



**ANNUAL REPORT FOR
YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 2024
THE ANNUAL MEETING OF PARISHONERS
AND APCM
SUNDAY 27th April 2025**



Vicar: Rev Vinny Whitworth

Associate Priest: Rev Malcolm Bristow

St Bede's APCM 2025 – Vicar's Report

*'And now these three remain; faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love'
(1 Corinthians 13: 13)*

As we reflect back over 2024, we have so much to be thankful for at St Bede as we have continued to pursue our vision and calling of 'living for Jesus at the heart of our community'. Yet if we want to live for Jesus; we need to first of all be like Jesus. As our text verse for 2024 reminds us; if we want to be like Jesus we need to seek the spiritual gifts Jesus gives us when we are connected to Him – with the greatest gift being love.

One of our real strengths as a church community here at St Bede is that we are a loving and welcoming community to all. It is our love for one another that has been the catalyst to the spiritual and numerical growth that we are seeing recently here at St Bede. It has been wonderful to welcome new people to our church this year both at our Sunday service and our WOW midweek service and I know that those of you who are new to St Bede have felt welcomed and loved as you have become part of our church family.

It is love that continues to be the foundation as we seek to grow as a church and focus on our Mission Action Plan. Our 4 key priorities in our Mission Action Plan are:

- 1) Set up a new midweek service
- 2) Launch a Community Survey
- 3) Re-order and redevelop the building
(particularly focusing on the Community Room and how we might make this area fit for mission)
- 4) Lead an Annual Community Mission Event

In 2024 our midweek service, Worship on Wednesday, is now firmly established with around 40 people worshipping with us each week in addition to our regular Sunday congregation. Families love coming to WOW and our biggest challenge is lack of space to welcome new families as we are limited by the size of the community room.

This is why this year we have started on plans to extend the community room and make the community room a more flexible space. In September the wardens and I met with the Diocesan Advisory Committee (DAC) to share initial ideas including extending the community room into the church to the next set of pillars, and replacing the partition wall with bi-fold doors so we have the flexibility of space for large church services. This project will also include the much needed renovations to the toilet block too. With the support of the DAC and PCC we are in the process of engaging our church architect to move this exciting project forward and this will be a key focus for us in 2025.

In May 2024 we also took part in our Mission Community 'Connect Mission'. The concept behind Connect was that each church in our Mission Community would organise or host an intentional event where we could invite people to come to church and hear the good news. Here at St Bede we demonstrated love in action by having a 'Bring a Friend for Free' event at our Luncheon Club and as we hosted a Pentecost Praise Service + free BBQ + bouncy castle in May where we had around 100 people attend. These mission events are very important as we continue to share the good news of Jesus in word and in action with our wider community here in Morris Green.

Over the past year we have also seen spiritual growth and in November it was a joy to support 4 members of St Bede's Church in being confirmed at our Mission Community Confirmation Service at Holy Trinity Horwich.

This year we've continued to show love in serving our wider community through our regular ministries such as our monthly Luncheon Club and through our growing partnership with Urban Outreach through the BL Lunch Project where we served as a collection point for local children to receive free lunches during the summer holidays, and our involvement with Christmas Dinner on Jesus where we together with St Andrews collected 1700 selection boxes. Our full calendar of social and fundraising events throughout the year also play a key role in bringing our church and wider community together including our joint Christmas Fayre with St Bede Academy which is always a highlight of the year. I am very grateful to Gill Blackburn and the social and fundraising team for the outstanding work they do in organising the various events throughout the year.

A major focus as we seek to live for Jesus at the heart of our community is our strong relationship with St Bede Academy. We have a wonderful team from St Bede Church who support our church school through our involvement in the leadership of the school through the MAT and Local Governing Board, and Tony Whitehead, Sweetline and I regularly lead collective worship in school. A special thanks goes to Tony Whitehead for the tremendous work he does as Chair of Governors.

At the end of June we were delighted to welcome our new curate, Rev'd Sweetline Burnell, to our team here at St Bede. We are so blessed to have Sweetline with us as she works across St Bede and St Andrews. Sweetline has settled in well and become part of our church family and we are grateful for her energy and enthusiasm in preaching God's word and we look forward to continuing to work alongside her during the duration of her curacy.

As always I am very grateful to our ministry team at St Bede's Church for all that they do in leading services and preaching God's word. Alongside myself and Sweetline, we are so blessed at St Bedes to have Rev'd Malcolm Bristow, our NSM, Pat Bristow, our Reader Emeritus, Tony Whitehead, our Licensed Lay Reader and Carol Hardman and Gill Blackburn our ALMs.

This year after many years of wonderful service, David and Elaine Almond stepped down as our treasurers. However I am very grateful to Simon Brooks who has done an exceptional job in seamlessly continuing the wonderful work that David and Elaine have done for many years. Thank you to Elaine who continues to serve as our Administrator and as ever I am very grateful to our long-serving Wardens, Gill and Jean, for all the work that they do behind the scenes in maintaining the mission and ministry of St Bedes.

As we reflect back over 2024 and look forward to the coming year; my prayer is that we here at St Bede would continue to grow in faith, hope and love as we live for Jesus at the heart of our community.

Vinny

Rev'd Vincent Whitworth
(Vicar, St Bede Bolton-Le-Moors, March 2025)

St Bede's APCM 2025 – Curacy Report

Serving God and being part of the St. Bede's Church family over the last 9 months has been a great privilege. I truly feel blessed to be welcomed as part of this wonderful community. I would like to extend my deepest gratitude to all of you for your kind welcome, prayers, and the generous hospitality that you have shown to both me and my husband, Matthew. "I have truly enjoyed playing my part in the mission and ministry of St. Bede's, working alongside Vinny, Malcom, Pat, and with the wonderful people on the leadership team and others. It has been a humbling experience to be here. Throughout my time with you, it has been a real joy to share the gospel message of Jesus Christ, whether through preaching or leading services.

Highlights of my time with you have included leading a joint 8-weeks Prayer Course with St. Andrews church, speaking at the Christmas nativity service, being involved in supporting and sharing reflection at WOW (Worship on Wednesday), contributor to the church newsletter and taking assemblies at St. Bede's school. I have also had the privilege of launching a Tamil-speaking church in collaboration with the main church in Salford. Additionally, I've been blessed to be involved in taking funerals and baptisms. I've thoroughly enjoyed meeting many of you for 1:1 coffee chats and getting to know you personally. I look forward to connecting with even more of you in the coming months and continuing to build these wonderful relationships.

It was a great honour to be invited to lead and preach at Deane Church. I am also in the process of fulfilling my curacy requirements and look forward to continuing this journey.

It has been a blessing to represent the church at a wider community level, including at the Deanery, the Diocese Synod, and the Connected Committee. I'm grateful for the opportunity to be involved in these important aspects of church life and to contribute in any way I could. I have been grateful for the opportunity to hear and witness what is happening across the diocese in the name of Christ. It has been inspiring to see how God is moving and working through the many communities and ministries in our area.

"I look forward to my priesting this June and the work that lies ahead. Thanks be to God for the opportunities and blessings He has given me."

Rev. Sweetline Burnell

Bolton-le-Moor St Bede PCC, Morris Green, Bolton

I have checked through the accounts of Bolton-le-Moors St Bede Church of Morris Green, Bolton and from the working papers and supporting documents provided for the financial year 2023, I have concluded that they provide a true and fair view of the affairs of that organisation.

I checked all the documents and workings and asked the relevant questions of the officers involved. I received both timely and satisfactory answers to all questions asked regarding the accounts.

I checked the income and expenditure transactions, checking with all the relevant backing documentation provided. I reconciled these back to the bank account statements, cheque listings, and reconciliation.

The PCC operates its accounts on a receipts and payments basis. Detailed records are kept for both income and expenditure. Monthly bank reconciliations are completed once the bank statements are received. Invoices are kept which can be tied back to the bank statements provided. The cheque listing can tie the cheques to the paid-out transactions from the bank.

All documents and accounts are correctly filed and organised which helped me complete the audit in a straightforward and timely manner. Everything seems to be in good order.

Helen Weir MAAT – 04.03.2025

Financial Review

In 2024, our total receipts reached £40,582, with £37,555 in unrestricted funds and £3,027 in restricted funds. Total payments amounted to £39,646, resulting in a surplus of £936—an encouraging improvement compared to 2023.

Donations and legacy receipts contributed £32,356, representing 80% of our total income. This incredible support underscores how vital our parishioners are to keeping our church thriving. The Parish Church Council (PCC) extends heartfelt thanks to everyone for their generosity throughout the year. If you are interested in setting up a standing order to help contribute towards our churches upkeep, then please speak with our Treasurer or another member of the PCC.

Loose plate collections from weekly services generated £6,100, and our Worship on Wednesday congregation raised over £100. If you are someone who prefers cashless giving, you will be pleased to know we have a card machine at the back of the church for donations and event payments. The machine also prompts you to add Gift Aid, which allows us to claim even more funds from the government—making every contribution go further.

We received £1,214 in fees for weddings and funerals. We deeply appreciate our community's trust in choosing our local church for these special occasions.

Our fundraising and trading activities brought in £6,972 - approximately 17% of our total income. We thank the fundraising team for their efforts and our community for their enthusiastic participation and generous donations.

With an active church comes necessary costs. Utilities—including gas, electricity, and water—totalled £5,026, about 13% of our total income. We have negotiated better utility deals for 2025, aiming to reduce these expenses moving forward.

Parish Share remains our largest expense, accounting for 50% of our income. This amount supports clergy stipends, housing costs, national insurance, and pensions. Based on attendance counts and income surveys, our contribution for 2024 was £20,000, paid in full. This achievement secures a 2% credit towards our 2025 Parish Share of £21,000. Gift Aid contributions played a pivotal role, covering approximately £4,000 of this expense.

Wages for essential roles like our administrator, cleaner, and organist amounted to £4,751. Their contributions are indispensable to our church's operations, and we thank them wholeheartedly.

Our insurance costs totalled £3,760, covering all services, events, and public liability—a critical expense ensuring our church's safety and functionality.

Unexpected expenditures in 2024 included items like a new TV, Hoover, and photocopier, alongside significant repairs such as chimney repointing, coping stone replacements, and cellar gate reinstallation. These maintenance and equipment expenses totalled approximately £5,000. As we look ahead to 2025, we anticipate further costs, including roof repairs from storm damage and vandalism-related perimeter work. Your continued generosity enables us to address these needs and sustain our church.

The year's net outcome was a surplus of £936, carried across all funds. Combined with brought-forward balances, the total on 31st December was £18,056: £13,999 in unrestricted funds and £4,057 in restricted funds, earmarked for the community room redevelopment project.

The PCC's Reserves Policy mandates maintaining unrestricted fund balances equivalent to at least three months' payments, calculated at £9,911 (£762/week). With an unrestricted balance of £13,999, our reserves exceed this target by around £4,000, providing a safety buffer and flexibility for future opportunities.

I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to all our parishioners and community members for their unwavering generosity and support. Your contributions of time, talents, and resources have been invaluable in furthering our mission, making 2024 a truly meaningful and memorable year for us all.

Regards

Simon Brooks

St Bede PCC Treasurer

Statement of Financial Activities

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total funds	Prior year total funds
Income and endowments from:				
Donations and legacies	31,828.21	527.85	32,356.06	-
Income from charitable activities	1,214.00	-	1,214.00	-
Other trading activities	6,971.50	-	6,971.50	-
Investments	41.21	-	41.21	-
Total income	40,054.92	527.85	40,582.77	-
Expenditure on:				
Raising funds	748.9	-	748.9	-
Expenditure on charitable activities	38,897.42	-	38,897.42	-
Total expenditure	39,646.32	-	39,646.32	-
Net income / (expenditure) resources before transfer	408.6	527.85	936.45	-
Transfers:				
Gross transfers between funds - in	-2,501.15	1,028.26	-1,472.89	-
Gross transfers between funds - out	-1,028.26	2,501.15	1,472.89	-
Other recognised gains / losses				
Gains/losses on investment assets	-	-	-	-
Gains on revaluation, fixed assets, charity's own use	-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds	-3,120.81	4,057.26	936.45	-
Reconciliation of funds				
Total funds brought forward	17,120.53	-	17,120.53	17,120.53
Total funds carried forward	13,999.72	4,057.26	18,056.98	17,120.53

Analysis of Receipts and Payments

	General	Designated	Restricted	Total This year
Receipts				
Donations and legacies				
0100 - Regular Standing Orders - GA	16,592.00	-	-	16,592.00
0110 - Regular Envelopes - GA	2,780.91	-	-	2,780.91
0120 - Regular Envelopes - GASDS	2,101.30	-	-	2,101.30
0200 - Non-Regular Envelopes (Yellow) - GA/GASDS	351.49	-	-	351.49
0300 - Service - Loose plate collections	6,095.09	-	-	6,095.09
0310 - WOW - Loose plate collections	106.53	-	-	106.53
0400 - One-off Donations - GA/GASDS	951.85	-	-	951.85
0410 - One-off Donations - Non - GA/GASDS	349.04	-	527.85	876.89
0700 - Legacies	2,500.00	-	-	2,500.00
Donations and legacies Totals	31,828.21	-	527.85	32,356.06
Income from charitable activities				
1100 - PCC Fees for Weddings, Funerals, Baptisms	1,214.00	-	-	1,214.00
Income from charitable activities Totals	1,214.00	-	-	1,214.00
Other trading activities				
0900 - General Fundraising (Non-Specified)	4,171.39	-	-	4,171.39
0920 - Film Box Fill	180.03	-	-	180.03
0930 - Christmas Fair	1,197.86	-	-	1,197.86
0940 - Lunch Club	274.73	-	-	274.73
0950 - Coffee Morning	477.49	-	-	477.49
1200 - Community Room Lettings	670	-	-	670
Other trading activities Totals	6,971.50	-	-	6,971.50
Investments				
1010 - Bank and building society interest	41.21	-	-	41.21
Investments Totals	41.21	-	-	41.21
Receipts Grand Totals	40,054.92	-	527.85	40,582.77
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Payments				
Raising funds				
1701 - Fees paid to fund raisers	748.9	-	-	748.9
Raising funds Totals	748.9	-	-	748.9
Expenditure on charitable activities				
1801 - Giving to missionary societies	500	-	-	500
1910 - Parish Share	17,013.28	-	-	17,013.28
2001 - Organist - Regular Services	800	-	-	800
2050 - Salary of parish administrator	2,851.03	-	-	2,851.03
2101 - Working expenses of incumbent	2,287.87	-	-	2,287.87
2102 - Working expenses of Curate	99.99	-	-	99.99
2301 - Church running - insurance	3,760.68	-	-	3,760.68
2330 - Church maintenance	1,824.00	-	-	1,824.00
2331 - Cleaning	1,100.00	-	-	1,100.00
2340 - Upkeep of services	635.99	-	-	635.99
2341 - Broadband	597.62	-	-	597.62
2361 - Photocopying, Stationary and Postage	182.65	-	-	182.65
2362 - Equipment	788.14	-	-	788.14
2401 - Church running - electric	996.18	-	-	996.18
2410 - Church running - gas	3,774.99	-	-	3,774.99
2420 - Church running - water	255	-	-	255
2701 - Church major repairs - structure	1,310.00	-	-	1,310.00
2840 - Other PCC property upkeep	120	-	-	120
Expenditure on charitable activities Totals	38,897.42	-	-	38,897.42
Payments Grand Totals	39,646.32	-	-	39,646.32

Statement of Assets and Liabilities (by fund)

		Balance	Previous balance
Cash At Bank And In Hand			
6501: Bank current account - 9759			
Community Room Redevelopment	Restricted	565	-
General Fund	Unrestricted	12,128.65	14,827.41
		12,693.65	14,827.41
6505: Bank deposit account - 3802			
General Fund	Unrestricted	1,852.07	1,830.27
		1,852.07	1,830.27
6506: Bank deposit account - 1388			
Community Room Redevelopment	Restricted	3,492.26	-
General Fund	Unrestricted	-	443.85
		3,492.26	443.85
6590: Cash in hand			
General Fund	Unrestricted	19	19
		19	19
	Cash At Bank And In Hand	18,056.98	17,120.53
	Grand Total	18,056.98	17,120.53

ELECTORAL ROLL REPORT FOR ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

27th April 2025

The electoral roll has been revised in line with the Church Representation Rules stating that the roll be renewed in time for the APCM.

53 applications were received and approved.

The number on the new electoral roll is 53 in total.

The Diocesan Secretary will be notified of this fact after this meeting.

Elaine Almond

Parish Administrator / Electoral Roll Officer

St Bede's Parish Church Bolton Le Moors - Secretary's Report – APCM Sunday 27th April 2025

During 2024 PCC meetings were held in January, March, May, July, September and November.

At the meeting in January the services over Christmas were reflected on. Bishop Matthew preached at the Christingle Service which was very well attended. The Charity Partner for 2024 was agreed as being 'Street Life Bolton'.

The main item at the March meeting was to agree the final accounts for 2023, these had been independently reviewed and were accepted by all PCC members. Vinny reminded members of the APCM and the need for individual reports for the Annual Report. Vinny thanked everyone for their contributions to PCC and a special thanks to Anne Horrocks who had decided not to stand again. PCC were updated on the Connect Mission week. It was agreed that a Pentecost Celebration Service be held on 19th May followed by a bbq in the church gardens. The church luncheon club was also going to offer a buy one get one free meal deal to encourage new members to attend. It was agreed at this meeting that a new photocopier/printer be purchased for the church.

The May meeting was the first meeting of the new PCC following the APCM, the meeting began with an informal communion service. Vinny welcomed new members Stephanie and Simon and also thanked Carol who had been co-opted on to PCC for a further 12 months. Revd Malcolm Bristow was proposed and agreed as Vice Chair. Elaine was proposed and agreed as secretary. As David Almond had stepped down in his role as Treasurer Simon Brooks had volunteered to take on this role and was duly elected. Elaine agreed to continue to support Simon as part of the handover period. Vinny advised PCC members of the dates for our new curate Sweetline joining the church. There was discussion on the need for PCC members to be DBS checked, Elaine to co-ordinate this. Dates for meetings for the coming year were agreed.

At the meeting in July PCC members agreed the role descriptions for our ALM's Carol and Gill as they are re-authorised. Vinny shared the plans for the Community Room Project and there was discussion as to whether the plans went far enough or whether the extension should go further out into church. It was proposed that both options would be considered with the Diocese.

At the September meeting Vinny advised that plans for the Community Room Project had been presented to DAC and he had agreed a sight visit with members of DAC. Gill presented quotes for the work to repoint the chimney at the end of church. PCC members agreed that the lowest quote would be accepted. It was agreed that as a church we would again collect for Christmas Dinner on Jesus. There was discussion as part of the school update on the growth of the Academy and the continued Christian ethos. Vinny assured PCC members that the links between church and St Bedes Academy have never been stronger. There was a need at this meeting to re-authorise our 8 Eucharistic Assistants, these were all duly re-authorised.

The final meeting of the calendar year 2024 was held in November and Vinny updated the PCC about the meeting held with DAC members. It was agreed that the project include a servery rather than a kitchen, that the font would be retained and moved and that more storage options would be pursued. It was finally agreed that an architect be approached with a view to plans being drawn up and costings obtained. Two members of the church, Jean and Jill, who are governors on the school LGB were up for re-election, PCC members all voted in favour of re-election. The Chair, Tony and Vice Chair David, also needed to be reappointed, this was agreed by all PCC members.

As secretary for St Bede's PCC I would like to thank all PCC members for their continued hard work and support.

Elaine Almond
PCC Secretary

Fabric Report 2024

As Church Wardens we must once again thank members of our congregation for their help in maintaining the church building and grounds and also to all those who report work to us that they see.

Particularly, we thank Martin Horrocks who beautifully maintains the gardens for us single handed. We did have trouble with a fallen tree at the end of 2023 and the clearing was finally completed early 2024. General check on all trees completed by the Tree Surgeon. Once again Martin carried out the work needed.

We all see the consequences of the children playing football on our lawn and Martin works hard to maintain the lawn after their efforts to ruin the lawn. Thanks again Martin.

There has been vandalism damage to the Church wall around the grounds after the beech trees, this is known to the PCC. Also there was damage to the wall and gate down to the cellar it was completed again, Martín came to the rescue for the repair of the gate.

Generally, we have routine maintenance work to be carried out in and around Church and thankfully we can rely regularly on Dean Critchley who has continued throughout the year to complete many repairs, especially he repeatedly repaired the ladies toilet.

As reported in last years Report we had put in hand repairs to stop the plaster fall in the Sanctuary and we can confirm the repointing of the chimney at the east end of church was successfully completed in 2024.

In December 2024 we suffered damage to the roof and can confirm that the works have been complete, all be it in 2025.

In 2024 we have maintained our increased numbers in our congregation from 2023 and celebrated our first birthday at Worship on Wednesdays. Sunday mornings we continue to have members enjoying fellowship after the service. It was a pity, but I don't think we had any days outside for fellowship with the poor summer 2024!

Church Wardens
Gillian Blackburn
Jean Phillips

ANNUAL REPORT OF ST BEDE'S LUNCHEON CLUB

We continue to run a monthly luncheon club on the first Wednesday of each month and we are encouraged that it is supported not solely by members of the church but members of our community and our wish is that this continues to be a community event.

We have been trying to increase numbers and as part of the LAMB Mission Partnership Connect Mission week, at our May meeting, we advertised a buy one get one free offer as a means of encouraging growth in numbers. On the day we had an additional 5 people attend. Of these, 2 have remained as regular monthly attendees and another 2 have attended on occasion. We would still like to increase numbers further and continue to look for ways to advertise.

The kitchen at our school provides our meals which are always very well received and we are very grateful for this link with our church school. There have been occasions, when due to staff shortages, school have been unable to provide lunches. On these occasions a local bakery has been able to provide our meals which has successfully maintained our links with our local community.

At Christmas we always provide a full Christmas lunch, including wine. We were also lucky enough to have members of the school choir sing for us prior to our meal and a comedic speaker for after our meal. The Christmas meal always attracts a larger number than any other month and it was enjoyed by all.

We have a great team of people who help out on the day either by picking up members who have no transport, bringing additional food if it is required, setting up the room, serving the meals and clearing up afterwards. At Christmas we were grateful to welcome a new volunteer to our team. Without this support the luncheon club would not be able to run so a great big thank you to all who support in any way.

**Elaine and David Almond
Luncheon Club Organisers**

Children's Ministry Report for APCM 2025

The aim of St Bede's Children's Ministry is to provide an effective ministry to children in an environment which is safe and where they are encouraged to develop a relationship with Jesus and to receive him into their lives and accept him as saviour, in order that they continue this relationship into adulthood.

Children's Ministry at St Bede's Church is made up of Church Rocks, which meets twice a month on Sundays at 10 am, and Worship on Wednesday (WOW) which meets every Wednesday evening at 6.15 pm during term time.

The group leaders for Church Rocks are Carol Hardman, Rachael Storey and Jill Brooks. The group consists of children aged from 4 years upwards. The children are in group for the majority of the main church service and return to discuss the work they have done in group with the church congregation, which gives the children the opportunity to showcase their creativity. Every session starts with a welcome and a register of attendance is kept. Activities undertaken by the children include worship songs, games and creative craft activities. Each session includes teaching, discussion and prayer. At the end of the session, the children are reunited with parents/carers, in order to adhere to safeguarding policies and regulations. Safeguarding is taken very seriously at St Bede's and all adult leaders undergo DBS checks, and we ensure that there are at least 2 leaders present for each session. Children at St Bede's church are regularly involved in church worship, delivering bible readings and leading intercessions.

Worship on Wednesday at St Bede's celebrated its second anniversary in March 2025. This service is a fun, informal, interactive worship service for children and families and there are opportunities for families to celebrate special Christian festivals together with food and games. Each term has a theme, which this year has included the 'Fruit of the Spirit', the 'I Ams' of Jesus, as well as the 'Miracles of Jesus'. The service is led and supported by the WOW team and includes, Rev Vinny Whitworth, Rev Sweetline Burnell, Tony Whitehead, Gill Blackburn, Carol Hardman, Judith Lawson, Julie Waller and Jean Phillips.

Feedback from families has been positive and they have felt encouraged to attend other worship services, as well as social events that take place during the year. Once again this year has seen some of the children who attend WOW come to Baptism, and these have been encouraged and celebrated by the church community.

St Bede's Children's Ministry is living for Jesus at the heart of our community.

Carol Hardman
ALM in Worship

ST BEDE'S CHURCH – MORRIS GREEN, BOLTON LE MOORS

PARISH POLICY ON CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

As members of this church, we commit ourselves to the nurturing, protection and safekeeping of all, especially children and young people.

It is the responsibility of each one of us to prevent the physical, sexual, emotional, neglectful, financial and spiritual abuse or exploitation of children and young people and to report any such abuse discovered or suspected.

We recognise that our work with children and young people is the responsibility of the whole church.

The church is committed to following the guidelines and procedures published by the Church of England in the 'Parish Safeguarding Handbook – Promoting a Safer Church'.

Each worker with children and young people must know the recommendations and undertake to observe them. Each shall be given a copy of the Parish's agreed procedures and Good Practice Guidelines.

As part of our commitment to children and young people in our Church's life, the PCC has appointed Mrs Judith Kelleway to be the Lead Recruiter and Carol Hardman as our Safeguarding Co-ordinator

The PCC also affirm the place of children and young people in our church's life by agreeing that 'Children and young people are part of (or belong to) our church today. They have much to give as well as receive. We will listen to them. As we nurture them in worship, learning and in community life, we will respect the wishes and feeling of children and young people'.

Approved by PCC 10.3.25

Policy on the Safeguarding of Adults in the Church of St Bede, Morris Green, Bolton-le-moors

This Policy will be reviewed each year to monitor the progress which has been achieved.

- ˘ We recognise that everyone has different levels of vulnerability and that each of us may be regarded as vulnerable at some time in our lives.
- ˘ As members of this parish we commit ourselves to respectful pastoral care for all adults to whom we minister.
- ˘ We commit ourselves to the safeguarding of people who may be vulnerable, ensuring their well-being in the life of this church.
- ˘ We commit ourselves to promoting safe practice by those in positions of trust.
- ˘ The parish commits itself to promoting the inclusion and empowerment of people who may be vulnerable.
- ˘ It is the responsibility of each of us to prevent the physical, emotional, sexual, financial and spiritual abuse of vulnerable people and to respect any such abuse that we discover or suspect.
- ˘ We undertake to exercise proper care in the appointment and selection of those who will work with people who may be vulnerable.
- ˘ The parish is committed to supporting, resourcing, training and regularly reviewing those who undertake work amongst people who may be vulnerable.
- ˘ The parish adopts the guidelines of the Church of England and the Diocese.
- ˘ Each person who works with vulnerable people will agree to abide by those recommendations and the guidelines established by this church.

This church appoints Carol Hardman to represent the concerns and views of vulnerable people at our meetings and to outside bodies.

Approved by PCC 10.3.25

Social and Fund Raising Group Report 2024

The Social and Fund Raising Team continues to organise many events throughout the year here at St Bede's.

We raise vital funds for the Church but also the events, we hope, give us all a chance to socialise not only with other church members, but with the wider community and also family and friends from Church who do not necessarily live in the Morris Green area.

New members are welcomed any time and to maintain this work if you feel you can help please speak to Gill Blackburn or team members at church or at any of the events.

Again the Race Night and Chocolate Bingo were good money raisers as well as great social evenings. This year we had a sponsored walk "twice around the Jumbles" the numbers attended were not huge but the day was a great success and a very enjoyable walk for those who attended raised a considerable sum from the few.

A new event for 2024 was our Tropic Night (which replaced our Body Shop Night) and again was really well attended and appreciated. Our two florists in the congregation Jill and Angela demonstrated gifts we could make for ourselves.

All events have attracted members from both Sunday and Wednesday congregations and it is great to socialise together.

Our main fund raiser again was the Christmas Fayre and we again worked with the School for this event. This is a great collaboration and brings together both Church and School but also the wider community not forgetting all the family and friends of those in the congregations.

Finally I must say a huge thank you to all the Team who work tirelessly on the events but also to every single person at St. Bede's who give so generously with raffle prizes, eggs for Easter Bingo and general goods for stalls etc., without this help the events would not be possible.

Gill Blackburn

On behalf of the Social and Fundraising Committee

SOCIAL MEDIA UPDATE

Overview

St Bede Church continues to maintain an active presence on Facebook, sharing church newsletters, fundraising and fellowship events, scripture readings and updates from St Bede Academy and the local community. The Social Media Team, led by Kirsty & Tony, ensures key events and major services are published on our Facebook page as well as the Friends of Morris Green group.

Key Statistics (April 2024 – March 2025)

Page Likes: 417

Followers: 448

Total Views: 30.7K (new metric - views weren't tracked last year) highlights continued interest in our content.

Content Interactions: 649 (disappointingly down from 852 last year).

Highest Engagement Post: Remembrance Sunday 2024

Audience Insights

Demographics: Largest age group remains 35-44 years old

Gender: 78.8% women, 21.2% men

Location: 71.2% in Bolton, 97.8% UK-based

International Reach: Our posts have reached users in the USA, Australia, Canada, and Poland, among other countries

Growth Areas & Opportunities for 2025

- Increasing posting frequency – more regular content could help regain lost reach and interactions.
- Leverage the WOW service – sharing midweek content on the WOW sessions may engage those unable to attend Sunday services and highlights the midweek service, which is proving increasingly popular, especially amongst those with young children. Perhaps service leaders can share with us suitable content.
- Consider more interactive content – encourage discussions and interactions.
- Boosting engagement – encouraging our congregation to like, comment and share posts will help increase visibility.

By focusing on these areas, we can continue to strengthen St Bede's digital presence and build stronger connections within the community.

2024 saw us use the Church of England's "A Church Near You" service a lot more. This website helps anyone find their local church.

In the rolling 12 months to 31/03/2025 we have seen;

4,337 views in the last 365 days

461 views in the last 30 days

89 views in the last 7 days

Our church services, Newsletter and Social events are posted on this site giving us much more reach in the social media space.

Our Church website maintains our Church contact list current and archive newsletters as well as our services and social events.

In the last 12 months we have seen 2,388 views with 1,163 visitors which is up 8% and 23% respectively.

If any of the Church family has any suggestions of what we can do with social media that we are not already doing, please speak to Kirsty or Tony.

Kirsty Critchley & Tony Whitehead

SCHOOL UPDATE 2024

Overview

St Bede Church continues to support our Academy school with Collective Worship held at school by a selection of pastors (lay and ordained) ranging from our own Rev Vinny and our Lay Minister Tony as well as representatives from The Salvation Army and Church of the Nazarene. We also host Collective Worship in Church on Fridays.

Total on roll as of 13/02/2025 was 663

Highlights in the last 12 months

Tony Whitehead and David Almond confirmed as Chair and Vice -Chair respectively for next 12 months

School continues to support celebratory Church services: Back to School Sunday, Harvest and Christingle service.

Start of Term INSET worship held at Church

Updated RE curriculum (Manchester Diocesan syllabus) implemented.

Impact of iSingPop project continues to be seen in daily collective worship. Supported by monthly Hymn Practice in the hall

All updated policies continue to include vision statement and a link to the values.

Learning Environment Policy monitored through SLT learning walks

Race and Equality Audit completed

Nominations for Christmas Dinner on Jesus made. Staff to deliver on 23.12.24 (school providing gifts for children within nominated families)

Walk to school initiative launched

'Uniform Donation Station' and 'Pantry Shop' planned for to support families

Weekly outdoor learning session lead by Hedgehog Outdoor delivered at the Allotment. From January, these tool place at their Forest school. No charge to parents

Successful joint school and church fair (£2204 raised)

School choir opening Luncheon Club Christmas dinner

Changes Places workshop ran in Year 6

Ticket cost for nativity performances removed

Christmas magic show for all children funded by the PTA.

New format Carol Concerts planned for December - during school day to support inclusivity and improve parental engagement

Tony Whitehead
Chair of Governors

Deanery Synod Report 2024

There have been 4 meetings in 2024/25 . All meetings open with a welcome and reflection and also approval of the previous meetings minutes and any matters arising.

Saturday 20 April 2024 at Bishop Bridgeman School

There was a presentation on worship by Spirit Blazers which is a group of young people from schools across the deanery who have carried out research on worship in schools and church. They asked different questions of children and young people, school staff and governors. Their findings and recommendations were presented to the Children Changing Places Project Board and the Diocesan Board of Education and this report is available from the Deanery Synod Secretary. This was followed by time for questions and answers. There was a preview of artwork projects on Racial Justice by the Spirit Blazers. A modelled worship session was led by Rick Otto, Diocesan Children's Officer. A discussion followed on what we can learn from, share and apply in our own contexts.

Thursday 27 June 2024 at Christ Church Heaton.

The theme was Reasons to be Cheerful. The presentation was about Talking Tables. This item took the form of a structured interview between the Area Dean and founder of Talking Tables, Marjorie Haywood. Talking Tables is an initiative aimed at bringing lonely people together for conversation and company. A way to conquer loneliness and bring people together one table at a time. Following this there was time for sharing and prayer as mission community groups.

Thursday 10 October 2024 at St Bartholomews, Westhoughton

The presentation was from Safe Families and Home for Good, Mike, Jo and Adam talked about the charity and what they can do to help others and how churches can help. The team advised that they are available to come and discuss this with parishes if they feel they can support them and get involved. There was also time to share and reflex on our first year as a new synod.

Wednesday 12 February 2025 at St Peters Halliwell

The presentation was from Bishop Matthew and Helen Platts, Diocesan Chief Operating Officer around the 4 themes, Growing Younger, Church Planting and Revitalisation, Developing Missional Leadership and Parish Renewal. Everyone went into their mission community groups to discuss 2 questions, 'God is called us to go out and make disciples, what inspires you the most about our emerging strategy as the gospel of Jesus is proclaimed afresh in our generation' and 'How would you like to see your parish develop in the light of our emerging strategy?'. There was lots of discussion with lots of positive feedback from these discussions.

I received a message recently from the Area Dean, Simon regarding the Emerging Diocesan Strategy for the next 5 years, saying it would be great to gather peoples comments and feedback. There is a video on YouTube <https://youtu.be/VbVG-stwNWC>. If you have any comments/feedback please let me know then I can pass this on at the next Deanery Synod in May.

Jean Phillips

Deanery Synod Member

Health & Safety Report 2024

Last year a goalpost appeared on the bottom lawn provided by some bountiful person that lasted a few months, and then was vandalised by teenagers, as bits fell off I put them in the grey bin piece by piece.

A large toy Car was dumped on the lawn and had to be sawn up and placed in the rubbish bin.

A large coping stone was pushed off the cellar wall on one Saturday night and the wall was partly demolished over the following weeks and the gate fell off. The wall was repaired eventually by a brickie and a contractor who was repairing the roof. I obtained some hinges from Amazon and rehung the gate with a lot of effort Further coping stones from the retaining walls have been pushed off by teenagers and had to be removed and stored in the back garden. These coping stones we hope will be reattached at a future date with in God's good time.

Martin Horrocks
Health & Safety Officer