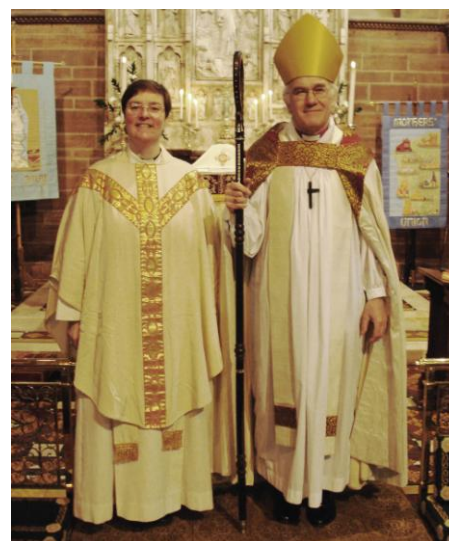


St Bartholomew's, Thurstaston with St Chad's Irby



MISSION AND ACTIVITIES IN 2011



ST BARTHOLOMEW'S, THURSTASTON AND ST CHAD'S, IRBY ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2011

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A Word from the Rector

Dear Friends,

As I reflect on 2011 it has, like any other year, had its joys and its sorrows. Many of you have experienced personal illness and bereavement, some of you have had family problems or work related issues, and it has been my privilege to share these difficult journeys with you. It has also been good to share in the joys, from young children at St Chad's being delighted because they have received a school award; to those who did exceptionally well in major exams; to births and marriages. Ministry is such a privilege and I thank all of you for sharing your lives with me in both bad times and good.

As a parish we also had ups and downs. We've had a difficult financial year, but the Treasurer's report goes into all of the details so I don't need to. And we had a difficult year in relation to St Chad's Pre-school resulting ultimately in the decision to close at the end of the academic year in July 2012. On the positive side, it was great to start the year with the 125th Anniversary of St Bartholomew's on 7th January 2011. It has also been great to welcome new members to each of our church congregations throughout the year. This year also saw the launch of "Wellspring" – a parish prayer group.

As ever, we need to recognise that our parish only functions because of all the hard work that goes on in the background by so many people. The various reports within this Annual Report will give you an idea of some of the people and the roles that they play, but in addition to them are all the people who quietly do things without being noticed

- Do you know who puts the bins out each week?
- Do you know who buys the tea and coffee?
- Do you know who

Thank You to all of you who give so much of yourselves to the life of our church, whether in an upfront or a behind the scenes role.

Looking back, we can be thankful that God has been with us as individuals and as a parish, and looking forward we can trust God to continue to bless our existing ministry and hope for other new and exciting things in 2012.

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart
and lean not on your own understanding;
in all your ways acknowledge him,
and he will make your paths straight."

(Proverbs 3 v5-6)

Revd Jane Turner

THE PCC AND ITS ROLE IN CHURCH LIFE

Membership

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) elects five members of the PCC every year to represent the congregations, and they serve for three years. Others may be co-opted. The Rector, the wardens and the elected representatives to the Deanery Synod are ex-officio members. Since the Annual Parochial Church Meeting in 2011, the Parochial Church Council has been as follows:

Name	Membership	Date Appointed	Until
Revd J Turner (Jane)	Rector	Ex Officio	-
Mr R Jackson	Warden	Ex Officio	-
Mr J Roberts	Warden	Ex Officio	-
Mr M Studholme	Deanery Synod	2011	2014
Mrs H Boothman	Deanery Synod	2011	2014
Mr C Smale	Deanery Synod	2011	2014
Mr J Oliver	Elected	2009	2012
Mrs J Deboorder	Elected	2009	2012
Dr E Norton-Jones	Elected	2011	2012
Mrs K Robson	Elected	2010	2013
Dr M James	Elected	2010	2013
Mrs E Jones	Elected	2010	2013
Mrs S Lang	Elected	2010	2013
Mr C Eden	Elected	2011	2013
Mr A Whelen	Elected	2011	2014
Mr E Jones	Elected	2011	2014
Mr G Barley	Elected	2011	2014
Mrs B Appleyard	Elected	2011	2014
Mr C Vickers	Elected	2011	2014
Mrs J Abbott	Co-opted	2011	2012

Up to five members may be elected each year to represent the congregations. They have a three year term of office, after which they must retire but are eligible for re-election.

Committees

The PCC has committees that meet to discuss detailed issues. They normally make recommendations to the PCC for approval, but some committees have delegated powers of decision and the powers of the Standing Committee are statutory. The Rector is an ex-officio member of all committees. The committees during 2011 were:

1. Standing Committee;

The PCC must have a Standing Committee consisting of no fewer than five persons. The Standing Committee can transact any PCC business between PCC meetings, subject only to any prior directions by the PCC. The members of the Standing Committee are the Rector, the two Churchwardens, all ex-officio, the Honorary Treasurer and the Honorary Secretary, appointed by the PCC.

2. Open Door;
3. Children and Young People Committee;
4. Communications Committee;
5. Buildings Committee;

6. Social Functions Committee;
7. Pre-School.

Sidespersons

The APCM may (but is not obliged to) appoint any number of sidespersons for the forthcoming year. The only qualification for sidespersons is that they should be on the electoral roll of the parish. The duty of sidespersons is "to promote the cause of true religion in the parish and to assist the churchwardens in their duties of maintaining order and decency in the church and churchyard, especially during the time of divine service". This includes ensuring that the church is properly prepared for the service, that goods, furnishings and ornaments required for a service are prepared and available, and providing seats for parishioners. Sidespersons also receive and record collections on behalf of the Rector and the PCC. The PCC can also appoint sidespersons.

The Sidespersons and Assistants (if they are under 16) appointed at the APCM in 2011 or subsequently and still serving are:

St Bartholomew's

Joyce Abbott	Edwin Bezant	June Bibby
Peter Bradshaw	Mr G Burns	Sue Burns
Pat Cleary	June Dean	Pat Hulme
Sheila Hunt	Alan Jones	Cec Jones
Doreen Jones	Elaine Jones	Eric Jones
Laurence Kingsbury	Sally Lang	Archie Peat
John Roberts	Lesley Roberts	Dorothy Turner
Alfred Wallis		

St Chad's

Bennett Appleyard	Harriet Appleyard	Linda Barley
Steve Jeffrey*	Janet Hazeldine	Liz Norton-Jones
John Oliver	Joyce Ratcliffe	Dave Reed*
Donna Robinson	Chris Smale	Matthew Smale
Andy Tempest	Chris Turnbull	Dave Wolstencroft
*Reserves		

The PCC employs several staff, including the Parish Clerical Officer and the staff of the Playgroup. The Organist and Verger are not employed directly by the PCC but receive fees. The Organist plays at St Chad's on a voluntary basis. The Verger receives fees when officiating at weddings and funerals.

The legal basis¹ of PCCs is supplemented by other legislation² concerning financial reporting, which also requires publication of the aims and objectives for the year, activities planned, outcomes achieved and details of the management arrangements of the parish. These can be found in various sections of the report.

¹ including the Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956 (as amended), the Church Representation Rules (originally in Schedule 3 of the Synodical Government Measure 1969 and subsequently amended by General Synod) and the Churchwardens Measure 2001.

² the Charities Act 1993, the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2005, the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) 2005 and the Church Accounting Regulations 2006

Powers and Responsibilities

The Parochial Church Council is a corporate body established by the Church of England and is the executive body of the parish. Since 1956, PCCs have taken over³ most of the secular responsibilities of parish management. A "Meeting of Parishioners" appoints the churchwardens each year. Anyone living in the parish, and everyone whose name is on the Electoral Roll, may vote at that meeting.

Membership of the PCC is based on the Electoral Roll and an "Annual Parochial Church Meeting" for all those whose names are on the Electoral Roll. It usually takes place immediately after the "Meeting of the Parishioners". The two consecutive meetings have separate minutes, and some people who are allowed to vote at the Meeting of Parishioners may not vote on PCC matters.

Objectives of the PCC

The PCC has several strategic responsibilities that include:

- cooperating with the incumbent in promoting the mission of the church in Thurstaston and Irby - evangelistic, pastoral, ecumenical and social;
- supporting the mission of the church by maintaining St Bartholomew's, St Chad's, the churchyard and other grounds;
- the financial affairs of the church;
- the care of the fabric of the church and its goods and ornaments, and the care of the churchyard. These responsibilities are carried out by the churchwardens;
- many other matters affecting parish affairs, including compliance with legislation concerning health and safety, disability discrimination and child protection;
- approving the forms of Service used by the church, and it may make representations to the bishop on matters affecting the welfare of the parish;
- other powers that include acquiring property and framing a budget.

Within that framework, the PCC sets short and medium term objectives which, with their outcomes, can be found throughout this report – in the Rector's comments, the report of PCC business, the financial report and the reports of the activities within the church community. During 2011, the PCC focused strongly on medium term objectives through the GAP (Growth Action Planning) process, which is described later and will continue in 2012.

The PCC, which previously enjoyed exempt charitable status, became a registered charity on 12th October 2009. Its registered number is 1132086 and its registered name is The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Bartholomew, Thurstaston. The parish is part of the Diocese of Chester. Any correspondence should be sent to the Parish Office, St Chad's, Roslin Road, Irby, Wirral CH61 3UH.

³ from the churchwardens, the church trustees and the Vestries.

PCC REPORTS

Business of the Parochial Church Council during 2011

This report summarises the main business of the PCC during the year.

1 THE CHURCHES

Open Door

The Open Door project was constantly in our minds. The Appeal Committee made several applications for grants and received some encouraging replies. The Building Approval was due to expire during the year, and the Council heard that the Committee had decided to apply to renew the various permissions, as commencing work before all necessary funds were in place carried a risk that certain grants might become unavailable. Garfield Weston had invited us to contact them again if we could raise 50% of our requirements in two years.

St Bartholomew's

Cleaning

The volunteers who have cleaned the church so well for many years were finding their tasks increasingly difficult and the PCC agreed to an investigation of the possibility of a weekly clean there instead of the Thursday clean at St Chad's. This was not pursued, but the firm involved carried out a thorough "deep clean" of the church in June, particularly important in view of the number of weddings that had been arranged. The arrangements for the churchyard were also reviewed. Four complaints had been received during the previous year and one person had fallen. Mr A Peat and Mr J Oliver had agreed to do the work at the two churches using our own equipment and the churchyard was much improved. Mr C Knight will continue to maintain the hedges and yew trees. Savings of at least £1,000 a year were expected.

Clock Proposal

A group of residents at Thurstaston offered to install a clock on the tower, but the Diocesan Advisory Committee (DAC), after a visit to the church by one of its members, decided to advise against the proposal and the offer was withdrawn.

Heating

The heating system was inadequate in the very cold weather and affected attendance. Mr Roberts agreed to test the system and Mellor & Mottram, a specialist firm of church heating consultants suggested by the diocese, advised that the boiler was still providing sufficient output, but the existing cast iron pipework and radiators could not transfer enough heat to the church. There was sludge in the pipework but they considered that removing it (the recommendation of the previous firm we consulted) would make little practical difference. They suggested replacing the current cast iron pipework and existing radiators with a modern system. The cost would be £25,000, but the modifications would have no effect on the draughts, which were created when the door was opened, and persisted after it had been closed. Cold air entered the building, was warmed by the heating system and rose slowly, creating draughts by displacing slightly cooler

air from above. The Open Door project should control the entry of cold air much better and should reduce draughts.

Maintenance

The two most urgent repairs identified in the Quinquennial Inspection were the gutters (£4,000) and re-pointing around the windows (£2,000). The brackets holding the gutters had corroded and required replacement, as they created a very serious risk. Some metal plates on gravestones were security-marked. The roof was inspected closely and the architect stated that although the ridge required repointing, the rest did not require attention. Mr Oliver completed repairs and replacements to the lighting and the lightning conductor was overhauled and repaired.

Care of Graves

The Council agreed to advertise the Wirral Grave Care scheme in the Parish.

St Chad's

Taps

The PCC agreed to ask a plumber to fit self-closing taps at St Chad's and to replace the existing valve that trickled water into the automatic flush system, activated by use of the taps and a PIR system (infra-red).

Hymn Books

The PCC accepted a donation of £1,000 for new hymn books at St Chad's.

Services on the 5th Sunday of the Month.

A member drew attention to the fact that as the main service of the church, it was appropriate to celebrate Holy Communion three times during certain months. Morning Worship was more difficult to do well at St Chad's. Even one baptism meant eight weeks between consecutive services of Morning Worship. It was suggested that if Morning Worship took place at St Chad's on the 5th Sunday, the service at St Bartholomew's would be Holy Communion, and vice-versa. The Council agreed to authorise the Rector to vary the arrangements on the 5th Sundays to keep a balance.

Maintenance Work

Water saving devices were installed in the cisterns in the New Building, thanks to Mrs Robson. During maintenance week (15th-26th August), the floor was re-coated, the sanctuary fully redecorated, several pipes re-secured and woodwork painted. Remaining issues included the loft insulation, the sealing of the brickwork and a loose radiator panel. Considerable work on the grassed areas had been completed. The appearance of the grounds was much improved through the work of Mr Oliver and Mr Peat.

Security

We received a lengthy document from the Government about security at places of worship, and the Standing Committee decided to circulate a summary of the advice to all members. It included advice about most security matters and the churchwardens noted the points relevant to our churches.

2 GAP

Our targets for the year were to improve Welcome, Pastoral Care and Communications. Dr James reported on the discussions of a Working Group on Welcome. We needed a committee to move this forward and names were suggested. We also needed welcomers at both churches, a role already carried out at St Chad's by Mrs J DeBoorder and Mrs K Robson. Mr A Jones had successfully formed a Pastoral Care Committee and had asked for more volunteers. A considerable amount of team visiting and other work was being done. As for Communications, we had already issued 150 free copies of the parish magazine and offered an electronic version. We had reviewed the website and changed its format using new hosting and update facilities.

3 FINANCE

Finance and the financial crisis occupied much more time than the length of this section may suggest, but the Treasurer will describe the issues more fully in his report. Mr Roberts and Mr Eden had several meetings with the Diocese over the financial crisis, because without an immediate reduction of 20% in Parish Share, there would be no funds after the end of the year to pay bills. We were told that we could decide not to pay, which would not create a legal debt, but that any shortfall would be considered when a vacancy arose – is the parish financially viable in ministry, and would amalgamation be a solution? The Archdeacon recognised that we were dealing the issue actively and seriously. The Standing Committee and the PCC explored several options for saving costs or increasing income and the PCC approved a decision to reduce Parish Share for several months. We responded to a Diocesan Questionnaire on Parish Share, but apparently few other parishes supported solutions similar to what we had suggested.

We received an unusually large water bill for December-February, but after investigation to see if an error might have occurred it was concluded that we were liable for the entire bill. We discussed and approved new charges for funerals, weddings and for marriage preparation from £10 to £20, based on calculations by the Treasurer of actual costs per event, and for the hire of St Chad's.

4 PLAYGROUP

An enlarged Playgroup Committee met in June and frequently thereafter for several months. Ofsted gave the Playgroup a "good" rating, which was excellent news. Playgroup (renamed Pre-School during the year) is our only outreach and we do not want to lose it. Following the resignation of the manager, deputy manager and a playworker over a short time, new staff were appointed and the Committee was seeking training courses in administration for the acting deputy manager.

5 DEANERY SYNOD

PCC members received a discussion paper about the appointment processes for women bishops and were asked to pass comments to a Deanery Synod representative. The proposals included a code of conduct to protect parishes that could not accept a woman bishop. The Evangelical Council had proposed an

amendment with a stronger form of protection. The PCC supported the proposals and code of conduct.

6 BAPTISM ARRANGEMENTS

We heard that opportunities for baptisms at St Bartholomew's were fully booked until December 2011. Evening baptisms were a possibility, and there were opportunities at St Chad's. The PCC decided to offer baptisms at St Bartholomew's at 6.30pm on the third Sunday of each month between April and September, which is usually Evening Worship.

7 OTHER MATTERS

Dawpool School

The PCC agreed to reappoint Mrs Joyce Beckley as a governor.

Ride and Stride

The Council agreed that St Bartholomew's should be open for the Cheshire Churches Preservation Trust "Ride and Stride" day on 10th September.

Website

Col Amlôt wished to end his role as webmaster, which he had undertaken for many years with great success. A parishioner agreed to be the new webmaster and the site was transferred to new servers provided by a firm called Church Edit.

Lent Arrangements

The PCC discussed the arrangements for Lent, and gave enthusiastic support for a walk of faith through Irby on Good Friday. The Rector reported that despite strenuous efforts she had been unable to persuade the authorities to change the date of the Egg Run (Palm Sunday). PCC reluctantly agreed to cancel the 11.15 Palm Sunday service at St Bartholomew's.

MBE for Revd Margaret Fletcher

The PCC offered warm congratulations to Margaret Fletcher on her MBE. She had "made a difference ... through tremendous contributions in several distinct areas and with people ranging from toddlers to the elderly ... over more than 40 years". The Council agreed to send her a congratulations card.

PCC Committees

The list of committees and membership was reviewed by the Standing Committee and the Mission and Ministry Committee was deleted.

Christmas Services

Both Christmas Day and New Year's Day were Sundays, and the PCC considered it inappropriate to cancel the normal 8.00am service on consecutive weeks. That meant that an 8.00am service on Christmas Day could take place subject only to clergy availability, with no 8.00am service on New Year's Day. The other service times were approved and published.

Raffle Policy

Although the present policy had been discussed and approved by the PCC twice within the last three years, it was still contentious among some members of the congregations and was a distraction from the essential matters of improving the financial position of the church. The Rector proposed that we put an end to this

distraction by allowing raffles to take place at future social events and that the members of the PCC wholeheartedly commit themselves to sharing the message of Christian Giving so that our Church will survive to carry out the mission and ministry for which it exists. Members accepted the proposal unanimously.

St Petersburg Choir

A choral group from St Petersburg, who were touring the UK next year, had asked if we could host them. Mr Smale agreed to explore the possibility of sharing the arrangements with the Methodists.

G J Barley
Honorary Secretary

Honorary Treasurer's Report 2011

As I am sure many of you will be aware, we were unable to pay our full Parish Share in 2011. I have said it before, and I will repeat it again, Planned Giving is Giving which we Plan, just as we plan our living commitments. Most of us pay our bills through Direct Debit or Standing Order, so why do so few of us give to God each month or week by Standing Order?

General Synod challenges church members to give out of gratitude for the blessings we receive from God; to assess annually their financial giving as a proportion of income; and to set a target of 5% of after-tax income for Planned Giving, plus a similar amount to build God's kingdom through Mission both at home and overseas.

By June 2011 we experienced severe cash-flow difficulties because our outgoings exceeded our income. The level of our Parish Share was crippling us and something had to be done. We needed to set aside £6,000 for Quinquennial repairs at St Bartholomew's and increase our General Fund cash balances in order to meet our day to day costs.

Together with one of our Churchwardens, John Roberts, I arranged a meeting with the Director of Finance at the Chester Diocesan Board of Finance (DBF), to discuss our dilemma. The DBF cannot formally approve any reduction in the Parish Share we pay. However, I presented a budget for the remainder of 2011, and as a consequence the sum of £10,422 was withheld.

These accounts do not reflect the cash balances, because the Standing Committee decided I should show the unpaid Parish Share as having been set aside. This is reflected in Section 3(d) of the accounts as a Governance cost, and the corresponding liability showing in Section 8 of the accounts.

I will now return to the first paragraph of this Report, to say that the sum of £10,422 will have to be paid sometime in the future – it's an obligation from which we cannot walk away. As for the future, our Parish Share is now £53,605 per annum. This equates to £1,031 per week, where Planned Giving is only averaging £863 per week. Gift Aid enables us to meet the difference.

However, the true cost of running the basic essentials (including Rectory Council Tax, Organist's fees and Parish Clerk's salary) as well as the Parish Share is now £66,245 per

annum. None of these costs have income streams apart from what we give, so the cost to you and me is £9.48 per week plus Gift Aid.

Our General Fund is showing a negative balance of £3,060, having reduced from a surplus of £11,027 in 2010. If I disregard the £6,000 set aside for church repairs then our outgoings exceeded our income by £8,000 which equates to just under 10% of our income turnover. This is the amount we must raise via increased Planned Giving this year.

I have set a budget for 2012 where we are paying our full Parish Share – how long this can continue remains to be seen. The Standing Committee has taken steps to reduce some overhead costs. We purchased two petrol lawnmowers and strimmers with volunteers at both churches now keeping the church grounds in good order. Our contract gardener will now only maintain the yew trees at St Bartholomew's. I envisage a saving of about £800 in 2012 on the 2010 costs after depreciation costs. The mowers and strimmers are held as Fixed Assets and are being depreciated over a 4 year period.

In 2010 our water rates for St Chad's peaked at £2,000 with a further £700 hit in February 2011. We discovered that taps were being kept running, so we have put water limiters on all taps. Our quarterly bills are now averaging £130 which is a great improvement.

We have reduced the cost of our Engineering Policy (covering heating systems at both churches) by changing insurers. It now seems we may not require cover at all.

For 2012 I have increased the booking fee for Hall Hire, for mornings and afternoons, to £30 per session. This is in line with the evening booking rate: the fee remains competitive with the Village Hall, albeit the Village Hall charges an hourly rate plus use of their kitchen.

PreSchool has seen a decline in the number of children, which is reflected in reduced turnover. There has been a reduction in staff numbers and other cost savings elsewhere, which has had the effect of improving profitability. However, we have set aside £2,500 for redundancy payments to be made in July 2012 when PreSchool closes.

Open Door saw a net improvement of £4,655 thanks to our appeal to celebrate the 125th anniversary of the current church building in Thurstaston. It is true to admit some disappointment that we did not raise more, especially as we are now so close to being able to raise match funding from a grant-making trust, who have promised us funds. The irony is that had the Chester Diocesan Advisory Committee approved our application first-time round, then we would not have spent over £7,000 in legal and architect's fees in 2009/10, and we could proceed with our plans without further hindrance.

Finally, I must publically thank John Roberts for relieving me the weekly responsibility of counting and banking the weekly collections – he tells me it is a task which he enjoys!

Christopher J Eden
Honorary Treasurer
January 2012

St Bartholomew's Report

It was a busy time at St Bartholomew in 2011. The quinquennial inspection by the architect appointed by the diocese took place as a series of visits during late spring and the good news is that after a thorough examination of the inside of the roof using a mobile hoist, the roof trusses and battens were found to be structurally sound with no evidence of rot, decay, or infestation. The roof tiles showed some general evidence of weather damage as we might have expected after 125 years of service but the architect reported that "... the overall roof coverings will not require comprehensive renewal for a significant period to come ..."

However, the not so good news is that all the brackets securing the rainwater gutters were found to be in an advanced stage of decay and must be replaced by bespoke stainless steel units. The gutters themselves and the downspouts also need attention and the whole rainwater collection system at roof level will have to be taken down, restored, and re-erected at a cost of £4,000.

In addition the mortar jointing of the masonry around the windows e.g. the mullions, traceried upper sections, and splayed cills, has suffered serious weather damage over recent years and urgently needs to be re-pointed at a cost of £2,000. Apart from these repairs the building is in sound condition with only minor attention necessary.

Internally, the church has been given a thorough cleaning by professional cleaners who reached areas that are generally inaccessible to our regular dedicated cleaning teams. The organ had its annual maintenance attention by our organ specialists, and the heating system was checked and overhauled for another year. This heating system is old, worn and inefficient but will limp on for another few years yet. However, the congregations will still need to allow for the inadequacies of the system during severe cold weather if we again experience arctic conditions during the winter months. This situation is not related to the age of the oil fired boiler. Experts tell us that the boiler still transfers sufficient heat to the pipework to allow the system to operate at its maximum capacity.

The explanation for the poor heating is twofold. Firstly, the current heat transfer pipes and radiators which heat the Nave and Chancel are only sufficient to provide 35 kW of heat, whereas the nature and volume of the building require an output of 48 kW. Trials have shown that with an outside temperature of minus 2C the heating has to be on for at least 24 hours simply to reach a steady ambient temperature of 15C. With an outside temperature of minus 10C the internal ambient temperature struggles to reach 13C.

The situation is then compounded by a second problem, which arises because there is a single external door at the North Porch entrance. Every time this door is opened cold air flows in and causes rapid cooling of the air at the rear of the Nave. This accelerates the process of air convection and sets in motion a series of air currents which ultimately rise and pass along the vaulted ceilings of the Nave and Chancel to the Sanctuary. There is no fixed heat transfer source in the Sanctuary and a large proportion of the external wall surface is glass with the consequence that cooler air races down the Sanctuary walls. Visually this can be noticed by the wildly flickering candles, and the uneven rate by which some candles burn. Anyone standing near to the altar on a cold winter's day will be well aware of the cool air that descends. The "breezes" that sometimes flow at head height into faces of the congregation near the front of the Nave are part of this convection process.

The intransigence of the secular and diocesan authorities over possible changes to the North Porch entrance mean there is no simple answer to this problem. However, one of the significant benefits from the Open Door Project will be a new entrance area with inner and outer doors which will act as a buffer zone and will considerably improve the temperature control within the main building.

St Bartholomew's is not simply a building for worship. It is a place where many from our community give their time and energy in dedicated service. The organists, the sacristans, the servers, the sidespeople, the intercessors, the scripture readers, the cleaning teams, the gardening group, the bell ringers, and those who individually play their part, whether it be the individual who comes along to weed the paths, or our treasurer who one day last summer rolled up his sleeves and mowed the grass prior to a wedding. I must, however, make special mention of Jon Oliver and Archie Peat, who are always there when help is needed and often solve a practical problem before I even know it has arisen, and Elaine Jones and Daphne Amlôt whose gifted ministry with flowers embellishes the inside of our beautiful church for most of the year and make it such a wonderful sight to experience.

Finally, the building comes alive when there is a worship service, whether it is a regular gathering or an occasional event, but none of these would take place without the gifted ministry of Jane our rector, Joe, Simon, and David our retired clergy, and Alan our Reader. In short, we are a body of many parts large and small but can only function properly together.

John Roberts
Churchwarden

St. Chad's Report

The Shut Down

For several years it has seemed reasonable to shut St. Chad's in August for two weeks to enable work in and around the building to be carried out. This happened in the past year enabling us to re-varnish the organ casing and the floor, and to re-paint the sanctuary.

Outside the guttering was cleaned and repaired, the wood fascia was repaired and painted and the outside of the sanctuary window frames were painted. The garden at the back that is used by Pre-School in the term time had to be tended to make it safer for the small people that use it.

I would like to thank Archie Peat for his organisation of the work done during the closure, and for his continued care of the grounds, and in particular the grass at the back and front of St. Chad's.

On the issue of fire cover, we have found that Chubb Fire & Security, although good, are too expensive to continue to employ. An alternative fire and security company will be sought.

The Set Up

Church services have taken place on most Sundays at 09.30, and Wednesdays at 10.15. None of the services just happens, and it is thanks to the dedication of our organist his helpers and occasional stand-ins, the sidespersons, Margaret and the team of people who keep the sanctuary clean, the flower arrangers, the readers, prayer leaders, and the tea

and coffee makers that it all runs so smoothly. I am sure that we would all like to extend our thanks to our Reader, Alan, and the retired ministers in this parish for their contributions to our church life. The New Building has been used for Junior Church on Sundays during term-time; we thank Julie Deboorder and her helpers for its continued success.

Through the week, mornings only, Pre-School has made use of the New Building and we are indebted to Claire, Suzie and Karen for its continued smooth running. This is a worthwhile amenity for our community.

A more unusual service, for us, was when St. Chad's hosted one of a TAIZÉ style, similar to those done by the monks at Taizé in France. This was organized by Revd Jane and Sam Jackson following a visit by Sam to Taizé during the summer. The service was well attended and received, and another one is planned.

Other happenings have taken place. During the Harvest Festival, Chris and Sue Turnbull organised the Harvest Supper with entertainment organised by Archie Peat and Bennett Appleyard. This was well supported and enjoyed and was the second of these successful events; thank you from us all.

On the afternoon of the 26th November, a very exciting Christmas fair was held, including a Santa's Grotto that was inside a London Transport double-decker bus. The fair was well enjoyed by the many people who attended. We offer grateful thanks to Steve and Jo Anderson for the loan of the bus, and to Julie DeBoorder and all who helped her with all the arrangements, for it was another successful occasion.

Throughout the year, in most weeks, the church hall is used either by church affiliated organisations such as M.U. or by others of a secular nature, such as Irby Artists, and also private parties. Our building forms, as it should be, a central and essential part of the Irby and Thurstaston community. Our church is thankful for the work so well done by Jean Heath, who has for a long time co-ordinated the booking of St. Chad's.

I commend this report to the parish as a short history of St. Chad's through 2011.

Roger E. Jackson
Churchwarden

Deanery Synod Report

The Deanery Synod report will be presented verbally at the meeting. Some of the matters discussed are referred to briefly on page 7.

Electoral Roll Report

At last year's annual meeting the roll contained 270 members from 184 households and during 2011 two new members joined.

At the recent revision I removed thirteen members who had died, moved away from the area, or lived outside our parish area and no longer attend our churches. I also added seven new members who had applied to join. The Electoral Roll now has 266 members from 181 households.

John Roberts
Electoral Roll Officer

CHARITIES SUPPORTED THROUGHOUT THE YEAR

Christian Aid

During Christian Aid Week 2011 we raised:

House to House collection:	£1705.99
Soup Luncheon and Cake Sale	£ 508.07
Grand Total	£2214.06

Many thanks to everyone who helped at the Soup Luncheon and everyone from Irby Methodist and St Chad's who helped in any way.

Many thanks to everyone who helped with the house to house collection especially to the collectors who help year after year.

Thanks to Sophie and her classmates for doing the cake sale.

I am unable to continue to co-ordinate Christian Aid in 2012 so if you think you could take on this responsibility, on behalf of our church, please speak to Revd Jane.

Wendy Wolstencroft

Leprosy Mission

Thanks to the ongoing generosity of our combined congregations, I was able to send a cheque to the Leprosy Mission for £231-36p towards the ongoing programme of help given to leprosy sufferers.

Making leprosy a thing of the past takes more than simply delivering a cure. The money donated each year helps the Leprosy Mission give reconstructive surgery and physiotherapy to patients disabled by leprosy; to educate children from poor backgrounds, and train those who are refused employment; to build safe, secure homes for families living in poverty; to establish self-help groups to help those with leprosy find acceptance, dignity and independence.

We will celebrate World Leprosy Day on Sunday 29th January 2012, when we will have the opportunity to offer prayer and support for people affected by leprosy, people who are often forgotten or ignored by society.

I am always happy to supply leprosy boxes and deliver them to your home. Alternatively, if you wish to give a donation at any time, this too will be very welcome. My contact number is 648 1827.

Pat Hulme

The Children's Society

Jean Heath, Elaine Kavanagh and Barbara Kozler co-ordinate collections and fund raising for the Society in the Parish.

In the spring, as part of the Society's national house-to-house collection for children, our

Parish of Irby and Thurstaston raised £1184.51, of which £248.49 was gift aided. We are grateful for the help we receive year after year from our collectors, but new collectors are needed just to maintain the roads we cover at present and, ideally we would like to be able to extend the collection to all the roads in the Parish, to enable us to increase the amount we send to the Society.

We would be delighted to welcome anyone with a few hours to spare during the collection fortnight, which falls between 14 and 28 April in 2012. Please contact one of the coordinators if you are able to help in any way.

During 2011 the house boxes, which people keep in their own homes and are emptied annually in the autumn, produced £954.56, an increase of £200 compared to last year's total. The annual 'Thank You' coffee morning in St Chad's in October, which is open to all, but also aids box collection, raised £56.25 from donations and bring-and-buy items.

Although we increased our number of box holders last year, we would like to promote the idea of keeping a box at home. Small change, in the form of pennies alone, can amount to a couple of pounds over the course of a year and the more people who hold a box, the better the support for the Children's Society.

The Christingle Service in early December at St Chad's raised a further £106.23 for the Society.

How the Society helps:

Locally, in Manchester, '**Safe in the City**' gives support to young people who have run away or are at risk of running away from home or care. The project helps young people with issues such as abuse, bullying and family conflict.

In Cheshire the Society works with young people who run away from care, supporting them when they return home through counselling and helping them to build a better relationship with their family.

Nationally, '**Include**' helps children who grow up early and miss out on their childhood because they care for disabled or chronically ill adults or younger siblings. 'Include' provides the opportunities to be carefree for a short time and gives the young carers a break from their responsibilities.

The Society also runs **Children's Centres** for the under-fives, where parents are given the chance to play with their children in a safe place, and can access advice and help on children's health and education.

The Post Adoption and Care Service provides access to records and gives information, advice, birth counselling, tracing and intermediary services to people who were in the care of, or who were adopted through The Children's Society.

Jean Heath
648 6015

CHURCH ACTIVITIES

Junior Church Report January to December 2011

Junior Church meets at St Chad's during the service at term time, excluding family service days. Usually there are 3 groups: Sparklers age 2 ½ to reception class; Allstars years 1 – 3; Trailblazers years 4-6. However, Trailblazers had become a group too small to function properly and Seniors was also going that way, so a decision was taken to put year 6s into seniors a year early and merge Allstars and Trailblazers to become Starblazers. This made better sized groups and therefore much more fun for the children in general, especially when playing games.

As mentioned in the last report, Mark Montgomery, Chester Diocesan Youth Officer, met with Jane and some of the leaders and helpers and gave us some good advice. Consequently, since September, we have been following a home-grown programme using some material from 'Click' as in the past, while for other subjects we have used other resources borrowed from Revd Jane or from our own stock. Planning has been a 'heads together' process and very much a few steps at a time, as three years worth of planning is a huge task.

There were lots of activities this year: the Pancake party, Easter Workshop, Barbecue, St Beartholomew's Day and the Harvest Workshop. The workshops were open events and both primary schools were invited. They were well attended and great fun. The barbecue was yummy and it was so hot that the shade from a nearby large tree was fully booked! It was a relaxed family get-together with good fun had by all.

Junior Church leaders, helpers and their friends and families all helped to provide games, stalls and snacks at St Beartholomew's Day and the Christmas Fair. St Beartholomew's Day having just under 40 brave bears leaping off the tower and the Christmas Fair had its second year with a Grotto on a London Double Decker Bus(!) supplied by a Junior Church child's parents.

Early in the year I and some of the leaders and helpers attended a Bible Skills course at St Michael's, Little Neston, which was learning how to tell stories and link facts in a fun way – challenging in parts but interesting.

The two services the children take part in, joined by the Seniors, are the Book Giving Service and the Christmas Production. The book giving service this year was themed around creation with a play and songs and prayer stations manned by Seniors.

The Christmas Production, The Journey of the Wise Men, was repeated from last year but with different actors including some adults, with the congregation being invited to pick up a costume or prop and join in. This proved a success and several people told me how much they enjoyed it and they liked the way adults and children all joined together.

Many thanks to the Junior Church leaders and helpers (and their friends and families) without whom nothing would get done and who have given their time so generously. Thanks to the Reverend Jane for her advice and support and thanks to my small committee, Vivienne, Jayne and Chris who meet together with me whenever I have to plan anything, and who have supported me and shared the load.

God Bless,
Julie DeBoorder

Seniors

During 2011, our Seniors continued to meet on the 2nd and 3rd Sundays, during service time at St Chad's. We have continued to explore how the Bible influences our lives in today's modern society.

The Seniors continue to be involved in the church services and regularly do readings, write and read the intercessions, or are involved in music. They have been offered the opportunity to try other roles within the church, which have included assisting the sidespersons.

We had our annual weekend trip to Quinta in May, where two of our young people were able to explore their faith at a youth event, along with other young Christians from the Diocese.

The 14+ group has not met this year due to low numbers but we will review this arrangement annually as the needs and the number of people in the age group changes. We have supported a couple of our teenagers who regularly attend a Youth Group at a nearby Church.

We have four secondary school aged youngsters learning to ring our bells at St. Bartholomew's. They practise weekly and progress to ringing for the 11.15 Sunday service.

If anyone of senior school age wishes to join in any of these activities, please let us know. You will be very welcome.

Karen Robson, Janet Trigg and Chris Smale

Wellspring

Wellspring is a monthly Prayer Group (open to anyone in the parish) which was launched in May 2011 following the Rector attending a conference and believing that God was calling us back to "basics". We meet in the Rectory on the third Thursday of each month from 8-9pm. At the first meeting in May, it was great to have people from across the congregations coming together, and this has continued, with each month approximately 6 to 8 people attending. We pray for individual members of our congregations and for events/issues within the life of the parish.

Revd Jane Turner and the other members of the group.

Bellringers

We celebrated the 125th anniversary of the consecration of St. Bartholomew's Church on the 7th January by ringing a quarter peal. The ringers were made up entirely of our own band. It was Sarah Robson's and Christine Higgins' 1st quarter peal and Peter Robson's 50th quarter peal as conductor. Well done. A fine start to the year.

Another quarter peal was rung on the 9th January by Amy Robson, Sam Jackson and Peter Robson with ringers from elsewhere.

In keeping with tradition, we held our Christmas Lunch in February (!), which was enjoyable.

Peter Robson rang a peal in June with visiting ringers and in October we celebrated the Wirral Branch Quarter Peal fortnight with our band successfully completing a quarter peal. Two branch training days were held using our simulator (a computer programme, which means that the bells can be muffled to spare the neighbours!). We also held a branch meeting in September.

Amy Robson represented Cheshire in the National Youth Striking competition held in April in London. Our learners, Elsbeth, Georgia, Robin and Revd Jane, continue to make good progress.

Richard Turner
Tower Captain.

St Chad's Pre-School

The children have had a very busy year in Pre-School as usual! After the excitement of the Nativity Play the children were busy making shamrocks for St Patrick's Day, painting daffodils for St David's Day and looking at dragons for St George's Day.

We had a Parents' Afternoon in April for all children, followed by lots of Easter activities including an egg hunt in the garden. The children had a visit from Reverend Jane to talk about the Easter Story and all the Pre-School children went to the hall to watch Dawpool's Easter service. We had tadpoles in Pre-School and watched them grow into tiny frogs before they were taken back to the pond.

The children had a busy summer term preparing to get ready for school! We had PE lessons and they practiced getting changed by themselves for school. The reception teachers came to visit their new intake, which made the children very excited.

The Pre-School children went on a trip to Church Farm in June and the younger children had a teddy bear themed morning including a teddy bears' picnic. July was a busy month with another 'dry' sports day and a visit from the Space Hopper lady at the end of year party!

September saw a great deal of change and a lot of movement in staffing. The children however enjoyed fortnightly visits from Peter - the librarian who came from Irby Library to tell them stories and sing songs. We had a dressing up morning for Children in Need and saw some lovely costumes come into Pre-School!

We had a parents' Open Afternoon at the beginning of December. All of the children enjoyed participating in the Nativity and after all the changes in Pre-School, we as staff were very proud of them all.

Claire Heaps
Manager

Note by the PCC

We know that the Pre-School staff have had a very difficult year and would like to add a special word of thanks for their continuing commitment and hard work. We also acknowledge the work done by Sue, Sue and Denise during much of 2011.

Men's Breakfast Group

The Men's Breakfast meets on Saturday mornings, at 9am on alternate months. We meet at Aroma Cafe in Irby, thereby supporting a much valued local business. Attendances have gradually increased over the past few years and in November 2011 twelve gentlemen enjoyed a hearty breakfast and good company. The Men's Breakfast provides an informal setting for members of the Church to chat and share in fellowship, while enjoying an excellent English breakfast.

In January 2012 a Wirral Men's Breakfast group will have its first meeting at The Leverhulme Hotel in Port Sunlight. It will continue through 2012 and will hopefully complement our own breakfast group.

I would personally like to thank everyone who has attended the Men's Breakfast in the past 12 months for their support and valued company.

Matthew James

Gardening Team

St Bart's Garden Group consists of eight souls whom meet on the 2nd Thursday each month between 10am and 11am. In 2011 a great change took place in the garden. It was dug up, nutrients dug in and a weed suppressant laid down.

Many Azalea Japonica shrubs were planted. These were chosen by the group because they are evergreen and flower once a year (they are all different colours). If the plants have read their instructions(!) they should grow to 3ft high and 3ft wide. All this was done with the consideration that the next generation will retire at 67-70 years old and the probability of doing voluntary work such as digging is remote. Once the garden is established it will require very little care.

The back (south side) of the church has also had a "Make Over ". All weeds, shrubs and in fact everything has been removed. More stones similar to the ones already there have been put down and the benches put back by the wall. Now it is a pleasant place for people to sit in quiet contemplation, in front of the memorial garden. If anyone would care to join us, they would be most welcome.

Sally Lang

Social Functions

2011 has seen a number of social functions, all of which were greatly enjoyed. St Bartholomew's Day was, as always, a fun event which despite the rain showers attracted a good crowd. Everyone enjoyed watching the brave cuddly toys as they jumped (or rather were launched!) off the tower. There were no casualties and everyone made it home safe and sound.

The Harvest Supper was a great evening with delicious food and fantastic entertainment from Archie Peat, from a Scottish piper and from a brilliantly talented young band with a

certain Bennett Appleyard on drums. The Christmas Fair was a great success, with a variety of stalls and games, and we were lucky to have Father Christmas in his amazing grotto on Steve and Jo's Routemaster bus again.

Revd Jane Revd Jane hosted a CAMEO (Come And Meet Each Other) event each week during August. The coffee morning and afternoon tea were very well attended by members of all congregations. Sadly on the night of the barbecue it poured with rain and so only one family turned up!

Thank you to everyone who has helped in any way with social functions in 2011. As I have said before, these events are so important to the life of the church. They give us a chance to meet socially and they bring people to us, who might otherwise not come to church, and relationships can be formed as a result.

If you have an idea for a social function that you are prepared to run, please let me know.

Patsy Brady
648 4379

CHURCH RELATED ORGANISATIONS

Mothers' Union

2010 was another year of interesting meetings and events for Mothers' Union. Revd Jane presided at the Epiphany Communion Service in January, a sing-a-long followed the AGM, and Catherine Thursby shared her African Adventure with us in March. Penny Vernon brought samples of Quaker embroidery, and she told us about the Quaker Tapestry and the Quaker Movement. We had a Lent Meditation and a Strawberry Tea. Canon Bob Evans, as always, amused us with his stories and signed his books for us. Sheila Melton broadened our insight into MU work. On a cold November afternoon Colin showed his colourful flower slides to cheer us all!

For our Carol Service and Christmas Party we welcomed many friends and our Prayer Partners from New Brighton. We had a wonderful Christmas Collection for MU Literacy work; our thanks to everyone for their generosity.

Many of our members attended the Diocesan Festival at Chester Cathedral, the Deanery Festival at St Johns, Great Meols, the MU Wave of Prayer, Women's World Day of Prayer and services with our friends at Irby Methodist Church.

Little Stars finished its two years as all the little ones are now three and have started pre-school. We had a happy farewell party at Patsy's home to say goodbye. Thank you Patsy.

Our knitting efforts continue for the Neo-Natal Baby Unit and the Women's Refuge. Thanks to all who knit – MU members, Church ladies and friends, and to all who donate wool. All our knitting is gratefully acknowledged.

Thank you to all who supported the Coffee Morning in September; thank you to all members who give to and support the monthly sales table, give to the 20p boxes and the loose-change jar. Once again we have been able to give over £1,000 to MU charities at

home and abroad and to our own church. Our grateful thanks to our 'MU Friends' for their support, interest and generous giving and to all our members for their generosity.

My thanks to the committee members: Eleanor and Ken - treasurers; Beryl - minutes secretary; Margaret - card secretary; Joyce - speaker secretary, pianist and who writes to our link branch in Australia. Sandra joined the committee in February and we are grateful to her and Beryl for taking on Lil's work in the kitchen.

After many years serving on the MU committee Lil retired last year. We are grateful to her for all she has done and we give her our thanks. Sally also retired from the committee and we give her thanks. Rosemary was also a faithful member of MU and the committee for many years. We send her and Robin our best wishes and prayers as they settle into their new home in Kent – near to their daughter and her family.

My grateful thanks to you all and to our members who come to our monthly meetings, support special events, take part in the meetings, bake, knit, buy, give and help in so many ways. But above all pray for our branch and the work of MU at home and abroad.

We pray that God will continue to use us to help others in our needy world.

Susan Burns
Branch Leader

EMU

Our branch of EMU (Evening Mothers' Union) meets monthly during the school term at St Chad's, usually on the last Wednesday of the month at 8.00pm. We would love to welcome new members. Please come along and give it a try. We have a varied programme to suit all tastes.

In January 2011 we held a 'Tea & Toast, Bring & Buy' at St Chad's. We were able to donate £106.00 to the 'Worldwide Fund'. We also had a New Year meal out at Ellies in Greasby which was thoroughly enjoyed by all. In February Persis Peters treated us all to nail & hand treatments. In March it was card making with Chris Carlson.

In May we had a very interesting talk from the Salvation Army and in June we tried out Line Dancing with lots of laughter as we attempted to master the steps. We rounded off the summer term with a meal at Malucas.

In September we got some valuable tips, when Persis Peters came along and demonstrated the art of applying make-up. In October Karen Urmston CEO from Crossroads Care came along and gave a very moving talk about the help and support they give to carers who are reaching a crisis. In November at the ever-popular jewellery making session we made necklaces and were able to purchase Christmas presents, made by the very talented Jane Young.

Chris Rostock
Branch Secretary

1st Thurstaston Guides Annual Report 2011

We have once again had a wonderful year, and increased to a full unit of 30 girls!

During the year, we have

- undertaken many challenges
 - Royal Wedding Challenge,
 - World Guiding goes Tartan,
 - NW Region Ruby Challenge,
 - 101 years of the Great Outdoors,
 - Promise Challenge
- achieved some interest badges (World Cultures, Camper, Circus Skills)
- done some community and fund raising events
 - Comic Relief Coffee Evening and Fashion Show,
 - serving refreshments at the Women's World Day of Prayer service
 - Children in Need Night
 - A Carol Tea Party for Helplink
- enjoyed a weekend away at Waddow in February, and a week's Camp in July
- as well as going to the theatre to see "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat".

The highlight of the Year was our Ruby Camp in the Summer. We had the hottest week of the year. We had all kinds of challenges – both planned and unplanned – the supermarket having a problem with their delivery system and not delivering our £500 order! A great day out courtesy of the local farmer – butterfly catching (and releasing), climbing on a combine harvester, feeding the chickens and the lambs, washing the ponies, playing in a wheat mountain and a rope swing!



Ten of our girls started work towards their Baden Powell Challenge Badge and will continue to work towards completion next year.

Revd Jane Turner, Sarah Barr, Gaynor Vaughan, Ellie Randall and the Guides!

Brownies

The 2nd Irby Brownies have had a very busy year and have completed many badges and challenges. We have had lots of outings including visits to Church Farm, bowling, pantomime and Tesco. We were chosen by Tesco to receive their Vouchers to School scheme which was organised by Nicky, one of my leaders. This saw us receiving over 6000 vouchers which we were able to use for valuable resources for the Brownies. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the continued support of my leaders as Brownies could not run without their valued support which is all voluntary.

Linda Churchill
Brown Owl
2nd Irby Brownies

2nd Irby Rainbows.

2011 has been a successful year for Rainbows. We have completed several interest badges, including Teddystastic, Royal Wedding badge and the Promise Challenge badge, which has also raised funds for the Open Door project.

During 2011, Emily Scarratt and Tricia Lloyd left us. We thank them both for their help, and wish Emily well at Sheffield University. We need another leader who would like to go into uniform. To date, the search continues! I would like to thank the parents who have supported us by means of a parents' rota.

Looking forward to 2012, Rainbows will be celebrating their 25th Birthday, and we will also be working towards an Olympics Badge and Queen's Diamond Jubilee Badge.

I should like to thank Allison Youds for her regular help, our young leaders, Erin Bennett and Amber Briers, who are working on their leadership qualification, and my Guide helper, Emily Fearn Nicol. I should also like to thank the Church and other Guiders in Irby for all their help and support to make Rainbows have a great start on their Guiding journey!

Karen Fearn
Rainbow Guider

CHURCH ACCOUNTS 2011

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Bartholomew, Thurstaston

Registered Charity Number 1132086

Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ending 31 December 2011

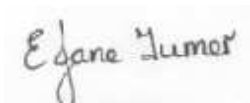
	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	TOTAL 2011 £	FUNDS 2010 £
INCOMING RESOURCES						
Voluntary income	2(a)	62,261	4,575	-	66,836	63,808
Activities for generating funds	2(b)	2,786	-	-	2,786	2,711
Income from investments	2(c)	3,899	361	117	4,377	3,644
Church activities	2(d)	14,561	37,432	-	51,992	56,643
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES		83,507	42,368	117	125,992	126,806
RESOURCES EXPENDED						
Cost of generating voluntary income	3(a)	810	158	-	969	859
Mission Giving	3(b)	539	-	-	539	711
Church Activities	3(c)	79,823	33,545	-	113,368	128,918
Governance	3(d)	16,422	2,500	-	18,922	-
Major Works	3(e)	-	-	-	-	13,417
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED		97,594	36,203	-	133,797	143,905
NET RESOURCES BEFORE TRANSFERS		(14,087)	6,165	117	(7,806)	(17,100)
Gross Transfers Between Funds	9	-	-	-	-	-
Other Recognised Gains & Losses	9	-	-	(346)	(346)	381
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		(14,087)	6,165	(229)	(8,152)	(16,718)
OPENING BALANCES 1 JANUARY 2011		11,027	55,115	7,904	74,047	90,765
CLOSING BALANCES 31 DECEMBER 2011		(3,060)	61,280	7,675	65,895	74,047

CHURCH ACCOUNTS 2011

Balance sheet as at 31 December 2011

	Notes	TOTAL 2011 £	FUNDS 2010 £
FIXED ASSETS			
Tangible	5(a)	1,300	-
Investment	5(b)	7,286	7,632
		8,586	7,632
CURRENT ASSETS			
Stock	6	1,047	1,040
Debtors	7	7,652	9,207
Cash at bank and in hand		82,700	65,272
		91,399	75,519
LIABILITIES			
Creditors - amounts falling due in one year	8	34,090	9,104
NET CURRENT ASSETS/ (LIABILITIES)		57,309	66,415
TOTAL NET ASSETS		65,895	74,047
PARISH FUNDS			
Unrestricted	9	(3,060)	11,027
Restricted	9	61,280	55,115
Endowment	9	7,675	7,905
		65,895	74,047

**Approved by the Parochial Church Council and signed on its behalf by
the Rev'd E J Turner (PCC Chair)**



Date: 12 March 2012

The notes on pages 3 to 9 form part of these accounts.

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 DECEMBER 2011

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 together with applicable accounting standards and the SORP 2005. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention except for the valuation of investment assets, which are shown at market value. The financial statements include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law. They do not include the accounts of church groups that owe their main affiliation to another body, nor those that are informal gatherings of church members.

Funds

Endowment funds are funds, the capital of which must be maintained; only income arising from investment of the endowment funds may be used either as restricted or unrestricted funds depending upon the purpose for which the endowment was established.

Restricted funds represent (a) income from trusts or endowments which may be expended only on those restricted objects provided in the terms of the trust or bequest, and (b) 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. The PCC does not usually invest separately for each fund. Where there is no separate investment, interest is apportioned to individual funds on an average balance basis.

Incoming resources

Planned giving, collections are recognized when received. Tax refunds are recognized 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 received, interest is accrued. All other income is recognized when it is receivable. All incoming resources are accounted for gross.

Resources expended

Grants and donations are accounted for when paid over, or when awarded, if that award creates a binding or constructive obligation to the PCC. The diocesan parish share is accounted for when due. Amounts received specially for mission are dealt with as restricted funds. All other expenditure is generally recognized when it is incurred and is accounted for gross.

Fixed assets

Consecrated and benefice property is not included in the accounts in accordance with s.96(2)(a) of the Charities Act 1993. St Bartholomew's Church is insured for £4,290,834 and St. Chad's Church and Hall for £770,570.

Movable church furnishings held by the rector and churchwardens 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.

Equipment used within the church premises is depreciated on a straight-line basis over four years. Individual items of equipment with a purchase price of £1,000 or less are written off when the asset is acquired, with the exception of gardening equipment purchased in 2011. Insured value of contents is £77,311 (St Bartholomew's) and £36,694 (St Chad's).

Investments are valued at market value at 31 December 2011.

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

INCOMING RESOURCES	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds Pre-School £	OpenDoor £	Endowment Funds £	TOTAL 2011 £	TOTAL 2010 £
2(a) Voluntary income						
<u>Planned giving:</u>						
St. Bartholomew's	26,969	-	-	-	26,969	28,742
St. Chad's	17,885	-	-	-	17,885	17,121
<u>Collections (open plate)</u>						
St. Bartholomew's	2,058	-	-	-	2,058	2,050
St. Chad's	1,486	-	-	-	1,486	1,737
Donations	2,985	-	-	-	2,985	2,817
Donations for Appeals	-	-	4,022	-	4,022	228
Grants Received	895	-	-	-	895	-
Tax recoverable	9,969	-	553	-	10,522	11,062
Wall box	14	-	-	-	14	51
	62,261	-	4,575	-	66,836	63,808
2(b) Activities for generating funds						
Burns Night (Archie Peat)	200	-	-	-	200	-
Christmas Fair	1,938	-	-	-	1,938	1,521
Coffee Mornings & Afternoon Teas	114	-	-	-	114	20
Harvest Supper	302	-	-	-	302	284
Open Door Appeal	-	-	-	-	-	725
Rectory BBQ	112	-	-	-	112	-
St. Bear's Day	120	-	-	-	120	161
	2,786	-	-	-	2,786	2,711
2(c) Income from investments						
Bank Interest	13	-	361	-	374	325
Ismay Charity	-	-	-	117	117	81
Morrell Trust	272	-	-	-	272	196
Shaw Trust	3,614	-	-	-	3,614	3,042
	3,899	-	361	117	4,377	3,644
2(d) Church activities						
<u>St Chad's Church</u>						
Hall hire	7,820	-	-	-	7,820	7,784
<u>St Bartholomew's Church</u>						
Fees Received	2,898	-	-	-	2,898	2,735
Overhead Cost Contributions	1,698	-	-	-	1,698	2,474
Churchyard fees	-	-	-	-	-	681
Marriage Preparation	110	-	-	-	110	120
<u>Magazine</u>						
Adverts	414	-	-	-	414	482
Sales	493	-	-	-	493	446
<u>Playgroup</u>						
Private Fees	-	7,047	-	-	7,047	5,177
Statutory Fees and Grants	-	30,014	-	-	30,014	35,753
Uniform Sales	-	278	-	-	278	480
Other Income	-	94	-	-	94	94
<u>Other Income</u>						
Insurance Claims	830	-	-	-	830	-
Photocopying	268	-	-	-	268	417
Other Sundry Income	30	-	-	-	30	-
	14,561	37,432	-	-	51,992	56,643
Total Incoming Resources	83,507	37,432	4,936	117	125,992	126,806

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

RESOURCES EXPENDED	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds		Endwmt Funds £	TOTAL 2011 £	TOTAL 2010 £
		Pre-School £	OpenDoor £			
3(a) Costs of Generating Voluntary Income						
Christmas Fair	260	-	-	-	260	-
Harvest Supper	217	-	-	-	217	288
Open Door	-	-	158	-	158	184
Parish BBQ	80	-	-	-	80	-
Planned Giving	242	-	-	-	242	387
St Bear's Day	12	-	-	-	12	-
	810	-	158	-	969	859
3(b) Mission Giving						
<u>Overseas</u>						
End Polio Now	-	-	-	-	-	28
<u>Home</u>						
Diocesan Family of Schools	500	-	-	-	500	500
Friends of Chester Cathedral	25	-	-	-	25	25
Churchwarden retirement present	-	-	-	-	-	38
Sundry Gifts & Flowers	14	-	-	-	14	120
	539	-	-	-	539	711
3(c) Church Activities						
<u>Parish Share</u>	41,622	-	-	-	41,622	50,527
<u>Salaries & Honoraria</u>						
Organist	2,430	-	-	-	2,430	2,680
Parish Clerk	2,722	-	-	-	2,722	2,742
Playgroup	-	29,157	-	-	29,157	35,227
<u>Pastoral Expenses</u>						
Rector's expenses	1,508	-	-	-	1,508	1,587
Rector's Office expenses	804	-	-	-	804	839
Rectory expenses	2,136	-	-	-	2,136	2,024
<u>Mission & Evangelism Costs</u>						
Assistant Clergy Fees	2,027	-	-	-	2,027	2,185
Marriage Preparation	87	-	-	-	87	-
Services	693	-	-	-	693	1,042
Website	215	-	-	-	215	-
Youth	131	-	-	-	131	527
<u>St Bartholomew's Overheads</u>						
Church insurance	3,700	-	-	-	3,700	3,853
Churchyard upkeep	974	-	-	-	974	1,466
Electricity	445	-	-	-	445	433
Heating Oil	1,552	-	-	-	1,552	1,096
Licences	64	-	-	-	64	-
Maintenance	2,843	-	-	-	2,843	1,007
Organ expenses	196	-	-	-	196	193
<u>St Chad's Overheads</u>						
Contract Cleaning	4,368	-	-	-	4,368	4,368
Electricity	946	-	-	-	946	1,104
Gas	1,983	-	-	-	1,983	2,030
Grounds Maintenance	105	-	-	-	105	-
Hall insurance	1,783	-	-	-	1,783	1,969

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS**RESOURCES EXPENDED**

	Unrestricted	Restricted Funds		Endwmt	TOTAL	TOTAL
	Funds	Pre-School	OpenDoor	Funds	2011	2010
	£	£	£	£	£	£
3(c) Church Activities (continued)						
<u>St Chad's Overheads</u>						
Hall maintenance	1,849	-	-	-	1,849	2,043
Licences	192	-	-	-	192	-
Trading Expenses	36	-	-	-	36	29
Water Rates	1,522	-	-	-	1,522	2,002
<u>Magazine costs</u>	162	-	-	-	162	121
<u>Office expenses</u>					-	
Bank charges	-	-	-	-	-	3
Equipment	1,183	-	-	-	1,183	1,226
Postage	68	68	123	-	259	152
Software	-	-	-	-	-	677
Stationery	973	106	-	-	1,079	992
Telephone	504	-	-	-	504	479
<u>Playgroup Overheads</u>						
Cleaning Goods	-	-	-	-	-	69
Gardening	-	-	-	-	-	-
Gifts & Donations	-	1,800	-	-	1,800	150
Holiday Pay Contribution	-	-	-	-	-	1,005
Insurance	-	163	-	-	163	1,000
Other	-	512	-	-	512	150
Printing & Stationery	-	143	-	-	143	521
Snacks	-	282	-	-	282	325
Subscriptions	-	76	-	-	76	105
Summer Trip	-	-	-	-	-	80
Telephone	-	-	-	-	-	20
Toys & Equipment	-	819	-	-	819	298
Training	-	18	-	-	18	60
Uniforms	-	278	-	-	278	512
	79,823	33,422	123	-	113,368	128,918
3(d) Governance						
<u>General Account</u>						
Unpaid Parish Share	10,422	-	-	-	10,422	-
Quinquennial Repairs Provision	6,000	-	-	-	6,000	-
<u>Pre-School</u>						
Staff Redundancies Provision	-	2,500	-	-	2,500	-
	16,422	2,500	-	-	18,922	-
3(e) Major Works						
<u>OpenDoor</u>						
Solicitors Fees re Faculty Appeal	-	-	-	-	-	895
Architects Fees	-	-	-	-	-	8,997
Structural Engineers Fees	-	-	-	-	-	3,525
	-	-	-	-	-	13,417
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED	97,594	35,922	281	-	133,797	143,905

CHURCH ACCOUNTS 2011

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

4(a) STAFF COSTS

	TOTAL 2011 £	TOTAL 2010 £
Wages and salaries	30,690	40,649
Employer's National Insurance	636	750

During the year the PCC employed an organist and parish clerk, with no payments large enough to attract social security costs. In addition the Playgroup employed the equivalent of 1.6 full-time employees during the year.

4(b) PAYMENT TO PCC MEMBERS

Mr C Vickers, who is both a member of the PCC and Parish Organist, was paid £2,680 during the year for Sunday duties, plus additional fees for weddings and funerals, as required.

No other payments or expenses were paid to any other PCC member, persons closely connected to them or related parties.

5 FIXED ASSETS

5(a) Tangible

This comprises furniture and gardening equipment at both Churches, together with office equipment at St. Chad's. The purchase of two lawnmowers and strimmers have been capitalised, for depreciation over a 4-year period, on a straight-line basis.

5(b) Investments

The Investments relate to two Endowment Funds:-

(i) The Morrell Trust is invested with the CBF Church of England Investments, split between the Fixed Interest Securities Fund and the Global Equity Income Fund. Income is paid to the PCC for the upkeep of St Bartholomew's church and churchyard.

(ii) The Ismay Charity is invested with the CBF Church of England Global Equity Income Fund, with the balance held in the bank account for distribution at the discretion of the Incumbent, or for eventual reinvestment.

Investments	Morrell Trust £	Ismay Charity £	Total £
CBF Church of England Global Equity Income Fund			
Purchase at cost, 1 December 2009	2,500	2,200	4,700
Revaluation Gain	5	5	10
CBF Church of England Fixed Interest Securities Fund			
Purchase at cost, 1 December 2009	2,500	-	2,500
Revaluation Gain	76	-	76
Valuation as at 31 December 2011	5,081	2,205	7,286

CHURCH ACCOUNTS 2011

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

6 STOCK	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	TOTAL 2011 £	TOTAL 2010 £
Value of heating oil held at St Bartholomew's Church	835	-	835	835
Value of Playgroup uniforms held	-	212	212	206
	835	212	1,047	1,041

7 DEBTORS	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	TOTAL 2011 £	TOTAL 2010 £
Income tax recoverable	7,288	152	-	7,440	8,504
Hall hire due	25	-	-	25	-
Other sundry debtors	130	57	-	187	703
	7,443	209	-	7,652	9,207

8 LIABILITIES	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	TOTAL 2011 £	TOTAL 2010 £
Hall booking fees paid in advance	-	-	-	-	2,154
PAYE	17	322	-	339	-
Pre-School 2012 Grant held	-	6,620	-	6,620	987
Pre-School Holiday Pay	-	1,000	-	1,000	-
Pre-School Salaries for December	-	1,715	-	1,715	-
Quinquennial Provision	6,000	-	-	6,000	-
Redundancy Provision	-	2,500	-	2,500	-
Sundry creditors	2,621	-	-	2,621	4,241
Unpaid Parish Share	10,422	-	-	10,422	525
Wedding fees paid in advance	2,872	-	-	2,872	1,197
	21,932	12,157	-	34,090	9,104

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

Note 9 (i) Endowment and Restricted Funds

Fund Name	Type	Purpose and Restrictions
Morrell Trust	Permanent Endowment	Income to be spent on Churchyard maintenance.
Ismay Charity	Permanent Endowment	For relief of poverty in the parish. Income to be spent at discretion of incumbent. Any surplus cash funds over £300 can be reinvested.
Open Door	Restricted	To build church extension.
Playgroup	Restricted	Trading. Income to cover payroll and overheads.

In addition, the Incumbent and Churchwardens are the Managing Trustees of the Eillen Shaw Trust, a Permanent Endowment. The Chester Diocesan Board of Finance is the Custodian Trustee. Only the Income is available, which is paid to the PCC for the upkeep of St Bartholomew's Church and Churchyard.

Note 9 (ii) Outline Summary of Fund Movements

Fund Names	Opening Balances	Incoming Resources	Outgoing Resources	Transfers	Gains & Losses	Balances Carried Forward
<u>Endowment Funds</u>						
Morrell Trust	5,206	-	-	-	(125)	5,081
Ismay Charity	2,698	117	-	-	(221)	2,594
<u>Restricted Funds</u>						
Open Door	49,953	4,935	281	-	-	54,607
Playgroup	5,162	37,432	35,922	-	-	6,672
<u>Unrestricted Funds</u>						
General Fund	11,027	83,507	97,594	-	-	(3,060)
<u>Total Funds</u>	74,046	125,991	133,797	-	(346)	65,893

Independent Examiner's report to the Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Bartholomew, Thurstaston

This report on the financial statements of the PCC for the year ended 31 December 2011, which are set out on pages 1 to 9, is in respect of an examination carried out in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 ("the regulations") and s.43 of the Charities Act 1993 ("the act").

Respective responsibilities of the PCC and the examiner

As members of the PCC you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements; you consider that the audit requirement of the Regulations and s.43(2) of the Act does not apply. It is my responsibility to issue this report on those financial statements in accordance with the terms of the Regulations.

Basis of this report

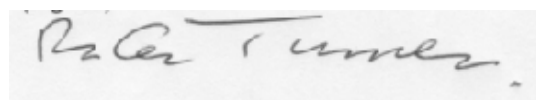
My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under s.43(7)(b) of the Act and to be found in the Church guidance, 2006 edition. That examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the PCC and a comparison of the accounts with those records. It also includes considering 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 I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent examiner's statement

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

- (1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 41 of the Act; and
 - to prepare financial statements, which accord with the accounting records and comply with the requirements of the Act and the Regulations have not been met; or
- (2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

(Signed)



Mr Richard G Turner
Thurstaston Hall, Station Road, Thurstaston, Wirral. CH61 0HL

Date 7th March 2012