

St Paul's Church, Barrow in Furness



Chartered Accountants + more

**Annual Reports and Accounts
for the year to 31st December 2019**

Charity Registration: 1132621

**ST. PAULS CHURCH
HAWCOAT LANE
BARROW-IN-FURNESS
LA14 4HD**

Bellevue, Prince's Street, Ulverston, Cumbria LA12 7NB Tel 01229 582149

117 Duke Street, Barrow in Furness, Cumbria LA14 1XA Tel 01229 820003

email ulverston@rfm-more.co.uk | barrow@rfm-more.co.uk rfm-more.co.uk

Partners: Paul Newsham ACA, Alan Meikle BA (Hons) FCA

St Paul's Church, Barrow
Trustees Annual Report for 2019

BACKGROUND

St Paul's PCC aims, as stated in the Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956, 'to co-operate with the minister in promoting in the parish the whole mission of the church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical'. This is expressed in the church's mission statement –

**'To make and grow wholehearted followers of Jesus,
who make and grow wholehearted followers of Jesus.'**

MEMBERSHIP

The PCC is a charity registered with the Charity Commission. Members of the PCC are either ex officio or elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) in accordance with the Church Representation Rules. During the past year the following served as members on the PCC:

PCC MEMBERS

During the year, the following served as members of the PCC:

Incumbent:

Vacancy

Associate Priest:

Revd Canon Elaine Bates

Church Wardens:

Mr Derek Pearce

Miss Jackie Dower (Chair)

Representatives on Deanery Synod:

Mrs Maureen Aubrey

Mr Peter Molyneux

Elected Members:

Mrs Debbie Gardner

Miss Lucy Jenkin

Mrs Sue Phipps

Mrs Julia Burns

Mrs Tracy Graham

Mrs Ann Postlethwaite

Mrs Julie Jones

Mrs Sheila Pearce – Secretary

Treasurer:

Mr Mike Phipps (not on the PCC)

COMMITTEES

Standing Committee This is the only committee required by law. It has the power to transact the business of the PCC between meetings, subject to any directions given by the Council.

Finance Committee This committee oversees the general financial matters of St Paul's Church by monitoring income and expenditure and the financial implications of PCC decisions.

Building Committee This committee has responsibility for maintenance of the church buildings and fabric.

CHURCH ATTENDANCE

At the time of writing, there are 55 parishioners on the Church Electoral Roll, of whom 15 are not resident within the parish - 3 were added during the year, 2 was removed due to being deceased and 1 more who has moved to another church.

The Average Weekly Attendance was:

Sunday	13 at the 8.00 am
	33 at the 10.00 am (& 4 regular attendees under 16 years old)
	4 at the 6.30 pm informal prayer meeting
Wednesday	12 at the 10.00 am

REVIEW OF THE YEAR

The full PCC met 6 times during the year and twice for extraordinary meetings, with good attendance throughout. The committees met between meetings, reporting back at PCC meetings, where full discussions and decisions took place where necessary.

OVERVIEW FROM MISS JACKIE DOWER (CHAIR OF ST. PAUL'S PCC)

Aims and Purpose

At St Paul's Church, our central aim is to seek to serve God and the people of the local area through worship, teaching, discipleship, pastoral support, outreach and social action, led and empowered by the Holy Spirit. This is expressed in our mission – ***'to invest our lives in growing God's Kingdom wherever He leads'*** – and our vision to - ***'make and grow wholehearted followers of Jesus who make and grow wholehearted followers of Jesus'***.

The PCC is committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship at St Paul's Church and to become part of our parish community. In particular we try to enable individuals to live out their faith as part of our parish community through:

- Worship and prayer; learning about the Gospel; and developing knowledge and trust in Jesus.
- Provision of pastoral care for people living in the parish and the wider local community.
- Missionary and outreach work.

The Church Wardens and PCC have continued to take responsibility for the work of the church and have a specific responsibility for the maintenance of the Church building and grounds; St Paul's Church Hall and surrounding area; and for "The Bus" – used for mission outreach. Associate Priest Revd Canon Elaine Bates has also provided assistance and support during this time.

Worship and Prayer

- ***Worship and prayer; learning about the Gospel; and developing knowledge and trust in Jesus.***

The PCC maintains an overview of worship in St Paul's and prayerfully seeks God in how to make services accessible and meaningful for all who live in the parish. Services and worship are a way of putting faith into practice, and prayer, scripture, music, drama and sacrament are used to support this. A range of approaches are also used, from quiet, reflective and, at times, intimate prayer meetings, to a more outgoing and lively worship style in other services. Service leaders and the Music Group have continued to grow in the Spirit as they use their gifts in helping people draw near to God and it has been encouraging to see more members of the congregation coming forward to lead or take part in services as speakers, readers or witnesses in faith. We have also been blessed with the generosity of visiting speakers and ministers who have enriched our time of worship and reflection. God has been with us throughout this time and we have been lifted up by his provision.

Numbers attending services have remained steady but efforts have been made to attract families from some of our outreach events to Family Worship Services. Recently we have been blessed with an increase in the number of families and children attending the 10 o'clock service on Sunday and at times we have had as many

as 10 children attending the service and j7 sessions. The festivals continue to be reasonably well attended with approximately 750 people coming to church during the Christmas period including two school Carol Services and Happy Tots (a local nursery) Nativity Play. In addition St Mary's Hospice held a "Light up a Life" Service at the beginning of December. Christmas saw many families joining us for the Children's Service on Christmas Eve which was very lively. It has been a very encouraging year and we praise God for blessing us with an increase in families and children attending services.

As well as our regular services, we welcome members of the local community to celebrate and thank God for the milestones in their journey through life. Through baptism we thank God for the gift of a new life; in marriage public vows are exchanged with God's blessing; and finally, at funeral services, friends and family express their grief and give thanks for the life which is now complete in this world, and to commend the person into God's keeping. We have celebrated 4 baptisms and 1 thanksgiving with 1 wedding and 18 funerals held in our church this year.

Faith and Spiritual Growth

- ***Worship and prayer; learning about the Gospel; and developing knowledge and trust in Jesus.***
- In addition to the services held in church, groups meet regularly to develop their understanding of God's presence in their lives, through the teachings of His Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, and through a growing awareness of the work of His Holy Spirit. Members of the church meet weekly at home or in church to share God's word, grow in discipleship and enjoy fellowship – groups meet on a Tuesday and Thursday evening and on a Friday morning where we are joined by members from other Barrow churches. Leaders plan a programme of study and reflection based on scripture and over the last twelve months the groups have looked at the Book of James, comparing James' teaching with that of Jesus; the story of Stephen; Paul's Letter to the Philippians; a series on Self-Esteem using the Bible as a point of reference for our lives in Christ; as well as courses for Lent and Advent. It was suggested that there should be more coherence in the teaching offered at these groups so it was agreed that the groups should, for part of the year at least, follow the same programme of study. This will start with Lent 2020 when each group will use a programme chosen by churches across Barrow. It is intended that working together in this way will bring us closer together as a church family, both at St Paul's and in the Barrow Community as a whole. Anyone is welcome to join these groups and details are available from the church office.

Workshops and courses are also used to support spiritual growth

- ***Everyday Life in the Spirit*** – A small group continues to attend this workshop held on the fourth Sunday in the month. Sarah Richardson plans and leads the workshop, based on sharing personal understanding and experience of God's Holy Spirit through prayer and scripture. The course is designed to enable individuals to develop their awareness of the Spirit in their everyday lives.
- ***Alpha Course*** – thanks to the dedication of Debbie Gardner this foundational course continues to provide an opportunity for people to explore the Christian faith, whether as a newcomer or as an existing Christian who wishes to refresh their faith. The group enjoys a meal together, followed by a DVD and discussion of the teaching involved. Friendship and fellowship are an important part of the course, and each year seeds are planted for future growth. Although numbers attending are small, sometimes only one or two, it is encouraging to see the impact God is making on people's lives through Alpha. It has also led to some people coming to St Paul's for the Sunday services and joining some of the other activities and groups.
- ***Cherish Women's Conference / Spring Harvest / Nancy Goudie's Spiritual Health Weekend*** – a number of women from St Paul's attended conferences outside the Diocese for spiritual renewal and refreshment. A group of ladies went to Spring Harvest, while others attended the Cherish Women's Conference in Leeds in June 2019. In January this year a group also attended Nancy Goudie's Spiritual Health Weekend near Preston. All these events offered opportunities for teaching, reflection and

worship, and a chance to engage in fellowship and friendship with women from other parts of the country or, in some cases, the world.

It would be good if, this year, something could be arranged for our men – something for us to look into and pray on.

Mission and Evangelism

- ***Missionary and outreach work***
- ***Thy Kingdom Come: Wave of Prayer June 2019*** – This year the churches of Barrow came together to pray for the local community as part of the “Thy Kingdom Come’s Wave of Prayer.” Activities and events were held across the town and God blessed our time together. St Paul’s set up prayer stations in church and welcomed people from other churches and the wider community to come and visit the prayer stations, reflect on their themes and pray for our town and its community.
- ***The Bus Ministry*** – Thanks to the support of “Network Youth Church” and Andy Ward in particular, the Bus continues to go out to parts of Barrow to minister to young people. It has not been an easy year for The Bus as the number of helpers is dwindling due to age and health and I would ask for everyone to uphold this ministry in their prayers. Despite the difficulties, contact with young people is growing and the Bus now visits schools across the town and is establishing positive relationships with those who come on the Bus.
- ***Ecumenical Tea Services*** – Members of St Paul’s have been involved with other churches in Barrow in setting up, and helping at, tea services held on the second Monday of the month. These services have been planned for those who would benefit from a simpler, shorter service followed by tea, cakes and fellowship together. They have proved very successful and they provide an alternative for those who would struggle with longer and more complex worship.

Children and Families

- ***Missionary and outreach work.***
- ***Provision of pastoral care for people living in the parish and the wider local community.***
- ***Who Let The Dads Out?*** – This outreach work continues to grow in strength. This year Howard has kindly produced some figures for us to see just how many dads and children have been to the sessions. The numbers are humbling, (***how great is Our God!***), with the total dad attendance 229, the total age 0-5 attendance 279 and the total age 6-11 attendance 109. Of these numbers we have 48 different dads, 71 different 0-5’s and 22 different 6-11’s. Christmas was particularly busy with 56 children, 25 dads and 17 mums. Although not designed specifically as a missionary initiative, (more an opportunity for fathers to bond closely with their children), it is hoped that discussions with church members, and the example of God the Father’s love in our lives will plant a seed for future growth in faith. It was encouraging to see more of the children and their families at the Christmas Services in 2019. We could not run this outreach without the goodwill and hard work of members of the church community, who steadfastly turn up each month to set up, fry bacon, make tea and coffee, wash up and clear away. We thank the Lord for all the help we receive and uphold everyone involved in our prayers of thanks and praise.
- ***j7 KIDZ groups*** – The numbers of children attending j7 have grown this year and, at times, we have had as many as 10 children attending the Sunday service – praise the Lord! Although the numbers can still vary from week to week, the leaders and helpers feel that the work with children is a blessing and a privilege. Children are at the heart of Jesus’ ministry and are at the heart of our church where we strive to build on their own spirituality and perception of Jesus. The team is very grateful to Maureen

Aubrey for her encouragement and direction in preparing for j7 and her expertise and understanding of children and their needs is an inspiration to us. We pray that the children (and their families) enjoy their time with us and encourage other families to come along.

- **Happy Tots** – This ministry has continued to flourish and the children from Happy Tots visit fortnightly. The children experience being part of their local church and learn about Jesus and his teaching. We are very grateful to the team, led by Maureen Aubrey, who prepare and take the sessions. It has proved a real joy and the Happy Tots Nativity is now an established part of our Christmas Services. We are blessed by the children, their families and the staff of Happy Tots and all that God is doing in this work.
- **Schools' Outreach** – The "Open the Book" school assembly teams continue to go from strength to strength. More schools are now being visited in other parts of Barrow and the children and teachers enjoy learning from the Bible through story-telling, acting and discussion. This is a significant part of the schools' outreach strategy, which includes: visits to church by schools for assemblies, services or work to support aspects of the RE curriculum; the Lion Day by Day Bible Project, where Bibles are donated for each child in St Paul's School to read with their family and explore its teaching; the work of Network Youth Church and PAIS in our local secondary schools. Through this outreach work, children are supported and nurtured in Christ, and learn about the Christian Faith and its impact on people's lives.
- **Easter Experience** – The opportunity to discover the true meaning of Easter and its relevance to everyone, continues to be very popular with our local schools. Maureen Aubrey, and her team of helpers, have developed a meaningful and engaging series of activities for children (and adults), based on Prayer Stations around the church. Everyone who visits is able to discuss and explore why Jesus died and rose again for us, and the response from schools has been very positive. Once again this year saw a number of schools attending which is very encouraging for all those involved.

Community and Pastoral Care

- **Provision of pastoral care for people living in the parish and the wider local community.**

St Paul's Church is committed to caring for the people living in the parish and wider community, and providing support and assistance wherever possible through support for:

- **The Furness Homeless Support Group** – Donations of food and other essentials for those in need.
- **Luncheon Club** – Providing meals and friendship for members of the local community. Approximately 50 meals served each week.
- **Operation Christmas Child** – Gifts sent to children around the world.
- **Residential Homes** – Visits to offer Communion or support, as well as visits by "Open the Book" to share Bible Stories.
- **Macmillan Coffee Morning** – Arranged by Julia Burns to support the work of Macmillan Cancer Support.
- **Quiz Night** – A fun night for all, organised by Sue Phipps with donations to support the work of Tear Fund.

Vision Day

In June 2019 we held a Vision Day led by Mike Talbot so that we could come together to reflect on and pray for God's vision for St Paul's. It was an inspiring day and we were very grateful for Mike's help and guidance in focusing on what makes St Paul's unique and special in God's eyes. We looked at our hopes and fears for the future before considering 5 values for mission churches:-

- Focused on God with worship and prayer at our heart;
- Incarnational by being rooted in local culture;
- Transformational in changing church and community;
- Relational by being welcoming, hospitable and open to change;
- Disciple making in calling people to faith and growing in faith.

After much discussion we settled on 3 priorities for our future growth in mission and ministry:-

- To strengthen links with St Paul's School.
- To embed Luncheon Club into the body of St Paul's Church.
- To use the occasional services to strengthen links with those who come to them.

We reviewed these priorities over a simple lunch after our Harvest Service on 13th October and God has blessed us through the response of individuals who have stepped out in faith to help grow these areas of our development.

- ❖ **St Paul's School** – Open the Book and Andy Ward, of Network Youth Church, continue to support the school with assemblies, while 2 church members provide valuable support by hearing children read and helping them improve their skills. We now have 1 church member on the Governing Body (Jackie Dower) and another hoping to join this year. It has been a joy going into the school for special events such as Open Day, Christmas Fair, Christmas Play, a Lego technic challenge at Furness College, where the school reached the National Finals in Bristol, as well as meeting with the School Council and attending an Activity Club. Church members also pray for the school on a regular basis and it has been uplifting to see God at work in helping us to become involved in the life of the school and in building relationships with the staff, children and parents.
- ❖ **Luncheon Club** – We are indebted to Lucy Jenkin for stepping out and responding to prompts from God to become involved in supporting older members of our church and Luncheon Club. Lucy spent time at the 8 o'clock and Wednesday services and at Luncheon Club meeting the people who attend and discussing ideas for getting together in a social setting for friendship and support. As a result the very first **Flix and Chips** took place on Saturday 15th February 2020 where about 25 people enjoyed a film, and a fish and chips tea. God is clearly blessing this work and Lucy's idea has proved a real winner. We look forward to future events and time spent together.
- ❖ **Occasional Services** – Worship Leaders have worked hard this year to plan services which are meaningful for all who attend. There have been some encouraging developments in the number of children and families attending both regular and occasional services and we have had positive comments about how welcoming the church has been and how much people have enjoyed their time with us. We can only continue to respond to God's vision by reviewing and reflecting on all our services and praying for God's Holy Spirit to lead our way forward.

This year has been a busy one and I am aware just how much is happening in the life of St Paul's Church. If there are areas I have neglected to mention, I can only ask for your forgiveness. Once again we are indebted to an "army of unsung heroes" who are responsible for much of the work of the church – whether it is arriving early to prepare for Sunday's Services; washing up after tea and coffee; or making sure the church is clean and tidy (a special thank you to Christine here for all that she does), someone is serving the Lord by caring for us. I am sorry that I cannot thank you all by name but I would like to offer my sincere thanks for all that you do, both out front, and behind the scenes.

We have been blessed again this year by the support and encouragement of Revd Canon Elaine Bates. Her insight and wisdom has helped guide us through these times of change and growth. Thank you so much and bless you Elaine in all you do.

Moving Forward

Now it is time to think of the future, a time to move forward together, using prayer and God's word to guide us. Some seeds have already taken root and are flourishing, while others are waiting for us to plant. Let us pray that God's vision for St Paul's Church will be made clear and we can go forward with our mission – ***'to invest our lives in growing God's Kingdom wherever He leads'*** – as ***"wholehearted followers of Jesus, who make and grow wholehearted followers of Jesus."***

Bless you all.

Jackie Dower

Treasurer's Report

The church has had a reasonable year financially; it is noted that there was an expected deficit. As the year closed, we had paid all that we needed to.

We paid our full parish share this year but have reduced our offer for 2020 in the light of reduced income and the desire to ensure a balanced budget. This supports the work of the Anglican Church across the deanery and beyond and will (as we move forward) ensure we get good support in our ministry here at St Paul's.

We have been able to keep our buildings in good shape and kept up with the maintenance of all. The Scout Hall (which is part of the Parish Hall building) has been returned to us by the Scout Association. It is in poor state and not useable and will require considerable funds to bring it up to even a safe standard. The main hall covers its running costs nicely with lettings income.

At the end of the financial year our free reserves were £6,307 none of these have been designated.

I would like to thank Sheila for her support of my role during the year along with those others who regularly count and bank the money, deal with our payroll and make our gift aid claims.

As we move forward, we look to God for our needs, as ever, safe in the knowledge that this is His work and as He moves us forward, He will ensure we have the resources we need.

Mike Phipps

Treasurer

Church School Fund

The PCC is also responsible for a fund created to support the local C of E school, St Paul's. As a voluntary aided school, the governors have a responsibility to raise 10% of any capital costs and, as it is a church school; this has traditionally been provided by the church via this fund.

The fund is held in a dedicated CCLA account and does not form part of the figures in the church's accounts as in the context of church's accounts the PCC is acting as custodian trustee.

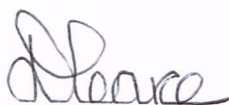
RESERVES

The PCC has no formal reserves policy and funds held are on deposit.

PUBLIC BENEFIT

The PCC have complied with their duty to have due regard to the guidance on public benefit published by the Commission in exercising their powers or duties

Approved by the Trustees and signed on their behalf by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D Pearce'.

Mr Derek Pearce

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'J. E. Dower'.

Miss Jackie Dower

Independent Examiner's Report To the Trustees of St Paul's PCC

I report on the accounts of St Paul's Church for the year ended 31 December 2019 which are set out on the following pages.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The church's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The church's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed. It is my responsibility to:-

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commissioners under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention

Basis of independent examiner's report

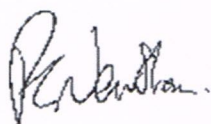
My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in 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 matter has come to my attention:
which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements

to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act have not been met; or
to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Mr P Newsham - ACA



R F Miller & Co
Chartered Accountants
Bellvue, Prince's St
Ulverston
Cumbria LA14 1RD

St Paul's PCC
Receipts and Payments Account 2019

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Endowment	Total 2019	2018
Incoming Resources					
Voluntary Income:	64,021	8,531		72,552	78,255
Gift Aid Tax Recovered	15,655	1,943		17,598	17,412
Grants		2,401		2,401	3,468
Legacies					31,350
Activities generating funds:					
Special Efforts & Sales					
Rent Income	9,596			9,596	9,042
Charitable Activities:					
Service Fees	1,960			1,960	1,961
Other	6,236			6,236	7,575
Investment Income:					
Interest	220	3		223	144
Total Incoming Resources	97,688	12,878		110,566	149,207
Resources Expended					
Parish Share	60,934			60,934	60,084
People	16,946			16,946	23,445
Where we meet	21,153	3,033		24,186	33,820
Ministry & Mission	1,920	250		2,170	2,578
Giving Away	3,884	2,898		6,782	6,639
Office & Admin	7,993	350		8,343	8,472
Costs of Generating Funds	3,504			3,504	3,841
	116,334	6,531		122,865	138,879
Net (Outgoing)/Incoming resources	(18,646)	6,347		(12,299)	10,328
Balance brought forward	24,953	3,790	621	29,364	19,036
Fund Transfers					
Balances carried Forward	6,307	10,137	621	17,065	29,364

Statement of Assets and Liabilities

	2019	2018
Current Assets		
Cash at bank & in hand	17,065	29,364
Gift Aid due	10,671	12,055
Other due	200	
Current Liabilities		
Deposit refundable	43	43
HMRC	363	363
Other	270	149

Fund movements in 2019

	At 1/1/19	Receipts	Payments	At 31/12/19
General Funds	24,953	97,688	116,334	6,307
Restricted Funds				
Alpha	18			18
Building	2,408	7,777	1,603	8,582
Bus Ministry		1,430	1,430	
Charity Donations	63	434	497	
Flower Fund		110	50	60
PAIS	1,301	169		1,470
School Endowment		2,401	2,401	
Sound System		350	350	
WLTD0		207	200	7
	3,790	12,878	6,531	10,137
Endowment Funds				
Andrews & Knight Bequest	621			621
	621			621