



2020 Report and Accounts for the Parochial Church Council of Hoghton, Holy Trinity

Aims and Purposes

Holy Trinity 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 Holy Trinity, Hoghton and the church hall 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 Holy Trinity. The PCC maintains an overview of worship throughout the parish and makes suggestions on how our services can involve the many groups that live within our parish. 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 Commission's guidance on public benefit and, in particular, the supplementary guidance on charities for the advancement of religion. In particular, 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.

To facilitate this work it is important that we maintain the fabric of the Church of Holy Trinity and the church hall.

CHURCH OFFICIALS

MINISTRY TEAM

Vicar: Rev'd Hannah Boyd
Lay Readers: Mrs Christine Keenan

Reader Emeritus: Mr Howard Watson

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL (2020)

Church wardens: Mr Bob Collins
Ms Elisabeth Sawle

Deanery Synod representatives:

Mr Bob Collins
Mr Tim Burridge
Mrs Veronica Roper
Mrs Viv Clayton

PCC Members: (end of 3-year term in brackets, currently have 2 vacancies)

Mrs Judith Pearson (2021)
Mrs Sue Leigh (2021)

Mrs Donna Jones (2022)
Mrs Patricia Swallow (2022)
Mr Ian Murray (2022)
Mrs Veronica Roper (2022)

Miss Victoria Swallow (2023)
Mrs Janet Deakin (2023)
Mr Paul Armitt (2023)
Mr Matthew Watson (2023)

Following last year's APCM the PCC co-opted Mrs Sue Flitcroft onto the PCC for the period of one year following her election as PCC secretary.

PCC Officials:

Chairperson Rev'd Hannah Boyd
Lay Vice chairperson
Secretary Mrs Sue Flitcroft
Treasurer Mrs Janet Deakin
Electoral Roll Officer Mr Bob Collins
Safeguarding Officers Mrs Sue Leigh & Ms Elisabeth Sawle

ELECTORAL ROLL REPORT

At the time of the APCM (16th May 2021) the electoral roll is made up of 109 names

Church attendance 2020

Average adult attendance 25
Average child attendance 2

Occasional offices 2020

Baptisms	3
Confirmations	0
Marriages	1
Funerals held in church	6

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 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 at All Saints which we share the costs of; 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 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 Holy Trinity moved to 11.15am with a pattern including Holy Communion, Family Holy Communion and a Service of the Word. We also had a monthly 8am BCP Communion service.

We also in line with our vision, set aside the period of Lent as 40 days of prayer, created a special prayer room inside All Saints, which was opened 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 buildings.

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 10.30am Worship on a Sunday. Numbers upon return have been steady.

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 service in church on Christmas Eve, our pre-recorded nativity received over a thousand views while our joint live streamed Christingle service was very well received.

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 some needed funds and I was blown away by the generosity of people in their giving, the total raised was £13,877. 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. Both Tim and Bob as church wardens deserve thanks for their work and support. We were able to rightfully give Tim a gift as a sign of our appreciation of his hard work when he stepped down from being church warden in October at our annual meeting.

Elisabeth has stepped into the role of church warden and both her and Bob have given me great support in these recent months. Thanks, must also go to our readers Howard and Christine for all their support and work and again we were able to thank Howard publicly for his many years of service during the annual meeting follow his decision to become Reader Emeritus.

Thank you also to Jan for her sterling work as our new treasurer, getting to grips with everything and overseeing our change of bank account alongside the financial challenges the pandemic brought. Thank you also to Raymond & Viv who kept such a close eye on the building while we were closed and have been so helpful in so many different ways. 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 All Saints, 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, gardened and tidied things as and when allowed. 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, 6 of them in our 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 and be financially secure ready to pay for the electrical work in early 2021, as well as supporting other needs as they arose.

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 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.

As a result of the number of contacts we had made through funerals and other sources this year we decided to extend the 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.

SAFEGUARDING

Up to date DBS checks are held for all PCC members as required.

Sue Leigh

HOGHTON HOLY TRINITY HALF HOUR

HHTHH continued to meet for the first 3 months of 2020 and was well supported by regular families enjoying the short informal nature of our worship. During the first few months of lockdown every family was provided with detailed lessons to follow at home including links to activities and worship music. Huge thanks must go to Howard Watson for all his time in preparing these sessions. In August following the successful working together of the two churches for the Guardians of Ancora Holiday Club we decided to combine together and began producing videos for Kingdom Kids which were published online, these were short engaging acts of worship for children and their families. We then met on Monday evenings in age appropriate groups to carry on the theme and to have fun together. These were well supported by several local families.

HOUSEGROUP REPORT

The 3Bs (Bible, Brew and Biscuit) group began in January 2020 and is made up of 8 members from Holy Trinity and All Saints. Initially we met in my home, but then Covid struck. After a few weeks of not meeting we began to meet every week on Zoom, and have continued to do so regularly.

We began by following Hannah's sermons on being a disciple and then moved to the series on *How to Pray*. Covid then interrupted us for a while until we turned our attention to the online version of *The Bible Course*, an excellent resource from Bible Society giving an overview of the Bible.

This course left us with the challenge of studying Romans, a book we undertook discovering many challenges along the way, as it is a book that is perhaps more theoretical than practical.

For a more practical approach to Christianity we began to follow the sermon series on James which again has posed practical questions for us.

This was interrupted during Lent as we followed the course *God on Mute*, trying to understand unanswered prayer. This has been a fascinating course and although we may not have discovered all the answers we are assured of them in the life to come. The Christian sense of Hope has been very prominent.

The group has gelled together over the year despite not being able to meet in person and we always finish with a chat, sadly not over brew and biscuit at present. We are able to share in each other's joys and sadnesses and to support one another.

I would highly recommend that you join a house group as it provides a wonderful opportunity to grow as a Christian.

Elisabeth Sawle

FINANCE REPORT

I took over as Treasurer in September 2020, and would like to thank Bob Collins and Tim Burridge for all their work with the church accounts prior to that.

The impact of Covid on church life, with the church closed or with limited access for much of the year and no social functions, was reflected in our income. Fund raising, particularly the Christmas raffle, proved very successful, but it is thanks to those who give regularly through standing order that we could meet our ongoing demands. The number of people giving in this way and the amount given have both increased. The move to an online bank account with Barclays has made it much easier to administer, but meant individuals changing standing orders. I thank you for doing so. We now also have the facility for card payments, as well as envelopes and the offertory plate. I would urge you to Gift Aid if you are able, as this attracts a further 25% at no cost to you.

The Gift Day in February brought a very positive response to Rev'd Hannah's appeal to us all to give back to God what we could. At the Annual Church Meeting in October she outlined the electrical work required and the truly daunting cost. God has indeed provided through your generosity with £33,320 coming from the two appeals. 2020 ended therefore with the church finances in a much healthier state than predicted, with the first stage of the drainage work paid for and money in the bank to cover the electrical work.

In September a PCC Finance sub group was established, and I thank Hannah, Sue Leigh and Paul Armitt for their advice and support. I also thank Owen Leigh who was the official examiner for the 2020 accounts.

Jan Deakin

DEANERY SYNOD REPORT

There was only one Leyland deanery meeting in 2020.

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, 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.

MUSIC REPORT

Due to the coronavirus pandemic singing in church has not been permitted, although with a short, slight easing of restrictions we were treated to solos from Alison Harrigan-Doyle and the ladies group. We are very grateful for the times when Donna has been able to play the organ for us, before and after services and during communion when we have been together in our church building.

We can learn so much from our hymns and singing together is a wonderful way to worship and one we have sorely missed. The small music group who have sometimes played for our virtual services have done remarkably well and along with the other recorded songs we have been able to enjoy singing at home.

We will all welcome the day when we are permitted to sing together in church once again. Maybe we will be able to celebrate with our own version of *Songs of Praise* and raise the roof of our building!

FABRIC REPORT

The Church building remained closed for the greater part of 2020 due to Government restrictions imposed in response to the COVID pandemic. However, some work was carried out on the fabric of the Church building as the guidelines permitted.

It was found that there was a missing ridge tile on the church hall roof. Further inspection showed that all the ridge tiles were loose plus a couple of tiles were broken; the broken tiles and missing ridge tiles were replaced, all the ridge tiles were refastened down.

During an electrical survey prior to the proposed installation of a projector and screen it was discovered that there was asbestos in the existing fuse and switchgear. It was necessary to remove the asbestos and it was decided that the whole electrical system located in the Baptistry needed upgrading. This involved moving the supply into the building to create space for the new equipment. It was also decided to change the supply in the hall from single to three phase; this required a new trench being dug across the West End grave area following the line of the original supply. New sockets were installed at the rear of the church on the north side to supply power for the projector when fitted.

The church heating in full mode is overloading the electrical circuits so part of the system has been isolated; the Building Team have been consulting with Tony Book who is the Diocesan Advisory Committee for the Care of Churches authority on heating and the PCC has been appointed him as consultant design engineer to take the project to tender.

The drains from the north side outside the church have been replaced and new grids fitted. There are still issues with the south side and the final manhole in the system; ongoing investigations are taking place.

Overall, the church is in good condition except for water ingress problems with the roof which we are chasing to be rectified. The work of Raymond and Viv is to be applauded especially during the lockdown when the church had to remain closed.

Bob Collins

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Five PCC meetings were held in 2020. Meetings in January and March were held in person, whilst meetings in July, September and November were held via Zoom. An average of 12 committee members attended each meeting. At the November meeting, 3 subcommittees were set up: Finance, Fabric and Fundraising.

Sue Flitcroft

FUNDRAISING REPORT

The Fundraising Team was formed in November 2020 with ten members. As we have only been able to meet on Zoom this has prevented some members from being present at meetings, but they have received agendas and minutes and been encouraged to voice their views prior to a meeting.

Our first event was a Grand Christmas Raffle which raised £1,000 with prizes being donated by local businesses. Many thanks to all those who participated.

Viv Clayton and Judith Pearson have undertaken to walk 2021 miles in 2021 and are hoping to raise £2021 towards the purchase of a projector and camera for use in live-streaming services. It isn't too late to set up a standing order or contribute to their effort. What energy!

A very important date for your diary is September 18th 2021 when we are holding our major fundraiser for the year - *The Bishops Challenge You to ...* along with All Saints Higher Walton. For those of you with a head for heights and an adventurous spirit you get the chance to abseil down our Tower once again, along with several other challenges. (I hope your potato is growing well in your pot!).

Watch out for all the latest updates and other summer ventures coming your way.

Elisabeth Sawle

BELLRINGERS REPORT

Bellringing activities were suspended in March due to the outbreak of the COVID pandemic. Four bells were rung before the Sunday morning service for a few weeks in between the lockdowns.

Viv Clayton

MOTHERS' UNION REPORT

We managed to have 2 meetings before lockdown, one being the AGM, the Committee stayed the same.

We were very fortunate to be able to sell most of the Easter Eggs and chocolate oranges with the help of both churches, Cornalls and Call me Flower, which we do appreciate – a donation was sent to Mothers' Union Caravan Fund. During lockdown we have kept in contact by telephone, sending Mothers' Day and Easter Day cards and the Diocesan News.

We continue making 'Crosses in your Pocket' for the Chaplain at Royal Preston and Chorley Hospitals and for Baptisms and weddings. Also, blankets have been knitted for church and we are now knitting scarves for the Homeless, this Parish project is ongoing to the end of December 2021.

Thank you for the support to Mothers' Union.

Take Care, God Bless.

Veronica Roper, Branch Leader