



BE ON YOUR GUARD
STAND FIRM
 IN THE FAITH
 BE COURAGEOUS
BE STRONG
 DO EVERYTHING
 IN LOVE
 1 CORINTHIANS 16:13-14



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CHRIST CHURCH BARNSTON

WITH

ST MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS PENSBY

ANNUAL REPORTS 2025

From the Chairman

The Psalm writers teach us the power of reflection, the recalling of realities past in order to inform and benefit the present. For example, in Psalm 78 Asaph determines to declare the praiseworthy deeds and decrees of the Lord, the things done and said in bygone days, in order that the next generation might know them, and live in the confidence of the same keeping. The reports that comprise this document afford us the opportunity to look back over the activity of 2025, (with the odd reference to more recent events), and to give thanks for, and take heart in, the steadfast keeping of the Lord. In him we live and move and have our being, from his are all things, to him we owe our life together, our growth in faith and service, our flourishing and fruitfulness. As we consider his faithfulness and provision through the past year, so we learn to rest our confidence in his power for present and future days.

As we read and reflect, we also celebrate the 'work produced by faith, labour prompted by love, and endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ' recorded in these reports (1 Thessalonians 1:3). Each represents a generous investment of time, energy and gifting, for which we are most grateful.

The reports themselves detail the activities undertaken, however, driving everything is our great commission, the gospel purpose, namely to grow the body of Christ across the generations; reaching out, drawing together, building up. The motive and desire for every activity is spiritual fruit to the glory of Christ, fruit that lasts. It is not always immediate nor visible, growth may be subtle, internal, gradual, so as you read, I encourage you to pray for fruitfulness, and to keep on serving to the same end, knowing 'our labour in the Lord is not in vain.'

2025 featured significant decisions and many highlights. We are indebted to many who worked tirelessly to accomplish the ambitious programme outlined at the beginning of the year. It is a source of much encouragement that though we remained two full-time posts down, we were able to deliver a full range of ministry. This was down to the commitment and service of us as a body, each part doing its work. I want to thank the tireless efforts of the staff, wardens, treasurer, PCC, 'retired' clergy, readers, leaders, safeguarding officer, hosting teams, pastoral and bereavement teams, younger generations leaders, mission team, buildings and maintenance crew, vergers, techies, musicians, performers, weekly/monthly activity teams and many others, for quietly and diligently achieving what needed to be done for the functioning of our church family life and witness. Particular thanks to Rob (and Shirley) as he steps down from six years of dedicated and winsome service as warden, his support has been constant, his wisdom and care greatly appreciated, Rob has done the everyday things without fuss and with a servant heart, we're indebted to him and pray for the next chapter of his ministry.

Our weekly gatherings are a key aspect of our life of course, we have enjoyed a series on the Lord's Prayer, the gospel from the book of Exodus, reflected on persevering well from the letters to the churches in Revelation, and explored the tenets of our faith as articulated in the Nicene Creed in the 1700th year since the Council of Nicea.



We managed to launch a new initiative in Sunday@7, enjoying the testimonies of those courageously stepping up to be interviewed, it has been such a blessing not only to get to know our members better, but more importantly, to hear the story of God's work in their lives. The highlights keep coming. Who could not help but be moved by our VE Day celebrations? Hot on the heels of a 'Grand Concert,' the production team stepped up once again to deliver two sterling performances to a packed hall, enjoying afternoon tea or chippy supper, by these great endeavours we really saw our gospel community connect with our local community. This was also the case with many of the seasonal opportunities, such as Easter, Pentecost, Holiday Club, Harvest, Advent and Christmas. It was thrilling to see our buildings at capacity as folk were invited in to enjoy events with us, to share hospitality, fellowship and good news,

often over food, our catering teams were phenomenal. Our mission extends beyond the parish to the uttermost parts of the world of course, the team have worked hard to grow our relationships with our partners, we engaged with each of them this year, a visit from the inspirational Joshua and Miriam providing another highlight. We must add our bi-annual parish weekend away to the highlight reel, it proved to be a fantastic time to connect as one church family, to share life, fellowship, laughter and to be built up in faith as we were taught from John 1 by the remarkable Tony Ford, as profound as he was humble in his delivery and example.

2025 also saw the further nurturing of our culture of care, with pastoral training and communication delivered by Joanna, and the progress of our safeguarding policy and practice with Coral and Viv labouring above and beyond to inform, implement, and get our parish safeguarding 'dashboard' as complete as possible, no small undertaking. A further accomplishment was the renovation and decor of the church hall, improving our facilities and creating the wonderful 'reading room' or parish library, as well as a much more functional upper hall, hats off to the Thursday Boys.

Perhaps most significant for the long term development of our life and mission was the careful and courageous decision of the PCC to invest in ministry. Having dedicated resources to improving our facilities over recent years, it is strategic to have secured and filled the Associate Minister post. We look forward to the Hadfield family's arrival, and I urge you to continue to pray for them as they share in our life and mission in the coming years.

Many challenges remain, globally, locally, economically, culturally. However, rather than be daunted, let us take this opportunity to reflect, to remember what the Lord has done amongst us in the recent past, and let us therefore take confidence for the present and future, pressing on in the 'good deeds God has prepared in advance for us to do' (Eph. 2). The commission remains, the God of that mission is able, let us seek him that we might be faithful, and by his grace, even fruitful.

Chris Slater (Vicar)

Churchwarden: Christ Church Barnston

Christ Church Barnston Warden's Report 2026

There's a season for everything and, as my time as warden ends, this is my last report. I'll reflect a little here on our past 6 years at Barnston. There have been so many events and changes, and we've experienced many seasons together, as church family. First, I'm relieved to say that, despite my incompetence in anything practical (and much more), it's a big relief that over this time the church building still stands and, thanks entirely to a lot of help from my friends, and generous legacies from those who have passed into glory, we've undertaken all the work required from the last quinquennial assessment.

Shortly after I took over the reins as warden from Jim Parr (impossible to meet his great standards), our vicar Peter left for an important job in the diocese. Just a coincidence? I hope so! Either way, this led to a vacancy. And so, with the PCC and my co-warden Bob, we had to take over steering the ship, always on the look-out for ice bergs and, supported by the Diocese, started the process of recruiting a new vicar.

Unfortunately, life became more complicated. The Covid pandemic reared its ugly head! However, despite the many problems this threw up, the doors of Christ Church remained open, apart from a small gap mandated by a law that prohibited any assembly. Services, with sermons, readings and music (initially reflective recordings until we could sing again) occurred each week. Our Reader, Jane, was instrumental in this. With the combination of high fuel costs and the need to have all doors open, in winter, we had to dress as it we were on an arctic expedition. Some even brought hot water bottles to stave off the cold. Initially, with social distancing, isolating and a fear of contracting the virus, our congregation numbered less than 7 each week (once only 3). But we managed. Attendance gradually increased, and it was good to see healing from previous concerns, spiritual growth and an increase in commitment and faith experienced by many. Today, more people attend the 10:30am service than before the pandemic, with new families and even children.

During the long vacancy, life continued as well as it could, until thankfully we were able to welcome an excellent new vicar, bringing with him important new gifts of service. It's been great seeing Chris, Immy, Isaac and Ezra settle into life with us here. During this time, we've also had to bid goodbye to our associate minister, Chris Murphy. Now, after a long wait, and thanks to the PCC for agreeing to utilise legacy funding to support the growth in ministry, our new associate vicar, Joe will be licensed at Pensby

very soon. We look forward to Joe, Beth and their children joining us. The wait for Chris and then Joe has been long – but the right people have joined us, at the right time, for these important roles!

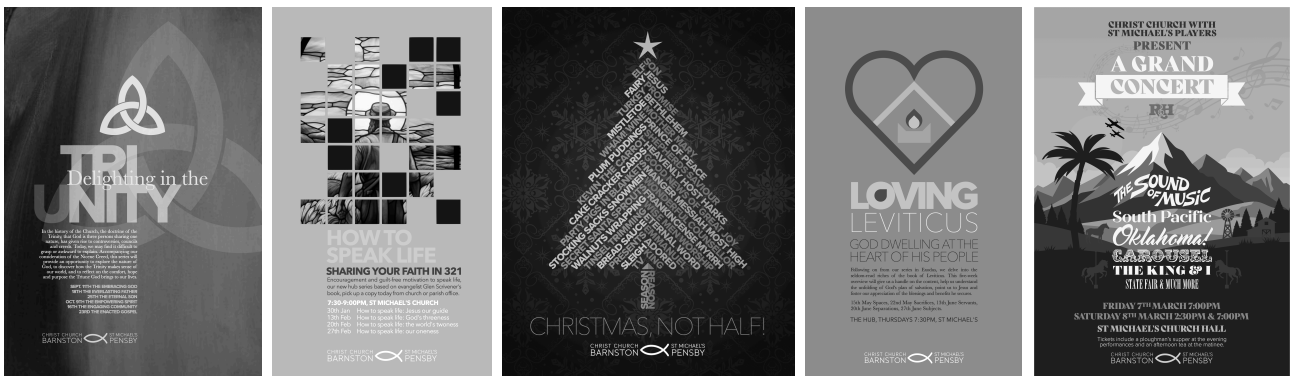
Each year in my report I've named some of the people who have freely given up their time to provide crucial support and ensure that our Church life doesn't stagnate, but instead steadily grows and indeed is fun. It's wonderful to see how so many people have stepped up to the mark and utilised their gifts over the years. I won't name everyone this time! I also don't consider that one role is more important than another – we're all in this together, and all can contribute in our own ways (if you're not, it's a good time to start!).

Thanks to the hard work of clever practical people (including the craftsmen with wooden pallets) our church buildings and grounds don't only look beautiful, but are structurally sound (alright, perhaps not yet the hall, but you can't win them all)! The hard work of the staff team goes beyond their paid hours: administrating and negotiating the painful regulations and bureaucracy required to run the parish, overseeing pastoral care and counselling and cleaning. Often not visible, these are crucial. Our two associate wardens have solidly and faithfully ensured that services run smoothly. It has been a pleasure to work alongside them. Our retired clergy make huge contributions to our church and provided much support to me, not least in bailing me out when I've forgotten to bring the bread for communion!

If things have run smoothly at Barnston over the past few years, it's not been down to me. It's rather because of the incredible support of so many people, freely offering their gifts in service and working so well alongside each other in so many roles. These key people may not be noticed when things run well, as they usually do - but deserve the real thanks. This includes the teams that help lead worship, music, preach, run the audio-visual desk, welcome, look after additional services and meetings as Vergers, undertake prayer ministry, clean the church (and the extensive brasses), provide and arrange lovely flowers, deliver the most fantastic hospitality of any church I've attended and, most importantly, have regularly covered my back when I've messed up and have always watched out for me!

I'll miss being warden but will leave with an excellent warden at St Michael's and a great new warden who will take over here. Finally, although I did say that I wouldn't mention any names. That was not true. I must thank the person who has done more than anyone, in providing hands-on practical support, in standing up for me and in keeping me (at least partially) sane. The spouse of a warden has an especially difficult job. I must especially thank my wife, Shirley.

Robert J. Moots, Warden, Christ Church Barnston



Churchwarden: St Michael and All Angels Pensby

It has been a privilege to serve as Churchwarden of St Michael and All Angels this past year. Throughout the year we have maintained a regular pattern of worship, including our Sunday and Wednesday services, together with services that observe the major festivals. We are grateful to Chris for his leadership, enthusiasm, spiritual guidance and kindness. We also extend grateful thanks to our retired clergy Peter, Andrew and David for their invaluable support in leading our services and providing support to Chris. Equally we appreciate those who give so willingly of their time and energy in leading and preaching, reading, working the technology, leading the intercessions and prayer ministry and our talented musicians. Not forgetting those who prepare and serve refreshments and provide fellowship after the church services.

The increased numbers at the major festivals of the Church's year, particularly Christmas, Easter and Harvest have been a real source of encouragement. At Christmas it was such a delight to see the Church packed out for the School's Carol services and Christingle. Carols round the tree (or rather carols

in the hall due to the inclement weather) was a great success and we thank Alan for his commitment and enthusiasm in leading this, Messy Church and the children's holiday club.

Our parish away weekend provided a perfect opportunity to gather in a different setting for worship, teaching, fellowship and rest. It provided an opportunity to deepen faith, strengthen relationships and reflect together on the life of the church. Our guest speaker Tony was superb. The parish continues to offer pastoral care to those in need, including the sick, housebound and the bereaved. We are thankful to those who support this ministry, both formally and informally.



We continue to comply with the safeguarding policies and procedures of the Church of England. We remain truly grateful to Coral, as she continues with her commitment and determination to ensure that we provide a safe and secure environment for people to share worship and fellowship.

Our church remains engaged with the local community helping to maintain a visible and welcoming Christian presence in the parish. Members of the congregation and the community came together to give thanks and join in the celebrations for VE day with music, afternoon tea and a fish and chip supper. We have just travelled from 'Golden Gate to Empire State' celebrating the diversity of music. It was a pleasure to welcome so many of our local community who thoroughly enjoyed the hospitality and entertainment.

Although I bear the responsibility for the care of the church building – I would be completely lost without the wise counsel and unerring support of Bob Fiddaman who continues to advise on all things building related. I am also grateful for the support of the 'Thursday Boys' for their good natured help and assistance. Thanks, as ever to John Garner who continues to maintain the gardens and church grounds and to Teresa whose flower arrangements help beautify the church. This year we were able to replace the main door into the church following a bestowal from Norman Cannon. The door will serve as a fitting legacy to Norman and all he meant to St Michaels.

As verger, Aud continues to ensure that both our regular and funeral services are conducted meticulously. Thanks go to Becky who continues to clean the church and hall, always with a smile on her face. Thanks once again to our parish administrator Ce who provides great support and encouragement which is very much appreciated. Bill Mankin has continued to develop the Tuesday Hub into a friendly and warm environment where all are welcomed and enjoy hospitality.

As I write this we await two significant events with great anticipation. The first is Easter, one of the highlights of our church year with its breadth of services, celebrating hope and new life together with extended opportunities for fellowship and hospitality. The second is the long awaited arrival of our new Associate Minister Joe, who with his wife Beth and children Lydia, Emily, Tilly (and Teddy the dog) will receive the warmest of welcomes from their new church family.

While there are ongoing challenges, we look forward with hope to the opportunities ahead to grow in faith, deepen our discipleship and serve our community. I thank the PCC members for their support during the year and am grateful to all the volunteers who contribute to the life of the church in so many ways. And finally, to you, the congregation for your faithful support, kindness and generosity. I pray that God will continue to guide and strengthen us in our life together as a parish.

Viv Francis, Warden, St Michael's Pensby

Fabric Report: Christ Church

Stonework and Water-goods

The snagging work (rectification of faults) to the stonework was completed earlier this year, however, damp patches appeared on the inside of the stonework at the east end below the stain glass windows

on closer examination it was found cracks had appeared also part of the stonework had broken away allowing rainwater to pool on the outside. The contractor agreed to carry out repairs to the damaged areas, which were not part of the original contract, free of charge. These repairs are being monitored and may require further investigation and repairs. As part of the snagging work discussions, we were able to negotiate a payment in respect of the repairs to the Church porch roof which had been damaged when scaffolding had been erected on the bell tower. Note: It is possible that the removal of the polycarbonate sheeting has exposed the east end windows more to the adverse weather conditions which has caused the damp patches.

Security Window Grilles

The fitting of the window grilles was completed by mid-2025 and has improved the light through the stain glass windows into the Church while at the same time enhancing the outside appearance of the Church.

Faculty Application – Memorial Garden and Electrical Sockets

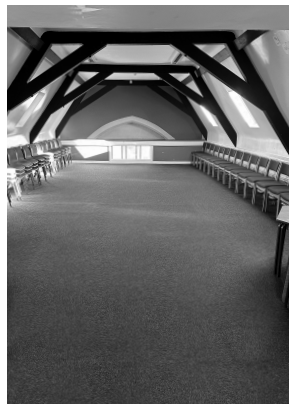
As previously reported the faculty application was successful and the installation of the electrical sockets has been completed, however, it was not possible to commence the work on the memorial garden. On further consideration, as the need for an additional memorial garden is not paramount at present, on cost grounds it has been decided to delay the project to a future date in the hope that funding will become available.

Church Porch Entrance Roof

While repairs to the roof were carried out, the condition of the roof continues to be monitored, quotes have been obtained for replacing the roof possibly within the next 12 months the anticipated costs being in the region of £10,000.

Church Hall and Grounds

Extensive decoration/repair work has been undertaken throughout the hall by the Thursday men's group which has significantly improved the appearance inside the hall. The team have also spent the year carrying out maintenance work both on the hall and the outside grounds of the Church area. Their efforts are greatly appreciated.



Fabric Report: St. Michael and All Angels

Church Hall Roof

During the past twelve months three leaks have occurred in the roof which have been repaired at relatively low cost, however, with the latest leak it was agreed to carry out repairs in the knowledge that it may be necessary to undertake more comprehensive repairs in the future.

Church Boiler Room

The damp in the boiler room still appears during heavy rainfall, the work in modifying the guttering water flow and ensuring the gullies are clear have improved the situation, however, it is probable that it will be necessary to carry out further investigations to determine if it is necessary to carry out work renewing the damp course.

Hall and Foyer Lighting

Several lamps have failed in both the hall and foyer areas, a major problem being experienced at present is that the lighting systems were installed 18 years ago when the hall was built, and as lighting technology has moved on difficulties have been experienced in obtaining units and lamps to replace the failed lights. Quotes / proposals are being sought to provide a cost-effective solution to repair the failed units.

Church Grounds

Appreciation and thanks are extended to John Burgess and John Garner for their work maintaining the grounds at St Michael's.

Quinquennial Inspection

It is a requirement of the Diocese that both Churches are inspected by an approved architect every five years, the last inspection being 2021. The architect is required to produce a report regarding the condition of both Churches and details work that is required to be undertaken and the recommended time frame for the work to be completed. An example of items that may be highlighted in the report is the Stonework and rainwater goods which has been completed at a cost of more than £100,000. While most of the recommended work from the last inspection has been completed, it is highly probable we will be faced with new items that will require attention, some immediately. It is recommended that a budget for work identified is produced. The reports do not include day to day maintenance work required such as storm damage.

Robert Fiddaman Buildings Committee

PCC Report

The PCC met six times and the standing committee met six times. Each PCC meeting opens with Bible study and prayer to help focus our discussions and deliberations for the parish.

Both churches are represented and members are responsible to consult together with the incumbent on matters of general concern and importance to the parish, cooperating to promote the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. As trustees, the PCC is responsible, with the Vicar, for how monies are used and accounted for, to maintain and repair all church buildings, as well to comply with church and state legislation, health and safety, safeguarding, etc. All PCC members are required to have a DBS and complete the basic and foundation safeguarding training modules.

The unapproved minutes are made available following each PCC meeting. Items discussed included the spiritual growth of the church, outreach opportunities and the feedback from the parish weekend away. We have welcomed four new members to the PCC. We have continued to review the situation regarding the Associate Minister post and look forward to welcoming Joe Hadfield and his family to the parish. We explored the financial situation and the future which has included agreeing a five year budget. Building works and maintenance were carried out to both churches, halls, and the Vicarage. The Mission Committee feedback on meetings and update on our mission partners.

There are currently two representatives on Deanery Synod.

Alex Brassey, PCC Secretary

Safeguarding Report

It is very pleasing that so many of our congregation have completed the recommended CofE Safeguarding online courses, showing that there is a growing awareness of the needs of all. If you are able, and willing to undertake either the Basic Course, alone or the Basic and the Foundation Course (which goes into greater depth) training, follow the link below, and don't forget to let me know you have completed the course, so that I can update the database. <https://safeguardingtraining.cofeportal.org/>

Coral Greenwood, Parish Safeguarding Officer, 07710851201. Email: coralgreenwood@hotmail.com

Wirral North Deanery Synod Report 2025/26

The Synod has met twice with the Rural Dean Rev David Vestergaard, Vicar of St Andrew's Bebington leading.

Synod met in June at St Hildeburgh Church Hoylake the topic discussed was 'Disability and the Church' led by Rev. John Naude from St Peters, Rock Ferry and Rev. Emma Speake from Runcorn. Rev. John leads his ministry from a wheelchair and spoke about the disabled being treated in a negative way, noting that 15% of the population are disabled in some way – many with unseen disabilities. Rev. Emma (Diocesan Disability Advisor), spoke of her neurodivergent issues, autism and ADHD and how this affects her ministry. Rev. Emma explained how difficult it was for neurodivergent people, especially children, when engaging with them in church settings – noise, light and touch being especially problematic.

Synod's second meeting was in October at St Bridget's West Kirby, the topic was 'The Quiet Revival'. Rev. Peter Froggatt (Diocesan Director of Outreach) presented encouraging figures from a survey commissioned by the Bible Society and conducted by YouGov. Rev. Peter noted Church attendance

has increased by 50%, among Generation Z and young families, with an openness to the Good News of Jesus amongst young people, especially young men. However, most growth was identified in the Roman Catholic Church and Pentecostal Churches, with an increase in Bible reading and a deeper spiritual search among young people. Most 18–35-year-olds interviewed, reported being satisfied with a better life through going to church and feeling closer to local people. The survey recorded: 1 in 3 people would go to church if invited. 1 in 4 people would read the bible. 2 in 3 people would appreciate prayer. Deanery Representatives are Lois Millington and David Reed.

David Reed

Pastoral Co-ordinator

It is great to see many members of the church family, men and women, making use of and benefiting from one-to-one biblical counselling. Some come to discuss issues of concern or areas that they are struggling with, others come for prayer or simply to give thanks. Many will bear testimony to the fact that whatever we are going through, the Lord is always at work and relevant and He delights to bring His comfort and hope into those areas of our lives which we find difficult.

Meetings can be one-off or longer term, often up to 6 weeks before a reassessment, and each meeting generally lasts about an hour. Topics involved can be complex. Discussions are confidential unless of course there is a risk of harm to the person themselves or others.

I am supported by a mentor and am part of wider counselling ministry support group led by a consultant psychiatrist who also works part-time providing biblical counselling.

Wider ministry support is also available for our church through groups such as the Northern Women's Convention. A number from Barnston and Pensby attended the Convention in the autumn and the focus was how to navigate life in all its complexity without anxiety. The wisdom of Ecclesiastes reminded us that there is an eternal hope which allows us to stand firm whether our lives are going well or during the tough seasons we all experience at times.

The Pastoral team meet regularly for on-going training and have been doing so for 2 years. It is a joy and privilege to produce materials and resources for our equipping and we continue to grow in this together. The team have just completed the Pastoral Care course, part of the Crosslands Foundation, which, among other things includes practical care, safeguarding issues, confidentiality, listening well and speaking well, how to effectively bring the bible into discussion and how to speak God's truth and hope into people's lives.

We are now a team of fifteen and each member of the pastoral team has a unique gift and skill to contribute. There have been a handful of opportunities to talk about the way the pastoral team works with the wider church. Prayer, clear communication and clear expectation of roles/boundaries is essential in any effective pastoral team. The church needs to be aware of what the pastoral team does and how they can access the team. There are many ways to access support, all explained in our new Pastoral leaflet. Do take a look! We, as a pastoral team, value and need the prayers and support of the church family to serve effectively and faithfully and we are grateful to God for your ongoing partnership and prayers in this vital ministry.

Joanna Hill

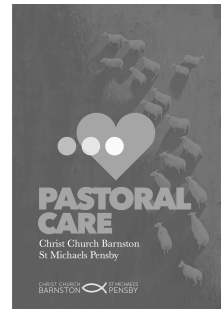
Younger Generations

Christ Church Sunday Morning Children's Groups

Our children's group, of over 3's, meet in our church hall each Sunday morning, after a short time in church with the rest of the church family. We have five leaders on a rota system, plus a volunteer each week to be our extra adult.

We use a variety of material, our main sources being 'Faith in kids' and 'Mustard Seeds', which are specifically designed for our age group. This helps the children to learn about Jesus in a fun and engaging way, using simple biblical teaching, craft and games, all of which help the children gain an understanding of the wonderful gift of Jesus in their lives. As leaders we continue to pray for each child in our group, that they may know Jesus in a personal way.

Judy Hughes





St Michael's Sunday Morning Children's Groups

The Sunday Club team has gone through a season of change since last summer, following the loss of four teachers due to relocations and other commitments. However, God has faithfully provided, filling the gap with the addition of Hilina Bell, Rob Bell, and Steve Bibby to the team. More recently, there was a minor hiccup with Alan Johnson receiving a new knee, but no that didn't stop him, he was back after just three weeks off!

We currently have a team of eight teachers, and with newer additions to the team have come fresh ideas. We now do children's worship at the start of Sunday Club, where the children sing and play instruments together before heading into their lesson.

Attendance varies from week to week, typically ranging between 7 and 20 children. Regardless of the numbers, the passion and commitment to sharing the gospel remain strong and we all love to see the children learn and develop in their faith!

Lorna Galea

Sunday Club

St Michael's Sunday Club 2025 – a fascinating mixture and a venue for some solid Bible teaching. As ever, all hinges on a brilliant team of teachers and helpers, plus it has been good to see some new children coming. Adults and children following the same Sunday teaching programme continues to work well; but results in the more routine children's fare such as The Lord's Prayer, The Exodus, Advent and John's Gospel being mixed with less usual subjects including the Nicene Creed and the first 5 chapters of Revelation. The teachers were challenged but the children have managed very well. Looking back, a very successful year; looking forward, it will be great to have Joe with us!

Alan Johnston

Focus

Focus is the gathering of our secondary school-aged youth, currently served by a team comprising Alex Brasse, Matt Fairhead, Imogen Slater and the Vicar. The purpose is to encourage discipleship and participation in the wider life of the church family. Meetings take place on Sunday evenings, previously in homes, latterly, in part due to growth, meeting in the church hall, using the reading room for studies before branching into the hall for activities. Though a relatively small group, we have been boosted by new arrivals and enjoyed a varied programme throughout 2025, sometimes following the sermon series, other times engaging in series more tailored to the age group, such as 'searching questions' and hearing the challenge of Jesus' parables.

Please pray for our young people, for the nurture of their faith, their active participation in the life of the church family, and especially for their sustaining as they navigate a difficult and at times hostile culture. Pray too for more young people to be added to our number, even through their courageous witness.

Chris Slater

Little Tugs

Little Tugs remains to be very popular with our numbers ever increasing, our maximum is 40 and on average we have 36 children most weeks enjoying playing, participating in the one of many craft activities, singing, playing on instruments and listening to stories. At the moment we are thinking about Easter and our Easter story focuses on how as Christians we celebrate Easter along with our craft activities.

Many of our families come along feeling part of a family, enjoying the family environment where we are also able to help in supporting families going through challenging and difficult times, with prayer being offered and accepted. We have also had some families coming to church.

It is a privilege to lead the Little Tugs group along with the whole team who we couldn't do without so a big thank you for all who help.

Wendy Rowlands



Schools

Our relationship with our local primary schools continued throughout 2025, with invitations to take regular assemblies in both Thingwall and Barnston Primary. These are generally based on times and seasons or school values. We were privileged to host both Thingwall and Pensby Primary's Christmas productions and to share little of the reason for the season. We look forward to seeing these local relationships fostered further with the arrival of Rev. Joe, part of his remit will be to help us serve the younger generations in our parish.

Chris Slater

Holiday Club

Holiday Club 2025 was entitled Sparks and Stories. Each day we gathered around a real camp fire to hear stories about Jesus or stories told by Jesus. A couple of weeks before Club started, the planning got very exciting; we realised that we had too many children for our normal 5 teams. After urgent recruiting and some frantic reorganisation we welcomed in the brand new Orange Team. Each morning we all met the daily challenge of craft activities, escape rooms, making our morning snacks, sporty games, new songs to learn, badges to be earned, ably assisted by the wisdom? of Bessie and Ted (Could Ted really get it so wrong day after day? Answer, "Yes he could!"); and behind it all, a growing understanding of who Jesus is, our Super Saviour!

An important element of our church's, "Let the little children come to Me" ministry – now recruiting for Holiday Club 2026. Plus, it will be great to have Joe with us this year!

Alan Johnston

Messy Church 2025

A meeting for Junior School children with their parents, one Tuesday a month, at St Michael's Church, meeting at 3.30pm to start at 3.50pm, drama, Bible teaching then activities that help to explain the Bible passage, finishing with a family meal together at 5.00pm-5.30pm – and it's all free.

It may not be the prettiest of modern expressions, but doing Messy Church is a perfect example of what "no-brainer" means. The heavy lifting is done by the talented people at BRF who publish the monthly material. We take it and modify to suit our facilities, families and team. Despite his holidaying and medical problems, Cheeky Monkey has still managed to make his bumbling launch to each month's subject. So we have had encounters with the Holy Spirit, Jeremiah, Ruth, King David on the run; touched on matters such as compassion, peace, perseverance, love and integrity.

Many crafts have been crafted, food cooked, meals eaten, songs sung, prayers prayed; it may look messy but it is a powerful expression of Church.

Alan Johnston

Mission Committee Report

This year has been a busy and productive year for our Mission Partners support. I'd like to begin by thanking, The Mission Committee: Anita Bruffell, Eric Huggett, Jane McCallum, Cecelia Oliver and Rev Chris Slater, for all their hard work on behalf of our Mission Partners and for you, as their supporters.

In July we hosted a Wirral CAP BBQ for their clients, in the Vicarage garden. Eric Huggett our new CAP Wirral Mission Partner Representative led us in this event. Big thanks to everyone who helped us to make this possible, it is so appreciated by the CAP clients and wonderful to hear their testimonies about being debt free. The event includes the opportunity to share the reason for our hope.

July also saw the return to the UK of John, Zoe, Sadie and Amber Putman. We welcomed John and Zoe to the Sunday@7 meeting. It was great to catch up with them and hear more about their work with AIM at the Rift Valley Academy in our services.

September saw us welcome Joshua and Miriam Mbithi, we heard news of their work at Neema's Childrens' Home and School at various events, which proved a great time of blessing. Our thanks go to Jane McCallum for all her hard work in organising their itinerary. As a result of their visit a project was initiated to raise funds for three new classrooms to be built at the school.

For our October church weekend away at Yarnfield, the Mission Committee produced booklets with up to date information concerning our Mission Partners. We heard from Dave Casson who was leading our children's programme. He was interviewed by Cecelia Oliver and we watched a video about his work at The Barn in Rock Ferry. Anita Bruffell had received a video from Jane and Sena Ounate Lare and we were able see where they are living and working in Caen, France. We have been invited to send a small group to visit them and be a part of their mission whilst there.

At the beginning of each month we continue focus on one of our Mission Partners in our services, as well as continuing to pray for our partners in rotation, every Sunday. Thank you for your prayers, they are essential and underpin and enable everything they are able to do, for the Lord. Each partner is living out their calling from God and it is exciting to be in gospel partnerships with them, and to see God at work.

If you would like more information on how you can support our Mission Partners, do speak to one of us on the Mission Committee.

Lois Millington - Chair of the Mission Committee

The Hub and Central Prayer Meeting

The Psalmist reminds us, 'Unless the Lord builds the house, the builders labour in vain' (Ps. 127:1). Likewise we've been considering recently the necessity of the Spirit's work to open hearts to receive the word (Acts 16:14). The central prayer meeting, taking place the first Thursday of the month, 7:30pm at St Michael's, offers an important opportunity to ask of our generous Father, who is always ready to hear and who calls us to pray for the progress of the kingdom. Our prayer gatherings have been welcome times as we've met to pray through a range of matters local and global. Please consider supporting this important privilege and foundation to church life, there's no pressure to pray aloud, however, your presence with us and the sound of your 'Amen' will be a great encouragement.

The Hub is our midweek opportunity to explore matters of discipleship. These interactive and informal times have been a real joy to be a part of, and offer the opportunity to ask questions, discuss and engage in a supportive environment. In the period that concerns this report we have undertaken the partner course to 321, God the world and you, with a particular focus on learning how to share our faith. In the summer term we bravely ventured into a series on Leviticus, and were encouraged to see how this less familiar book pointed us to the gospel, after which we considered 'redeeming joy,' a video series helping us locate our joy in the realities of who Jesus is. Finally, accompanying the sermons on the Creed we delved into the doctrine of the Trinity before a shorter series on parenting.

These have been fruitful times, as well as learning together, the fellowship is really valuable. Whilst the longer term vision is to develop Gospel Communities, we still intend to do Hub series through Advent and Lent, I commend this opportunity, do consider joining us, details are advertised in the weekly notices.

Chris Slater

Bereavement Ministry

It is an interesting experience visiting for the first time a family who have had a bereavement. People's circumstances vary – some have a family, but others do not. Sensitivity, empathy and compassion are

vital. The three stages are: planning the funeral service, conducting the funeral, and following up. Some people will accept the support of the church, such as the Fellowship Lunch and the annual Memorial Service. Some will actually start coming to church regularly, feeling at home with us; but others we may never see again. The option of a quiet cremation is chosen more than it used to be, even unattended sometimes. But a church Thanksgiving Service provides the opportunity to celebrate the life of a loved one, and hear the message of the Gospel, God's comfort, and the hope that can be ours through faith in Christ. Our team of celebrants put a lot of thought and prayer into conducting a funeral. Our pastoral bereavement team meet regularly to pray for the bereaved, and consider follow up. This past year we have conducted 29 funerals, and it is a joy to see those who now regularly attend the family service. Comments have been made that we are a caring church. It is a valued reputation, that glorifies our Lord and Saviour.

David Williams

Barnston Fellowship Lunch

Fellowship lunch continues on the second Tuesday of the month (not August) in Barnston church hall. A stalwart team cooks and provides a two course lunch with chocolates and tea or coffee, and it is pleasing to note that our numbers have increased. Although primarily set up for those affected by bereavement, we welcome those who look forward to a sociable time spent amongst friends.

Judy Hughes and Coral Greenwood

Carers Get Together

This adult Carers Support Group is affiliated to Christ Church and St. Michael's, and is in its 17th year. On average 25 carers meet monthly and share mutual support and friendship whilst enjoying a delicious cooked meal and afterwards an informative talk or entertainment. Half are now former carers but have made friends and live alone. The age range is from 55yrs - 90yrs with a growing number of men coming. Last August we had an enjoyable 2 hour Cruise on the River Dee and in December we took 20 carers to the Floral Pavilion Pantomime. We are blessed with a committed team of caring volunteers, who make sure our carers can relax and enjoy themselves. We thank our Church and its family for their generous support and hope you will be able to come to our only fundraising event, our Coffee Morning on 11th April.

Carol Jordan

Events Team Report

Over the last year the team, consisting of, Viv Francis, Coral Greenwood, Shirley Moots, Sue Jarvis, Pauline Parr, Alison Golightly and Jackie Fiddaman heroically support by their other halves catered for many of our church events. We began our year with the fun filled Advent quiz which is very quickly followed by Epiphany. The planning then started for Maundy Thursday and Pentecost. Before we knew it summer had arrived and the parish BBQ was upon us. Along with the Pentecost service this is always very weather dependent but with a willing team of construction workers (to erect gazebos etc) it is very successful. Moving swiftly on, and it does, we were looking ahead to Harvest supper and there we were back at the Advent quiz.

Also this year we supported the Mission committee who organised a BBQ for CAP which again was a fun event and very worthwhile so we are happy to help again in anyway we can. A "one off" this year was a quiz to raise funds for the Cambodian charity that our lovely Alison and Alan Golightly are heavily involved in and our thanks go to everyone who supported this and made it such a success.

Over the last couple of years we have been asked on a few occasions to help at the funeral of Church Family members and while these are sad occasions it is heartwarming to see how our church family pulls together at these times.

Thanks must go to anyone who has mucked in to help wait on, clear tables, load dish washers, wash tablecloths etc it is appreciated even if we don't have time to say so on the night. We look forward to another busy year.

Jackie Fiddaman

Breakfasts

Men's Breakfast

Thanks to a dedicated team of helpers, we provide a full English and a full thought provoking Christian talk – a potent combination, particularly as there is the opportunity for fellowship.

We have two aims: one is to build up and inspire existing believers, the other is to present the gospel in ways in which men can readily identify. Regular attenders are encouraged to bring a friend neighbour/relative.

We meet every 2 months on the third Saturday at 8.45 for a 9:00am cooked breakfast, and have been fortunate enough to have excellent speakers over the past year resulting in average attendances of 40. When Bill Bygroves (the Liverpool FC chaplain) spoke, we had 56 attendees. We seem to have had a preponderance of football related speakers, as we've also had as speakers Henry Corbett, the Everton chaplain, and Peter Lupson – author of the book Thank God For Football.

We've also spread our wings and visited the local Balti restaurant a couple of times.

Bob Jarvis and Graham Hill.



Women's Breakfast

As part of our ongoing commitment to outreach, we have increased the frequency of our women's breakfast to four times a year. This has proved very fruitful – with a consistently high and increasing turnout. Indeed, our last meeting attracted more than eighty ladies.

We are greatly encouraged to see that more people from outside of our church are coming, as ladies invite their friends and family. We have been blessed to have varied and interesting speakers and are immensely grateful to Chris Smith, Dr Hannah Richards, Jo Mote and Sarah Cannan for their willingness to share their journey of faith. All have been great witnesses to Jesus in their lives and a source of much inspiration.

I am so thankful to the wonderful team behind the breakfast, who all contribute to make these mornings so special: identifying speakers, designing verse cards, flower arranging, cooking and serving delicious food, and providing such a warm and welcoming environment. They all play a crucial part and serve with a lovely generosity of spirit.

Our next breakfast is on the 25th April, when we will welcome Stella Jones. Do come along and bring a friend, you are most welcome.

Shirley Moots

Thursday Boys

The Thursday Boys meet on Thursday mornings. The team (numbering from 3 members to 6 on any particular Thursday) meet in all weathers at Christ Church, Barnston at around 9 am. This last year has been an especially busy one Christ Church and its buildings and grounds necessitate a great deal of time and effort to keep everything looking nice and functioning as it should. Routine activities are and this is by no means an exhaustive list include: grass cutting, brushing up, leaf collecting, flower bed and border maintenance, weed control, gutter cleaning and repair. From time to time a major project crops up requiring more detailed thought, ingenuity, skills and more time commitment. In recent weeks they have been decorating the upper room in the church hall at Christ Church and have decorated rooms at St Michaels. They have fully decorated the house and tidied the garden in Anton's Road where Joe, our new Associate Minister, has moved into with Beth and their family.

This regular meet up of The Thursday Boys has far-reaching benefits on many fronts: mental, emotional, physical, environmental, spiritual, recreational and social. There is always something on the horizon to be involved with whether it is activities mentioned above or jobs like putting up the Crosses at both churches, assisting scene setting for church productions, making and selling wooden Christmas trees made out of pallet wood, putting up Christmas trees at both churches complete with lights and a job for later this year, the provision of a new memorial garden at Christ Church. This job has rolled over since

last year. The team enjoy morning coffee/tea and biscuits breaks and a hearty snack lunch usually of savoury and cake. They also have a Christmas lunch together. If you have a bit of spare time the invitation is there for anyone, boy or girl, to join The Thursday Boys, at Christ Church or help form a group at St Michaels and be able to take pride in the efforts to keep the churches, buildings and grounds tidy and inviting. No job or task does itself and fairies and elves do not pop in from time to time to do the work.

It gives The Thursday Boys no greater joy than receiving compliments about the efforts they have put in and the camaraderie and friendship that evolves from the time spent together is second to none.

Geoff B, Jim, Bill, Geoff F, Andrew and Phil K - The Thursday Boys

Mothers' Union Report

We are celebrating the 150th anniversary of MU this year and hope to have an Exhibition in church in July. We are also having a celebration in Chester cathedral. We continue with our fund raising for MU charities. We have 30 members and would welcome any new members. We meet on the second Wednesday of the month at 2.15pm in the church hall.

Teresa Burgess: Secretary/Treasurer

Christ Church with St. Michael's Players

The first weekend in March saw three performances of "Golden Gate to Empire State", a musical journey across America, performed by a cast of 55, age range from 6-93! The audiences seemed to enjoy themselves, and huge thanks are due to all who contributed in anyway, especially those behind the scenes, on lighting, sound, scenery (thank you Geoff Bell, and the Thursday Boys!), in the kitchen, and Paul Tolley, Music Maestro, whose band added so much to the overall success of the production.

Coral Greenwood

Choir Report

Once again we were very happy to lead the worship at our 'Carols by Candlelight' on the Sunday before Christmas, with singers from Christ Church and St. Michael's. Paul Tolley helped and accompanied us for our rehearsals, Dianne O'Hara, a new church member expertly accompanied us for the last rehearsal and the services along with our flautists, Helen Ellis and Lizzie Moots.

Both afternoon and evening services were well attended, the church was full and it was lovely to see lots of new faces. The candlelight created a beautiful atmosphere and the whole service was meaningful, reflective and led us gently into our Christmas worship.

Many thanks to Rev Chris for leading and to all who prepared refreshments and decorated the church so beautifully and of course to our singers and players; better than ever I think! My personal thanks to Debs Fairhead for helping with planning and rehearsing and Cecelia and Dave Burden for organising the music files.

Hilary Bird

Barnston Sewing Group

Another busy year for the Wednesday sewing group. We are a lively group! We enjoy fellowship and give support to each other when needed. This year among other projects we have sewn gift bags for the Shoe Box Appeal and Tote bags for St John's Hospice. We held our winter coffee morning in November. We raised over £600 which was donated equally to Clatterbridge Cancer Centre Wirral and British Heart Foundation. We are very grateful to everyone who supported the morning.

Unfortunately with eighteen members we are now at full capacity and have had to close our waiting list. We are looking forward to another busy and creative year. We thank God for the skills and talents he has given to each and every one of us.

Pauline Parr and Sue Davies

Pensby Knitting and Crochet Group

We meet most Friday mornings 10am-12noon in the foyer of St Michael's church centre, where we enjoy a time of fellowship, working on various projects that include items for the 'shoebox' appeal, 'knit for peace,' mothers union and carers' coffee morning.

In October we held a coffee morning in support of the transport costs for the Shoebox appeal. We enjoy refreshments thanks to Coffee and Company, and we welcome anyone who is interested in learning a new craft or have their own projects to work on.

Pam Conway and Sheila Siddorn

Pensby Flower Guild

We still need more helpers for festivals. We are now plastics free and do not use oasis in our arrangements. There are still dates for donating flowers for anniversaries, etc. there is a folder in the foyer to sign up.

Teresa Burgess

THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING OF
CHRIST CHURCH BARNSTON
WITH
ST MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS PENSBY

Sunday 19th April, 10:30am
St Michael's Church, Pensby

A G E N D A

Vestry Meeting

Election of Churchwardens

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Apologies

Minutes of last meeting and matters arising

Electoral Roll Report

Presentation of Parish Annual Reports

Vicar's Report

Financial statement

Adoption of audited accounts

Fabric Report

Deanery Synod Report

Elections to Deanery Synod and PCC

Appointment of Independent Examiner

Questions

Closing prayer.