

# **ANNUAL REPORT**

FINANCIAL YEAR 2019

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF  
ST PAUL'S SCOTFORTH

CHARITY NUMBER 1134789

St Paul's Church  
24 Scotforth Road  
Lancaster  
LA1 4ST

The parish office is in St Paul's Parish Hall [facing the church across the A6]

## **Structure, Governance and Management**

The Parochial Church Council [PCC] is a “body corporate”.

The Trustees of this charity are the members of the PCC.

The Annual Parish Meeting [APM] held before 30 April each year elects two Churchwardens and members of the PCC.

Deanery Synod representatives are appointed for a 3 year term of office. Currently our parish has 4 representatives on the Deanery Synod.

Rule 14 of the Church Representation Rules states that the Clergy licensed to the parish, the Churchwardens, and the Deanery Synod representatives are ex-officio members of the PCC.

At St Paul's the Minister of the Parish is the Chair of the PCC and a lay member of the PCC is to be elected as Vice Chair. St Paul's PCC has decided that the Vice Chair of the PCC shall be the Churchwarden with the longer service.

The PCC has decided that the PCC should include the following as ex-officio members: one Reader representing all the Readers, the Treasurer, the Secretary, the Safeguarding Officer and the Vision Champion.

The APM in 2012 decided that from 2013 the elected members of the PCC should be elected to serve a term of three consecutive years and can serve two consecutive three year terms, after which they are expected to stand down for a minimum of one year before offering themselves for re-election. This policy is intended to create a balance between retaining experience while introducing fresh insight into the PCC.

The PCC aims to have a minimum of three members elected from those who regularly worship at St Paul's Hala Centre.

By law the PCC must meet at least 4 times per year. At St Paul's our practice is for the PCC to meet on the first Monday of most months. The PCC does not meet in January, April and August. In May the PCC meets on the second Monday of the month because the first Monday is a Bank Holiday.

## PCC Membership during 2019

		<b>Office ends</b>
<b>Vicar</b>	Rebecca Aechtner	Appointed 3 <sup>rd</sup> September
<b>Church Wardens</b>	Phillip Simpson Jayne Weatherill	Note 1 Note 1
<b>Deanery Synod members</b>	Grace Illidge Margaret Ives Arton Medd Phillip Simpson	1 <sup>st</sup> June 2020 1 <sup>st</sup> June 2020 1 <sup>st</sup> June 2020 1 <sup>st</sup> June 2020
<b>Elected members of laity</b>		
	Jeanette Pearson Anne Quainoo Keith Weatherill Vacancy	APCM 2020 APCM 2020 APCM 2020
	Rebecca Long Christine Medd Caryn Willmott Vacancy	APCM 2021 APCM 2021 APCM 2021
	Sue Croft Simon Hilton Vacancy Vacancy	APCM 2022 APCM 2022
<b>Members Ex-Officio</b>		
<b>Lay Readers' Rep</b>	Tony Guénault	Died in office
<b>Safeguarding Officer</b>	Jayne Weatherill	Note 2
<b>Secretary</b>	John Gedge	Note 2
<b>Treasurer</b>	Brian Threlfall	Note 2
<b>Vision Champion</b>	Chris Walker Jim Currin	Resigned during the year Appointed 4 <sup>th</sup> November

Note 1: The Church Wardens elected at the APCM in April are confirmed in office at the Visitation in May.

Note 2: These three appointments are made by the PCC at its May meeting.

## The duties of the PCC

The Synodical Government Measure 1969 contains what might be described as the official “job description” of the PCC. It states:

1. It shall be the duty of the incumbent and the Parochial Church Council to consult together on matter of general concern and importance in the parish.
2. The functions of the Parochial Church Council shall include:
  - (a) co-operation with the incumbent in promoting in the parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical;
  - (b) the consideration and discussions of matters concerning the Church of England or any other matters of religious or public interest, but not the declaration of the doctrine of the church on any question;
  - (c) making known and putting into effect any provision made by the Diocesan Synod or the Deanery Synod, but without prejudice to the powers of the Council on any particular matter;
  - (d) giving advice to the Diocesan Synod and the Deanery Synod on any matter referred to the Council;
  - (e) raising such matters as the Council considers appropriate with the Diocesan Synod or Deanery Synod.
3. In the exercise of its functions the Parochial Church Council shall take into consideration any expression of opinion by any parochial church meeting.

When the PCC of St Paul’s registered as a Charity we said we would provide “public benefit” by:

- Regular public worship
- Providing sacred space for prayer
- Pastoral work including visiting sick and housebound
- Taking regular assembly in schools
- Provision of a youth group
- Promotion of Christianity through sermons, events and meetings
- Promoting the mission of the church
- Supporting other charities in the UK and overseas

## How does the PCC seek to fulfil its duties?

Regular public services are held in the parish church and the Hala Centre.

### Parish Church

Sunday	8.00 am	Holy Communion (BCP)
	9.45 am	Holy Communion
	6.30 pm	Evensong (Holy Communion on 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday of each month)
Monday - Wednesday	9.00 am	Morning Prayer
Thursday	9.15 am	Holy Communion
Friday	9.00 am	Morning Prayer

### Hala Centre

Sunday	11.15 am	Morning Worship	(1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday)
		Holy Communion	(2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday)
		Morning Worship	(All other Sundays)

The parish undertakes occasional services [baptisms, marriages, funerals], seasonal services and commemorations as required.

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

The Diocese calculated our "Parish Share" which includes a contribution to the cost of running the Diocese and a contribution to subsidise the mission of the church in areas of the Diocese with financial difficulties. Our Parish Share was paid on time and in full.

The clergy and authorised lay people take communion to those unable to attend public services including people in local care or retirement homes.

The parish has a Visiting Team which visits members of the congregation, and others, in their own homes and in hospital as requested.

The parish has statutory links with Scotforth (St Paul's) Primary School including the appointment of 4 of the school's Foundation Governors.

The parish organises the following Children's church activities, a Youth Group for older children (9-13 years) and themed activities led by appropriately cleared leaders at the 9.45am and 11.15am services for all children.

The parish sponsors several uniformed groups [Rainbows, Brownies, Guides, Beavers, Cubs and Scouts]. Parade services are held regularly involving the members of the uniformed groups in the regular worship of the church.

The parish has been re-awarded the Diocesan "Child Friendly Church" award.

Candidates are prepared for "Confirmation" [admission to membership of the church] through a course run annually, it should be noted that there were 12 candidates in 2019.

House groups are available to help members of the congregation develop and explore their faith in an informal setting.

The parish has several social groups including a Walking Group, a Women's Fellowship, a Care and Share group as well as an Over 60's group.

The parish's Social Responsibility Group [SRG] advises the PCC on a range of social and environmental matters. The SRG makes recommendations about the distribution of the sum set aside for charitable giving.

The parish has received the Bronze Eco Church award.

The parish is involved in ecumenical work locally as a member of Churches Together in Lancaster and also of South Lancaster Churches Together.

The parish has an annual prayer rota which covers all the streets in the parish. Volunteers deliver a card to each house in each street as it appears on the rota.

The parish holds an open air service each year which makes our worship visible to the local community and promotes Christianity within our parish.

The Parish Hall and St Paul's Hala Centre are used for a number of social events each year, and are available for hire.

The PCC has complied with the duty to have "due regard" to the House of Bishops guidance in relation to safeguarding. The parish has a Safeguarding Officer who monitors our activities to ensure we comply with the relevant legal obligations and Diocesan policies. Safeguarding is a standing item on the PCC agenda.

The parish has a Health and Safety Officer who monitors our activities to ensure we comply with the relevant legal obligations and Diocesan policies. Health and Safety is a standing item on the PCC agenda.

Photographs of the members of the PCC are displayed in the parish church, St Paul's Hala Centre and on our website so that members of the congregation can identify them.

The parish has links with mission partners serving overseas.

The parish has a long standing tradition of supporting other charities which is covered in more detail in the financial section of this report.

The parish maintains a Terrier / Inventory of moveable church property.

There were 137 on the Electoral Roll at the 2019 APCM; this was due in the main to the 6 year revision.

## **Objectives and Activities**

### **Mission Statement**

We will seek to grow in our Mission through

Worshipping God,  
Growing In Faith,  
Serving the Community

### **Development Plan**

“Where there is no vision the people perish” says the Bible. At St Paul’s we have been seeking a Vision through prayer, study, conversation and consultation.

By the year 2020 we would like to be a vibrant, thriving, inclusive church that:

- Provides all those in the church community with the chance to worship, to be nurtured in their Christian faith and to be confident and natural in sharing it.
- Is involved in reaching out into the Hala and Scotforth communities to serve in Christ’s love by taking practical action.
- Is making the story of Jesus known in words and actions to all those who seek the good news, especially young people who will be the church leaders of tomorrow.

A leaflet was distributed in 2014 setting out this plan and inviting people to become involved with the groups that are going to look at the three areas of Nurturing Our Faith, Outreach In The Parish, and Working With Young People.

The Parish Magazine and the Weekly Notice Sheets are the primary means of communication within the Parish.

St Paul’s has a parish website, a Facebook page, and a comprehensive entry on the website “A Church Near You”.

## Highlights for the year

The highlights in two parts with the first being delivered by Jayne:

As a Christian community we do not consider it appropriate to refer to “achievements” when discussing our “performance” during 2019.

2019 was a full and exciting year at St Paul’s Church Scotforth. Alongside our weekly acts of worship, with a usual Sunday attendance of 140 across all ages and all services, we ministered to people and families through hosting and leading services at which 34 individuals were baptised. We conducted 9 Wedding services. We also conducted 18 Funerals in church with a further 2 Funerals at local Crematoria and Cemeteries. However, it would be remiss to not include the ‘painful and emotional’ time in February when, as Wardens, we followed advice and guidance from the Diocese to suspend services at the Hala Centre. This was never something undertaken without great regret and hesitation and after further discussion and prayerful reflection the Wardens reversed the decision without missing a service at Hala, putting the needs of the parish first and foremost.

Alongside our Christian ministry as a part of the Church of England, we joined in many services with Christians who worship in Churches of other denominations as a part of South Lancaster Churches Together and Churches Together in Lancaster.

The Christian Festivals were observed appropriately.

Further highlights of the year including the continued ministry of our work with children and young people under the “Working with Young People” wing of our Vision 2020 programme. We continued to work with our local schools, including Scotforth St Paul’s and Ripley St Thomas’ CE Academy. We are extremely grateful to Chris Walker for her work in delivering worship in Scotforth St Paul’s during the interregnum. We also continued to host the Ripley St Thomas’ end of term services and worked with Adrian (Chaplain), Sam Cheeseman and Peter Ballard to achieve this. The St Paul’s Youth Group continues to meet fortnightly. The continuation of Young Church sessions at the back of church has proved very successful and we are grateful to the leaders who ensure we can continue with this work. The inclusion of the children’s work into the services is very popular and gives the congregations a more family-friendly atmosphere.

The attendance at our Housegroups during 2019 was maintained. It was pleasing to see the excellent attendance at the Ecumenical Lent services enabling individuals to deepen their faith in discussion, prayer and by learning from the examples of others. This reveals that the “Nurturing our faith” wing of the Vision 2020 programme is moving forward.

“Outreach in the Parish”, the third wing of the Vision 2020 programme was enhanced this year by the continued ministry of the monthly Care and Share bereavement support group. The Care and Share ‘team’ are dedicated volunteers and, having attended or called into most of their meetings, provide a warm, safe, nourishing environment for all those who attend. Parishioners also showed our concern for the poor and vulnerable by taking part in house-to-house collections for the Children’s Society and Christian Aid and by supporting the Olive Branch Foodbank, Christ Church Night Shelter and the Lancaster Homeless Action Service.

The Annual Open Air service witnessed by many passers-by on the A6 in July was a success and the sun shone just enough to hold a successful event in the Church Grounds.

During the year, our Architects from Harrison Pitt Associates continued to monitor the building which is continuing to show significant signs of wear and tear. We also suffered a minor roof fall

and had to move over the road for a couple of weeks whilst repair work took place. It was good to have a focus running throughout the year on the Raise the Roof fund raising campaign with around £123,425.63 having been raised from the direct giving in various forms since its' launch.

September brought the very welcome installation of Rev Dr Rebecca Aechtner and her family, husband Anderson and daughters Sundiya and Amali.

A message from Reverend Rebecca:

The first four months of my incumbency as Vicar were full of excitement and enthusiasm as we settled into the life of parish as a family. We were welcomed so warmly by the St Paul's family both at Scotforth and at Hala that we quickly felt at 'home.' After adjusting the rhythm of our busy parish and pattern of Sunday services, it was a pleasure to get to know people, styles of worship, and all of the various dynamic groups that make this such a wonderful parish in which to minister. Special services such as Harvest, Remembrance Sunday, All Saints, All Souls, Advent, and Christmas helped to forge and cement relationships with non-regular church goers and provided opportunities to share the message of God's love in our parish and our city. It was a joy to participate in my first ever Parade Service and Christmas Eve Pantomime. Regular worship assemblies at Scotforth St Paul's school, WOW (Worship on Wednesdays) offered a new challenge area of ministry for me.

During my first four months in post I was able to learn from and build upon the rich legacy of ministry, discipleship and sense of community here at St Paul's. I look forward to worshipping God, growing in faith, and serving the community together.

### **Looking Forward**

In 2020 we will continue to work with our architects to monitor the church building. Church however is about people not buildings and so we will continue seeking to maintain the mission and ministry of St Paul's in the future.

## **Financial Review**

The Annual Accounts and Treasurer's Report for the year ended 31 December 2019 should be read as part of this review.

The Parish Share is calculated by the Diocese. It supports the mission of the wider church, including the payment of clergy stipends and pensions. The formula includes a social multiplier which subsidises parishes with financial difficulties and increased our parish's assessment. We paid our parish share in full and on time.

A stewardship scheme has operated within the parish for many years with the help of a dedicated team of visitors. The stewardship scheme brings much valued assets – not just financial, but also time and talents - into our work. The stewardship scheme encourages regular giving and the use of 'Gift Aid'.

The parish has a long standing tradition of charitable giving. The PCC's charitable giving policy was revised on 6 October 2014 and now is to "aim to give towards 6% of the figure recorded as Stewardship Giving on the Diocesan return, and the associated tax refunded through Gift Aid".

In 2019 even though the total funds went up by £57,947.26 because of the increase in our restricted funds of £62,014.69, our unrestricted expenditure exceeded our unrestricted income by £4067.43 meaning we had an operating loss in 2019.

The adoption of a Reserves Policy continues to clarify the PCC's thinking about the use of Reserves, particularly with respect to any that may be used for the repair of the roof in due course

Following an architect's report, the parish is anticipating significant expenditure on the ceiling and roof of the Parish Church within the next 5 to 10 years. The cost of the work on the roof is likely to exceed a full year's normal income so the parish aims to maintain its reserves, and to undertake fundraising to increase them, until the work has been done.

## **Funds Held as Custodian Trustees**

None.