St Thomas and St John, Lostock

Annual Reports and Financial Statements 2025

VICAR'S REPORT

Where are our edges?

> *Now Jesus had to go through Samaria. So he came to a town in Samaria called Sychar, near the plot of ground Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired as he was from the journey, sat down by the well. It was about noon. When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, 'Will you give me a drink?'*
>
> (John 4:4-7)

In John's Gospel chapter 4, we have a master-class in how to engage someone in an evangelistic conversation. Jesus talks with the un-named Samaritan woman, someone from a different culture and with a complex past, a life in whom God was already at work to bring her to faith... and to be an evangelist herself...

> *Many of the Samaritans from that town believed in him because of the woman's testimony...*
>
> (v39)

I've always been struck by John's statement that 'Jesus had to go through Samaria.' On the face of it, Jesus didn't have to go through Samaria. In fact it would have been shocking to Jesus' followers that he set foot in Samaria at all. Jews and Samaritan's didn't get on with each other, hence the power of the parable of the Good *Samaritan* (Luke 15), who helped the *Jew*.

Jesus was often creating new Kingdom of God edges. Taking his followers out of their comfort zone so that those on the fringes of God's Kingdom had the opportunity to engage with the things of the Kingdom. *'Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come...'* We pray it (often!) but how do we ***practically*** facilitate it? I'm also struck in the Sychar encounter by the influence that just one new convert has in bringing a whole village into engagement with Jesus... the King of the Kingdom. New faith so often engenders more new faith.

Where are our Kingdom edges at Lostock Church?

A sphere has no edges (or does it have one edge!?) and has the least surface area-to-volume ratio of any 3D form. A spherical (as it were) church might be theologically sound, loving, welcoming and pastorally switched on, but it will also be introspective and lacking in wider community engagement. It is the default position of so many churches. To be a church without edges.

In 2025, the PCC of Lostock church have been prayerfully seeking to discern where our edges are and could be. In what ways can we engage the local community with the love of Christ.

Jean, a new member of PCC in 2025, got a little team together and set up the monthly craft club. Open to all, and enabling non-church members to get to know church-members. Others set up a book club and organised walks with similar goals. Social gatherings building fellowship, but also having an edge to reach non-church folk. Steve, another new PCC member in 2025, got us carol singing at Lostock Station just before Christmas, where 21 of us adults sang to those getting on and off trains... and to those on the trains! Edgy and at the same time trad. But who knows how God uses these acts of witness?

We continue to explore and develop our edges. An edgy church can be an exciting and dynamic place. Not everyone is comfortable with that, but Jesus does not call his church (NB *his* church, not ours) to be comfortable. He calls us to be missional. *"**Go** and make disciples..."* (Matthew 28:19).

In addition to our regular services and Sunday morning ministries...

At the beginning of the year, we gained a new creche room (the old vestry) and the music team gained a new sound system.
On Saturday 1st February, André and I gathered the youth and children's leaders from Lostock and Deane churches for a really encouraging training morning.
In February, we also formed a Lostock Church Pastoral Visiting Team with members Granville, Jean Hope, Jane Chowdhury, Geoff Spencer, Martin Corr and myself.
8th March saw the Alpha Course 'Holy Spirit Day'.
There was a Ladies' Brunch on 15th March.
The Tuesday evening men's group grew and grew in 2025, and we enjoyed a walk at Rivington on 13th April.
23rd-24th May there was a Lostock-Deane ladies retreat at Grange-over-Sands.
There was also a Lostock-Deane men's social at the Rectory on 17th June, with games of Kubb on the Rectory lawn.
On 17th July there was a Lostock-Deane Ladies' Afternoon Tea here at the Rectory and on 3rd August there was a newcomers' tea for anyone joining us in the past year.
On 9th September the Lostock-Deane staff team (Paul, André, Sheri, Jo, Nigel, Beccy and me) held a 'Strategic Planning Day'.
On 24th September, we gave thanks to God for the life of Arthur Holland, remembering his many years of Christian service and witness, and praying for Pat and the family.
On 4th October, there was a ladies walk at Rivington.
By October, we were well on with the process of recruiting a new Parish Centre manager, Mike having given us plenty of warning of his retirement, and by December a contract had been signed with Joe Delvard.
On 9th November, Lostock Church hosted the Mission Partnership Confirmation Service where five members of Lostock Church were confirmed by Bishop Matthew.
On 30th November there was another 'sell out' ladies Christmas wreath making event in the Parish Centre with guest speaker Melanie Higson.
In December, new PCC member Kate got a Sunday morning toddler group up and running.
In December we saw a big turn-out for the Christmas Fayre, and that other festive favourite the Christmas Lunch was a joyful time. And a partridge in a pear tree!
On Christmas Eve, our Christingle Service was just about standing room only.
Throughout 2025, members of Lostock congregation helped run the weekly Junction partnership with Urban Outreach, a compassion ministry serving those who cannot afford to buy food. And the monthly Wednesday Fellowship / Quiz gatherings continued to flourish in the Parish Centre.

At the end of the year, three members of staff left us, Church Administrator Sheri Taylor, Parish Centre Manager Mike Dodds and Curate André Adefope. In various ways, we marked their time with us and thanked them.

Preaching series in 2025 included Philippians, 1 Chronicles, the Beatitudes and 'Making Life Work'. In the Growth Groups we worked our way through three courses: 'The Bible Course', 'Making Work Work', 'Growing on the Front Line'.

It was good, once again, for expenditure to come in under budget in 2025.

From 2020 (and the dreadful Covid) to 2022, most churches experienced significant decline in numbers attending services, ours included. Many have not recovered even now and some are on their last legs. Since 2022, our '16 and over' Sunday morning attendance has remained fairly constant. Below, the average numbers for January to April each year.

2022 **40**; 2023 **52**; 2024 **61**; 2025 **58**; 2026 **56**

The slight dip in 2025-26 can be explained in part by the changes in entrance policy at Canon Slade School, which came into play in 2025. See below. It is always good to see new people joining and (crucially) sticking with us and we need to be regularly praying for more people to discover all that is good about Lostock Church, and for us as a church to have a few more edges into the local community. I discern a bit of a shift in our age-profile. Not statistically based (I can only guess at people's ages!), but our church family seems to me to be getting a little older year on year. This is not in itself a problem, and indeed the UK population as a whole is aging. We have been blessed by the retireds who have joined us in the last few years but we are not so much attracting *and holding onto* 16s-30s. This could be seen as a bit of a fragility with us.

Numbers of younger families and children have been in a sense artificially boosted at Lostock Church (and at many churches around Bolton) for years by the church attendance requirements for entrance at various local Church of England secondary schools. *By-and-large*, we have seen families join us on Sunday mornings, get their church attendance number and then disappear as soon as they have their school place confirmed. With the changes to Canon Slade School entrance requirements in 2025, the need to attend church to secure a place is now considerably less than it was just a year ago. This will impact on church attendance by certain families. In fact it is already doing so. The argument is sometimes made that engaging with these families for the weeks/years that we have them with us is a wonderful opportunity. I whole-heartedly agree. I would also reflect, having been a minister in Bolton for 16 years now, that ***some*** of these families actually become hardened and unreceptive to the Gospel, even becoming resentful of 'having' to attend church. This does not mean we don't welcome families, laying on the very best children's work that we can, but we really shouldn't be surprised when families just disappear at a certain point in the year. It is a reality that many churches in Bolton have to navigate. We pray that the Gospel seeds sown while with us, will grow to maturity in years to come. The changes in Canon Slade church attendance requirements is a factor that may also have shifted our age-demographic a little, but it is not the main factor.

Some churches are managing to attract and hold on to younger/Gen Z adults. At Lostock, we have not quite cracked that yet. In 2026-27, I would call us to be strategic in personal and corporate prayer as we bring these things before God, specifically asking him to send us younger adults. Unlike magnetic poles, with people, ***like tends to attract like***. If we get a larger and stable nucleus of younger adults then others will follow. But it all starts with prayer.

In 2025 and into 2026 we have had some particularly fruitful PCC meetings, for which I am grateful to our excellent PCC members. As we have thought about mission, we have tried to identify the needs in the local community and how we might minister into those places in a distinctly Christian way. One issue which came up again and again is loneliness / isolation. We have thought about ways that we can address this by being more proactive in inviting people to things, and in 2026 we will be

stepping up our publicity of church events. I invited the PCC to engage in blue sky thinking and I shared my vision for an extension to the front of the Parish Centre to house a multi-function café / meeting space, crucially being highly visible and accessible from the road... unlike the Octagon Lounge. The café could be open for a few hours each weekday (perhaps just a couple of days a week initially), staffed by volunteers, with at least one volunteer on duty having done some Christian listening training. Yes, it would cost money to build but it could give us a wonderful edge into the local community, and help ease isolation and loneliness, without us even going off-site. If I had the time, I would do some work on costings and other practicalities, and begin looking into grant funding.

In terms of my commitments in the wider Church of England, in 2025 I stepped down from the Manchester Diocesan Ministerial Development Review Team after eight years, having conducted the MDRs of 35 colleagues. I continued as a member of the team running the CPAS Arrow Leadership Programme, and will be continuing with that in 2026-27 (www.cpas.org.uk/arrow-leadership-programme). In 2025 and into 2026 I continued to be part of Bishop David's Mutual Flourishing advisory group, and a member of the Diocesan Evangelical Fellowship committee. My year as the Mayor of Bolton's Chaplain came to an end in May 2025, it having been a privilege to open each meeting of Bolton Council in prayer. I led a church away-day for Christ Church Davyhulme on 17th March, on the theme 'Having confidence in the Bible'. A significant and important part of my working week in 2025, and continuing into 2026, is 1:1 mentoring of future leaders at Lostock and Deane churches.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank everyone at Lostock Church who serves, prays and gives so generously of time, money and of other resources, to make the church family the amazing, welcoming, compassionate, all-age church that we are.

A special word of thanks to and for churchwardens Sandra Macpherson and Nigel Newton, Church Administrator in 2025 Sheri Taylor, retired ministers Granville Spedding and Paul Hardingham, and our Parochial Church Council members including Treasurer Justine Hatter. Thank you to Anna Shawcross and her Sunday School team, and to Kevan Porter who oversees the Parish Centre staff. And a special thank-you to André Adefope our stipendiary curate for 3 1/2 years. André has been a blessing to us at Lostock and over at Deane, in various ways, many unseen by most, including his work in Lostock Primary School. He has also been a great colleague to work with and we pray for him (and Becca & the kids) on the next stage of their journey with God.

St Thomas and St John Lostock is in a great place to go forward. Let us not get distracted, but stay rooted in God's word, full of hope because Jesus walked out of the tomb on that first Easter Sunday, and committed to thinking and acting missionally.

Terry

CHURCHWARDENS' REPORT

The Church Building

The Quinquennial Inspection took place in January 2024. At the time of writing the inspection report is still outstanding. A request for an update on when the report will be received was sent and acknowledged but no definite timescale has been given yet. When the inspection was carried out the architect was pleased with the amount of work carried out on the building since the previous inspection. Not all of the previous recommendations were carried out due to the costs that would have been involved but all high priority items have been addressed. Any recommendations in the new report will be discussed by the PCC members and a prioritised plan created.

Exterior

As reported last year, the extreme weather at times over the previous year caused some roof tiles to slip, resulting in a leak into the church. This was repaired however it caused some staining & a patch of mould on to the ceiling above the choir stalls. Quotes to treat the mould and repaint the area were obtained by the Centre Manager at the time, but the contractor has since ceased trading so new quotes will be obtained by the new Centre Manager. Once received the PCC will discuss and prioritise the work alongside other activities requiring funding.

The revised application for the faculty to replace the steps that previously formed the emergency staircase from the old vestry were not progressed during 2025 due to other financial priorities. As reported last year, the steps have collapsed completely, meaning this exit can no longer be used and all signage indicating it as an emergency exit were removed. Current fire exits are via the main entrance and the North Porch.

One of the panes of glass in the entrance way into church has been damaged by what appears to a shot from an air rifle. The small hole has been covered temporarily, and the pane will be replaced at a convenient time.

The small team of volunteers have continued to do a wonderful job maintaining the lawn and flower beds at the front of the church to a high standard; we would like to offer our thanks for all their hard work throughout the year. Additional help is always welcome, anyone able to spare some time to assist should speak to one of the wardens or Granville Spedding.

Interior

The interior of the Church is in generally good condition; A team of volunteers clean the Church on a weekly basis. We would like to thank all of them for their time and hard work. The stained-glass windows need cleaning; this requires specialist skills to avoid damage to the colouring so advice will be taken before any work is undertaken.

The floor covering in the body of the church is in good general condition but will need relaying in certain areas at a convenient time. Some wax spillages around the altar were expertly removed by a member of the congregation and some cleaning is required due to general usage.

The sound-system and speakers purchased the previous year by the music group, continue to perform well and enhance the music in all services. We would like to thank the music group for their

continued dedication and hard work this year and also the team of volunteers who operate the sound desk and computer each week. A new laptop will be required for the AV desk in the near future as the current one is nearing the end of its life; the estimated cost has been included in the church budget for 2026. Investigations are underway into using Wi-Fi boosters to strengthen the church's signal, making it possible to incorporate online content into sermons when needed.

The creche area, for children aged 3 and under, has been in use over the year, allowing young children to make use of the toys in the room whilst accompanying parents can still hear and follow services.

The sink in the toilet off the creche area was unfortunately broken by a contractor attempting to fix a leak. A new one has been sourced and will be fitted as soon as possible. In the meantime, hot and cold running water is available in the small kitchen next to the creche.

The following checks and inspections have been completed:

- Electrical Installations
- Portable Appliance Testing
- Fire Risk Assessments
- Fire Extinguishers
- Performing Rights Society Music license
- PCC has approved the Insurance of the Church
- Public liability certificate renewed.
- The items listed in the Terrier, have been checked, and found to be in order.

Other Comments

We have been pleased to again welcome a number of new families into the congregation over the past year and have seen a welcome increase in attendance most weeks. The regular Parade services were re-established in 2024 with the uniformed organisations attending on a monthly basis; we were pleased to see their continued involvement in Church life in 2025.

The wardens met the new Centre Manager at the end of the year and look forward to working with him on matters affecting the church building including, for example, obtaining quotations for any repair or maintenance work required and arranging the annual checks and inspections.

Although the heating system in church is functioning at this time consideration should be given to updating the system by:

- Replacing the boiler
- Flushing out the heating system (which will give more heating output from the existing system)

The current boiler is probably about 30 years old and the heating pipework probably the age of the church.

Options for a replacement will be considered by the PCC as part of the Energy Plans that the Diocese requires all churches to have in place as part of Net Zero targets created by / for the Church of England.

CURATE'S REPORT

Hello, remember me?! As you know, my curacy came to an end as 2025 finished, but you are all still in my thoughts and prayers.

My final year of curacy was different to the rest. You may remember that Manchester Diocese released me for a few days per week to work for Emmanuel Theological College, which meant my working week looked very different to previous years of curacy. In addition, ending curacy is strange, because you feel like things you have been praying for and working towards for years are starting to really grow and become a reality, and then you need to leave! But there were some real highlights to look back on and thank God for.

At the start of the year I was involved in leading an Alpha course with some long standing, as well as new members, of our church. Some of those who joined the course as new church members are still part of the family a year later, which is great to see. There were great discussions and good friendships made on that Alpha course, which was brilliant and humbling to be a part of.

One of the outcomes of this led to one of the best parts of my curacy, which was Josh's baptism. All baptisms I have done were a highlight and are a joyous occasion, and to journey with Josh through Alpha and then get to baptise him was great fun. I hope many more happen in the years ahead.

Last year, Terry and I also delivered some training for the youth and kid's workers across the two churches. It was great gathering these key volunteers, who give so much of their time and talents, who are also passionate about seeing young people develop their relationship with God. Nigel and I were later part of the youth worship night too, which was primarily lead and put together by members of our youth group. Seeing our youth step up and use the gifts God has given them was incredible. I hope this is the first of many more.

I also was asked to represent our church and diocese at the Lambeth Conference that met down in London. This was fun and interesting, especially because the keynote talk was on mission and theology, and how imagination is a key part of this.

My wife and I (by God's grace) completed the triathlon fundraiser in May too, raising over £3,400 for the kids and youth work in our churches. I would not say this was fun, but it was a highlight.

I also officiated my first wedding in the summer, which went smoothly, and everyone seemed to have a good time.

I continued to take funerals, deliver school assemblies, help out at school events, and serve and make connections with those in the community in other ways too. Building links with the community in these ways was always a privilege. The mid-week Lostock fellowship group also continued throughout the year, and I am thankful that this will continue even after I've left.

However, the best thing to happen, which had nothing to do with me or anyone else really, proving that it must be God, was seeing so many new people randomly turn up at church. Many of these people have stayed, and that is also down to God, but also due to us as a church family welcoming and coming

alongside people who visit our church. Seeing God work so powerfully is always amazing, and it is great to see us grow as a family and help each other.

You remain in my heart and prayers, and I look forward to visiting in the future, and hearing about all the things God continues to do at Lostock church.

God Bless,
André

PCC SECRETARY'S REPORT

We would normally have a brief report from the PCC secretary but since 1st January 2026, we have not had a PCC secretary. Hopefully, between my Vicar's Report and the other reports we will have covered the main items of PCC business in 2025.
Terry

ELECTORAL ROLL OFFICER'S REPORT

The revised Electoral Roll has been completed, which is now on display on the Church Notice Board in the Parish Centre Foyer.

The revised total is 63, which is 1 less than 2025.

The Full list including addresses, which are not shown on the Notice Board due to Data Protection, is kept in the Vestry.

If anyone has any questions, please do not hesitate to ask.

Martin Corr
Electoral Roll Officer

PARISH CENTRE REPORT

OVERVIEW

- Revenues £58383 - 2025 (£56608 – 2024)
- Expenses £51228 - 2025 (£61078 - 2024)
- Surplus +£7155 - 2025 (-£5470 - 2024 Deficit)

Summary of Events 2025
Financials. Cost controls in 2025 in Staff wages –Decrease -14%
No significant expenditure undertaken i.e.: maintenance work, has resulted in annual financial surplus. This is unlikely to be the case in 2025 as major maintenance work will be undertaken as required..
Increase in Hire charges effective 1 January 2025 boosted revenues, new Elec and Gas supply contracts now in place will also control costs.
Usage from regular hirers now almost at full capacity (eg: main hall now in use every evening) The Centre operates multiple activities in other rooms at the same time. Control over new users being selectively accepted where staffing and cleaning can be accommodated economically.
With new users in 2025 we now have 20 regular user groups over the month; this is excluding weekend parties and one-off events. We continue to receive enquiries for new users.

Current Staffing

Mike Dodds retired end of 2025 from the position of Centre Manager (bookings, general planning for maintenance, opening, setting up and closures)

Replaced by Joe Delvard from 1 January 2026. Taken on additional admin duties previously carried out by Administrator Sheri Lee Taylor who left at the end of 2025.

Cindia Lau covers cleaning and general duties as required.

The current staffing arrangements are working efficiently with all activities covered.

Thanks:

To Emma Kavanagh for Staffing issues advice

To Sharon and Bill Brown for Health & Safety and General, Legal, Security and Fire Safety advice.

To Justine Hatter (Church Treasurer) for keeping Centre Finances in good order.

Outlook for the Future

Detailed expenses budgets and expected revenue prepared for 2026 and we are confident that Centre activities will show positive financial position in 2026.

Quarter 1/2026 showing a positive financial position.

Due to rising utilities costs and Staff statutory wage and Nat Ins increases, hiring charges will again be reviewed in the next few months. Expenditure operated on 'Needs and Wants' basis with necessary issues taking priority to maintain the Centre as an appealing and safe environment.

Estimates are being sought towards applying for grants in order to improve Energy Efficiency and other General refurbishments

.

Centre Management will endeavour to maintain the building from its own revenues without drawing on Church funds,

The Centre will always try to be available for Church based activities which should be booked through the Centre Manager.

K. Porter – Parish Centre Management Committee Chair
30.04.2026

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY REPORT

Report to follow.

MEN'S MINISTRY REPORT

Across Lostock and Deane churches, this has two strands:

(1) Occasional events such as social evenings at Deane Rectory and a men's breakfast (Feb 2026) at Lostock Parish Centre.

(2) The Tuesday evening Lostock-Deane men's Growth Group.

The latter has 15 members and the Bible studies and prayer times are really encouraging. The guys in this group also care for each pastorally. We normally meet in Deane Church Centre, but once a term we relocate for the evening to The King's Head pub across the road. The pub gathering is for what the members of the group call 'Grill the vicar' night, but I usually manage to avoid answering any questions until at least 10pm. We are giving some thought to a 24hour away residential (open to any guys) in the Autumn of 2026. And Vinny Whitworth (at St Andrew's & St Bede's) and I are currently discussing practicalities for a 4-churches men's event.

Terry

GIFT AID REPORT

Firstly I would like to Thank All of you who Gift Aid your giving on a regular or one off basis, it really does make a difference to Church Funds.

In the last year 2025 we have received £9634.01 from the taxman through our gift aided collections, which is only £335.97 more than 2024. We receive 25% on all gift aided collections so it is imperative that if you are a tax payer you gift aid your commitment to OUR Church.

It is very pleasing that the pink envelopes in the pews are being well used particularly at Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals. If you are using these on a regular basis could we PLEASE ENCOURAGE YOU to change to a standing order, which is easier for you and for the cashier who has to sort them each week. You can then put one of the yellow fishes donating regular givers at the back of the church on the plate if you so wish.

We currently have 56 gifting by Standing order, which is our preferred method as the money goes direct to the Church account each month. If you want any Gift Aid forms or any further information please contact me.

Eddie Burgess, Gift Aid Secretary. 07779 585190

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE
ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF
ST THOMAS AND ST JOHN, BOLTON

ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31ST DECEMBER 2025

BARLOW ANDREWS LLP
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS
BOLTON

ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

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TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2025

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) presents their report and accounts for the year ended 31st December 2025.

Reference and administrative information

The charity is named: Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Thomas and St John, Bolton. Its registered charity number is 1134574.

It is located at:
Tempest Road
Lostock
Bolton
BL6 4EL

The PCC members are the trustees of the charity. Members who have served from 1 January 2025 until the date of approval of this report are:

Rev. Terry Clark	Vicar and Chair of PCC
Rev. André Adefope (until December 2025)	Curate
Mrs. Sheri Taylor (until December 2025)	Secretary
Mrs. Justine Hatter	Treasurer & contact for Charity Commissioners
Mrs. Sandra Macpherson	Church Warden
Mr. Nigel Newton	Church Warden
Mr. Kevan Porter	Vice Chair of PCC
Mrs. Samantha Abram	
Mrs. Siobhan Corr (until May 2025)	
Mr. David Kavanagh (until May 2025)	
Mrs. Lyn Lawson	
Mrs. Celia Nisbett	
Mr. Geoffrey Spencer (until May 2025)	
Mrs. Suja Varghese	
Mr. Martin Corr	
Dr. Katherine Papworth (from May 2025)	
Mr. Steve Morris (from May 2025)	
Ms. Jean Hope (from July 2025)	

Structure, governance and management

The PCC is a body corporate established by the Church of England, which operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure 1956. The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules 2006.

The PCC members are responsible for making decisions on all matters of general concern and importance to the Parish including deciding on how the funds of the PCC are to be spent. The incumbent of the parish is the chairman of the PCC. Under rule 15 of the Church Representation Rules the incumbent can invite the lay vice-chairman to act as chairman for the meetings and have all the powers vested in the chairman.

Objectives and activities

Public benefit

The PCC in co-operation with the Vicar facilitates the promoting in the Parish of the whole mission of the Church, evangelistic and pastoral. The Trustees have paid due regard to guidance issued by the Charity Commission in relation to activities for the public benefit in deciding what activities the Charity should undertake.

Mission statement

St Thomas and St John want to make Jesus known and loved as Lord and Saviour through the life of His church by:

- offering Bible teaching on the Christian faith and life;
- being a focus of Christian worship and prayer;
- showing Jesus' love through the way we live;
- seeking opportunities to reach out and involve people in God's work;
- offering fellowship, prayer and support for everyone.

Achievements and performance

Worship and prayer

The PCC are keen to offer a range of worship styles each month, including traditional and all-age. All are welcome to attend our weekly Sunday morning services. We provide Occasional Offices of Thanksgivings, Baptisms, Confirmations, Marriages and Funerals. Nine midweek weekly groups are held jointly with Deane Parish Church for Bible study, fellowship and prayer. There is a Youth Group, a monthly Fellowship Group morning and a monthly Quiz morning.

Deanery synod

Three members of the PCC sit on the Deanery Synod. This provides the PCC with a link between the parish and the wider structures of the church.

The Parish Centre

The Parish Centre facilities are used by church groups, such as Sunday School and Bible Study.

The Parish Centre is also at the heart of the parish's strategy to engage with the wider Lostock and Bolton community. The centre is used by a wide age group providing education, wellbeing and special interest groups.

An adjacent building is used exclusively by the Scout and Guide Association.

In 2025, total income from lettings of Church Centre facilities was £58,384.

Pastoral care

Visits and pastoral care of the sick, bereaved and elderly are undertaken by the vicar and members of the congregation. Home communion, if requested, can be arranged.

Mission and Evangelism

Since September 2016, when we started sharing a minister with Deane Church, Lostock and Deane churches have increasingly worked together in mission and wider ministry. This includes a joint preaching programme and weekly Bible study notes, joint monthly prayer meeting, joint weekly Sunday evening youth group and joint Sunday services three times a year. We are also increasingly working together with St Andrew's Over Hulton and St Bede's Morris Green within the wider Mission Partnership.

We have a good relationship with the local (non-church) primary school and have welcomed the school into our church for a special assembly at Christmas and Easter.

Helping those in need is a demonstration of our faith.

We regularly hold community food collections which were donated to Urban Outreach, a local charity working with people living in deprivation in Bolton.

Children and youth

Children and youth make up around a third of the congregation. Groups for various ages on Sunday mornings continue to flourish, overseen by a team of volunteer leaders.

Future plans

In 2025 the PCC started formulating a new Mission Action Plan for 2025-28. Although delivery of some of the short-term actions has already commenced, the full plan, including longer term goals, will be finalised in 2026. All future plans will be aligned to the general mission of Lostock Church as detailed elsewhere in this report and of the Church of England (www.churchofengland.org).

Financial review

Total income for the year was £119,435. Detail is given on pages 5 and 9 of the Financial Statements. Total expenditure for the year was £113,112. This included £41,475 towards our parish share which was paid in full. The Parish Share for 2026 has been set at £43,549.

The net of income over expenditure for the year was £6,323. At 31 December 2025, the church had unrestricted funds of £321,381, of which £15,205 was free reserves (unrestricted funds which are neither tied up in tangible fixed assets or designated by trustees for specific purposes). It also had unrestricted designated funds of £42,041.

The PCC aims to hold sufficient free and designated reserves to cover running costs for at least 3 months. The total of free reserves and designated funds at the financial year end was £57,246, which meets this target (based on 2025 figures).

The church made charitable donations via appeals to The Children's Society.

This report has been approved by the Parochial Church Council and is signed on its behalf by:

Justine Hatter (PCC Honorary Treasurer) **30 March 2026**

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE PCC OF THE CHURCH OF ST THOMAS AND ST JOHN, LOSTOCK, BOLTON FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

This report on the financial statements of the Charity for the year ended 31st December 2025, which are set out on pages 5 to 13, is in respect of an examination carried out under Regulation 3(3) of the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 (the Regulations) and section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act).

Respective Responsibilities of the PCC and the Examiner

As the members of the PCC you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements; you consider that the audit requirement of the Regulations and section 144(2) of the 2011 Act does not apply.

Having satisfied myself that the Charity is not subject to audit under prevailing statute, it is my responsibility to examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act, to follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5) (b) of the 2011 Act, and to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of this report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the PCC and a comparison of the financial statements presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the financial statements and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the financial statements present a "true and fair view" and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent Examiner's Statement

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

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements

   - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
   - to prepare financial statements which accord with the accounting records and comply with the requirements of the 2011 Act, have not been met; or

2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn to enable a proper understanding of the financial statements to be reached.

David A Kay, FCA
AAB
78 Chorley New Road
Bolton
BL1 4BY

30 March 2026

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

	Note	Unrestricted Funds 2025	Restricted Funds 2025	Total Funds 2025	Unrestricted Funds 2024	Restricted Funds 2024	Total Funds 2024
		£	£	£	£	£	£
Income from:							
Donations and gift aid tax	2(a)	53,285	-	53,285	49,188	-	49,188
Activities for generating funds	2(b)	2,520	-	2,520	2,232	-	2,232
Church activities	2(c)	61,705	49	61,754	58,870	343	59,213
Investment income	2(d)	1,876	-	1,876	2,208	-	2,208
Total income		119,386	49	119,435	112,498	343	112,841
Expenditure on:							
Church activities	3(a)	110,739	49	110,788	119,081	1,509	120,590
Governance costs	3(b)	2,324	-	2,324	1,764	-	1,764
Total expenditure		113,063	49	113,112	120,845	1,509	122,354
Net (expenditure)/income before transfers		6,323	-	6,323	(8,347)	(1,166)	(9,513)
Transfers between funds		-	-	-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds for the year		6,323	-	6,323	(8,347)	(1,166)	(9,513)
Balance brought forward at 1 January		315,058	252	315,310	323,405	1,418	324,823
Balance carried forward at 31 December	9	321,381	252	321,633	315,058	252	315,310

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2025

	Note	2025 £	2024 £
Tangible fixed assets	7	264,135	270,657
Current assets:			
Investments			
Duckworth Legacy		252	252
Debtors			
Tax recoverable		5,220	4,795
Cash at bank and in hand			
Central Board of Finance		42,041	43,674
Bank accounts		11,986	5,220
Cash		300	300
		54,327	49,194
Total current assets		59,799	54,241
Current liabilities			
Other creditors and accruals		(2,300)	(9,588)
Net current assets		57,499	44,653
Net assets	9	321,634	315,310
Funds			
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	8	279,340	271,384
Central Board of Finance fund	8	42,041	43,674
		321,381	315,058
Restricted funds			
Duckworth Legacy	8	252	252
Total funds		321,633	315,310

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on 30 March 2026 and signed on its behalf:

Revd Terry Clark — **Incumbent**

Justine E Hatter — **Honorary Treasurer**

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
31 DECEMBER 2025

1. Accounting policies

(a) Basis of accounting

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued in October 2019 and the Charities Act 2011 and UK Generally Accepted Practice as it applies from 1 January 2019. The Charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

The financial statements have been prepared to give a 'true and fair' view and have departed from the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 only to the extent required to provide a 'true and fair' view. This departure has involved following Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued in October 2019 rather than the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice effective from 1 April 2005 which has since been withdrawn.

The accounts are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the Charity. Monetary amounts in these accounts are rounded to the nearest £.

(b) Going concern

At the time of approving the accounts, the trustees have reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus, the trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the accounts.

(c) Funds

Restricted funds represent donations or grants received for a specific object or invited by the PCC for a specific object. The funds may only be expended on the specific object for which they were given. Any balance remaining unspent at the end of each year must be carried forward as a balance on that fund.

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

Designated funds are unrestricted funds which are put aside for specific purposes at the discretion of the trustees.

(d) Income

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

(e) Investment income

All investment income arises from money held in interest bearing deposit accounts.

(f) Expenditure

Grants and donations are accounted for when paid over, or when awarded if that award creates a binding or constructive obligation on the PCC. The diocesan parish share is accounted for when due. Amounts received specifically for mission are dealt with as restricted funds. All other expenditure is generally recognised when it is incurred and is accounted for gross. Governance costs include those incurred in the governance of its assets and are directly associated with constitutional and statutory requirements.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
(CONTINUED)
31 DECEMBER 2025

(g) Tangible fixed assets

Consecrated and benefice property is not included in the financial statements.

Movable church furnishings held by the vicar and church wardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal are inalienable property, listed in the church's inventory, which can be inspected (at any reasonable time). For anything acquired prior to 2000, there is insufficient cost information available and therefore such assets are not valued in the financial statements. Subsequently no individual item has cost more than £1,000, so all such expenditure has been written off when incurred.

The Parish Centre is recognised in these financial statements at cost and was being depreciated on a straight-line basis over fifty years. The depreciation policy has been amended from 1st January 2017 and is now based upon the remaining value of the building at 31st December 2016 being depreciated on a straight-line basis over the next fifty years, to better reflect the expected life of the building.

Equipment used within the church premises is depreciated on a straight-line basis over four years, whilst the kitchen refurbishment and equipment used in the church centre is depreciated on a straight-line basis over five years.

(h) Financial instruments

The trust only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
(CONTINUED)
31 DECEMBER 2025

2. Income

		Unrestricted Funds 2025	Restricted Funds 2025	Total Funds 2025	Total Funds 2024
(a)	**Donations and gift aid tax**	**£**	**£**	**£**	**£**
	Planned giving:				
	Gift Aided	38,985	-	38,985	35,753
	Tax recoverable	10,300	-	10,300	9,298
	Collections (open plate)	2,525	-	2,525	2,045
	Sundry donations	1,475	-	1,475	807
	Appeals	-	-	-	1,285
		53,285	-	53,285	49,188
(b)	**Activities for generating funds**				
	Christmas Fayre	1,905	-	1,905	1,658
	Social activities	615	-	615	574
		2,520	-	2,520	2,232
(c)	**Income from church activities**				
	Parish Centre lettings	58,384	-	58,384	55,608
	SAGA accommodation	949	-	949	584
	Fees	1,770	-	1,770	1,782
	Miscellaneous Receipts	94	-	94	114
	Charity	-	49	49	343
	Coffee	508	-	508	782
		61,705	49	61,754	59,213
(d)	**Investment income**				
	Central Board of Finance	1,867	-	1,867	(1,633)
	Business reserve account	9	-	9	6
		1,876	-	1,876	(1,627)
		119,386	49	119,435	109,006

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
(CONTINUED)
31 DECEMBER 2025

3. Expenditure	Unrestricted Funds 2025 £	Restricted Funds 2025 £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
(a) Church activities				
Missionary & charitable giving				
Church appeals				
Charitable giving	-	49	49	368
	-	49	49	368
Other costs of church activities				
Ministry - Diocesan Parish share	41,475	-	41,475	39,500
Incumbent expenses	1,053	-	1,053	1,301
Fees out and organist	1,394	-	1,394	306
Water, heating and lighting	2,151	-	2,151	3,612
Insurance	1,515	-	1,515	1,479
General repairs	924	-	924	4,312
Service aids	355	-	355	248
Parish Centre costs (see note 4)	58,032	-	58,032	65,683
Depreciation - church fixtures/fittings	651	-	651	651
PSA	156	-	156	121
Sundries	1,913	-	1,913	2,345
Bank charges	229	-	229	217
Security	891		891	447
Total other costs of church activities	110,739	-	110,739	120,222
Total cost of church activities	110,739	49	110,788	120,590
(b) Governance costs				
Independent examination fees	2,324	-	2,324	1,764

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
(CONTINUED)
31 DECEMBER 2025

4. Parish Centre costs

	2025	2024
	£	£
Cleaning	1,706	1,603
Telephones and internet	1,603	1,774
Insurance	1,514	1,479
Water	1,187	1,145
Salaries including NI (see note 5)	29,870	34,493
Heating and lighting	9,884	11,611
Security and Fire Safety	1,748	1,450
Repairs and equipment	1,470	4,004
Sundries	2,016	1,102
Bank charges	229	217
Depreciation (Building)	6,365	6,365
Depreciation (Fixtures & Fittings)	440	440
	58,032	65,683

5. Information about staff costs and numbers

	2025	2024
	£	£
Salaries	29,430	34,026
Social security costs	-	-
Pension costs	440	467
	29,870	34,493

The average number of employees for the year on payroll was 4 (2024: 3).

No employees had remuneration in excess of £60,000 in total in this or the previous year.

Pension costs are included in Parish Centre costs (note 4) and are wholly charged to unrestricted funds.

The charity trustees did not receive any remuneration or other benefits from employment with the church, nor were they reimbursed expenses in this or the previous year. No charity trustee received payment for professional or other services supplied to the charity.

6. Related party transactions

There were no disclosable related party transactions during the year (2024: None).

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
(CONTINUED)

31 DECEMBER 2025

7. Tangible fixed assets

	Parish Centre £	Church Fixtures & Fittings £	Centre Fixtures & Fittings £	Total £
Cost				
At 1 January 2025	663,000	13,405	23,456	699,861
Additions	-	934	-	934
At 31 December 2025	663,000	14,339	23,456	700,795
Depreciation				
At 1 January 2025	395,680	11,828	21,696	429,204
Charge for the year	6,365	651	440	7,456
At 31 December 2025	402,045	12,479	22,136	436,660
Net Book Value				
At 31 December 2025	260,955	1,860	1,320	264,135
At 31 December 2024	267,320	1,577	1,760	270,657

8. Information about funds

Unrestricted funds comprise general funds £279,340 (2024: £271,384) and designated funds of £42,041 (2024: £43,674). The latter is designated by the trustees for future improvements, including a new boiler. The designated funds balance is maintained in the Central Board of Finance Deposit Account. Interest earned from this account is added to the designated fund balance each year.

Restricted funds carried forward at year end comprises £252 remaining from the Duckworth Legacy, this amount being unchanged from the previous year

9. Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £
Fund balances at 31 December 2025 are represented by:			
Tangible fixed assets	264,135	-	264,135
Net current assets	57,246	252	57,498
	321,381	252	321,633

Fund balances at 31 December 2024 are represented by:			
Tangible fixed assets	270,657	-	270,657
Net current assets	44,401	252	44,653
	315,058	252	315,310