



St Andrew's Church Eccles
Annual Report of the Parochial Church Council
for the Year Ended 31 December 2019



The Parochial Church Council of the ecclesiastical
 parish of St Andrew Eccles Manchester.
 Registered charity number 1132836

www.standrewseccles.org

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The Parish of St Andrew's, Eccles.
SAFEGUARDING POLICY
PROMOTING A SAFER CHURCH

The following policy was agreed at the Parochial Church Council (PCC) meeting held on 13th May 2019.

In accordance with the Church of England Safeguarding Policy our church is committed to:

- Promoting a safer environment and culture.
- Safely recruiting and supporting all those with any responsibility related to children, young people and vulnerable adults within the church.
- Responding promptly to every safeguarding concern or allegation.
- Caring pastorally for victims/survivors of abuse and other affected persons.
- Caring pastorally for those who are the subject of concerns or allegations of abuse and other affected persons.
- Responding to those that may pose a present risk to others.

The Parish will:

- Create a safe and caring place for all.
- Have a named Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO) to work with the incumbent and the PCC to implement policy and procedures.
- Safely recruit, train and support all those with any responsibility for children, young people and adults to have the confidence and skills to recognise and respond to abuse.
- Ensure that there is appropriate insurance cover for all activities involving children and adults undertaken in the name of the parish.
- Display in church premises and on the Parish website the details of who to contact if there are safeguarding concerns or support needs.
- Listen to and take seriously all those who disclose abuse.
- Take steps to protect children and adults when a safeguarding concern of any kind arises, following House of Bishops guidance, including notifying the Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser (DSA) and statutory agencies immediately.
- Offer support to victims/survivors of abuse regardless of the type of abuse, when or where it occurred.
- Care for and monitor any member of the church community who may pose a risk to children and adults whilst maintaining appropriate confidentiality and the safety of all parties.
- Ensure that health and safety policy, procedures and risk assessments are in place and that these are reviewed annually.
- Review the implementation of the Safeguarding Policy, Procedures and Practices at least annually.

Each person who works within this church community will agree to abide by this policy and the guidelines established by this church.

This church appoints Mr Stephen Gibbison as the Parish Safeguarding Officer

Incumbent: ... (Vacancy).....
 Churchwardens: Mr Kevin Walton.....
 Mrs Valerie Slater.....

Date:

Date: 13/5/19

Date: 13/5/19

Parochial Church Council of St. Andrew, Eccles

3. Further Analysis of Receipts and Payments Accounts (continued)

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Building fund Restricted	Memorial or Designated	Total 2019	Total 2018
Payments	£	£	£	£	£	£
f) Clergy and staffing costs						
Clergy working expenses	-				-	-
Clergy housing costs	493				493	871
Cost of recruiting new clergy	-				-	235
	493	-	-	-	493	1,106
g) Church running expenses						
Church building improvements	1,384		14,035	15,948	31,367	8,213
Church routine annual maintenance	1,269				1,269	1,600
Church utility bills	3,915	810			4,725	4,304
Church insurance	4,177				4,177	4,058
Upkeep of services	122				122	188
Upkeep of grounds	6				6	294
Mission support costs	332	915			1,247	4,213
Eccles Team - shared finances	329				329	801
Miscellaneous	399	200			599	400
Church administration	682				682	649
Parish magazine and Crux	289				289	970
	12,904	1,925	14,035	15,948	44,813	25,689

4 STAFF COSTS

a) Wages and salaries

It is the custom of the PCC to charge for the services of organists and vergers at funerals & weddings, and to pass these fees on to the individuals providing the service. In 2019 the PCC paid £420 to musicians and £150 to vergers at these occasional services. Fees for the clergy at such events belong to the Diocesan Board of Finance. These costs are netted off against fees received, because the PCC is acting merely as agent. Statutory fees income disclosed in note 3c) is net of all such costs. No amounts were sufficient to attract social security costs.

b) Payments to PCC members

No payments or expenses were paid to any PCC member, persons closely connected to them or related parties.

5 ECCLES TEAM

St Andrew's is responsible for administering the payments on behalf of Christ Church Patricroft PCC in relation to the team vicar's housing and working expenses.

St Andrew's is responsible for administering the payments on behalf of other churches in the Eccles Team for any joint team events.

During 2019 £1,601 was spent on behalf of these other PCC's. All of these payments are allocated proportionately to the other PCC's and are fully refunded.

6 RESERVE POLICY

At the November 2019 PCC meeting, the PCC reviewed its reserve policy and agreed that to ensure adequate working capital the minimum reserves that should be maintained should be equal to 3 months planned expenditure. For 2020 this requires the PCC to maintain at least £10,375 in immediately accessible accounts.

Aims and Purposes

St Andrew's Eccles PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with the Team Clergy in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church - pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. It also has maintenance responsibilities for the church building.

Administrative Information

St Andrew's Church is situated on Chadwick Rd, Eccles M30 0NZ. It is part of the Eccles Team Ministry in the Deanery of Eccles and in the Diocese of Manchester within the Church of England.

The correspondence address is The Vicarage, 11 Abbey Grove, Eccles M30 9QN.

Website: www.standrewseccles.org

Structure, Governance and Management

The Parochial Church Council of the ecclesiastical parish of St Andrew, Eccles, Manchester is a registered charity (charity number 1132836). The method of appointment of PCC members and wardens is set out in the Church Representation Rules. Members of the PCC are either *ex officio* (being ordained clergy, members of the Deanery or Diocesan Synod or Church Wardens) or are elected at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting as PCC members. (Wardens and Deanery Synod representatives are also elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting). All Church attendees are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC.

PCC members who have served during 2019 are ex officio

Rev Andrew Harper

Rev Jennifer Lewis

Team vicar and chair

(from 24th November 2020)

Ordained Local Minister and Curate

Kevin Walton*	Church Warden (and deputy lay chair)
Valerie Slater	Church Warden
Richard Lewis*/**	PCC Treasurer
Stephen Gibbison*	Safeguarding coordinator
* Deanery Synod member	** Diocesan Synod member

Elected members

Alan Cooper	PCC Lay Chair
Elaine Walton	Reader
Barbara Waterworth	(until 14 th October 2019)
Karen Gibbison	ALM (Children's work)
Jane Lowe	PCC Secretary and ALM (Community)
Sarah Morrissy	

The PCC met 9 times during 2019. The average attendance was 79%. The Standing Committee met twice, on the 2nd June and 27th October 2019

Safeguarding.

Statement of Intent: The parish will follow Diocesan guidance on safeguarding children and adults at risk, per the Manchester Diocese Handbook of policy and procedures (2016), Updated May 2017.

The PCC adopted a revised safeguarding policy statement in May 2019 which is based on the national Church of England guidance. The new policy replaces our separate statements for children and vulnerable adults which were based on Diocesan templates. A signed copy of the new policy is on the notice board in church and it is also published in this annual report.

The diocesan handbook is accessible via the link below, or anyone can ask the safeguarding co-ordinator for a copy.

<https://www.manchester.anglican.org/documents/safeguarding-children-and-adults-risk/>

Where roles require it, we are continuing to get our volunteers DBS checked and to complete the required training courses, by completing both on-line and face to face training sessions.

Parochial Church Council of St. Andrew, Eccles

3. Further Analysis of Receipts and Payments Accounts

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Building fund Restricted £	Memorial or Designated £	Total 2019 £	Total 2018 £
Receipts						
a) All other giving/voluntary receipts						
One-off tax efficient non recurring gifts	1,870	-	-	-	1,870	12,391
St Andrew's gift day	-	-	12,315	-	12,315	1,358
Sundry donations	284	-	-	-	284	274
Donations for charities	-	965	-	-	965	814
Legacies / in memorial gifts	-	-	-	-	-	5,550
Grants / Loans	310	700	5,249	-	6,259	2,450
	2,464	1,665	17,564	-	21,693	22,837
b) Activities for generating funds						
Sponsored cycle ride	-	-	494	-	494	186
Funds raised via online fund raising	316	-	-	-	316	512
Christmas Band Concert	346	20	-	-	366	454
	662	20	494	-	1,176	1,152
c) Income from church activities						
Statutory fees to PCC for weddings, funerals etc.	1,113	-	-	-	1,113	1,142
Café in the church	2,011	-	-	-	2,011	1,592
Toddler group & art group	855	-	-	-	855	781
Parish magazine	362	-	-	-	362	592
Rental received for use of church	681	-	-	-	681	551
	5,022	-	-	-	5,022	4,658
d) Other income						
Diocesan refunds for empty vicarage expenditure	-	-	-	-	-	731
Eccles Team - shared finances	463	-	-	-	463	931
	463	-	-	-	463	1,662
Payments						
e) Mission giving and donations						

The PCC has adopted a policy of making grants to Christian charities equal to 10% of the money it receives from planned giving and open plate collections. The PCC also encourages the congregation to support charities by organising collections and special events to promote selected charities. The PCC is acting as an agent for the charities concerned, and has no control over the funds. The details of these donations during 2019 are as follows.

	From PCC	Events	
Children's Society	410	142	552
Tear Fund	410	380	790
C.M.S. (Andy + Rose Roberts - Brazil)	430	63	493
Scripture Union	410		410
C.M.S. (Andrew Young - Nepal)	410		410
National Churches Trust	100		100
Greater Manchester Churches Trust	25		25
Wood Street Mission	180		180
Eccles Street Pastors	240		240
Royal British Legion	50	20	70
Christian Aid Week (donations + café)		139	139
Christian Aid (Africa Cyclone)		75	75
St. Ann's Hospice (donations + café)		27	27
Macmillan cancer support (café)		47	47
Loaves and Fishes (café)		26	26
Mustard Tree		22	22
Francis House (café)		29	29
Lifeshare		20	20
	2,665	991	-
		-	-
			3,656
			3,468

Parochial Church Council of St. Andrew, Eccles

Statement of Assets and Liabilities

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Building Restricted £	Memorial or Designated £	Total 2019 £	Total 2018 £
Cash funds						
Deposit funds	34,420	1,382	13,742	4,968	54,512	58,665
Bank current account	300	-	-	-	300	1,215
	<u>34,720</u>	<u>1,382</u>	<u>13,742</u>	<u>4,968</u>	<u>54,812</u>	<u>59,880</u>
Other monetary assets						
Gift Aid recoverable	1,725	-	596	-	2,321	1,945
Refunds pending from VAT and Heritage England	-	-	4,030	-	4,030	
Diocesan grants not yet received	-	-	5,000	-	5,000	
Monies owed by Diocese and Team Churches	595	-	-	-	595	115
	<u>2,320</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>9,626</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>11,946</u>	<u>2,060</u>
Liabilities						
Bills outstanding from the toilet renovations	16,328	-	10,270	-	26,598	
Repairs to chimney and lead theft	2,940	-	-	-	2,940	
Gas and electricity used in December	785	-	-	-	785	537
	<u>20,053</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>10,270</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>30,323</u>	<u>537</u>

Notes

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 movements in the designated and restricted funds during the year were:

	Bal b/fwd	Receipts	Payments	Bal c/fwd
Restricted				
Youth worker fund	1,382	-	-	1,382
Accessible toilet fund	7,776	515	8,291	-
Art & Craft workshops	1,225	500	1,725	-
Carpets and lighting	1,214	248	14	1,448
Heating replacement fund	-	12,315	-	12,315
Building renovation	456	26	481	-
Heritage England Taylor Revie	-	5,249	5,249	-
St Agnes grants	-	200	200	-
Charities collections	6	985	991	-
	<u>12,059</u>	<u>20,037</u>	<u>16,951</u>	<u>15,145</u>
Designated				
Toilet fund	15,342	-	12,877	2,465
Memorial fund	5,563	11	3,071	2,503

The Youth Worker fund represents the remaining funds (£1,382) from grants received in 2017. They were retained pending recruitment of a youth worker and the appointment of a Team Vicar within the Eccles Team of churches.

The Art and Craft fund started the year with £1,225 remaining from the successful grant applications received in 2018. During 2019 a further grant of £500 was received. All the funds were fully spent supporting the group until December 2019. Start-in-Salford were able to provide the craft group leader free of charge from April 2019 to March 2020. The PCC has agreed to continue to support the initiative until Easter 2020.

The designated funds consists of monies designated by the PCC towards building upkeep. During 2018 two legacies (£5,500) were received from long standing members of the congregation who had sadly died which were designated to the memorial fund. A further one-off anonymous donation of £12,500 was designated to the toilet fund.

The PCC recognised that the previous toilet facilities provided accessibility challenges for people with disabilities.

A grant from Manchester Diocese was received in 2017 to enable plans to be produced and to obtain necessary planning permissions. Further generous grants were received in 2017 from the Booth Charity and it had been hoped to have completed the work during 2018 but complications in the design have delayed this work until 2019. We are grateful that a further grant of £5,000 to enable completion of the project was awarded by Manchester Diocese. We are pleased to report that during 2019 the toilet facilities were upgraded. Final decoration continues into early 2020. All the restricted funds received towards the project were spent and £18,413 of the designated funds were also used. The final bills will be received in 2020 once decoration is completed and are expected to be for £26,598. These costs shown as liabilities above,

In line with the new Diocesan guidance PCC members are now expected to complete an enhanced DBS check. This has been happening over 2019. It is hoped that all members will be DBS checked within the first few months of 2020.

Stephen Gibbison, Safeguarding coordinator.

Team Vicar's Report (relating to 24th November - 31st December 2019)

As a family we were excited by our pending move to Eccles, like most families we also had the usual concerns about moving. I was (and still am!) excited about the prospect of a first incumbency, after training at St Mellitus with my sending parish in Bolton and three years as a curate in Ramsbottom.

We had heard, from a number of loosely connected people, what a loving and welcoming fellowship St Andrews was. We experienced that from the off as folk from both parishes came to help us decorate at a paint party. Over the first few weeks in post (and since) I have noticed this culture of love and acceptance in action, both between long time fellowship members, recent arrivals and visitors. I have had the privilege to hear a number of 'back stories' which amply illustrate this 'love in action'. This is a wonderful blessing to us all and I can tell you from experience, that this does not come about by accident, but by all different kinds of work and sometimes sacrifice. Such a culture can be challenging to achieve and grow as the spread of God's kingdom in the area sometimes happens less quickly than we would like. We know we have hope, God's promises and the power of the Holy Spirit to help us, all of which I have glimpsed in action in people's lives (may we all learn to rely on you even more Lord!)

Here are some of the contexts I have seen the above happening: Christmas services, such as Nativity, Christingle, with schools attending. Sunday services and afterward in the hour or so of refreshment and fellowship. Toddler group, art and craft group, dementia friendly sporting memories group, tech and tea group,

Friday café and Holy Communion, house group, prayer group, school work, visiting, etc.

Of course, our faith community is also about all our informal links and activities as we go about our daily lives and I've already heard many encouraging stories of prayers answered, conversations involving faith, peace and inner healing received, and a couple of physical healings, including out in the wider community.

So, as I look to the future I am very encouraged by what I have so far observed at St Andrews. I feel privileged to be travelling with this faith community. I'm excited by what next steps we can discern together as disciples, as we seek to follow Jesus and his plans for this area. May we all "see" together with the eyes of faith, seeking for the transforming power of Jesus that continues to change our lives, change the lives of others.

Rev Andy Harper, Team Vicar

Church Wardens' Report 2019

Team Vicar

After a wait of 27 months, on 24th November 2019, we welcomed the Rev Andy Harper as our new Team Vicar of St Andrew's and Christ Church. His licensing service was our first opportunity to welcome his family Emma, Sam and Mia.

During the vacancy we have been very blessed that Jenny Lewis has made herself available to conduct our regular services and to undertake occasional offices as and when they occur. The amount of time Jenny devotes to maintaining our regular services, conducting funerals, preparation for baptism, taking of home communion, pastoral visiting and the work she does in our schools far outstrips the contract she signed with Anne-Louise to be available for 3 days per week to undertake work in our community and we thank her for the work she undertakes.

We also need to express our thanks to those people who lead our services, read, prepare intercessions, assist at communion, to our Sides People who meet and greet people on Sundays and to Elaine Walton for sharing the preaching load with Jenny.

Parochial Church Council of St. Andrew, Eccles

Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31st December 2019

Receipts and Payments Accounts

	Note	Unrestricted	Restricted	Building fund	Memorial or	Total	Total
		Funds	Funds	Restricted	Designated	2019	2018
		£	£	£	£	£	£
RECEIPTS							
Voluntary receipts							
Planned Giving							
Gift aid donations		21,284	-	-	-	21,284	21,163
Other (non gift aided)		3,180	-	-	-	3,180	3,055
Tax recovered		5,681	-	269	-	5,950	8,737
HMRC - GASDS		1,086	-	-	-	1,086	816
Collections (open plate)		2,526	-	-	-	2,526	2,190
All other giving/voluntary receipts	3a)	2,464	1,665	17,564	-	21,693	22,837
Activities for generating funds	3b)	662	20	494	-	1,176	1,152
Income from bank interest		329	-	26	11	366	179
Income from church activities	3c)	5,022	-	-	-	5,022	4,658
Other income	3d)	463	-	-	-	463	1,662
TOTAL RECEIPTS		42,698	1,685	18,352	11	62,746	66,448
PAYMENTS							
Church activities							
Mission giving and donations	3e)	2,665	991	-	-	3,656	3,468
Diocesan parish share		18,432	-	-	-	18,432	18,039
Clergy and staffing costs	3f)	493	-	-	-	493	1,106
Church running expenses	3g)	12,904	1,925	14,035	15,948	44,813	25,689
Costs of generating funds		420	-	-	-	420	490
TOTAL PAYMENTS		34,915	2,916	14,035	15,948	67,814	48,792
Excess of receipts over payments		7,783	-1,231	4,317	-15,937	-5,069	17,656
Cash at bank at 1 January		26,937	2,613	9,425	20,905	59,880	42,224
Cash at bank at 31 December		34,720	1,382	13,742	4,968	54,812	59,880

Independent examiner's report to the PCC of St Andrew Eccles

I report to the PCC on my examination of the accounts of St Andrew's Eccles PCC for the year ended 31st December 2019 which are set out on pages 1 to 4.

Responsibilities and basis of the report

As the charity trustees of the PCC you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent Examiner's Statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or

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



John Price
23 Ellenhall Close,
Harpurhey,
Manchester M9 5XG
27th January 2020

Our Salt group continues to flourish and we wish to record our thanks to Karen Gibbison (ALM Children's Work) and Kate Provan for all the work they do in preparing teaching material for our young people and looking for ways to involve the children in our worship together.

St Andrew's Church Building

At the beginning of 2018 we instructed our architect to prepare preliminary drawings for the construction of an accessible toilet, baby changing facilities and a second toilet to replace the current facilities. At the beginning of 2019 we set about realising these proposals by applying for a faculty from the Diocesan Chancellor. Work on construction of the toilets started on 7th October and the contract was supposed to run for a period of 6-8 weeks. However, several technical difficulties were encountered and the contractors proceeded with extreme caution, which meant the initial phase of the removal of part of the tower wall took longer than anticipated and the building work was not completed until January 2020.

In March Christ Church school used St Andrew's church to hold a Pop UK concert.

At the end of May there was an attempt to remove lead from the north-west corner of the north aisle. Although the theft was unsuccessful it resulted in an expensive repair and an ingress of water into the plasterwork in the kitchen area. Due to difficulties in obtaining a faculty repair work would not be completed until 2020. At the end of July, the gutters at clerestory and south aisle level, together with down spouts were cleaned and painted. In addition, a small amount of pointing work was undertaken around the north-west buttress and the south porch. Some slipped slates were refixed whilst we had the use of a mobile platform. This work was funded by a grant from the Taylor Review. Whilst this work was in progress we were advised that the chimney at the north east corner was in need of repair work, as are the gate posts at the entrance to the car park, and the flag pole needs repainting.

Estimates for this work have been obtained and we would hope to complete this maintenance work during 2020.

In November the steps to the south porch were removed, cleaned and replaced. This was preventative work, as several of the steps had become loose and could potentially have proved dangerous.

Part of the work to construct the new toilet facilities required the disconnection of the gas supply to our ageing heating system. This highlighted the need to proceed more urgently with a plan to replace it sooner rather than later and a decision was taken to press ahead with this project early in the New Year.

Engaging with the Community

The Ugandan Christian International Fellowship continues to use St. Andrew's as their place of worship twice a month.

The Art and Craft Group continues to meet every Tuesday afternoon. Funding is in place up to March 2020.

A dementia friendly group meets every Friday afternoon and continues to grow. Clearly this group is meeting a need in our community.

St Andrew's has also hosted a Tea and Tech course, aimed at encouraging people over 60 years old to engage with computer technology. The course was successful and there are plans to hold a second course in the New Year.

St Andrew's has again engaged with our local schools. In December St Andrew's hosted the Salford City Academy Carol Concert for those children moving from primary to secondary schools. Later in December, we hosted the St Andrew's School Carol Concert, and Branwood School Carol Concert at St Andrew's.

Valerie Slater & Kevin Walton

St Andrew's C E Primary School Report

2019 to 2020 has been a challenging but significant year for St Andrews C E Primary School. In January our new headteacher Mrs. Joanne Bladen-Kay took up her post in the school and early on a number of key areas needed to be addressed within the school. Not

Financial Review.

Full details of the income and expenditure for 2019 can be seen in the accounts pages of this Annual Report.

Thank you yet again to everyone who has supported the church each week throughout the year. Our income for the year was £62,746 (compared to £66,448 in 2018) and expenditure was £67,814 (compared to £48,792 in 2018) giving an excess of expenditure of £5,069. The majority of the deficit was as a result of commencing work on the new toilets which will be finished by the time you read this report in early 2020.

We have tried to minimise our normal expenditure which was lower than normal as we were without a team vicar until November 2019 and therefore did not have the usual costs of clergy housing and expenses. Thanks to volunteers, we have maintained the grounds ourselves and printed our own magazines throughout 2019.

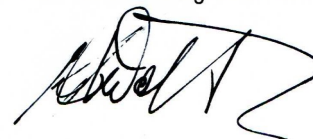
Planned giving for the year was £24,464 compared to £24,218 in 2018. Our special Gift Day in November was well supported and raised £12,315 which has been allocated to our heating replacement project.

Parish Share (our contribution to the costs of the Diocese) was £18,432. The PCC continued to honour its commitment to donate 10% of collections and planned giving to charities. £2,665 was donated to our supported charities (see accounts page 3 for further details).

The Church Council continues to budget sensibly and is careful to maintain its usual spending plans within the normal income it expects to receive. We know that God will provide, just as he has done over many years at St. Andrew's, and we thank you for being part of it.

Richard Lewis
Hon Treasurer

The accounts on pages 1 to 4 were approved by the Parochial Church Council on 09 March 2020 and signed on its behalf by:



Mr Kevin Walton (Acting chair of PCC at the meeting)

giving lots of encouragement. The Area Dean thanked everyone and echoed how encouraging it was to see what taking place.

The Area Dean referred back to framework for the Deanery Mission Action Plan – what activities can unite all the churches?

In September, Synod welcomed Eve Powers, Diocesan Digital Communications Advisor who spoke about the importance of digital platforms as publicity for parishes. She offers training both to parishes and individuals. She can help to create a digital communication plan. Eve answered questions and was then thanked for her contribution by the Lay Chairman.

The main business of the November meeting was the MAP. Members worked in small groups to discuss the topic of pastoral care under the Better Together heading.

Leading your Church into Growth - For almost 25 years this group has been serving the local church across the country with a vision to encourage and equip churches to grow both numerically and spiritually. They run residential courses, provide training days and resources as well as supporting dioceses in developing their own growth programmes. Following the Chapter visit from Rev'd. Simon Bessant, we are keen to incorporate this element into the Deanery MAP.

Kevin Walton

least of all was the need to address the funding issues within the school and after discussion with local authority personnel and governors, plans were put into place to reduce staffing within the school. Key to decisions that were made was to ensure that the pupils would still have access to high quality teaching and learning opportunities and that staff involved in the process had access to all the information they would need to make life changing opportunities for their future. Quite naturally this was a period of extreme sensitivity within the school but it was approached with professionalism from all parties involved.

The school has had a number of building alterations completed during the year some as a response to health and safety issues such as door replacements and stairwell improvements but more significantly some extensive improvement to the early years area with the covered area between the classroom and playground being made usable for activities and curriculum enhancement. Difficulties with storage around the school has also been tackled and a vastly improved library area has been created.

To address the areas highlighted by the local authority where curriculum issues need to be addressed change has been made to staff responsibilities for curriculum with training being made available. New schemes have been introduced with additional resources and recording of progress of pupils and challenging all abilities of pupils to improve scores. Work in this area will continue to be challenging but staff are determined to make the changes necessary.

The school participation in the joint schools Christmas concert and the year 6 transition concert at St Andrew's Church were enjoyable and uplifting enjoyed by all the children. The Christmas nativity was a storming success with fantastic singing and acting from the pupils and enjoyed by the many parents and visitors who attended. There have been more extensive activities completed by the pupils in order to extend their knowledge the local environment and of the world around them.

Sarah Morrissy – School Governor

Electoral Roll Report

An entirely new Electoral Roll was created in 2019 in time for the last AGM with 31 names on it. Since then we have had 3 additions (Joan Johnson, Regina Scott, Beth McWilliams) so that on 31st December 2019 there were 34 names on the Electoral Roll.

Jane Lowe

Community Report

As part of our mission to love and serve our community the church continues to run or host activities during the week for the benefit of people in our local community.

Toddler Group - Toddler Group continues to provide an opportunity for parents and carers to meet together, while the children have the opportunity to learn to play and socialise with each other. We provide a variety of different types of toys suitable for pre-school children and a mid-morning snack and drink which the children have seated together at a table. We try to accommodate the needs of any child who has special dietary requirements as far as practical. Each session ends with action songs. Carers are also provided with refreshments. A charge of £1.50 per adult attending is made, which covers expenses.

Over 50s Art and Craft Workshop – The workshop is run by the mental health charity START in Salford who provide a qualified tutor and materials to introduce attendees to new skills each week. Church volunteers serve refreshments. The Workshop is intended to combat social isolation and loneliness among local older people and feedback has shown it to have been successful in this. The cost of the workshop was being met through grants and the sale of refreshments at the workshop.

Friday Café -The Friday café (faithfully run by Val Slater for many years) continues to provide reasonably priced refreshments and remains popular as a meeting place with many older local residents. Coffee Mornings in aid of various charities are held 10 times a year. A 5 week Tech and Tea (computer) course was run in the café during the autumn by Inspiring Communities Together.

With the encouragement of Rev Ross Garner, two Alpha courses were held during 2019 and some of the attendees have now joined home groups.

There were a number of candidates seeking Confirmation in 2019 and they were able to attend a service at St Paul's, Monton, led by Rt Rev Mark Ashcroft, Bishop of Bolton.

Richard Lewis

Churches Together in Eccles

Representatives: Canon Alan Cooper, Mrs. Barbara Holmes
Another busy year under the chairmanship of the Rev. Ruth Watson although numbers were down slightly. The Unity Service, Walk of Witness and all the Remembrance Services were well attended.

We are looking forward to new ideas for the New Year.

Barbara Holmes

Deanery Synod Report 2019

Deanery Synod Representatives: Richard Lewis, Alan Cooper, Stephen Gibbison, Kevin Walton.

The synod met on four occasions during 2019 and the major topics for discussion were as follows:-

Training for Safeguarding Officers and those who had contact with children and vulnerable adults. A timetable for the training was presented to Synod.

The Deanery Mission and Action Plan was discussed and all parishes were encouraged to make a contribution to the MAP. The Bishop of Manchester had made it known that completion of MAPs was not an optional exercise, but he expected every parish and deanery to submit their plans.

MAPs were again discussed at July meeting. All churches were given the opportunity to bring to synod news from their Mission Action Plan – two/three items with a three-minute talk – this meant initiatives taking place in our churches could be shared –

each month. Things are a little better now, but still a long way to go.

On a brighter note, 2019 showed a few changes, not least of all the decision to print 'in house' on a brand new photocopier and dispense with the services of our loyal printers of many years. This enabled colour to be used for the front cover and also on some inner pages, which seems to have gone down favourably. This new arrangement did result in more work for a number of people (copying, collating and stapling) for which grateful thanks are extended.

As usual our thanks go to our loyal advertisers, country members who receive a copy each month and not least you, the congregation, for buying a copy each month. Please speak to Gaynor if you would like to take out an annual subscription (£4:40) as this helps the cash flow. Also we would love some more advertisers – decorators, handymen, etc) not least of all Richard, our treasurer!

Maureen Cooper

(The PCC would like to express our thanks to Maureen for continuing to produce The Bell under difficult circumstances)

Team Ministry

The Team Council meets three times each year and comprises of representatives from Christ Church, Eccles Parish Church, St Andrew's and St Paul's chaired by the Rector, Rev Ross Garner.

At the Team Council we have been praying about the good things happening in our churches and also praying about the plans for growth for each church and the challenges we all face.

Our Team of four churches worship together at the annual Memorial Service, Confirmation Service and other festivals. We share in an annual Quiet Day, in 2019, held at Katherine House, Kersal.

We welcome all Team youth to the Boing Youth Home Group held monthly in St Andrew's. We have a small amount of money remaining from grants received specifically for youth work.

Sporting Memories – The charity Sporting Memoires Foundation (which provides opportunities for older people to get together to discuss sport in a dementia friendly environment) holds weekly sessions in the café on Friday afternoons. These have been much appreciated by those attending.

Volunteers - Thanks to all who volunteer in any way to enable these activities to take place. More volunteers are always welcome and would be especially appreciated at the Friday cafe.

Jane Lowe

SALT (Sunday School) Report

During the year the children have attended regularly and our numbers have increased. The age group range of between 1 and 11 years old can be a challenge at times to ensure that each child's needs are met.

Over the year we have looked at Creation, Daniel in the Lion's Den and the theme of Love and Friendship in which we wrote what love means to us and these sayings in the form of hearts were given out in a service in February around St Valentine Day in which we also wrote and said the prayers.

We spent time looking at the Easter story and the Christmas story and the older children spent time writing a very good Nativity Play with Kate which they also produced.

We continue to display our work on the notice board and then it goes into specially decorated scrap books.

We have enjoyed an outing to the cinema and following the nativity play we had a Christmas party.

We hope to continue to share what we are doing with everyone with our notice board and to participate in special services.

Please continue to pray for us and ask the children what we are learning about.

Karen Gibbison and Kate Provan.

Boing! (Youth Home Group) Report 2019

From 7.00 to 9.00pm, on the third Friday of each month in term time, a group for 11 year olds and upwards takes over the café area of church. Soft drinks, toast, crumpets and sweets fuel two hours of badminton, table tennis, pool and a time to consider a Bible passage from a youthful perspective with games, art work or drama. Members can use the Wi-Fi and listen to music.

In 2019 we have looked at people in the Bible to explore issues that are still very current for today's teenagers. For example, in September we looked at Daniel for hints about how to find your identity in a new situation, like starting a new school or college. In October we looked at the woman accused of adultery to discover what God thinks we should do when we do something wrong. Joseph and his brothers helped us think about coping with problems of stress in families.

The group is open to young people from all the Team churches and their friends.

It could not run without a committed support team, so many thanks to Gaynor, David, Sammi and Richard.

Jenny Lewis

JAM Club at St Andrew's School in 2019

Thanks to the welcome we get at St Andrew's School, the JAM (Jesus And Me) Club takes place there every Tuesday lunch time. Up to 25 children come along for half an hour to hear a Bible story, say a prayer and play games based on the story's theme. Before summer we looked at the stories about Peter and Paul in the Acts of the Apostles and in the autumn term the stories were Parables of Jesus. We celebrated the final session of each term with craft activities which are always very popular. Thank you for keeping these children in your prayers regularly, as learning Bible stories is such a good foundation for developing faith when they are older.

Thank you to Karen Gibbison who shares the storytelling and games preparation with me, and to Sheila Thomas and Sarah Morrissy who are very able and willing stand-ins when we need them.

Jenny Lewis

Home Group Report 2019

The purpose of home groups is to give us an opportunity to meet together in a small group, in a relaxed atmosphere, to read the Bible and relate what it says to our own lives and our society today, to pray and to look after one another and encourage one another.

We currently have just one group running, on Tuesday evenings at Jenny's house, which I lead. The group includes two regular attendees from other churches in the Eccles team and a young man who is unable to attend church regularly on Sundays due to his work commitments.

During the seven weeks from January to before Lent we did a course entitled "Names of God", where we considered the many names of God that can be found in the Bible; names which tell us something of God's character and the ways he acts. It helped us to appreciate how complex, immense and awesome God is. Who he is and what he does can't be contained in just a few names.

As is our habit, we suspended home groups for the period of Lent, so that we could take part in the Lent groups organised by Churches Together in Eccles.

For the summer term "They Will Be Comforted: God's Help in Dealing with Loss" was made up of nine sessions in which we went into depth on the complex subject of grief.

The autumn term was spent looking at "The Twelve Disciples". It was interesting to look in some detail at those who were closest to Jesus, with their different characters and backgrounds. These sessions were followed by three weeks' special studies for Advent.

Elaine Walton

The Bell (Parish Magazine) Report

2019 proved to be a very challenging and difficult year for myself in putting together 'The Bell'.

In and out of hospital for both Alan and myself was totally unexpected, but I would like to thank Richard and Jenny Lewis for all the help I received in filling in the blanks in the magazine, producing a 'News' page and making sure it was in church on time