



ANNUAL REPORT 2020 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

Response to Covid 19 Pandemic

It would be wrong to start any annual report for the church looking back at 2020 without acknowledging the event that changed all our lives. 2020 will be remembered as a year of great upheaval, change, loss and in some senses the removal of all that we knew to be of our lives. For large parts of the year, we were unable to meet together in person for worship and we were cut off from one another in many other ways.

Throughout the pandemic I tried, as best as I could, to ensure that two things happened: Everyone was enabled to have access to worship

We reached out to support those in need in our community both within the church and in the parish

Access to worship was provided for those with internet access, via pre-recorded services every week and special services as and when needed. We owe a huge debt of gratitude to Andrew Freeman who worked tirelessly throughout the last twelve months to enable that to happen and taught many of us new skills and new ways of making worship engaging and accessible on a screen. I am grateful too, to all those who learnt how to film themselves and were willing to appear in pre-recorded worship services.

Having our services available on YouTube and Facebook has increased significantly the reach of our worship services and we have been watched by people all around the country and indeed the world! This has been a wonderful and unexpected blessing of the pandemic, reaching out to more people and making our worship accessible to those who may not be brave enough to walk through our door and for those who are unable to physically be present with us.

We were very blessed that just before the pandemic hit the PCC had approved the decision to have a photocopier installed in church (we share the costs with Holy Trinity), this has been a huge blessing and has been very well used in the last 12 months. We quickly drew up data bases at both churches of those church members without internet access and they have been regularly provided with worship booklets for home, devotional booklets at different seasons of the year and a whole range of other things to read. We also invested in a phone line so that all services are uploaded to a phone line which people can dial for free to listen to the service if they don't have internet access.

We also established a 'Friends on the Phone' system and identified those within our parishes who were living alone or housebound and who would benefit from having a friend on the phone. A team of volunteers have worked tirelessly to telephone people and keep in touch providing a listening ear and a friendly voice. We also felt it was important to extend this offer to the rest of the plurality and delivered leaflets to every home in both parishes offering this service to everyone. As a result of that we made contact with several individuals and families, we have been involved in regular shopping for people, collecting of prescriptions and lots more chatting on the phone! I am so thankful and grateful to those volunteers who have been involved with this project faithfully for so many months.

Rev Hannah

Worship and Prayer

At the start of 2020 we moved to a new pattern of worship services to enable me to have more time at both churches and not to be driving around the parish like a maniac!

Worship at All Saints moved to 9.15am with a pattern including All Age Worship, Holy Communion, Family Holy Communion and a Service of the Word. We had begun to see real growth in our morning services particularly our All-Age Service. We also had a monthly 8am BCP Communion service and had a monthly evening service with a more informal and contemporary feel. Our Wednesday Holy Communion moved to fortnightly happening before the coffee morning and this became a growing quiet service in the middle of the week.

We also in line with our vision, set aside the period of Lent as 40 days of prayer, created a special prayer room inside the Whittle vestry, opened church three times a day for private prayer and had weekly themed prayer stations. This was all very well used and received until the pandemic hit and we had to close the church building.

As part of that vision, we also began prayer walking the parishes and this has been a huge blessing to me over 2020, to have people, following all current restrictions, regularly prayer walking the streets of our parish asking God to bless the people, homes, businesses and schools.

During the first lockdown when church was closed, we met regularly on zoom for coffee after the church service on a Sunday morning for those who wished to join us, and this was a time of great fellowship.

After we were able to return to public worship and to meet all restrictions, we established a pattern of 9am All Age Worship on a Sunday and weekly 10am Holy Communion services on a Wednesday. Numbers have always been low at both of these services during 2020. After the disappointment of not being able to worship together at Easter it was wonderful to be able to have some in-person worship over the Christmas season although we couldn't offer our usual range of services because of the restrictions, it was brilliant to have a 'full' church on Christmas Day, our pre-recorded nativity received over a thousand views while our joint live streamed Christingle service was very well received.

Rev Hannah

Clergy Report

I'm not quite sure where to start to describe 2020 but the one thing I can say as I look back on the most unexpected and hopefully most difficult year of ministry I will ever face is: God is good all the time. I am blown away by the goodness of God in so many little and big things during 2020. When we started the year looking at what it means to be a disciple of Jesus in 2020, little did we know how important that would become for all of us in the coming months. Being able to establish and develop our discipleship and healthy habits of

faith growth has been good for us all in many ways even in the midst of the challenges and often having to do that in isolation.

As part of the teaching series, we held a gift day in February to raise the last needed funds for the roof project and I was blown away by the generosity of people in their giving, the total raised was £17,215 which meant that we were able to have the roof work done once restrictions allowed it. Thank you to everyone who gave so generously.

I am also thankful to God for the way he blessed me with so many encouraging and supportive people, in all areas of the church life. People who were so willing to give of their time and effort to ensure things got done and to cope with the ever-increasing workloads and changes in the way things had to happen. Special thanks must go to Janet Blackledge who has always worked so tirelessly in her role as church warden for all her support and help. After Janet stepped down as church warden, I am so grateful to Geoff Woods for continuing in this role, and for doing it alone. He has worked so hard to ensure the roof project happened and coped with all the complexities of that and everything else the position of church warden holds with a smile on his face and a willingness to serve and for that I am grateful. I am also grateful to Stephen Houghton who has managed our finances so well during such a tricky and complicated year and never complained about all my crazy ideas which meant more work for him. As I have already said we owe a huge debt of gratitude to Andrew Freeman and I am personally so thankful for his willingness to serve and the many hours of his time he has given us all and for always coping with my wacky suggestions for things!

The ministry team have worked well as a team this year, joining with the ministry team at Holy Trinity, ensuring that worship and prayer happened and have provided me with much needed support and listening ears. There have also been all of those who have cleaned chairs, cut grass, tidied things as and when allowed to. All of these unseen jobs ensure the smooth running of the church building and ministries and I am thankful to God for every person who has served in any such way.

One of the huge privileges of ministry for me is to walk alongside grieving families when they have lost a loved one, in 2020 I took 31 funerals, 24 of them in All Saints parish. This has been a huge time commitment from me but also reflects something of the loss that the country as a whole has experienced in 2020. We were able to welcome over 45 members of families and friends of those loved ones to an open afternoon of prayer and reflection in place of our usual memorial service in November. As well as this we were also able to provide a pre-recorded memorial service online and on DVD. As we look ahead to the future, we are beginning to explore ways we can support those families more and for longer.

Our finances have continued to remain a challenge in 2020 but I am thankful to God for always blessing us with what we needed. Aside from the tremendous reaction to the gift

day, there was also a huge and generous response to my letter in the autumn which meant that we were able to pay our parish share in full by the end of the year as well as supporting other needs as they arose.

The faithfulness of our teenagers has been another highlight of 2020 for me, their willingness to get involved with events is brilliant and I really enjoyed walking with them between the two churches on a sponsored walk in March to raise money for Sport Relief. They have also faithfully kept on meeting on zoom every week during the pandemic and never tired in their devotion to one another or their faith. They are a brilliant example to us all.

Rev Hannah

Mission and Evangelism

As already mentioned, the 'Friends on the Phone' initiative was a huge part of our mission and evangelism in 2020 and produced some good relationships and contacts. As well as leafleting the parishes with contact information for this, we have also distributed leaflets across the parish for a range of other purposes. The arrival of the photocopier has given us a good way of reaching out to people and showing them that their local church is very much alive and active. Thanks to all those who so faithfully walk the streets delivering leaflets.

We were also, thanks to people's generosity, able to support several individuals in needs: provided several pieces of furniture for a young mum and her children; bought a mobile phone for a person in need and were able to provide top ups of gas and electricity for those who needed it.

We have also kept up and increased our donations for the local foodbanks and saw a brilliant response from people in the parishes to our harvest appeal which saw boxes placed in local shops.

This year at Christmas as there was no over 80's party every person who would normally be invited to the party received a present.

As a result of the number of contacts we had made through funerals and other sources this year we decided to extend the Holy Trinity Mothers Union scheme of blessing boxes to all those who we felt would benefit from this. Thanks to everyone's generosity we were able to distribute 45 boxes across the plurality. They were extremely well received and appreciated.

Rev Hannah

Church Officials

Ministry Team

Vicar: Rev'd Hannah Boyd
Retired Priest with PTO: Rev'd David Woodhouse

PCC Membership October 2020

Chairman	Rev. Hannah Boyd	ex-officio
Wardens	G Woods	2021
	vacancy	
Deanery	M Arton	2024
	vacancy	
Members	Sa Houghton	2021
	S Kennedy	2021
	G Maddock	2021
	B Eccles	2022 (Co-opted)
	St Houghton	2022
	vacancy	
	Keith Houston	2023
	J Ingham	2023 (Co-opted)
	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 (23/5/2021) the electoral roll is made up of 80 names

Church Attendance 2020

Average adult attendance: 31

Average Child Attendance: 7

Occasional Offices 2020

Baptisms: 2

Confirmations: 0

Marriages: 0

Funerals held in church: 13

Funerals held at the crematorium: 11

Safeguarding

The two Parish Safeguarding Officers, June Westby (under 18s) and Marilyn Woods (vulnerable adults), had no matters of concern reported to them during 2020.

All church officials and leaders are DBS checked at the enhanced level.

Safeguarding is a permanent item on all PCC meetings.

Geoff and Marilyn Woods

Financial Review

The Parish Share of £44859 was met in full, a wonderful achievement and we are very grateful to all contributors.

Income totalled £99948 including an exceptional Gift Day which contributed £17215.

Expenditure totalled £108177 of which £26116 related to the roof.

End of year balances were £4141 general funds and £45881 restricted funds.

We were able to tithe £500 to Tearfund. Thanks again to Lillian Orrell for the counting and banking of the cash. Also thanks to Denise Kennedy for her role as Gift Aid Coordinator.

We are a Registered Charity no 1153190 and each PCC member has been registered as a trustee. Our Financial Accounts to £1 December 2019 have been registered with the Charity commission within the statutory timescale.

Stephen Houghton

Social and Fundraising

Before Covid restrictions impacted, we were able to host a 60's themed disco in February fronted by James 'DJ Jam' Maddock. St Aidan's Church Hall in Bamber Bridge was the venue for another successful Quiz Evening in March.

Quizzes have continued via zoom (without the pie and peas). The December quiz raised funds for The Children's Society as we were unable to hold our usual Carol Singing in the village

Both churches enjoyed a Pancake Party in February at HTH church hall.

Sadly, the Wednesday Coffee Mornings preceded by Holy Communion were suspended in March.

Our Christmas Hamper Raffle, Christmas Gift Stall and Christmas Cake sales all contributed substantial funds.

A hugely entertaining coach trip to Blackpool Winter Gardens to see The Sound of Music was arranged in February. A very professional production enjoyed by all.

Thank you everyone who supported these events.

Stephen Houghton

Deanery Synod

There was only one Leyland deanery meeting this year.

It was held in October via Zoom and the main item for discussion was the draft Vision 2026 Implementation Plan (2021-2024) document.

The feedback from this meeting in which both Rev Hannah and I participated, plus the feedback from all the other deaneries in the Diocese will be used to update the draft plan.

It is hoped to launch this in 2021 together with a summary version and toolkits for each parish.

Margaret Arton

Children's and Youth Work

At the beginning of the year Sunday Club was in operation for the primary age group during the main Sunday Service as was the provision for the older age group.

We switched the youth provision to a Monday evening between 7.30pm and 8.30pm meeting either in the Vicarage or the Greenhouse with a variety of activities designed to meet their needs and help them come together as a group with a definite identity.

With coronavirus and subsequent lockdown our aim was to keep connected with the children and youth and their families.

The Youth Group met via Zoom on Monday of each week between 7.30pm and 8.30pm using Scripture Union material and varied activities. The sessions would be led by two members of the team on a rota basis and a WhatsApp group was set up for communication purposes.

Further provision was then added for the younger age group being primary school age again via Zoom on a Monday evening between 6.30pm and 7pm and in line with the Scripture Union material and again being led by two members of the team on a rota basis.

We called this group 'Kingdom Kids.' We produced a short video broadcast on a Sunday leading and relevant to the Monday evening session.

In providing an ongoing involvement with the children and youth appropriate safeguarding procedure were in place and parents were encouraged to participate during the sessions.

We have a small but loyal group of participants both as regards children and youth and they have stuck with us during a difficult time for us all and we have maintained regular contact with them and their families.

Thanks to all those involved in the Children's and Youth work of the Parish for their continued support and encouragement and willingness to adapt to meet the needs of our young people.

Holiday Club

Holiday Club ran for the eighth consecutive year but on a virtual basis and running daily from the 17th to 21st August.

The theme was 'Guardians of Ancora' a Scripture Union facility for bringing the Bible to life. Each of the input sessions were prerecorded and then shown each morning as an introduction to that day's session. We met online via Zoom usually lasting about an hour and then had provided various activities for the children and parents to follow on with during the day.

The Holiday Club was well supported and an enjoyable time for all concerned and again grateful thanks to all who gave up their time and talents to make the Holiday Club possible. Special thanks to Andrew Freeman for recording and editing the video and at times working wonders in achieving the finished result.

Stephen Niven

Under 18's Co-Ordinator

School Relationship

The year 2020 has been an exceptionally difficult year for all and especially so for how schools operated in order to educate all of the pupils put in their care in a safe environment.

The church through its three Foundation Governors at Higher Walton C of E Primary School offered its assistance and support throughout the process of national lockdowns, home schooling, being open for key workers and vulnerable children.

Due to no one being allowed in school other than staff and pupils all Governor meetings were held virtually on Zoom and to give extra support to the Senior Leadership Team the Governors met each week from June until the end of the summer term. Your Foundation Governor representatives were particularly concerned throughout the year for both pupil and staff wellbeing.

Rev. Hannah, not being able to visit school, offered pastoral care and support to all staff members and also produced weekly virtual worship videos as well as assisting in the production of a virtual open day video for prospective new parents and pupils. Sadly, no school services could take place in the church during the year.

Geoff Woods

Church and Its Buildings

The church was closed for a great part of the year due to Government restrictions caused by the pandemic. However, some work was carried out when we were able to do so. The main focus of the year was to start and complete phase 2 of the roof repairs which were started at the end of September and finished just in time for Remembrance Sunday. This involved the removal and re-instatement of slates on both the south and north side of the church to make the bulk of the roof watertight.

Some minor repairs were carried out to the gutters and downspouts by the porch entrance and also to a small area of the nave at the front of the main aisle where the floor had collapsed.

Regular maintenance continued on the fire equipment, portable electrical equipment and pest control.

Towards the end of the year, discussions started again on a replacement for the disabled ramp at the rear of church in order to make it more accessible for people with mobility issues to enter church through the front entrance.

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 (from September), 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 81%

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.