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**ANNUAL REPORT FOR
YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 2025
THE ANNUAL MEETING OF PARISHONERS
AND APCM
SUNDAY 26th April 2026**



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

Vicar: Rev Canon Vinny Whitworth

Associate Priest: Rev Malcolm Bristow

St Bede's APCM 2026 – Vicar's Report

'Just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many'
(Matthew 20:28)

As we reflect back over 2025, 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'.

Inspired by our text verse, our particular focus this year as we seek to live for Jesus at the heart of our community has been to seek out new opportunities to serve and show love to our wider community and beyond. As Jesus himself reminds us; as Christians we are called to follow His example and to serve others.

One new way in which we as a church have sought to serve our wider community this year has been to set up a new monthly PAUSE café, which opened in May. PAUSE café is a support group for those who are lonely or isolated or struggling with mental health. We now have a regular group of people that come each month to the café and we are very grateful to Stephanie Williams and her team for leading this new ministry.

There are many other ways in which we at St Bede do serve our wider community through our regular ministries and projects. Our monthly Luncheon Club continues to support older people in our community and I am very grateful to Elaine Almond and her team for the tremendous work they do in leading this ministry. This year we continued our strong partnership with Urban Outreach, serving as a venue giving away free lunches to children in the summer holidays through the BL Lunch Project and together with our friends from St Andrews, donating 2,000 cartons of custard (1 tonne) to Urban Outreach's Christmas Dinner on Jesus Campaign. We also donated £500 to our church charity of the year; Homeless Aid UK and in July we welcomed Billa Ahmed to St Bede to share about the work of the charity.

One of the key ways we as a church serve our wider community is through our support of our local church school, St Bede Academy. I am very grateful to all our church members who serve as Foundation Governors on the Local Governing Board (LGB), and who are involved in leading our Multi-Academy Trust. Special thanks goes to Tony Whitehead for the work that he does as chair of the LGB and his wider work in the MAT. We continue to have a very strong relationship with our church school, with school continuing to hold services in church throughout the year and it was lovely to have St Bede Academy involved in our church Harvest service and Christingle service again this year.

Our full calendar of social and fundraising events throughout the year also play a key role in bringing our church and wider community together as we seek to serve one another. Our Summer and Christmas Fayres were particular highlights this year and I am very grateful to Gill Blackburn and the social and fundraising team for the outstanding work they do in organising the programme of events for the year.

As we seek to grow as our church; in 2025 we have continued to focus on our mission priorities outlined in our Mission Action Plan.

Our **midweek service**, Worship on Wednesday, continues to thrive, with around 40 people worshipping with us each week in addition to our regular Sunday congregation. Our WOW service has attracted national attention, with the C of E coming in September to film a short film about WOW which was shown on national C of E social media channels and watched by over 15,000 people. In September we also launched a new youth group, Beyond WOW (BW), to maintain links with the young people who have been coming to WOW since we began the service 2 years ago. We are very grateful for the extra support the Diocesan Places Project has provided to WOW and Beyond WOW with Judith Lawson and Ciara Stott helping to lead WOW and Beyond WOW.

Our second priority, which has been a major focus this year has been our **Reordering Project** to expand our community room space and improve our facilities. Throughout the year we have been working with our architect to develop the plans for the project and in September we launched our Reordering Project fund which currently stands at £5,000. Thank you so much to everyone who has supported the project so far and we will continue to move forward with these plans in 2026.

Our third priority is to lead an **Annual Community Mission Event**, and with the help and support of our curate, Rev'd Sweetline Burnell, we held an evangelistic weekend in October called 'Light Up', including a Songs of Praise and lunch and then a special invitational service with puppets in October.

As we have served one another and sought to live for Jesus at the heart of our community, we have seen growth in our church as new people have been drawn into our community. In September we also held an Alpha Course for some of our new people who wanted to explore the Christian faith and discuss the big questions of faith.

We have so much to celebrate and be thankful for as we reflect on what God is doing here at St Bede. However, I want to particularly express my thanks to the ministry team at St Bede; to our assistant minister Rev'd Malcolm Bristow for his continued faithful service, to Tony Whitehead and Pat Bristow our readers, to Gill Blackburn and Carol Hardman our ALMs, and to Rev'd Sweetline Burnell our curate. We are so blessed to have a wonderful ministry team at St Bede.

In October, Pat Bristow hung up her reader robes for good as she preached her final sermon after 37 years of reader ministry at St Bede. Pat has been a tremendous servant of God here at St Bede and we give thanks for her ministry amongst us. Sadly, at the end of the year, our curate Rev'd Sweetline Burnell moved on from St Bede as she focuses on her evangelism ministry. Sweetline will be very much missed at St Bede and we continue to pray for her as she embarks on her new role.

I also want to express my thanks to Elaine Almond, our administrator, and Simon Brooks for his work as treasurer and keeping an eye on our finances. As ever I am very grateful to our long-serving Wardens, Gill Blackburn and Jean Philips, for all the work that they do behind the scenes in looking after our building and supporting the mission and ministry of our church.

As we look to 2026; may we all continue to follow the example of Jesus, may we learn to keep on serving one another, as we seek to live for Jesus at the heart of our community.

Vinny

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

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 2025, 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.

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, and nothing looks irregular.

Helen Weir MAAT – 05.03.2026

Financial Review

In what can only be explained as our best year over the last decade; our total receipts reached £45,087, with £42,114 in unrestricted funds and £2,973 in restricted funds. Total payments amounted to £38,912, resulting in a surplus of £6,175, a huge improvement on 2024's figure of £935.

Donations and legacy receipts contributed £36,534, representing 80% of our total income and nearly £4,000 more than 2024, with a lot sent into our community room redevelopment fund. 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 £6,356, more than £200 more than 2024, 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 £736 in fees for occasional services such as 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 a whopping £5,603 - approximately 12% 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 £4,507 which is a good reduction from 2024's figure of £5,026. We're always on the lookout for better deals though!

Parish Share remains our largest expense, accounting for 46% of our income this year. This amount supports clergy stipends, housing costs, national insurance, pensions and much more. Based on attendance counts and income surveys, our contribution for 2025 was £21,000, which we paid in full. This achievement secures a 2% credit paid by the diocese towards our 2025 Parish Share of £22,000.

Wages for essential roles like our administrator, cleaner, and organist amounted to £4,865. Their contributions are indispensable to our church's operations, and we thank them wholeheartedly.

Our insurance costs totalled £3,882, covering all services, events, and public liability—a critical expense ensuring our church's safety and functionality; however, this expense is increasing by up to £60/mth in 2026 due to some unavoidable claims made in 2025.

Other notable expenditures in 2025 included fire inspections, boiler services, organ tuning, processional cross repair, architectural fees for our community room, licensing, roof repairs, pavement repairs and other upkeep of services such as candles, bread and wine, stationery, gifts, broadband, and repayment of our fundraisers expenses to make our church as successful as it is. These maintenance and equipment expenses totalled approximately £7,168. As we look ahead to 2026, we anticipate further costs, including more building repairs and vandalism-related perimeter work. Your continued generosity enables us to address these needs and sustain our church.

On top of our expenditure the year's net outcome was a simply amazing surplus of £6,174 across all funds. Combined with brought-forward balances, our unrestricted balance total on 31st December was £24,231 of which sat £18,941 in unrestricted funds and £5,290 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 £9,661 (£743/week). With an unrestricted balance of £18,941, our reserves exceed this target by around £9,280, 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 2025 a truly meaningful and memorable year for us all.

Simon Brooks
St Bede PCC Treasurer

Bolton Le Moors
Receipts and Payments Account
For the period from 01 January 2025 to 31 December 2025

	Unrestricted funds	Designated funds	Restricted funds	Total funds	Prior year total funds
Receipts					
Donations and legacies	33,560.71	-	2,973.37	36,534.08	32,356.06
Income from charitable activities	851.00	-	-	851.00	1,214.00
Other trading activities	5,603.70	-	-	5,603.70	6,971.50
Investments	68.47	-	-	68.47	41.21
Other income	2,030.00	-	-	2,030.00	-
Total Receipts	42,113.88	-	2,973.37	45,087.25	40,582.77
Payments					
Raising funds	126.83	-	-	126.83	748.90
Expenditure on charitable activities	37,045.59	-	1,740.00	38,785.59	38,897.42
Total Payments	37,172.42	-	1,740.00	38,912.42	39,646.32
Excess of receipts over payments before transfer	4,941.46	-	1,233.37	6,174.83	936.45
Transfers:					
Gross transfers between funds - in	-	-	-	-	(1,472.89)
Gross transfers between funds - out	-	-	-	-	1,472.89
Excess of receipts over payments before other gains	4,941.46	-	1,233.37	6,174.83	936.45
Net movement in funds	4,941.46	-	1,233.37	6,174.83	936.45
Reconciliation of funds					
Excess of receipts over payments at beginning of the year	13,999.72	-	4,057.26	18,056.98	17,120.53
Excess of receipts over payments for the year	18,941.18	-	5,290.63	24,231.81	18,056.98
Represented by					
Unrestricted					
General Fund	18,941.18	-	-	18,941.18	
13,999.72					
Restricted					
Community Room Redevelopment			5,290.63	5,290.63	
4,057.26					

Bolton Le Moors
Balance Sheet detailed

		As at 31/12/2025	As at 31/12/2024
Current assets			
6501: Bank current account - 9759		7,540.01	12,693.65
6505: Bank deposit account - 3802		1,866.80	1,852.07
6506: Bank deposit account - 1388		14,806.00	3,492.26
6590: Cash in hand		19.00	19.00
	Total Current assets	24,231.81	18,056.98
Liabilities			
6699: Agency collections		-	-
	Total Liabilities	-	-
	asset surplus (deficit)	24,231.81	18,056.98
Reserves			
Excess/(deficit) to date		6,174.83	936.45
Z01: Starting balances		18,056.98	17,120.53
	Total Reserves	24,231.81	18,056.98

Represented by Funds		
General (Unrestricted)	18,941.18	13,999.72
Restricted	5,290.63	4,057.26
Total	24,231.81	18,056.98

Bolton Le Moors

**Statement of Assets and Liabilities (by fund)
As at: 31 December 2025**

			Balance	Previous balance
Cash At Bank And In Hand				
6501: Bank current account - 9759				
Community Room Redevelopment	Restricted		3,538.37	565.00
General Fund	Unrestricted		4,001.64	12,128.65
			7,540.01	12,693.65
6505: Bank deposit account - 3802				
General Fund	Unrestricted		1,866.80	1,852.07
			1,866.80	1,852.07
6506: Bank deposit account - 1388				
Community Room Redevelopment	Restricted		1,752.26	3,492.26
General Fund	Unrestricted		13,053.74	-
			14,806.00	3,492.26
6590: Cash in hand				
General Fund	Unrestricted		19.00	19.00
			19.00	19.00
			24,231.81	18,056.98
			24,231.81	18,056.98
Grand Total		24,231.81	18,056.98	
			Cash At Bank And In Hand	

Bolton Le Moors
Statement of Financial Activities
For the period from 01 January 2025 to 31 December 2025

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total total funds	Prior year funds
Income and endowments from:				
Donations and legacies	33,560.71	2,973.37	36,534.08	32,356.06
Income from charitable activities	851.00	-	851.00	1,214.00
Other trading activities	5,603.70	-	5,603.70	6,971.50
Investments	68.47	-	68.47	41.21
Other income	2,030.00	-	2,030.00	-
Total income	42,113.88	2,973.37	45,087.25	40,582.77
Expenditure on:				
Raising funds	126.83	-	126.83	748.90
Expenditure on charitable activities	37,045.59	1,740.00	38,785.59	38,897.42
Total expenditure	37,172.42	1,740.00	38,912.42	39,646.32
Net income / (expenditure) resources before transfer	4,941.46	1,233.37	6,174.83	936.45
Transfers:				
Gross transfers between funds - in	-	-	-	(1,472.89)
Gross transfers between funds - out	-	-	-	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	4,941.46	1,233.37	6,174.83	936.45
Reconciliation of funds				
Total funds brought forward	13,999.72	4,057.26	18,056.98	17,120.53
Total funds carried forward	18,941.18	5,290.63	24,231.81	18,056.98
Represented by				
Unrestricted				
General Fund	18,941.18	-	18,941.18	13,999.72
Restricted				
Community Room Redevelopment	-	5,290.63	5,290.63	4,057.26
Total funds	18,941.18	5,290.63	24,231.81	18,056.98

ELECTORAL ROLL REPORT FOR ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

26th April 2026

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

2 applications were received and approved and there was 1 deletion.

The number on the new electoral roll is 54 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 26th April 2026

The PCC held meetings in January, March, May, July, September and November in 2025 with the Standing Committee meeting prior to these to discuss any urgent matters and prepare the agenda.

January 25 – our charity partner for 2025, HomelessAid Uk was chosen at this meeting. There was a proposal introduced by Stephanie Williams, a member of our PCC, to set up a 'Pause Café' a community support group to be run on a monthly basis. This was approved by all members present. Drawings were presented at this meeting for the improved community room, these were approved with a view to the architect being engaged. The treasurer reported on the year end 2024 accounts. The church wardens reported on storm damage to the roof, the insurance company would be approached for this.

March 25 – as this was the final meeting of the year for this PCC cohort members of the PCC were thanked for their work over the preceding 12 months. Dates were given for the electoral roll, elections and APCM. As part of the ministry review the recent Healing Service was discussed and it was agreed a success. The architect for the community room update suggested a porch extension also. A feasibility study was agreed upon. The treasurer presented the 2024 year end accounts for approval prior to the APCM. These were formally approved at the meeting. The safeguarding policies for children and adults were formally approved for the APCM. It was reported that the Social/Fundraising committee had met and agreed dates for both social and fundraising activities for the year. The PCC were asked to approve Leah Jennings as Foundation Governor, this was subsequently approved. The PCC received a report from the recent Synod meeting.

May 25 – as the first meeting of the new PCC the Vice Chair, Secretary and Treasurer were duly appointed. It was reported that the Pause Café had held its first meeting and although numbers were not high it was anticipated that numbers would increase in the future. The ordination service for our curate will be in June. Following the feasibility study 2 options for the community room upgrade have been submitted. The sub-committee met and chose option 2.

July 25 – It was noted that St Bedes would be taking part in the BL lunch project again and volunteers were needed. It was also noted that Pat Bristow would step down as lay reader in October. There was further discussion on the community room upgrade with a number of changes made to the plans. The Social/Fundraising committee reported that the summer fair had been a success. The school update reported on a recent Governors meeting when admission numbers were agreed upon. Under Health and Safety a broken pipe was reported on.

September 25 – a mission weekend has been organised for the weekend of the 10th September with a number of events taking place. A new youth group has been established to sit alongside WOW for the older children. A gift day had taken place to support the community room upgrade with £1,275 collected. A sponsored event was also discussed with the possibility of walking the St Bedes Way. The treasurer reported on the accounts to the end of August with a surplus being reported. It was noted that the income and attendance surveys need to take place during October.

November 25 – the mission weekend was a success, although one event had to be cancelled. The church were again taking part in Christmas Dinner on Jesus when we would be collecting custard. Discussion took place on ways of raising funds for the community room update. Alongside the sponsored walk a Singathon was suggested with the idea that a number of choirs could take part. The church wardens reported on a recent meeting with a representative of Ecclesiastical for an insurance inspection. A number of issues were raised which will be followed up. It was also reported that the paving stones at the front of church had

been repaired. Quotes had been received for the coping stonework needing to be done on the gable end. A faculty would be needed for this and also grants due to the cost of the work. It was noted that safeguarding Sunday would be coming up when the congregation could be updated on the safeguarding work going on in church. It was noted that the Christmas fayre this year would be church alone with the school not able to participate although it would still be held in the school hall. An update from the school was given.

As PCC secretary I would like to thank all members of the PCC for their support during the year.

Elaine Almond
PCC Secretary

Fabric Report 2025

Every year we do arrange for general maintenance to be completed at the Church including servicing of the boilers and attend to other matters/repairs relating to the boilers throughout the year, 2025 has been no exception.

This year we have arranged repairs to the Church paths as they had become quite dangerous in places. There are also quite substantial repair work to be completed to coping stones on the North side of the West Gable end of Church. This work has been put out to tender and a Faculty applied for. Work due to start in 2026. Also, we asked the Tree Surgeon to cut back the main tree near the front path as this had become quite overgrown and was above a height that Martin Horrocks could reach. Mentioning Martin Horrocks we will once again thank Martin for his work on the grounds of our Church which is exceptional and done all year around. One Big Thank-you Martin. Once again, he did a great job counteracting the damage done by the children to the front lawn after their many football matches on the lawn area. Once again we thank our own Dean Critchley for attending to many, many routine repairs around the Church. He's on speed dial on my phone!!! So, One Big Thank-you Dean.

As set out in last year's Report we have left the plaster above the Sanctuary to dry out and will be looking into this area being tidied up and repainted in perhaps the year ahead.

We were audited in October 2025 by our insurers and are attending to matters raised as quickly as possible. However, could I mention that in the Community Room the door on the North side of the room is a "fire door" and as such must be left clear at all times. In front of the door I have placed tape on the floor to remind people of the area in question that needs to be kept clear. Thank you.

We have in 2025 increased our numbers and maintained the Worship on Wednesday numbers and indeed WOW celebrated their second birthday.

As Church Wardens we have been fully involved in the work for the Re-ordering Project for the Community Room in the last year.

We must again thank members of the Church who help in maintaining the Church Building and grounds and also to thank members of the Church who report matters to us that need attention at Church.

Church Wardens
Gillian Blackburn
Jean Phillips

ANNUAL REPORT OF ST BEDE'S LUNCHEON CLUB

St Bede's Luncheon Club continue to meet on the first Wednesday of each month. During 2025 many of the meals have been supplied by St Bedes Primary Academy school kitchen and these are always very well received. On occasion when the school kitchen are unable to supply meals we have used a local shop although this has since been problematic due to a low hygiene rating. For 2026 other options will be considered.

During 2025 we did lose some regular members although it was very nice to also see some new members joining us. We are currently averaging around 20 meals per month but there is scope for increasing this significantly. We have tried advertising on social media and around the area but with limited success.

We held a lovely Christmas meal in December with the school providing a full Christmas dinner. We also provided wine and a Christmas present for each member. We were also provided with entertainment by a local singer, Tom Wills, who was very well received.

We are very lucky at luncheon club to have a good number of volunteers to set up, serve, and clear up without whom we would not be able to function at all, so a heartfelt thank you to all who support us in any way. We couldn't run this without you.

**Elaine and David Almond
Luncheon Club Organisers**

Children's Ministry Report for APCM 2026

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, in order that they continue this relationship into adulthood.

Children's Ministry at St Bede's Church is made up of Church Rocks (CR), which meets twice a month on Sundays at 10 am, and Worship on Wednesday (WOW). This year saw the introduction of a youth group, Beyond WOW (BW). WOW and BW take place 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 and a time of prayer. At the end of the session, the children are reunited with parents/carers, in order to adhere to safeguarding policies and regulations.

'Worship on Wednesday' is now in its third year and is popular with families from the community and beyond. 'Beyond WOW' was introduced this academic year and is aimed at children from Year 7 onwards. These sessions are fun, informal, interactive worship services for children and families and there are opportunities for families to celebrate special Christian festivals together with food and games. WOW and BW are led by the ministry team and supported by members of St Bede's church and the Changing Places project.

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. It has also been encouraging to see children exploring their faith further through Baptism and Confirmation.

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 Safeguarding e-manual:

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 9.3.26

**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 9.3.26

Social and Fund Raising Group Report 2025

I will begin this Report with 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 generally goods for stalls etc., without this help the events would not be possible.

The Team have been busy this year with many events, we virtually arrange one a month which is good for the size of the team.

We started the year with a good old fashioned "Beetle Drive" much fun and excitement when someone shouted "Beetle". Then our Afternoon Tea to celebrate Mothers Day in March. Our annual Easter Bingo took place in April once again we had a mountain of Easter Eggs to win such is the generosity of Church Members. Race Night followed the Bingo and again loads of prizes donated which made for a very good social evening and lots of prizes to be won. We held our Summer Fayre in 2025, unfortunately the weather was against us, but we carried on regardless and had a lovely day.

A new event for September our Pudding Night!! Four members of the Team each prepared a "pudding" for the night and a vote was taken for the winner!! Although I must say that each of the puddings were delicious and I'm not sure how people could vote for just one! We were entertained by "ThinkCre8tive Singers" singing songs from the shows again an excellent night, look out for it again in 2026. Our new Tropic Night took place in November, lovely toiletries and as much Cheese and Wine you could eat. Gorgeous displays by our inhouse Florist, Jill Brooks, and people eagerly wanted raffle tickets to win the displays at the end.

Finally in November was our Christmas Fayre which this year we held in our own name and again was a fantastic success both for good community spirit and financially.

We look forward to seeing you at many events already planned for 2026 and your support in providing gifts and prizes to run our events in 2026.

Gill Blackburn

On behalf of the Social and Fundraising Committee

St Bede Church Social Media Report – AGM 2026

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 Facebook Statistics (April 2025 – March 2026)

Page Likes: 626 an increase of 50% on last 12 months

Followers: 470 an increase of 6.1% on last 12 months

Total Views: 70.9K an increase of 130% on last 12 months highlights continued interest in our content.

Content Interactions: 2,603 (up from just 649 last year).

Highest Engagement Post: Our Summer Fair is back!

Audience Insights

Demographics: Largest age group remains 35-44 years old

Gender: 78.8% women, 21.2% men

Location: 85.5% in Bolton, 95.3% UK-based

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

2026 continued to 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 28/03/2026 we have seen;

6,076 views in the last 365 days, up from 4,337 from last year

486 views in the last 30 days, up from 461 from last year

112 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 2,545 views with 1,215 visitors which is up 6% and 4.5% 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 2025

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 Licensed Lay Minister Tony as well as representatives from The Salvation Army and Church of the Nazarene. We also host Collective Worship in Church on special occasions

Total on roll as of February 2026 was 614

Highlights in the last 12 months

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

Vision, Ethos & Christian Distinctiveness

- Christian vision is **embedded across policy, practice and culture**
 - Strong and growing **school–church partnership**
 - High-quality collective worship and seasonal celebrations across all year groups
 - Staff spirituality and church–school heritage strengthened through diocesan CPD
 - Last SIAMS judgement affirms St Bede’s as a place where **pupils and adults flourish**
-

Leadership & Strategic Direction

- Clear, refined leadership roles aligned to school priorities
 - Robust appraisal processes linked to teaching quality, behaviour and leadership
 - Strong focus on **staff wellbeing and workload management**
 - Systematic monitoring of implementation, not just intent
 - Ongoing capital investment improving learning environments
-

Curriculum, Teaching & Enrichment

- Clear and consistent curriculum intent and implementation (EYFS–Y6)
 - New PE and Geography curricula successfully launched
 - Continued investment in curriculum leadership and bespoke CPD
 - Enhanced cultural capital through trips, visitors and enrichment
 - Positive behaviour underpinned by the **St Bede Way**
-

Attendance – A Key Strength

- Attendance remains **above national average** (96%)
 - Removed from Academy Improvement Plan due to sustained success
 - Strong, multi-layered support for families and pupils
 - Data-driven monitoring with early intervention
-

Safeguarding – Highly Effective

- Safeguarding recognised as a **real strength** by Ofsted and external reviewers
 - Strong systems, clear caseload ownership and regular safeguarding meetings
 - High levels of statutory training compliance
 - Safeguarding culture is proactive, reflective and embedded
-

SEND & Inclusion

- Inclusive practice is strong and well-coordinated
 - SEND pupils achieve in line with peers with effective adaptations
 - New SEND unit development progressing well
 - External validation consistently praises inclusion and staff expertise
 - New SEND provision due to be launched in April 2026
-

Staffing & Workforce

- Staff absence closely monitored and clearly contextualised
 - Long-term absences managed sensitively and responsibly
 - Staff accidents low-level and appropriately risk-assessed
 - Clear focus on staff wellbeing and sustainability
-

Pupil Numbers & Demand

- Roll remains healthy at **614 pupils**
 - Waiting lists in several year groups
 - Strong demand for Reception and Nursery places
 - Strategic planning in place for future PAN (Published Admission Numbers) changes
-

Overall Position

- Strong leadership and governance
- Embedded Christian vision
- Excellent safeguarding and inclusion
- High attendance and positive behaviour
- Clear, realistic next steps focused on consistency and sustainability

Tony Whitehead
Chair of Governors

Deanery Synod Report 2025

There have been 3 meetings in 2025/26. All meetings open with a welcome and reflection and also approval of the previous meetings minutes and any matters arising.

Saturday 10 May 2025 - held at Bishop Bridgeman School

The Area Dean said the focus of the Deanery Synod moves from Mission Communities to the four key themes, Growing Younger, Church Planting and Revitalisation, Developing Missional Leaders and Parish Renewal. Members went into groups to discuss these priorities. There was sharing and reflection afterwards.

The guest speaker was Canon Rachel Watts, Director of Vocations who said that vocation is for all of us and could be 'just' to be a disciple of Christ. Being a churchwarden, a PCC member or a Deanery Synod representative are all examples of vocation. Our calling may change over time, we may feel happy and comfortable in our current situation or drawn to move on to something different. After prayer members were invited to choose a picture from a wide selection and share with one another how the picture related to their calling.

Wednesday 10 November 2025 - held at St Matthews, Little Lever

The Area Dean welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced our guest speaker Canon Anne Edwards, Bishop's Chaplain to talk about Wellbeing. There was worship and reflection and then given Deanery, Diocesan and National updates, plus vacancy updates, Diocesan Strategy and funding bid updates.

Our guest speaker outlined the ways in which wellbeing can be an issue for church leaders, lay and ordained. Discussion was wide ranging and feedback included that the Lay Chair noted that the Clergy Covenant did not relate to the wellbeing of lay officers, such as churchwardens. It was suggested that the synod should refer that concern and it was agreed that synod authorise the Standing Committee to take the issue forward and compose a suitable worded resolution for consideration at the next meeting. This was agreed. Fr Robert Eloff was concerned that the synod was being asked to vote on something without sufficient debate. Rev Dave Thompson suggested the document should be called the Ministerial Covenant not the Clergy Covenant.

Thursday 12 February 2026 - held at St John's, Wingates

Mr Walsh spoke about Diocesan Strategy and new funding re Parish Renewal, Growing Younger, Church Planting/Revitalisation, Developing mission leaders.

The deficit for the year, if everyone pays their Parish share we could break even. It was urged to pay on time and was reminded that you need to pay all of the Parish share to be able to get grants.

The Area Dean talked about the end of funding for child changing places and that parishes will need to take this work on themselves. To dream dreams and look at what we might do locally. Gill Blackburn mentioned what we do here at St Bedes with regard to WOW (Worship on Wednesday).

The Lay and clergy wellbeing update and plan is still being looked at. It maybe that it will be up to each Parish to deal with this. There was a reminder that requirements for Safeguarding are getting harder and there are recent changes that are important

Different churches spoke about their successes. Carol from Wingates spoke about completing a 7 year job to get a World War 1 plaque, Susan from St Paul's Astley Bridge spoke about how their congregation is growing, Hannah, Vicar of Bolton gave a long talk on how the Parish Church have put time aside to look at what they did in the last year including a Vision Day and Viv from St James Westhoughton talked about their outreach team.

Keith, the Lay Chair is retiring and a new lay chair is required. A job description will come out soon

The term of office for Deanery Representatives as come to an end and new representatives will need to be appointed at our APCM.

Jean Phillips and Gill Blackburn - Deanery Synod Reps

Health & Safety Report 2025

A large toy car was dumped in the church grounds; this is in the process of being broken up and disposed of.

The coping stones from the retaining walls have been pushed off by vandals. These have had to be removed and stored in the back garden, although some have now disappeared. I have put some coping stones on the small front lawn which have been used as a flower display feature so as to discourage children from playing football on the lawn, which I hope will be successful.

I am finding large bottles of empty gas which are usually found once a week and used laughing gas balloons around the garden.

There were many uneven flags on the paths around the front and back gardens which have subsequently been fixed.

Martin Horrocks
Health & Safety Officer