

# **The parish of St Michael and All Angels, Ashton-on-Ribble with St Mark, Preston**

## **2024 Annual Report and Accounts of the Parochial Church Council**

### **Aim and purpose of the PCC**

St Michael's Parochial Church Council (the PCC) has the responsibility of working with the vicar to promote the whole mission of the Church: pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical, within our ecclesiastical parish of St Michael with St Mark.

As well as caring for our Grade 2\* listed church building, the PCC is also responsible for maintaining the church hall, the church grounds and the memorial garden. It is very important that we maintain the fabric of the church and hall, and care for the grounds, to provide a safe and pleasant space for our church and wider community activities which makes people feel welcome.

### **Objectives and Activities**

We are an Inclusive Church: a church which does not discriminate, on any level, on grounds of economic power, gender, mental health, physical ability, race or sexuality. The PCC aims to offer a church which welcomes and serves all people in the name of Jesus Christ; which is scripturally faithful; which seeks to proclaim the Gospel afresh for each generation; and which, in the power of the Holy Spirit, allows all people to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Jesus Christ.

We are also a church which wants to grow and to raise our profile in the community. We are committed to supporting Blackburn diocese's *Vision 2026: Healthy Churches Transforming Communities* and the PCC met in April to ensure that its priorities and key actions aligned with this vision.

### **PCC vision for St Michael's**

- 1 Making disciples of Jesus Christ**
  - Establish a prayer chain
- 2 Being witnesses of Jesus Christ**
  - Tie the parish together
    - Autumn card drop round the parish
    - Have a stand at UCLAN freshers' fair
    - Beat the bounds at Michaelmas
- 3 Growing leaders for Jesus Christ**
  - Join the diocesan ALM programme
- 4 Inspiring children and young people**
  - Hold film night for young people

In addition, the PCC agreed that the parish should embark on the Leading Your Church into Growth programme, supported by the diocese, with the vicar and churchwardens attending training courses, which they have started to roll out to the PCC. The Leading your Church into Growth Prayer was used at the start of all our meetings last year. Growing the congregation is the only sure way of increasing income and making our church sustainable.

## **Achievements and Performance this year**

### **Ministry**

David, our vicar, became established in the parish but has been unable to do some of the things he wanted because of his half-time position. To grow and develop as a church we need a full-time vicar, and the PCC hopes that the Leading Your Church into Growth programme will assist with this. Steve Haskett, head of the diocesan renewal programme, preached in church, and attended a PCC meeting in October. The diocesan team is supporting us and agreed to assist in funding full-time ministry provided that sufficient member of the congregation pledge to increase their regular giving and that the PCC continues to focus on growth.

We have continued to be blessed by the ministries of Bill and Gisela Raines, who kindly donated an icon to St Michael's, and of Jeff and Rosie Radcliffe, who freely and willingly provided cover for David, preached, and undertook other tasks in church. Our churchwardens, Jane and Elaine, gave countless hours of their time to serving the church. Ron, our treasurer, who retired from the role on 31 December, the end of our financial year, also devoted countless hours finding funding for projects and supervising works on site as well as balancing the books.

While the vicar is paid a stipend and the organist receives an honorarium, St Michael's is otherwise run entirely by volunteers, who give thousands of hours of their time to make our church what it is. The list of their names would be too long to note here, but every contribution to the life of our church is valuable and the PCC records its thanks to each one of you. Even if your name is not mentioned in this report, we are grateful to you for what you do, whether it is the most menial behind-the-scenes task, or a high-profile, front of church role. We would have no achievements to report without you. Thank you all.

### **New steps towards growth and sustainability**

#### **Making disciples of Jesus Christ**

- We set up a weekly prayer chain

#### **Being witnesses of Jesus Christ**

- We put up a new notice board at the corner of Tulketh and Egerton Road
- We sent cards to all homes in the parish at Easter, Michaelmas and Christmas
- We held successful 4-day Christmas tree festival which welcomed the wider community into church with smiles, music and cakes. The 39 trees were enjoyed by over 700 people, and the festival ended with a Christingle service attended by more than 130 people. We also raised a much needed £2000 for church funds.

#### **Growing leaders for Jesus Christ**

- Three church members embarked on the diocesan Authorised Lay Ministry programme

#### **Inspiring children and young people**

- Held a film night for young people

#### **Resourcing our mission**

- Introduced contactless payment facility in church by card reader or QR code
- Included QR code on weekly service/news sheet
- Purchased an adjustable piano stool to increase potential for concerts

## **Worship and Prayer**

Everyone is welcome to attend any of our church services. In most weeks we offered a single service of Holy Communion at 10am on Sunday, with a shorter service at 10.30am on Thursday. Refreshments were served in the church hall after these services as part of our ministry of welcome.

We held regular family/all age services to enable children and families to join us in church for the whole service. These were either Holy Communion or lay-led services of the Word. When there was no sung Eucharist at 10am, we held a Book of Common Prayer service of Holy Communion at 8.30am.

The vicar recorded the main Sunday services and uploaded them to YouTube for people to watch later.

Average church attendance was 45 this year, from around 30 in 2021. Immediately before the pandemic it had been around 60. 82 people came to our Easter services in 2024 and 160 at Christmas.

In 2024 we restarted our prayer chain. Members undertake to pray at least 3 times each week and bring before God people, organisations and situations that need our prayers. We also pray for the growth of our church community.

## **Choir**

Church organist, Josie Moss, reported that attendance of the choir was very good during the year, both at the Tuesday evening rehearsals and the Sunday services. Rehearsals were spent learning new music to sing during the Eucharist. Choir members enjoyed singing together and valued the companionship. The annual Christmas Eve carol service was enjoyed by a large congregation of people from Ashton and beyond.

The organ is at present unpredictable and needs frequent attention and tuning from Jardines organ builders.

The PCC is grateful to the organist, and to Stephen Davies, who plays the piano when she is not available, as well as to the choir for leading the music for our worship. They are also thankful for the many other tasks which individual choir members perform, often unseen, throughout the year.

## **Pastoral care**

We have no formal network of pastoral care, but the vicar and several church members offered support to parishioners when needed – phoning, emailing and visiting as appropriate.

## **Church Membership**

On 31 December 2024 there were 134 members on the electoral roll (126 in 2023). This number is sent to the diocese for its official record. A new roll is due in 2025, so the figure provides a less than accurate picture of current attendance. It is estimated that there are 60-70 regular attenders.

During the year there were 9 baptisms (6 last year), 2 weddings and 6 funerals in church. There were 2 interments of ashes in the memorial garden. There were no confirmations.

## **Junior Church**

During the last year our monthly Junior Church has grown under the leadership of Jane Bagwell, with the help of Sophie Bagwell, Helen Gordon, and Felicity Smith. They also led the increasingly popular All Angels services on the first Sunday of each month and the Christingle Service. Leaders met regularly to plan the sessions and gather resources. In 2024 Jane Bagwell and Sophie Bagwell began the Diocesan Authorised Lay Ministry training scheme.

There were 23 children (14 families) on the Junior Church register, of whom 9 were below school age and 14 were 5 to 11 years old. Junior Church sessions are relaxed and informal with fun crafts, games, stories and prayers which relate to the Bible readings for that particular day.

Each All Angels service takes some hours to plan and prepare, from writing the service, to moving the furniture in church. Junior Church leaders and the PCC are grateful to the people who volunteer to help on these occasions.

## **Our mission: social justice and action in the community**

We try to demonstrate to the wider community that everyone is valued and loved by God, and that all are welcome at St Michael's. Elaine Buckley is our Vision Champion. St Michael's has a long tradition of celebrating and caring for God's creation, and a commitment to social justice. We are a Fairtrade church and aspire to becoming registered as an Eco-church.

The reports from the activities and organisations below demonstrate our work in the local community

## **Cupboard Love - our community food market**

Throughout 2024 we continued to work in partnership with local Roman Catholic and Methodist churches and a small, dedicated team of volunteers to collect and distribute food within the community and stock and run our twice-monthly community food markets.

With funding from Preston City Council's Food Hub Support Fund, monetary contributions from local RC churches, and generous donations from St Michael's Brownies, the harvest festival, and a private donation, we were able to assist 20-25 families and individuals. We also provided monthly food deliveries to a Preston primary school to support to families suffering hardship and delivered food for refugee families learning English at another local church.

In addition, we worked with Sacred Heart RC primary school to source food for more than 80 food parcels for vulnerable families at Easter and Christmas 2024, as well as providing food for a monthly market at the school in October and November.

We want to extend the reach of Cupboard Love to support people in the local and church community and would ask church members to contact us if they are aware of anyone suffering food poverty.

## **Farmers' market**

Since 2005 the farmers' market has been a regular community outreach event for our church. The twelve markets in 2024 supported local producers and helped reduce food miles. Attendance varied but it remains a viable, if small, market. Church members sold bread, handmade cards and knitwear, ran occasional stalls with plants and jigsaws, and offered refreshments, to enable the markets to raise getting on for £1000 for church funds. The June market included the vicar's Gift Day.

### **Little Fishes Baby and Toddler Group**

The PCC is very grateful to Tracy Hodgkinson who has run this playgroup for St Michael's for 14 years. In 2024 it ran on Monday afternoon for 32 weeks with an average of 13 children and 11 adults per session. The busiest sessions had 19 adults and 22 children and the quietest 5 adults and 8 children. 22 children enjoyed the Christmas party with a visit from Father Christmas. A good mix of children attended with either a parent or grandparent, but childminder numbers dropped since 2023.

The aim of the group is to be inclusive, and the £1 admission cost covers a family of 4 or a childminder with 3 children. This includes snacks and drinks for both adults and children, and covers the cost of toys and of equipment and materials for activities, as well as a small contribution to St Michael's. One of the 2024 purchases was a magnetic construction set which has proved very popular. The children love art and craft activities and enjoyed decorating fish for the Christmas tree.

Little Fishes advertises mainly on Facebook; membership last year increased from 350 to 416.

### **Blue Flamingo dementia-friendly café and community hub**

Blue Flamingo community hub aims to combat isolation and loneliness by providing a safe, inclusive space for people in our community to socialise. Although open to anyone in the community, it offers specialist support to people living with dementia and those who care for them. There are opportunities for people to interact and engage with each other through music, food and a variety of activities, and special sessions for carers.

2024 was a year of significant growth and achievement for Blue Flamingo as it transitioned to a Community Interest Company and laid the foundation for a sustainable future, navigating new challenges and embracing new opportunities. Blue Flamingo expanded beyond the weekly sessions at St Michael's and now operates from three locations in Preston and Penwortham. It launched new programmes, trained staff, and made connections with organisations across Lancashire. During the year 44 sessions were held at St Michael's. In December alone they served 137 individuals from 86 households; they were joined by 36 special visitors (including 14 people from a ukulele group and 15 from Ashtones Community Choir) and were helped by 13 volunteers.

### **Girlguiding**

Rainbows, Brownies and Guides met each Wednesday in the church hall. More than 70 girls, supported by 12 leaders – all volunteers - belong to the 48<sup>th</sup> Preston unit which is affiliated to St Michael's. All the girls enjoy friendship and wonderful experiences and through their activities make a positive impact in our local community. The three sections work closely together and in 2024 staged a huge variety show in Church raising £700 for WaterAid and church funds. They all supported the Christmas tree festival with three very different and creative trees and ran the chocolate tombola.

Rainbows and Brownies enjoyed trips offering new experiences, including a sleepover at Guys Farm Activity Centre. Rainbows also visited the cinema, Eureka and Gulliver's World, and more took part in local activities including litter-picking, exploring the park and outdoor cooking. They learned about the Guide Dogs charity and held a baby shower for their leader, Molly Clare.

In 2024 our Brownies celebrated their 90th birthday (founded at St Michael's in 1934) with a party in the church hall and a sleepover at Sealife, Blackpool. They enjoyed a couple of other sleepovers and a holiday at Guy's Farm. They continued to support our church food hub by shopping at Morrisons for food for Cupboard Love. They also

joined the Guides and other local units at the Remembrance Day parade in Preston. Helen Gordon, Brownie leader (and PCC member) gained her 20-year service award, and two Brownies achieved gold awards.

The Guides earned lots of badges but also went swimming and to the beach. They also enjoyed adventures beyond Preston including celebrating International Day of the Girl in Liverpool, a holiday in the Fylde, camping at Silverdale with the highlight being a week in Switzerland featuring a visit to Our Chalet, the international World Girl Guide and Girl Scout centre in the Alps. Guide leader, Elaine Clare, attended a special event in London to celebrate her Laurel award for exceptional service. Her award, made in 2021 during the pandemic, recognises her outstanding contribution to Guiding.

### **Our Ecumenical commitment**

St Michael's has for many years been committed to working closely with Ashton Methodist church and with Sacred Heart Roman Catholic church. We have continued the link with West Preston Methodists' minister, Mike Grimsley, and with Luke Eidsforth of Sacred Heart.

We joined with our Methodist friends for their annual Covenant Service in January, and they joined our Palm Sunday procession and worship. On Christmas Eve the three churches again shared in a Walking Nativity, singing carols, around the local streets.

### **Events**

We held social events to increase connections within the congregation, and to generate a little income: a Burns Night supper and a St George's day meal as well as coffee mornings on the first Saturday of each month.

Several concerts were held during the year— some on a joint-profit basis and other groups hiring the premises. The church has a good acoustic and an excellent concert grand piano so we could do more. The biggest church event was the Christmas tree festival which contributed to the PCC's vision of being witnesses of Jesus Christ, and allowed the worshipping church community to welcome the whole wider community into our church as we prepared to celebrate Christmas.

## **Church buildings and assets**

### **Inspections**

All inspections have been carried out at the prescribed intervals. The last Quinquennial Inspection [required by the Church of England every 5 years] took place in October 2023.

Following the problems last year a new electric solenoid valve was fitted to the church gas boiler and no further operational issues have been encountered.

The 5-yearly inspection of the building's electrical circuits and fixed appliances required us to update the main distribution boxes. Some plug sockets were also found to have been connected incorrectly.

### **Major schemes**

The topmost part of the east gable was completely repointed during the year which has stopped the water dripping onto the high altar. Work to repair the leak into the vestry was delayed by bad weather and will be done in 2025. Clearance of the high level gutters has also had to be deferred until early 2025 due to a breakdown of the contractor's equipment, but the lower level gutters and rainwater goods have been cleared.

Three damaged leaded glass windows in the passage beyond the east end of the church and vestry have been refurbished. It is now possible to close the opening sections and reduce draughts in that section of the building.

However, as the treasurer noted last year, we will not be able to deal with further issues without significant fund-raising in the future.

### **Outstanding issues**

The most significant issue from the 2023 Quinquennial Inspection report is the condition of the bell frame, which shows signs of corrosion. The bell therefore continues to be out of use.

### **Use of our buildings**

Lettings of our buildings are essential for generating income to keep St Michael's open. The hall is used regularly by affiliated groups, Blue Flamingo, Little Fishes and the 48<sup>th</sup> Preston Girlguiding, whose reports are above. There are also regular hirers. Danceworx finished their hire in the summer but that has the benefit of allowing use of the hall for the farmers' market and other Saturday lets. Taekwondo and Singing Mamas meet weekly, and there is a growing number of private parties.

The multi-purpose room is still used as the choir vestry but also for meetings.

The church itself was used for several successful concerts and piano recitals during the year and is the venue for the Cupboard Love food market.

Since September we have once again had a regular cleaner who brought the hall, kitchen and toilets back to an acceptable standard.

### **Church grounds and garden of remembrance**

The church grounds and memorial garden are the responsibility of the PCC, which ensures that major works are carried out. But much of the work is done by volunteers.

George Brown and Ian Wallbank in particular, assisted by Fay, Andrew and Ian, have given hundreds of hours of their time throughout the year to keep the grounds and the garden of remembrance tidy. They have kept the car park free of leaves and small branches and used the fallen leaves and mature compost as mulch to improve the soil. The PCC is hugely grateful to them and to the other people who have helped in the grounds. Judi Argall has use of flowers and foliage from the grounds in church flower arrangements for special occasions, assisted by Barbara Wilde and others.

In 2024 the PCC agreed to revise the rules for the garden of remembrance and submitted draft wording to the diocese for approval.

### **Communication**

We are grateful to Gisela Raines for continuing to produce the weekly service and news sheets which are published on web pages and social media as well as handed out in person on Sunday.

We regularly updated our main church website and our pages on *A Church Near You* and used two free social media platforms to promote St Michael's to different age groups and sectors of the community. In the last year there were over 15,000 page views on the national site.

Our **Facebook** page has nearly 600 followers who see our regular posts including photos of events, posters, links and information about the church. Our most popular post in 2024, reaching over 3000 people, was about the favourite trees in our

Christmas Tree Festival. Use of **Instagram** continues to grow with over 140 followers (126 in 2023). It is a way of sharing photographs and posters and is a popular platform with younger people. The PCC is grateful to Jonathan Moss and Helen Gordon for their work with the website and social media.

## **Structure, Governance and Management**

### **The Parish**

The Anglican parish of St Michael and All Angels, Ashton-on-Ribble with St Mark, Preston is in the deanery of Preston in the diocese of Blackburn. The correspondence address is **St Michael's Vicarage, 2 Egerton Road, Ashton-on-Ribble, PR2 1AJ.**

### **The Church Council**

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is a body corporate (PCC Powers Measure 1956 and the Church Representation Rules) and has charitable status for the collection of Gift Aid donations: Number:X23879

St Michael's PCC comprises the vicar, two church-wardens, two lay deanery synod representatives, and, most importantly, nine individuals elected by members of the congregation who are on the electoral roll of our church. Everyone who attends our services is encouraged to register on the electoral roll, and all communicants are eligible to stand for election to the PCC. The method of appointment is set out in the *Church Representation Rules*. PCC members usually serve for 3 years.

The PCC is responsible for decisions on all matters of general concern, including how the church funds should be spent. The PCC met eight times during 2024, including an extraordinary vision meeting in April.

The PCC complied with its duty under section 5 of the *Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure* 2016 in respect of children and vulnerable adults. Jane Bagwell acted as safeguarding officer pending the appointment of a new person. The safeguarding policy was updated during the year and new posters displayed.

To ensure that PCC meetings focussed on mission and growth and that everything on the agenda supports or resources growth, two committees were established in the second half of the year offering an opportunity for other church members to become involved in looking after our church. The finance committee and the fabric committee met in the months when there was no PCC meeting and report to the next PCC meeting.

### **PCC members**

Members who served on the PCC during 2024 were:

#### **ex officio members**

Vicar (chairman)	Revd David Roscoe
Churchwarden	Jane Bagwell from July 2023
Churchwarden	Elaine Buckley from July 2023
Deanery Synod Reps	{Elaine Buckley from 2020
	{Jacquie Crosby from summer 2023

#### **9 elected members**

Sophie Bagwell	
George Brown	[elected in April for 3 years]
Brenda Cornall	[to April 2024]
Meg Davies	[re-elected for 3 years]
Helen Gordon	[re-elected for 3 years]
Joanne Moss	
Josie Moss (deputy chair)	



Linda Richardson  
Jennifer Smethurst  
Lynda Young

## **2 co-opted members**

The PCC is permitted to co-opt up to two additional people to its membership

Ron Eather (PCC treasurer)  
Paul Taylor [to April 2024]  
Stephen Davies [from April 2024]

## **Standing Committee**

The Standing Committee usually comprises the vicar, or the lay chair, the churchwardens, the treasurer and the secretary. The Standing Committee met before most PCC meetings to set the agenda. It also makes urgent decisions required between PCC meetings.

## **Preston Deanery Synod <sup>1</sup>**

The Diocese of Blackburn (the Church of England in Lancashire) is divided into 14 areas – deaneries. Each deanery synod is a meeting of elected representatives from every Anglican church in that area. Representatives are elected by each church at its annual parochial church meeting (APCM) and serve a term of three years. Deanery synod representatives are automatically members of the PCC. The latest synod cycle started in July 2023. Elaine Buckley and Jacquie Crosby are the current members for St Michael's until 2026.

The deanery synod considers items of concern to the wider church and members then share these ideas with their own PCCs. They are also the group that elects members to the diocesan synod (the collection of representatives of the deaneries throughout the diocese of Blackburn). The diocesan synod then debates items that are under consideration by the General synod. The deanery synod can also be asked by the diocesan synod to consider matters and report back to the diocesan synod. Deanery synod may in turn ask PCCs to consider these issues. In turn, a PCC can ask the deanery synod to debate a motion that can then be debated by the diocesan synod and ultimately by the general synod.

The meetings include any necessary business but also provide an opportunity for churches to hear from each other about various ministries being offered by churches across the deanery, which we have called the 'Big Parish Share(ing)'.

Preston deanery synod met just twice in 2024. Dave Hanson, area dean, retired in 2024 and Father David Craven from St George's Preston was appointed in his place from 1 July 2024. Synod has not met since then.

In February 2024 it met at St Stephen's Preston where the Message Trust spoke about its 'No More Knives' tour. One parish talked about its work with young people before small groups discussed what different churches had tried and had learned, and their aspirations for work with young people.

In June the Synod met here at St Michael and All Angels. This was an opportunity to hear about specific approaches to bereavement work. Members heard presentations from Cedar House, a counselling service with a Christian foundation; from Christ Church Fulwood about the Bereavement Journey course which they have been

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<sup>1</sup> This section reproduced with thanks to Stephanie Rankin of Preston Deanery Synod to add clarity to our report.

running for several years and, finally, about the Bereavement Café run in Grange Park Interpretation Centre by Ribbleson parish in collaboration with St Catherine's Hospice.

## Financial Review

The total receipts of unrestricted funds were £81,324.78 (up on last year due to the Vicar's Gift Day which raised over £5,000). Of this £11,060 was recovered from Gift Aid. Our giving through the weekly envelope scheme was slightly down as people moved towards standing orders.

£83,935.66 was spent from unrestricted funds to provide Christian ministry from St. Michael's, including a contribution of £27,971 towards the Diocesan parish share, which provides the stipend and housing for our clergy. This sum was lower than in 2023 because the parish was awarded £9,886 from the Low Income Communities Fund.

The net result for the year was an unrestricted fund **deficit of £2,611**.

The major projects in 2024 were the repointing of the top of the east gable (£12,354) and work on the organ (£5,580) both paid out of restricted funds.

# Annual Accounts for the year ending 31 December 2024

## Annual Receipts and Payments Account 2024

	General Fund (Unrestricted)	Foodbank (Restricted)	Blue Flam (Restricted)	Fabric (Restricted)	Total 2024	Total 2023	Notes
<b>Incoming resources</b>							
<b>Voluntary receipts.</b>							
Tax efficient planned giving.	£ 28,028.50				£ 28,028.50	£ 25,734.00	
Other planned giving.	£ 1,779.70				£ 1,779.70	£ 2,021.00	
Collections at services.	£ 5,678.94				£ 5,678.94	£ 6,537.64	
All other voluntary sources.	£ 1,299.47				£ 1,299.47	£ 1,322.78	
Gift Aid recovered.	£ 11,060.30	£ -	£ 50.00		£ 11,110.30	£ 8,641.81	
<b>Fundraising activities.</b>							
Gross income	£ 7,306.36				£ 7,306.36	£ 774.48	3
<b>Church activities.</b>							
Statutory fees	£ 6,694.00				£ 6,694.00	£ 5,712.00	
Gross income from Trading	£ 12,518.43				£ 12,518.43	£ 13,822.31	
<b>Other incoming resources.</b>							
Grants & Donations	£ 6,959.08	£6,017.18	£ 1,214.10	£ 27,409.21	£ 41,599.57	£ 43,391.70	
Legacies							
<b>TOTAL Incoming resources.</b>	£ 81,324.78	£6,017.18	£ 1,264.10	£ 27,409.21	£ 116,015.27	£107,957.72	
<b>Outgoing resources.</b>							
<b>Church activities.</b>							
Mission giving	£ 1,013.00	£5,568.94	£ 5,777.07		£ 12,359.01	£ 29,769.44	4
Parish Share	£ 27,971.00				£ 27,971.00	£ 29,506.00	
Honoraria and Salary	£ 3,442.00				£ 3,442.00	£ 3,454.00	
Clergy expenses	£ 6,508.78				£ 6,508.78	£ 2,445.49	5
<b>Church expenses.</b>							
Running expenses	£ 11,622.51				£ 11,622.51	£ 13,221.67	
Utility bills	£ 19,147.06				£ 19,147.06	£ 12,240.98	6
Cost of Trading	£ -				£ -		
<b>Property expenses.</b>							
Church	£ 10,686.28			£ 21,619.55	£ 32,305.83	£ 11,302.02	7
Hall	£ 2,617.12				£ 2,617.12	£ 4,091.06	
<b>Other outgoings.</b>							
Booking deposit refunds	£ 760.00				£ 760.00	£ 400.00	
Administration	£ 167.91				£ 167.91	£ 164.09	
<b>TOTAL Outgoing Resources</b>	£ 83,935.66	£5,568.94	£ 5,777.07	£ 21,619.55	£ 116,901.22	£106,594.75	
<b>Incoming less Outgoing</b>	<b>-£ 2,610.88</b>	£ 448.24	-£ 4,512.97	£ 5,789.66	<b>-£ 885.95</b>	£ 1,362.97	
Opening Balance 1/1/24	£ 7,701.00	£3,157.91	£ 4,512.97	£ 5,383.37	£ 20,755.25	£ 19,551.80	
<b>Deposit Fund Transfer</b>	£ 3,500.00				£ 3,500.00		
<b>Late banking</b>	£ 179.52				£ 179.52	-£ 179.52	
<b>Unpresented Cheques</b>	£ 20.00				£ 20.00	£ 20.00	
<b>Fund Balance</b>	<b>£ 8,789.64</b>	£3,606.15	£ -	£ 11,173.03	£ 23,568.82	£ 20,755.25	

## Fund Financial Statements for the year ended 31st December 2024

### Designated Fund CCLA 061S :- Organ Fund (116.68 Share Units)

Interest is paid into CCLA 007D Acct.

Closing Value at 31/12/24	£2,697.94
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### Designated Fund CCLA 238S :- Roof Repair Fund (243.86 Share Units)

Interest is paid into CCLA 007D Acct.

Closing Value at 31/12/24	£5,638.79
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### Designated fund CCLA 007D :- General Purposes Fund

Opening Balance	£ 3,884.85
Withdrawal	£ 3,500.00
Interest	<u>£ 587.71</u>
Closing Balance	£ 972.56

Note. CCLA 061S and 238S are accessed via the Diocesan Finance Department, whilst 007D is accessed directly by the PCC.

## Statement of Assets and Liabilities at 31/12/2024

### **Monetary Assets**

Bank Current Account	£ 23,568.82
Gift Aid Claim	£ 2,382.87
CCLA Deposit Funds	<u>£ 9,309.29</u>
TOTAL	<u>£ 35,260.98</u>

### **Liabilities**

Clearance of high gutters	£ 1,400.00
Vestry roof and parapet repairs (Fabric Fund)	£ 7,876.00
Leaded windows refurbishment	£ 1,258.00
Vicarage Council Tax (Note 8)	<u>£ 981.00</u>
	<u>£11,515.00</u>

### **Reserves Policy**

It is PCC policy to try to maintain a balance in our unrestricted funds which equates to two months unrestricted payments. For our parish this is equivalent to £12,500 and is held to smooth out fluctuations in cash flow and to meet unforeseen emergencies. It has not been possible to achieve this in the current financial climate.

## **Notes to 2024 Accounts**

1. The financial statements of the PCC have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 using the Receipts and Payments basis.
2. The following assets are recognised but not valued in the Statement of Assets and Liabilities: - movable church furnishings held by the Church Wardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal.
3. Increased income from Gift Day, Lets, Concerts and Christmas Tree Festival.
4. Reduction due to Blue Flamingo registering as a CIC part way through the year.
5. Vicarage now occupied full time with very high water bills.
6. Greater use of the buildings for hires and a decision to increase building temperatures.
7. Repairs to the East Gable to combat rainwater leaks.
8. Provisional sum to cover reclassification of the Vicarage from single to family occupation for Council Tax purposes.

**Accounts produced by R.F Eather, Treasurer**

**1 February 2025**

**Approved by the PCC on 13/2/25 and signed on its behalf by:-**

**Chairman: D J Roscoe**

**PCC Member: J Bagwell**

## **Independent examiner's Report to the members of the Parochial Church Council ("The Trustees") of St Michaels Church, Ashton.**

I report on the accounts for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024 which are set out on pages 1-3 of this report.

### **Respective responsibilities of the Trustees and Independent Examiner**

The members of the PCC (the Trustees) are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The Trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to

- Examine the accounts (under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act)
- Follow the procedures laid down under the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners and
- State whether particular matters have come to my attention.

### **Basis of Independent Examiner's Statement**

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission.

An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the Church Council (the Trustees) concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in a full audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

### **Independent Examiner's Statement.**

In connection with my examination, no matters have come to my attention:

1. Which give me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
  - To keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act, and
  - To prepare accounts which accord with these accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act have not been met, or
2. To which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed : R Grimes  
Address: 48, Windsor Avenue,  
Ashton,  
PR2 1JD

Date: 12/3/25