

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF AINSDALE ST JOHN

England & Wales · Charity number 1128996

Details

Other names ST JOHN'S PCC, AINSDALE

Status Registered

Legal form Previously excepted

Registered 2009-04-03

Register [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

Contact

Address 708 Liverpool Road
Southport
PR8 3QE

Phone 01704577760

Email info@stjohnsainsdale.org.uk

Website <http://www.stjohnsainsdale.org.uk/>

Activities

Objects: Promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church.

Activities: Regular public worship open to all; the provision of sacred space for personal prayer and contemplation; pastoral work, including visiting the sick and the bereaved; teaching of Christianity; the provision of a youth club with a Christian ethos; provision of activities for senior citizens, parents and toddlers and other special needs groups; supporting other charities in the UK and overseas.

Classification

- **How:** Makes Grants To Organisations, Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Provides Services
- **What:** Religious Activities
- **Who:** The General Public/mankind

Geography

- **Area of benefit:** UNDEFINED. IN PRACTICE, LOCAL.
- Sefton

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£150,735	£141,929	-	-
2023-12-31	£171,898	£126,916	-	-
2022-12-31	£220,177	£245,867	-	-
2021-12-31	£148,556	£133,410	-	-
2020-12-31	£126,628	£136,201	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
CHRISTINE THURSFIELD		2018-04-29
Chloe Georgia Joan Ormrod		2023-04-30
DAVID ARTHUR PHIPPS		2023-04-30
Giles Alistair Davies		2023-04-30
Helen Parker		2023-04-30
JOHN MICHAEL FORSHAW		
Jean Kathleen Washbourne		2017-04-23
LESLEY FAWCETT PHIPPS		
LINDA JOAN DAVIES		2011-09-02
Lindsay Darrell Jessop		2018-04-29
MR FRANK HYLAND		
Margaret Jennifer Hilton		2021-05-23
Patricia Elizabeth Jameson		2021-05-23
Peter Hancock		2023-04-30
Phyliss Ann Walton		2018-04-29
Rev Jacqueline Mary Vasquez		2024-06-17
VALERIE ELSIE SINNOTT		2012-06-21

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF AINSDALE ST JOHN

England & Wales - Charity number 1128996

Accounts



ANNUAL REPORT 2024



Annual Report of the Parochial Church Council of
the Ecclesiastical Parish of Ainsdale St John

Charity Number 1128996



Contents

Introduction	3
PCC Membership (to APCM 2025)	5
Review of 2024	6
Jackie’s Licencing service	6
Worship and Pastoral Care	6
Children and Youth Mission	6
Uniformed Groups.....	7
Ainsdale St John CE Primary School.....	8
Natterjacks Day Nursery.....	8
Community and Fellowship	9
The wider church.....	10
Web and Social media.....	11
Enabling Mission.....	12
Buildings and grounds	12
Annual Financial report to 31 December 2024	12
Management and Governance.....	19
Electoral roll.....	19
PCC.....	19
Deputy Wardens.....	19
Risk Assessments	19
Safeguarding Procedures.....	19
New appointments.....	19
Administrative Information	20
Acknowledgements.....	20
Appendix 1	22
PCC Membership	22
PCC approved roles.....	22
Independent Examiner’s Report	24
Independent Examiner’s Disclosure	25

Introduction



So, as I pen this report after being the Vicar of St John's for just short of a year I reflect on the many blessings, joys, the challenges, the enthusiasm and the love that I have received from each and every one of you. Which reflects our vision statement of sharing God's love and serving one another.

In this last year I feel we have grown numerically, but more so spiritually. We as a church family are deepening our faith through our thoughts, our words and our deeds.

At our PCC away day in September we had a wonderful time of fellowship, and I felt a real sense of God's presence as we met together. From there we were able to be open and honest about where we feel we are as a church and where we think God wants us to be.

We have begun making steps towards our goals by adding different things into our worship and our outreach, and by being open to change with enthusiasm and vigour ... even welcoming our pets into church with open arms! "*Kindness to animals is Godly, in fact caring for them is part of our purpose*", Proverbs 12 v10.

I have seen and felt in my time here that the heart of St John's is family, community and Kingdom building. Behind everything we do I see those encounters with God. The Kingdom is full of different people of all ages, and gifts. A community of people in which all are invited, welcomed and loved.

We have so many wonderful things to be thankful here at St John's.

- For our wonderful PCC members who go above and beyond to ensure God's will is fulfilled in this church and community.
- Our mission team who are so enthusiastic in all things mission and outreach, and who are not afraid to step out in faith with many different approaches.
- The Care team, whose love and compassion for others shines through, as God's hands and feet in this community and beyond.
- For our Little John's team, for the joy, fun and nurturing that they bring to both the children, parents, grandparents and carers.
- And for every single person who shares their God given talents with others to serve and grow this wonderful church family.

I am inspired and blessed by each and every one of you.

We continue to strengthen our links within the local community, with our school and nursery along with working ecumenically with CTiA, and supporting SASW Trust is a highlight of what we do here in Ainsdale.

There are lots of things to give thanks for, lots to keep praying about. But most importantly that we are all open to receive the Holy Spirit in all that we do. So, as we look back on an eventful 2024, we can now begin to cast a vision for the next 12 months, and the future ahead.

I leave you with this: "*Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.*" Colossians 3 v12-14

Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful".

Rev Jackie x



Clockwise from top: Guides beach clean; Church worship group; our children's corner gets lots of use; summer pet service; SONG musical theatre group rehearsing; Time for Tea legacy event; Little John's baby & toddler group

PCC Membership (to APCM 2025)

<i>Incumbent</i>	Rev Jackie Vasquez (PCC Chair)	
<i>Reader</i>	Eirlys Jessop	
<i>Churchwardens</i>	Chris Thursfield	
	Peter Hancock (PCC Vice Chair)	
<i>Deanery Synod Reps</i>	David Phipps	
	John Forshaw	
	Helen Parker (PCC secretary)	
	Jean Washbourne	
<i>Elected members (and trustees)</i>	Lindsay Jessop (PCC treasurer)	Giles Davies
	Linda Davies	John Forshaw
	Frank Hyland	Patricia Jameson
	Chloe Ormrod	Lesley Phipps
	Val Sinnott	Chris Treble
	Ann Walton	

Members of the PCC are the charity trustees and are the 'persons having the general control and management of the administration of the charity' (Charities Act 2011, S177).

Review of 2024

Jackie's Licencing service

On 17 June we were delighted to welcome Jackie into our church family at the licencing service. The service was a joyous affair giving us the opportunity to thank God for sending Jackie to our church. The service was followed by a buffet which was hosted by our school. There was lots of cake. This enabled us to meet up with people from other churches. They were particularly impressed with our junior PCC who played a very active role in the licencing service.

Worship and Pastoral Care

Growing in faith as we serve our community in Ainsdale

Our regular pattern of weekly worship continued through 2024 as well as leading whole school worship in church every Monday for over 200 ASJ children and staff. We also received positive comments for our special services for Harvest Festival, Easter, and Christmas. We are grateful to all those who lead our services and the worship band, organist and choir who lead our worship each week.

Services are often followed by refreshments and we held several parish lunches and cake sales during the year.

Our **Prayer Group** met on Monday afternoons which provided an opportunity for fellowship over a cup of tea followed by a period of prayer and quiet reflection – a welcome quiet time in our busy lives.

Our **Bible Study Group** met on Tuesday afternoons. The year started by watching episodes from 'Chosen' which formed the basis of some interesting discussions. The group then read and discussed 'the Shack' which provided opportunities to consider some challenging questions.

The **Care Group** are a valuable part of our ministry. During 2024 the care group assisted Jackie in visiting and bringing communion to people who were housebound in nursing homes or in hospital, and supported the bereaved by phone calls, visits and invitations. The prayer circle responded to those in need with prayers and sharing of requests.

The **Men's Group** continued to offer fellowship to those within and outside the church, meeting most weeks in one of the Ainsdale café bars.

Children and Youth Mission

It was wonderful to see our church grow as we welcomed new members and more families with their children into our church for worship, fellowship and social events.

During our 10.30 services the younger children enjoyed craft activities, bible books, story bags and toys in our children's corner, as well as opportunities to participate in worship songs, talks and prayers. Two services each month are informal and especially suitable for those with young children who can take an engage in worship using musical instruments, interactive prayer, songs and use of visuals. Five times a year these were Parade Services where we also welcomed our Uniformed Organisations.

We want to give our young people a voice and for them to take leading roles in services by giving them opportunities to lead prayers and intercessions and Bible readings.

Our **Junior PCC** met to plan and led two lovely services in 2024: a Parade Service and the annual Crib Service on Christmas Eve when a packed church enjoyed a wonderful start to our celebration of Jesus' birth. Some members of Junior PCC are also part of our worship band. Social activities and a Youth Alpha course are planned for 2025 to support our Junior PCC as they develop their Christian faith.

We are very fortunate to enjoy close ties with our **church school** – children and staff. Church members led RE lessons and delivered 'Christmas in a Box' to Year 3 where the children learn more about the

roles of the principal characters in the Nativity story and take their own personal box home to share their experience with their families. Church members also led regular worship for the whole school in church as well as harvest, Christmas, Christingle and Easter services. Church hosted class services and other school community events during 2024 which were a great opportunity to build relationships with school families. These will continue in 2025 along with plans to start an after school club for children in years 3, 4 and 5. Church members also play an active leadership role in school as Foundation Governors – providing strategic oversight and ensuring the school's religious character and ethos are preserved and developed.

We were delighted to welcome six children and four adults for **baptism** in 2024. It is very important to us that all baptisms are held in main Sunday services and that families are given an especially warm welcome. Each child is presented with a blanket crocheted by a church member and a children's Bible and baptism candle.

Impact Youth continued to meet in the Methodist Church during term times for 11 to 18 year-olds. The youth group, run by CTiA in partnership with SASW Trust. There were between 20 to 25 young people attending each week to enjoy chats with their peers, games on the big screens and a variety of sports. Halfway through the sessions there is a small meal, followed by plenty of cakes and cold drinks.

Little John's Baby and Toddler Group had another successful year averaging 35 children per week – mostly regular visitors with many more attending on a more casual basis. There is no doubt that we are providing a welcome space for parents, grandparents and carers while giving the children opportunity to socialise and have fun.

Uniformed Groups

All our Uniformed Groups have lots of fun, learn new things, do different activities, achieve badges and rewards, and enjoy spending time with friends and making new friendships and memories. All the groups actively participate in church parades and the Remembrance service on the green. Highlights included:

17th St John's Guides

- Holding a party to say thank you to Vanessa Riley for her years of service as unit leader; a brand-new leadership team started in 2024
- Cooking over open fires at Scarisbrick Hall
- Beach clean and sand pictures on Ainsdale beach
- Games on Ainsdale Green
- A Christmas themed sleepover at Shirdley Hill with Christmas crafts and a movie
- A Sefton wide fun day at Scarisbrick Hall
- A water fight and picnic tea at Scarisbrick Hall
- A Christmas Party with a professional DJ
- Celebrating Chinese New Year with decorating paper lanterns and other fun activities
- A visit to Southport Lifeboats with private tour
- Fundraising with the Southport Hesketh Round Table and the Santa sleigh

15th Ainsdale Brownies

- Collecting tins of dog and cat food for the RSPCA
- Awarding Snowy Owl her 20 year service award
- Trips to the lifeboat station and fire station
- Sefton County 50th Birthday Bash at Scarisbrick
- Brown Owl's mum knitted the girls a poppy each to wear on Remembrance Sunday
- Sleepover at Shirdley Hill (not a lot of sleep though!) plus crafts, games, movies and singalongs
- Helping Santa and the Southport Round Table
- Christmas jumper evening, raising £50 for Save the Children

2nd Ainsdale Rainbows

- Making cards and gifts for mothering Sunday
- Making bird feeders
- Thinking about Rainbows in other parts of the world
- Being kind to others
- Playing parachute games on the grass
- Making mermaid masks for the Ainsdale Show
- Visiting the life boat station and trying on the very large safety equipment they have to wear!

Ainsdale St John CE Primary School

As we reflect on another remarkable year at Ainsdale St. John's, we are filled with pride at the achievements, growth, and community spirit that have defined the school year.

One of the highlights was the launch of our ASJ in Action parent workshops. These events provide a unique opportunity for parents to engage directly with our school's curriculum, building strong connections between home and school to ensure parents are well-equipped to support their children's learning at home.

Our ASJ Ambassadors had an incredibly busy and impactful year including the creation of a new trim trail at the front of school - designed by our PE and play leaders and funded by the Friends of ASJ who continue to provide invaluable support to school. Community Champs worked alongside local police officers to raise awareness about speed limits on Sandbrook Road as a vital part of our ongoing commitment to helping our students engage with and contribute meaningfully to their community.

A Prayer Space Day celebrated Pentecost, focusing on the power of the Holy Spirit. It was a beautiful time of reflection and prayer, where children explored deeper aspects of their faith in a hands-on way.

School celebrated our commitment to physical education and mental wellbeing by receiving recognition with the School Games Gold and myHappyMind Bronze awards. Other highlights included a Euros 2024 football tournament at the local 3G pitches and hosting the reception for Reverend Jackie's installation.

As of September 2024, Ainsdale St. John's became a member of the Liverpool Diocesan Schools Trust. We have already benefited from their support and expertise, and we look forward to the continued growth and opportunities this partnership will bring.

While the year has been filled with joyous moments, we also faced a tragedy during the summer. Our community showed remarkable resilience, and through the support of staff, families, and our wider community, we have worked together to navigate the challenges. As it says in the Bible, "*The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it*" (John 1:5). This message of hope and light continues to guide us as we support one another through difficult times.

Thank you, as always, to Reverend Jackie and St. John's Church for your unwavering support. We look forward to the year ahead with gratitude, excitement, and faith in the future that we will all shine brightly in all that we do.

Lorna O'Brien, Headteacher

Natterjacks Day Nursery

It was another busy year at Natterjacks. We have been working hard to improve our outdoor area at the back of nursery, putting in artificial grass and sunshades, as well as a more natural look with wooden elements for the children to engage in and enjoy discovering through play.

We have all been affected by the Southport tragedy in the summer and have been supporting our families and staff. The nursery made a personal gift of a memorial bench for Elsie Dot Stancombe who

was very much loved by all of her Natterjacks family. The bench is a beautiful tribute to Elsie, who attended Natterjacks from a baby until she went to school. Her Bench will be placed outside nursery for everyone to enjoy and remember this beautiful little girl. Elsie's Mum and Dad have set up a charity called Elsie's story which is raising money to support children in different ways, terminal illnesses, associations that help children and their families. Please see their fantastic work on Instagram or Facebook @elsiedotstory.

Nursery received some lovely reviews from parents which is very encouraging for our staff team.

Following a spot inspection from Sefton Environmental Health, we were pleased to receive 5 stars for our food hygiene inspection again!

The children enjoyed trips to the beach and community, and a visit from our friends at animal safari. The children very much enjoyed seeing Stitch the Shetland pony, Ant and Dec the goats and the bunny rabbits and look forward to another visit soon.

The children are eager to learn about chickens and ducks, so hopefully we will have some eggs that will hatch just in time for Easter 🐣.

We are looking forward to more new children starting their nursery journey and inviting new families to our ever-growing Natterjacks family.

Mai-Ling, John, Becca and the Natterjacks team

Community and Fellowship

Christian Aid

Christian Aid is an international development agency that enables us to respond to Christ's command to care for all in need. Through his life and teaching, his death and his resurrection, he inspired his followers to love God, love their neighbours and long for justice. Our faith in God, and in his loving relationship with us, gives us confidence and hope that poverty can be ended, despite all that might stand in the way.

For many years, St John's has supported the work of Christian Aid and now works with CTiA to raise funds and awareness. In 2024 for Christian Aid Week, we held a 'Big Brekkie and cake sale' raising £580.70. Each church also held separate collections which raised another £1,056.60 bringing our ecumenical total to £1,637.30. This money will be used to change and save lives of some of the most vulnerable people in the world.

We are also registered as an 'Emergency church' so that when disaster strikes, we are able to respond quickly.

SASW Trust

St John's has been a long-time supporter of the SAST Trust, a local charity which works primarily in schools to create safe spaces where local children and young people can explore issues of life and faith in a caring and supportive way. In 2024 we continued to support the work of the Trust financially, prayerfully and through a church members being a Trustee.

Support for charities

In addition to supporting Christian Aid and SASWT, we continued to support other charitable work in 2024, financially or in-kind, including:

- Compassion Acts
- Christian Aid
- SASWT
- The Children's society

- Ainsdale in Bloom
- SONG
- Queenscourt Hospice
- The Spinal Unit Action Group

We are thankful to all these charities for their valuable work.

Eco Group

Using the fifth Mark of Mission as our guiding principle '*To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the earth*', the Eco Group was very active in 2024. St John's achieved the Eco Church Silver Award in September - one of only 1,300 churches in the UK. Recognition is based on the Eco Church survey which covers five key areas of church life: worship and teaching; buildings and energy; land and nature; community and global engagement; and lifestyle. There's still a lot to do to maintain our status in the year ahead.

Other highlights included:

- Creating a magnificent Bug Chapel (built by Jay Vasquez) in the church grounds to compliment the bird table and feeders
- A new relationship with the Ainsdale in Bloom community group who make a significant difference to the village environment
- Awareness for our care for creation through monthly news sheet tips, prayers and especially around Harvest festival, including a Walk to Church event
- The PCC re-committing to the support of the Church of England's Net Zero 2030 programme. We also secured funding from the Liverpool Diocese Net Zero Quick Wins grant towards an upgrade of our heating controls to allow more efficient energy use.

Events

During 2024 we were pleased to continue with our programme of free and ticketed events for the whole community. Where appropriate the church ran a licensed bar at events to raise additional church funds. Also, we hold raffles which are a good fun activity and the sale of tea and cake is always popular. These additional activities raised welcome funds which help with the church running and heating costs.

Events in 2024 were as follows:

- Sefton Band concert
- U3A band with tea and cake
- Table top sale with tea and cake
- Quiz and curry night
- Octave Christmas concert

The musical performances were enjoyed by all. The events were also an opportunity for the different congregations to meet in a social setting and also for us to meet new people from the community.

The wider church

The Deanery Synod

The Deanery Synod met three times in 2024 to consider the wider picture of the deanery. Key areas of focus were:

- To discuss the division of the Parish Share between the churches in the deanery. Parish Share is used to support clergy and there is a direct link between Parish Share and the number of clergy in the diocese. We appointed a Parish Share planning group to consider the issues arising.
- Financial Issues – we are working on a suitable affordable outcome.

- To obtain an overview of the current position within the different churches – some churches have the support of a full-time incumbent, some share an incumbent and others have not had an incumbent for some time.
- To gain better understanding of the bigger picture of what is happening in the deanery with each church sharing some of the events or activities that are happening in their church.
- Fit for Mission: looking at how it could work in this area. We have been finding out more about the vision – bigger church making a bigger difference.
- To consider how the small number of young people coming to church can be addressed.

Churches together in Ainsdale

We had another year of working together in every area that we are able. We held a number of successful joint events:

- Lent Safari
- Sunrise service on the beach on Easter Sunday
- CTiA tent at the Ainsdale show, encouraging people to place their prayers on a prayer tree, write haiku poems and sharing hopes and dreams on a special tablecloth. We also had a craft area for the children
- Sunday Tent service on the green at the Ainsdale show, with Jackie making everyone feel welcome for this special service of the year
- Remembrance Sunday service on the green supported by our church choir. This is always well supported with lots of interest every year
- Christmas carols in the Co-op
- Our ecumenical youth group, Impact, is very popular with the young people

All the activities received an enthusiastic response.

Web and Social media

Our website provides information on all our Services and Events and allows those far and wide to access information on our Church. Our main website www.stjohnsainsdale.org.uk site attracted 3,300 views in 2024, up 600 views on 2023. Our other site www.achurchnearyou.com attracted 9,261 views, up 2,470 views on 2023.

We no longer live stream our 10:30am service on a Sunday but will live stream weddings & funerals on request. There is a link to our YouTube Channel on the website.

Our Facebook page helps promote our place in the local community and much wider! In 2024, the page reached a massive 48,700 people ... a brilliant 75% increase from 2023. The most popular page was about the Christingle Service on 29th December with the picture of Linda Davies dressed as a human Christingle reaching 11,600 people!

Rev Jackie and Chloe Ormrod manage our Facebook page which includes bible verses and is a great opportunity to quickly reach those near and far with church updates and news of events.

Enabling Mission

Buildings and grounds

Church Building

Repairs undertaken during the year included the complete renewal of lighting in the corridor and radiator repair. The latter is appearing more frequently and extensive work may be needed. The necessary fire and security checks were carried out as per schedule.

Church Hall

Replacement fire doors and repair to the single rear outside door carried out. Remedial work to the heating controls allowed nursery staff better management together with separation from the foyer/committee room temperature management. A satisfactory statutory fire inspection was made. Discussion held regarding the suitable renovation of the surface of the outside play area.

Grounds

Routine groundwork and general maintenance undertaken. The lawn area was maintained by a contractor. Tree maintenance and tidying was carried out in the Memorial Garden.

Secret Garden

Discussions held with the Merseyside Probation Service regarding undertaking initial ground clearing, the matter remains under consideration. The expectation is that work to transform the area will take place during 2025.

Annual Financial report to 31 December 2024

Basis of Accounting

The PCC continues to adopt the simpler Receipts and Payments (R&P) basis of accounting. This means that all income and expenditure is shown against the year in which the money is received / paid.

Financial Summary

2024 was a relatively good year for St John's. We have contained our costs and wherever possible sought best value.

Our bank balances are shown below:

	as at 31.12.23	as at 31.12.24
Current account	£18,408	£14,207
Savings / maintenance account	£11,405	£10,207

Whist this may look like a reduction, we were able to clear £14,000 worth of interest free loans during 2024 and we are now completely debt free.

Thus, our reserves are £24,627 (as at 31.12.24) compared to £15,813 (as at 31.12.23).

2024 highlights

Overall, our total income for the year reduced from £171,897 (2023) to £150,735 (2024), but this was due entirely to advance PGS / loan contributions in 2023. Our income over the next few years should remain fairly stable, if not increase – hopefully. Income highlights:

- Parish Giving contributions reduced from £74,400 in 2023 to £45,900 in 2024 – due to advance contributions in 2023 to help clear our loan with Charity Bank. Envelope collections remained stable at c £7,300 p.a.
- Plate collections were up by 14% to £7,006
- Hall and Nursery rentals increased by 4% from £42,935 to £44,316
- Fundraising activity increased to give us a significant increase on 2023, to £2,377
- We also received one off grants of £3,500

Overall, our expenditure increased from £126,917 (2023) to £141,929 (2024) but this latter figure does include the £14,000 loan. Excluding the loan, expenditure is slightly down on 2023. Expenditure highlights:

- Our Parish share is the main source of expenditure, remaining stable in 2024 at £81,800
- Salary payments increased in line with government guidelines to £8,500
- We incurred a one off cost of £5,000 to redecorate the vicarage
- External clergy cover costs reduced from £6,986 (2023) to £ 4,179 (2024)
- Utility costs (Gas, electric and water) increased from £14,259 (2023) to £16,184 (2024)

During the year the trust received loans from trustees of £Nil (2023 - £19,000) and repaid £5,000 (2023 - £5,000). These loans were interest free up to the date of the scheduled repayment in 2028. However, during the year, the loan holders agreed to convert £9,000 (2023 - £Nil) of these loans into donations. Therefore, the amount owed on these loans at the end of the year was £Nil (2023 - £14,000).

Statement of Financial Activities

	Unrestrict ed funds	Restrict ed funds	Endowmen t funds	Total funds	Prior year total funds
Receipts					
Donations and legacies	96,600	1,150	-	97,751	104,593
Income from charitable activities	8,222	1,892	-	10,113	91
Other trading activities	9,982	1,161	-	11,143	48,532
Investments	31,220	-	-	31,220	110
Other income	508	-	-	508	18,572
Total income	146,532	4,203	-	150,735	171,897
Payments					
Raising funds	1,242	-	-	1,242	1,186
Expenditure on charitable activities	136,390	4,297	-	140,687	740
Other expenditure	-	-	-	-	124,990
Total expenditure	137,632	4,297	-	141,929	126,917
Net income / (expenditure) resources before transfer	8,900	(94)	-	8,806	44,980
Transfers					
Gross transfers between funds - in	2,231	3,343	-	5,574	734
Gross transfers between funds - out	(3,343)	(2,231)	-	(5,574)	(734)
Other recognised gains / losses					
Gains/losses on investment assets	8	-	-	8	-
Net movement in funds	7,796	1,019	-	8,814	44,980
Total funds brought forward	15,551	262	-	15,813	(29,168)
Total funds carried forward	23,346	1,281	-	24,627	15,813

Statement of Assets and Liabilities (by code)

	Class and nominal code	General	Designated	Restricted	Total	Last year
Fixed Asset - Investments						
	6441: Shares & CBF investments (691.000) 016	-	363	-	363	-
	Total	-	363	-	363	-
Current Asset - Cash At Bank And In Hand						
	6501: Co-op current account 660	12,776	-	1,431	14,207	18,408
	6521: Co-op savings account	10,208	-	-	10,208	11,405
	Total	22,984	-	1,431	24,415	29,813
Liability - Agency Accounts						
	6699: Agency collections	-	-	150	150	-
	Total	-	-	150	150	-
Liability - Creditors: Amounts falling due after more than one year						
	6610: Parishioner Loans	-	-	-	-	14,000
	Total	-	-	-	-	14,000
	Net total assets	22,984	363	1,281	24,627	15,813
Represented by						
	General (Unrestricted)	22,984	-	-	22,984	15,551
	Designated - Investments	-	363	-	363	-
	Restricted - CAP	-	-	-	-	1,851
	Restricted - Flowers	-	-	61	61	58
	Restricted - LittleJohns	-	-	469	469	177
	Restricted - Mission	-	-	285	285	8
	Restricted - Sequestration	-	-	-	-	(2,299)
	Restricted - TeaCoffee	-	-	466	466	467
	Total	22,984	363	1,281	24,627	15,813

Analysis of income and expenditure

	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	Total	
					This year	Last year
RECEIPTS						
Donations and legacies						
0101 - Gift Aid - Parish Giving Scheme	23,438	-	-	-	23,438	51,206
0102 - Gift Aid - Bank (Standing Orders)	1,196	-	-	-	1,196	2,180
0110 - Gift Aid - Envelopes	1,659	-	50	-	1,709	6,600
0201 - Other planned giving - Parish Giving Scheme	22,472	-	-	-	22,472	23,220
0202 - Other planned giving - Bank (Standing Orders)	840	-	-	-	840	-
0210 - Other planned giving - Envelopes (GASDS eligible)	6,514	-	-	-	6,514	7,365
0215 - Other planned giving - Envelopes (not GASDS eligible)	737	-	-	-	737	-
0301 - Loose plate collections (GASDS eligible)	6,949	-	57	-	7,006	6,272
0310 - Retiring collections	207	-	-	-	207	-
0320 - One-off Gift Aid donations (declaration on envelope)	1,172	-	-	-	1,172	-
0405 - Ad-hoc donations: non Gift Aid (GASDS eligible)	4,382	-	995	-	5,377	7,064
0415 - Ad-hoc donations: non Gift Aid (not GASDS eligible)	11,274	354	48	-	11,677	-
0420 - One-off Gift Aid donations	600	-	-	-	600	-
0450 - Special or specific appeals etc.	1,361	-	-	-	1,361	339
0501 - Tax recoverable on Gift Aid	7,567	-	-	-	7,567	-
0701 - Legacies	-	-	-	-	-	45
08A1 - Non-recurring one-off grants	3,500	-	-	-	3,500	300
0901 - Fundraising (general)	2,378	-	-	-	2,378	-
Donations and legacies Totals	88,248	354	1,150	-	89,751	104,683
Income from charitable activities						
0415 - Ad-hoc donations: non Gift Aid (not GASDS eligible)	-	-	-	-	-	61
0901 - Fundraising (general)	-	-	-	-	-	3-
1101 - Parish fee for wedding or funeral	3,242	-	1,892	-	5,134	-
1230 - Church or Hall lettings - objectives	4,883	-	-	-	4,883	-
1280 - Church event income	97	-	-	-	97	-
Income from charitable activities Totals	8,222	-	1,892	-	10,113	81
Other trading activities						
0910 - Fundraising (Attic, Car Boot, Table top, Jumble sales)	450	-	-	-	450	-
1101 - Parish fee for wedding or funeral	-	-	-	-	-	3,418
1240 - Church or Hall lettings - fundraising	8,328	-	-	-	8,328	42,935
1270 - Other funds generated	1,205	-	1,151	-	2,356	537
1280 - Church event income	-	-	-	-	-	1,542
Other trading activities Totals	8,882	-	1,151	-	11,143	48,532
Investments						
1001 - Dividends from shares	10	-	-	-	10	10
1020 - Bank and building society interest	103	-	-	-	103	100

1030 - Rent from leased lands or buildings	31,108	-	-	-	31,108	-
Investments Totals	31,220	-	-	-	31,220	110
Other Income						
1330 - Refunds from previous year expenditure	508	-	-	-	508	402
0801 - Tax recoverable on Gift Aid	-	-	-	-	-	11,484
0901 - Fundraising (general)	-	-	-	-	-	1,105
1101 - Parish fee for wedding or funeral	-	-	-	-	-	539
Sequestration refund	-	-	-	-	-	5,083
Other Income Totals	508	-	-	-	508	18,572
Receipts Grand totals	148,178	354	4,203	-	150,735	171,897

PAYMENTS

Raising funds

1720 - Costs of giving envelopes and stewardship	58	-	-	-	58	-
1730 - Costs of fundraising events	1,185	-	-	-	1,185	408
1850 - Home mission	-	-	-	-	-	778
Raising funds Totals	1,242	-	-	-	1,242	1,186

Expenditure on charitable activities

1801 - Giving to missionary societies	2,000	-	-	-	2,000	-
1830 - Giving to relief and development agencies	252	-	-	-	252	-
1850 - Home mission	3,579	-	475	-	4,054	180
2250 - General Mission/Support activities	-	-	-	-	-	580
1910 - Deanery/Parish Share	81,818	-	-	-	81,818	-
2010 - Salary of organist/musicians	990	-	-	-	990	-
2050 - Staff Salaries	4,377	-	-	-	4,377	-
2055 - PAYE, NI & Pension - Parish Admin & Support	101	-	-	-	101	-
2080 - Cleaner wage (church building)	1,880	-	-	-	1,880	-
2101 - Clergy working expenses	26	-	-	-	26	-
2120 - Council tax (clergy housing)	1,323	-	-	-	1,323	-
2130 - Housing expenses (clergy)	5,000	-	-	-	5,000	-
2140 - Water charges (clergy housing)	123	-	-	-	123	-
2150 - Telephone and broadband (clergy housing)	382	-	-	-	382	-
2180 - Reader expenses and subscriptions	50	-	-	-	50	-
2190 - Visiting speakers / locums	832	-	3,547	-	4,179	-
2250 - General Mission/Support activities	77	-	181	-	258	-
2301 - Insurance premiums (church building)	3,728	-	-	-	3,728	-
2310 - Telephone (church building/parish office)	324	-	-	-	324	-
2320 - Organ / piano tuning and maintenance	252	-	-	-	252	-
2330 - Church building maintenance (routine)	240	-	-	-	240	-
2331 - Cleaning materials & equipment (church building)	183	-	-	-	183	-
2335 - Church equipment costs	87	-	-	-	87	-
2340 - Upkeep of services	-	-	50	-	50	-
2345 - Church consumable items	6,570	-	40	-	6,610	-
2350 - Upkeep of churchyard &	540	-	-	-	540	-

grounds					
2380 - Administration costs for parish	2,817	-	4	-	2,822
2381 - Governance costs & examination/audit fee	218	-	-	-	218
2401 - Church building - electric	5,472	-	-	-	5,472
2410 - Church building - gas	9,543	-	-	-	9,543
2420 - Church building - water	1,170	-	-	-	1,170
2515 - Other trading expenditure	595	-	-	-	595
2580 - Hall/Other building - water charges	104	-	-	-	104
2590 - Hall/Other building - staff costs	1,314	-	-	-	1,314
2840 - Other PCC property upkeep	130	-	-	-	130
SHP1 - Net salary payment	678	-	-	-	678
SHP4 - Pays Payment	58	-	-	-	58
Expenditure on charitable activities Totals	138,390	-	4,297	-	140,687
740					
Other Expenditure					
1010 - Deanery/Parish Share	-	-	-	-	81,811
2010 - Salary of organist/musicians	-	-	-	-	180
2050 - Staff Salaries	-	-	-	-	8,247
2055 - PAYE, NI & Pension - Parish Admin & Support	-	-	-	-	57
2130 - Housing expenses (clergy)	-	-	-	-	379
2190 - Visiting speakers / locums	-	-	-	-	7,188
2250 - General Mission/Support activities	-	-	-	-	554
2301 - Insurance premiums (church building)	-	-	-	-	3,377
2320 - Organ / piano tuning and maintenance	-	-	-	-	504
2330 - Church building maintenance (routine)	-	-	-	-	1,480
2345 - Church consumable items	-	-	-	-	4,883
2350 - Upkeep of churchyard & grounds	-	-	-	-	410
2380 - Administration costs for parish	-	-	-	-	993
2381 - Governance costs & examination/audit fee	-	-	-	-	218
2382 - Banking charges	-	-	-	-	1,302
2401 - Church building - electric	-	-	-	-	3,063
2410 - Church building - gas	-	-	-	-	8,654
2420 - Church building - water	-	-	-	-	1,355
2515 - Other trading expenditure	-	-	-	-	310
Other Expenditure Totals	-	-	-	-	124,990
Payments Grand totals	137,632	-	4,297	-	141,929
128,917					

These annual accounts have been approved and signed for and on behalf of the board of trustees, at our APCM on Sunday 25th May 2025. They were also approved by our Accountants on 28th May 2025 – pages 24 and 25 refer.

Signed: *Lindsay D Jessop*

Lindsay D Jessop, Treasurer

Donations and Legacies

The congregation at St John's has responded by regular giving in difficult financial times. If you are considering making a significant donation or leaving a legacy in your Will, please discuss this with our Treasurer or the Wardens. Giving back to the church through our Wills can help sustain our Church and its mission in Ainsdale.

Charitable support

Despite another difficult financial year, St John's continued to support other charitable organisations such as SASWT, through direct donations and in-kind support such as making the church building and car park available for others to use. In addition, we make the church freely available to school and Uniformed Organisations, the latter making welcomed donations for the use of our church.

We are also proud to help support SONG, the award-winning junior theatre group, who rehearse regularly in Church on Sunday afternoons and make regular donations to St John's for the use of our main building and committee room.

In summary

The PCC took the decision to continue funding key mission activities including SASWT. Our annual donation of £2,000 was made in late 2024.

We also continued to pay our Parish Share in full to support the wider work of the Diocese and those churches impacted worse than us.

Natterjacks also helped us to maintain a healthy financial status by honouring their monthly payment and service charges for leasing the church hall. The service charge and third-party hire charges were increased during 2024 to help cover our increased utility costs. Service charges are reviewed at 6 monthly intervals and hire charges annually.

We continue to honour all invoices, pay our parish share, and maintain a credit balance on our current and maintenance accounts.

Overall, 2024 was financially, a relatively good year. We must remain prudent and continue to control our costs to ensure this continues into the future.

Management and Governance

Electoral roll

All church members are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) in accordance with the Church Representation Rules. As at 31 December 2023 the Roll stood at 136. During 2024 there was a net decrease of 4 (2 entries added; 6 removed) resulting in 132 on roll as at 31 December 2024.

PCC

Individual PCC members, as Trustees of the Church, receive information, instruction and training when deemed appropriate. This may include information about Trustee responsibilities, health and safety, risk assessment and safeguarding procedures. The full PCC met ten times during 2024 with an average level of attendance of 74%. The PCC is the decision-making body of The Church with any Committee making recommendations to the PCC for consideration.

In September 2024 we held a PCC awayday at Christ Church Ministry Centre. We started the day with a very enjoyable breakfast followed by some interesting and constructive discussions about how to further develop our church at St John's.

Deputy Wardens

We have a team of deputy wardens who give the wardens invaluable support throughout the year:

Val Sinnott
Kate Corey

Jean Washbourne
David Price

Lindsay Jessop
Rob Williams

Risk Assessments

Procedures are in place to manage risks and minimise their impact on the wellbeing of church and hall users. Action in the main areas of risk is managed as follows:

The PCC routinely review **health and safety and fire arrangements** and any relevant risk assessments. The wardens carry out regular inspections as part of their duties. Matters noted were either rectified or reported to the PCC for further action. The fire system and exits in the church and hall were maintained in working order and inspected by certified competent persons in accordance with the safety requirements. The electrical system and equipment are subject to statutory inspection.

During the year the generic risk assessments were applied to manage **operational risks**. There were no activities requiring additional risk assessments. The PCC continue to require a condition of hire that all hirers provide suitable and sufficient risk assessments to cover their activities.

Safeguarding Procedures

We are compliant with all the relevant documentation and checks. After the events of last July, we have reviewed our safety arrangements for groups in church. We are also mindful of vulnerable individuals within our congregation and follow necessary procedures. Safeguarding is the responsibility of everyone and any concerns should be passed on to the Parish Safeguarding Officer and/or Vicar so that appropriate steps can be taken.

New appointments

The following new appointments were made during 2024:

Chairperson: Jackie Vasquez
Deputy Chairperson: Peter Hancock
Secretary: Helen Parker

Administrative Information

St John's Church is situated in Ainsdale, a suburb of Southport. It is part of the Diocese of Liverpool within the Church of England. The address of the Church is: 627-629 Liverpool Road Ainsdale Southport PR8 3NG The PCC is a body corporate and operates under the Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956 and the Church Representation Rules 2017 and was registered with the Charity Commission on 3 April 2009. PCC members (trustees) who have served from 1 January 2024 until the date this report was approved are shown in Appendix 1 along with the specific church roles approved by the PCC.

Acknowledgements

We would like to thank all the volunteers who work so hard to make St John's the caring and vibrant community it is. Some of them you see at the front during services and other events but many more work tirelessly behind the scenes making people feel welcome, setting things up, preparing food and drink, keeping the buildings looking lovely, ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all, and supporting the finances and administration. Their names are too many to mention individually but we are hugely grateful for their continued dedication, selfless service and good humour.

If you are interested in joining or helping with any of the activities highlighted in this report, then please make contact with the leaders listed – they would love to hear from you!

PCC, wardens and welcomers/sidespeople)	Chris Thursfield and Peter Hancock
Choir	Paul Ellis
Worship band	John Forshaw
St John's Care Group	Nancy Lloyd Parry
Children and young people's ministry	Linda Davies
Impact youth club	Linda Davies
Baptisms	Linda Davies
Little John's	Chris Thursfield & Clare Lord
Guides	Jackie McKee
Brownies	Amanda McCarter
Rainbows	Pam Davies
Refreshments & parish lunches	Nina Haddock
Deanery Synod	Jean Washbourne, David Phipps, John Forshaw, Helen Parker
Ainsdale St John's CE Primary School	Lorna O'Brien (Headteacher) John Forshaw (Chair of Governors)
Natterjack's Day Nursery at St John's	Mai-Ling & John Duckworth (Owners/managers) Becca Phillipson (Nursery Manager)
Eco Group	Chris Treble
Church Buildings and grounds	Frank Hyland
Finance, Giving and Fundraising	Lindsay Jessop (Church Treasurer)
St John's Website	Chris Doragh
St John's Facebook Page	Jackie Vasquez
Electoral roll	Paul Olive
Christian Aid	Eirlys Jessop
Churches Together in Ainsdale (CTiA)	Jean Washbourne and Eirlys Jessop
Safeguarding	Chris Thursfield

Approved by the PCC on 25th May 2025, and signed on their behalf by Jackie Vasquez (Vicar)

Jackie Vasquez



Clockwise from top left: family Parade service led by our Junior PCC; hosting a Christingle service for Ainsdale St John's school; Parish lunch after a Sunday service; celebrating mothering Sunday; one of the Guide leaders earning a well-deserved Sefton Star Award

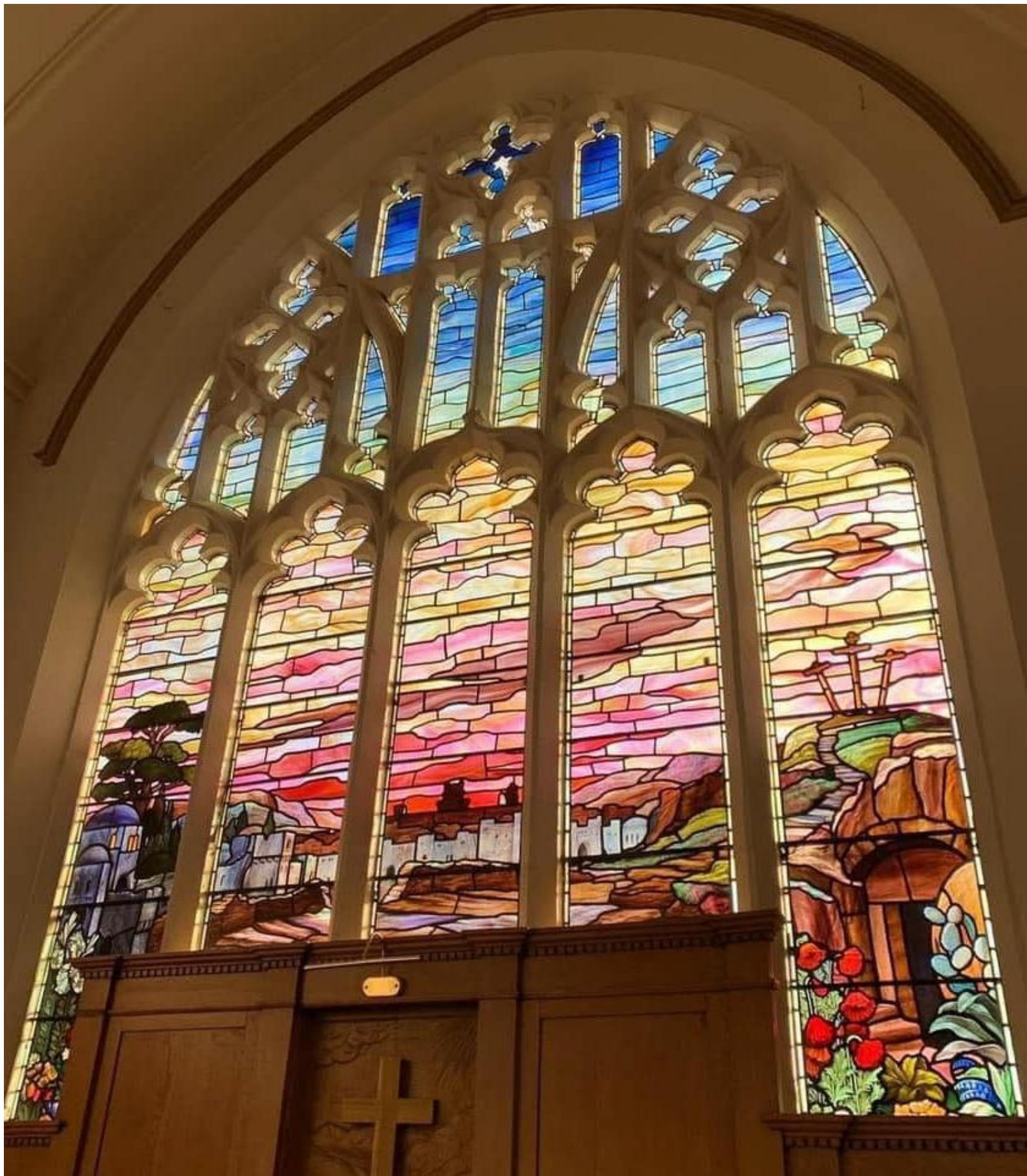
Appendix 1

PCC Membership

	To APCM 2024	From APCM 2024
Incumbent	Interregnum	Jackie Vasquez from 17 June PCC Chair
Reader	Eirlys Jessop	Eirlys Jessop
Churchwardens	Chris Thursfield - PCC Chair Lesley Phipps – PCC Vice chair	Chris Thursfield Peter Hancock – PCC Vice Chair
Deanery Synod Reps	Jean Washbourne David Phipps Helen Parker John Forshaw	Jean Washbourne David Phipps Helen Parker John Forshaw
Elected PCC Members	Giles Davies Linda Davies John Forshaw Peter Hancock Maggie Hilton Frank Hyland Patricia Jameson Lindsay Jessop - Treasurer Chloe Ormrod Val Sinnott Ann Walton	Giles Davies Linda Davies John Forshaw Maggie Hilton Resigned 23 July Frank Hyland Patricia Jameson Lindsay Jessop - Treasurer Chloe Ormrod Lesley Phipps Val Sinnott Chris Treble Ann Walton
Co-opted members of PCC	We currently have two vacancies for co-opted members	

PCC approved roles

PCC Chair	Jackie Vasquez
PCC Vice chair	Peter Hancock
PCC Secretary	Helen Parker
Treasurer	Lindsay Jessop
Bankers	The Co-Operative Bank
Independent Examiner	John Moores University (JMU) – the Accountancy Clinic
Electoral Roll Officer	Paul Olive
Safeguarding Officer	Chris Thursfield
Online stats officer	Paul Ellis
Children’s Work Co-ordinator	Linda Davies
Health & Safety Advisor	Frank Hyland
Gift aid Secretary	Heather Treble
Church calendar and hire bookings	Deb Bishop
Responsibility for Church Website	Chris Doragh
Responsibility for Church Facebook page	Jackie Vasquez and Chloe Ormrod
Chairperson of eco group	Chris Treble
Day to day Management	Jackie Vasquez and the Wardens



St John's Church Easter Window

Independent Examiner's Report



**CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES**

**Independent examiner's
report on the accounts**

Section A Independent Examiner's Report

**Report to the trustees/
members of**

Charity Name
St Johns Church, Ainsdale, Southport

**On accounts for the year
ended**

31 st December 2024	Charity no (if any)	1128996
--------------------------------	--------------------------------	---------

Set out on pages

12-16

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended **31 / 12 / 2024**.

**Responsibilities and
basis of report**

As the charity trustees of the Trust, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

**Independent
examiner's statement**

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:

Date:

28/05/2025

Name:

Chris Dickson

**Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body
(if any):**

ACA

Address:

LJMU Accounting Clinic, Redmonds Building,
Brownlow Hill, Liverpool,
L3 5UG

Independent Examiner's Disclosure

Section B	Disclosure
-----------	------------

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.

N/A

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF AINSDALE ST JOHN

England & Wales - Charity number 1128996

Accounts

St John's Ainsdale

ANNUAL REPORT 2023



Annual Report of the Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Ainsdale St John

Charity Number 1128996

Note: this revision 1 of the Annual Report has been updated since the APCM to: i) reflect the finalised accounts; and ii) update the number of clients helped by the Job Club/



**NORTH MEOLS
DEANERY**

Sharing God's love, serving one another



INTRODUCTION	2
VISION & MISSION	3
WORSHIP & PASTORAL CARE	4
CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE	5
UNIFORMED GROUPS	6
CHURCH SCHOOL	7
NATTERJACKS DAY NURSERY	8
COMMUNITY & FELLOWSHIP	9
THE WIDER CHURCH	11
ENABLING MISSION	12
BUILDINGS & GROUNDS	
COMMUNICATIONS	
FINANCIAL REVIEW	13
MANAGEMENT & GOVERNANCE	21
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	22
INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT	23
<u>APPENDICES</u>	
1. PCC MEMBERSHIP & APPROVED ROLES	24
2. PROGRESS AGAINST 2023 MISSION OBJECTIVES	25
3. PCC MISSION OBJECTIVES FOR 2024	26



This Annual Report has been designed to be read online to support our desire to be environmentally friendly. If you need a paper copy, please contact one of the wardens.



“Don’t just pretend that you love others. Really love them. Hate what is wrong. Stand on the side of the good. Love each other with genuine affection, and take delight in honouring each other. Never be lazy in your work, but serve the Lord enthusiastically. Be glad for all God is planning for you. Be patient in trouble and always be prayerful.”

Romans 12:9-12



Welcome to our annual report for 2023. Although we have been in interregnum, we have used the year to continue to regrow our mission following the closures that arose from the covid pandemic.

We have been delighted to see our congregations settling back to our regular pattern of worship and meeting together for social events such as parish lunches.

Our links with St John’s Primary School and Natterjacks Nursery continue to be a real blessing. The children from school come into church every week for whole school worship and we host school families for class services and special events through the year. Natterjacks families are welcomed into church for Christmas and end of year celebrations.

During this year we have been able to host more social events. The film shows continue to be popular with all ages and we welcomed the community to enjoy fabulous concerts from the Maghull Wind Orchestra, Connected Voices choir, and Octave choir accompanied by the Marshside Brass Band, plus our very own musicians and singers from St John’s school.

Throughout the year we have been indebted to the retired clergy Revd Peter Todd, Revd Bill Matthews, and Revd Canon Ross Moughtin; and lay people, Jean Todd, Eirlys Jessop and Linda Davies. Thanks to you all, and to everyone across the church family who continue to support our ministry with your prayers, time and financial contributions.

We ended 2023 with the good news that we had appointed a new vicar, Revd Jackie Davies. We are sure that God has great plans for Ainsdale under Jackie’s leadership. Some of these plans may involve familiar activities but we also trust that Jackie will further reinvigorate our mission with new approaches and ideas as we look to bring the message of God’s salvation to new people in the communities that we serve.

Ainsdale St John’s PCC



PCC MEMBERSHIP (to APCM 2024)

<i>Incumbent</i>	Currently in Interregnum
<i>Reader</i>	Eirlys Jessop
<i>Churchwardens</i>	Chris Thursfield (PCC Chair) Lesley Phipps

<i>Deanery Synod Reps</i>	Helen Parker, Jean Washbourne, David Phipps, John Forshaw
---------------------------	--

Elected Members (and Trustees)
 Lindsay Jessop (PCC Treasurer)
 Peter Hancock (PCC Secretary and PCC Vice Chair)
 Giles Davies
 John Forshaw
 Frank Hyland
 Chloe Ormrod
 Ann Walton

Linda Davies	Maggie Hilton
Patricia Jameson	Val Sinnott

Members of the PCC are the charity trustees and are the 'persons having the general control and management of the administration of the charity' (Charities Act 2011, s177).

See Appendix 1 for further details & approved roles

WELCOME JACKIE!

We are delighted that Revd Jackie Davies has been appointed as our new Vicar at St John’s Ainsdale. Jackie will be joining us on 17th June and we are very much looking forward to her ministering to us and supporting our mission in Ainsdale.



The primary objective of St John's Church Parochial Church Council (PCC) is to promote the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ and to cooperate with the incumbent, in promoting in the parish, the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical.

OUR VISION
Sharing God's Love, Serving One Another

OUR MISSION
Demonstrating God's love by supporting families throughout their lives: as children; as adults; as parents; and when they need someone just to listen such as at times of bereavement.

To help direct our activities, the PCC has a series of **Mission Priorities** which are focused around the **5 Marks of Mission** (see box right).

Each year, the PCC sets specific **Objectives** against each priority. These help inform budgeting. Progress is reviewed monthly by the PCC's Mission Group. See Appendices 2 and 3 for **Progress against 2023 objectives and PCC objectives for 2024**.

In fulfilling our Mission Priorities, we aim to be:

1. **An active church family where all members are included and valued for who they are, respect each other's style of worship, encourage involvement, and contribute to the whole life of the Church, including our Church School, with their talents and abilities.**
2. **Centred on God, letting Him lead us into the future He has prepared for us.**
3. **Growing in faith as we serve our community in Ainsdale.**

To facilitate the above, it is important that we maintain the fabric of the Church building and adjacent hall complex.

When planning our activities for the year, the PCC has considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and, in particular, the specific guidance on charities for the advancement of religion.

5 Marks of Mission	St John's Mission Priorities
A. TELL: Proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Letting God touch the lives of others by providing imaginative, varied, inspiring and engaging worship.
B. TEACH: Teach, baptise and nurture new believers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Helping and nurturing all those who wish to explore and deepen their relationship with God by providing opportunities for bible study, prayer and Christian fellowship in a safe family friendly environment. • Equipping and supporting each other as members of an inclusive church family to be Christians in a modern world: at home; at work; with friends and in our local community.
C. TEND: Respond to human needs by loving service	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Helping to transform lives of those in need in Ainsdale through providing a safe haven for quiet contemplation and offering practical and emotional support for life events.
D. TRANSFORM: Seek to transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind and to pursue peace and reconciliation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working with other Christian and secular organisations to promote global fairness for all.
E. TREASURE: Strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Looking after God's planet by raising awareness of the impact we have on creation and the actions we can take to improve the environment.

Our regular pattern of **weekly worship** continued throughout 2023 in addition to us supporting families with baptisms and funerals.

We continued to lead **whole school worship** in church which is appreciated by all children and staff every Monday as well as hosting families for our special services for Harvest, Easter and Christmas.

The **worship band** supported our Praise & Worship services and school collective worship. Their music is enjoyed by a wide range of ages with everyone becoming involved with the actions used to enhance the messages.

Our **church choir** supported Holy Communion services and joined with the music group for Family Communion services. The choir also attended special feast day services and the Christmas Midnight communion, as well as a Carol Service. The choir also represented the church by robing for the Act of Remembrance on the village green. Choir membership is currently 11.

2023 WORSHIP PATTERN

Sunday 10-30 main service (also live streamed through 2023)

Service alternates to accommodate different styles:

✝ **1st & 3rd Sun: Praise & Worship / Parade Service:** informal family service with worship band; Guides, Rainbows and Brownies contribute to 6 services each year

✝ **2nd & 4th Sun: Holy Communion (CW):** with organ and choir

✝ **5th Sun: Family Communion:** with worship band, organ & choir

Baptisms are accommodated in the 10.30 service when required

Sunday 8-30 service

Quiet traditional Holy Communion (alternate BCP/BCW) with no music.

Thursday 10-30 service

Traditional Holy Communion (BCP) with no music.

The PCC are very grateful to the dedicated clergy and lay teams, worship band, organist and choir who continued to have such a positive impact on our worship.

Our small but dedicated **Prayer Group** met each Monday afternoon in church. In our prayers we remember people in need, both locally and worldwide and allocate some quiet time for private prayer.

The **Prayer Circle** also actively supported those requesting prayers.

A **Bible Study Group** started in 2023 to develop our understanding of the Bible by watching episodes from 'The Chosen'. This provided the basis for investigating passages from the Bible. It is well attended and provided opportunities for some interesting discussions.

The **Care Group** are a valuable part of our ministry. During the past year members of the Care Group visited and brought communion to people who were housebound, in nursing

homes or in hospital. We are committed towards providing a **warm and welcoming space** in church at a time when people are struggling to keep their homes warm. The group put on a series of film shows on Friday afternoons which included an interval for refreshments and much appreciated fellowship.

We support families who have lost a loved one. During 2023 the **Bereavement Group** met when needs arose.

The '**bring and share**' lunches continued to bring the different congregations together after the Sunday service.

The **Men's Social Group** met on a Wednesday evening. Initially set up to cater for men new to the church who live on their own, it is now available to anyone and there are currently seven men who meet. It is a great way to make new members of the church feel very welcome and to enjoy fellowship in a relaxed atmosphere.



We are encouraged by the increasing number of children and young families attending services.

We hold two informal services per month especially suitable for those with children. The youngest children take advantage of our “children’s corner”, with craft activities, Bible books and colouring opportunities, and the services are designed for them to take an active role in worship with musical instruments, interactive prayer, and use of visuals. We want to give our young people a voice. Children, including our Uniformed Groups, help to lead prayers and Bible readings.

Junior PCC met to plan and lead specific services, including the annual Crib Service on Christmas Eve, when a packed church enjoyed dressing up to retell the nativity story and celebrate Jesus’ birth. Some members of Junior PCC are part our worship band.

In these ways, we are able to worship as an all-age church family, with the children and young people fully integrated and participating in

our worship.

We use our church website and Facebook pages to post updates and photos and regularly email families with details of upcoming events.

We are very fortunate to enjoy close ties with our church school - children and staff. We lead **whole school worship** every Monday during term time and it is wonderful to witness the church filled with over 200 pupils and their staff joining in wholeheartedly with worship songs and activities. The school use the church space for class services and Christmas and Easter worship activities and a very engaging and busy Christingle service. Linda goes into Year 3 each year to deliver *Christmas in a Box*. The children learn more about the roles of the principal characters in the nativity and take their own box home to share the experience with their family.

Baptisms

Despite the interregnum, we were delighted welcome three children

into our church family in 2023. It is very important to us that baptisms are held in the main Sunday service with families given an especially warm welcome. Linda, as Baptism Co-Ordinator, is their first contact and they are invited to come and meet us before their child’s important first step on a journey of faith. One of our church members continues to make crochet blankets which are given as gifts, along with a children’s bible and a baptism candle. One of the children baptised this past year was the sister of one of our school children and, following the baptism, Revd Bill Matthews was asked by the school to do a presentation on baptism in church for the class as part of the RE Curriculum.

Impact Youth

This Ainsdale ecumenical youth group for 11 to 18 year olds, originally started by St John’s, met on Wednesdays during term time in the Methodist Church’s sports hall and café/lounge.

The Churches together in Ainsdale

partner with the Southport & Area School’s Worker Trust to provide and create a safe space for the young people attending to explore the big issues of life and faith. Around 25 young people attended each week to enjoy chats with their peers, games on the big screens and a variety of sports, as well as much anticipated food and drinks while discussing a big question linked to life and faith.

Little John’s Baby & Toddler Group



The group continued to thrive with around 35 children each week - many regulars and some dropping in now and again. We were able to give out 40 books again at Christmas.

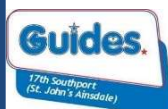
There is still a mixture of mums, dads, grandparents and carers bringing children each week and providing mutual support. There is lots of lively chat with adults cheerfully joining in the clearing-up at the end to make room for the dancing.



Uniformed Organisations

St John's are fortunate to have strong Guiding groups meeting in church. We also enjoy welcoming the girls and their families to six Parade Services a year and the groups join on the green for Remembrance Sunday. **Thank you to all the dedicated leaders who volunteer so much time.**

17th St John's Guides



Guides enjoyed a very active and fun year achieving numerous

Theme Awards with bronze, silver and gold presentations.

Highlights included:

- Cooking outdoors at Scarisbrick Campsite.
- A Eurovision Song Contest – we have some very talented guides!
- A fun stay at Waddow Hall Adventure House with raft building, abseiling, tall tree climbing, crate challenge and

indoor caving.

- A King's Coronation tea party with lots of games.
- The '17th Guide Baking Competition' as part of the Cake Challenge badge.
- Pumpkin carving.
- Supporting 'Shoebox of Love' at Christmas.
- A visit to see Jack & The Beanstalk panto at The Atkinson

The Patrol leaders and guiders ended 2023 with a Chinese take away.

Guides welcomed four new leaders all who have gone into uniform and working on the leadership programme - fantastic news!

15th Ainsdale Brownies



Brownies had a very busy year with lots of badges and awards, including Bronze, Silver and Gold Awards, and crafts evenings.

Brownie highlights included:

- Celebrating the Coronation of King Charles and sending a card - which received a reply!
- Celebrating Chinese New Year by re-enacting the story of the animals which the years are named after and tried to eat dolly mixtures with chopsticks.
- Easter egg decorating competition and egg hunt.
- Finding out about Biomedical Science and completing the 'Clever Clogs - On The Mend' challenge badge.
- Pitching tents and fire safety at Shirdley Hill.
- Trip to Chocolate Whirled making chocolate bars, Christmas puddings and lollies.
- A trip to Jack & the Beanstalk.

2nd Ainsdale Rainbows



Rainbows had an exciting year showing their commitment

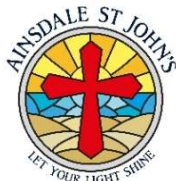
to the Guiding family gaining interest, skill builders and theme badges.

Rainbow highlights included:

- A story making adventure in the church grounds – it was exciting to hear how the garden influenced each group's minds into making amazing stories.
- Making crowns, and having a crowning ceremony for the coronation.
- Entering flowers collages into the Ainsdale Show. Well done girls!
- A PJ party celebration, decorating church and raising money for Children's Cancer Trust.
- As part of a Skill Builders, donating their own items to local charity shops, and raising some money for items for local food charity boxes too.
- Spookfest at Scarisbrick Hall.
- A Christmas party and Christmas crafts - from pizza biscuits to welcoming all the new Rainbows.



Report from St John's CE School



It has been a year filled with exciting events and wonderful achievements in school.

Last year's report ended with us looking ahead to the King's Coronation so it is only right that this is where this contribution begins...

All the children at ASJ put their creative skills to use and crafted beautiful crowns. We had planned to have a street party picnic lunch outside, but unfortunately, the weather had other plans. However, that did not dampen our spirits, as we all gathered in the hall for a delightful lunch together. The day ended on a high note with a sing-song, featuring the catchy tune 'Shine' by Take That, which was taken from the Official Coronation playlist.

Continuing our commitment to fostering a strong sense of community, Reception and Year 6 took part in our first buddy beach day. They had a blast burying each other in the sand and chasing each other down the sand dunes. It was a fantastic opportunity for our students to bond and create lasting memories.

We are thrilled to announce that we have introduced forest school

sessions on-site. During the summer the children were learning valuable skills, such as making mini fires and whittling wood. These sessions provide a unique opportunity to connect with nature and develop problem-solving abilities.

As you may have noticed, this school year also brought about a change in our school uniform. The children have been proudly sporting their new attire, complete with our new logo. They look absolutely splendid, and it's wonderful to see them embracing their individuality while representing our school.

One of the highlights of the past few months was when our Year 5 children attended the rededication of the war memorial in Southport. They were fortunate enough to have a chat with HRH Princess Anne. We could not be prouder of their representation of ASJ.

We continued with the development of the curriculum and created our ASPIRE curriculum intent which stands for:

- A**chieve through resilience and perseverance
- S**how respect for Christian and British values
- P**romote high expectations for all
- I**nspire lifelong readers
- R**evisit knowledge and skills to embed learning
- E**ncourage a love of learning

We believe that this will provide our students with a well-rounded education that prepares them for the future.

Lastly, I am thrilled to share that our VIP Ambassadors had the pleasure of meeting Revd Jackie during the selection process. We are eagerly looking forward to welcoming her to the ASJ family.

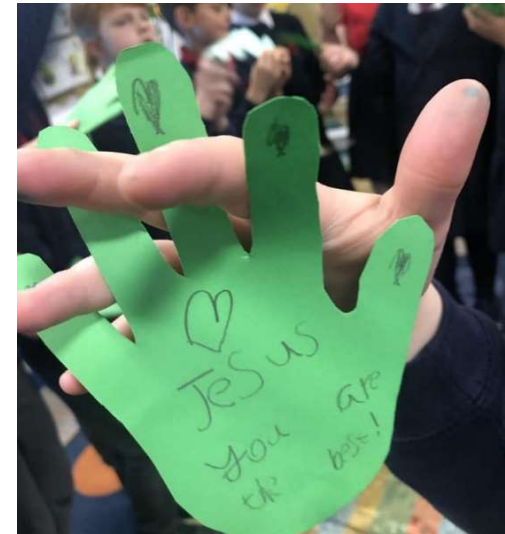
Moving forward, we are excited for the coming year as we expect to officially become a member of the Liverpool Diocesan Schools Trust. This partnership will strengthen our Christian distinctiveness and provide opportunities for our staff and students to learn and grow.

Thank you to the congregation of St. John's Church for your continued support and involvement in our school community. Together, we can ensure that our children shine brightly and become the best that they can be, aspiring to shine for Jesus.

Lorna O'Brien
Headteacher

SCHOOL GOVERNANCE

Church members play a key role in the leadership of the school by acting as Foundation Governors. The Governing Body are extremely grateful to Mrs O'Brien and all the staff for their tireless dedication this year in supporting every child to be the best that they can be.



Report from Natterjacks



It has been a busy year at Natterjacks!

We have taken on new staff as a result of the new funded hours offered by the government.

We are hoping to get some funding from Tesco stronger starts which is currently running at Formby Tesco.

We are happy to hear that work on the secret garden can hopefully start this spring. It will be a great community collaboration which will benefit the nursery, brownies, guides and community.

We are also hoping to revamp our outdoor area so that our children can play under a pagoda in hot and

wet weather. We are hoping to use some funding from our local authority to make this happen.

We have had lots of visitors at nursery. Home safari have brought Titch the Shetland therapy pony and Ant and Dec the Pygmy goats. They had a great time being fed, petted and brushed by all the children!

We are looking forward to welcoming them back soon.

We have invited local author and her dog Mrs Paws to nursery on World book day. She will be reading one of her stories and we will be able to get signed copies of her book.

During Easter we had a visit from dwarf rabbits so that children could experience looking after a little pet.

We have enjoyed taking our children to woodlands lodge care home each

month and have had special times making art, dancing and singing with the residents. The children love going on the bus and really benefit from our visits.

We are hoping to start our weekly visits from year 5's at Ainsdale St John's primary. Our nursery children love them coming in to read with them.

Our occupancy is healthy and we continue to support our children and families as much as possible.

We have strong links with Compassion Acts food bank and also with the Salvation Army who kindly help with emergency grants for people in need. We regularly send bags of food over to them and also thank them for helping many of our families who we introduce to them.

We are looking forward to the

warmer weather so that we can expand our walks and enjoy picnics to the pinewoods and beach.

We have been chosen to access training for talking time, a programme that supports children with speech and language delays. This will help immensely with continuous intervention to support children that are showing signs of delay.

We thank you all for your continued support.

Mai-Ling & John Duckworth

*Owners
Natterjacks Day Nursery at St John's*



At St John's we are extremely fortunate to have skilled and dedicated people who run events, lead groups and organise fundraising activities that provide wider fellowship and support those most in need in our community and further afield.

CAP Job Club



St John's Job Club works in partnership with Christians Against Poverty (CAP).

It has been run by a small team with each member playing a part, from providing refreshments to job coaching and advertising, using their varied experience to advise clients and prepare them for interviews and the world of work.

Literature provided by CAP has been widely displayed in the community. Over the past year our new Manager, Donald, visited Southport Job Centre weekly making contact with potential clients, giving each one a leaflet with contact details.

Many said that a Job Club course would be very helpful but in the event very few actually turned up. We conducted two courses in 2023 and did help six people revise their CVs and helped a lady write up her job centre journal.

This reduction in demand has led us to take the difficult decision to close the Job Club.

Over the past 7 years of the Job Club we believe that we have been doing God's work – the team has helped 121 members with 32 members finding work.

We pray for God's guidance as to how we, as a church, can best continue to serve our community in the future.

Christian Aid



Christian Aid is an international

development agency that enables us to respond to Christ's command to care for all in need.

Everything Christian Aid does is in response to God's gift to the world, of his son Jesus Christ. Jesus promised 'good news' for the poor and 'freedom' for the oppressed, calling us all to action.

Jesus called his followers to 'love God and love your neighbour.' Through his life and teaching, his death and his resurrection, he inspired his followers to love God, love their neighbours and long for justice. Our faith in God, and in his loving relationship with us, gives us confidence and hope that poverty can be ended, despite all that might stand in the way.

For many years, St John's has supported the work of Christian Aid and now works with Churches Together in Ainsdale (CTiA) to raise funds and raise awareness.

In 2023 for 'Christian Aid Week' this involved distributing 3,500 'delivery only' envelopes (raising £404.15), a 'Big Brekkie and cake sale' (raised £395.16), some house-to-house collections (raised £170) and each of the churches held their own church collection (raised £967.85). This gave us an overall total of £1,937.16. This money will be used to change and save lives of some of the most vulnerable people in the world.

We are also registered as an 'Emergency church' so that when disaster strikes, we are able to respond quickly. We raised £155.70 towards the Ukraine emergency appeal and £132.46 towards the Middle East Crisis appeal.



Eco Group

As a registered Eco-Church with a Bronze Award, the Eco Group has continued to raise awareness with our congregation, for example in notices, songs and during prayers, on how we can all care for creation.

Using the fifth 'Mark of Mission' as our guide – 'To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the earth' - here are some of the activities during 2023:

- Thanks to donations for communal Christmas Cards, we were able to 'Twin a Toilet' in Nepal meaning three of our six toilets are now twinned. These projects help families to build their own basic toilet, access clean water and learn about hygiene.
- Members continued to raise awareness across the Deanery, as well as with other denominations in Ainsdale e.g. a short talk at the Commissioning of Wardens service at St. Cuthberts, Southport on how St John's are expressing their Care for the Environment.
- 'No-Mow May' was introduced to lawn care along with a policy not to use pesticides or fertilisers anywhere in the garden to encourage pollinators and more wildlife. Three bird boxes with feeders were also added to our church garden.
- As a Fairtrade church, we buy fairly traded products (tea, coffee etc), and continue to use eco-friendly cleaning products and toiletries.
- We reached out to Bridge Inn Community Farm in Formby
- Research has continued to examine ways of achieving a Silver Award status in 2024.

Events

During 2023, we were delighted to offer a programme of free and ticketed concerts and social events for the community.

Where appropriate, church ran a licensed bar at events to raise additional church funds.

Events held in church in 2023 included:

- *Holiday cinema club*: occasional

family films during the school holidays proved a big hit with parents and grandparents needing to keep children entertained!

- *King's Coronation party*: the church hosted a celebration with live screening of the ceremony and plenty of outdoor games and indoor craft activities for the children. Everyone enjoyed a fabulous buffer lunch.
- *USA Band*: a fabulous afternoon of

music from the 50s, 60s and 70s was enjoyed by all.

- *Connected Voices*: this fabulous local choir performed great songs from rock, gospel and funk to pop classics and musical theatre.
- *Maghull Wind Orchestra*: back by popular demand, the orchestra performed beautiful and uplifting pieces from classical music favourites to musical theatre and pop.

- *Octave*: Performing with the Marshside brass band, this special Christmas performance raised over £1,000 for Queenscourt Hospice.
- *Christmas Community Concert*: the choir and musicians from St John's School wowed everyone with Christmas favourites and traditional carols.



Deanery Synod

The Deanery Synod met three times in 2023 to discuss the following:

- The parish benefits of churches working more closely together.
- Differing attitudes towards diverse sexualities within the church.
- Parishes becoming eco friendly.
- Racial justice – vision for the future – equality for all.
- Financial issues.
- Parish Share – how it is used, the link between Parish Share and the number of clergy in the Diocese, and plans to review the formula from 2025.

Further details can be obtained from our representatives and the Diocese of Liverpool website.

Churches Together in Ainsdale

We met for prayer and to share plans regularly through the year. Ministers met monthly for support and looking at ways to work together.

All events were well attended:

- Week of prayer for Christian unity.
- Lent Safari.
- Sunrise service on the beach.
- Church tent at the Ainsdale Show.
- Tent Service on the green (Revd Patrick Evans asked us to envision what Ainsdale would look like if it was a truly ecumenical village).
- Remembrance Sunday service.
- Christmas Carols in the Co-op.
- Our ecumenical youth group,

Impact, run with the help of Hettie and Tabz from SASWT.

During 2023 Fr Tony from St John's Stone and Sacred Heart left, to be replaced by Fr Paul Seddon. Fr Tony was a huge supporter of ecumenical activities in the village and we wish him well in his new parish.

Compassion Acts

This local charity, started by the Southport churches, runs various projects and activities focused on reducing poverty and increasing social wellbeing in order to improve the lives of people in our area.

We continued to support them in 2023 by collecting donations for their food bank. Our harvest festival with school and uniformed groups also supported the food bank.

SASWT

We continue to support, and be supported by, the fabulous workers and volunteers from this Southport charity. The team work across schools in the area to provide 'Safe Spaces', lessons, clubs and collective worship experiences where children and young people can come together in a safe environment to consider questions of life and faith in a relevant way.



Buildings and grounds



Church Building: During the year there were no substantial issues. Some minor repairs were done. Rainwater ingress at the rear door remains a problem to be addressed.

Church Hall: Minor repairs were done during the year. A radiator leak was the significant matter. The central heating maintenance controls were reviewed during the winter period in order to ensure the required nursery environment.

Secret Garden: This is the area of enclosed land opposite the vicarage. The documentation concerning ownership and responsibility was finalised towards the end of the year thus enabling planning to be organised in the coming year.

Grounds: Groundworks and general maintenance were undertaken during the year around the properties. The lawn area was maintained by a gardener. A work team carried out a tidying exercise around the grounds and memorial garden.

Communications

We introduced a **monthly notice sheet** to provides information on services and events for those coming to church.

Our online and social media presence are essential to effective outreach and mission, promoting church faster, to more people – including globally – and much more economically than we could ever achieve through leaflets or word of mouth.

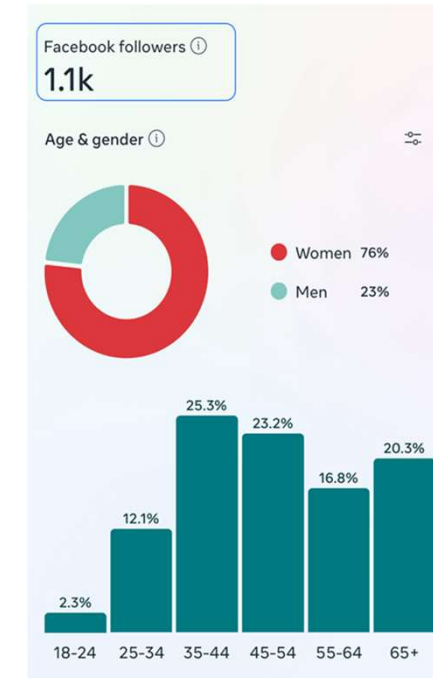
Our main **website** www.stjohnsainsdale.org.uk attracted 2,760 views in 2023 (4,952 in 2022). Our other site www.achurchnearyou.com, which is promoted centrally by the Church of England, attracted 6,791 views (5,000 in 2022).

The ‘St. John’s C of E Parish Church Ainsdale’ **facebook** page has been running for over 12 years and shares news and events from our church, our school, nursery and other church groups. In 2023 approximately 9,700 people visited our page, a massive 174% increase on 2022! Facebook calculate that the page ‘reached’ 28,000 people globally - a 40% decrease from 2022 but still double the local population. Our top ‘reach’ post was the news about the sad passing of Margaret Flemington, and our top ‘liked’ post was the news of our new Vicar Jackie.

Top performers



It is encouraging to see our page still growing – over 1,000 followers to date from as far afield as Nigeria, the Philippines and Afghanistan!



A Twitter / X page was also started, however this hasn’t proved as effective as Facebook and so will be discontinued. Similar tests were done with Instagram but again with little or no success.

For the last 5 years now, the site has included a daily bible verse on the page as part of Chris York’s own bible reading challenge and the

feedback from this is well received and appreciated.

Any events or updates are shared, where possible, on other local Facebook pages and groups, so this casts the net even further.

If there are any church groups’ news or events coming up, please send information to Chris Doragh and Chris York who will gladly include it ... you never know who sees them?!

In 2023 we **live streamed** our 10:30am Sunday Service. Streaming funerals has been a useful ministry, allowing family and friends to participate when unable to attend in person. Two funerals were streamed in 2023, one viewed in the UK and the other in Europe. We also live streamed our first wedding which received very positive feedback with views from the UK, France, Spain, Germany & the USA!

Our sites are updated each week and hopefully provide our audience with an accurate record of what is happening at St John’s.

Here’s to more views, ‘likes’ and ‘follows’ in 2024.

The PCC appreciate that all activities involved in maintaining and supporting our mission, in any way, take time and commitment and we are really grateful to all our volunteers for their continued expertise and support.

Basis of Accounting

The PCC has continued to adopt the simpler Receipts and Payments (R&P) basis of accounting. This means that all income and expenditure is shown against the year in which the money is received / paid.

Overall

Our 2023 set of accounts are shown on the following pages.

General Fund

- During 2023 our current account balance increased from £15,791 on 1 Jan to £18,146 as of 31 Dec. This was due to significant parish giving advance contributions and interest free loans, which have helped us to clear our Charity bank loan completely.
- During the year the trust received loans from trustees of £19,000 (2022 - £Nil) and repaid £5,000 (2022 - £Nil). At the year end the amount outstanding was £14,000 (2022 - £Nil). These loans are interest free up to the date of repayment in 2028 at which point interest is charged at 1% over the Bank of England base rate for a maximum period of 2 years.

Income highlights

- Plate collections were down by 24% to £5,610.
- We received interest free loan and advance Parish Giving Scheme

contributions totalling £42,220 to repay the Charity Bank loan and avoid future interest charges.

- Hall rentals increased from £11,200 to £12,754.
- Nursery income increased slightly, to £30,181.
- Donations up 30% to £14,325.
- Parish Giving (including advance contributions) totalled £ 74,428, although next year's PG income will reduce accordingly.

Expenditure highlights

- Our loan with Charity Bank was cleared completely during 2023.
- Church running costs remained fairly stable during 2023.
- Parish Share increased substantially from £74,043 to £81,811.
- We continued to rely heavily on external clergy cover – although most of the costs are recovered from Liverpool Diocese.
- Where possible the PCC took measures to control costs including regularly reviewing utility charges and all other expenditure.

The PCC took the decision to continue funding key mission activities including the Job Club and SASWT.

We also continued to pay our Parish Share in full to support the wider work of the Diocese and those churches impacted worse than us.

Natterjacks also helped us to

maintain a healthy financial status by honouring their monthly payment and service charges, which are reviewed at 6 monthly intervals. The service charge and third-party hire charges were increased during 2023 to help cover our increased utility costs.

Our Charity Bank Loan was cleared and closed in May 2023, with the help of several interest free loans from trustees and advance Parish Giving Scheme contributions. We are grateful for the wider support of all our congregation to keep our interest costs as low as possible.

Our maintenance savings account has a credit balance of £11,405 as at year end. This will be used to clear all interest free loans during the early part of 2024, with the remainder being a backup fund to cover emergencies and building / repairs.

Charitable support

Despite another difficult financial year, St John's has continued to support other charitable organisations such as SASWT, through direct donations and in-kind support such as making the church building and car park available for others to use. In addition, we make the church freely available to school and Uniformed Organisations, the latter making welcomed donations for the use of our church. We are also proud to help support SONG,

the award-winning junior theatre group, who rehearse regularly in Church on Sunday afternoons and make regular donations to St John's for the use of our main building and committee room.

Donations and Legacies

It is an important Christian value to give back to God in gratitude for the love and blessings we have received in our lives. The congregation at St John's has responded by regular giving in difficult financial times and through significant legacy donations. At times other donations are given to assist specific cost requirements and the PCC will abide by donors' wishes.

If you are considering making a significant donation or leaving a legacy in your Will, please discuss this with our Treasurer or the Wardens. Giving back to the church through our Wills can help sustain our Church and its mission in Ainsdale.

Prior Period Error

In the prior (2022) year loan repayments to the Charity Bank were shown in error on the Analysis of Receipts and Payments. This has resulted in the following restatements:

Analysis of Receipts and Payments					
			As previously disclosed	Adjustment	As restated
			2022		2022
<i>Other expenditure</i>					
Charity Bank - Charity Bank			115,693.22	- 108,048.22	7,645.00
Other expenditure Totals			241,430.55	- 108,048.22	133,382.33
Payments Grand Totals			245,867.29	- 108,048.22	137,819.07
Statement of Assets and Liabilities					
			As previously disclosed	Adjustment	As restated
			2022		2022
<i>Liability - Creditors: Amounts falling due after more than one year</i>					
Charity Bank Loan			-	44,958.00	44,958.00
Net total assets			15,790.00	- 44,958.00	- 29,168.00
<i>Reserves</i>					
Total			15,790.33	- 44,958.00	- 29,167.67

*Rounding may result in immaterial differences to the figures shown in the following set of accounts

**St John's church,
Ainsdale, Southport
Receipts and
Payments Account
For the period from 01 January 2023 to 31 December 2023**

	Unrestricted funds	Designated funds	Restricted funds	Total funds	As restated Prior year total funds
Receipts					
Donations and legacies	103,639	-	953	104,593	153,490
Income from charitable activities	91	-	-	91	3,528
Other trading activities	47,583	-	949	48,532	48,581
Investments	110	-	-	110	5
Other income	14,585	-	3,987	18,572	18,575
Total Receipts	166,008	-	5,890	171,897	220,177
Payments					
Raising funds	1,186	-	-	1,186	4,200
Expenditure on charitable activities	333	-	408	740	237
Other expenditure	117,071	-	7,919	124,990	133,383
Total Payments	118,590	-	8,327	126,917	137,819
Excess of receipts over payments before transfer	47,418	-	(2,437)	44,980	82,358
Transfers:					
Gross transfers between funds - in	-	-	734	734	-
Gross transfers between funds - out	(734)	-	-	(734)	-
Excess of receipts over payments before other gains	47,418	-	(2,437)	44,980	82,358
Net movement in funds	46,684	-	(1,703)	44,980	82,358
Reconciliation of funds					
Excess of receipts over payments at beginning of the year	(31,133)	-	1,966	(29,168)	(111,526)
Excess of receipts over payments for the year	15,551	-	282	15,813	(29,168)

There may be minor discrepancies in the totals if the pence are not being shown

St John's church, Ainsdale, Southport
Statement of Assets and Liabilities (by code)
As at: 31 December 2023

Class and nominal code	General (Unrestricted)	Designated	Restricted	Total	As restated
					Last year
Current Asset - Cash At Bank And In Hand					
Co-op current a/c: 65951660	18,146	-	262	18,408	15,790
Co-op Savings acc: Church maintenance fund	11,405	-	-	11,405	-
Total	29,551	-	262	29,813	15,790
Liability - Creditors: Amounts falling due after more than one year					
Charity Bank Loan	-	-	-	-	44,958
Parishioner Loans	14,000	-	-	14,000	-
Total	14,000	-	-	14,000	44,958
Net total assets/(liabilities)	15,551	-	262	15,813	(29,168)
Represented by					
General (Unrestricted)	15,551	-	-	15,551	(31,133)
Restricted - CAP	-	-	1,851	1,851	2,131
Restricted - Flower fund	-	-	58	58	26
Restricted - Little Johns	-	-	177	177	-
Restricted - Mission	-	-	8	8	7
Restricted - Sequestration	-	-	(2,299)	(2,299)	(550)
Restricted - T & C	-	-	467	467	351
Total	15,551	-	262	15,813	(29,168)

St John's church, Ainsdale, Southport
Analysis of Receipts and Payments
Selected period: 01 January 2023 to 31 December 2023

	General	Designated	Restricted	This year	As restated Last year
Receipts					
Donations and legacies					
3rd party appeals - 3rd party appeals	339	-	-	339	758
Coll Thursday 10.30 – Plate collections – 10.30am Thursday	635	-	-	635	416
Donation - Contactless donation	661	-	-	661	331
Donation gift aided - Donation	6,600	-	-	6,600	-
Donations - Donations	6,111	-	953	7,064	10,884
Envelope collections - Envelopes	7,365	-	-	7,365	7,383
Legacies - Legacies	45	-	-	45	75,222
Midnight service - Plate collection - Midnight HC	-	-	-	-	28
Parish Giving rollup - PG Rollup	23,220	-	-	23,220	-
Planned Giving - Planned Giving - PGS direct	51,208	-	-	51,208	48,538
Plate coll 10.30 Sun - Plate collections - 10.30am Sunday	4,223	-	-	4,223	5,667
Plate coll 8.30 Sun - Plate collection - 8.30am Sunday	753	-	-	753	889
Sefton CVS - Grant	300	-	-	300	-
Service donation - Plate collection - Crib Service	-	-	-	-	35
Standing Orders - Standing orders - monthly	2,180	-	-	2,180	3,340
Donations and legacies Totals	103,639	-	953	104,593	153,490
Income from charitable activities					
Generosity week - Fundraising	-	-	-	-	3,090
Ticket sales - Ticket sales	30	-	-	30	365
Toliet twinning - Toliet twinning	61	-	-	61	72
Income from charitable activities Totals	91	-	-	91	3,526
Other trading activities					
Bar income - Bar	537	-	-	537	1,067
Burial of ashes - Burial of ashes	182	-	182	364	1,506
Events - Event Income	1,642	-	-	1,642	759
Funeral Income - Funeral Income	2,287	-	767	3,054	2,759

					As restated	
		General	Designated	Restricted	This year	Last year
	Hall rentals - Rentals	12,754	-	-	12,754	11,235
	Miscellaneous – Easyfundraising	-	-	-	-	20
	nursery – Natterjacks nursery	30,181	-	-	30,181	28,875
	Parties – Party bookings	-	-	-	-	70
	Running costs – Expense payment	-	-	-	-	50
	Wedding Banns – Wedding Banns	-	-	-	-	240
Other trading activities Totals		47,583	-	949	48,532	46,581
Investments						
	Co op bank - Credit Interest	100	-	-	100	-
	Dividend - CBF	10	-	-	10	5
Investments Totals		110	-	-	110	5
Other income						
	Credit interest - Charity Bank	-	-	-	-	5
	Fundraising - Crowdfunder	1,105	-	-	1,105	-
	HMRC - HMRC	11,464	-	-	11,464	11,329
	Insurance refund - Insurance	-	-	-	-	2,752
	Mission - Mission Fund	-	-	-	-	16
	Sequestration - Liverpool Diocese - refund	1,076	-	3,967	5,063	349
	Utility refund – Utility refund	402	-	-	402	640
	Wedding fees – Weddings	539	-	-	539	1,284
Other income Totals		14,585	-	3,967	18,572	16,575
Receipts Grand Totals		166,008	-	5,890	171,897	220,177
Payments						
Raising funds						
	3rd party donations - 3rd party donations	778	-	-	778	3,368
	Event costs - Social events	408	-	-	408	832
Raising funds Totals		1,186	-	-	1,186	4,200
Expenditure on charitable activities						
	Job club donation - CAP donation	160	-	-	160	40
	Little Johns - Little Johns	173	-	408	580	197
Expenditure on charitable activities Totals		333	-	408	740	237

	General	Designated	Restricted	This year	As restated Last year
Other expenditure					
Accountants – Harrison Latham	216	-	-	216	1,362
Bookers – Bookers Cash & Carry	369	-	-	369	499
CAP expenses – CAP Job club	274	-	280	554	1,287
Charity Bank – Charity Bank	1,392	-	-	1,392	7,645
Church Insurance – Insurance	570	-	-	570	1,836
church running costs – Church expenses – operational costs	3,856	-	438	4,294	14,831
Clergy costs – Clergy & Reader expenses	-	-	-	-	1,465
Electric – SE	1,062	-	-	1,062	-
Expenses – Other expenses	285	-	12	297	2,219
External costs – Clergy cover	300	-	6,686	6,986	1,492
Funeral Wedding fees - Liverpool Diocese	200	-	-	200	2,918
Funerals - Funeral costs	310	-	-	310	-
Gardening - Gardening costs	410	-	-	410	140
Gas - SSE	4,850	-	-	4,850	-
Insurance - Ecclesiastical	2,807	-	-	2,807	-
Licence fees - Licence fees	698	-	-	698	70
NI and PAYE HMRC - NI and PAYE	57	-	-	57	-
Organ repairs - Organ maintenance	-	-	504	504	-
Organist - Organist - Weddings	160	-	-	160	-
Parish Share Diocese - Parish Share	81,811	-	-	81,811	74,043
Rates - Sefton MBC - rates	-	-	-	-	1,217
Repairs - Repairs	1,460	-	-	1,460	250
Sefton MBC - Sefton MBC	-	-	-	-	295
Utilities - Utilities	6,003	-	-	6,003	13,207
Verger - Verger	90	-	-	90	210
Vicarage costs - Vicarage expenses	379	-	-	379	115
Wages - Wages	8,157	-	-	8,157	8,282
Water - Clear Business	1,354	-	-	1,354	-
Other expenditure Totals	117,071	-	7,919	124,990	133,383
Payments Grand Totals	118,590	-	8,327	126,917	137,819

Performance of investments

The PCC hold 15.6 income shares in the CBF Investment Trust (value £350 as of 31 December 2023). It is the intention of the PCC to realise these shares at an appropriate time.

Other Funds

Organ Fund (restricted): made up of donations given towards the upkeep of the church organ.

Flower Fund (restricted): made up of donations given to cover the cost of flowers for the church. This fund is now managed directly within the main church account.

Church Mission Fund (restricted): established in 2020 to fund specific, identified Mission objectives.

Reserves Policy

The General Fund target level is two to three months of average monthly spending (approx. £20,000 to £30,000). It is used as a contingency should income or expenditure be dramatically hit by circumstances that are unforeseen.

Summary

Overall, financially, we had a good year. We have controlled and reduced our overheads and we have made significant progress and cleared our debt with Charity Bank.

However, the next 12 months will

prove to be another challenging period as increased operational costs (mainly heating) will require a full review of our expenditure and we will seek to make the most effective use of our income.

We are also identifying ways to increase revenue and would like to set up a small fundraising team – if you are interested in helping then please contact me.

A big thank you to everyone for all your continued support.

Lindsay

Lindsay D Jessop

Treasurer, St John's Ainsdale

SOME OF THE CHARITIES WE SUPPORTED IN 2023 FINANCIALLY AND IN-KIND



Southport & Area
Schools Worker Trust



Ukraine

Appeal



Electoral Roll

All church members are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) in accordance with the Church Representation Rules. As at 31 December 2022 the Roll stood at 134. During 2023 there was a net increase of 2 with 5 entries added and 3 removed in the year. The Roll as at 31 December 2023 was 136.

PCC

Individual PCC members, as Trustees of the Church, receive information, instruction and training when deemed appropriate. This may include information about Trustee responsibilities, health and safety, risk assessment and safeguarding procedures. The full PCC met ten times during 2023 with an average level of attendance of 75%.

The PCC is the decision-making body of The Church with any Committee making recommendations to the PCC for consideration.

Risk Assessments

Procedures are in place to manage risks and minimise their impact on the wellbeing of church and hall users.

Action in the main areas of risk is managed as follows:

Fire, Health and Safety: The PCC routinely review health and safety and fire arrangements and any relevant risk assessments. The wardens carry out regular inspections as part of their duties. Matters noted were either rectified or reported to the PCC for further action. The fire system and exits in the church and hall were maintained in working order and inspected by certified competent persons in accordance with the safety requirements. The electrical system and equipment are subject to statutory inspection.

Operational Risk: The control measures associated with Covid infection continues to be relaxed as per the government infection controls and requirements. During the year the generic risk assessments were applied. There were no activities requiring additional risk assessments. The PCC continue to require a condition of hire that all hirers provide suitable and sufficient risk assessments to cover their activities.

Safeguarding Procedures

St John's Ainsdale takes its duty and obligation to protect all extremely seriously.

We have adopted the national Church of England's robust

procedures and guidelines. You can find out more about the national policies and procedures at www.churchofengland.org/safeguarding

If you have any safeguarding concerns or issues on a safeguarding matter please speak to Chris Thursfield, Parish Safeguarding Officer; or you can find useful contact information at www.liverpool.anglican.org/safeguarding

Fortunately, there have been no safeguarding issues again this year. We are, however, vigilant in all we do and comply with Diocesan guidelines. As always, a copy of our own safeguarding policy and guidelines are kept in the vestry and can be viewed on request. All Safer Recruitment regulations are complied with and all who require DBS clearance complete the procedure. All personal information is confidential and is stored and managed in accordance with the data protection guidelines.

New Appointments

The following new appointments were made during 2023:

- PCC Vice Chair: **Peter Hancock**

Administrative Information

St John's Church is situated in Ainsdale, a suburb of Southport. It is part of the Diocese of Liverpool within the Church of England.



The address of the Church is:

*627-629 Liverpool Road
Ainsdale
Southport
PR8 3NG*

The PCC is a body corporate and operates under the Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956 and the Church Representation Rules 2017 and was registered with the Charity Commission on 3 April 2009.

PCC members (trustees) who have served from 1 January 2023 until the date this report was approved are shown in **Appendix 1** along with the specific church roles approved by the PCC.

We would like to thank all the volunteers who work so hard to make St John's the caring and vibrant community it is.

Some of them you see at the front during services and other events but many more work tirelessly behind the scenes making people feel welcome, setting things up, preparing food and drink, keeping the buildings looking lovely, ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all, and supporting the administration.

Their names are too many to mention individually but we are hugely grateful for their continued dedication, selfless service and good humour.

We would like to thank all those who contributed to this report. If you are interested in joining or helping with any of the activities highlighted in this report, then please make contact with the leaders listed here and also in Appendix 1 – they would love to hear from you!

<i>PCC, wardens and welcomers / sidespeople</i>	<i>Lesley Phipps and Chris Thursfield</i>
<i>Choir</i>	<i>Paul Ellis & Chris York</i>
<i>Worship band</i>	<i>John Forshaw</i>
<i>St John's Care Group</i>	<i>Nancy Lloyd Parry</i>
<i>Children and young people's ministry</i>	<i>Linda Davies</i>
<i>Impact youth club</i>	<i>Linda Davies</i>
<i>Baptisms</i>	<i>Linda Davies</i>
<i>Little John's</i>	<i>Chris Thursfield & Clare Lord</i>
<i>Guides</i>	<i>Vanessa Riley</i>
<i>Brownies</i>	<i>Amanda McCarter & Joanne York</i>
<i>Rainbows</i>	<i>Pam Davies</i>
<i>Refreshments & parish lunches</i>	<i>Nina Haddock</i>
<i>Deanery Synod</i>	<i>Jean Washbourne, David Phipps, Helen Parker, John Forshaw</i>
<i>Ainsdale St John's CE Primary School</i>	<i>Lorna O'Brien (Headteacher) John Forshaw (Chair of Governors)</i>
<i>Natterjack's Day Nursery at St John's</i>	<i>Mai-Ling & John Duckworth (Owners/managers) Becca Phillipson (Nursery Manager)</i>
<i>CAP Job Club</i>	<i>Donald Mackenzie (Job Club Manager)</i>
<i>Eco Group</i>	<i>Chris Treble</i>
<i>Church Building</i>	<i>Frank Hyland</i>
<i>Finance, Giving and Fundraising</i>	<i>Lindsay Jessop (Church Treasurer)</i>
<i>St John's Website</i>	<i>Chris Doragh</i>
<i>St John's Facebook page</i>	<i>Chris York</i>
<i>Electoral roll</i>	<i>Paul Olive</i>
<i>Christian Aid</i>	<i>Eirlys Jessop</i>
<i>Churches Together in Ainsdale (CTIA)</i>	<i>Jean Washbourne and Eirlys Jessop</i>
<i>Safeguarding</i>	<i>Chris Thursfield</i>

**Original report approved by the PCC on 19th April 2024 and this revision 1 approved by the PCC on xxxx 2024.
Signed on their behalf by Chris Thursfield (PCC Chairman)**

Chris Thursfield



**CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES**

**Independent examiner's
report on the accounts**

Section A Independent Examiner's Report

**Report to the trustees/
members of**

**On accounts for the year
ended** **Charity no
(if any)**

Set out on pages

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended **31 / 12 / 2023**.

**Responsibilities and
basis of report** As the charity trustees of the Trust, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

**Independent
examiner's statement** I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed: **Date:**

Name:

**Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body
(if any):**

Address:

Section B Disclosure

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.

PCC MEMBERSHIP

	To APCM 2023	From APCM 2023
Incumbent	Interregnum	Interregnum
Reader	Eirlys Jessop	Eirlys Jessop
Churchwardens	Chris Thursfield - PCC Chair Lesley Phipps – PCC Vice Chair	Chris Thursfield - PCC Chair Lesley Phipps
Deanery Synod Reps	Jean Washbourne David Phipps	Jean Washbourne Helen Parker David Phipps John Forshaw
Elected PCC Members	Kathryn Corey Giles Davies Linda Davies John Forshaw Lynne Grice Maggie Hilton Frank Hyland Patricia Jameson Lindsay Jessop - Treasurer Val Sinnott Ann Walton	Giles Davies Linda Davies John Forshaw Peter Hancock -PCC Vice Chair Maggie Hilton Frank Hyland Patricia Jameson Lindsay Jessop - Treasurer Chloe Ormrod Val Sinnott Ann Walton
Co-opted members of PCC	We currently have two vacancies for co-opted members	

PCC APPROVED ROLES

PCC chair	Chris Thursfield	Health & safety advisor	Frank Hyland
PCC vice chair	Peter Hancock	Gift aid secretary , Parish Giving Scheme & envelopes	Heather Treble
PCC secretary	Peter Hancock	Church calendar and hire bookings	Deb Bishop
Treasurer	Lindsay Jessop	Church website	Chris Doragh
Electoral roll officer	Paul Olive	Church Facebook site	Chris York
Safeguarding officer	Chris Thursfield	Chairperson of eco group	Chris Treble
Online stats officer	Paul Ellis	Bankers	The Co-Operative Bank
Children’s work co-ordinator	Linda Davies	Independent Examiner	John Moores University (JMU) – the Accountancy Clinic
		Day to day management	Exercised by Wardens

PROGRESS AGAINST 2023 MISSION OBJECTIVES

Mark of Mission	St John's Mission Priorities	2023 objectives – ongoing outreach	New objectives for 2023
TELL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Letting God touch the lives of others by providing imaginative, varied, inspiring and engaging worship. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to embed the regular pattern of weekly worship through the interregnum ● Lead school worship weekly ● 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage families back to church post pandemic with a particular focus around Easter, September and Christmas ● Introduce a family/all-age communion service ●
TEACH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Helping and nurturing all those who wish to explore and deepen their relationship with God by providing opportunities for bible study, prayer and Christian fellowship in a safe family friendly environment. Equipping and supporting each other as members of an inclusive church family to be Christians in a modern world: at home; at work; with friends and in our local community. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue monthly newsletters and other targeted communications to keep church members connected ● Support CTiA Lent Course ● Run confirmation course – N/A No candidates Welcome and support baptism families ● 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement specific actions from LYCIG ● Some actions taken; more work to do Relaunch Junior PCC including opportunities for leading services ● Seek new helpers to support Impact and Sunday morning children's work ● This remains a major focus in 2024 Introduce parish lunches to help bring church members together ●
TEND	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Helping to transform lives of those in need in Ainsdale through providing a safe haven for quiet contemplation and offering practical and emotional support for life events. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to support Job Club ● Continue to welcome and build relationships with new families through Little John's ● Continue to grow the support offered by the Care Group ● 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Run a regular cinema club (care group/ warm spaces and holiday films) ●
TRANSFORM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Working with other Christian and secular organisations to promote global fairness for all. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support Christian Aid, taking a leading role in Ainsdale ● Continue support for the Food Bank and make lunch schemes working with school and Natterjacks ● Supported through CTiA 	<i>No specific new actions</i>
TREASURE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Looking after God's planet by raising awareness of the impact we have on creation and the actions we can take to improve the environment. 		<i>No specific new actions</i>

PCC MISSION OBJECTIVES FOR 2024

Our Objectives are aligned to our Mission priorities which address the 5 Marks of Mission and aim to address the key needs of those we service as a church.

Mark of Mission	St John's Mission Priorities
TELL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Letting God touch the lives of others by providing imaginative, varied, inspiring and engaging worship.
TEACH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Helping and nurturing all those who wish to explore and deepen their relationship with God by providing opportunities for bible study, prayer and Christian fellowship in a safe family friendly environment. Equipping and supporting each other as members of an inclusive church family to be Christians in a modern world: at home; at work; with friends and in our local community.
TEND	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Helping to transform lives of those in need in Ainsdale through providing a safe haven for quiet contemplation and offering practical and emotional support for life events.
TRANSFORM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Working with other Christian and secular organisations to promote global fairness for all.
TREASURE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Looking after God's planet by raising awareness of the impact we have on creation and the actions we can take to improve the environment.

Specific objectives for 2024

1. Run a weekday study group to deepen faith and build fellowship.
2. Provide opportunities to bring different congregations together (e.g. parish lunches, church social activities, combined services).
3. Welcome a new vicar by preparing hearts and minds to be open to new ideas and by putting in place practical enablers to support them in their role.
4. Develop our work with children and young people through the use of the children's corner and by providing opportunities for our Junior PCC to deepen their faith and serve others.

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF AINSDALE ST JOHN

England & Wales - Charity number 1128996

Accounts

St John's Ainsdale

ANNUAL REPORT 2022



Annual Report of the Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Ainsdale St John, incorporating the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2022
Charity Number 1128996



**NORTH MEOLS
DEANERY**

Sharing God's love, serving one another



**St. John's
Ainsdale**

INTRODUCTION	2
VISION & MISSION	3
WORSHIP & PASTORAL CARE	4
CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE	5
SCHOOL & NURSERY	9
COMMUNITY & FELLOWSHIP	11
THE WIDER CHURCH	13
WEB & SOCIAL MEDIA	14
BUILDINGS & GROUNDS	15
FINANCIAL REVIEW	16
MANAGEMENT & GOVERNANCE	18
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	19
FINANCIAL ACCOUNTS	20
<u>APPENDICES</u>	
1. PCC MEMBERSHIP & APPROVED ROLES	28
2. PROGRESSS AGAINST 2022 MISSION OBJECTIVES	29
3. PCC MISSION OBJECTIVES FOR 2023	30



This Annual Report has been designed to be read online to support our desire to be environmentally friendly. If you need a paper copy, please contact one of the wardens.

“Don’t just pretend that you love others. Really love them. Hate what is wrong. Stand on the side of the good. Love each other with genuine affection, and take delight in honouring each other. Never be lazy in your work, but serve the Lord enthusiastically. Be glad for all God is planning for you. Be patient in trouble and always be prayerful.”

Romans 12:9-12



Sharing God's love, serving one another



Welcome to our annual report for 2022 - our first full year post Covid lockdowns. It has been a year of stability with a regular pattern of services resumed. On the whole, the congregation has returned, but for those who still feel vulnerable we continue to live-stream the 10.30 Sunday service.

A significant event during the year was the retirement of our vicar, Rev. Jane Morgan. The congregations from the three services came together to hear Jane's final sermon to us and to give her a wonderful send-off with a bring-and-share lunch on August 28th. We thank God for Jane's ministry – bringing compassion and wisdom as we have developed, in particular, our school's ministry and work around eco-church.

During the subsequent interregnum we have been very grateful to the retired clergy Rev. Peter Todd, Rev. Bill Matthews, and Rev. Canon Ross Moughtin; and lay people, Jean Todd, Eirlys Jessop and Linda Davies; who have stepped in to ensure we have been able to maintain all our services.

Our links with St John's Primary School and Natterjacks Nursery are as strong as ever. The children from school come into church every week for a whole school worship and whenever possible church and school link for specific events such as a whole school Prayer Day.

During this year we have been able to host more social events. The film shows have been particularly successful with young and old gathering together to enjoy them. We also had concerts from the Formby Brass Band and the choir, Connected Voices. This is something we want to continue and expand in the coming year.

We are currently in the process of appointing a new vicar and look forward to the exciting opportunities we know God has for St John's.

Ainsdale St John's PCC



PCC MEMBERSHIP (to APCM 2023)

Incumbent Currently in Interregnum
Reader Eirlys Jessop
Churchwardens Chris Thursfield (PCC Chair)
 Lesley Phipps (PCC vice Chair)

Deanery Synod Reps Paul Ellis, Jean Washbourne,
 David Phipps

Elected Members (and Trustees)

Lindsay Jessop (PCC Treasurer) Kate Corey
 Giles Davies Linda Davies
 John Forshaw Lynne Grice
 Maggie Hilton Frank Hyland
 Patricia Jameson Val Sinnott
 Ann Walton

Members of the PCC are the charity trustees and are the 'persons having the general control and management of the administration of the charity' (Charities Act 2011, s177).

See Appendix 1 for further details & approved roles

Leadership spotlight

In March 2022 Venerable Pete Spiers, our Archdeacon, commissioned Linda Davies as the **Missional Leader for Children and Youth**. Linda has a passion for this ministry which includes acting as Baptisms Co-ordinator, preparing our young candidates for Confirmation, leading Praise & Worship services and school worship, and being part of the IMPACT Youth Club leadership team.



Sharing God's love, serving one another

The primary objective of St John's Church Parochial Church Council (PCC) is to promote the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ and to cooperate with the incumbent, in promoting in the parish, the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical.

OUR VISION
Sharing God's Love, Serving One Another

OUR MISSION
Demonstrating God's love by supporting families throughout their lives: as children; as adults; as parents; and when they need someone just to listen such as at times of bereavement.

To help direct our activities, the PCC has a series of **Mission Priorities** which are focused around the **5 Marks of Mission** (see box right).

Each year, the PCC sets specific **Objectives** against each priority. These help inform budgeting. Progress is reviewed monthly by the PCC's Mission Group. See Appendices 2 and 3 for **Progress against 2022 objectives and PCC objectives for 2023**.

In fulfilling our Mission Priorities, we aim to be:

1. **An active church family where all members are included and valued for who they are, respect each other's style of worship, encourage involvement, and contribute to the whole life of the Church, including our Church School, with their talents and abilities.**
2. **Centred on God, letting Him lead us into the future He has prepared for us.**
3. **Growing in faith as we serve our community in Ainsdale.**

To facilitate the above, it is important that we maintain the fabric of the Church building and adjacent hall complex.

When planning our activities for the year, the PCC has considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and, in particular, the specific guidance on charities for the advancement of religion.

5 Marks of Mission	St John's Mission Priorities
A. TELL: Proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Letting God touch the lives of others by providing imaginative, varied, inspiring and engaging worship.
B. TEACH: Teach, baptise and nurture new believers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Helping and nurturing all those who wish to explore and deepen their relationship with God by providing opportunities for bible study, prayer and Christian fellowship in a safe family friendly environment. Equipping and supporting each other as members of an inclusive church family to be Christians in a modern world: at home; at work; with friends and in our local community.
C. TEND: Respond to human needs by loving service	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Helping to transform lives of those in need in Ainsdale through providing a safe haven for quiet contemplation and offering practical and emotional support for life events.
D. TRANSFORM: Seek to transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind and to pursue peace and reconciliation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Working with other Christian and secular organisations to promote global fairness for all.
E. TREASURE: Strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Looking after God's planet by raising awareness of the impact we have on creation and the actions we can take to improve the environment.

Sharing God's love, serving one another



Our regular pattern of **weekly worship** continued through 2022. We were blessed to lead **whole school worship** in church for all children and staff every Monday as well as holding special services for Harvest Festival, Easter and Christmas.

We continued to support families who had lost a loved one, hosting eight funerals during 2022.

The PCC are very grateful to the dedicated clergy and lay teams, worship band and choir who have had such a positive impact on our worship this year.

The **worship band** supported our Praise & Worship services and school collective worship. Their music is enjoyed by a wide range of ages with everyone becoming involved with the actions used to enhance the messages.

The **choir** membership remained steady at 12 (average attendance 8) in 2022. In addition to supporting HC services, they led the Remembrance Sunday worship on the village green, plus they had 2 Weddings (the first in several years!). A particular highlight was the Carol Service - back in church post covid - which was very well received with lots of lovely compliments.

The **Care Group** are a valuable part of our ministry. On 10th July 2022 the group was relaunched with a commissioning service in church, led by Jane our then vicar. With the ending of lockdown members were able to resume home visits to sick and housebound parishioners and take communion to people who cannot attend church services.

A small but dedicated **Prayer Group** meets each Monday afternoon in church. The **Prayer Circle** has been

2022 WORSHIP PATTERN

Sunday 10-30 main service (also live streamed)
To accommodate different styles, our main 10.30 Sunday service adopts different formats each week:

- ✝ 1st Sun: Praise & Worship (family service with worship band)
- ✝ 2nd Sun: Holy Communion (CW) with organ and choir
- ✝ 3rd Sun: Parade Service/P&W (family service with worship band and involvement from Guides, Rainbows and Brownies)
- ✝ 4th Sun: Holy Communion (CW) with organ and choir
- ✝ 5th Sun: varies with season and special events

Sunday 8-30 service
Quiet traditional Holy Communion (alternate BCP/BCW) with no music.

Thursday 10-30 service
Traditional Holy Communion (BCP) with no music.

actively supporting those who request prayers.

The Care Group has put on a series of film shows on Friday afternoons as part of the **warm space programme**, coordinated with other churches in the village. It is hoped to

plan more film shows in the future.

A **Men's Social Group** and a **Bereavement Group** have been started. A **'bring & share' lunch** to bring the congregations together proved a success and will be repeated in 2023.



Our choir and music group supported services throughout the year; services included a special farewell for Jane's retirement; refreshments and the reintroduction of parish lunches after services provided opportunities for fellowship.

Sharing God's love, serving one another

We were very encouraged to see some growth in the attendance of families at our 10.30 Praise and Worship Services and Parade Services post covid. We are trying to encourage those with young children to attend with active participation in worship. We are noticing that, although we have a dedicated space and resources for children at the back of church, they are choosing to come to the front and sit with parents and become involved with worship for the entire service. Also, there is time after the service to do some colouring or sit at the tables and read Bible stories.

Junior PCC

We have been blessed to have our Junior PCC and young children help with readings and prayers at services. Feedback from parents is that their children want to come to these services and are enjoying the

interactivity. We have also been encouraging Junior PCC members to have a role in services and they did an excellent job leading the Crib Service for over 100 children and adults. They have lots of ideas and a growing awareness of their role in the Ministry and Outreach of our church.

IMPACT

IMPACT open youth club met each Wednesday during term time at the Methodist Church. The ecumenical group is led by Hettie and Tabz from the Southport & Area School Worker

Trust (SASWT) and supported by Linda & Katie from St John's and Joan Green from the Village Church. Again, it has been a real

encouragement to see how this initiative, which originated at St. John's to help with transition to high school, is a safe and welcoming space for so many from different schools within our locality. We have seen the children coming early and queuing to get in and meet friends, play sports, games on the screens and take part in faith-based discussions during our 'Cake Space'. The food certainly

goes down a treat with now up to 28 regular attendees.

Baptism

Members of the church family continued to knit and crochet blankets for the children being baptised, as we welcomed each one into the church family, covering them in God's love. The children also received a Bible as a gift. It was encouraging that baptism families returned to worship following baptism and they are included in the regular emails sent to our contacts with young families.

Confirmation

In 2022 we were very proud of our five young people and one adult who were confirmed at St John's Crossens. We held a special service at our church to celebrate their first communion.



Our children's corner, introduced in 2022, proved a great asset; Impact youth saw significant growth during 2022; the travelling nativity visited many homes during advent; baptisms are a key part of our ministry to families; we had six confirmands in 2022; special services including Easter attracted regular and new families into church.

Sharing God's love, serving one another

Supporting our Church School

Every Monday morning, during term time, Jane, John and Linda led a church service for 230 children and staff. The children really enjoy participating and join in enthusiastically with worship songs. The teachers have said that this worship starts the school week for them in a very positive way.

A key part of our church ministry is hosting special school services and events in church. These are attended by parents and other family members and provide an opportunity to welcome around 700 adults into church each year in addition to children and staff. In 2022 we hosted four whole school services (Harvest, Christmas, Easter and end of year), a Christingle, KS1 and KS2 Christmas performances, and seven Class Services, plus a special Community Carol Concert of

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE...

**“The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few”
Matthew 9 v35-38**

The PCC are extremely grateful for all those who support our children and young people in church, in school, in their Uniformed Groups, through the SASWT, and as governors.

We have so much to build on in this area at St. John’s. However, the opportunities for ministry and growth far outweigh the small number of people actively involved in this work. We need to look to the future and, when appointing a new Vicar, how this area of growth can be built on – not to the exclusion of other parts of our church family, but to enhance and encourage more to become involved.

There is also a real need for new volunteers who feel they have a calling to assist with this important part of our mission, so it can be refreshed and renewed with their enthusiastic participation. We ask for your prayers that this need will touch people’s hearts.

music and songs performed by the children.

Linda led ‘Easter in a Box’ with year 3 and ‘Christmas in a Box’ for

the whole school, and the travelling nativity once again made it around homes before sheep were returned to the Crib Service.

We also supported a wonderful Prayer Spaces day.

School Governance

Church members play a key role in the leadership of the school. Church appoints six Foundation Governors in addition to the incumbent. The Governing Body worked extremely hard during 2022 to support our Headteacher and staff as they continued to drive the school forward (see page 9).

During the year we were sorry to say goodbye to Rev Jane and Frank Hyland as governors. Jane provided valuable pastoral support and was key to re-establishing regular school worship in church. Frank was one of our longest serving governors of with nearly 30 years of experience bringing positive challenge and guidance which will be impossible to replace! Thank you both.



Leading Remembrance Day service in school as part of our Prayer Space day; Linda led ‘Christmas in a Box’ and the children enjoyed collecting items to remember the Easter story; it is a privilege to welcome children into church for school Christingle, Christmas celebrations and RE lessons; Frank Hyland’s farewell as a governor.

Sharing God’s love, serving one another



Little John's Baby & Toddler Group



Little John's had a very successful 2022 – the first full year at their new morning session.

They averaged 35 children per session but with many more than that on the register. Some children come every week and others more sporadically.

At their Christmas Party they gave out over 40 books. It has proved a popular decision to change from

afternoons to mornings.

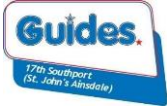
Little John's attracts a mixture of mums, dads, grandparents and carers who bring the children.

There is a good buzz at every session and with such a diverse mix, they are able to provide mutual support for everyone.

Uniformed Organisations

St John's are fortunate to have strong Guiding units run by dedicated and enthusiastic leaders who volunteer so much time.

17th St John's Guides



Guides had a busy year achieving numerous theme awards with bronze, silver and gold awards being presented.

They had a wonderful camp at Scarisbrick completing the Investigation badge. The Police came and set up a crime scene and did fingerprints. We're not too sure who enjoyed the theme more – the leaders or guides!

Guides took part in a County event at Scarisbrick and planted trees. They had a fun Christmas themed weekend at Shirdley Hill making Christmas crafts, having a Christmas breakfast and watching a movie.

Two guides and a leader were presented with Sefton Star awards for personal achievements and commitment to the unit. Well done!

The final meeting of the year was a cinema trip to see Matilda where they even managed an enrolment.



Little John's grew significantly in 2022. With around 35 children each week plus adults, it is a major part of our outreach.

Guides enjoyed camping at Scarisbrick and trips to Shirdley Hill and the cinema.

Sharing God's love, serving one another



15th Ainsdale Brownies



Brownies had a very busy year with lots of badges and crafts.

In February they planted sunflower seeds from the Parade Service and it was lovely to watch these grow.

In April, Brownies and Guides had a fabulous day out at The Crocky Trail – the first trip since lockdown. In May the Brownies went to a Jubilee party organised by a guide leader. They also had their own jubilee evening and made a card for the Queen. Brownies completed the Girl Power Electricity challenge learning all about electricity and how to be more energy efficient.

It was lovely in July to be able to take part in the Ainsdale Show after a two-year break.

Sadly, in September their patron, The Queen, passed away. Earlier that week they received a letter from Windsor Castle thanking them for the Jubilee card they had sent. This will be treasured by the unit.

Brownies joined Rainbows and Guides from Sefton for sports and outdoor fun at Scarisbrick. In November they joined the Remembrance Sunday service on the green and had a fun sleepover at Shirdley Hill - the first for many of the girls. The year ended with a cinema trip to see Matilda.

2nd Ainsdale Rainbows



Rainbows had another great year. Once again, they had

girls moving up to Brownies and lots of girls joining to form a full unit.

The Rainbows have gained interest badges, skill builders and theme badges and have shown their commitment to the Guiding Family

Rainbows had entrants in the annual Ainsdale show making bookmarks, with one Rainbow getting the bronze prize. Fantastic! Rainbows ran a teddy tombola at the show which was fun.

In the autumn they ran a preloved stall at the Church eco fair and raised money to buy a badge maker, which is well used.

Rainbows joined a county sports day at Scarisbrick and learnt cheerleading and Zumba.

To celebrate 35 years of Rainbows, the unit went to Knowsley Safari Park with hundreds of other Rainbows. Luckily, the girls had their Neckers on that they raised money for last year so they could spot each other! The sea lions were the favourite part of the trip.

Rainbows have been joined by some amazing new helpers who are wonderful and are loved by the Rainbows.

Here's to a fun packed 2023!

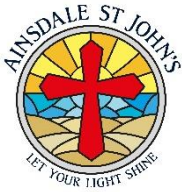


Rainbows met the Amur tiger at Knowsley Safari park. Brownies enjoyed trips to the cinema, Scarisbrick and a sleepover at Shirdley Hill

Sharing God's love, serving one another



Report from St John's School



It has been a year of many positive changes at Ainsdale St. John's CE Primary School.

We recently revealed our new logo which was designed for us by a parent. Governors, staff and children all shared ideas. The logo takes the form of a stained-glass window inspired by the beautiful window in church. It has layers which consist of sand dunes, sea and sun to represent our village and how lucky we are to live in such a special place created by God. The cross is central to the logo to show that, as a Church of England school, our faith is central to all we do.

Ahead of the logo, the governors worked with Liverpool Diocese education department to create a strategic plan for the school. From this, our 'ASJ Way' was created (see box).

To launch our new vision and values we held a prayer space day in school. With help from Linda Davies, John Forshaw and Southport and Area Schools Worker Trust, the whole school participated in a full day of prayerful activities. It was a wonderful experience for all involved.

As well as focusing on change within

The ASJ Way

With God's help, we can achieve anything and we aspire to be the best that we can be.

We shine like a beacon of light within our community with an open door so that all feel welcome.

Our special family (school, church and community) follow in the footsteps of Jesus.

Aspire to Shine for Jesus

Let your light shine.

Matthew 5:16

Core Christian Values

- Courage
- Community
- Compassion

Aspire to Shine for Jesus

At ASJ we all ... Aspire to Shine for Jesus! Our aspirational vision is anchored by a bible passage which encompasses our mission for each member of our Christian community, young and old, to find and develop their talents. To accompany our vision, we focus on 3 core Christian values.

our school community the children were aware of changes on a larger scale as we celebrated Queen Elizabeth II's Platinum Jubilee. The children took part in a carousel of activities led by the teachers with a whole school street party style lunch on the playground. The day ended with a flash mob dance where the whole school came together to dance to a selection of songs from each decade of the Queen's reign.

Unfortunately, following this celebration, the children were then faced with the loss of such an

inspirational leader within the same year. In school, we emphasised the many successes the Queen had achieved during her time as monarch as well as each child recording a special message in our book of condolence.

We are currently planning how to mark King Charles III's Coronation as these global events are what the children will remember when they look back at their time at school.

If you would like to keep abreast of further changes at school, please follow our Twitter account @AinsdaleStJohns and Facebook account, and the new school website which hosts our weekly newsletter to update about school life including our Christian value worship from that week.

Lorna O'Brien
Headteacher



Report from Natterjacks



It's been a busy year at Natterjacks!

We have welcomed Rebecca Phillipson as our new nursery manager and also Clare Kingsmill who has located from our Marshside Road pre-school site as Deputy Manager.

The management team have been working hard to implement new ideas and have strengthened our great relationships with the school, church and community.

We have been welcoming year 5's from St John's school every Wednesday into nursery to buddy up with the pre-school children.

They have built some lovely bonds and both nursery and school thoroughly enjoy it.

We are also hopefully going to have scheduled playtimes with the reception children and our pre school children in the school playground from next term.

Pre school have also been making regular weekly visits to woodlands lodge care home in Formby. The residents really look forward to the children coming to see them and we have joined in with lots of fun activities.

We are in the process of renewing our accreditation in Millie's mark pediatric award. We are very proud to have a full workforce who are

fully pediatric first aid trained.

We also have two qualified mental first aiders who are available to confidently speak to children, staff and parents/Carers.

We have lots scheduled for our summer term, learning how to make proper Italian pizza dough and cooking it in a wood oven at Southport food market, trips to the bijoux cinema, baby massage and yoga.

We are also creating a little kitchen garden this term which will be for nursery and the community to share.

We will be adding an outdoor library and a food help store, where people can take food they need and also

donate some.

All of our pre school children are getting school ready and we are making sure they can all start school as confident little people on their new adventure.


We always welcome visits so please let us know if you would like to come into nursery.

So far it's been a very productive start to the year and we look forward to flourishing and extending our good reputation as a nursery.

Mai-Ling, & John Duckworth

*Owners
Natterjacks Day Nursery at St John's*



 Natterjacks Day Nursery at St John's
14 September 2022 · 🌐

Today we welcomed some year 5 children from St John's Primary School! The children are going to buddy up with pre school and toddlers to help read stories with the children each week.

Today we had such a positive reaction from our children and new friendships have been formed. Below are some quotes the children said...

"My big friend was called Daniel"
"I read goldilocks and the three bears, goldilocks are all the porridge."
"Max read a story about dinosaurs to me"
"I want my friend to stay longer, he's funny"
We look forward to welcoming year 5 back next week 😊👍



Sharing God's love, serving one another

At St John's we are extremely fortunate to have skilled and dedicated people who run events, lead groups and organise fundraising activities that provide wider fellowship and support those most in need in our community and further afield.

CAP Job Club



St John's Job Club works in partnership with Christians Against Poverty (CAP).

It is a tried and tested format with 156 Job Clubs across the country. By working with CAP, St John's are delivering an effective service to help people step into work, even after years of unemployment. This includes materials to run our eight-week interactive Steps to Employment Course, covering topics such as identifying strengths, CV writing, and interview techniques. The course is designed to be an easy and effective way for us to practically equip club members, in a supportive environment that boosts confidence and morale. Through St John's CAP job club, we can create a community that demonstrates God's love in a relevant way.

During 2022 the Job Club continued to run weekly and support clients in the local Ainsdale and wider

Southport communities. At the start of the year, we were blessed to receive financial support from Leyland Road Job Club which had not reopened after the pandemic but had funding remaining which they kindly gave to us. This supported us during the year to help and support 18 clients, 5 of whom obtained employment, with another returning to further education. Help provided included practical support (e.g. improving IT skills, drafting CVs, preparing clients for job interviews and help with online applications), listening to clients, confidence building around skills and abilities, and just being there every week for them. During August we offered clients cinema vouchers to use during the break.

Christian Aid



Christian Aid is an international development agency that enables us to respond to Christ's command to care for all in need.

Everything Christian Aid does is in response to God's gift to the world, of his son Jesus Christ. Jesus promised 'good news for the poor and freedom for the oppressed' calling us all to action. Jesus called his followers to 'love God and love your neighbour.' Through his life

and teaching, his death, and his resurrection, he inspired his followers to love God, love their neighbours and long for justice. Our faith in God, and in his loving relationship with us, gives us confidence and hope that poverty can be ended, despite all that might stand in the way.

For many years, St John's has supported the work of Christian Aid.

In 2022 we joined forces with Churches Together in Ainsdale (CTiA) and held a sponsored litter pick on the beach and a 'Big Brekkie' and cake sale.

We also trialled the "deliver only" envelopes which involved volunteers delivering envelopes to households in the village and asking donors to drop the envelopes off at strategic places in the village. Over 2,500 envelopes were delivered across the village and raised £268.37 so it felt worthwhile. It also felt very much like a great witness to God's love for the poor as these envelopes felt like a love letter to all households.

Overall, CTiA raised £1,656.58 which was forwarded to aid the work of Christian Aid.



Eco Group

The Eco Group's aims are encompassed in the fifth 'Mark of Mission': *To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the earth.* In 2022:

- St John's carbon footprint for 2021 was calculated at 44.1t CO₂.
- Single use cup policy established - compostable cups purchased for events and home trial showed fully compostable in 9 months.
- Eco products policy and purchase of consumables agreed (bulk packaging free washing up liquid, dishwasher tablets, toilet rolls and hand wash).
- 'Eco' Lent activity calendars created, distributed and used in a church service and with school.
- Creation theme used within parade services. Pollution and recycling theme covered with school.
- Bins for recycling identified in church.
- Beach litter pick involvement.
- Bird table - legacy gift now in garden of remembrance.
- Joining in The Great Big Green Week (24th Sep to 2nd Oct) to raise awareness
- Eco Fair at St John's in October with several stalls, church and community group engagement. Using *The Letters for Creation* Christian Aid initiative, some amazing pieces of art from the school were displayed. This was a way for them to reflect on what caring for creation means to them and find a way for their voices to be heard in the climate justice conversation.

- Members attended various webinars with Faiths4Change organisation on Reaching Net Zero Carbon in 2030.

Events

After a pause during covid, we were pleased to reintroduce a programme of free and ticketed concerts and social events for the community.

Where appropriate, church ran a licensed bar at events to raise additional church funds.

Events held in church in 2022 included:

- *Holiday cinema club*: as a trial, we introduced this during the school holidays and it proved a big hit with parents and grandparents needing to keep children entertained! Films in 2022 were the *Jungle Book* and *Elf*.

- *Jubilee party*: the church hosted a celebration with music, song and food enjoyed by all generations.
- *Formby Brass Band*: a fabulous evening of contemporary and classic hits were enjoyed by all.
- *Connected Voices*: this fabulous local choir performed great songs from rock, gospel and funk to pop classics and musical theatre.
- *Christmas Community Concert*: the infant and junior choirs from St John's School sang some Christmas favourites while the musicians played some lovely carols. The children were fabulous and there were tears of joy from more than one member of the audience.

A full programme of events is planned for 2023!



The Eco Fair including children's art display was a huge success; school singers and musicians wowed everyone at the Christmas Community Concert; SONG entertained at the Jubilee party; we also enjoyed concerts from Formby Brass Band and Connected Voices.

Deanery Synod

Deanery synod meetings in 2022 were severely affected by Covid and the absence of an Area Dean for part of the year.

The meeting in July was dedicated to *Fit for Mission 2*, a Diocesan led initiative to address declining church attendance, an increasing admin burden, and unsuitable and unsustainable buildings (*see box*).

The intention is that within the Deanery, a single PCC with multiple leadership teams defined by the needs of the larger parish, will allow us to work more collaboratively and focus our gifts around suggested portfolios e.g. prayer, food poverty, discipleship, young people, bereavement, dept advice.

Each leadership team has its own finances and responsibilities (similar to a governing body in school) – trusting the teams to coordinate and run their own areas of ministry. The Diocese expects to see a flourishing of ministries within six years.

This is not the Wigan model but it has similarities.

Fit for Mission will engage the whole diocese between now and 2027, with a two-year intensive change period for each deanery which includes periods of consultation,

‘acting as’ a larger parish, and then formalising the changes. Cohort 1 (St Helen’s and West Derby) are well underway and Cohort 2 is starting to engage.

The earliest our Deanery could take part would be Cohort 3 and the PCC are keeping up to date with developments.

Churches Together in Ainsdale

We take working together with other churches seriously, doing as many things together as we can.

The CTiA committee is made up of parishioners and clergy from St John’s, Ainsdale Village Church, Ainsdale Methodist Church and St John Stone/Sacred Heart.

The clergy also meet socially as a fraternal each month.

Each year the CTiA organises ecumenical activities with churches sharing leadership and hosting. In 2022 these were:

- Running the Impact youth group.
- Week of prayer for Christian unity.
- Lent course.
- Easter sunrise service on the beach.
- Support for Christian Aid.
- Supporting the eco fair at St John’s.
- Offering warm spaces through the week.
- Providing food during school holidays for struggling families.
- Ecumenical children’s tent at the Ainsdale Show supported by Hettie and Tabz from SASWT.
- Ecumenical tent service on the green.
- Remembrance Day service on the green supported by St John’s choir with the uniformed groups.
- School carol service.
- Carols in the Co-Op.

The CTiA also experimented with a joint Alpha Course held at the Methodist Church with some frank and honest discussions along with good food and prayer.



Diocese of Liverpool
Fit For mission



Achieve four mission priorities...

1. **Introducing people to Jesus**
2. **Deepening discipleship**
3. **Developing Christian Leaders**
4. **Working for Justice**

... through six elements

- **Developing our discipleship culture** through training and support, including delivering a Local Missional Leadership programme to support of new worship communities and justice initiatives.
- **Creating missional leadership teams** of lay and ordained people working over larger areas with responsibility for specific mission and worship communities.
- **Developing mutual support and accountability structures** for all leaders.
- **Work towards each deanery having one or two Larger Parishes** but more worshipping communities and justice initiatives.
- Making sure **buildings are fit for purpose** through better use, investment, or closure.
- **Creating administrative services** in deaneries to support mission.

www.liverpool.anglican.org/FitForMission

As in all things, ‘communication is key’. The local, national and yes, global audience, we receive to our website and Facebook pages is crucial for our church and its future. These are vital “tools” in spreading the word and if there are any church groups’ news or events coming up, please do send them to our website and Facebook managers to include and advertise them on our page ... you never know who sees them!

Church web site

Our website provides information on all our services and events and allows those far and wide to access information on our church.

Through the web we have reached nearly 10,000 people in 2022 which is a huge achievement. Our main website www.stjohnsainsdale.org.uk attracted 4,952 views in 2022 (down 769 from 2021), an average 413 views per month. Our other site www.achurchnearyou.com attracted over 5,000 views in 2022 (up 500 views from 2021). Whilst there has been a reduction in views for our main site, we must not forget that people were unable to go out during 2021 due to covid.

Chris Doragh, our website manager, overhauled the website at the beginning of 2023 to remove outdated content and pages.

We live stream our main 10.30am

Sunday service and stream weddings and funerals on request. The website includes a link to access our YouTube Channel.

We would like to attract more website views/uses. If you have any suggestions on how we could do this do not hesitate to get in touch.

Our sites are updated each week and hopefully provide our audience with an accurate record of what is happening at St John’s.

Facebook page

St. John’s C of E Parish Church Ainsdale Facebook page is there to promote our place in the community as well as the world. Through it we can share news and events at our Church, our School, Nursery and other church groups...

In 2022, our church page reached 47,355 people globally...an increase of over 27,000 from 2021!

Our top ‘reach’ post was a picture of our East Window, shared as part of the Church of England’s *Stained Glass Summer* campaign in July with almost 17,000 people seeing it. Amazing how an individual post can reach so many people and households!

It was encouraging to see our likes still growing - 927 ‘liked’ and followed our page up from 782 at the start of the year. This ‘audience’

is 76% women and 23% men, predominantly from the UK but also from Australia, Rwanda, USA, Ireland, Uganda, Italy, Nigeria, The Philippines and even Afghanistan!

Chris York has been managing our Facebook page for over 11 years now ... and as evidenced by the reach it is an essential part of our outreach and mission.

For the last 4 years the site has included a daily bible verse on the page as part of Chris’s own bible reading challenge and the feedback is this is well received and appreciated.

Any events or updates are shared, where possible, on other local Facebook pages and groups, so this casts the net even further.

Increasingly, online communication is key. Local, national, and yes, ‘global’ web and Facebook audiences are crucial for our church, spreading the word much faster, to more people, and much more economically than we ever could through leaflets or word of mouth.

If there are any church groups’ news or events coming up, please send info to Chris and Chris to include on our pages ... you never know who sees them!

Here’s to more views, ‘likes’ and ‘follows’ in 2023.

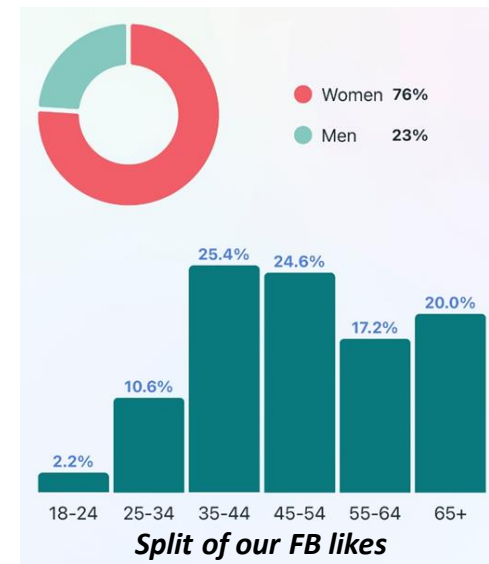
The stunning East window of St John's CE Parish Church in Ainsdale near Sout...
Post • 22 July 2022
Reach: 16.9K, Reactions: 573, Comments: 59, Shares: 37

Thank you to everyone involved in last night's Formby Brass Band Concert at...
Post • 9 October 2022
Reach: 7,831, Reactions: 50, Comments: 5, Shares: 9

Free Film Showing of Elf on our Big Screen
Post • 6 November 2022
Reach: 6,216, Reactions: --, Comments: --, Shares: --

Sad news we heard last week at St John's that Barbara Greenhalgh had passed a...
Post • 26 November 2022
Reach: 4,754, Reactions: 251, Comments: --, Shares: 14

Our top FB posts of 2022



Split of our FB likes

Sharing God's love, serving one another



Church Building

During the year there were ongoing minor repairs but no substantial work required inside the church building. The pendant lights in the corridor are low consumption LED units. If they fail, they require complete replacement of the fitting. One was replaced in the vestry corridor with a less expensive fitting of similar design. Following damage to the west-facing kitchen windows, all three windows were replaced with more robust safety glass. During the autumn/winter periods, the central heating controls required attention on several occasions. The PCC is considering options to improve controls and manage costs.

Church Hall

Minor repairs were carried out during the year. The pattern of use of the committee room remained unchanged. Unused surplus equipment/items from the kitchen have been removed to allow more storage space for nursery use.

Grounds

Groundworks and general maintenance were undertaken during the year around the properties. The church lawn was maintained by a gardener. One of the notice boards which had fallen down was removed. The Memorial Garden was maintained by a work party and the shed decluttered to make it more usable.

Secret Garden

An area of land opposite the Vicarage across from the public pathway, is known as The Secret Garden. The work planned for 2022 to clear and develop this land was delayed. The M.O.U. governing the use of the land by the PCC/nursery

has now been included in the general lease agreement between the PCC and the nursery. The full lease is in the process of being finalised and work on the secret garden cannot be undertaken until this has been completed.



Church was lit up at Christmas; a working party de-cluttered and reorganised the shed to make it more usable.



Tabz and Hettie from SASWT have a real passion for young people in Southport and have been great friends to St John's church and school. They made good use of the grounds when they joined us for the Jubilee celebrations with the SASWT inflatable football pitch.

Basis of Accounting

The PCC has continued to adopt the simpler Receipts and Payments (R&P) basis of accounting. This means that all income and expenditure is shown against the year in which the money is received / paid.

General Fund

During 2022 our current account balance reduced from £41,480 to £15,800. This was due to a significant reduction in our loan balance with Charity Bank and is shown below in more detail.

Income highlights:

- Plate collections were up by 95% to £6,940.
- We received legacies totalling £75,000.
- Hall rentals increased from £5,000 to £11,200 as more groups returned after Covid.
- Nursery income increased by 10% to cover increased utility costs, to £28,900.
- Donations and appeals totalled £10,300, down from the previous year.
- Parish Giving reduced by 20% to £48,500 as several members left the scheme.

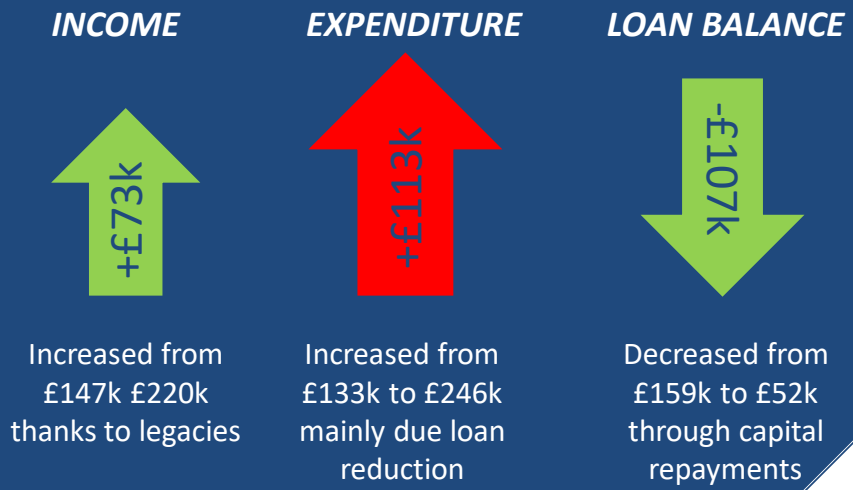
HIGHLIGHTS

Overall, financially, a good year. We have controlled and reduced our overheads and we have made significant progress to reduce our debt with Charity Bank.

The next 12 months will prove to be another challenging period as increased operational costs (mainly heating) will require a full review of our expenditure and we will seek to make the most effective use of our income.

We are also identifying ways to increase revenue and would like to set up a small fundraising team – if you are interested in helping then please contact our Treasurer, Lindsay.

A big thank you to everyone for all your continued support.



Expenditure highlights:

- Our loan balance with Charity Bank reduced from £159,000 to £52,000.
- Church running costs reduced from £28,000 to £26,500 as we changed most of our utility suppliers.

- Parish Share was down slightly from £76,400 to £74,000.
- Wages increased slightly to £8,300.

Where possible the PCC took measures to reduce costs, and during 2022 we have managed to control our operational costs by

switching suppliers on gas, water and broadband.

The PCC took the decision to continue funding key mission activities including the Christians Against Poverty (CAP) Job Club.

We also continued to pay our Parish Share in full to support the wider work of the Diocese and those churches impacted worse than us.

Natterjacks also helped us to maintain a healthy financial status by honouring their monthly payment and service charges.

Our Charity Bank Loan has reduced significantly during 2022 and we are grateful for the two legacies and wider support of all our congregation to keep our interest costs as low as possible. Our Security Deposit Account has a credit balance of £6,432 which is held in Charity Bank as security against the loan. Interest charges on our loan remain high and we are focusing on clearing our loan as quickly as possible.



PARISH GIVING SCHEME

We encourage use of the national Parish Giving Scheme



Charitable support

Despite another difficult financial year, St John’s has continued to support other charitable organisations through direct donations and in-kind support such as making the church building and car park available for others to use.

In addition, we make the church freely available to the school and Uniformed Organisations and are proud to help support SONG, the award-winning musical theatre group for 10-20 year olds, who rehearse in Church on Sunday afternoons.

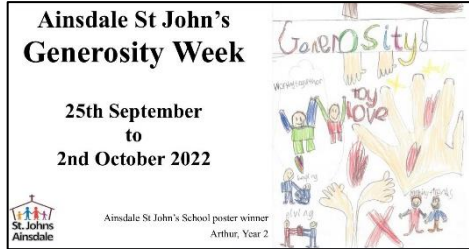
Donations and Legacies

It is an important Christian value to give back to God in gratitude for the love and blessings we have received in our lives.

The congregation at St John’s has responded by regular giving in difficult financial times and through significant legacy donations. At times other donations are given to assist specific cost requirements and the PCC will abide by donors’ wishes.

If you are considering making a significant donation or leaving a legacy in your Will, please discuss this with our Treasurer or the Wardens. Giving back to church through our Wills can help sustain

church and its mission in Ainsdale.



We also held a generosity week in 2022 to promote giving time & talents.

The PCC hold 15.6 income shares in the CBF Investment Trust (value £329 as of 31 December 2022). It is the intention of the PCC to realise these shares at an appropriate time.

Other Funds

Organ Fund (restricted): made up of donations given towards the upkeep of the church organ.

Flower Fund (restricted): made up of donations given to cover the cost of flowers for the church. This fund is now managed directly within the main church account.

Church Mission Fund (restricted): established in 2020 to fund specific, identified Mission objectives. This fund replaces the previous designated Mission Fund which was fully utilised during 2020.

Reserves Policy

The General Fund target level is two to three months of average monthly spending (approx. £20,000 to £30,000). It is used as a contingency should income or expenditure be dramatically hit by circumstances that are unforeseen.

Natterjacks service charge and third-party hire charges were reviewed and increased during 2022 to help cover our increased utility costs.

SOME OF THE CHARITIES WE SUPPORTED IN 2022 FINANCIALLY AND IN-KIND

Lindsay

Lindsay D Jessop
 Treasurer, St John’s Ainsdale
 7th April 2023



Electoral Roll

All church members are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) in accordance with the Church Representation Rules. As at 31 December 2021 the Roll stood at 132. During 2022 there was a net increase of 2 with 6 entries added and 4 removed in the year. The Roll as at 31 December 2022 was 134.

PCC

Individual PCC members, as Trustees of the Church, receive information, instruction and training when deemed appropriate. This may include information about Trustee responsibilities, health and safety, risk assessment and safeguarding procedures. The full PCC met ten times during 2022 with an average level of attendance of 83%.

The PCC is the decision-making body of The Church with any Committee making recommendations to the PCC for consideration.

Risk Assessments

Procedures are in place to manage risks and minimise their impact on the wellbeing of church and hall users.

Action in the main areas of risk is managed as follows:

Fire, Health and Safety: The PCC routinely review health and safety and fire arrangements and any relevant risk assessments. The wardens carry out regular inspections as part of their duties. Matters noted were either rectified or reported to the PCC for further action. The fire system and exits in the church and hall were maintained in working order and inspected by certified competent persons in accordance with the safety requirements.

Operational Risk: The control measures associated with Covid infection were relaxed as the government infection controls and requirements were developed. During the year, there were no activities requiring additional risk assessments. The PCC continue to require a condition of hire that all hirers provide suitable and sufficient risk assessments to cover their activities.

Safeguarding Procedures

St John's Ainsdale takes its duty and obligation to protect all extremely seriously.

We have adopted the national Church of England's robust procedures and guidelines. You can find out more about the national policies and procedures at

<http://www.churchofengland.org/safeguarding>

If you have any safeguarding concerns or issues on a safeguarding matter please speak to Chris Thursfield, Parish Safeguarding Officer; or you can find useful contact information at <http://www.liverpool.anglican.org/safeguarding>

Fortunately, there have been no safeguarding issues again this year. We are, however, vigilant in all we do and comply with Diocesan guidelines. As always, a copy of our own safeguarding policy and guidelines are kept in the vestry and can be viewed on request. All Safer Recruitment regulations are complied with and all who require DBS clearance complete the procedure. All personal information is confidential and is stored and managed in accordance with the data protection guidelines.

New Appointments

The following new appointments were made during 2022:

- **Peter Hancock** PCC secretary
- **Donald Mackenzie** Job Club manager
- **Linda Davies** Missional leader for children and youth

Administrative Information

St John's Church is situated in Ainsdale, a suburb of Southport. It is part of the Diocese of Liverpool within the Church of England.



The address of the Church is:

627-629 Liverpool Road
Ainsdale
Southport
PR8 3NG

The PCC is a body corporate and operates under the Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956 and the Church Representation Rules 2017 and was registered with the Charity Commission on 3 April 2009.

PCC members (trustees) who have served from 1 January 2022 until the date this report was approved are shown in **Appendix 1** along with the specific church roles approved by the PCC.



We would like to thank all the volunteers who work so hard to make St John's the caring and vibrant community it is.

Some of them you see at the front during services and other events but many more work tirelessly behind the scenes making people feel welcome, setting things up, preparing food and drink, keeping the buildings looking lovely, ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all, and supporting the administration.

Their names are too many to mention individually but we are hugely grateful for their continued dedication, selfless service and good humour.

We would like to thank all those who contributed to this report. If you are interested in joining or helping with any of the activities highlighted in this report, then please make contact with the leaders listed – they would love to hear from you!

<i>PCC, wardens and welcomers / sidespeople</i>	<i>Lesley Phipps and Chris Thursfield</i>
<i>Choir</i>	<i>Paul Ellis & Chris York</i>
<i>Music group</i>	<i>John Forshaw</i>
<i>St John's Care Group</i>	<i>Nancy Lloyd Parry</i>
<i>Children and young people's ministry</i>	<i>Linda Davies</i>
<i>Impact youth club</i>	<i>Linda Davies</i>
<i>Baptisms</i>	<i>Linda Davies</i>
<i>Little John's</i>	<i>Chris Thursfield & Clare Lord</i>
<i>Guides</i>	<i>Vanessa Riley</i>
<i>Brownies</i>	<i>Amanda McCarter & Joanne York</i>
<i>Rainbows</i>	<i>Ruth Leney</i>
<i>Refreshments & parish lunches</i>	<i>Nina Haddock</i>
<i>Deanery Synod</i>	<i>Paul Ellis (to APCM 2023), Jean Washbourne, David Phipps</i>
<i>Ainsdale St John's CE Primary School</i>	<i>Lorna O'Brien (Headteacher) John Forshaw (Chair of Governors)</i>
<i>Natterjack's Day Nursery at St John's</i>	<i>Mai-Ling & John Duckworth (Owners/managers) Becca Phillipson (Nursery Manager)</i>
<i>CAP Job Club</i>	<i>Donald Mackenzie (Job Club Manager)</i>
<i>Eco Group</i>	<i>Chris Treble</i>
<i>Church Building</i>	<i>Frank Hyland</i>
<i>Finance, Giving and Fundraising</i>	<i>Lindsay Jessop (Church Treasurer)</i>
<i>St John's Website</i>	<i>Chris Doragh</i>
<i>St John's Facebook page</i>	<i>Chris York</i>
<i>Electoral roll</i>	<i>Paul Olive</i>
<i>Christian Aid</i>	<i>Eirlys Jessop</i>
<i>Churches Together in Ainsdale (CTiA)</i>	<i>Jean Washbourne and Eirlys Jessop</i>
<i>Safeguarding</i>	<i>Chris Thursfield</i>

Approved by the PCC on 25th April 2023 and signed on their behalf by Chris Thursfield (PCC Chairman)

Chris Thursfield

Sharing God's love, serving one another



ST JOHN'S CHURCH, AINSDALE – INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Section A Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/ members of Charity Name
St Johns Church, Ainsdale, Southport

On accounts for the year ended 31st December 2022 **Charity no (if any)**

Set out on pages 1-2
(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31 / 12 / 2022.

Responsibilities and basis of report As the charity's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed: Kmhall **Date:** 11th April 2023

Name: Katie Hall

Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any): N/A

Address: Accounting Clinic at Liverpool John Moores University, Redmonds Building, Brownlow Hill, Liverpool, L3 5UG

Section B Disclosure

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.

ST JOHN'S CHURCH, AINSDALE - BALANCE SHEET

	As at 31/12/2022	As at 31/12/2021
Current assets		
Co-op current acc: Co-op current account	15,790.33	41,480.22
Total Current assets	15,790.33	41,480.22
Net Asset surplus (deficit)	15,790.33	41,480.22
Reserves		
Excess/(deficit) to date	(25,689.89)	-
Z01: Starting balances	41,480.22	41,480.22
Total Reserves	15,790.33	41,480.22

Represented by Funds		
General (Unrestricted)	15,936.40	41,480.22
Restricted	(146.07)	-
Total	15,790.33	41,480.22

ST JOHN'S CHURCH, AINSDALE – RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS

St John's church, Ainsdale, Southport

Analysis of Receipts and Payments
Selected period: 01 January 2022 to 31 December 2022

	General	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	Total	
					This year	Last year
Receipts						
Donations and legacies						
3rd party appeals - 3rd party appeals	757.80	-	-	-	757.80	-
Coll Thursday 10.30 - Plate collections - 10.30am Thursday	416.00	-	-	-	416.00	-
Donation - Contactless donation	330.62	-	-	-	330.62	-
Donations - Donations	9,995.84	-	888.27	-	10,884.11	-
Envelope collections - Envelopes	7,382.75	-	-	-	7,382.75	-
Legacies - Legacies	75,221.55	-	-	-	75,221.55	-
Midnight service - Plate collection - Midnight HC	28.31	-	-	-	28.31	-
Planned Giving - Planned Giving - PGS direct	48,537.68	-	-	-	48,537.68	-
Plate coll 10.30 Sun - Plate collections - 10.30am Sunday	5,633.67	-	33.52	-	5,667.19	-
Plate coll 8.30 Sun - Plate collection - 8.30am Sunday	889.03	-	-	-	889.03	-
Service donation - Plate collection - Crib Service	35.05	-	-	-	35.05	-
Standing Orders - Standing orders - monthly	3,340.00	-	-	-	3,340.00	-
Donations and legacies Totals	152,568.30	-	921.79	-	153,490.09	-
Income from charitable activities						
Generosity week - Fundraising	3,089.66	-	-	-	3,089.66	-
Masks - Mask sales	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ticket sales - Ticket sales	364.50	-	-	-	364.50	-
Toilet twinning - Toilet twinning	72.27	-	-	-	72.27	-
Income from charitable activities Totals	3,526.43	-	-	-	3,526.43	-
Other trading activities						
Bar income - Bar	1,067.12	-	-	-	1,067.12	-
Burial of ashes - Burial of ashes	1,334.00	-	172.00	-	1,506.00	-
Events - Formby Brass Band	759.41	-	-	-	759.41	-
Funeral income - Funeral Income	2,475.00	-	284.00	-	2,759.00	-
Hall rentals - Rentals	11,235.00	-	-	-	11,235.00	-
Miscellaneous - Easyfundraising	20.08	-	-	-	20.08	-
nursery - Natterjacks nursery	28,874.82	-	-	-	28,874.82	-
Parties - Party bookings	70.00	-	-	-	70.00	-
Running costs - Expense payment	50.00	-	-	-	50.00	-
Wedding Banns - Wedding Banns	240.00	-	-	-	240.00	-
Other trading activities Totals	46,125.43	-	456.00	-	46,581.43	-
Investments						
Dividend - CBF	4.85	-	-	-	4.85	-
Investments Totals	4.85	-	-	-	4.85	-
Other income						
Credit interest - Charity Bank	4.80	-	-	-	4.80	-
HMRC - HMRC	11,328.70	-	-	-	11,328.70	-
Insurance refund - Insurance	2,752.00	-	-	-	2,752.00	-

	General	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	Total	
					This year	Last year
Mission - Mission Fund	-	-	15.92	-	15.92	-
Sequestration - Liverpool Diocese - refund	-	-	348.75	-	348.75	-
Utility refund - Utility refund	840.43	-	-	-	840.43	-
Wedding fees - Weddings	1,284.00	-	-	-	1,284.00	-
Other income Totals	16,209.93	-	364.67	-	16,574.60	-
Receipts Grand Totals	218,434.94	-	1,742.46	-	220,177.40	-
Payments						
Raising funds						
3rd party donations - 3rd party donations	3,367.59	-	-	-	3,367.59	-
Event costs - Social events	832.05	-	-	-	832.05	-
Raising funds Totals	4,199.64	-	-	-	4,199.64	-
Expenditure on charitable activities						
Job club donation - CAP donation	40.00	-	-	-	40.00	-
Little Johns - Little Johns	197.10	-	-	-	197.10	-
SASWT - SASWT	-	-	-	-	-	-
St Johns school - St Johns school expenses	-	-	-	-	-	-
Expenditure on charitable activities Totals	237.10	-	-	-	237.10	-
Other expenditure						
Accountants - Harrison Latham	1,362.00	-	-	-	1,362.00	-
Bookers - Bookers Cash & Carry	498.98	-	-	-	498.98	-
CAP expenses - CAP job club	1,287.17	-	-	-	1,287.17	-
Charity Bank - Charity Bank	115,693.22	-	-	-	115,693.22	-
Church insurance - Insurance	1,835.55	-	-	-	1,835.55	-
church running costs - Church expenses - operational costs	14,575.53	-	255.93	-	14,831.46	-
Clergy costs - Clergy & Reader expenses	903.55	-	561.75	-	1,465.30	-
Electric - SE	-	-	-	-	-	-
Expenses - Other expenses	1,940.69	-	278.00	-	2,218.69	-
External costs - Clergy cover	769.99	-	721.85	-	1,491.84	-
Flowers - Flowers	-	-	-	-	-	-
Funeral costs - Book of Remembrance	-	-	-	-	-	-
Funeral Wedding fees - Liverpool Diocese	2,846.50	-	71.00	-	2,917.50	-
Gardening - Gardening costs	140.00	-	-	-	140.00	-
Gas - SSE	-	-	-	-	-	-
Insurance - Ecclesiastical	-	-	-	-	-	-
Licence fees - Licence fees	70.00	-	-	-	70.00	-
NI and PAYE HMRC - NI and PAYE	-	-	-	-	-	-
Organ repairs - Organ maintenance	-	-	-	-	-	-
Organist - Organist - Weddings	-	-	-	-	-	-
Parish Share Diocese - Parish Share	74,043.05	-	-	-	74,043.05	-
Rates - Sefton MBC - rates	1,217.07	-	-	-	1,217.07	-
Repairs - Repairs	250.00	-	-	-	250.00	-
Sefton MBC - Sefton MBC	295.00	-	-	-	295.00	-
Utilities - Utilities	13,206.93	-	-	-	13,206.93	-
Verger - Verger	210.00	-	-	-	210.00	-
Vicarage costs - Vicarage expenses	114.76	-	-	-	114.76	-
Wages - Wages	8,282.03	-	-	-	8,282.03	-

ST JOHN'S CHURCH, AINSDALE – RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS – cont.

	General	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	Total	
					This year	Last year
Water - Clear Business	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other expenditure Totals	239,542.02	-	1,888.53	-	241,430.55	-
Payments Grand Totals	243,978.76	-	1,888.53	-	245,867.29	-

ST JOHN'S CHURCH, AINSDALE – FINANCIAL STATEMENT (FUND BREAKDOWN)

St John's church, Ainsdale, Southport

Receipts and payments

Selected period: 01 January 2022 to 31 December 2022

Note	From To	01 January 2022 31 December 2022	01 January 2021 31 December 2021
Flower fund - Flower Fund (Restricted) Fund			
Income and endowments			
Donations and legacies			
Donations		73.76	-
Plate collections - 10.30am Sunday		2.30	-
	Total Donations and legacies	76.06	-
Total Income and endowments		76.06	-
Expenditure			
Other expenditure			
Church expenses - operational costs		50.00	-
	Total Other expenditure	50.00	-
Total Expenditure		50.00	-
Excess of Income and endowments over Expenditure		26.06	-
Brought forward balance		-	-
Total carried forward balance		26.06	-
Mission - Mission Fund (Restricted) Fund			
Income and endowments			
Donations and legacies			
Donations		448.00	-
	Total Donations and legacies	448.00	-
Other income			
Mission Fund		15.92	-
	Total Other income	15.92	-
Total Income and endowments		463.92	-
Expenditure			
Other expenditure			
Church expenses - operational costs		178.50	-
Other expenses		278.00	-
	Total Other expenditure	456.50	-
Total Expenditure		456.50	-
Excess of Income and endowments over Expenditure		7.42	-
Brought forward balance		-	-
Total carried forward balance		7.42	-
T & C - Tea & Coffee Fund (Restricted) Fund			
Income and endowments			
Donations and legacies			
Donations		366.51	-

ST JOHN'S CHURCH, AINSDALE – FINANCIAL STATEMENT (FUND BREAKDOWN) – cont.

Note	From To	01 January 2022 31 December 2022	01 January 2021 31 December 2021
		31.22	-
	Total Donations and legacies	397.73	-
	Total Income and endowments	397.73	-
	Expenditure		
	Other expenditure		
	Church expenses - operational costs	27.43	-
	Total Other expenditure	27.43	-
	Total Expenditure	27.43	-
	Excess of Income and endowments over Expenditure	370.30	-
	Brought forward balance	-	-
	Total carried forward balance	370.30	-
	Sequestration - Sequestration Fund (Restricted) Fund		
	Income and endowments		
	Other trading activities		
	Burial of ashes	172.00	-
	Funeral Income	284.00	-
	Total Other trading activities	456.00	-
	Other income		
	Liverpool Diocese - refund	348.75	-
	Total Other income	348.75	-
	Total Income and endowments	804.75	-
	Expenditure		
	Other expenditure		
	Clergy & Reader expenses	561.75	-
	Clergy cover	721.85	-
	Liverpool Diocese	71.00	-
	Total Other expenditure	1,354.60	-
	Total Expenditure	1,354.60	-
	Excess of Income and endowments over Expenditure	(549.85)	-
	Brought forward balance	-	-
	Total carried forward balance	(549.85)	-
	General - General Fund (Unrestricted) Fund		
	Income and endowments		
	Donations and legacies		
	3rd party appeals	757.80	-
	Plate collections - 10.30am Thursday	416.00	-
	Contactless donation	330.62	-
	Donations	9,995.84	-
	Envelopes	7,382.75	-
	Legacies	75,221.55	-
	Plate collection - Midnight HC	28.31	-
	Planned Giving - PGS direct	48,537.68	-
	Plate collections - 10.30am Sunday	5,633.67	-
	Plate collection - 8.30am Sunday	889.03	-
	Plate collection - Crib Service	35.05	-
	Standing orders - monthly	3,340.00	-

ST JOHN'S CHURCH, AINSDALE – FINANCIAL STATEMENT (FUND BREAKDOWN) – cont.

Note	From To	01 January 2022 31 December 2022	01 January 2021 31 December 2021
	Total Donations and legacies	152,568.30	-
Income from charitable activities			
Fundraising		3,089.66	-
Ticket sales		364.50	-
Toilet twinning		72.27	-
	Total Income from charitable activities	3,526.43	-
Other trading activities			
Bar		1,067.12	-
Burial of ashes		1,334.00	-
Formby Brass Band		759.41	-
Funeral Income		2,475.00	-
Rentals		11,235.00	-
Easyfundraising		20.08	-
Natterjacks nursery		28,874.82	-
Party bookings		70.00	-
Expense payment		50.00	-
Wedding Banns		240.00	-
	Total Other trading activities	46,125.43	-
Investments			
CBF		4.85	-
	Total Investments	4.85	-
Other income			
Charity Bank		4.80	-
HMRC		11,328.70	-
Insurance		2,752.00	-
Utility refund		840.43	-
Weddings		1,284.00	-
	Total Other income	16,209.93	-
Total Income and endowments		218,434.94	-
Expenditure			
Raising funds			
3rd party donations		3,367.59	-
Social events		832.05	-
	Total Raising funds	4,199.64	-
Expenditure on charitable activities			
CAP donation		40.00	-
Little Johns		197.10	-
	Total Expenditure on charitable activities	237.10	-
Other expenditure			
Harrison Latham		1,362.00	-
Bookers Cash & Carry		498.98	-
CAP job club		1,287.17	-
Charity Bank		115,693.22	-
Insurance		1,835.55	-
Church expenses - operational costs		14,575.53	-
Clergy & Reader expenses		903.55	-
Other expenses		1,940.69	-
Clergy cover		769.99	-
Liverpool Diocese		2,846.50	-
Gardening costs		140.00	-
Licence fees		70.00	-

ST JOHN'S CHURCH, AINSDALE – FINANCIAL STATEMENT (FUND BREAKDOWN) – cont.

Note	From To	01 January 2022 31 December 2022	01 January 2021 31 December 2021
Parish Share		74,043.05	-
Sefton MBC - rates		1,217.07	-
Repairs		250.00	-
Sefton MBC		295.00	-
Utilities		13,206.93	-
Vergar		210.00	-
Vicarage expenses		114.76	-
Wages		8,282.03	-
	Total Other expenditure	<u>239,542.02</u>	-
Total Expenditure		243,978.76	-
Excess of Income and endowments over Expenditure		(25,543.82)	-
Brought forward balance		41,480.22	41,480.22
Adjustments		-	41,480.22
Total carried forward balance		15,936.40	41,480.22

PCC MEMBERSHIP

	To APCM 2022	From APCM 2022
Incumbent	Rev. Jane Morgan - PCC Chair	Rev. Jane Morgan - retired 31 August 2022
Reader	Eirlys Jessop	Eirlys Jessop
Churchwardens	Lesley Phipps Chris Thursfield - PCC Vice Chair	Lesley Phipps - PCC Vice Chair from 31 August 2022 Chris Thursfield - PCC Chair from 31 August 2022
Deanery Synod Reps	Paul Ellis Jean Washbourne John Forshaw to 15 May 2022	Paul Ellis Jean Washbourne David Phipps from 15 May 2022
Elected PCC Members	Helen Parker - Secretary to May 2022 Kathryn Corey Linda Davies John Forshaw Lynne Grice Maggie Hilton Frank Hyland Patricia Jameson Lindsay Jessop - Treasurer Val Sinnott Ann Walton	Kathryn Corey Giles Davies – elected June 2022 for 1 year term Linda Davies John Forshaw Lynne Grice Maggie Hilton Frank Hyland Patricia Jameson Lindsay Jessop - Treasurer Val Sinnott Ann Walton
Co-opted members of PCC	Gill Green from 28 February to 2 June 2022 Peter Hancock (PCC Secretary from 24 May 2022)	

PCC APPROVED ROLES

PCC Chair	Chris Thursfield	Health & Safety Advisor	Frank Hyland
PCC Vice chair	Lesley Phipps	Gift aid Secretary	Heather Treble
PCC Secretary	Peter Hancock	Church Calendar and hire bookings	Deb Bishop
Treasurer	Lindsay Jessop	Responsibility for Church Website	Chris Doragh
Electoral Roll Officer	Paul Olive	Chairperson of eco group	Chris Treble
Safeguarding Officer	Chris Thursfield	Bankers	The Co-Operative Bank
Online stats officer	Paul Ellis	Independent Examiner	John Moores University (JMU) – the Accountancy Clinic
Children’s Work Co-ordinator	Linda Davies	Day to day Management	Exercised by Incumbent and Wardens

PROGRESS AGAINST 2022 MISSION OBJECTIVES

Mark of Mission	St John's Mission Priorities	2022 objectives and progress	Comments
TELL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Letting God touch the lives of others by providing imaginative, varied, inspiring and engaging worship. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Lead school worship weekly ● Embed the new structure of Sunday and midweek worship including encouraging families back to church post pandemic ● 	Good progress but still more to do to encourage families back regularly and ensure worship, including communion, is accessible to all ages.
TEACH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Helping and nurturing all those who wish to explore and deepen their relationship with God by providing opportunities for bible study, prayer and Christian fellowship in a safe family friendly environment. Equipping and supporting each other as members of an inclusive church family to be Christians in a modern world: at home; at work; with friends and in our local community. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Establish a weekly prayer group ● Run a bible study post Easter ● Re-establish confirmation classes for children and adults ● Run an Easter event for school and families ('Easter in a Box') ● Implement the LYCiG spirit of invitation: target Easter Sunday, Harvest and Christingle ● Be a welcoming church for people with disabilities ● 	Prayer group and confirmation classes relaunched. Utilised CTiA Lent course rather than run our own bible study. <i>Bible studies identified as area to improve in future.</i> Easter activities in school were a great success. PCC completed the LYCiG course and we targeted invites for specific services including attracting over 100 for Crib Service. Disability audit completed and ramp purchased.
TEND	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Helping to transform lives of those in need in Ainsdale through providing a safe haven for quiet contemplation and offering practical and emotional support for life events. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to support Job Club ● Continue to welcome and build relationships with new families through Little John's ● Relaunch the Care Group ● Provide transition activities, including provision of Impact, for children in Y6 moving to high school ● Enhance communications to promote our Christian faith and signpost church activities to those coming into the building as part of other groups ● 	Job Club restarted with new manager. Little John's seen huge growth. Care Group relaunched and restarted home visits. Supported Y6 with bibles and 'Moving On'; significant numbers now attending Impact. Monthly newsletter and event specific 'postcards' adopted plus FB and school. <i>More to do within church to promote faith to visitors.</i>
TRANSFORM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Working with other Christian and secular organisations to promote global fairness for all. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Achieve Fairtrade Church status ● Support Christian Aid, taking a leading role in Ainsdale ● Focus on rubbish collections, safe disposal & recycling ● 	Fairtrade status achieved. New ideas for Christian Aid well supported. Recycling bins provided in church and creation adopted as service themes during year.
TREASURE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Looking after God's planet by raising awareness of the impact we have on creation and the actions we can take to improve the environment. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Reduce Church and individual use of plastic ● Encourage all church members to review their carbon footprint ● 	Single use plastic cups replaced with eco option. Carbon footprint assessed for church family.

PCC MISSION OBJECTIVES FOR 2023

During the interregnum, our objectives focus on sustaining a number of existing outreach activities and introduce a small number of new objectives targeted at rebuilding the church community post covid.

Mark of Mission	St John's Mission Priorities	2023 objectives – ongoing outreach	New objectives for 2023
TELL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Letting God touch the lives of others by providing imaginative, varied, inspiring and engaging worship. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to embed the regular pattern of weekly worship through the interregnum Lead school worship weekly 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage families back to church post pandemic with a particular focus around Easter, September and Christmas Introduce a family/all-age communion service
TEACH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Helping and nurturing all those who wish to explore and deepen their relationship with God by providing opportunities for bible study, prayer and Christian fellowship in a safe family friendly environment. Equipping and supporting each other as members of an inclusive church family to be Christians in a modern world: at home; at work; with friends and in our local community. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue monthly newsletters and other targeted communications to keep church members connected Support CTiA Lent Course Run confirmation course Welcome and support baptism families 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement specific actions from LYCIG Relaunch Junior PCC including opportunities for leading services Seek new helpers to support Impact and Sunday morning children's work Introduce parish lunches to help bring church members together
TEND	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Helping to transform lives of those in need in Ainsdale through providing a safe haven for quiet contemplation and offering practical and emotional support for life events. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to support Job Club Continue to welcome and build relationships with new families through Little John's Continue to grow the support offered by the Care Group 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Run a regular cinema club (care group/ warm spaces and holiday films)
TRANSFORM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Working with other Christian and secular organisations to promote global fairness for all. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support Christian Aid, taking a leading role in Ainsdale Continue support for the Food Bank and make lunch schemes working with school and Natterjacks 	<i>No specific new actions currently</i>
TREASURE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Looking after God's planet by raising awareness of the impact we have on creation and the actions we can take to improve the environment. 		<i>No specific new actions currently</i>

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF AINSDALE ST JOHN

England & Wales - Charity number 1128996

Accounts

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Ainsdale St John



Annual Report of the Parochial Church Council

Incorporating the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2021

Charity Number 1128996



Sharing God's love, serving one another



Contents

Introduction by the vicar	3
PCC Membership	5
TRUSTEES' REPORT	
Section 1: Vision, Mission and Objectives	6
Aim and purposes	
Vision and Mission	
Progress against 2021 objectives	
PCC objectives for 2022	
Section 2: Review of the Year	10
2a: Supporting our congregation - worship and pastoral care	
2b. Supporting our children and young people	
2c. Supporting the wider church	
2d. Supporting the wider community and providing fellowship	
Section 3: Our Church School and Nursery	25
Section 4: Our Infrastructure	27
Section 5: Financial Review	28
Section 6: Acknowledgements and contacts	30
Section 7: Structure, Management and Governance	31
Section 8: Administrative Information	33
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS	
Independent Examiner's Report	34
Financial Statement - General Fund Receipts and Payments	35
Financial Statement – Other Funds	36
Statement of Assets and Liabilities; Notes	37

Introduction by the vicar



Who would have thought that it is only now we are coming out of the Covid pandemic, after two years of learning to live with Covid we enter the 'post-covid' era. Life is different to how it was as we emerge from our isolation, masks and social distancing, although we are still being cautious as Covid hasn't gone away. We have had to embrace a new way of living, of being, and that has also applied to church life too. The past two years we have really paid attention to how God was calling us to be church, to share God's love and to serve our neighbours. We have been brought more closely to listening to what God is calling us to do in His church for His people, which hasn't been such a bad thing, even though it's been challenging. We can't go back to the way things used to be pre-pandemic, life moves on and we have had to adjust accordingly.

Despite all the restrictions I give thanks for the number of many gifted and talented people we have been blessed with. The worship and parish life of the church has continued, albeit in different ways, and as restrictions were gradually lifted their flexibility and commitment to adapting to those changes ensured we were always 'church' both inside and outside the building, as it is us, the people, who are church.

The gradual lifting of restrictions enabled us to review what we were offering and in June the Parochial Church Council (PCC) had an away day to seek God's voice in the way forward. Not everything pre-pandemic has resumed as we recognised that needs change in our new post-covid culture but this has enabled us to develop new ways of being. You will read of these changes in this report. What is absolutely amazing and praiseworthy is how so many good things have taken place over the past year, how people, groups, the unformed organisations have been open to adapting how they do things so that they maintained contact with each other, provided support, had fun and new things have started! A big bonus was the lifting of the 'no-singing' restriction in church and we could welcome back the gifts of the worship group, organist and choir who are such an important part of our worship, who enable us to meet with God in this way in our services.

We have had a strong desire to focus on caring for creation. We became a Fairtrade church and so far have achieved the bronze award as an Eco Church, currently working towards silver status.

Our link with our church school goes from strength to strength as we welcomed a new head teacher in September, started a weekly church led worship in school for pupils and teachers, plus hosted special school services in church. I have been invited into year groups as part of their curriculum and have started to provide worship for the teachers.

We have maintained our strong relationship and support of Churches Together in Ainsdale, and to our church school family and have continued to provide support to jobseekers through our Christians Against Poverty (CAP) programmes and to children and young people in Ainsdale through our support of the Impact youth group.

Links with Natterjacks, the nursery, continue to grow as we seek to develop the 'secret garden' with them to enable them to benefit from having an outdoor green space to use, which will also benefit the unformed organisations and church groups.

We are mindful that, as per the national picture in the CofE, although we have welcomed new people to church, the number of people returning to church has declined. With this in mind, the PCC has embarked on the Leading Your Church into Growth (LYCiG) programme to help us focus on growing numerically, growing spiritually and growing missionally. We are already benefiting from this programme by opening church for a weekly Prayer Group meeting and developing plans for some special services and events in the future.

We are still suffering from the financial impact of the Pandemic, when income declined and we have lost some giving, coupled with the increased costs in upkeep which is a challenge. As a charity that has to be self-sufficient, we will be looking at what God is asking of us to do to address these challenges in order to maintain the buildings, grow spiritually and engage in missional work in the community.

Thank you to the parishioners for their generosity as we cannot fulfil our Mission without their support and their support has been a blessing.

I have said it before that it is outstanding and humbling at the same time that the worship and parish life of the church has continued thanks to the numbers of many gifted and talented people who do so much to support the worship, ministry and the everyday running of the church, willing to adapt to doing things differently.

I am deeply grateful and thankful to the many members of the church family who help in different ways and the PCC has continued to be supportive, constructive and purposeful, and I am particularly grateful for the immense support and contribution from our excellent Church Secretary who has provided a great deal of unseen support to myself, the wardens and other church staff, and we thank God for her ministry.

We continue to pray that God will direct us to His plans for His church and work has been ongoing to hear what this looks like. For 2022 our Objectives are aligned to our Mission priorities which are rooted in the 5 Marks of Mission. The objectives aim to address the key needs of those we service as a church.

A verse which has always been important to me sums up what we are called to be:

This is what is required of us, only this:

*To do justice, love kindness
and walk humbly with our God.*

Micah 6

I commend this Annual Report to you and pray that you can see the love and commitment that has gone into what we do, and our intent to do justice, love kindness and walk humbly in all that we are striving to do in the name of God to glorify God in this place.

Everyone deserves to be thanked for this.

With love and blessings,

Rev Jane Morgan MBE

PCC Membership

The following comprises the PCC as at April 2022:

<i>Incumbent:</i>	Rev. Jane Morgan PCC Chair
<i>Readers:</i>	Eirlys Jessop
<i>Churchwardens:</i>	Lesley Phipps Chris Thursfield PCC Vice Chair
<i>Deanery Synod Reps:</i>	Paul Ellis Jean Washbourne
<i>Elected Members (and Trustees):</i>	Helen Parker PCC Secretary Lindsay Jessop PCC Treasurer Kate Corey Linda Davies John Forshaw Lynne Grice Maggie Hilton Frank Hyland Trish Jameson Val Sinnott Ann Walton

Members of the PCC are the charity trustees and are the 'persons having the general control and management of the administration of the charity' (Charities Act 2011, s177).

During lockdown the PCC held meetings via zoom.

Section 1: Vision, Mission and Objectives

Aim and purposes

The primary objective of St John's Church Parochial Church Council (PCC) is to promote the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ and to cooperate with the incumbent, the Reverend Jane Morgan, in promoting in the parish, the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical.

Vision and Mission

Our Church Mission document states our Vision as:

‘Sharing God’s Love, Serving One Another’

and our Mission is:

‘Demonstrating God’s love by supporting families throughout their lives: as children; as adults; as parents; and when they need someone just to listen such as at times of bereavement’

When planning our activities for the year, the PCC have considered the Charity Commission’s guidance on public benefit and, in particular, the specific guidance on charities for the advancement of religion.

In supporting our Mission, our priorities are focused around the 5 Marks of Mission:

5 Marks of Mission	St John’s Mission Priorities
A. TELL: Proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Letting God touch the lives of others by providing imaginative, varied, inspiring and engaging worship.
B. TEACH: Teach, baptise and nurture new believers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Helping and nurturing all those who wish to explore and deepen their relationship with God by providing opportunities for bible study, prayer and Christian fellowship in a safe family friendly environment. Equipping and supporting each other as members of an inclusive church family to be Christians in a modern world: at home; at work; with friends and in our local community.
C. TEND: Respond to human needs by loving service	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Helping to transform lives of those in need in Ainsdale through providing a safe haven for quiet contemplation and offering practical and emotional support for life events.
D. TRANSFORM: Seek to transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind and to pursue peace and reconciliation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Working with other Christian and secular organisations to promote global fairness for all.
E. TREASURE: Strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Looking after God’s planet by raising awareness of the impact we have on creation and the actions we can take to improve the environment.



The success criteria we apply to our activities are:






1. An active church family where all members are included and valued for who they are. To respect each other's style of worship, encourage involvement, and contribute to the whole life of the Church including our Church School, with their talents and abilities.
2. Centred on God, letting Him lead us into the future He has prepared for us.
3. Growing in faith as we serve our community in Ainsdale.

To facilitate the above, it is important that we maintain the fabric of the Church building and adjacent hall complex.

Progress against 2021 objectives

Our priorities for 2021, whilst restrictions continued to be in place as a result of the impact of Covid-19, were to focus on our main Mission priorities.

Objective	Status	2021 Achievements
<p>Maintain regular contact with our Church family, including our young people, especially at times when they are not able to meet in person. Continue to provide opportunities for worship and spiritual reflection - in Church (when permitted) and online.</p>		<p>YouTube services continued during lockdown and livestreaming continued once the congregation could return to church.</p> <p>Families were kept updated with activities and ideas via email and 'doorstep chats' when dropping off Pentecost and Lent bags.</p> <p>The Junior PCC held regular zoom meetings and have contributed ideas helping make a difference in our church. They have also taken the lead on some services in 2021 which was very well received by everyone.</p> <p>Newsletters were shared via email and birthday cards were delivered.</p> <p>We welcomed families back to church at the Big God Picnic for an outdoor service and cake held in the church gardens in July 2021. This was a fantastic event enjoyed by a wide range of ages and provided an opportunity to sing our favourite songs.</p> <p>In September 2021 we held a Big Welcome in the church gardens with games and singing.</p> <p>Links with Uniformed Groups continued with Uniformed Groups meeting on zoom and then in person, and contributing to virtual and in person Parade Services.</p>
<p>Support those in our community who are vulnerable, isolated or disadvantaged. Provide practical help where needed.</p>		<p>We identified church members who do not have access to the internet and delivered paper copies of the newsletter and morning prayer through their letterboxes.</p> <p>We delivered Pentecost and Lent doorstep bags.</p> <p>We resumed church services when it was safe to do so and the 10-30 Sunday service was livestreamed for people who have access to the internet but were not able to come to church.</p> <p>We also livestreamed funerals and Christenings for people who were unable to attend because of COVID restrictions.</p> <p>We adopted a buddy system to ensure everyone who wants regular contact receives frequent telephone calls. Our prayer circle offers support and comfort through prayer which is invaluable to people who are feeling fearful and isolated.</p>

<p>Provide practical and spiritual support for children, staff and families at school and nursery.</p>		<p>A new YouTube channel – Rooted in Christ - was set up to provide specific content for younger children. During Covid restrictions, this was utilised in school for worship as well as other bespoke worship recordings compiled by church.</p> <p>Church provided laptops to support home schooling for those families without access to a computer.</p> <p>From September, church led weekly worship in school, initially for classes and then for whole school as restrictions eased. 'Christmas in a Box' was enjoyed by Year 3. Church hosted a socially distanced Y6 leavers service in July and the Christmas productions for KS1 and KS2, and we are delighted class services have returned in church from September.</p> <p>Church governors continued to support the headteacher and staff at school to ensure children continued to learn in a safe and engaging way whether home schooling or back in school. In 2021 governors also oversaw a number of major transitions as we said a sad farewell to Paul Hooton and a number of other long serving staff, and welcomed Lorna O'Brien and two new teachers.</p> <p>Regular contact was maintained with nursery including supporting practical measures around cleaning regimes and access arrangements to minimise the spread of Covid.</p>
<p>Continue to offer access to Job Club resources including, when possible, restarting face to face activities.</p>		<p>We have continued to give support to CAP Job Club which was able to continue meeting throughout 2021. It has provided much needed practical help for their clients who are very thankful for the support given.</p>
<p>Provide careful ongoing stewardship of our limited resources to ensure that we remain financially viable whilst continuing to fully contribute to wider Church and community initiatives.</p>		<p>Throughout 2021 we carefully monitored our budget to ensure we remained financially viable. At the beginning of the year, the PCC made an appeal for additional funding as our income was much depleted due to the effects of the pandemic. We received a fantastic response to the PCC appeal raising nearly £17,000. As a result, we have been able to continue to make progress with our Mission activities.</p>
<p>Make recommendations for charities to be supported by the congregation at Lent, Harvest and Christmas.</p>		<p>In August 2021, we supported an emergency appeal for overseas help with proceeds shared between the Haiti and Afghanistan appeals.</p> <p>At Harvest we held an appeal for WaterAid. Throughout the year we make contributions towards Southport foodbank. The foodbank thanked us for the donations which are much needed in these difficult times.</p> <p>At Christmas we supported charitable giving in lieu of sending Christmas cards with the amount collected divided between toilet twinning and bin twinning charities. We also sent hampers containing food, toys and toiletries to Southport foodbank.</p>
<p>To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation, and sustain and renew the life of the earth</p>		<p>We set up an eco-group in June 2021 who have met regularly to discuss environmental issues and were successful in having St John's registered as an eco-church on the Arocho website.</p> <p>The group supported the climate walks and the congregation made banners and prayer boats which were showcased to the leaders in Glasgow.</p> <p>The Lent gift bags contained Fairtrade chocolate to raise awareness of Fairtrade goods.</p>

PCC OBJECTIVES FOR 2022

Our Objectives for 2022 are aligned to our Mission priorities.

The objectives aim to address the key needs of those we service as a church including: current worshippers; under 5's/preschool children; St John's school; Natterjacks nursery; Uniformed Groups; family and friends joining us for baptisms, weddings and funerals; hirers, the wider community in Ainsdale; and all those we engage with through social media.

5 Marks of Mission	St John's Mission Priorities	2022 Objectives
TELL: Proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom	Letting God touch the lives of others by providing imaginative, varied, inspiring and engaging worship.	1) Lead school worship weekly 2) Embed the new structure of Sunday and midweek worship including encouraging families back to church post pandemic
TEACH: Teach, baptise and nurture new believers	Helping and nurturing all those who wish to explore and deepen their relationship with God by providing opportunities for bible study, prayer and Christian fellowship in a safe family friendly environment. Equipping and supporting each other as members of an inclusive church family to be Christians in a modern world: at home; at work; with friends and in our local community.	3) Establish a weekly prayer group 4) Run a bible study post Easter 5) Re-establish confirmation classes for children and adults 6) Run an Easter event for school and families ('Easter in a Box') 7) Implement the LYCIG spirit of invitation: target Easter Sunday, Harvest and Christingle 8) Be a welcoming church for people with disabilities
TEND: Respond to human needs by loving service	Helping to transform lives of those in need in Ainsdale through providing a safe haven for quiet contemplation and offering practical and emotional support for life events.	9) Continue to support Job Club 10) Continue to welcome and build relationships with new families through Little John's 11) Relaunch the Care Group 12) Provide transition activities, including provision of Impact, for children in Y6 moving to high school 13) Enhance communications to promote our Christian faith and sign post church activities to those coming into the building as part of other groups
TRANSFORM: Seek to transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind and to pursue peace and reconciliation	Working with other Christian and secular organisations to promote global fairness for all.	14) Achieve Fairtrade Church status 15) Support Christian Aid, taking a leading role in Ainsdale 16) Focus on rubbish collections, safe disposal & recycling
TREASURE: Strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth	Looking after God's planet by raising awareness of the impact we have on creation and the actions we can take to improve the environment.	17) Reduce Church and individual use of plastic 18) Encourage all church members to review their carbon footprint

Section 2: Review of the Year

2a: Supporting our congregation – worship and pastoral care

Worship & average attendance 2021

Throughout 2021 attendance at services has continued to be impacted by Covid with physical restrictions limiting opportunities in church but also as we have seen family habits change during extended period of lockdown. We continue to look for imaginative and engaging ways to encourage all worshippers back to church.

The year started with COVID restrictions closing places of worship from January till end of March – with worship resuming in time for Good Friday & Easter worship with said services only. A service pattern of Sunday morning 10:30am Communion with a Wednesday midweek 10:30am communion service being used through till end of July.

From August onwards the Sunday morning 8:30am communion service was reinstated. The pattern of the Sunday 10:30am worship service evolved as COVID restrictions on singing were eased, to include 4 Parade and 4 Baptism services. The midweek service was moved from Wednesday to its traditional Thursday morning slot.

Average attendance at Sunday services during 2021 was:

8:30 Holy Communion from the BCP: 11 (14 during 2020)

10:30 Family Communion, Parade & Baptism combined: 41 Adult, 5 Child (46 Adult, 9 Child during 2020).

(Individual average attendance for Communion, Parade & Baptism services can be found in the table below)

Average attendance at midweek Wednesday/Thursday services during 2021 was:

10:30 Communion – 16 (17 during 2020)

Throughout 2021, services were socially distanced, with hand sanitation, mask wearing and other precautions in place. This cautious approach was necessary to ensure we provided a safe environment for worship.

REGISTER ANALYSIS 2021 – Last 5 years

	Averages					TOTALS				
	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017
8:00/8:30	11	14	13	13	14	238	151	685	701	722
YouTube Sunday Service VIEWS	-	129	-	-	-	-	5013	-	-	-
YouTube other events VIEWS	-	106	-	-	-	-	2327	-	-	-
10:00 or 10:30 Adult	36	43	66	68	65	1185	1106	2171	2240	2775
10:00 or 10:30 Child	4	9	19	18	11	55	166	620	586	491
10:30 Parade Adult	56	60	78	87	78	225	119	547	521	549
10:30 Parade Child	24	32	43	54	51	97	64	299	321	354
Baptism Adult	60	44	111	113	-	239	175	1108	1125	83
Baptism Child	8	7	33	28	-	31	26	334	277	15
6.30 Adult	0	13	15	16	15	0	145	757	814	764
6.30 Child						0	0	4	6	2
Wed or Thu 10:30 Adult	16	17	20	21	21	641	471	1049	1081	1088
Wed or Thu 10:30 Child						0	5	15	0	2
Funeral Adult						664	327	1229	1262	130
Funeral Child						13	0	21	18	1
Wedding Adult						87	0	68	0	10
Wedding Child						18	0	4	0	1
Messy Church Adult	-	-	14	24	23	0	0	71	144	137
Messy Church Child	-	-	21	32	19	0	0	106	192	114
The EVENT Adult	-	-	27	28	46	0	0	133	142	183
The EVENT Child	-	-	34	34	40	0	0	169	171	159
Special Service Adult	Special Services includes such as :- Christingle Service					159	384	312	183	355
Special Service Child	Compline, Good Friday, Carol Service & Crib Service					18	37	47	86	73
ADULT ATTENDANCE - ALL SERVICES - (Excluding Wedding & Funerals)						2687	2551	6833	6951	6656
CHILD ATTENDANCE - ALL SERVICES - (Excluding Wedding & Funerals)						201	298	1594	1639	1210
TOTAL ADULT & CHILD ATTENDANCE - ALL SERVICES - (Excluding Wedding & Funerals)						2888	2849	8427	8590	7866

Covid-19 lockdown and the gradual lifting of restrictions

We started 2021 with the church being open for public worship with rigorous risk Assessment measures in place. However, by the middle of January it became apparent that there were safety concerns due to the increasing infection rates. In view of this, on 19 January it was decided to suspend public worship in the church building for services but to continue with funerals and the Job Club. It was felt this helped to reinforce the 'stay at home' message.

Despite physical attendance being curtailed, the amazing fact was that CHURCH WAS NOT CLOSED for we, the people, are the church, not the building. We continued with the weekly online YouTube service. This 'Service of the Word' was recorded by our Vicar, or one of our readers, with a children's slot from Linda Davies, a bible reading and intercessions led by a member of the congregation, and worship led by our organist Paul, members of the choir and Giles from our music group.

We also relaunched the online coffee mornings to encourage social engagement which was much appreciated by people who were self-isolating.

Giles Davies expertly compiled the online content. Facebook and our Church website also played an important part in keeping people connected to the church.

The PCC are extremely grateful to Giles Davies, Chris York, Lindsay Jessop and Chris Doragh for their expertise and the support they have given with their technical knowledge.

During this time, we continued to reach out to people who did not have access to a computer with regular telephone calls. We also prepared Lent and Pentecost doorstep bags containing Fair Trade chocolate, ideas for reflections during Lent. The bags also enclosed Lent and Easter cards which had been designed by our Junior PCC. This was a good way to reach out to our church family, particularly those who were lonely or do not have internet access. They were well received by everyone.

Socially-distanced worship!

Following the government roadmap, we reopened the church for regular public worship starting with the Good Friday 'Hour at the Cross' and Easter Sunday. From that point, we held a said communion service with socially distanced seating, a booking service to reserve seating, hand sanitation and other precautions in place. This cautious approach was necessary to ensure we provided a safe environment for worship. We also restarted the midweek said communion service on a Wednesday morning – again maintaining precautions including social distancing and operating a booking system. During this time, we continued to provide the recorded YouTube services.

In May, as we were able to resume services in the church building, we decided to discontinue the YouTube services and replace this with livestreaming of the Sunday 10-30 service so we were still able to reach out to people who were fearful about returning to the church building. Throughout this time, we have also been able to livestream other services including funerals and christenings. This has proved invaluable when people have not been able to attend in person due to travel restrictions and limits on numbers being able to meet in church. These opportunities were appreciated by everyone, but especially those feeling isolated or fearful.



This pattern of worship in the Church building continued up to September when we decided to move the mid-week service back to Thursdays and to reinstate the 8-30 holy communion service. We were also delighted that we were able to resume singing at the Sunday 10-30 service in line with Church of England. We continued to have a stringent risk assessment in place, encouraging people to wear masks

and sanitise their hands. The PCC are extremely grateful to Frank Hyland for his constant support, expertise and vigilance in compiling and enacting our risk assessments during this time.

Christmas 2021



Christmas was an opportunity to celebrate Jesus' birth whilst gathering in the church building in a socially distanced way.

Our **Christingle** praise and worship service was a whole school event held in church. Jane led the worship before the children created Christingles in their year groups. The service was live streamed and everyone was encouraged to join in. A truly memorable experience!

The **carol service** was very popular and we appreciated the opportunity to sing carols inside in a safe way.

We had our special **Crib service** on Christmas Eve which was held in Church and also live streamed for those at home. It was an opportunity for everyone to dress up as shepherds, angels, wise men and women, Mary and Joseph, stars, Herod and innkeepers. Adults as well as children were encouraged to dress up!

We were also delighted to be able to reinstate the **Midnight mass** on Christmas eve which proved to be popular.

Music for services

As with all church-based activities, singing in church was severely impacted by the pandemic. During the varying levels of lockdown members of the choir and music group supplied videos for the online services and had one or two singing during communion only.

The full choir and music group returned to lead worship at the 10.30 services and other church services in September. In addition, the choir supported the Remembrance Sunday service on the green and the music group supported school collective worship. Overall, the music and singing greatly helped to boost morale, particularly in the times when group singing was not allowed. We won't be taking the ability to sing and make music for granted in a hurry!

The PCC are very grateful for the faithful dedication of all those who help lead our music.

Care Group

The Care Group started in 2002 with the purpose of bringing together a group of ordinary members of the congregation who could assist the clergy in the pastoral work of visiting people in the parish of all ages and in any kind of need. They speak to people by telephone if someone wants to talk but does not want a face-to-face visit.

The Care group was not able to arrange any social events in 2021 because of Covid Restrictions.

This also curtailed the ability of members to visit people in their homes apart from a few periods when visiting rules were relaxed. Before and after Christmas some Home Communion visits were able to take place and we hope to increase this when restrictions are eased.

The prayer circle was very active and we had many requests for prayers and this was appreciated by those who were prayed for and their relatives.

Currently members of the Care Group are filling in forms to comply with security regulations and we hope to restart social activities and a fuller programme of visiting in the spring of 2022.

Newsletters and morning prayers

Jane has sent out a weekly email enclosing prayers and Bible readings. In this email she also encloses her weekly news items. Paper copies of the newsletters and morning prayers have been made available for people without internet access.

As a result of us 'reaching out' in new ways, people have got to know each other better and new friendships have developed. Overall, we hope that people have seen that we are very friendly and welcoming at St John's.

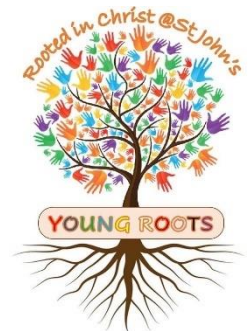
2b. Supporting our children and young people

"Children are a gift from the Lord - a real blessing" Psalm 127

Children and youth mission

We are extremely grateful for all those who support our children and young people. There is also a real need for new volunteers to come forward, who feel they have a calling to assist with this important part of our mission, so it can be refreshed and renewed with their enthusiastic participation. We ask for your prayers that this need will touch people's hearts.

During the past year with church closure and lockdowns pertaining to the Covid pandemic, it remained a challenge to find ways to continue to reach out and engage the children and young people in our church family. However, we were given an opportunity to think "OUT OF THE BOX" and adapt new ways to keep in touch and connect - especially through social media and online activities, and to encourage faith at home. We continued to provide on-line worship sessions throughout the year, even when we were able to return to church and stream services. We did this through a new initiative - YOUNG ROOTS on YouTube. These short weekly sessions incorporate a Bible story, worship songs, prayers and often a craft for our younger members.



As **Supaclub on Sundays** face to face sessions at church were unable to resume during 2021, parents received regular emails and links to online resources for us to keep in touch.

Physical attendance by the children and their families to attend Sunday services proved difficult, so we began to rethink our vision and start to create new opportunities to worship together..... times to worship outdoors, and in church in different and exciting ways - not just on Sundays - and to provide opportunities for families to share faith at home.

At **Easter**, we made doorstep deliveries to them and our Baptism families, with bags containing a SU book, colouring/craft activities and some Easter treats. This provided a great opportunity to enjoy short, socially distanced conversations and reconnect.



In July, on Godparents Sunday, we held a **Big Family Picnic** in the church grounds. We were blessed with fine weather, and it was an occasion when many of our young families returned with their children for a lively service, topped off with picnic bags of cake to take home.



Another outdoor event was our **Welcome Back to Church** Saturday afternoon celebration in early September, with games, crafts and a chance to sing at the microphone for our younger members, and contributions from SONG, the youth amateur theatre group who rehearse in our church building – even an inflatable football pitch. Great fun for all ages.



Following on from this September event, we began our new **Praise & Worship Services** held on the first and third Sundays in each month, and to include Parade Services on the third Sundays. These all-age services are particularly attractive for those families with young children, as they are designed to be short and inter-active. The children, young people and parents take a role in leading prayers and doing the Bible readings. The Worship Group songs are lively and encourage hearty participation, especially with the younger members. We have also been able to welcome Baptism families to these services.

Our services over the Christmas period included our **Crib Service**.

Doorstep Christmas bags were delivered to families, liaising with Little Johns, with a Christmas book for families to share faith at home and craft activities and treats.

In January we held a special Sunday **Christingle** service in church.

During the year, we have engaged with our **church school**, using zoom worship sessions in the classrooms. From September, it was possible to go back in to lead whole school worship. We are able to meet with over 200 pupils each week to share the message of God's love.

There have also been opportunities to go into classes and, in the lead up to Christmas, the children in Year 3 explored the characters in the Nativity story through **Christmas in a Box** – encouraging reflection, responses and an opportunity for them to fill their own mini boxes and share faith at home.



School class services returned to the church building, and over the Christmas period, the school held their celebrations in the church space. In January we welcomed the whole school in to make their own **Christingles** for a special service. Chaotic, but fun.



The children in Year 6 were presented with their own Bible donated by members of the congregation in December.

Baptisms

We were able to resume baptism services once restrictions lifted. Members of the church family continue to knit and crochet blankets for the children being baptised, as we welcome each one into the church family, covering them in God's love. The children also receive a Bible as a gift. Despite the pandemic and restrictions, we were delighted to baptise and welcome seven new members into the Jesus family here. We continue to receive many more baptism requests.

Confirmations

No confirmations could take place during the year, but there are plans to liaise with school to have discussions with the children in Y5 and Y6 about The Eucharist and Confirmation. The young people who had already considered going forward for Confirmation will do this in 2022.

Junior PCC

Many of the other children and young people's activities we have had in the past have changed during the pandemic. Although **Junior PCC** sessions were also curtailed, they were able to meet on Zoom during the lockdown period, and work through a Journal, exploring their faith, but the sessions also incorporated some fun activities. The **Junior PCC's Garden of Hope** was refreshed with the planting of colourful bedding plants.



Impact open youth club

Impact continued weekly on Zoom during the Pandemic, with lots of fun activities, under the supervision of Hettie and David Taberner from the Southport and Area Schools Worker Trust, Linda Davies from our church, and Joan Green from the Village Church as an ecumenical outreach with the support of the CTiA. Members logged on to ZOOM each week for fun Kahoot quizzes and to work through their ROOTED Journals until face-to-face sessions were able to recommence at The Methodist Church, outdoors and using a gazebo and the inflatable football pitch. We were able to return indoors as the weather turned colder. The addition of screens and Wii and Switch games and coloured lighting have transformed the foyer into a really welcoming and exciting space. It is so good for us to see so many young people return to this Safe Space and enjoy social time together once again and that the relationships formed with these young people have continued to grow.

Little John's Baby and Toddler Group



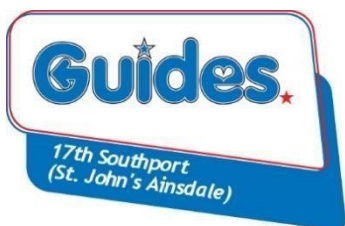
We were delighted to be able to resume our sessions in the summer term last year, albeit with COVID restrictions very much in place. Parents and children alike were pleased to be able to get out and socialise even at a distance.

In September we changed the time of our session from afternoon to morning. This has proved to be a very successful move with us having up to 40 children at the sessions. This is double the number we used to have in the afternoons.

The PCC are extremely thankful for the skilled and dedicated team at Little John's. The success of the group means that we are able to reach many more families and welcome them into our church building.

Sandbrook District Rainbow, Brownies and Guides

The groups had another challenging year finding ways to meet up virtually using zoom and making adaptations to the guide programme when needed. They have continued to give the girls great experiences and challenges thanks to the dedication and enthusiasm of their leaders.



The 17th St Johns Guide Unit – report by Vanessa Riley (Guide Leader)

Returning face to face and some normality within our meetings has been fantastic. The guides have continued to be very active and complete Theme Awards - Bronze, Silver and Gold. Natural Remedies and Photography badges have been a great success with lots of homemade face masks and hand scrubs.

Pumpkin carving was messy but fun, marshmallow monsters were tasty too. Our Young Leader was awarded with her Leadership qualification and wished luck as she was off to university. Leaders were awarded five and ten- year service badges.



We spent a weekend at Shirdley Hill Adventure House at the end of November celebrating an early Christmas. Movie evening, yule logs, candle holder snow globes and many other crafts were made. Christmas dinner followed by a snowman drive, fun games and prizes. Lastly, Sunday morning breakfast and watching The Grinch.

A few Guides and Leaders helped Southport Hesketh Round Table with the Santa sleigh collecting.



As we waved goodbye to our older guides to Rangers and Young Leaders, we welcomed Brownies into Guides.

We are looking forward to more adventures, opportunities and making friendships this next year.

15th Ainsdale Brownies – report by Joanne York (Tawny Owl)



What a busy year 2021 was: we started the year off meeting on zoom, in June we were able to meet outside then in September we were able to return to indoor meetings.

The girls have gained lots of badges and achieved awards.

There has been lots of baking activities including decorating pancakes, s'mores cakes, Easter Egg cheesecakes and armpit fudge.

Also, craft evenings where we made Easter, Autumn and Christmas crafts. In November we welcomed Councillor Lynne Thompson to our meeting as part of Parliament Week.



We were invited by Jane to have a meeting in the Vicarage Garden. We toasted marshmallows and played games.



We are so grateful for our wonderful Brownies who have been amazing over the past few months. Also, we are extremely grateful to their fabulous parents who enabled the meetings over zoom and their continued support when we returned to meetings in person.

We are looking forward to 2022 and getting back to normal again.

Ainsdale 2nd Rainbows – report by Ruth Leney (2nd Ainsdale leader)

2nd Ainsdale Rainbows have had another interesting year. Meetings remained on Zoom until May and we were then back in the church and took advantage of the lovely garden.

Once again, we have had girls moving up to Brownies and lots of girls joining us to form a full Rainbow unit.

The Rainbows have gained interest badges, skill builders and theme badges and have shown commitment to the Guiding Family. One of this year’s favourite task was a bug hunt in the church grounds. Very exciting to discover so many bugs!!

Two of our Rainbows received the top Rainbow Gold Award and had to display what they have most enjoyed about Rainbows among other tasks. There will be at least six more receiving this award before the end of the summer 2022.



We organised a danceathon to raise money for a unit flag. The Rainbows and their families generously raised nearly £600. This meant further long-term resources could be purchased, meaning the Ainsdale 2nd Rainbows 2021 have left a legacy for future Rainbows and should be very proud.

In the summer we visited Rev Jane in the vicarage garden. Storytelling and games made for a jolly time. We also visited Scarisbrick with the other St John guiding units for a sporting afternoon which was excellent fun.

Here's to a celebratory 2022 the Queens Platinum Jubilee!

The PCC would like to thank the leaders and helpers of all our Church groups, Rainbows, Brownies and Guides for their selfless commitment to teaching, supporting and nurturing all the young people. It really is appreciated.

2c. Supporting the wider Church

Deanery Synod

Deanery Synod met in 2021 to discuss the following:

- Shared experiences of lockdown and their aftermath
- Determined method of dividing up the Deanery's combined 'Parish Share'

The Deanery Synod also had presentations on subjects including:

- Climate justice
- Generosity week'

Further details of the Deanery Synod can be obtained from our representative Paul Ellis.

2d. Supporting the wider community and providing fellowship

Ecumenism

Churches Together in Ainsdale (CTiA) is a fellowship of Christian Churches in Ainsdale: United Reform Church, St John Stone/ Sacred Heart, the Methodist Church and St John's.

The last year, like the previous year, was difficult because of Covid restrictions. We haven't been able to meet so often Face to Face and continued to meet on Zoom although there weren't as many meetings as normal due to clergy absences.

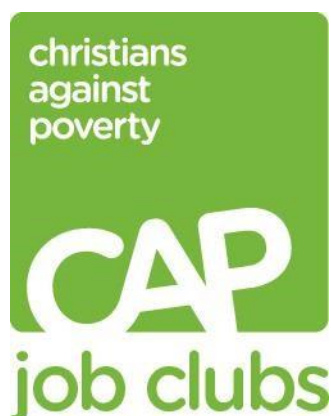
The Lent course was delivered via Zoom, with lively, diverse discussions on various topics including the Environment, Global Warming, Coming out of Denial, Faith Hope and Love. Those who attended found it a somewhat different Lent Course to anything we had done before and it was well received.

During Christian Aid week on Saturday 15th May we held a Bric-a-brac sale, sold cakes and served breakfast under a gazebo, fortunately donated by Brough's butchers, because there was heavy rain. Despite the rain people came and chatted, it was an enjoyable event, despite restrictions.

The highlight of the year was on Remembrance Day on 14th November. We were able to meet in person on the Village Green and the Reverend Patrick Evans organised the service. St John's choir paraded across from the church as usual, and sang loudly. The uniformed organisations were also represented. It was good to see them all considering the previous year when it was celebrated online.



At St John's we are extremely fortunate to have many skilled and dedicated people who run events, lead groups and organise fundraising activities that provide wider fellowship and support those most in need in our community and further afield.



St John's Job Club works in partnership with **Christians Against Poverty**

(CAP) to run a Job Club. The CAP Job Club is a tried and tested format with 156 Job Clubs across the country. By working with CAP, St John's are delivering an effective service to help people step into work, even after years of unemployment. This includes materials to run our eight-week interactive Steps to Employment Course, covering topics such as identifying strengths, CV writing, and interview techniques. The course is designed to be an easy and effective way for us to practically equip club members, in a supportive environment that boosts confidence and morale. Through St John's CAP job club, we can create a community that demonstrates God's love in a relevant way.

Despite the ups and downs of COVID restrictions, we have continued to keep our door open for those seeking and obtaining our help and support. This is a significant achievement when many CAP Job Clubs across the country were no longer operating, including the other Southport Job Club.

In June we were blessed to receive a grant of £1,200 from PH Holt to help with the annual running costs. One of our church members nominated the Job Club for the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service. We were interviewed by the local assessment panel in November 2021. We will know by mid-June 2022 if our nomination has been successful.

During the year we have helped 21 clients with 6 (almost 30%) of them finding employment (4 permanent, 1 volunteering and 1 seasonal). We delivered two Step towards Employment courses, helping a number of clients to improve their job searching and CV writing skills as well as building up their confidence and eventually gaining employment.

At Christmas we were able to bless our clients by offering some chocolates to make Christmas just a bit more special. We helped one client who was on his own for Christmas by supplying a food hamper.

What our clients say about us:

"Thank you for your lovely email, it was a pleasure seeing you all and that you and the gang for all the ongoing support you continue to show me and the rest of the community. The work that you all do is brilliant and I am sure that anyone who has had the pleasure of visiting the job club would confirm it is a lovely, friendly and supportive environment."

"I really enjoyed meeting you all as well. I felt uplifted and energised all day after that. It got me motivated to do some jobs I'd been putting off."

The PCC are extremely grateful to the skilled, dedicated and faithful team of volunteers who run the Job Club and make everyone feel so welcome and valued.

Website and social media presence

As in all things, "communication" is key. The local, national and yes, global audience, we receive to our website and Facebook pages is crucial for our church and its future. These are vital "tools" in spreading the word and if there are any church groups' news or events coming up, please do send them to our website and Facebook managers to include and advertise them on our page ... you never know who sees them?!!

The PCC are extremely grateful to Lindsay Jessop, Chris Doragh and Chris York for all their hard work in maintaining this critical part of our ministry.

Church website

Chris Doragh took over managing our website in 2021 from Lindsay Jessop and if people need to get in contact with Chris then details are on our main website page.

This past year has been difficult for us all and our two websites have given us the chance to keep people up to date with:

- Government Guidelines regarding our Church
- Service Times
- Activities
- Access to Live Streamed Services

Our main website <https://www.stjohnsainsdale.org.uk> attracted a total of 5,721 views in 2021, which 2,834 of them were new users.

We also have a presence on the Church of England hosted website <https://www.achurchnearyou.com> which attracts over 4,500 views per annum.

Both sites provide useful information on all our services, events and enable our audience far and wide to access information on our church.

We Live stream our 10:30am Service on a Sunday, and also sometimes Live stream Weddings & Funerals. There is a link to access our YouTube Channel (where you can watch the services from the comfort of your home) on our site.

The Diary Section on Our Site, is where you can find dates and times of our Services. Also, other activities such as Job Club, Little Johns etc.

Our main site users viewed 11,436 pages during 2021. We had viewers from 9 different countries outside the UK:

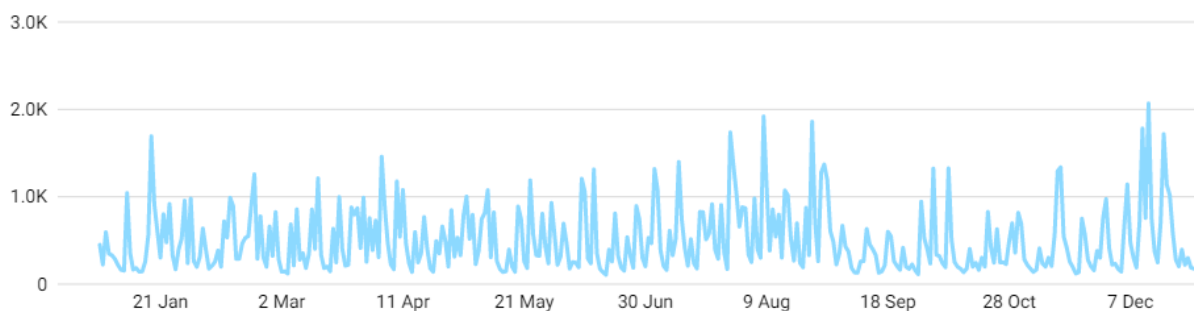
Country	Total No of Views
United States	363
China	247
Canada	34
Spain	11
Ireland	10
France	8
Germany	7
Ukraine	7
Brazil	5

Our sites are updated each week and hopefully provide our audience with an accurate record of what is happening at St John's. We would like to attract more website views/uses, if you have any suggestions on how we could do this don't hesitate to get in touch with Chris.

Facebook Page Report for 2021

Chris York set up our Church's Facebook page back in August 2012 to promote our place in the community locally as well as further afield, along with our massive fundraising efforts at that time and the numerous events as well as day to day church activities when the main church building was closed, but "church" still carried on.

In 2021, our church page reached 20,175 people globally, up 6% on the previous year.



Our top "reach" post for the entire year was for our CAP Job Club re-opening in September with 2138 people seeing it...followed by Jane's Advent update in December and then a post for Edna Hancock's Memorial Service in November ...amazing how an individual post can reach so many people and households!

782 people "like" and follow our page, this was up from 703 at the start of the year, which is encouraging to see this growing.


This "audience" is 76.7% women and 23.3% men, with a good representation across age groups (see graph below). They are predominantly from the UK but also from Australia, Rwanda, USA, Ireland, Uganda, Italy, Nigeria, The Philippines and even Afghanistan!

 The CAP Job Club at St John's is re-opening on Monday 6th September 2021 from 11:00a...
24 August 2021

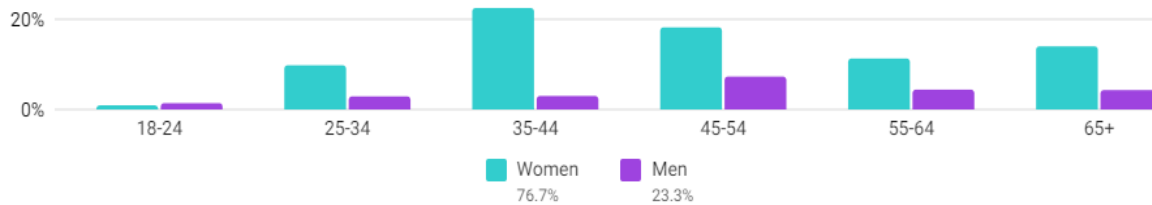
Reach	Reactions	Comments	Shares
2,138	17	1	6

 An update from our Vicar, Jane...
"Dear friends,
13 December 2021

Reach	Reactions	Comments	Shares
2,049	15	7	11

 A privilege to be involved in this celebration service at St John's this afternoon with our C...
13 November 2021

Reach	Reactions	Comments	Shares
1,974	39	18	3



It's hard to believe that the Facebook Page has been going for 10 years and whilst it isn't an onerous task, or even a hard one, it is Chris's way of doing "something" for our church and its mission, especially as it's not easy or practicable for him to do more at this time unfortunately!

For the last 3 years he has attempted to include a daily bible verse on the page as part of his own bible reading challenge and this is well received and appreciated.

Any events or updates are shared, where possible, on other local Facebook pages and groups, so this casts the net even further.

Here's to more "likes", "follows" and social media in 2022 and beyond!



Support for other charitable organisations

During 2021 St John's have continued to support and work with other organisations with similar mission objectives:

- **Southport and Area Schools Worker Trust (SASWT):** We continued to support SASWT throughout 2021 both missionally and financially. We work with the extremely gifted and dedicated team of Tabz and Hettie to outreach to the young people of Southport and support the children's mission. Through their work and dedication, they are building positive relationships with the young people and demonstrating God's love through their positive Christian role modelling.
- **Haiti and Afghanistan appeals:** In August 2021, we supported an emergency appeal for overseas help. On 14 August 2021 an earthquake in Haiti caused extensive damage and we supported the emergency appeal to help the recovery efforts. In Afghanistan families are facing catastrophic hunger and we responded to the Afghanistan crisis appeal. The amount collected was shared between the Haiti and Afghanistan appeals.
- **Toilet and bin twinning:** At Christmas we asked Church members to post an individual Christmas card on a board in the church porch and to make a donation, in lieu of sending Christmas cards, towards the Toilet and Bin Twinning charities.
- **WaterAid** At Harvest time we held an appeal for WaterAid. At least 2 billion people get their water from contaminated sources. WaterAid is working to transform people's lives every year by improving access to clean water, toilets and hygiene.
- **Southport Food Bank** The Food Bank helps people who are struggling to provide the essentials for their families. Throughout 2021 the Church congregation have donated food and toiletries on a regular basis, in spite of the practical difficulties due to COVID-19 restrictions. When we suspended public worship in the church building, we kept the building open on Monday mornings to enable people to continue making contributions. In addition, members of the church and school made additional contributions towards the Food Bank at the Harvest Festival service. At Christmas, Church members also signed up to provide hampers containing food and toiletries for the Food Bank under the Compassion Acts initiative. This reflects on the current global health crisis and issues a call for collective and caring action. The pandemic has resulted in many people suffering food poverty and the Food Bank has supported many families during these challenging times.
- **Hospice Africa** St John's has supported Hospice Africa since its inception in 1992. Hospice Africa is a charity based on Merseyside. The vision for Hospice Africa is "Palliative care for all in need in Africa".

During 2021 the congregation of St John's has continued to support their work which advocates home-care and day-care service for all in Africa.

- **Alzheimer's Society** The congregation of St John's sponsored Jessica who walked 100 miles in 10 days in aid of the Alzheimer's Society.
- **Brainwave:** The congregation of St John's continued to support Natalie who has set herself a target of raising £30,000 towards Brainwave, a charity which has given her a great deal of support. In May 2022 we are looking forward to celebrating Natalie and Andy's wedding in our church.
- **Queenscourt Hospice:** We permitted Queenscourt Hospice to use our car park for their Christmas tree collection for 2021. Our support made the fundraiser possible and helped the people of Ainsdale dispose of their Christmas trees in an environmentally friendly way.



Christian Aid is an international development agency that enables us to respond to Christ's command to care for all in need. Everything Christian Aid does is in response to God's gift to the world, Jesus, who promised 'good news' for the poor and 'freedom' for the oppressed. Jesus called us all to action. Through his life and teaching, his death and his resurrection, he inspired his followers to love God, love their neighbours and long for justice. Our faith in God, and in his loving relationship with us, gives us confidence and hope that poverty can be ended, despite all that might stand in the way.

For many years, St John's has supported the work of Christian Aid. In the last few years, we joined in with CTiA (Churches Together in Ainsdale) and held a sponsored walk, a "Big Brekkie and cake sale" and did a small amount of House-to-House collections. Lockdown has changed the way we fundraise as we can no longer do House to House collections. So, a few church members decided to walk individually and took on the challenge of 300,000 steps in May (10,000 steps per day). We also held a cake sale and bric-a-brac sale at the Village Church and held a church collection. Altogether with the other churches in Ainsdale we raised £1,389.74 for Christian Aid. The combined total raised by all of the Southport churches was just over £11,500.

Eco Group

The Eco Group was founded in June 2021. We decided that we would use the fifth "Mark of Mission" as our Titled Aims: *"To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the earth"*. Five objectives were chosen to reflect how we can best work towards completing our Aims:

1. We will have intentional prayer around Eco issues. This will be done on a regular basis with specific themes.
2. Become an Eco Church
3. Seek climate Justice for our world, with regular campaign actions and themed events/days.
4. Raise awareness with our church, our community, nationally and internationally.
5. Become a Fairtrade church.

Key milestones during 2021 were becoming a Fairtrade church and achieving an Eco Church Bronze Award.



As part of our commitment to seek climate justice for the world, in October Eirlys organised a climate walk to Liverpool cathedral, "Rise to the moment - relay to COP26 - Merseyside", walking in solidarity with YCCN (Young Christian Climate Network). This became a Diocesan event with over 50 churches involved across the region. Six members from the church joined with over 300 other people across the region in the walking relay to highlight the need for climate justice and the human, social, and political dimensions of global warming. Both the congregation and St John's school got involved by writing prayers and folding them into origami boats which joined approximately 3,000 other prayer boats taken to the cathedral to highlight the issue of Climate

Crisis and the effects it is having on some of the world's most vulnerable people. The message to the world leaders at COP26 was to make decisions which protect people not bank balances, to decide that no country will go into debt tackling climate change and saying "we are all in the same storm, but we are not in the same boat". We also made banners which helped us engage with the general public as we walked.

From September 2021, the theme of creation was adopted for our parade services for 2021/22.

Section 3: Our Church School and Natterjacks Nursery

Working in partnership

As a Church it is a privilege to work in partnership with our **Church School** and **Natterjacks Day Nursery** to help support and nurture the children in their care as they develop academically, physically and spiritually.

We maintain strong links between the Church and School through the **Church and Community Partnerships Committee** (formerly the Rainbow Group) which supports the Christian Ethos within the school, oversees worship and RE activities, supports partnership working, and coordinates services and other joint events between Church, School and others.

Since the opening of the **Natterjacks Day Nursery at St John's** in 2017 we are delighted to see it continue to go from strength to strength, nurturing the children and providing support to their families.

Report from Lorna O'Brien, Head Teacher St John's CE Primary School



As the new Headteacher at Ainsdale St. John's CE Primary School, it is a privilege to write this year's contribution to the annual report. As mentioned to the school community in my letter of introduction back in September, the school holds such a special place in the hearts of Ainsdale families, generations for some, and I feel truly blessed to be the new custodian.

Mr Hooton retired during the summer of 2021 after 18 years serving the community. Thankfully the COVID restrictions had relaxed enough to ensure he had a fabulous send-off with many more happy memories to add to the ones that he had already made in his time at the school.

After a rigorous interview process, I am pleased to say that the governors agreed that it was in God's plan that I should lead the school in this next chapter of its story. Thanks to the support of Mr Hooton and the team at Ainsdale St. John's, there was a seamless transition. I was even allowed to transform the office so that it felt a little bit more like home ahead of my September start.

We now find ourselves halfway through a new school year which has still had to contend with the challenges of COVID. Despite the difficulties, we have prioritised the reintroduction of class services and face to face parents' evenings to reconnect with our families. We have also been able to offer a wide range of extra-curricular activities and educational visits recognising just how much our children have missed in recent years. Although our curriculum needs to prioritise academic areas of lost learning, we are very mindful that it is also our responsibility to develop our children spiritually, socially and emotionally.



We are thankful to Reverend Jane, Linda Davies and John Forshaw for providing a weekly church led worship. This worship gets each new week off to a fabulous start and complements our values worship, Picture News, singing worship and Friday celebration worship within school.

This year we have also introduced our ASJ Ambassadors; a whole school wide school council initiative to ensure ALL children have a chance to make positive changes to our immediate, and wider, community. For example, the eco team have introduced a paper recycling scheme and the VIPs (Values In Practice) will be evaluating worship and offering suggestions for improvements; I will have to warn Reverend Jane that they are a tough crowd!

If you would like to keep abreast of further changes at school, as part of our priority to focus on relationships and improve communication, we now have a school Twitter account @AinsdaleStJohns and a weekly

newsletter which is emailed to our families that, as well as updating about school life, always references our Christian value worship from that week. The newsletter is uploaded to our new school website.

Finally, despite new leadership and changes, Ainsdale St. John's CE Primary School continues to be a family where staff, children, families and church all work together to, 'encourage one another and build each other up' (1 Thessalonians 5:11).

Report from Mai-Ling and John Duckworth, Natterjacks Day Nursery at St John's



Here at Natterjacks Day nursery, like many businesses we have had our challenges with Covid 19.

We have been able to support our families within the area and further afield with childcare that has been consistent within the rules and restrictions of Covid guidelines. Sometimes challenging with all the regular changes!!!

We have grown in numbers during the last year to nearly full capacity, for which we give thanks to our current and past families who have chosen us for childcare for their children. They have made positive recommendations to friends and families who have since visited the nursery and registered with us. A huge thank you to you.

We use Facebook to celebrate activities, notices and advice - please take a look at our posts.

We have recently received a Grade 5 award from Sefton Council for Food Safety and Hygiene. Thank you to Olga our nursery cook.

Our knowledgeable and dedicated team, also growing with demand, are like an extended family to the children and we pride ourselves with the close parent partner relationship we have.



You may see us exploring the local environment walking with our triple buggies or with our Pre-school children on 'Walkodiles' please give us a wave or say hello.

We hope to continue to grow in strength as a setting, continue also in offering a safe, caring, creative and educational environment for children and their families who choose us. We would still welcome volunteers to come into nursery to read with the children. I know we had some members of church that kindly volunteered before covid so if you can please let us know, as long as you have a DBS, we would still love you to come and see all of us on a weekly / monthly basis.

Best wishes to you all

Mai-Ling, John, Julie and all the Natterjacks team.



Section 4: Our Infrastructure

Church Building

During the year minor snagging issues were addressed. The main issue was damage to two of the large, west facing windows in the kitchen. The damage was noted as part of a warden's inspection of the premises. This repair has been outstanding for some months because of difficulties identifying a contractor prepared to do the work and supply issues. Rainwater ingress at the rear door has been partially solved but remains a problem. The state of the guttering and drainpipes has not changed markedly since the Quinquennial inspection in 2018. Because of this, a less costly repaint repair may be appropriate rather than the suggested re-sanding and painting.

CHURCH HALL

Repairs were made to a number of minor problems. During the year there were discussions with the nursery about additional changes to improve working conditions for nursery staff. The main expenditure was the fitting of a blind in the kitchen above the sink and blinds for the windows in the Committee Room. Recently, John Duckworth has painted the Committee Room.

Towards the end of the year there was discussion about an extended use of the Committee Room by the Nursery. This was discussed with the vicar and the wardens. Following consultation, it was decided that no substantial changes would be made and the present pattern of use would continue.

GROUNDS

Groundworks and general maintenance were undertaken during the year around the properties. The church lawn was maintained by a gardener. The Memorial Garden was tidied by a work party. A special thanks to David Evans for his work on the sandstone plinth in the Memorial Garden and to David Phipps for maintaining the front flower beds during the year. Following the death of Bernard Nolan, a former PCC treasurer, the family provided an additional bench in the Memorial Garden.

SECRET GARDEN

An area of land opposite the Vicarage, across from the public pathway, is known as the 'Secret Garden'. During the year, there was discussion regarding making this area suitable for outdoor activities. The nursery identified this as an opportunity for an extended outdoor facility and the PCC saw a use by the church and uniformed organisations. The land is owned by Liverpool Diocese. The nursery funded the legal work to produce a joint Memorandum of Understanding which was successfully submitted to the Liverpool Diocesan Board of Finance. Work will go ahead during 2022 to make the necessary improvements.

Section 5: Financial Review

Basis of Accounting

The PCC has continued with the adoption of the simpler Receipts and Payments (R&P) basis of accounting. This means that all income and expenditure is shown against the year in which the money is received / paid.

General Fund

The Covid-19 pandemic has continued to affect church finances during 2021, with the church building being closed for part of the year. Despite this, income was up by over £21k compared to 2020.

- We received a slight increase in Planned Giving (up by £2k) and open plate collections were also up by £2k.
- Income from regular hires and parties was also up by £1k, as more groups returned to school and restrictions relaxed later in the year
- Our 2021 appeal also raised a significant amount, £16,675 – accounting for the majority of increased income
- Our net income for weddings and funerals also increased over 2020, increasing to just under £2.5k
- We managed to contain expenditure costs which were slightly lower than 2020

During 2021 were we unable to hold any private functions or events and we continue to rely on generous regular planned donations and for the loyal support of our congregation.

Where possible the PCC took measures to reduce costs, and during 2021 we have managed to control our operational costs and have seen a reduction in the cost of building maintenance and wages.

The PCC took the decision to continue funding key mission activities including the Job Club.

We also continued to pay our Parish Share in full to support the wider work of the Diocese and those churches impacted worse than us.

Natterjacks also helped us to maintain a healthy financial status by honouring their monthly payment and service charges.

We continue to honour our monthly loan payments to Charity Bank, but our debt still stands at over £159k. Our Charity Bank Loan Security Deposit Account has a credit balance of £6,432 which is held in Charity Bank as security against the loan. Interest charges on our loan repayments remain high.

At the end of 2021 our receipts and payments account balance has increased by £14k to £46k.

Despite another difficult financial year, St John's has continued to support other charitable organisations through direct donations and in-kind support such as making the church building and car park available for others to use.

In addition, we make the church freely available to the school and Uniformed Organisations and are proud to help support SONG, the Southport based award-winning junior theatre group, who rehearse regularly in Church on Sunday afternoons and also provide us with regular and generous financial donations.

Donations and Legacies

It is an important Christian value to give back to God in gratitude for the love and blessings we have received in our lives. The congregation at St John's has responded by regular giving in difficult financial times and through significant legacy donations. At times other donations are given to assist specific cost requirements and the PCC will abide by donors' wishes.

If you are considering making a significant donation or leaving a legacy in your Will, please discuss this with our Treasurer or the Vicar. Giving back to the church through our Wills can help sustain our Church and its mission in Ainsdale.

Performance of investments

The PCC hold 15.6 income shares in the CBF Investment Trust (value £369 as at 31 December 2021). It is the intention of the PCC to realise these shares at an appropriate time.

Other Funds

Organ Fund (restricted): made up of donations given towards the upkeep of the church organ.

Flower Fund (restricted): made up of donations given to cover the cost of flowers for the church. This fund is now managed directly within the main church account.

Church Mission Fund (restricted): established in 2020 to fund specific, identified Mission objectives. This fund replaces the previous designated Mission Fund which was fully utilised during 2020.

Reserves Policy

The General Fund target level is 2 to 3 months of average monthly spending (approx. £22,000 to £33,000). It is used as a contingency should income or expenditure be dramatically hit by circumstances that are unforeseen.

The next 12 months will prove to be another challenging period as increased operational costs (mainly heating) will require a full review of our expenditure and we will seek to make the most effective use of our income. We are also identifying ways to increase revenue and have set up a small team to look at “generosity week”.

We have already reviewed 3rd party rental and hire charges and how we cover any shortfalls, together with the most effective use of our heating / control programming to reduce costs wherever possible.

Section 6: Acknowledgements and contacts

We would like to thank all the volunteers who work so hard to make St John's the caring and vibrant community it is. Some of them you see at the front during services and other events but many more work tirelessly behind the scenes making people feel welcome, setting things up, preparing food and drink, keeping the buildings looking lovely, ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all, and supporting the administration. Their names are too many to mention individually but we are hugely grateful for their continued dedication, selfless service and good humour.

The following members have contributed to this report. If you are interested in getting involved in any of the activities highlighted in this report, then please do make contact – you will be most welcome.

<i>Introduction</i>	<i>Jane Morgan</i>
<i>Attendance figures</i>	<i>Steve Cox</i>
<i>Choir</i>	<i>Paul Ellis (Organist) & Chris York (Choir Association Chairman)</i>
<i>Music group</i>	<i>John Forshaw & Giles Davies</i>
<i>St John's Care Group</i>	<i>Nancy Lloyd Parry</i>
<i>Children and young people's ministry</i>	<i>Linda Davies</i>
<i>Impact youth club</i>	<i>Linda Davies</i>
<i>Baptisms</i>	<i>Linda Davies</i>
<i>Little John's</i>	<i>Chris Thursfield</i>
<i>Guiding</i>	<i>Vanessa Riley (17th Guide leader)</i>
<i>Brownies</i>	<i>Joanne York (15th Brownies leader)</i>
<i>Rainbows</i>	<i>Ruth Leney (2nd Ainsdale leader)</i>
<i>Deanery Synod</i>	<i>Paul Ellis</i>
<i>St John's School</i>	<i>Lorna O'Brien (Head Teacher)</i>
<i>Natterjack's Day Nursery</i>	<i>Mai-Ling & John Duckworth</i>
<i>CAP Job Club</i>	<i>Carol Richardson</i>
<i>Eco Group</i>	<i>Chris Treble</i>
<i>Church Building Maintenance & Development</i>	<i>Frank Hyland</i>
<i>Finance, Giving and Fundraising</i>	<i>Lindsay Jessop</i>
<i>St John's Website</i>	<i>Chris Doragh</i>
<i>St John's Facebook page</i>	<i>Chris York</i>
<i>Electoral roll</i>	<i>Paul Olive</i>
<i>Christian Aid</i>	<i>Eirlys Jessop</i>
<i>Churches Together in Ainsdale (CTiA)</i>	<i>Jean Washbourne</i>
<i>Safeguarding</i>	<i>Chris Thursfield</i>

Section 7: Structure, Management and Governance

Electoral Roll

All church members are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) in accordance with the Church Representation Rules.

As at 31 December 2020 the Roll stood at 137. During 2021 there was a net decrease of 5 with 3 entries added and 8 removed in the year. The Roll as at 31 December 2021 was 132.

PCC

Individual PCC members, as Trustees of the Church, receive information, instruction and training when deemed appropriate. This may include information about Trustee responsibilities, health and safety, risk assessment and safeguarding procedures. The full PCC met ten times during 2021 (including zoom meetings) with an average level of attendance of 82%.

During 2021 the PCC decided to create an Eco Group which held its first meeting on 24 June 2021.

The PCC is the decision-making body of The Church with any Committee making recommendations to the PCC for consideration.

Risk Assessments

Procedures are in place to manage risks and minimise their impact on the wellbeing of church and hall users. Action in the main areas of risk is managed as follows:

Fire, Health and Safety

The PCC routinely reviewed the Health and Safety and fire arrangements together with relevant risk assessments. The wardens carried out regular inspections as part of their duties and in August identified serious damage to windows in the kitchen of the church building. Matters noted were either rectified or reported to the PCC for further action. The fire system and exits in the church and hall were maintained in working order and inspected by certified competent persons in accordance with the safety requirements.

Operational Risk

The need for precautions and the associated control measures to restrict Covid infection were the main focus of attention. Risk assessments relating to services and other activities were put in place following PCC approval. These were reviewed when the levels of infection or the guidance changed throughout the year. The school and PCC liaised on risk control measures relating to Covid, when services for events were held in church during 2021. In addition, the PCC required all hirers of the church and hall to provide suitable and sufficient risk assessments to cover their activities.

A number of birthday parties were held in the church building. Some included the provision of large inflatable play equipment. The PCC assessed the risks and potential hazard to the fabric of the building and identified a supplier of leisure equipment that fulfilled our needs. The supplier was assessed as suitable following an inspection of equipment, arrangements for maintenance and inspection together with membership of a relevant professional Standards Association. In all cases where inflatable equipment is requested, hirers are required to hire the equipment from the approved supplier.

Safeguarding Procedures

The past year has been fairly quiet with no issues. As a PCC we reviewed and updated our own policies and procedures for St. John's Church. A copy of the policy and guidelines document is kept in church and can be viewed on request.

As a Church we follow the Church of England guidelines for Safer Recruitment to ensure our volunteers and congregation members of all ages are kept safe.

All DBS checks are currently up-to-date.

All personal information is confidential and stored and managed in accordance with the data protection legislation.

St John's Ainsdale takes its duty and obligation to protect all extremely seriously. We have adopted the national Church of England's robust procedures and guidelines. You can find out more about the national policies and procedures at <http://www.churchofengland.org/safeguarding>

If you have any safeguarding concerns or issues on a safeguarding matter then you can find useful contact information at <http://www.liverpool.anglican.org/safeguarding>

New Appointments

Chairperson of eco group Chris Treble appointed on 25 May 2021

Co-opted members of PCC

Giles Davies appointed on 25 October 2021

Gill Green appointed 28 February 2022

Treasurer Lindsay Jessop appointed on 2 August 2021

Gift aid Secretary Heather Treble appointed on 2 August 2021

Church Calendar and hire bookings Deb Bishop appointed on 28 September 2021

Content editor of Church Website Chris Doragh appointed on 28 September 2021

Online Stats officer Paul Ellis appointed on 29 November 2021

Section 8: Administrative Information

St John's Church is situated in Ainsdale, a suburb of Southport. It is part of the Diocese of Liverpool within the Church of England. The address of the Church is 627-629 Liverpool Road, Ainsdale, Southport, PR8 3NG. The correspondence address is: Revd. Jane Morgan, The Vicarage, 708 Liverpool Road, Ainsdale, Southport, PR8 3QE. The telephone number is 01704 577760.

The PCC is a body corporate and operates under the Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956 and the Church Representation Rules 2017 and was registered with the Charity Commission on 3 April 2009. PCC members (trustees) who have served from 1 January 2021 until the date this report was approved are:

	To APCM 2021	From APCM 2021
<i>Incumbent:</i>	Rev. Jane Morgan - PCC Chair	Rev Jane Morgan - PCC Chair
<i>Reader:</i>	Eirlys Jessop	Eirlys Jessop
<i>Churchwardens:</i>	Lesley Phipps Chris Thursfield – PCC Vice Chair	Lesley Phipps Chris Thursfield – PCC Vice Chair
<i>Deanery Synod Reps:</i>	Paul Ellis Jean Washbourne	Paul Ellis Jean Washbourne John Forshaw from 25 October 2021
<i>Elected Members:</i>	Helen Parker - PCC Secretary Ruth Wake - Treasurer Kathryn Corey Steve Cox Linda Davies John Forshaw Frank Hyland Lindsay Jessop Val Sinnott Ann Walton	Helen Parker - PCC Secretary Ruth Wake – Treasurer (resigned 16 July 2021) Kathryn Corey Linda Davies John Forshaw Lynne Grice Maggie Hilton Frank Hyland Patricia Jameson Lindsay Jessop -Treasurer from 2 August 2021 Val Sinnott Ann Walton
<i>Co-opted members of PCC:</i>	Giles Davies appointed on 25 October 2021 Gill Green appointed 28 February 2022	

The following specific roles are approved by the PCC:

<i>Deputy chair</i>	<i>Chris Thursfield</i>
<i>PCC Secretary</i>	<i>Helen Parker</i>
<i>Treasurer</i>	<i>Lindsay Jessop</i>
<i>Electoral Roll Officer</i>	<i>Paul Olive</i>
<i>Safeguarding Officer</i>	<i>Chris Thursfield</i>
<i>Online stats officer</i>	<i>Paul Ellis</i>
<i>Children's Work Co-ordinator</i>	<i>Linda Davies</i>
<i>Health & Safety Advisor</i>	<i>Frank Hyland</i>
<i>Gift aid Secretary</i>	<i>Heather Treble</i>
<i>Church Calendar and hire bookings</i>	<i>Deb Bishop</i>
<i>Responsibility for Church Website</i>	<i>Chris Doragh</i>
<i>Chairperson of eco group</i>	<i>Chris Treble</i>
<i>Bankers</i>	<i>The Co-Operative Bank</i>
<i>Independent Examiner</i>	<i>Harrison, Latham & Co., Tulketh St., Southport</i>
<i>Architect</i>	<i>Maggie Mullan Architects Ltd, 6 Percy Street, Liverpool, L8 7LU</i>
<i>Day to day Management</i>	<i>Exercised by Incumbent and Wardens</i>

Approved by the PCC on 26 April 2022 and signed on their behalf by Rev Jane Morgan (PCC Chairman)

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF AINSDALE ST JOHN
INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT
at 31 December 2021

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Ainsdale St John, Parochial Church Council

I report on the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2021

Respective responsibilities of the Trustees and Independent Examiner

As trustees of the charity, the members of the PCC are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. They consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent Examiner's Statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the management committee concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in a full audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the accounts.

Independent Examiner's Statement

In connection with my examination, no matters have come to my attention

1. which give me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with s.130 of the 2011 Act; or
 - to prepare accounts which accord with these accounting records 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.

N. A. Latham FCA

Harrison Latham & Company

Chartered Accountants & Registered Auditors

97 Tulketh Street

Southport

PR8 1AW

Date: 26 April 2022

**PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF AINSDALE ST JOHN
FINANCIAL STATEMENT**

For the year ending 31 December 2021

General (Unrestricted) Fund Receipts & Payments Account

	2021	£	2020	£
RECEIPTS				
Income and endowments				
Planned giving	59,673	57,753		
Collections (open plate)	3,743	1,730		
	<hr/>			
	63,415			59,483
Donations and legacies				
2021 Appeal	16,675	1,000		
Donations	7,530	10,229		
Tax recoverable including GASDS	17,079	16,203		
	<hr/>			
	41,284			27,433
Other trading activities				
Parish magazine – sales and adverts	0	64		
Rent & Service charge – Natterjacks (net of refund)	26,603	24,261		
Fundraising activities	415	2,419		
Miscellaneous	1,729	672		
	<hr/>			
	28,747			27,416
Charitable activities				
PCC Fees / weddings & funerals	8,030	1,432		
Hiring of church & committee room	5,065	3,810		
	<hr/>			
	13,095			5,242
Receipts from investments				
Bank interest & income from CBF investment fund	22	61		
	<hr/>			
	22			61
Other receipts				
Job Retention Scheme Grant ('Furlough')	568	1,253		
Reimbursement of interregnum clergy costs		1,610		
Insurance claim	0	130		
RBS transfer of account		4,000		
	<hr/>			
	568			6,994
Total Receipts	<hr/> 147,132			<hr/> 126,628
PAYMENTS				
Cost of fundraising activities				
Cost of events	0	0		
Envelopes	69	134		
	<hr/>			
	69			134
Charitable activities				
Mission activities	4,966	4,287		
Diocesan parish share	76,393	75,644		
Church & Hall running expenses	22,848	23,687		
Refund of deposits		100		
Clergy expenses	1,199	140		
Cost of services (& weddings, funerals)	5,633	197		
Buildings maintenance	1,515	9,503		
	<hr/>			
	112,555			113,559
Cost of trading activities				
Printing the magazine	0	843		
	<hr/>			
	0			843
Staff costs				
Wages & salaries - cleaning	6,052	7,053		
Wages & salaries - organist	1,663	1,835		
	<hr/>			
	7,715			8,888
Loan repayments, bank charges and HMRC				
Charity Bank loan repayments & interest charges	12,502	12,754		
Bank charges	0	24		
	<hr/>			
	12,502			12,778
Church reordering works				
Payment of retention monies	0	0		
	<hr/>			
	0			0
Total Payments	<hr/> 132,842			<hr/> 136,201
Excess of Receipts over Payments	<hr/> 14,290			<hr/> (9,573)
Transfer from Mission Fund (designated fund)	0	6,750		
Total transfers	<hr/> 0			<hr/> 6,750
				<hr/> (2,823)
Bank current and deposit accounts at 1 January 2021	31,806			34,629
Bank current and deposit accounts at 1 January 2022	<hr/> 46,096			<hr/> 31,806

**PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF AINSDALE ST JOHN
FINANCIAL STATEMENT**

For the year ending 31 December 2021

		2021		2020	
	£	£		£	£
ORGAN FUND Receipts and Payments Account - Restricted Fund					
The Organ Fund is made up of donations given towards the upkeep of the church organ.					
Receipts					
Restricted donations	0			0	
					0
Payments					
Organ maintenance	240			236	
		240			236
Excess of Receipts over Payments		-240		(236)	
Bank current and deposit accounts at 1 January		292		528	
Bank current and deposit accounts at 31 December		52		292	
Donations - restricted funds					
Job club - P Holt		1,200			
		1,200			
CHURCH FLOWER FUND Receipts and Payments Account - Restricted Fund					
The Flower Fund is made up of donations given to cover the cost of flowers for the church. This fund was previously held outside the church accounts but has been introduced from 2020.					
Receipts					
Receipts introduced - previously held outside accounts		0		317	
Restricted donations - funds introduced in year (banked and cash in person)		224		95	
			224		412
Payments					
Purchase of flowers & float		328		252	
			328		252
Excess of Receipts over Payments		-104		160	
Balance (petty cash / current account) at 1 January		160		0	
Balance (petty cash / current account) at 31 December		56		160	
CHURCH MISSION FUND - Restricted Fund					
The Mission Fund was established in 2020 to fund specific, identified Mission objectives.					
Receipts					
Restricted Donations		0		200	
					200
Payments					
		0		0	
					0
Excess of Receipts over Payments		0		200	
Bank current and deposit accounts at 1 January		200		0	
Bank current and deposit accounts at 31 December		200		200	
MISSION FUND - Designated Fund					
This designated fund was established to provide for new initiatives in Mission and created by a historic donation of £10,000. As a result of regular income streams being significantly reduced by Covid restrictions, the remainder of this Mission Fund was fully utilised in 2020 to fund the ongoing provision of core mission objectives and also the purchase of some new microphones central to delivering mission activities.					
A new restricted Church Mission Fund was established in 2020 to start rebuilding funds for new mission work in the future.					
Receipts					
		0		0	
					0
Payments					
		0		0	
					0
Excess of Receipts over Payments		0		0	
Transfer to General Fund		0		(6,750)	
Bank current and deposit accounts at 1 January		0		6,750	
Bank current and deposit accounts at 31 December		0		0	

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF AINSDALE ST JOHN
STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES
at 31 December 2021

	2021	2020
		£
Cash Funds (bank / petty cash accounts)		
General Fund (including amounts held in Charity Bank Loan Security Deposit Account)	46,096	31,806
Mission Fund - historic designated	0	0
Organ Fund - restricted (funds in general a/c)	52	292
Church Flower Fund - restricted (cash in hand)	56	160
Church Mission Fund - restricted (funds in general a/c)	200	200
CAP - restricted funds (funds in general a/c)	1,200	
Refund of course fee (funds in general a/c)		
Held on behalf of others	313	121
Total all cash funds	47,917	32,580
Investment Assets		
15.68 CBF Church of England Investment Fund income shares (mid market value at 31 December)	369	320
	369	320
Other Tangible Assets		
The following assets are recognised but not necessarily valued in the Statement of Assets and Liabilities:		
a) Moveable church furnishings held by the vicar and churchwardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for their disposal		
b) Equipment used in the church premises, including audio-visual equipment purchased in 2017 during the church re-ordering		
c) The Church Hall, the main part of which is rented to Natterjacks for use as a nursery		
Bar stock - remaining stock from previous events held for future events		
Liabilities		
Charity Bank Loan (amount to be repaid at 31 December)	159,481	163,755
	159,481	163,755

NOTES:

1. All totals shown in these accounts have been calculated using the exact figures. Where figures have been shown rounded to the nearest pound, then there may be a rounding difference between the total and the sum of the rounded figures.
2. The financial statements of the PCC have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 using the Receipts and Payment basis.
3. The expenses paid to clergy may include a small, immaterial proportion which relates to their function as PCC members.
There were payments to a PCC member in their capacity as Organist; there were no other payments to PCC members personally or persons with close family connections, other than reimbursement of expenses paid.
4. The General Fund includes amounts held in the Charity Bank Loan Security Deposit Account which was funded by St John's and is held in Charity Bank as security against the loan. During 2020, due to the reduced Church Income during the lockdown, Charity Bank allowed St John's to fund its payments to Charity Bank for the months April to September from the Loan Security Deposit Account. This reduced the balance on this account from £12,607.84 to £6,419.32.
5. During the year, the PCC made donations to the following charitable mission organisations that are recorded in these accounts:
 - a) Southport and Area Schools Worker Trust
General donation
Donation towards the cost of Southport Higher Tour
 - b) Christians Against Poverty (CAP)
6. From time to time, the PCC collects money and other donations on behalf of other charitable mission organisations. In these instances, the receipts are not included in the PCC's income as the PCC is acting as an agent for the charity. If the money is counted and the PCC treasurer writes out a cheque for money paid into the PCC bank account, then the PCC is deemed as holding this in trust for the charity. In this case the item is not included in the Accounts but a separate record is kept.

During the year the PCC collected money on behalf of the following other charitable mission organisations:

- a) Children's society appeal (December) 81.50
- b) Haiti (C Aid) and Afghanistan (Tearfund) appeals (August)
- c) Water Aid appeal (214.70) and Margaret Holt appeal 211.02 (BRC) (October)
- d) Southport Food Bank - cash donation; food donations were also collected throughout the year

Of the above, the following was held in trust in one of the PCC's bank accounts as at 31 December:

- a) Children's society & M Holt appeal. Toilet twinning also raised £72.27 but was not banked until January 2022 and not recorded in these accounts
7. During the year, despite the lockdown, Natterjacks continued to pay their rent in full.

Approved by the PCC on and signed on their behalf

The Revd Jane Morgan
PCC Chairman

Mr Lindsay Jessop
PCC Treasurer

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF AINSDALE ST JOHN

England & Wales - Charity number 1128996

Accounts

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Ainsdale St John



Annual Report of the Parochial Church Council

Incorporating the Financial Statements
for the year ended 31 December 2020

Charity Number 1128996



Sharing God's love, serving one another



Contents

Introduction by the vicar	3
PCC Membership	4
TRUSTEES' REPORT	
Section 1: Vision, Mission and Objectives	5
Aim and purposes	
Vision and Mission	
Progress against 2020 objectives	
Section 2: Review of the Year	7
2a: Supporting our congregation - worship and pastoral care	
2b. Supporting our children and young people	
2c. Supporting the wider church	
2d. Supporting the wider community and providing fellowship	
Section 3: Our Church School and Nursery	24
Section 4: Our Infrastructure	27
Section 5: Financial Review	28
Section 6: Acknowledgements and contacts	30
Section 7: Structure, Management and Governance	31
Section 8: Administrative Information	32
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS	
Independent Examiner's Report	33
Financial Statement - General Fund Receipts and Payments	34
Financial Statement – Other Funds	35
Statement of Assets and Liabilities; Notes	36

Introduction by the vicar



As I write this it is a year since I was licensed as your vicar. I remember saying at that wonderful celebratory service I am sure I will be flipped about a bit with being licensed on Pancake Tuesday. Little did I know what was in store for me, or for any of us for that matter. It is hard to believe that we have been in these challenging times now for a whole year and the Covid pandemic has impacted on everyone's lives in one way or another.

Pre Covid, St John's was a vibrant, growing church with a real commitment to the spiritual, pastoral and emotional support for its parishioners and as a centre for community activities. But as guidelines dictated that churches must close, or remain open under strict risk assessment, we were tasked with thinking how do we do church outside the building. How do we maintain a visible presence in the community and show God's love to His people here in this part of the kingdom, including offering worship?

This was a stark reminder that God calls his people to be the church, and the gifts God blesses us all with can still be used for his glory, even when the building was closed, but we needed to pray and think differently as to how we were to use our gifts.

Thanks to the number of many gifted and talented people we have been blessed that the worship and parish life of the church has continued, albeit in different ways, from maintaining church services and being open for private prayer when the rules permitted, offering a weekly Sunday service and mid-week reflections on YouTube, to reaching out to people in their own homes with gifts at Advent, Lent, plus children's activities and the Care Group and a newly formed Buddy Group to keep contact with those on their own.

We have maintained our strong relationship and support of Churches Together in Ainsdale and to our church school family, and have continued to provide support to jobseekers through our Christians Against Poverty (CAP) programmes and to children and young people in Ainsdale through our support of the Impact youth group.

Despite the challenging and sad times there have been blessings that have come out of it. We have been able to be church outside the building in various ways throughout the year.

There has been a financial impact of the Pandemic. Significant elements of our income streams have either dropped drastically or disappeared completely, whilst commitments such as upkeep, have stayed the same. So we know we face this challenge in the coming year.

But this is God's church and we are called to be His people so despite the challenges we face we have the assurance that if we listen to God's direction all will be well.

It is essential that all that we do is rooted in prayer, and we pray that God will direct us to where we focus our energy, mindful that when it's God's plan, not our own plan, ministry and mission will flourish. We are God's people and this is God's church.

We are reminded of this in the word from Jeremiah 29:11 (NIV)

“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”

So despite the unforeseen challenges ahead of us, may God bless you and may you trust in the love of God to direct our path so that we have more people knowing Jesus and more justice in the world and we live as disciples in the power of the Holy Spirit.

With love and blessings,

Rev Jane Morgan MBE

PCC Membership

The following comprises the PCC as at April 2021:

<i>Incumbent:</i>	Rev. Jane Morgan PCC Chair
<i>Readers:</i>	Eirlys Jessop
<i>Churchwardens:</i>	Lesley Phipps PCC Vice Chair Chris Thursfield PCC Vice Chair
<i>Deanery Synod Reps:</i>	Paul Ellis Jean Washbourne
<i>Elected Members (and Trustees):</i>	Helen Parker PCC Secretary Ruth Wake PCC Treasurer Kate Corey Steve Cox Linda Davies John Forshaw Frank Hyland Lindsay Jessop Val Sinnott Ann Walton

Members of the PCC are the charity trustees and are the 'persons having the general control and management of the administration of the charity' (Charities Act 2011, s177).

During lockdown the PCC held meetings via zoom.

Section 1: Vision, Mission and Objectives

Aim and purposes

The primary objective of St John's Church Parochial Church Council (PCC) is to promote the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ and to cooperate with the incumbent, the Reverend Jane Morgan, in promoting in the parish, the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical.

Vision and Mission

Our Church Mission document states our Vision as:

'Sharing God's Love, Serving One Another'

and our Mission is:

**'Demonstrating God's love by supporting families throughout their lives:
as children; as adults; as parents; and when they need someone just to
listen such as at times of bereavement'**

When planning our activities for the year, the PCC have considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and, in particular, the specific guidance on charities for the advancement of religion.

In supporting our Mission, as a Church our activities and efforts are focused on:

1. Letting God touch the lives of others by providing imaginative, varied, inspiring and entertaining worship.
2. Helping and nurturing all those who wish to explore and deepen their relationship with God by providing opportunities for bible study, prayer and Christian fellowship in a safe family- friendly environment.
3. Providing practical support for children, adults and parents to encourage and support them through key events in their lives such as changing schools, weddings, becoming parents, sickness and times of bereavement.
4. Equipping and supporting each other as members of the church family to be Christians in a modern world: at home; at work; with friends and in our local community.
5. Helping to transform lives of those in need in Ainsdale through providing a safe haven for quiet contemplation and practical support for those in need of help.

The success criteria we apply to our activities are:

1. An active church family where all members are included and valued for who they are. To respect each other's style of worship, encourage involvement, and contribute to the whole life of the Church including our Church School, with their talents and abilities.
2. Centred on God, letting Him lead us into the future He has prepared for us.
3. Growing in faith as we serve our community in Ainsdale.

To facilitate the above, it is important that we maintain the fabric of the Church building and adjacent hall complex.

Progress against 2020 objectives

A full set of objectives for 2020 were set at the start of the year. However, the impact of Covid-19, including the extended closure of the Church building during lockdown, led us to re-evaluate these and focus on the following immediate Mission priorities for 2020. Further details can be found in Section 2.

These remain our priorities for 2021 whilst restrictions continue to be in place. As we start to emerge from lockdown we will reassess further objectives.

Objective	Status	2020 Achievements
Maintain regular contact with our Church family, including our young people, especially at times when they are not able to meet in person. Continue to provide opportunities for worship and spiritual reflection - in Church (when permitted) and online.		<i>During lockdown we found ways to stay in contact with the whole church family. This was quite a challenge as there was a wide range of age ranges and needs. We had to consider people who did not have access to the internet and maintained contact by telephone and printing out newsletters. We delivered sunflowers, advent bags and Christingle bags to people on the electoral roll. We have continued with church services when it was safe to do so but in addition, we have compiled YouTube services which were enjoyed by a wide range of people and were invaluable for those self-isolating. DVDs of the services were offered to those with no access to the internet. The children participated in the YouTube services and there is a slot in these services for the children incorporating bible stories, prayers, songs and craft activities. The Junior PCC met via zoom. We also maintained contact with the families of children who normally come to church. Overall people are getting to know each other better and new friendships have been formed.</i>
Support those in our community who are vulnerable, isolated or disadvantaged. Provide practical help where needed.		<i>We adopted a buddy system to ensure everyone who wants regular contact receives frequent telephone calls. We offered practical help, for example, with shopping and collecting prescriptions for those isolating or fearful of going out. We also have a prayer circle to offer support and comfort through prayer. Our YouTube services were enjoyed by people who were self-isolating and helped them feel connected with the community. We delivered DVDs of the YouTube services, paper copies of the morning prayers and newsletters in recognition that the elderly and disadvantaged do not always have access to the Internet. Regular foodbank donations continued throughout 2020. Our Christmas appeal was in aid of Asylum Link Merseyside.</i>
Provide practical and spiritual support for children, staff and families at school and nursery.		<i>We have offered strong practical help to the nursery supporting them with health and safety issues and practicalities such as allowing them to use the committee room when they needed extra space. We have long established strong links between the Church and School. Church members provided recorded worship to use within class bubbles. Jane provided pastoral support and through the Governors we continued to offer support, advice and assurance across many aspects of school life. As we moved through the different phases of the lockdown this included specific advice and assurance around school closures, home schooling, provision for key workers, and the safe reopening of school to all children. The nursery and the school have made use of Church when lockdown restrictions have allowed.</i>
Continue to offer access to Job Club resources including, when possible, restarting face to face activities.		<i>We have continued to give practical and financial support to CAP Job Club. Overall, in 2020 the Job Club helped 17 people who either attended Job Club or sought help over the phone. To date six people have been successful in obtaining employment. The Job Club has received very positive feedback from their clients.</i>

Section 2: Review of the Year

2a: Supporting our congregation – worship and pastoral care

Worship services pre lockdown

The year started with worship following our usual program of Sunday and midweek services. These were led by either visiting clergy or one of our readers as our period of interregnum continued. Average attendance at services during the first quarter of 2020 was:

8:30 Holy Communion from the BCP - 14 (13 during the last quarter of 2019).

10:30 Family Communion, Parade & Baptism - 68 (69 during the last quarter of 2019).

6:30 Book of Common worship - 19 (13 during the last quarter of 2019).

From February 2020, Bibles were handed out at the services and members of the congregation were encouraged to follow the readings. The aim was for more people to read the Bible at home which would assist discussions about themes. The distribution of Bibles was well received until we had to stop the practice due to COVID-19 restrictions. We look forward to resuming this practice when it is safe to do so.

Candlemas service



In February, our Junior PCC compiled and led a special 'Share the Light' Candlemas service, with dramatized bible readings, prayers and a short talk.

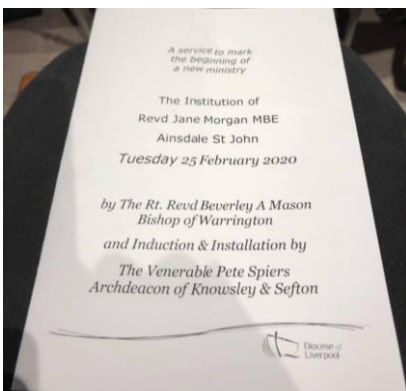
The children gave out battery powered candles to the congregation as a reminder that Jesus is the light of the world.

Sue Mitchell, the Children and Families Missioner for the



Diocese, attended the service. She said she was genuinely moved by the whole service and it was the brightest Sunday she had had in a long time.

Welcoming our new vicar - Jane's induction service



On Tuesday 25 February over 230 members of the church family and clergy gathered to witness and celebrate the licensing of our new vicar Jane Morgan by The Rt. Revd Beverley A Mason, Bishop of Warrington and the induction and installation by Pete Spiers, Archdeacon of the Diocese of Liverpool.

The arrival of a new incumbent in a parish is always an important event. For Jane it was a new sphere of work; for the members of the Church and the people of the parish,

it was a new chapter in the worship and life of the whole community.

To mark this new beginning, we came together to offer ourselves afresh to God for the work of the Gospel. This service was both a legal ceremony and an Act of Worship, which reminded us of our shared responsibility for the proclamation of the Gospel and the service of God's People.





This was both a joyful and solemn occasion. The church was filled with people who wished to share this special occasion. The service was followed by refreshments which was an opportunity to celebrate and socialise. This was also an opportunity for Jane to thank everyone who organised her induction service and made it such a well organised, enjoyable, joyful and Holy Spirit filled occasion. Many people commented on the wonderful uplifting service and the welcome and hospitality received from St John's.



Covid-19 lockdown and the move online

Following the Prime Minister's announcements in March 2020, the church building was closed after our services on Sunday 15 March as part of the national COVID19 lockdown of all places of worship.

Despite physical attendance being curtailed, the amazing fact was that CHURCH WAS NOT CLOSED for we, the people, are the church, not the building. To continue to worship as a church, we initiated a weekly online YouTube service. This 'Service of the Word' was recorded by our Vicar, or one of our readers, with a children's slot from Linda Davies, a bible reading and intercessions led by a member of the congregation, and worship lead by our organist Paul, members of the choir and Giles from our music group.

The online content was expertly compiled by Giles Davies. When Giles first offered to put these together at the outset of the first lockdown, he, like everyone else, did not expect it would carry on for more than a year!



At the beginning everyone contributing to the services had to learn new skills, or at least brush up long forgotten skills, in video making, file compressing/uploading and video editing. It is testament to all the people involved that within a very short space of time we were publishing good quality content which could hold its own alongside some of the 'professional' services circulating on YouTube. This is especially remarkable as all our content was made on equipment we already had and no specialist 'gear' had to be purchased. Old video cameras were dusted off, iPhones/iPads; laptops and old cameras were repurposed and put to use to provide all the video clips appearing each week during the service.

As well as a weekly service, we also put together a series of midweek reflections and fun video montages such as the St John's 'Pet Show' and 'Sunflower reflection'.



During the ten-month period from March to December 2020 we had a total of 7,574 hits, which was fantastic.

The PCC are extremely grateful to Giles and all those who contributed to the online content.

Anyone can subscribe to our YouTube Channel by going to the Church YouTube channel

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCiwHvmLEQum4I9LhVBdYx5w>

Once subscribed if you click the bell icon you will receive a notification of any new content published. Alternatively a link appears on the Church website and Facebook page each.

Zoom coffee mornings

With the introduction of the online services, we also introduced a weekly zoom coffee morning as an opportunity for people to socialise virtually with others. These have been particularly valuable to people living on their own during lockdown.

Socially-distanced worship!

Churches were allowed to reopen for public worship on Sunday 9 August. From that point, we held a said communion service with socially distanced seating, a booking service to reserve seating, hand sanitation and other precautions in place. This cautious approach was necessary to ensure we provided a safe environment for worship. We also held a midweek said communion service on a Wednesday morning – again maintaining precautions including social distancing and operating a booking system. Average attendances at these services were:

Sundays – 32 Adults & 2 Children

Wednesdays – 16 Adults

This pattern of worship in the Church building continued, except for a second period of enforced Church closures from 16 November through to 7 December when we resumed our Sunday & Wednesday said communion services for the rest of 2020. Throughout this time we continued to provide the recorded YouTube services

Christmas 2020

Due to the Covid restrictions, our Christmas celebrations for 2020 had to be scaled back but we still managed to hold a number of lovely events during December to help celebrate Jesus' birthday.

We held a very popular **carol service** outside in the church grounds. This was an opportunity for us to get together and sing carols in a safely distanced way.



Jane and Paul Hooton led a **Christingle Service** which we live streamed from church in to each school classroom and to young families at home. Christingle bags were prepared which contained all the items needed to make up a Christingle. We distributed the bags to school and church members on the electoral roll and received very positive feedback.

The Junior PCC also led our **Crib Service** which was held in Church and also live streamed for those at home. Through a combination of spoken word and recorded video messages they retold the story of Jesus' birth from the perspective of each of the main characters, including the donkey!



Choir and music group

As with all church-based activities, singing in church was severely impacted by the pandemic.

The choir sung at 22 services, including Jane's induction service, and met for only 8 choir practices before collective singing was banned. When lock-down was eased slightly in December, the choir were allowed to have one or two 'bubbles' of people sing at the morning service and 10 members led singing at the outdoor carol service.

The worship band also supported a wide range of events through the year including the 10.30 service when it met prior to lockdown, Jane's Installation Service, online YouTube services, the children's groups, Messy Church and school collective worship.

Overall, the music and singing greatly helped to boost morale, particularly in the times when group singing was not allowed. We won't be taking the ability to sing and make music for granted in a hurry!

The PCC are very grateful for the faithful dedication of all those who help lead our worship.

Baptism initiative

Our first baptism in 2020 was to take place in March and on Mothering Sunday. Unfortunately, the lockdown and church closure meant that this baptism had to be postponed, and further restrictions prevented other baptisms taking place for some time.



Many families decided to postpone their child's baptism until conditions would be more favourable. We have kept in regular contact in the meantime and they are included in our emails to Supaclub families. We were, however, able to have three socially distanced baptisms in the final months of 2020, and welcomed three new members to our church family.

Baptisms are such an important part of our mission, and we are grateful to those members of our congregation who have continued to knit and crochet blankets, and those praying for the families. Please pray also for those awaiting baptisms, that these can take place again soon. We want the families to know that we are here to offer support and encouragement as their children grow.

St Johns was in the first cohort to be involved in The Three Steps to Christenings Initiative during the past three years, and the national Church and our Diocese continue to give ongoing support. It is good to

hear that our feedback on the positive experiences we have been able to build here at St. John's is appreciated, and being used to assist other parishes in their Ministry, and even in the training of Ordinands.

W@9

Prior to the March lockdown, a small group of parents and grandparents met in Church once a month before the restrictions for tea, toast and a chat after dropping children off at school or nursery. This was followed by the school joining for informal worship. There are plans to review and develop this when the restrictions are lifted.

Care Group

The Care Group started in 2002 with the purpose of bringing together a group of ordinary members of the congregation who could assist the clergy in the pastoral work of visiting people in the parish of all ages and in any kind of need. They speak to people by telephone if someone wants to talk but does not want a face-to-face visit.

The restrictions meant that during 2020 the group have not been able to visit people in their homes, hospital or care homes, or take communion to the sick and housebound. However, members of the Care Group have been in contact with each other and with isolated people by telephone and have assisted in delivering packs for Advent and Lent to people's homes, and a CD of the Christmas music from our church to those who are unable to access the internet.

The prayer circle is now operated through e mail and has enabled people in trouble to be prayed for as soon as a request is received.

At the start of lockdown, a **buddy system** was initiated to support vulnerable, lonely and isolated people by ensuring that they received regular telephone calls and offers of practical help, such as shopping.

During 2020 we started to **pray for every street in Ainsdale**, focusing on a few streets each week during our private prayer and weekly service intercessions.

Jane, Heather and Nancy hope to relaunch the Care Group's face to face activities as soon as people are able to meet again, to build on the experience we have gained during lockdown and develop new ideas for reaching out to those in need in our community.

Newsletters and morning prayers

Jane has sent out a weekly email enclosing prayers and Bible readings. In this email she also encloses her weekly news items. Paper copies of the newsletters and morning prayers have been made available for people with no internet access.

Advent bags

We sent Advent bags to everyone on the Electoral roll.

The bags contained ideas for activities and five tea lights in the Advent colours. Members of our Junior PCC designed the Christmas cards which were placed in each bag.

These bags were well received and helped develop people's knowledge and understanding of Advent. It also provided an opportunity to connect with people and check that everyone was coping OK with the Lockdown.



As a result of us 'reaching out' in new ways through lock-down, people have got to know each other better and new friendships are developing. Overall, we hope that people have seen that we are very friendly and welcoming at St John's.

... and finally



We couldn't complete this section of our 2020 report without saying a massive thank you to Sarah Hope.

Sarah has been such a huge part of St John's for most of her life. You name a job at Church and Sarah has probably done it! From running Sunday school, Messy Church, youth clubs and camps, to leading bible discussions, preaching and nurturing and supporting others, Sarah's dedication to God and His church has been an inspiration for so many. She was even a regular in the St John's panto back in the day!

Sarah moved to the North East in 2020 and as a result formally resigned as a reader and a member of the PCC at St John's. She will be sorely missed by everyone but we are so pleased that she has settled in to her new home so well and know God will bless her as she continues His work.

The restrictions meant that we weren't able to give Sarah the send-off she deserves before moving, but once we are able to, we hope to hold a proper celebration of her time at St John's.

2b. Supporting our children and young people

"Children are a gift from the Lord - a real blessing" Psalm 127



At St John's we are blessed with opportunities to nurture so many little ones and to see them grow. However, at the beginning of lockdown it was difficult to see the way forward and how we would continue to engage and nurture our youngest members. We have had to quickly learn new skills and ways to adapt, giving thanks to God for the wonders of modern technology. In every aspect of our ministry to the young people in our church family, the work continues. We have found fresh ways to connect with the children and their families, and to share faith in the home. However, we do look forward to the days when we can be together in one place again.

Supaclub on Sundays

We began the year with our young people and their parents being able to come to church and worship as part of the larger church family. They could go off to their groups in the school and come back to share what they had learned and made. With the move to the online YouTube service, we were keen to ensure that the children remained part of it and so we included their own Supaclub slot with a Bible story and a gospel message, and often a craft. It has been so encouraging to have our young people participate in this session – reading God's word, sharing their prayers and helping with craft making activities. It is great to see their confidence grow as they find that they make an important contribution to our worship. A regular email is sent to Supaclub families with church news and resources to help them share faith at home, and encouraging them to send in videos and photos of their activities. Parents and children do miss coming to church and meeting their friends, and we wanted to keep regular contact with them until we can do just that.

Junior PCC

The Junior PCC held regular meetings using zoom when restrictions prevented meeting in person. The aim of the group, which reports in to the full PCC, is to encourage young people to take a more active role in the Church and help develop Church activities. Our Junior PCC members have generated some excellent ideas such as the Garden of Hope. Each member of the congregation was given a bulb at the service to plant either at home or in the garden of hope in the church grounds. The flowers will be a symbol of hope when they grow in the spring.



Messy Church

This year we said goodbye to Sarah Hope. Alongside the other parts of her ministry here, she had been the enthusiastic co-ordinator of our Messy Church sessions for many years. As these sessions took place in our church building, they had to be postponed for most of 2020. However, Sarah was able to organise, at the beginning of the lockdowns, bags of activities and resources which were left in the church porch for individual families to collect and “get messy” at home. These were accompanied by an on-line video session to share.

The Event

We held our final EVENT in 2020 finishing on a high with a Mr & Mrs Quiz and a rerun of one of favourite Messy Games from the last four years – bobbing donuts! The EVENT has been a great opportunity to reach out to new families, especially those with children in Junior school. Since we started in 2017 the ‘Saturday Night Takeaway’ style format has mixed challenges, competitions and messy games with thought provoking songs and drama that share the gospel message. Since we started in 2017, The EVENT has been a very successful part of St John’s ministry. Over the 17 times it has run, we have welcomed around 1,000 young children and adults. However, we also want to make sure we keep things fresh and exciting and so at the start of 2020 we decided that our February EVENT was to be the last one and that we would explore new ideas for reaching out to children and families post pandemic.

Supaclub on Mondays and Supaclub Xtra

The restrictions in place due to the pandemic meant that we could not run these groups for Year 5 and Year 6 children at St John’s. However, we have still been able to engage with school worship during the past year – including zoom sessions in the classrooms, the donation and presentation of Bibles to Year 6, and the Christingle Service.

Confirmation

It had been our plan to incorporate some topics in the School Year 5 and 6 sessions which would assist the children in making an informed decision to be Confirmed. We did have some young people willing to be confirmed in 2020 and we trust that their Confirmation can go forward in 2021.

Impact open youth club

This was originally established at St. John’s to assist the children in year 6 with their transition to high school. However, the group now attracts young people from across the local area. The leaders represent church denominations across Ainsdale – the Village Church, St John Stone, the Methodist Church and, of course, St. John’s, alongside Hettie and David Taberner of the Southport and Area School Workers Trust. In recognition of its inter-denominational appeal and potential, Impact is now run as a project of the Trust and supported through Churches Together in Ainsdale. More than half of our membership comprises children who attended St. John’s school. Before lockdown, we had between 18 and 24 young people coming to sessions. The restrictions with the pandemic meant that, in March, our sessions in the Methodist Hall ceased. However, the leaders take part and share in a weekly Zoom session. We still have a nucleus of about 12 regulars, who enjoy the mix of fun games and challenges and exploration of faith topics, with strong relationships being formed. It is a “safe space” and an opportunity for the young people to share their feelings and experiences. The

ROOTED Journals produced by Scripture Union have also been an excellent tool to help share ideas about faith and God's love. Mobile phone apps are also a boon for interactive quizzes and discussion.

Jars of joy



We prepared 'jars of joy' for Impact members and Junior PCC.

These enclosed items which helped the youngsters deal with their emotions and explore different issues.

The young people were delighted to receive these thoughtful gifts.



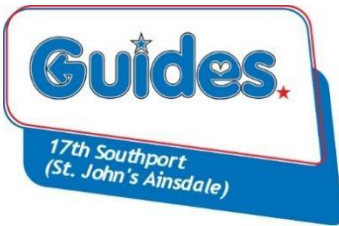
Little John's Baby and Toddler Group

It has been a sad year for Little John's. As a result of the COVID-19 restrictions we have not been able to meet since early March 2020. Early on, we had to take the reluctant decision to close our doors as it would have been impossible to maintain any social distancing between the toddlers without severely restricting their play and social interaction. It was a very hard decision but the right one. We have thought a lot about opening our doors again as restrictions have eased at times but have erred on the side of caution. With hindsight, this again was the right thing to do.

We did enjoy the very early part of 2020 and continued to welcome our regular little ones with their mums or grandparents, as well as families who just 'dropped in' occasionally. As soon as the restrictions ease and it is safe for everyone, we will be happy to welcome everyone back into church on a Wednesday afternoon for fun, play, singing, dancing, snacks and good conversation for the adults.

Sandbrook District Rainbow, Brownies and Guides

The groups have had a challenging year finding ways to meet up virtually using zoom and making adaptations to the guide programme when needed. They have continued to give the girls great experiences and challenges thanks to the dedication and enthusiasm of their guide leaders.



The 17th St Johns Guide Unit – report by Vanessa Riley

Well, 2020 meetings came to an abrupt halt in March when we hit the COVID-19 pandemic. However, in good guiding spirit, we embraced the situation, never before in my 38 years of being a 17th Guides leader have we been unable to do our weekly meetings so we moved over to virtually meeting on zoom.

This has been a great success, guides have worked on and achieved many interest badges at home Geocaching, Fitness, Photography, Media critic to name a few. We have carried on following the guide programme making many adaptations to the Unit meeting activities and skills builders. We have baked Mug cakes, Sweet dough ball with melted chocolate and sprinkles (my favourite) and pizzas. Leaders have made up resource packs and done front door drop offs to enable the guides to have everything required for zoom activities.

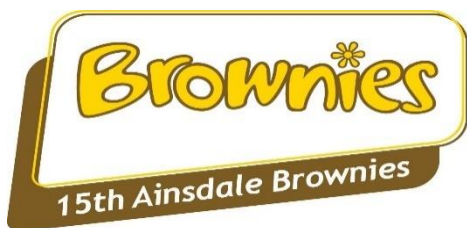
In July we were able to meet in the church garden and had afternoon tea to present the Gold Awards to our older Guides who have since moved on to join Rangers. We also had 2 face to face guide meetings in the church garden in September before we went into a tier system which left us unable to meet again, it was great to see all the guides and follow some normal meeting structure. We have managed to welcome brownies into guides and enrolled the girls on zoom and made them part of our unit.

We have taken part in a County virtual camp allowing guides to sleep anywhere but their beds, indoor dens, camping in the back garden and lots of activities to join in with.

Despite not being able to meet in the church we are enjoying carrying on guiding via zoom and look forward to the time when we can go back to normal and meet indoors again.



15th Ainsdale Brownies – report by Joanne York (Tawny Owl)



What a year!

We started 2020 with a spot of stargazing, Chinese New Year, work toward theme awards and took part in Thinking Day challenges.

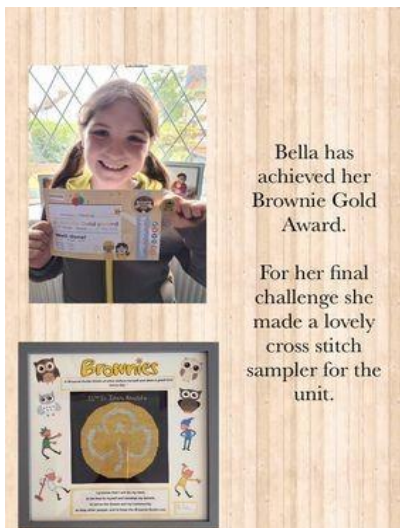
During the last weekend of February 2020, we went to PGL Winmarleigh Hall just outside Preston. It was wet and windy but the girls had lots of fun completing various activities including: archery abseiling, zip-lining, orienteering and giant swing.

We were able to complete our Mother’s Day activities and a final Church Parade in March and then Lockdown happened.

Not to be discouraged the leaders embraced technology and we then continued virtually on Zoom! Some highlights:



- Harriet (Snowy Owl’s daughter) joined us as an official owl and the girls voted to call her Hedwig Owl. Because we are meeting via zoom Hedwig is able to join us from University in Manchester which is great.
- Issy was awarded her Young Leader qualification. Issy helps us regularly run the meetings.
- We presented: 2 Gold Awards, 3 Silver Awards and 8 Bronze Awards, plus lots of interest Badges, Skill Builder Badges and Theme Awards



- We celebrated the 75th Anniversary of VE day with tea parties.
- The girls took part in two virtual Church parades.
- Sefton County organised two stay at home sleepovers, the idea being the girls slept somewhere that wasn’t their own bed. They had lots of fun building dens and some brave girls slept outside in tents! We also joined in the Autumn challenge organised by Sefton County which involved monthly challenges between September and December.
- We have played bingo, had scavenger hunts, baked and completed other craft activities. The girls sent video clips or photos of their pets for our virtual pets show and sent clips of themselves

performing for Brownies Got Talent. They also sent a photo of themselves as a baby so we could guess who the baby grew up to be. A loo roll was thrown virtually, and the girls also grew sunflowers.

Sadly the 38th Brownies closed so we welcomed 5 girls from that unit. We said goodbye to Harriet and Bella who achieved their Gold Awards and have joined Guides. Bella also completed all the interest badges - an amazing achievement.

In September, 9 Rainbows joined us and we held our first virtual enrolment ceremony. We now have 23 girls and feel so blessed that we are able to continue in a virtual sense.



A big Thank You must go to our lovely Brownies - their resilience throughout this time has been inspirational, they have embraced virtual meetings and have not lost their enthusiasm for Brownies.

Also, we could not continue without the support of our fabulous parents - a lot of the activities have been adapted to be done at home and we couldn't have done it without their help. So, a massive Thank You goes to them.

Hopefully sometime in 2021 we will be able to meet in person again but until then we will continue to meet via Zoom.



Ainsdale 2nd Rainbows – report by Ruth Leney

Rainbows have had an interesting year. Meetings are now being held weekly on Zoom on Tuesday. We have had girls moving up to Brownies and lots of girls joining us to form a full Rainbow unit. The Rainbows have gained interest badges, skill builders and theme badges and have shown their commitment to the Guiding Family.

The girls work hard while having fun- they particularly enjoy scavenger hunts around their houses and really enjoyed playing Christmas Bingo at our year end virtual party.

We are looking forward to a fun 2021 with an amazing County challenge to celebrate Girl Guiding North West 50th Anniversary along with many other exciting events!

The PCC would like to thank the leaders and helpers of all our Church groups, Rainbows, Brownies and Guides for their selfless commitment to teaching, supporting and nurturing all the young people. It really is appreciated.

2c. Supporting the wider Church

Churches Together in Ainsdale (CTiA) is a fellowship of Christian Communities in Ainsdale. As a member of the CTiA and the wider Anglican Church, St John's has continued to play an active role in the local and regional work of the Christian community.

St John's takes working together with other Christians seriously, doing as many things together as we can. This has been a difficult time for meeting in person and presented us with many challenges. For many years we have worked across the churches in Ainsdale for unity. During this past year CTiA has needed to adapt to COVID-19 restrictions as their church buildings were closed. As a result, the churches have learnt how to embrace technology, with recordings, live streaming, YouTube services, Facebook articles and meetings held on Zoom; these have all been blessings.

The results of pulling together, during this last year, have been amazing. Outreach has been bigger than ever, reaching more people in their homes, their sacred space, than we ever managed to reach before. There seems to be a longing for the spiritual in lots of people, even if they do not always recognise it.

The Zoom meetings have become frank and open discussions, always with humour and love. The CTiA churches realise there are other ways of being with people and being church. So, we are exploring what the future may hold for us together.

It feels as if Ainsdale has reached out together. The Doctor's surgery, Civic Society, the Lions charity shop and Compassion Acts, as well as the people who make up the individual churches, all became involved helping those in need. They contributed in many ways, with cash donations or essential donations of food and other items essential for wellbeing, for people who lost their jobs or just could not afford to feed their families as they struggled with home schooling and tried to make ends meet.

So how did this happen? Before the shutdown, some of us had attended a meeting about Transforming Lives for Good (TLG), a lunch provision for families struggling to feed their children during the school holidays. Joan Green from the United Reformed Church took the lead and was just building her team and getting volunteers in place when lockdown hit. This did not stop Joan: with the help of school headteachers and others she identified the needy families. We have been supporting her work, with 13 families receiving fortnightly bags of hope. At Christmas every church donated items to make up hampers for the 13 families, with the Lions donating new toys. Joan does this, on our behalf, with her large extended family. Apparently, there were tears on the doorsteps, from both sides, when these hampers were delivered at Christmas.

Some of the CTiA services, during this strange year, were held via YouTube where we couldn't meet in person.

In March the CTiA managed to hold a couple of Lent Group together sessions before lockdown.

A Christian Aid walk with a difference took place in May. Individuals and couples got themselves sponsored and completed the walk. Some even ended up on Social Media and it was pleasing to see the effort that everyone put in.

On 13 June clergy and other members of the CTiA met on The Village Green at 2pm and knelt for eight minutes and 46 seconds, the length of time that the US police officer knelt on George Floyd's neck. We were all deeply shocked by the brutality we saw against black people in America and we wanted to stand alongside those suffering and peacefully call for urgent change to address our own unconscious biases that lead us to discriminate against others.

The November Remembrance Day service was particularly extraordinary. It started with an aerial view of a drone flight around Ainsdale finally coming to rest above the War Memorial where the service started with silence. There were individuals, laying wreaths, representing the groups that normally attend. There was also a piper, which was good to hear.

In December we were able to hold a Blue Christmas service in St John's. People from all the churches took part in this uplifting service for those feeling alone at Christmas. After the service those who were able went into the village and distributed the knitted Angels of Ainsdale into the trees and other hiding places for people to find the next day.

We sang carols in the Village Church gardens, all two metres apart, on Christmas Eve. Lots of people gathered outside on the street as well as inside to join us. It was a wonderfully bright morning; a good start to Christmas for so many.

None of us know where we will be in the future or where the changes during this last year will lead us. But looking back it is good to see how far the churches have come.

Deanery Synod

Deanery Synod only met twice in 2020. The first of these meetings was before lock-down and was to discuss how to approach creating a new Deanery Mission Plan. This would be a plan on how we could better work together. All churches are finding it harder to recruit volunteers and raise money to carry out mission so if churches work together it should be possible to make better use of those limited resources.

The second meeting was to agree to the local formula for apportioning Parish Share across the Deanery. The Diocese has devolved this to the Deanery, with the Deanery now given a combined total to raise collectively. It is up to the Deanery as to how this is shared out between the local churches.

Further details of the Deanery Synod can be obtained from our representative Paul Ellis.

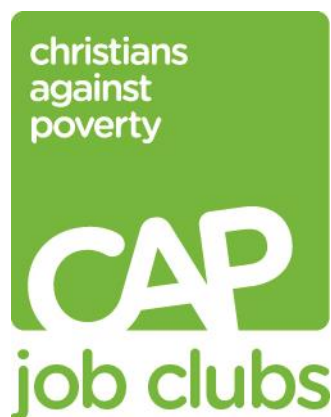
2d. Supporting the wider community and providing fellowship

At St John's we are extremely fortunate to have many skilled and dedicated people who run events, lead groups and organise fundraising activities that provide wider fellowship and support those most in need in our community and further afield.

In spite of the challenges presented by the Covid-19 restrictions, during lockdown we found ways to reach out and provide fellowship for those in the community. This was a significant challenge as we wanted to connect with everyone: local people; those who lived further afield; a wide range of age groups; people who were self-isolating; and people who did not have access to the internet.

The following were some of the ways we achieved this during 2020:

- **YouTube services, midweek events, and reflections:** our YouTube services proved popular and have been accessed by church members and those who do not normally come to church, including a number from elsewhere in the country and overseas.
- **Live streaming of services:** we have, on occasions live streamed services. This has proved particularly invaluable when people have not been able to attend a funeral or christening in person due to travel restrictions and limits on numbers being able to meet in church.
- **Sunflowers:** we distributed sunflowers to people on our electoral roll. This was an opportunity to maintain contact with everyone who supports St John's and show that we were thinking about them. People were overwhelmed by the sunflowers and were delighted to have a socially-distanced doorstep chat with the person delivering the gift. These opportunities were appreciated by everyone, but especially those feeling isolated or fearful.
- **Book Club:** we were able to meet in the summer to discuss the book 'A Small Island' which we enjoyed reading. We held some meaningful and interesting discussions about the issues raised in the book. It was also a good opportunity to get to know new people. We have plans to meet to discuss 'the Curious incident of the Dog in the Night-time' when the restrictions are lifted.



St John's Job Club are working in partnership with **Christians Against Poverty (CAP)** to run a Job Club. The CAP Job Club is a tried and tested format with 156 Job Clubs across the country. By working with CAP, St John's are delivering an effective service to help people step into work, even after years of unemployment. This includes materials to run our eight-week interactive Steps to Employment Course, covering topics such as identifying strengths, CV writing, and interview techniques. The course is designed to be an easy and effective way for us to practically equip club members, in a supportive environment that boosts confidence and morale. Through St John's CAP job club, we can create a community that demonstrates God's love in a relevant way.

Despite 2020 being a year like no other, the fabulous team of volunteers who run the Job Club managed to keep it open until 16th March, when they had no option but to close to ensure the safety of staff and clients alike. That said, up until it closed, we had eight clients attending at various times; of these 5 have managed to obtain employment and move on with their lives. One of the seven clients had just joined the Job Club on our last operational week, so we continued to support her developing a CV and searching for job opportunities, over the weeks and months from mid-March until she eventually obtained work. Here is what she had to say about the help she received from the team:

"I was only at job club for a short time, the volunteers were very welcoming, and helped me through a transitioning period, they helped with my CV and guided me through other steps I could take to find work. During lockdown, they helped me by phone and email and were always there to support me. I would strongly recommend to other job seekers."

When the church reopened in August after the national lockdown, the Job Club team made the decision to reopen on 12 October. They reviewed all the existing arrangements and made the decision to move into the church building to ensure the safety of staff and clients and meet the necessary COVID-19 requirements.

From October, they started a new Step towards Employment course and had 3 new clients attending. One of these have obtained employment and another has gone on to develop his own business plans. Since then, a further 3 clients joined and they have started another course to accommodate their needs. The Job Club continues to offer support to 4 clients currently, helping them develop CVs and search for employment.

At Christmas, the team were able to bless our clients by offering some chocolates and cakes to make Christmas just a bit more special. Overall, this year we have helped 17 clients, who either attended Job Club or sought help over the phone and 6 clients have obtained employment.

The PCC are extremely grateful to the skilled, dedicated and faithful team of volunteers who run the Job Club and make everyone feel so welcome and valued.

Parish Magazine

Before the Pandemic the magazine was published 10 times during a calendar year. In 2020, we published the magazine three times in January, February and March but then had to stop production due to the difficulties of managing production in the pandemic. However we produced a Christmas leaflet promoting services and other online activities which was delivered widely including to those who normally received the magazine.

Website and social media presence:

Our 2 websites continued to provide users with regular updates on our activities, services and other events during lockdown and tiered periods. Our main host website, www.stjohnsainsdale.org.uk, regularly attracted on average over 100 visitors each week and our wider community website, www.achurchnearyou.com/church/15246/, attracted over 4,200 visitors during the year, or around 81 per week. We even had international access from the USA, Romania, Brazil and China! Most users accessed the site on a Sunday morning, but Mondays also proved to be popular, and the average time spent on each individual access was around 4 minutes. More and more people are accessing our sites from mobile devices, currently at 30%. The main website also contains our current COVID-19 policy and guidelines, risk assessments and other key documents and governance information. The sites are updated each week.

The Facebook page proved invaluable during 2020 with constant updates on services and activities. It was also lovely to see so many people sharing photos and reflections as a way of keeping in touch with the church community.

The PCC are extremely grateful to Lindsay Jessop and Chris York for all their hard work in maintaining this critical part of our ministry.

Support for other charitable organisations

The PCC is keen to support and work with other organisations with similar mission objectives. During 2020 we supported the following charitable organisations:

- **Southport and Area Schools Worker Trust (SASWT):** We continued to support SASWT throughout 2020. In March 2020 SASWT sponsored the Higher Tour - a major young person's event. St John's participated in this event by providing both financial support and practical help for the concert. Over 180 young people participated through the event which involved youth focused Christian bands taking the gospel message to high schools in Southport. The week-long event culminated in a concert at the Floral Hall where young people had an opportunity to making a commitment to becoming a Christian. Tabz and Hettie from the SASWT hosted Christian worship, supported the Impact youth group, and held special events through 2020 including at St John's School, Greenbank and Birkdale High. Through these activities they are building relationships with the young people and demonstrating God's love through their positive Christian role modelling.
- **Asylum Link Merseyside:** A reverse advent calendar is the opposite of the usual advent calendars. Each day, instead of getting a chocolate reward, we donated something into our reverse calendar box or bag and were rewarded with the gift of Christmas cheer. Remembering that Jesus was once a

refugee, our donations supported **Asylum Link Merseyside**, a charity that offers practical support and friendship to refugees and asylum seekers on Merseyside. Their website address is: www.asylumlink.org.uk. We sent donations of food and toiletries and £320 to Asylum Link Merseyside to help destitute asylum seekers who receive no benefits at all and are not allowed to work.

Brainwave: The congregation of St John's continued to support Natalie who has set herself a target of raising £30,000 towards Brainwave, a charity which has given her a great deal of support. Natalie has organised a number of fundraising events including 'over the O2 with Olly' and by March had already raised nearly £23,000. A fantastic achievement!

Hospice Africa: St John's has supported Hospice Africa since its inception in both giving and prayers. Hospice Africa is a UK charity based on Merseyside. The vision for Hospice Africa is "Palliative care for all in need in Africa". During 2020 Hospice Africa received donations from the congregation of St John's for which it is extremely grateful.

Southport Food Bank: The Southport Food Bank was opened in 2013 to support adults and children who are suffering from food poverty within the Borough. The Food Bank helps people who are struggling to provide the essentials for their families. Throughout 2020 the Church congregation have donated food and toiletries on a regular basis, in spite of the practical difficulties due to COVID-19 restrictions. Whenever the church was open for private prayer or public worship, people dropped off contributions in the church. In addition, members of the church and school were asked to make contributions towards the foodbank at the Harvest Festival parade zoom service. The pandemic has resulted in many people suffering hardship and the foodbank has given much needed support to many families through these difficult times.

Jubilee Debt Campaign: We have supported the request by the governments of poor and vulnerable countries to cancel debt repayments during the COVID-19 crisis.

Queenscourt Hospice: The Queenscourt Christmas tree collection for 2020 was their most successful to date raising over £20,000. We supported their fundraiser by letting them use our car park and it was only with support from the local community that this fundraiser was possible.



Christian Aid is an international development agency that enables us to respond to Christ's command to care for all in need. Everything Christian Aid does is in response to God's gift to the world, of his son Jesus Christ. Jesus promised 'good news' for the poor and 'freedom' for the oppressed, calling us all to action.

Jesus called his followers to 'love God and love your neighbour'. Through his life and teaching, his death and his resurrection, he inspired his followers to love God, love their neighbours and long for justice. Our faith in God, and in his loving relationship with us, gives us confidence and hope that poverty can be ended, despite all that might stand in the way.

For many years, St John's has supported the work of Christian Aid. In 2018 and 2019, we joined in with CTiA (Churches Together in Ainsdale) and held a sponsored walk, a "Big Brekkie and cake sale" and did a small amount of House-to-House collections.

Like everything else last year, we had to do things differently. With restrictions meaning anything in groups or communally was not allowed, a few members of St John's (still with CTiA) decided to walk individually, or in family bubbles, and took on the challenge of 300,000 steps in May (10,000 steps per day).

The weather was kind, meaning everyone who took up the challenge (including the vicar's dog, who with his paws clocked up double the steps) finished and together we raised over £3,400. We also held an online ecumenical service to raise awareness of the additional challenges developing countries are facing coping with a pandemic. Their challenges are many and we are privileged to be able to help and support them and look forward to doing so again in 2021.



Section 3: Our Church School and Natterjacks Nursery

Working in partnership

As a Church it is a privilege to work in partnership with our **Church School** and **Natterjacks Day Nursery** to help support and nurture the children in their care as they develop academically, physically and spiritually.

We maintain strong links between the Church and School through **the Rainbow Group** which supports the Christian Ethos within the school, oversees worship and RE activities, supports partnership working, and coordinates services and other joint events between Church and School.

Since the opening of the **Natterjacks Day Nursery at St John's** in 2017 we are delighted to see it continue to go from strength to strength, nurturing the children and providing support to their families

Details of the fantastic work of the school and nursery are provided in the reports below.

Report from Paul Hooton, Head Teacher St John's CE Primary School



Ainsdale St John's CE Primary is a distinctively Christian Primary School. The vision of the school is to be a 'warm and caring school/church family with Christ at its heart'. As a school, we aim to meet the needs of all learners and provide well-focused academic, social and spiritual support for all our children and their families. When I first settled down to write this report, I started to reflect on the roller coaster of a year we have had. I think this can be summed up by just looking at the list of words and phrases that have suddenly become commonplace in the daily life of St John's.

Class Bubbles; remote learning; contingency plans; lateral flow testing; staggered starts; asymptomatic; outdoor sinks; catch it, bin it, kill it; separate desks, containment; contact tracing; tier two, tier four; Edenred vouchers; circuit breakers; chapped hands; lunch rotas; demarcation zones; flattening the curve.

Too often in the day to day, hurly burly of school life you have no opportunity to focus on all that has happened- you are in the moment, solving problems and moving on to the next issue. It would be easy to dwell on the disruption to education, the damage to children's mental, physical and emotional wellbeing, the heartache, suffering and fear, the deep-felt anxieties and concerns of children, their families and staff.

It would be easy to write about the constant changes to policy, the stress of having to make plans and arrangements based on less than 24 hours' notice, the difficult conversations and decisions.

However, it is 8.30 on a chilly February morning and there is a palpable sense of achievement and positivity in the building. Staff are joyful, there is laughter in abundance, pleasantries are warm and heartfelt and children continue to rush into class smiling and content.

Therefore, I want to reflect on the many positives of the last year.

At the heart of every school are the children and we are all so proud of the way they have coped during this time. They have obviously missed being in school with their friends and undoubtedly their education has suffered, as no matter how good home schooling is, there is no substitute for being in class. However, they have all coped admirably, stayed safe and stoically adapted to all the practices/procedures expected of them and behaved so well.

Last March there was the novelty value of being off school, the sun was out, the days were warm and there was a rapid rise in the sale of paddling pools. Children spent more time with their parents, families grew closer, and kids learn new skills: calligraphy, baking, riding bikes, building dens. Walks, bike rides, scooter trips were the norm and children stayed physically healthy. Children painted rainbows, sent messages of hope and perseverance; parents planned school treasure hunts and families supported each other by keeping in touch.

This second lockdown has been harder for the children; the weather has been inclement, the days short and for many spirits have been low.

The children have had to be more disciplined in their learning and there has been a greater expectation of what should be achieved. However, they have risen to the challenge. They and their parents have developed so many skills –they have mastered the technology and really kept up with their studies. They have learnt the importance of strict routines, and consistently shown determination, perseverance and resilience. These skills will stay with them forever and certainly help the children grow as independent learners. There has been a real sense of classes coming together to support one another throughout the remote learning experience. Children have enjoyed collaborative learning, critical thinking and developing creativity.

All the staff in school have been amazing. Throughout this period, they have been there for all the children and their families. They have not only supported them academically but physically, emotionally and spiritually.

In the very early days last March, we opened for vulnerable and key worker children from not just this school but also other schools in the Ainsdale community. This was the period before detailed advice about risk assessments, PPE and social distancing. We were making the path we were walking and the staff in school were indeed on the front line.

Working together as a team, they have supported one another, raising spirits during testing times.

Teaching staff regularly contacted the children and their families, checking on their wellbeing and providing practical and emotional support where necessary. They have done their utmost to maintain a real sense of community and produced funny and uplifting videos for the children to view and share. Classes responded with their own recorded messages – all posted on the school website.

Staff also appreciated the strong support from the governing body and the thankful messages from children, their parents and carers.

When the children returned in September, we introduced the Recovery Curriculum – creativity, care and compassion was needed and staff applied kindness in abundance to aid the healing process and help those children struggling to re-adjust to the new normal of enhanced cleaning, bubbles and social distancing.

It was also essential to reassure parents that the children were safe in school – this was particularly important when we were forced to close before the October half term when there were a few cases in school and many of us were forced into a period of self-isolation.

Christmas is always a time of celebration in school but we had to do things differently. Typically, creative and resilient, the staff planned a whole school production of dance, mime, readings and song – filmed in Church and shared with the parents via YouTube and DVD.

Since the New Year, the staff have had the dual responsibility of supporting the 70 plus vulnerable and key worker children who were attending school whilst teaching other pupils at home. The staff have mastered the arts of technology and spent hours ensuring lessons are sequential meaningful, bespoke and ambitious. Parents cajoled, encouraged, forced and bribed the children at home ensuring they engaged with their teachers. Classes met through live streaming, we held story times, live lessons and family fun nights via YouTube.

Throughout the year, we have cared for our vulnerable families providing them with food parcels, vouchers, financial advice and IT equipment. St John's Church has helped in this. We have done our utmost to maintain a true Christian community – daily whole school worship, Christian values and prayer remain at the core of school life. We firmly believe that God has watched over us and held us in his hands over the last twelve months. Times have been strange but the staff have been indefatigable and remained positive throughout. Our playground pencils were painted in the colours of the rainbow symbolising our hope that we will all come through this together and our school/church family will be stronger for it. Some hymns have become firm favourites of the children – This little light of Mine ... I'm Gonna Let it Shine is one and it certainly reminds us of our responsibilities. At the start of lockdown, we produced a video for the children accompanying the song 'My Lighthouse'

These lines have certainly resonated throughout this time:

*My Lighthouse, My Lighthouse, shining in the Darkness – I will follow you,
You are my peace in the troubled sea. You are my peace in the troubled sea.*

Times have certainly been difficult and many have struggled and suffered but there have been many positives and I am proud of the way our school/church family has risen to challenge and worked tirelessly to help the children and their families of St John's.

This is our school prayer. Please pray for everyone in the school community.

This is our school:
Let peace dwell here;
Let the rooms be full of happiness;
Let love abide here;
Love of one another,
Love of learning
And love of God.
Let us remember
That as many hands build a house,
Many hearts make a school.
Amen

Report from Mai-Ling and John Duckworth, Natterjacks Day Nursery at St John's



What a year it has been for us all!

Our 2020 at Natterjacks started off fantastic, with a thriving nursery environment starting the new year.

Our pre-school children and families were planning for their BIG SCHOOL start in September. We were making exciting plans for 'School readiness' and leaving concerts,

when we were all hit by the announcement of shut due to COVID-19!!!!!!

We had a period of closure alongside the rest of the country which gave us all plenty of time to reflect. We were blessed with good weather which helped us all support a positive outlook for our mental well-being.

Along came June. Nurseries were given the go ahead to open with very tight restrictions. Natterjacks opened with a small team to support the children returning. Strange times continued over the next few months as children slowly returned to nursery, however Natterjacks remained a happy, secure place to be for the children and their families.

We finally fully re-opened in September with all the team returning to work. We have continued to grow in children attending - both returning children and new families joining us. The children are thriving at nursery, interacting with their peers and investigating exciting activities both indoors and out.

We would like to thank our wonderful families for recommending our setting to prospective families.

We would also like to thank Rev Jane, church wardens and members of the PCC who continue to support us in all our efforts to offer an outstanding service to our community and their families.

May we wish everyone a much healthier year forward. Stay safe and take care.

Section 4: Our Infrastructure

Church Building

There was little activity required in the church building in the year under review. The structural repairs to the window in the porch were completed satisfactorily by the contractors. The alignment of locks on the porch door carried out by David Price was a success. An outside wired window in the disabled toilet and a drain cover at the rear of the church building were damaged by an act of vandalism and had to be replaced. A new safe was installed. Routine cleaning of drains and gutters was carried out during the year.

During the restrictions due to COVID-19 the routine cleaning of the church was rescheduled. The pattern of cleaning worked round the church usage to ensure the mandatory hygiene standards were maintained. In addition to freestanding sanitisers, hand dispensers were fixed at the porch and toilet areas.

Church Hall

The foyer was redecorated. Minor running repairs were made to washbasins and toilets. New overhead lighting was installed in the committee room. The remedial work to drainage in the outside play area continued to effectively control rain water.

Grounds

A number of diseased trees had to be removed along the pavement boundary wall by Stumps Away. Other groundwork and general maintenance were undertaken during the year. The church garden was maintained by a professional gardener and David Phipps restored the flower bed under the west window. Plans for a spring work party were cancelled due to the COVID-19 restrictions.

Section 5: Financial Review

Basis of Accounting

In previous years the Church accounts have been prepared on an accruals basis with income and expenditure shown in the year in which the relevant transaction (e.g. an event) took place. From 2020, and in line with guidance from the Diocese, the PCC has adopted the simpler Receipts and Payments (R&P) basis of accounting. This means that all income and expenditure is shown against the year in which the money is received / paid. The 2019 figures have been recreated on a R&P basis for comparative purposes.

General Fund

The Covid-19 pandemic significantly impacted church finances during 2020. With the church building being closed for large parts of the year, income was down by nearly £13k compared to 2019. Major contributors were open plate collections (£3,806 lower in 2020 compared to 2019), income from regular hires and parties (£5,680 lower), and fees for funerals and weddings (£4,423 lower). We were also unable to run any major fundraising events or operate a bar during the year. These were partially offset by an increase in some one-off payments, most notably a significant increase in donations and £4,000 from RBS as an incentive payment for switching bank accounts.

Despite the difficulties, planned giving from individuals fared better (£57,753 in 2020 versus £62,741 in 2019). We give thanks for all those who, despite their own personal challenges, continue to faithfully and sacrificially support the church and its mission financially.

Where possible the PCC took measures to reduce costs, including making use of the government's 'furlough' scheme for periods of the year and reducing expenditure on running costs such as heating and consumables. However, building maintenance costs were significantly higher in 2020 mainly due to urgent repairs to the church porch window and work required in the vicarage in readiness for Jane's arrival.

The PCC took the decision to continue funding key mission activities including the Job Club which ran throughout the year. We also continued to pay our Parish Share in full to support the wider work of the Diocese and those churches impacted worse than ourselves.

We are grateful to Natterjacks who, despite having to close or operate at below capacity for large parts of the year, continued to honour their rental payments in full. The PCC waived the service charge during the period when the nursery could not open and, as a gesture, made a one-off discretionary payment of £1,000 to Natterjacks during the year in recognition of their difficult financial climate.

Finally, during the year Charity Bank agreed that St John's could fund six months of loan repayments (total £6,217) from the Charity Bank Loan Security Deposit Account which was funded by St John's and is held in Charity Bank as security against the loan. After taking into account interest received, this reduced the balance of this account, which is classed as part of the General Fund, from £12,608 to £6,419.

The impact of the above resulted in a reduction in general funds of £9,573 (£7,634 for 2019), which was offset by the utilisation of the remaining balance of £6,750 held in the designated Mission Fund.

Charitable Giving

Despite the difficult financial year, St John's has continued to support other charitable organisations through direct donations and in-kind support such as making the church building and car park available for others to use. Details of these can be found in section 2d and also notes 5 and 6 to the accounts.

In addition, we make the church freely available to the school and Uniformed Organisations and are proud to help support SONG, the award-winning junior theatre group, who rehearse in Church when they are able to meet.

Donations and Legacies

It is an important Christian value to give back to God in gratitude for the love and blessings we have received in our lives. The congregation at St John's has responded by regular giving in difficult financial times and through significant legacy donations. At times other donations are given to assist specific cost requirements.

The PCC will abide by donors' wishes. If you are considering making a significant donation or leaving a legacy in your Will, please discuss this with our Treasurer or the Vicar. Giving back to the church through our Wills can help sustain our Church and its mission in Ainsdale.

Performance of investments

The PCC hold 15.6 income shares in the CBF Investment Trust (value £320 as at 31 December 2020). It is the intention of the PCC to realise these shares at an appropriate time.

Other Funds

Organ Fund (restricted): made up of donations given towards the upkeep of the church organ.

Flower Fund (restricted): made up of donations given to cover the cost of flowers for the church. This fund was previously managed as a petty cash fund and has been brought into the church accounts for 2020.

Church Mission Fund (restricted): established in 2020 to fund specific, identified Mission objectives. This fund replaces the previous designated Mission Fund which was fully utilised during 2020.

Reserves Policy

The General Fund target level is 2 to 3 months of average monthly spending (approx. £22,000 to £33,000). It is used as a contingency should income or expenditure be dramatically hit by circumstances that are unforeseen.

Section 6: Acknowledgements and contacts

We would like to thank all the volunteers who work so hard to make St John's the caring and vibrant community it is. Some of them you see at the front during services and other events but many more work tirelessly behind the scenes making people feel welcome, setting things up, preparing food and drink, keeping the buildings looking lovely, ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all, and supporting the administration. Their names are too many to mention individually but we are hugely grateful for their continued dedication, selfless service and good humour.

The following members have contributed to this report. If you are interested in getting involved in any of the activities highlighted in this report, then please do make contact – you will be most welcome.

<i>Introduction</i>	<i>Jane Morgan</i>
<i>Attendance figures</i>	<i>Steve Cox</i>
<i>Choir</i>	<i>Paul Ellis (Organist) & Chris York (Choir Association Chairman)</i>
<i>Worship Band</i>	<i>John Forshaw & Giles Davies</i>
<i>St John's Care Group</i>	<i>Nancy Lloyd Parry</i>
<i>Messy Church</i>	<i>Linda Davies</i>
<i>SupaClub on Sundays</i>	<i>Linda Davies</i>
<i>SupaClub on Mondays & Supaclub Xtra</i>	<i>Linda Davies</i>
<i>Impact</i>	<i>Linda Davies</i>
<i>The Baptism Initiative</i>	<i>Linda Davies</i>
<i>Little John's</i>	<i>Chris Thursfield</i>
<i>Guiding</i>	<i>Vanessa Riley (17th Guide leader)</i>
<i>Brownies</i>	<i>Joanne York (15th Brownies leader)</i>
<i>Rainbows</i>	<i>Ruth Leney (2nd Ainsdale leader)</i>
<i>Deanery Synod</i>	<i>Paul Ellis</i>
<i>St John's School</i>	<i>Paul Hooton (Head Teacher)</i>
<i>Natterjack's Day Nursery</i>	<i>Mai-Ling & John Duckworth</i>
<i>CAP Job Club</i>	<i>Carol Richardson</i>
<i>Church Building Maintenance & Development</i>	<i>Frank Hyland</i>
<i>Risk Assessments</i>	<i>Frank Hyland</i>
<i>Finance, Giving and Fundraising</i>	<i>Ruth Wake</i>
<i>St John's Website</i>	<i>Lindsay Jessop</i>
<i>St John's Facebook page</i>	<i>Chris York</i>
<i>YouTube services</i>	<i>Giles Davies</i>
<i>Electoral roll</i>	<i>Paul Olive</i>
<i>Christian Aid</i>	<i>Eirlys Jessop</i>
<i>Churches Together in Ainsdale (CTiA)</i>	<i>Jean Washbourne</i>
<i>Safeguarding</i>	<i>Chris Thursfield</i>

Section 7: Structure, Management and Governance

Electoral Roll

All church members are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) in accordance with the Church Representation Rules. As at 31 December 2020 the Roll stood at 137 representing a net increase of 2 during the year (4 added; 2 removed).

PCC

Individual PCC members, as Trustees of the Church, receive information, instruction and training when deemed appropriate. This may include information about Trustee responsibilities, health and safety, risk assessment and safeguarding procedures. The full PCC met 9 times during 2020 (including zoom meetings) with an average level of attendance of 79%. Given its wide responsibilities the PCC had four committees during 2020: Standing Committee; Mission; Property Maintenance; and Events Management. PCC members usually serve on at least one committee. The PCC is the decision-making body of The Church with each Committee making recommendations to the PCC for consideration.

Risk Assessments

Procedures are in place to manage risks and minimise their impact on the wellbeing of the church.

During the period under review, **fire, health and safety** operational arrangements were driven by the need to produce specific risk assessments to deal with the COVID-19 virus hazard. In early March, all events in the church building were suspended. When it was deemed safe to do so, specific measures were put in place to reopen the church building. During the year a range of activities and services including Communion, private prayer, funeral services, CAP Job Club sessions and hall hire took place. All activities were subject to specific risk assessments in accordance with the Government and C of E guidelines for protection of the public. During the period when hirers were able to use the church building all were required to provide specific COVID-19 risk assessments. The control measures were amended as guidance changed, in particular, when requirements for Track and Trace were introduced.

The COVID-19 controls were monitored and applied by the wardens and their assistants throughout the year. Thanks are recorded to all who volunteered to implement and monitor the COVID-19 controls. No incidents were reported during the year under review.

Safeguarding Procedures

During the past year, in the light of the changes in policy and guidance from the Church of England, we have updated our own policies and procedures for St. John's Church. A copy of the policy and guidelines document is kept in church and can be viewed on request. The guidelines cover working with children and vulnerable adults and Safer Recruitment, that is, the processes to ensure that all leaders and helpers are suitable for the role they are volunteering for.

Leaders, helpers and PCC members provide self-declaration forms to confirm they are suitable candidates. References are requested then followed up with a DBS check if the role requires it. All DBS checks are currently up-to-date. All personal information is confidential and stored and managed in accordance with the data protection legislation.

At St John's we adopt and implement the House of Bishop's Safeguarding Policy for children, young people & adults: "The care and protection of children, young people and vulnerable adults involved in Church activities is the responsibility of the whole Church. Everyone who participates in the life of the Church has a role to play in promoting a Safer Church for all."

New Appointments

Lesley Phipps and Chris Thursfield were appointed Church Wardens.

Section 8: Administrative Information

St John's Church is situated in Ainsdale, a suburb of Southport. It is part of the Diocese of Liverpool within the Church of England. The address of the Church is 627-629 Liverpool Road, Ainsdale, Southport, PR8 3NG. The correspondence address is: Revd. Jane Morgan, The Vicarage, 708 Liverpool Road, Ainsdale, Southport, PR8 3QE. The telephone number is 01704 577760.

The PCC is a body corporate and operates under the Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956 and the Church Representation Rules 2017 and was registered with the Charity Commission on 3 April 2009.

PCC members (trustees) who have served from 1 January 2020 until the date this report was approved are:

	To APCM 2020	From APCM 2020
<i>Incumbent:</i>	Rev. Jane Morgan - PCC Chair from 25 February 2020	Rev Jane Morgan - PCC Chair
<i>Readers:</i>	Eirlys Jessop Sarah Hope	Eirlys Jessop
<i>Churchwardens:</i>	David Price - PCC Chair to 24 February 2020 Rob Williams - PCC Vice Chair	Lesley Phipps Chris Thursfield
<i>Deanery Synod Rep:</i>	Paul Ellis Jean Washbourne	Paul Ellis Jean Washbourne
<i>Elected Members:</i>	Helen Parker - PCC Secretary Ruth Wake - Treasurer Sheila Chadwick (resigned 22 January 2020) Steve Cox Linda Davies John Forshaw Frank Hyland Lindsay Jessop Lesley Phipps (stepped up to Warden at APCM 2020) Val Sinnott Chris Thursfield (stepped up to Warden at APCM 2020) Ann Walton	Helen Parker - PCC Secretary Ruth Wake - Treasurer Kathryn Corey Steve Cox Linda Davies John Forshaw Frank Hyland Lindsay Jessop Val Sinnott Ann Walton

The following specific roles are approved by the PCC:

<i>Treasurer</i>	Ruth Wake
<i>Electoral Roll Officer</i>	Paul Olive
<i>Safeguarding Officer</i>	Chris Thursfield
<i>Children's Work Co-ordinator</i>	Linda Davies
<i>Health & Safety Advisor</i>	Frank Hyland
<i>Bankers</i>	The Co-Operative Bank
<i>Independent Examiner</i>	Harrison, Latham & Co., Tulketh St., Southport
<i>Architect</i>	Maggie Mullan Architects Ltd, 6 Percy Street, Liverpool, L8 7LU
<i>Day to day Management</i>	Exercised by Incumbent and Wardens

Approved by the PCC on 7 May 2021 and signed on their behalf by Rev Jane Morgan (PCC Chairman)

**PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF AINSDALE ST JOHN
INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT
at 31 December 2020**

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Ainsdale St John, Parochial Church Council

I report on the accounts for the year ended 31st December 2020 which are set out on pages 34 to 36.

Respective responsibilities of the Trustees and Independent Examiner

As trustees of the charity, the members of the PCC are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. They consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent Examiner's Statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the management committee concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in a full audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the accounts.

Independent Examiner's Statement

In connection with my examination, no matters have come to my attention

1. which give me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with s.130 of the 2011 Act; or
 - to prepare accounts which accord with these accounting records 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.

N. A. Latham FCA

Harrison Latham & Company

Chartered Accountants & Registered Auditors

97 Tulketh Street

Southport

PR8 1AW

Date: 7 May 2021

**PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF AINSDALE ST JOHN
FINANCIAL STATEMENT**

For the year ended 31 December 2020

General (Unrestricted) Fund Receipts & Payments Account

	2020		2019	
	£	£	£	£
RECEIPTS				
Income and endowments				
Planned giving	57,753		62,741	
Collections (open plate)	1,730		5,536	
		59,483		68,277
Donations and legacies				
Legacy	1,000		1,000	
Donations	10,229		2,654	
Tax recoverable including GASDS	16,203		17,264	
		27,433		20,918
Other trading activities				
Parish magazine – sales and adverts	64		2,473	
Rent & Service charge – Natterjacks	24,261		25,224	
Fundraising activities	2,419		4,200	
Miscellaneous	672		2,799	
		27,416		34,696
Charitable activities				
PCC Fees	1,432		5,855	
Hiring of church & committee room	3,810		9,490	
		5,242		15,345
Receipts from investments				
Bank interest & income from CBF investment fund	61		89	
		61		89
Other receipts				
Job Retention Scheme Grant ('Furlough')	1,253		0	
Reimbursement of interregnum clergy costs	1,610		0	
Insurance claim	130		0	
RBS transfer of account	4,000		0	
		6,994		0
Total Receipts		<u>126,628</u>		<u>139,325</u>
PAYMENTS				
Cost of fundraising activities				
Cost of events	0		1,602	
Envelopes	134		286	
		134		1,888
Charitable activities				
Mission activities	4,287		823	
Diocesan parish share	75,644		80,204	
Church & Hall running expenses	23,687		31,520	
Refund of deposits	100		0	
Clergy expenses	140		923	
Cost of services	197		0	
Buildings maintenance	9,503		554	
		113,559		114,024
Cost of trading activities				
Printing the magazine	843		3,149	
		843		3,149
Staff costs				
Wages & salaries - cleaning	7,053		5,679	
Wages & salaries - organist	1,835		1,720	
		8,888		7,399
Loan repayments, bank charges and HMRC				
Charity Bank loan repayments & interest charges	12,754		13,189	
Bank charges	24		80	
		12,778		13,269
Church reordering works				
Payment of retention monies	0		7,230	
		0		7,230
Total Payments		<u>136,201</u>		<u>146,959</u>
Excess of Receipts over Payments		(9,573)		(7,634)
Transfer from Mission Fund (designated fund)	6,750		0	
Total transfers		6,750		0
		(2,823)		(7,634)
Bank current and deposit accounts at 1 January 2020		34,629		42,263
Bank current and deposit accounts at 1 January 2021		<u>31,806</u>		<u>34,629</u>

**PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF AINSDALE ST JOHN
FINANCIAL STATEMENT**

For the year ended 31 December 2020

	2020		2019	
	£	£	£	£
ORGAN FUND Receipts and Payments Account - Restricted Fund				
The Organ Fund is made up of donations given towards the upkeep of the church organ.				
Receipts				
Restricted donations	0		20	
	<hr/>	0	<hr/>	20
Payments				
Organ maintenance	236		456	
	<hr/>	236	<hr/>	456
Excess of Receipts over Payments		<hr/> (236)		<hr/> (436)
Bank current and deposit accounts at 1 January		<hr/> 528		<hr/> 964
Bank current and deposit accounts at 31 December		<hr/> 292		<hr/> 528

CHURCH FLOWER FUND Receipts and Payments Account - Restricted Fund

The Flower Fund is made up of donations given to cover the cost of flowers for the church. This fund was previously held outside the church accounts but has been introduced from 2020.

Receipts				
Receipts introduced - previously held outside accounts	317		0	
Restricted donations - funds introduced in year	95		0	
	<hr/>	412	<hr/>	0
Payments				
Purchase of flowers	252		0	
	<hr/>	252	<hr/>	0
Excess of Receipts over Payments		<hr/> 160		<hr/> 0
Balance (petty cash / current account) at 1 January		<hr/> 0		<hr/> 0
Balance (petty cash / current account) at 31 December		<hr/> 160		<hr/> 0

CHURCH MISSION FUND - Restricted Fund

The Mission Fund was established in 2020 to fund specific, identified Mission objectives.

Receipts				
Restricted Donations	200		0	
	<hr/>	200	<hr/>	0
Payments				
	<hr/> 0		<hr/> 0	
Excess of Receipts over Payments		<hr/> 0		<hr/> 0
		200		0
Bank current and deposit accounts at 1 January		<hr/> 0		<hr/> 0
Bank current and deposit accounts at 31 December		<hr/> 200		<hr/> 0

MISSION FUND - Designated Fund

This designated fund was established to provide for new initiatives in Mission and created by a historic donation of £10,000. As a result of regular income streams being significantly reduced by Covid restrictions, the remainder of this Mission Fund was fully utilised in 2020 to fund the ongoing provision of core mission objectives and also the purchase of some new microphones central to delivering mission activities.

A new restricted Church Mission Fund was established in 2020 to start rebuilding funds for new mission work in the future.

Receipts				
	<hr/> 0		<hr/> 0	
		0		0
Payments				
	<hr/> 0		<hr/> 0	
		0		0
Excess of Receipts over Payments		<hr/> 0		<hr/> 0
		(6,750)		0
Bank current and deposit accounts at 1 January		<hr/> 6,750		<hr/> 6,750
Bank current and deposit accounts at 31 December		<hr/> 0		<hr/> 6,750

RESTRICTED FUNDS CLOSED IN 2019

The following two restricted funds operated in 2019 and were fully expended that year; they are shown here for comparative purposes.

Hall Improvements Fund: established through a donation to enable specific improvements to be made in the church hall.

Church Chairs Fund: established through a donation in 2019 to fund new chairs for the church building.

	Opening balance 1 Jan 2019	Receipts 2019	Payments 2019	Closing balance 31 Dec 2019
	£	£	£	£
Hall Improvements' Fund	840	0	(840)	0
Church Chairs Fund	0	2,362	(2,362)	0
	<hr/> 840	<hr/> 2,362	<hr/> (3,202)	<hr/> 0

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF AINSDALE ST JOHN
STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES
at 31 December 2020

	2020	2019
	£	£
Cash Funds (bank / petty cash accounts)		
General Fund (including amounts held in Charity Bank Loan Security Deposit Account)	31,806	34,629
Mission Fund - historic designated	0	6,750
Organ Fund - restricted	292	528
Church Flower Fund - restricted	160	0
Church Mission Fund - restricted	200	0
Held on behalf of others - Asylum Seekers collection	121	0
Total all cash funds	32,580	41,907
Investment Assets		
15.68 CBF Church of England Investment Fund income shares (mid market value at 31 December)	320	301
	320	301
Other Tangible Assets		
The following assets are recognised but not necessarily valued in the Statement of Assets and Liabilities:		
a) Moveable church furnishings held by the vicar and churchwardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for their disposal		
b) Equipment used in the church premises, including audio-visual equipment purchased in 2017 during the church re-ordering		
c) The Church Hall, the main part of which is rented to Natterjacks for use as a nursery		
Bar stock - remaining stock from previous events held for future events		
Liabilities		
Charity Bank Loan (amount to be repaid at 31 December)	163,755	167,698
	163,755	167,698

NOTES:

1. All totals shown in these accounts have been calculated using the exact figures. Where figures have been shown rounded to the nearest pound, then there may be a rounding difference between the total and the sum of the rounded figures.
2. The financial statements of the PCC have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 using the Receipts and Payment basis. The figures for 2019 have been restated on a R&P basis for comparative purposes, whereas in the 2019 accounts they were shown on an accruals basis.
3. The expenses paid to clergy may include a small, immaterial proportion which relates to their function as PCC members.
There were payments to a PCC member in their capacity as Organist; there were no other payments to PCC members personally or persons with close family connections, other than reimbursement of expenses paid.
4. The General Fund includes amounts held in the Charity Bank Loan Security Deposit Account which was funded by St John's and is held in Charity Bank as security against the loan. During 2020, due to the reduced Church Income during the lockdown, Charity Bank allowed St John's to fund its payments to Charity Bank for the months April to September from the Loan Security Deposit Account. This reduced the balance on this account from £12,607.84 to £6,419.32.
5. During the year, the PCC made donations to the following charitable mission organisations that are recorded in these accounts:

	£
a) Southport and Area Schools Worker Trust	
General donation	1,000.00
Donation towards the cost of Southport Higher Tour	1,000.00
b) Christians Against Poverty (CAP)	480.00
6. From time to time, the PCC collects money and other donations on behalf of other charitable mission organisations. In these instances, the receipts are not included in the PCC's income as the PCC is acting as an agent for the charity. If the money is counted and the PCC treasurer writes out a cheque for money paid into the PCC bank account, then the PCC is deemed as holding this in trust for the charity. In this case the item is not included in the Accounts but a separate record is kept.

During the year the PCC collected money on behalf of the following other charitable mission organisations:

	£
a) Christian Aid - sponsored walk (Note: sponsorship was collected by those undertaking the walk and given directly to the charity; these donations did not go through the church accounts)	40.00
b) Asylum Link Merseyside - reverse advent calendar	121.33
c) Institution Service collection for Ordinands and their families in training in the Diocese with 10% given to support the links between our diocese and others across the world	542.94
d) Southport Food Bank - cash donation; food donations were also collected throughout the year	180.00

Of the above, the following was held in trust in one of the PCC's bank accounts as at 31 December:

- | | £ |
|---------------------------|--------|
| a) Asylum Link Merseyside | 121.33 |
7. During the year, the PCC were reimbursed £2,512 sequestration fees from the Diocese in respect of costs incurred for visiting clergy during the interregnum in 2019. The majority of these costs were paid out by the PCC in 2019 but a balance of £901.72 was paid out by the PCC in 2020. The balance of £1,610.28 is shown as 'Other Receipts' in the R&P for 2020.
 8. During the year, despite the lockdown, Natterjacks continued to pay their rent in full. In recognition of the difficult business environment, the PCC agreed to waive the service charge for April and May 2020 when the nursery was unable to open due to the government restrictions. The PCC also made a one-off discretionary payment to Natterjacks of £1,000. Within the accounts this amount is netted off Natterjacks income.
 9. The 2019 figures include a payment of £7,230 made to the Church re-ordering contractors which was the final retention money held back until snagging was completed.

Approved by the PCC on and signed on their behalf

The Revd Jane Morgan
PCC Chairman

Mrs Ruth Wake
PCC Treasurer