

# ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

6<sup>TH</sup> April 2025 at 11am at Christ Church



Dear Friend,

Our Annual Parochial Church Meeting will begin with a joint Eucharist at Christ Church at 11 a.m. on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> April 2025 and we hope that as many people as possible will attend. If you are unable to attend, please submit your apologies. You can also join us via Zoom. Please let Rev. Tom know if you would like the link for this.

Attached to this letter is a copy of the agenda, together with the various reports for you to read before the service. ***These will not be read out at the meeting*** but there will be opportunity for comments and questions. The Rector's report will be presented during Rev. Tom's sermon that day.

If there any other items you wish to raise, which are not covered in the reports, please let Rev. Tom have these in writing a minimum of 48 hours before the meeting. These will be dealt with either at the Annual Meeting or at the first meeting of the Parochial Church Council.

With every blessing

Rev. Tom Phipps

**Agenda for Vestry Meeting to Elect Churchwardens and  
Deputy Church Wardens**

1. Minutes for the last meeting held on the 17<sup>th</sup> march 2024.

Election of Churchwardens and Deputy Churchwardens

Conclusion of election and Vestry Meeting

**Agenda for Annual Parochial Church Meeting**

1. Minutes for the last meeting held on the 17<sup>th</sup> march 2024.
2. Matters arising.

**ANNUAL REPORT BOOKLET**

*The following reports will not be read out but there will be opportunity for  
comments/questions.*

3. Electoral Roll Report
4. Report from the PCC
5. Financial Report
6. Churchwardens' Report
7. Deanery Synod Report
8. Worship and Music
9. Ministry Team
10. Curate's Report
11. Child Protection Report and Safeguarding Policy
12. Social Events Report
13. Health and Safety Report
14. Sticky Fingers Report
15. Magazine Report
16. Stewardship/Gift Aid Report
17. Flower Fund Report

+++++++

18. Elections to the PCC
19. Election of Deanery Synod reps.
20. Nomination of Sidespersons
21. Thanks from Rev Tom/Churchwardens

**BLESSING AND FINAL HYMN**

22. Conclusion of Meeting (to be followed by a short PCC Meeting to elect Secretary, Vice chair and Treasurer and to confirm the date of the next PCC meeting)

**THE PARISH OF CHRIST CHURCH WEST DIDSBURY  
AND ST CHRISTOPHER'S WITHINGTON  
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING**

**HELD IN CHRIST CHURCH ON 17<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2024 AT 11:00 AM**

	<b><u>Welcome</u></b>
	<p>Rev Tom Phipps welcomed the congregation to the Annual Parish Meeting. He explained that the Parish is 'in vacancy' following the retirement of Rev Anne Pilkington in July 2023 the Churchwardens, Mr Richard Lowe and Mr George Whalley are, therefore, in charge of the Parish. The Rev Ann Meadowcroft and Rev Tom have celebrated the majority of the services since then.</p> <p>The Churchwardens would be in charge of the meeting which will follow the Eucharist. All members of the congregation were encouraged to attend.</p>
<b>1.0</b>	<b><u>Present:</u></b>
	Mr George Whalley (Chair) and 32 Parishioners signed their attendance (attached list)
<b>2.0</b>	<b><u>Apologies:</u></b>
	5 apologies as per attendance record, and read out.
<b>3.0</b>	<b><u>Minutes of Vestry Meeting 26<sup>th</sup> March 2023</u></b>
	Minutes of the Vestry Meeting of 26 <sup>th</sup> March 2023 had been published in the circulated document. They were proposed for acceptance by Mrs C Lowe and seconded by Ms E Radcliffe. The Minutes were therefore accepted by the meeting as a correct record and signed by Mr G Whalley. There were no matters arising.
<b>4.0</b>	<b><u>Election of Churchwardens and Deputy Churchwardens</u></b>
<b>4.1</b>	<p>Parish of St C and CCWD: The Churchwardens nominated as follows:</p> <p>Mr R Lowe proposed by Ms B Malone and seconded by Mrs J Partington. Mr G Whalley proposed by Ms E Radcliffe and seconded by Mr R Lowe. Mr Lowe and Mr Whalley were declared appointed.</p>
<b>4.2</b>	<p>Parish of St C and CCWD:</p> <p>The Deputy Churchwardens were nominated as follows:- Mrs S Atherton, proposed by Mrs J White and seconded by Mrs J Bastow. Ms B Malone, proposed by Mr R Lowe and seconded by Mr G Whalley.</p>
	<b><u>THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING</u></b>
<b>1.0</b>	<b><u>Present:</u></b>
	Mr G Whalley, Mr R Lowe and 32 members of the congregation. Rev T Phipps and Rev A Meadowcroft observed.
	<b><u>Apologies:</u></b>
	5 members of the congregation listed as attached.
	<b><u>Circulation</u></b>
	Minutes will be posted a minimum of three weeks before the next Annual Parish Meeting.
<b>2.0</b>	<b><u>Minutes of the Previous Meeting</u></b>
	The minutes of the Meeting held 26 <sup>th</sup> March 2023 had been posted and circulated in the

	<p>attached Booklet.</p> <p>Mr Whalley asked the meeting for comments. He confirmed that there had been no queries in connection with the minutes apart from the agenda which referred to the previous meeting date incorrectly as 2024 and not 2023, and Mrs Bastow's name incorrectly spelled on several occasions. Subject to these corrections the minutes were agreed by the meeting and signed by Mr Whalley.</p>
<b>3.0</b>	<b><u>Matters Arising</u></b>
	There were no matters arising.
<b>4.0</b>	<b><u>Presentation of the Electoral Roll</u></b>
<b>4.1</b>	<p>The Electoral Roll had been prepared by Ms E Radcliffe. Numbers for 2022/23 were 122, now 121. Ms Emma Radcliffe, the Electoral Roll Officer, in particular referred to the deaths of Mrs Nora Warriner and Mrs Pauline Cooper.</p> <p>There was a minute's silence to remember their long contributions to the life of the parish.</p>
<b>5.0</b>	<b><u>PCC Report</u></b>
	<p>The PCC Report was prepared by Mr B Bartlett. There were no comments from the meeting.</p> <p>Mr Whalley expressed thanks to those who had served on the PCC, and those others who had also helped to maintain the momentum of the parish following the retirement of the much missed Revd Anne Pilkington..</p>
<b>6.0</b>	<b><u>Financial Report</u></b>
<b>6.1</b>	Mr G Whalley had presented a full report to the PCC and thanked Dr Bradbury for his continuing support. The Statement of Accounts for the Parish was copied in the circulated document.
<b>6.2</b>	Mr Whalley stated that the External Examiner had not yet examined the accounts which had been circulated to the PCC. Subject to the scrutiny of the Examiner, the report was proposed for acceptance in principle by Ms E Radcliffe, seconded by Mrs J Weaving and
<b>6.3</b>	approved by the meeting.
<b>6.4</b>	Mr Whalley stated that Ms Whittingham had agreed to continue as Independent Examiner and this was proposed by Mrs D Kloss, seconded by Mrs J weaving and approved by the meeting.
<b>6.5</b>	Mr Whalley thanked Mrs White for dealing with Stewardship and Gift Aid matters.
<b>7.0</b>	<b><u>Churchwardens' and Fabric Report for St Christopher's and Christ Church</u></b>
	<p>The circulated report of the Churchwardens incorporated the Fabric Report which dealt with the various buildings was prepared by Mr R Lowe and Mr Whalley.</p> <p>Mr Whalley thanked Mr Wood and Mr Bartlett for their continuing attendance to maintenance and repairs to the various buildings and grounds. There were no comments.</p>
<b>8.0</b>	<b><u>Deanery Synod Report</u></b>
	<p>The report was included. The nominated representatives are Mrs Kloss and Mr J Dunn. The parish can have four representatives.</p> <p>The Mission Community is represented by Curate Rev T Phipps and Rev A Meadowcroft as clergy rep. There will be an Ascension Day Eucharist at Christ Church on Thursday 9th May at 7:30pm. There were no comments.</p>
<b>9.0</b>	<b><u>Worship and Music Sub-Group</u></b>
<b>9.1</b>	<p>The report was included in the APCM documents.</p> <p>Mr Whalley thanked Ms Malone and Rev T Phipps for preparing the report. He particularly</p>

	thanked Reader Ms Barbra Malone, Curate Rev Tom Phipps and Rev Ann Meadowcroft and organists Mr Richard McHale and Mr Richard Lowe for their work during the 'vacancy'. He was pleased at the way celebrant cover had been maintained.
9.2	In answer to a query about the continuation of a cantor this is now arranged on a rota basis for Christ Church Sunday morning service.
10.0	<b><u>Ministry Team and Mission Action Planning (MAP) Group Report</u></b>
	The Reports were included in the meeting booklet, with thanks to Ms B Malone and Rev T Phipps. There were no questions.
11.0	<b><u>Curate's Reports</u></b> Mr Whalley thanked Curate Rev Tom Phipps and Rev Ann Meadowcroft, who was priested in the summer 2023, for their reports and for their work in continuing the spiritual and practical life of the parish. There were no questions.
12.0	<b><u>Child Protection Report and Safeguarding Policy</u></b>
	Thanks were given to Mrs S Atherton, the Parish Safeguarding Co-ordinator who then read out the Parish's Policy in compliance with the statutory requirements. The documents are attached. The Policy was proposed for acceptance by Ms E Radcliffe, seconded by Ms A Peacock and approved by those present at the meeting.
13.0	<b><u>Social Events Report</u></b>
	Those who met on occasion to arrange the various social and the Agape events over the past year were thanked for their efforts.
14.0	<b><u>Health and Safety</u></b>
	Mr Malcolm Atherton was thanked for the report and for his continued advice. It was noted that Fire Drills are required to be arranged at both churches. There were no other comments.
15.0	<b><u>Sticky Fingers Report Christ Church</u></b>
	Mrs Tebay and Rev Tom P were thanked for their creativity and organisation and thanks expressed to those who assisted. Rev Tom felt that the success of the monthly All Age Worship was important, both to the PCC and for the parish profile. The toddlers corner has continued Sunday mornings at the rear of Christ Church and Sticky Fingers has resumed in the Church Hall.
16.0	<b><u>St Christopher's Bible Explorers</u></b>
	There had been no children's activities.
17.0	<b><u>Parish Magazine Report</u></b>
	The Parish Magazine had continued. Mr Whalley thanked Mr Lowe and Mrs Kerry Hale for their work and also those who delivered the magazine. Contributions always welcome.
18.0	<b><u>Stewardship Report and Gift Aid</u></b>
	Mrs J White was thanked for her work as Stewardship Secretary. She in turn thanked those parishioners who had signed up to regular giving using Standing Orders from bank accounts, noting that all regular givers were now using this system. Mr Whalley reminded the meeting that donations, regular giving and other monies are now

	best forwarded by Standing Order or Bank Transfer as it was proving very much more time consuming banking cash because of branch closures.
<b>19.0</b>	<b><u>St Christopher's and CCWD Flower Fund Reports</u></b>
	Mrs White was thanked for continuing to manage flower arrangements so successfully despite having only two helpers. She thanked those who had donated and those who arranged the flowers. More flower arrangers welcomed! Volunteers please!
<b>20.0</b>	<b><u>Elections to the PCC</u></b>
<b>20.1</b>	Mr Whalley announced that there were twelve vacancies and ten nominations. The names of the nominees, together with proposers and seconders were then read out by Mr Whalley and declared elected. It is an annual requirement that each PCC member signs a 'Fit and Proper Persons Declaration' for Parish records.
<b>20.2</b>	The approved list was as follows: - Mrs Susannah Atherton, Mr Steven Baird, Ms Janet Bastow, Dr Andrew Bradbury, Ms Janice Partington, Ms Emma Radcliffe, Mrs Rebecca Tebay, Ms Alison Tonner, and Mrs Joan White, These persons were duly declared appointed.  Mr Whalley confirmed Ms B Malone's membership of the PCC as Reader. Mr G Whalley would attend as Hon Treasurer, Mr B Bartlett as PCC Secretary.  Deanery Synod Representatives would be ex-officio members of the PCC.
<b>21.0</b>	<b><u>Election of Deanery Synod Representatives</u></b>
	Mrs D Kloss and Mr J Dunn were proposed for election as representatives and approved by the meeting.
<b>22.0</b>	<b><u>Election of Sidespersons</u></b>
	Mr Whalley read out the list:-
	Janet Bastow, Elaine Brassell, Janice Partington, Alison Peacock, Emma Radcliffe, Alison Tonner, Joan White. There were no objections and the meeting duly nominated the above persons.
<b>23.0</b>	<b><u>Expressions of thanks from the Churchwardens</u></b>
	Mr Whalley expressed thanks, together with Mr Lowe, for the support particularly from Rev Tom, Rev Ann and Ms Malone, from parishioners, Church Officers and neighbouring Parishes and those who were continuing with routine tasks at each church. Mr Lowe advised the meeting regarding the Interregnum and progress to date. He stated that the Parish Profile is to be further adjusted following comments and advice from the Archdeacon.  He understood that the Archdeacon hoped that the Bishop would be able to make an appointment of a new incumbent in the summer.
<b>24.0</b>	<b><u>Archdeacon's Visitation</u></b>
	The visitation dates to follow. All Clergy and Churchwardens are asked to attend, as well as Sidespersons.
	<b><u>Blessing and Organ Voluntary</u></b>

	Rev Tom concluded the APCM and service with the Blessing giving thanks for all who were so successfully helping to maintain and develop the ministry of the parish during the 'vacancy'.
<b>25.0</b>	<b><u>PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING</u></b>
<b>25.1</b>	Present: Rev T Phipps, Rev Ann Meadowcroft, Mrs S Atherton, Mr S Baird, Ms J Bastow, Mr B Bartlett, Dr A Bradbury, Mrs D Kloss, Mr R Lowe, Ms B Malone, Ms J Partington, Ms E Radcliffe, Ms A Tonner, Mr G Whalley, Mrs. J. White.
<b>25.2</b>	<b><u>Appointments</u></b>
<b>25.2.1</b>	<i>Vice Chair:</i> Mrs D Kloss proposed by Mr Bartlett, seconded by Mr Whalley.
<b>25.2.2</b>	<i>Hon Secretary:</i> Mr B Bartlett proposed by Mrs Atherton, seconded by Mrs White .
<b>25.2.3</b>	<i>Hon Treasurer:</i> Mr G Whalley proposed by Mrs Atherton, seconded by Dr Bradbury.
<b>25.2.4</b>	<i>Electoral Roll Officer:</i> Ms E Radcliffe, proposed by Mr Bartlett, seconded by Ms Malone.
<b>25.2.5</b>	<i>Deanery Synod Representatives:</i> Mrs D Kloss, Mr J Dunn, Rev A Meadowcroft as clergy representative.
	<i>Acting Chair:</i> Rev T Phipps, role delegated by the churchwardens
<b>25.3</b>	<b><u>Standing Committee</u></b>
	To be Rev Tom Phipps, Churchwardens, Deputy Churchwardens, Secretary, Treasurer, and Stewardship Secretary.  Ms Malone asked those elected as officers to sign the Diocesan record book prior to leaving the meeting.
<b>26.0</b>	<b><u>Any Other Business</u></b> The was none.
<b>27.0</b>	<b><u>Meetings</u></b>
<b>27.1</b>	PCC Meetings to take place usually via the internet (Zoom) kindly arranged by Mr Whalley, at 7:00pm. <i>PCC : tba</i>
<b>27.2</b>	Standing Committee <i>Proposed Date: tba</i>
<b>27.3</b>	Archdeacon's Visitation - St Werburgh, Chorlton Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> June at 7:30pm St Clement, Urmston Wednesday 19 <sup>th</sup> June at 7:30pm Cathedral Manchester Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup> July at 7:30pm
	The meeting closed at 1:37pm.

## ELECTORAL ROLL REPORT

Number on Electoral Roll 2024: 121

Number on Electoral Roll 2025: 60 persons, 6 new names added

A new Electoral Roll has been prepared as required.

We remember the lives of Pauline Cooper, Anne Marshall, Robert Bett and Bob Weaving from Christ Church & St Christopher's and our wider community, who died in the last year.

Emma Radcliffe - Electoral Roll Officer

### **THE PARISH OF CHRIST CHURCH WEST DIDSBURY and ST CHRISTOPHER WITHINGTON ANNUAL REPORT FROM THE PCC - 2024/2025**

Postal Address: Christ Church, Darley Avenue, West Didsbury, Manchester M20 2ZD.  
St. Christopher's Church, Moorgate Avenue, Withington. M20 1HE

**Membership of the PCC:** Members of Christ Church and St Christopher PCC have been elected at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting or are ex-officio in accordance with the Church Representation Rules (1969).

During the year 2024-25 the following served as members of the PCC:-

*Incumbent and Chair:* The Churchwardens until the appointment as Rector of The Rev. Thomas Phipps on 29<sup>th</sup> September 2024.

*Deputy Chair:* Mrs D Kloss

*Curate:* Rev. Ann Meadowcroft

*Reader Emeritus:* Ms Barbra Malone

*Church Wardens* Mr Richard Lowe  
Mr George Whalley

*Deputy Wardens:* Mrs S Atherton  
Ms B Malone

*Hon. Treasurer:* Mr George Whalley

*Hon. Secretary:* Mr Beric Bartlett

*Deputy Hon Sec:* post vacant

*Electoral Roll Officer:* Ms Emma Radcliffe

*Covenant & Gift Aid Secretary:*  
Mrs Joan White

*Hon. Verger:* post vacant

*Sacristan:* Ms Barbra Malone

*Deanery Synod Representatives*

Mrs D Kloss, Mr Y Dunn

*Safeguarding Officer:*

Mrs Susannah Atherton (Parish Lead Recruiter)

*Standing Committee:*

Revd Tom Phipps

Rev A Meadowcroft Mr Beric Bartlett

Mr George Whalley Mr Richard Lowe

Mrs J White Ms B Malone

Ms E Radcliffe Mrs S Atherton



*PCC Members:*

Mrs Susannah Atherton	Mr Steven Baird
Mr Beric Bartlett (PCC Secretary)	Mrs Janet Bastow
Mr Y Dunn	Mrs Diana Kloss (D Synod Rep)
Mr Richard Lowe (Director of Music)	Ms. Barbra Malone (Reader)
Revd Anne Meadowcroft	Ms Janice Partington
Ms Emma Radcliffe	Mrs Rebecca Tebay
Ms Alison Tonner	Mr George Whalley (Hon.Treasurer)
Mrs Joan White	

**Electoral Roll:**

Report to be separately presented.

**Sunday Attendance:**

The average attendance at the Sunday services during the last year at CCWD was 41 adults and 6 children and at St C was 9 adults and 2 children.

**Bank:**

The parish bank account is with CAF Bank. Signatories include Rev T Phipps, Dr Bradbury, Mr George Whalley, Ms B Malone and Mr R Lowe.

Funds are also held on deposit at the CCLA of the Church of England.

The Organ Fund and Church Flat Fund accounts are included.

The Independent Examiner, Ms Helen Whittingham, inspects the parish accounts.

**Insurance:** Ecclesiastical Insurance Group (Manchester Group Insurance Scheme).

**Charitable Status:**

The PCC of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Christ Church West Didsbury and St Christopher Withington enjoys charitable status with the Charities Commission. The charity is registered in England & Wales with the Charity Commission in England & Wales (CCEW) with charity number 1147596.

**A REVIEW OF THE LAST YEAR - 2024**

The previous APCM, for the year 2022, was held on 17<sup>th</sup> March 2024 at Christ Church followed by an inaugural PCC Meeting.

The PCC met on 4 occasions over the year 2024 via the internet (Zoom), plus 1 meeting in person, with an average attendance of 90%.

The Standing Committee held 1 formal and minuted meeting via the internet (Zoom).

All church attendees are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and to stand for election to the PCC.

**Worship**

The Parish numbers 20,339 persons (2021 Census data) with 9015 occupied households.

All church members, congregations, sub-committees and PCC have worked well together, and especially during the Interregnum until the very welcome and important appointment and Licencing of Rev Tom Phipps as Rector to the Parish in September. He and family are now settled in the Rectory.

Rev Ann Meadowcroft plays a vital part in ministry as Curate assisting Rev Tom. Ms Barbra Malone has continued to support ministry within the parish.

We were delighted to welcome the Revd Dr Anne-Marie O'Farrell who has been helping Celebrate the Eucharist and preach on a monthly basis since the autumn.

The Standing Committee dealt with matters of Finance and Fabric. The Social Committee is still disbanded with social events planned by various members of the congregation. The Worship and Music Sub Group has continued on an informal basis. The Ministry Team continues to meet.

The livestreaming of Sunday service (and some weddings and funerals) has continued from Christ Church. Services of note (mentioned in the Worship and Music Sub-Group Report) were:

Joint Services for the APCM on Passion Sunday in March, Holy Week services at both churches, St. Christopher's Patronal Festival, Rev Tom Licensing and Installation Service, Parish Anniversary, All Souls Memorial Service, Harvest Festival, Christ the King, Christmas Nine Lessons and Carol Service, Christingle services, Christmas Eve and Christmas Morning. These were live-streamed from Christ Church via the church website (with the exception of St. Christopher's Patronal Festival, Parish Anniversary, All Souls Memorial Service, Christingle Services and Christmas Morning). Healing and All-Age services have resumed alternately the third Sunday of each month. 'Soul Space' worship takes place on the first Sunday of the month at St. Christopher's and our thanks go to Rev. Tom and his team.

We have appreciated several visits by Archdeacon Karen Lund, Rev Nick Watson, Father David Twomey, and latterly Rev Dr Anne-Marie, celebrating and preaching at both St Christopher's and Christ Church.

Eastertide church service arrangements will again be traditionally celebrated this year.

Our thanks to Mr Richard Lowe as the Director of Music and Organist at Christ Church, and to Mr. Richard McHale who continues as Organist at St. Christopher's. We have been pleased that we have continued to host concerts during the year.

Parish Quiet Weekends, again not planned for this year but the subject will be kept under review.

The St Christopher's building continues to be used by other Christian groups. The Booking System for the various venues is proving to be a great success, assisting both management and those placing bookings.

Letting the various church buildings enables the Parish to survive as our congregation is otherwise too small to support the running of Christ Church and St Christopher. Finance is a concern again this year, with some larger maintenance bills.

We continue to be very grateful for the generosity of church members in our fund raising.

### **Heritage Open Weekend:**

This took place in September, over two days, in association with the Didsbury Open Doors scheme.

The church was previously open on Wednesday and Saturday mornings, for private prayer and visitors to ensure that the Christ Church building remains open outside service times. A shortage of volunteers in the summer meant that Wednesday morning opening had to cease. We continue to need volunteers to help 'steward' the building for Saturday mornings, and to help with cleaning. Please let us know if you can spare an hour, either indoors or around the grounds.

### **West Didsbury Church of England Primary School**

**The school is now well established.** Rev Tom P leads some assemblies. Rev Ann sits on the Governing Body.

A Sunday attendance register is kept, when required, at both churches for children wishing to attend the school.

**Finance:**

The Treasurer will report separately.

Mr George Whalley is Honorary Treasurer and we thank him for his work. We are grateful to Dr Bradbury who continues to prepare the annual Parish report for the Charity Commission.

Our annual contribution to the 2024 Parish Share assessment of approximately £48470:00 has been met in full. This coming year's assessment is £49,924:00, an increase of 3%.

Stewardship: - See separate report.

**Ministry:**

Report from the Ministry Team is presented separately.

Soul Space takes place on the first Sunday morning of the month at St Christopher's.

The Parish continues its successful links with Barlow Hall and Cavendish Road schools, visits have been made and Rev. Tom and Ms Malone successfully continue the Experience Easter event with both schools jointly with Capt. Phil from St Clement's Chorlton.

The Parish operates a 'Safe Church Policy' overseen by the Diocese.

**Mission:**

The Parish continues as a Fair-Trade Parish. Please support the aims and principles of Fair Trade, including the stall in Christ Church.

Traidcraft ceased operating two years ago. We continue to use Fair Trade products for our tea and coffee. We will review our registration as a Fair-Trade Church.

*Chorlton & Didsbury Food Bank*

The Parish continues in partnership with other churches and local organisations operating a 'food bank', registered with the Trussell Trust, from our Christ Church Hall premises. The majority of services are supplied via Christ Church Hall, operating two days each week, with a third day at St Barnabas, with provisions both by delivery and public access. Volunteers welcome!

Rev Ann Meadowcroft is a trustee of the FoodBank.

*Greater Together Manchester*

The Sunday afternoon and evening gathering, previously at St Christopher's moved to St Paul's Withington.

Missionary and Charities Giving continues - see Financial Report.

The Parish Christmas circular continued in the design of a Christmas card, designed by Mr Richard Lowe, with a programme of events. Our thanks again go to Mrs Kerry Hale for continuing editorial responsibilities for the Parish magazine, and to Richard Lowe, who prints the magazines.

The Parish website is regularly monitored and updated. The on-line Parish Calendar has become an essential tool giving details of the lettings, concerts and services for each building, and our thanks go to Rev. Tom P. for his help with this.

Parish Administrator - this new role has developed a more centralised management. Mrs Kerry Hale continues with this and we are very grateful to her and for all the work she is doing.

**Property and Maintenance:**

Rental monies from the flat in the Didsbury Point contribute funds towards mission, and work with mission as the need arises. New tenants arrived in January 2024 and renewed their contract for 2025 via our Agents, Gascoigne Halman.

The churches were due Quinquennial Inspections in 2022. The Church Architects were unable to arrange these following Covid and resigned in 2024. We appointed a new church architect Mr Adrian Pearson of The Bernard Taylor Partnership, a local practice. Inspections took place at both Christ Church and St Christopher's in February 2025 and we await the formal reports.

The Christian environmental charity A Rocha UK granted Christ Church a Bronze Eco Church Award at the end of 2021. St Christopher's received a Bronze award spring 2022.

The Parish Profile, recently reviewed, now targets Silver Awards for both churches. The award scheme is designed to encourage practical action on caring for God's planet Earth; the programme has now been redesigned which we believe is ambitious but achievable .

Alison Peacock hopes that although the new survey format will stretch us further, continuing development of parish outreach as well as physical improvements, heating controls for example, will lead to a positive advancement of ECO status. She reminds us that Being an Eco Church involves thinking globally as well as locally.

New heating controls in Christ Church now enable remote operation to more accurately match building usage. These are now also in the process of being fitted to the Hall and hopefully during the coming year at St Christopher's as well.

Alison Peacock summarises that the 'carbon footprint measurement' highlights the problems of managing such buildings yet knowing where we stand possibly offers a starting point for change.

### Christ Church

For Christ Church, Hall and St Christopher's, see Fabric Report.

**Health and Safety** - Our thanks to Mr Malcolm Atherton for his continued advice over the past year and for his reviews of the premises- see Report.

### **Signed:**

B S Bartlett  
March 2025

(Honorary Secretary PCC)

## **FINANCIAL REPORT**

### **Summary**

During 2024, our total income was just over £122,000 with expenditure of £113,644, therefore showing a small surplus in our accounts of approx. £8,500. This is due to the PCC exercising financial restraint during the interregnum and not committing to any major expenditure other than for necessary maintenance work such as to boundary fencing at Christ Church and repairs to the bird netting in the Christ Church tower. It should also be noted that around £4,000 of payments (for our annual charitable giving and an invoice for tree maintenance) were paid in early January rather than December, so taking these into account, the surplus would have been around half this amount.

Whilst our finances and bank balances are healthy, there should also be a note of caution as our ordinary income has dropped. In particular, the total amount we received through donations (planned giving/stewardship, cash collections at services, and contactless payments) has reduced from almost £46,000 in 2023 to just over £43,000 in 2024. Our fee income (for conducting services such as weddings and funerals) is around £2000 lower than in 2023, which was in turn £2000 lower than in 2022. Fortunately, our income from the rent of our buildings during the year was £50,589 - an increase of almost £5000 year-on-year.

The appendix to this report includes a breakdown of all income and payments.

## Bank Balances and Available Funds

<u>Bank Balance</u>	<u>At 01/01/24</u>	<u>At 31/12/24</u>
CAF Bank current account	£24,696	£33,241
CCLA deposit account	£34,373	£36,198
<b>Total as at 31/12/24</b>		<b><u>£69,439</u></b>

<u>Available</u>	<u>At 01/01/24</u>	<u>At 31/12/24</u>
Organ fund	£7,720	£8,930
Hall and buildings fund	£879	£1,230
Reserve	£20,000	£20,000
Available general funds	£30,469	£39,279
<b>Total as at 31/12/24</b>		<b><u>£69,439</u></b>

Our total available funds are around £10,000 higher than this time last year, but this is due to one-off legacies totalling £11,000, which were received from our late friends Marion Davies (in 2023) and Bob Weaving (in 2024). The PCC felt it appropriate not to commit or spend these legacies during the interregnum and to revisit the matter in 2025 together with our new Rector.

The CCLA account includes a reserve of £20,000. It is set at this level by the PCC, with the aim of ensuring it is equivalent to approximately two months of un-restricted expenditure, which is considered sufficient to cope with any timing fluctuations in income.

## Parish share

The assessed parish share for 2024 of £48,470 was fully paid through payments of approx. £37,700 and gift aid claims of almost £10,000 and a credit of £881 awarded under the diocese incentive scheme due to our full share having been paid in 2023. (The timing of when some Gift Aid payments were received means they will appear in our 2025 accounts, but were counted by the Diocese towards our 2024 parish share in line with their normal accounting practices relating to timing of payments made around the end of the year for Gift Aid claims/payments relating to the previous year.)

## Flat

Rental income for 5 Montmano Drive of just over £10,000 (net of Gascoigne Halman fees) was received during 2024, similar to the previous two years, and the running costs also remained very similar at around £3,000.

## Accounting and Audit

As the annual income for Christ Church and St Christopher's was less than £250,000 during the past financial year, it is not necessary to retain the paid services of chartered accountants to produce audited accounts. Our financial statements are produced on a "Receipts and

Payments" basis (reconciled against our bank accounts) and will be examined by an independent examiner appointed by the APCM and then submitted, by the PCC, to the Charity Commission.

### **Special Thanks**

Much of the hard work has once again been undertaken by **Mrs Joan White**, who manages all Gift Aid claims as well as overseeing many of the weekly counts, and by **Dr Andrew Bradbury** and **Mr Richard Lowe**, who as the main co-signatories for our bank accounts, have assiduously checked and approved hundreds of online banking payments during the interregnum - all necessary transactions to keep the lights on and everything else running. (Our new Rector is now set up as an online signatory and the oversight and approval of these transactions has now passed over to him, as is our normal practice.)

Finally, thank you to everyone else who participates in the weekly counts, and thank you to everyone who gives generously to support the working of the parish which includes the invaluable support we provide to community groups and more widely.

George Whalley  
Hon. Treasurer



## CHURCHWARDENS' REPORT

**Our buildings are busier than ever and used by a wide variety of users.** A large proportion of the parish's income comes from the hire of our buildings and for that we are thankful. Whilst generally sound, they do require regular maintenance and 'fault fixing'. Our thanks go to Beric for this technical and practical knowledge and support and to those who volunteer on a regular basis with cleaning and maintenance tasks; their commitment to ensuring that our buildings are maintained so well is greatly appreciated.

The interior of **CHRIST CHURCH** is beginning to look a little 'worn' in places! Much needed internal decoration is planned within the next twelve months and we have received a 'structured' quotation from Bullen Conservation (key areas rather than whole interior). Due the cost of this we are sourcing other quotations. Our five-year electrical inspection has been completed along with the architect's Quinquennial inspection and we await the report following that. The annual fire extinguisher inspection has also been undertaken. We are monitoring the floor which is showing signs of deterioration and will need to be repaired or replaced in the medium term. Sadly, the company which we engaged to make the new 'arm chairs' for the nave ceased trading earlier last year, without providing our chairs. A claim has now been submitted to the administrators. Thanks to Beric and Steve for this. We have installed a remote heating control system for the church which enables the heating to be controlled from anywhere and easily set remotely for bookings. Roof and gutter maintenance are important and we have struggled with volunteers to assist in this. We hope that someone might come forward!

We are aware that the building needs to be used more by the community and are looking at ways to improve our facilities. We are actively looking at replacing our aging grand piano with a refurbished instrument and also upgrading the concert/ event staging which is cumbersome and difficult to store. The fan heaters in the church have come to the end of their useful life and will need to be replaced in the near future also.

There is still much work to do on the Christ Church building in future years, amounting to over £500k, and we will be working with our architect to devise a staged and costed schedule for this.

In **CHRIST CHURCH HALL** we have made improvements to the lighting of 'escape' routes to incorporate emergency battery packs in case of mains power failure. Along with this, toilet and 'escape' route lights have been changed from conventional switches to movement sensors. A defibrillator, kindly donated, has been installed outside the front of Hall and our thanks go to those who contributed their time to this. This was also generously installed free of charge by HiSpec Electricians. Our five-year electrical inspection has been completed and our annual fire extinguisher inspection undertaken. The hall now has WiFi (linked to the church) and we will shortly be installing an internet-based heating control system, as at Christ Church.

At **ST CHRISTOPHER'S** there is some external redecoration required, notably the gable ends. The church's five-year electrical inspection and fire extinguisher inspection have been completed and general maintenance has been ongoing. We are negotiating with a regular user of the hall to install internet connectivity with shared costs. Once completed we will install a remote heating control as at Christ Church.



Our thanks go to Facilities Manager (Tracey McCaig-Luke) in ensuring our buildings are fit for purpose and well-kept. Tracey has been proactive in improving the offer from Christ Church Hall and has been instrumental in the smooth-running of operations – even attending call-outs at night to sort out heating and access problems. We are very grateful!

Many thanks also to Kerry Hale, Parish Administrator, for all the support she has provided to the Rector and Wardens over the past twelve months, dealing with myriad booking enquiries, pastoral contacts and working with Tracey to encourage and enable the increased use of our buildings.

Both Tracey and Kerry will be retiring from their roles shortly and we are beginning the impossible search for replacements.

Our new facilities management system has improved organisation and it is now very rare for one of our halls to be vacant on any date!

Our rental property on Montmano Drive, which provides a good source of income for us, is currently rented out. We anticipate the need to replace the sofas, await tenant input.

Thanks to everyone who has given support and help during the past twelve months to keep our parish alive and the buildings accessible as an essential community resource outside our regular worship.

Richard Lowe and George Whalley  
Churchwardens.

## **DEANERY SYNOD REPORT**

Highlights of the Deanery Synod meetings held in 2024 are as follows:

### **Revd Nick Watson New Appointment:**

- We were thrilled to learn that Revd Nick Watson has been appointed Archdeacon of Salop. Deanery Synod Members, Revd Tom Phipps, Diana Kloss, and Jay Dunn join us in wishing him a blessed future, acknowledging we are losing an inspirational leader who will continue to enrich lives in his new role.

### **July Meeting:**

- Archdeacon Karen discussed ministry among asylum seekers, stressing the need for evidence in Christian conversion claims and highlighting support from TABAN and BOAS Trust. She suggested compiling a list of experienced churches. The Diocesan Transformation Programme, with new Programme Boards for Church Planting, Developing Missional Leaders, Mission Renewal, and Growing Younger, was also discussed, along with future funding bids.
- The deanery Synod motion from October 2023 was withdrawn from the Diocesan Synod agenda due to ongoing General Synod discussions. After much debate, it was agreed to send the motion, with updates, to Bishop Joanne via the Standing Committee, ensuring it followed proper process.

### **December Meeting:**

- Bishop Mark and Helen Platts presented "Our Vision for 2030," which includes creating 7 new deaneries, 33 Mission Communities, and investing in lay leadership, children's ministry, and parish support. They emphasized mission priorities such as Growing Younger, Church Planting, Missional leaders, and Parish Renewal, and noted the Diocese's financial challenges and the plan to submit a bid to the Church Commissioners by December 2025.

Jay Dunn

### **WORSHIP AND MUSIC REPORT**

Various choral groups and musicians have continued to use Christ Church to practise and several concerts have taken place including those performed by The William Byrd Singers, The Manchester Chamber Choir, The Manchester Philharmonic and The Manchester Beethoven Orchestra. There have also been concerts organised by a local music tutor for her students and the Church has been used by opera singers who have been recording audition reels.

Christ Church continues to be open on Saturday mornings from 10.00 to 12 noon both for private prayer, for general cleaning and tidying up and to welcome visitors. We are grateful to those volunteers who regularly help with staffing the Church. We are always in need of more volunteers. Morning Prayer has been held at 9.30am at CC Mondays and Wednesdays as well as Tuesdays and Thursdays at StC. We are currently exploring having all four of these at CC. The Wednesday evening Eucharist at 19.30 (CC) has continued, as has the study group and service of Compline that follow. It has also been wonderful to have had Rev. Dr Anne-Marie O'Farrell preach and preside at several of our services.

We are very grateful to our wonderful cantors who have sung for us at Christ Church at the 11.00 Eucharist. Andrew will be coming off the rota for the time being, and are very thankful for all he has contributed. Our thanks also go once again to Richard Lowe and Richard McHale, our Directors of Music. The cantors primarily sing the Gloria, the Gospel Acclamation Alleluia and a Communion hymn as well as leading the congregational hymns and sometimes leading a Psalm.

The Eucharist at Christ Church continues to be live-streamed each Sunday with thanks to Malcolm Atherton and Emma Radcliffe for overseeing this. The live streaming is also available for funeral services and weddings if requested. We held Choral Evensong in June '24 with the support of Knutsford Deanery Choir, which was a very special occasion.

At Christmas 2024 our Christingle services were very popular. We held our carol service in December, which was live streamed. There were approximately 165 people at the Christingles and 87 for the Carol Service. Our thanks go to Rebecca for suggesting and organising the "make-your-own-Christingle" packs; they worked very well and we will most likely use them again next year.

We are extremely grateful to Richard Lowe and the choir for all their hard work and to those who helped with preparation and staffing of the services as well as all who served with refreshments and welcomed people into our Church.

The following joint services were held:  
APCM – CC – 17 March (CC)  
St Christopher's Patronal Festival – 28 July (St C)  
Parish Anniversary – 1 September (St C)  
Installation of Tom as Rector – 29 September – (CC)  
Harvest Festival – 13 October (CC)  
All Souls Service – 3 November (CC)  
Christ the King – 26 November (CC)  
Midnight Mass – 24/5 December – (CC)  
Christmas Day Eucharist – 25 December (St C)

Barbra Malone and Rev. Tom Phipps

## **MINISTRY TEAM REPORT**

Over the last twelve months the group has met informally, mainly to discuss pastoral care. For the purposes of accountability and safeguarding, Revd Tom has recently started a WhatsApp with the ministry team and Safeguarding Officer where we keep each other abreast of visits, ensuring we message the group before and after each visit has taken place.

We are grateful for the considerable work done by Kerry Hale, our administrator, and Tracey and Steve who look after the church halls which has resulted in increased party bookings at Christ Church Hall.

The services of Holy Communion in the nursing homes and in private homes for the housebound have continued. Carol services at the nursing homes took place again in December at Ashley House, Holmfield, Belong, Brocklehurst, and Dermot Murphy Close.

Churches Together Lent groups for 2024 were held at Didsbury Methodist Church, Parrs Wood Road (Wednesday afternoons) and St Catherine's Church, School Lane (Monday mornings after 9.15 a.m. Mass). In 2025 Christ Church will be hosting one of the ecumenical Lent Groups which will meet on Wednesday evenings, following the 7.30 p.m. Eucharist and ending by 9.00 p.m. with Compline.

The First Sunday Fresh Expression (Soul Space) at St Christopher's continued during 2024. (More details available on the Fresh Expressions page on the church website).

Experience Easter at Christ Church with Barlow Hall, Cavendish Road and Lancasterian Schools was held in March 2024. This was co-ordinated by Captain Phil to include the Chorlton Schools and Barlow Hall and Cavendish Road. Members of the Ministry Team assisted at St Clement's Chorlton in 2024. At the time of writing, plans are in place for EE school visits in Lent 2025.

A Eucharist with prayers of anointing takes place every other in both churches and there is also an all-age service at Christ-Church every other month.

Links with Barlow Moor Community Association continue with the Rector visiting the Centre and sitting on the Board.

Links with our local schools remain strong, with Revd Tom regularly visiting West Didsbury Primary School and Didsbury CE Primary School for Collective Worship. We have also had several school groups visiting the Church as part of their RE studies and Revd Tom has sat on an Interfaith Panel at Didsbury High School.

Barbra Malone and Rev. Tom Phipps

### **CURATE'S REPORT**

It is nearly 5 years since I began training and how time has flown. All being well I hope to be "signed off" soon as having completed my training although there are forms and reports to complete first- not my strong point! I do not expect that my duties will change but it will be a relief not to have to travel to Bury for training etc.

I am still busy in my "day" job as well as being involved in other voluntary organisations including the foodbank and I am now the Chair of Governors at Trinity.

It can be difficult to fit everything in but it is a huge privilege to be ministering and serving at the churches which have been an important part of my life for so many years and with friends and colleagues who have shown me so much kindness and support.

Rev. Ann Meadowcroft

### **SAFEGUARDING REPORT and POLICY**

I am pleased to be able to report that as a congregation we have been able to continue our work with children and families who attend Christ Church on a Sunday morning. Sticky Fingers meet most Sundays in the Church Hall for children over the age of 3 years.

The area at the back of Christ Church is used regularly by families attending church with children under 3 years who are supervised by their parent / carers, it provides a safe space for quiet play.

We have continued our monthly Soul Space services at St Christopher's in which we have been able to incorporate an activity that the children are able to engage with.

We continue to follow the guidelines set down by the Church of England and the Diocese of Manchester and all new helpers have Safer recruitment checks before working with our children's' groups. All workers and members of PCC must have a DBS check every 3 years. Mandatory Safeguarding training including Raising awareness of Domestic Abuse is carried out every 3 years and I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those involved for undertaking the training so readily.

We welcomed new volunteers to our Sticky Fingers team and I would like to again thank all those who give of their time to prepare and deliver a programme for our children. As of January 2025, it was decided to rename our children's group, it is now called Bible Explorers.

Any Safeguarding issues over the previous twelve months at either Christ Church or St Christopher's have been discussed with the Diocese Safeguarding Team and we thank the team at Church House for their support and advice.

Susannah Atherton

In accordance with the Church of England Safeguarding Policy our church is committed to:

- Promoting a safer environment and culture.
- Safely recruiting and supporting all those with any responsibility related to children, young people and vulnerable adults within the church.
- Responding promptly to every safeguarding concern or allegation.
- Caring pastorally for victims/survivors of abuse and other affected persons.
- Caring pastorally for those who are the subject of concerns or allegations of abuse and other affected persons.
- Responding to those that may pose a present risk to others.

The Parish will:

- Create a safe and caring place for all.
- Have a named Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO) to work with the incumbent and the PCC to implement policy and procedures.
- Safely recruit, train and support all those with any responsibility for children, young people and adults to have the confidence and skills to recognise and respond to abuse.
- Ensure that there is appropriate insurance cover for all activities involving children and adults undertaken in the name of the parish.
- Display in church premises and on the Parish website the details of who to contact if there are safeguarding concerns or support needs.
- Listen to and take seriously all those who disclose abuse.
- Take steps to protect children and adults when a safeguarding concern of any kind arises, following House of Bishops guidance, including notifying the Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser (DSA) and statutory agencies immediately.
- Offer support to victims/survivors of abuse regardless of the type of abuse, when or where it occurred.
- Care for and monitor any member of the church community who may pose a risk to children and adults whilst maintaining appropriate confidentiality and the safety of all parties.
- Ensure that health and safety policy, procedures and risk assessments are in place and that these are reviewed annually.
- Review the implementation of the Safeguarding Policy, Procedures and Practices at least annually.

Each person who works within this church community will agree to abide by this policy and the guidelines established by this church.

This church appoints Susannah Atherton as the Parish Safeguarding Officer

The following policy was agreed at the Parochial Church Council (PCC) meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> April 2025

Incumbent .....

Churchwardens .....

Date:

## **SOCIAL EVENTS REPORT**

Over the last year we have continued to enjoy fellowship as a community over a cup of coffee after our Sunday services at Christ Church as well as at our Open Church slots on Saturday mornings. Unfortunately, we have not been able to continue with Wednesday morning Open Church due to not having enough volunteers. We have enjoyed one-off social events such as our Harvest Lunch, and we are planning to put together a 'Social Events Committee' after Easter to aid with the planning and running of said events.

Rev. Tom Phipps

## **REPORT OF THE HEALTH AND SAFETY OFFICER**

Please remember that if you should become unwell and, as a result test positive for Covid, whilst it's no longer mandatory to isolate yourself in the event of a positive test, we would appreciate it if you were to refrain from attending services at the Church to protect those more vulnerable members who are more susceptible to catching infections.

Church buildings and Parish Halls continue to be cleaned on a regular basis, in accordance with the strictest of guidelines. There have been no Health and Safety issues reported to either myself or other church officers during the last 12 months. The Accident Book for the Church buildings have been reviewed and there is 1 minor incident having been recorded during the last 12 months; this was swiftly dealt with.

The pathways and general church grounds continue to be regularly maintained to a high standard. Many thanks to all those people who give up their time and energy to complete these tasks - it is much appreciated. During wet and - especially - icy conditions, I would ask everyone to take extra care whilst walking along path surfaces, and to ensure that you're wearing appropriate footwear for the conditions. The provision of rock salt on paths will be made - as required / necessary - during icy weather which may be (and has been) experienced over the previous 12 months.

If you should identify any damaged item which you may consider might cause an accident / incident, please advise myself or other church officers accordingly; any issues such as this will be dealt in a timely manner. Any trip hazard such as loose cabling should be tied back or, if on a floor, suitable floor guarding should then be placed over.

It should be borne in mind that we are all responsible for, not only our own Health and Safety (and wellbeing) but also that of visitors, so I would ask that you are all vigilante and report any issues which you may consider to be of concern.

As you can appreciate, the environment in which we are living in, changes regularly. We do our utmost to adapt and amend as things alter; we hope that you can bear with us as we endeavour to ensure your safety at all times, whilst present within the Church buildings. We may not always get it quite right straightaway but we try to ensure that everyone remains safe and secure whilst on Church premises.

We thank you for your patience and understanding whilst we carry out any changes as and when required; it is all necessary to minimise the potential risks that may be experienced.

Malcolm Atherton

## **STICKY FINGERS/BIBLE EXPLORERS**

Bible Explorers have had another wonderful year with the two new children now joining us for our weekly sessions. We have continued to focus our learning around both the Old Testament stories and the parables found in the New Testament whilst also exploring the main events leading up to Christmas and Easter. We have 8 regular attendees which is wonderful.

Later in 2024, Susannah Atherton suggested that a change of name might be useful to further define our Sunday School and its aims and purpose and suggested the name 'Bible Explorers'. This was then shared on the parents WhatsApp group and received high praise with everyone in agreement of the change.

A conversation was also had around the pairing of leaders and the second adult within Bible Explorers. All were in agreement that the leader and second adult should not be family relations. This, combined with the welcome addition of two new volunteers, has ensured that no one is on the rota more than once a month.

The monthly Family Service has continued to be a highlight with the children and they enjoy sitting at the front whilst the preacher delivers the sermon, reading the intercessions, helping with the Eucharist questions and taking up the elements. The children have become much more familiar with the latter and are now processing up with confidence and an awareness of how to behave when at the Altar.

Over the Christmas period the children made a new Altar front depicting the Christmas story. A special mention must be made and thanks given to Nicola Herd who worked diligently and with such skill to sew together all of the different components. The result was breath taking.

Rebecca Tebay

## **PARISH MAGAZINE**

The magazine continues to be produced and circulated throughout the parish.

Several copies of the magazine are also posted to those who have links with our Parish. We continue to receive payment from those who advertise in the magazine.

Our thanks go to Richard and Kerry, who produce the magazine, everyone who contributes articles and those who deliver them to people. If you are interested in contributing an article towards the magazine, please speak to Richard; it is always more interesting to have more voices and to hear about different things going on in the life of the Church and Parish.

Rev. Tom Phipps

## STEWARDSHIP/GIFT AID REPORT

Recently I have been removing Gift Aid documents that we no longer need to keep. I looked at 2015, when we had 35 regular donors. 18 of those donors are still with us, 10 have died, 3 have left the area and 4 stopped coming.

At the time we were raising money to repair the Church hall roof - one parishioner did a sponsored walk of the Great Glen, 71 miles in 6 days!, Emma Radcliffe did some fundraising, and Rev. Ann also did a sponsored walk.

Since then, we have had other people regularly give to our church by monthly standing order, and sadly some have left since Rev. Ann retired.

As of January 2025, we have 37 regular donors. We can claim tax on 33 of the donations. We are grateful to those members who are not taxpayers but still give by standing order. We thank you all for your continued generosity to our parish.

We have seen an increase in donations via the Digital Giving machine and Gift Aid is credited automatically to our account for any gift up to £30.

The Advent Gift Day raised £330. Personally, I thought it was a little disappointing as it was much less than the previous year but we were donating to several other causes at the same time.

If you are not a regular giver, could you please consider becoming a monthly donor by standing order? It is beneficial for the church to know how much regular income can be relied upon during the year.

I still claim the Gift Aid monthly which is transferred directly to our Parish share. November and December 2023 claims of £2019.63 were forwarded to 2024 Parish share. January to November 2024 £9,637 was added.

I must thank Paul Bailey who is the Diocesan Digital Giving Advisor, Emma and Debbie (at the office in Bury) for their continued help and support.

Joan White



## **CHURCH FLOWERS**

The flower donations go directly into the Church bank account.

We can claim Gift Aid from amounts put into the collecting tin for festivals, or donations from regular donors who can gift aid.

Flowers were arranged on 9 occasions, as well as the 3 Major Festivals. An Advent wreath was also decorated. The Festivals were well supported by donations. Special thanks go to the sidepersons for persuading people to put money in the tin. Daffodils were provided for both churches for Mothering Sunday. Thanks to all who have helped at festivals.

Thanks to everyone who turned up to erect and decorate the Christmas tree, and those who helped with the dismantling in January.

I would like to thank everyone who donated during the year, without you the church would not look so cheerful.

Joan White