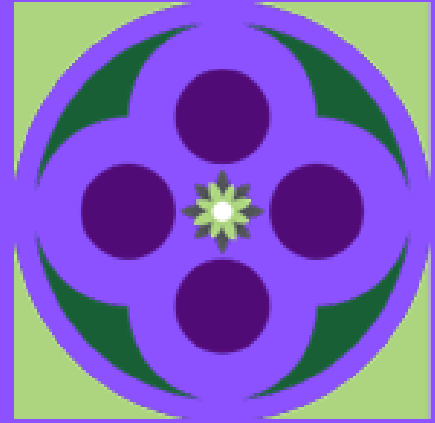


ANNUAL REPORT 2023





VICAR'S INTRODUCTION

2023 was a busy year, and a fruitful year in many ways. As you read through this document, and enjoy all the photos, you will get a sense of all the great things that have gone on. There is much more that could have been included - this annual report is just a snapshot.

I am extremely grateful for all the support you have shown me throughout the year, with particular thanks due to the churchwardens, and members of the PCC.

In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ

Jesus.

(Philippians 1:4-6)

REV. PETER HAMBORG
VICAR



CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

- Developing our worship in order to better engage with children and young people.
- Investing in the Messy Church, 9.15 services, christenings, and our relationship with children, families, and staff through the schools.
- Nurturing the Christian faith among children and young people.
- Providing opportunities for young people to grow into leadership roles

DISCIPLESHIP

- Helping people to grow in faith, and share their faith.
- Cultivating passionate spirituality and biblically informed Christian living, through inspirational gathered worship and small groups.
- Encouraging people to know and use their spiritual gifts.
- Exploring further ways of serving Christ in our local community, and beyond.

PASTORAL CARE

- Supporting the pastoral care of the visiting team; giving priority to the sick and suffering, the bereaved, and the housebound.
- Praying with and for each other, and for those in need.
- Providing support for pupils and staff at the parish schools.
- Expanding our ways of caring for all in our communities.



DEVELOPING LEADERS

- A culture of thankfulness
- Recognising gifts and talents
- Inviting people to participate
- Mentoring and working together
- Celebrating leaders



SPIRITUAL GROWTH

- Prayer
- Bible study
- Short courses
- Worship
- Messy Church



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- Serving the community
- Building on existing links
- Developing work with school
- Developing work with young people and families
- Celebrating special occasions



WORSHIP AT HOLY TRINITY

In the summer, some changes were made to our routine of services at Holy Trinity, to make them more accessible to children and young people. The 9.15 service was increased to twice a month, a move which has proved popular. The new 'Family Communion' service on the 1st Sunday of the month makes use of some All-Age friendly liturgy, and this service adds more variety to our monthly pattern.

The changes to our worship are more a case of evolution than revolution.

New leaders for the 9.15 services, and encouraging occasional preachers from within our 10.30 congregation, has enabled this positive progress in 2023.



Wearing Christmas pyjamas at the Midnight Communion service is a trend which might just catch on!



WORSHIP AT ST MARK'S

The small congregation at St Mark's work hard to sustain their worshipping life. Following the increase to the 9.15 services at Holy Trinity, St Mark's now meets at 10.30am on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month when the vicar is absent. This works well for the most elderly members, who find the 9.00am time a bit early.

Margaret & Becky Hutchinson lead services on the 2nd Sunday, and members of the Holy Trinity congregation assist on the 4th Sunday. Particular thanks are due to David Bateman, who often helps out at St Mark's.



FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

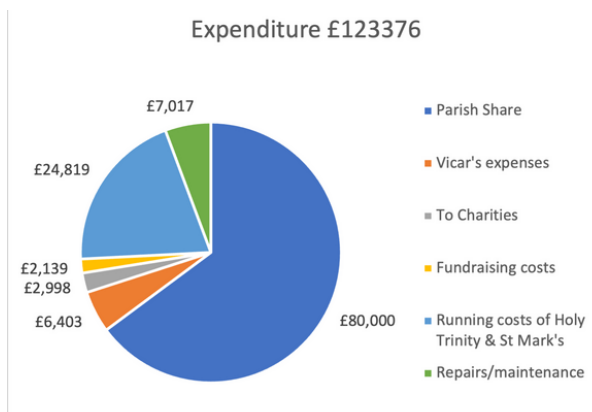
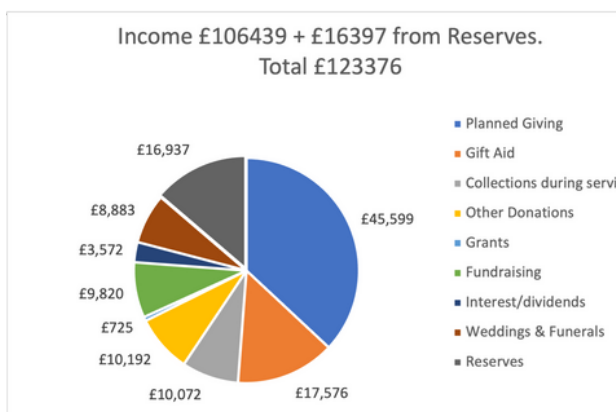
Our Parish is a Registered Charity, and receives no income other than that which is donated by its congregation and friends, or through the work of the vicar and many volunteers.

The 'income' chart below shows that more than half of all income comes from regular 'Planned Giving' donations and Gift Aid. This, together with other forms of income was, unfortunately, not enough to cover all costs during 2023, and a substantial sum (£16397) therefore had to come from cash reserves. (These reserves had been accumulated from legacies and gifts held for specific purposes, mainly upkeep of Holy Trinity Church). At the end of 2023 our 'free' reserves covered only three months of our day-to-day running costs, so we constantly have to seek ways of increasing our income.

The £24819 segment of the chart labelled 'Running costs...' covers a wide variety of day-to-day outgoings - insurance, gas & electric, WiFi, website, 'consumables' (coffee, altar wine, candles etc) plus many more.

Holy Trinity Church itself is an ancient Grade ii* listed building and, whilst beautiful, it does come with a high demand for repairs and maintenance. These costs (green segment, £7017, which also includes spending at St Mark's in Nether Kellet) would have to be added to 'running costs' had we not received substantial legacies and grants, so we are indeed fortunate to benefit from such generosity.

Like many Parishes in these difficult times, our Reserves are dwindling, and costs will continue to rise into 2024 and beyond. Help is needed and if you would like to find out how you can contribute financially to the Parish, please contact our Treasurer, Andy Hampshire: treasurer@parishbls.co.uk

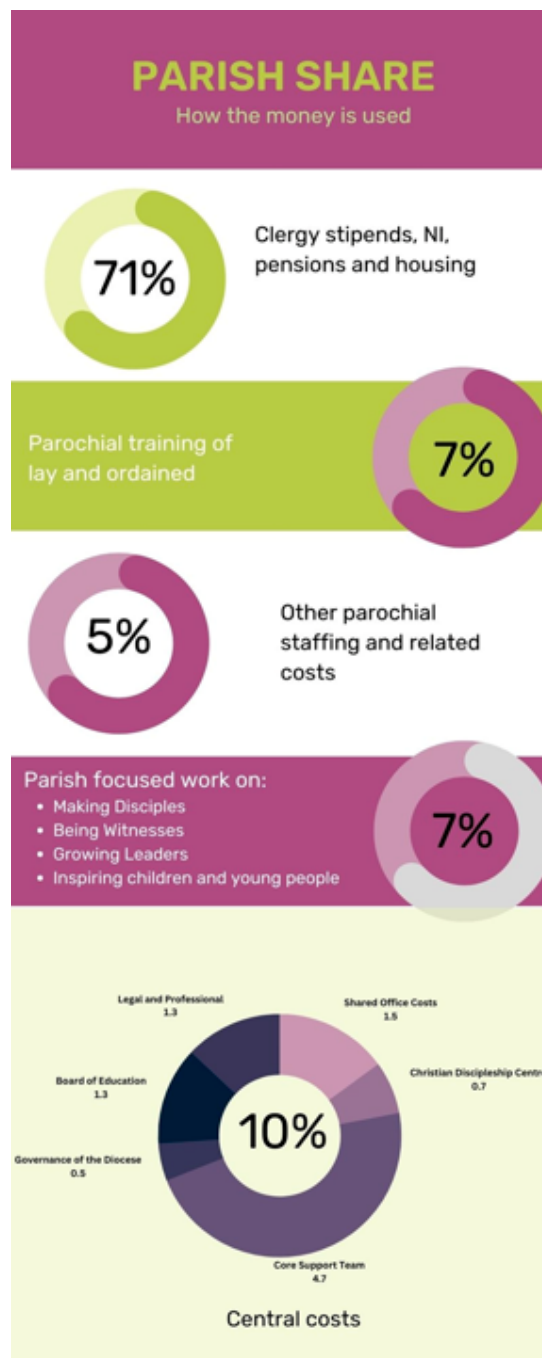


GENEROUS GIVING

Looking at expenditure, the chart shows that almost two-thirds relates to the Parish Share. This is a payment to central Diocesan funds which are then used to cover a variety of costs which we would otherwise have to pay ourselves. Over 70% of these relate to stipends and other costs involved in employing clergy, including our own vicar Peter.

Within our Parish Share we also make a contribution to those Parishes who are far less fortunate than ours. In 2023 the total was £14748 and when this is added to our other, more local charitable giving (£2998 in 2023) we can be confident that we are fulfilling our Christian duty of generosity to others.

HOLY TRINITY AND ST MARK'S FINANCIAL REPORT 2023



COMMUNICATIONS TEAM

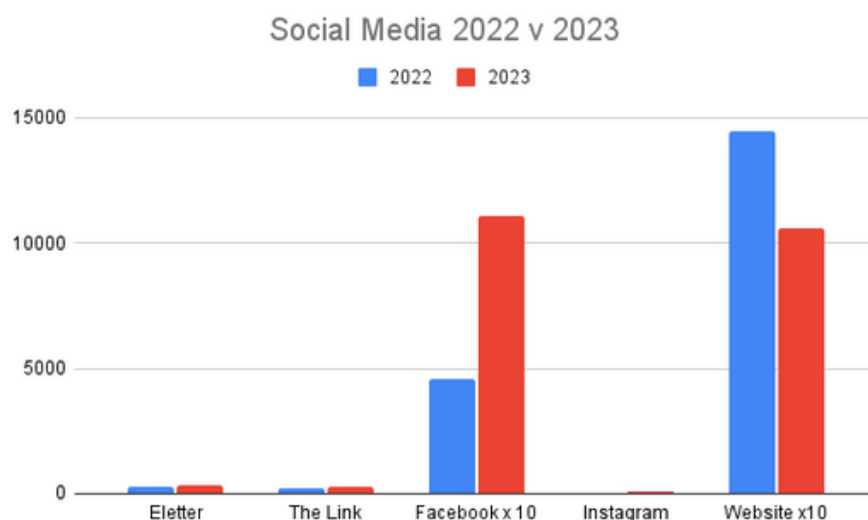
In 2022 there was a distinct shift in our communications compared with 2021 when we were still suffering the after effects of the Covid epidemic. This continued into 2023. Our monthly eletter "Messenger" increased from 304 to 346 subscribers. Subscribers to "The Link", our weekly parish newsletter rose from 205 to 247. Our Facebook page reach went from 4,566 a month to 11,075. We had done very little with Instagram but having found a new editor we had 83 followers at the end of 2023. The parish website had 14,478 page views in 2022. In 2023 this had dropped to 10,590 in 2023. The possible reason for this was that we were putting more information out through our Facebook page meaning that people didn't need to go to the website. On our website the top three pages alternated between "Calendar", "The Messenger" and our contact page.

We support other web based channels; "achurchnearyou", "Google Business" etc but we don't report on these.

Our objectives for 2023 were:

1. involve more people in the management of our website and social media
2. review the effectiveness of all our social media channels and website particularly looking at individual pages on the website to make them more appealing.
3. continue to grow the number of people that we communicate with in our church, in the parish of Bolton-le-Sands and in Nether Kellet.
4. build on the links between the churches in order to make them more effective in spreading the good news of Jesus.

STATISTICS





CHRISTIAN SEDER MEAL



DISPLAY AT ADVENT FAIR

The aims of the Social Team are; to provide a programme of social events for the church and wider parish and to provide a series of fundraising events for our church.

Looking at the various events and activities this year we have managed to involve more people in taking a lead in activities. In both Men's Breakfast and 100 Club. We are getting consistent support with the Community Coffee Morning. Our Zoom team is now well established providing online services to people unable to attend church. Engaging teenagers is always a challenge. We now have a teenager team looking after the "Tuck Shop" whenever we have children at an event.

Expanding the number of events organised by other church members is still ongoing. We have a good relationship with other churches in the village. Our Lenten Lunches were well attended being both social events and raising money for local charities. Our Christian Seder Meal was well attended by members from all churches.

We have also had a number of concerts throughout the year. Our main event, which was very successful, was our Advent Fair.



LACUNA UPPER VOICE CHOIR



TEDDY BEAR'S PICNIC MAY 2023, CELEBRATING THE
CORONATION OF KING CHARLES



CORONATION FUN INSIDE THE CHURCH - MAY 2023

MOTHERS UNION

2023



The Mothers' Union group at Holy Trinity is the largest in the Lancaster, Morecambe and Tunstall Deanery and one of the largest in the Diocese with a current membership of 50. Membership is open to all women and men who are baptised and concerned with the strengthening of marriage and family life.

In 2023 we had a full Programme of events and activities.

- Monthly Corporate Worship as part of the Wednesday 10am Holy Communion Service service at Holy Trinity when members led the prayers and did the reading.
- A monthly meeting in Church for all members with a variety of speakers and activities - for example The Canary Girls' Memorial; a Presentation on Coventry Cathedral.
- Shrove Tuesday and August lunches at Morecambe Golf Club.
- Annual Strawberry Tea in the BLS Community Centre.
- Three Coffee Mornings in the BLS Community Centre.
- We attended a Candlemas Service and a Deanery Festival at other branches.
- We ran the Cake Stall at the Church Advent Fair and hosted our annual Christmas Party in the Community Centre with a Guest Speaker.

In line with MU principles of the nurturing of family life we offer one another fellowship and support when times are difficult, and celebrate joyous events in our members' lives.

We have supported the National MU objectives - ie The Rise-Up Campaign Against Domestic Abuse by providing food items and toiletries for a local Women's Refuge. We have continued to support the families of prisoners by providing Easter eggs and baby items. In addition we have also raised money for AFIA (Away From It All) providing holidays and experiences for families facing diversity. Money from some of our fundraising events has gone to support overseas projects .

In 2023 we raised a total of £2,536.

We have produced a varied and interesting Programme for 2024 and look forward to welcoming existing and any new members who may wish to join us.

WORSHIP WITH FAMILIES & CHILDREN



MESSY CHURCH

Messy Church is a huge success with over 100 children and adults getting involved each month. Accommodating such numbers and entertaining everyone is a real team effort, from those who lead the craft activities to those who serve pizza and refreshments. The celebration time is usually led by Jess or Peter, and includes an interactive bible message, music, and prayer. Jess Squires organises the team with skill and efficiency. It is often said that we are 'victims of our own success' when it comes to managing the numbers.

9.15 SERVICES

Sometimes at 9.14am the church is only half full, but by the time we've finished the first song those who have dragged their weary children out of bed on Sunday morning have crept in, and the congregation is strong.

The tone of these services is lively and light, yet nonetheless meaningful. Introducing refreshments after the service in 2023 has increased the sense of community as we get to share time together afterwards - plus it gives those who may have struggled out of bed after a long week a much-needed coffee.

+
THE 9.15 SUNDAY SERVICE
+

"WHEN THE PEOPLE SAW JESUS, THEY WERE OVERWHELMED WITH WONDER AND RAN TO GREET HIM."
MARK 9.15

- Second and fourth Sunday of each month
- 9.15-10am
- Holy Trinity Church, Bolton-Le-Sands
- A special service for families

MESSY CHURCH



PASTORAL TEAM

PASTORAL CARE

Over the past year the small pastoral care team, comprising both men and women, has been set up to keep in touch with those who are sick or in need in the parish. We visit or telephone those who are unable to get to church; who are housebound, in care homes, bereaved or struggling in some way. It is important that no one feels forgotten or alone. We also take out home communion to those wishing to receive it. As a team we are in touch with each other and our vicar Peter oversees the work and we have periodic review meetings. I am the contact for names going on the weekly Link, those wishing for prayers must be asked for their permission to allow this to happen and the list is reviewed regularly every few weeks. Sue Young.



SUE YOUNG

ORGANISATIONS AND GROUPS



MUSIC & CHOIR

The church choir gathered to practice and perform at Easter and Christmas. It is getting stronger each time but we are always open to new members.

Our music is often arranged to suit our voices, and includes a mixture of contemporary and modern.

2023 saw the retirement of our Musical Director Ian Entwistle. It was a sad day for us all as he has supported the music in our church for decades. Ian continues to play on Wednesday mornings at the midweek service, whilst Sandie Barker has taken over as our regular organist. We are delighted that Sandie was able to step into this role, enriching our church with her personality as well as her obvious musical skills.

FLOWER TEAM

We have again had a busy year with floral displays to celebrate all the key festivals both inside and outside the church. We feel that flowers add a lot to our worship reflecting spirit of the season.

A lot of people have taken advantage of our offer to dedicate a display in memory of a loved one.



GARDENING TEAM

The gardening team have been out in all weathers exercising control over the weeds and encouraging the flowers to grow. Many people walk through the church yard and comment how beautiful the gardens are. John and Margaret Barton have been the backbone of the team.

ORGANISATIONS AND GROUPS

WELCOME AND COFFEE TEAMS

A warm welcome and hospitality is a priority for us at Holy Trinity. We have a fantastic group of people who welcome people as they come into church.

A warm cup of tea or coffee with biscuits and on occasion much more is provided by a dedicated team.



MEN'S GROUP

On the second Saturday of the month we have our "Men's Breakfast" in church. A bacon buttie and coffee gives an opportunity for any men in the village to meet and chat.

On the last Friday of the month we have our "Men's Intensive Care Meeting". There is no agenda just good conversation. We meet in the pub but drinking alcohol is not obligatory.

WORSHIP TEAMS

Our worship at Holy Trinity is led by the vicar supported by dedicated teams. Our Vestry Team looks after the altars and everything needed for regular services. We also have teams for weddings, christenings and funerals. The quality of our worship reflects our relationship with Jesus, and we want to praise him to the best of our ability.



FABRIC REPORT

It has continued to be an interesting year at Holy Trinity, and Saint Marks, where we have strived to ensure that the environment for worship is safe and functional. To that end, we have revised our risk assessments and complied with the statutory requirements for public buildings.

We received a visit from the Senior Church Buildings Officer this year and she provided us with a comprehensive report for both of our churches. There is some concern over the damp and black mould occurring on the walls of Saint Marks. A further concern relates to a crack in the tracery of the East window which may require some structural investigation.

The main developments at Holy Trinity were the replacement of the Tower Louvres, the installation of the pathway lighting which is a benefit to all who use the route through the churchyard, and the renewal of the access door to the tower roof. Other improvements were the updates to the heating controls at both churches.

Holy Trinity has had some patch decoration completed, a new gate to the boiler room steps and a window repair in the corridor to the vicar's vestry.

The church bells had been in a state of disrepair for some years, so they were refurbished and re-rope in time for the celebration ringing event to mark the installation on 3 new bells at St Cuthbert's Over Kellet.



The drop-down screen at Holy Trinity has been a success since it was installed in 2017 and we have decided to install a second screen in the North aisle to enable everyone to see the display when church is full.

The slate on the graveyard path was replaced improving the access and the general look of the graveyard.

The gardening and flower arranging teams have continued their good work to ensure that the church and its surroundings always look beautiful.

The four cleaning teams have continued to ensure a high standard of cleanliness in church and many favourable comments are received from visitors to Holy Trinity.



HOLY TRINITY AND ST MARK'S PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

SAFEGUARDING

The following statement was agreed at the Parochial Church Council (PCC) meeting held on 2 Feb 2021 and re-confirmed after amendment on 16 Apr 2023.

“The safeguarding of children, young people and vulnerable adults is an integral part of the life of the church, set out clearly in legislation, and is everybody’s responsibility. As a parish, we aim to provide the safest possible environment to enable our children to grow and flourish, and all adults to feel safe and welcome.”

The full policy can be viewed on our website:

<https://bolton-le-sands.org.uk/safeguarding/holy-trinity-safeguarding-policy/>

MEMBERS OF THE CHURCH PCC 2023

Andy Hampshire - Treasurer

Ann Basham - Secretary

Brian James - Fabrics

David Bateman - Health and Safety

Kath Brough - Safeguarding

Rob Daunt - Graveyards and Gardens

Margaret Foster - Outreach

Margaret Hutchinson - St Mark's

Andy Williams - Social and Communications

Jo Fitzgerald

Duncan Johnson

Russell Longton

Robert Whittaker

Ex-Officio Members

Rev. Peter Hamborg - Vicar

Mary Bunting - Church Warden

Jane Longton - Church Warden

There should be a total of 15-18 members. 3 ex-officio and 12 elected members plus 3 Deanery Synod if not also not elected PCC Members. This number is determined by an electoral role of between 101-200 (we tend to ask our three Deanery Synod members to also be elected PCC members.) Of the 12 elected members, there are three groups of four people in each. Each group serves three years or the balance of a retiring members' three year period.



Bolton-le-Sands
C.E. Primary School



MISSION STATEMENT

At Bolton-le-Sands Church of England Primary School, we believe that God is at the centre of all we aim to do. It is our goal to ensure that all members of our school community are given the opportunity to get to know God and thank Him for His goodness to us. We are the village school and are at the heart of this village community, all members of this community are made welcome at our school because, it is our faith that:

“With God at the centre, we reach out to support each other in learning, growth and community.”

As a reflection of our central Christian values, all of our children are placed in one of our school ‘House Teams’ with the names:

TRUST, HONOUR, RESPECT, COURAGE



THANKS FROM THE CHURCH WARDENS

2023



As Church Wardens we are extremely grateful for the many members of the congregation who help in different ways to enrich the life of the church. This year has been positive in many ways, due mainly to the fact that everyone plays their part, using their God given gifts.

- New this year, the weekly prayer group on Tuesday evenings has become a vital way of underpinning the life of the church at Holy Trinity and St Mark's
- Those who came to the Prayer Course, with video sessions led by Pete Greg, found it thought provoking and helpful.
- The 2 quiet days at Hynning, facilitated by Sister Michaela are also enriching and spiritually uplifting.
- Currently there is just one house group, which provides companionship in exploring the Christian faith, using the Bible, other Christian books and multimedia, in a relaxed and prayerful environment.
- Confirmation is always a joyous occasion, when young people make a public commitment to their faith. The preparation sessions, held in conjunction with St Luke's Slyne, are always lively and produce interesting questions, and often wonderful comments from the young people.
- Youth Club for those in years 7 to 11, meets monthly in Slyne church hall, to play games and chat. In the short "God slot" they are encouraged to think more about their faith.

Church services

Numbers at our services continue to grow, especially the 9.15 services and Messy Church. During this year, the 9.15 has moved from once, to twice a month.

First Friday services continue to minister to people who enjoy relaxed, informal worship, and we are grateful to all those who take turns in leading these services. We are pleased to have welcomed new regular attendees at our main services on Sundays and Wednesdays, and give a special thanks to those who read and lead prayers.

Over the year, under Peter's inspiring leadership, God has blessed us in so many ways. We have much to be thankful for.

Mary Bunting and Jane Longton

COMMENTS FROM OUR VISITOR'S BOOK

6/12/23 JLC Nice 'n' warm
 Imthankfull for god creating this
 beautiful world. Jessica [redacted]

26.12.23
 Staying in Budele roads for a few days over Christmas. Attended 3
 churches services.
 Didnt realize this was the vicar who used to be in Budele!
 Goal is find a church open to visitors bring the word (in some names)
 Bewilder) and church and an excellent organist. [redacted]

20.02.24 It is lovely to be back in the village of my childhood and
 the church I attended. Gill [redacted]

We were delighted to visit
 Your beautiful church with our
 grandchildren. Thank you for
 Leaving it open.
 Kay & Bob [redacted]
 Niagara Falls, Canada

James W Bell [redacted]
 { Norman P Kinton [redacted] Durham God Bless you all
 8.6.2023 THANK YOU and your lovely church
 xx }

God loves you all, no matter your sins xxx
 09/09/23 I agree xxx
 Bill. Shutey [redacted] Valley, Holyhead.
 15/09/23 William [redacted] Haverlygo, Anglesey
 Very nice church.
 Beautiful church, lovely people.
 Thankyou. Angela from Bournemouth. X.



Sept 23, 2023
 lovely church. Thanks you
 from New Zealand
 Ellen [redacted]

27th October 2023
 I visit from Gerald on narrow Boat 'Raggy Ann'
 A page for Kishelle and the team looking after
 his medical needs. X

09.25.23
 Nice church - just sat in the inner porch having tea
 after a hike. Shame toilets locked, I needed some
 water. Lol. J.L. [redacted]

25th March 2023 - Hester + Toyler, Cotton - lovely
 church!!
 31st March 2023 - Pam Han. Pauline Sgobos
 Albert [redacted] we came and had a jolly
 look about, not from the area.
 Susan [redacted] but it brightened my day ☺
 [redacted] AH B

23/4/23 A Beautiful Church. Lucie + Mark
 Freckleton

CONTACT DETAILS - APRIL 2024

Role	Name	Contact
Vicar	Rev.Peter Hamborg	vicar@parishbls.co.uk
Church Warden	Jane Longton	janelongton@parishbls.co.uk
Church Warden	Mary Bunting	823242
St Mark's Officer	Margaret Hutchinson	824110
Pastoral Contact	Sue Young	parishblsnews@parishbls.co.uk
Organist	Sandie Barker	sandiebarker@parishbls.co.uk
Treasurer	Andy Hampshire	treasurer@parishbls.co.uk
Giving Secretary	David Bateman	davidbateman@parishbls.co.uk
PCC Secretary	Ann Basham	annbasham@parishbls.co.uk
Bolton le Sands CE Primary School Headteacher	Daniel Hargreaves	head@bolton-le-sands.lancs.sch.uk
Messy Church/2nd Sunday	Jess Squires	parishblsnews@parishbls.co.uk
Altar Serving Contact	In Vacancy	parishblsnews@parishbls.co.uk
Wedding Coordinator	C/o The Vicar	weddings@parishbls.co.uk
Children's Society	Margaret Hutchinson	824110
MU Enrolling Member	Chris Hampshire	chrishampshire@parishbls.co.uk
The Messenger : Editor	David Bateman	davidbateman@parishbls.co.uk
Christenings Coordinator	Kath Brough	christenings@parishbls.co.uk
Coordinator of graveyards and family history research	Rob Daunt	robdaunt@parishbls.co.uk
Communications Team Leader	Andy Williams	parishblsnews@parishbls.co.uk
Safeguarding Contact	Kath Brough	kathbrough@parishbls.co.uk
Parish Administrator	In Vacancy	adminbls@parishbls.co.uk
Christian Outreach	Margaret Foster	margaretfoster@parishbls.co.uk
Parish DBS Co-ordinator	Kathryn Poole	kathrynpoole@parishbls.co.uk