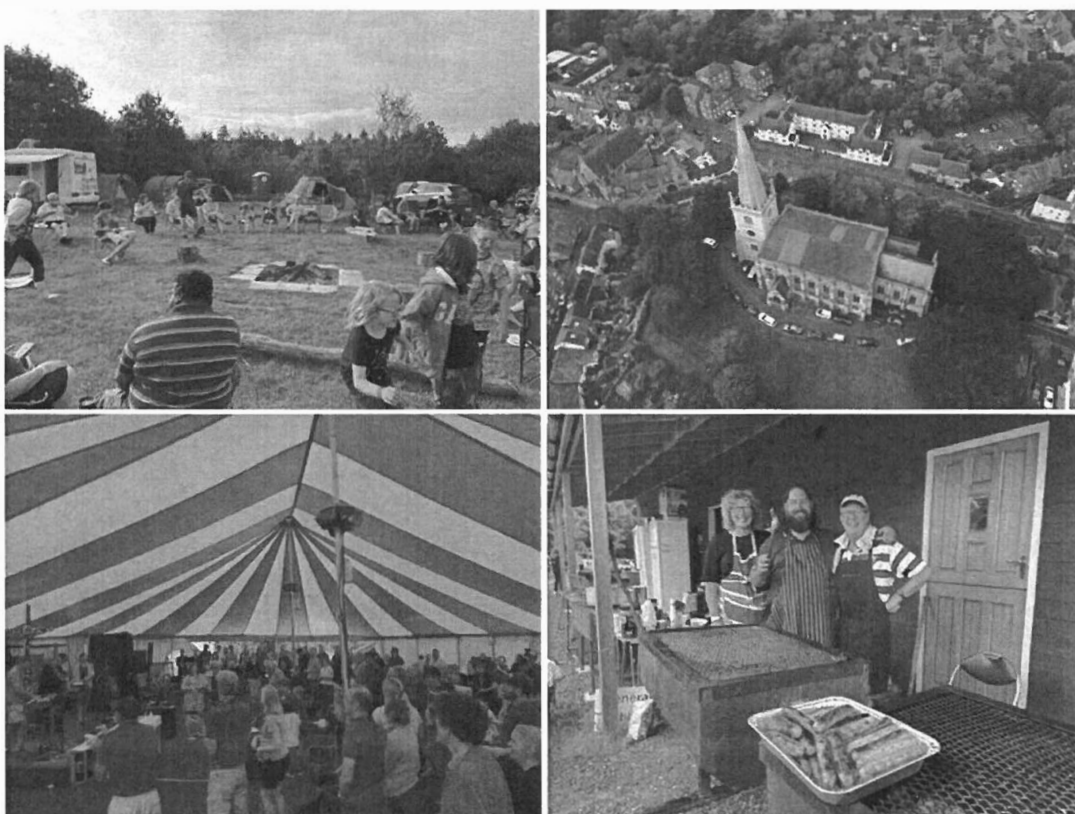




**Annual Report & Financial Statements
of the Parochial Church Council
for 2021**



presented to the
Annual Parochial Church Meeting
on 24th April 2022

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St Peter & St Paul Parish Church, Buckingham
Castle Street, Buckingham MK18 1BS
Parish Office 01280 821509
www.bpchurch.uk

Charity Information

Charity No 1128704

Incumbent: The Revd Will Pearson-Gee
The Rectory, 8 Aris Way, Buckingham MK18 1FX

Churchwardens: Mr Mike Evans
Foxglove House, Main Street, Tingewick, MK18 4NL

Mr Max Hailey
53 Meadoway, Steeple Claydon, MK18 2PA

Banks: CAF Bank Ltd
25 Kings Hill Avenue, Kings Hill,
West Malling, Kent ME19 4JQ

Lloyds TSB Bank
19 Market Square, Buckingham MK18 1NP

Auditor: Hills & Burgess,
20 Bridge Street, Leighton Buzzard LU7 7AL

Rector's Report for 2021

We rather limped into 2021 off the back of some good but sparsely attended Christmas services. Schools were closed and with a stifled cry of agony, we returned to the dark and frustrating days of home-schooling. Controversially BPC took the decision to keep meeting physically but encouraged those who felt vulnerable to 'stay at home to stay safe' and watch online via our excellent livestream service. This was in marked contrast to many other churches who played it safe and closed their doors relying instead on 'church via Zoom' which worked to a certain extent but as we all know now, could never really replicate or match a physical church meeting. While the ecclesiastical lawyers debated whether or not individual wine cups were allowed under Canon Law, we settled in to a routine at the Lord's Supper of using them and consuming all together.

The 9am congregation, who by dint of age had all had their vaccinations before the younger congregations, were stoic and quick to return to church and generally happy to wear face coverings. The 11am family service followed an all-age format as the kids' groups couldn't be run and despite all the challenges attracted new people and grew slowly. The evening service ran at a fraction of its former numbers but its heart kept beating as one by one people started to return, albeit chafing at having to wear masks.

The teams responsible for our corporate worship poured themselves out sacrificially week by week and a special mention must go to the Production Team whose high standards enabled our livestream to be very successful indeed, not just in live views but with people watching on 'catch-up'.

As the letter writer to the Hebrews said, *"not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing"* and our stubbornness over remaining open for physical worship, no matter what, meant that the home fires never went out. It is for this reason that we were able to recover in a remarkable way that few other churches managed. There were tensions along the way and Covid polarised the church just as it did society with people at one end of the spectrum thinking we were foolhardy and endangering people, to those who felt the whole Covid response was far too draconian. Mercifully and by the grace of God we generally held these two opposing views in a creative tension which whilst very hard to manage did lead to deep conversations with people and a greater reliance on the Holy Spirit to mediate and strengthen the body of the church.

Attendance at services grew gradually but the trajectory was always in the right direction (as can be seen from the figures elsewhere in this report) and is something to thank God for.

The schools reopened on 8th March and we held our traditional Maundy Thursday Communion and Stripping the Altar service in the chancel on 1st April. The Good Friday Churches Together service took place but we cancelled the Walk of Witness and outside service on Good Friday.

The Easter services were less well attended but went ahead as usual.

The APCM was held on 27th April on Zoom and was very well attended indeed.

In May we interviewed for a new Youth and Student Pastor and appointed Sam Graham and housing was provided by a member of the congregation following prayers and an announcement.

The Choir reformed in June and blessed the 9am, socially distanced, from the chancel.

There was a large and successful men's BBQ on 25th June which after so much isolation and being cooped up for so long attracted a large crowd.

Our curate Kate was 'priested' on 26th June, and then the next day, on our patronal festival, Lord Carey came to dedicate the restored clock, Gino Ballantyne's oil painting of Christ on the cross and the re-ordered prayer chapel. This was followed by an exquisite tea party under clear skies with the Thorogoods at Hill House.

With no major Christian festivals taking place (New Wine and Focus were either severely curtailed or cancelled) we decided to create our own festival – 'Focus at the Farm' camping at Stampwell Farm near Gerrards Cross over the weekend 23-25th July. 80 people camped and an extra 50 joined us for the Sunday worship and BBQ lunch. It was huge fun and we were blessed by some of the best speakers on the UK Christian circuit in Amy & Frog Orr-Ewing and Simon Ponsonby.

Ark re-started in July and gradually grew.

Holiday Club took place 9-13th August and 100 kids joined an excellent week of Christian teaching and fun, the smaller size enabling deeper relationships to form.

The Bishop of Oxford visited BPC on his pilgrimage walk to our Deanery on 31st August and we celebrate the Lord's Supper and a sandwich lunch before he headed off on the next leg of his walk.

Our 11am kids' groups re-started in September, and I think there was a collective sigh of relief to return to full-on sermons and teaching.

The staff team went away for a 2 day residential 13-15th September at High Leigh, partly to do a reconnaissance for this year's parish weekend away and we were blessed with a facilitated morning of training so as to understand our character types so we can work better as a team.

The big post-Covid event was the 'Big Church Day' on 2nd October. The day was well attended and we were blessed with inspirational teaching from Canon John Bavington (vicar of St John's Great Houghton) a delicious lunch followed by a Harvest supper and a barn dance. It was wonderful to be back together socialising.

The following day (Sunday) we held an evening service with baptisms and confirmations with Bishop Graham Dow officiating. It was an exhausting but uplifting weekend.

Messy Church restarted in October and I paid my first visit to Bradford on 2-3rd November to continue the discernment process on whether we should establish a mission link with St John's Great Houghton.

The new service timings trial (initiated in early 2020) had been extended due to Covid and a decision was made at PCC before Christmas that the trial timings should be made permanent in the New Year. The evidence was there (in terms of attendance figures) that this arrangement seemed to suit the majority best and so the 9am slot became the home for the traditional congregation and 11am the home for the family service. A casualty of the new timings and to an extent of Covid has been the 8am BCP service. This has been laid down due to falling numbers and the early start of the 9am service. The congregation has been encouraged to attend St John the Evangelist Radclive which continues to offer BCP services.

Your Rector stood for election to General Synod and subsequently gained enough votes from the clergy in Oxford to be elected. Likewise, Jacob Wigley did very well to be elected as a lay representative.

Remembrance Sunday took place on 14th November under clear skies and was once again very well attended.

The PCC held a Study Day on 4th December and discussed how best to structure the leadership team to cater for future growth.

Fear over the new Omicron variant was at fever-pitch in late November as we had yet to learn that whilst it was more easily transmissible, it was far less serious than the Delta variant. I made my view clear that we should remain open for worship whatever and a recording of me sharing my thoughts went viral on Twitter and led to an interview on GB News. Our Christmas services all went ahead but understandably numbers were lower than hoped for.

And so a challenging year ended with us celebrating in person but with many watching online. We came through the challenges remarkably well, thanks be to God!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'W. Pearson-Gee', followed by a long horizontal flourish.

Revd Will Pearson-Gee

Rector

BPC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

TREASURER'S REPORT

The accounts have been prepared under the 2011 Charities Act. The Central Board of Finance of the Church of England has produced its own financial regulations and associated Guidance in response to the Act. These have been adopted by the PCC and followed in producing these accounts.

The Guidance recommends the analysis and presentation of information under a standard set of headings, which can also be used for the annual financial return to the Diocese or the Central Board of Finance. These headings have been used in these accounts. Funds are shown as unrestricted, designated or restricted. Designated means that the funds are allocated by the PCC from the General fund and Restricted means that the funds are normally only available for purposes specified by the donor. The PCC has one general fund, five designated funds and six restricted funds. Full details of these are in the Additional Notes on pages 28-29.

The total Incoming Resources from donors was £359,475 (up marginally from £354,800 in 2020). Other Income from Charitable Resources was £16,086, while Investment Income was £7,823.

Activities directly related to Church Work (£366,244) has decreased from £379,670 in 2020 reflecting a fall in the running costs for the church during the Covid-19 lockdowns.

The Church's charitable giving was £31,106 (2020: £25,247) compared to an increased budget of £32,000 which is now based on 10% of all actual income received in 2021. The Mission & Outreach team has been very conscientious in making sure the whole "tithe" is spent within the year, but sometimes requests for items don't fit in neat financial years.

Our community hub at The Centre has grown from strength to strength, being occupied most of the time. The original 2-year lease on the building has already been extended by Bucks County Council to 5 years. It is noted that The Centre is totally self-sufficient financially and running at no cost to the church. At the end of 2021 The Centre's bank balance stood at £32,484 (2020: £37,159).

The auditors received £200 + VAT for carrying out the audit of the church accounts. This fee has been frozen for several years and I would like to thank Hills and Burgess for their continued support in examining and approving these accounts.

I would like to especially thank Pam Fox for maintaining the church accounts all year round and Tracy Roskell for looking after The Centre accounts and Anne Exelby for banking the weekly collections and Daphne Browne and Lara Burt providing additional treasurer support. I would also like to thank Brian & Tracy Roskell for taking on the Stewardship role in mid-2020, where they have managed to move the whole process online, via Churchsuite.

Harry Morten
Head of Finance

Independent Examiners Report

INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS' REPORT TO THE PCC OF ST PETER'S AND ST PAUL'S, BUCKINGHAM

This report on the accounts of the PCC for the year ended 31 December 2021 is in respect of an examination carried out in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2005 (the Regulations) and section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Act).

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

As the members of the PCC you are responsible for the preparation of the Accounts; you consider that the audit requirement of the Regulations and section 144(2) of the Act do not apply. It is my responsibility to issue this report on those accounts in accordance with the terms of Regulations.

Basis of independent examiners' report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act and to be found in the Church Guidance. That examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the PCC and a comparison of the accounts with those records. It also includes considering any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently we do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent examiners' statement

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

- (1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the requirements of the Act
- have not been met; or
- (2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached



Stephen Wilson on behalf of
Upton Wilson Ltd

Certified Accountants

13 April 2022

3 West Street
Leighton Buzzard
Bedfordshire
LU7 1DA

BUCKINGHAM PARISH CHURCH
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
For the Period 1 January 2021 to 31 December 2021

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total funds	Prior Year Total funds
Donations and Legacies	£352,298	£7,177	£359,475	£354,800
Income from Charitable Activities	£16,086		£16,086	£16,949
Income from Investments	£7,787	£36	£7,823	£7,921
	£376,171	£7,213	£383,384	£379,670
Resources Used				
Activities Directly related to Church Work	£360,913	£5,331	£366,244	£333,950
Other Expenditure	£31,659	£85	£31,744	£43,675
	£392,572	£5,416	£397,988	£377,625
Net Incoming Resources Before Transfer	-£16,401	£1,797	-£14,604	£2,045
Gross Transfers In	£12,268	-£12,268	£0	£15,298
Gross Transfers out	-£1,500	£1,500	£0	-£15,298
Gains and Loss on Investments	£26	£38,715	£38,741	£17,943
Net Movements in Funds	-£5,607	£29,744	£24,137	£19,988
Total Funds B.f	£175,557	£462,546	£638,103	£618,973
Total Funds C. F	£169,950	£492,290	£662,240	£638,961

BUCKINGHAM PARISH CHURCH

BALANCE SHEET DETAILED 2021

	As at 31.12.2021	As at 31.12.2020
FIXED ASSETS		
Curates House	£150,000	£150,000
CURRENT ASSETS		
Philip Box Charity	£1,382	£1,260
Harrison Bequest	£328,113	£290,265
Harrison Bequest Loan	-£22,500	-£24,000
CBF Investment Loan	<u>£4,960</u>	<u>£4,216</u>
	£311,955	£271,741
PCC Current Lloyds	£81,400	£92,976
CAF Accounts	£23,911	£28,584
CAF Gold Organ Fund	£3	£3
Petty Cash	£132	£132
Restoration Lloyds Account	£9,155	£5,895
Asst Curate Current	£47,575	£46,093
Asst Curate Deposit	£282	£282
Asst Curate NS	£5,153	£5,116
CBF Philip Box	£1,046	£1,010
The Centre	<u>£31,628</u>	<u>£36,273</u>
	£200,285	£216,363
	<u>£512,240</u>	<u>£488,104</u>
Total Assets	£662,240	£638,104
Represented by		
Unrestricted	£169,950	£175,556
Restricted	<u>£492,290</u>	<u>£462,547</u>
	£662,240	£638,103

BUCKINGHAM PARISH CHURCH															
FUND ANALYSIS 1ST JANUARY 2020 to 31 DECEMBER 2021															
INCOME	General	Designated Curate	Designated Projects	Designated Centre	Designated Restoration	Designated Rector	Restricted Restoration	Restricted Funeral	Restricted Special	Restricted Harrison	Restricted Curates House	Restricted Philip Box	TOTAL	Unrest	Restricted
Donations and Legacies	£334,935		£6,000	£11,363			£3,000	£3,364	£813				£359,475	£352,298	£7,177
Income from Charitable Activities	£8,852			£6,972	£261								£16,085	£16,085	£0
Income from Investments	£4	£7,783										£36	£7,823	£7,787	£36
Income from Charity and Ancillary Trading													£0	£0	£0
Other Ordinary Incoming Resources													£0	£0	£0
TOTAL INCOME	£343,791	£7,783	£6,000	£18,335	£261	£0	£3,000	£3,364	£813	£0	£0	£36	£383,382	£376,169	£7,213
PAYMENTS															
Activities Directly Relating to Church Work	£330,079	£3,495		£29,077		£348		£3,364	£2,052				£368,415	£362,999	£5,416
Other Expenditure	£3,538												£3,538	£3,538	£0
Repairs to Building			£23,582										£23,582	£23,582	£0
Fund Raising & Publicity													£0	£0	£0
Church Management & Administration		£2,453											£2,453	£2,453	£0
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	£333,617	£5,947	£23,582	£29,077	£0	£348	£0	£3,364	£2,052	£0	£0	£0	£397,987	£392,571	£5,416
Excess of Income Over Expenditure	£10,174	£1,835	-£17,582	-£10,742	£261	-£348	£3,000	£0	-£1,239	£0	£0	£36	-£14,605	-£16,402	£1,797
Starting Balance B/F	£38,254	£13,784	£75,394	£37,159	£10,633	£333	£24,090	£0	£19,921	£266,265	£150,000	£2,270	£638,103	£175,557	£462,546
Assets Introduced	£10,174	£1,835	-£17,582	-£10,742	£261	-£348	£3,000	£0	-£1,239			£36	-£14,605	-£16,402	£1,797
Gains/Loss on Investments		£27		£0			£745			£37,849		£121	£38,742	£27	£38,715
Transfer from restoration to projects			£3,000	£0			-£3,000		£0				£0	£3,000	-£3,000
Transfer to Harrison Fund		-£1,500								£1,500			£0	-£1,500	£1,500
Transfer from special to Centre	£0			£6,089					-£6,089				£0	£6,089	-£6,089
Transfer from special to General fund	£3,179								-£3,179					£3,179	-£3,179
Transfer to Rectors Discretionary	-£500					£500								£0	£0
Closing Balance c/f	£51,107	£14,146	£60,812	£32,506	£10,894	£485	£24,835	£0	£9,414	£305,614	£150,000	£2,427	£662,240	£169,950	£492,290
														£662,240	£169,950
£1,500 has been transferred from the curates fund to the Harrison Bequest to repay the capital borrowed from this Fund for the Open Door Project															0
£3,000 has been transferred from the Restoration to the Projects for a grant received for the Clock Repair															
£6,089 was transferred from the special fund to donations received for the Centre															
£3,179 was transferred from the special fund to the general for expenditure made in that fund															
£500 has been transferred from the General Fund to the Rectors Discretionary Fund															

BUCKINGHAM PARISH CHURCH

ADDITIONAL NOTES

Staff

The PCC employed, a Contemporary Worship Leader, an Organist & Assistant Organist, Pastoral Care Worker, Children's Worker, Youth Worker, Parish Manager, Office Administrator, the Rector's PA, Minister Trainee, Cleaner and a Caretaker for The Centre.

Fixed Assets

The PCC owns the house in Chandos Close (known as the Curate's House) which remains in the accounts at a value of £150,000. It has not been re-valued in the accounts this year however, the insurance on this house is based on a more realistic figure.

Trust Funds

Gains on investments recorded relate to variations in share prices of investments held by the Central Board of Finance (CBF).

Philip Box Organist Charity

Is a trust whose Custodian is the Oxford Diocesan Board of Finance. This trust was established to provide income to or for the benefit of the organist of the Parish Church of Buckingham.

The Capital is not available to the PCC and the interest has been reinvested in a CBF Deposit Account. The fund consists of a deposit and an investment fund. The value of the fund is £2,427 (2020: £2,270)

The Harrison Bequest

Is a Trust fund held by the Oxford Diocesan Board of Trustees for the provision of a curate. The income from the trust can be used 'for providing the stipend of a curate in the parish and subject thereto for any ecclesiastical purpose in the parish as the PCC shall decide'.

The capital is not expendable by the PCC but the interest is paid into the Assistant Curate's Fund. The Charity Commissioners and the Diocese agreed in 2001 that the sum of £50,000 could be advanced from the capital of this fund to the Open Door (Redevelopment) Project, subject to the recoupment of £1,500 annually until 2036 from the interest of the residual capital of the fund, to be reinvested as a permanent endowment of the charity (as above).

At the year end the amount to be recouped stood at £25,500 and the investment is valued in the accounts at £305,614 (2020: £266,265). During the year the trust fund made a gain of £37,849 (2020: £17,204).

DETAILS OF FUNDS HELD BY THE PCC

General Fund

The General Fund is where our everyday income and expenditure goes through and represents the "current account" for the church. The closing balance on the fund stands at £51,107 (2020: £38,254).

**BUCKINGHAM PARISH CHURCH
ADDITIONAL NOTES (continued)**

Designated Funds

Curates Fund

This fund is for the maintenance and repair of the Curates House and also provides funds for the curate's expenses. At the end of the year the fund stood at £14,146 (2020: £13,784).

Projects Fund

This fund was set up to provide a specific fund for PCC Projects. Legacy money of £6,000 was added in 2021. During the year £23,582 has been used by projects designated by the PCC. At the end of the year the fund stood at £60,812 (2020: £75,394)

The Centre

This fund was set up to hold funds for the ongoing missionary work in The Centre, which is currently running a surplus. The fund stands at £32,506 (2020: £37,159).

Restoration

This part of the restoration fund is unrestricted. The fund stands at £10,894 (2020: £10,633).

Rector's Discretionary

This fund has received specific donations from members of the congregation which the rector has used to help members of the parish at his discretion.

Restricted Funds

Restoration Restricted

The Restoration fund stood at £24,835 (2019: £24,090).

Funeral

This fund is used to collect money where the families have specifically requested donations for charities of their choice. These are held by the PCC and then paid out as requested.

Special

This fund is used for special collections, like the Christingle, Christian Aid, Bishops Outreach etc where the money is then distributed to the relevant charities. It is also used where money has been donated for specific causes, for example money donated for the food bank and paid out for this purpose and money for Kit Kat which holds regular events for vulnerable young children and money donated for the Kitchen. The balances amounted to £9,414 (2020: £19,921).