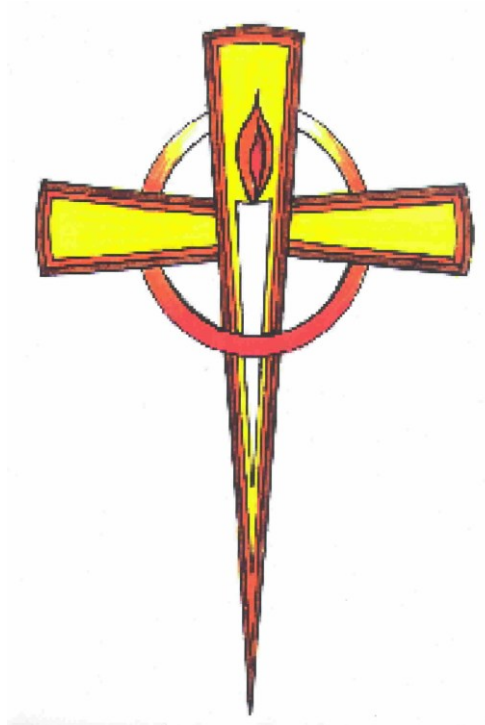


**THE PARISH OF CHRIST CHURCH WALMERSLEY  
IN THE UNITED BENEFICE OF WALMERSLEY ROAD**

IN THE DEANERY OF BURY & ROSSENDALE  
AND THE DIOCESE OF MANCHESTER



**ANNUAL REPORT 2025/26 & FINANCIAL STATEMENT  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER 2025**

The Parish of Christ Church, Walmersley, Bury – Annual Report of the Parochial Church Council for the year ended 26 April 2026

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is a charity excepted from registration with the charity Commission.

Vicar	Revd Harvie Nicol
Lay Chair	Canon Barbara C Taylor
Reader	Mr Ian Banks
Reader Emeritus	Mrs Margery Spencer

Church Wardens	Mrs Jennifer Wood Mr Jason Edwards
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**PCC Members who have served during the period of this report are:**

Lay Chairman	Canon Barbara C Taylor
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Treasurer	Canon Barbara C Taylor
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Minutes Secretary	Mrs H J Bamford
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Representatives Deanery Synod	Canon Catherine R Hilton <i>vacant</i>
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Elected Members	Mrs Hazel J Bamford Mrs Denise Booth Mr Geoffrey Hamilton Mrs Lillian Lees Ms W C Belinda Leung Mr Geoff Stokes Mrs Patricia Stokes Miss Rosemary H Taylor <i>vacant</i>
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Diocesan Synod	Canon Barbara C Taylor Mr Alan Thew
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**Sidespersons**

Mr Paul Chan  
Mr Geoffrey Hamilton  
Miss Pamela Hoyle  
Ms Amy Paterson  
Mr Ian W Riddick  
Mrs Kathleen Whipp

**Other Officers**

Child Protection & Safeguarding co-ordinator	Canon Catherine R Hilton.
Electoral Roll Officer	Mrs Hazel J Bamford
Planned Giving & Gift Aid	Mr Robert Taylor

## **ELECTORAL ROLL REPORT**

April 2026. There are currently 61 people on the Electoral Roll.

Hazel J. Bamford

Electoral Roll Officer.

## **WARDENS REPORT 2025-2026**

Another year has passed and Harvie is still poorly, we must all keep him and Sally in our prayers.

Ian Banks has again continued doing a fantastic job of ringing around retired ministers, with the help of course of Cath Hilton and Rosemary Taylor, so that he could complete a rota to enable church services to carry on.

Thanks as always to the team that keep our church clean, the lady that cleans the brasses, the flower arrangers, the Hall cleaner, the ladies and sometimes men that do tea and coffee after the services and the garden maintenance team what would we do without you all. Doesn't the church yard look great.

Thank you to Barbara Taylor our church treasurer and for keeping the PCC in check in her role as lay chair in absence of a minister.

The Scarecrows visited us again in 2025 and the theme was sport. They will be here again in 2026 but as of yet we have no theme.

We must not forget to thank Paul, Belinda and their magnificent team for the meal that they prepared for 46 people in the church hall.

God Bless You All

Jason and Jennifer

## **REPORT OF THE PCC LAY CHAIR**

It has been an interesting year. Alternative adjectives may be 'sad', 'difficult', at times 'frustrating'. Though to put it in perspective we only need to consider our incumbent, Harvie - and our prayers have been constant for him, Sally and all their family.

As you will read elsewhere, the focus of the PCC has been the aim of growing – not just in numbers but in faith, in commitment. But the PCC is small in number, with several undertaking more than one role in our church family.

As always, as Vice or Lay Chair I am incredibly thankful for a PCC which works so well together and for their support of and patience with me. It is a little dangerous to name names, but I am incredibly grateful for the help and support of Hazel Bamford who accepted the role of Minutes Secretary but has taken on so many things more properly designated as PCC Secretary tasks.

We are grateful for the support of visiting clergy and for an immense amount of support from people, lay and ordained, in our Diocese at a time when there is little anyone can really do to make a significant difference.

Once again, a massive amount of work has been achieved by members of the congregation and some from beyond. You will read of some of this elsewhere in the reports. I dare not thank individuals as so much goes unseen. You know what you do, even if we do not, so I thank you on behalf of us all.

We all have skills and they are largely hidden in the context of church. Are you willing to use them? How could you help? (Do not fall into the trap of thinking that someone else is doing what you could – they may have been doing it for a long time and crave a change of direction.) So let us all spend time in thought and prayer, and then speak out, offer yourself as we move forward.

Please let us pray together that we in this generation can leave here in the Benefice of Walmersley Road a vibrant living witness to our Lord Jesus Christ.

Barbara C Taylor

## **PCC SECRETARY'S REPORT 2025/25**

We have had a busy year of well-attended meetings. Much has been achieved which has been reported monthly via the PCC meeting summaries in the Church magazine and repeated in many of the following reports. Much is still to be achieved and we look forward to another year of moving forward.

To access the summaries of the year's meetings visit the Church website: [www.ccwalmersleybury.org.uk](http://www.ccwalmersleybury.org.uk)

Hazel J. Bamford

### **A STATEMENT REGARDING FUTURE DEVELOPMENT**

In May it will be two years since we received monies from the sale of the field to Morris Homes. Many people, both within the Church family and from the wider community, probably expected it to be used immediately to develop our buildings but realistically this was a vain hope. In PCC we fully appreciated the process would take a number of years of discussion and consultation before any plans could be drawn up and probably several more before progress would be visible.

The members of PCC were aware that this process must involve everyone and would require strong leadership. The induction of our new incumbent was an exciting moment in time and we looked forward with great enthusiasm to working together to explore how the future of Christ Church Walmersley, and the Benefice of Walmersley Road, would look. Sadly, that has not been possible over the last 21 months. To be very clear, in the present situation we would not be allowed to spend any of the proceeds of sale. We continue to hold Harvie, Sally and their family in our prayers as we have been doing.

Meanwhile, the PCC's focus has been on growth. Growth in faith, in mission, in number and, as throughout the Diocese, the aim of 'growing younger'. It would be pointless to reach the stage of an amazing multi-purpose, superbly equipped building if by then the family of Christ here in Walmersley consisted of a small number of elderly people without the means to maintain either the mission of the church or the building which forms its focal point.

It is our hope that this statement will help us all respond with confidence to the questions we are asked by neighbours and friends.

### **FINANCIAL REVIEW 2025**

Our thanks to all who maintained their giving in 2025. Planned giving levels remained stable, increasing by just £500, whilst giving through the contactless device also increased slightly. Plate collections showed a very small fall. Thank you to all who are able to sign Gift Aid declarations, which enabled us to reclaim a total of £8,043 from HMRC in 2025.

Yet again we were able to pay the requested Parish Share of £30,335, continuing to meet each quarterly milestone so we qualify for 2% relief on the Parish Share for 2026. which is set at £32,482, based on the October returns of average weekly attendance and median average income. We have every intention of meeting this request and are paying £2,760 per month.

Proceeds from Thursday Lunches enabled donations of £793 to Church funds, various fundraising events added £598 and we are grateful for several other donations of £721. Income from Church Hall lettings has increased yet again, so our thanks to our Hall Lettings Manager but let's not forget that this does bring associated expenses.

Our major expense in 2025 was the welcome replacement of the church central heating boiler. Thankfully we were able to obtain a building grant from the Diocese (for which we were eligible as we had paid parish share in full in recent years) and this met 50% of the cost. It was only thanks to the generous bequest from Robin Fitton in 2022 that we were able to pay the other £17,539. Our usual expenditure has fallen slightly this year but some of this relates to the still ongoing issue with utilities. We are delighted to report that we have been able to move our insurance for 2026 to another recommended company, with a saving of 50%. New electricity contracts have been entered into, with relatively small financial savings but higher eco credentials.

Expenditure most months exceeds our income. Please can we each consider whether our giving has risen in line with the increasing cost of living. Ideally everyone should review their position at least annually and consider whether they are able to adjust the amount.

The monies received from the sale of the Church Field remain invested with CCLA Investment Management, and are earning a significant amount of interest (2025: £133,870), whilst we wait for the time when they can be used. We know it took over 40 years of discussion, consultation and planning before the time came to sell the land, so we can expect a significant period of the same before it is used to ensure the very best future for the Church here in Walmersley for many generations to come.

Through some very difficult years, not least 2025, we have held to a vision of the Parish of Christ Church Walmersley moving forward as a living, vibrant, enthusiastic, growing body of Christians, with a mission to spread God's love throughout our community. That will need each and every one of us committing spiritually, practically, and financially, in addition to spending as wisely as we are able.

Barbara C Taylor  
Hon Treasurer

April 2026

*The accounts may be found at the end of these reports – pages 15-20.*

## **PLANNED GIVING & GIFT AID 2025**

As at the end of the 2025, there were 41 members in the Planned Giving Scheme.

Receipts through the scheme for the twelve months to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2025 totalled £27,709, an increase of £565 over the previous year.

Of the members 32 have signed Gift Aid declarations, resulting in an estimated tax rebate claim to be made of £6,300.

I would ask any taxpayers who have not already done so to consider completing a Gift Aid declaration. Each £10 given is then worth £12.50 to the church.

Thank you to all who are members of the Planned Giving Scheme for your committed giving.

Any new members will be more than welcome! I can be contacted in church; on 0161 764 0483 or by e-mail [taylorbob36@live.co.uk](mailto:taylorbob36@live.co.uk)

Bob Taylor

Planned Giving Officer

*“Freely you have received, Freely give.”  
(St. Matthew 10 v 8)*

## **SAFEGUARDING REPORT 2026**

### **Safeguarding Action Plan**

#### **Level 3**

#### **Introduction**

The Church of England's Safeguarding Policy statement, Promoting a Safer Church, says:

*‘All Church bodies should ensure that they have a ‘Promoting a Safer Church’ action plan in place that sets out, in line with national and local priorities, how the policy is being put into action and is reviewed regularly.’*

To help parishes prioritise their safeguarding work, a Safeguarding Dashboard can produce three levels of Action Plan:

- Level 1 – Safer foundations
- Level 2 – Safer foundations and activities
- Level 3 – Safer foundations, activities and practices

## **Overall Progress**

**100% progress** has been made towards the mandatory requirements of the Church of England.

Canon Catherine Hilton

## **CAMPFIRE CHURCH**

Since launching Campfire Church in September 2025, each month has brought its own flavour, fun, and faith-filled moments as we gathered around the warmth of the fire to learn, worship, and grow together.

We kicked off the season with a celebration of thankfulness. As the fire crackled, we popped popcorn over the flames—always a favourite!—and shared moments and memories we were grateful for, writing or drawing them on 'flames'. The air was filled not only with the smell of fresh popcorn but with the sound of laughter and heartfelt reflections.

In October, we explored the parable of the Sower. Everyone got hands-on with seed planting, connecting the story to our own lives as we thought about the kind of soil we offer for God's word. Meanwhile, dough was rolled, shaped, and placed to cook over the glowing embers. There's nothing quite like bread baked on a campfire—and it tasted even better shared together!

As the days grew darker, our November theme "Being the Light" felt especially meaningful. Despite the rain which put off some regulars, children and adults alike enjoyed decorating biscuits with bright, colourful icing, each fire-shaped biscuit a reminder of how we can shine God's love into the world. The creativity (and sugar!) flowed freely.

In December we dressed up as shepherds and angels as we retold the nativity story. A host of heavenly angels appeared amongst the starry sky in the craft activity and as a special treat we had hot chocolate and smores around the campfire as we sang and celebrated the birth of Jesus.

2026 has seen us meeting regularly on the 4th Tuesday of each month. So far we have had floods, storms and donkeys. Campfire Church continues to be a place of warmth, community, and discovery. We look forward to many more gatherings where faith and fun meet around the fire!

Rosemary H Taylor and Catherine Hilton

## **CHURCH FLOWERS**

Since the last APCM there have been 41 Sundays with donations for flowers on 24 occasions. If anyone would like to donate in memory of someone or in celebration of a special event it would be most welcome.

At the moment we have just four flower arrangers! Please consider, are you able to give an hour each month to help out?

## **CHURCH CLEANING**

The Cleaning Team meet on the last Thursday of each month to clean and tidy the Church. The tasks include dusting, sweeping, mopping and generally making the Church look its best while enjoying working together in good company. More volunteers would be very welcome!

## **CHURCH HALL**

The church hall, kitchen, toilets and the outside doors were all decorated last year but there are still some areas to finish. Hope they all look better.

The lighting in the hall was all changed to LED lighting.

The gent's toilet roof was repaired due to leaking and the next job is going to be a refurbishment of the gent's toilet themselves. They are in a sorry state. We are in the process of getting estimates.

We have 10 double glazed window panels in the hall replaced due to the seal failing.

Groups in the hall are Art groups x2, Baby group, Rainbows, Brownies, Guides and Rangers. Dog training group x2, Zumba, Aikido, Mothers' Union, Thursday lunches, Slimming World, Coffee mornings, Sunday at Seven and Birthday Parties.

Belinda and Paul and their magnificent team prepared and served to 46 church members a fantastic Lunar New Year celebration, the year of the horse, the hall was beautifully set out.

Last year we had a Wedding Reception in the hall, the couple got married in Ramsbottom but came to us for the party afterwards. Hope you had a chance to see how they decorated the Hall.

The bottom room in the hall has been cleared out, a skip was arranged and a team set to work and cleared out all the rubbish that has accumulated.

The Church Hall Committee

## **COMMUNICATIONS REPORT TO THE APCM 2026**

We know that the banners displayed in the churchyard and fliers delivered to houses in the parish have more impact than many other forms of sharing information. However, personal invitation remains by far the most effective way of encouraging people to join us, whether for social events or worship.

Within our comfort zones, we each need to do our best to spread the word that Christ Church is here, welcoming all and wishing "to know, grow and show the love of God".

We are also helped in the following ways.

### **Magazine**

120 magazines are printed each month. Over half of these are delivered. We are extremely grateful to all that Val McDermott has done to ensure they go out on time and to the number of volunteers who nobly distribute them each month.

The cost remains at £1 which would cover the cost if all copies were sold. However, the magazine is seen primarily as an outreach tool; in addition to regular attenders, it reaches and informs those who can no longer attend church due to age and infirmity and those whose attendance is often only for significant occasions but who still consider Christ Church to be their church.

The Editors (Barbara Taylor and David Robinson) welcome contributions to the magazine.

The magazine is uploaded on our websites and copies are there for you to look at from the creation of the benefice in 2010. If you have copies from earlier than this we are happy to add them to our archives, returning the original safely to you.

### **Website**

<https://ccwalmersleybury.org.uk> receives a significant number of hits. It requires time and effort to keep it updated and this is sorely lacking, so *any* help would be valuable. I would really encourage groups to take some control of individual pages by letting us have material even if not willing to tackle the IT aspect.

## **ACNY**

A Church Near You is the Church of England's church-finder tool. This enables anyone to locate their parish church by simply entering their postcode, which can be useful for weddings, christenings and other special life events; or to find a church that provides a particular service such as children's groups, specific styles of worship or community action work. It is the 'go to' site for most people.

On special occasions especially it provides thousands of results for people. In the past 12 months there have been over 10,000 'hits' on our page. As always, to keep it up to date requires time and some duplication but it does have an extremely wide audience.

## **Social Media**

We attempt to reach a different demographic beyond our walls by using various social media accounts, which currently have only small followings (see below) so there is lots of scope to build these. However, this also takes time so again help would be valuable and enable us to increase our audience – more activity and more interesting posts equals more engagement.

Check us out on Facebook as Christ Church Walmersley (232 followers (211 in 2024)) and Instagram (70 followers (58 in 2024)) as CofE Walmersley (being a joint benefice account) and importantly please share posts where appropriate in other community groups of which you are a member. During the year, like most charities, we ceased to use X (formerly Twitter) although posts are still automatically made from St John with St Mark's website.

## **YouTube**

We do also have a little used CofE Walmersley YouTube channel. Ideas for ways we could beneficially use this as we move forward are very welcome.

## **GROUNDWORKS TEAM**

Here are some of the major jobs we have done in the past two years.

1. Lych gates have been repaired and installed back on the lych gate. Woodwork has been treated and gold paint has been put on the inscription.
2. Altering the path in the garden of remembrance so that more spaces for burial of ashes.
3. Laying new concrete flags on the path from church to church hall and lower graveyard.
4. Removing broken concrete flags in the church hall car park and replacing with concrete.
5. Installing new down spout on church hall.

We also do lots of other jobs:- Grass cutting, graveyard and field weeding, strimming, gutter cleaning, Christmas lights and many more.

This is all done in two hours from 10am – 12noon on Thursday mornings by, at most, six volunteers who are well past their prime but enjoy each other's company. It is great when we achieve jobs, so let's make the church, church hall, field and graveyard the pride of the village and welcoming to all.

Geoff Hamilton

## **OUTREACH**

The very successful community lunch continues on the third Thursday and is a great example of how people are willing to join in, if something happens consistently and is well advertised.

The Scarecrow Festival again involved community groups as well as church ones. People have already asked if there is to be one this year – yes there is, so please give it some thought.

The Christmas Tree Festival was better than ever, with a number of trees inviting a response from those who came to view, whilst quizzes and refreshments are always well received. #4 will be held later this year so why not plan ahead?

Opportunities to come together, whether over hot cross buns between services on Easter Day, at a Harvest Lunch, or the amazing Lunar New Year Celebrations all help us in our aims.

We need more sustainable ideas, which become part of our annual calendar as well as one-off events. Please get involved and make your church known as a church welcoming to all. We also need, if this could be one of your strengths, people willing to promote, feedback, record – and our thanks as a PCC to those who do this.

This is a PCC committee with a will to co-ordinate the ideas of others, to try to avoid clashes, to help promote events. The PCC's existence is not to run everything in the parish! Its aim (and like all PCC committees it has the ability to co-opt others) is to focus on ways to help our church family grow closer and stronger, to strengthen relationships, and to develop links with the people in our communities. In so doing we embrace the diocesan focus of “growing, nurturing, serving”.

Rosemary H Taylor

## **PASTORAL COMMITTEE**

The committee aims to follow up when members of the congregation have been missing and to ensure that those who are ill are not forgotten, offering home communion when appropriate.

At Harvest gifts of biscuits were distributed with a card to people in the parish, whilst Porch and Tearfund provided a focus locally and worldwide.

Visits were made to the Priory at Easter, Harvest and Christmas as well as a Summer Praise. Some of the group were also able to accept an invitation to a BBQ Open event in July. These are well received not only by residents and their families but by a significant proportion of the staff. Thank you to all who come along to provide readings and music.

Our link with Springside School remains strong, with school holding services in church at Easter, Y6 Leavers, Harvest and Christmas. It is wonderful that each time there are around 100 adults (relatives, carers and congregation) there to support the children, so thank you. The Baldingstone Fund again provided a pen for each leaver with the message "For who is God, but the Lord?" (2 Samuel 22:32) chosen by the Vicar.

Easter and Christmas cards have again been distributed to a significant part of the parish. Thank you to all involved in the outreach, which we know to be effective.

We are mindful that one aspect of our focus is to continue to keep our ministry to young people under review. Currently there are very few children and young people in church regularly.

## **THE GATHERING – A VIBRANT AND WELCOMING COMMUNITY**

The Gathering continues to thrive as a warm, engaging, and spiritually enriching space for all who take part. Meeting weekly on Zoom, the group provides an opportunity to reflect together on the message from the previous Sunday. These discussions are lively, thoughtful, and encouraging, offering fresh perspectives and meaningful connections.

Alongside these reflections, the group has also explored key passages and teachings, including Proverbs, the Sermon on the Mount, and the Ten Commandments. These studies have sparked insightful conversations and deepened understanding, helping participants apply timeless wisdom to everyday life.

In addition to online meetings, the Gathering enjoys the value of in-person connection through the Thursday Lunch. These face-to-face moments strengthen relationships and bring a sense of fellowship that complements the weekly discussions.

Open to all, The Gathering remains an inclusive and welcoming community. Whether joining online or in person, everyone is invited to take part, share, listen, and grow together.

## **BURY & ROSSENDALE DEANERY SYNOD**

Meetings in 2025 were largely determined by direction from the Bishops' Leadership Team.

**January** - (in St John's House) Bishop Matthew and COO Helen Platts met each deanery synod to discuss "Energising the Diocesan Strategy".

**February** – B & R led the way in planning a "Growing Younger" conference, an idea now being followed by other deaneries. It proved to be an interesting morning, held at Bury Church High School, sharing ideas which have worked elsewhere, in groups led by diocesan staff and members of churches within the deanery.

**May** (St Mary, Hawkshaw) – The Revd Phil Cansdale, Director of Mission and Ministry, led a lively discussion through an exploration of the passage from Ezekiel 37: 1-14 commonly referred to as the valley of dry bones. In bite size chunks we read the passage and discussed several questions posed by Phil, including:

- In our churches and the areas we serve, where are the places or situations where it feels like we are in a dry valley at the present time?
- Where is God's breath coming from in our localities?
- What might things look like for us as our local churches speak life into dry places; what signs of hope or new life are already emerging?

**September** (St Margaret's, Prestwich) – we had been asked to invite the Revd Canon Anne Edwards, Bishop David's senior chaplain, to speak about Clergy and Lay Wellbeing. Her presentation is available for anyone who would like to know more. She hoped this would be included on PCC agendas and a covenant adopted by PCCs.

**November** (St Mary, Rawtenstall) – Abbey Clephane–Wilson is the Diocesan Safeguarding Officer and again this was a result of a directive. Abbey spoke about her role and the responsibilities of individual churches to create safe environments to protect, prevent and respond to all vulnerable individuals; highlighting the need for training, clear procedures and safe recruitment in our churches. Her presentation is available.

All meetings provide an opportunity to meet people from other churches, and there are updates on eco church, parish share payments, 'what's on', etc.

If you would like to know more about Deanery Synod Alan Thew and Barbara Taylor are members automatically as elected members of the Diocesan Synod. Catherine Hilton is a Christ Church representative. We have two places and 2026 is the year for election to Deanery Synod – is this a way you could serve?

Barbara C Taylor

## **BURY MISSION COMMUNITY 2025**

The Bury Mission Community has continued to hold a regular pattern of quarterly meetings, usually on the last Monday and these meetings form our focus of the events we planned to share together in 2025. Most worship centres have either agreed to host one of these meetings or to provide a venue for an event.

On the worship front, we once again had a shared Easter Eve Vigil service at St. Mary the Virgin, where representatives were invited to read or present a Paschal candle. On September 21st, Bishop Matthew of Bolton confirmed several members of the Mission Community including Amy and Connie from our Benefice. This service was well attended and took place at Christ Church Walmersley.

There was an outdoor community outreach event in the Summer in which some members of the Elton Churches and St. Mary the Virgin got together for a litter picking day around the Ainsworth Road area. Although not involving our Parishes, the photographs from the day showed a lot of effort and time had gone into making the day a success. Another event which took place in September was an opportunity to find out a little more about Mothers' Union with guest speaker Dr. Gill Smallwood MBE. This was at Woodbank Cricket Club.

The main social event of the year was our TearFund quiz which was held at St. John with St. Mark on 19th September. It was an enjoyable evening with food and fellowship and raised £253 for TearFund. Our Benefice came second, but congratulations to all who participated and to anyone who helped in the kitchen. The Bury

Mission Community were also invited to coffee mornings at venues including St. John Bircle and St. Thomas throughout the year.

It was particularly evident that the Mission Community worked well to support Churches with cover to ensure that regular patterns of worship could continue during a challenging year, and we offer our thanks to all those, Lay and Ordained.

David Robinson

## **CHURCHES TOGETHER IN BURY**

The Churches Together in Bury group continued to meet bi-monthly throughout 2025 at various church buildings in the area. The July meeting however was held on a lovely summer evening at The Green Café in Clarence Park. The group discussed many topics and were involved in several ideas to encourage and promote the unity of different Christian traditions throughout Bury.

The Good Friday Walk of Witness was again held through Bury town centre and shared the story of Easter with shoppers and members of the public in drama, readings and song. The town centre was also the setting for Carol singing in the Mill Gate on 7th December.

One of the biggest forms of outreach this year was the Prayer in the Park event held at Clarence Park in June. This was an opportunity for people of different traditions to come together for just one hour to worship God and pray for the town, community, schools, businesses and much more. A few members of our Benefice attended this event and found it a worthwhile opportunity to pray and worship with people they may not have met before.

Another big project was the toy appeal to support local families at Christmas time. The appeal ran for most of the second half of the year and took extensive planning. However, thanks to the generosity of those involved the appeal was able to help around 130 families and also a children's hospice in Chorley. The support provided included the organisation of the toys and packing at Seedfield Methodist Church. Thank you to all across the Benefice who donated gifts of toys for the appeal.

Throughout the year there were regular updates from Christians Against Poverty project and Street Pastors, including a volunteer for a new debt coach and also Street Pastors themselves. A Bible Society annual celebration was held at Bury URC in September and the guest speaker was the Anglican Bishop of Bolton, Matthew Porter. Churches Together in Bury also holds a monthly prayer meeting over Zoom on a Friday evening.

As a Benefice we try to ensure that as much information regarding Churches Together activities are included in our magazine and notice sheets and also pray for a different Church each week as part of the prayer cycle.

David Robinson

## **MUSLIM CHRISTIAN FORUM**

This last year the M.C.F. committee has spent a great deal of time writing their Safeguarding Policy and updating their Constitution. This resulted in us having only two meetings which any person interested may attend.

The first meeting was comparing and exploring the traditions of Marriage in Islam and Christianity.

Our last meeting was a shared Iftar meal at Noor UI Islam Mosque. (Iftar is the name given to the breaking of the day's fast at Sunset during Ramadan.)

We talked about Fasting. Ian Banks from St John's with St Mark's church shared what Lent means to Christians and Imam Hassanat Ahmed from Noor UI Islam Mosque shared what Ramadan means to Muslims. At sunset we broke the day's fast with a meal, getting to know each other and establishing stronger links between our two communities.

Gillian Smith

## **25TH BURY (CHRIST CHURCH) GUIDES**

2025 has been another action packed year for the guides. We have taken on various challenges, including Up In The Air and Environment. We presented 2 Gold Awards to Vicky and Lucy, before they moved up to Rangers.

We did not camp under canvas this year, but did take part in tree climbing, problem solving, archery, crate challenge and zip wire at Outdoor Elements centre. 8 guides made their promise whilst zipping through the air or up a stack of crates.

We did some community service, litter picking and clearing leaves off the paths at Clarence Park.

We finished the year with a Christmas residential at Springfield Park. The theme was pretty obvious and we baked gingerbread, made table decorations, created wrapping paper and had a full Christmas dinner.

We have been active in Church life, attending Church Parade being involved in sketches, prayers and readings, joining in the Christingle service, displaying a tree climber scarecrow, Remembrance poppies and a Christmas tree tree!

We look forward to continuing to thrive and look forward to more adventures to come.

Rosemary H Taylor

## **BURY DIVISION RANGERS**

Bury Division Ranger unit has had its first full year since reopening and has doubled in number, with guides from CCW moving up.

They have been planning their own programme and there has been plenty of food involved. Chocolate brownies are a firm favourite and they appreciate the new oven in the kitchen!

They have earned badges for completing outdoor and camp themed activities and this cumulated in attending Mersey Moot 50th anniversary camp. This is a large scale camp for Rangers and Ventures and held in Merseyside. It was the WETTEST camp on record ever!!!!!! The leaders have never camped in anything like it in 30 years. To say we had to literally pour water out of the tents when striking is not an exaggeration!

Despite the weather, the Rangers continued with plenty of activities including clay pigeon shooting, crafts and inflatables, and even the torrential rain did not stop them heading to the live music concert dressed in tutus and fairy wings.

They want to go back so let's see what 2026 brings!

Rosemary H Taylor

## **MOTHERS' UNION**

The theme for the triennium 2025-27 is "Join Us and Join In" – are we using this to move both this branch and our movement forward?

We began the year using the Epiphany 'A Moment with God', enjoyed Lent meetings on the theme of The Prodigal Son and a Lectio Divina, explored "Thy Kingdom Come" themes, took part in the wave of prayer service, and held a holy communion service.

Visiting speakers this year have informed and entertained on topics such as: Wainwright's Walks, Quilting, Borneo's Orangutans and Rainforest Adventure, Camino de Santiago Pilgrimage, and a first-hand account of an AFIA holiday in Pwllheli.

'In house' as it were, our memories were somewhat tested with "We were so much younger then" and our MU knowledge with "Did we know that?" We celebrated 116 years as a branch with a delicious bring and share supper, and were joined by friends at Falshaw's for a summer lunch and for a Christmas meal at Park Farm. We visited the new diocesan offices in St John's House, where, after a warm welcome from staff member Judith Popay, Cath Hilton led worship in the chapel. We moved upstairs to the MU Shop, keeping Frances busy as we purchased Christmas cards, etc and then enjoyed refreshments and a chat.

We took part in the church's Scarecrow Festival – our sporting character being Likrish Allsports. Our contribution to the Christmas Tree Festival was stunning; our thanks to Peter Fish for constructing our tree (all from recycled materials) and Barbara Silvester for knitting figures of Mary, Joseph and the baby Jesus.

Members, together with a number of friends from St John with St Mark's, for a second year knitted just over 400 angels, with others sewing, adding ribbons and labels – another amazing commitment. Together with copies of the book 'Meet the Cast', 375 were given to pupils and staff at St John with St Mark's School and were really well received. Again, these were available in both churches for any children attending our Christmas services. This project was funded by an amazing Afternoon Tea, incredibly well supported and raising a fantastic £413, enabling us to also donate £200 to cover the books we received freely in 2024.

We have been represented at several events beyond our branch. Most impressive of these was undoubtedly the Commissioning of Christine Sharp (our past Diocesan President) as Provincial President, by Archbishop Stephen in York Minster, where Rosemary Taylor carried the Manchester banner. Closer to home the deanery festival at St Stephen Elton, the archdeaconry festival at St Peter Swinton, a deanery afternoon tea, and the Advent services at St Ann Manchester and at Emmanuel Church Centre; also at the two Council meetings, now so conveniently held at St John's House. We continue, in Rosemary Taylor and Catherine Hilton (now Rochdale Archdeaconry President) to have a presence on the diocesan board of trustees. With no Diocesan President to lead, the trustees are having to take a lot of responsibility – we understand how they feel!

It is not easy working without a branch leader, so huge thanks to our very hard-working committee: Claire Altham, Denise Booth, Joan Riggs, Barbara Silvester, Barbara Taylor, Bob Taylor. They value your support and are happy to embrace fresh blood.

Thank you also to those who support us. At Harvest we placed a basket in church, with a list of the items which go to make up Welcome Bags for victims of domestic abuse arriving at a refuge. The response was enormous.

We had 29 members in 2025, having admitted Belinda Leung and Jennifer Wood. Sadly, attendance at meetings is at best probably half that number. However, it is important to remember our membership is of a worldwide movement which we can support in several different ways. In 2026 Mothers' Union is celebrating 150 years since Mary Sumner first drew together a group of mothers to support each other. This will give many opportunities to raise awareness of how Mothers' Union works and witnesses – around the corner and around the world. We need to be part of that here in our little corner.

Barbara C Taylor  
Branch Secretary

## **MEN OF THE BENEFICE REPORT 2025**

The Men of the Benefice has now mainly dropped a theme for our meetings and we have become accustomed to enjoying a couple of hours in the Hark to Dandler, because this is what we like about MOB. The Hark on Walmersley Old Road has become our favoured meeting spot as it is local and comfortable, with a good choice of ales! We discuss all manner of things including local events, history, football and some Church issues thrown in for good measure.

Barry Evans did bring along some memorabilia in April for us to look at. These were framed photographs of the UK showing the many breweries which have served the country down the years. We have been served quite well with breweries here in the north of the UK.

We have met most months on the last Monday at 8.00pm and that included Bank Holidays this time. Thank you to anyone who has attended or been involved.

David Robinson

## **OPEN GROUP REPORT 2025**

The Open Group met monthly throughout most of 2025 with a variety of speakers, some familiar to us and others less so. We also had a couple of social gatherings.

We began in March when the Reverend Paul Sanderson joined us to present a tour of the North Wales Pilgrim's Way, which he had completed the previous Spring. This was an ideal talk for our Lent gathering as we had an

opportunity to hear Paul's personal reflections of the various stages of the route and what this meant to him. As usual we were treated to some fantastic photographs, which included the wildlife and scenery which Paul had encountered along the way.

I led the April meeting by talking a little bit about what my role is in Church and some of the behind the scenes work that goes on to make services happen. The focus was on the Church Liturgical year, the colours and times for changing altar frontals and when things need to be purchased.

We welcomed Glyn Heath to our meeting in May to talk about his work in human and animal prosthetics, with the focus primarily on animals. As well as the history of some of the apparatus, there were stories of the patients which Glyn had treated down the years. These included dogs, a rat and honey buzzard with a false foot. This talk was clear evidence of how much the world loves its animals and what people are willing to do for them.

In June we had a summer social, which included a quiz of the 30 most popular supermarket brands. This was interesting in that it told us what we did and didn't know about our regular shop. Also, during June, we put together our contribution for the Christ Church scarecrow festival on the theme of sport and Dennis the snooker player was created!

Nigel and Barbara Silvester presented an enjoyable evening in July entitled 'we were so much younger then'. This talk included a couple of songs for us to join in as well as memories and stories of events, music and TV shows. We also had a quiz at the end which involved us having to complete a timeline of news events from the 1950's and 1960's.

The August meeting was led by Jim Metcalf to discuss his cycling tour of South India. We were treated to interesting stories of history, culture and some of the food shared on the trip. We also saw some wonderful photographs of the various stages of Jim's journey with his friends, which included scenery and buildings.

We welcomed Ian Banks to the September meeting for a discussion on art, paintings and sculptures. The presentation allowed us to look at and interpret various styles of art before there was an opportunity for us to bring our own pieces to show to the group and explain why they meant something to us. It was felt at the end of the meeting that art is a great way of putting into words something that we cannot always find the words for.

In October Canon Ian Stamp came along to present a talk on Saints, featuring the Good, the Bad and the Ugly. After looking at some of the Saints more familiar to us we were then enlightened with stories of some of the lesser-known ones and their history. We heard about some bizarre characters and their strange, but true, backgrounds. There was also a chance at the end to find out which Saints we share our Birthdays with.

At the request of one or two regulars, we had another go at The Big Idea experiment in November, where we select random items from a bag and see what initiative we can create from the resources we have chosen. Finally in December we had our Christmas gathering during the day and met for afternoon tea, which June Banks made for us. A great way to end a varied year and thank you to all involved this year.

During 2025 we also sadly lost Betty Roe, who had been one of the group leaders for many years.

David Robinson

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF  
**CHRIST CHURCH WALMERSLEY BURY**

**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

FOR THE YEAR ENDED

**31 DECEMBER 2025**

CHRIST CHURCH WALMERSLEY PCC  
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

Receipts & Payments A/C	Unrestricted Funds		Designated Funds		Restricted Funds		Total 2025		Total 2024	
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
<b>Receipts</b>										
Planned Giving	24,805	27,709					24,805	23,303		
Electronic collections	2,904						2,904	3,881		
Open collections	510	1,682					510	265		
Income tax recovered	1,172	4,023					1,172	1,240		
Donations [see note 3a]		8,043					4,023	4,227		
Activities generating funds [see note 3b]		721					8,043	7,814		
Church activity [see note 3c]		1,498					721	3,114		
Investment income (bank interest)		22,832					1,498	1,809		
Investment income (CCLA interest)		418	133,870				534	20,948		
Unusual income (see note 7)		17,539					84	843		
			84,465	133,870	618		17,539	48,247		
								2,909,838		
								3,025,529		
<b>Payments</b>										
Diocesan Parish Share	30,335							(29,476)		
Other payments [see note 3d]	72,365				566			(47,050)		
			(102,700)							
<b>Balance - Receipts / Payments</b>										
			(18,235)	133,870	52		115,687	2,949,003		
<b>Statement of Funds</b>										
Balances at 1 January 2025	67,634		2,942,191		6,455		3,016,280	67,277		
Increase/(Decrease) in Funds	(18,235)		133,870		52		115,687	2,949,003		
<b>Balances at 31 December 2025</b>	<b>49,399</b>		<b>3,076,061</b>		<b>6,507</b>		<b>3,131,967</b>	<b>3,016,280</b>		

CHRIST CHURCH WALMERSLEY PCC  
 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

Represented by:

Cash Funds at 31 December 2025

	Unrestricted Funds		Designated Funds		Restricted Funds		Total 2025		Total 2024	
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Barclays Current Account	5,530				61		5,591		3,160	
Barclays Deposit Account 1	27,358				6,444		6,444		6,360	
Barclays Deposit Account 2	15,894		3,076,061				27,358		48,440	
CCLA	657				2		3,091,955		2,958,085	
Cash in Hand	(40)						659		235	
Key Deposits							(40)		-	
		<b>49,399</b>	<b>3,076,061</b>		<b>6,507</b>		<b>3,131,967</b>		<b>3,016,280</b>	

Assets retained for church use

- Assets recognised but not valued include:
- Church hall building;
  - Area of land remaining at rear of church buildings known as "The Church Field";
  - Mowers, trimmers and various gardening equipment;
  - DIY equipment including ladders and steps;
  - Laminator, stationery and general office items;
  - I.T. & media equipment;
  - Contactless devices;
  - Tea urns, kitchen equipment and stock of cutlery & crockery;
  - Quantity of chairs & tables.

The attached notes on pages 3-5 form part of these financial statements.

Prepared by Canon Barbara C Taylor (PCC Treasurer)

**CHRIST CHURCH WALMERSLEY PCC  
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025**

**Notes to the Accounts**

1. The financial statements of the PCC have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2011 using the Receipts & Payments basis.
2. Other than reimbursement of expenses incurred and organist fees to Mr G Stokes, there were no other payments to PCC members.

**3. Receipts & Payments Analysis**

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
a. Sundry donations	721		721	3,114
b. Activities generating funds				
Fund raising events	598			514
Thursday Lunches donations	793			1,231
Printing sales	41			34
Tea and coffee after services	66			30
	1,498		1,498	1,809
c. Church Activity Receipts				
Fees	4,392			3,633
Church Hall room hire	17,065			15,335
Hire of church for filming	150			-
Magazine sales	680			901
Flowers	-	534		599
Miscellaneous income	225			-
Contribution to church heating	320			480
	22,832	534	23,366	20,948
d. Church Activity Payments				
Insurance	9,086			8,794
Utilities	9,022			11,684
Administration	13			200
Costs to deduct from fee income	1,120			1,100
Costs of contactless device	25			30
Hall cleaning	2,051			2,145
Clergy expenses (incl housing)	2,753			1,808
Magazine printing costs	1,213			1,299
Other printing costs	448			308
Printer leasing	1,046			1,046
Organist fees	1,800			2,120
Worship resources	987			1,126
Mission costs	553			380
Flowers	-	566		541
Fundraising expenses	8			59
Expenses for Thursday Lunches	-			514
Church building [note 4]	31,951			3,195
Church Hall building [note 5]	4,439			4,251
Church Grounds (note 6)	5,850			3,480
Miscellaneous expenditure	-			2,970
	72,365	566	72,931	47,050



CHRIST CHURCH WALMERSLEY PCC  
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

Individual Funds

	Balance b/f	£	Unrestricted income Unrestricted expenditure	£	£
<b>Unrestricted Church</b>		67,634		84,465	49,399
				(102,700)	
				<u>Balance c/f</u>	
<b>Designated Future Development Fund</b>		2,942,191	Plus interest	133,870	3,076,061
<b>Restricted</b>					
Choir	Balance b/f	364	Plus interest	5	369
Lychgate	Balance b/f	648	Plus interest	8	656
Disabled Access	Balance b/f	1,553	Plus interest	20	1,573
Repairs / Renovation	Balance b/f	2,698	Plus interest	35	2,733
Church Flowers	Balance b/f	811	Plus donations interest	535	
			Less purchases	10	
				(566)	790
Altar Linen	Balance b/f	381	Plus interest	5	386
		6,455			6,507
<b>Total Balances</b>		<u>3,016,280</u>			<u>3,131,967</u>

[Bank interest on Deposit account 1 is allocated to all monies held in Restricted Funds but does not show above if the amount is less than £1]  
[Bank interest on Deposit account 2 is allocated to General (Unrestricted) Funds]  
[CCLA interest is allocated to the Designated fund for Future Development]

**Christ Church Walmersley, Bury**

**Minutes of APCM Meeting**

**Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> May 2025 at 9.45am**

There were 23 members of the church present in church.

The meeting was opened by the Lay Chair, the names of the parishioners who had died over the previous year were read out and prayers were then said.

**Apologies for Absence:** Alan Thew, Don Altham

**Minutes of the APCM held 14<sup>th</sup> April 2024:** These were printed and distributed to the attendees by the secretary and approved as a true and correct record. Proposed Denise Booth, seconded Tricia Stokes, all were in favour.

**Matters arising:** None

**Treasurers report and Presentation of Accounts:** The treasurer's report and the unaudited finance report were included in the APCM report. The Treasurer noted that the church was currently running at a loss. Everyone was made aware that the capital money invested for the sale of the field was ringfenced for future work on the church buildings.

**Presentation of the Electoral Roll Report:** The Electoral roll report was printed in the APCM report and there were 60 persons on the Electoral roll when it closed.

The electoral roll is a public document and you need to be on the electoral roll to vote at the APCM.

**PCC Secretary's Report:** This was presented as written and is included in the annual 2024/2025 report circulated at the meeting.

**Warden's Report:** This was presented as written and is included in the annual 2024/2025 report circulated at the meeting.

**Elections:** It was noted that there were 3 vacancies for the PCC. Two were filled by Geoff Stokes and Rosemary Taylor, as there were no more nominations they were duly elected. There was also one vacancy for the deanery synod but no nominations.

**Election of Wardens:** Jennifer Wood and Jason Edwards had been proposed and seconded as wardens. There being no further nominations they were duly elected; all were in favour.

**Ratification of the Child Protection Policy:** The policy had been approved by the PCC on the 14<sup>th</sup> April 2025 and is included in the Annual Report. The policy was proposed for acceptance by Rosemary Taylor and seconded by Jennifer Wood; all were in favour.

**AOB:** Barbara Silvester spoke, and was concerned that unless more people came to worship in the next 5 years the church would not be here as the congregation was an ageing population. Comments were made regarding bringing young people into church and the possible use of the Baldingstone trust fund to achieve this (*The trust is specific about how the money can be used*) There was a concern that the focus of comments was on the PCC but it was made clear that everyone had a responsibility for bringing people into church. It was also noted that there were many resources and people with skills in the Diocese to further this effort. The lay chair noted that a youth leader has been appointed in the diocese. Geoff Hamilton was concerned that we were not moving forward "in his words like being in an interregnum where no decisions are made." The lay chair made the comment that all the points made by individuals were noted.

The lay chair thanked the secretary who was retiring for all the work he had done over the previous years. This was seconded by several people attending the meeting.

**Ian Riddick**  
**PCC Secretary**

**CHRIST CHURCH WALMERSLEY  
IN THE UNITED BENEFICE OF WALMERSLEY ROAD**

**AGENDA FOR  
A MEETING OF THE PARISHIONERS FOR THE ELECTION OF CHURCHWARDENS  
FOLLOWED BY THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING**

**26<sup>th</sup> April 2026**

**9.45am in Church**

1. Welcome and opening prayers.
2. Apologies.
3. Election of Wardens.
4. Minutes of the 2025 APCM (Written report)
5. Treasurer's report (Written) and presentation of accounts.
6. Electoral Roll (Written report).
7. PCC Secretary's Report (Written report).
8. Wardens Report (Written report).
9. Election of Deanery Synod members.
10. Election of Parochial Church Council Members.
11. Lay Chair Remarks.
12. Any Other Business.
13. Closing Prayers.

Afterwards there will be a brief meeting of the PCC.