



**All Saints' Parish Church Clayton-le-Moors**

**Annual Report and  
Financial Statements  
of the Parochial Church Council**

Registered Charity 1210325

**For the year ended 31 December 2025**

**Incumbent:**

Revd Toby Webber

**Treasurer:**

Linda Bracewell

**Independent Examiner:**

Brian Dew

**Address for correspondence:**

PCC Secretary  
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# **ALL SAINTS' PARISH CHURCH CLAYTON-LE - MOORS ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025**

## **Aims and Purposes**

All Saints' PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with incumbent 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 Parish Church building.

## **Objectives and activities**

Our mission statement is to 'bring God's love to the heart of the community'.

The PCC is committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship at our church and to become part of our parish community at All Saints'. The PCC maintains an overview of worship throughout the parish and makes suggestions on how our services can involve many groups that live and work within our parish. Our services and worship put faith into practice through prayer and scripture, music and sacrament.

When planning our activities for the year, we have considered the Charity Commissioner's guidance on public benefit and the supplementary guidance on charities for the advancement of religion. In particular, we try to enable people to live out their faith as part of our parish community through:

- Worship and prayer; learning about the gospel; developing their knowledge and trust in Jesus
- Provision of pastoral care for people living in the parish
- Missionary and outreach work

To facilitate this work, it is important that we maintain the fabric of All Saints' Church.

## **Achievements and performance – this year we have:**

- **Investigated opportunities for developing our mission – and the possibility of applying to be part of the Ignite (Children and Young People's Worker) or Lay Pioneer projects.**
- **Built on experience of 2024 by holding a second FAITHfest mission weekend (followed up by a 321 course) and a second church family day in Ribchester**



For much of the year we continued to operate without a resident **organist and choir master**, but were delighted to welcome Michael Wilcock to an interim appointment in September.

The following table gives a range of indicators of attendance, based on the October count. 2019 is given as a pre-Covid comparator along with the last four years.

	2019	2022	2023	2024	2025
Normal Sunday am adults	87	67	76	80	79
Normal Sunday am Children	39	19	13	19	19
Harvest festival adults	132	111	104	115	131**
Harvest festival Children	63	45	36	36	69**
Wednesdays*	31	27	27	28	30
Regular Weekly Attendance (adults, excluding visitors)	132	103	113	103***	109

\* Netting off at least some of those who had already attended on the previous Sunday

\*\* Air Cadets visit to Harvest Festival increased numbers artificially this year

\*\*\* RWA as reported in 2024 was depressed by there being only one Friday Praise during that October.

Friday Praise continued at an average of around 40 adults and 40 children, with extras on special occasions and when a year group from school are invited to attend and contribute.

Numbers of baptisms declined again to 22. Three weddings were held. We conducted 10 funerals in church and 8 at the crematorium

## The Church Building and Churchyard

This year witnessed the redecoration of the St James' Mission Chapel. This work is complete other than arrival of a set of stackable chairs and stencilled signage for the door.

Handrails have been installed to allow for easier and safer access to the garden of remembrance.

Plans were put in place for restoration and repainting of the churchyard gates.

Re-pointing of the south side of the chancel was commissioned from High Level to be undertaken after the winter.

2026 will see a new Quinquennial Inspection of the church which will indicate the next set of priorities for maintenance of the church building.

The **church gardens** continue to be well maintained by Steve Johnson with additional occasional work by volunteers. The remainder of the churchyard is maintained by Hyndburn Borough Council.

## **Children, schools and Young People**

Our monthly Tots' Praise, fortnightly Friday Praise and monthly Sunday morning Family Services have continued to offer age appropriate worship. Sunday School has continued to meet most weeks other than Second Sundays, and has moved from school into the St James' Mission Chapel.

The Friday evening youth club continues to be popular, primarily with children in year 6 but also some in years 7 and 8.

We have also continued to link with our **uniformed groups** and to welcome them to regular church parade services.

We instigated a new pattern of Communion before Confirmation and our first group prepared during Lent and were admitted to Holy Communion on Easter Day. It was agreed not to hold a confirmation service in 2025 as part of this change.

We continue to develop our partnerships with All Saints' School, including through year groups attending Wednesday communion and Friday Praise as well as collaborating on Education Sunday and the Christingle forest nativity. Members of the church serve on the governing board.

We engage in the life of all the local primary schools through monthly visits by the benefice Open the Book team. The vicar is part of the chaplaincy team at St Christopher's High School.

## **Pastoral Care**

The pastoral team continued to provide visits to frail and elderly members of the congregation and to visit our local care homes, coordinated by our ALM Pam Holderness. Members of the pastoral team also support our Purple Praise service and our community lunch on Fridays.

## **Social, fellowship and fundraising activities**

The monthly community lunch continues to be much valued, with around 25 attending.

We marked the 185<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the church with a special All Saintside Weekend. St Christopher's School jazz band and choir gave a brilliant concert on the Friday evening followed by an autumn fair in the school hall on the Saturday. Thee grand raffle made a significant contribution to fundraising.

The Big Quiz in aid of Tearfund was again enjoyed by many as well as raising some funds for a valuable Christian charity.

Men's and women's meals also took place.

## **Prayer and discipleship**

The Lent course was again held in church and well supported, using the video resources prepared by the bishop. As mentioned above people also benefitted from the 321 course in July.

Opportunities for prayer were provided as part of the Diocesan year of prayer for church and renewal, particularly monthly Thursday evening prayer times.

## **Deanery Synod**

The Accrington Deanery Synod met three times in 2025, beginning at All Saints Church in January for a diocesan-led session exploring the key themes of Vision 2026 and introducing the new Vision, due to launch in November 2026. In May, an Ascension Day service and the AGM with annual elections were held at St Andrew's, Accrington. We concluded in September at St Peter's, Haslingden, with an open meeting. A useful brainstorming session took place on how each parish might contribute to the 2026 Diocesan Centenary Mission Weekend. Members shared ideas and previous outreach experiences that could be incorporated into the mission weekend by each individual church.

## **Benefice and ecumenical relationships**

We have continued to work together with our sister church of Altham St James, with the main focus being the move to Communion before Confirmation. All Saints' was able to offer assistance with Altham PCC registering with the Charity Commission.

Relationships with Clayton Baptist Church continued through the Food Bank as well as prayer walks and meetings. Wider ecumenical relationships at present are limited.

## **Safeguarding**

The PCC has had due regard to House of Bishops guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults. ***Please see the safeguarding report attached below.***

## **Finance**

***Please see the financial review which is printed immediately before the accounts later in this document.***

## **Administrative information**

All Saints' Church is situated in Church Street, Clayton-le-Moors. The parish forms part of the united benefice of Altham with Clayton-le-Moors within the Diocese of Blackburn.

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of All Saints Clayton-le-Moors (PCC) is a charity registered with the Charity Commission: registration number 1210325.

PCC Members who have served from 1 January 2025 until the date of this report was approved are:

Incumbent: PCC Chair  
Assistant Curate

The Revd. Toby Webber  
The Revd Victor Sohail (to March 2026)

Churchwardens:

Mrs Linda Vine (also PCC Vice Chair from June 2025)  
Mr David Clarke (PCC Vice Chair) (until May 2025)  
Mr Andrew McMinn (from May 2025)

Deanery Synod Representatives:

Mrs Sarah McMinn  
Mr Andrew McMinn  
Mr John Blysniuk

Elected Members:

Mrs Linda Bracewell (PCC Treasurer)  
Mrs Alex Charnley  
Mrs Louise Cousins  
Mr David Clarke  
Mrs Adele Helm (to May 2025)  
Mrs Elaine Lockwood  
Mrs Claire Pearson  
Mrs Paulette Smith  
Mrs Julie Blysniuk  
Mr Michael Sudders  
Miss Catherine Corbett (to Sept 2025)  
Mr Jerard Knott (PCC Secretary)  
Mr George Lever  
Mrs Alexis Cregg (from May 2025)  
Mr John Massey (co-opted May, filled casual vacancy Oct)

### **Structure, governance and management**

The Parochial Church Council is a corporate body established by the Church of England. The PCC operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure. The PCC is now registered with the Charity Commission (having previously been excepted from registration). The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. All Church attendees are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and to stand for election to the PCC.

The committee structure was reviewed in May and from then has been as follows:

### **Standing Committee, Finance and General Purposes**

When acting as the finance group this is chaired by Linda Bracewell and the committee includes the Vicar, Churchwardens, Jerard Knott, John Blysniuk, Sarah McMinn and Paulette Smith. When acting as the standing committee it is chaired by the vicar.

### **Buildings, Health and Safety Committee**

This is chaired by Sarah McMinn and the committee includes Vicar, Wardens, Linda Bracewell, Alex Charnley, George Lever.

## **Safeguarding**

This is chaired by John Massey and the committee includes the vicar and churchwardens, John Blysniuk and Elaine Lockwood.

## **Mission, Vision and Communications Committee**

This is chaired by Julie Blysniuk and the committee includes the Vicar, Wardens, Elaine Lockwood, John Blysniuk and Sarah McMinn. During the year the Revd Victor Sohail and Catherine Corbett also served.

## **Social and Fundraising Committee**

This is chaired by Andrew McMinn and the committee includes Vicar, Wardens, Elaine Lockwood, Adele Helm, Barbara Anderson, Louise Cousins, Michael Sudders and Sarah McMinn.

# **SAFEGUARDING REPORT**

*Prepared by John Massey – Parish Safeguarding Officer*

## Parochial Church Council Duty

*At Clayton-le-Moors, All Saints church, we recognise that the few who are determined to harm children or adults, deliberately seek out groups or organisations where they can meet children or other vulnerable people. The Church is particularly vulnerable to these people. Creating and maintaining a safeguarding culture will discourage them from becoming involved for the wrong reasons and make it difficult for them to harm or abuse children or adults if they do.*

Safeguarding remains a central and essential responsibility in the life of our parish. The PCC confirms compliance with the House of Bishops' safeguarding code of practice.

Our PCC has:

### Appointed

- An appropriately experienced designated Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO), John Massey, together with a Lead Recruiter (LR), June Lord to work with the incumbent and the PCC. They have undertaken the appropriate training and have a copy of the Parish Safeguarding Policy and procedures.
- The LR co-ordinates the recruitment, selection, DBS administration and training for all church officers who work with children and vulnerable adults.

## Safer Recruit, Support and Train

The PSO and LR have been trained in Safer Recruitment and

- have established processes that are applied to the recruitment of volunteers and paid appointments.
- Programmes of training and refresher training are available for all Church Officers ensuring that their training remains current, including computer based and face-to-face sessions. In 2025 we had 47 who have up-to-date training.

- All PCC members have undergone Domestic Abuse training in the last 3 years.
- DBS clearance for church officers is up to date

#### Display

- The church has a dedicated noticeboard displaying the statutory notices, together with tear-off phone number tabs for victims of domestic abuse in the toilet and the nave.
- The church website has a safeguarding link with relevant contact details.
- A formal statement of adoption of the House of Bishops' "Promoting a safer church, safeguarding policy statement" is signed on behalf of the PCC and displayed on the Safeguarding noticeboard."

#### Review and reporting progress

- Safeguarding is a standing agenda item at all PCC meetings, which are held bi-monthly.
- The Parish Dashboard and Hub are maintained and up to date, with action plans submitted to each PCC meeting
- The PCC has established a Safeguarding Working Group
- There have not been any safeguarding incidents to report in 2025.

In conclusion, Safeguarding continues to be an integral part of parish life.

John Massey - PSO;

June Lord - Lead Recruiter

### **Financial Review**

*Prepared by Linda Bracewell, PCC Treasurer*

I am writing on behalf of the PCC acting as treasurer in my eighth year of office. My role as treasurer is not only to provide an accurate account of the finances of church, reviewed by independent examination, but also to actively contribute to the leadership of the PCC to deliver All Saints' Church mission and vision.

Throughout 2025 our 5-year financial plan for 2022-2026 has continued. This plan aims to work towards financial sustainability and address building priorities described in the Quinquennial Report of 2021 for our grade 2 listed building at All Saints. The PCC have continued maintenance works, including £1,476 for continuing works around water ingress, £284 to improve lighting at the entrance to church and £1,820 for iron handrails for safer access to our garden of remembrance, matching those which boundary the steps into church. Our work on the St. James Mission Chapel has progressed well in 2025, £5,060.48 has been spent on redecoration and a new carpet creating a welcoming, independently

heated space used for children during services, as a side chapel and a small meeting room in winter, avoiding heating the whole church.

**The PCC described four financial objectives for our church in 2025:**

1. To pay our Parish Share in full and in year.
2. To continue to donate 10% of our regular giving and offertory plate to charity.

During 2025 we donated a total of £6,000 to the following charities;

Clayton Baptist Foodbank	£1,000
All Saints Primary School	£1,000
Bishops Harvest Appeal	£1,000
Ronald Macdonald House	£1,000
Mary's Meals	£1,000
Church Mission Society	£1,000

3. To achieve financial balance between income and expenditure in year
4. To invest £10,000 in year towards addressing priorities of the quinquennial report from our building fund.

The PCC agreed that any shortfall in (3) would be drawn from (4) reducing our building spend.

In 2025 our church running costs continued to be carefully managed and routine building maintenance completed.

Day to day church financial obligations were met in full and in year, including payment of our Parish Share in full.

**In summary our general funds of income vs expenditure showed a shortfall of £3,741.**

In 2025, 74% of all giving was received directly into our bank account by standing order, BACS or contactless. Our regular giving, slightly down from 2024, is broadly static at pre Covid levels. Adjusting for inflation this leaves us around 20% down in real terms.

Day to day costs have risen significantly, particularly our utilities, as a valuable 3-year contract for gas came to an end and electricity costs continued to rise. **The continued uncertainty of world financial markets, and inflationary increases, will require a very cautious approach to budgeting for 2026.**

As our congregation experience the same, financial pressures and uncertainty, it is unrealistic to rely on increased giving to make up the shortfall and we must look to alternative ways to fundraise and continue with an efficient approach to all our costs.

Generosity of giving from our congregation has also seen our Wednesday morning coffee group give £450 to a range of charities, a coffee morning raised £205 for Macmillan and a very enjoyable “Big Quiz Night” £627 raised for Tearfund.

Our Investment Funds have generated dividends of £3,240, along with interest of £1,319 on our building fund deposit account, a significant contribution to our day-to-day costs. All funds have been used in accordance with any endowment restrictions, where applicable.

In 2025 All Saints Church was a beneficiary of the estate of the late Mr. Kenneth Bartram. The PCC have extended their sympathies and most sincere thanks to Ken’s family for this very significant legacy of £59,547.87. The money has been invested through the purchase of Church Investment Fund Shares whilst we prayerfully consider how the legacy could further our mission and vision as the Parish Church of Clayton-le Moors.

**The generosity of individuals through prayerful regular giving, donating in memory of loved ones or towards our building projects is very welcome and essential if we are to continue to grow as a church community and keep our building warm, dry and in good order.**

***“Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.” 2 Corinthians 9:7***

## **Reserves Policy**

In reviewing its reserves policy the PCC noted that;

- Annual income remains a little over £100,000
- In 2025 All Saints Church was a beneficiary of the estate of the late Mr. Kenneth Bartram, a very significant legacy of £59,547.87. The money has been invested through the purchase of Church Investment Fund Shares whilst we prayerfully consider how the legacy could further our mission and vision as the Parish Church of Clayton-le Moors.
- Our church building has continued to be well maintained through 2025. Our next quinquennial report is scheduled for summer 2026.
- We aim to have three months running costs in cash reserves in case of a major problem, equating to £21k.

- We have a designated building reserve of £46,931 with the intention of expending approx. £10k per annum to facilitate building work.
- We also hold unrestricted reserves of approximately £108,000(including the Kenneth Bartram Fund described above)

The PCC affirmed the following principles;

- The bible calls us to good stewardship of the resources God has given us, including our stewardship of a Grade II church building which has both known and unknown vulnerabilities
- The bible calls on us not to hoard money but to put it to work for the sake of the kingdom
- Good stewardship requires a sensible but not excessive level of free reserves.

**The PCC resolved to adopt the following reserves policy**

- **To retain the equivalent of three months' income as cash reserves**
- **To retain sufficient cash funds to execute works against a prioritised plan from the next quinquennium, in summer 2026**
- **To retain a maximum of £100,000 in longer term reserves towards future building work and to ensure we are able to cover our requirements in years in which undesignated payments exceed receipts, @£4,000 in 2025**
- **To invest in equity-based investments through the Church Investment Fund and in cash deposits through the Church Deposit Fund and Nat West business deposit account.**

This policy is reviewed annually.

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on 14<sup>th</sup> May 2026 and signed on its behalf by the Revd Toby Webber, Chairman

