

PARISH OF ST. PETER'S HALLIWELL

'Transforming Bolton Together in Jesus' Name'



ANNUAL REVIEW 2022



*'Those who hope in the Lord
will renew their strength.
They will soar on wings like eagles;
they will run and not grow weary,
they will walk and not be faint*

Isaiah 40:31



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Revd. Alan Saunders

I am delighted to commend this year's annual reports to you. I praise God for all he is doing through each and every person in our fellowships. Having spent time prayerfully reading these reports, and reflecting on my short time as vicar, I am filled with excitement at all God is doing amongst us.

Like many churches and organisations, the effects of the Covid pandemic have knocked us, but these reports fill me with hope for the future as we witness so many positive signs of recovery. It is clear that our churches are very much alive and kicking!

God has provided for us in so many ways. Financially, you will see that we remain strong thanks to the generosity of so many people, we have sufficient funds to employ a staff team, maintain our buildings, and fund our mission activities. However, there is also a challenge for us

to increase income if we are to continue to grow and deliver a rich variety of activities across our community. I would encourage you to prayerfully consider if you are able to commit to giving regularly or to increase your giving. But please give as you are able; I am hugely grateful for your support.

These reports reflect the loving service and commitment of so many people in the life of St Peter's Parish. I am immensely proud of all you have achieved and continue to do week by week. My thanks go especially to the team who navigated the parish so effectively through the interregnum and set in place a firm foundation from which to grow.

I am excited for our future together and pray with deep gratitude for all that these reports represent and pray with great hope and expectation for all that is to come.

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Romans 15:13

Each of the four churches has its own Leadership Team to deal with matters particularly concerning its own fellowship. These Leadership Teams are sub-committees of the Parochial Church Council. With the exception of St. Peter's, each fellowship holds its own General Meeting and issues its own Annual Report.

By the Parochial Church Council (*Powers*) Measure 1956 the PCC is required to co-operate with the Minister of the Church in promoting in the Parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical - this the PCC continues to do very readily.

Average Church Attendances - 316 adults and 126 under 18.

Bankers - Each Fellowship banks with the Royal Bank of Scotland. Funds are also held with the Central Board of Finance and CAF Bank.

Legal Advisor - Jane Monks (*Diocesan Registrar*)

Architects - Byrom Clark Roberts and Bradshaw, Gass and Hope.

Auditor - A.L. Bentley and Co.

Clergy		
Revd. Alan Saunders (from September 2022)		
Revd. David Brae		
Elected	Elected date	Re-election date
Dave Starkie	2022	2025
Amanda Blease	2022	2025
Chris Ward	2022	2025
Chris Saunders	2022	2025
Cath Hargraves	2022	2025
Steve Walsh	2022	2025
Malcolm Peake	2021	2024
Paul Gray	2021	2024
Steve Johnson	2021	2024
Brian Johnson	2021	2024
Dave Cieszynski	2020	2023
Church Wardens		
Elian Winstanley		
Phil Weaver		
Deanery Synod Reps		
Joan Johnson		
Peter Caffrey		
Stephen Brierley		
Jean Mort		
Parish Reps		
Barrow Bridge - Daniel Caffrey		
Smithills - Helen Stainthorpe		
St. Andrew's - Diane Ball		
St. Peter's - Linda Foster		



St. Peter's Church, Halliwell

419 Church Road, BL1 5RR

St. Peter's Parish Church is an impressive Grade II listed building at the heart of the parish. In the 1980's an extension provided a lounge, kitchen and toilet. In December 2022 the new entrance and link corridor project was completed.

Barrow Bridge Road Mission

Barrow Bridge Rd, BL1 7ND

Barrow Bridge Mission is situated in an important conservation area on the edge of Bolton. The attractive community is a former model community mill village and comprises former mill owner and worker cottages.



Smithills Fellowship

St. Peter's CofE School, Limefield Road, BL1 6LA

Smithills Fellowship meets in St. Peter's Smithills Dean CE Primary School and Smithills Hall Chapel. The Chapel forms part of Smithills Hall and is leased from the council.

St. Andrew's Church

29 Tattersall Ave, BL1 5TE

St. Andrew's meets in the Hope Centre, which serves the Johnson Fold estate. The centre has been completely refurbished in the last 15 years, to better serve the needs of the surrounding community.



The Parish Centre

347 Church Road, BL1 5RR

St. Peter's Parish Centre is a hive of activity most days with church groups and other bookings. It is also home to the administrative hub of the parish. The office is open Monday to Friday from 9.30am - 3:00pm.

Electoral Roll

Amanda Blease

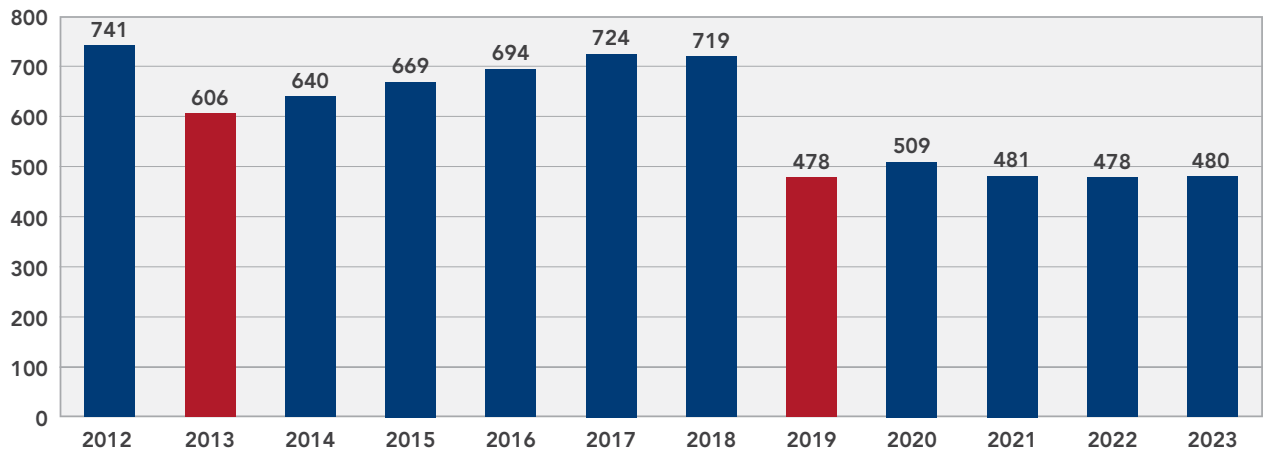
As at 23rd April 2023 when the revision of the Electoral Roll (ER) ended, there were 480 people who have completed forms to be registered on the ER for St. Peter's Parish, as seen on this table:

Affiliation	Total
Barrow Bridge	77
Smithills Fellowship	105
St. Andrews	31
St. Peters	267
Total	480



12 Year Profile

Electoral Roll 2012 - 2023 (12 years)



Red indicates that a full revision of the ER was carried out that year, therefore, the most accurate figures are those shown above in red (2013 and 2019). The next revision will be undertaken in 2025. In the six years from 2013 to revision in 2019, recorded membership fell by 128 or 21%.

After this revision, a growth of 31 (6.5%) in membership was recorded in 2020, however, following on from the pandemic, in 2021 a decrease of 28 (5.5%) was recorded but since then the figures have remained consistent.





Review of PCC Meetings

Carolyn Rigby

The PCC held meetings on 7 occasions in 2022 when members of the committee considered the matters of Parish business. Each of the four churches within the parish submitted reports and budgets for discussion and approval. Reports were also received from the Deanery Synod and the various PCC subcommittees: safeguarding, staffing, maintenance. Parish activities, expenditure and the general business of the Parish have all required attention during the year. Most of these items are covered in more detail in the other reports included in this Annual Review. It is worth noting that St Peter's remained under interregnum from April until September of 2022. Here is a summary of the main items, not in any chronological order.

Alpha

A Parish Alpha course was run in the Parish Centre from June to August with representatives from all four churches leading and participating in the small groups.

Building Work

St Peter's church year continued to be dominated by the corridors project. The work fell well behind initial projections for completion. The wardens and project manager, Paul Gray, spent some time in discussion with the diocesan architect and the builders, Bullens, on how to move forward more quickly. The project was finally completed in December 2022 but with some snagging issues still to be addressed. Following the appointment of Alan Saunders as incumbent, there were discussions with the Diocese to determine what work needed to be done on the Vicarage to address damp issues, and update it to modern standards. The cost of the refurbishment was shared by the Diocese, the PCC and Alan and Ruth themselves. The PCC agreed to underwrite costs

to the sum of £10,000. The congregation was also asked to donate towards this refurbishment and generous donations were received. Discussions about repair and maintenance work needed at the Parish Centre and St Peter's church led to the formation of a buildings and maintenance subcommittee. This group has met and assessed the needs of works required at the Parish Centre and at St Peter's church. Their aim is to produce a list in priority order of maintenance work to be done.

Youth Minister

In September 2022 Sarah Saxon tendered her resignation as our Youth Minister. The PCC felt that this was a time to re-evaluate our children's and youth work. Joan Johnson was tasked with writing this report. This detailed the current status of children's and youthwork across the parish and helped identify where the challenges and gaps are. Following this review and the appointment of Alan, it was decided to pursue the appointment of a Children's worker and to investigate a Pais worker team coming to St Peter's Parish. Initially, three Pais workers were lined up to come to St Peter's. Unfortunately one has had to drop out and we are still waiting for the others' visas to come through to allow them to begin work in our Parish.

Worship

In addition, a new team has been set up to coordinate worship across the parish led by Keir Simister.

Lottery Funding

The PCC also approved the use of National Lottery funding for projects at across the Parish and the associated requirements of publicising where the funding had come from.

Finance Report

Cath Hargraves

Overall, parish wide income in 2022 (excluding any restricted funds) increased by 27k when compared to 2021 income. This extra income is mainly due to a legacy of £11k, grants received of £4k, rental income of St Andrew's house, £5k, and a £7k increase on rental of Parish buildings. Voluntary donations have remained at the same level as 2021 which is significant considering the impact of the cost of living crisis on people's disposable income. As a result of the faithful and regular giving by God's generous people, we have been able to meet our obligations in all areas and contributed £110k towards the diocese Parish Share request of £162k.

Income totalling £19.6k was generated from use of buildings across the parish. This is a significant increase on the previous year and the majority of this income was generated from the hire of the Parish Centre. The use of Parish buildings by community groups continues to be a great way to build up our engagement with the local community and remains an important source of income.

Overall, parish wide expenditure has increased by £38k when compared to 2021. This is mainly due to the following increases: an extra £2.6k on St Andrew's house repairs, £10k on electricity and gas, £5.4k on parish centre maintenance, £10k on the parish share and £7.2k on missionary and charitable giving.

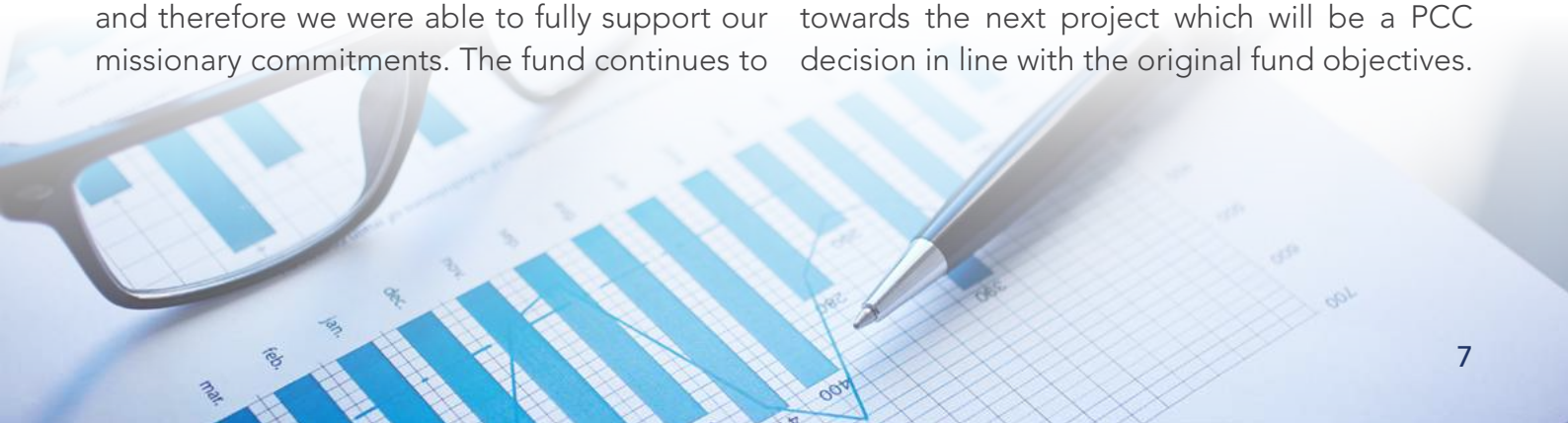
During 2022, financial support for our National and International Ministry (NIM) team totalled £42.6k in offerings and donations, including gift aid. This giving is very similar to the previous year and therefore we were able to fully support our missionary commitments. The fund continues to

maintain a healthy balance for the coming year.

The monthly standing order donations to support the Parish CAP Debt Centre cover two thirds of the full cost of this ministry. Fundraising work from previous years, alongside grants obtained, will enable us to support the centre till December 2024. We will be looking to obtain further grants for this ministry during 2023.

The Youth minister fund had a balance of £11.8k at the year end, December 2022. Following the resignation of our youth minister in September 2022, the regular donors were asked if they would continue to give to increase this fund in order to employ a part time children's worker in due course. With existing monthly donations continuing, the Parish would have funds to employ a part time children's worker for 2.5 years. The Parish and PCC are praying for the right candidate to take up this post once advertised.

Income of £87.9k was received for the Repair and Build for the Future fund, primarily from grant payments (£79.7k) awarded in 2021 towards the 'New Entrance & Glazed Link Corridor' project. These were supplemented by around £8k in donations and the associated gift aid. The project was completed in December 2022 with all invoices from the contractors and associated professional fees being met from the donations and grants received. There remains one payment, for the 5% retention monies, to be made in December 2023 which is 12 months after completion. At the end of 2022, the balance held in the fund amounted to £20k which is sufficient to cover the retention monies and leave £10k towards the next project which will be a PCC decision in line with the original fund objectives.



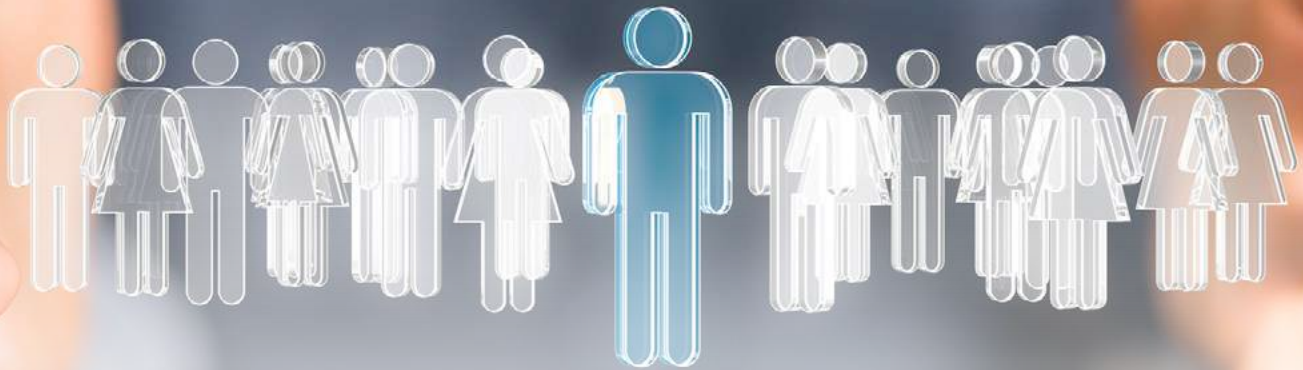
Our country has faced significant financial challenges post covid and I am thankful that we have been able to meet our budgeted financial obligations. The Diocese has requested a parish share contribution of £170k for 2023; this is an immense challenge for any church. The current 2023 parish budget is able to contribute £110k towards this amount. We look to our faithful heavenly father to continue to bless the church finances and give wisdom to the members of the PCC to steward our resources effectively, honouring the sacrificial giving of many people across the parish.

It is a privilege to serve the Parish of St Peter's, Halliwell as Treasurer and I thank all those who have provided support, guidance and encouragement to enable me to carry out this role.

I express my particular thanks to:

- Elaine Vincent in her role as Parish Finance Officer, for maintaining accurate and detailed accounting records and keeping track of income and expenditure across the Parish.
- Amanda Blease for her work as Parish Business Manager and her support of the finance team.
- The Treasurers at the sister churches: Julia Forrester at Barrow Bridge, Val Beasley at Smithills and Steve Walsh at St Andrews, also Geoff Gunshon for his work on the Missionary accounts.
- Phil Weaver for his work on Gift Aid administration and also for his support to me as I continue in the role as Parish Treasurer.
- The banking team: Dave Willescroft, June Johnson, Kath Richardson and Jez Wolstencroft.
- The sidespeople, welcome team and plate collection counters, in particular, Jennifer Hulme for her oversight at the 6.30pm service.





Safeguarding Report

Chris Winstanley

We are a Safe Church!

Be assured that we fully comply with both the law of the land and Diocesan guidelines. Our volunteers working with children and adults at risk have had to provide two references and have had an enhanced DBS check as mandated by the Diocese. They have also undergone safeguarding training which has to be updated every three years.

I am happy to report that group leaders and other volunteers continue to enthusiastically cooperate with this programme.

I would like to thank our various group leaders who continue to keep me informed when new volunteers come forward.

There are safeguarding representatives across the 4 churches as shown below and my details are clearly displayed in each worship centre should you need to contact a member of the safeguarding team.

Further information regarding safeguarding may be found on the notice boards across our churches. However, if you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me directly.

Church	Safeguarding Representative
St. Peter's	Cath Hargraves
St. Andrew's	Chris Winstanley
Barrow Bridge Mission	Nicola Caffrey
Smithills Fellowship	Jill Jones

Bolton Deanery Synod Report

Peter Caffrey

The Bolton Deanery has met three times during the last twelve months. The first meeting took place on Saturday 7th May 2022 at Bishop Bridgeman Primary School and was opened with a time of worship led by the Archdeacon of Bolton. The Archdeacon talked about the changes which had taken place, including the formation of Mission Communities, whilst noting that funding was being provided to facilitate these changes. Presentations were made by Diocesan Officers regarding development of a Mission Action Plan for the Deanery. Some further discussion also took place concerning the resolution previously approved regarding the use of individual cups for taking communion.

A second meeting was held at St. Peter's on 12th October 2022. At this meeting the geographical names for Mission Communities was confirmed. St. Peter's forms part of the Bolton Central Mission Community. The Deanery Mission Action Plan was presented to the meeting by the Area Dean, as a working document. The Area Dean noted:

Five Marks of Mission

- To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom
- To teach, baptise and nurture new believers
- To respond to human need by loving service
- To transform unjust structures of society and challenge violence
- To strive to safeguard our integrity

Four Main Areas of Work

Growing

- Growing new disciples in missionary church communities which are younger, more diverse, active and spiritually engaged

Nurturing

- Nurturing new and existing disciples

Serving

- Being present for all, speaking and acting prophetically for justice, supporting pastorally especially the vulnerable, deprive and excluded

Sustainability

- Ensuring the structures, skills, processes and resources are in place to develop the Church for the future

The Area Dean further commented that ultimately **"all growth comes from God"**, which is why the first thing we should all be doing is praying for God's guidance and blessing on our people, churches and Deanery as we seek to discern what he is calling us to be doing – and then join in!

It was also reported at this meeting that the Diocesan Synod had not accepted the Deanery Synod motion regarding the use of individual communion cups.

The third meeting took place over Zoom on 13th February 2023. This was the final meeting of current Bolton Deanery Synod with all members retiring. The Area Dean reviewed the work of the Bolton Deanery Synod since the first meeting held in July 2021 making particular mention of the formation of Missionary Communities. There were also presentations from the Diocesan Programme Manager, regarding the Growing Faith Programme, to encourage and support Mission Communities to work alongside youth and community workers, and from the Diocesan Head of Lay Development regarding the Lay Development 2030 Vision which seeks to encourage a lay ministry as part of the nurturing element of the "Growing - Nurturing - Serving" transformation process for the diocese.

As a final point it is noted that every parish needs to elect new lay representatives to the Deanery Synod at the annual parochial church meeting (APCM) in 2023. The term of office will be three years.

Bolton Central Mission Community Leader Report

Ian Hepburn

Figures for Bolton Central mission community show we have a population of 76,131 and 1217 people attending any of our 15 churches week by week (2021 AWA). These figures are broadly comparable with the other three mission communities in Bolton Deanery.

When I was asked to take on the role of mission community leader, I inevitably asked the question What does it involve? Re-assuringly, the answer consisted not of a list of particular tasks, but instead, a commitment to allow mission communities to develop from the ground up, from where they are at. It's encouraging to report how much common sense has been applied to this work and credit belongs to Area Dean Simon Cook and Archdeacon Jean for their work in handling this. Simon has helpfully summarised our shared task as 'finding common strength and resource by working together... sharing mutual love, care and support in the name of Jesus', for each other, and for those around us.'

Together, we face challenges in our finances, volunteer numbers, clergy vacancies and buildings, and perhaps more than ever, we gain immeasurably from supporting one another and working together. The key to mission communities is the strength of their relationships. With this in mind, some of the activities we have been able to do together as a mission community this last year, following the great launch service at St Peter's in October 2021, are as follows:

- Meeting and praying together as clergy, including creating a clergy WhatsApp group.
- Sharing some of the great things going on across our community with quarterly Newsletters and emails.
- Publicising an up-to-date spreadsheet of the regular patterns of worship across our mission community.

- The adoption of a mission community logo, in line with the deanery logo used by all four mission communities across Bolton deanery.
- Offering termly mission community services; the October 2022 Eco Holy Communion and ALM Commissioning Service at St Luke's, the Advent Carol Service at Bolton Parish Church, and the initial planning for a Summer Praise service on Thursday July 13th.
- Supporting one another with cover at churches throughout the mission community, and beyond.
- Sharing some of the excellent ways we reach out beyond our own communities with warm spaces, friendship groups to support those with dementia and their carers, community groups etc.
- Town centre outreach with Ashes-to-go on the Town Hall square offering prayer and the imposition of Ashes on Ash Wednesday.

We have welcomed two clergy and their families into the mission community; Alan Saunders and Dave Thompson; and we will soon be saying goodbye to Chris Bracegirdle, David Brae and Jonathan Moores – we wish them well in their respective new ventures. Our mission community is built on these relationships and we are very grateful for their ministry among us.

Looking to the way we hope to develop this next year, we will be looking to identify a couple of key activities which we want to do together over the course of the year. Please do feed your ideas into this discussion either to me directly or your incumbent. My hope is that as we continue working together and sharing in our local mission and ministry, we grow organically, nurture compassionately and serve joyfully.



Church Wardens

Eliau Winstanley and Phil Weaver

There have been several significant and exciting developments in our Parish since our last APCM. The first of these was of course the licencing of our new vicar, Alan, on September 25th. This meant that the Wardens could relinquish their role as sequestrators and return to normal Warden duties! We remain very grateful to Amanda and Dave, the other members of our Interregnum Team, for their support and wisdom during the time between Paul Hardingham's retirement and Alan's arrival. We would also like to offer our sincere thanks to our Area Dean, Rev'd Simon Cook, for his support to us during the interregnum.

The second was the completion (at long last) of the new Modern Entrance and Glazed Links project, with handover just before Christmas. We feel that some additional work to improve the access pathways still needs to be done before we can fully utilise the new facilities, but this is in hand at the time of writing. Our thanks go to Paul Gray, who has managed this project on our behalf, and done it very well especially when faced with seemingly unsurmountable obstacles and delays. He also ensured that the contractors worked around our requirements for the use of the church building in a way that didn't add any further delay.

A third significant development was the receipt of significant grant monies to enable us to proceed

with the replacement of the Parish Centre lift. The existing lift, as reported previously, was at the end of its life and is starting to cost a lot of money in continual repairs.

The fourth significant development has been the formation of a Buildings and Maintenance Team, technically a sub-committee of the PCC. It has become increasingly apparent that there are a large number of outstanding major maintenance projects, and this team will enable us to tackle some of these issues in parallel. The specific projects concerned are discussed in the remainder of this report.

Build and Repair for the Future

St Peter's Church East Window

At the last APCM, we reported that a faculty for the restoration of the East Window had been approved and grant applications submitted. It was hoped to undertake the restoration during the summer of 2022. However, one of the major sources of grants pointed out to us that they required this type of restoration to be done by accredited conservators, specifically those who are members of the Institute of Conservators. As such, the PCC decided that we should seek a new report and quotation from such a member in order to qualify for the grant funding. This survey will be carried out shortly.



Church Tower

The Church Tower remains a matter of concern and the Wardens have enquired as to what would be the lowest cost to make the tower safe. However, we have been advised that a further survey now needs to be done as part of the Quinquennial Inspection in order to assess the current situation.

We reported last year that the Heritage Lottery Fund, the primary source of funding for repairs to a Grade II listed building, was unlikely to fund requests such as ours in the foreseeable future. However, we have recently been advised that this situation has now changed, and they are once again accepting applications. We are therefore just starting to prepare a funding application which will be submitted in the next few months.



Buildings and Maintenance Sub-Committee

This sub-committee was formed in order to tackle the large number of maintenance projects which are outstanding. Each member of the team is assigned a project and tasked with doing everything necessary to get that project to a point where it can be approved by PCC. This might involve doing research, finding potential contractors,

getting quotations, assisting with the preparation of Faculty applications etc. Once PCC approval is granted, they will manage the project through to completion.

The projects that the team are currently working on are as follows:

Project	Church	Notes
Gent's Toilets	St Peter's	PCC approval given. Work scheduled to start in May 2023
Driveway and path improvements	St Peter's and Parish Centre	Quotes received. Currently looking at possibility of improving access.
Church carpet replacement	St Peter's	Potential solution selected. Faculty application in progress.
East Window restoration	St Peter's	See above
Electrical system repairs and 5-year inspection	St Peter's	Repairs in progress. Contractor selected and quotation received for the inspection. Inspection pending completion of repairs to faulty circuits.
AV Upgrades	Parish Centre and Barrow Bridge Mission	Proposals awaiting approval by PCC / Leadership Team
Lift Replacement	Parish Centre	Grants received covering total cost. Approved by PCC. Scheduled for Summer 2023.
Maintenance Audit	Parish Centre	Audit carried out to determine repairs needed. Currently categorising these into those we can do ourselves and those that will need external contractors.
Lighting Upgrade	Parish Centre	Some of the lighting in the Parish Centre has reached end-of-life and needs to be replaced. However, as a result of changes in technology (e.g. LED rather than fluorescent), this needs proper planning.

Other Issues

Graveyard

- The Wardens would like to thank Ben Mitchell for all of this work in maintaining and improving the graveyard. During the last year:
- The work to restore or make safe the gravestones damaged by vandalism has been completed. The cost of this will be financed by an insurance claim.
- During the year, it was reported that two species-specific diseases are currently afflicting trees in the churchyard, namely Ash die-back and Dutch Elm disease. For this and other reasons, it was proposed that a total of eight trees needed to be removed. For every tree removed, the Diocese require us to plant at least one replacement and it was proposed that the affected trees be replaced with Rowan, Oak and Willow.
- It has been 5 years since the trees in the churchyard were surveyed for a safety report, and this has now become due again. A safety survey and report was originally made in April 2016 and then a follow-up survey and report was made in May 2018. The tree report formed part of St. Peter's last Quinquennial report. A new survey will be commissioned shortly.
- The 5-bar gate that forms the entrance to the car park which had severely rotted has been replaced. Our thanks go to the member of our congregation who kindly financed this work.

Fundraising

- The PCC has continued to use Chell Perkins Ltd (Chell) as our fundraising partner.

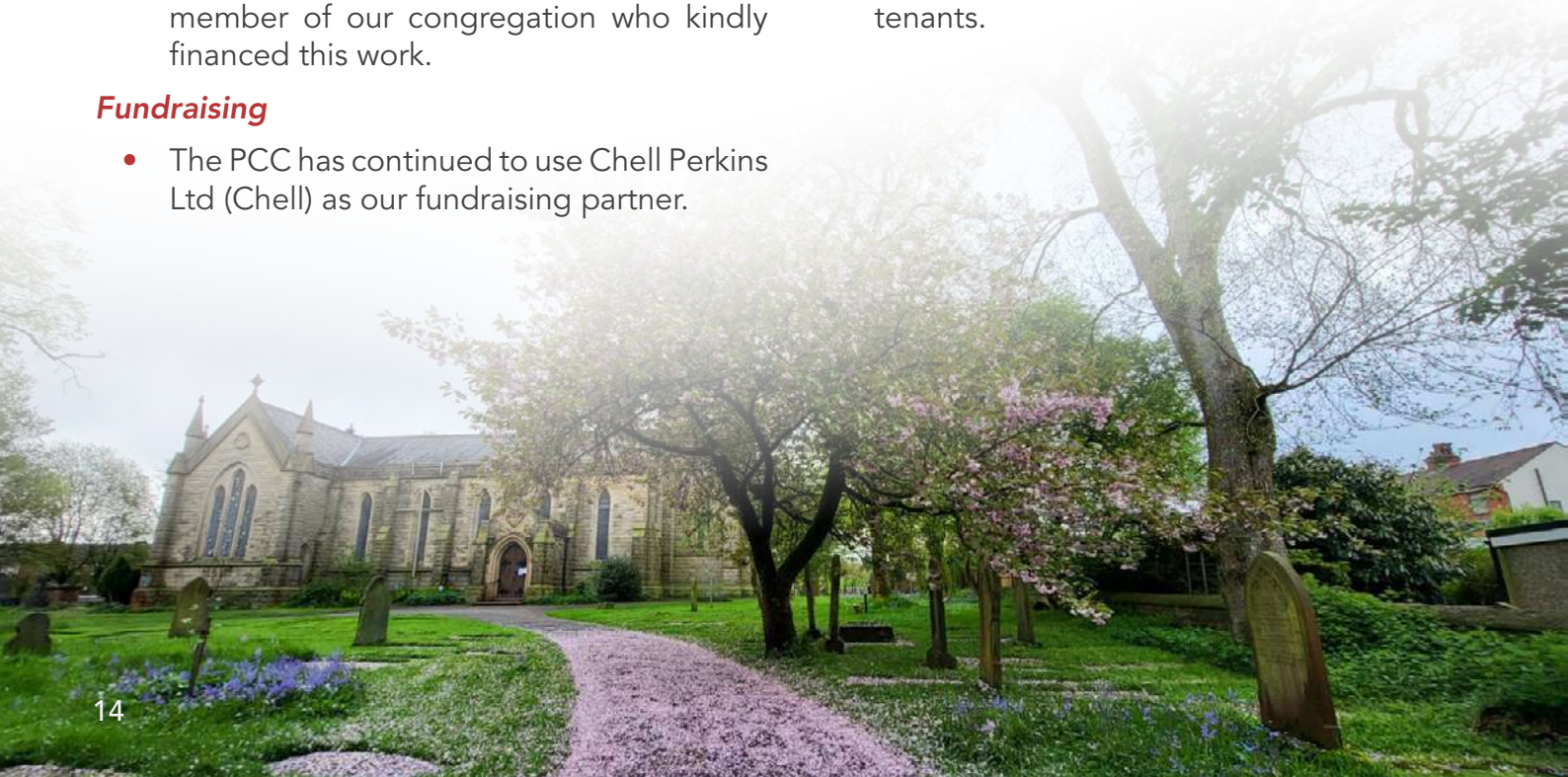
- During the year, Chell have prepared grant applications for the Parish Centre lift replacement, the East Window restoration, the replacement of the church carpet and the PAIS project. They have also looked into the possibility of funding for the repairs to the church tower.
- Peter Caffrey has taken over from Roy Attwood as our fund-raising co-ordinator. He meets with Chell and the Wardens (as well as other PCC representatives) on a regular basis. The Wardens would like to express their thanks to Roy for all of his work as our fundraising representative.

St Peter's Church Ceiling

- Attendees at a recent (12th March) evening service at St Peter's were surprised to discover that the front part of the nave had been cordoned off as a result of falling material from the ceiling. Further investigation revealed that the material was in fact several layers of paint that had become detached from the underlying lime plaster, possibly as a result of a previous water leak. Our thanks go to Keith Forrester for promptly investigating and repairing this so that church could be fully utilised by the following Sunday.

St Andrew's House

- During the year, the PCC decided that St Andrew's House should be made available for rental and is now occupied by private tenants.



Vicarage

- A substantial amount of maintenance work was needed to bring the vicarage back to a reasonable standard prior to Alan and Ruth moving in. This was jointly funded by the Diocese, the PCC and Alan and Ruth themselves, with the Diocese paying for the majority of the work needed. The PCC's contribution was approximately £10,000 of which £5,425 was donated specifically for this purpose by members of the congregation

Lightning Conductors

- The lightning conductors on both the Parish Centre and Church have failed a recent inspection. The inspecting company has quoted repair costs of £2,400 for the Parish Centre and £890 for Church. We are currently looking to obtain alternative quotations for this work.

Conclusion

This last year has laid the groundwork for us to quickly address many of the outstanding maintenance issues through the formation of the Buildings and Maintenance Teams and through the expertise of our fundraising partners in securing finance for this purpose. We believe that this work will enable us to better serve our mission of reaching the lost, by presenting a church that is active, vibrant and welcoming. In an age where the dominant public understanding is that church attendance is a leisure

choice (something you do on a Sunday morning instead of football or a car boot sale), the public perception of the local church is often as a small group of elderly people managing decline in the hope that the church will still be open for their funerals! We need to show that this is not the case in our Parish!

It is also a legal requirement that we maintain our buildings; Canon Law (Section F13) states:

“The churches and chapels in every parish shall be decently kept and from time to time, as occasion may require, shall be well and sufficiently repaired and all things therein shall be maintained in such an orderly and decent fashion as best becomes the House of God.”

We are confident that, during this next year, many of our long-standing maintenance issues will be addressed.

We are also due a Quinquennial Inspection in the next month or so. This may well discover new issues that will need to be addressed and existing issues which have become more urgent, so there is a possibility that our priorities may need to change based on that report. However, we are blessed as a parish to count as members many who have specialist construction expertise which they are willing to deploy as part of their personal service to God. We remain incredibly grateful to them.



It's really important that, as a parish, we ground everything we are doing in prayer. It's easy to get caught up in everything going on around us, but prayer changes our focus, enabling us to take time to listen to God and discern what He wants of us

(cf. Col 3:2). Prayer brings us closer to God (James 4:8) and brings about change (James 4:16-18).

Consequently, in April 2022 we launched our monthly parish prayer meeting which we called PrayerZone. This meets in the sister churches and the Parish Centre on rotation. We start with some

sung worship and then pray in groups for current topics in the areas of our individual churches, our parish, our town, our nation and the world. The session lasts an hour and currently around 25-30 people attend. It's a very safe space and you can pray silently. There's no pressure to pray out loud if this would make you uncomfortable.

We'd love for more of you to join us. We currently meet on the first Wednesday of each month – watch out for details in the notice sheet. The familiar phrase **“prayer changes things”** is true. Sometimes the things that change are circumstances, while other times we are the thing that prayer changes. (cf. Ezek 36:26). Let's look to God for our direction and seek His blessing together!

CAP Report

Sam Wolstencroft

Every year it is good to reflect on what God is doing through our CAP ministry and it is a privilege to write this report and share some of the highlights! The nature of this work is that we are getting alongside people whose life is often at crisis point, and many have multiple, complex issues that mean their life is chaotic. Isn't it wonderful that we have the opportunity to share our lives with them, to offer love and hope and a fresh start with Jesus!

We have so much to thank God for! We saw 32 clients on first 'visits' and 78% of those worked well with us and moved forward on a CAP plan or were on an insolvency route. We had 23 clients become debt free in 2022 - that's 23 clients / families now living without the pressure of unmanageable debt – and 8 clients saying either a big 'yes' or a small 'yes' to Jesus for the first time. It was a great joy to see Tony being baptised in October and Dave sharing his faith journey at CAP Sunday. The service was a wonderful celebration of the year's ministry. Do catch up via the links below.

www.youtube.com/watch?v=E5svwo2c7U4
(Tony's baptism from 3 minutes 40)

youtu.be/OmiJ_wKN2n0
(CAP Sunday: 26 minutes onwards Dave then Tony)

Parish Support

We are so well supported by the Parish in many different ways. Your generous giving allows the centre to operate, as well as to bless clients with Christmas gifts, Easter eggs (with the gospel) and various items of clothing or furniture. **ACTS 435**



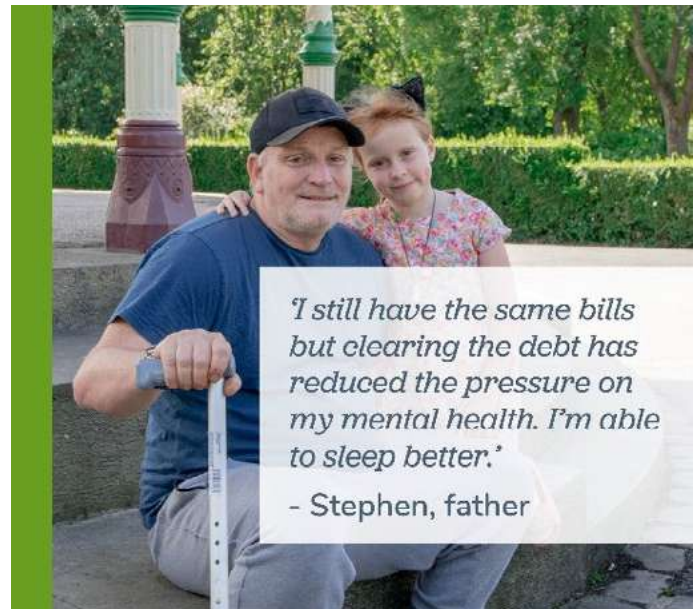
continues to give the church an easy way to support clients with essential items and befrienders often go the extra mile in supporting clients emotionally and practically.



Good Relationships

We have good relations with the Council, DWP and other groups who serve the vulnerable in Bolton, and we fight injustice by writing to our MP on several issues and raising awareness in the media. Yunus Muller from BBC North West Tonight visited the Coffee Room in June and interviewed 3 clients about the cost of living crisis and the BBC's Michael Buchanan interviewed a single mum we were helping for the 6.30 and 10 o'clock news. One of our clients, Stephen, was featured in CAP's magazine highlighting debt, suicide and the cost of living crisis.

capuk.org/news-and-blog/when-living-costs-everything



In 2022 CAP launched its new vision: Transformed Lives, Thriving Churches, An End to UK Poverty.

God continues to lavish us with his grace and favour. We look forward to the future and are grateful for the financial support of many in the parish, and welcome all offers of support in prayer, as support workers or financially. Thank you.





Youth and Children's Report

Joan Johnson

Term time groups on weekdays:

- **St. Andrews - Tots on Tuesdays** - for babies and children up to the age of 4 years.

Recently one or two of the children's families have started to attend Sunday church.

- **St Peter's - Little Wiggles** on Tuesday mornings at the Parish Centre. Sessions include 'Wiggle' children's Bible bookworm and time with toys and activities.
- **St Peter's - The Well Toddler Group** on Thursday lunchtimes/early afternoon. The toddlers receive a gentle introduction to Christian teaching in ways which make it fun and relevant to small children. Activities include, play, singing and story time.

As well as reaching the children, the aim of each of the above groups is to welcome and get to know the families of the children and to invite them to church and church activities.

Children and Young people's work on Sundays

- **Barrow Bridge - Stars and Jog**. There is also a group of older children some of whom help out during service time.
- **St Andrew's** - Whilst there is the potential for a Sunday 'Kids' group to run at St

Andrew's, there is no one to lead such group at present.

- **Smithills** at present have children from Reception to Year 6, attending **Time Out Sunday School** activities where the children are split into different age groups.

Numbers have been depleting and this has been put down to many team sports being played on Sundays at both primary and secondary age. There is also a shortage of leaders due to parents' working patterns and time available.

St Peter's Halliwell run a crèche in the church lounge

- **Twinklers** - for babies and pre-school children during 10.30 all age services on the second, fourth and fifth Sundays of the month. This is a safe space with toys for the babies and children.

On the first and third Sundays there is a Twinklers formal group for pre-school children. Activities include a story and 'circle' time and crafts

- **Lighthouse** meets in the Parish Centre and consists of 8 small age-related groups.

Lighthouse is in a very solid place with an average number of 70 children attending. A good leadership team which works well together preparing dates and its programme well in advance.





Youth Work - weekdays /evenings

A parish-wide decision was made to focus all the weekday/evening youth work at the parish centre – for all four of our churches.

- **Tread** – meets on Tuesday evenings from 7.30pm – 9pm. The group is for young people aged 11+ and is open to our youth parish-wide but mainly attended by young people from St Peter's and a couple of boys from Barrow Bridge.

Tread which opened last September, is well attended, mainly because of the closure of some of the other youth groups. Since last summer the team of Tread youth leaders has grown.

The youth are very open to learning about the Gospel of Jesus Christ and there is a sense of being a family community, with the young people feeling safe in the group. Sessions are divided into free time, group activities and devotional time which also includes testimony time.

- **Kintsugi Hope** - Two courses have taken place over the last year with good attendance and we have a team of seven youth leaders trained to deliver the course. Kintsugi is a very worthwhile resource to draw upon from time to time.
- **Johnson Fold Youth** – in conjunction with Bolton Council has been paused since September 2022, partly due to lack of a youth minister and too few leaders at the present time, although those involved in leading Johnson Fold remain committed should it start up again.
- **Discipleship Groups** – meet once a fortnight and are running successfully. Those who attend study the Bible in depth, have discussions and are growing in their faith as they pray for each other.

These groups are proving to be a vital support for a young person's faith journey. The groups are attended in the main by boys.





Residentials

The aim is to have weekends away two or three times a year. Last summer some of our youth went to **'Dreaming the Impossible'** camping which had a huge impact on their faith journey. This was followed up at an evening service, run by those attending **DTI** who gave their testimonies. It was a joy to see them running the service.

Outreach to Schools

Visits have been made to schools, taking part in school assemblies, sharing the Gospel and giving talks. Schools include, **Johnson Fold, Church Road, St Peters CE, Canon Slade and Smithills School.**

Church visits include the **Easter Experience, Christmas Tree Festival** and **Gospel story of Christmas.**

Whilst the strong links with schools have faded over the past few years there is evidence that they are now starting to build up again.

The Way Forward

Note – the above is an abridged report taken from a Review in November 2022 by Joan Johnson of our Youth and Children's Work across the Parish of St Peter's Church Halliwell and presented to the PCC of St Peter's Church Halliwell.

This is very much under discussion, such as looking into a pathway of Discipleship across the parish, growing young leaders, youth friendly worship, youth band – so much future potential.

In conclusion, there are so many areas where our ministry to young people is in a positive place. This is particularly the case for those young people who belong to our four churches.

However, for those with little or no contact, on the fringe, there is nothing for them at the present time. Consideration would seem to be required, sooner rather than later, to the needs of the youth on Johnson Fold.

It is encouraging to report on the tremendous work which takes place week by week across our parish with children and young people.

This work could not take place without our dedicated leaders; faithful Christians who do an amazing work with our children and young people. They are much valued and appreciated and to all of them – **THANK YOU!**



St Peter's Smithills Dean Primary School

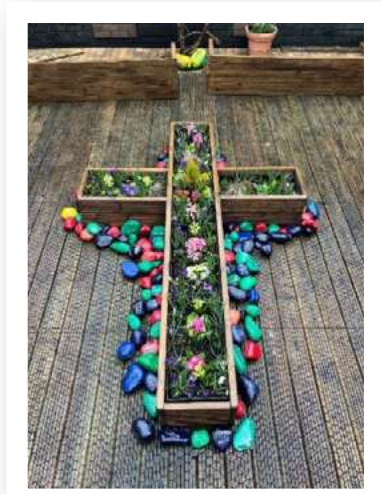
Matt Harding

St. Peter's Smithills Dean Primary school continues to go from strength to strength. Our vision of *'Let your light shine'*, based on Matthew 5:16, underpins all we do – giving children the opportunity to shine in whatever they find their gift or talent in. As well as experiencing a wonderful curriculum, described recently by Ofsted as 'exciting, engaging and ambitious for all pupils', children have also had a Quidditch day, a day mixing drumming with dance and a day of inclusive games, such as wheelchair basketball. We also welcomed Project Touchline into school in September, a company who uses sports to introduce Christian values. They also set up a Prayer Club for us which continues to meet to this day in our newly developed Prayer Garden.

School and Church continue to try and forge stronger links, with school children taking part in many Church services; for example, holding a 'Welcome' service for new starters in September

on Education Sunday, and sending our choir to help out at the Nativity service in December. Mr Harding leads worship at St. Peter's and is on the preaching rota at Smithills, where he tries to get school children involved where possible! Mr Harding also leads Worship for the Forward as One Trust where 13 schools come together to worship together at the end of each term.

The staff and children continue to work hard on a daily basis, to ensure the level of education is the highest possible. We had some excellent SATs result last summer when SATs returned for the first time since the pandemic. There are still post-pandemic gaps to be filled, and the consequences of that time are still being felt across school. In October we had our first Ofsted inspection since 2017 and were proud to show the inspector round. Ofsted say we continue to be a 'Good' school, but we know we're much more than that!



Smithills Fellowship

Ross Pyle

Hebrews 10:24- And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds

To reflect about how the last 12 months has encouraged us to grow as a Church here at Smithills and share the highlights we would have to say we are well and truly focussed on being a Community Church, and as the passage states how we pull together and look at the ways to work together for others.

We give thanks to God as he Inspires, Guides and Encourages so many gifted people in our Church family to push forward on such a varied number of community activities that keep us connected to our Community both near and far. Café on the Green returned to its full 3 events in the year serving up their usual range of food and treats and are blessed by so many people Parish wide that come up to enjoy the time together and to meet old friends and develop new friendships too. This Outreach event is truly helping so many people as the money raised for Operation Smile at each event is close to £1000. Thanks Be To God for this provision. Our Easter Treasure hunt and dressing of the gardens brings a real sense of belonging, we gathered too on Redcar Road as we celebrated the Queens Platinum Jubilee, with afternoon tea and sandwiches and cakes and games none of us of course had any sense of just how important that celebration would be for us all. Although not all events are Church only events our Community know that it is members of God's church family in Smithills that bring things together and encourage us all

to be part of something that can do something for others. Our Church doors in school are always open for those who wish to seek, explore and ask questions. We continue to pray for those conversations with our neighbours and for those who in time will come through those doors.

The Smithills Christmas market was for the first time in quite a while a dry affair and were we blessed by the numbers of people that joined us in our streets around Smithills and it was wonderful as we raised over £13,000 to donate to the Christmas Dinner on Jesus project which we give thanks to God. The following weeks saw us back again to the Smithills Farm to watch our young members of Church perform our Christmas Nativity so wonderful to have all these opportunities to share our Faith.

We are blessed with a busy Church, a great number of young families coming to our weekly Sunday services, a Smithills Leadership team that again remained in place from the previous few years, God has put people in place as a team and gives us continuity to deal with his plans for us, thanks to Val Beasley, Helen Stainthorpe, Michelle Hyams-Ssekasi, Jonathan Hargreaves, Nigel Clarke and Ross Pyle. We are working with the plans for our young people's work encouraging new leaders and ways to develop this work going forward. We also look to see how we can re-use our Chapel building more regularly we recently held a Good Friday service "An hour by the Cross" which had 30 people come together in a truly Parish wide service. We have so many opportunities to explore, challenges to meet but it feels exciting too.



Barrow Bridge Mission

Dan Caffrey

'Those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint'. Isaiah 40:3. We have seen the words of the parish text card come to life within Barrow Bridge Mission this year. Sunday mornings are seeing our building full with people worshipping God and growing in spiritual strength and faith.

Putting this report together highlighted the gifts that God has given to the entire congregation at Barrow Bridge. We are seeing our young people grow in faith and God using their talents be involved in the life of the Church. We have seen members celebrate significant birthday milestones but God still using them to actively take part in services. Also, despite the challenges we all face we have seen God meet our financial needs. We are truly thankful to God for all of what we have achieved in the last 12 months and look forward to what God has planned for us in the next 12 months.

Growing

We continue to grow as a fellowship and have seen new members of the congregation become involved in the life of the church and have also seen old members returning to worship with us.

We had a few members of the congregation attend the Parish Alpha Course this year. We

also saw two members of our fellowship (who attended Alpha) have full immersion baptisms.

Our Café Church services have been very successful and continue to run. These have also provided the opportunity to bring friends and family who might not normally attend church along to a church service in a more informal setting.

The Barrow Bridge Connect group, Channel God, continues to meet and grow.

We pray for more of our congregation to engage in discipleship over the coming year and for continued growth in our congregation.

Nurturing

We have continued to engage young people to take an active role in our services. We have a monthly all age service, which is predominantly led by our young people. We have healthy numbers in Stars but see varying number attending JOG. Our older youth have become integral to the running of our Sunday morning service, with them taking active roles in managing the sound desk and helping in Stars. Our young people have also committed to supporting our mission partner Tearfund this year. We pray that going forward we can find way of keeping our children and young people engaged and that they continue on a pathway with God.





Our electronic communication continues to be a vital messaging tool for our congregation. The BB Mission WhatsApp group has 55 members. It is a tool for prayer requests, church notices, keeping connected to each other and having a daily morning prayer reflection provided to start all our days in faith. Electronic platforms have become a key tool in communications and we pray that we use this technology within the Mission to reach people to know the work of God.

The pastoral team has been meeting regularly to pray for the Mission. They send cards, flowers and Easter eggs(!) to members of the congregation in need. They also visit a number of people who are sick or are unable to attend church due to mobility issues to keep them connected and provide prayer for them.

Serving

Barrow Bridge Village does not have any shops, pubs or a village hall. Therefore, we play a vital role serving the local community and witnessing the good news of the Lord. Throughout the year we hold a number of community events.

We held our annual Duck Race in May. This was a great success seeing many local people turn out for this. As well as allowing funds to be raised and people to have a good time, many villagers who have not stepped into the Mission building before came across the bridge. We plan on holding this again in 2023 and pray for us being able to provide a witness to the village during the event.

Despite challenges with the Barrow Bridge Car Park being temporarily closed we still managed to hold the annual Bonfire in the temporary location of St. Peters Church Car Park. As always, the firework display was wonderful. We had The Cakery provide catering with hot drinks and cakes and the Crofters Restaurant provide gifts for children on arrival. The event sold out very quickly with many people on the reserve list for tickets. We will return this year to our usual location, but thank the PCC for letting us use St. Peters Church Car Park in 2022.

On a very cold December evening we sang carols around the village. This year we were accompanied by brass ensemble! Despite instruments freezing up we were warmly welcomed by villagers, with many coming out to speak to us providing a great witness opportunity. We see getting out into the community and being seen as an important way to show people what an active parish we are. We pray God will guide us to do this more in the coming year.

Being part of the parish allows us to signpost people to events and activities across the wider parish. A significant number of our congregation are actively involved in parish wide activities and also attend a number of parish groups – sometimes taking friends and neighbours along who don't normally come to church. We will continue to promote the work of the wider parish to people showing we are a thriving Christian community beyond that of a Sunday Morning.



Sustainability

We are committed to financial, resource and environmental sustainability. No one within the fellowship is immune to the sharp increase we have seen in the cost of living. This also has also had a bearing on the running cost of our building with increase in energy and general running costs.

Despite this we exceeded our financial forecast for 2022/23. As a fellowship we have continued to financially support our mission partners and paid common cost share of £30,000 in 2022/23. We have committed to the request of PCC for £32,500 for common costs for 2023/24.

God has given us a great asset with our building. We have been successful in hiring out the building when not in use to a number of local groups and other churches across the diocese. Our bookings are now above pre-covid levels and continue to increase. As well as providing a need for this kind of facility to the local community it has also provided us with an additional income supporting our financial sustainability. We have now started work to gain Bronze accredited Eco Church status.

This report has provided a brief overview of what we are doing as Barrow Bridge Mission to deliver the work of the Lord. We thank God for his faithful provision throughout this time and look to him for the future.



St. Andrews Church

Diane Ball

Numbers attending our services have remained fairly constant. We were very blessed that most members of our congregation had returned to worship as soon as it was practical following lockdown. During the year we were really saddened by Derek Nightingale's death, but have been blessed to have been joined by Richard and Moira Platt. Simon and Victoria Nightingale and family also now meet with us every other week. Rachel and Lindsay Flintoff are also regular members of our fellowship and they have been missed over the last 6 months.

The Leadership Team has had 5 members since our AGM at the end of March last year, although we do have 8 places available. Susan Banister has been a part of the team but since September has known that she will be moving to Australia as soon as the visa and other technical issues are resolved, and so she is stepping down at our AGM. She has been our secretary and her input will be greatly missed. We hope and pray that God will provide all we need for leadership in the year ahead. We are very grateful to God that our financial position continues to be strong.

Our service pattern has continued throughout the year with Communion 1st Sunday, Café Style

worship on the 2nd and family worship on other weeks. We have attendance of 25 – 30 adults with a few children on some weeks but with an age range of 6 months to 16 years, most weeks there are no children and we don't have people attending in order to get the school application cards stamped. The early part of 2023 has been more challenging for service leaders with Susan's looming departure and ill health for others, but we have managed to continue to meet and are grateful to Richard and Simon for beginning to step into these roles. Music cover is also a little limited with Denis Collier and Diane Ball being the main musicians, Richard has played for café service, and Julie Walsh sings, but anyone who has joined with us will be aware of the joy and depth of the sung worship in our services.

As a church we generally support 4 mission objectives. During 2022 these were Dave and Chris Bagley, our link with Bellevue Church in Bulawayo, Zimbabwe, and a new partner in Hilary Jones (now Harrison) to support her work in Nepal. As we didn't have a 4th partner, we decided to give towards Lindsay and Rachel's trip to Malaysia and Thailand which cost more than expected because of Rachel's Mum's illness, and Rachel's own health issues.





Having welcomed the choir from Johnson Fold School to our Carol Service in Dec 2021, we were really pleased to welcome them again in June and for our last Carol Service. A church full of 30 plus children with parents, siblings and 3 school staff is exciting, the challenge is to engage with them before they leave at the end of the service. We have also had 2 visits to church from Year 1 children as part of their 'Things to do while at Johnson Fold School' initiative, which includes "Visit a place of Worship". We also had the opportunity to take a lesson in School and deliver a whole school assembly giving out the Scripture Union "It's your move" books to the Year 6 Leavers. Keith Wills also goes into school to do assemblies once a term and we hope that this link will develop more in the future.

Mid-week, Tots on Tuesday still runs very successfully with new Mums coming along regularly, and others who have been attending for several years as they have added to their families. It is well run by a strong team and is appreciated by those who attend.

Since September our new Community Day, Hub at the Hope, has been running on a Wednesday morning. It has functioned as an open Café style morning and Warm Space from 9am to 1pm and has grown in numbers slowly over the weeks, with a mix of church members and people from the local community coming in for coffee, cakes and chat, with newspapers, dominoes and jigsaws

etc. available. It is open to anyone who would like to come along – you would be very welcome! - and there is potential for other activities and groups to develop alongside during the day. Steve Walsh heads up this team and he would be happy to talk with you if you have any ideas about what other things we might offer for the community, or if you feel that you might be able to offer occasional support when team members are unavailable.

The Thursday Morning Prayer group continues each week and there is a prayer chain for urgent or sensitive requests.

The Johnson Fold Youth Group, which had been functioning well pre Covid and had restarted, became very difficult for the Youth Team to manage and was not able to achieve its aims, whilst wearing down the busy leaders, and so was discontinued. There is a gap in provision for young people from secondary school age by any agency working on the estate.

Going forward we continue to look for what God would have us do and pray for. We have such a large mission field and hearts for the spiritual needs of the area, but we also have our limitations and mustn't try to replicate what was done in the past. We need to keep our hearts and eyes open to what God wants for the church and for the area, whatever that looks like, and we trust him for the future.



The Parish Centre

Amanda Blease

I am pleased to report that during 2022, in the wake of Covid and the inevitable change in capacity to do all that had been done previously, activity in the Parish Centre started to pick up in this season of growth and new beginnings. Where some volunteers had to step down, we saw new ones step up, so we are very thankful for this and, where possible, re-established activities and welcomed new ones too. A variety of activities take place in the centre - enabling fellowship, community and connection – so here are a few examples of this growth:

Looking at our Toddler Groups, Suzi Spurr took on the leadership of our Tuesday morning group in its new format - Little Wiggles – late in 2021 and has since built a committed team of volunteers to provide this highly regarded session to parents and carers with babies and pre-schoolers.

Attendance at this group grew steadily in its first year during which it was pleasing to see how the Little Wiggles format was allowing for the development of strong, mutual support relationships and connections to be forged between the parents and carers, as well as with the team. It is exciting to see how this session is evolving, especially knowing there are lots of different ideas in the pipeline! Also, the (long standing) Well Toddler Group on Thursday afternoons, led by Rick and Jane Heath, saw growth last year and continues to be a real blessing to those that attend, serving and fulfilling a vital community need.





Looking at our Health and Wellbeing sessions, our Friendship Group for those with Dementia and their Carers, led by Joan Johnson (ALM), started in Autumn 2022. With a different theme and emphasis during each monthly session, the format allows for support and mutual understanding based on shared experience and the development of close relationships amongst attendees, taking place sensitively in a safe and welcoming space. The year ended with a fabulous Christmas party! We are excited to see how this much-valued session develops. Also, our Strength and Balance Classes – a fantastic partnership with Age UK that started in September 2021 - in its first year literally went from strength to strength. From very early on it was necessary to operate a waiting list as there has been huge interest in these fun yet challenging Monday morning sessions. With attendees saying they are seeing significant benefits from these classes (which can alleviate the symptoms of chronic conditions whilst improving strength, flexibility and posture that ultimately improves balance and co-ordination and helps reduce

the risk of falls), there is a great atmosphere and plenty of laughs to be had along the way. Many of the class stop behind afterwards to socialise in our relaxed, friendly café open to all - The Coffee Room, our registered Warm Welcome Space - so this really is an enjoyable and beneficial way to spend a morning in the centre.

To end, I am reminded often by visitors to the centre just how blessed we are as a parish to have a multi-purpose facility like this in a great community location and with so much potential. However, I am acutely aware and mindful of the financial challenges we currently face, including those from increased energy and running costs. I am, therefore, keen to explore all opportunities to maximise use of the centre and, in turn, generate much-needed income – in appropriate ways, sensitive to the ethos of our church, of course. I, therefore, invite and welcome any enquiries regarding potential new uses and activities in the centre, from within our parish and beyond. Please do not hesitate to contact me to discuss this further if interested, thank you.





I.T. and Documents

Chris Ward

Introduction

There have been no dramatic changes in the IT infrastructure across the parish in the past year, but things have continued to be developed as the need has arisen.

Documents

Paper documents are stored in the Parish Centre Office and electronic documents are stored in the secure Google Drive cloud storage, which accessible parish-wide.

ChurchSuite

We have continued to develop our use of ChurchSuite and it is now used to send out the weekly Notices sheet to 375 subscribers. We no longer need to use MailChimp, which was implemented as a temporary solution last year.

Many of the teams serving in St. Peter's church are now using ChurchSuite to plan and share their rotas and individuals receive an automated reminder email a few days in advance of their service.

Systems have been put in place to allow the Safeguarding Officer to use ChurchSuite to keep records of people needing Safeguarding training and DBS checks, much of this process being automated by ChurchSuite.

Barrow Bridge Mission is starting to look towards using ChurchSuite to help manage room

bookings at the Mission. There are other aspects of ChurchSuite which we do not yet utilize, such as service planning and a stored library of documents and files.

Emails and communication

Many parish members have @stpetersparish.info email accounts which, behind the scenes, are hosted by Gmail. We have encountered no problems with this service in the past year.

Website

The parish website (www.stpetersparish.info) continues to provide up-to-date information about services and events across the parish, and is accessible to church members as well as outside enquirers. The ability to search records of burial in the church graveyard and to search for and listen to "old" sermons has also now been retained within the new website.

GDPR compliance

Under the terms of the General Data Protection Regulations 2016, which were implemented in 2018, everyone whose data (information) is held by an organization has rights to determine how that data is held and used. Our parish Data Privacy Notice explains these in full and can be accessed here or by contacting the parish office.

National and International Ministry



Elaine Weaver

Who We Are:

The NIM Team currently consists of 5 members – David Moffoot, Alan Tatterton, Geoff Gunshon (Treasurer), Chandran Jepegnanam and Elaine Weaver. Phil Weaver has been chairing the meetings recently and our vicar Alan has attended since his arrival in September. We meet regularly throughout the year to oversee the pastoral and financial support of our Mission Partners.

Our Aim:

We aim to keep the congregations in our Parish informed and involved with mission, both locally and internationally, by holding regular World Focus Sundays and inviting either the Partners themselves or representatives from their organisations to take these services and share the focus of their work.

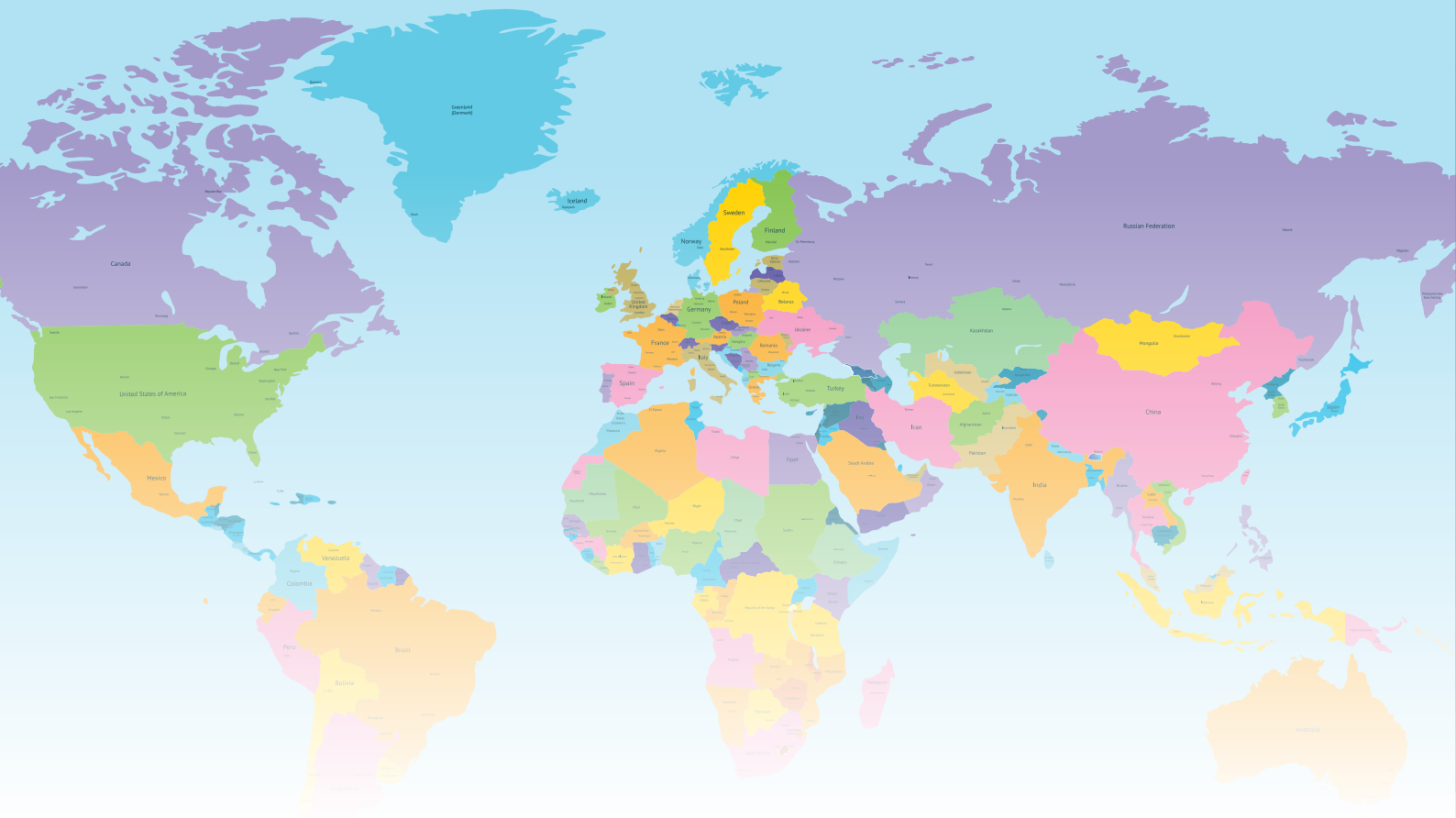
In July each year we request our partners fill in a Project Form to describe to us their main ongoing work. We then seek to share these with

the church at our Pledge Sunday services giving everyone the opportunity to boldly reconsider their level of support and involvement with our Mission Partners, whether by Prayer, Action, Resource or Time (PART). Through regular giving and the offerings from the World Focus Sundays, we have supported national and international mission with donations totalling £51,321.

We have seen several of our Mission Partners reach retirement since our last report. Lindsay and Rachel (WEC) have now retired from their work in Thailand and returned to Bolton to worship again with us. Daniel and Janet Berkovic have both now retired from their work, Daniel from theological education and Janet from the English-speaking chaplaincy in Zagreb, Croatia, they continue to live there. Imtiaz Ashraf has retired from his work with Release International encouraging and ministering to Christian believers in Pakistan, however we will continue to support Release International in their work.

Our Mission Partners

Craig & Elaine Watson	Kathmandu International Study Centre, Nepal
Dave and Kath Richardson	Good News for Romania – support of families in Barlad and via the Delia Centre there.
Dave Moffoot	Education India – Training of teachers and promoting Christian education in India.
Kim and Tracy Yeap	Middle East Concern – Giving a voice for persecuted Christians in the Middle East.
Release International	Support for persecuted Christians.
Kay Munayer	Support of the marginalised in Palestine.
Daniel Munayer	Musalaha – Reconciliation Ministry in Israel and Palestine with Jew, Christian and Muslim.
Hilary Jones	Ministering to the Muslim background community in Bolton and continuing links to Christians in Nepal and India.
Andrew and Joy Kilpatrick	Create Bolton – Café Create is a safe space for a range of creative activities to bring the marginalised and the wider community together.
Dave and Chris Bagley	Urban Outreach Bolon – Support for the needy in Bolton through various projects.



We also supported Lucy Hargraves, and the team she was a part of, on a trip to Montenegro to run English classes and bible studies for students.

Events and Visitors 2022 **A Few Highlights:**

During the past year we have had visits from Kay and Salim Munayer, with Salim speaking at both services on Easter Sunday and Craig and Elaine Watson during the summer, Craig speaking at both St Peter's and Barrow Bridge morning services. In early July we were delighted to meet our new regional representative from Release International, Allister Du Plessis, who came to speak to us bringing Dr Susanna who shared with us her challenging work in support of persecuted Christians in Burkina Faso.

On 2nd October we welcomed Mark Taylor, his wife and 3 children. He is the founder and Director among other charities of ACSI South Asia (Association of Christian Schools International). He was an excellent and engaging speaker, sharing with us his response to the trafficking of children in India and how persecution of Christians there is on the increase. Indeed, he and his family are now in the UK as it is no longer safe for him to remain in India.

We have held several events, particularly enjoyable was an evening with the 'Riding Lights Theatre Company' in May 2022, an exciting drama of lively, resourceful children telling their life journeys through story and song in 'My Place' - a refreshingly original production. In September 2022 we had a visit from The Artless Theatre Group who delivered a performance of "If Prison Walls Could Speak". An inspiring and encouraging play about resilience under persecution.

Prayer Initiatives

During this past year we have engaged in prayer for the Buddhist world, the Muslim world during Ramadan and the Hindu world during Diwali and will again this coming year with the help of the global prayer initiatives and the booklets they produce.

If you would like to give to our National and International Ministry work or join the team, please speak to a team member and explore with us how you can play your PART - we would be delighted to welcome you!