



(Eagland Hill, Hambleton, Knott End, Out Rawcliffe, Pilling, Preesall, Stalmine)

## **Stalmine, St. James' Parochial Church Council (PCC) Annual Report for 2024**

### **1) Aims and Purposes.**

To cooperate with the Incumbent and Pioneer Minister in promoting, in the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the Church: pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical.

The mission of Stalmine St. James' Church PCC is:

To proclaim the good news of the Risen Christ to all people by worship, witness and teaching.

To pray for, and bring comfort and healing to all in need.

To identify, develop and encourage the full use of the talents that all possess.

The mission of the Over Wyre benefice is:

Sharing Jesus in the everyday of everyone in Over Wyre.

### **2) Objectives and Activities.**

#### **i. Mission and Outreach Subcommittee:**

Develops and revises regularly a Mission Statement for St James' Church with clear underlying definitions; that are communicated and understood by our congregation and community;

Makes recommendations to PCC of Mission and Outreach activities and engagements;

Ensures that the PCC's commitment to tithe our income is undertaken regularly and appropriately in line with our planned giving at home, abroad etc.

Develops and maintains links with the Diocese of Blackburn, in order that St James' is aware and involved in Diocesan mission and outreach activities;

Supports the promotion of the use of the church buildings as resources for mission and outreach.

#### **ii. Worship and Liturgy Subcommittee:**

Worship lies at the heart of the Christian life. It is in worship that we express our theology and define our identity. It is through encountering God within worship that we are formed and transformed as his people. One of the glories of the Church of England is its liturgical worship. Liturgy refers to the patterns, forms, words and actions through which public worship is conducted and governed by the Rules for Regulating Authorised Forms of Service. Therefore, the Worship and Liturgy group is to contribute to how the community prays, worships and celebrates our common faith and belief in God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit, ensuring that what we do is accessible to all who pass through our doors.

The purposes of the Worship and Liturgy Subcommittee are to:

- Contribute to the planning and celebration of prayer, worship and liturgy in its various forms throughout the church's liturgical year, ensuring that the needs of the parish community are met.



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- Widen and enrich the worship and prayer life of the parish so that people may encounter the Risen Christ and are inspired to live and spread the Good News.
- Identify, support and utilise the variety of gifts, talents and resources that are available in the parish, diocese and wider church in order.
- Promote greater understanding and awareness of the richness and diversity of worship and liturgy, ensuring that St James' parish remains open to the breadth and variety of styles that exist within the parish and the Church of England in general.

**iii. Communications and Social Subcommittee:**

Ensures effective two-way communication between:

the PCC and the congregation

the PCC and supporting sub-committees.

The church; and the general public or any other interested parties.

Maintains a calendar of social events and activities designed to increase the social wellbeing of the current congregation and by means of fellowship endeavour to carry out the church's mission.

Interacts with other Over Wyre parishes to share best practice, minimise duplication, associated costs and share benefits.

**iv. Finance and Facilities Subcommittee:**

Oversees the financial affairs and responsibilities of the PCC and makes recommendations about budgeting and the funding of expenditure.

Ensures the short-term and long-term upkeep and security of the church building and its contents, and the church grounds.

Manages the day-to-day running of the church as a public place of worship, ensuring comfort, cleanliness and safety.

Supports the promotion of the use of the church buildings as resources for prayer, worship and outreach.

**v. Charities Subcommittee:**

Plans and executes the donation of 10% of the Church's disposable income to charities.

**3) Achievements and Performance.**

**Parish Priest:**

Our Church buildings stand at the heart of our communities as powerful symbols of stability in a rapidly changing world. All six of our churches are amongst the oldest and most prominent buildings in our villages. Our buildings speak of longevity and the powerful witness of the Christian Faith in our communities spanning many centuries. A recent report by the Churches Trust said that our church buildings need to offer "*A space for God, a place for people and a base for mission.*"

**Space for God**

Sacred space matters, it is deeply part of our psyche as humans to have places to go to in order to encounter God. From the beginning of time people have sought the divine in a sacred place. For our pagan ancestors that may have been at a spring, or a grove in a forest. For our Jewish forebears it was at the Temple in Jerusalem.



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As Christians we believe that we can meet God at any time and in any place. Jesus taught this when he met the Samaritan woman at the well, an event recorded for us in John chapter four. Nevertheless, Jesus also clearly loved the Temple and visited it on pilgrimage on at least three occasions. So for us, like Jesus, there are important and special places to meet with God in a unique way. There are special places, which I like to call *touching places* where the presence of God is tangible. Places where the membrane between this world and the next is thin. Our six churches, in diverse ways, are just such places. In those sacred bricks and stones, you can hear the whisper of the angels, and encounter the living presence of Jesus in Sacrament, Word, and shared relationship. What beautiful, holy, and important places our buildings are to our communities! Our Churches are spiritual oases for people to encounter God. That may be on a Sunday in worship, or some of our places of worship are able to be open for people to find stillness in private prayer during the week. Our buildings matter as places of holiness and encounter, they are a space for God.

### **A place for people**

Our buildings are used in a variety of ways throughout the year as concert venues, as places of art exhibition, or as places for fun and play for our young people. They are used as a base for the local Post Office and places to gather as community at significant moments such as Christmas, Easter, or Harvest. Our faith is incarnational: in other words, Jesus was born in a particular place at a particular time. Place matters. Our Churches should be places where people can meet, can gather as community, and share moments of joy or sorrow. They are places for people.

### **A base for mission**

Our Churches stand as an ensign to the people of God's abiding love for them. Our faith as well as being incarnational is also trinitarian. The Godhead is a relationship of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Our buildings should be places where relationship is fashioned in a community of love. Mission really works when relationships are built on love and trust. Our buildings should be a base for mission to spread through the community in friendship, joy, and love. Mission also only works when it is rooted in prayer. Our mission is God's mission. In prayer we pray that Jesus may touch peoples' hearts that they may be drawn in to his body, the Church. Buildings are a base for mission because they are places of relationship and places of prayer.

This year I have been profoundly aware of the sheer hard work and dedication of so many to the care and maintenance of our buildings. This can be seen as a distraction from our mission, as if there is some sort of dichotomy between maintenance and mission. Yet in actual fact, if buildings are used well, they are at the heart of mission. Churches are places to meet God, places for people to meet each other, places where people feel loved valued and belong. I am humbled by the hard work and many hours people spend in the care and maintenance of our buildings. Day after day and week after week, I encounter people quietly going about caring for our buildings. This maintenance may be visible such as cleaning, arranging flowers, cutting the grass, or tending grounds; or it may be less visible such as letting people into the building to repair the boiler or complete safety checks, or it may be as mundane as allowing an engineer to come and service fire extinguishers. Almost every time I visit a church during the week, I find someone busy caring for the house of God. That is an incredibly beautiful ministry, to love the house of the Lord.

For each of our churches there have also been more significant moments in the last year in the maintenance of buildings. Parishes have had projects such as replacing guttering, extending the churchyard, cleaning gutters and renewing lighting.



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Churches have replastered walls, had new boilers fitted. Churches have renewed sound systems or replaced projectors. Churches have had new external rendering or cleared grounds. Churches have restored toilet facilities or repaired leaking roofs. Churches have maintained their lightening conductors or dealt with flooded cellars. All these works have cost over £35,000 across the benefice. These projects take a great deal of time to come to fruition and are a symbol of our love for our buildings. It takes time to telephone contractors, meet them on site, and obtain estimates. That time is often given by wardens, to whom I am enormously grateful. I am astounded by the dedication of our treasurers in arranging and ensuring the funding to support such projects and to finance such works is made available from our limited resources.

A dirty, neglected, and poorly maintained building speaks of disinterest, neglect, and decay. A well maintained, warm, clean, and bright church speaks of welcome, love and community. A well-maintained building speaks not just of the love of place, but far more importantly of the love of God who richly dwells in our midst.

My report this year is one of humble and profound gratitude to the countless volunteers who care for our buildings. Your ministry is profoundly appreciated beyond what words can express. Your work is not simply a legacy for the future it is a missionary moment for here and now. For our buildings are places people come and seek God to “*worship him in spirit and in truth.*” (John 4: 24)

Fr Peter Walsh

### **Pioneer Minister**

This last year has seen an amazing number of things happening in and around the communities we live in and love. It is amazing to see all the different places there are for people to meet God, to be supported and to come together for fun and worship! Nothing would happen without the support, understanding and involvement of amazing people. So much that we do is lovingly created by teams of volunteers who give their time, energy and resources selflessly and who shine Jesus out into their communities. Thank you to each one of you, personally, for the support we as a family receive; and for all that you give, do and are for Jesus. Thank you!

### **Wednesday Stay & Play at Pilling**

The toddler group in Pilling is into its fourth year. When we began, four years ago, we had a clear vision that the group would be a place of support for adults and children. It was important to us, coming out of COVID that this group would provide a space where every adult could get a drink and be asked ‘How are you?’ with time and space to truly answer the question.

Our faith is at the heart of everything we do on a Wednesday, there is always someone to pray with and talk to as well as a safe and fun space for children to grow and develop and be known. We hope that every person that walks through the door, whatever age knows they are loved by us and by God. Some weeks we have a story, some weeks there is a sensory tray, most weeks there is a craft and song time, every week there are drinks and snacks and a warm welcome.

The group is open for anyone with small children and people from all across Over Wyre are part of the amazing community with new people coming every month.



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### **Craft & Cocktails (including a Pamper and Prosecco Event)**

These events began after speaking with adults at the toddler group who wanted an informal and relaxed space to come as an adult. They run once every half-term for a couple of hours in an evening and are very well attended. The hall is almost always full. This year we have done Spring wreaths, pumpkin painting, Christmas rag wreaths and lanterns. We also hosted a ‘Pamper & Prosecco’ evening near Easter with amazing Tropic reps who offered mini facials and hand massages etc. We’ve had very positive feedback from these evenings, people enjoy meeting friends and making new ones, and they create great links in our community. The events are accessible and low cost and seem to be enjoyed by everyone!

### **Saturday Stay & Play Service held at St Oswald’s Church Hall**

Stay & Play Service continued on the first and third Saturday mornings of each month until July.

Jan – Easter we looked at people who were called by God. We explored the stories of Samuel, Joseph, Elijah, Esther, and Mary Magdalene. Easter to summer saw us all consider the stories of the ‘between time’ – encounters with Jesus between the resurrection and the early church. In this term we looked at the stories of Thomas, Peter meeting Jesus on the beach, Pentecost, baptism, and communion.

Many of the children who had been coming regularly on Saturday mornings were starting school, or already over 5, so we decided to try something different in the Autumn term to try and adapt for the changing ages of the group.

### **Raise & Praise**

Raise and Praise continues at the same time as Stay & Play Service did: the first and third Saturday morning of each month with a slightly different time; 9.45 - 11.15.

The morning begins with a gathering activity/ice breaker that involves everyone in a game or quest to create something. We then gather for worship and a story. At about 10.20, we go off to explore the story through crafts, activities and worksheets. There are things suitable for adults and children of all ages and everyone seems to find something they enjoy.

During the activity time, there are also refreshments available. We meet back together at 11-ish to show what we have been doing and to pray together before a final song.

During the Autumn term, we journeyed through Jesus’ genealogy beginning with Adam – Noah – Abraham – Ruth & Boaz – David – Josiah – Mary & Joseph.

Many of the children who used to come are now busy on a Saturday morning, but it was lovely to welcome many of them back for the Christmas Story in December!

Before we began Raise & Praise the team gathered to process what was important, what was working or not and what the vision of this service was. After processing, prayer and much discussion, we realised that the priority is about making/showing that God, faith and church is accessible for everyone, showing people that God is approachable by trying to be approachable ourselves and welcoming to every person who comes.

### **Stalmine Festival**

In July, St James’ church had a community festival welcoming and collaborating with the community for all sorts of events! It was an amazing week and led to great contact with schools and uniformed groups as well as the first of Forest Church inspired events.



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**School involvement** (services, governors, going in for odd lessons etc)

Over the year, I have been able to be in contact with many of the schools Over Wyre. I have helped, led, prepared or hosted special services, been part of governors and gone in to schools to support staff with lessons for a variety of subjects such as ‘being called by God’ and ‘what Christians do for Advent/Christmas’. It is a joy to be able to spend time, not just with the church schools in the area but with many of the wonderful schools we have locally.

**Ducklings/Adventures in Early Years**

One of the things we do with local schools is our ‘Adventures with Early Years’ (also known as Ducklings in Hambleton). These are an utter delight. Once each half-term, the nursery and reception classes come to church at Hambleton and Pilling, and I go in to school at Preesall Fleetwood’s Charity School.

In these sessions we introduce the children to the rough structure and content they might find on a Sunday morning. We sing songs, tell a Bible story in an interactive and engaging way, talk to Jesus and have space to ask questions and be curious. This is then followed by a time to play, get to know each other and explore the story further with a craft or two. These give the kids chance to see what it is like in church, engage with scripture and we get to build relationship with them and staff.

**God Outdoors!**

Some of the events at the Stalmine Festival week were inspired by Forest Schools and Forest Church. These were outdoor activities focused on seeing God in nature and meeting with Jesus outside through stories, through our senses and through various activities. Families seemed to really enjoy these events so early in October we launched ‘GO!’ – God Outdoors! It is a family-friendly, forest school-inspired service for primary aged children and their families. The two in 2024 were held at St James’ Stalmine, and there are plans for the service to travel around to other venues.

GO! happens on a Friday evening after school and includes a circle time where we listen and use our senses to tune in to nature and God, activities that use mostly natural resources, food to share and time to talk to Jesus.

Nearly all the families that attend do not go to any other church. People seem to really enjoy the relaxed informal environment and being surrounded by nature!

**Spring Harvest**

In April a group of people from Over Wyre Benefice went to Spring Harvest at Butlins in Skegness. The five days were full of teaching, worship, creative spaces, and lots of fun. The day began for most of us with the ‘big start’, an intergenerational morning session with songs and stories and lots of silliness! There were groups for kids, teaching for adults, swimming, ice skating, play areas, cafes, walks, beach and much more!

It was amazing to spend time together with people of all ages from the benefice enjoying the worship and space and being surrounded by hundreds and hundreds of other Christians.

**Connection with Northern Rural Pioneer Ministries Hub and others**

Across the year, there are various places I connect with other pioneers for ideas, support and retreat. One of these is the northern rural pioneer ministries hub. This is a group of people, from different denominations, who are all involved in pioneer-type ministry in rural areas across the North.



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We have been meeting together for a few years, and it is always a fantastic time of sharing ideas and suggestions, listening to each other and spending time with God.

There is also a new group in the diocese of pioneers across all settings being created and various chances across the year to meet with other clergy at study days, women clergy networking lunches and chapter meetings.

### **Starting the Community Group (Over Wyre Benefice Children and Families)**

As can be seen there is so much happening. Many of the things that I am involved in are across the benefice. They are not usually for any one parish. As such, in order to be able to keep track of and gather together finances, numbers and activities, we have begun the process to start a 'Community Group'.

During summer 2024, I had some consultations with a professional who advises people, particularly those involved with church and faith groups, about how to set up, which option is best and what the next steps are.

The group exists to support the work and ministry of the Over Wyre benefice specifically in relation to its outreach to children and families in the community.

It aims to:

Create community spaces where the people of Over Wyre are welcomed, accepted and supported with space to explore the Christian faith.

Build and deepen relationships with one another, with the community and with God.

Consolidate outreach activities that happen across the benefice for families and those connected to them.

This benefice is an utterly amazing place to live and serve. I love this role and the people Over Wyre. It is an utter joy, every day, to live here and to be able to fulfil the call that God has put on my life and in this place. I am so amazed by what God has already done and excited about what God is doing and will do in the future! Together we are seeing God at work in our communities and in people's lives and it is an utter privilege to join in with the Spirit's work here!

My role and calling here is to walk slowly with people, to live my life as a public disciple, to work out what it looks like to follow Jesus in our lives today and to invite people to join me as we explore this together. Although there are so many 'events', 'activities' and 'services' happening the main vision is to facilitate space for people to Be with Jesus, Become like Jesus and Do what Jesus did (helpful summary taken from John Mark Comer's book, Practising the Way). Some of this is done through activities, events and services, but much is done in the quiet, in the unseen, in the ordinary everyday of our lives.

Fr Peter and Adele are a continual blessing to me personally, my family and to Over Wyre Benefice. They work tirelessly to share God's love with everyone.

This is not supposed to be a space to document my thanks to every person, I know! But please know that I appreciate and value each one of you, your support, passion and the love you share. Even without any of these things happening, Over Wyre Benefice is amazing and full of such love and joy. Even if everything stopped, each one of us is endlessly valuable just for who you are. Thank you to all of you!

Rev Naomi Barraclough

THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND OVER WYRE



(Eagland Hill, Hambleton, Knott End, Out Rawcliffe, Pilling, Preesall, Stalmine)







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### **Licensed Lay Minister:**

As always, it has been a busy year. At the beginning of March, there was the LLM relicensing at Blackburn Cathedral, and before that, the Safeguarding training.

I have met with Fr. Peter and Ray Hart, the LLM from Pilling, on a regular basis to pray for our churches and ministries, and to have a general catch-up of what's happening in the parishes.

The monthly Morning Worship service tends to be well attended and seems to be enjoyed by all the conversations I have had with the congregation at the door. A big thank you to Elaine, Sara, Pam, Jonathan and all involved for making it happen. You are an amazing team.

For the majority of the year, I have been involved with the Morning Worship team at Pilling, taking services there once a month, but Ray is now taking that service, so I am back at Out Rawcliffe for their Morning Worship service monthly.

I have attended a couple of enjoyable training mornings organised by the Blackburn diocese, with more to look forward to.

2024's 'Spring Harvest' was fantastic: lots of teaching, worship, prayer, and time in the Lord's presence. Looking forward to 2025, if you haven't been there, I would encourage you all to go. It's the highlight of the year.

Our Ladies Bible Study group is an opportunity to get to grips with digging deeper into the Bible, discovering things we hadn't realised before, and an opportunity to ask questions, all in a friendly and relaxed environment. I really enjoy our discussions; the only downside is that I can't manage to get to every one.

I'm looking forward to 2025, and where God will lead us.

Nicola Smith.

### **Churchwarden:**

See also Finance and Facilities report.

Fr. Peter Walsh joined us permanently in March 2024 and we are all grateful for his ministry, enthusiasm and leadership of our Over Wyre Benefice.

The past twelve months have seen consistent church attendances, with one or two new regular faces, and we continue to have a regular attendance of children in our congregation. We have also witnessed the ongoing development of the Sunday Group in our Communion services, which has had positive feedback from our congregation as they appreciate the children's involvement, but also some quieter time during these more formal services. The monthly Morning Worship services led by Nicola, ditto the All-Age services led by Elaine, Pam and Sara continue to be popular and well supported.

Once again, the Churchwardens wish to thank all our Clergy, Fr Peter, Naomi, plus all the visiting clergy and Lay leaders who conduct and assist in the services at St James. We think it is appropriate to once again mention our "retired" SSM, Dyllis, who still leads so many services at St James and is always available for help and advice.

Communions at home, Coffee and Prayer mornings have continued on Thursdays and the Men's group continues to meet on a regular basis, together with the ladies Bible study.

Again, the wardens wish to thank all those involved, not only those leading services, but our Verger, Publicity and Safeguarding officers and all those who carry out numerous duties and tasks, often unnoticed, without asking, but essential to the continuity of our St James' church family.

Sandra Bourne, and P Derek Wolstenholme (edited.)



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**Safeguarding:**

The year under review was one where the PCC was able to make steady progress in getting volunteers, of whatever category, through their required training courses. At the end of the year, only two volunteers had their required Foundation course to complete, and this should be resolved early in the coming year.

Progress in the main can be attributed to PCC members being able to see the Parish Dashboard live, for the first time, as we have the facility to project it at PCC meetings. There they can see the parish's progress on the dashboard and hub and see information being updated as they make decisions. At the end of meetings, we can print the parish action plan for members to adopt as the plan until the next PCC meeting.

Where volunteers have not had access to the internet, we have arranged face-to-face sessions on courses to get them through what is, essentially, a learning experience.

One of the highlights of the safeguarding year was Safeguarding Sunday in September where we were able to present eleven certificates to our volunteers who successfully completed courses during the year. This was to say a public thank-you to them for completing their training and to raise awareness among the congregation that safeguarding is an ongoing activity and that several people are involved in it. They were also one of the first congregations in the country to see a full set of the twenty-six safeguarding leaflets on various aspects of abuse produced by the national Church of England committee tasked with revising the Church's safeguarding literature.

Our Parish Safeguarding Officer continues to attend local SGO meetings, diocesan PSOs get-togethers, and the monthly SGO's drop-in sessions with Clayton House staff, as well as his work with the National Committee, revising safeguarding documents.

Peter Swarbrick.



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## Stalmine St James

### Safeguarding Action Summary - Level 2

This shorter version of the Safeguarding Action Plan ignores any completed actions or suspended activities.

#### Training for Key Roles

	Status	Notes
<b>Churchwardens</b> The PCC must ensure that all Churchwardens undertake the required safeguarding training.	A question needs to be reviewed.	Churchwardens to undertake Leadership Course on October 26
<b>PCC Members</b> The PCC must ensure that all their members undertake the required safeguarding training.	A question needs to be reviewed.	

#### Church Activities

##### Little Fishes

Runs on a Friday morning at St James Church for mothers and toddlers under the auspices of Pioneer Minister Rev Naomi Barraclough

	Status	Notes
<b>Safer Recruitment</b> All new leaders and helpers must be appointed in accordance with the Church of England's Safer Recruitment and People Management Guidance. This must be reviewed annually.	This activity needs to follow the Safer Recruitment process.	
<b>DBS Checks</b> The PCC must ensure that all eligible leaders and helpers have up-to-date DBS checks. 5-yearly checks must be replaced with 3-yearly checks by January 2024 at the latest.	Some leaders or helpers need to be DBS checked.	
<b>Safeguarding Training</b> The PCC must ensure that all leaders and helpers undertake the required safeguarding training.	A question needs to be reviewed.	

##### Sunday Club

A withdrawal group for young children during Sunday services.

	Status	Notes
<b>Safeguarding Training</b> The PCC must ensure that all leaders and helpers undertake the required safeguarding training.	Action is required.	



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### **Worship and Liturgy Subcommittee:**

This subcommittee has not met in 2024. Both the “contemporary” and “traditional” orders of Eucharist service continue to be used at Stalmine. The Parish Priest produces a quarterly rota of services in consultation with the parishes. It is intended that the role of this Subcommittee should be examined, with a view to its future direction.

Paul Buckmaster

### **All-age Services**

We now have a substantial number of children attending this service with their parents. Over the year we have included action songs, puppets and physical activities as well as craft activities. Every month we receive positive feedback, and we are always blessed by how willing the Church family are in supporting what we do. In December we also hosted the second Community Carol Singalong at the Village Hall. This included Pilling Band and the Over Wyre Community Choir, and we received a huge amount of positive feedback, much from people who do not attend church regularly. Many thanks to Jonathan who now regularly helps with the laptop in church, but we really would appreciate more help planning and leading the services each month.

Pam Jackson, Elaine and Sara Duke

### **Mission and Outreach Subcommittee:**

*See also Communications and Social Subcommittee’s, and “Little Fishes” reports.*

This Subcommittee also did not meet in 2024. More members are needed. Would anyone who feels called in this area, please contact me.

Nicola Smith

### **Stay and Play**

See the Pioneer Minister’s report.

### **“Little Fishes”**

We have continued to hold Little Fishes on a Friday morning, 10 – 11.30 am, during term time. Over the last year we have varying numbers of children attend, from one to six and all sessions are recorded for safeguarding purposes. All who come are warmly welcomed and included and the children have a great variety of toys to play with. Many thanks to Louise who has put together wonderful posts on Facebook and Paul who updates the website which keeps everyone updated.

Pam, Gill and Kim

### **Sunday Club**

At St James' Sunday Club, we create a lively and joyful space where children and families come together to explore faith in a fun and meaningful way. Each week, we focus on the Gospel of the day, bringing it to life with engaging storytelling, creative crafts, lively games, action songs, and reflective prayer time. Our goal is to nurture a welcoming and inclusive environment where children can learn, grow, and share in the love of faith.



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Our group spans a fair age range, and we tailor activities to suit the unique personalities and developmental stages of the children. Parents and carers have the flexibility to either remain in the main service or join us in the club room—many of whom delight in getting involved and bringing extra energy to our activities! Together, we cultivate a strong sense of community and shared joy.

An especially meaningful moment is when we rejoin the congregation during the Sharing of the Peace to participate in Communion. The children are encouraged to share the fruits of their creativity, proudly presenting their crafts and stories to the wider church family. This not only fosters confidence but also ensures they feel deeply connected to the service as a whole.

Our Sunday Club is lovingly run by a small, dedicated team of volunteers who are passionate about nurturing young hearts and minds. We're always eager to welcome new volunteers who share our vision of making this ministry a truly special experience for everyone involved.

Gill Keighley

### **Ladies Bible Study**

This is the second year of meeting and is regularly attended by six ladies, and we have read through several different books in the Bible, including 1 Timothy, Proverbs and Revelation. In most cases we use the study guides to support understanding and encourage discussion. New members would be very welcome.

Pam Jackson.

### **Men's Group**

The Men's Group continued meeting on Monday evenings during spring and autumn, to enjoy fellowship and informal Bible study (using "Cover to Cover" study guides) over a "pie and a pint". There were usually six and occasionally seven members: more members would be welcome. In the spring, we looked at '1 Corinthians – growing a Spirit-filled church', and 'Judges 1-8 – a spiral of faith'. In the autumn, we followed 'Fruits of the Spirit.'

Paul E Buckmaster

### **Communications and Social Subcommittee:**

It is amazing how 2024 has gone by so quickly. Throughout the year, we have endeavoured to follow the remit of this committee, whilst undertaking a variety of events that brought the community together. Here are some of the highlights:

Sunday Lent lunch with the provision of delicious home-made soup and rolls.

Parish Lunch in the Seven Stars.

Various charity events and fundraisers are organised, supporting local and national causes, whilst bringing people together for a common purpose.

Our Pre-Loved Fashion Show proved once again to be a successful evening with the proceeds supporting such worthy causes: £1,000 was shared between CRY (Cardiac Risk in the Young) and Brian House Children's Hospice.

We no longer collect Christian Aid envelopes, but continuing to hold a fundraising event for the cause was sheer delight.

## THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND OVER WYRE



(England Hill, Hambleton, Knott End, Out Rawcliffe, Pilling, Preesall, Stalmine)

We gathered to share food, enjoy the outdoors, and support this great cause. Lots of people came to enjoy the strawberry treats and the beautiful day with which we were blessed. For our summer Patronal Festival, we pulled out all the stops to create the ‘Ancient Roots’ festival. Our vision: celebrating community spirit by bringing together the church, the village, within our own environment! The Ancient Roots Festival week was truly memorable, and I feel justified, by the messages of thanks and appreciation received in saying we provided an environment where everyone felt valued and welcomed. Thanks to those who contributed a tremendous amount of work, the whole week proved to be a truly enriching experience which touched the lives of many.

The week commenced with a service to launch our festival celebrations, followed by an afternoon of open gardens in Stalmine. The next day saw many on a virtual historic walk around the village. This event gave a unique opportunity to explore the rich history of Stalmine in a relaxed environment, enjoying refreshments whilst on the virtual tour. It was a wonderful way to celebrate the community and learn more about the local heritage.

On a not-so-sunny summer’s evening, traditional and modern worship music could be heard during our “Sing to the Lord” praise event.

For the young people in our village and the Over Wyre Benefice, we offered the opportunity to take part in forest church type activities connect with God and nature through outdoor gatherings; fire-lighting, bread making, nature, art and craft, pebble painting, and boat building. Engaging with the environment in this way can foster a deep sense of spirituality and stewardship of God’s world.

We held a full day and two after school forest church-type sessions, which gave young people from the village and Over Wyre Benefice the chance to connect with God and nature through outdoor activities with the intention to create lasting memories and foster a deep appreciation for the environment. Similar activities to those outlined above were tried out.

At the end of a very busy week, our service saw us celebrating with a sense of gratitude for community, and in true St James style concluded with a celebratory lunch. A delightful way to wrap up a busy week!

As an alternative to our traditional autumn ‘Macmillan coffee morning’, we hosted “Pamper with Afternoon Tea”. Not only did this attract a different group of people, but it also created a relaxing event where people enjoyed some delicious treats, and indulged in a little bit of pampering.

Seasonal festivals and celebrations, such as Christmas provide opportunities to draw people from the community together. The village Christmas Tree Lighting is just one such occasion. There’s something so magical about villagers gathering to sing carols and enjoy the festive season together. The music from Over Wyre Brass adds a special touch to the celebrations. It’s heartwarming to hear that everyone, from children to adults, enjoy participating.

Pilling Jubilee Silver Band once again provided a wonderful experience for families when they came along on a Saturday in December to entertain with Christmas music, a singalong and the opportunity for children to participate. Many thanks to the band for providing a fabulous time, filled with Christmas warmth and joy.

Our final festive social event was our Parish Meal, held in the Village Hall. This followed a wonderful Community Carol Service with Pilling Jubilee Silver Band and the Over Wyre Community Choir. The combination of carols, the band, and the choir made for a very special atmosphere as a prelude to a delicious lunch served to over sixty parishioners.



(Eagland Hill, Hambleton, Knott End, Out Rawcliffe, Pilling, Preesall, Stalmine)

Many thanks to Brenda and our pudding team for making the event extra special with their culinary contributions! It was a joy to gather as a community and share in the festive spirit. We continue to deliver ‘welcome’ packs for new residents in the parish and with the ever-increasing number of new homes being built in Stalmine this is a great opportunity for the church to make initial contact with new residents.

The delivery of Easter and Christmas cards continues, although with fewer volunteers to deliver we are considering the future of this initiative.

We endeavour to keep our notice boards current, ensuring that all information is up to date, from service times to upcoming events.

Notices are displayed on our video projection screen before the start of services.

We are grateful for all the volunteers who regularly give of their time to help in so many different ways. There are many “behind the scenes” activities which is something for us all to continue to nurture and support. However, despite all our successes we must not allow ourselves to become complacent: there is always work to be done.

The question is do we leave footprints in people’s lives, by the way we welcome, listen to and share with others?

Gill Keighley

#### **Finance and Facilities Subcommittee:**

See also Section 4.

The Finance and Facilities Subcommittee met thrice in 2024, and much essential maintenance and repair work has been progressed, namely:

Re-rendering of some two-thirds of the North church wall commenced in November and will be complete in early 2025.

Further re-pointing to the west boundary wall together with areas of the North wall.

Repairs to the South boundary wall which was damaged by a wagon delivering to the ‘Seven Stars’; and realigning and reinforcing a large gravestone in the same wall. The former item costs were recovered from the delivery company.

One set of the boiler house doors have been replaced on a like-for-like basis, with the remaining three to be completed after the rendering work.

Sourcing a cost-effective Quinquennial Inspection report has commenced and will be completed in 2025.

The piano was tuned. The low-wattage heater, fitted inside the piano to overcome the growth of mould / sticking action problems was very successful: further maintenance was undertaken at the time of tuning, and no problems are now being experienced. The fluctuating price of heating oil has been closely monitored throughout the year, and the tank refilled at opportune moments.

Routine testing of fire extinguishers and maintenance of the grounds progressed as normal.

Grateful thanks are again due to Simon Currier who does most of the grass cutting.

Following an incident when Rev. Dawn Banks accidentally fell from the pedestal in front of the lectern, additional warning posts, in keeping with the lectern legs, are being procured.

Additional decorating to the porch is outstanding, together with repairs to the cracked glass panes, and both will be progressed in 2025.

There have been no reportable Health and Safety issues.

Derek Wolstenholme / Paul Buckmaster



(Eagland Hill, Hambleton, Knott End, Out Rawcliffe, Pilling, Preesall, Stalmine)

### **Deanery Synod:**

There were two meetings of the Deanery Synod in 2024, on 22<sup>nd</sup> May, and on 31<sup>st</sup> October.

Guest speakers at the 22<sup>nd</sup> May meeting were the Archdeacon of Lancaster and Mrs Tio Duffield from the Racial Justice Group recently commissioned by the Archbishop of York. Both described the Racial Justice Group as optimistic and positive.

The bedrock of the group's thinking was based on a report published a few years ago and entitled 'From Lament to action.'

The Church of England has said so often that there is so much evidence of racial injustice that we should be doing something about it. It has passed over one hundred resolutions about tackling racial injustice but acted on fewer than ten. We need never to forget to lament but now is the time for action.

The speakers described the work of the group as:

- Offering seminars for clergy.
- Working as a consultancy for the Diocese on racial justice issues.
- Seeking to hear voices that have previously never been heard.
- Trying to work racial Justice into the whole culture in which the Diocese operates.

It is recognized that the work of the group is 'a marathon and not a sprint'.

They acknowledged how amazing are our church schools in working for racial justice. There is an intention to appoint a Canon for Racial justice at the Cathedral with a brief to change the culture of the Diocese in terms of racial justice. This post will be funded nationally and although the holder will be based at the Cathedral the work will be in the whole of the Diocese. Synod members were invited to work in 'buzz groups' and then questions were invited.

There was a request for a definition of racial justice. The Archdeacon recommended googling the Report 'Lament for action' and the definition would stand out.

A second question asked, 'How do we attract people of colour?'

A third: Should the next archbishop of Canterbury be 'non-white British'?

Other questions asked whether types or styles of churchmanship played a part in attracting people of colour to worship. The archdeacon commented that in his view when Archbishop Rowan Williams spoke of a 'mixed economy' he was on to something. The Synod warmly applauded the speakers' input.

Elections to Diocesan Synod were initiated.

The Area Dean reported:

Canon Peter Ballard had been appointed as interim priest in charge of Scorton, Barnacre and Calder Vale.

A Fellside appointment was announced. The Reverend Lis Ward would be inducted as Team Vicar of the Fellside Parishes on Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> June and her husband Ian as Assistant Priest (SSM)

Paul Ronson gave the Report of proceedings of the General Synod which last met in February. 'Safeguarding' dominated the Synod, the Jay Report having just been published. 'Living in Love and Faith' did not go far. In terms of compensation for victims of abuse, it seems the hierarchy is expecting even the local church to 'chip in'.

Paul Ronson emphasized how the Deanery Choral Evensongs are going well. Services were averaging about 50 attendees.





(Eagland Hill, Hambleton, Knott End, Out Rawcliffe, Pilling, Preesall, Stalmine)

The Reverend Gregor Stuart explained that at Barton there was a monthly celebration of Holy Communion from the B.C.P. with an average of three attending. He wondered if there was scope for members of the Deanery to come together for such a service like they do for Evensong.

Paul Ronson explained the origin of the New Settlement Diocesan Motion ‘that this Synod calls upon the Church Commissioners and Archbishops’ Council to undertake everything necessary to effect a redistribution of financial resources directly to Diocesan Boards of Finance Stipendiary Funds equivalent to the transfer of assets to the Church Commissioners from Diocesan Boards of Finance since the settlement of 1997 (£2.6 billion) to support parish ministry in the ways discerned locally to be most effective in enabling growth and sustaining the Church of England’s commitment to be a Christian presence in every community.

The guest speaker at the meeting held on 31st October was Canon Prof. John Rodwell. The main points of his presentation were:

Asking the question – are we sufficiently grateful for God’s generosity? We need to care for God’s creation. It is our responsibility to promote care for creation. Do we lament the damage we do?

Describing the features of the impact of climate change both locally and beyond. Flooding is likely to increase. Urgent action is needed in the face of climate change. The Diocese is committed to Net Zero by 2030. This will affect churches and our schools, the latter being responsible for the greater proportion of carbon emissions. Achieving reduction will be costly. The Church Commissioners have released large sums of money for this purpose. A Net Zero working group has been set up by +Joe. The Diocese has a footprint tool that provides information about the rate of emissions in each of our churches. An energy audit can be carried out to aid calculation of these.

Emissions come from heating and lighting.

Simple actions we can do as a church community or personally include:

Use LED light bulbs.

Turn off lighting when not in use.

Eco efficient heating systems - very expensive.

Eco efficient boilers.

Change our lifestyle - electric cars, how we travel, what we eat.

WWF Footprint Calculator can be found on <https://footprint.wwf.org.uk>

He recommended the Eco Church accreditation, which provides a framework as a guide to improvement.

Prof. Rodwell was thanked for his detailed presentation.

There were reports from the Treasurer, and from Diocesan and General Synod. Safeguarding issues were discussed at General Synod in response to the recently published report. Trust was a main focus – trust at different levels. Trust is at an all-time low within the House of Bishops and Clergy.

Safeguarding was also the subject for discussion at Diocesan Synod. The forthcoming debate in Parliament on Assisted Dying was raised. Bishop Philip expressed his opposition.

A Youth Forum has been established.

2025 has been designated a Year of Prayer for Growth and Renewal. It is hoped that the parishes will embrace this.

Copies of the minutes of all Deanery Synod meetings may be obtained from Nicola Smith.

Paul Buckmaster, pp. Nicola Smith



(Eagland Hill, Hambleton, Knott End, Out Rawcliffe, Pilling, Preesall, Stalmine)

### **Prayer Chain.**

This continues to be a very useful tool enabling the twenty-two members to reach out for prayer and help with immediate effect. If you know anyone who would like to join the group, then please speak to Elaine Evans.

Pam Jackson

### **Baptism:**

Sadly, there were no baptisms at St James' in 2024, the first time in living memory that this has occurred.

Janice Baines, Gill Keighley

### **Choir**

The first major event of 2024 (and what a major event it was!) was the Installation and Induction of Fr Peter as the new Parish Priest of the Over Wyre benefice on 3<sup>rd</sup> March at Pilling, St. John the Baptist. Five of us joined five from Preesall, one from Hambleton and seven from Pilling to form the joint choir: once again, at Fr Peter's request, we sang, "Come, Holy Ghost, our souls inspire." TJ Singleton represented St. James' with representatives from other churches, in leading intercessions. Two weeks later, at Hambleton, seven of us made up a joint choir with three each from Pilling and Preesall at the first joint service of 2024, to welcome Fr Peter formally, and hear his vision for the future. On Good Friday, we were joined by Elizabeth Charles from St. Oswald's for the Choral Meditation on the Passion which was well received by the small congregation. During Communion on Easter Day, we sang the Easter carol, new from last year, 'Jesus is risen! Alleluia!' along with Stephen Spencer's 'Mary and the Stone'. On Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> April, five of us joined sixteen other choristers from Preesall St. Oswald, Churchtown St. Helen, St Michael's on Wyre, and Garstang St. Thomas to sing Deanery Choral Evensong at Preesall, in celebration of sixty years since their organ was dedicated. This resulted in an invitation for us to host a Deanery Choral Evensong at Stalmine in May next year. At Pentecost during communion, we sang Thomas Tallis' 'If ye love me, keep my commandments'; and 'Spirit of God, unseen as the Wind', to the tune of the Skye Boat Song. Fortunately, we were joined by five from Preesall and two from Pilling for the joint service at St James' on 30<sup>th</sup> June, as only three of our team were able to be present. It was lovely that Pam, Elizabeth and Ian from St. Oswald's joined us during the 'Ancient Roots' Festival for 'Sing to the Lord.'

For Harvest Choral Evensong, Ian Wright from St. Oswald's joined us – the others who usually help us out were on holiday. We sang a new (to us) quite jazzy anthem: 'Praise, O Praise our God and King' to music by Martin How. The joint Benefice confirmation service took place on 24<sup>th</sup> November at Hambleton, Blessed Virgin Mary. I played the organ, and six of our choir joined three from Preesall, St Oswald, in leading the singing and performing 'Come, Holy Ghost, our souls inspire.' Bishop Jill thanked us for the beautiful rendition. On 22<sup>nd</sup> December, the Nine Lessons and Carols service was well attended, and the choir was delighted to welcome three new singers: Carol Bellingham and Sue Cardwell to sing soprano, and Jonathan Bellingham who joined the basses. Oliver Ralph also returned from Bristol to visit his family, and sing bass with us. This year's new (to us) carol was 'A Tender Shoot' – words by William Bartholomew set to music by Otto Goldschmidt. It complements the Isaiah reading saying that a shoot will come from the stem of Jesse.

THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND OVER WYRE



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On 29<sup>th</sup> December, six of our choristers ended the year by joining the choir at Preesall St Oswald, to sing carols at the Benefice 'Big Sing'.

TJ Singleton has sung throughout 2024. Mid-year, his voice started to break, and so he has now become a very competent alto: perhaps I shall be teaching him tenor or bass before the end of 2025! Sadly, Caitlyn Burns left us and moved back to Blackpool – we wish her well for her future. Sylvia Jenkinson, a very long-standing choir member has been suffering a serious illness resulting in an operation back in June, and a very long recovery period: we hope that she will be able to rejoin choir in future. Despite the additions mentioned above, we would still welcome new members in all departments.

It is of concern that, at the beginning of 2025, all of the organists in the benefice are over seventy years of age, one of them even being in his mid-nineties. We urgently need an input of fresh expertise in this area, if traditional church music is not to decline terminally.

Paul E Buckmaster

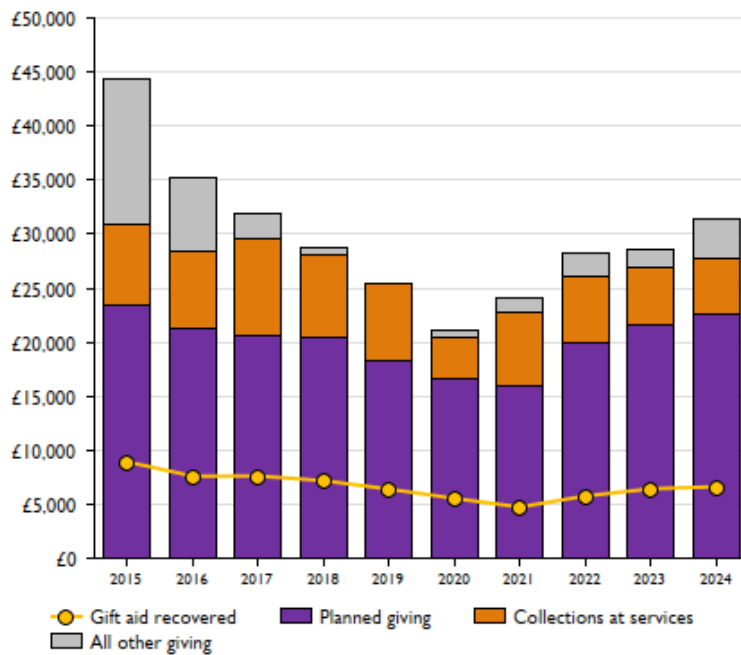


(England Hill, Hambleton, Knott End, Out Rawcliffe, Pilling, Preesall, Stalmine)

**4) Financial Review – see Appendix 1: Receipts and Payments Accounts.**

The headlines (figures correct at 31st December 2024):

- In 2024, total receipts were £45,914, £144 more (+0.3%) than in 2023 (£45,771). Payments were £58,707 (2023: £48,460, +21.1%), and thus payments exceeded receipts by £12,793. At year-end, the church funds totalled £112,837.
- £6,536 was received from HM Revenue and Customs as Gift Aid Tax returns (+3.01% compared with the previous year.)

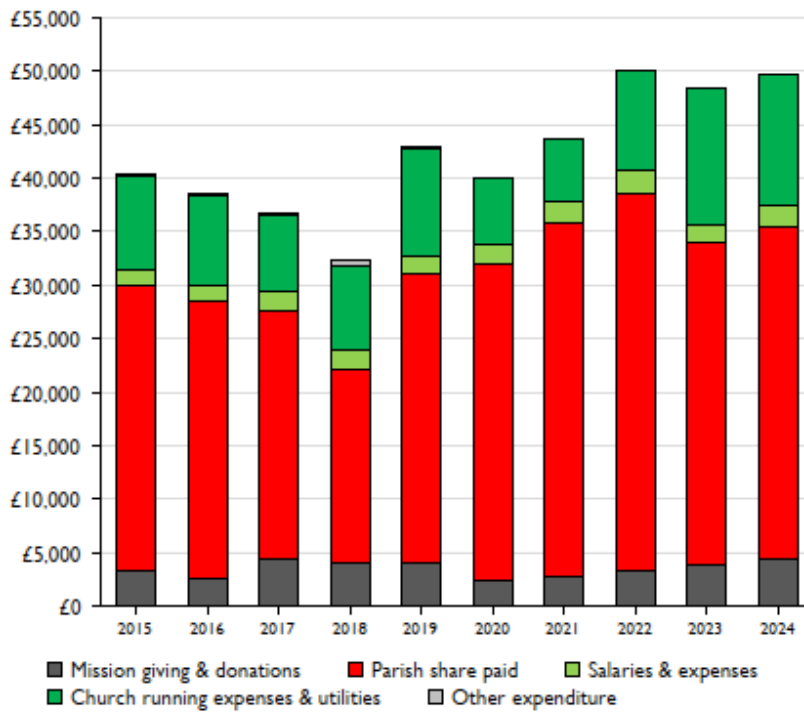
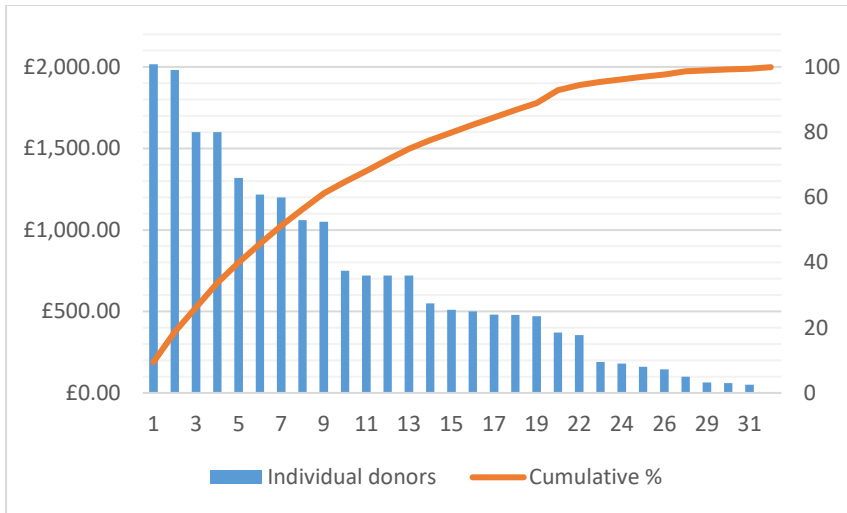


- The Parish Share in 2024 requested by the Diocese at the beginning of the year was £35,697, £532 less than 2023 (£36,229; -1.46%.) We had overpaid 2023’s share by £4,660, which was credited against the 2024 Parish Share request, and thus we paid £31,037.
- Our Regular Weekly Attendance (RWA) figure declined steeply, due in part to the method of calculation accounting for the pandemic issues: this is likely to be reversed in 2025.
- A system of cashless donations using a QR code displayed on posters around the church, on the website, and on certain church documents has been set up. We are also now able to offer people contactless giving, using their debit or credit cards, via a tablet computer and card reader.
- Payments in 2024 were £58,707 – the number of Electoral Roll members at year-end was 59. This means that an income equivalent to £995 per roll member per annum (£19.07 per week) is needed if we are not to deplete our reserves. However, the following chart (for the financial year 2023/2024) shows that of our ‘donors’ who Gift Aid, only nine exceed this amount (four of these ‘donors’ being couples who both appear on the roll.) These nine ‘donors’ provided 61.26% of our Gift-Aided income.

THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND OVER WYRE



(England Hill, Hambleton, Knott End, Out Rawcliffe, Pilling, Preesall, Stalmine)



THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND OVER WYRE



(Eagland Hill, Hambleton, Knott End, Out Rawcliffe, Pilling, Preesall, Stalmine)

- Charitable donations made in 2024 in line with the PCC's policy of donating 10% of disposable income to charity, in addition to the usual Christian Aid collection included:

<b>Charity</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Brian House Children's Hospice – collection at the Fashion Show	£500
Cardiac Risk in the Young – collection at the Fashion Show	£500
Doug Horley visit in 2025 – donation from a parishioner	£100
WaterAid collection (Lent)	£400
Sponsorship of Lex and Alex Hamilton, missionaries in SE Asia.	£1,200
Child Sponsorship	£180
ActionAid Gaza appeal	£250
Christian Aid Gaza appeal	£250
Christians Against Poverty – Harvest appeal	£250
Macmillan Cancer Support – Pamper afternoon	£500
Trinity Hospice	£200
Royal British Legion – Poppy appeal	£10
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£4,340</b>

- In 2024, it was decided to close the Shawbrook and Scottish Widows accounts, as it was believed that better returns could be obtained elsewhere. Closing interest received on the Shawbrook and Scottish Widows accounts was £803.59 and £367.28 respectively. £70,000 was invested in a CBF Church of England Investment - Accumulation Fund account, and £20,000 in a CBF Church of England Deposit Fund account, from which quarterly interest has been received, totalling £458.52. The year-end balance in the NatWest current and deposit accounts is £21,883.93, and the Investment – Accumulation fund value had grown to £71,553.70 (+£1,553.70).
- In September, Rev. Naomi obtained a grant of £600 for the Over Wyre Benefice Community Group. Although not belonging specifically to St James', this has been paid into the church's bank account until such time as the Over Wyre Benefice Community Group has its own account. This sum does not appear in these accounts.
- The annual accounts for 2024 were submitted to the Independent Examiner (Mrs Shona Beresford) in January 2025 and were approved by her without comment.
- I have checked with Shona, and she is happy to continue, so I propose that we reappoint her as our Independent Examiner for 2025.

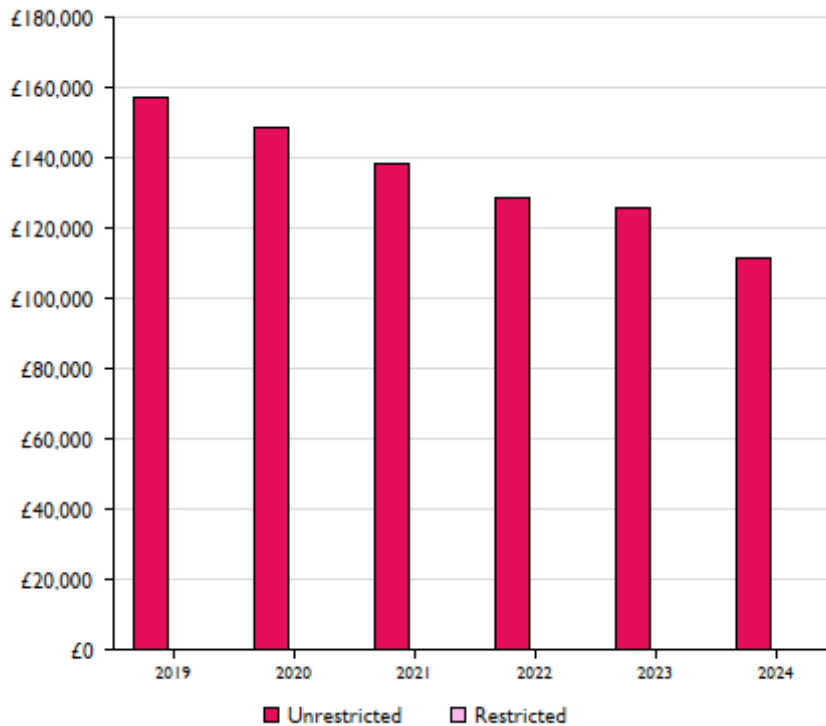
Paul Buckmaster



(Eagland Hill, Hambleton, Knott End, Out Rawcliffe, Pilling, Preesall, Stalmine)

**5) Reserves Policy.**

In view of the fact that at the end of 2024 the PCC has £111,284 in the bank / investments, and no significant outstanding debts, we have assets greater than any suggested reserves level, and no immediate action is required, other than to keep the congregation periodically informed of the church's declining financial position.





(Eagland Hill, Hambleton, Knott End, Out Rawcliffe, Pilling, Preesall, Stalmine)

## **6) Structure, Governance and Management.**

### **a. Membership**

Members of the PCC are either ex officio or elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) in accordance with the Church Representation Rules. The PCC is a Charity with Exempted Status given by the Charities Commission.

### **b. Bank:**

The PCC's Bankers are:

NatWest  
Victoria Square  
Thornton Cleveleys  
FY5 2AL

Account Number: 22312714  
Sort Code: 01 – 02 – 11

CCLA, PO Box 12892, Dunmow, Essex CM6 9DL

Account Numbers: CB1007317-001 and CB1007316-001

### **c. Subcommittees**

The PCC operates through a number of subcommittees, which meet between full meetings of the PCC:

#### **i. Standing Committee:**

This is the only committee required by law. It has power to transact the business of the PCC between its meetings, subject to any directions given by the Council. It consists of the Incumbent, Churchwardens, Treasurer, and Secretary.

#### **ii. Charities Subcommittee:**

This Subcommittee consists of the Treasurer, plus other members appointed from within the church, currently Mesdames Keighley, ME Duke and Pickersgill. See Section 4 for a list of donations made in 2024.





(Eagland Hill, Hambleton, Knott End, Out Rawcliffe, Pilling, Preesall, Stalmine)

**iii. Mission and Outreach Subcommittee:**

The Mission and Outreach Committee currently only comprises Nicola Smith. The Mission and Outreach Subcommittee does not currently have a named chairperson at present.

**Responsibilities:**

To

- pray together for God's guidance;
- develop the Mission Statement of St James' Church;
- take forward the 'Going for Growth' and Vision 2026 Diocesan initiatives;
- awareness of environmental issues and how St James' take these forward;
- consider and sustain 'Fresh expressions' of worship i.e. Mother and Toddlers, Thursday Morning Coffee;
- work with the Over Wyre Parishes to share mission and outreach activities;
- maintain an active Charities committee;
- support the 'Baptism Preparation Lead';
- identify and support a Wedding Preparation Lead;
- look for ways to practically support our wider community i.e. Harvest giving, Food Bank;
- promote outreach through Alpha, Discipleship or appropriate teaching;
- identify and support a pastoral assistant/bereavement visitor;
- pray for and highlight the Persecuted Church.

**iv. Worship and Liturgy Subcommittee:**

This Subcommittee consists of: Elaine Duke (Secretary), Revd. Dyllis Dickinson, Nicola Smith, and Paul Buckmaster.

**Responsibilities:**

To

- Pray for God's guidance, support, affirm and encourage the parish's worship leaders - ordained and lay.
- Contribute to the planning and format of parish services during the liturgical year, including special occasions.
- Contribute to the selection of the hymns, music and audio-visual resources that enrich and support worship and liturgy.
- Seek ways of identifying, encouraging and using the gifts and talents that exist in the parish to enhance worship, liturgy and ministry in all their aspects.
- Assess and review the services, their worship styles, music and other resources, always seeking to develop and improve how we pray and worship God.
- Explore and develop new opportunities for formal and informal prayer and worship within and outside of the parish buildings e.g. 'fresh expressions', 'messy', 'traditional', youth, sick and housebound, 'follow up' services, healing, mission, praying with the Over Wyre sister churches, praying with other Christian denominations etc.
- Plan and promote prayer days, retreats and other appropriate events.



(Eagland Hill, Hambleton, Knott End, Out Rawcliffe, Pilling, Preesall, Stalmine)

- Provide access and funding for appropriate training and education events to discover new resources, and to improve and develop understanding, awareness and practise for members of the ministry team, PCC and congregation.
- Support, assess and review children's and youth worship provisions in the parish.

**v. Communications and Social Subcommittee:**

The members of this Subcommittee are currently, Lesley Baker, Sandra Bourne, Sue Cardwell, Dyllis Dickinson, Gill Keighley (Secretary), Louise Morgan, and Alwynn Rea.

**Responsibilities:**

To

- Promote active participation and involvement of the congregation and wider community.
- Review continuously the effectiveness of the material and media, including local and diocesan web sites.
- Monitor and reviews continuously all forms of responses and feedback to ensure the PCC is delivering both its diocesan and parishioner obligations.
- Contribute to the outreach ministry by providing social interaction.
- Recommend both social and fund-raising events and activities and progress those approved by the PCC.
- Publicise and promote regular and “one-off” acts of worship and fellowship.
- Co-ordinate and issue weekly notices.

**vi. Finance and Facilities Subcommittee:**

This Subcommittee consists of Mrs Pickersgill; and Messrs Buckmaster (Secretary), Handforth, Jenkinson, and PD Wolstenholme (Chair).

**Responsibilities:**

To

- Ensure that financial controls are in place and adhered to.
- Approve the record keeping arrangements.
- Make and oversee the banking arrangements.
- Ensure that PCC funds are invested appropriately and reviewed regularly.
- Prepare an annual budget for approval by the PCC, monitor performance against budget and take or recommend corrective action, when necessary, through regular reviews.
- Provide financial data to the Charities Subcommittee to enable the PCC to tithe its disposable income.
- Recommend Parish Share payments.
- Ensure comprehensive insurance arrangements are in place.
- Arrange the electricity supply contract with authority to sign as necessary.
- Select the supplier of heating oil, based on price and service.
- Arrange maintenance and service contracts recommended by other relevant committees, with authority to sign as necessary.
- Set charges for hire of the church and/or annexe.

THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND OVER WYRE



(Eagland Hill, Hambleton, Knott End, Out Rawcliffe, Pilling, Preesall, Stalmine)

- Make recommendations to the PCC on the funding of one-off items of expenditure, including major projects.
- Recommend the appointment of an Independent Examiner.
- Undertake any additional finance-related tasks agreed with the PCC.
- Bring any areas of concern to the attention of the PCC.
- Ensure the upkeep of the fabric of the church, its fixtures and fittings and the fixed equipment therein, to include any special cleaning required and any repair or re-decoration as may become necessary.
- Ensure the upkeep of the grounds, to include all aspects of gardening and the maintenance of footpaths, boundary walls, car park, etc.
- Ensure that those modifications, installations or changes requiring permissions to be obtained, for instance the granting of a Faculty, are authorised before the modification, installation or change is carried out.
- Ensure that a Quinquennial survey is carried out in the due year by a qualified individual and that the recommendations in the resulting survey report are implemented.
- Arrange, where appropriate, for the maintenance of all moveable equipment, to include the sound system, copy printer, and any other similar equipment; and religious accoutrements (to include vestments (clergy and choir), altar furnishings and banners).
- Ensure, in consultation with the Director of Music, that contracts are in place for the regular maintenance of the organ and arrange for the tuning of the piano when necessary.
- Determine and implement a church heating regime.
- Ensure that the internal and external lighting is kept in good working order.
- Devise and maintain a Safety, Health and Environmental policy, and supporting plan.
- Appoint a Safety Officer and to ensure that the necessary equipment and procedures are in place for the safety and security of the church, its possessions and all users thereof, including fire extinguishers and blankets.
- Consider future improvements in security.
- Liaise with the appointed Under-18s Coordinator on matters relating to use of the church facilities by children.
- Decide on the timing of the daily un-locking and locking the church, the procedures for doing that, and to appoint responsible person(s) to that task.
- Be responsible for the caretaking and cleaning of the church and the grounds. In particular, to ensure that the regular cleaning of the church takes place to the required standards and to provide any necessary cleaning equipment and materials for that purpose.

Reports of the work of all of the above Subcommittees, and other parish organisations can be found in the minutes of the appropriate PCC meetings.

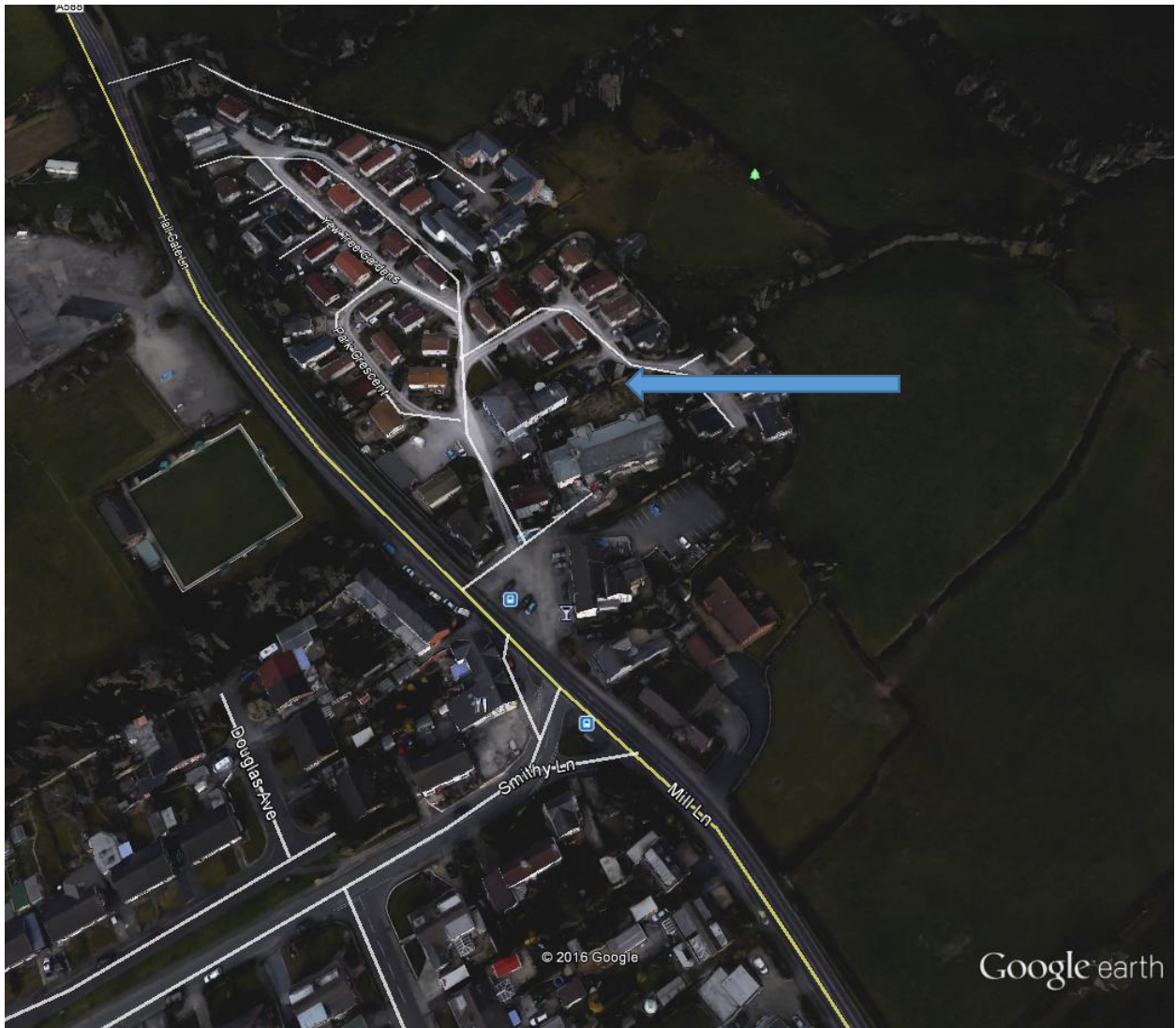


(Eagland Hill, Hambleton, Knott End, Out Rawcliffe, Pilling, Preesall, Stalmine)

### 7) Administrative Information:

**Location:** The church building is located beside Hall Gate Lane, Stalmine (the A588), between the “Seven Stars” Public House, and Stalmine Hall Park (FY6 0LD).

“What3words”: soups.revision.crouches.



### Addresses for Correspondence / Contact Details:

**Incumbent**

Fr Peter Walsh  
The Vicarage  
27 Little Tongues Lane  
Preesall  
Poulton-le-Fylde  
Lancashire  
FY6 0PD

**PCC Secretary**

Mrs Gill Keighley  
“North View”  
Smithy Lane  
Stalmine  
Poulton-le-Fylde  
Lancashire  
FY6 0LE

**Safeguarding Officer**

Mr Peter Swarbrick  
Old Post Office House  
Hall Gate Lane  
Stalmine  
Poulton-le-Fylde  
Lancashire  
FY6 0LA

**Diocesan Safeguarding Team**

01254 503080  
01254 550224  
01254 485170



(Eagland Hill, Hambleton, Knott End, Out Rawcliffe, Pilling, Preesall, Stalmine)

**Church Websites:**

<http://www.stjames.stalmine.net/>

[https://www.facebook.com/StJamesChurchStalmine/?locale=en\\_GB](https://www.facebook.com/StJamesChurchStalmine/?locale=en_GB)

<http://www.achurchnearyou.com/stalmine-st-james/>

**PCC:**

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

**Interim Priest:** Rev'd Peter Walsh

**Pioneer Minister:** Rev'd Naomi HS Barraclough

**Wardens:** Mrs Sandra Bourne

Mr P Derek Wolstenholme (Health and Safety Officer)

**Representative on the Deanery Synod**

Mrs Nicola Smith

**Safeguarding Officer:**

Mr Peter W Swarbrick

**Elected members:**

Mrs Gillian M Keighley (Secretary)

Mrs Susan J Pelham

Mr Jonathan Bellingham (Data Protection Officer)

Mr Paul E Buckmaster (Treasurer)

Mr John A Evans (resigned during the year).

The Benefice Council did not meet in 2024.

**Electoral Roll:**

The Electoral Roll is a list of names and addresses of every person who can vote in the annual parochial church meeting. It is revised annually but is replaced in its entirety every six years. The Roll is due to be renewed in 2025.

At the end of 2023, numbers on the Electoral Roll stood at fifty-nine. Sadly, during the year, one of our church family died; and one person joined the Roll, so at the end of 2024, there are fifty-nine members.

THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND OVER WYRE



(Eagland Hill, Hambleton, Knott End, Out Rawcliffe, Pilling, Preesall, Stalmine)

Appendix 1: Receipts and Payments Accounts.



Charity Name Stalmine, St. James' Church PCC		No (if any) Excepted	
<b>Receipts and payments accounts</b>			
For the period from	Period start date 01 January 2024	To	Period end date 31 December 2024



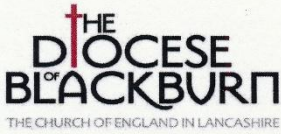
**Section A Receipts and payments**

	Note	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Designated funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £	Total funds to nearest £	2023 to nearest £
<b>A1 Receipts</b>							
Voluntary Receipts						-	-
<i>Regular Giving</i>							
<i>Planned giving (tax efficient)</i>		21,183				21,183	20,247
<i>Planned giving (other)</i>		1,420				1,420	1,400
<i>Collections at services</i>		4,417				4,417	5,193
Other voluntary receipts	5a	1,400	686			2,087	2,241
Gift Aid Recovered		6,536				6,536	6,345
Activities for generating funds	5b	2,036	2,291			4,327	3,272
Receipts from Church Activities	5c	2,075				2,075	6,122
Investment income	5d	3,869				3,869	950
<b>Sub total</b>		<b>42,936</b>	<b>2,978</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>45,914</b>	<b>45,770</b>
<b>A2 Asset and investment sales, etc.</b>						-	
<b>Total receipts</b>		<b>42,936</b>	<b>2,978</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>45,914</b>	<b>45,770</b>
<b>A3 Payments</b>							
Cost of Generation Voluntary income						-	
Fund-raising trading costs						-	-
Church Activities						-	
<i>Diocesan Parish Share</i>		31,037				31,037	30,113
<i>Other Payments</i>	5e	22,693	586			23,280	14,432
<i>Mission giving and charitable donations</i>	5f	2,026	2,314			4,340	3,865
Governance Costs		50				50	50
<b>Sub total</b>		<b>55,807</b>	<b>2,900</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>58,707</b>	<b>48,460</b>
<b>A4 Asset and investment purchases, etc.</b>						-	
<b>Total payments</b>		<b>55,807</b>	<b>2,900</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>58,707</b>	<b>48,460</b>
<b>Net of receipts/(payments)</b>		<b>(12,870)</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>- 12,793</b>	<b>- 2,690</b>
<b>A5 Transfers between funds</b>						-	
<b>A6 Cash funds last year end</b>		125,630	-			125,630	128,319
<b>Cash funds this year end</b>		<b>112,760</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>112,837</b>	

THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND OVER WYRE



(Eagland Hill, Hambleton, Knott End, Out Rawcliffe, Pilling, Preesall, Stalmine)



Charity Name Stalmine, St. James' Church PCC		No (if any) Excepted	
<b>Receipts and payments accounts</b>			
For the period from	Period start date 01 January 2024	To	Period end date 31 December 2024



**Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period**

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Designated funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
<b>B1 Cash funds</b>		112,760	78		
				-	
	<b>Total cash funds</b> <small>(agree balances with receipts and payments accounts)</small>	112,760	78	-	-
		OK	OK	OK	OK
<b>B2 Other monetary assets</b>	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Designated funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
<b>B3 Investment assets</b>	Details		Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
	COIF Charity Funds		Unrestricted		
	CCLA		Unrestricted		91,554
	NatWest Deposit Account		Unrestricted		21,225
<b>B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use</b>	Details		Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
<b>B5 Liabilities</b>	Details		Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)

The notes attached on page 3 form part of these financial statements

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
	FR PETER WALSH PAUL E BUCKMASTER	17/3/25 17/3/25

THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND OVER WYRE



(Eagland Hill, Hambleton, Knott End, Out Rawcliffe, Pilling, Preesall, Stalmine)



Charity Name Stalmine, St. James' Church PCC	No (if any) Excepted
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**Receipts and payments accounts**

For the period from	Period start date 01 January 2024	To	Period end date 31 December 2024
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**Section C Notes**

1. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Church Accounting Regulations 2006 using the Receipts and Payments Basis

2 The movement in designated and restricted funds in the year were:

	Bal b/f	Receipts	Payments	Transfer	Bal c/f
Restricted:	-				-
					-
					-
	-	-	-	-	-
Designated:	-	2,978	2,900		78

3. Receipts and Payments analysis		Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Designated funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £	Total funds to nearest £	2023 to nearest £
<b>Receipts</b>							
<b>Other voluntary receipts 5a</b>							
Legacy		500				500	500
Donations		900	686			1,587	1,741
		1,400	686	-	-	2,087	2,241
<b>Activities for generating funds 5b</b>							
Hire of Parish Office to Post Office		1,996				1,996	2,442
WaterAid Lent Collection			475				
Hire of Church by Pilling Band		40				40	30
Christians Against Poverty - Harvest Appeal			172				
Trinity Hospice All Souls Collection			171				
Macmillan Cancer Support pamper afternoon			465				
Fashion Show			1,000			1,000	800
Poppy sales			9			9	-
		2,036	2,291	-	-	3,045	3,272
<b>Receipts from Church Activities 5c</b>							
Fees paid to the PCC		2,075				2,075	5,942
Compensation from Bank						-	-
Compensation for Power Cut						-	180
		2,075	-	-	-	2,075	6,122
<b>Investment income 5d</b>							
COIF		5				5	5
Bank Deposit Accounts		606				606	164
Shawbrook Bank		804				804	532
Scottish Widows		367				367	228
CCLA		2,012				2,012	
easyfundraising		76				76	21
		3,869	-	-	-	3,869	950



THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND OVER WYRE



(Eagland Hill, Hambleton, Knott End, Out Rawcliffe, Pilling, Preesall, Stalmine)



Charity Name Stalmine, St. James' Church PCC	No (if any) Excepted
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**Receipts and payments accounts**

For the period from	Period start date 01 January 2024	To	Period end date 31 December 2024
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**Section C Notes continued**

3. Receipts and Payments analysis	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Designated funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £	Total funds to nearest £	2023 to nearest £
<b>Payments</b>						
Church Activities						
Other Payments 5e						
Assigned Fees	1,119				1,119	2,382
Working expenses of clergy	1,781				1,781	1,646
Expenses	7,218	586			7,805	6,024
Church Maintenance	1,955				1,955	2,057
Upkeep of Services	1,440				1,440	2,223
Upkeep of Churchyard	110				110	100
Support Costs - Training and Sunday School	-				-	-
Major Repairs	9,070				9,070	-
Bank Charges	-				-	-
	22,693	586	-	-	23,280	14,432
Mission giving and donations 5f						
(Lent)	3	397			400	435
Brian House Children's Hospice		500			500	400
Cardiac Risk in the Young		500			500	400
Doug Horley Visit		100			100	
Christian Aid Turkey/Syria Earthquake Appeal						250
Trinity Hospice	30	171			200	-
Sponsorship of Missionaries in SE Asia via CMS	1,200				1,200	1,200
ActionAid Gaza Appeal	250				250	
Christian Aid Gaza appeal	250				250	
Christian Aid Middle East Crisis Appeal						250
Diocesan Charities via Deanery Quiz						200
Child Sponsorship	180				180	180
Macmillan Cancer Support	35	465			500	550
Harvest Appeal - Christians Against Poverty	78	172			250	
Royal British Legion	1	9			10	
	2,026	2,314	-	-	4,340	3,865



(Eagland Hill, Hambleton, Knott End, Out Rawcliffe, Pilling, Preesall, Stalmine)

## St James Church Stalmine

Financial statement for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024

### Receipts and Payment Account

<b>Receipts</b>		<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
		<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Incoming resources from donors	2a	35,643	35,426
Other voluntary incoming resources	2b	4,327	3,272
Income from investments	2c	3,870	950
Income from charitable & ancillary trading	2d	<u>2,075</u>	<u>6,122</u>
		<b><u>45,915</u></b>	<b><u>45,770</u></b>
<b>Payments</b>			
Grants	3a	4,340	3,865
Activities directly relating to The work of the church	3b	54,316	44,545
Church management and Administratrion	3c	<u>50</u>	<u>50</u>
		<b><u>58,706</u></b>	<b><u>48,460</u></b>
<b>Excess of receipts over payments</b>		<b>(12,791)</b>	<b>(2,690)</b>
<b>Bank balances at start of year</b>		<b><u>125,629</u></b>	<b><u>128,319</u></b>
<b>Bank balances at end of year</b>		<b><u>112,838</u></b>	<b><u>125,629</u></b>



(Eagland Hill, Hambleton, Knott End, Out Rawcliffe, Pilling, Preesall, Stalmine)

### St James Church Stalmine

Financial statement for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024

<b>Receipts</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<u>2a Incoming resources from donors</u>		
Planned giving - covenants	22,603	21,647
Income tax received thereon	6,536	6,345
Collections at services	4,417	5,193
Gift day and sundry donations	1,587	1,741
Legacy	<u>500</u>	<u>500</u>
	<b><u>35,643</u></b>	<b><u>35,426</u></b>
<u>2b Other voluntary incoming resources</u>		
Hire of extension etc	2,036	2,472
Fashion show	1,000	800
Other activities and appeals	<u>1,291</u>	<u>          </u>
	<b><u>4,327</u></b>	<b><u>3,272</u></b>
<u>2c Income from investments</u>		
Easy fundraising	76	21
COIF charity funds	5	5
Bank interest	606	164
Shawbrook interest	804	532
Scottish Widows	367	228
CCLA	<u>2,012</u>	<u>          </u>
	<b><u>3,870</u></b>	<b><u>950</u></b>
<u>2d Income from charitable &amp; ancillary trading</u>		
Fees paid to PCC	2,075	5,942
Compensation from bank	<u>          </u>	<u>180</u>
	<b><u>2,075</u></b>	<b><u>6,122</u></b>



(Eagland Hill, Hambleton, Knott End, Out Rawcliffe, Pilling, Preesall, Stalmine)

### St James Church Stalmine

Financial statement for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024

<b>Payments</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>3a Grants</b>		
Missionary & Church overseas	1,200	1,200
Relief & development agencies	1,150	1,135
Secular charity	1,890	1,530
Home missions & other Church	<u>100</u>	<u>      </u>
	<b><u>4,340</u></b>	<b><u>3,865</u></b>
<b><u>3b Activities directly relating to</u></b>		
<b><u>The work of Church</u></b>		
<b>Ministry:</b>		
Diocesan Parish Share	31,037	30,113
Assigned fees	1,119	2,382
Working expenses of incumbent	1,781	1,646
Church running expenses	7,804	6,024
Church maintenance	1,955	2,057
Cost of services	1,440	2,223
Upkeep of Churchyard	110	100
Major repairs	<u>9,070</u>	<u>      </u>
	<b><u>54,316</u></b>	<b><u>44,545</u></b>
<b><u>3c Church Management &amp; Administration</u></b>		
Admin costs	<u>50</u>	<u>50</u>
	<u>50</u>	<u>50</u>



(Eagland Hill, Hambleton, Knott End, Out Rawcliffe, Pilling, Preesall, Stalmine)

## St James Church Stalmine

Financial statement for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024

### Balances as at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024

	General Funds	Designated Funds
Nat West	£21,206	78
CCLA	£91,554	

Signed for and on behalf of the Parochial Church Council who have approved the accounts

This SEVENTEENTH day of MARCH 2025

Chairman

Hon. Secretary

Hon. Treasurer



(Eagland Hill, Hambleton, Knott End, Out Rawcliffe, Pilling, Preesall, Stalmine)

**Independent examiners statement**

**To the Church Council of St James Stalmine**

**Year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024**

The examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the PCC and the accounts have been prepared from those records. It also includes considering any unusual items or disclosure in the accounts and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters

No matter has come to my attention from my examination of the accounts for the year which requires further explanation .

Shona M Beresford  
Premiere accounting  
6 Rydal Rd  
Hambleton  
Poulton le Fylde  
17<sup>th</sup> February 2025