



St John the Evangelist, Whittle-le-Woods

Annual Report 2019

Charity Number 1134259

**The Annual Report on the proceedings of the
Parochial Church Council
And the activities of the Church
To be received by the Annual Parish Meeting 6 April 2020**

Received and adopted by the PCC on 23 March 2020

Rev Philip Venables, Chairman

Lyndon Wright & Gill Menhennet, Churchwardens

Legal and Administrative Information

The full name of the church is St. John the Evangelist, Whittle-le-Woods.

We are a Church in the diocese of Blackburn of the Church of England, with two worship centres, the Parish Church (St. John's) and Clayton Brook Community Church. Each worship centre has a group of ministry co-ordinators who are responsible to the Parochial Church Council, which keeps one set of accounts. This Annual Report covers the activities of the Parish during the year 2019, referring to the parish as a whole with its two congregations and including the parish accounts.

Incumbent: Revd Philip Venables
The Vicarage
Preston Road
Whittle-le-Woods
Chorley PR6 7PS

Correspondence Address: Mr Lyndon Wright
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Clayton le Woods
Chorley PR6 7RR

Parish Church Location: Preston Road
Whittle-le-Woods
PR6 7PS

As a church in the Diocese of Blackburn, we are a charity excepted from registration with the Charity Commissioners. Charity number 1134259

Bankers: TSB Bank plc
Chorley Branch
PO Box 373
LS14 9CG

The Royal Bank of Scotland Plc
56 Market Street
Chorley
PR7 2SD

The Parish of St John the Evangelist PCC Report

The vision of the Church is as follows:

We Seek Revival through: -

Speak Out

Reach Out

Gather in for Christ .

During the year 2019 the following served as members of the PCC:

Rev Philip Venables – Vicar & Chair

Rev Paul Davies – Curate (from September 2019)

Gill Menhennet - Churchwarden

Lyndon Wright – Churchwarden

Deborah Green – Deputy Churchwarden

David Barlow – Reader, Treasurer & Secretary

Kathy Bigio – Reader

Tony Cliffe - Deanery Synod Rep

Diane Jones – Reader

Les Jones – Reader and Deputy Churchwarden

Gill Lancaster – Reader

Roland Orr – Reader

Nick Brake (from April 2019)

Stuart Cross

Chris Dawson

Frances Grieve

Peter Grieve

Anne Harris

Gill Menhennet

Cath Orr

Susan Parkinson

Julie Summers

Chris Watts

Val Whittle

Chris Woolham (from April 2019)

Throughout 2019 the PCC met six times. A co-ordinator report from each church was given at the meetings and a report from the various PCC teams as applicable. The Standing Committee, consisting of Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Churchwardens and Deputy Churchwardens, were required to meet ten times throughout the year to make necessary decisions before the next meeting of the PCC.

Electoral Roll Report for 2019

A complete new roll had to be produced for 2019. The total number on the new roll was 175. 151 resident in the parish and 24 non-resident. 38 members are from Clayton Brook Church and 137 from St John's.

Vicar's Report for 2019

As I looked back on 2019 it seemed to me to be a year in which not much happened that could be called spectacular, but nevertheless God was so good to us and gospel ministry continued in many forms. I feel so grateful to God for bringing me to this parish, and I feel grateful to all of you for your partnership with me and with one another.

If there was one event that could be called spectacular, it was the sale of the **Parish Club** and the wonderful provision of funds for the building at St John's. This was four years in the coming, fraught with difficult negotiations, but the Lord got us there. We were extremely well served by the land agent and the solicitor who, between them, negotiated several minefields on our behalf. And now work has begun on the roof and we are receiving estimates for repairs and reordering.

Another highlight, early in the year, was the **Mark Drama**. I am not 100% sure, but I think that Clayton Brook Church was the first church in the North West to put on a performance. Now the bishops of our diocese are copying us! What a wonderful concept it was and is.

A joy for me, personally, was the arrival of **Paul and Katie** and their girls in June. It is a real joy and privilege to have a fellow minister alongside and we are blessed indeed. Make the most of them!

And then there was the further renewal of **Clayton Brook** building in the autumn. It looks so much better now that it is hard to remember what the old kitchen, and the old orange carpet tiles, and the brown windows, and the dirty magnolia walls looked like!

What follows now, is really a list of some of what happened in 2019, with great thanks to God. Briefly:

We adopted Alex and Kate Phillips as our new **Crosslinks** partners. They will be visiting us in May and July. We did some more **parish visiting**—in March with some students from Oakhill and then again in the summer. It was a particular joy for me to hear people saying that while they had thought they would never knock on a stranger's door, they took the plunge and were glad to have done so. Parish visiting is beginning to be established as something we do, for which I rejoice. We had a packed-out **women's garden party** in June, with a truly excellent talk from Heather Henderson. The **Clayton Brook Festival** was excellent, as always. Again, it is good to see this now written into our DNA. In July a few more church members came to the **Keswick Convention** and we had great fun together being taught from God's word and playing in the lake. In September we had our second church day out at **Chipping**. Some of us wondered when Alan Hogarth opened Leviticus—Leviticus! Really?—and we all absolutely loved it. A great day. At last we have a weekday, fortnightly, group for **teenagers**. What a wonderful step forward that is. Our **PCC** continues to be a good group that works hard for the church. We had a very good day 'away' (in the Vicarage, in the end!) and are working at a renewed vision for our church. Many people have said that our **Christmas** services and outreach events were the best yet (I loved them all), and for whatever reason we had many more visitors at these events this time. It made for a lovely feel-good-factor. Finally, we ended the year closing the projected gap in our **finances** (missed by £100 in fact) and could rejoice that once again God is Jehovah Jireh—the Lord who provides.

Thank you to our Readers (soon to be rebranded Licensed Lay Ministers) who serve generously and willingly. Thank you to Gill and Lyndon, with Deborah and Les, for being such helpful and kind churchwardens. Thank you to PCC for your service. Thank you to David for serving excellently as both PCC secretary and treasurer. Thank you to Stuart and Caroline who shoulder a massive load leading our wonderful Junior Church ministries, with

all those who serve with them. Thank you to the many unseen works, such as church cleaning. Thank you to everyone whom I should have mentioned but have forgotten. Thank you to you all for being my wonderful church-family.

And above all thanks be to God from whom come all good things.

Philip

St John's Churchwarden Report

Thanks must go once again to our efficient teams who are committed to help in the smooth running of our Sunday worship. They are an integral part and their enthusiasm and support should be congratulated.

In January we explored `Be my Guest` Sunday, where we were invited to share Sunday lunch with one another. How could it happen, Philip, Caroline and William got left behind, however the Church Warden stepped in and we had a lovely lunch together. This is something we will explore further in the future.

The Mark Drama was well supported by our church Families at both performances at Clayton Brook and Buckshaw Village Church. For those of us that took part, it proved to be a wonderful experience and a joy to be part of.

Our Lent course at Clayton Brook was both challenging and enlightening, being able to work through Gods word together.

Our `Taste and See` meals have continued at The Halfway House, providing opportunities to invite friends and neighbours to spend some time in an informal and social atmosphere, incorporating a supportive Christian message.

Growth Groups have continued to grow as they study God`s word on a weekly basis. These meet on a variety of days and times in the week, if you are not meeting but would like to know more, please ask as you would be made very welcome.

In June there was another successful Women`s event at the vicarage, this was enjoyed by all and I am sure will be continued in 2020.

In support of `Thy Kingdom Come` this year, we prioritised in Parish Visiting. We identified, as it happened, the estate that I personally reside. This occurred from Monday to Thursday in the evenings. Fliers were posted beforehand giving notice of the visit.

Visiting is a very personal experience; however for myself it was good to speak to people that I had often seen but never had an opportunity to communicate with. As always through our Social and Outreach group, this was reviewed in readiness for further visiting, in the parish this year.

Good news The Ordination of Paul Davies at St Johns. We warmly welcomed Paul, Katie, Eleanor, Sophie and Charlotte into our church family. Already Paul has shown a maturity in his ministry and collectively they are a blessing.

Finally the Parish Club site was sold to Chorley Borough Council, an arduous process which was instigated through the determination of Anne Harris, Secretary of the club and supported by the Trustees. All monies have now been received and are restricted for the reordering of St. Johns.

Once again a very successful Clayton Brook festival was held in July, followed by an open air service held on the Sunday morning. The weather was good and it provided a great opportunity for people from Clayton Brook and St John's to join together as a team to serve the local community.

Towards the end of September we met again as a church family at Chipping. We were led in the morning by Alan Hogarth, which was excellent with a great message. In the afternoon

there was time for families to choose their individual activities. This included a good walk for some, a Beetle Drive and Quiz, all of which were richly enjoyed.

Work started on the west wall of the church and the roof repairs will be completed in the New Year.

Consultations have taken place throughout the year with the Architect, structural engineer inspections and the DAC, overseen by the buildings group. Un-finalised plans for the reordering have been displayed in church for a number of months. A costing process has been agreed and will be implemented in the New Year.

We collected 81 shoe boxes this year, 61 from St Johns and 20 from Clayton Brook, a little down in number from last year, but the children who receive these boxes will be really excited. Some people brought in more than one box. Thank you to everyone.

Christmas Adventure exploded in to life In December, on this occasion the weather although cold allowed families to take advantage of activities inside church and outside with the animals. The Donkey rides proved popular. Again great thanks to Nick and Jen for outsourcing the finances and their willingness and commitment for outreach.

All our Christmas Services were well attended and enjoyed by all, the numbers in particular for the Carol Service and Crib Service were enthusiastic and very encouraging, going forward as a church family.

Our love and support is there for Philip, Caroline, Paul and Katie and all their family in the coming year, to unite us all and expound the Good News of Jesus.

We are committed to encourage people to worship in faith and for us all to grow, through the power of the Holy Spirit.

God Bless

Lyndon Wright, Church Warden

Clayton Brook Churchwarden Report

Clayton Brook Church continues to be an active and busy place in our community. We have seen an increase in room hire and it's wonderful to see the building in use for the majority of the week.

In February the Mark drama was performed by some of our congregations from Clayton Brook, St. Johns and Buckshaw Village churches along with Philip and Caroline. The drama staged the brutal death and betrayal of Jesus. The audience and cast alike were greatly moved by this realistic enactment of our Saviour's death.

In May we again joined in with the global prayer initiative, Thy Kingdom Come. A group of us visited homes on Clayton Brook to introduce ourselves and talk about what happens in our church. We invited people to come along to church and, praise God, some did and are still with us.

Our regular outreach groups, Café Life and the Luncheon Club, are still active although numbers have fallen recently. Thank you to the committed volunteers who open our doors to the community, showing God's love in action.

In June we welcomed our new curate Paul and his wife Katie along with their three daughters Eleanor, Sophie and Charlotte to the parish. They immediately became an integral part of our church family opening their home to study groups, a young peoples group and an open door to anyone who wants to talk.

Our annual festival in July was again, a great success. The community enjoyed a day of fun, manned and organised by a team of brilliant volunteers.

In September members of the congregation from Clayton Brook & St. Johns enjoyed a Parish day away at Chipping. Our morning was spent in fellowship and study followed by an

excellent lunch. The afternoon was fun time with games for the children, a walk for the adults or free time to wander through the village.

Our adult congregation numbers have averaged 32/33 adults with some moving on while we welcomed back old friends and some new faces.

In October we closed for a month whilst central heating and double glazing were installed in order to make our building more energy efficient. This has made a big difference to all users of the church and again we have BIFFA Award to thank for their grant which enabled us to pay for the work.

We thank God for every person who comes through our door and pray that in 2020 He will bless us in our mission to reach out and gather in for Christ.

- **Gill Menhennet**, Church Warden, Clayton Brook Community Church

St John's – Prayer Report

Intercessions are offered each Sunday at 10.30am by a small group of dedicated lay people. Two new people have been added to the intercessors during the year. Thank you to everyone who does this important ministry. Individual prayer is offered in the side chapel during our 10.30am Communion Service each month. In addition there are prayer ministry members available in church every Sunday to pray with anyone who asks. The prayer chain remains faithfully active for urgent or emergency prayers. A good number of prayers have been requested during the year. Thank you to every member who prays so fervently. Tuesday evening parish prayer meetings are held once a month, numbers attending vary between 8 and 16. Small prayer groups continue to meet regularly. Thy Kingdom Come prayer initiative was held in May, attended by a small number of people each evening.

Clayton Brook Church – Prayer Report

God has been good to us at Clayton Brook and many prayers have been answered. Our Sunday evening Prayer and praise nights have been very well attended. Very informal, praising God in prayers and song. People are free to bring a reading of the bible to share if they feel like it and all is done in Jesus's name. The prayer triplets have been meeting regularly and had some wonderful answers to prayer. A few of us join in the prayer chain that goes between St Johns and Clayton Brook. This is a great way to let people know the need of prayer during the week. Our Church family on WhatsApp has proved a great answer to prayer and certainly makes you feel like a real church Family. May God continue to bless us in Jesus's name. And all God's Children said Amen.

St John's Young People Report

We thank God for another year and for the privilege of teaching all the young people about Jesus. And we give great thanks to him for the 27 different adults who help with the children's groups at the 10.30 service week by week and year by year. Thank you God that you keep growing and building this work and you keep sustaining the leaders. Thank you God that some weeks we get 50 children through our doors on a Sunday.

The heart of our lessons is the bible teaching, and we aim to teach this in a fun and accessible way. The pattern is the same for all the groups; a fun game to introduce the lesson, age appropriate interactive teaching followed by an application-focused craft, worksheet or discussion. Our aim is always to teach the children more about Jesus and his word and for them to get to know him, or get to know him better. So we partner with the parents and

encourage them to discuss the lesson with their children. We aim to send the children away with questions that they can discuss with the parents.

We praise God too that the average age of the young people is slowly creeping up and that Paul and Katie and Tony and Lorraine have been able to start a fortnightly group for years 8,9 and 10 on a Friday evening. I believe that the group can be summed up in 3 words, fun, food and bible.

Another encouragement is that we have had to split our Sunday Pathfinder group into 2 different groups, so that the teaching is more appropriate for the wider age range of the young people. We are working towards the older pathfinders staying in church once a month. Praise God for his continued provision of new (and younger!) leaders.

So there is much to be thankful more, but we praise God most for the gift of his Son, Jesus.

Caroline Venables

Junior Church Report for Clayton Brook Community Church

Firstly, thanks to all who have served in this ministry through Sunday teaching / assisting, in resourcing and supporting Friday Club, and through prayers and financial support. Also, for those who helped in various ways at our special events through the year.

Our Sunday group structure continued unchanged, with Kings Kids (primary), Young + Free (year 6 upwards), and Sunbeams (pre-school). Weekly numbers range from 8 to 20 children across the three groups. Over 40 children have been registered across the groups during 2019. We are particularly encouraged by the growth of Young + Free, with an average of 6 attending, and 15 on the register. A further encouragement was the start-up of a new parish-wide group for our teens, meeting alternate Fridays. The Tots at Church pre-school group is a further blessing (see separate report).

Many of our “Sunday children” attend unaccompanied by an adult, sometimes up to 75%, and this is both encouraging and challenging! Sadly, we have lost some valued members of our teaching team during 2019, but have managed to maintain ministry week by week.

The teaching plan in Kings Kids has included Paul’s missionary journeys, parables, and other lessons from the Gospels. Sunbeams and Young + Free have their own age appropriate material.

Friday Club has continued with a membership of 35 children, with an average attendance of 20 to 25. We maintain a high ratio of adults to children in order to build quality relationships. We have developed the Christian content within the programme through occasional teaching programmes and related crafts. We have seen success in some Friday members now attending regularly (unaccompanied) on a Sunday morning.

A few of our young people attended joint “Connect” meetings, at St James, Chorley, and St Pauls, Withnell. We were also represented at Yorkshire Camps in June, with 3 children attending. Our special events have included a Friday “Bring a Friend” evening, a Family Fun night, another successful Messy Christmas, and our Christmas party. Also, thanks to the huge generosity of the CB congregation, we distributed over 60 gifts to all children involved in church groups.

We thank God for another busy year, and the opportunity to serve Him with the children of our area. We pray for children to trust Jesus as Saviour, and grow in faith.

Finally, as always, please support the children’s work in your prayers.

Stuart Cross

Safeguarding Report 2019

The Safeguarding Team which oversees safeguarding policy and practice within the parish met twice during the year to consider policy and complete a self-evaluation form for the Diocese.

The team consists of the Vicar, Curate, two Safeguarding Children's Champions, two Adult Safeguarding Champions, the Disclosure and Barring Service Administrator and the Parish Safeguarding Officer.

The team's terms of reference remain as follows:

- Completing the Parish Safeguarding Self Audit at least once a year,
- Reviewing the safeguarding needs within the parish, at least annually,
- Reviewing the Parish Safeguarding Policy and Procedures at least annually,
- To consider safeguarding training requirements within the parish on an ongoing basis, with particular regard to Diocesan recommendations,
- Ensuring that appropriate records are kept in a safe place,
- Signing off the Annual Safeguarding report to the PCC and Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Activity

There were no safeguarding incidents during the year.

The team has met twice during the year and reviewed the safeguarding policy (based on the one recommended by Blackburn Diocese) and procedures. The policy remains unchanged from 2017. The website includes the parish approach to safeguarding and the names of both internal and external contacts.

Amongst other matters discussed were:

1. Action taken following an external issue which could have affected people at church. Advice was taken from the Diocese which confirmed that church members had acted correctly.
2. Reporting Serious Safeguarding incidents to the Charity Commission
3. Adoption of a Behaviour Policy for both churches

The team completed the Parish Safeguarding Self Audit in 2019 which was signed off by the PCC in May 2019. There were no major items of omission, with a small number of minor issues to follow up.

Social & Outreach Team

This excellent team meets five times a year. Our brief is to plan events, and a whole approach, to encourage evangelism and reaching out, while at the same time bringing church-family together to grow friendship and fellowship. Much of what we discussed and planned is mentioned in my vicar's report. Other events included outreach meals at the Halfway House, a morning of tag rugby, our 'food Sundays' in August. All were good fun.

Fabric and Finance Report

We have not met together as a group this year, However individually we have been in contact at various times and promoted different works etc around the church at St John's. The Friday team has again been very consistent in maintaining the weeds, cremation pot areas and paths, stairways . Internally many smaller

jobs have been done. tiling, painting etc especially cleaning out the lady chapel. the baptismal area was given new tiling in places as well as a good clean by Ron.

At Clayton Brook Gill Menhennet and myself have kept a maintenance diary of work required and had those jobs done as they came up.

The Larger projects at both churches were planned, completed or are under way, not by the fabric group directly, that is the west wall and gully at St John's, the energy saving project at Clayton Brook including painting and boxing in of pipes.

The PAT electrical work has been carried out during January.

There are outstanding works from the quinquennial report and jobs not started.

a) re varnish all internal doors, b) replace missing stone in external graveyard wall c) the front doors and framework of the porch. d) the ramp. The hole in the path.

Thank you

Finance and Fabric team

St John's – Pastoral Team

There are 6 members on the pastoral team & over the past 12 months we have continued to identify those who are ill, bereaved or have been missing from church, contact them by phone & follow up with a visit if requested.

Some people are quite happy to receive a phone call & a chat is all they require.

We have, however, administered communion on a monthly basis to 15 house bound members of the parish. Three elderly ladies are now living in Residential Care so we take communion to Jasmine Court, Chorley & Arrowsmith Lodge, Hoghton. A further 3 people were either visited in hospital or seen shortly after their return home, given communion & visited or contacted regularly until they were well enough to attend church. Unfortunately during the course of the year 1 person on our list has died but we continue to see her husband.

We continue to visit the local care homes, (Highcliffe & Brookside), alternate months where we offer a short communion service. The residents take part by reading the Bible & singing a song or hymn they are familiar with. The co-ordinators of both these homes are very supportive of this ministry. The vicar takes the service the month's in-between

Clayton Brook Church – Pastoral Team

Throughout 2019 the team have continued to reach out to anyone in our congregation who are suffering, whether through illness, bereavement or life's storms.

We have kept in touch with some elderly members who have been unable to get to church, visiting them, taking communion or maintaining phone contact. The needs of our congregation are varied but we try to offer support to anyone who needs it. We also visit Marjorie at Meadowbank every fortnight and have taken this opportunity to talk to other residents there.

We continue to give the church flowers to someone each Sunday. We ask that whenever they look at the flowers they remember how much God loves them.

Clayton Brook Pastoral Team

Mission Team Report

The Mission Team works on behalf of the PCC to make decisions about how the 10% tithe of church income should be distributed. The Mission Giving Strategy focuses on three main priority areas for financial support:

- Word Mission (ministries that take the gospel to people all over the world);
- Need Mission (ministries that directly respond to the teachings of Jesus to care for the poor and those in need);
- Targeted Mission (a Mission Fund that people within our two churches may apply to for support for their own mission related activities).

The 10 ministries that we regularly support are Barnabas Fund, Churches Ministry among Jewish People, Church Missionary Society (CMS – Alf and Hilary Cooper in Chile), Crosslinks (Alex and Kate Phillips in East Asia), Compassion (through individual sponsorship), Open Doors, Street Pastors, Tearfund, The Salvation Army, Wellfield Church in Leyland. These were selected on the basis that they are on the whole well-established, working alongside local churches worldwide, and that we have advocates within our churches willing to speak out and pray on their behalf. Intercessors are asked to pray for our mission partners regularly throughout the year. We have a dedicated noticeboard outlining the work of each ministry at the back of St Johns and a portion of noticeboard at Clayton Brook where information about the ministries is rotated on a regular basis.

In 2019 we had a visit from Paul Hunter (Crosslinks) in February, from Jamie Read from Crosslinks in March, from Alf and Hilary Cooper our CMS partners in May, and Roger Green from Tearfund in October, all preaching in Sunday services. We held one service dedicated to mission in November (theme: Suffering Church) with Steve Laidlow preaching, and we welcomed Andy Raynes as a speaker for World Mission Sunday also in November. During services throughout the year we held focus spots on the work of the various ministries we support including Wellfield Church (Philip Venables) and Crosslinks (Tony Cliffe). In February a Prayer Breakfast was held at Clayton Brook with speaker Captain Ian Emery from the Salvation Army in Blackburn and in November Hetti Johnson spoke about her work in Romania with the Sasca orphanage. Both were well attended and informative.

This year several people wrote Gazette articles to highlight mission activities. Jean Owen described the Open Doors conference she attended, Kathy Bigio provided an overview of the work of the Mission Team and David Barlow is writing a regular series on the plight of persecuted Christians (based on the work of Open Doors and Barnabas Fund). We had five applications to the Mission Fund to support Christian ministry (Acorn International, Freedom Church in Blackpool, Sasca, Philip's Ugandan trip and the Waterways chaplaincy). In November we took part in Operation Christmas Child supplying 85 shoeboxes to children in Bosnia, Moldova and Liberia. We support a local food bank at Living Waters Church in Chorley and collect stamps for the Leprosy mission. This year as usual our harvest produce was donated to Fox Street mission in Preston, and any monetary gifts were donated to Tearfund.

We thank everyone who has supported Mission within our two churches over the past year, and encourage everyone to get more involved. Please see our mission leaflet for more information about the individual ministries we support (available at the back of each church). Mission Team: Gillian Lancaster (chair), Kathy Bigio, Stuart Cross, Hetti Johnson, Philip Venables

Communications Team

1. Christmas 2019 Activities – a dedicated webpage was created to feature all Christmas Church Services (including the Christmas ADVENTure)
2. Christmas ADVENTure – this was promoted on the website and through social media (Facebook)
3. Philip's Uganda visit was added daily to the website blog – the blog (diary) received 234 visits, and the Saturday blog was the most popular (56 visits, 5 shares)
4. The website was updated frequently, including other blog posts (Clayton Brook Energy project, Operation Christmas Child Shoebox etc) as well as the monthly newsletter
5. Regular email newsletters to church members started in 2019
6. A new style Church Service and Notice leaflet was launched in 2019 – an improvement on the previous version, the new leaflet is printed in colour, and includes lined space that allows individuals to record any notes during the service
7. The *Church Near You* website now features service details of both churches, and was used to promote our Christmas activities – in the last year, our church page was viewed 3,375 times

Parish Gazette

The gazette continues to maintain its content and quality and produces 16 A4 pages per issue. It is a good source of communication and information for the parish. The Sept-Dec editions were distributed to each new child in the infant department of both church schools. This enabled their parents to be informed of services and activities in both churches. Thank you to the schools for helping with this. A double edition was produced for July & August and again for December & January. There was one advert in the Gazette last year from professional businesses. This brings in much needed revenue to help the Gazette to be more cost effective. The Gazette is currently being offered free of charge and almost all copies are taken each month, however many people are still donating money to the cost of printing. Thank you to all who do this. Two large print copies are produced by the editor each month for church members who prefer larger print. This is much appreciated. The Parish Gazette is also available on the church website in colour, and to individuals who request it by email. Thank you to everyone who has contributed articles throughout the year.

Café Life Report

This ministry takes place at Clayton Brook Community Church every Monday from 9am-2pm except during statutory holiday periods.

There is a team of 7 volunteers who work in pairs to offer a friendly welcome to whoever walks through the door. It is a place where people can come for a friendly chat.

We offer a selection of beverages, soup, bacon sandwiches & cakes at low prices just to cover costs. Our aim is to offer a safe space with a friendly smile & show the love of God.

Although attendance varies on a week-to-week basis we have a regular clientele which has grown steadily over the past year.

The Luncheon Club

The Clayton Brook Luncheon Club met eight times during the year, offering a three course meal and a short talk on each occasion. We meet on the third Thursday of the month and generally the gathering hosts a regular 8 pensioners, down from 12 at the start of the year. Guests pay £5.00 which covers the cost and provides a small surplus which allows us to contribute to occasional appeals made by the church.

Leigh Cottam is in charge usually ably assisted by Irene in the kitchen and Jean or Frances on service.

Brenda, Janette and Sue have also helped out on occasion. Often folk arrive early and leave late enjoying the company and chatter for a little longer than the meal takes to scoff.

Tots at Church

Tots at church is a Christian lead outreach toddler group that we hold on Tuesday mornings at Clayton-Brook church throughout term time.

It is led by Charlotte Calvert, but we have an enthusiastic group of volunteers that run it week by week. We have had 10 volunteers that rotate fortnightly, volunteering in the kitchen serving refreshments and toast, arts and craft for the linked childrens craft table, story and song time with the children and of course the clean up at the end.

Holding the group at the church means we are blessed to be able to offer this group for free, toast and craft resources are donated by our lovely volunteers, so anyone can attend our group from the local community.

On entering the group the children and carers are offered refreshments and toast, there are a range of toys that are rotated throughout the year for the children to play with. Each term we try to have a theme of age appropriate bible stories, some that we have covered are the family tree of Jesus, the 10 commandments, parables of the lost sheep, the mustard seed, the Easter and Christmas story. We aim to connect a craft with the story each week, so it is clear to the parents and children what we are doing. At the end of the session we have a story and sing songs with instruments. This a great time to gather the parents and children together to let them know what is going on in our churches. At the end of each term we end with a celebration we had an Easter party for spring term, a trip to Worden Park where we set up a sports day for the children for the summer term and a Christmas party for our winter term. At our Christmas party the children each received a gift from the church to place under their tree.

From January to July we averaged 20 children to about 10 carers, we said goodbye to some of our older children as they went off to school. As a result following the summer holidays our numbers reduced slightly to around 15 children but we still kept our numbers for the carers at about 10. We closed throughout October for the refurbishments at the church all of our usual families have returned following the break.

The group have been invited to many church events and services, We use flyers and announcements to advertise what is going on within the church and encourage links between the group and church. Some of our ladies attended the ladies night and We had a few of our families attend messy church and the whittle Christmas fun day. We have also had some older sibling start Friday club at Clayton-Brook, and many of them came to the Clayton-Brook festival in the summer.

Beehive Report

Praise the Lord that numbers have increased this year so we now have approx. 25-35 children with their parents/grandparents etc. We also have a new committee of willing parents/grandparents whose input is greatly appreciated. In February we started to include a short bible story and craft which was well received, and because of the Co-op Grant we were able to purchase new toys, subsidise Windmill Farm, bring in a children's entertainer and stay open all summer.

Highlights of the year were:-

April – Easter Party and Easter egg hunt with various crafts.

June - Cake Sale, proceeds of which went to Guide Dogs for the Blind.

July - Windmill Farm Trip which the children and adults thoroughly enjoyed. July - Leavers Party and this year we had a children's entertainer.

Oct. - Harvest Morning with Paul followed by party lunch.

Oct - Trip to Coppull Co-op to receive final cheque for the Grant and had photos taken, also at Whittle Co-op.

Dec. - Nativity and Christmas Party when some of the children received bibles as well as books.

God has truly blessed us this year and provided for all our needs. Praise His Name!

Treasurers Report – 2019

A massive thank you again to all those who have contributed financially over the year, particularly those people giving regularly either by envelope or standing order, and a substantial number also gift aiding their donation. This allows us to claim an additional 25% from the HMRC (over £16,200 in 2019) which goes a long way to pay our bills. **Thanks to everyone who does gift aid and to Marion Barlow** for her very efficient work in making the claims.

Thanks also to all those people who continue to regularly help with the Church finances whether counting the collections, banking or reclaiming Gift Aid. In particular thanks to Mike Green who has done a great job again this year banking regularly for us.

Income

Planned giving increased by 3% over 2018, total giving of £83,300 was slightly up on 2018; as in previous years over 95% of our income comes from our congregation in the form of weekly giving, donations and gift aid.

It is hoped that the major refurbishment work at St Johns can start in 2020, including a major repair to the west wall and roof of the church. We were all very grateful for the foresight of the Crosse family in building in a provision to the Parish Club deeds that meant that when it was sold during last year the funds received of over £540,000 can be used to assist in paying for the refurbishment of St Johns. However, the proceeds are restricted to that purpose alone and cannot be used for the everyday mission costs of the church. This may seem a lot of money but some £85,000 will be required for urgent repairs and church refurbishment is an expensive job. We remain extremely grateful to God for His provision in this matter.

In addition, and **thanks especially to Les Jones**, we received a further grant from Biffa, of some £45,000, which together with other gifts allowed further work at Clayton Brook in the main hall and cafe areas, work that was required after 30 years of wear.

We had budgeted a deficit of some £10,000 in 2019; thanks to careful management of expenditure and the modest increase in giving above we managed to effectively break even with a deficit of £136 on unrestricted funds.

The PCC have agreed a deficit budget for 2020 of some £10,000 which leaves us with reserves of just under £16,000 at December 2020. The cost of a cup of coffee per week in increased giving from our regular givers would clear this deficit.

We anticipate that money will continue to be a test of our faith. However, we worship a generous God and praise Him we have always been able to pay our bills, repaired St John's roof and tower in recent years and undertaken substantial new work and repairs at Clayton Brook.

Expenditure

The largest areas of expense were again: -

- Our Parish Share to the Diocese was over £59,000. The Parish Share paid for Philip and Paul together with support for ministry in many poor areas of our Diocese.
- Heating, lighting, utilities and services were over £23,800 covering electricity, gas, oil, water, Council Tax, and insurance.
- Repairs at both churches was minimal this year.
- Ministry and outreach spend was some £9,600, of which £4,300 was made of gifts or grants and admin costs remained low at £730, including bank charges of £360. We changed our banking arrangements in 2019 and anticipate that charges will fall to under £120 a year.
- Finally, the church remains committed to giving 10% of its income to charity which this year amounted to some £11,600.

Please consider your giving again for the coming year; as we know God (and the Church Treasurer) loves a cheerful and generous giver.

Independent Examiner's Report

Independent Examiner's Report to the Parochial Church Council of St John the Evangelist, Whittle le Woods, year ended 31 December 2019.

This report is made solely to the Charity's Trustees, as a body, in accordance with Section 145 of the Charities Act 2011. My examination has been undertaken so that I might state to the Trustees those matters I am required to state to them in an Independent Examiner's Report and for no other purpose.

Respective responsibilities of trustee and examiner

As the members of the PCC, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts, and you consider that an audit is not required for this year under Section 144 (2) of the Charities Act 2011 and that an independent examination is required.

It is my responsibility to:

1. examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
2. to follow the procedures laid down in the general directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145 (5) (b) of the 2011 Act; and
3. to state whether particular matters have come to my attention of a material nature.

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners under S145(5) (b) of the Act. That examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the Charity and a comparison of the accounts with those records. It also includes considering 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 I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent Examiner's Statement

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

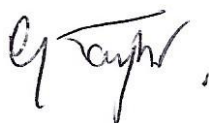
(a) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:

1. to keep accounting records in accordance with Section 130 of the 2011 Act, and
2. to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act; have not

been met; or

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

Signed: Gill Taylor



Dated: 5 February 2020

		Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	2018 Total
	Note	£	£	£	£
Income and endowments from:					
Planned Giving	2	71,510	650	72,160	66,305
Other Giving		11,773	9,089	20,862	33,195
Legacies Received		0	0	0	0
Grants Received	3	0	49,628	49,628	7,730
Tax recovered through Gift Aid		15,526	772	16,298	17,659
		<u>98,809</u>	<u>60,140</u>	<u>158,949</u>	<u>124,889</u>
Income from fundraising activities		0	0	0	0
Fees retained by P C C for weddings and funerals etc		3,179	1,769	4,948	5,064
Magazine and rental income	4	<u>116</u>	<u>1,854</u>	<u>1,970</u>	<u>2,418</u>
		3,295	3,623	6,918	7,482
Investment Income	5	326	0	326	194
Other Income	6	1,280	547,411	548,691	0
TOTAL Income		<u>103,711</u>	<u>611,174</u>	<u>714,884</u>	<u>132,565</u>
Expenditure on:					
Raising Funds		0	0	0	0
Charitable Giving	7	9,850	1,837	11,687	13,269
Church Activities					
Parish Share and Assigned Fees paid to Diocese	8	59,491	1,661	61,152	62,405
Salaries and honoraria		0	0	0	0
Parish Clergy Costs	9	5,316	0	5,316	11,705
Ministry costs	10	5,342	4,657	9,998	15,061
Regular church running expenses	11	15,489	0	15,489	13,391
Church heating and lighting costs		<u>8,359</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>8,359</u>	<u>8,782</u>
		93,997	6,318	100,314	111,344
Governance costs		0	0	0	0
TOTAL Revenue Expenditure		<u>103,847</u>	<u>8,155</u>	<u>112,001</u>	<u>124,613</u>
Major Capital Expenditure					
Major repairs to church	12	0	26,783	26,783	17,560
New Building work		<u>0</u>	<u>57,694</u>	<u>57,694</u>	<u>6,841</u>
		0	84,477	84,477	24,401
TOTAL Expenditure		<u>103,847</u>	<u>92,631</u>	<u>196,478</u>	<u>149,014</u>
Loss (Gain) on investment assets		<u>0</u>	<u>835</u>	<u>835</u>	<u>-72</u>
NET outgoing resources and movement in funds		-136	519,377	519,241	-16,520
Reconciliation of Funds					
Transfer between Funds		0	0	0	0
Total Funds brought forward		<u>25,943</u>	<u>12,512</u>	<u>38,455</u>	<u>54,975</u>
Total Funds carried forward		<u>25,807</u>	<u>531,889</u>	<u>557,696</u>	<u>38,455</u>

St John the Evangelist P C C, Whittle le Woods
Balance Sheet at 31 December 2019

	Note	£	2018 £
Investments	13	5,392	4,557
Current Assets			
Deposit with CCLA		401,689	
Cash at Bank and in Hand		150,616	33,898
Total Net Assets		<u>557,696</u>	<u>38,455</u>
The Funds of the charity:			
Unrestricted funds		25,807	10,943
Unrestricted funds - designated	14	0 25,807	15,000 25,943
Restricted Funds	15	531,889	12,512
Total Charity Funds		<u>557,696</u>	<u>38,455</u>

Approved by the PCC on 23 March 2020



Rev. Philip
Venables PC
C Chair

St John the Evangelist P C C, Whittle le Woods
Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2019

Basis of accounting

The financial statements are prepared under the historical cost convention on the receipts and payments basis, with the exception of investments which are included at market value. The financial statements are prepared in accordance with the Charities Act 2011, 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice for charities applying the Financial Reporting Standard 102 (January 2015) and applicable accounting standards

Donations and legacies

Donations are accounted for in full in the accounts in the year in which they are received. Income from legacies is accounted for when received in view of the uncertainty up to the point the amounts are received.

Investment income

Incoming resources from investments, including interest received, is included when received.

Resources expended

Expenditure is included in the statement of financial activities when paid, inclusive of VAT which cannot be recovered, other than on certain repairs to the Parish church. Resources expended, where directly attributable, are allocated to charitable activities and governance costs. Charitable expenditure includes all expenditure incurred in the provision of charitable services, together with support costs, in pursuance of the charity's objectives.

Pensions

The charity does not have a pension scheme as there are no eligible employees.

Investments

Investments held by the Diocese on behalf of the charity are stated at their market value. All movements in values are shown in the statement of financial activities.

Fund Accounting

The charity has various types of funds for which it is responsible and which require separate disclosure as follows:

Restricted and endowment funds:

Donations or legacies received which are earmarked by the donor for specific purposes within the overall aims of the charity.

These funds may be income only (where the capital must be retained) or income and capital (where the donation and income deriving therefrom may be utilised).

The charity has no endowments

Unrestricted funds:

Funds which may be spent at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the objects of the charity. The PCC may designate some of the unrestricted funds for particular purposes, these funds may be undesignated at the trustees discretion.

2. Planned Income

	£ Unrestricted	£ Restricted	£ Total	£ 2018
Income received through Standing Orders giving	51,205	0	51,205	44,640
Income received through Envelope giving	20,305	0	20,305	21,665
	<u>71,510</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>71,510</u>	<u>66,305</u>

3. Grants Received

The Church received a grant of £48,148 from Biffa for further refurbishment work at Clayton Brook Community Church, and £1,480 from the Diocese of Blackburn from their Vision 2026 fund to further ministry in the parish.

4. Magazine and rental income

Income from the Parish Gazette	116	0	116	219
Rental Income from Clayton Brook	0	1,854	1,854	2,199
	<u>116</u>	<u>1,854</u>	<u>1,970</u>	<u>2,418</u>

5. Investment income

Bank interest	168	0	168	39
Investment income and dividends	158	0	158	155
	<u>326</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>326</u>	<u>194</u>

6. Other income

The Church, under the terms of the title deeds, received £545,722 from the sale and closure of the Parish Club on Preston Road. The proceeds from the sale can only be used for the renovation, refurbishment and maintenance of St John's Church.

7. Charitable giving

ACE Prison Support	0	0	0	250
Acorn International Ministries	200	0	200	200
SASCA	200	0	200	200
Barnabas Fund	1,200	0	1,200	1,200
Bishops Harvest Appeal	0	0	0	589
Bishops Ordination Fund	0	321	321	0
Chorley Street Pastors	600	0	600	1,560
Clayton Brook Festival	0	0	0	200
Crosslinks	1,200	0	1,200	1,400
Christian Ministry to the Jews	600	0	600	600
Open Doors	1,200	0	1,200	1,200
Salvation Army	750	0	750	1,710
Church Missionary Society	1,200	0	1,200	1,200
Tearfund	1,200	63	1,263	1,200
Wellfield Church	600	0	600	1,560
Christian Concern	0	0	0	200
Derian House	0	149	149	0
Freedom Pioneer Church Blackpool	500	0	500	0
Uganda Mission	200	1,305	1,505	0
Waterways Chaplaincy	200	0	200	0
	<u>9,850</u>	<u>1,837</u>	<u>11,687</u>	<u>13,269</u>

The P C C allocate 10% of all unrestricted giving and donations for charitable giving.

8. Parish Share paid to Diocese

The Parish Share paid to the Diocese of Blackburn covers the cost of the Vicar's stipend (salary), Clergy housing and training. In addition the Parish Share also contributes to the cost of running the Diocese and a contribution to the costs of running the National Church. In 2017 68% of the Parish Share was allocated to Ministry costs, 26% for Diocesan costs and 6% for National Church costs.

9. Parish clergy costs		2018
Clergy Expenses	1,762	1,731
Council Tax	3,190	7,179
Water Rates	<u>364</u>	<u>2,795</u>
	<u>5,316</u>	<u>11,705</u>

2018 Council Tax and Water costs included Curate costs for the 3 years to 2018

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total £	2018 £
10. Ministry Costs				
Children's Work	1,263	305	1,567	1,180
Candles, Communion wine etc	174	0	174	116
Licences etc	809	0	809	541
Clayton Brook Festival	0	725	725	485
Lay Ministry costs	807	0	807	146
Outreach	1,604	1,054	2,658	3,846
Books	72	0	72	117
Parish Awayday	0	668	668	6,454
Safeguarding	29	0	29	
Other	<u>582</u>	<u>1,905</u>	<u>2,487</u>	<u>2,176</u>
	<u>5,342</u>	<u>4,657</u>	<u>9,998</u>	<u>15,061</u>

11. Regular church running expenses

Minor Repairs	1,779	0	1,779	1,157
St Johns Repairs	0	0	0	780
Cleaning - Clayton Brook	1,632	0	1,632	1,679
Insurance St John's	4,196	0	4,196	4,254
Insurance Clayton Brook	693	0	693	675
Professional Fees	1,244	0	1,244	985
Grounds	768	0	768	340
Portaloo	3,534	0	3,534	1,728
Administration Costs	764	0	764	798
Parish Gazette Costs	682	0	682	675
Other Costs	<u>197</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>197</u>	<u>320</u>
	<u>15,489</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>15,489</u>	<u>13,391</u>

11. Major repairs to church	0	0	0	17,560
	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>17,560</u>

12. Trustees

None of the trustees (or any persons connected with them) received any remuneration during the year; two were reimbursed with a total of £1,762 mainly travelling expenses (2017: two were reimbursed £1,731).

13. Investments

The Investments are held with the Diocese of Blackburn in a number of their central funds which produce a better rate of return than if the Church invested separately. They are the result of legacies left over the years where the capital was to remain in order to produce income to help maintain the church. The value is shown in note 15 below.

14. Designated Funds

In 2018 a sum of £15,000 was designated towards the refurbishment of St Johns. However given the sale of the Parish Club in 2019 the PCC decided to undesignate the £15,000.

15. Restricted Funds

The funds of the charity include restricted funds comprising the following unexpended balances of donations held on trust for specific purposes:

	Balance at 1 January 2019 £	Movement in Funds		Transfer between Funds	Balance at 31 December 2019 £
		Incoming Resources £	Resources Expended £	£	
St Johns Refurbishment Fund	3,456	549,742	29,452	250	523,995
Childrens Gifts	56	315	305		66
Parish Weekend	0	0			0
Clayton Brook Fabric Fund	0	1,854	1,854	0	-0
Clayton Brook New Projects	1,930	50,968	53,169	271	-0
Clayton Brook Festival	537	827	725		639
Assigned Fees paid to Diocese	26	1,769	1,661		134
Ladies Fellowship	250	0		-250	0
Mens Breakfast	105	0		-105	0
Café Life	1,164	0	276		888
Clayton Brook Luncheon Club	265	0	154		112
Breakfast Club	166	0		-166	0
Clayton Brook Chairs	0	1,132	1,132		0
St Johns Computer	0	438	438		0
Bishops Ordination Fund	0	321	321		0
Outreach Meal	0	110	110		0
Derian House	0	149	149		0
Awayday	0	668	668		-0
Tearfund	0	63	63		0
Uganda Fund	0	1,315	1,305		10
Christmas ADVENTure	0	850	850		0
Pathfinders	0	23	0		23
New Gazebo	0	630	0		630
Investments	4,557	835	0		5,392
	<u>12,512</u>	<u>612,008</u>	<u>92,630</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>531,889</u>