

# Annual Report 2025



ST PETER'S CHURCH, CHORLEY  
HARPERS LANE, CHORLEY, LANCASHIRE PR6 0HP

**ST. PETER'S CHURCH, HARPERS LANE, CHORLEY PR6 0HT.**

**ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS OF THE**

**PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER 2025**

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

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

Authorised Lay Minister: Mrs Kim Kerr (7<sup>th</sup> September 2024)  
55 Gillcroft, Eccleston, Chorley

**BANK(S)**

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

**CONTENTS**

The 2025 Vestry Meeting and APCM	Page 3
PCC Report 2025	Pages 4-7
Electoral Roll Report	Page 7
Churchwarden's Report	Page 8
Fabric Report	Page 9
Deanery Synod Report	Page 9-10
Financial Report and Statements	Pages 11-14
Accounting Policies	Page 15
Independent Examiner's Report	Page 16
Reports of other Activities and Youth Organisations	Page 17ff

## THE 2025 VESTRY MEETING AND APCM REPORT

### Vestry meeting

There were two candidates who had proposers and seconders:

- Mr Ronnie Hunter
- Mr Eric Crompton

These were duly elected. Fr Neil Kelley thanked them for serving in the previous year.

**Minutes of the APCM held on 18 May 2025 at 9.30am** (*during the Parish Eucharist*)

**Chair: Fr Neil Kelley**

**Present:** Fr Neil Kelley, Fr Cornelius Asghar, Mr Ronnie Hunter, Mr Eric Crompton, Mr Geoff Parkinson, Mrs Kim Kerr, Mrs Lynne Tipping

All those elected were eligible to stand for their various positions and had been proposed and seconded by members of the Electoral Roll.

### The 2024 Annual Report

- The PCC Report
- The Financial Statements of the PCC
- The Electoral Roll Report
- The Church Warden's Report
- The Church Fabric
- The Deanery Synod

**The Annual Report 2024** was proposed by Ronnie Hunter and seconded by Kim Kerr, unanimously approved.

### Appointment of Independent Examiner

Mr Geoff Parkinson proposed Fr Alan Clements. It was seconded Ronnie Hunter, unanimously approved.

### Chairman's Remarks

Fr. Neil opened by expressing his sincere thanks to the congregation for their unwavering commitment over the past year. He acknowledged the hard work and dedication that sustain our parish life. However, he spoke candidly about the challenges we face, noting a visible decline in our numbers. He reminded us that we cannot be complacent; our survival and growth depend on our shared response to this reality.

Emphasizing that we are a church family, Fr. Neil stressed that the responsibility for the future does not rest on one person alone but is a collegial call for us all. He challenged every member to take ownership of our mission, actively inviting those within the parish to rediscover St Peter's as *their* church—a place where everyone in Chorley is welcome.

Drawing from his homily on the Great Commission (Matthew 28:16–20), Fr. Neil reminded the meeting of Jesus' final command to "go and make disciples." He noted that:

- This mandate was not just for the original Apostles; it applies directly to us today.
- Being a "good disciple" means more than just attending; it requires sharing the Good News in our daily lives.
- Our love for Christ is best demonstrated through our outward-facing service and our willingness to grow the Kingdom.

Fr Neil concluded with a call for spiritual maturity. To love St Peter's is to ensure it thrives for the next generation. By working together and embracing our role as missionary disciples, we move from simply maintaining a building to building a vibrant, living community of faith.

### Election of PCC members

Mrs Anne Cheetham, Mr Jonathan Johnson and Mr Steven Joinson were elected to join the PCC.

**ST. PETER'S CHURCH, CHORLEY**  
**ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER 2025**

*(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 1<sup>st</sup> January 2025 until the date this report was approved are:

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

**Elected members:**

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1. Mrs Lynne Tipping 2023-2026          | 2. Mr Ronnie Hunter 2023 - 2026                                |
| 3. Mr Eric Crompton 2023 - 2026         | 4. Mr Geoff Parkinson (Treasurer) 2024 – 2027                  |
| 5. Mrs. Kim Kerr (co-opted) 2024 – 2027 | 6. Mr Jonathan Johnson 2025 – 2028                             |
| 7. Mrs Ann Cheetham 2025 – 2028         | 8. Mr Steven Joinson 2025- 2028 <i>(resigned in June 2025)</i> |

**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 Assistant Curate, 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 2025

The PCC met on eight occasions during 2025.

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

- **16 January** – Safeguarding report – very close to complete coverage. Joan Hough's bequest credited to Fabric account. South Side guttering repairs begun. Full day LYCIG programme for lay members held at Bamber Bridge.
- **13 March** – Fr Cornelius revisited the Bamber Bridge meeting and Derbyshire residential course. Full discussions on activities/attitudes to encourage growth in numbers and spirituality. Mission weekend for October 2025 announced.
- **10 April** – Update on new Electoral Roll reduction to a realistic 42 from 92. South side guttering complete and an estimate for repairs to Chancel Room roof accepted. Faculty for temporary removal of rear pews and Chancel Room steps submitted.
- **22 May** – Fr Cornelius explained LYCIG is for both spiritual & numerical growth. Kim Kerr and Jonathan Johnson had attended Whalley Abbey course and would do a follow up at each PCC meeting. No feedback from APCM meeting – Ronnie Hunter to be vice chairperson and Geoff Parkinson to continue as Secretary to the PCC.
- **4 September**- LYCIG report on Worship with detailed discussion on service content and times. Christmas Fair date announced and Service times – Midnight Mass at St Peter's, Crib Service at 3pm, 4.30 service and 10am Christmas morning.

- **23 October**- Review of Parish Mission weekend. Friday band evening not as well attended as was hoped although 60 people attended, Eric's hotpot popular and new space at rear of Church was well received. Saturday well supported by school and several new families came. Sunday saw 84 adults and 51 children attend. Six or seven adults interested in the Hope Course. A total of 360 people came through the doors.
- **11 December** – Fr Cornelius spoke of Perseverance and our unwavering faith as a team. Kim spoke of growth in numbers through LYCIG, Ann of community spirit within the Church, Fr. Neil of thankfulness and Jonathan for our commitment to the PCC. The Tree festival attracted 200 people compared to 160 last Christmas. Fr. Cornelius reported a noticeable increase at the 8am and a sustained attendance at 10am. The new refreshment area at the West End was proving popular.

**Mr Geoff Parkinson – Acting Secretary**

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### **FINANCIAL REVIEW**

At the end of 2025 the wealth of the Parish was £176,734 consisting of £15,306 on current account at the Royal Bank of Scotland General Account and £153 in the Fabric Fund Account (designated), together with the sum of £160,832 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 £143.

The Parish Share has been paid in full for 2025. 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 Meeting Hall. 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. This year we have successfully appointed Mrs Lynsey Belham as St Peter's Parish Safeguarding Officer.

Mrs Belham is a parishioner at St Laurence's Church and works at a school. She is actively involved in advice and any safeguarding issues that may arise, since her appointment.

### **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**

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### **FUTURE FOR ST PETER'S CHURCH**

Looking ahead, our vision is to extend our reach into the heart of the wider community, ensuring that St Peter's remains a truly welcoming and inclusive church for everyone. We are dedicated to creating meaningful opportunities for individuals of all ages—children, young people, and adults alike—to engage with the church, flourish in their faith, and find a home within our parish family. In planning our mission, we have paid careful regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit, particularly the supplementary advice for charities focused on the advancement of religion. Our aim is to support individuals in living out their faith as active members of our community through:

- **Worship and Prayer:** Fostering a deeper connection with God through thoughtful services and shared spiritual growth.
- **Learning and Discipleship:** Helping people to explore the Gospel, deepen their trust in Jesus, and progress on their Christian journey.
- **Pastoral Care:** Offering steadfast support and guidance to those within our parish, ensuring that no one has to walk their path alone.
- **Inspiring Children and Young People:** We strive to ignite a lifelong curiosity for the faith in our younger generations through creative, engaging, and age-appropriate ministry.

Above all, we are committed to being a church that opens its doors wide—encouraging new faces, nurturing young believers, and cultivating a warm, inviting space where everyone can find a true sense of belonging.

**Mr Geoff Parkinson – Acting Secretary**

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### **ELECTORAL ROLL REPORT**

Over the last year one new person added to the Church Electoral Roll as of 17<sup>th</sup> April 2026 a total of 43 people, 29 residents in the parish 14 non-residents.

It is hoped that during 2026 St Peter's will continue its significant role in serving the local community in both spiritual and practical ways.

**Mr Alan Kerfoot – Church Electoral Officer**

## CHURCHWARDENS' AND FABRIC REPORT 2025

### Churchwardens' Report:

- **Ordination:** Fr Cornelius Asghar was Ordained as a Priest in June. He celebrated his First Eucharist at St Peter's on 6th July, coinciding with our Patronal Festival.
- **Consistency of Service:** Since his ordination, Fr Cornelius has presided over all Eucharistic services, providing a welcome sense of liturgical consistency for the congregation.
- **Expressions of Thanks:** We extend our heartfelt thanks to **Fr Neil Kelley** for his dedicated "shuttling" between St Laurence's and St Peter's to cover most of our Sunday services prior to Fr Cornelius' Ordination as Priest, and to the clergy from Chorley and the wider Diocese who supported St Peter's during that period.
- **Confirmation:** On 13th July, the Rt Revd Joe Kennedy, Bishop of Burnley, presided over a Confirmation service for four candidates (three children and one adult).
- **Ecumenical Cooperation:** Following the temporary closure of St Laurence's, we were pleased to host their services, including funerals, baptisms, and Christmas celebrations.
- **Mission and Outreach:** Mission Weekend: In September, as Part of Diocesan Renewal Program, St Peter's Church organised a highly successful Mission Weekend. With the support of diocesan clergy and lay speakers, we welcomed approximately 360 visitors over three days, distributed 40 New Testaments, and saw several individuals enrol in our discipleship courses.
- **Festivals:** Our Christmas Tree Festival remains a popular and well-attended staple of our community calendar.
- **Breakfast:** Every two months, Fr Cornelius and his wife Mona hosts a Sunday breakfast, in the Vicarage, that is well attended by the parishioners. It is a lovely opportunity for everyone in the church community to get together.
- **Trainings:** We are grateful to our friends at St Laurence's for providing Food and Hygiene training to our volunteers.

### Attendance and Occasional office statistics

Service	Figures for 2025
Average Sunday Attendance (8:00 am) Eucharist	12
Average Sunday Attendance (10:00 am) Eucharist	37
Average Wednesday Eucharist (10:00 am) Eucharist	10
Total Baptisms	18
Total Weddings	1
Total Funerals	14
Total Interment of Ashes	04

## **Fabric Report: Building and Maintenance**

**Internal Reordering:** Pew Removal: Under temporary permission, ten pews were removed from the rear of the church. This has successfully created a flexible space for refreshments and meetings, encouraging the congregation to remain for fellowship after the 10:00 am service.

**Maintenance and Repairs:** Roofing: Essential maintenance on the south roof—including guttering and the securing of loose slates—has been completed. The roof over the Chancel Room was also repaired to ensure the building remains watertight.

**Chancel Access:** A Faculty has been granted for the replacement of the steps leading into the Chancel Room.

**Community Use:** Meeting Room: The meeting room is fully operational once again. It is in high demand for parish courses and external hire, providing a vital resource for the local community.

**Concluding Remarks:** We wish to extend our heartfelt thanks to Fr Neil Kelley and Fr Cornelius for their dedicated ministry and leadership throughout this transformative year.

**Mr Eric Crompton & Mr Ronnie Hunter - Church Wardens**

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## **CHORLEY DEANERY SYNOD REPORT**

This report summarises the proceedings of two key Deanery Synod meetings held in 2025, focusing on the future vision of the Diocese and preparations for the Centenary Mission.

### **Meeting 1: Vision 2033 Consultation**

Date: 3rd March 2025

Venue: Clayton Brook Community Church

Key Speakers: Bishop Jill, Carolyn Barton (Director of Vision Delivery)

- **Strategic Overview** The primary focus was the Vision Refresh, transitioning from "Vision 2026" to "Vision 2033" (marking 2,000 years since the Resurrection). Bishop Jill highlighted that the Blackburn Diocese is financially stable—one of only four in the country not "in the red"—and has secured £26 million to bolster youth ministry.
- **Consultation Themes** Feedback from local parishes identified six core priorities for the future:
  - Abiding in Jesus: Prioritising prayer and "being" over constant "doing."
  - Growing Family: A Christ-centred, intergenerational welcome.
  - Missional Outreach: Building confidence in sharing faith.
  - Community Presence: Using church buildings as practical community hubs.

## Meeting 2: Centenary Mission Preparations

Date: 14th October 2025

Venue: Christ Church, Charnock Richard

Key Speakers: Revd Steve Haskett, Janet Sanderson

- Diocese will celebrate its **100th anniversary in 2026**. A central "Weekend of Witness" is planned for September 2026. Parishes are encouraged to host simple, low-cost events to engage those on the fringes of church life.
- The Power of Invitation: Delegates were urged to overcome the "fear of no." Statistics shared showed a renewed public openness to faith, with church attendance rising for four consecutive years.
- Personal Testimony: Speakers emphasised that "every story matter" and encouraged members to share their journeys to faith without comparison.
- Follow-up Strategy: Parishes were advised to plan "nurture courses" (e.g., Alpha, Start, or 321) and link mission events to seasonal services like Harvest and Christmas.
- Support: A "How to" resource pack and evangelistic training will be provided to all parishes, including those currently in vacancy.

**Mr Ronnie Hunter - Deanery Synod Member**

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**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 30 April 2026 and signed on their behalf by

*Fr. Neil Kelley*

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

## FINANCIAL REPORTS AND STATEMENTS

St Peter's Church, Chorley				
Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2025				
General (Unrestricted) Fund Receipts and Payments Account				
	2025	2025	2024	2024
<b>Receipts</b>				
<i>Voluntary Receipts</i>				
Covenants & Gift Aid	17,092		14,280	
Income tax recovered	5,875		5,265	
Uncovenanted Planned giving	4,493		4,932	
Collections	3,221		2,258	
		30,681		26,735
<i>Other Voluntary Receipts</i>				
Donations	444	444	1,609	1,609
<i>Grants &amp; Legacies</i>				
Grant from national C of E (Lower Income Communities Fund)	961		1,715	
Bequests	nil		6,920	
Listed Places of Worship VAT Grant	1,750	2,711		8,635
<i>Receipts from activities for generating funds</i>				
Fund raising - Easter Bingo, La Bamba, Collections	950	950	1,204	1,204
<i>Receipts from church activities</i>				
Fees	11,232		5,564	
Church Groups donations for CMR hire (MU & Monday Club)	250		295	
CMR hire	3,006		3,556	
Car Park Rental	500		11,025	
Trading (Coffee, Magazine sales etc)	471		496	
		15,459		20,936
<i>Receipts from investments</i>				
Dividends and Bank Account interest	129	129	202	202
<i>Non-recurring income</i>				
Transfer from Fabric Account	nil		nil	
Transfer from CBF Deposit Account	18,000		31,250	
Insurance Claims & Other Income	1,278		2,541	
Adjustment for Nat West Business Quick Deposit (BQD)	nil		62	
		19,278		33,853
<b>Total Receipts</b>		<b>69,652</b>		<b>93,174</b>

	2025	2025	2024	2024
<b>Payments</b>				
<i>Church activities</i>				
Donations to Charities	710		638	
Diocesan Quota/Share	24,601		24,698	
Clergy Expenses	7,599		4,622	
Upkeep of Church	10,394		11,961	
Upkeep of Services	837		1,047	
CMR Running Costs	1,274		1,428	
Major Works	7,158		21,521	
Church Meeting Room Major Works	nil		nil	
Insurance Premiums Church - Monthly Direct Debit to December	6,333		5,801	
		<b>58,906</b>		<b>71,716</b>
<i>Fund Raising and Administrative Costs</i>				
Salaries and Support Costs	15,288		12,980	
Fund Raising & Church Administration	2,858		3,688	
		<b>18,146</b>		<b>16,668</b>
Adjustment for Nat West Business Quick Deposit (BQD)	nil	nil	85	85
<b>Total Payments</b>		<b>77,052</b>		<b>88,469</b>
<b>Excess of Receipts over Payments</b>		<b>-7,400</b>		<b>4,705</b>
General Bank A/c at 1st. January 2025		22,706		18,002
General Bank A/c at 31st. December 2025		15,306		22,707

<b>Fabric Fund (Designated)</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2024</b>
Receipts				
Transfers From Restricted Endowment Account	8,840		3,611	
Bequests	nil		5,000	
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>8,840</b>	<b>8,840</b>		<b>8,611</b>
Payments				
Major Works	13,840		3,118	
Repairs, Maintenance, Fees	344		nil	
Transfer to General Bank Account	nil		nil	
<b>Total Payments</b>	<b>14,184</b>	<b>14,184</b>		<b>3,118</b>
Excess of Receipts over Payments		-5,344		5,493
Fabric Fund Bank A/c at 1st. January 2025		5,497		4
Fabric Fund Bank A/c at 31st. December 2025		153		5,497
<b>Jackson Endowment Fund (Restricted)</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2024</b>
Receipts	nil		nil	
Interest	238		540	
<b>Total Receipts</b>		<b>238</b>		<b>540</b>
Payments	8,840		3,611	
<b>Total Payments</b>		<b>8,840</b>		<b>3,611</b>
Excess of Receipts over Payments		- 8,602		- 3,071
CBF Deposit Fund at 1 January 2025		8,745		11,816
CBF Deposit Fund at 31 December 2025		143		8,745
<b>General Deposit Fund</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2024</b>
Receipts	nil		nil	
Interest	7,633		9,655	
<b>Total Receipts</b>		<b>7,633</b>		<b>9,655</b>
Payments				
Transfer to General Bank Account	18,000		31,250	
<b>Total Payments</b>		<b>18,000</b>		<b>31,250</b>
Excess of Receipts over Payments		- 10,366		- 21,595
General Deposit Fund at 1 January 2025		171,197		192,792
General Deposit Fund at 31 December 2025		160,831		171,197

Statement of Assets and Liabilities at 31 December 2025						
Cash Funds	General	General		Jackson		
	General	Deposit	Fabric	Endowment	2025	2024
	Fund	Fund	Fund	Fund	Total	Total
	Unrestricted	Designated	Designated	Retricted		
	£	£	£	£	£	£
RBS Chorley - General A/c	£15,306	£160,832			£176,138	£193,904
RBS Chorley - Fabric Fund A/c			£153		£153	£5,497
CBF Endowment Fund Deposit				£143	£143	£8,745
<b>Total Bank Accounts</b>	£15,306	£160,832	£153	£143	<b>£176,434</b>	<b>£208,146</b>
<b>Other monetary assets - None</b>						
<b>Total</b>	£15,306	£160,832	£153	£143	<b>£176,434</b>	<b>£208,146</b>

**Liabilities** The Parish Share was paid in full for 2025

**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 £9,134 as at 31st December 2025.

Approved by the PCC on 30 April 2026 and signed on their behalf by

*Fr. 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 31<sup>st</sup> 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 31<sup>st</sup> 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 2025.  
Charity no (N/A)**

**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.), 5<sup>th</sup> 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 29.4.2026

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

Our group met once a month on a Wednesday evening for most of the year in the meeting room. We are only a small group but usually we all attend for prayer, fellowship and often an activity.

We are committed to good causes. This year we have supplied hospital bags for people in hospital. This takes a lot of effort from our coordinator Betty, and we raise funds for this venture through donations from other Churches and grateful recipients.

At one of meetings, we made fiddle-muffs for people suffering from dementia. These have usually been knitted by volunteers, and we attached the fiddle bits. We were involved with the Christmas-Fair having several stalls and held a successful coffee morning.

We continue to support the MU caravan which offers support to families and have attend MU events around the district.

This year we set up a WhatsApp group where we can keep in touch and voice any ideas we may have. It also means we can offer support to each other if needed.

We are involved in St Peter's church life and offer support and help wherever we can, we were particularly active on Mothering Sunday. We also help with flowers and cleaning for dates in the Church Year. In the summer recess we met up informally and enjoyed tea and cake.

We hope and pray for another year of fellowship and to continue support families and others in need.

**Mrs Sandra Morgan – Representative St Peter's MU**

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### St Peter's Monday Club

The St Peter's Monday Club enjoyed a vibrant and successful 2025, hosting 38 meetings that fostered a strong sense of community. Our diverse programme catered to all tastes, featuring 12 Bingo sessions, 12 guest speakers, and 19 entertainers. Highlights of the year included two well-attended excursions and our festive participation in the local Christmas Tree Festival.

With an average attendance of 40 members per session, the club remains a cornerstone of local social life. We look forward to building on this momentum, continuing to provide a welcoming space for fellowship and entertainment in the coming year.

**Mr Eric Crompton – Secretary Monday Club**

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### Youth Ministry

This past year has been a season of exciting transition and consolidation for SPUDS, our joint youth provision. Representing a fruitful partnership between St Peter's and St Laurence's, the group has seen its attendance stabilise. We now regularly welcome between 7 and 10 young members who meet fortnightly on Sundays from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm in the Church Meeting Hall.

This ministry is underpinned by a dedicated leadership team—Michelle Wareham (St Laurence's), Fr Cornelius, and Kim Kerr—working together in a spirit of service to support our young people.

The foundation for this year's success was laid when four of our youth attended the Diocesan "Abide" event. It was a profoundly moving experience; our attendees engaged in worship, workshops, and a Eucharist led by Bishop Philip. Notably, several young people chose to commit or renew their lives to Jesus.

Further building our community ties, the group enjoyed a summer trip to Blackpool in August. Led by Fr Jorden Bentliff, this was a wonderful collaborative effort alongside St Laurence's, St George's, and All Saints' churches.

SPUDS has become an active heartbeat within the parish:

- **Lego Church:** Following a successful Parish Mission Weekend, we launched "Lego Church" during Advent. This Saturday morning initiative serves as a creative, fortnightly space for children and youth.
- **Christmas Tree Festival:** The group took great pride in decorating their own tree, contributing to the festive spirit of the wider church family.

As we look to the coming year, we are eager to expand our programme of activities and continue discipling our youth in faith and service. We invite the congregation to join us in prayer for our young people and their families. Please pray for continued growth—both in numbers and in the depth of their journey with Christ.

**Mrs Kim Kerr, Voluntary Youth and Children's Worker**

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### Lego Church

Following the wonderful success of the Lego station at the Mission Weekend in September, we felt encouraged to develop this into a regular ministry for children and families. As a result, Lego Church began meeting every other Saturday morning, offering a welcoming space for creativity, faith, and community.

We launched in December and have been delighted to welcome a mixture of church and non-church families each session. On average, we have 5–7 children attending from around five families, and we are beginning to see steady growth and a pattern of regular participation.

Each session includes a short prayer at the beginning and end, a Bible story, and plenty of time for the children to explore the theme through building. This creative approach helps them engage with God's word in a hands-on way, deepening both their understanding and their enjoyment of the stories.

Some of the creations have been truly impressive, and we look forward to displaying photographs on the noticeboard at the back of church in due course.

We currently have a small team of four supporting the sessions:

Kim Kerr (Lead and organiser), Michelle Wareham (St Laurence's voluntary Children's and Youth Worker), Jonathan Johnson (Volunteer), and Fr Cornelius (Clergy). We would love to expand the team further, so if anyone feels able to volunteer, you would be very welcome. We also ask for your continued prayers for this ministry and for its growth.

**Mrs Kim Kerr, Voluntary Youth and Children's Worker**

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## **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 10 regular young members in the unit, run by 2 leaders, a young leader and a guide helper.

We have already held two promise ceremonies this year to enrol the girls into the unit and are looking forward to another in the upcoming term.

We have been continuing to work very hard towards the bronze, silver and gold awards - the main theme awards in the rainbow programme, which will be presented at an awards evening after first having completed unit meeting activities and skills builders in upcoming meetings, in addition to interest badges they have worked towards individually.

We have had a unit trip to the cinema this year just before the Christmas break, to watch Zootopia II which was very well attended and we are looking forward to returning in June for the girl-guiding screening of Toy Story 5, plus a trip to Lancaster for a museum takeover and a visit to Blackpool Zoo at the start of the school year and then "Alabaster jar" back at home before we broke for the Easter holidays and we are looking forward to our end of year celebrations in July

I would like to thank Kim, Maddy and Lily 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.

**Mrs Lynne Tipping – Rainbows Captain**

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