



PARISH OF THORNTON-Ie-FYLDE
CHRIST CHURCH



Annual Report

and

Financial Statements

For the year ended 31st December 2019



**Annual Report
and
Financial Statements
of the
Parochial Church Council
for the year ended 31st December 2019
Delivered to the Annual Parochial Church Meeting
on the
16th October 2020**

Vicar: The Reverend Damian Platt

Bank: Clydesdale Bank plc trading as Yorkshire Bank plc.

**Independent Examiner: David Miller
17 Victoria Road East, Thornton Cleveleys, Lancashire, FY5 5HT**

Registered Charity No.: 1131693

The Parish of Thornton-le-Fylde, Christ Church Annual Report for 2019

Incumbent:

The Rev'd Damian Platt
Christ Church Vicarage
Meadows Avenue
Thornton-Cleveleys
Lancashire
FY5 2TW

Tel.: 01253 272372

Email: damian@christchurchthornton.uk

Churchwardens:

John Hearnshaw
Judith Murphy

Lay Reader:

Tom Pilkington

Pastoral Assistant:

Lesley Wooding

Staff Team:

Martin Ormond	<i>Parish Manager</i>
Lesley Wooding	<i>Facilities</i>
Geoff Fairbrother	<i>Worship</i>
Ellen Robinson	<i>Parish</i>
Matthew Swarbrick	<i>Churchyard (Apprentice)</i>
Bob Wooding	<i>Welcome</i>
Denise Taylor	<i>Finance</i>

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PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL FROM APCM 2019 to APCM 2020

Ex-officio

Damian Platt	*(Vicar)
Judith Murphy	*(Churchwarden)
John Hearnshaw	*(Churchwarden)

Deanery Synod

(3 places due to Electoral Roll being between 101 and 200)

Ann Hearnshaw		<i>(term ending APCM 2020)</i>
Sally Johnson	*(PCC Secretary)	<i>(term ending APCM 2020)</i>
Vacancy		<i>(term ending APCM 2020)</i>

Elected Parochial Representatives of the Laity

(12 places due to Electoral Roll being between 100 and 199)

1. Emily Hilton	<i>(Vision Champion)</i>	<i>(term ending APCM 2020)</i>
2. Vacancy		<i>(term ending APCM 2020)</i>
3. Vacancy		<i>(term ending APCM 2020)</i>
4. Vacancy		<i>(term ending APCM 2020)</i>
5. Robert Wareing	<i>(Health & Safety)</i>	<i>(term ending APCM 2021)</i>
6. Elizabeth Young		<i>(term ending APCM 2021)</i>
7. Carol Hull		<i>(term ending APCM 2021)</i>
8. Vacancy		<i>(term ending APCM 2021)</i>
9. Malcolm Beard	*	<i>(term ending APCM 2022)</i>
10. Lilian Abbott		<i>(term ending APCM 2022)</i>
11. David Taylor	<i>(Safeguarding)</i>	<i>(term ending APCM 2022)</i>
12. Angie Walsh	*(Treasurer)	<i>(term ending APCM 2022)</i>

Co-opted

(up to 2)

Donna Jerome	<i>(term ending APCM 2020)</i>
Vacancy	<i>(term ending APCM 2020)</i>

**Denotes members of the Standing Committee*

AIMS AND PURPOSES

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) of Thornton-le-Fylde Christ Church has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent, the Reverend Damian Platt, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. The PCC is also specifically responsible for the maintenance of the Church, Churchyard and Church Hall complex on Meadows Avenue, Thornton-Cleveleys, Lancashire.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

The PCC is committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship at our Church and to become part of our parish community at Christ Church. The PCC maintains an overview of worship throughout the parish and makes suggestions on how our services can involve the many groups that live within our parish. Our services and worship put faith into practice through prayer and scripture, music and sacrament.

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

- Worship and prayer; learning about the gospel; and developing their knowledge and trust in Jesus.
- Provision of pastoral care for people living in the parish.
- Missionary and outreach work – as the local church with global hope

To facilitate this work, it is important that we maintain the fabric of the Church, Churchyard and Church Hall of Christ Church.

MEETINGS AND MEMBERSHIP

Members of the PCC are either ex-officio or elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting in accordance with the Church Representation Rules.

Co-opted members also sit on the PCC and function like that of an elected member.

During 2019 the PCC met its obligation of meeting four times during the year.

The Standing Committee is the only committee required by law and it has the power to transact the business of the PCC between its meetings, subject to any directions given by the PCC. The Standing Committee met when needed during the year. The meetings of the Committee are not mandatory.

PCC CHAIRMAN'S REPORT FOR 2019

2019 has been a year of mission. The doors have been open, literally. Monday to Friday, the Church doors have been visibly open during the daytime, so that passers-by can see that Christ Church is here, is open and is the place to be. Starting with Morning Prayer at 8:45 AM in the Chapel, each day of activities has started as it should – with prayer.

Anyone who attends Morning Prayer will start to hear the sound of friction towards the end of the short service – the friction of small wheels rubbing against the church car park – prams! Our very popular Playhouse Baby & Toddler Drop-in starts at 9:00 AM and the most wonderful sound of excitement can be heard as babies and toddlers can be heard arriving excitedly. The first thing they look forward to is seeing the fish tank, or is it? It might be 'Banjo Bob' outside greeting them. They love Bob's songs, stories and welcome. After the fish and Bob, they head into the Hall, where there is the most beautiful atmosphere of anticipation and excitement – children have come to play!

There have been many conversations through the year, going something like this "at what point are we going to say we've got too many coming?" We've been forced to have conversations about how to limit numbers to the popularity of the group. The welcome to a new Mum, Dad, Carer or Grandparent always goes like this: "We run this group because as a church community we want to show God's love to you. We want to serve our community." We follow up that sentiment with action – fresh tea, coffee, toast, sofas, warm hall, care throughout.

I've just described for you the first couple of hours of a morning at Christ Church midweek, Monday to Thursday. I think the above typifies the heartbeat of our church community – we welcome people, unconditionally. We care for people, we love people. We don't do this perfectly (I certainly don't do this perfectly). But it is our direction of travel. It's what we strive to do.

I won't describe the rest of each day in as much detail but I will jog your memory briefly: hall open for tea and coffee, sometimes the craft group, holy communion in the chapel, lunch in the hall, 'Lyrics and Lunch' serving those with dementia, special needs and their carers. Dancing once a month, bowling weekly, table tennis weekly. That's as well as our long-establish church ministries such as Mothers' Union, with services, refreshments and speakers and of course, the faithful Fridaymen out in all weathers tending to the Churchyard and whatever else needs attention. Monday to Friday, there is something happening in the daytime and most evenings.

I'd like to think we have the balance between Mary and Martha. We are certainly very busy with activities of mission. But wrapping around all these are disciplines of prayer, worship and study. Morning Prayer, daily services, weekly Bible studies through our Growth Groups – on a Sunday, Monday and Tuesday. We've run many sessions of the 'Bible Course' (by the Bible Society), the Christianity Explored Course, as well as weekly bible studies through the books of 1 Peter and 2 Peter. This as well as the staple diet of things such as a Lent Course.

During the year we also launched our brand-new website, which has been a few years in planning. It works just as well on a phone, tablet or laptop. It links to our church calendar system, means people can listen to sermons online with the potential to watch videos through it (which would turn out to be particularly useful during 2020!).

Supporting all this ministry and mission requires significant investment, achieved through increased giving, a grant, and events which have raised funds. The Events Team worked hard through the year, with regular concerts which we have hosted and several indoor 'fairs' and

markets, auctions and the Vicarage Garden Party. These have been brilliant events in themselves but also raised an impressive amount for church funds and other organisations.

So much of what we're about was seen on the day we celebrate our Lord's birthday. On Christmas Day, we had the most amazing team of volunteers, who prepped, cooked and served a Christmas Day Meal for the many guests we had come for the Community Christmas Day Dinner. It wasn't just about food. It was about company, laughter, songs, gifts, warmth, smiles and joy. It was so appreciated by everyone who came. And to the many who gave up their Christmas Day – I know it didn't feel like giving up anything really, because you enjoyed it so much! Thank you. And thank you to all who serve the Lord through Christ Church year-round. It might be in public, it might be unseen. In the Hall, the Churchyard, Church, Hospital, Care Homes, in the Community.

We sadly said 'farewell' to many people once again. These are always sad occasions but not without hope. We believe our brothers and sisters in Christ pass from death into eternal life. They move out of a world where there is much pain, disease, sin and death, into God's heavenly kingdom, where Jesus wipes every tear from their eye and where death's sting has no place.

It is not possible to mention and honour every person. But it does feel appropriate to mention two people in particular, who, until their final months with us were serving the Lord with their lives. Our dear sister Celia Stott, who faithfully served the Mothers' Union, the PCC and gave the most tremendous welcome to anyone coming for their first time on a Sunday. During 2019 Revd Keith Sillis retired from his role as Honorary Assistant Priest due to ill health. We had a touching celebration in Church on the anniversary of his ordination and we'll all remember the words he shared and the emotion we all felt. At the turn of the year into 2020, our brother Keith went to be with the Lord. And it seems appropriate, after decades of worship, service and priestly ministry with us, to finish at this point, remembering him and giving honour to his Saviour, our Lord Jesus Christ, for all he does in and through us and for us at Christ Church Thornton. Jesus died, for you, for me, for Keith, so that we might all enjoy forgiveness of sins, peace with God, life eternal – that we might dwell in God's presence always. Ultimately, that's what we're all about isn't it?

Yours in His service.

Damian Platt

Vicar and Chair of the Parochial Church Council

PCC SECRETARY'S REPORT FOR 2019

Hebrews 10:24-25 says we should ".....consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together....."

Everyone who attends Church is encouraged to put their names down on the Electoral Roll and to stand for election to the Parochial Church Council (PCC) and if you are at all interested in this, please see one of the Churchwardens for details and the form to fill in and then, please, stand for election to the PCC next year.

The PCC is the executive committee of the Church and comprises Clergy, Churchwardens and representatives of the laity. Legally, we are responsible for the financial affairs of the Church and also for the maintenance of its assets as well as promoting the mission of the Church.

Christ Church PCC held 6 Meetings during this last year including the Away Day which was held at Whalley Abbey on the 11th May 2019. This has started to become an Annual Event and it's where the PCC decide what their priorities are to be for the year in all aspects of their work for the Church. Although we plan a lot for the day and we work hard, it is also a time of reflection. This is possibly because of where we are and taking Communion together at the end of the day, in the Chapel, is really special. It says in Matthew 18:20 "Where two or more are gathered in my name, there am I among them."

We have decided quite a lot of things during this year, not the least of which was to have the pews removed and buy chairs. I know a lot of people are worried about how people will react and how it will all look, but we have to remember that the pews aren't original to Christ Church and don't match as the ones at the back are a completely different design from the rest. They are uncomfortable and don't lend themselves to using the Church in different ways. If we want to move with the times, we need the pews to move!

We also made the momentous decision to move PCC Meetings from the evenings to Saturday mornings. I have to say that I think this has been a resounding success. Particularly during the Autumn and Winter months, it is sometimes hard to come home, grab something to eat and leave the warm chair by the fire to come to Church for a couple of hours or more, very often tired and not concentrating properly. Now, first thing in the morning, we are bright eyed and bushy tailed and we often finish the Meetings with Communion, which is a fitting end to the time and all the work that the PCC put into supporting the many activities and events that are going on to make Christ Church an active place of worship enabling us, as a growing Church, to reach out into the community of the Parish of Thornton-le-Fylde.

To be a PCC Member is to be a Trustee of the Church – and our duties are laid down by the PCC (Powers) Measure of 1956, which says we should co-operate with the Minister in promoting in the Parish, the mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical.

If you have skills that you think would help the PCC plan the future for Christ Church, then please stand for election to the PCC and bring your talents to our Committee. As in Romans 12:4-5 "For as in one body we have many members and the members do not all have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ and individually members one of another."

God Bless

Sally Johnson

PCC SECRETARY

TREASURER'S ANNUAL REPORT

Summary

Christ Church is incredibly blessed to have many committed and generous volunteers as part of its PCC and wider leadership teams. Management of income and expenditure has been carefully managed by the Parish Manager and Finance Assistant, informed by budget forecasts which help the PCC to track income and expenditure across the calendar year. Most importantly, the budget forecast is designed around our strategic vision for growth, the aim of which is to reach out into the community and increase regular worshippers. As part of that vision, the PCC agreed to a staff recruitment strategy for making better use of the church estate, including the churchyard.

During 2019 the PCC, wider leadership teams, and other volunteers have worked hard to improve the offer Christ Church makes to help enrich the spiritual and community lives of our Parishioners (existing and new) and those that are starting their Christian journey. The activities, described in greater detail in Reverend Damian Platt's report, demonstrates how successful this has been, helping to make the Christian faith relevant in and beyond our local community, bringing people to Christ.

Regular worshippers have increased from around 125 to 150 and compared to 2018, voluntary giving (excluding gift aid recovered) has increased by around 37%.

Restricted Income

The restricted reserves arose from the sale of a section of the graveyard in 1973. The proceeds from this sale were invested in 8,071 shares in Church of England Investment Fund. This fund is heavily restricted by extant legally binding documents for the sole use of the upkeep and care of the Church and churchyard and for no other purpose. The terms of the restricted reserves relate specifically to the "...improvement and maintenance of the parish church and churchyard of the parish of Christ Church.....".

Access to the Restricted Reserves is through request to the Blackburn Diocese Board of Finance Limited. Payment is made into the current account. Access to Restricted Reserves during 2019 continued to focus on supporting the salary costs of our paid Sexton and Sexton Assistant/Horticultural Apprentice. During 2019 £21,783 was withdrawn from the Restricted Reserves. The balance as at 31st December 2019 is £38,835 (£60,216 December 2018).

Unrestricted reserves

Christ Church has a Deposit Fund savings account with no restrictions. The funds have been drawn down over time and used, where necessary, to ensure the current account remains in credit. The balance as at 31st December 2019 was £210 (£208 December 2018).

Current Account

Balance as at 31st December 2019 was £24,400 (£19,028 December 2018).

Fees Account

The Fees Account is described as the Churchyard Account. Fees for weddings, baptisms etc are paid into this account, with fees to the Diocesan paid out of this account. The account balance as at 31st December 2019 was £5,636 (£6,623 December 2018).

The reduction reflects the nationwide reduction in weddings, baptisms and funerals taking place in church.

Parish Share

During 2019 Christ Church paid £40,000 to the Parish Share (£30,000 in 2018). This is just over half of the estimated full Parish Share for 2019 - £73,545.

The Blackburn Diocese Board of Finance Limited, informed by the PCC's vision for growth, agreed the reduction in the estimated Parish Share for a third year.

The PCC recognise the importance of the Parish Share in supporting clergy and parishes right across the country, which is why the reduction remains a temporary measure. Our aim, in line with the PCC's strategy is, over time, to increase its contribution to the Parish Share through investment in mission and growing the wider church family.

Staffing

Employed staff during the year included: Choir Master/organist; Parish Assistant; Sexton; Sexton Assistant/Horticultural Apprentice; Welcomer/Verger and Facilities Assistant. Self-employed staff include: Parish Manager; Finance Assistant/Bookkeeper.

Staffing costs

Staffing costs during 2019 were £70,915, (£52,980 December 2018).

Staffing costs for 2019 included a grant of £14,981 the PCC received from the Walney Community Extension Fund (to support the Community Centre).

Staffing costs include Christ Church contribution to the National employment Savings Trust (NEST Pension Scheme) and other 'on costs' e.g. National Insurance contributions. We did not apply for any grants in 2018. Staffing costs were around 46% of our total income in 2019.

The proportion of staffing costs maybe a little higher than expected for a non-profit making organisation of our size (the average for which is around 20% of total income).

Staffing costs are kept under careful review and continues to support the PCC's strategic vision to support growth.

Income and Expenditure

Expenditure exceeded income. Total income from voluntary giving and other receipts was £153,115 (compared to £109,321 in 2018), less total payments of £169,119 (compared to £141,985 in 2018).

Balancing income and expenditure

In addition to the essential running costs for the church estate, we spend around £36,000 a year on maintaining the churchyard and receive, on average, around £12,000 towards those costs.

The mean average of weekly giving to Christ Church, based on 150 regular worshippers and planned giving, collections at services and other giving/voluntary receipts, excluding gift aid recovered, is around £10.89 per week.

It is important to stress that this is an estimated average. Christ Church is blessed in that it receives donations considerably higher and that giving is received out of grace and a wish to grow the Christian faith. It would be wrong to assume the financial circumstances are the same for everyone. For these reasons Christ Church has taken steps to engage in income generating activities, Stewardship Campaigns, but for its core income relies heavily on voluntary donations.

If giving, as described earlier, increased to a mean average of £15 per week, based on 150 regular worshippers, this could generate £117,000, approximately £32,000 additional income (with a potential increase in gift aid).

Increasing weekly giving in the way described could provide important financial flexibility to help the PCC meet its financial obligations necessary to operate a large church estate, whilst keeping people safe, helping the PCC to invest in church, community and wider outreach activities.

This is of course a rather simple comparison, but the important point to note is that increasing weekly giving would make a material difference to our ability to meet our expenditure, invest in mission and over time, increase our contribution to the Parish Share.

The PCC recognises how blessed Christ Church is for the long standing and committed army of volunteers who, together with our paid colleagues, are focused on maintaining the church estate, the churchyard, income generation and a whole host of activities designed to help put Christ Church at the heart of community and supporting the spiritual well-being of the church family. The continued generosity through financial and non-financial support is invaluable, without the efforts of all those that contribute to the life and viability of Christ Church, we could not realise the PCC's strategic vision.

The PCC will continue through its prudent management of its' income, ensure funds are spent wisely with the primary focus on making disciples of Jesus Christ.

Angela Walsh
PCC TREASURER

VISION CHAMPION'S REPORT

“The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and planted in his field. Though it is the smallest of all seeds, yet when it grows, it is the largest of garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds come and perch in its branches.” -Matthew 13:31-32

The Lord calls us to spread the Gospel and bring people to know him. As a church, I am proud to say that we do just this. With our continued presence in the community, with the weekday activities in the church hall and church pantry, we are in a great position to sow the seeds and will hopefully continue to see people come to know Christ. It is encouraging to see the work our church community puts into spreading the Gospel, I urge you all to keep up with the good work.

I attended a Vision Champion meeting where I had the pleasure of meeting the new Diocesan Vision 2026 Coordinator, Carolyn Barton. I would like to thank Dave Champness for his dedication to the role and am looking forward to what the future holds with Carolyn taking over the reins. At the meeting, I am happy to say that it was clear that at Christ church we are a growing church and I was able to encourage other Vision Champions through what we are doing.

I would like to take this opportunity to encourage us as a church to keep on spreading the good news in every way possible. Maybe bring someone new to church, show through your actions what it means to be a Christian or even take a friend for coffee and study scripture together.

‘Heavenly Father, we embrace Your call for us to make disciples, to be witnesses and to grow leaders. Give us the eyes to see Your vision, ears to hear the prompting of Your Spirit and courage to follow in the footsteps of your Son, our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.’

God bless

Heavenly Father, we embrace your call for us to make disciples, to be witnesses and to grow leaders. Give us the eyes to see your vision, ears to hear the prompting of your Spirit and courage to follow in the footsteps of your Son, our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen ~ Diocesan Vision Prayer

Emily Hilton

VISION CHAMPION

ELECTORAL ROLL REPORT

As per the Church of England's six year requirement, we completed a new Electoral Roll this year.

The number on the Electoral Roll as at 31st December 2019 was 151.

Denise Taylor

ELECTORAL ROLL OFFICER

CHRIST CHURCH CHOIR

Unfortunately, we are still missing Muriel Chorlton from the Choir because of ill health, but are happy to report that we hope to see her back in the New Year.

Our augmented Choir performed Stainer's Crucifixion again on Passion Sunday and the Nine Lessons Carol Service at Christmas, both of which were well received and we would like to thank not only our resident Choir, but also all those ladies and gentlemen from other local Churches who come to swell our numbers on these occasions. We cannot fault their dedication and hard work.

Next year, we hope to be performing the St. Luke Passion by J S Bach on Passion Sunday so if you would like to join in, we are always on the lookout for new Choir members and you don't even have to read music. We rehearse on Thursday evenings in Church and we start at 7pm. Please come along, you will be very welcome.

Geoff Fairbrother
ORGANIST AND CHOIRMASTER

HEALTH AND SAFETY REPORT

A review of various assessments have been conducted .

- Fire Risk Assessment of the Church and Church Hall.
- Review of the Asbestos present on site as required under the management of asbestos regulations, no problems found.
- Review of risk assessments and method statements for work activities about the church, including grounds, kitchen and cleaning.
- COSHH Assessment of chemicals used.
- Advice on the use of PPE for work activities.
- Review of the kitchen activities, including food allergy log.
- Advice and support on various health and safety concerns.

The church has support documents and procedures to comply with health and safety requirements.

Robert Wareing

HEALTH AND SAFETY OFFICER

MEN UNITED

During 2019 we saw the continuing success of our men's social and outreach group. We average between 15-20 men who enjoy evening outings for meals to local restaurants and pubs, including The Gardeners Arms, The Bay Horse, OK Diner, Charlie James and The Jubilee Park.

Our planned BBQ in June had to be cancelled because of adverse weather conditions. We reverted to Plan B and had an evening of Hot Pot, Pizza and 'bring your own drinks' in the church hall. A friendly and competitive atmosphere was enjoyed by all, taking part in games of pool, table tennis and short mat bowling.

As always, we welcome men of all ages, church members and non-church members who would like to join us.

John Hearnshaw

MEN UNITED MEMBER

FRIDAYMEN

Throughout 2019 The Friday Men continued to give their time and skills towards the maintenance of the church buildings and the churchyard. The Friday Men meet on a Wednesday and Friday morning and other days when required. The ongoing routine tasks include cleaning and repairing gutters, levelling and clearing paths, pruning, planting and leaf clearing in the autumn.

Other jobs included the installation of security gates for the Toddler Group in the church hall, a fence erected between the churchyard and the rear of Calf Hey and repairs to the bell tower roof.

The volunteers also act as stewards and car parking attendants at church events.

We rounded the year off with our annual Christmas Lunch at The Briardene Hotel, which, as always, was much enjoyed by all.

My grateful thanks for all the time and effort you all give so freely and from which the church and congregation greatly benefit.

John Hearnshaw

FRIDAYMEN TEAM

MOTHER'S UNION REPORT

The vision of the Mothers' Union today is a world where God's love is shown through loving, respectful and flourishing relationships. Our mission is to demonstrate the Christian faith in "Building hope and confidence." To help those whose family life has met with adversity in our own community and communities worldwide.

At the end of 2019 our membership stood at 65. Unfortunately, we lost several members during this time. Hilda Berry, Anita Macdonald, Amy Penty, Madge Apperley, Joan Ramsey, Celia Stott, Mary Astin and Margaret Martlew. We give thanks for their dedication and friendship to the Mothers' Union over many, many years and we give thanks for the privilege of knowing them. On a happier note we had the privilege of welcoming Carol Hull into our family as a new member and Hazel Nicholls (already a member) into our branch at Christ Church.

The branch continued to meet on the first Wednesday afternoon of the months January to April and September to December. Our Corporate Communion Service continued throughout the year on the third Wednesday of each month.

Lent Lunches were once again held for 6 weeks and were very well supported. Donations from the lunches raised £701.50p. Our "Afternoon Tea" event in June raised a further £367.50. These events enabled substantial donations to be made towards the work of the Mothers' Union. These included Overseas, World Wide Relief and Literacy & Development. In our own Diocese there was Action and Outreach, AFIA Holiday Scheme, Care for Indoor Members and Faith and Policy. Our faithful knitters and many others from our church family continued to knit hats and blankets for the premature babies in the Neo-Natal Unit at Blackpool Victoria Hospital.

September saw the start of us supporting the Fylde Coast Women's Aid, collecting toiletries, cleaning products, pyjamas and underwear. We were able to take the donations to their office on a regular basis to help provide these necessities for the many women who have had to leave their homes.

Members have played a full part in all Deanery Events throughout the year. This year the Deanery Festival was held at Christ Church. There were 15 Long Service Certificates awarded of which 6 were from our branch: May Hooley and Margaret Pounds for 25 years and Brenda Colbourne, Margaret Ralph, Pam Simmons and Joan Ramsey for 30 years. Rev'd. Jane Atkinson, the Vicar of Little Thornton St John the Evangelist, was enrolled into the Mothers' Union and then commissioned as Deanery Chaplain by Rev'd Martin Keighley, Area Dean of Poulton during the most wonderful Communion Service led by our very own Rev'd. Damian Platt. We received such warm feedback regarding the inspiring service which Damian provided for us and the feeling of belonging whilst sharing our "tea and homemade biscuits". We were so grateful to everyone concerned for the success of the evening

Fellowship activities have included our Annual Lunch at Level 6 Bistro in February. Outings to Windermere in May and Boundary Mill in November and our Christmas Dinner at the Briar Dene during December.

We feel very blessed that we are able to be members of Christ Church Mothers' Union.

God Bless.

Elizabeth Young
BRANCH MANAGER

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN THORNTON

The churches include Sacred Heart Roman Catholic Church, Thornton, St. John's the Evangelist Church, Thornton, Thornton Methodist Church, Christ Church, Thornton, Light and Life Church, Thornton and The Church of the Nazarene, Thornton.

Rev'd. Damian Platt was installed as Chair at Michaelmas in September 2019, as is traditional with Churches Together in Thornton (CTT)

The first meeting took place on October 2nd 2019, and the progress and plans each church had recently made was discussed, as well as plans for Damian's term of office 2019 -2020. A meeting had also taken place between Jonny Leech from Light and Life Church and Damian, to raise awareness of each other's ministry.

The first church service was The Advent Service which took place at Christ Church on Sunday 24th November 2019, which was greatly enjoyed by a representation from each church.

All are welcome to join in CTT events.

Ann Hearnshaw

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN THORNTON

THE FOOD PANTRY

This has grown from strength to strength, both in the generous donations that have been made not only by the congregation but also by the general public and the number of people who benefitted from these gifts. Food and flowers were also donated by Aldi every Monday evening. Many families were so relieved that they were able to access the food freely, and at Christmas many were also able to have warm coats and some toys that had been donated.

Grateful thanks to all those who have helped 'man the pantry'.

Ann Hearnshaw

THE FOOD PANTRY

SAFEGUARDING

Our church safeguarding policy may be viewed by everyone on our website or you can request the paper copy. If you have information about a safeguarding situation where a child or adult is in immediate danger or requires immediate medical attention call the emergency services on 999. Do not delay.

Reporting abuse may be very difficult and distressing. Here are the contact details of other agencies that are available to assist either on a 24-hour basis or through specialist helplines and services:

- NSPCC Child Protection Helpline: 0808 800 5000 (lines free and open 24 hours). Phone if you are worried about a child.
- Child-line: 0800 1111 (lines free and open 24 hours). Phone if you are a child or young person and are worried about anything.
- National Domestic Violence Helpline: 0808 2000 247 (lines free and open 24 hours). Phone if you are experiencing domestic abuse.
- Samaritans Helpline: 08457 90 90 90 (open 24 hours). Phone if you feel you are struggling to cope and need someone to talk to.
- Action on Elder Abuse Helpline: 080 8808 8141 (free phone Monday to Friday 9-5pm)

All people are made in the image of God and are intricately and lovingly created by God. Everyone has a responsibility to care and protect one another. Safeguarding across the Church of England happens on three levels: National, Regional and Local. Nationally there is a National Safeguarding Team (NST), taking the lead to promote Safeguarding, raise awareness and develop effective policies. If you wish to report any safeguarding concerns directly to the NST please email safeguarding@churchofengland.org. They will ensure that any concerns are referred to the Diocese and/or statutory agency, as appropriate.

The nationally produced Parish Safeguarding Handbook is a great resources to help churches protect, respond, train, recruit and care. Click on the link above to download the handbook.

Regionally, the Diocese of Blackburn has a safeguarding team, led by Sharon Hassall, the Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser. Here are the the contact details for the Safeguarding Team:

- Sharon Hassall – Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser. Telephone: 07711 485170 or email.
- Rachael Campion – Assistant Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser. Telephone: 07817 550224 or email.
- Julie Grimshaw – Safeguarding Administrator. Julie is the central point of contact for all enquiries relating to training and the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS). Julie works part-time and is usually in the office 8:15am – 4:15pm Monday to Thursday. Telephone: 01254 503088 or email.

Sharon, Rachael and Julie are based at the Diocesan offices at Clayton House, Walker Office Park, Blackburn, BB1 2QE, telephone 01254 503070. An excellent resource available on the Diocesan website is the Parish Toolkit which has guidance and templates for use in our Parish.

The Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO) at Christ Church is Mr David Taylor. Telephone: 07702 836938. If you have any questions or concerns relating to Safeguarding at Christ Church Thornton, please contact David, the Vicar, Churchwardens or Parish Manager.

Or if it is inappropriate to speak to them, please contact Sharon Hassall, the Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser (telephone: 07711 485170 or email).

Our Policy Statement 'Promoting a Safer Church'

- In accordance with the Church of England Safeguarding Policy Christ Church Thornton 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.

FRIENDS OF CHRIST CHURCH

Annual Report for the Friends of Thornton Parish Church in the Ecclesiastical Parish of Christ Church, Thornton-le-Fylde, in the County of Lancashire for the year ending 31st December 2019.

Charity No.: 504659

Object Code 740.10: Furthering the religious and other charitable work of the Church of England in the Ecclesiastical Parish of Christ Church, Thornton-le-Fylde.

During the year 2018, the Trustees met enough times to fulfil their obligations under the Charities Act.

All the above is very formal, as it must be by law. 'The Friends' is a Trust Fund, a registered charity, *separate from all other funds held on behalf of Christ Church.*

The Trustees are bound by the rules and regulations of the Charity Commissioners.

We are also bound by the Trust Fund Deed, which lays down that the money held by the Trust can be used **ONLY** for purposes within the Parish Church itself.

We cannot transfer money to any other charity outside Christ Church nor may we transfer money to the general fund of the Parish Church. The Friends Trust is a completely separate charity from Christ Church.

During 2019 the Friends have again been privileged to support the work of Christ Church.

**FRIENDS OF CHRIST CHURCH THORNTON LE FYLDE
RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2019**

2018		2019
	INCOME	
240	Donation re Table Tennis Tables	
630	Donations	630
118	Bank Interest	165
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988	£6400 has been transferred from CBF account	795
	EXPENDITURE	
	Card reader (2018)	499
	Audioworks new recording system	773
	CD Players & headsets	638
	Doug Horley shortfall	900
100	Doug Horley deposit	
	Shortmat Bowls	1080
1440	Table tennis Tables	
1540		3890
	FUND ASSETS	
26751	Opening Balance	26199
552	Net Receipts	3095
<hr/>		<hr/>
26199	Closing Balance	23104
-499	cq not presented 2018	
25700		
	CASH FUNDS	
2747	Yorkshire Bank Current Account	5887
23452	CBF Fund	17217
<hr/>		<hr/>
<u>26199</u>		<u>23104</u>

We have purchased on behalf of Christ Church CD players and headsets to enable us to take services to parishioners who are unable to attend church for various reasons. We have also purchased a Shortmat Bowls set which has enable a successful new venture to be launched in the Community Centre.

A new recording system in church has also been part of our support.

In November, Tom Pilkington, who has been part of the Friends since its creation in 1975 decided it was time to retire. We were extremely sorry that Tom would no longer be part of The Friends but we would like to thank him most sincerely for the wonderful work he has done over many decades. We only hope that we can continue his sterling work.

The Fund is clearly a very valuable reserve for the Parish. It is well invested, well and prudently applied and strictly regulated. We commend this Fund for your serious, prayerful consideration. If anyone would be interested in learning more about the work of The Friends and how to support us financially please speak to any one of the Trustees.

*Damian Platt, Angie Walsh, Denise Taylor, Ann Hearnshaw,
Margaret Ralph and Warren Mclean*
FRIENDS OF CHRIST CHURCH