



## **ANNUAL REPORT 2022 FOR THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF HIGHER WALTON, ALL SAINTS**

### **Aim and purposes**

All Saints' Church Higher Walton Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility of cooperating with the incumbent, the Reverend Hannah Boyd, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. The PCC is also specifically responsible for the maintenance of the Church of All Saints' Higher Walton and the free standing modular unit in the grounds of the church.

### **Objectives and Activities**

The PCC is committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship at our Church and to become part of our parish community at All Saints'. Our services and worship put faith into practice through prayer and scripture, music and sacrament. When planning our activities for the year, we have considered the Church Commission's guidance on public benefit. We try to enable all people to live out their faith as part of our parish community through:

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

### **CHURCH OFFICIALS**

#### **MINISTRY TEAM**

Vicar: Rev'd Hannah Boyd

Curate: Rev'd Bryn Naylor

Retired Priest with PTO: Rev'd David Woodhouse

(Please note that Rev David handed back his PTO during 2022)

## **PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL (2022)**

**Church Wardens** Geoff Woods  
Stephen Houghton

### **Deanery Synod representatives:**

Margaret Arton 2023  
vacancy

### **PCC Members:** (end of 3-year term in brackets, currently have 3 vacancies)

Brad Eccles 2023  
Keith Houston 2023  
Joanne Ingham 2023  
Michael Hogarth 2023

Sandra Houghton 2024  
Gareth Maddock 2024  
Vacancy

### **PCC Officials:**

Chairperson	Rev'd Hannah Boyd
Lay Vice Chairperson	Mr Geoff Woods
Secretary	Mr Gareth Maddock
Treasurer	Mr Stephen Houghton
Electoral Roll Officer	Mrs Barbara Niven
Safeguarding Officers	Mrs Marilyn Woods and Mrs June Westby

### **Electoral Roll Report**

At the time of the APCM (21/5/2023) the electoral roll is made up of 80 names

### **Church Attendance October 2022**

Average adult attendance: 33  
Average Child Attendance: 11

### **Worshipping Community Totals 2022**

0-17:	18
18-69	24
70+	39

### **Occasional Offices 2022**

Baptisms: 8  
Confirmations: 0  
Marriages: 1

Funerals held in church: 7  
Funerals held at the crematorium: 0

## **CLERGY REPORT**

Looking back over the last year, 2022, feels like a great celebration of what life looks like in our 'new normal.' There were no interruptions to our worshipping life and our activities, and we were able to just get on with our calling as a church to worship God and be a witness in our community. We are so blessed to be involved in a busy parish and plurality where there is much life and energy. We finished the year on a real high with our Narnia experience, which saw our building transformed into a Winter wonderland, thanks to the amazing creativity of many people. We had an amazing team of over 25 volunteers from across the plurality get involved in some way and this enabled us to welcome 150 visitors from the public, alongside 233 children from various schools and groups as well as all the staff!

We spent much of the year fundraising for our new disabled ramp, and we are so grateful for all those who caught the vision and got behind this project.

### **Making Disciples**

We have continued our pattern of worshipping in 4 different congregations across the plurality; at 9.15am on Sundays at All Saints, at 11.15am at Holy Trinity. Our family orientated worship service '4forAll' is held every Sunday at 4pm open to everyone and on Wednesdays we have a midweek 10am service held at All Saints. Each of these congregations is established and growing and allowing people to meet for worship at times and in ways that suit them and can be managed by our current resources. We have also reintroduced our monthly informal worship on a Sunday evening for those who would like to experience more Holy Spirit focused worship.

One of the real highlights and joys for us in the past year was our introduction of bi-monthly Celebration Sundays, worshipping with people from across all our congregations together, the joy and excitement of these services has been a blessing to all.

At Easter we were able to worship together in a variety of ways and styles. We were able to hold our Memorial Service in November and were delighted to welcome over 70 people into church for that service. We also held Remembrance Day services which were well attended. At Christmas we held a whole range of services in both locations and welcomed lots of people to come and celebrate the good news of Christmas.

We have had three house groups running this year. It has been so encouraging to see so many people growing as disciples. Our teaching series in our sermons have covered different books of the bible as well as some themed series focusing on our Mission Action Plan, each of us identifying and using our gifts and learning to minister for Jesus effectively on our personal frontlines. We also used lectionary readings at different points in the year.

### **Being Witnesses**

We have continued to respond to our call to be witnesses in varied and creative ways throughout 2022. In the first part of the year we had a teaching series entitled Fruitfulness on the Frontline, helping us to think through how we might share the gospel with those we come into contact with in our daily lives. Some of our house groups also did an accompanying course together.

We held a number of successful events during the year which have helped us reach out to the community and those on the fringes of our church family, including the community Easter Egg hunt in April, the celebration of the late Queen's Platinum Jubilee in June, the light party in November, and the Narnia event in December. These events have also seen families from our other ministries in church, such as Trinity Tots, coming along to church events for the first time. And this has all been possible thanks to the willingness and hard work of volunteers from across the plurality.

Occasional offices continued to be a big part of how we share the love of Jesus with those in our communities, as we journey with families during times of both great joy and sadness. Across the plurality we had 13 funerals, 22 baptisms and 5 weddings during 2022.

In autumn we ran another Alpha course, this time in person, helping people to explore the big questions of life and faith together. We had around 12 people attend the course, and this has led to the formation of another house group, allowing people to continue their journey of faith in a safe and welcoming space.

In the run up to Christmas we were again able to give blessing boxes to many across our plurality. We continued to support our local foodbanks, as well as responding to the needs of Ukrainian people by supporting the work of International Aid. We also continued to tithe some of our income to different causes – local, national, and global – as a way of sharing what God has blessed our churches with.

### **Growing Leaders**

We continued to be blessed in 2022 with the generosity of so many across our plurality who volunteer their time and skills to serve our church and community. We are extremely grateful to those who have participated in the leadership of our churches on our PCCs and the buildings, finance, and fundraising sub-committees. We also continued to be blessed with the work of Sue Flitcroft as our Parish Administrator, and it was a joy to see Sue licensed as an Authorised Lay Minister (ALM) in October. Tash Green successfully continues her Licensed Lay Ministry course with the Diocese, and we have greatly benefitted from her ministry among us.

Others across our plurality also led in additional ways throughout 2022, including but not limited to those who helped to lead and contribute to our worship services, those who run house groups, those who volunteered to lead during our Holiday Club, and those who helped to lead at Kingdom Kids and Youth Group. We are hugely grateful for the ways in which people step forward and serve in all of these ways, and we are excited to see how God will continue to grow us as a church of people who are eager to serve him with the gifts he has blessed us with.

### **Inspiring Children & Young People**

This year it was wonderful to be able to develop some regular work with children and young people and see a whole range of people from across the plurality getting involved in that. We held a hugely successful Holiday Club in the summer inside Higher Walton Primary School and welcomed 55 different children as well as a team of volunteers from both churches. On the back of that we have introduced Kingdom Kids which is a monthly meeting for primary school aged children with food, fun and learning. This has reached out to some families who were previously not attending other church events. Our Youth Group continues to meet monthly with a small group of girls attending regularly.

We were also able to continue offering regular weekly worship at Higher Walton school, this is such a huge blessing to be able to regularly invest in the lives of these children. We have also had many of the classes visit All Saints Church for lessons and prayer stations. We were also able to welcome the school into church for the Year 6 leavers service and their Christingle/Carol Service.

2022 has been a year of great blessings for us and although no blessing goes uncontested, we thank God for his faithfulness to us in everything. We are deeply grateful for all of those who in whatever way large or small contribute to the running and flourishing of our plurality, our public worship, our many events and activities and our life of faith together. We look forward with expectation to what our Lord has in store for us in the coming years.

*Rev Hannah Boyd & Rev Bryn Naylor*

## **Safeguarding**

All PCC members and Churchwardens are required to complete online Safeguarding training. The Basic training has been completed by all required parties, with the Foundations Course and Domestic Abuse Course being completed over the next month.

DBS checks are up-to-date for all relevant persons, PCC members, Trinity Tots helpers, Kingdom Kids and Youth Club helpers.

The Diocese have set up an online portal/safeguarding dashboard for churches to use to keep all records up to date.

Safeguarding is discussed at every PCC meeting and regular meetings held with the safeguarding team.

Safeguarding contact details can be found on the notice board at the back of church and on All Saints Church website.

*Marilyn Woods & June Westby*  
*Safeguarding Officers*

## **Secretary's Report**

Six full PCC meetings were held in 2022. Meetings in January, March, May, July September and November were all held in person this year. There was an average 84% (2021 - 92%) attendance by members at each meeting.

The meetings were held in conjunction with the PCC of Holy Trinity, Houghton. Each meeting began with a joint session when the Vicar's Update and Safeguarding reports were presented. All members attending the meetings participated in joint training sessions as well as contributing towards the creation of the Mission Action Plan for both Churches across the plurality. Following the joint sessions, the PCCs held separate meetings to follow the agenda specific to each PCC.

*Gareth Maddock*

## **Financial Review**

2022 was a mixed year overall for our finances.

For the first time in a number of years we did not pay our Parish Share in full with a shortfall of £3184, however we did pay £33250 to the Diocese towards our Parish Share which was very creditable.

Overall giving was down on previous years as for various reasons we lost several significant givers. Our cashflow was also hit by substantially increased costs for gas and electricity. Funds from our numerous social events were allocated to the Disabled Ramp Fund rather than normal running costs.

On the plus side, the Disabled Ramp Fund has increased to £19000 from general donations and profit from events like the band concert and harvest supper. The 3 Peaks challenge generated over £1000 from sponsorship, well done to those who participated. On top of that this year's Gift Day, spread over several weeks, contributed another £9185, an exceptional achievement.

Thanks as always to Jane Maddock for her excellent work as Gift Aid Secretary, and to Lillian Orrell who looks after the banking of our cash each month.

*Stephen Houghton*  
*Treasurer & Churchwarden*

### **Social and Fundraising**

There were several popular events featured throughout the year culminating with a hugely successful Christmas Fair.

- **Afternoon Tea** - excellent food well presented to a full attendance. Enjoyable music provided by DJ James Maddock.
- **Plant Sale** - repeated but just one day. Very successful. Well attended and refreshments enjoyed by all.
- **Summer Fair** - held in church car park again. A good day even if numbers slightly down. Steps to Heaven provided the entertainment along with DJ James Maddock. Monetary support again from Ian Wilde Funeral Directors.
- **Ceilidh/Harvest Supper** - held at St Aidan's Bamber Bridge. Hotpot was provided by Paul's Pies. The music was provided by local band Fit for Purpose. A good night was had by all.
- **Central Lancashire Community Concert Band** - entertained us again. They had been with us before and were very well received. A good range of popular music was played by bandmaster Neil Bird and his 20 musicians.
- **Our Quiz** was held on Friday 21 October in Net's Bar Hoghton. Hotpot / butter pies supper. Stephen Niven was again our excellent and entertaining Quizmaster. Gareth & Jane Maddock's team (Team Lettuce) came out on top after a tie break.
- **The Christmas Fair** was on Saturday 3rd December - fortunately not the following week when icy conditions returned. The usual range of stalls featured with a couple of guest stallholders offering a children's tombola and Tropics products. Record takings - long may it continue! The event was very well organised, very well attended and enjoyed by everyone. Hoghton in Harmony and Steps to Heaven both entertained us. Excellent refreshments were as popular as ever. The marvellous hamper prize was won by a flabbergasted Mildred Lee!

New volunteers still needed for the Social Team please.

*Sandra Houghton*

### **Deanery Synod**

There were 3 Leyland Deanery meetings in 2022. I was unable to attend the March meeting which was held at St Andrew's Leyland. However, from the minutes I can report that the guest speaker was Lisa Moncur, the Diocesan Registrar. She outlined the diversity of her responsibilities including church yards, marriage licences, constitutional issues re PCCs and church wardens, church property including boundary fences, church halls and land plus clergy conduct and safeguarding.

The second meeting was held here at All Saints in June hosted by Rev Hannah and chaired by Area Dean, Rev Marc Wolverson. The guest speaker was Carolyn Barton who spoke about "Mission and Financial Flourishing" as part of the Diocesan Vision 2026. Central funding has provided an administrator for each Area Dean in the Diocese to free up their

time to visit all the individual Parish Ministry teams to get a better picture of their needs. It is hoped that ongoing funding will be achieved for this to be a continual process going forward.

The final meeting was held on 13<sup>th</sup> October at All Saints, New Longton with the guest speaker being Rev Steve Haskett who is the lead for the Diocesan Parish Renewal Initiative. His presentation explained the background to his role which is centrally funded. Blackburn Diocese is committed to maintaining clergy numbers but parish growth is hard in some places for complex reasons. He is hoping to build support for up to 30 parishes by next summer.

*Margaret Arton  
Deanery Rep*

### **Church Buildings**

Discussion during the year centred on the proposed fixed Access (Disabled) Ramp. After meetings with the Diocese (Diocese Advisory Committee) and our Architect, plans and specifications were finally agreed and tenders were drawn up and quotes received from five building contractors. A faculty was requested from the Diocese and once accepted planning permission was applied for with SRBC. The cost of the Access Ramp is considerable and due to the pandemic and opening up of global economies is, therefore, subject to material shortages and increased costs. The church is also a grade 2 listed building and, therefore, any alteration has to blend in with the rest of the building. We were then looking forward to 2023 when the work was to begin.

During the year minor work was carried out to the valley roof where a number of slates had been damaged during the storms. A new roof and fascia were added to the outside toilet. Maintenance and servicing were carried out on clearing the church gutters, fire equipment, PAT testing, pest control, organ and the heating system as well as refurbishing the Whittle Vestry.

Our Quinquennial Inspection was also undertaken in October.

*Geoff Woods  
Churchwarden*

### **LADIES GROUP**

Following Covid, at the end of 2021, it was decided to change the meeting time to an afternoon instead of an evening meeting which had been the case for many years. Due to availability of the Higher Walton Community Centre, it was agreed that we would now meet there on the first Thursday of the month from 2pm to 4pm starting in February 2022.

The speaker for this first meeting was Enid Catterall who gave an interesting talk about the handbells at All Saints in particular. In the discussions at the end of the meeting, I volunteered to take on the role of Chairperson of the group and it was unanimously agreed for me to do so. The annual subscriptions remained at £15 for the year with a meeting charge of £2 as previously. Janet Bradley continued as Bookings Secretary and Linda Lamb as Treasurer.

We continued the year with the usual meeting pattern of a meal out in January and July, no meeting in August and 9 other monthly meetings with either a speaker or activities. We

continue to support the Church social events by running a stall at both the summer and Christmas Fairs.

There has been an increase in membership from 21 to 28 this year and this is due mainly to advertising in Hoghton Handbook, by email via Church Desk and posters in Higher Walton.

*Margaret Arton*  
*Chairperson*

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

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. At All Saints the membership of the PCC consisted of our vicar, churchwardens and members elected by those members of the congregation who are on the Electoral Roll of the church.

All those who attend our services / members of the congregation are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC.

PCC members are responsible for making decisions on all matters of general concern and importance to the Parish including deciding how the funds of the PCC are to be spent. New members have the opportunity to receive initial training as to the workings of the PCC.

Attendance by members at PCC meetings was 84%

Given its wide responsibilities the PCC has a number of groups for dealing with a particular aspect of parish life. These include finance, fundraising and buildings, all are responsible to the PCC and report back to it regularly.

### **Administrative information**

All Saints' Church is situated on Blackburn Road, Higher Walton, Preston. It is part of the Leyland Deanery within the Diocese of Blackburn of the Church of England. The PCC is a body corporate (PCC Powers Measure 1956, Church Representation Rules 2011) and a registered charity with the Charity Commission.