

Annual Report of the Parochial Church Council for year ended 31st December 2025

CHURCHWARDEN'S ADDRESS TO THE APCM

We want to begin by giving thanks – for God's faithfulness to us as a church, and for the many people who serve quietly and generously week by week.

This has been a year of significant change and renewal in our parish life. We have welcomed a new Vicar, bringing fresh vision, energy, and pastoral leadership. Alongside that, we have appointed a new Youth Worker, investing intentionally in the next generation and strengthening our commitment to young people and families. These appointments are not just staffing changes; they represent a hopeful step forward in the life and mission of our church.

We also want to express our gratitude to Janet Roberts, Graham Rutter and Peter Stewart,



for the help they provided during the interregnum. Without them our job would have been so much more difficult.

With new beginnings also comes renewed responsibility. One area where we are rightly giving greater attention is safeguarding. Safeguarding is not simply a policy requirement or a box to tick – it is part of our Christian calling. Creating a safe, transparent, and caring environment for children, young people, and vulnerable adults is fundamental to who we are as a church.

Over the past year we have worked to strengthen our safeguarding culture. This includes ensuring that appropriate training is completed, that safer recruitment practices are followed, and that safeguarding remains visible and understood in all areas of church life. As

**Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with
all your soul and with all your mind and with
all your strength" (NIV).**

Mark 10 - verse 30

wardens, we are particularly mindful that good safeguarding protects everyone: those in our care, our volunteers, our clergy, and the reputation and integrity of the church.

We are grateful for those who serve in safeguarding roles and for all who have willingly completed training and embraced this responsibility. It is encouraging to see that safeguarding is increasingly understood not as an administrative burden, but as an expression of love, care, and accountability.

As we look ahead, we do so with confidence. A new Vicar, a new Youth Worker, and a renewed commitment to safe and healthy church life place us in a strong position for the future. Let us continue to work together in unity, supporting one another, praying for our leaders, and remaining faithful to the calling God has placed upon this parish. Thank you for all that you contribute — in prayer, service, generosity, and fellowship

**Carole Rankin and Dennis
Koogje - Churchwardens**

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

The PCC is the legal governing body of the church which is a registered charity.



The PCC comprises

two Wardens elected by those on the parish electoral roll, the vicar, two lay members designated locally and historically as 'Deputy Wardens', lay members of the church along with lay members who are Deanery or Diocesan Synod members as part of wider church representation.

At January 2025 the church was 'in interregnum'; (without a vicar), so the PCC was being chaired by lay representative Peter Stewart. Clerical oversight was by Rev Canon Janet Roberts and Rev Graham Rutter; both members of the congregation.

2

Wardens:

Denis Koogje, Carole Rankin

Deputy Warden:

David Sharples

Lay members:

Jessica Harrison, Laurence Abernethy, Jodie Taylor,

Co-opted members:

Joseph Johnson (*Fabric*)
Mark Paterson (*Treasurer*)
Jonathan Burke (*PCC Secretary*)

Deanery Synod

Representatives:

David Cobbold, Jonathan Lock,
John Critchley
Peter Stewart

PCC met 11 times in the year.

Most PCC meetings in 2025 were preceded by one hour of training in the principles of 'Leading your Church into Growth' (LYCIG).

At each meeting safeguarding, fabric management and financial reports and discussion were included.

The January meeting approved the parish profile for the purposes of advertising for a new vicar and appointed Peter Stewart and Laurence Abernethy to be the Parish Representatives on the interview panel.

First preparations for the 2025 Annual Meeting were made with an aim to have a much wider circulation of information and engagement of people.

William Casey was co-opted to the PCC to fill a vacant Deanery Synod position.

The February meeting reaffirmed the previous decision to remain outside the Diocesan Fit for Mission initiative but remain in fellowship with deanery and Diocese.

In March, Fabric discussions were significant as repairs continued to be made to the buildings. Unexpected boiler failure and shortfalls in general finance meant there was little prospect of the reordering of the rear of the church.

The next phase of Diocesan Safeguarding would make it mandatory for all volunteers to undertake basic safeguarding training.

Preparations for APCM continued including the preparation

of a new Electoral Roll by secretary, Jonathan Burke.

The April meeting was mostly focused on the details of required Diocesan safeguarding compliance and preparation for annual meeting.

Vestry and Annual Parish Meeting were held on 27th April. Electoral roll was confirmed as 194 a reduction of 60 from the previous roll.

Wardens were confirmed as Dennis Koogje and Carole Rankin. At the time there was only one nominee for deputy Warden – David Sharples.

3 Lay Members of PCC:

John Raynor, Helen Livesley, Gary Smith, Jane Archbold. Christopher Matthews, Brian Spanswick.

Deanery Synod:

Bill Casey was added (accompanying John Critchley and Jonathan Lock)

Accounts for 2024 had not yet been returned from the examiners so these were to be presented to the church at a further special meeting.

The only recorded matter from the congregation was a request for something to be done about the non-functioning Tower clock.

The new PCC met in May. **Joseph Johnson** (Fabric) **Mark Paterson** (Treasurer) **Jonathan Burke** (PCC Secretary) were co-opted to their roles for one year.

David Cobbold was approved

as Deputy Warden alongside **David Sharples**.

The examined Accounts for 2024 had been returned and were formally approved.

Interviews were planned to appoint a Youth Worker.

In June the focus was almost entirely on financial and fabric matters.

Subsequent to the meeting it was announced that **Rev Ian Greenwood** would be the new Vicar.

In July it was noted that, with the end of interregnum, **Jonathan Burke** now intended to step down as PCC Secretary. **Bill Casey** would replace him in that post in due course. Jonathan had been thanked for his energy and commitment in the job through challenging times. He would also be relinquishing the responsibility for the parish electoral roll.

There was no meeting in August.

At the September meeting continued emphasis was given to safeguarding, particularly listing all our regular volunteers and arranging for their basic training.

October saw the first PCC chaired by new vicar **Rev Ian Greenwood**. Newly appointed Youth Worker **Adam Post** was welcomed and introduced to the PCC. In addition to the



regular business, the historic garden-of-rest project across the Sands was put on hold for financial reasons.

The November meeting focused on young people and families. **Jane Archbold** and **Adam Post** reported on the LYCIG youth event they had attended.

In December, safety was to the fore. There had been a serious medical event at the Ministry Centre. The individual had recovered and PCC would be enhancing defibrillator provision.

In the churchyard a significant number of headstones had been identified as stability risks. Safety notices and practical remedies were being pursued.

From January 2026 it was agreed that PCC would meet every other month.

Bill Casey - PCC Secretary

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

Treasurer Mark Patterson and the Stewardship committee look after the finances. Their official Financial Statements approved by an appointed examiner and PCC are published as a separate report.

FABRIC REPORT

This report covers all the buildings owned or managed by the church; to include the Church, Ministry Centre, and the Curate's house at 25 Peet Avenue. The remit of the Fabric Committee is

centred in two areas:

(1) Maintaining the existing fabric of the church and all church properties, both external and internal, including keeping the external grounds in a tidy and safe working order.

(2) Improving the buildings, and their facilities to the benefit of the church and the wider community.

Church works

The Quinquennial Inspection was undertaken in April 2020, the contents of which were reviewed.

All jobs, required in the first 12 month period, have now been carried out.

Regarding the jobs for the period 12 to 24 months, all have now been carried out,

The remaining two items (*up to five years*) being 50 percent completed. The incomplete item is a disabled toilet, which will be carried out within phase 1 of the 2020 vision project which, hopefully, will commence within twelve months, providing we acquire the faculty and subsequent funding.

The jobs that have been carried out over the last 12-month period, on and in the Church, are as follows:-

1) Church building stonework repairs to the Vestry. Remove vestry door from its hinges, cut and Mason back three



5

number stones, the entire depth of the door, sand and treat hinges with anti-rust paint. Manufacture and replacement of new Natural Lancashire stone pieces shaped and masoned to fit exactly to the same profile as the original stone. Re-fit existing Vestry door and re-point all stonework around the Vestry door.

2) Tower roof repairs as per quinquennial report; repair to lead flashings, re-point inside the tower. Replace existing door and seal fix new aluminium threshold to prevent water ingress. Also, replace and fix the top 3 steps and replace handrail. A Mobile Crane was required to lift the materials on to the tower and to remove builders rubbish from the top of the tower.

3) Supply and fix new large Expansion Vessel by the new gas boilers located in the cellar and to change our gas heating system to a pressurised system. Remove all pipework and the wall hung heater from the old vented system.

4) New Electric Installation Certificate for Infrared Heating acquired.

5) Carrying out Grounds maintenance to the graveyard and surrounding land, including trees and hedges throughout the year.

6) Electricians repairing lights in the toilet, cleaner's cupboard, and electric meter cupboard, plus the

lowering of the existing TV screens, due to positions of the Infrared Chandeliers.

7) Repairs to stonework on the southern entrance from Long Lane. Remove existing gutters and downspouts, clean out concealed lead gutter, re-point copings in masons Lime mortar. Carefully kill and remove vegetation growth, cut out all stone and stone joints. Fully re-point in a mason's lime mortar and clean off in the traditional manner. Meticulously mason out for indent repairs. Supply and manufacture replacement pieces of Natural Lancashire brown stone, re-fix gutters and downspouts. Carefully mason out the damaged stone threshold at the porch entrance and replace with a single piece of Natural Lancashire Browns stone, shaped to template, and point all round with mason's lime mortar.

8) Full system inspection of the two boilers/flue and production of Gas Safety Certificate.

9) Design work carried out for the 2020 Vision, including Concept design, Development Design, Technical Design; Invite tenders for phase 1 works. Attend meetings and assist with faculty applications. Work carried out by our Architect Bill Schafer from Schafer and Associates.

10) Electrical works carried out; replace faulty light to Long Lane entrance inner porch, to a 5ft LED

strip light for safer winter access. Test and re-set timer for outside lights, replace light bulb to external Victorian lamp post near the A59 Liverpool Road.

11) Carry out repairs to the chancel / Roof; Re-fix ridge tiles and re-fix all loose slates.

12) Electricians carried out PAT testing in the Church.

Proposed works to be carried out over the course of the next 12 months, providing funds are available.

1) Complete the remaining fifty percent of works of a disabled toilet, for items up to five years that was required in the quinquennial report.

2) New Glass doors to Church entrance as part of the 2020 vision.

3) Construct new disabled toilets as part of the 2020 vision.

4) Construct new Kitchen Area as part of the 2020 vision.

5) Re-construct and repair tarmac footpath around the church, to ensure safe and disabled access.

6) Carry out condition Survey of Church Tower to existing stonework; this is now a priority due to recent storm.

7) Construct new Garden of Remembrance, if possible, in the existing Church Graveyard.

8) Install new defibrillator.

9) Commence the new urgent items works



when we receive the latest 2026 quinquennial report in May 2026.

The grass cutting and grounds maintenance of both to the church and ministry centre grounds are jobs under contract to Max Sharp of Maximum Ground Maintenance, who mows the grass and general maintenance and Paul Richards, Tree Services, who cuts the hedges and trees. Both have done a good job, again, this year.

A special 'thank you' to the Church and Ministry Centre volunteers, maintaining the graveyard flower beds to both church and ministry centre gardens, so neat and tidy. A special 'thank you' to the female/male volunteers, who carry out the cleaning to the church on a weekly basis, organised by Carole and Barbara and all the Busy Bees team.

Ministry Centre work

Jobs that have been carried out over the last 12 months:-

- 1) Electricians carry out drop down test on emergency lighting 21 lights failed, replaced lights.
- 2) Electricians supply and fix four new energy efficient LED lights to gents' toilet, plus two emergency lights.
- 3) Electricians supply and fix 12 new energy efficient LED lights to both first floor meeting rooms, plus four emergency lights.

7

- 4) Electricians supply and fix eight new energy efficient LED lights to first floor café seating area, plus four Emergency lights.
- 5) Electricians supply and fix seven new energy efficient LED lights to upstairs café, plus two emergency lights, and five twin energy efficient LED lights.
- 6) Electricians supply and fix two new energy efficient lights to ground floor hallway passageway, plus, two emergency lights.
- 7) Service and Maintenance of both Fire and Burglar alarms, twice per annum, plus emergency call outs.
- 8) Carry out usual general grounds maintenance.
- 9) Fix Automatic external entrance doors, changed from press pad to automatic open sensors.
- 10) Electricians carry out PAT testing to the Ministry Centre.
- 11) Service Inspection of both Intruder and fire alarm systems, including monitoring yearly charge and emergency call-outs, Inspections are carried out twice per annum. Replace failed fire alarm panel.
- 12) Carry out yearly maintenance /service of fire extinguishers, replace fire blankets.
- 13) Carry out annual service and maintenance to the disabled lift.
- 14) Re-fix missing /damaged slates to higher and lower north

facing roof.

15) Re-fix missing / damaged slates to higher and lower south facing roof.

16) Fit new Dishwasher.

17) Replace Cupboard doors to the Kitchen area of Café Vista.

Proposed works to be carried out over the next twelve months providing funds are available.

1) Painting to existing external aluminium windows, to match guttering and downspouts, undertaken already.

2) Re-roof south facing lower roof. the one with the solar panels.

3) White lines to be re-painted on the car park.

4) New LED lighting to be fitted to as many areas as possible.

5) Fit new solar thermal hot water heating system.

6) Install new Defibrillator.

7) Install new fridge.

Thank you to Centre Administrator, **Diane Prosser**, the weekday cleaners and the volunteer staff who keep the Centre, Café Vista and Office operating and in good attractive order.

A big thank you to all church members who take part in giving both the church and Ministry Centre a thorough spring-clean

every year. Our mission for the coming year will be to further improve the services and the facilities that the Ministry Centre and Café Vista has to offer to our local community and beyond.

25 Peet Avenue

The house had been let to one of our congregation until Christmas 2024. However, to enable the house to be re-let or occupied by Adam Post, our Youth worker, (who has resident since August 2025), the following works were carried out prior to his occupancy:-

1) Carryout Gas Safe inspection and issue Gas Safe certificate.

2) Check Central heating boiler and various plumbing jobs generally.

3) Leaking gutter fixed.

4) Refurbish upstairs bathroom and toilet.

5) Refurbish downstairs bathroom and shower.

6) Remove all growing ivy from the house and garage.

Proposed works to be carried out in the next 12 months providing funds are available.

1) Supply and fit new boiler and flush out existing pipes, radiators fit with new thermostatic radiator valves.

2) Check for cavity insulation in the walls; if none - obtain a quote to have the walls cavity wall

injected to limit any heat loss, and fit extractor fans to improve ventilation, where needed, to prevent damp developing.

3) Replace the two patio doors and new lintel

4) Replace garage felt roof, along with rotting joists: repoint brickwork, where necessary, or simply demolish garage and leave the concrete hard standing for parking use.

In general, the fabric of the church and all associated properties and grounds are in good reasonable order. They continue to be well maintained. The quinquennial report highlights the issues and prioritises the order of works to be carried out over the coming year. The report stresses the need for regular maintenance of all the Church buildings.

Joe Johnson
Fabric Committee Chair

Ministry Centre Report

The Ministry Centre was built to glorify God, it is his building. It is our job to maintain it and encourage people to use it so that they may come to better know the Lord.

The past 12 months have been very encouraging with the number of people coming to the Ministry Centre steadily increasing especially those visiting Café Vista.

The success of the café is due to the exceptional work of the many volunteers who give up their time to serve God and the community. We are truly blessed to have them.

The building itself requires constant maintenance to keep it up to scratch and we thank our caretakers and cleaners for keeping on top of things.

This year they were kept busy moving fridges and installing a new one in the Café. Installing a new dishwasher/steriliser and replacement door fronts in the Café as well as seeing to every day problems, change projector bulb in the main hall, repairing outside doors, planting flowers and maintaining the outside picnic area etc as well as the day to day cleaning and care of the building. They do a great job.

There was some concern at the high cost of the electricity bill and solar panels have been installed on the roof and we should see the benefits of this as the year progresses. Most of the remaining cost is due to the lighting and this year we plan to replace all of the main lights with low energy LED bulbs which will offer further savings.

Our administrator, Diane, is supported by volunteers. It's a difficult job keeping track of all the bookings and activities



as well as answering all the questions that people bring to the office door. It needs a special kind of person and we are fortunate to have Diane and her team of helpers.

We still have an outstanding mortgage on the building and pray that through income and gifts this may soon be paid off.

A big thank you to everyone for making the Ministry Centre such a warm and welcoming place. May it continue to glorify and draw people to Jesus.

John Shaw
Ministry Centre
Operations Committee

PROCEEDINGS OF DEANERY SYNOD

Ormskirk Deanery Synod met three times during the year.

April 24th - Christ Church Aughton

- Update on Deanery Mission Plan.
- Update report on FitforMission with St John's Burscough having left the discussions.
- Reports from Diocesan synod with information of Diocesan Investment Plan.
- Resignation of Bishop of Liverpool and absence of Bishop of Warrington.



- Good news stories from parishes:
 - * Christ Church Aughton: Warm and Green - heating and lighting project.
 - * Surf stage festival biggest and best yet was planned.
 - * St Michael's Aughton pub-quiz ministry success
 - * St Johns Burscough - Schools ministry openings.
 - * Up Holland Dalton - Community hub culture contributed to strong numerical growth.
 - * Mission Evangelical Chaplaincy.

June 14th - St Paul's Skelmersdale

- Confirmation FitforMission discussions were at an end, but churches would be looking to share and learn from the potential benefits of doing more together informally.
- Diocesan Investment Bid Update - Archdeacon Simon Fisher.
 - * What the bid was about and why its success was important
 - * How the money would be used in principle.
- Good News from Churches
 - * Planning for Surf Stage Music event.
 - * Significant confirmation numbers at Skelmersdale.
 - * Burscough - hall to become a day nursery enabling a high street - drop in presence 'No 57'.

- * Open prayer sessions at Ormskirk and across the deanery.
- * Youth work training at Burscough.
- * Appointment of a Youth Worker at Christ Church Aughton.

October 25th St Thomas' Lydiate

- Presentation by Sharon Parr - Diocesan Secretary - vision of healing and parishes feeling they are in the driving seat not being driven.
- Deanery informal self-help meetings on Finance and Safeguarding with meeting of Wardens planned.
- Good news stories
 - * Lydiate Recovery from the Millennium Centre Flood.
 - * Ormskirk exploring a resource church plant from St Barnabas Penny Lane.
 - * Surf Stage festival had been a bigger than ever success.
 - * Pet service at St Michaels Aughton with big numbers.

PASTORAL REPORT

There are 31 members in the pastoral support team at Christ Church, supporting both church members and others in our local community with visits, phone calls and holy communion. Some people have been supported for a long time, especially if they can no longer attend church services,

while others are cared for at times of difficulty in their lives, such as an illness, accident or other life-changing event. We also support the residents in local care homes and hospitals with holy communion, regular visits and music.

Pastoral care is at the heart of our service to all at Christ Church and takes place in many of the outreach activities at the Ministry Centre. These support people of all ages, from mums, babes and toddlers at Bumps and Babes and Toddler Group to older people in Luncheon Club, Cave and FACT. 'Café Companions', launched three years ago, befriends people who visit our Café Vista and pastoral support is a major part of the work of Lyfe groups too.

We now provide refreshments after both Sunday services, to encourage fellowship and to welcome visitors and people new to our church.

In November 2025 we held our annual Service of Remembrance and Hope, for all those remembering and honouring a loved one. This year it was again well attended and most stayed afterwards to enjoy refreshments and fellowship and to reflect on an emotional and supportive service.

So, I want to say a huge thank you to all



pastoral team members and to those as well who work so hard in a more informal way, to support some of the more vulnerable in our church family and local community.

Angela Woodcock

HEALTH AND SAFETY

During 2025 the principal activity was improving the coverage and quality of risk assessments for all of our activities, in Church and Ministry Centre, as required by Liverpool Diocese and our statutory health and safety obligations. Our risk assessments identify :

- 1: *What is the activity?*
- 2: *What are the reasonably foreseeable risks of harm against a number of criteria?*
- 3: *What steps have already been taken to manage the risk/harm identified?*
- 4: *What further steps need to be taken to reduce the risk of harm to as low as reasonably practicable?*

The person familiar with the detail of the activity is best placed to prepare the initial data for risk assessment. Mark Patterson and myself have significant professional experience taking that information and ensuring that it is practical and achievable rather than hopes and aspirations. We see



this as a continuing improvement process. The more we show and help the authors, the more skilled they will become and clearer and more useful their assessments become in managing risk where the activity is taking place.

Other significant actions were a process for updating our fire risk assessments and the hazardous state of some parts of our graveyard as referred to by the wardens.

Bill Casey
Health & Safety Officer

FACULTIES

Much of what we do looking after our Church Building is covered by a Diocesan approvals system requiring 'Faculties' (Approvals). The intricate forms and correspondence are managed by Jonathan Burke.

Active Applications **2023-08881**

Garden of Remembrance. Returned by the Chancellor as the land needs to be transferred to the Diocese before it can be consecrated for the interment of ashes. No further action being taken at present while the PCC reviews the situation

2025-108712

Re-ordering of the back of church. Improvements to toilets, movement of beverage area, creation of a flexible use area at the back of

church and provision of glass doors for entrance. Application awaiting DAC consideration.

£90,000 approx

Category 'A' applications (Relatively minor works of type listed in the regulations and delegated to local decision under the supervision of the archdeacon)

2024-108083

Repairs to vestry ceiling - seeking the appropriate tiles.

2025-110228

Boundary wall repair linked to 2023-08881 above. No further action at present.

2025-114653

Patching paths in churchyard. - on going

Pending Applications

2025-108587

Partially prepared but on hold due to lack of funding.

£25,000 approx

Completed

2024-107755

Full faculty: Replacement gas boilers.

2025-111902

Cat A. Stonework to south porch and tower.

2025-119790

Cat A. Stonework to south porch.

2024-096982

Infra red heating in main body of

church and related heating improvements.

2025-111254

Replacement tiles for nave roof. Completed.

2025-109986

Replacement of ridge tiles over nave. Completed.

Comments

Much of the work completed could not have been undertaken without the generous financial contributions made by individuals and organisations. A big 'thank you' to John Appleton who has been tireless in his submission of grant applications.

Please note that faculties are not required for work undertaken on the Ministry Centre so the above list is not a reflection of total building and or maintenance work undertaken at CCA.

Jonathan Burke

DISCIPLESHIP, LYFE GROUPS AND ENQUIRERS COURSES

Lyfe (Live Your Faith Everyday) Groups are the opportunity at Christ Church to meet regularly with other like minded people to discuss faith, life and everything in between.

It is an environment where we build trust and are able to be open and honest about issues, whilst learning from each other through the power of the Holy Spirit more

about what it means to follow Jesus. All teaching is rooted in Scripture.

Lyfe Groups use well known Christian teaching resources or material connected to Sermon series.

Lyfe groups are also an important support network for members offering prayer and practical support for anyone and everyone in their group.

It is hoped that every church member is given the opportunity to be connected to a Lyfe Group, and all Lyfe Groups have an open door policy welcoming new people at all times. It is the model that Jesus himself lived by and it is how we as a church can disciple each other through Jesus' teaching and example.

Lyfe Groups meet on weekday evenings with one meeting during the daytime.

During 2025 we also ran Hope Explored – a three-week introductory Enquirers Course on two occasions. Baptism families, wedding couples and anybody new to church were encouraged to join one of these courses and given the opportunity to begin their own faith journey.

We strongly encourage you to join a Lyfe Group or attend an Enquirers Course at Christ Church to help you on your faith journey. **Geoff Fallows**



LUNCHEON CLUB

Our Wednesday Luncheon Club still continues to thrive. We meet every two weeks and provide a three course meal for approximately 55 members. Every fourth week there is an opportunity to take communion in the Ministry Centre. All our members thoroughly enjoy their time together and are cared for pastorally.

Pauline Welsh

BELLRINGERS

We have rung for the vast majority of Sunday services, (*for 10:45 service*) throughout the last year and have rung for weddings and funerals. We generally only ring 5 or 6 bells, not the full 8, due to a shortage of ringers. I have carried out some maintenance work on the bells, particularly on the failing timber on the wheels. Of course, the bells remain in need of a full restoration as outlined in the report by Taylors carried out in 2017.

As a point of note it is very nice, and welcome, that the ringers are offered a tea/coffee etc on arrival at the bottom of the tower – the friendly chat is most welcome to – please pass on thanks to the refreshment teams.

**Paul Coggon
(Captain of the Tower)**

GNI LADIES GROUP

The GNI (Girlie Night In) Ladies Group continues to provide a welcoming opportunity for women in our church and the local area to come together, socialise, and enjoy a range of creative, musical and informative evenings.

Our focus is actively serving others with the love we have been shown by our loving Lord.

We meet on the third Friday of each month, with a break during July and August.

The events continue to be well supported and provide a valuable opportunity for women in the church and the wider community to connect, learn new skills and enjoy time together. There is no charge which means that it is open to all but we do ask for donations to support various causes. The GNI team appreciates the faithful support from members of Christ Church in the work we do.

The GNI team are **Lisa Matthews, Annette Harrison, Lynn Lyon, Sara Patterson, Sue Luck, Lianne McTavish, Nikki Greenwood and Jane Lake.**

Events held this year

(April 2025 to March 2026)

- Spring into Spring – Keep Fit evening with Margaret
- GNI Bake Off with Lorraine
- Pros and Cons Music Evening

- Games at Your Table
- Ugandan Evening with Ann
- Christmas Craft Evening
- Rock Choir Evening
- January Big Swap Shop
- Women's Health and Wellbeing with Ms Aleem
- Decoupage Plant Pot Design

Jane Lake

BUMPS AND BABES

In the past year some 25 families have accessed the group. Attendance varies between two and 10 per week. We continue to meet on Mondays throughout 11 months of the year minus Bank holidays.

Most mums, (and the occasional dad,) hear about the group through friends or from our church website. All who attend are made welcome and are supported in their new parenting roles. We have a WhatsApp group open to everyone and is used by members to discuss baby and parenting issues. Also, it is used to advertise events in church, particularly those aimed at young families. The invite helps give a stepping stone towards the local Christian family and to faith.

Tricia Slater

TODDLERS

Toddler Group meets term time on Tuesdays throughout the year, 10am-11.30am at the Ministry Centre. It is run by a group of



volunteers at the centre. Each week there is a range of 35 children, with their parents and carers attending.

We have had a busy year doing various of craft and activities. Each week the hall is filled with toys, for the children to play with. Before snack time, we sing songs, with the children choosing the songs and doing the actions. We had a lovely Easter time making crispy cakes and an egg hunt and our Nativity which was interactive with children dressing up and joining in with the story. and visit from Santa which was well received.

We are very grateful for Adam, our new Children and Youth worker, who has joined us on a Tuesday, bringing good ideas, including some different crafts and introducing toasts at snack time, which everyone seems to enjoy.

We are grateful for our volunteers, but it would be great to have few more for, general help, set up and pack away.

Adam Post

MUSIC GROUP

The main development in the corner over the last 12 months has been the introduction of the



in-ear monitoring system, which will allow singers and musicians to hear each

other better and hopefully therefore to lead the congregation better in sung worship. This may well take several months to adapt to but we believe it will be worthwhile in the long run. We are grateful to Jonathan Lock

We have also been delighted to have some new additions to the band, namely Nikki Greenwood singing and Tony Currie on piano.

We continue to try to strike a balance between new and familiar songs, aiming to enable all of the diverse age range at the 10.45 service to be 'lost in wonder, love and praise'

John Raynor

16

FACT

Friendship and a Cup of Tea

In July 2018, when we first met, we aimed to be a friendly, sociable group, always interested in meeting and welcoming new people. That is how we still are today, with a wider reach than we ever hoped for.

Across the intervening years, we have met many people with diverse needs, sometimes brought to us by the NHS Referral Team due to bereavement, anxiety, illness, and, very noticeably, becoming housebound after COVID lockdown. These incredible people, who first came into a room of complete strangers, have since become regular, valued members.

Although our meetings are officially eleven to twelve noon each Friday, many of us stay for lunch afterwards, therefore, extending our time together. We are excellently cared for by the volunteers in Café Vista every week. Here, it should be mentioned just how much the Café Vista volunteers contribute to the warmth of our meetings.

Over the years, we have built up links with Age UK, Home Instead, the Fire Service, and Andrew, our local Community Police Officer. We invite each of them, every year, to come and chat with us and keep us up to date with local issues and information.

Sadly, in the last twelve months, Hazel Rimmer, a regular, much-loved member, died very suddenly and is sadly missed.

Unfortunately, parking is always a problem. With the popularity of the CAVE downstairs, Café Vista, and ourselves, there is no obvious solution other than car sharing. Our thanks to the 'CAVE men' for their patience with our needs.

We look forward to the next twelve months of friendship and welcoming new members.

Bridget Wainwright

KNIT AND NATTER

The group has continued to support local charities, as well as supporting one another in sharing

patterns, skills and friendship. Throughout the year we've produced a variety of items for sale and also supported charities by making prem. baby hats for the hospital and blankets for nursing homes

In November we held a coffee morning, offering cake, tea and coffee. There was a variety of Christmas crafts on sale, including chocolate orange with covers resembling Christmas puddings together with Ferrero Roche Christmas pudding novelties. We raised £1,000 in support of both Ormskirk and Skelmersdale Food Banks.

In March we held another fund-raising coffee morning, this time in support of Age UK (Ormskirk Branch). Again, hand-crafted novelties were on sale. We raised just over £500 for this very worthwhile cause.

We continue to support one another, and have welcomed some new members to our group. It is a safe space where people feel comfortable and able to share their worries as well as good news. There is always lots of chatter, banter and laughter.

Fun, Friendship and Fellowship whilst supporting local charities continue to be the driving force for this group.

Irene Critchley



Ormskirk Foodbank, Skelmersdale Foodbank

Church members are actively involved in both the Ormskirk and the Skelmersdale and District Foodbanks both of which operate under the auspices of the Trussell Trust. We supply a number of Trustees and volunteers to both foodbanks and act as a collection centre for donations from the church and several schools. We hold events during the year to highlight and promote the work of the Foodbanks and to raise money and further donations.

Pete Chalk & Peter Stewart

CHILDREN AND YOUTH WORKER REPORT

I am grateful to have been appointed as the new Children and Youth Worker at Christ Church taking up the post in October 2025. My report covers the highlights of the first few months in post.

At the beginning of my appointment, I went on a 'Leading Your Church Into Growth' Youth conference. Throughout the few days at the conference there were sessions on how, as a Church, we can continue to prioritise children and youth work. We looked at how young people can help the church grow.

- That young people feel welcomed and part



of the Church family.

- They have opportunities to be involved in the ministry of the church.
- That as whole church we are regularly praying for young people.

During these first months, I attended Sunday morning groups, Bumps and Babies, Toddler group, stating to meet, and get to know, the teams of volunteers, children, young people and their families. By the end of October, I was supporting the children and youth team with the Light-party (alternative Halloween event), where it was great to see a good number of families, children and young people attending.

I began to build links with Christ Church school, leading, once a week, Collective Worship. I was able to support the school as they held several services (Harvest and Christmas) in the church.

In November, at Remembrance Sunday, the church welcomed the uniformed organisations to Parade. Lots of children and young people involved and we welcomed their families too. I hope to continue to build stronger relationships with them.

By December I was involved in Christmas services, particularly at Christingle service dressing up as inflatable Christingle is not something I have ever done

before! It was lovely to have contact with the many families attending these services.

Finally, I want to thank the volunteers for their time and hard work during the year as they continued with the children and youth work. I will continue to meet, discuss, share ideas, plan, pray with the team, (and welcome others to join). As we engage with many children, young people and their families, I pray we will see the children and youth work grow in the coming year. **Adam Post**

FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE

Friendship, concern for others and a warm welcome are strong characteristics of the family at Christ Church Aughton and are something we all recognise benefit body and spirit.

The various activities organised by the Fellowship Committee, and those by the other Church groups etc are a solid base in supporting and maintaining this goodly reputation of Christ Church.

Ongoing development will use these excellent assets and activities we have to further help extend and support the growth of Christ Church in the local Community. We would gratefully welcome more volunteers to help with this objective and task.

Best wishes, thanks to all and God bless.

Brian Spanswick

Church Website

The church website, <https://christchurchaughton.org.uk> continues to be an important communication resource, attracting the attention of visitors interested in learning more about what's happening in our church community. In 2025, the website was a key resource for keeping interested parties informed about the period of Interregnum, which began in November 2024 and completed in September 2025 with the licensing of our new Vicar.

Given the significance of this and the various stages of the Interregnum that needed to be communicated, in 2025, the website saw an increase in traffic year-over-year, outlined in the points below:

The number of people searching for 'Christ Church Aughton' and subsequently selecting our website link increased from 4,390 in 2024 to 5,320 in 2025; a 21% increase.

The top search queries included in this figure, apart from 'Christ Church Aughton', were the 'Ministry Centre', 'Café Vista' and 'Reverend Ian Greenwood'.

It is estimated that a further 3,073 people accessed the website directly, up considerably from 2,039 in 2024.

Site traffic includes international visitors from USA,

Canada, Australia, Nigeria, France, Hong Kong, Ireland, India and Spain, with the most viewed pages being the Home Page, followed by the Ministry Centre, What's On, About Us, Our History, Contemplations, Connect, and Worship & Prayer.

Closely mirroring last year's data, 69% of visitors accessed the site by mobile phone, 26% by computer and 5% by tablet.

Our website is an important gateway to our micro site on the Church of England's 'A Church Near You' (ACNY)

<https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/15222/>

where we post all of our services and events (and more!). The ACNY site saw a significant increase in the number of visits, with a growing average of more than 66,000 page views in 2025,

compared to 38,000 in 2024 and 32,000 in 2023. We attribute this almost 75% year-over-year page visit increase to the growing number of activities taking place at Christ Church Aughton, as well as the appointment of a new Vicar in 2025.

Both sites are regularly updated (sometimes daily!) to ensure new and returning visitors have convenient access to reliable and comprehensive resources providing fresh and topical content.

We are pleased that our growing website presence continues to help visitors experience all that the church has to offer, at home, in church and in the community.

**Nigel Sharpe
(Buckinghamshire, UK) and
Adele Eccleston
(Ontario, Canada)**