

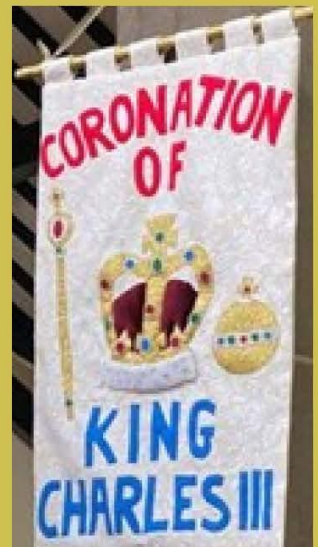


2023

ANNUAL REPORT

THE PARISH OF

CHORLEY ST. PETER



Start ▶
*Got questions
about life and the
Christian faith?*



St. Peter's Church, Harpers Lane, Chorley PR6 OHT.

Annual Report and Financial Statements of the

Parochial Church Council

for the year ending 31st December 2023.

Priest-in-charge: Rev'd. Neil Kelley
Chorley Rectory, Rectory Close, Chorley

Curate-in charge: Rev'd. Rebecca Feeney
St Peter's Vicarage, Harpers Lane, Chorley

Banks:

Royal Bank of Scotland, Drummond House, 1 Redheughs Avenue, Edinburgh
CCLA, Church of England Deposit Fund, One Angel Lane
London, EC4R 3AB

Independent Examiner:
Rev'd. A. A. Clements, MA, ACIB, FCIE
15 Carleton Road, Chorley PR6 8TQ

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St. Peter's Church, Chorley
Annual Report of the Parochial Church Council
for the Year Ended 31st December 2023

(This report is made in accordance with The Church Representation Rules 2020 and is separate from any statement or address that the priest-in-charge may wish to make or any reports that any other individual or parish group may present at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting. It is the means by which the P.C.C. gives an account of how they alone have carried out their responsibilities during the year and of their future plans.)

Administrative Information

St. Peter's Church is situated in Harper's Lane, Chorley. It is part of the Diocese of Blackburn within the Church of England. The correspondence address is The Vicarage, Harper's Lane, Chorley, Lancs. PR6 0HT.

Under the terms of section 3 of the Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956 the Parochial Church Council (PCC) is a body corporate and currently excepted from registration with the Charity Commission.

PCC members who have served from 1st January 2023 until the date this report was approved are:

Priest-in-charge: Rev'd. Neil Kelley

Curate-in-charge: Rev'd. Rebecca Feeney

Warden Mr Ronnie Hunter; Eric Crompton (start date tbc)

PCC Secretary Geoff Parkinson (acting Secretary)

Representatives on the Deanery Synod:
Mr Ronnie Hunter, Miss Lynne Redmayne

Elected members:	Ms Louise Benney	Mr Eric Crompton
	Mr Geoff Parkinson (Treasurer)	Mr Ronnie Hunter
	Miss Lynne Redmayne	Mrs Janette Riding

Structure, Governance and Management

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. All Church attendees are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC. The Standing Committee of the PCC is the only committee required to be in existence by church law and has the power to transact the business of the PCC between meetings, subject to ratification of the PCC. The members of the Standing Committee are: The Curate-in-Charge, the Churchwarden and the Treasurer. This Committee met as and when necessary during the year.

Induction Training

All PCC members elected for the first time and any others who have been re-elected to the PCC after an absence of sometime are supplied with copies of the minutes of the PCC meetings for the

past year, are given a copy of the last Annual Report and Accounts, and are invited to meet with the PCC Treasurer, the Churchwardens and the Incumbent in order that they may be thoroughly briefed on the present situation of the Parish. In service training is provided where and when appropriate.

It is considered that all PCC members and any others who could be understood to be 'managers' in the activities and affairs of the Parish of St. Peter's Church, Chorley are deemed to be 'fit and proper' persons under the terms of the Finance Act 2010.

Aim and Purposes

The PCC is aware of the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit in 'The Advancement of Religion for the Public Benefit' and have regard to it in their administration of the Parish. The PCC believes that, by fulfilling its responsibility to work together with the incumbent and to co-operate in all matters of concern and importance for the promotion of the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical, it provides a benefit to the public by:

Providing resources and facilities for public worship, pastoral care and spiritual, moral and intellectual development, both for its members and anyone who wishes to benefit from what the Church offers;

Promoting Christian values, and service by members of the Church in the Parish to its community, to the benefit of individuals and society as a whole.

Achievements and performance

There are 96 parishioners on the Church Electoral Roll, as at 31st December 2023, of whom 57 are resident in the parish and 39 are not resident.

It is hoped that during the course of 2024 St Peter's will resume its significant role in serving the local community in both spiritual and practical ways.

Objectives and Activities of the year 2023

The PCC met on six occasions during 2023.

During the year the P.C.C. discussed the following matters which are reported in detail in the Minutes of each meeting –

- January – LYCIG (Leading your Church into Growth) part 2 discussed. Plans for kitchenette and ground floor toilet to be drawn. Discussion about appointing a Parish Administrator.
- March – LYCIG Evangelism discussed. Feasibility of Parish Administrator position.
- May – LYCIG part 4 explored. Kim Kerr co-opted to PCC as Youth Development leader.
- July – LYCIG part 5. The Organs need for a major overhaul after 21 years. Alternative plans for West End reordering discussed. New Hall flooring to be installed September.
- September - LYCIG part 6. Parish Administrator position advertised.
- November – Church Mission and Advent/Christmas services discussed.

Financial Review

At the end of 2023 the wealth of the Parish was £222,612 consisting of £18,001 on current account at the Royal Bank of Scotland General Account and £4 in the Fabric Fund Account (designated), together with the sum of £192,792 on General Deposit with CCLA in the Church of England Funds.

The Endowment fund deposit account (restricted) with CCLA (Church of England Funds Management) was £11,815.

The Parish Share has been paid in full for 2023. Arrears for 2019 and 2021 totalling £25,708 remain unpaid on the advice of the Diocese.

Risk Assessment

The PCC recognises that in relation to 'Risk Assessment', risk is defined as 'the threat of any action or event which will adversely affect an organisation's ability to achieve its objectives and execute its strategies'. It also accepts that the term 'risk' can include any circumstances that may, or do, have an adverse effect, and is wider than financial matters. 'Risks' relate not only to the negative consequences of a threat, but also to the impact of not taking advantage of opportunities.

The PCC recognises it requires a practical Health and Safety Policy covering activities for both the church, its surrounding grounds and the Parish Club. This is reviewed on a regular basis. An Accident Book is maintained.

The contents and obligations of the Equality Act 2010 and the 2018 General Data Protection Regulation are known and complied with to the best of the PCC's ability. The PCC is aware of its responsibilities in respect of the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 in its requirement to carry out a fire assessment to identify any possible dangers and risks, to take action to minimise the risks and to create a plan to deal with any emergencies, and also to write up and keep a record of its findings and to review its assessment annually. The PCC has appointed the Churchwardens to be the responsible persons to put these things into operation.

There is a Protection Policy in place in respect of children and vulnerable adults. Checks have been and are made with the Disclosure and Barring Service in respect of persons dealing regularly with young people and vulnerable adults. Whilst it is impossible to eliminate all risks and their consequences, efforts are constantly made to minimise such occurrences. There is no Parish Safeguarding Officer currently in place.

Reserves Policy

The PCC seeks to retain for current and emergency expenditure the equivalent of two months income (£3,000) to meet the everyday costs of running the parish with remaining funds being invested in no risk interest bearing deposit accounts with recognised institutions.

Future Plans

When planning our activities for the year, we have considered the Commission's guidance on public benefit and, in particular, 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.

Electoral Roll report – Just one change this year with the loss of Joan Hough. No people added. The total number at present is 95 compared to 96 at the last APCM. 55 are resident and 40 non-resident in the parish.

Deanery Synod Report 2023

The Chorley Deanery Synod has met once since the last Annual Report and before the end of the year, as well as an informal meet and greet social evening held in the grounds of St. Laurence's Rectory in Chorley during last summer. The meeting was held at St Peter's, on the 12th October 2023. Father Neil pointed out that ensuring reports and requirements are met is our shared responsibility, and he introduced Father Alan to lead the next session, which was the main item on the agenda.

Fr. Alan introduced himself as a retired clergyman residing in St Peter's parish, who is an Accredited Independent Examiner who has extensive knowledge of PCC accounts with turnovers in excess of £250,000 which legally require specialist supervision. He reminded us of the legal status and responsibilities of PCCs, which should be set out at the start of the annual report. He explained the difference between 'Registered Charity' and 'Excepted Charity' status. In due course all churches will require to become 'Registered Charities'. He explained how some people were reluctant to become PCC members because of the possibility of liability. The key to this is good practice, for example ensuring the Fit and Proper Persons forms are routinely filled in. There are many helpful sources to help with this and guidance was given on this.

There is no requirement for the incumbent to write up or produce the annual report but he has a managerial responsibility to see that it is done. The annual report is the PCC's account of its work done that year and all members are responsible for ensuring it is accurate. In discussing accounting, he explained the difference between Receipts and Payments and Accruals. Accruals method is required where income exceeds £250,000.

The appointment of officers were made at this meeting.

Fabric/Churchwardens report

During the year a parish administrator was appointed and Jenny is settling in. We would like to thank Rev Rebecca for her hard work and spiritual dedication for St. Peter's and we wish her well in her new ministry. It is still disappointing that the congregation isn't growing. The work on the west end is finally completed with still signs of dampness which could be caused by the coping stones and didn't involve with the west end repairs. On the south side of church we still are awaiting for the architect to sort out. In September we had a new floor laid in the meeting room, and a big thank you for all the volunteers who decorated and cleaned the building. The sale of the parish club is now finalised. Ronnie and Eric

The PCC has complied with the duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 (duty to have due regard to House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults).

Approved by the PCC on 22nd April 2024 and signed on their behalf by



.....
Canon Neil Kelley, Priest-in-charge

St Peter's Church, Chorley				
Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2023				
General (Unrestricted) Fund Receipts and Payments Account				
	2023	2023	2022	2022
Receipts				
<i>Voluntary Receipts</i>				
Covenants & Gift Aid	14,733		15,954	
Income tax recovered	5,423		4,767	
Uncovenanted Planned giving	4,448		5,050	
Collections	2,198		2,192	
		26,802		27,963
<i>Other Voluntary Receipts</i>				
Donations	1,963	1,963	2,162	2,162
<i>Grants & Legacies</i>				
Grant from national C of E (Lower Income Communities Fund)	1,884		1,787	
Places of Worship Scheme Grant for VAT Refund	nil	nil	25,610	
Mr Peter Lancaster Bequest	18,359			27,397
		20,243		
<i>Receipts from activities for generating funds</i>				
Fund raising - Christmas Fair - Calenders - Harvest Tea, Easter Bingo etc	1,743	1,743	2,612	2,612
<i>Receipts from church activities</i>				
Fees (Fees Less Assigned to Diocese - (£2,515))	8,350		6,471	
Church Groups donations for CMR hire (MU & Monday Club)	450		450	
CMR hire	2,530		300	
Trading (Coffee, Magazine sales etc)	615		396	
		11,945		7,617
<i>Receipts from investments</i>				
Dividends and Bank Account interest	236		133	
		236		1,627
<i>Non-recurring income</i>				
Sale of St Peter's Parish Club Net of Fees (Sale Price £375,000)	nil		355,772	
Transfer of remaining Club Account Balance	3,804		14,000	
Transfer from Fabric Account	950		2,200	
Transfer from CBF Deposit Account	15,000			
Insurance Claims & Refunds	nil		1,072	
Adjustment for Nat West Business Quick Deposit (BQD)	230		19	
		19,984		373,063
Total Receipts		82,916		442,441

	2023	2023	2022	2022
Payments				
<i>Church activities</i>				
Donations to Charities	586		550	
Diocesan Quota/Share	39,007		36,576	
Clergy Expenses	3,628		3,159	
Upkeep of Church	25,425		10,377	
Upkeep of Services	975		751	
CMR Running Costs	1,251		977	
Major Works	3,456		148,266	
Church Meeting Room Major Works	10,368		nil	
Insurance Premiums Church - Monthly Direct Debit to December	5,526		5,043	
Parish Club Insurance Premiums - Monthly Direct Debit to May	nil		1,148	
Parish Club Water to June	nil		393	
Parish Club Council Tax to June	nil		1,701	
		90,222		208,941
<i>Fund Raising and Administrative Costs</i>				
Salaries and Support Costs	3,730		4,059	
Fund Raising & Church Administration	2,647		1,482	
Fees paid to Diocese-£2,515 (not to be included in Parish Accounts)	nil	nil	nil	nil
		6,377		5,541
Adjustment for Nat West Business Quick Deposit (BQD)	66	66	nil	nil
Total Payments		96,665		214,482
Excess of Receipts over Payments		-13,749		227,959
General Bank A/c at 1st. January 2023		31,751		5,286
General Bank A/c at 31st. December 2023		18,002		233,245

Fabric Fund (Designated)	2023	2023	2022	2022
Receipts				
Transfers From Endowment Account	nil		2,200	
Total Receipts		nil		2,200
Payments				
Major Works	nil		2,200	
Repairs, Maintenance, Fees	nil		951	
Transfer to General Bank Account	950			
Total Payments		950		3,151
Excess of Receipts over Payments		-950		-951
Fabric Fund Bank A/c at 1st. January 2023		954		1,905
Fabric Fund Bank A/c at 31st. December 2023		4		954
Jackson Endowment Fund (Restricted)	2023	2023	2022	2022
Receipts	nil		nil	
Interest	367		153	
Total Receipts		367		153
Payments	nil			
Transfers to Fabric Fund	nil		2,200	
Total Payments		nil		2,200
Excess of Receipts over Payments		367		-2,047
CBF Deposit Fund at 1 January 2023		11,449		13,496
CBF Deposit Fund at 31 December 2023		11,816		11,449
General Deposit Fund	2023	2023	2022	2022
Receipts	nil		200,000	
Interest	6,298		1,494	
Total Receipts		6,298		201,494
Payments				
Transfer to General Bank Account	15,000			
Total Payments		15,000		nil
Excess of Receipts over Payments		-8,702		201,494
General Deposit Fund at 1 January 2023		201,494		nil
General Deposit Fund at 31 December 2023		192,792		201,494

Statement of Assets and Liabilities at 31 December 2023						
Cash Funds	General	General		Jackson		
	General	Deposit	Fabric	Endowment	2023	2022
	Fund	Fund	Fund	Fund	Total	Total
	Unrestricted	Designated	Designated	Retricted		
	£	£	£	£	£	£
RBS Chorley - General A/c	£18,001	£192,792*			£210,793	£233,245
RBS Chorley - Fabric Fund A/c			£4		£4	£4
CBF Endowment Fund Deposit				£11,815*	£11,815	£11,449
Total Bank Accounts	£18,001	£192,792	£4	£11,815	£222,612	£244,698
Other monetary assets - None						
Total	£18,001	£192,792	£4	£11,815	£222,612	£245,649

* CBF deposit interest was paid in the following 2024 quarter as a temporary measure, due to operational changes, so interest earned in 2023 Q4 was paid in January 2024 - in Total £2,743

Liabilities The Parish Share was paid in full for 2023.

Notes to the accounts

1. The financial statements of the PCC have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 using the Receipts and Payments basis.
2. The following assets are recognised but not necessarily valued in the Statement of Assets and Liabilities ; Movable church furnishings held by the church wardens on special trust for the PCC which require a faculty for disposal.
3. The expenses paid to clergy may include a small immaterial proportion which relates to their function as PCC members. No other member of the PCC received any payment for being a member of the PCC.
4. Lancaster bequest held in General Account earmarked for financing Parish Administrator position.
5. General Deposit Fund designated for non general expenditure as proceeds of Club sale.
6. Jackson Endowment Fund is restricted to the Church fabric.

Approved by the PCC on _____ and signed on their behalf by _____

Approved by the PCC on 22nd April 2024 and signed on their behalf by

Neil Kelley

Canon Neil Kelley, Priest-in-charge

Accounting Policies for the PCC of the Parish of St. Peter's Church, Chorley

The financial statements of the PCC have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 using the R & P basis.

Funds

General funds represent the funds of the PCC that are not subject to any special restrictions regarding their use and are available for application to the general purposes of the PCC. These include funds designated for a particular purpose by the PCC.

The accounts include monetary transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC can be held responsible.

They do not include the accounts of other Church groups that owe an affiliation to another body, nor those that are informal gatherings of Church members.

Subject to the above, receipts and payments include income as received and expenditure when irrevocably paid.

Statement of Assets and Liabilities

The following assets are recognized but not necessarily valued in the Statement of Assets and Liabilities:

Movable church furnishings held by the churchwardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal.

Land and buildings held on behalf of the PCC.

Other fixtures, fittings and office equipment where the PCC is free to dispose of such assets without faculty and where the original cost exceeded £1,000.

Investments held beneficially by the PCC.

The following assets are recognized and a monetary value given as part of the description in the Statement of Assets and Liabilities:

Amounts owing from the Inland Revenue where a formal claim has been made.

Any other amounts owing to the PCC including church hall lettings and insurance claims.

Legacies where formal notification of entitlement and amount has been received by 31st December by the PCC.

Closing bank balances as shown in the receipts and payment account.

The following liabilities are recognized in the Statement of Assets and Liabilities:

Any loans or overdrafts advanced to the PCC

Any arrears of Diocesan Parish Share

Creditors for goods or services where the supply has been received and invoiced by 31st December.

Independent Examiner's unqualified report to the members of the P.C.C. of St. Peter's Church, Chorley

Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2023.

Charity no (if any)

Respective responsibilities of the P.C.C. and the examiner.

The P.C.C. members acting as the charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for the year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed. It is my responsibility to:

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

Basis of the Independent Examiner's statement.

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission and the guidance published in PCC Accountability (The Charities Act 2011 and the P.C.C.), 5th edition). An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with these records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required for an 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 material matter has come to my attention which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act, or
the accounts do not accord to the accounting records.

I have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts is reached.

Signed. *A. Clements*

Date 10th May 2024

Name Rev'd. A .A. Clements MA, ACIB, FCIE.
Fellow of the Association of Charity Independent Examiners.

Address 15 Carleton Road, Great Knowley, Chorley, Lancs PR6 8TQ

Mothers Union Report

At the Mothers' Union AGM held in February 2024, each and every member was thanked for their continued support to our branch of the Mothers' Union here at St. Peter's over this last year.

Thank you for your donations to the toiletry bags which Betty had kindly prepared and delivered to MAU at Chorley Hospital. Over 2023, Betty has delivered 1580 filled toiletry bags and we have had some kind comments from recipients of some of the bags, also monetary donations.

Every members has given of their talents, time and kindness in all the activities and planned meetings that we have held.

WE have continued to meet once a month on a Wednesday evening and this is set to continue over this coming year. WE have taken on board members talents and shared these at some of our meetings as funds don't stretch to paying for a speaker each month.

Currently our membership is only 12 making it difficult sometimes to arrange events or share in church events. We continue to use the meeting room for our meetings but are finding it increasingly difficult to fund payment for meeting room use.

Thank you once again everyone for your enriched commitment to the branch and may we continue on both strength and faith over the coming year.

Anne Wilding

Reports from Youth Organisations

Guides

I would like to begin my report by saying a massive thank you to our Parishioners and my fellow Guiders for their support during my first full year as Captain at 4th Chorley St Peter's Guides.

During the last 12 months, we have gained a new Unit Helper, Nicola who is hoping to eventually take her leadership qualification. She has been a lifesaver, along with Lynne, who have supported me during a time of illness from the beginning of this year.

We have had a few new girls start with us during the last year but have lost a couple and therefore still have a solid 8 members. We are hoping to increase our numbers when some of our Brownies are ready to move up and looking at other ways of advertising the unit. We have had good attendance at church parade services and our girls and families are always willing to support the unit and church at events.

During the last 12 months, we have been involved in a number of events throughout Girlguiding such as a trip to London to visit the Harry Potter Museum in London, Cinema trips and the district thinking day event at St Joseph's school to name a few. We also held a fundraiser in the autumn term which raised over £250 for unit funds.

With regards to our programme, we have seen a lot of achievement this year including 3 girls achieving their Bronze award, 2 Silver awards and our first guide to reach her Gold award. She has now stayed with us and has joined our leadership team as a young leader. We currently have a few young ladies who are close to achieving their next stage awards and will have achieved them before the summer holidays.

Looking forward to the next year, we are excited for another cinema trip in June, the upcoming Chorley Division Camp at Guys farm, a large project in the September term and our first unit camp since COVID.

Kim Kerr

Children & Youth:

Children

Unfortunately, due to lack of volunteers, I have been unable to re-set up the Sunday school as planned. I am now looking at other ways to proceed with more regular children's work with minimal volunteers to begin with and hopefully start to see this grow. More details will follow as soon as I have something concrete.

I would like to thank all of the parishioners and volunteers who helped to make our Easter Messy Church a success. We had over 50 people walk through the doors on Easter Saturday and many were not regular church attendees. We will do more in the future but nothing has yet been confirmed. Hopefully, we can begin to see some regular families attend and start to bring more families back to the parish.

Youth

From last year's confirmation group, we have set up our youth group 'SPUDS'. We have 8 – 12 regular attendees at the fortnightly meetings, with a good number of young people who have not attended church previously or been confirmed. The group is an amazing example of how young people can care, nurture and support each other. We provide a much-needed safe space for the young people to explore who they are and be themselves in our ever-challenging society. We are seeing growth in the club from our primary school children, our uniformed organisations and friends of current members. My hope is that we can continue to flourish and grow, being able to introduce more of our young people to Jesus and His saving grace.

On 27th April, the Diocesan Board of Education is holding a youth event at St Michael's High School here in Chorley. We have had 5 (possibly 6) attending as a group. Hopefully, this will be an opportunity for these young people to encounter Jesus in a different way and connect with other young people and groups from the wider Diocese. Those attending are very much looking forward to the event!

If I may end by asking for your continued prayers for growth in our children's and youth ministry here at St Peter's and for the right volunteers to assist us in bringing more young people to Jesus in this place.

Kim Kerr

Rainbows

I am pleased to report on another busy and fun-filled year with our rainbow unit. The unit continues to thrive, and currently has 13 regular young members in the unit, run by 3 leaders. This year has seen a full return to our usual meetings following a gradual phasing out of COVID regs. We have already held two promise ceremonies this year to enrol the girls into the unit and we have been continuing to work very hard towards the bronze, silver and gold awards - the main theme awards in the rainbow programme, which some of the girls have been very excited to receive at an awards evening after having completed unit meeting activities and skills builders in meetings, in addition to interest badges they have worked towards individually. We have a few girls who will have completed the Gold award by the time they are ready to move up to Brownies later this year.

We have had a unit trip to the cinema this year just before the Christmas break, to watch Wish which was very well attended and we are looking forward to returning in June for the girl-guiding screening of Inside Out 2, plus a trip to Alabaster jar and an end of term party before we break for the summer holidays

I would like to thank Nickey and Kim for their hard work helping organise fantastic activities for the unit and helping to run the meetings each week. Their invaluable support has enabled the unit to continue thriving over the last year.

Lynne Redmayne

4th Chorley St. Peter's Brownies

The Brownies have had a great year. We have a stable team of five leaders and a Guide helper. Despite numbers dropping post-Covid we have fourteen active, happy and engaged Brownies. We continue to look towards increasing numbers in the future and plan to advertise in the local area/schools again later on this year.

In July last year we took the Brownies to play mini-golf as an end of year treat at Duxbury Park. In October half term 2023 we took the Brownies for an action-packed overnight stay in London at Guide headquarters. We even got a chance to see Sir Lindsay Hoyle in the Houses of Parliament. Brown Owl received her Going Away with Licence as a result of organising the trip to London.

We have paid our rent in full and on time and have paid our Girl Guiding insurance subscriptions in full. Our unit funds remain healthy. We carried out fund-raising for both the church and the unit itself, we raised funds at the recent Easter Bingo. We have also made several large donations of children's activity packs for the Accident and Emergency department at Royal Preston Hospital as well as contributions at Harvest and for the food bank Christmas toy appeal. The girls have enthusiastically helped out cleaning in Church and preparing it for Christmas and Eastertide, as well as attending all Church Parades and reading at various services. We also supported the Church Garden party/BBQ.

The Brownies have completed plenty of badges recently as can be seen by the number of certificates given out at the family services! Mrs Arnold deserves a special mention for keeping excellent records.

Thank you for all your continued support as a church. The Brownies (and the leaders) really appreciate it.

Eve Wilson, Brown Owl and on behalf of the Leaders.

St. Peter's and St. Laurence's CLCGB

The combined unit continues to function well. The number of members has fluctuated slightly leaving us with the capacity to take more members at present. We continue to have the support of a significant number of leaders and helpers who bring a wide set of skills that enable us to deliver a varied programme of activities and events.

We had two residential events. Our own weekend band camp held at the beginning of March over in Rochdale and the North West summer camp held in July at Lytham (which had to be the wettest summer weekend on record)

The band was engaged for four public events: St George's Day parade for the Chorley and district Scouts and Guides; Garstang Childrens festival; Leyland Festival and Lostock Hall Carnival.

At Christmas we had a trip to the bowling alley for some fiercely contested games followed by pizza and chips.

Jayne Warburton-Ball
Admin Officer, Chorley CLCGB

St. Peter's Monday Club

We had 46 meetings in 2023 which included 12 Bingo sessions, 2 trips, 12 speakers and 20 entertainers. With an average attendance of 35 members we also took part in the Christmas Tree Festival. My only worry is that the PCC and most members of St. Peter's PCC are not interested in any activities at St. Peter's, but we can only hope things will improve.

Eric Crompton, Secretary

