesus

We look forward to being a modern and accessible hub in the town of Colne. A place where we can share the love of Jesus Christ through word, action, and service.

We have a number of groups that meet within our church that provide contact between the church and the wider community. The Community Grocery, run from the church by volunteers, is growing and regularly serves more than 80 families. The Community Café we launched on Mondays, which serves cooked breakfasts, has been extended to provide lunches on Wednesdays as well. Our Barty Bear mother and toddlers group, a knitting Group and Open Days remain as popular as ever.

During the year we have run an Alpha Course and a Hope Explored Course. Hope Explored is a 3-week course looking at hope, peace and purpose. A team of five people lead a CAP Life Skills Course and the feedback from those attending was encouraging. 'CAP' is Christians Against Poverty and there is definitely a need for this in the town of Colne

Shaping our buildings so that they can maximise our mission capability - a plan for our Parish Room to make it suitable for the large amount of mission we are involved with is moving at a pace. Unfortunately, a lack of funds for a number of years meant our Parish Room had deteriorated to a poor state of repair and

requires major refurbishment, but this is now seen as an opportunity to make the building fit for purpose. Various groups still regularly use the main hall. For example, our Sunday School, the Barty Bear mother and toddler group and Rainbows for 4 - 7 year old girls. Plans for how we can revitalise the building are moving forward rapidly, the design was nearing completion at the end of 2024 and the next stage will be to seek planning permission. The funding needed for the work will be considerable, but grants and benefactors are actively being sought and we continue to pray for a positive outcome.

Inspiring Families, Children and Young People

Engaging, Christ-centred Sunday schools for 0-11s and 11-14s. We have started a 10-14s Sunday School group to cater for the growing number of young people within this age group.

All Age Worship is still our key access service for families. Explorers (a weekly school holiday club) does the same. We look to develop and build upon the success of this.

Our Youth Group has now been running for over 3 years and we have maintained between 15-20 teenagers attending each week. Having invested in the Urban Saints Energise – resource package, we've been able to engage with faith input much more consistently.

Summer 2025 saw 14 (aged 9-14) young people attend a CPAS Venture at Ripon. CPAS ventures are activity based with Christian teaching. We plan to repeat this next summer.

Opportunities for over 11s to serve; the choir and various tech we use in our services still provide this opportunity. Schools Outreach continues with the number of local schools in regular contact increasing.

Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals

As well as our regular worship services, during 2025, we celebrated 9 baptisms and 5 weddings. 13 funerals took place and there were 13 at the crematorium/cemetery only.

Electoral Roll

At present there are 132 parishioners on the Church Electoral Roll, 68 are resident and 64 non-resident within the parish.

Financial Overview

Receipts into unrestricted and designated funds totalled **£125,696**. Of this amount, **£79,192** was received through voluntary donations, **£2,997** through fundraising activities, and **£9,686** through Gift Aid tax reclaims.

Grants received into unrestricted funds contributed towards the housing costs of an Associate Minister and the upgrading of the church lighting to more energy-efficient alternatives.

A total of **£9,631** was received in wedding and funeral fees. It should be noted that a proportion of these fees does not belong to St Bartholomew's, as they are collected on behalf of Blackburn Diocese. Similarly, grants received from the charities **Christians Against Poverty (CAP)** and **Acts 435** are subject to conditions requiring them to be paid into St Bartholomew's current bank account before being passed on to the individual grant beneficiaries. These amounts therefore cannot be treated as income of St Bartholomew's Church.

Receipts into restricted funds totalled **£84,438**. Of this, the Willats Trust and the Joseph Rank Trust provided a combined **£22,328** to support the work of planting a church within Colne town's North Valley estate. A further **£49,160** was received in grants and donations to support the running of the church food bank, the Community Grocery, together with **£12,750** in grants from Blackburn Diocese towards **Project Luke 4-18**.

Expenditure

A total of **£111,836** was spent from unrestricted and designated funds in providing Christian ministry through St Bartholomew's. Of this amount, **£35,067** was paid to Blackburn Diocese in Parish Share, satisfying our full share quota for 2025.

Energy costs continue to represent a significant proportion of the church's running expenses, with **£10,413** spent on gas and electricity. A further **£6,635** was given towards home mission within our parish and donations to other charitable organisations.

Expenditure from restricted funds totalled **£26,215**, all of which was spent on supplies for the Community Grocery. The grocery is funded entirely through grants and donations specifically designated for this purpose and does not have access to the church's other funds. The level of expenditure on supplies demonstrates the importance of the Community Grocery to a large number of families across the town of Colne.

Overall Result

The net result for 2025 was a **surplus of receipts over payments of £9,796** in unrestricted funds. The balance of unrestricted funds carried forward at 31 December 2025 was **£10,761**.

It is more than 25 years since St Bartholomew's Church has experienced such growth and achieved a surplus of this magnitude. This has been made possible through the generosity of our congregation, including some particularly generous donations in addition to regular giving.

We also gratefully recognise the generosity of those who have joined St Bartholomew's from Barrowford's **Pendle Community Church**, many of whom have continued to tithe generously.

Structure, Governance and Management

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. At St. Bartholomew's the membership of the PCC consists of the incumbent (our Rector), the Associate Priest and members elected by people of the congregation who are on the electoral roll of the church. All those who attend our services / members of the congregation are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC. The PCC members are responsible for making decisions on all matters of general concern and importance to the parish including deciding on how the funds of the PCC be spent.

Administrative Information

St. Bartholomew's Church is situated in Church Street, Colne. It is a part of the Colne Benefice in the Church of England Diocese of Blackburn.
The correspondence address is The Rectory, Grenfell Gardens, Colne.
The PCC is a body corporate (PCC Powers Measure 1956, Church Representation Rules 2011). The Church Representation and Ministers Measure 2019 came into force on 1st January 2020.

PCC members who have served at any time from 1st January 2025 until the date of this report are:

Ex Officio Members
Incumbent: The Reverend Alex Oehring (since 15th July 2021)
Curate: The Reverend Tony Howarth (Since June 2025)

Wardens: Mrs. Amanda Kroukamp and Mr Paul White

Deanery Representatives
Mrs. Nan Blenkinsopp
Mrs. Patricia Taylor

Elected Members
Mrs. Janet Barrowclough (secretary, from May 2023)
Mrs. Holly Phillips (from May 2023)
Mr. David Hawthorne (from May 2023)
Mr. David Rayner (from May 2023 to May 2025)
Mr. Tony Davies (from May 2024)
Mrs Louise Garnett (from May 2025)
Mrs Stella Butterworth (from May 2025)
Mr. Michael Warner, Treasurer, co-opted

Approved by the PCC and signed on their behalf by Rev Alex Oehring (PCC chairman)

Signed: 

Date: 10th May 2026

Independent Examiner's Report to the members/trustees of Colne St. Bartholomew's Parochial Church Council

I report on the accounts for the year ended 31st December 2025, which are set out on pages 8 to 11.

Respective responsibilities of the Trustees and Independent Examiner

The church's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The church's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- Examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act
- Follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act
- State whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of an Independent Examiner's Statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters.

The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent Examiner's Statement

In connection with my examination, no matters have come to my attention which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act and to prepare accounts which accord with these accounting records have not been met or to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Mr. Frank Whittaker, retired
Swanfield Barn
Keighley Road
Colne

Signed: Frank Whittaker Date: 9th May 2026

Colne St. Bartholomew	PS226

Receipts and payments accounts

For the period from	1st January 2025	To	31st December 2025

Section A Receipts and payments

	Note	Finance Return	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Designated funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £	Total funds to nearest £	2024 to nearest £
A1 Receipts								
Voluntary Receipts								
Planned Giving								
Planned giving (tax efficient)		*1*	45,928				45,928	29,602
Planned giving (other)		*2*	6,382				6,382	6,435
Collections at services		*3*	7,503				7,503	8,316
Other giving / voluntary receipts	*5a*		19,379	678	3,688		23,745	12,350
Rectory expenses, share paid from Holy Trinity Church			3,623				3,623	2,954
Grants			8,704		77,078		85,782	68,150
Acts 4-35 incoming receipts			3,605		55		3,660	3,720
Men's pastor salary from Holy Trinity			-	3,386			3,386	-
Gift Aid Recovered		*6*	9,686				9,686	8,738
Activities for generating funds	5b	9	2,997				2,997	8,549
Investment income	5c	10	1,439		119		1,558	1,537
Church Activities	5d		12,386		3,498		15,884	12,197
Sub total			121,632	4,064	84,438	-	210,134	162,548
A2 Asset and investment sales, etc.							-	-
Total receipts		***A,B,C***	121,632	4,064	84,438	-	210,134	162,548
A3 Payments								
Church Activities								
Diocesan Parish Share		19	35,067				35,067	32,205
Other Payments	5e		61,913	3,725	53,626		119,264	67,794
Mission giving and charitable donations	5f	18	6,635		27,169		33,804	32,346
Acts 4-35 outgoing payments			3,605				3,605	3,720
Cost of Generating Funds		25	4,616				4,616	1,218
Governance Costs		26	-				-	-
Sub total			111,836	3,725	80,795	-	196,356	137,283
A4 Asset and investment purchases, etc.								
Total payments		***D,E,F***	111,836	3,725	80,795	-	196,356	137,283
Net of receipts/(payments)			9,796	339	3,643	-	13,778	25,265
A5 Transfers between funds			- 1,283		1,283			
A6 Cash funds last year end			2,248	-	60,058		62,307	37,042
Cash funds this year end			10,761	339	64,984	-	76,085	62,307

THE DIOCESE OF BLACKBURN
THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND IN LANCASHIRE

Colne St. Bartholomew			PS226
Receipts and payments accounts			
For the period from	1st January 2025	**To**	31st December 2025

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Finance Return	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Designated funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds		PCC Current Bank Account	10,761	339	62,237	
		St. Bartholomew Bell Fund			2,747	
	31	***Total cash funds***	10,761	339	64,984	-
		(agree balances with receipts and payments accounts))	OK	OK	OK	OK

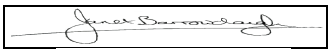
		Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Designated funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets						

		Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B3 Investment assets		Shareholding, McVicar L, 224 shares	Endowment	200	
		Shareholding, Legacies, 1304 shares	Endowment	1,482	
		Shareholding, School BU, 182 shares	Endowment	200	
		Shareholding, Shoesmith, 225 shares	Endowment	400	
		Shareholding, Salisbury_1, 91 shares	Endowment	500	
	32	Shareholding, Salisbury_2, 183 shares	Endowment	1,000	

		Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use					

		Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
B5 Liabilities					

The notes attached on pages 10 & 11 form part of these financial statements

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees	Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
		Janet Barrowclough	10/05/2026
		Alex Oehring	10/05/2026

Colne St. Bartholomew			PS226
Receipts and payments accounts			
For the period from	1st January 2025	**To**	31st December 2025

Section C Notes

1. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Church Accounting Regulations 2006 using the Receipts and Payments Basis

2

3

4. The movement in designated and restricted funds in the year were:

		Bal b/f	Receipts	Payments	Transfer	Bal c/f
Restricted:	Bell Fund	2,628	119	-	-	2,747
	Food Bank	25,426	49,161	35,564	- 2,548	36,475
	AV Equipment	1,168	-	806	-	362
	Project Luke 4-18	5,670	12,750	20,305	3,886	2,001
	Memorial Garden Fund	923	25	-	-	948
	Kitchen Fund	36	-	-	-	36
	Organ Fund	3,890	-	1,991	-	1,899
	Jessica Lofthouse Grant	10,317	-	5,427	-	4,890
	North Valley Church Plant	10,000	22,328	16,702	-	15,626
		60,058	84,383	80,795	1,338	64,984
Designated:		-	4,064	3,725	-	339
		-	4,064	3,725	-	339

5. Receipts and Payments analysis

			Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Designated funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £	Total funds to nearest £	2024 to nearest £
Receipts								
Other voluntary receipts	*5a*							
Giving through church boxes			1,162				1,162	541
Legacy		*7*	250				250	
Donations		*4*	17,967	678	3,688		22,333	11,809
			19,379	678	3,688	-	23,745	12,350
Activities for generating funds	5b	9						
Parish magazine advertising			-				-	300
Fund raising & events			2,997				2,997	8,249
			2,997	-	-	-	2,997	8,549
Investment income	5c	10						
Dividend on CBF investment			1,439				1,439	1,405
Bank interest			-		119		119	78
			1,439	-	119	-	1,558	1,483
Receipts from Church Activities	5d							
Junior church activities			895				895	230
Wedding/funeral fees		11	9,631				9,631	8,699
Use of Parish Rooms		12	-				-	-
Parish Magazine Sales		12	77				77	321
Catering including Monday café			1,783		3,498		5,281	2,947
			12,386	-	3,498	-	15,884	12,197

Section C Notes continued

5. Receipts and Payments analysis			Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Designated funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £	Total funds to nearest £	2024 to nearest £
Payments								
Church Activities								
Other Payments	5e							
Diocesan fees			3,268				3,268	1,945
North Valley CC expenses			-		1,751		1,751	
AV equipment			-		806		806	282
Clergy & Staffing costs								
Salary, wages and honoraria		*20*	1,020		42,708		43,728	17,971
Men's Pastor salary			-	3,725			3,725	-
Clergy expenses		*21*	2,335				2,335	1,867
Fees paid to retired clergy			2,950				2,950	2,071
Organist/verger fees			3,460				3,460	2,705
Bell ringing fees			720				720	980
Rectory expenses			7,739				7,739	7,766
Church running Expenses		*23*						
Payroll administration			220				220	150
Training			125		700		825	160
Insurance			4,996				4,996	4,623
Church office expenses			300				300	95
Organ tuning/maintenance			-		1,991		1,991	1,374
Church maintenance			11,598		5,427		17,025	6,316
Cleaning costs			7,608				7,608	5,955
Electricity			2,952				2,952	2,952
Gas			7,462				7,462	6,854
Water			724				724	396
Broadband Internet			347				347	294
Magazine expenses			-				-	-
Music licence			185				185	441
Sundries			711				711	381
Hall Running Expenses								
Water/Gas/Electricity			1,646				1,646	1,314
Insurance			927				927	902
Maintenance			620		243		863	-
			61,913	3,725	53,626	-	119,264	67,794
Mission giving and donations	5f							
Giving to missionary societies			1,650				1,650	1,750
Giving to relief agencies			525				525	1,226
CAP church partnership			480				480	-
Giving to secular charities			-				-	-
Home mission			2,652		954		3,606	4,154
Junior church running costs			1,328				1,328	61
Food bank supplies			-		26,215		26,215	25,155
			6,635	-	27,169	-	33,804	32,346