

ANNUAL REPORTS & FINANCIAL
STATEMENTS OF THE PAROCHIAL
CHURCH COUNCIL

For the year ending 31st December 2017

INCUMBENT

Rev Chris Spittle
The Vicarage
Church Rd
Skelmersdale

ASSISTANT CURATE

Rev Jack Shepherd
6 Wilcove
Skelmersdale

BANK

Barclays — The Concourse, Skelmersdale

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

Mrs D.L. Wynne
105, Blaguegate Lane
Lathom Ormskirk
Lancashire
WN8 8TY



Diocese of Liverpool

Registered Charity No:1128068



Administrative Information

The Parish Church of St. Paul Skelmersdale, Church Road Skelmersdale WN8 8ND
Official correspondence to Parish Administrator Parish Office at the above address.

PCC Members are:

Incumbent	The Revd. Chris Spittle	Chairperson
Curate	The Revd. Jack Shepherd	

Church Wardens	Mr Ken Skelton
	Mr John Taylor

Readers Representative	Mr N. Lyon
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Deanery Synod Reps	Mr T. Newbury
	Mr K Skelton

Diocesan Synod Rep :

Elected members	Mr J. Davies	(until 2018)
	Mrs A Faza	(until 2018)
	Mrs L. Oakley	(until 2018)
	Mrs B. Curry	(until 2018)
	Mrs B. Jones	(until 2019)
	Mrs J. Price	(until 2019)
	Mrs S. Jones	(until 2020)
	Mrs J. Curry	(until 2020)

Treasurer	Mrs June Price
Secretary	Mrs Lynne Lomas
Child Protection Officer	Mrs Ann Taylor
Vulnerable Adults Officer	Mrs Ann Taylor

Bankers	Barclays Bank.
Auditor	Mrs D. L. Wynne
Architect	Mr Robin Wolley

Day to day management control of the church is exercised by the Incumbent and Wardens:
Revd. Chris Spittle, Mr Ken Skelton and Mr J. Taylor contactable via the Church Office
01695 716439 or the Vicarage 01695 722087

the river Dee in Chester.

We are open every Wednesday morning for tea and toast; everyone is welcome to join us. We do support things in church and our members are very generous when we are fund raising. Angela, Barbara and I will keep going on as long as we can, we are getting older too!! But with God's help we will. If you feel like a good laugh and good company do join us.

Sheila

CRAFT CLUB

We still soldier on with a few members. We continue learning new skills such as Knitting with lace. We continue to support church activities such as the spring and Christmas Fayre's

We do encourage people to join us, to learn a new skill, whether it be Knitting crochet and other needle skills. Anyone who would like to join us for Knitting and natter, just come along between 10am and noon on Mondays.

Beryl.

Luncheon Club report from organisers Eleanor and Bill West.

Despite the recent passing of several of our supporters we continue to hold our monthly luncheon club with an average attendance of around 18-20 people.

We are immensely grateful to Ken Skelton for always making sure the tables and chairs are set out for us and to Angela who faithfully helps with the smooth running each month.

Never intending that it should be a money making event we are pleased to say that we still manage to maintain the charge at £2 for soup and sandwiches, along with endless tea and coffee, which these days is excellent value; and, thanks to careful buying, still make a small profit which we are able to pass on to Church funds.

Please do come along and support us, we assure you of a warm welcome.

Eleanor & Bill.

Wednesday Club

The Wednesday Club continues to flourish although sadly we have lost a few more members over the last year through sickness and bereavement, but we have also gained new members and we still have some of our faithful members who have been with us right from the start. We have had some very nice trips this year ending with a trip to the Doric Hotel, Blackpool along with residents from Thanet for our annual Christmas meal out. We had our own Christmas party this year and we even had a very special visit from Father Christmas, a very familiar character every year!!

We have a few things planned for the coming year starting with Lunch on

Structure, Management and Governance.

St. Paul's Skelmersdale PCC operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure 1956. It is registered as a charity with the Charity Commission. The method of appointment of the PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. All Church members are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC.

The PCC operates Two Subcommittees when needed:

The Standing Committee: Incumbent, Treasurer, Secretary, Church Wardens and three elected members

The Finance Committee: Incumbent, Treasurer, Secretary, and Church Wardens plus any member of the PCC who would like to attend.

Financial Risk.

The PCC continually reviews the financial position. This is currently a cause for concern, although there is no immediate financial risk. A stewardship campaign during 2017 has helped to reduce our deficit but we are yet to break even.

Health and Safety

The PCC has identified a review of our Health and Safety procedures as a priority for the coming year. All formal risk assessments are listed within the PCC's Risk Register.

Mr. Ken Skelton continues to work as "Building Manager", he has organized minor work that needed to be carried out on the church building. There has been an ongoing programme to improve the church fabric which this year has included the replacement of the chairs in the 5+2; the installation of a hot air curtain over the main door; new taps in the kitchen and vestry washroom along with the introduction of hot water in the latter. A team of helpers assist in practical matters when needed. Every year the Fire Alarm is checked to make sure it is in good working order and the fire extinguishers are also checked on an annual basis. The Electrical Inspection is currently up to date and annual PAT testing has taken place. A survey of the trees in the churchyard has also been undertaken. A Quinquennial Inspection of the Church is due in 2018.

Child and Vulnerable Adult Protection.

Those who work with children and young people in the church have had their Disclosure and Barring Service checks renewed, and we have completed an overhaul of our Safeguarding procedures. A review and renewal of our Vulnerable Adult procedures is currently underway.

Objectives and Activities.

The PCC (Powers) Measure 1956 states that the PCC is to cooperate with the Minister in promoting in the Parish the whole mission of the Church, this includes the Pastoral, Evangelistic, Social, and Ecumenical ministry. At St. Paul's we have a Mission Statement which confirms our mission to proclaim the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to the doctrines and practices of the Church of England, both through the proclamation of the word and to encourage members of the congregation to put their faith into action, as we serve Christ in the Parish.

Mission Statement

Jesus Says, "Go and make Disciples" we try to do this:-

Through the teaching of the Bible as God's Word to us in all matters of faith and moral behaviour,

Through allowing God's Holy Spirit to work in us in order to make us more like Jesus,

Through worshipping together: listening to God; talking to Him; responding to Him and encouraging one another.

Through using the different gifts God has given us to love and serve Him, each other and the local community.

Through making Jesus known to others by what we say and what we do.

Through encouraging and supporting children and younger members of the Church family at St. Paul's and Trinity Anglican/Methodist School and making every effort to ensure that we are a "Child Friendly" Church.

Through seeking to work with other Christians and by building links with the world-wide church.

In order to do this our aims and objectives for 2017 were:

To nurture vocations and ministries, including welcoming Rev Jack Shepherd to our Parish.

To address the financial challenges that the church is facing

To maintain and develop our role in the community

To look at developing our building and improving our audio-visual equipment

Having completed a sermon series at 11.15am on 1 Corinthians 13 to follow up our Parish Weekend with a sermon series on Mark's Gospel

To look at our pattern of worship, particularly on a Sunday evening

Stay & Play.

Is on a Monday morning during term time from 9:15 - 11:15am approximately.

We have a simple structure of free play/activity, then tidy up followed by snack finished off with story and singing time.

It is a drop in group for children up to the age of 4 and their parent/carer.

We operate a free flow play session where children choose the toys and activities they want to play with. We try to do at least 1 themed craft activity each term.

We also have sessions such as the photographer attending or the end of year/Christmas party where sessions run a little longer with the morning being planned with games/visitors/party food etc.

The sessions are aimed to let the children mix freely and form basic friendships whilst learning basic skills such as turn taking. But they are also a chance for parents to form friendships and seek support from other parents. Especially single or young parents.

We currently have approximately 25-30 children on the books with 15-20 attending each week. We charge a voluntary contribution of £1 per family attending the group to help towards snack/birthday cake/parties etc.

Kings Kids

Since September the number of younger children has reduced due to the older children moving up.

The children are divided into two groups; the younger children meeting in the Upper Room and the older children in the Vestry. Both groups use the teaching programme Go Teach and the activity leaflets Come learn with additional relevant activity sheets being found on internet websites such as Ministry for kids, D.L.T.K. or Bible wise.

In July the children organised the All-age service on the theme of Gideon.

The children decorated a tree with baubles for the Christmas Tree Festival. They also acted out a Nativity play called 'We're going on a journey' produced by the Bible Society which was enjoyed by the congregation.

The children continue to take the Banner at the All Age service and they also read the lesson and prayers at this service. The younger children take the collection at each service. We also have a display board at the back of church which shows some of the activities that the younger children complete at their session.

Achievements and Performance including review of charitable achievements against objectives.

The PCC is happy with its achievements against objectives set out in the previous section, but there is still much to do.

Vocations and Ministry has continued to be an exciting movement of God at St Paul's. 2017 saw us welcome Rev Jack Shepherd as Curate at St Paul's and we have already been blessed by his creativity and vitality. He was ordained Deacon in Liverpool Cathedral at the same time as Rev Beth Anderson from our church who is now serving as Curate in St Helens. A week later Rev Carmel Gittens, previously a Reader at St Paul's was ordained Deacon at York Minister. Tony Newbury was licensed as a Reader in September 2017 and Alan and Eileen Kenyon began Reader training. We expect them to be licensed in September 2019. In March 2018 Rev Anne Kazich, having completed a curacy at Oaks in Tanhouse, was licensed to St Paul's as Community Priest, combining ordained ministry with work as a GP. Lynne Jackson from our church is also continuing her ordination training based at St Helens Parish Church. We valued having Fran Humphry on placement with us and were pleased to hear that she has also been accepted for Ordination training. Twelve members of the St Paul's congregation are currently participating in the Directions course which is being run by the diocese at St Paul's, and we look forward to seeing where that leads them. Alongside the ministry of our Clergy and Readers, Lawrence and Cerys Smye-Rumsby exercise ministry as LML for Men's Ministry across the town and Deanery Community Faith Networker respectively. It is to be hoped that other members of the congregation will also offer themselves for ministries in the future.

2017 saw the death of Rev Canon Christopher Byworth, Honorary Curate at St Paul's. As well as being a much loved member of our church, a priest, teacher and a source of wisdom and encouragement to many, he had also had a significant ministry across the wider Church of England. It was a privilege to hold his funeral at St Paul's, a service that Christopher was determined should be focussed on Christ rather than himself. We still miss Christopher's presence in our midst. Rev Cuthbert Jackson decided to stand down from Ordained Ministry at the beginning of 2018, we are also very grateful for his ministry and all that he brought to St Pauls.

St Paul's has increasingly found itself in a position to be a resource to support other local churches by offering those who can preach and lead worship at their services

Other significant achievements in the past year included our second Parish Weekend at home which saw large numbers of people joining us for a weekend of teaching and fellowship. We were grateful to our Archdeacon, Jennifer McKenzie, for

joining us as our speaker. Her exploration of Mark's gospel led us to preach through that gospel at our 11.15am services for the next nine months.

Men's Ministry has continued to be an important part of our church life with another weekend away to Knock in the autumn, two Men's half-nights of prayer, breakfasts and a Bishop at the Bar event with Rt Rev Cyril Ashton. Bishop Cyril also joined us for a Confirmation service which saw 28 adults and young people Confirmed.

Ministry to Asylum Seekers has also been a significant part of our church's life and the good work we have done has been recognised widely. Weekly Alpha and Christianity Explored courses in English and Farsi have been well attended and used as baptism preparation. We have used our recently purchased baptism pool on a number of occasions, and the pool is also a resource used by other local churches. Ecumenical Links have remained important, joint services were held for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity and on Remembrance Sunday, when we were led by Tongues of Fire, and in 2018 we came together for a Service of Reconciliation in Lent and a Daybreak service at the beacon on Easter Sunday.

Fundraising work included a Spring and Autumn Fayre, a Gala Dinner and a Brass Band concert. The Gift Day, moved in 2018 to March also brought in a considerable amount especially bearing in mind the current economic climate. We held a second, and expanded, Christmas Tree Festival in December, and it was encouraging to see those who attended the festival returning for our Christmas Services.

Over the Christmas period we fundraised for the Skelmersdale Foodbank, which has been a particular project for our support this year. We have also continued to support Phoenix India and Mission Paraguay among other charities and to work in partnership with Trinity our church school which we have also offered some financial support to, for their 50th anniversary mosaic, an RE trip and the Heartsmart materials. A new innovation this year has been the founding of the Sow What Theatre Group with members of St Paul's and Oaks churches taking drama into local schools. The PCC has also offered this group some financial support.

There are also numerous other groups meeting within the church whose activities are celebrated elsewhere in this document.

The Electoral Roll. Is now 185

for '**National Education Union & Association of Teachers and Lecturers Section Conference Service**' at St. Michael in the City, Liverpool city centre.

Membership in the band has remained static over the past year. Jo, our bass player, re-joined the band, playing once a month (semi-retirement!). Band members:

Mike D -	Vocal lead
Alice P -	Vocals
Carolyn S -	Violin / Vocals
Joel C -	Bass / Guitar / Vocals
Jonathan D -	Oboe
Sandra J -	Flute
Jo D -	Part Time Bass
Perry M -	Drums
Tony C -	Piano

We are **always** looking for new members. If you feel God is calling you to be a part of the band, or if you would like to come along to the practices to observe, do not hesitate to contact me on 01695 578322 or 07902 828081. We play once a fortnight and practise once a month.

Finally, I would like to thank all of the band members for the hours and hours of time that they give up being a part of the band. We are richly blessed at St. Paul's with musical talent, and it is such a privilege to be able to worship alongside such hardworking, committed, enthusiastic Christians.

Tony Currie

St. Paul's' Parish Church

Annual General Meeting 2018

Report from: BAND A

This year, God has once again blessed 'Band A' with the privilege of leading many people in worship in and around St. Paul's Church, Skelmersdale. Leading worship is such an important aspect of Church life and is an activity that requires a lot of dedication and hard work.

'Band A' continues to lead the worship in the 11:15 am service at St. Paul's every other week. We prayerfully consider song selection and sequences for the 11:15 service that enable people to enter into a meaningful, powerful and personal time of worship with Jesus.

Band A has also led the worship at different events in locations other than St. Paul's Church. We got our hats and sunglasses out for the **'Spring Fair'** last year - it was good fun providing a mixture of secular and sacred music. Members of both bands took the band equipment to Knock Christian Centre near Appleby to lead the worship at the **'Men's Weekend'** in September. On 25th February 2018, the band were presented with a wonderful opportunity – James asked us to lead the worship at an **'Outreach Event'** at Up Holland Labour Club. This family event attracted people who, perhaps, wouldn't normally attend a Church service – it was amazing! There was a great mix of worship, testimony, prayer, poetry, secular music, food and fun! We're looking forward to the next one. On 16th March members of the band kicked off the **'Half Night of Prayer'** with a fantastic time of praise and worship – we received encouraging feedback from the many people there who were new to St. Paul's.

On 8th April 2018 we are looking forward to providing the music

Worship

A regular pattern of well attended worship has been maintained throughout the year, and it has been encouraging to welcome a number of new members to the church. It was also very encouraging to see raised attendances at our services over the Christmas and Easter periods. Reflecting one of our objectives for the year we altered our pattern of evening worship to include two informal services each month, one of which is aiming to be bilingual enabling the many Farsi speakers who attend our evening services to more fully participate.

Attendances at our daily morning prayers have also increased and our monthly prayer meeting has now moved to the first Tuesday of the month, reflecting the importance that we place on prayer as pre-eminent among the many aspects of church life. During the year we were pleased to work in partnership with CTVC so that our 11.15am services are now filmed and broadcast over the internet so that the housebound and those who live further away can participate in our worship.

Worship is reviewed by the Staff meeting, Clergy & Readers Meeting, and the PCC.

We remain very grateful for the ministry of the Clergy and Lay-Readers, Ken Rainford and the Choir, the two bands and all who contribute towards our worship.

Pastoral Care in the Community.

This is a very important part of our on-going Ministry at St. Paul's, a leading role in visiting parishioners and those in need is taken by the Clergy, Readers and a team of others, but much visiting is also undertaken by individual church members.

Holy Communion is taken to the housebound, Beacon View, Stocks Hall Care Home and Victoria Court on a monthly basis. A monthly Thursday morning Communion is followed by a Luncheon Club.

Pastoral Care within the church has been identified as an area for improvement and development in 2018. It is intended that we appoint Pastoral Overseers for each of our Sunday services.

Youth and Children's Work

This is also a very important part of our ministry.

Kings Kids meet at the same time as our 11.15am Service offering worship and activities for children and young people. We were blessed to have Kings Kids leading services during the year. A crèche is also provided when needed.

On a Monday Evening we have a well-attended "CCC" Children's Christian Club,

for those aged 4-11, many of the children have no church connections so this as a real mission opportunity. After a period without a Pathfinder group we were pleased to launch SPY (St Paul's Youth) in 2017 with a team of four leaders. The group is currently enjoying activities that include the Youth Alpha Course, social events and a sleep out at Liverpool Cathedral. We were delighted to have our Child Friendly Church Award re-awarded on 26th March 2017.

Church Buildings.

The Church building is checked on a very regular basis and is in very good condition. A Quinquennial Inspection is due in 2018, although no major issues were identified previously.

Finance

Giving.

This year our finances have been tested, once again giving has not risen in line with expenditure. A Grace of Giving sermon series in Spring 2017 included a presentation at all three services of some of our financial realities, this was followed with an update later on in the year and this has led to some increased giving.

Reserves Policy.

It is PCC policy to maintain a balance on unrestricted funds (if possible), which equates to approximately three months unrestricted payments, to cover emergency situations that may arise from time to time.

Parish Details

PCC Name	ST. PAUL. SKELMERSDALE
Year (e.g. 2001)	2017
Name of signature 1 on accounts:	Revd Christopher Spittle
Name of signature 2 on accounts	Mrs J.Price
Name of Independent Examiner	Mrs D.L.Wynne
Professional Qualifications of Independent Examiner (if any)	
Address of Independent Examiner	105 Blaguegate Lane Lathom, Lancashire
Date of Accounts approval by PCC	20th February 2018
Date of Independent Examiners Report	8th April 2018

CCC Infants

There are 15 children on register and each week we have a regular attendance of 12. We begin our session with show and news time where the children show us a toy or object from home or talk about a special event, place or experience. After this time we have a Bible story and activity based on the story. This is either a colouring picture; puzzle sheet, baking or craft activity. The children then enjoy playing some games which can include team games and games with the parachute. Sometimes we have a film night where we show a DVD from the Friends and Heroes series of programmes.

We have completed a series about the Bible, the children have learnt how many books are in the bible, how many in the Old and New Testament and the four Gospels. We have also looked at who is in the Bible, the story of Creation, The Ten Commandments' and the story of Easter. Other activities we did where making rock cakes and icing a cross and butterfly shaped biscuit. We have listened to various stories from the Bible and invited parents to join us to play a game of Bible Bingo to conclude our series.

We have been involved in the Christmas tree festival and the children decorated some penguins, teddies and Christmas trees to go on our tree. We celebrated Mothers Day with the children making some lovely flower shaped cards and a gift of a planted freesia bulb for their mums.

MU Report continued.

done there on a daily basis.

We hear so much about the work being done by the Skelmersdale Foodbank that we decided to hold a Bible Bring and Give afternoon. We searched Bible for food related passages and then we brought along said items and then we were able to donate them to Foodbank.

December we sent out invitations to the churches in the Ormskirk Deanery and also to local churches and our own church family to come and join us for a Christmascont. Celebration. We had reading carols and a sketch performed by the committee we were fortunate enough to have the help of of Curate Jack his acting ability proved to be a great asset to us, big thank you to Tony Currie and band members for their input.

My thanks to all my Committee for the hard work throughout the year and for the love support and prayers of all the members. Thank you to Ken, John and Derek for all their help

And last but not least thank you to Rev. C. Spittle for his support and encouragement for The Mothers Union here at St. Paul's
Thank you to our Church family for your help and support as we look forward to what The Lord has planned for us in 2018.

Barbara

Choir report. 2017--2018

We are still plagued with illness and lack of members. Loosing Ellis was a blow. Also as most know that Mikes wife died .Mike continued to attend choir as often as possible, a credit to our choir. The return of Alf is also welcome. We do have very loyal members, but inspite of the nights off we are still struggling with low numbers.

We really could do with an appeal.

The Organ. 2017-----2018.

No problems. The inside of the organ case is becoming very cluttered, interfering with cables. This could cause future problems if not addressed.

Independent Examiner's report To the PCC of St Paul Skelmersdale

This report on the financial statements of the PCC for the year ended 31 December 2017, which are set out on pages 12-15, is in respect of an examination carried out in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 ("the Regulations") and s.43 of the Charities Act 1993 ("the Act")

Respective responsibilities of the PCC and the examiner

As members of the PCC you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements; you consider that the audit requirement of Regulations and section 43(2) of the Act do not apply. It is my responsibility to issue this report on those financial statements in accordance with the terms of the Regulations

Basis of this report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General directions given by the Charities Commission under section 43(7)(b) of the Act and top be found in the church guidance, 2006 edition. That examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the PCC and a comparison of the accounts with those records. It also includes considering any unusual items or disclosures in the financial statements 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 I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent examiners statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- (1) which gives me reasonable cause to disbelieve that in any material respect the requirements

to keep accounting records in accordance with section 41 of the Act; and

to prepare financial statements which accord with the accounting records and comply with the requirements of the Act and the Regulations have not been met: or

- (2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Mrs L. Wynne
105 Blaguegate Lane
Lathom , Ormskirk
Lancashire
WN8 8TY

L. Wynne

**PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF
St. Paul. Skelmersdale
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
For the year ended 31st December 2017**

1 Accounting policies

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 together with applicable accounting standards and the SORP 2006.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention except for the valuation of assets which are shown at market value. The financial statements include all transactions assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law. They do not include the accounts of church groups that owe their main affiliation to another body, nor those that are informal gatherings of church members.

Funds

Endowment funds are funds, the capital of which must be maintained; only income arising from investment of the endowment may be used either as restricted or unrestricted funds depending upon the purpose for which the endowment was established.

Restricted funds represent (a) income from trusts or endowments which may be expended only on those restricted objects provided in the terms of the trust or bequest, and (b) donations or grants received for a specific object or invited by the PCC for a specific object. The funds may only be expended on the specific object for which they were given. Any balance remaining unspent at the end of each year must be carried forwards as a balance on that fund. The PCC does not usually invest separately for each fund. Where there is no separate investment, interest is apportioned to individual funds on an average balance basis.

Unrestricted funds are general funds which can be used for PCC ordinary purposes.

Incoming resources

Planned giving, collections and donations are recognised when received. Tax refunds are recognised when the incoming resource to which they relate is received. Grants and legacies are accounted for when the PCC is legally entitled to the amounts due. Dividends are accounted for when receivable, interest is accrued. All other income is recognised when it is receivable. All incoming resources are accounted for gross.

Resources expended

Grants and donations are accounted for when paid over, or when awarded, if that award creates a binding or constructive obligation on the PCC. The diocesan parish share is accounted for when due. Amounts received specifically for mission are dealt with as restricted funds. All other expenditure is generally recognised when it is incurred and is accounted for gross.

Fixed assets

Consecrated and benefice property is not included in the accounts in accordance with s.96(2)(a) of the Charities Act 1993.

Movable church furnishings held by the vicar and churchwardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal are inalienable property, listed in the church's inventory, which can be inspected (at any reasonable time). For anything acquired prior to 2000 there is insufficient cost information available and therefore such assets are not valued in the financial statements. Subsequently no individual item has cost more than £1000 so all such expenditure has been written off when incurred.

No cost information is available for the Curates house so it is included at its 2005 valuation.

Equipment used within the church premises is depreciated on a straight-line basis over four years. Individual items of equipment with a purchase price of £500 or less are written off when the asset is acquired.

Investments are valued at market value at 31 December.

**Reports from church groups and organisations for the year
ending 31st December 2017**

Mothers Union Report

Mary Sumner, our founder, could not have envisaged over 140 yrs ago, that what started with a handful of women meeting in her front room, would have grown to be one of the leading Christian charities that it is today. With over 4 million members in 80 plus countries across the globe.

Here at St Paul's we are a small but not insignificant part of that organisation. Our members work hard throughout the year to raise funds for the different units within M.U. all of which ensures that help is given to the less fortunate. I like to think that we have a varied programme each month here at St Paul's, we always begin our meetings with prayer and worship and we always have a speaker and then a time of fellowship. Over the last twelve months we have hosted the Deanery Spring Festival an important event in the life of M.U. In May last year we welcomed our former Chaplain the Rev. Marion Simmons as our guest speaker, then in June we held a Bring and Share Supper and that was an opportunity to welcome some new faces. July we hold our legendary Strawberry Tea always a lovely event and very popular a good opportunity to welcome folk who do not normally come to church. August we take a well earned break.

After some debate and a lot of Prayer we took the decision to move our meeting time from evening to the afternoon this was because a lot of our ladies did not feel confident venturing out in the dark and so this move has enabled them to return and at the same time we have welcomed some new faces who have expressed a desire to be enrolled within M.U. We do of course miss the few members who have been affected by this change and who can no longer attend meetings due to work commitments.

With change in place we held our first afternoon meeting in September when we held a Service of Holy Communion led by Rev. Anne Kazich, a beautiful and meaningful service.

October we were able to welcome Ann Petty L.M.L. who came to talk to us about the work being done on The Tanhouse Estate and Oaks Church it proved to be an interesting afternoon and we all learned of the wonderful work being

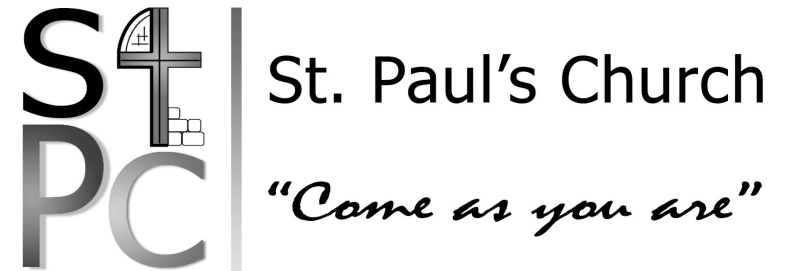
PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF
St Paul Skelmersdale
FINANCIAL STATEMENT

For the year ended 31 December 2018

General (Unrestricted) Fund Receipts & Payments Account

		2018		2017		
Receipts		£	£	£	£	
CBF code	Voluntary receipts					
	Regular Giving					
101	Tax efficient planned giving	46,299		45,636		plus 440 paid into Youth and 200 paid into Gift Day
102	Income tax recovered	13,419		13,143		
103a	Other Planned Giving (non gift aid)	4,646		3,303		standing order non gift aid
104	Collections and other giving	20,483		20,379		yellow and plate
			84,847		82,460	
	Other voluntary receipts					
202	Legacy	0		0		
105b	Donations	5,167		5,056		
105b	Donations towards Parish Weekend	687				
105b	Donations from MU & Douglas Valley re Men's Weekend	750				
			6,604		5,056	
	Receipts from activities for generating funds					
0203b	Examining Chaplain fee, ecclesiastical bonus	380		250		130 from insurance for house insurance from one member
302	Rent from temp letting of curate's house/diocese assistance	1,500		3,246		
203a	Spring & Autumn Fayre, Brass Band, Christmas Tree Festival	5,074		5,688		
203a	Rummage sales					
			6,954		5,938	wilcove rent in restricted in 2017
	Receipts from Church activities					
404	Fees	7,074		8,449		
402b	Hall Rental - 5+2 Centre + pool	3,335		2,830		
			10,409		11,279	
	Receipts from investments					
301	Bank & CBF interest	106		103		
301	Dividend on CBF Church of England Investment Fund					
			106		103	
	Total Receipts		108,920		104,836	
	Payments					
	Church activities					
1002	Mission	2,534		2,552		foodbank, coverdale, kurdish and conf bibles
2001005	Diocesan parish share	68,388		67,045		
2009	Baptism Pool	0		1,810		
2002/3	Incumbant Expenses	3,287		3,708		
2004/11	Curate Expenses	3,444		276		

	2011	Wilcove refurbishment	0				0											
	2005	Church running expenses	16,121				14,168									utilities, computer		
	2006/12	Buildings maintenance	1,321				950									heated air curtain, floodlights		
	2007/9/2005035	Cost of services	503				735									books		
	2008	Upkeep of Churchyard/Vicarage Gardens	838				36									trees, garden rememb		
	2016	Fees Paid for Weddings/Funerals (inc Sunday Organist)	4,460				4,120											
	2017	Reader/Diocese Costs&Fees/Parish training	1,229				1,139											
	3000	Cost of Events/Lunches/Parish Weekend	864				66									parish wkd costs		
	3000	Men's Weekend in Knock	795															
	4000	Office Costs (inc staff/equipment)	7,121				6,838											
		Total Payments				110,905					103,440							
		Excess of Receipts over payments																
		General	-1,985				1,396											
		Restricted	4,198				3,575											
						2,213					4,971							
		Bank current and deposit accounts at 1 January 18				54,521					49,411							
		Interest on Deposit Account				215					139							
		Bank current and deposit accounts at 31 December 18				56,949					54,521							



ANNUAL REPORTS & FINANCIAL
STATEMENTS OF THE PAROCHIAL
CHURCH COUNCIL

For the year ending 31st December 2017

INCUMBENT

Rev Chris Spittle
The Vicarage
Church Rd
Skelmersdale

ASSISTANT CURATE

Rev Jack Shepherd
6 Wilcove
Skelmersdale

BANK

Barclays — The Concourse, Skelmersdale

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

Mrs D.L. Wynne
105, Blaguegate Lane
Lathom Ormskirk
Lancashire
WN8 8TY



Diocese of Liverpool

Registered Charity No:1128068



Administrative Information

The Parish Church of St. Paul Skelmersdale, Church Road Skelmersdale WN8 8ND
Official correspondence to Parish Administrator Parish Office at the above address.

PCC Members are:

Incumbent	The Revd. Chris Spittle	Chairperson
Curate	The Revd. Jack Shepherd	

Church Wardens	Mr Ken Skelton
	Mr John Taylor

Readers Representative	Mr N. Lyon
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Deanery Synod Reps	Mr T. Newbury
	Mr K Skelton

Diocesan Synod Rep :

Elected members	Mr J. Davies	(until 2018)
	Mrs A Faza	(until 2018)
	Mrs L. Oakley	(until 2018)
	Mrs B. Curry	(until 2018)
	Mrs B. Jones	(until 2019)
	Mrs J. Price	(until 2019)
	Mrs S. Jones	(until 2020)
	Mrs J. Curry	(until 2020)

Treasurer	Mrs June Price
Secretary	Mrs Lynne Lomas
Child Protection Officer	Mrs Ann Taylor
Vulnerable Adults Officer	Mrs Ann Taylor

Bankers	Barclays Bank.
Auditor	Mrs D. L. Wynne
Architect	Mr Robin Wolley

Day to day management control of the church is exercised by the Incumbent and Wardens:
Revd. Chris Spittle, Mr Ken Skelton and Mr J. Taylor contactable via the Church Office
01695 716439 or the Vicarage 01695 722087

the river Dee in Chester.

We are open every Wednesday morning for tea and toast; everyone is welcome to join us. We do support things in church and our members are very generous when we are fund raising. Angela, Barbara and I will keep going on as long as we can, we are getting older too!! But with God's help we will. If you feel like a good laugh and good company do join us.

Sheila

CRAFT CLUB

We still soldier on with a few members. We continue learning new skills such as Knitting with lace. We continue to support church activities such as the spring and Christmas Fayre's

We do encourage people to join us, to learn a new skill, whether it be Knitting crochet and other needle skills. Anyone who would like to join us for Knitting and natter, just come along between 10am and noon on Mondays.

Beryl.

Luncheon Club report from organisers Eleanor and Bill West.

Despite the recent passing of several of our supporters we continue to hold our monthly luncheon club with an average attendance of around 18-20 people.

We are immensely grateful to Ken Skelton for always making sure the tables and chairs are set out for us and to Angela who faithfully helps with the smooth running each month.

Never intending that it should be a money making event we are pleased to say that we still manage to maintain the charge at £2 for soup and sandwiches, along with endless tea and coffee, which these days is excellent value; and, thanks to careful buying, still make a small profit which we are able to pass on to Church funds.

Please do come along and support us, we assure you of a warm welcome.

Eleanor & Bill.

Wednesday Club

The Wednesday Club continues to flourish although sadly we have lost a few more members over the last year through sickness and bereavement, but we have also gained new members and we still have some of our faithful members who have been with us right from the start. We have had some very nice trips this year ending with a trip to the Doric Hotel, Blackpool along with residents from Thanet for our annual Christmas meal out. We had our own Christmas party this year and we even had a very special visit from Father Christmas, a very familiar character every year!!

We have a few things planned for the coming year starting with Lunch on

Structure, Management and Governance.

St. Paul's Skelmersdale PCC operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure 1956. It is registered as a charity with the Charity Commission. The method of appointment of the PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. All Church members are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC.

The PCC operates Two Subcommittees when needed:

The Standing Committee: Incumbent, Treasurer, Secretary, Church Wardens and three elected members

The Finance Committee: Incumbent, Treasurer, Secretary, and Church Wardens plus any member of the PCC who would like to attend.

Financial Risk.

The PCC continually reviews the financial position. This is currently a cause for concern, although there is no immediate financial risk. A stewardship campaign during 2017 has helped to reduce our deficit but we are yet to break even.

Health and Safety

The PCC has identified a review of our Health and Safety procedures as a priority for the coming year. All formal risk assessments are listed within the PCC's Risk Register.

Mr. Ken Skelton continues to work as "Building Manager", he has organized minor work that needed to be carried out on the church building. There has been an ongoing programme to improve the church fabric which this year has included the replacement of the chairs in the 5+2; the installation of a hot air curtain over the main door; new taps in the kitchen and vestry washroom along with the introduction of hot water in the latter. A team of helpers assist in practical matters when needed. Every year the Fire Alarm is checked to make sure it is in good working order and the fire extinguishers are also checked on an annual basis. The Electrical Inspection is currently up to date and annual PAT testing has taken place. A survey of the trees in the churchyard has also been undertaken. A Quinquennial Inspection of the Church is due in 2018.

Child and Vulnerable Adult Protection.

Those who work with children and young people in the church have had their Disclosure and Barring Service checks renewed, and we have completed an overhaul of our Safeguarding procedures. A review and renewal of our Vulnerable Adult procedures is currently underway.

Objectives and Activities.

The PCC (Powers) Measure 1956 states that the PCC is to cooperate with the Minister in promoting in the Parish the whole mission of the Church, this includes the Pastoral, Evangelistic, Social, and Ecumenical ministry. At St. Paul's we have a Mission Statement which confirms our mission to proclaim the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to the doctrines and practices of the Church of England, both through the proclamation of the word and to encourage members of the congregation to put their faith into action, as we serve Christ in the Parish.

Mission Statement

Jesus Says, "Go and make Disciples" we try to do this:-

Through the teaching of the Bible as God's Word to us in all matters of faith and moral behaviour,

Through allowing God's Holy Spirit to work in us in order to make us more like Jesus,

Through worshipping together: listening to God; talking to Him; responding to Him and encouraging one another.

Through using the different gifts God has given us to love and serve Him, each other and the local community.

Through making Jesus known to others by what we say and what we do.

Through encouraging and supporting children and younger members of the Church family at St. Paul's and Trinity Anglican/Methodist School and making every effort to ensure that we are a "Child Friendly" Church.

Through seeking to work with other Christians and by building links with the world-wide church.

In order to do this our aims and objectives for 2017 were:

To nurture vocations and ministries, including welcoming Rev Jack Shepherd to our Parish.

To address the financial challenges that the church is facing

To maintain and develop our role in the community

To look at developing our building and improving our audio-visual equipment

Having completed a sermon series at 11.15am on 1 Corinthians 13 to follow up our Parish Weekend with a sermon series on Mark's Gospel

To look at our pattern of worship, particularly on a Sunday evening

Stay & Play.

Is on a Monday morning during term time from 9:15 - 11:15am approximately.

We have a simple structure of free play/activity, then tidy up followed by snack finished off with story and singing time.

It is a drop in group for children up to the age of 4 and their parent/carer.

We operate a free flow play session where children choose the toys and activities they want to play with. We try to do at least 1 themed craft activity each term.

We also have sessions such as the photographer attending or the end of year/Christmas party where sessions run a little longer with the morning being planned with games/visitors/party food etc.

The sessions are aimed to let the children mix freely and form basic friendships whilst learning basic skills such as turn taking. But they are also a chance for parents to form friendships and seek support from other parents. Especially single or young parents.

We currently have approximately 25-30 children on the books with 15-20 attending each week. We charge a voluntary contribution of £1 per family attending the group to help towards snack/birthday cake/parties etc.

Kings Kids

Since September the number of younger children has reduced due to the older children moving up.

The children are divided into two groups; the younger children meeting in the Upper Room and the older children in the Vestry. Both groups use the teaching programme Go Teach and the activity leaflets Come learn with additional relevant activity sheets being found on internet websites such as Ministry for kids, D.L.T.K. or Bible wise.

In July the children organised the All-age service on the theme of Gideon.

The children decorated a tree with baubles for the Christmas Tree Festival. They also acted out a Nativity play called 'We're going on a journey' produced by the Bible Society which was enjoyed by the congregation.

The children continue to take the Banner at the All Age service and they also read the lesson and prayers at this service. The younger children take the collection at each service. We also have a display board at the back of church which shows some of the activities that the younger children complete at their session.

Achievements and Performance including review of charitable achievements against objectives.

The PCC is happy with its achievements against objectives set out in the previous section, but there is still much to do.

Vocations and Ministry has continued to be an exciting movement of God at St Paul's. 2017 saw us welcome Rev Jack Shepherd as Curate at St Paul's and we have already been blessed by his creativity and vitality. He was ordained Deacon in Liverpool Cathedral at the same time as Rev Beth Anderson from our church who is now serving as Curate in St Helens. A week later Rev Carmel Gittens, previously a Reader at St Paul's was ordained Deacon at York Minister. Tony Newbury was licensed as a Reader in September 2017 and Alan and Eileen Kenyon began Reader training. We expect them to be licensed in September 2019. In March 2018 Rev Anne Kazich, having completed a curacy at Oaks in Tanhouse, was licensed to St Paul's as Community Priest, combining ordained ministry with work as a GP. Lynne Jackson from our church is also continuing her ordination training based at St Helens Parish Church. We valued having Fran Humphry on placement with us and were pleased to hear that she has also been accepted for Ordination training. Twelve members of the St Paul's congregation are currently participating in the Directions course which is being run by the diocese at St Paul's, and we look forward to seeing where that leads them. Alongside the ministry of our Clergy and Readers, Lawrence and Cerys Smye-Rumsby exercise ministry as LML for Men's Ministry across the town and Deanery Community Faith Networker respectively. It is to be hoped that other members of the congregation will also offer themselves for ministries in the future.

2017 saw the death of Rev Canon Christopher Byworth, Honorary Curate at St Paul's. As well as being a much loved member of our church, a priest, teacher and a source of wisdom and encouragement to many, he had also had a significant ministry across the wider Church of England. It was a privilege to hold his funeral at St Paul's, a service that Christopher was determined should be focussed on Christ rather than himself. We still miss Christopher's presence in our midst. Rev Cuthbert Jackson decided to stand down from Ordained Ministry at the beginning of 2018, we are also very grateful for his ministry and all that he brought to St Pauls.

St Paul's has increasingly found itself in a position to be a resource to support other local churches by offering those who can preach and lead worship at their services

Other significant achievements in the past year included our second Parish Weekend at home which saw large numbers of people joining us for a weekend of teaching and fellowship. We were grateful to our Archdeacon, Jennifer McKenzie, for

joining us as our speaker. Her exploration of Mark's gospel led us to preach through that gospel at our 11.15am services for the next nine months.

Men's Ministry has continued to be an important part of our church life with another weekend away to Knock in the autumn, two Men's half-nights of prayer, breakfasts and a Bishop at the Bar event with Rt Rev Cyril Ashton. Bishop Cyril also joined us for a Confirmation service which saw 28 adults and young people Confirmed.

Ministry to Asylum Seekers has also been a significant part of our church's life and the good work we have done has been recognised widely. Weekly Alpha and Christianity Explored courses in English and Farsi have been well attended and used as baptism preparation. We have used our recently purchased baptism pool on a number of occasions, and the pool is also a resource used by other local churches. Ecumenical Links have remained important, joint services were held for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity and on Remembrance Sunday, when we were led by Tongues of Fire, and in 2018 we came together for a Service of Reconciliation in Lent and a Daybreak service at the beacon on Easter Sunday.

Fundraising work included a Spring and Autumn Fayre, a Gala Dinner and a Brass Band concert. The Gift Day, moved in 2018 to March also brought in a considerable amount especially bearing in mind the current economic climate. We held a second, and expanded, Christmas Tree Festival in December, and it was encouraging to see those who attended the festival returning for our Christmas Services.

Over the Christmas period we fundraised for the Skelmersdale Foodbank, which has been a particular project for our support this year. We have also continued to support Phoenix India and Mission Paraguay among other charities and to work in partnership with Trinity our church school which we have also offered some financial support to, for their 50th anniversary mosaic, an RE trip and the Heartsmart materials. A new innovation this year has been the founding of the Sow What Theatre Group with members of St Paul's and Oaks churches taking drama into local schools. The PCC has also offered this group some financial support.

There are also numerous other groups meeting within the church whose activities are celebrated elsewhere in this document.

The Electoral Roll. Is now 185

for '**National Education Union & Association of Teachers and Lecturers Section Conference Service**' at St. Michael in the City, Liverpool city centre.

Membership in the band has remained static over the past year. Jo, our bass player, re-joined the band, playing once a month (semi-retirement!). Band members:

Mike D -	Vocal lead
Alice P -	Vocals
Carolyn S -	Violin / Vocals
Joel C -	Bass / Guitar / Vocals
Jonathan D -	Oboe
Sandra J -	Flute
Jo D -	Part Time Bass
Perry M -	Drums
Tony C -	Piano

We are **always** looking for new members. If you feel God is calling you to be a part of the band, or if you would like to come along to the practices to observe, do not hesitate to contact me on 01695 578322 or 07902 828081. We play once a fortnight and practise once a month.

Finally, I would like to thank all of the band members for the hours and hours of time that they give up being a part of the band. We are richly blessed at St. Paul's with musical talent, and it is such a privilege to be able to worship alongside such hardworking, committed, enthusiastic Christians.

Tony Currie

St. Paul's' Parish Church

Annual General Meeting 2018

Report from: BAND A

This year, God has once again blessed 'Band A' with the privilege of leading many people in worship in and around St. Paul's Church, Skelmersdale. Leading worship is such an important aspect of Church life and is an activity that requires a lot of dedication and hard work.

'Band A' continues to lead the worship in the 11:15 am service at St. Paul's every other week. We prayerfully consider song selection and sequences for the 11:15 service that enable people to enter into a meaningful, powerful and personal time of worship with Jesus.

Band A has also led the worship at different events in locations other than St. Paul's Church. We got our hats and sunglasses out for the **'Spring Fair'** last year - it was good fun providing a mixture of secular and sacred music. Members of both bands took the band equipment to Knock Christian Centre near Appleby to lead the worship at the **'Men's Weekend'** in September. On 25th February 2018, the band were presented with a wonderful opportunity – James asked us to lead the worship at an **'Outreach Event'** at Up Holland Labour Club. This family event attracted people who, perhaps, wouldn't normally attend a Church service – it was amazing! There was a great mix of worship, testimony, prayer, poetry, secular music, food and fun! We're looking forward to the next one. On 16th March members of the band kicked off the **'Half Night of Prayer'** with a fantastic time of praise and worship – we received encouraging feedback from the many people there who were new to St. Paul's.

On 8th April 2018 we are looking forward to providing the music

Worship

A regular pattern of well attended worship has been maintained throughout the year, and it has been encouraging to welcome a number of new members to the church. It was also very encouraging to see raised attendances at our services over the Christmas and Easter periods. Reflecting one of our objectives for the year we altered our pattern of evening worship to include two informal services each month, one of which is aiming to be bilingual enabling the many Farsi speakers who attend our evening services to more fully participate.

Attendances at our daily morning prayers have also increased and our monthly prayer meeting has now moved to the first Tuesday of the month, reflecting the importance that we place on prayer as pre-eminent among the many aspects of church life. During the year we were pleased to work in partnership with CTVC so that our 11.15am services are now filmed and broadcast over the internet so that the housebound and those who live further away can participate in our worship.

Worship is reviewed by the Staff meeting, Clergy & Readers Meeting, and the PCC.

We remain very grateful for the ministry of the Clergy and Lay-Readers, Ken Rainford and the Choir, the two bands and all who contribute towards our worship.

Pastoral Care in the Community.

This is a very important part of our on-going Ministry at St. Paul's, a leading role in visiting parishioners and those in need is taken by the Clergy, Readers and a team of others, but much visiting is also undertaken by individual church members.

Holy Communion is taken to the housebound, Beacon View, Stocks Hall Care Home and Victoria Court on a monthly basis. A monthly Thursday morning Communion is followed by a Luncheon Club.

Pastoral Care within the church has been identified as an area for improvement and development in 2018. It is intended that we appoint Pastoral Overseers for each of our Sunday services.

Youth and Children's Work

This is also a very important part of our ministry.

Kings Kids meet at the same time as our 11.15am Service offering worship and activities for children and young people. We were blessed to have Kings Kids leading services during the year. A crèche is also provided when needed.

On a Monday Evening we have a well-attended "CCC" Children's Christian Club,

for those aged 4-11, many of the children have no church connections so this as a real mission opportunity. After a period without a Pathfinder group we were pleased to launch SPY (St Paul's Youth) in 2017 with a team of four leaders. The group is currently enjoying activities that include the Youth Alpha Course, social events and a sleep out at Liverpool Cathedral. We were delighted to have our Child Friendly Church Award re-awarded on 26th March 2017.

Church Buildings.

The Church building is checked on a very regular basis and is in very good condition. A Quinquennial Inspection is due in 2018, although no major issues were identified previously.

Finance

Giving.

This year our finances have been tested, once again giving has not risen in line with expenditure. A Grace of Giving sermon series in Spring 2017 included a presentation at all three services of some of our financial realities, this was followed with an update later on in the year and this has led to some increased giving.

Reserves Policy.

It is PCC policy to maintain a balance on unrestricted funds (if possible), which equates to approximately three months unrestricted payments, to cover emergency situations that may arise from time to time.

Parish Details

PCC Name	ST. PAUL. SKELMERSDALE
Year (e.g. 2001)	2017
Name of signature 1 on accounts:	Revd Christopher Spittle
Name of signature 2 on accounts	Mrs J.Price
Name of Independent Examiner	Mrs D.L.Wynne
Professional Qualifications of Independent Examiner (if any)	
Address of Independent Examiner	105 Blaguegate Lane Lathom, Lancashire
Date of Accounts approval by PCC	20th February 2018
Date of Independent Examiners Report	8th April 2018

CCC Infants

There are 15 children on register and each week we have a regular attendance of 12. We begin our session with show and news time where the children show us a toy or object from home or talk about a special event, place or experience. After this time we have a Bible story and activity based on the story. This is either a colouring picture; puzzle sheet, baking or craft activity. The children then enjoy playing some games which can include team games and games with the parachute. Sometimes we have a film night where we show a DVD from the Friends and Heroes series of programmes.

We have completed a series about the Bible, the children have learnt how many books are in the bible, how many in the Old and New Testament and the four Gospels. We have also looked at who is in the Bible, the story of Creation, The Ten Commandments' and the story of Easter. Other activities we did where making rock cakes and icing a cross and butterfly shaped biscuit. We have listened to various stories from the Bible and invited parents to join us to play a game of Bible Bingo to conclude our series.

We have been involved in the Christmas tree festival and the children decorated some penguins, teddies and Christmas trees to go on our tree. We celebrated Mothers Day with the children making some lovely flower shaped cards and a gift of a planted freesia bulb for their mums.

MU Report continued.

done there on a daily basis.

We hear so much about the work being done by the Skelmersdale Foodbank that we decided to hold a Bible Bring and Give afternoon. We searched Bible for food related passages and then we brought along said items and then we were able to donate them to Foodbank.

December we sent out invitations to the churches in the Ormskirk Deanery and also to local churches and our own church family to come and join us for a Christmascont. Celebration. We had reading carols and a sketch performed by the committee we were fortunate enough to have the help of of Curate Jack his acting ability proved to be a great asset to us, big thank you to Tony Currie and band members for their input.

My thanks to all my Committee for the hard work throughout the year and for the love support and prayers of all the members. Thank you to Ken, John and Derek for all their help

And last but not least thank you to Rev. C. Spittle for his support and encouragement for The Mothers Union here at St. Paul's
Thank you to our Church family for your help and support as we look forward to what The Lord has planned for us in 2018.

Barbara

Choir report. 2017--2018

We are still plagued with illness and lack of members. Loosing Ellis was a blow. Also as most know that Mikes wife died .Mike continued to attend choir as often as possible, a credit to our choir. The return of Alf is also welcome. We do have very loyal members, but inspite of the nights off we are still struggling with low numbers.

We really could do with an appeal.

The Organ. 2017-----2018.

No problems. The inside of the organ case is becoming very cluttered, interfering with cables. This could cause future problems if not addressed.

Independent Examiner's report To the PCC of St Paul Skelmersdale

This report on the financial statements of the PCC for the year ended 31 December 2017, which are set out on pages 12-15, is in respect of an examination carried out in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 ("the Regulations") and s.43 of the Charities Act 1993 ("the Act")

Respective responsibilities of the PCC and the examiner

As members of the PCC you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements; you consider that the audit requirement of Regulations and section 43(2) of the Act do not apply. It is my responsibility to issue this report on those financial statements in accordance with the terms of the Regulations

Basis of this report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General directions given by the Charities Commission under section 43(7)(b) of the Act and top be found in the church guidance, 2006 edition. That examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the PCC and a comparison of the accounts with those records. It also includes considering any unusual items or disclosures in the financial statements 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 I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent examiners statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- (1) which gives me reasonable cause to disbelieve that in any material respect the requirements

to keep accounting records in accordance with section 41 of the Act; and

to prepare financial statements which accord with the accounting records and comply with the requirements of the Act and the Regulations have not been met: or

- (2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Mrs L. Wynne
105 Blaguegate Lane
Lathom , Ormskirk
Lancashire
WN8 8TY

L. Wynne

**PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF
St. Paul. Skelmersdale
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
For the year ended 31st December 2017**

1 Accounting policies

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 together with applicable accounting standards and the SORP 2006.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention except for the valuation of assets which are shown at market value. The financial statements include all transactions assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law. They do not include the accounts of church groups that owe their main affiliation to another body, nor those that are informal gatherings of church members.

Funds

Endowment funds are funds, the capital of which must be maintained; only income arising from investment of the endowment may be used either as restricted or unrestricted funds depending upon the purpose for which the endowment was established.

Restricted funds represent (a) income from trusts or endowments which may be expended only on those restricted objects provided in the terms of the trust or bequest, and (b) donations or grants received for a specific object or invited by the PCC for a specific object. The funds may only be expended on the specific object for which they were given. Any balance remaining unspent at the end of each year must be carried forwards as a balance on that fund. The PCC does not usually invest separately for each fund. Where there is no separate investment, interest is apportioned to individual funds on an average balance basis.

Unrestricted funds are general funds which can be used for PCC ordinary purposes.

Incoming resources

Planned giving, collections and donations are recognised when received. Tax refunds are recognised when the incoming resource to which they relate is received. Grants and legacies are accounted for when the PCC is legally entitled to the amounts due. Dividends are accounted for when receivable, interest is accrued. All other income is recognised when it is receivable. All incoming resources are accounted for gross.

Resources expended

Grants and donations are accounted for when paid over, or when awarded, if that award creates a binding or constructive obligation on the PCC. The diocesan parish share is accounted for when due. Amounts received specifically for mission are dealt with as restricted funds. All other expenditure is generally recognised when it is incurred and is accounted for gross.

Fixed assets

Consecrated and benefice property is not included in the accounts in accordance with s.96(2)(a) of the Charities Act 1993.

Movable church furnishings held by the vicar and churchwardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal are inalienable property, listed in the church's inventory, which can be inspected (at any reasonable time). For anything acquired prior to 2000 there is insufficient cost information available and therefore such assets are not valued in the financial statements. Subsequently no individual item has cost more than £1000 so all such expenditure has been written off when incurred.

No cost information is available for the Curates house so it is included at its 2005 valuation.

Equipment used within the church premises is depreciated on a straight-line basis over four years. Individual items of equipment with a purchase price of £500 or less are written off when the asset is acquired.

Investments are valued at market value at 31 December.

**Reports from church groups and organisations for the year
ending 31st December 2017**

Mothers Union Report

Mary Sumner, our founder, could not have envisaged over 140 yrs ago, that what started with a handful of women meeting in her front room, would have grown to be one of the leading Christian charities that it is today. With over 4 million members in 80 plus countries across the globe.

Here at St Paul's we are a small but not insignificant part of that organisation. Our members work hard throughout the year to raise funds for the different units within M.U. all of which ensures that help is given to the less fortunate. I like to think that we have a varied programme each month here at St Paul's, we always begin our meetings with prayer and worship and we always have a speaker and then a time of fellowship. Over the last twelve months we have hosted the Deanery Spring Festival an important event in the life of M.U. In May last year we welcomed our former Chaplain the Rev. Marion Simmons as our guest speaker, then in June we held a Bring and Share Supper and that was an opportunity to welcome some new faces. July we hold our legendary Strawberry Tea always a lovely event and very popular a good opportunity to welcome folk who do not normally come to church. August we take a well earned break.

After some debate and a lot of Prayer we took the decision to move our meeting time from evening to the afternoon this was because a lot of our ladies did not feel confident venturing out in the dark and so this move has enabled them to return and at the same time we have welcomed some new faces who have expressed a desire to be enrolled within M.U. We do of course miss the few members who have been affected by this change and who can no longer attend meetings due to work commitments.

With change in place we held our first afternoon meeting in September when we held a Service of Holy Communion led by Rev. Anne Kazich, a beautiful and meaningful service.

October we were able to welcome Ann Petty L.M.L. who came to talk to us about the work being done on The Tanhouse Estate and Oaks Church it proved to be an interesting afternoon and we all learned of the wonderful work being