

Parish Safeguarding Officer's Report

Another positive year of highlighting the importance of ensuring all sections of our church community are safeguarded.

Over the year I have attended Chester East and Chester Dioceses PSO Parish Safeguarding Officers quarterly meetings. Through these meetings, opportunity was given to develop and discuss the challenges faced by PSO's. This has allowed me to forge contacts with local PSO's to gain advice and support.

CPD – Safeguarding training

I'm pleased to report that all members who are required to complete the relevant safeguarding training are up to date.

Personal thanks go to Claire Ratcliffe (Chester Diocese Safeguarding Officer) who delivered our Foundation course here in September for us. This was attended by six members of St Paul's and one from St Anne's, Sale.

'Speak Out Stay Safe' – Victims and Survivors

This programme was rolled out by Chester Dioceses back in September. New policies, guidance and resources are now available both around the church and church hall.

Linking with this we held our annual Safeguarding Sunday in November which allowed the message to be delivered between both congregation and Wiggle Sunday School group.

'Big Summer' Safeguarding audit

This was completed in July with the result been posed on the Chester Diocese website.

Parish Safeguarding Dashboard

This is an on-line tool to support both PSO and incumbents to update all safeguarding policies, training, DBS and reports. This continues to be a work in progress with the PCC as a collective to take ownership alongside the PSO and Ministry Team to address any gaps to be completed.

Finally, I would like to thank everyone who has guided and supported me as St Paul's Parish Safeguarding Officer. I look forward to continuing and developing my role whilst working alongside everyone to safeguard our church and community.

Fiona Vaughan-Thomas
Parish Safeguarding Officer
March 2026

Church Website

The hosting and updating of the Church website continues to be via WordPress and the Annual subscription is paid for by the Trustees. The next renewal date is November 2027.

The Domain name (stpaulsale.co.uk) is registered with easily.co.uk and is renewable every two years and is next due for renewal in October 2026.

Any person or organisation wishing to add content to the website are welcome to send photos, posters and any other relevant information to rhadwen@mac.com.

Rodney Hadwen

Pastoral Worker Report (Yvonne Kerridge) – 2025

This year the main focus of my ministry has been visiting church members who are no longer able to worship regularly at church, majority with home Communion, I've also been involved with bereavement ministry. I've been trained to listen, to be accepting, patient and to keep confidences, to be sensitive to another's pain or loneliness and to offer words of hope and encouragement. This year I've completed the Leadership Safeguarding training which is compulsory for all clergy and licensed lay ministers.

On a practical note, I've been able to open the church on some Sunday mornings and set up ready for divine service. I've led some Stations of the Cross reflections in addition to co-leading at Sunday morning services.

In addition to assisting clergy in their ministry, my ministry is about presence and attentiveness and developing relationships within a spiritual context. I see my role as a 'being' ministry, 'being' alongside others through both the joys and sorrows of life, 'being' supportive in whatever way presents itself and 'being in a prayerful or spiritual sense.

Yours in Christ
Yvonne Kerridge

Pastoral Worker Report (Karen Salisbury)

2025 continued to see me working from home and not being able to return to the depot which was frustrating. February I helped lead our annual ATC Sunday service at St George's Stockport - it was impressive to see the Cadets and their Officers almost fill the church - and trust me it is a very big space to fill! After the Service the Cadets paraded through Stockport with the salute being taken by the Lord Lieutenant of Greater Manchester Mrs Diane Hawkins and our Officer Commanding of the Greater Manchester Wing Jo Stratton.

July finally saw my having the surgery that I needed which although went well recovery hasn't totally gone according to plan but I am sure that over time the issues will be resolved.

September saw the annual Trafford Council's Battle of Britain Sunday service taking place outside the Town Hall and the Cenotaph and we were very delighted to be joined by Bishop Sam. The parade setting off from St Paul's with Bishop Sam joining them (I had already headed off to the Town Hall knowing that I would have held everyone up had I tried to walk with them!) Once again the Cadets on parade were impressive and built a Drum-Head Altar with great solemnity and you could see their faces and whole being showing the care they took with this and no words of command being issued. I also attended a Wing Senior Leadership Staff weekend at RAF Shawbury which by the end of the weekend provided to be learning curve on how to safely get in and out of one of the Wing minibuses! Conversations with the other members of the team made this such a worthwhile weekend.

Once again I was able to attend the Chaplains Transition Course at Beckett House on RAF Shrivenham as part of the team delivering the course - this was a bit scary as the course was being inspected throughout. This was unexpected but the inspection highlighted the great need for Chaplains for the organisation and what a privilege it is to be a part of such a diverse group providing pastoral support for the young people, staff and other volunteers. Managed to make it back to join the Cadets at the Festival of Remembrance at Manchester Airport and our Wing Band were on top form providing some of the music and displays at this along with 145 Altrincham & Hale Squadron and their drill demonstrations set to music and without any voiced commands throughout.

It is a great privilege to be Chaplain to the Wing and watching Cadets grow and mature into such amazing and inspiring young people. When I am able to visit squadrons to carry out enrolments or just have a drop in visit the conversations I have with the Cadets show their care for each other, their faith which they are not ashamed at sharing with me and other staff. I often come away from a visit reflecting on their faith and God's love for them and their comments that are so often thought-provoking and challenging.

I often reflect on what I started out doing as a Pastoral Worker only to find myself in this role and the direction that God has pushed me into with this - sometimes very reluctantly I have to admit - it continues to be inspiring in ways I never imagined possible.

The Parish News seems to come round some months at what feels like a supersonic speed (to match my favourite aircraft) but pulling the articles and contributions together after reading through the vast amount of information that the Parish Pump produces each month is one of my regular and looked forward to times of prayer and guidance as to what to choose for our parish. It never fails to bring a smile to my face when I see that they are re-running one of the St James The Least stories which we covered some time ago now and further back still St Petrified's - and if you liked those try Revd Canon Tom Kennar and his stories from St Faithful's, Havnot on Facebook or his books about this wonderfully quirky yet somehow very normal parish.

On a slightly more positive note I am now able to get into the depot a little more which has been a great relief as I actually enjoy my paid employment and my colleagues there and am trying to get back into church life a little more than has been possible for the last 18 months or so. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for all your continued prayers and support.

Yours in Christ
Karen

Music Report

The Music Team have continued to support a variety of initiatives over the past year. As always we have provided live music at all liturgies: Eucharists, Evening Prayer and special seasonal services. We have a small, faithful choir at morning worship which has been augmented by loyal friends for special occasions. On Easter Sunday we were joined by members of St Mary's Gospel choir and performed the spiritual The Angel rolled the Stone Away which was enjoyed by both singers and congregation. A few weeks later some of the Meadway Singers helped to lead the service commemorating the 80th Anniversary of VE Day. The whole church community has learnt some new songs at the All Age Worship on the second Sunday of the month.

As usual, Springfield Primary School Choir provided uplifting songs at Harvest Festival, this year about Water. For the Carol Service we had a splendid ecumenical choir comprising singers from 5 churches and 4 denominations! We are very grateful for everyone's generosity and commitment to our Nine Lessons and Carols. We were able to raise the roof with the usual descants and prepared

a variety of pieces ranging from plainsong to a German carol and an interesting arrangement of We Saw Three Ships with an intricate piano accompaniment, expertly played by Lauren Turner who has helped us over several years. Former chorister Neil Anyon has played the organ on several occasions over the Winter to help with the challenge of managing the 4pm services.

It is good to note that the wonderful accoustics of church have been enjoyed by several visiting choral and instrumental groups over the year. The Music Team have also continued to lead and run the Community Choir on Friday afternoons which is now in its 14th year and remains a very enjoyable part of our outreach. I remain enormously grateful to everyone who helps in the musical endeavours at church, especially to Kevin for his faithful and accomplished assistance at the organ.

Anne Allen

Wiggle Worship Sunday School Report 2026

Wiggle Worship Sunday School began in March 2025 and has been running every Sunday since then, excluding school holidays, the second Sunday of the month (All Age Worship) and feast days. We have a core group of four children who come every week and a further three who come most weeks. In addition to that, we have welcomed eleven different visiting children. There has never been a Sunday that we haven't been able to run the Sunday School – we have always had at least one participant! Alongside myself, we have a core group of three helpers who faithfully volunteer their time to make Sunday School possible. I am very grateful to them for their support and enthusiasm! Please do consider if you are able to volunteer with us – we are always happy to welcome new faces and there is no expectation that you make a lifelong or even regular commitment!

We have been following the Wiggle Worship structure of Welcome, Sorry, Story Time, Wonders, Prayers and Praise. The Roots on the Web resources provide the focus for the session, dictating which Bible story we discuss and providing ideas for discussion questions and worship songs. It has been a pleasure to lead the children in deepening their relationship with God through studying the Bible, praying and singing worship songs together. There is quite a range of ages and levels of faith within the group, which although can be a challenge when planning activities to suit everybody, has also led to some children leading parts of the session, whether through reading the Bible passage, providing thoughtful responses to questions or indeed asking their own challenging questions!

Thank you for your prayers and encouragement over the last year – please keep them coming as we continue to nurture and grow the Sunday School at St. Paul's.

Laura Jackson

Men's Society Report

No meetings were held during 2025 due to the diminishing members so our future remains uncertain at this time.

Rodney Hadwen - Chairman

Babes & Tots Report

After a successful summer with 30 plus families in attendance and new volunteers on the rota, we were somewhat surprised to begin the new school year with less than 10 families in attendance.

This was disheartening, we were aware that was partly due to the increase in funding for working parents with pre-school children from 15 hours to 30 hours of government funded child-care.

We also knew that local primary schools were actively publicising vacancies in their admissions due to the low birth-rate and that 2 local pre-school groups had closed due to the lack of children.

Families and carers were determined to help us with our marketing and asked for posters and publicity to help with promoting the group, after this initiative we saw numbers begin to increase again into double numbers.

Whilst numbers are lower than that last year we are able to spend more one to one time with families and building up those friendships.

Father Christmas made his yearly visit to us - although fewer in number, those who were there took the opportunity for a photo and chat.

We continue to have an area set aside for our babies and non-walkers, with the rest of the Hall for toddlers to play, ride and slide!

Our outdoor area is a great resource too and how lucky we are to be able to go outside and see the canal boats and wave to Jack our new friend in the church garden.

We are not entirely sure what the future holds for our group, but we will continue to service this particular demographic as long as we are able to do so.

Many thanks again to the Babes & Tots team- Diana, Paula, Eileen, Joyce, Margaret, Sheila, Marie, David, Joe and finally Clive who still likes to pop in and have a brew with the families.

Vicar Becky

Tuesday Group

The year 2025 was a difficult one for us. At the AGM, Hilary announced that she would no longer act as Leader, as she was facing a serious operation. Unfortunately nobody felt able to take on the position.

In September we heard the very sad news that Sheila Clarke had died. She had been a very longstanding member of the Group and would be greatly missed. Later in the year we heard that Doris Heads had had a severe stroke and was in Trafford General Hospital. She was immediately remembered in our prayers.

We did have some happy occasions! Carole gave us a talk on “ the young men of Sale “ who gave their lives in the war. Then Rev. Margaret made us think about “ unconscious bias “ and in the autumn we had a talk about “ Mercy Ships” and the wonderful work done to bring lifesaving operations to people in Sub-Saharan Africa. A collection was taken and £226 donated to the charity.

There was a very jolly occasion when Anne Allen very kindly came and played 12 songs chosen by the Group and a tuneful session ensued!

In November Jean Law showed us how to make a Christmas table decoration. She was pleased with the results and suggested they were put on the church window ledges for the Christmas Services. They were admired by members of the congregation.

In the summer we had a delicious afternoon tea at Fiona Gardens and at Christmas Jane Gigner-Hollies organised our lunch.

Diana Kelly (Secretary)

Children's Society

On Christmas Eve we held our annual Christingle Service. It was a super event, with well over 400 people in church. We are so grateful to everyone who attended and donated although we missed Sheila Clarke's presence at this service that had been such a large part of her life here at St Paul's and we continue to build on her legacy for this.

Community Choir

Social Committee

Please note:-

At the time of preparing this report for printing no other church organisations/individuals had submitted reports or accounts however, should they be available after the Annual Meetings they will be added to this Report as Addendums.