

The Parish of Oswaldtwistle

Trustees Annual Report
of the Parochial Church Council

For the year ended 31 December 2025

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The Parish of Oswaldtwistle Trustees Annual Report of the Parochial Church Council for the year ended 31 December 2025

Introduction

The Parish of Oswaldtwistle is part of the Deanery of Accrington in the Diocese of Blackburn. The PCC (The Parochial Church Council) has the responsibility of cooperating with the incumbent, the Rev Barbara Hunter, in promoting the whole mission of the Church within the parish - pastorally, evangelistically, socially and ecumenically.

The PCC is also specifically responsible for the maintenance of our three places of worship: All Saints' Church (*Aspen Lane, Oswaldtwistle, BB5 4QA*), Immanuel Church (*New Lane, Oswaldtwistle, BB5 3QN*) and St Paul's Church (*Catlow Hall Church, Oswaldtwistle BB5 3EY*) along with our Parish Hall and Parish Office.

The parish is part of the Diocese of Blackburn within the Church of England.

The correspondence address is: *The Parish Office, New Lane, Oswaldtwistle BB5 3QN.*

The PCC is a body corporate (*PCC Powers Measure 1956, Church Representation Rules 2011*) and a charity currently excepted from registration with the Charity Commission.

Objectives and Activities

The objectives and activities of the PCC align themselves with the church's mission and vision. The PCC is committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship within the parish and to become part of the worshipping community. The PCC maintains an overview of worship throughout the parish and makes suggestions on how services can involve the many groups that live within the parish. Our services and worship intend to put faith into practice through prayer and scripture, music and sacrament.

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

- Worship and prayer; learning about the gospel; developing their knowledge and trust in Jesus.
- Provision of pastoral care for people living in the parish.
- Mission and outreach work.

To facilitate this work, it is important that we maintain the fabric of the churches, Parish Hall and Parish Office.

Structure, Governance and Management

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. 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 spent.

The full PCC meet approximately every two months with an average attendance of 80%.

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules, although in 2017 an exception was made when the three churches formed the now parish. The then Archdeacon allowed for 15 members of the PCC to be elected rather than 12 due to the parish being newly established, with no time specification given for this arrangement.

Membership of the PCC for The Parish of Oswaldtwistle consists of the Incumbent, an associate priest, a self-supporting priest, six churchwardens, two licenced lay ministers (*ex-officio*), 3 deanery Synod representatives and 15 members elected by those members of the congregation who are on the electoral roll of the church which makes it a very large body. From the next APCM we would like to return to the numbers set out in the Church Representation Rules.

Given its wide responsibilities the PCC tasks several committees/working groups, each dealing with a particular aspect of parish life. These committees, which include finance, mission and outreach, buildings and fabric, and churchyard, are all responsible to the PCC and report back regularly.

Members of the PCC are either *ex-officio* or elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) in accordance with the Church Representation Rules. PCC members who have served from 1 January 2025 until the date of this report are:

Ex-officio members

Clergy: Rev Barbara Hunter (*Incumbent and PCC Chair since July 2025*)
Rev Paul Hunter (*Associate Priest since July 2025*)
Rev Carole Garner (*Self-Supporting Priest*)

Wardens: **All Saints':** Betty Hartley (*Treasurer*), Andrew Leecy
Immanuel: Sonia Marshall, Wendy Hope
St Paul's: Stuart Kearney, Clive Yates

LLMs: Judith Addison, Heather Aspbury

Elected members

Deanery Synod: Neil Reid; Colin Hall

PCC: Donna Bentley (*until May 2025*)
Mary Beavis
Hazel Briggs (*from May 2025*)
Ruth Clare (*until May 2026*)
Derek Corfield (*until May 2026*)
Bevan Eatough
Sonia Grimshaw (*from May 2025*)
Tracy Hall (*until 2026*)
Avril Hulme (*from May 2025*)
Janet Johnston
Adam Marriott
Clare Nield (*PSO*) (*from May 2025*)
Anne Peak (*until May 2025*)
Graham Rowland (*until May 2025*)
Alan Salmon (*until May 2025*)
Diane Smith (*PCC Secretary*) (*elected 2025*)

Paul Topping (*until May 2026*)
Janet Watson
Stephen Watson (*Vice Chair until May 2026*)

Alex Knight, our church administrator attends to take the minutes but is not a member of the PCC.

Deanery Synod

Two members of the PCC sit on the Deanery Synod with one space vacant. This provides the PCC with an important link between the parish and the wider structures of the church. The PCC receive reports from the Synod meetings and are able to ask questions about what took place.

Worship and Prayer

The PCC aims 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. The usual pattern for worship is four services, usually of Holy Communion, each Sunday morning – 8.00am and 10.00am at St Paul’s, 9.00am at All Saints, and 10.30am at Immanuel; and a Wednesday 10.30am service of Holy Communion at St Paul’s. The parish also holds extra services for Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Ascension Day, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day and Patronal Festivals.

All are welcome to attend regular services. Last year the Electoral Roll underwent a full revision whereas this year it underwent an annual revision. As a result, the number of people on the Parish Electoral Roll has risen by 21 from 113 to 134, with 105 people residing within the parish and the remaining 29 outside of the parish.

Rev Barbara Hunter, alongside her husband Rev Paul Hunter, joined the parish in July 2025 to work alongside a team who faithfully lead and preach within the parish. OPCS (*One Parish Celebration Services*) continue and are scheduled six times per year – one for each church’s Patronal Festival, and the remaining three occasions to allow for times of worshipping together.

As well as during regular services, the parish enables 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.

In addition to the scheduled services, members of the congregation are invited to attend weekly evening prayer; an online meeting for fellowship, prayer and Bible study held every other week; a monthly prayer meeting exploring a different style of prayer; as well as additional discipleship courses held periodically throughout the year. A group also meets each week at Oswaldtwistle Mills to specifically pray for the needs of the parish.

St Paul’s offers a Sunday school provision and youth puppet ministry each Sunday, a monthly “Friday Praise” family worship service as well as hosting a monthly youth group. Immanuel has unfortunately had to temporarily halt its Junior Church but hopes to start a regular Sunday school provision again very soon. A junior choir, which has begun to

meet after the morning service this year, has now performed at Immanuel's *Nine Lessons and Carols* Christmas service as well as a recent OPCS alongside the puppet ministry.

We are pleased to have been able to conduct the following occasional offices during 2025:

Baptisms: We held 24 baptisms during 2025: 2 at All Saints', 13 at Immanuel and 9 at St Paul's.

Funerals: There have been 24 funerals: 2 at All Saints'; 16 at Immanuel and 2 St Paul's. 4 have been held at Accrington Crematorium.

Burials: There have been 11 burials at Immanuel.

Burial of ashes: 4 at Immanuel; 1 at All Saints' and 0 at St Paul's.

Pastoral Care

Some members of our congregations are unable to attend church due to sickness or age. Margaret Taylor heads up the parish pastoral team and regularly visits all church members who have requested this, to celebrate communion with them either at their homes or in hospital. Rev Barbara has also made visits with Margaret and independently when requested.

Every family who would like a baptism, after attending at least three church services, have also had a meeting with Rev Barbara and a member of the pastoral team.

Mission and Evangelism

This year our parish joined the LYCIG programme – '*Leading Your Church into Growth*' - a Christian organisation equipping leaders and churches to grow in faith, mission, and number. Seven members of the PCC have committed to the training involved in this year long programme and regularly feed back to the PCC.

Other missional ventures we, as a parish, are involved in include being part of the steering group for *Hope4Accrington* – an initiative formulating a funding bid from the National church specifically for growing faith in Accrington and Oswaldtwistle.

The parish has also been successful in its bid to secure funding towards an Ignite Leader. This will allow the parish to employ somebody to specifically lead more children's provision within the parish very soon.

We, as a parish, continue to explore outward focused ways in which we hope engages people from our local community with our message of Christ-centred hope. We have strong connections with both our local Church of England primary schools, holding weekly assemblies in each, positions on the governing body and holding an annual service in St Paul's School for Education Sunday. St Andrew's partnered with us last year to kindly host our first *Light Party*.

We continue to take part in Remembrance Services which always mean so much in Oswaldtwistle; have held a service to remember those no longer with us; as well as hosting a well-attended *Carols in the Car Park* with Darwen Brass Band and a live donkey. The choirs continue to play a key role in helping to bring services to life and to encourage the community into the church buildings.

Ecumenical Relationships

The parish is part of a steering group of local churches currently exploring setting up a *CAP Debt Centre (Christian's Against Poverty)* here in Hyndburn. We have hosted Paul Jackson, the North West Regional Director of CAP, at a recent OPCS service who further informed the congregation about the work of CAP.

Local churches continue to work together in the running of a local food bank. We are delighted to be finding more ways of working in collaboration with our local Methodist church, having more recently attended their *Pancake Party* and Rev Matt Smith joining us for our *Good Friday Reflections Before the Cross*. We have also held one ecumenical midweek service together and continue to explore further ways of working together in the future.

Financial Review

Total receipts on unrestricted funds were £270,083. Of the unrestricted receipts, £237,455 was unrestricted voluntary donations and associated Gift Aid including a legacy of £175,000. The remaining income included fees, hire and investment income.

Total giving (*note 5a*) increased during the year due to an increase in planned giving and a small increase in contactless donations, although plate collections at services reduced. Overall giving was £41,394 (2024 - £37,373). The PCC remains grateful to all those who give support to the work here in the parish.

Total payments on unrestricted funds were £146,857 to provide the Christian ministry from the parish. Unrestricted receipts in the year were £123,226 greater than payments due to the legacy of £175,000 received. £30,861 (2024 £15,750 paid in the year plus £37,000 paid towards this in 2025) was needed to provide the Christian ministry from Oswaldtwistle Parish through the parish share that largely provides the stipends and housing for the clergy across the diocese with contributions for each parish based on a formula that tries to reflect whether or not the parish has a full-time incumbent, the size of the regular worshipping congregation and the relative deprivation in the parish.

The PCC was grateful that our calculated parish share of £77,281 was offset by a £19,719 grant from the Church of England's Lower Income Communities Fund because the Church ministers in a deprived area and of £27,562 from the Diocesan Board of Finance as transitional relief as we work towards paying our full requested share.

The bank balance of £249,244 was held: £206,696 in the current accounts with Coop Bank and £42,548 in a Church of England Deposit Fund. It is intended to move a further amount into the deposit funds until it is required.

Reserves Policy

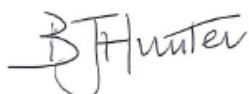
It is PCC policy to try to maintain a balance on unrestricted funds that equates to at least three months' unrestricted payments which would be £40,000. The reserves were above this level due to the receipt of a legacy prior to the end of the year. The PCC is planning

to set aside part of this towards future funding for an Ignite worker and to pay for the parish administrator which will restore the reserves in line with this policy.

Volunteers

We would like to thank all the volunteers who work so hard to make our parish the lively and vibrant community it is. Much of this work is done unseen and goes without recognition - thank you! Our parish can only run in community, so it is wonderful to see how people give of their time and resources to work as part of this team.

Approved by the PCC on 12 May 2026 and signed on their behalf by the Reverend Barbara Hunter (PCC chair)



Rev B Hunter
PCC Chair

Independent Examiners' Report

Independent Examiner's Report to the members/trustees of the Parochial Church Council of Oswaldtwistle

I report on the accounts for the year ended 31st December 2025 which are set out on pages 7 to 15.

Respective responsibilities of the Trustees and Independent Examiner

As trustees of the charity, the members of the PCC are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. They 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 of the 2011 Act;
- follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; 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 management committee concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in a full audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a "true and fair view" and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

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 s.130 of the 2011 Act; or
 - to prepare accounts which accord with these accounting records 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.



Mrs Stephanie Rankin FCA
Ribble Accounting Services Limited
56 Broadgate
Preston
PR1 8DU
4 May 2026

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF PARISH OF OSWALDTWISTLE

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT

For the year ended 31 December 2025

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	TOTAL 2025 £	TOTAL 2024 £
Receipts from:						
Donations and legacies	5a	237,455	287	12,147	249,889	57,443
Charitable activities	5b	11,147	-	3,942	15,089	13,270
Other trading activities – Lettings	5c	16,456	-	-	16,456	13,532
Other trading activities – Fundraising	5d	1,276	513	-	1,789	3,433
Investment Income	5e	3,749	-	1,451	5,200	2,960
Other	5f	-	-	-	-	256
Total receipts		270,083	800	17,540	288,423	90,894
Payments on:						
Church activities						
Ministry costs	6a	70,913	-	3,374	74,287	21,994
Charitable activities	6b	13,938	-	-	13,938	15,761
Administration costs	6c	10,840	-	7,351	18,191	8,951
Premises costs - Churches & grounds	6d	47,429	12,816	17,217	77,462	45,718
Premises costs – Halls	6e	2,832	-	-	2,832	1,326
		145,952	12,816	27,942	186,710	93,751
Raising funds	6f	905	-	2	907	513
Total payments		146,857	12,816	27,944	187,617	94,263
Net receipts/(payments)		123,226	(12,016)	(10,404)	100,806	(3,369)
Proceeds from sale of shares		37,000	-	-	37,000	26,894
		160,226	(12,016)	(10,404)	137,806	23,525
Cash funds brought forward		51,703	19,071	40,664	111,438	87,913
Cash funds carried forward		£211,929	£7,055	£30,260	£249,244	£111,438

The notes on pages 10 to 15 form an integral part of these accounts.

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF PARISH OF OSWALDTWISTLE

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

As at 31 December 2025

	2025				2024			
	Unrestricted	Desig	Rest	2025 Total	Unrestr	Desig	Restricted	2024 Total
	£		£	£	£		£	£
Cash at bank and in hand								
Co-Op Current A/c No 1	3,813	(6,831)	10,636	7,618	16,971	-	-	16,971
Co-Op Current A/c No 2	183,126	13,886	2,066	199,078	10,589	19,071	23,739	53,399
Church Deposit Fund	24,990	-	-	24,990	24,143	-	-	24,143
Church Deposit Fund	-	-	4,200	4,200	-	-	3,797	3,797
Church Deposit Fund	-	-	5,314	5,314	-	-	5,084	5,084
Church Deposit Fund	-	-	8,044	8,044	-	-	8,044	8,044
	<u>£211,929</u>	<u>£7,055</u>	<u>£30,260</u>	<u>£249,244</u>	<u>£51,703</u>	<u>£19,071</u>	<u>£40,664</u>	<u>£111,438</u>

Notes 2 &3

	2025			2024		
	Unrestricted	Restricted	2025 Total	Unrestricted	Restricted	2024 Total
Investments at Market Value						
Endowments	18,270	58,492	76,762	19,030	60,930	79,960
Non endowments	28,543	13,432	41,976	66,011	14,106	80,117
	<u>£46,813</u>	<u>£71,924</u>	<u>£118,737</u>	<u>£85,041</u>	<u>£75,036</u>	<u>£160,077</u>

Notes 3 &4

After sales and revaluations, the total value of shares held on 31 December 2025 was £118,737 (2024 £160,077).

The notes on pages 10 to 15 form an integral part of these accounts.

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF PARISH OF OSWALDTWISTLE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 December 2025

1. Accounting Policies

a. Basis of preparation

The financial statements of the PCC have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 using the Receipts and Payments basis.

b. Fixed Asset Investments

Fixed Asset investments are included at Market Value at the 31st of December 2025.

c. Funds

Unrestricted funds represent the funds of the PCC that are not subject to any restrictions regarding their use and are available for application on the general purposes of the PCC. Funds designated for a particular purpose by the PCC are also not restricted.

Restricted funds are income funds that must be spent on restricted purposes and details of the funds held and restrictions provided are shown in the notes to the accounts.

The financial statements include all transactions, assets, and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law. They do not include the accounts of the church groups that owe their main affiliation to another body nor those that are informal gatherings of church members.

2. Fund balances at 31 December 2025

The balances on various funds can be summarised as follows. Further details of the movements are included in note 3 whilst note 4 provides details of all the individual investments held. Notes 5 and 6 give a breakdown of the receipts and payments. The PCC will continue to review its restricted funds and use what is possible to simplify what is held.

	Bank £	Non-endowed Investments £	Endowment Investments £	2025 Total £
All Saints Designated Fund	3,103	-	-	3,103
Immanuel Designated Fund	745	-	-	745
St Paul's Designated Fund	3,207	-	-	3,207
	7,055	-	-	7,055
General Fund	211,929	28,543	18,270	258,742
Unrestricted Funds	£218,984	£28,543	£18,270	£265,797
Restricted Funds				
Immanuel Church & C'Yard	-	-	16,426	16,426
Immanuel Building	4,475	-	-	4,475
Immanuel Churchyard	13,502	-	40,845	54,347
Immanuel Organ	3,273	-	-	3,273
Memorial Fund	-	-	1,221	1,221
DBF Fees	568	-	-	568
Parish Administrator	398	-	-	398
Religious purposes	-	10,508	-	10,508
Children	-	2,924	-	2,924
Playing Fields	8,044	-	-	8,044
	£30,260	£13,432	£58,492	£102,184
Total Funds	£249,244	£41,975	£76,762	£367,981
SOAL	SOAL, Note 3	SOAL	SOAL	

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF PARISH OF OSWALDTWISTLE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 December 2025

3. Movement in funds during the year

The movements in the different funds can be summarised as follows:

Fund	1 Jan 2025	Receipts	Payments	Trf from Investments	31 Dec 2025	
UNRESTRICTED Cash Funds						
<u>Designated Funds</u>						
All Saints Des	3,325	464	(686)	-	3,103	
Immanuel Des	12,110	181	(11,546)	-	745	
St Paul's Des	3,636	155	(584)	-	3,207	
	19,071	800	(12,816)	-	7,055	
General Fund	51,703	270,083	(146,857)	37,000	211,929	
Total unrestricted funds	A 70,774	270,883	(159,673)	37,000	218,984	Notes 5,6
RESTRICTED Cash Funds						
DBF Fees	-	3,942	(3,374)	-	568	
Immanuel C'yard	22,823	1,176	(10,497)	-	13,502	
Immanuel building	8,797	2,398	(6,720)	-	4,475	
Immanuel Organ	1,000	2,275	(2)	-	3,273	
Parish Administrator	-	7,749	(7,351)	-	398	
Playing Fields	8,044	-	-	-	8,044	
Restricted Funds	B 40,664	17,540	(27,944)	-	30,260	Notes 5,6
Cash Funds (A + B)	C £111,438	£288,423	(£187,617)	£37,000	£249,244	Notes 5,6

SOAL/Note 2

In addition to the cash funds, the PCC also held investments. The funds they relate to are shown below and details of the investments held are in note 4. Some are Endowments so for those, at present the capital cannot be used and the income must be used in accordance with any restrictions imposed by the donor.

Fund	1 Jan 2025	Receipts/Payments	Gains/(losses) on revaluations	Trf to cash	31 Dec 2025	
UNRESTRICTED Investments						
Endowments	19,030	-	(761)	-	18,270	
Non-Endowments	66,011	-	(467)	(37,000)	28,544	
Total unrestricted funds	D 85,041	-	(1,228)	(37,000)	46,814	Notes 3,4
RESTRICTED Cash Funds						
Imm Ch & Ch'yard	17,111	-	(685)	-	16,426	
Immanuel Ch'yard	42,547	-	(1,702)	-	40,845	
Memorial Fund	1,272	-	(51)	-	1,221	
Religious purposes	11,036	-	(528)	-	10,508	
Children	3,070	-	(146)	-	2,924	
Restricted Funds	E 75,036	-	(3,112)	-	71,924	Notes 3,4
Investment Funds (D + E)	F £160,077	£-	(£4,340)	(£37,000)	£118,737	

SOAL/Note 4

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF PARISH OF OSWALDTWISTLE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 December 2025

4. Investments

Below is a full list of the Investments held by the parish at 31 December 2025. (E) indicates those which are presently Endowments and for which the capital cannot be used and the income must be used in accordance with the restrictions imposed by the donor.

Investment Assets		No of shares	1 Jan 2025 £	Sale proceeds £	Revaluation £	31 Dec 2025 £
Endowments						
Immanuel - Booth (E)	General	64	1,480	-	(59)	1,421
Immanuel - Bibby (E)	General	563	13,018	-	(520)	12,498
Immanuel - Canon Bateson (E)	General	92	2,127	-	(85)	2,042
Stanhill St Matthews (E)	General	104	2,405	-	(96)	2,309
			19,030	-	(760)	18,270
Immanuel - Preston (E)	Immanuel Ch & C'yard	50	1,156	-	(46)	1,110
Immanuel - John Siddle (E)	Immanuel Ch & C'yard	169	3,908	-	(157)	3,751
Immanuel - Southwell (E)	Immanuel Ch & C'yard	521	12,047	-	(482)	11,565
			17,111	-	(685)	16,426
Immanuel - Booth (E)	Immanuel Churchyard	64	1,480	-	(59)	1,421
Immanuel - Entwistle (E)	Immanuel Churchyard	175	4,046	-	(161)	3,885
Immanuel - Townley (E)	Immanuel Churchyard	198	4,578	-	(183)	4,395
Immanuel - Bush/Isherwood (E)	Immanuel Churchyard	4578	28,628	-	-(1,147)	27,481
Immanuel - Hargreaves (E)	Immanuel Churchyard	165	3,815	-	(152)	3,663
			42,547	-	(1,702)	40,845
Immanuel - Memorial Fund (E)	Memorial Fund	55	1,272	-	(51)	1,221
			43,819	-	(1,753)	42,066
Total Endowments			£79,960	£-	(£3,198)	£76,762
Non-Endowments						
Immanuel PCC	General	335.86	8,228	-	(329)	7,899
Immanuel - Yates Bequest	General	930.0067	57,783	(37,000)	(139)	20,644
			66,011	(37,000)	(468)	28,543
G Walmsley for Minister of Imm	Religious purposes	543.82	11,036	-	(528)	10,508
G Walmsley S School and D Sch	Children	151.31	3,070	-	(146)	2,924
			£80,117	(£37,000)	(£1,142)	£41,975
Endowments		Above	79,960	-	(3,198)	76,762
Non-Endowments		Above	80,117	(37,000)	(1,142)	41,975
Total			£160,077	(£37,000)	(£4,340)	£118,737
						SOAL/ Note 3

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF PARISH OF OSWALDTWISTLE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 December 2025

5. Further Analysis of Receipts

	Unrestricted Funds £	Designate d Funds £	Restricted Funds £	TOTAL 2025 £	<i>TOTAL 2024 £</i>
5a	Donations and legacies				
Planned giving	26,407	-	-	26,407	19,109
Collections at services	12,295	-	-	12,295	16,194
Contactless and online	2,692	-	-	2,692	2,070
	41,394	-	-	41,394	37,373
Donations	3,454	287	2,274	6,015	5,332
Legacies	175,000	-	-	175,000	-
Grants	1,200	-	9,873	11,073	5,130
Gift Aid recovered	16,407	-	-	16,407	9,608
	237,455	287	12,147	249,889	<i>57,443</i>
5b	Church activities				
Fees for weddings and funerals	10,836	-	3,942	14,778	12,768
Church event income	311	-	-	311	502
	11,147	-	3,942	15,089	<i>13,270</i>
5c	Other trading activities - Lettings				
Income from letting to Nursery	7,850	-	-	7,850	6,600
Income from other hall lettings	7,856	-	-	7,856	6,432
Playing field income	750	-	-	750	500
	16,456	-	-	16,456	<i>13,532</i>
5d	Activities for raising funds				
Coffee	-	407	-	407	337
Fetes and other fundraising	1,276	106	-	1,382	3,096
	1,276	513	-	1,789	<i>3,433</i>
5e	Investment income				
Dividends	2,645	-	873	3,518	1,754
Church Deposit Fund interest	1,086	-	578	1,664	1,206
Bank interest	18	-	-	18	-
	3,749	-	1,451	5,200	<i>2,960</i>
5f	Other				
Refunds from prior year expenditure	-	-	-	-	256
	-	-	-	-	<i>256</i>

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF PARISH OF OSWALDTWISTLE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 December 2025

6. Further Analysis of Payments

	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	TOTAL 2025 £	<i>TOTAL 2024 £</i>
6a Ministry costs					
Parish Share	30,000	-	-	30,000	15,750
Parish share - prior year paid in 2025	37,000	-	-	37,000	-
DBF fees paid over	-	-	3,374	3,374	-
Clergy expenses	396	-	-	396	3,175
Vicarage council tax and water rates	3,517	-	-	3,517	3,069
	70,913	-	3,374	74,287	21,994
6b Church Activities					
Cost of services	1,153	-	-	1,153	2,922
Organist fees	9,375	-	-	9,375	10,404
Vergger fees	805	-	-	805	630
Visiting clergy	1,278	-	-	1,278	-
Bibles for schools	357	-	-	357	-
Youth Group	89	-	-	89	151
Church groups and activities	124	-	-	124	92
Walking day	400	-	-	400	767
Hospitality	91	-	-	91	261
Charitable donations	216	-	-	216	234
Gift	50	-	-	50	300
	13,938	-	-	13,938	15,761
6c Administration costs					
Administrator salary and related costs	-	-	7,159	7,159	-
Telephone	911	-	54	965	879
Stationery, printing and office costs	714	-	33	747	309
Photocopier	3,795	-	-	3,795	3,494
Licences and software	1,947	-	105	2,052	1,783
DBS charges	56	-	-	56	37
Sundry petty cash items	500	-	-	500	1,400
Examination fee	930	-	-	930	420
	8,853	-	7,351	16,204	8,322
Electricity – Parish Office	1,987	-	-	1,987	629
	10,840	-	7,351	18,191	8,951

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF PARISH OF OSWALDTWISTLE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 December 2025

6. Further Analysis of Payments continued

	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	TOTAL 2025 £	TOTAL 2024 £
6d Premises costs - churches and grounds					
Electricity	9,011	-	-	9,011	5,028
Gas	10,371	-	-	10,371	9,755
	19,382	-	-	19,382	14,783
Water	2,678	-	-	2,678	1,940
Insurance	12,445	-	-	12,445	12,687
Routine repairs & maintenance – AS	-	685	-	685	1,000
Routine repairs & maintenance – I	3,818	1,573	-	5,391	2,381
Routine repairs & maintenance – St P	-	294	-	294	2,380
Equipment costs – Immanuel	8,259	-	-	8,259	228
Equipment costs – St Paul’s	-	290	-	290	6,623
Organ tuning and maintenance	847	-	-	847	214
Churchyard upkeep and maint	-	-	10,497	10,497	3,482
Routine premises costs	47,429	2,842	10,497	60,768	45,718
Church major repairs - Immanuel	-	9,974	6,720	16,694	-
	47,429	12,816	17,217	77,462	45,718
6e Premises costs – Halls					
Utilities	1,265	-	-	1,265	1,326
Routine repairs and maintenance	267	-	-	267	-
	1,532	-	-	1,532	1,326
Parish Hall Manager	1,300	-	-	1,300	-
	2,832	-	-	2,832	1,326
6f Expenditure on raising funds					
Costs of giving envelopes	175	-	-	175	-
Other fundraising costs	698	-	-	698	513
Contactless charges	32	-	2	34	-
	905	-	2	907	513

Safeguarding: *Clare Nield (PSO)*

Compliance Statement: I can confirm that the PCC has complied with its duty to have "due regard" for House of Bishops' safeguarding guidance.

Over the past year we have worked on progressing our progress on the Safeguarding dashboard, where we are currently at level 3 at 80%. As this needs continuous updating in a timely manner, it is quite easy to fall behind. This reflects a commitment not only to meeting minimum requirements, but to embedding a culture of safety, accountability, and awareness throughout all areas of church life.

Rev Carole Garner supported me greatly in adding everyone involved in roles of responsibility to the safeguarding hub, where details of everyone are recorded along with their safeguarding training, DBS date etc. We still have improvements to make, with safeguarding training always needing updating.

While there has been positive engagement, there has also been a degree of reluctance from members to complete the necessary training. It is understandable that people who have already done safeguarding training struggle to accept having to repeat it for this unique church focus. Training isn't always easy for all our PCC members, computer access and IT literacy is not a skill set that everyone has. I would love to support people more but working full time in a demanding NHS role means that this isn't as possible as I would like.

A barrier to our journey as a PCC in embracing the safeguarding learning is that the dashboard directs the parish safeguarding officer to lead discussions on certain topics and yet PCC meetings are time-pressured and not always set up for this type of activity. I do feel that the focus of the PCC should be looking after people at the same time as looking after our buildings.

In summary, we have made enormous progress since I first took this role on, and it is encouraging that safeguarding is part of our culture in a way that it wasn't. Further work is needed to ensure full engagement and compliance across all roles. A particular focus needs to be our church activities which all need renewed role descriptors, risk assessments, improved safeguarding awareness. This work has already begun with the church youth group.

Next Steps:

- Follow up with church wardens around training and DBS certification. These were the first people compliant and are now needing renewal.
- Provide additional support into church activities
- Continue maintenance of the safeguarding hub and dashboard.

PCC Treasurer's Report: *Betty Hartley*

This is my first treasurers report and unfortunately, as my circumstances have changed and I am no longer able to give the time needed, it will also be my last.

Parish Reports

The finances for 2025 have been audited and found to be correct, and my thanks go to Stephanie Rankin for all the hard work she has put in to draw up and finalise the financial report.

My thanks go also to Stephen for his continued help and support, to Clive for sorting gift aid, and to the ladies who give up their time on a Tuesday to count the weekly takings and to do the banking. Without all this help the treasurers roll would be much more time consuming.

The financial report shows we paid the reduced parish share request in full, although there were a couple of months where it was quite uncertain that would be possible. Our expenditure exceeded our income for most of the year and it's obvious that this situation cannot continue indefinitely.

It has been quite an eventful and exciting year in many ways as our bank balances have benefitted from two quite substantial legacies: one which is specifically assigned to Immanuel will allow us to start the ball rolling in replacing the roof; the other larger legacy is for the parish. This will fund the urgently needed boiler at All Saints and flooring repairs at St Paul's and allow us to give generously to charity and fund mission activities which we have not been able to do previously.

My thanks again to everyone for your support.

PCC Secretary's Report: *Diane Smith*

Meeting of PCC followed last year's APCM with the positions of treasurer and secretary filled. It had already been confirmed that the Parish Administrator would be attending future PCC meeting as minute taker.

The arrival in July 2025 of the new incumbent Rev Barbara Hunter, along with her husband Rev Paul Hunter, made an immediate impact on the three churches of our parish bringing a sense of positivity and optimism for the future.

There have been six PCC meetings during the year following the APCM with one extra Zoom extension for the March meeting which overran. Many new initiatives for the parish have been discussed and development started. For two meetings we have had visitors explaining the value of the online parish giving scheme and one specifically on the parish finances.

The upkeep of three church buildings can be problematic and expensive; the roof of two, floor of another, plus boiler problems all add to the work of the Church Wardens. Fortunately, the successful bid for Lottery Heritage funding has solved one of these issues, and generous legacies left to the parish will help towards the others. A considerable amount of work has been carried out in all three churches spearheaded by the Church Wardens.

Various new initiatives have been started: the introduction of the Parish Giving Scheme helping to make giving and claiming gift aid much easier for the PCC, LYCIG, plus the introduction of new working committees for Mission and Outreach, Finance, Buildings and Fabric and Churchyard, where PCC members are asked to attend at least one group. All PCC meetings have been quorate and now begin with prayer or Holy Communion.

Parish Reports

Electoral Roll: *Stephen Watson*

Last year the Electoral Roll underwent a preparation of a new roll which happens every six years; this year we have undergone an annual revision. As a result, the number of people on the Parish Electoral Roll has risen by 21 from 113 to 134. Of this 134, 105 people reside within the Parish and the remaining 29 outside of the parish.

Accrington Deanery Synod

Each parish in the Accrington Deanery is entitled to elect representatives to serve on the Deanery Synod. There are generally 2 or 3 meetings a year when there is usually a speaker followed by various matters including details of vacancies, appointments and events. Anyone can attend the meetings although only Synod Representatives are able to vote. The Synod meetings provide an opportunity to meet people from our neighbouring parishes and to share ideas and fellowship.

In January 2025 we met at All Saints, Clayton le Moors, for a Special Deanery Vision Synod presented by Bishop Joe and Carolyn Barton. They talked about Vision 2026 - how it has provided a framework for the last nine years and been a driving force behind many of the decisions made. It is now time to refresh the Vision and there have been consultations ongoing across the Diocese with the new Vision 2033 being launched at the end of this year.

In May we met at St Andrew's, Accrington, for an Ascension Day Service and the Deanery Synod AGM.

In September we met at St Peter's, Haslingden, for a presentation from the Diocese by Rev Steve Haskett and his team about the 2026 Diocesan Centenary Mission Weekend to be held in September 2026. Many events will take place to celebrate 100 years of Blackburn Diocese during 2026 but parishes are also encouraged to provide local events over the weekend 11 to 13 September 2026. Here we discussed and shared ideas.

All Saints' Church Wardens: *Betty Hartley, Andrew Leecy*

During 2025 All Saints has consistently welcomed around 20–25 people each week to our Sunday morning services, many of whom stay and enjoy coffee and biscuits afterwards and often a surprise cake from one of our bakers - thank you to everyone who has helped with the Sunday morning coffee, cakes and biscuits.

We also want to say thank you to lots of other people who have helped us during the year, with things like reading on Sunday, cleaning the church, providing flowers, keeping the gardens tidy, coming to Knit and Natter, opening the church for voting - the list is endless and without that help lots of things wouldn't have happened.

We started the year in interregnum and had many visiting clergy and our thanks must go to them for their help keeping our services running and to Heather for being our lynchpin during the interregnum, and to Licci for supplying all the music and recordings so we can enjoy a good sing during the services.

Parish Reports

During the year we have had the usual maintenance of fire extinguishers and PAT testing done, minor repairs to the vestry door and slates and had a cracked window in the hall replaced. Last year we reported that the boiler had been condemned. As of December 31st, 2025 it is still an outstanding issue.

Immanuel Church Wardens: *Wendy Hope, Sonia Marshall*

Works carried out in 2025

- Inspection and maintenance of the fire safety equipment.
- Lightning conductor repair and test.
- Fire risk assessment.
- PAT testing of the electrical appliances.
- Maintenance of the churchyard including grass cutting and strimming, cleaning of pathways, removal of dead flowers and wreaths, removal of leaves.
- Maintenance of the church logbook and terrier.
- Commissioning of a heritage lottery bid to fund the repair of the full church roof.
- Safety check of the boiler, replacement of the burner.
- Repair to pulpit lighting and document holder.
- Power washing of all the paths around the church.
- All policies were updated and displayed within the church porch.
- Erection of noticeboard at entrance to churchyard.

Planned works to be carried out in 2026

- Removal of beech tree in churchyard (the oldest in the churchyard).
- Removal of two diseased trees and trimming of two others with large branches overhanging the church and the parish office.
- Making safe a cracked beam within the nave (insurance claim underway).
- Installation of a fan in vestry cleaners' cupboard.
- Installation of Commonwealth War Graves signage.
- Repair of the Lych gates and the restoration of the Lych gate roof.
- Tuning of the pipe organ and temporary installation of an electronic organ.
- Replacement of three new trees- hopefully to be funded by a windfall grant from Prospects organisation.
- Restoration of a pinnacle.
- Installation of signage to the new churchyard.
- Replacement of pipe organ with another heritage organ. Grant applications for organ repair in process.
- Lightning conductor test.
- Annual clock service.
- Annual fire safety check.
- Repair and renovation of the whole roof and tower roof (grant applications are in process) and will also include repairs to roof, gutters, walls and windows to prevent the ingress of water into the church building.
- Repair/renovate the path to the Garden of Remembrance (quotations being commissioned).
- Repair the wall to New Lane in two places as identified by the DAC architect.

Having begun another year in vacancy, it was wonderful in July to welcome Barbara as our new incumbent and Paul as associate priest. We look forward to the many exciting developments which are planned to bring change and new life into our Parish.

Parish Reports

Our congregation numbers are increasing steadily, and we were pleased to welcome to our services and church life members from St Oswald's, Knuzden whilst their church is closed.

The number of children attending has increased significantly. We would like to thank Catherine for leading Junior Church for over 40 years and who has now stepped down as Superintendent. She has spiritually nourished so many children across generations during her time at Immanuel.

Music continues to be a strength at Immanuel, and we hosted the VE day anniversary concert for the Royal British Legion and East Lancs Concert Band. We hosted the rehearsals for NWCC who then gave a fantastic performance of Mozart's *Requiem* and Faure's *Cantique de Jean* both at Immanuel and in Paris! There was also a super organ scholar recital with some excellent performances. They very much welcome the opportunity to play on the pipe organ at Immanuel.

Thank you to our members of the Parish Choir who regularly rehearse and perform throughout the year. This is all made possible by our organist Paul and Wendy who work so hard to make these events happen. A huge thank you to you both.

Thank you to our bellringers led by tower captain Adam. People from across Oswaldtwistle comment on how they enjoy hearing the bells ringing. Thank you to all those people, seen and unseen, who have supported, helped and done so much throughout the year. We couldn't have done it without you!

St Paul's Church Wardens: *Stuart Kearney, Clive Yates*

Past & Current

The Church has gone through a thorough "tidy up" with a skip at the front to get rid of a lot of old unwanted stuff, in particular from the original font corner which had become a dumping ground. Thanks to all volunteers who helped with this. Some items which needed to be kept have found new homes with shelves and DIY items moving to the cellar. The font will require a bit more work, but it is feasible it may be brought back into use.

Following an anonymous complaint from a neighbour who lives behind the church on Hornby Street, the Hyndburn Council Arboriculture and Conservation Officer visited the grounds, and advised that two trees needed to be felled, and two others needing remedial work. Planning permission for this has been applied for and granted but given the size of the trees this will need a faculty in place. This will be processed after the July PCC meeting.

The ramped flooring leading up to Chancel continues to pose problems with numerous areas beginning to give way. With the agreement of the Diocesan Architect these have undergone local repair but is only a temporary solution - a decision has been taken to replace the full area of floorboarding. A faculty application is underway to get permission from the Diocese to carry out this work, and this should begin in the very near future. Beyond this, we will consider what carpeting needs to be replaced.

Future

Parish Reports

It is proposed to tap into the water system in the toilet at the front of Church to allow for a water tap outdoors which will allow power washing the paving, and reduce the risk of falling due to slippery moss etc. This will require a faculty in place, and this will go to a vote at the PCC meeting in July.

There is a desire to re-work the back corner of the Church which is used for book storage, and the play area which hasn't changed in many years. It is hoped we can re-vamp this area into an up to date area for the children along with a better planned storage area.

The Parish Hall

The parish hall has continued to be well used throughout 2025 and remains an important and valued resource for both the church and the wider community. We currently have six regular hirers who use the hall consistently throughout the year, along with one group that hires during the winter season. In addition, we have welcomed three new hirers who use the hall on a more occasional basis, as well as several others who have used the hall on a one-off basis.

Overall, hall usage has been generating a steady and reliable income stream. This reflects both the ongoing demand for the space and the positive relationships maintained with hall users.

Michele, the hall manager, is responsible for maintaining relationships with hirers and oversees the running of the hall. Alex, in the parish hall office, manages the administrative and financial processes, including enquiries and invoicing.

During 2025, the hall underwent PAT testing, fire extinguisher testing, and general maintenance to ensure it remains safe and fit for purpose.

Looking ahead to 2026, there are plans to introduce a modest increase in hire charges to reflect rising costs. The kitchen area will be repainted to improve its appearance and usability, and work will continue to ensure the hall is maintained to an appropriate standard. The expectation is for the strengthening of relationships with our current service providers and an increase in those wishing to hire the hall in 2026.

Children and Youth Ministry

'No Strings Attached' Puppet Group

The puppet group, led by Stephen Watson and Sarah Noke, has continued to be an inspiration for those children in Year 6 and above who attend. We have recently been involved in an OPCS Service where we performed a spoken play, *Daniel and the Lions*, in the Readings Slot of the Service. We continue to learn new songs and spoken pieces.

Immanuel Sunday School

For many years the Sunday school at Immanuel has been headed up by Catherine Riley assisted by Susan Walker and Heather Taylor. This year, due to personal issues, Catherine had to step down and there has been no official Sunday school since Christmas. A huge thank you to Catherine and the team for their many years of dedication to the children of this parish.

Parish Reports

There remains a consistently good number of children attending each week who complete preset worksheets and challenges; some have also joined the children's choir. We hope that the recruitment of an Ignite leader in the near future will mean that we will have someone to take the lead over this ministry.

St Paul's Sunday School

The children's work at St Paul's is overseen by Clare Nield and Laura Dunne; this consistent leadership is appreciated. There continues to be a regular cohort of children, but numbers have declined and there have been weeks when there are no children attending at all. A lesson is always prepared in anticipation.

In our Sunday morning sessions, we like to follow roughly the same format: having a news time at the beginning of the session, followed by the bible reading and a craft activity that links in with the bible story. At the end we gather for a quiet time with prayer, sometimes focused on the children's news. The children are used to this format and like to shout out things they want to thank God for (often food related) as well as things that they have seen on the news that they are concerned about. This makes our prayers quite interactive. Some of the regular members tell the leaders in advance of things that have happened that they would like mentioned in the prayers.

We have spoken to some of the children about what we could do to make the sessions more attractive to other children, are now providing a breakfast, as well as publicising the Sunday school in schools and the parish Facebook page.

A highlight of the year as always has been our Christmas Nativity play performed in the crib service and attendance typically builds for this. We now look forward to summer and taking the children outside in the church grounds.

St Paul's Youth Group

The youth group, has met 11 times over the course of 2025, gathering on the last Friday of each month. One of these sessions included a trip to Brockholes in August, which was a highlight for many of the young people. The team is made up of Laura Dunne, Stuart Kearney, Sonia Grimshaw and Alex Knight.

We currently have a strong and consistent attendance, with around 10–15 young people at each session, aged between 8 and 13 years. Our sessions include a mix of games, discussions, and faith-based activities, creating a welcoming and engaging environment for the group. It has been encouraging to see regular attendance and the development of friendships.

We are grateful for the commitment of our leaders and volunteers, and we are especially excited to be working more closely with Rev Barbara and Rev Paul who have joined us in supporting the youth group and helping the young people explore their faith more deeply.

Safeguarding procedures continue to be followed to ensure a safe and supportive space for all involved.

Looking ahead, we are excited to welcome a new Ignite leader following the successful funding bid received earlier this year. We hope this will help us continue to grow the group, deepen engagement, and reach more young people in the future.

LYCIG (Leading Your Church Into Growth)

Throughout 2026, the Parish of Oswaldtwistle has continued its journey through the Diocesan Renewal Programme and the national *Leading Your Church into Growth* (LYCIG) initiative. This work focuses on prayer, intentional planning, and practical steps to support:

- **Numerical Growth** – welcoming more people into worship and parish life
- **Spiritual Growth** – deepening discipleship and commitment
- **Missional Growth** – strengthening our presence and service within the community
- **DNA Framework (Desire, Plan, Act)** – shaping growth through prayer, presence, proclamation, and persuasion

During the March PCC meeting, members reflected on the question: “**What one change could support the growth of the Parish of Oswaldtwistle?**”

Key themes emerged:

- **Mission & Outreach**
- **Worship & Welcome**
- **Activities & Community Life**
- **Prayer & Spiritual Life**
- **Communication & Identity**

Parish Commitment to Prayer

Across all PCC discussions, one message has been consistent: **Growth begins with prayer**. The LYCIG Team continues to encourage all members of the parish to hold this work before God in their daily prayers, whether using the LYCIG Prayer Card or praying freely from the heart.

The LYCIG Prayer

*God of Mission,
who alone brings growth to your Church,
send your Holy Spirit to give
vision to our planning,
wisdom to our actions,
joy to our worship,
and power to our witness.
Help our church to grow in numbers,
in spiritual commitment to you,
and in service to our local community,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.*

Oswaldtwistle Mothers' Union: Hilary Austin (Branch Secretary)

2025 saw our branch membership with a total of 19 members, sadly reflecting a steady decline in numbers over time. We are endeavouring to attract interest in new members joining our group from across the parish; however, this does appear to be challenging as

Parish Reports

the MU organisation does not appear to appeal to younger generations. This is despite membership being open to all who support our organisation's mission to support families and communities, whether male or female, married or single.

Financially £521.55 was raised over the year and added to monies already banked. From these funds the following was donated to the MU's Organisation, £260 to their overseas fund, £270 to their summer appeal, £270 to their caravan fund. In addition, we donated £200 to the Parish of Oswaldtwistle for baptismal candles and the cost of certificates for baptisms and confirmations. The challenge for 2026 will be to open a new bank account due to our current bank Lloyds withdrawing charity accounts and for us to seek a volunteer to act as branch treasurer.

The ladies of our branch organised and enjoyed various activities throughout 2025, most of which were open to all interested from the parish and community. Some of the highlights enjoyed were soup and a roll fundraiser, a talk on the work of the Church and Oswaldtwistle British Legion, Lancashire Night and the Christmas Anthology. Votes of thanks have been given to all volunteers who graciously gave their time and efforts to arrange these enjoyable events.

To close, 2026 will be a challenging year for our branch with us looking to grow in spirit and fellowship, but with us working together and support from the parish all things are possible. We continue to pray for the work of all involved with the work of Mother's Union be it on our doorstep or worldwide give thanks to all our friends near and far.

Church Music and Organ Update

Organ Use and Performances

- Our parish organists Licci Aspbury (*All Saints'*), Lesley Green (*St Paul's*) and Paul Topping (*Immanuel*) play at each of the main Sunday services, often including funerals.
- Paul Topping is teaching young students and supporting the development of young organists.
- There have been two Organ Scholars' Concerts presented at Immanuel, offering performance opportunities to organists aged 7–19, with retiring collections contributing to the organ restoration fund.
- Immanuel has had a temporary installation of an electronic organ.

Choir Activities

- Each of the church choirs rehearse regularly for Sunday services and joint celebration services.
- There has been a weekly combined choir rehearsals over four months, culminating in a successful *Combined Choirs Chorale* concert on 11th April at Immanuel, with strong community support.
- Immanuel have begun a weekly children's choir who have participated at 9 *Lessons and Carols* and an OPCS service.
- Continued preparation of choir repertoire is now endeavouring to include some modern hymns to engage a wider congregation.
- The *Car Park Carols* event was highly successful, supported by OPCS and congregation members who managed refreshments, a tombola, and behind-the-scenes organisation, alongside the Vicar's innovative nativity play.

Parish Reports

- Appreciation extended to OPCS members for their support of both 9 Lessons and Carols services in December as well as supporting singing *Carols around the Tree* at Stanhill.

Organ Condition and Future Plans for the Organ at Immanuel

- The 'Sixsmith' organ (*restored 1992*) has multiple faults: non-functioning stops, manuals, pedals, and unresponsive keys, limiting performance capability.
- Plans for eventual replacement are underway.
- In the interim, both electronic and pipe organs continue to be used. Efforts are ongoing to source redundant instruments from closing churches nationwide, in collaboration with the Diocese and experienced organists.
- We are extremely grateful for those who have contributed to the ongoing organ fund.

Other Events

Last year Immanuel hosted the East Lancs Concert Band with Hyndburn singers, Darwen Brass Band, the Northwest Combined Choirs Chorale and the Royal British Legion who all used the church for their performances.

Events Team

Since last year the team, headed by Janet Johnston, has continued to offer events throughout the parish. We have held film nights for the children which were well supported and encouraged us to have a film evening for adults with the sing-along version *Mamma Mia*.

We have also held a successful quiz night in September and the *Golden Oldies Christmas Party* in December, both again with pleasing numbers. Unfortunately for various reasons we did not hold a Summer or Christmas Fair. We hope to be able to rectify this in the future; additional suggestions and help would be welcomed to the team.

A huge thank you to all who have contributed their time, gifts and resources to the further advancement of God's kingdom in this parish; may we see more and more people come to know Jesus in this next year!