



2024
ANNUAL REPORT
THE PARISH OF
CHORLEY ST. PETER



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 2024.

Priest-in-charge: Canon Neil Kelley (19th September 2021)
Chorley Rectory, Rectory Close, Chorley

Curate in Charge: Rev'd. Rebecca Feeney (until 30th April 2024)
St Peter's Vicarage, Harpers Lane, Chorley

Assistant Curate: Rev'd. Cornelius Asghar (from 29th June 2024)
St Peter's Vicarage, Harpers Lane, Chorley

Authorised Lay Minister: Mrs Kim Kerr (7th September 2024)
55 Gillcroft, Eccleston, 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 2024

(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 2024 until the date this report was approved are:

Priest-in-charge:	Canon Neil Kelley
Assistant Curate:	Rev'd Cornelius Asghar
Authorised Lay Minister:	Kim Kerr
Warden:	Ronnie Hunter Mr Eric Crompton
PCC Secretary:	Mr Geoff Parkinson (Acting Secretary)
Deanery Synod Representative:	Mr Ronnie Hunter Mrs Lynne Redmayne

Elected members:

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Mrs Louise Benney 2022 – 2025 | 2. Mr Ronnie Hunter 2023 - 2026 |
| 3. Mr Eric Crompton 2023 - 2026 | 4. Mrs Lynne Redmayne 2023 – 2026 |
| 5. Mr Geoff Parkinson (Treasurer) 2024 – 2027 | 6. Mrs. Kim Kerr (co-opted) 2024 – 2027 |
| 7. Mrs Paulene Barnes (Resigned 31 July 2024) | |

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 Priest-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 mindful of the Charity Commission’s guidance on public benefit, as set out in ‘*The Advancement of Religion for the Public Benefit*’ and takes it into account in the administration of the Parish. The PCC believes that, in fulfilling its duty to collaborate with the incumbent and to co-operate in all matters pertaining to the Church’s mission—pastoral, evangelistic, social, and ecumenical—it delivers a public benefit by:

- Providing resources and facilities for public worship, pastoral care, and spiritual, moral, and intellectual development, both for its members and for all who may wish to avail themselves of the Church’s offerings.
- Upholding Christian values and encouraging service by members of the Church within the Parish community, to the benefit of individuals and society at large.

Objectives and Activities of the year 2024

The PCC met on seven occasions during 2024.

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

- **25th January** – Parish Administrator appointed. Final technical design quotation received from architects in respect of church re-ordering (*costings not provided*). Lent & Easter mission and services discussed. Youth Ministry in full swing.
- **22nd March** – Formal confirmation of Reverend Rebecca’s resignation. Cornelius Asghar (Ordinand in training) will assist in pastoral care and home communions, along with weekly worship at St Peter’s School.
- **26th April** – Preparation for APCM on 17th May 2024. Louise Benney no longer Safeguarding Officer, but St Laurence’s Team will take over responsibility.
- **24th May** – Appointment of Geoff Parkinson as PCC Secretary and Treasurer, with Ronnie Hunter as Vice Chair of PCC. A Mission Committee and a Worship Forum Group were recommended.
- **19th July** – Risk assessments & policies for all aspects of Church Fabric and Safeguarding reviewed. An all-in-one service sheet to be trialled at Parade Services.

- **20th September** – All DBS Safeguarding checks renewed for PCC members. Church income is only half of expenditure, and each sermon in September and October will feature the growth of giving alongside faith. A clear vision should grow our income. Christmas services discussed, with changes from previous years (e.g., a combined Tree Festival and Fair, and a Christmas Eve service to replace Midnight Mass). Kim Kerr to be commissioned as an Assistant Lay Minister (ALM).
- **22nd November** – Discussion of **Parish Vision Day** held on **5th October 2024**.

Parish Vision Day

On 5th October, Fr Neil Kelley organised a Vision Day at St Gregory's, facilitated by Fr Mark Soady, to shape the church's future. Discussions centred on making St Peter's a Christ-focused, hope-filled, and welcoming community, with a strong emphasis on outreach to local families and young people. Ideas were shared on engaging the wider community while ensuring financial sustainability for long-term growth.

The session was collaborative, with all attendees contributing their perspectives. The shared vision reflected a commitment to deepening faith, fostering inclusivity, and securing the church's future. Next steps will involve turning these aspirations into practical plans.

Mr Geoff Parkinson – Acting Secretary

Financial Review

At the end of 2024 the wealth of the Parish was £208,146 consisting of £22,707 on current account at the Royal Bank of Scotland General Account and £5,497 in the Fabric Fund Account (designated), together with the sum of £171,197 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 £8,745.

The Parish Share has been paid in full for 2024. 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 but the St Laurence's Parish Safeguarding team is actively involved in advice and any safeguarding issues that may arise.

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.

Mr Geoff Parkinson – Treasurer

Future for St Peter's Church

As we look ahead, our vision is to reach out to the wider community, ensuring St Peter's is a welcoming and inclusive church for all. We aim to create meaningful opportunities for people of all ages—children, young people, and adults—to engage with the church, grow in faith, and become part of our parish family.

In planning our activities, we have carefully considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit, particularly the supplementary guidance on charities for the advancement of religion. Our mission is to support individuals in living out their faith as part of our parish community through:

- **Worship and prayer** – fostering a deeper connection with God through meaningful services and spiritual growth.
- **Learning and discipleship** – helping people explore the Gospel, develop their trust in Jesus, and grow in their Christian journey.
- **Pastoral care** – offering support and guidance to those within our parish, ensuring no one feels alone.

Above all, we are committed to being a church that opens its doors wide—encouraging new faces, nurturing young believers, and creating a warm, inviting space where everyone can belong.

Mr Geoff Parkinson – Acting Secretary

Electoral Roll report

There are 42 parishioners on the Church Electoral Roll, as of 6th April 2025, of whom 28 are resident in the parish and 14 are not resident.

It is hoped that during 2025 St Peter's will resume its significant role in serving the local community in both spiritual and practical ways.

Mr Alan Kerfoot – Church Electoral Officer

Fabric/ Churchwarden's Report

The past year has been one of positive growth and activity for our church community. We were delighted to welcome Fr Cornelius and Mona to the vicarage and church. Before their arrival, a dedicated team worked hard to decorate the vicarage, and we extend our heartfelt thanks to all who contributed to this effort.

We are pleased to note a steady increase in church attendance over the year, with particularly strong numbers at Christmas. Additionally, our Christmas Tree Festival was a resounding success, welcoming over 200 children and adults through the doors—a wonderful celebration for the whole community.

Fr Cornelius and Mona have brought fresh energy to parish life, introducing monthly breakfasts at the vicarage, which have been warmly received. These gatherings, along with other frequent meals hosted there, have fostered fellowship and encouraged deeper connections within our community. Fr Cornelius has also worked diligently to establish prayer groups, further enriching our spiritual life.

In other good news, tea and refreshments after the 8am Eucharist began on Advent Sunday, and it has been heartening to see so many people staying after the service to enjoy this time together.

On the practical side, we have secured permission to proceed with essential guttering repairs on the south side of the church roof, as well as the church hall. These works will be carried out early in 2025. The hall itself continues to thrive, attracting an increasing number of bookings.

Summary of Baptisms, Weddings, Funerals and Ashes Interments in 2024			
Baptism	Wedding	Funeral	Burial of Ashes
10	02	07	06

Finally, we would like to express our gratitude to Fr Neil Kelley for his support and encouragement, which has been greatly appreciated by all.

With these encouraging developments, we look forward to another fruitful year ahead.

Eric Crompton and Ronnie Hunter – Church Wardens

Deanery Synod Report – by Ronnie Hunter

35 members attended the Synod meeting at St Paul's, Adlington, beginning with Holy Communion led by Jean Kouacou and welcomes from Revd Graeme Buttery and Area Dean Jo Smith.

Iain Parks (Diocesan Director of Education) outlined the Diocese's structure and stressed church-school links, noting challenges like funding pressures, SEND demand, and pupil engagement. With 44,000 pupils in popular Anglican schools, he encouraged churches to connect with families. Youth initiatives, including the Ignite Project and Bishop's Youth Forum, were highlighted, alongside upcoming events in 2024-25.

Finances remain stable (£2,001.74), with £1,226.20 of a £2,000 grant spent. The meeting closed with thanks to St Paul's team. Further details on youth work are available via Blackburn Diocese's website.

Mr Ronnie Hunter – Deanery Synod Member

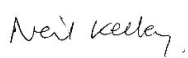
St Peter's Church, Chorley				
Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2024				
General (Unrestricted) Fund Receipts and Payments Account				
	2024	2024	2023	2023
Receipts				
<i>Voluntary Receipts</i>				
Covenants & Gift Aid	14,280		14,733	
Income tax recovered	5,265		5,423	
Uncovenanted Planned giving	4,932		4,448	
Collections	2,258		2,198	
		26,735		26,802
<i>Other Voluntary Receipts</i>				
Donations	1,609	1,609	1,963	1,963
<i>Grants & Legacies</i>				
Grant from national C of E (Lower Income Communities Fund)	1,715		1,884	
Mr Peter Lancaster Bequest	6,920		18,359	
		8,635		20,243
<i>Receipts from activities for generating funds</i>				
Fund raising - Easter Bingo, La Bamba, Christmas Fair, - Calendars etc.	1,204	1,204	1,743	1,743
<i>Receipts from church activities</i>				
Fees	5,564		8,350	
Church Groups donations for CMR hire (MU & Monday Club)	295		450	
CMR hire	3,556		2,530	
Car Park Rental	11,025			
Trading (Coffee, Magazine sales etc)	496		615	
		20,936		11,945
<i>Receipts from investments</i>				
Dividends and Bank Account interest	202	202	236	236
<i>Non-recurring income</i>				
Transfer of remaining Club Account Balance	nil		3,804	
Transfer from Fabric Account	nil		950	
Transfer from CBF Deposit Account	31,250		15,000	
Insurance Claims & Other Income	2,541		nil	
Adjustment for Nat West Business Quick Deposit (BQD)	62		230	
		33,853		19,984
Total Receipts		93,174		82,916

	2024	2024	2023	2023
Payments				
<i>Church activities</i>				
Donations to Charities	638		586	
Diocesan Quota/Share	24,698		39,007	
Clergy Expenses	4,622		3,628	
Upkeep of Church	11,961		25,425	
Upkeep of Services	1,047		975	
CMR Running Costs	1,428		1,251	
Major Works	21,521		3,456	
Church Meeting Room Major Works	nil		10,368	
Insurance Premiums Church - Monthly Direct Debit to December	5,801		5,526	
		71,716		90,222
<i>Fund Raising and Administrative Costs</i>				
Salaries and Support Costs	12,980		3,730	
Fund Raising & Church Administration	3,688		2,647	
		16,668		6,377
Adjustment for Nat West Business Quick Deposit (BQD)	85	85	66	66
Total Payments		88,469		96,665
Excess of Receipts over Payments		4,705		-13,749
General Bank A/c at 1st. January 2024		18,002		31,751
General Bank A/c at 31st. December 2024		22,707		18,002

Statement of Assets and Liabilities at 31 December 2024						
Cash Funds	General Fund	General Deposit Fund	Fabric Fund	Jackson Endowment Fund	2024 Total	2023 Total
	Unrestricted	Designated	Designated	Restricted		
	£	£	£	£	£	£
RBS Chorley - General A/c	£22,707	£171,197			£193,904	£210,793
RBS Chorley - Fabric Fund A/c			£5,497		£5,497	£4
CBF Endowment Fund Deposit				£8,745	£8,745	£11,815
Total Bank Accounts	£22,707	£171,197	£5,497	£8,745	£208,146	£222,612
Other monetary assets - None						
Total	£22,707	£171,197	£5,497	£8,745	£208,146	£222,612
Liabilities	The Parish Share was paid in full for 2024.					
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. General Deposit Fund designated for non general expenditure as proceeds of Club sale.						
5. Jackson Endowment Fund is restricted to the Church fabric.						
6. Funds held in respect of the Lancaster legacy are held in the General Fund Account with the intention of being reserved and being available solely for the employment of the Parish Administrator						
There is a balance of £17,744 as at 31st December 2024.						

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 10th April 2025 and signed on their behalf by:



 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 2024.

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: 10.4.2025

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

Reports of other Activities and Youth Organisations

Mothers Union Report

On behalf of the Committee members, Mrs Wilding thanked each member for her continued support to our branch of the Mothers' Union here at St Peter's over this last year.

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 our funds don't stretch to paying for a speaker every month. Every member has given of her talents, time, gifts and kindness in all the activities and planned meetings that we have held.

Deanery meetings have been attended, as have the Deanery Festival, Walking Day and other events. We have supported church events, and we played a big part at the Christmas Fair where we managed to provide and serve refreshments and man 3 stalls!

Currently our membership is only 11, making it difficult sometimes to arrange events and support functions. We continue to use the meeting room for our meetings but find it increasingly difficult to fund payment for meeting room use. In 2024 we gave what we were able to afford.

A Thank you for donations to the Toiletry bag appeal which Betty has very kindly prepared and delivered to MAU at Chorley Hospital. Over 2024, Betty has delivered 1200 bags, and we have had some kind comments from recipients of some of the bags, also monetary donations. For 2025, MU Deanery has kindly given £300 to allow further purchases of goods, to go alongside donations given by other branches.

A Thank you once again to everyone, for your enriched commitment to our branch and may we continue through strength and faith over the coming year.

Anne Wilding, on behalf of the Committee.

Mrs Anne Wilding – Chair and Enrolling Member

St. Peter's Monday Club

In 2024, we held a total of 40 meetings, comprising 12 Bingo sessions, one trip, 12 speaker events, and 20 entertainers. With an average attendance of 40 members, we also had the pleasure of participating in the Christmas Tree Festival.

While it has been encouraging to have Fr Cornelius join us to engage with people, however, it is somewhat disheartening that the PCC and most of its members at St. Peter's appeared to show little interest in the church's activities. Nevertheless, we remain hopeful that this may improve in time

Eric Crompton - Secretary

Guides

Our Guides have had a good year with many enriching experiences. We have lost a few guides due to other commitments but have also welcomed new members. We currently have seven 10- to 14-year-olds on roll and one young leader (aged 14–18).

This year has been filled with many memorable experiences. A first for me was attending the Division Midsummer Camp at Guy's Farm last summer. There were plenty of outdoor activities, and we camped in tents. Those who attended thoroughly enjoyed themselves. We also had a small group attend the County event, *Adventures by the Sea*, in Southport in October 2024.

We have held fundraisers and attended every Church Parade service. The Guides enjoy leading or supporting the services in any way they can.

We have celebrated many awards this year, including two Bronze, three Silver, and one Gold Award. We hope to add many more to this list in the coming year.

There is much to look forward to. In the summer term, we will have a cinema takeover to watch the new *Lilo & Stitch* film, with another planned for the winter term. We will also be attending the County event *Adventures in the Mountains* in the Lake District in October 2025—and hopefully many more events besides. We aim to hold more unit fundraisers, so please watch this space!

We are grateful for two of our young ladies who will be moving up to Young Leader status in the summer term. Both have confirmed they will remain with Guides to complete their qualifications, and one will also continue supporting our Brownie unit. Please keep them in your prayers as they embark on the next stage of their guiding journey with us.

Finally, I would like to thank Fr Neil, Fr Cornelius, Mona, the PCC, the congregation, and the wider St Peter's community for your continued support and prayers. We look forward to strengthening this wonderful relationship in the year ahead.

Mrs Kim Kerr – Guides Captain

Children & Youth:

Children

Sadly, we still don't have enough volunteers to restart Sunday school as hoped. We're now looking at other ways to run regular children's activities, starting small and growing over time. More details will follow once plans are finalised.

A big thank you to everyone who helped make Easter Messy Church a success! Over 60 people came on Easter Saturday—many not regular churchgoers. We hope to run more events like this and welcome new families to the parish.

Youth Group

We have seen some exciting changes this year in our SPUDS group. We have now merged with St Laurence's youth group, and after discussion, the young people decided to keep the name *SPUDS* but revise the meaning of the acronym.

Thanks to this merger, our group has grown, and we are now led by Michelle (St Laurence's Voluntary Youth Worker), Fr Cornelius, and Kim Kerr, working together in a spirit of service and partnership.

The number of regular attendees has stabilised, and we now have roughly 7 to 12 young members who meet every second Sunday from 6p – 8pm in the Church meeting Hall.

Before launching SPUDS, three young people from St Peter's attended the Diocesan youth event, *Abide*. They participated fully in worship, a Eucharist led by Bishop Philip, workshops, big games, *Just Dance*, and more. Some committed their lives to following Jesus, building on Him as their firm foundation, while others renewed their faith. Witnessing this was truly inspiring, and we now look forward to discipling our young people in faith and service to our Lord and Saviour.

We plan to take part in many more events and activities in the coming year and will keep you updated as they arise!

Finally, we ask for the prayers of our church community—for our young people and their families. Please pray for growth in both numbers and faith as they continue their journeys with Jesus and within our church family.

Mrs Kim Kerr – Voluntary Youth and Children Worker

Rainbows

I am delighted to share an update on another lively and enjoyable year with our Rainbow unit. The unit continues to flourish, with 12 regular young members and 3 dedicated leaders.

This year, we have fully embraced our usual meetings and activities, focusing on fun, learning, and personal achievement. We have already held two Promise ceremonies to welcome new girls into the unit, and our members have been enthusiastically working towards their bronze, silver, and gold awards—the key theme awards in the Rainbow programme. Many girls have proudly earned their awards at a special celebration evening after completing unit meeting activities, Skills Builders, and individual interest badges. Several girls are on track to achieve their Gold award before moving up to Brownies later this year.

A huge thank you to Nickey and Kim for their tireless efforts in planning engaging activities and running our weekly meetings. Their commitment and creativity have been instrumental in making this another fantastic year for our Rainbow unit.

Here's to more fun, friendship, and achievements in the year ahead!

Mrs Lynne Redmayne – Rainbows Captain

4th Chorley St. Peter's Brownies

Our Brownie unit has enjoyed another successful year thanks to our dedicated team of five leaders and Guide helper. With fourteen enthusiastic members, we're actively rebuilding post-pandemic and will promote Brownies in local schools later this year to grow our numbers.

Financially, we've maintained good standing - covering rent and Girlguiding subscriptions promptly, supported by successful fundraisers like our Easter Bingo event.

The Brownies have demonstrated wonderful community spirit through:

- Donating activity packs to Royal Preston Hospital A&E
- Supporting Harvest Festival and the food bank's Christmas toy appeal
- Assisting with church preparations for festive seasons and participating in services

We're proud of the girls' many badge achievements celebrated at family services. A heartfelt thank you to the church for your continued support - we look forward to another fantastic year ahead!

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 Northwest summer camp held in July at Lytham (which had to be the wettest summer weekend on record)

The band was engaged many public events:

St George's Day parade for the Chorley,

- Walking Day,
- District Scouts and Guides,
- Garstang Children festival,
- and Leyland Festival and Lostock Hall Carnival.

At Christmas we had a party at St. Peter's School Hall.

Jayne Warburton-Ball - Admin Officer, Chorley CLCGB