



ANNUAL REPORT 2021 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 ordinary 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

PCC Membership

Chairman	Rev'd Hannah Boyd	ex-officio
Curate	Rev'd Bryn Naylor	ex-officio
Wardens	Geoff Woods	2022
	Stephen Houghton	2022
Deanery Synod	Margaret Arton	2023

vacancy

Members	Brad Eccles	2022
	Vacancy	
	vacancy	
	Keith Houston	2023
	Joanne Ingham	2023
	Michael Hogarth	2023
	Sandra Houghton	2024
	Gareth Maddock	2024
	Erica Beaumont	2024

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 (22/5/2022) the electoral roll is made up of 80 names

Church Attendance October 2021

Average adult attendance: 37

Average Child Attendance: 9

Worshipping Community Totals 2021

0-17:	19
18-69	27
70+	37

Occasional Offices 2021

Baptisms: 4

Confirmations: 0

Marriages: 1

Funerals held in church: 11

Funerals held at the crematorium: 1

Clergy Report

As I look back over 2021 in the middle of coping with the ongoing pandemic and all the impacts and effects it had on us, I have to say that my overwhelming thought is gratitude. Gratitude to God for his goodness and kindness to us in the midst of such a turbulent year; as churches we were able to continue to grow and to thrive. We saw lots of exciting things happening and no report would be able to fit in all our blessings, but I just want to highlight some key areas to you.

Firstly, the arrival of Rev Bryn Naylor along with Rhiannon, Max, Grace, and Ella was a huge blessing to us in the plurality. For me personally, having a colleague to pray with and work closely and share the ministry with has been a source of great joy. I know you will all agree with me on acknowledging how well Bryn and the family have settled in among us and how much we have already benefitted from his ministry, and the gifts and skills he brings to our parishes. We look forward to continuing to see him grow and develop his ministry with us in the coming years.

Secondly, as churches we continued to work well together and develop our ministry and presence in our communities in all kinds of ways. A real highlight for me was when in September after months of meeting online our two PCCs held their first in person meeting together and there was such a buzz in the room as everyone chatted and got to know new people and shared real joy at being able to meet together. It is so good to see them working together while keeping due diligence on looking after our individual churches. We also saw this working together displayed most positively in our community through the Bishops Challenge weekend, over the course of a sunny September Saturday we were able to welcome Bishop Julian, Bishop Philip and Bishop Jill to our fun day as we saw lots of people abseil from Holy Trinity tower and have fun raising money for our churches. It was an incredible team effort from some very willing and able volunteers and special mention must go to the Scouts who did an excellent job of setting up and running some games for us. This was followed by a wonderful celebration Sunday the next day when we welcomed Bishop Julian to preach for us and had so many people in church receiving their certificates and enjoying worshipping together. The Tearfund afternoon tea in the summer was also the first large social event we had held where people felt confident to come and meet together again in larger numbers and share in fellowship with one another whilst raising money for a very worthy cause.

Making Disciples

Despite having to stop public worship for a number of weeks early in the year, we managed to ensure that everyone continued to have access to worship in some form or another. We have continued to live stream our Sunday morning services, and this has seen us reaching out beyond the church walls to draw other people into our worship. By the end of the year, we had established a pattern of worshipping in 4 different congregations across the plurality; at 9.15am on Sundays at All Saints, later at 11.15am at Holy Trinity. Our family orientated worship service '4forAll' is now held every Sunday at 4pm open to everyone and on Wednesday's we also 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.

At Easter we were able to worship together again in a variety of ways and styles although still with some restrictions. We were able to hold our Memorial service again 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 and had a week of prayer and lament with evening reflections which were poorly supported. At Christmas we held a whole range of services in both locations and outside and welcomed lots of people to come and celebrate the good news of Christmas.

We have had two house groups running this year and had a small extra group meeting for Lent. Our teaching series in our sermons have covered different books of the bible as well as some themed series and we also used lectionary readings at different points in the year.

Being Witnesses

We continued prayer walking our parishes at different points in the year and also launched a new group aimed at families with babies and children (see additional report). We delivered leaflets at various points in the year to promote our services and activities to the people in our community and I am immensely grateful to all those who volunteer to serve in this way. As previously mentioned, our Bishop's Challenge Day was a huge day of witness in our community, and we also held a light party for families at the end of October.

Occasional Offices: funerals, baptism and weddings continued to be a huge part of our outreach to our communities last year, spending time drawing alongside families, meeting with them and ministering to them and continuing those connections after the services. Across the plurality there were 20 funerals, 9 baptisms and 6 weddings in 2021.

We were also able to give many people across our plurality a blessing box in the run up to Christmas, we supported our local foodbanks on several occasions, and we also tithed some of our income to different charities, using what God has blessed us with to bless others.

Growing Leaders

I am so grateful for all the ways in which people serve across our two churches in a variety of roles and always incredibly grateful for people's generosity in their time and skills for the benefit of our church communities. We have lots of people operating in leadership areas, wonderful work done by our ministry team and PCCs and their sub-committees of finance, fundraising and buildings and we were also delighted to be able to recommend and support Tash Green in beginning her Local Licensed Ministry Course with the Diocese of Blackburn. We also welcomed Sue Flitcroft as our parish administrator and this has been a great blessing to the ministry across the plurality, removing some of the administrative burden from me. Sue completed the Administration module of the Blackburn Diocese Authorised Lay Ministry course in the Autumn term of 2021.

Inspiring Children & young People

Although our numbers of families are still low, we were delighted to see a positive response to the 4forAll Service and have seen our families really committing to that service. We were also able to hold a Holiday Club outside All Saints in August where we had great fun together. We were also able to continue offering regular weekly worship at Higher Walton school, for parts of the year this was pre-recorded, in other parts of the year it was outside in the playground competing with the noise of the traffic and it ended the year back in the school hall. We were also able to welcome the school into church in limited numbers for the Year 6 leavers service and their Christingle/Carol Service where they were able to make use of our live streaming facilities for parents and families to join us virtually!

2021 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. I am 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. I look forward to what our Lord has in store for us in the coming years.

Rev Hannah Boyd

Curate's Report

2021 was a big year for the Naylor family – making the move from Durham, where we had been living while I trained for ordained ministry, to Hoghton, was a big transition for all of us: new house, new jobs, new school, new nursery. But we feel that we were able to settle in well, not least because of the efforts of the church families to make us feel welcome, particularly in all your work to get the Vicarage in Hoghton ready before our arrival.

Since being ordained in July, my time in Hoghton and Higher Walton has both affirmed and challenged me in my ministry. There has been lots to learn as I have begun to put into practice the training that I undertook, and in amongst that there have been many highlights to reflect on: holiday club during the summer was a fantastic time to engage with young people in our churches and communities; setting up Trinity Tots and seeing that flourish has been a source of real joy; and abseiling down the tower at Holy Trinity was something I had not been expecting out of my curacy (definitely a once in a lifetime thing). Being involved in the day-to-day ministry of the parishes has also been a real privilege, not only being able to get to know you, and to lead us in worship and preach, but also being involved in baptisms and funerals and celebrating my first Christmas as an ordained minister.

Speaking personally, beginning this curacy was a daunting prospect: finally beginning the ministry that I felt God had been calling me to, not really knowing what to expect, and not having the chance to meet many of you before starting. However, I have benefitted hugely from the support and experience of a brilliant training incumbent in Hannah and have also greatly appreciated all your words of encouragement and kindness over the first 6 months of my ministry here. I am grateful that God called me to this place at this time and am looking forward to seeing how God will continue to use and grow me during the rest of my curacy here.

Rev Bryn Naylor

Safeguarding

The two parish Safeguarding Officers are June Westby (under 18s) and Marilyn Woods (vulnerable adults). There was one matter of concern during the year which was dealt with by the vicar, Rev. Hannah Boyd. All Church Officials and Leaders are DBS checked at the enhanced level. Safeguarding is a permanent item on all PCC agendas.

Geoff and Marilyn Woods

Secretary's Report

Six full PCC meetings were held in 2021. Meetings in January, March, May and July were held via Zoom, whilst the meetings in September and November were held in person. There was an average 92% attendance by members at each meeting.

The meetings were held in conjunction with the PCC of Holy Trinity, Hoghton. 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 sessions of the PCC Tonight training. This is a six session module developed by the Church Pastoral Aid Society (CPAS) and covers issues including the purpose of the PCC, the best way to conduct meetings, mission and community. Following the joint sessions, the PCCs held separate meetings to follow the agenda specific to each PCC.

One extraordinary PCC meeting was held in January to discuss the suspension of in-person worship due to COVID, and PCC members also met in October to receive Fire Warden Training delivered in house by Bradley Eccles.

Gareth Maddock

Financial Review

Last year was another challenging year on the finance front. Voluntary Giving was behind schedule for most of the year but a final push via a one-off Gift Day Appeal brought us to 99% of our target. Fees paid to the church for funerals/weddings was sadly well above what we budgeted for due to the number of funerals held. Fundraising again exceeded budget mainly due to the Abseiling event supplemented by our own numerous activities. Fundraising towards the disabled ramp was boosted by the donations for Hannah completing her marathon.

Expenditure on the church itself included some essential lighting work and the fittings around the carpet edges. Expenditure of the church grounds was well above budget as we retained the services of Millars to keep the lawn area mown and tidy.

We fell short of our tithing target in the year but made up some of the shortfall early in 2022 when we sent extra funds to the Children's Society over and above the Christingle monies. The work on the roof was completed from accumulated restricted funds, and we reclaimed the VAT from the Listed Places of Worship Scheme.

Funds held at end of year £23604 of which £20402 are restricted.

The Accounts have been independently examined. Charity Commission information is up-to-date as required.

As always, our thanks to the generous giving throughout the year and the support to our various fundraising events.

Special thanks to Lillian Orrell for her work with the banking and Jane Maddock who has seamlessly taken on the role of Gift Aid Secretary.

Stephen Houghton

Social and Fundraising

2021 was another year when our social events were disrupted by the lockdown situation. Despite this there were many notable successes with everyone enjoying what the team did manage to arrange. The early events were hosted via Zoom which proved very manageable and provided much laughter and competitiveness. Our Games Night featured Bingo, Kim's Game and a Scavenger Hunt. Stephen Niven entertained us with his bingo calling and carried on in the same vein when question master at our Zoom Quiz night.

Two new events followed in the Summer. A Plant Sale over two weekend sessions and a walking Treasure Hunt around Higher Walton Village. Both well supported and successful. The weather conditions for the Treasure Hunt were appalling but Tash managed to provide food on the barbecue and not burn down the garage! Janet Blackledge hosted an Open Garden at Eagles Nest, with refreshments and plants available to buy. Again, well supported and donated funds split between our church and Janet's chosen charity.

The major outdoor event was the Abseiling Day at Holy Trinity Church. Sponsored individuals abseiled down the Tower, led off by Rev Hannah Boyd and Bishop Philip. Well done to all who completed the feat. A potato growing competition had been organised, and a sporting challenge hosted by the local scouts was also successful. The substantial proceeds were split between the two churches. As a church we were complemented on our very successful Tombola stall at the Gregson Green August Bank Holiday Community Event. Our Harvest Supper at St Aidan's Church Hall was a good evening despite the dancing being cancelled as a covid precaution. Judith Pearson provided the food, again well received.

Finally, our Christmas Fair was back after an unavoidable absence. Some new stalls were introduced as well as the old favourites. The event was very well supported and a new record amount was raised on the day. Many thanks to all who organised and ran this event.

Sandra & Stephen Houghton

Deanery Synod

There were just two Leyland deanery meetings this year.

The first was held in March via Zoom and the Dean of the Cathedral spoke about the challenges and changes that have happened at the Cathedral since he took office four years ago particularly during the pandemic.

The second meeting was held in person and the speaker was Rev Nick Mckee, the Diocesan Vocations Director. He gave a very interesting and enlightening presentation entitled "What is Church" which explained the roles fulfilled in churches by members. These included informal lay ministry such as refreshments makers, PCC members etc, authorised lay ministry and licensed lay ministry and the training that is available.

Margaret Arton

Children's and Youth Work

At the beginning of the year our provision for the children and youth was online via Zoom.

As a replacement and extension of "Kingdom Kids" we had moved to an informal service format on Sunday at 9.30am via Zoom. The format provided for a Bible theme, prayer, craft activities and a memory verse and was aimed at families with young children and was well supported by a loyal group of families and led by Hannah and members of the Ministry Team

As the restrictions were lifted, we moved the service outside in the church grounds at a time of 4pm which seemed to suit those who came and eventually was renamed '4 For All' and moved into church as the weather worsened and became our Sunday All Age worship service.

The service is regularly attended by a core of 6 families with others joining as well. A time to worship and praise God through games, Bible readings, songs, crafts and prayer. All growing together in faith and a time for a brew and a chat and supporting each other. The time works well for the regular attenders, and they will usually let us know if they are unable to attend.

A couple of themed services to highlight:

Light Party – our alternative Halloween party sharing Jesus as the light that overcomes darkness. This was well attended with some light linked crafts and games, prayer, Bible reading and discussion for all ages.

Nativity – this was held at Holy Trinity with the children and adults dressing up as a nativity character and taking part as the story unfolded and we journeyed together to the stable in Bethlehem. This was followed by a party, and which was lots of fun.

The Youth Group continued to meet on Zoom on a two-weekly basis between 7.30pm and 8.30pm and which was switched to an outdoor face to face session in the summer months.

The emphasis was on keeping the group together and providing a mixed program of activities which had proved difficult at times on Zoom.

One of the highlights of the year was the response of the Youth and children to the Lent project in 'Toilet Twinning' our aim being to raise enough money for one toilet. In the end through monies raised by afternoon teas, pizzas, litter picking and doing household chores enough money was raised for a block of toilets in what was a great effort.

Unfortunately, the youth group stopped meeting in September as we only had members of two families regularly attending and this decision came from the group themselves.

We are always looking at new ways to relate to and involve our children and young people in our church family and are blessed to have them involved.

Holiday Club

Our Summer Holiday Club ran for the ninth consecutive year and on a face-to-face basis.

We ran it between the 16th and 20th August with morning sessions only and under gazebos in the church grounds and it was well attended.

We had an Olympic theme and we had fun exploring the Bible, singing, making friends, crafts and games.

The messy challenges were something else, involving baked beans, cream, chocolate, sweets and donuts!!

The rain didn't dampen our spirits and thanks to all that helped to make the week a great success. Let's not forget the healthy competition between the teams to collect points and win the gold medal.

Thanks to all involved in the Children's and Youth work of the Parish and for their continued support and encouragement.

Stephen Niven & Natasha Green

School Relationship

2021 was another difficult year for all due to the ongoing pandemic and schools were no exception to this. Schools once again had to cope with closures, home schooling, catch up and the reality that pupils were all at different levels of learning because of this.

The church through its three Foundation Governors at Higher Walton C of E Primary School continued to offer their assistance and support during this period and it was helpful when Rev. Hannah was able to go back into school and resume worship either at class level, in bubbles or out on the playground.

Due to Covid still being with us, all Governor meetings continued to be held on Zoom. Your Foundation Governors were particularly concerned throughout the year for the wellbeing of all pupils and staff and made regular contact with the school either via phone or email.

The year 6 leavers service was able to be held in church and was livestreamed to school and parents.

Geoff Woods

Church Buildings

Discussion during the year centred on two main areas, the Greenhouse and the proposed fixed Access (disabled) Ramp.

The Greenhouse roof is in need of major repair and although some quotes were received, the question of its viability was the subject of much discussion, thought and prayer.

After meeting with the Diocese (Diocese Advisory Committee) and our Architect, plans, specifications and tenders were drawn up and quotes received from five building contractors. 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. Further meetings with the architect are planned and fund raising will be launched next year.

During the year minor work was carried out to the carpet edging, clearance of bird debris from the bell tower, new door on the toilet block, in addition to regular maintenance of the fire equipment, portable electrical equipment, organ and pest control.

A full audit of our Fire Risk Assessment and procedures was carried out and all documentation was brought up to date.

Geoff Woods

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 92%

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.