

THE RADCLIFFE TEAM

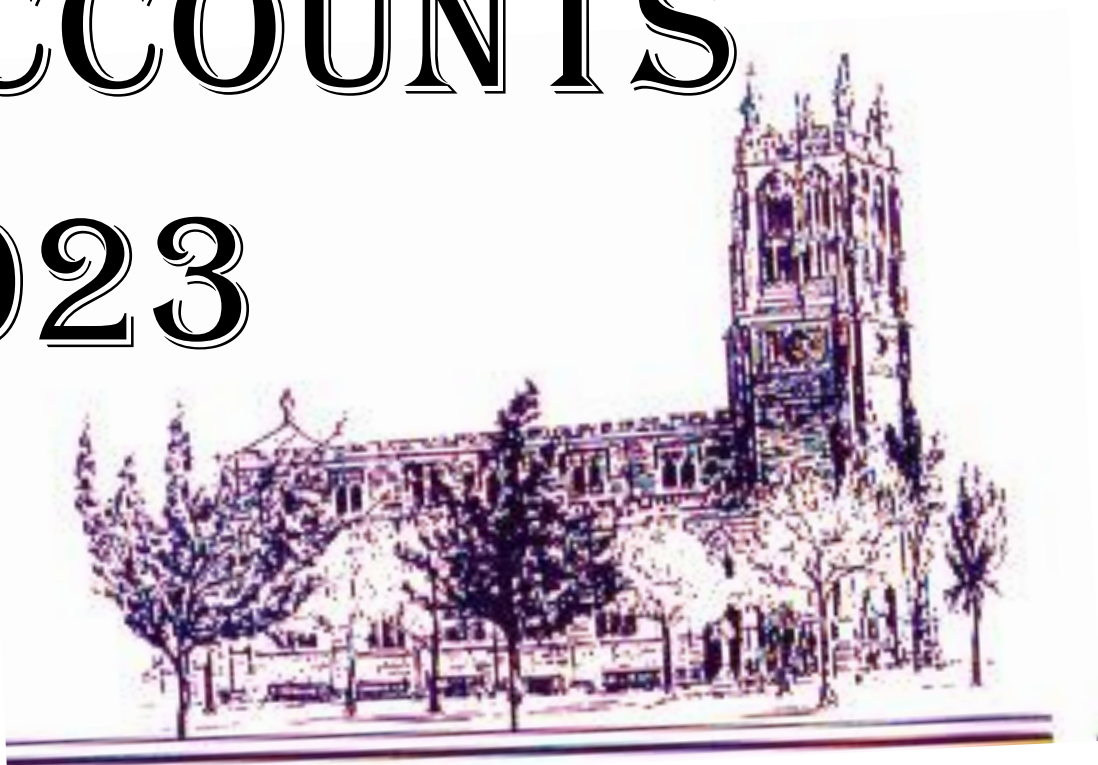
THE PARISH OF ST THOMAS AND ST JOHN

WITH ST PHILIP'S

 THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

Diocese of Manchester

ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS 2023



Website <https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/16096/>

ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS 2023

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The photograph shows the floral display for the celebration of King Charles III

AIM AND PURPOSES

St Thomas and St John's Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical.

The PCC is specifically responsible for the maintenance of the church building, St Philip's Community Centre and the former curate's house at 6 Pool Field Close, Radcliffe.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

The PCC is committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship in St Thomas and St John's Church and at St Philip's Community Centre and to become part of our parish community. It exists to maintain an overview of worship throughout the parish and makes suggestions on how our services and other activities can involve the many groups who live within the parish. Our worship and other activities put faith into practice through prayer and scripture, music and sacrament. We promote and provide services, pastoral, practical and financial support to many in accordance with the imperatives of our faith: to love God and to love our neighbour.

When planning our activities for the year, the PCC has considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and, specifically, the guidance on charities for the advancement of religion. In particular, we try to enable people to live out their faith as part of our parish community through:

- worship and prayer; learning about the Gospel; 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 building, and of other buildings in our care, St Philip's Community Centre and 6 Pool Field Close (curate's house, presently let privately in the absence of church need).

The PCC is very aware of its fiduciary duty under charity law to ensure that the assets of the Church are used only for its charitable objectives. It has concluded that

- the closure of the Pre-school run by the Management Committee of St Philip's Community Centre on behalf of the PCC,
- the subsequent disbandment of the Management Committee caused by the resignation of all its members, and
- the subsequent legal action by former employees of the Pre-School which has resulted in the Employment Tribunal finding a number of named individuals to be personally responsible for the payment of redundancy pay

have all resulted in a situation in which volunteers are unlikely to come forward to take up any role in our Church which could leave them potentially liable for personal payments which many outside observers might see as properly the responsibility of the PCC. During the course of the report year, volunteers vacated the offices of Churchwarden, PCC Secretary and Deanery Synod representative – and have not been replaced. The permitted complement of PCC members has not been achieved. The PCC has decided that, when the extent of the personal liabilities has been determined, the individuals concerned should be fully compensated however this can be achieved, if necessary, using liquidated permanent endowments held by the PCC. This would be so that the delivery of public benefit in accordance with the aims of the PCC remains possible, with necessary authorised volunteers in all key positions.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

This year has continued to pose challenges due partly to ongoing concerns over Covid, but mainly to the repeated absences of priest-in-charge Rev. Jeffrey Clawson and his eventual resignation in March, the impact of the closure of St Philip's pre-school, the stepping down of Churchwarden Margaret Finneron as from 31st July – although she carried on with some of the duties until her resignation from the PCC (22nd September) – the resignations of PCC Secretary Nichola Johnson (24th September) due to ill health – but agreed to stay on until a replacement could be found – and that of Deanery Synod representative Alistair Finneron (13th October).

There hasn't been a new PCC Secretary, but we are grateful that Philip Gooderson has kindly been taking and distributing PCC minutes since November.

As a church we are in a precarious position due to the lack of volunteers to fulfil essential roles. We urgently need Churchwardens, a PCC secretary and more PCC members.

We welcome our new treasurer Bob Birchmore (15th March) and thank Barry for his dedication over eight years of 'balancing the books' and his continued support with our finances during the changeover.

Our weekly attendance on a Sunday was still lower than pre-Covid levels. Our Iranian congregation has dwindled due to many being relocated elsewhere.

Various discussions have taken place around the administration of Communion. Different ways were trialled after listening to parishioners' feelings. The latest consisted of offering 1) the bread and the common cup as in pre-Covid days; 2) intinction by the celebrant for simultaneous administration of the bread and wine; 3) receiving the bread only. We have continued to remind people of the need to be careful. However, it has been possible to shake hands during the Peace for whoever wanted to. It looks like the majority of the congregation has continued with waving.

The Saturday Café reopened in church, run by a team of volunteers, providing opportunities to meet in a friendly atmosphere. It has been wonderful to see people who enjoy coming on a Saturday even though they do not attend Sunday services.

St Thomas and St John's PCC agreed with the suggestion of providing an opportunity for face-to-face enquiries about baptisms and weddings, as in the past. Pauline Gaskell kindly volunteered to coordinate this service to the community. It takes place in church between 10:30 and 11:30am each Saturday beginning on 7 October, during the time of Saturday Café, where we will be able to provide a further friendly welcome. If you have contacts in family or community, please let them know of this opportunity. Telephone contacts will also continue to be possible using the advertised number.

We celebrated Harvest with a joint service at St Mary's. It was followed by a shared lunch which was a great opportunity for both our congregations to enjoy some time together. Gifts of non-perishable food and toiletries brought in by members of both congregations were presented in church and afterwards given to Porch Boxes for local vulnerable people in need.

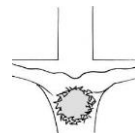
On Maundy Thursday (6th April) at 10:00am there was a team Eucharist at St Thomas and St John's with foot-washing and stripping of altars (President: Revd. Jo McKee).

On Good Friday at 12 noon there was a team Stations of the Cross in St Thomas and St John's (the Intercessions Group), followed by a picnic lunch together for anyone wishing to stay

At 2:00pm the team service An Hour by the Cross was held at St Mary's and led by Revd. Michele Ryan



We gathered for an Easter Eve lunch of sandwiches and cake organised by the Small Projects Group



Chich Hewitt led the Easter Service



The annual parade service of Remembrance took place at the Cenotaph with Irene officiating supported by Michael Wyatt who had offered his help. It was good to see the church full afterwards for the Annual Service of Remembrance with members of the congregation, Radcliffe Brass band, Radcliffe Male Voice Choir and uniformed organisations etc...

We had some wonderful and meaningful displays depicting keys events from the Christmas story. We also had the traditional Christmas trees. We did not hold the usual Christmas Fair but there was a small crafts stall well supported by members of the congregation.

A special Christmas café included a lunch and raffle. We thank the Small Projects team for making this enjoyable event possible. We thank also all the people behind the scenes who continue to give their time, energy and money to make these events successful and ensure that the church is well decorated for the main Christian celebrations during the course of the year.



The Radcliffe team service of Nine Lessons and Carols was held at St Thomas and St John's as well as the First Communion of Christmas Service. We thank Jim Needham for playing the organ for us. The congregation was pleased to see a small but keen choir helping to make the service even more special.

The Christmas Day service took place at St Mary's.

Our Reader Emeritus Irene Thirkell was licensed as our Focal Leader (15th October). She has been an invaluable member of the team and we are grateful for her dedication in the absence of a minister. We have been in a vacancy since Jeffrey's resignation and we need to give some serious thought to the sort of person we would like – hoping that we might get a new vicar – and renew our efforts to fill in all vacant positions and if possible pay our parish share in full.

WORSHIP AND PRAYER

We have retained a focus on drawing people into our Church community, building on the established services and events where possible.

The PCC is keen to offer a range of services during the week and over the course of the year that our community find both beneficial and spiritually fulfilling.

All are welcome to attend our regular services.

We still value the Eucharistic tradition of our Sunday worship based on services of Holy Communion, but we deplore the negative impact of the way in which clergy needs to be found for this service to happen. If no one is available Licensed Reader Emeritus and Focal Leader Irene Thirkell leads the Service of the Word. We are grateful to her and thank her for her dedication.

We thank Carol Smith for selecting Sunday hymns and before and after service music and operating the CD player in the absence of a permanent organist. We are very thankful for and grateful to Jim Needham playing the organ for us as often as he is available.

A midweek service takes place on a Wednesday, at St Mary's the first and third Wednesday of each month and at St Thomas and St John's the 2nd and 4th Wednesday. On occasions when there is a 5th Wednesday in the month the service takes place at St Thomas and St John. This used to be a service of Holy Communion, but it is rarely the case now due to the difficulty in finding a presiding priest.

As well as our regular services, we enable our community to celebrate and thank God at the milestones of the journey through life. Through baptism we thank God for the gift of life; in marriage, public vows are exchanged with God's blessing; through funeral services friends and family express their grief and give thanks for the life that is now complete in this world, and commend the person into God's keeping.

It was agreed at the September PCC meeting that Healing Service could restart on a monthly basis as before Covid.

Some of our "statistics for mission" are shown here:

Number of **baptisms** in church: **14**

Number of couples **married** in church: **1**

Number of couples who renewed their **marriage vows** in church: **1**

Number of **funerals** held in church: **8**

ELECTORAL ROLL

At present there are 115 parishioners on the church electoral roll, of whom 53 are not resident within the parish. We have gained two new members to the roll during the year. We sadly lost four members of our church community during 2023: Dorothy Riley, Bernard Clarke, Terry Atherton who gave many years of service as churchwarden and treasurer, and Garry Atherton.

Our attendance at church changes weekly. The Sunday morning total for the year is 2079 (1965 adults and 114 children) giving us an average of 40 each week. Note that this includes the Remembrance Day service with 214 adults and 44 children. The average attendance on a Wednesday is 11. We thank Jean Smith for checking these numbers.

FRIDAY INTERCESSIONS

Friday Intercessions are held in church almost every week. Please see report in the Appendices

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

This year the WDP took place in St Thomas and St John's church on 3rd March. We thank Jim Needham for playing the organ at the service.



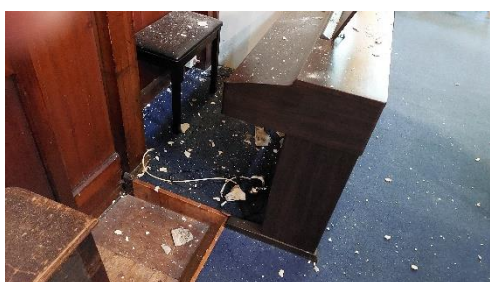
DEANERY SYNOD

Deanery Synod provides the PCC with an important link between the parish and the wider structures of the Church.

Two representatives of the Church were elected to Deanery Synod, thereby being ex officio members of the PCC. This provides the PCC with an important link between the parish and the wider structures of the Church. Since Alistair Finneron resigned from his position, we are now down to just one representative. We should have three. Please see the full report of Deanery and Diocesan Synods in the Appendices.

CHURCH FABRIC

The state of the nave roof has been causing concern for some time. Plaster fell off the top of the chancel wall during a service and traces of damp are obvious. Barry contacted the architect who is due to come back and investigate further what the problem is and what needs to be done.



Plaster fallen from the top of the chancel wall 20th October 2023



*Ready to go and have a look at the pigeon problem in the tower
23rd September 2023*



The bell is in danger of being corroded by the

Quotes have been obtained to remove the guano

from the tower and fix new netting to stop the pigeons inviting themselves in since the netting over the louvres has perished.

Until this is replaced and the area is cleaned and disinfected the tower remains inaccessible for health reasons, which is why the flag was not flying at Easter.

Decomposing dead pigeons could eventually lead to a fly infestation



On a positive note, new carpet was fitted in the narthex in September as well as a new serving. Thanks are due to Jean Smith and her Small Projects team who raised the money and made arrangements for these improvements. New chairs were ordered but have not been delivered (see report).

Although this is not technically part of the church fabric, it would appear that some of our church silver given by Countess Grosvenor – and we presume stolen in the break in of 2001 – has turned up

in an Antiques dealer's shop in London. Margaret Finneron contacted GMP and tried to find information from Insurance Company EIG. Efforts continue to be made by Maryse Gooderson following her resignation to try and retrieve it, but we need solid proof for the police to help our quest.

CHILDREN IN CHURCH

Sadly, Sunday School has still not restarted and we rarely have children in church now. An attempt was made to get involved in the Bubble Church programme to provide services especially designed for young children but we were not quite ready to comply with their requirements. It may be something to consider in the future when we feel the time is right.

St John's school children walk from their school to church for their special services: Christingle (2nd February), Easter (30th March), Leavers (July), Harvest (12th October), Carol Service (14th December).

It is always good to see children in church. We like to encourage children who are being baptised to attend Sunday services. Sadly, this is not usually the case. Books and activities are provided for children who might come on a Sunday. In the absence of Sunday School leaders, we ask that parents either stay with them or take a book or activity into the main body of the church.

Fourteen Year 6 children from St Matthew's (Bolton) and 58 Year 5 children from St John's came to church in November to attend organ workshops (see organ report).

Radcliffe County Primary school had booked a Christmas event but had to cancel due to the stormy weather which would have made the walk to church unsafe for the children. However, they gave a £75 donation to church funds which was gratefully received.

The parish supports the confirmation of children in Year 6 and above and admission of children from age seven to Communion in accordance with Diocesan policy.

ST PHILIP'S COMMUNITY CENTRE

As mentioned previously there has been a very difficult situation to resolve (see paragraph in Objectives and Activities on page 2 and report in appendices).

We really have to learn the lessons of recent years and get St Philip's tightly integrated in to the fabric of Church life.

PASTORAL CARE

As described above, our Church provides pastoral care to members of the community through the occasional offices of Baptism, Christian Marriage and Christian funerals. Funerals take place in church or at Radcliffe Crematorium, with clergy – if available and with prior arrangement – or with Irene, and with support from our Verger, June Dennis with help from Barry Sheehan and Phil Roberts.

There is a high level of informal person-to-person care within the congregation. Irene and some Lay Assistants visit the residential care homes in the parish with Communion and arrange such extras as carol singing approaching Christmas and Harvest services as agreed. Members of our church join in to support the singing.

There are a number of people seeking asylum or finding their feet as refugees recently granted that status in our local community. We support our parishioners by asking for and receiving donations from other members of the congregation. We have successfully provided people in need with clothes, televisions, Christmas decorations and many other items.

MISSION AND EVANGELISM

We are exhorted to cultivate a culture of invitation, using personal contact, leaflets and other means, to services and events designed to be attractive to a range of people. Helping those in need is a demonstration of our faith. We join with God's mission of love to a needy world through ways that include financial support for charities and relief, development and service agencies at home and abroad, and direct support and action through, for example, Porch Boxes. We thank church people and others who support fundraising events.

We give thanks to Les and Kathleen Johnson who send a weekly e-mail to the Radcliffe Team informing them of the important matters affecting our churches and of current activities. They also give hard copies to parishioners who do not have access to e-mail. The website is fully updated to help people find our events.

MISSION COMMUNITY

The churches of our Mission Community came together for 'Advent Zoom Prayers'. The prayer sessions were held each weeknight evening from Monday 4 December at 6pm on Zoom, for approximately 10 minutes, with each of the churches within our Mission Community contributing. The sessions were generally led by a different person each evening, which ensured that a wide variety of prayer themes and approaches to prayer were included. The Zoom prayer sessions were not only a powerful way of easily praying together but were also a great way to begin to get to know people from other Churches. There were also Lent zoom prayers, a Prayer Walk and participation in Task Groups. A list of churches in our Mission Community is included in the appendices together with our Mission Community Prayer.

ECUMENICAL RELATIONSHIPS

We collaborate with other local Churches to support service and outreach activities such as Christian Aid. We are members of Churches Together in Radcliffe (CTR) supporting occasional joint worship, prayer and action. Radcliffe churches organised carol singing in the market hall (10th December).

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ACCOUNTS

Independent Examiner's Report

This report on the financial statements of the PCC for the year ended 31st December 2017, is in respect of an examination carried out in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 ("the Regulations") and s.145 of the Charities Act 2011 ("The Act")

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year (under section 144(2) of the Act), and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts (under section 145 of the Act);
- to follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners (under section 145(5)(b) of the Act); and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.


Basis of this report

My examination was carried out in accordance with General Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act and to be found in the Church guidance, 2006 edition. 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 trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the accounts.

Independent examiner's statement

In the course of my examination, no matter has come to my attention

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect, the trustees have not met the requirements to ensure that:
 - a. proper accounting records are kept (in accordance with section 130 of the Act); and
 - b. accounts are prepared which agree with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Act; or
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper
3. understanding of the accounts to be reached



Ann Chapman B E M

March 2024

**GENERAL AND RESTRICTED FUNDS: RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNTS –
YEAR ENDED 31.12.23**

Summary of income for year

	Income	2023	2023	2022	2022
Code		UNRESTRICTED	RESTRICTED	UNRESTRICTED	RESTRICTED
	Voluntary Giving	(nearest £)	(nearest £)	(nearest £)	(nearest £)
1	Regular giving	£ 20,956		£ 22,091	
3	Collections at services	£ 5,510		£ 4,194	
4	All other giving and voluntary receipts, including special appeals (recurring and one-off and donations made for charities)	£ 2,188		£ 2,489	
6	Gift Aid recovered (from regular giving and one-off donations)	£ 4,794		£ 5,296	
7	Legacies received (capital value)	£ -		£ -	
8	Grants (include recurring and one-off)	£ 3,301		£ 1,250	
	Total voluntary giving	£ 36,749		£ 35,320	
	Activities for generating funds				
9	Fundraising activities (gross proceeds)	£ 3,836		£ 3,809	
	Income from investments				
10	Dividends, interest, income from property etc.	£ 12,983		£ 8,315	
	Church activities				
11	Fees retained by PCC (weddings, funerals etc.)	£ 1,517		£ 3,315	
12	Trading activities (gross proceeds), NOT fundraising	£ 43,730			
13	Other receipts/income not already listed	£ -		£ 582	
	Total Activities for generating funds	£ 62,066		£ 16,021	
	Total Income	£ 98,815		£ 51,341	
	Combined income (Total plus Restricted)	£ 98,815		£ 51,341	

Summary of expenditure for year

	Expenditure	2023	2023	2022	2022
		UNRESTRICTED	RESTRICTED	UNRESTRICTED	RESTRICTED
		(nearest £)	(nearest £)	(nearest £)	(nearest £)
	Costs of generating funds				
17	Costs of fundraising activities	£477		£24	
	Church activities				
18	Mission giving and donations	£450		£302	
19	Diocesan parish share contribution	£14,153		£15,796	
20	Salaries, wages and honoraria	£0		£480	
21	Clergy and staff expenses	£480		£1,344	
	Total Church activities	£15,083		£17,922	
	Church expenses				
22	Mission and evangelism costs	£0		£300	
23	Church running expenses (including governance, office costs , insurance, cleaning)	£13,910		£13,388	
24	Church utility bills	£17,303		£5,854	
25	Costs of trading	£35,965		£449	
	Total Chuch expenses	£67,178		£19,991	
	Major capital expenditure				
27	Major repairs to the church building	£1,374		£9,215	
28	Major repairs to church hall/other PCC property including redecoration)	£2,160			
29	New building work to the church, church hall, clergy housing or other PCC property.	£0			
	Total Major capital expenditure	£3,534		£9,215	
99	Other expenditure not already listed (see notes)	£7,229			
	Total Expenditure	£93,501		£47,152	
	Combined total	£93,501		£47,152	
	Loss/surplus for year	£5,314		£4,189	

FINANCIAL STATEMENT YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023			
Funds summary	General	Restricted	Total
Receipts	£98,815	£0	£98,815
Payments	£93,501	£0	£93,501
Surplus (Deficit) for year	£5,314	£0	£5,314
Reallocations	£0	£0	£0
Surplus(Deficit) after reallocations	£5,314		£5,314
Statement of Assest and liabilities as at 31/12/23			
Cash in Bank Accounts	£85,985		
CBF investment funds	£152,627		
6 Poolfield Close (currently rented out) approx.	£220,000		
St Philips Community Centre	TBA		

Additional Notes

Funds - a number of designated but unrestricted funds for specific purposes are held within and included in the bank account total. As at 31/12/23 these were.

The Organ fund standing at £10,150

The "Iona" fund standing at £ 614

The Sunday School Grant standing at £ 600

Children's Coin collection fund £ 415

Small projects fund £3,836

The only restricted funds currently held by the Church is the permanent endowment fund known as the Knowles Trust, current value £152,627 held as a CBF investment (see above). There were two other low value permanent endowments held by the Church known popularly as the Smethurst or Clog funds which have now been dissolved according to Charity Commission rules and the funds derestricted for general use.

The other expenditure not already listed comprises articles for Narthex improvements (see fund raising report section for more details)

FINANCIAL REPORT

Despite much increased utility bills the Church ran at a small surplus this year (£5314) but only by paying a Parish share of 50% (£14,153). The Church income relies mostly on regular planned giving. This has dropped in 2023 compared to 2022 but was compensated for by an increase in collections at services. Fees retained by the PCC showed a decrease reflecting declining use of the Church by the public.

Fundraising activities held up throughout the year and are on a par with 2022.

St Phillips community Centre is self-funding, run by volunteers and has had its first full year of post Covid operation. While being beset by costs for equipment repairs and necessary upgrades which are now hopefully behind us the Centre made a positive contribution of some £7,765 to Church funds without the Centre the Church would have incurred a small loss this year.

Centre bookings are at good levels and additional returns are anticipated in 2024.

After some repairs Poolfield Close was re-established for rental in 2023 and contributes to Church funds (£10,812 in 2023).

Because of the Community Centre contribution, the overall £98,815 turnover brought us close to the £100,000 Charity Commission threshold at which the Church can no longer be an Excepted Charity and will have to become a Registered Charity. In 2024 it is quite likely that we will exceed the threshold.

This has been my first year as PCC Treasurer, I have been much helped and advised by Barry Sheehan the former treasurer and will continue to draw on his knowledge and support. Thanks are also due to Gwynneth Derere our Gift Aid secretary, to Ann Chapman B.E.M for her Independent Examiner's report on these accounts, to Jean and Travis Smith who give their time to count and bank the money and to Carol Smith for all the printer readings.

It did not seem appropriate to prepare a budget for 2024 as there are too many unknowns facing us, not least the potential cost of repairs to the Church building.

Bob Birchmore Treasurer March 2024

VOLUNTEERS

We would like to thank all the volunteers who work so hard to make our Church the lively and vibrant community it is. We thank Deborah Tokaryk at St Mary's for liaising with Carol Smith in finding clergy to conduct our weekly services. We thank Carol Smith also for providing music and choosing suitable hymns for our Sunday services. We are grateful to Irene for her dedication and continued support. We are grateful to Margaret Finneron whilst she served as a Churchwarden. We need at least one new Churchwarden, and preferably two, following Margaret's resignation. We thank Barry Sheehan and Bob Birchmore who care for the finances of the Church. Thanks are due to Nichola Johnson who served as PCC secretary and to Philip Gooderson who willingly takes the minutes at PCC meetings for the time being. Thanks to the sides persons who provide a welcome to our services [those who have served throughout 2023 are listed in an appendix]. Thanks too to members of the PCC, to all who lead groups and activities or represent the parish to others, and to those who work tirelessly for the Church and, within the Church, for the community in so many ways, some never seen and scarcely acknowledged. We thank Phil Roberts and Barry Sheehan for the smooth running of the maintenance of the church.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. The PCC consists of members who are either: -

- ex officio (members by virtue of office held), or
- elected by those members of the Church who are on the Electoral Roll (we are presently allowed three cohorts each of four members who serve for three years), or
- Co-opted by the PCC itself.

The next section lists those who have served on the PCC in any capacity during 2023. The positions of Vice Chair, Treasurer and Secretary are elected by the PCC and are also shown in the next section.

The PCC members are responsible for making decisions on all matters of general concern and importance to the parish including deciding on how the funds of the PCC are to be spent.

The PCC has met during the year 2023 in person in church or at St Philip's for meetings on the following dates: 11/1/23, 15/3/23, 23/4/23, 12/6/23, 19/7/23, 16/8/23, 20/9/23, 18/10/23, 15/11, 13/12/23

The Standing Committee, with power to transact the business of the PCC, meets between full meetings of the PCC. The APCM was held on 23/4/23 and there was a Meeting of Parishioners before the APCM.

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

St Thomas and St John's Church is situated at New Church Street, Radcliffe M26 2UD.

St Philip's Community Centre is situated in Higher Dean Street, Radcliffe M26 3TE.

The curate's house is 6 Pool Field Close, Radcliffe M26 3UE (presently let to tenants)

The Church is part of the Bury and Rossendale Deanery in the Diocese of Manchester within the Church of England.

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is a body corporate (PCC Powers Measure 1956, Church Representation Rules 2006) and a charity excepted from registration with the Charity Commission.

Bank: Barclays UK PLC, Leicester LE87 2BB

Investment Bank: CCLA Investment Management Ltd 1 Angel Lane London EC4R 3AB

Legal Advisor: Manchester Diocesan Registrar, Church House, 90 Deansgate, Manchester M3 2GH

Investment Trustees: Trustees of the parish's investments are as stated on the individual accounts of funds and investments. They will be either: -

- The Parochial Church Council of St Thomas and St John, or
- The Incumbent and Churchwardens of St Thomas and St John, or
- The Manchester Diocesan Board of Finance

Independent Examiner: Ann Chapman

Radcliffe Team Ministry
Parish of St Thomas and St John with St Philip's Community Centre

Parochial Church Council 2023

Ex Officio

Clergy	Revd Jeffrey Clawson (until 31.3.23)	<i>M15(1)(a)¹</i>
Churchwardens	Margaret Finneron (until 31.7.23) VACANCY	<i>M15(1)(e)</i>
Members of Diocesan Synod	Alistair Finneron (resigned 13/10/23) Philip Gooderson (to serve 2021-2024)	<i>M15(1)(i)</i>
Members of Deanery Synod	Alistair Finneron (resigned 13/10/23) Philip Gooderson (to serve 2023-2026) VACANCY	<i>M15(1)(i)</i>

Elected Members

To serve 2020 – 2023	Darren McGuff (until 23.4.23)	
To serve 2021 – 2024	Carol Cain Margaret Finneron (resigned 22/9/23) Barbara Walker VACANCY	<i>Vice-Chair</i> <i>M15(1)(j)</i>
To serve 2022 – 2025	Pauline Gaskell Phil Roberts Barry Sheehan Jean Smith	
To serve 2023 - 2026	Maryse Gooderson (serving from 2020) Kathleen Johnson (from 23.4.23) Les Johnson (from 23.4.23) Ken Smith (from 23.4.23)	

Co-opted Members

Reader Emeritus and Focal Leader Irene Thirkell (from 12.6.23)	<i>M15(1)(k)</i>
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¹ Those named as members in stated capacities are so by virtue of the stated sub-section of The Church Representation Rules Part 9

Serving the PCC

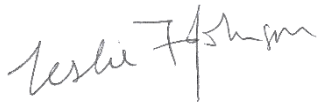
Serving as Secretary Nichola Johnson (resigned 24/9/2023)
M20(1) VACANCY

Serving as Treasurer Bob Birchmore (from 15/3/2023)
M20(3)(b)

Declaration

The Trustees declare that they approved this Trustees' Report at the PCC meeting held in church on 7th April 2024

Signed by the Chair presiding at the meeting



Leslie Johnson
Acting Chair
April 2024

Radcliffe Team Ministry Parish of St Thomas and St John with St Philip's Community Centre

Appointed as Sidespersons 2023

Eric Aspinall, Sue Aspinall, Carol Cain, Beryl Clarke,
Pauline Gaskell, Beryl Holgate, Eloise Johnson
Kathleen Johnson, Les Johnson, Jackie Roberts,
Phil Roberts, Morteza Sedeghi, Carol Smith, Ken Smith

Lay Assistants

A list is displayed on the Porch Notice Board

Healing Service

June Dennis, Sheila Atherton, Carol Smith,
Marilyn Alldred, Kathleen Johnson, Irene Thirkell

Church Representatives and Roles

Role	Representative	Notes
Bible Reading Fellowship	Sue Aspinall	
Bible Society	Vacant	
Children Society (Christingle)	Vacant	We thank Jean Smith for kindly organising this special service in the absence of a representative
Christian Aid	Philip Gooderson	Volunteers always needed
Church Flowers	Carol Cain and Pauline Gaskell	
Health and Safety Officer	Vacant	Required
Safeguarding Officer	Ken Smith	
Ladies who Lunch	Sue Aspinall	
Operation Christmas Child	Jackie Roberts	
Organ Project	Maryse Gooderson	
Porch Boxes	Les Johnson	We no longer distribute Porch Boxes, but Les kindly collects donations of non-perishable food and also toiletries on the first Sunday of the month and passes them on to the Porch Boxes project
Saturday Café Organiser	Jean Smith	
Small Projects Group	Jean Smith Pauline Gaskell Beryl Holgate Marilyn Alldred	Fundraising and improvements to the church environment such as new carpet and servery in the narthex
Tower Captain/High Steward	Phil Roberts	
Weekly Notices Sheet	Les and Kathleen Johnson	Les and Kathleen compile a weekly notices sheet and send it via e-mail and print hard copies for those not online
Sunday School Leaders	Vacant	Volunteers are needed to restart a Sunday School, encouraging children to come to church and making them feel more welcome
Electoral Roll Officer	Carol Smith	
Gift Aid Secretary	Gwynneth Derere	
Churches Together Radcliffe	June Dennis Beryl Holgate Philip Gooderson Les Johnson	Lay Representatives to Forum
Church Website Editor	Les Johnson	Current information may be found at https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/16096/
St Philip's Link	Bob Birchmore	
Mission Community Task Groups	Carol Smith (S, P&S)) Irene Thirkell (N, P&S)) Vacancy (G)	The 4 task groups are: Growing (G) Serving (S) Nurturing (N) Prayer and Spirituality (P&S)

Our new Area Dean and ongoing Mission Community Leader Donna Williams was also made a Canon at the same service as Rachel Mann

Let's not forget to thank the many people who may not have a specific role but are always willing to help when help is needed (moving heavy boards for church displays, providing refreshments after services, enabling people without cars to get to church, cleaning, etc).

We note that the people mentioned by name in the above table and lists are all volunteers. We are very grateful for all the time and effort they put into serving our church and the wider community.

We have had no newsletter or magazine for some time. Anyone willing to take on the responsibility?

As Margaret Finneron has resigned from her Churchwarden post and has not been replaced, there is no Churchwarden Annual Report for 2023. However, an excerpt from her March report to the PCC states the following relating to Fire Safety:

- Carol Smith and I, along with Vicky Bridge and Deb Tokaryk, attended a Fire Safety Training Course held at St Mary's Church on Monday 6th March 2023. The course was provided by Steve Wilcock M.I.fire.E, MIFSM of North West Fire Training. We covered: Legislation, Causes of Fire, What to do in the case of Fire, Fire Blankets, Selection and Operation, Fire Compartmentation, Fire Alarm Familiarisation, Extinguisher Recognition, Classes of Fire and Hazard Spotting. The training was very comprehensive covering all of the above. It will be advisable in the very near future to speak with all side persons to pass on course content to them.

SYNODS GALORE 2023

Some basic facts: Jeffrey and Archdeacon Jean left in different directions in spring 2023. Bishop Matthew Porter was installed on 25 June. Area Dean Rachel Mann became Archdeacon Rachel on 4 July. As a result, she ceased to be our Area Dean. She was installed as a honorary canon at Manchester Cathedral, on September 10th. Irene Thirkell was commissioned as the Focal leader of the Radcliffe Team on 15 October (at St Mary's Rawtenstall). At the same time Alistair and Margaret Finneron gave up their roles in church affairs, leaving Philip Gooderson as our only rep on Deanery and Diocesan Synods. He began taking notes. So, the following is a bit of a mish-mash.

Deanery Synod January 2023 There was a big focus on eco-church in 2023. On 17 January 2023, suggestions resulted from Kath Pollard's trip to Gold Award, Christ Church, Toxteth Park in Liverpool: - A community compost scheme, Food bank, Cafe/Warn space, Tent inside church, to help reduce energy costs in winter and encouraging walking/cycling to church. Many of the ideas we are already doing in part in our own deanery churches.

Barbara Taylor once again thanked everyone for paying as much of their Parish Share as they were able. She reported 19 churches in the Deanery had signed up to receive contactless devices which will hopefully will help to increase potential giving.

Priority Focus: Growing (Archdeacon Jean) Archdeacon Jean reflected on how we need to grow in prayer as a community. She spoke about the need to be grounded in prayer and how we can all be disciples with a direction and vision, underpinned by prayer.

Beverly Angier then spoke about the Focal Ministry journey. Many of our parishes are still at the beginning of this journey and have not identified their leaders. Beverly reiterated that the model of ministry we have inherited of 'one parish, one church, one vicar' is no longer sustainable. Focal ministry is a complementary pastoral ministry, rooted in a specific community and affirming the local and wider church.

At APCM 2023 Alistair Finneron and Philip Gooderson were re-elected to the Deanery Synod.

There was a Bury and Rossendale Deanery Stepping Stones Event on 10th June at St Mary's Hawkshaw. 'Stepping Stones' is our very own Manchester toolkit to help local churches think about growth in new ways. Using a series of six lively videos, it explores ways we can grow in numbers and faith, in our own diverse settings and across our different church traditions. Carol Smith kindly volunteered to be our eco-champion, supported by monthly Eco Stepping Stones on zoom from October

At the September Synod at All Saints' Elton, Bishop Matthew talked about 'What it means to be a Christian' and 'When and where we experience the Grace of God.' He asked us to question the gift of Grace and how we receive and dispense it, in our Diocese, Deanery and at parish level. In small groups we discussed what we could give to our churches: time, using gifts to help others, a warm space, prayer in the streets, welcoming new people to our churches, perseverance and being open and non-judgmental were the main shared points; concluding that Grace is essential to our faith.

Deanery Synod – November 2023 on Zoom

Main business: Kim Morgan-Jones on Nurturing, one of our mission goals. She urged us to be imaginative with worship and liturgy (who said make church less boring?); experiment with worship at different times – not just Sundays and in different places e.g. café, library, school, home. To help there would be Alpha Course and other Enquiry Courses starting in Jan. '24

It was announced that there would be ALM & General Pathway Courses '24 (All welcome) including Children and Families; Community Outreach and Social Action; Parochial Admin, Finance and Governance; Regular Drop-In Sessions for Wardens; 'More than Sunday' – for whole-life discipleship; inspiring, confidence-building, sharing (& equipment for) see website

Transforming Prayer Community was also explained: three prayers for anyone at any time of day: The Lord's Prayer, the Diocesan Prayer, Prayer for the local area incl Schools also Reflections on Mondays and Advent Prayer for Peace

Budget Secretary, Barbara Taylor: £1 million decline in giving since start of the covid pandemic. There was a Film on Parish Share: We have 20,000 worshippers and 175 clergy. We need to maintain and extend the principle of a Christian (in this case CofE) presence in every community. PJG

158th MANCHESTER DIOCESAN SYNOD, St John's House, Bury 14 October 2023

The first one to be reported on by PJG

Bishop David told us to pray for the Jewish community in Manchester. We reject terrorism from any quarter retaining sympathy for the Palestinians of Gaza, many of whom were refugees in 1948. Also, the Church needs to get used to the accusation of being 'woke' as a term of abuse for concern re climate & racial justice. Debate on such issues should be courteous and informed, not reduced to slogans.

Net Zero Strategy – progress report. Led by Archdeacon Karen Lund: To follow Luke 17 (Faith and Power) and apply faith to recognize the fragility of our environment. A transformation of attitudes taking place, as we come to love species. It is a blessing to be part of the big story of God. Eco progress. Eco Stepping Stones, grow, nurture, serve. 20% carbon footprint emitted by our churches. Most of it comes from our schools. Work towards awards (bronze, silver, gold) NOTED

Racial Justice Strategy set out by Archdeacon Karen. Showed trailer to film After the Flood: The Church, Slavery and Reconciliation. (£15 incl booklet) £20 M allocated by the Archbishops' Council. 'We understand that racism is a sin'. 'When we look at our own Church, we are still deeply institutionally racist' (Justin Welby 2020) M/C diocese is 21% Asian, 11% Black, 5% Others. Need for more GMH (global majority heritage) people in ministry and leadership. Schools have the Shades Project with a song, 'A Million Colours', see YouTube. Black History Month at the Cathedral. VOTED & CARRIED

Board of Education Report given by Director, Deborah Smith. OFSTED Only 8% schools require improvement. Ongoing academisation. Success of mid-week services in church for schoolchildren & parents. Mental health first aid now available for churches. Suicide First Aid will follow. RECEIVED

General Synod Update by Canon Andie Salmon: Safeguarding described as a 'mess'. Living in Love and Faith still very controversial, more due for next synod; majority want some kind of blessings to be allowed; minority move towards 'semi-detached' place from the rest of us.

Diocesan Finance surveyed by chair, Phillip Blinkhorn. £1.3 Million Deficit. Stipends increased by 6% to 'equalise'. Sale of freehold property 43-91 The Rock at reduced price of £2.35M. 5% uplift in parish share to total of £8.1 M. (Clergy payroll £7.6M – cost of full-time stip to diocese is £49,153 each). £5.7 M paid in parish share in each year 2020-22.

Nationally, Manchester diocese is just ahead of the average. More emphasis promised on the theology of share and giving. Inflation continues, even when it's said to be easing. Lack of parish officers. Further closures of church buildings are inevitable. 175 stipendiary posts to be maintained till 2027. Parish share vital in this. BUDGET ADOPTED

Update on the Prayer Community. See online.

Diocesan Synod Membership Scheme led by Bishop David. His plan to reduce the size of the synod to make obtaining a quorum (33%) easier (we only just made it this time) was DEFEATED PS Nice muffins and coffee for the 33%. PJG

Safeguarding Report 2023

2023 proved to be a year of change and adaptation for St. Thomas and St. John's Church, St Philip's and the Radcliffe Team, more generally. The Team found itself, once again in an interregnum as our Interim Minister, Rev Jeffrey Clawson left us for new ventures in Spain, Mexico and California.

We were very fortunate that at this time that our Reader Emeritus, Irene Thirkell stepped forward and took on extra duties across the Team ensuring that whenever a priest could not be provided to preside over a communion service that a service of the word would take place. Later the importance of her role was recognised by the Diocese as she was instituted as one of the first focal leaders in Bury and Rossendale Deanery.

As the year progressed, first our Parish Treasurer Barry Sheehan (although he continues to support his successor), Churchwarden Margaret Finneron, PCC Secretary Nichola Johnson and later our Churchwarden, Margaret Finneron stood down from their respective posts after several years of dedicated hard work and service. Fortunately, the post of Parish Treasurer has been filled by Bob Birchmore who also has a key role in the re-establishment and re-opening of St. Philip's Community Centre, following its demise in the previous year.

The lack of an Incumbent, PCC secretary and churchwardens has left the parish in a difficult position in many ways, not in the least in matters of safeguarding as both the former and the latter have key duties in this important pastoral duty of the Church. In light of these developments, I have now become the Parish Safeguarding Officer which means I have responsibility across the spectrum for children and young people as well as adults at risk, so please bear with me and thank you for your continuing help and support.

I have updated my required training by use of interactive video conferencing, work booklets and email correspondence. I have liaised with and worked alongside Deb Tokaryk, St. Mary's Safeguarding Officer in order to ensure that both our DBS (Disclosure and Barring Service) checks have been completed. I have attended a face-to-face meeting at the new Diocesan Office, St. John's House, Bury and was involved with a Zoom meeting with a government officer from DBS discussing some of the intricacies and idiosyncrasies of the process of such checks.

The rolling programme of DBS checks continues with a concentration on those in key roles within St Thomas and St John's.

The PCC has adopted the suggested model presented by the Diocese of Manchester and are working in compliance with the guidance in section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016.

Please continue to be vigilant and caring as safeguarding is the responsibility of us all, if you have any questions, queries or concerns, please do not hesitate to approach me in confidence either in person or via my mobile or email.

Ken Smith
Parish Safeguarding Officer
19.3.24

**The Parish of St Thomas and St John's Radcliffe
SAFEGUARDING POLICY
PROMOTING A SAFER CHURCH**

The following policy was first adopted at the Parochial Church Council (PCC) meeting held on 15th May 2021. It has been reviewed and agreed every year since.

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

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

The Parish will:

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

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

This church appoints Ken Smith and Rosalyn Smith as the Parish Safeguarding Officers.

NB: As Rosalyn no longer attend church Ken currently remains our only Safeguarding Officer.

Friday Intercessions:

For many years, a group - always open to all - has met in church at noon each Friday for Team Intercessions and then picnic lunch together. They continued without interruption throughout the year.

On 7 April, Good Friday, the Intercessions Group conducted a service of Stations of the Cross open to all, largely based on material from the Iona Community.

If anyone would like to join in, come along at noon any Friday. If you wish, bring a picnic lunch and stay on for a while for further informal fellowship. No-one needs to speak during prayer-time but thanks are due to Philip G, Stuart W, Marilyn, Eric and Kathleen who share leadership of the sessions. Others would be welcome to do so.

Les Johnson

FOCAL LEADER

On 15th October I became St Thomas and St John's Focal Leader. Since then I have continued to take midweek services and Service of the Word on some Sundays, as well as Special occasional Services. I take funerals for the Parish. I also go to Rose Court with Marilyn Alldred once a month to take communion to residents. I take phone calls and am able to advise people as to when they can attend church for services or to book weddings and baptisms. I go into local schools. I have also dealt with some pastoral calls.

Irene Thirkell

Ministry to care homes

For many years, services have been held in three of the care homes of our parish: Abbeycliffe, Holly Bank and Rose Court. There is a chance to chat with the residents afterwards. In the weeks approaching Christmas, a short service has also been held with lots of carol singing and participation by the residents. The coming of Covid-19 had made such visits impossible.

During 2023 it became possible to resume services and these have happened monthly at Holly Bank and Rose Court, but not at all at Abbeycliffe. In the Autumn we held a harvest service at Rose Court and in December we held carol services in Rose Court and in Holly Bank. Thanks to those who took part – forming the “choir”, offering prayer and sharing Christmas thoughts briefly with those present. Thanks to those who sustain these ministries.

Kathleen Johnson



Carol Service at Holly Bank

Fund Raising Report 2023 *(compiled by Jean Smith)*

Once again the people of St Thomas & St John's Church with St Philip's have been very generous and supportive, the members of the Small Projects Team thank them.

2023 was a bit up and down as far as fund raising is concerned, due to concerns with the Covid 19 virus we took our time opening up the coffee mornings, only opening one Saturday each month until confidence returned and I'm happy to say the our customers have returned and we are back to pre Covid numbers.

One of the 'ups' has to be the Narthex with the new floor covering and a much improved serving area but a 'down' has to be the chairs not being delivered, dare I say 'not as yet'.

In May we celebrated the coronation of King Charles with Afternoon Tea, funded by ticket sales and helped with income from the sale of competition entry tickets for the Ramsbottom Rotary Club Duck Race.

It was decided that the income from the Sunday Morning Refreshments is to be donated to local charities, we keep £100.00 in the safe for anyone with an urgent need of help, the remaining money is banked and distributed at the end of the year to causes chosen by the PCC, see below for details of donations made in 2023.

Small Projects Income

March	Slide Show	418.00
April	Easter Lunch	168.00
June	Carnival	43.10
Sept	Quiz	400.00
Nov	Choir	252.00
Dec	Christmas Coffee M	<u>205.00</u>
<u>Total for events</u>		<u>1486.10</u>
Monthly Draw		700.00
Greeting Cards		60.00
<u>Coffee Mornings</u>		<u>920.00</u>
Total		<u>3166.10</u>

Small Projects Expenditure

Chairs	2940
Carpet	2814
New Servary	1479
<u>Adjustment to door</u>	<u>30</u>
Total	7263

2023 Donations to Charities

Porch Boxes	100.00	
Women of Worth	100.00	
Support for Church Member	100.00	
Trinty Food Bank	100.00	
Liv's Trust	100.00	
Cap Job Club	50.00	= 550.00 - from Sunday Morning Refreshments
Christian Aid Lunch	87.00	
Shoe box appeal	306.25	Paid directly to Samaritans Purse £245.00 Gift Aided
Derian House	75.00	Paid directly to Derian House. £60.00 Gift Aided

78 Easter Eggs were collected by June Dennis at our annual appeal.

St Philip's Church and Community Centre

In 1914 St Philip's was built as a mission church of St Thomas. The mission church was demolished in 1976 and replaced with St Philip's Community Centre while still retaining its status as a centre of worship for the parish of St Thomas and St John with St Philip. It was closed during lock down and was refurbished and opened again in late 2022. It is self- funding and makes a positive contribution to Church funds. It is run by a group of community minded volunteers acting on behalf of the PCC of St Thomas and St John with St Philip. Since reopening the Community Centre has shown steadily increasing levels of bookings and we have high hopes for the future

The Centre serves the local community providing a venue for worship, parties, exercise classes, fundraising events, and meetings of local groups and societies such as the Royal British Legion and an addiction group. In winter the centre runs a warm space for people who are worried about the rising cost of energy bills and those facing social isolation with a chance for a chat with tea and biscuits.

Bob Birchmore

Enjoying warm spaces



Hall ready for a celebration/party



Enjoying the bar at a party

LADIES WHO LUNCH ANNUAL REPORT 2023

As I indicated in last year's report, I do not see LWL being viable any more at least not on a monthly basis as we are all getting older and there are now fewer drivers to give lifts. I am prepared to join with Jean Smith in organising an annual Christmas lunch as this is appreciated by all and there are more drivers attending.

Our lunch this year was at the Red Hall and was kindly organised by Jean Smith. Unfortunately, we couldn't use the Peel Suite as this became unavailable but we were given the use of a similar suite on the ground floor, the Holcombe Suite, and received the same excellent service. There were 27 diners in total and I think that everyone enjoyed themselves.

I look forward to helping Jean with our Christmas meal in 2024.

Sue Aspinall



Bible Friends

Having first met on 28 October 2022, a group continues to meet every week for friendship and Bible Study. For the first part of 2023, the group began studying the Gospel of St Mark, reading systematically through it and reflecting upon it. We always begin at 10:15 with a brew, then a word of prayer, then straight into the study/discussion for the day. We finish at 11:30, leaving a gap for people to come and go before the time of Intercessions that follows.

For the period of Lent, the group studied "Dust and Glory", based on the Archbishops' Lent book, "Failure" by Bishop Emma Iveson. We learned that failure is to be expected in the life of the world and our own lives. We can learn from it. A postscript to the study was held in Easter Week, when we saw that ultimately, because of the Resurrection, there is no failure.

We then returned to complete the Gospel of St Mark. From September until the end of the year, we studied the Gospel of St Mark. Ken Smith and I have led most of the studies, with Philip Gooderson taking the lead as cover for our absence.

Les Johnson

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD 2023

Jackie Roberts would like to thank everyone who donated money to the Shoebox Appeal. The result is shown in the Fundraising Report above. Again, this year we collected money instead of making our own shoeboxes because of the cost of living crisis.



ORGAN REPORT FOR YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 2023

It is now 5 years since we've had the report from our organ consultant Tom Bell and very little progress has been made towards restoration. It is maintained, and to the untrained ear it sounds amazing. However, faults continue to develop. One reason for this is that it is not played often enough, but mainly because parts are worn or even broken. The pedal board in particular requires attention.



Manchester Organists Association visited on 21st January. All members were very impressed with the organ and deemed it definitely worthy of restoration as is recorded in their comments in the visitors' book. The fact that a relatively small instrument can produce such a powerful sound is amazing and quite characteristic of William Hill's work. Anyone from the congregation who attended thoroughly enjoyed the afternoon. Unfortunately, the organ developed a fault and so playing had to come to an abrupt end. It is not the first time that this particular fault has occurred and no doubt it will happen again. Thanks are due to then churchwarden Margaret Finneron for arranging the necessary repair to be carried out promptly so that the organ is playable once again.

It is of the utmost importance for a successful grant application that the project is of benefit to the wider community. To this end Tom invited a colleague of his Professor David Baker founder and Director of Halifax Organ Academy to come and have a look at the organ. He thinks the latter is very special and deserves to be restored. To support the project, he offered to run a series of workshops involving local schools.

These finally took place in November. We had 14 Year 6 children from St Matthew's Bolton and 58 Y 5 children from St John's accompanied by staff. The workshops tie in not only with the music curriculum, but also science, maths and technology. Children and staff participated enthusiastically and very much enjoyed the hands-on activities (although some got frustrated with ordering the pipes according to size – too much like maths maybe?). I am grateful to Carol Smith and Pauline Gaskell who helped all day and also to Jean and Travis Smith who joined us later in the day.

We had a long conversation over lunch as to what would happen to the organ if church had to close. The answer to that is that it probably would be dismantled and end up somewhere in Eastern Europe. Is Radcliffe going to lose yet another piece of its history?

Maryse Gooderson

ORGAN WORKSHOPS PHOTOS



*Ordering organ pipes
smallest to largest*



Building an organ model



*Professor David Baker conducts the children as they
play their note on the pipe they made earlier*



Listening to the different sounds of the organ

CHURCHES TOGETHER REPORT 2023

The parish of St Thomas and St John no longer supports Churches Together financially as at one time, but continues to provide the core at its meetings. So, a summary follows.

At present CTR is largely a spending organization seeking useful ways of disbursing its money.

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity was celebrated at PJG's house, 273 Ainsworth Road, Bury on 18 January. The bank balance was then £3865.

AGM 10 May at T&J. The last church to send a financial contribution to CTR had stopped doing so. Radcliffe church activities, such as URC Listening Ear, Emmanuel's CAP Job Club still flourishing. Disbursements of £150 to Porch Boxes, £150 to Food Bank at Westminster Ave and £50 to CAP Job Club agreed.

Meeting on 12 July at URC was concerned with disbursing £2,000 residual from Ambitions for Ageing, once awarded for Food and Friendship parties. Bids were invited. Christian Aid Week raised £1,930.70 in the Radcliffe & Ainsworth Group.

Meeting on 8 November at T&J. Receipt of bids for A for A residue. Meeting agreed to support the projects described with £250 each – to Trinity, Wesley, St Andrew's and £100 for New Life's costs with Carol Event in Radcliffe Market. It was understood that other churches might be able to make bids and churches were urged to apply in writing.

PJG chair

CHRISTIAN AID REPORT 2023

In February there was a team DEC collection for the Turkey-Syria Appeal. The team total was £675 including £295 gift-aided.

Christian Aid Week took place between 14 and 20 May 2023

This year's national focus was on Malawi, a stable but quite poor country with long connections with UK churches.

Special Christian Aid services were held in our team churches, using CAW worship material, and at Ainsworth. Thanks to Les Johnson.

The usual house-to-house collection took place, but only by two people. Nevertheless, they collected £563.44 of which £196 was gift-aided. Thanks to Ken Smith.

St Thomas and St John's Wednesday café (morning and lunch) raised £205.



Only one day (Saturday) was allowed at Bradley Fold Garden Centre instead of the whole week. So, we tried to make up by a day (Tuesday) at Tesco., Little Lever and a day (Thursday) at Morrisons, Whitefield. Supermarket collections raised altogether £330.55. Church collections (including the café) raised at St Thomas and St John totalled £520 with £195 gift-aided. The total collected at churches in our group was £739.80 of which £313 was gift-aided.

The total raised by our church was £1,094.

The total raised by the Radcliffe and Ainsworth Group No. 251071 was £1,645. However, Radcliffe URC sent a late cheque which pushed up this figure.

The 2024 CA Week is from 12 to 18 May, so please think whether you could help at a supermarket or with house-to-house and tell the organisers.

With many thanks to all those who took part last year.

PJG

CELEBRATING THE CORONATION OF KING CHARLES III

A big thank you to organisers and helpers who made sure we celebrated in style and had an enjoyable time



Everyone who attended enjoyed this once in a lifetime celebration. Not only Jean and her dedicated team did provide delicious food, but the décor was certainly fit for a king and the entertainment was fun and revealed some very competitive spirit!

The churches in our Mission Community

Christ Church, Walshaw

St Andrew, Hillock

St George, Unsworth

Christ Church, Ainsworth

All Saints, Stand

St Andrew, Radcliffe

St Mary, Radcliffe

St Thomas and St John, Radcliffe

Mission Community Prayer

God,
who in generous mercy sent the Holy Spirit upon your Church in the burning fire of your
love,
we lift before you the Churches of our new Mission Community
and the communities where we live and serve you.

Grant that your people may be fervent in the fellowship of the Gospel,
bearing with one another in love as you build us together into one community.

Always abiding in you,
may we be found steadfast in faith and active in service.

Open our eyes to see the opportunities you have prepared for us to work together in
mission in new ways;

through your Son our Lord and saviour, Jesus Christ.

Amen