

The Parish of Neston

Charity No 1129453

**Annual Report
and
Financial Statements
of the
Neston Parochial Church Council**

For the year ended 31st December 2020

Incumbent
The Reverend Alan Dawson
The Vicarage, Church Field
High St. Neston
CH64 9TZ

NESTON PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

For the year ended 31st December 2020

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	TOTAL FUNDS 2020 £	2019 £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS						
Voluntary Income	2(a)	75,364	598	2,001	77,963	79,591
Church activities	2(b)	8,840	0	0	8,840	11,824
Activities For Generating Funds	2(c)	25,691	27,948	0	53,640	20,101
Income From Investments	2(d)	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL INCOME		<u>109,895</u>	<u>28,546</u>	<u>2,001</u>	<u>140,442</u>	<u>111,516</u>
EXPENDITURE						
Raising funds	3(a)	212	0	0	212	122
Church activities	3(b)	112,191	26,849	0	139,041	142,711
Other Expenditure	3(c)	1,206	0	0	1,206	-29,387
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		<u>113,609</u>	<u>26,849</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>140,459</u>	<u>113,446</u>
NET INCOME/(-EXPENDITURE)		-3,714	1,697	2,001	-16	-1,930
Gross Transfers between funds - In						422,572
Gross Transfers between funds - Out						-422,572
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		<u>-3,714</u>	<u>1,697</u>	<u>2,001</u>	<u>-16</u>	<u>-1,930</u>
Balances b/fwd 1st January		64,115	121,942	2,103	188,161	190,091
Balances c/fwd 31st December		<u>60,400</u>	<u>123,639</u>	<u>4,104</u>	<u>188,145</u>	<u>188,161</u>

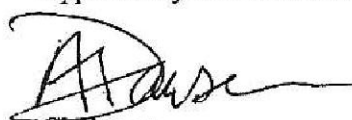
The Notes on Pages 3 to 6 form part of these accounts.

NESTON PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

BALANCE SHEET at 31st DECEMBER 2020

	Note	2020 £	2019 £
FIXED ASSETS			
Tangible Fixed Assets		25,001	25,001
Investment Assets	9	<u>30,402</u>	<u>30,402</u>
		<u>55,403</u>	<u>55,403</u>
CURRENT ASSETS			
Stock on Hand		410	410
Debtors	6	9,282	7,971
Short Term Deposits		88,198	84,607
Development Fund		53,195	54,994
		<u>151,084</u>	<u>147,982</u>
LIABILITIES: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR	7	18,344	15,225
NET CURRENT ASSETS		<u>132,740</u>	<u>132,757</u>
TOTAL ASSETS		<u>£188,143</u>	<u>£188,159</u>
FUNDS			
Unrestricted - Designated	5	4,104	2,103
Restricted		123,639	121,942
Unrestricted		60,400	64,115
		<u>£188,143</u>	<u>£188,159</u>

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on 22nd April 2021 and signed on its behalf by



Chairman
The Revd. Alan Dawson



Hon. Treasurer
Lucy Brooks
Member of the Association of
Chartered Certified Accountants

The Notes on Pages 3 to 6 form part of these accounts.

NESTON PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Notes to the Accounts for the Year Ended 31st December 2020

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The PCC is a public benefit entity within the meaning of Financial Reporting Standard 102.

The financial statements have been prepared under the Charities Act 2011 and in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 governing the individual accounts of PCC's and with the Regulations' "true and fair view" provision.

They have been prepared under FRS102 (2016) as the applicable accounting standards and the 2016 version of the Statement of Recommended Practice, Accounting and Reporting by Charities (SORP(FRS102))

Fixed Assets

Consecrated Land and Buildings and Movable Church Furnishings.

Consecrated and beneficed property is excluded from the accounts by s.10(2)(a) and (c) of the Charities Act 2011. Such Assets are not capitalised in the financial statements

No value is placed on movable church furnishings held by the churchwardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal since the PCC considers this to be inalienable property. All expenditure incurred during the year on consecrated or benefice buildings and movable church furnishings whether maintenance or improvement, is written off as expenditure in the SOFA and separately disclosed.

Other Fixtures and Office Equipment

Equipment used within the church premises is depreciated on a straight line basis appropriate to the life of the equipment concerned.

Funds

Unrestricted Funds

These represent the remaining income funds of the PCC that are available for spending on the general purposes of the PCC including amounts designated by the PCC for fixed assets for its own use or for spending on a future project and are therefore not included in its 'free reserves' as disclosed in the trustees' report.

They do not include the accounts of church groups that owe their main affiliation to another body nor those that are informal gatherings of Church members.

Restricted Funds

These are income funds that must be spent on restricted purposes and details of the funds held and restrictions provided are shown in the notes to the accounts.

Endowment Funds

The PCC did not have any Endowment Funds this year or last.

NESTON PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Notes to the Accounts for the Year Ended 31st December 2020 (Continued)

2	INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	TOTAL 2020 £	TOTAL 2019 £
2(a)	<i>Incoming Resources From Donors</i>					
	Planned Giving	47,215			47,215	49,390
	Collections in Church and Boxes	3,155			3,155	9,715
	Gift-Aided Gifts	586			586	1,047
	Regular Gift Days	7,815			7,815	
	Donations and Appeals	4,415			4,415	2,612
	Planned Giving Tax Refunds	12,176			12,176	16,074
	Chester Diocesan Board Grant			2,000	2,000	0
	Vision Income		600		600	750
	Rounding	1	-2	1	0	2
		<u>75,364</u>	<u>598</u>	<u>2,001</u>	<u>77,963</u>	<u>79,591</u>
2(b)	<i>Incoming Resources From Church Activities</i>					
	Wedding and Funeral fees PCC	8,840			8,840	11,824
2(c)		<u>8,840</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>8,840</u>	<u>11,824</u>
	<i>Activities For Generating Funds</i>					
	Pew sales	0			0	650
	Wedding and Funeral fees Diocese	8,176			8,176	9,608
	Parish Fellowship	393			393	2,102
	Rent - Neston Centre	12,265			12,265	12,625
	Rent - 99 The Ringway	1,649			1,649	-24,335
	Comrade's Field	720			720	720
	Room Hire	990			990	6,096
	Parish Magazine Adverts	1,260			1,260	1,445
	Wall Safe	6			6	425
	Shop Income	233			233	1,062
	100 Club	0	3,656		3,656	3,760
	Village Fair	0			0	2,167
	Christmas Fairs	0			0	1,163
	Events	0			0	2,614
	Insurance Claims	0	24,292		24,292	0
2(d)		<u>25,691</u>	<u>27,948</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>53,640</u>	<u>20,101</u>
	<i>Investments</i>					
	Income from Investments	-				
		<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>

NESTON PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Notes to the Accounts for the Year Ended 31st December 2020 (Continued)

3	EXPENDITURE	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	TOTAL 2020 £	TOTAL 2019 £
3(a)	<i>Fundraising Trading: Costs of Sale & Other Costs</i>					
	Costs of Stewardship Campaign	212			212	122
	Shop Purchases	0			0	0
		<u>212</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>212</u>	<u>122</u>
3(b)	<i>Church Activities</i>					
	Outward Giving	778			778	7,004
	Secular Charities	0			0	115
	Weddings & Funeral Fees Diocese	8,176			8,176	9,608
	Parish Share	67,624			67,624	65,975
	Assistant staff costs	578			578	992
	Vicar's Working Expenses	1,092			1,092	1,443
	Curate's Working Expenses	0			0	2,868
	Vicarage Expenses	3,978			3,978	4,316
	Curate's Rent, Rates, Water and Phone	0			0	-13,642
	Repairs, Fees & Maintenance Ringway	-7			-7	-66
	Education	44			44	51
	Training	25			25	882
	Insurance	6,365			6,365	4,830
	Organ, piano tuning	321	23102		23,423	597
	Repairs & Maintenance Churches	1,875			1,875	7,053
	Cleaning	972			972	2,251
	Altar requisites	216			216	733
	Service books	51			51	401
	Robes & chalices	0			0	50
	Music licences	534			534	401
	Organist's fees	2,415			2,415	6,559
	Choir fees	0			0	220
	Bell fees	0			0	320
	Flowers	82			82	1,072
	Upkeep of churchyard	666	1,399		2,065	1,291
	Equipment hire	1,526			1,526	1,526
	Equipment servicing/ usage charges	581			581	2,552
	Visiting speakers	0			0	49
	Heating, Lighting & W Rates	6,612			6,612	13,130
	Parish Magazine Costs & Prayer & Actio	53			53	218
	Bookstall costs	0			0	516
	Repairs & Maintenance Neston Centre	6,750			6,750	9,990
	100 Club Prizes		1772		1,772	1,815
	Vision Expenditure		576.25		576	
	Youth Matters General Expenditure		0		0	4,972
	Miscellaneous Expenditure	465			465	2,067
	Bank charges	418			418	551
		<u>112,191</u>	<u>26,849</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>139,041</u>	<u>142,711</u>
3(c)	<i>Other Expenditure</i>					
	Other Ordinary PCC Expenditure	50			50	0
	Parish Office & Administration	760			760	659
	Parish office equipment	0			0	74
	Software subscriptions	396			396	281
	Expenditure on purchasing Ringway	0			0	-30,402
		<u>1,206</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1,206</u>	<u>-29,387</u>

NESTON PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Notes to the Accounts for the Year Ended 31st December 2020 (Continued)

		2019 and 2020	
4	FIXED ASSETS	£	
	Freehold Land and Buildings	25,000	
	Equipment Written down	1	
		<u>25,001</u>	
	The freehold land & buildings comprise the Neston Centre and Comrade's Field at Neston. The gross values of these and the equipment have been estimated at 1st January 1997.		
5	ANALYSIS OF FUNDS		
		At 1st Jan 2,020 £	Movement in Year £
			At 31st Dec 2020 £
	Designated Funds		
	3 Churches Repairs from £10,000 designated	2,104	2,104
	Chester Diocesan Board	0	2,000
		<u>2,104</u>	<u>4,104</u>
	Restricted Funds		
	Garden Fund	0	653
	Lighting Fund	2,661	2,661
	Neston Centre And Comrade's Field Fund	25,000	25,000
	St Thomas's	249	-210
	St Thomas' Bishop's trust	2,753	-653
	Thursday Coffee Fund	3,213	0
	Vision Fund	87,880	1,908
	War memorial fund	10	10
	Youth Fund	176	176
		<u>121,942</u>	<u>1,698</u>
	Unrestricted Funds		
	General Fund	64,114	-3,714
		<u>64,114</u>	<u>60,400</u>
6	DEBTORS	2020	2019
		£	£
	Prepayments	1,852	1,153
	Other Debtors	3,541	
	Tax Refund due	3,888	6,819
		<u>9,282</u>	<u>7,972</u>
7	LIABILITIES: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR		
	Accrued Expenses	5,269	9,031
	Neston Centre Deposits	275	275
	Agency Collections	-133	
	Parish Church Bells	1,272	
	Vicar And Wardens' Trust Hillcrest	9,285	3,908
	Vicar And Wardens' Trust: Robert Hamilton	2,376	2,011
		<u>18,344</u>	<u>15,225</u>
8	Staff Costs		
	No PCC Members were paid any wages in the year. Several members of the PCC were reimbursed for minor expenses incurred on behalf of the PCC.		
9	Connected Charities		
	The Incumbent and Churchwardens administer the following trusts and are considered to be connected charities:		
	The Hillcrest Curacy Trust Fund		
	The Robert Hamilton Fund		
	These Trusts have been invested in the Curates house at 99 Ringway along with £30,402 of PCC Funds Land Registry records show the registered owner of the property is Chester Diocesan Board of Finance and as such the house does not form part of the assets of the PCC. The PCC's investment of £30,402 in the property is recorded in the Balance Sheet.		
10	Neston Village Fair		
	An autonomous committee runs this annual event and maintains an account to fund the next event. The ultimate benefactor of these funds held in additional accounts would be the PCC and the surplus carried forward at the year end was £6,368.		

Report of The Independent Examiner to the Trustees of Neston Parochial Church Council

I report on the accounts for the year ended 31st December 2020, which are set out on pages 1 to 6

Respective responsibilities of the Trustees and 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 (under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act); and
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent Examiner's Report

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 you as trustees concerning any such matters.

The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in a full audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent Examiner's Statement

Since the gross income for the year exceeds the amount provided in section 145(3) of the Act, I confirm that I am qualified to act as Independent Examiner under the provisions of that section of the Act and that my qualification is as shown below.

In connection with my examination, no matters have come to my attention:

(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements

- to keep accounting records in accordance with s.130 of the 2011 Act; or
- to prepare accounts which accord with these accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act have not been met;

or

(2) to which in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

B. H. Morris FCA

Highfield, Bull Hill
Lt Neston

CH64 4DN

16th April 2021

Neston Parochial Church Council

Trustees' Report for 2020

Parish of Neston

2020 Report and Accounts

Parochial Church Council of the Parish of Neston, Cheshire.

Aim and purposes

Neston Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the aim of every Church of England church:

To promote the whole mission of the Church - pastoral, evangelistic, social, and ecumenical.

The PCC has the responsibility of cooperating with the incumbent (Rev Alan Dawson) in promoting this aim throughout the ecclesiastical parish of Neston. The PCC is specifically responsible for maintaining:

- St Mary & St Helen's Church: Parish Church, High Street, Neston, CH64 9TZ;
- St Michael and All Angels' Church: Marshlands Road, Little Neston, CH64 0SN;
- St Thomas the Apostle's Church: School Lane, Parkgate, CH64 6SR; and
- Neston Centre: High Street, Neston, CH64 9TZ.

Objectives and activities

The PCC is committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship at our churches and to become part of our parish community. We aim to enable people to live out their faith as part of our parish mainly through:

- Services, worship, and prayer;
- Social outreach and pastoral work; and
- Missionary outreach, especially to children and young people.

During the year, we identified additional needs in the parish that we addressed including:

- The need to clarify our vision, including worship, pastoral care, and mission in the wider community.
- The need to address our financial position and manage our budgets to prevent unplanned overspending.
- How to operate during the restrictions placed on churches and the country more widely during the Covid19 pandemic.

We identified lessons to be learned from applying the restrictions required by the Covid19 pandemic, when our churches were closed and we learned how to worship, pray, and communicate better online, by phone, by socially distanced visiting and by post.

It is also important that we maintain the fabric of our three church buildings and the Neston Centre to enable us to carry out our objectives and activities.

Achievements and performance

The Covid19 pandemic that started in 2020 required responses and actions to ensure everyone stayed safe, and imagination to find new ways of doing our work. While some activities ceased for some time, new work started and thrived.

Most of our activities benefit from the work and commitment of many volunteers, without whom much of our work could not happen and the PCC would not meet its objectives. During lockdown, several people were shielding at home, which limited what we were able to do in our church buildings and beyond.

Neston Parochial Church Council Trustees' Report for 2020

The year began with two Clergy in the Parish and a strong, albeit smaller Ministry Team by the end of 2020.

The PCC has been working on priorities identified early in 2020 with a view to new approaches, especially for pastoral care, worship and mission in the context of a 2021 Vision Statement (in preparation).

The PCC is better placed than for some time to address its financial position and manage budgets to prevent unplanned over-spending and enable growth means it is more secure in its control. We acknowledge particularly the skill and commitment of the Honorary Treasurer, Lucy Brooks, who, though not a Trustee, has provided exceptional service.

Quality management information enables the PCC to plan to strengthen its financial base, starting with the Gift Day held in November 2020, when parish members were invited to make donations and review regular giving. The donations reduced the 2020 deficit and looking forward, new pledges will provide increased security. A planned-giving campaign is projected when Covid permits and work has started on this.

At the beginning of 2020, most established groups, such as the Mothers Union, Bereavement Support Group, Knit & Natter and Young at Heart were able to meet in person.

The two pre-school gatherings also met at the beginning of 2020: Stay & Play met on Friday mornings at St Mary & St Helen's Church, as did the toddler group meeting at St Michael's Church mid-week, the former offering Christian teaching in a creative and well-received way.

Kids Club met at St Michael's Church weekly and Sunday Club met at St Thomas' monthly: both on Sundays.

Drop-in meetings continued in all three churches. The strong network across the congregations can in part be attributed in part to the Thursday morning Drop-In at St Mary & St Helen's Church.

Making churches Covid secure in 2020

Prior to the national lockdown on March 23rd, 2020, precautions were implemented by introducing hand-wash sanitisers in our churches, along with instructions and advisory precautions for the congregation and visitors to take.

Later,

- Streamed services on YouTube were introduced from the Vicarage and from St Mary & St Helen's Church.
- Information was available online via email listings and on the Parish Website
- Printed copies of *Prayer and Action* (our weekly information pew sheet) were posted to people who had no online facilities at home.

On June 17th, 2020 we decided to reopen St Mary & St Helen's Church for private prayer only. St Michael's Church and St Thomas's Church remained closed.

A trial run to reopen St Mary & St Helen's Church was tested in late June 2020, with the following precautions in place:

- Open twice a week for two hours only for private prayer;
- Rotas for support and assistance to visitors;
- Registration of name and contact details;
- Hand sanitising stations;
- 2m spacing in alternate pews, guided by signage;
- One-way throughway guided by signage; and

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Trustees' Report for 2020**

- Introduction of restricted areas including West End social area, kitchen, and toilets.

On August 19th, 2020, all three churches reopened for public worship on Sundays with covid-secure precautions in place.

Funeral services in church were reintroduced.

Other activities that make up our Church life, were set up using Zoom, and are included later in this report.

Communication has been key throughout lockdown periods. The Parish Office has developed an email contact system that keeps the Parish informed. Many people have been involved in coordinating vital communications within the Parish during the year.

Otherwise, our churches remained closed, apart from services and at times set aside for private prayer, to enable us to keep our buildings Covid-secure. Room lettings at St Michael's and St Thomas's Churches have temporarily ceased.

Worship and prayer

At the start of 2020, we held regular public worship open to everyone in our three churches, on Sundays and during the week. We use different styles of worship that are sensitive to a range of worshippers' needs.

During the lockdowns, while our churches were closed for worship, Rev Alan Dawson started to stream Sunday worship from his study on YouTube, and later from St Mary & St Helen's Church. The PCC agreed to invest money from the Vision Fund to buy dedicated IT to improve the streaming of our services on YouTube. (Parish of Neston YouTube <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCqJnfi7zblT5zttz7OQQWJw>)

Our worship patterns have temporarily changed so that a Sunday service took place alternately in St Michael's and St Thomas's Churches fortnightly, and at least one Sunday service and a new midweek service took place in St Mary & St Helen's Church. The midweek services were combined into one midweek service in St Mary & St Helen's Church, attracting people from across our congregations to a lunchtime communion service.

In 2020, our annual return to Statistics for Mission indicated:

- Approx. 90 people (including children) attended our three churches in person on those Sundays in October when we held services there (including the Kids' Club at St Michael's Church);
- Our churches were closed for Easter 2020;
- Advent and Christmas services were held in all three churches:
 - 125 people attended in person a service of readings and carols, a blue Christmas service, and a Christingle service.
 - Pre-recorded Christmas Eve Virtual Crib Service has gained 315 views on YouTube
 - Approx. 125 attended services on Christmas Day in person.
- The number of views of streamed services on YouTube fluctuated through the year. On average, approx. 75 views were made of each of the live services streamed in October;
- A prayer group has continued to meet, focussing on praying for the parish, for growth and for achieving our mission. The group met twice monthly in St Mary & St Helen's Church, attracting approx. 15 people from across all our churches. During the first lockdown, the group re-established itself on Zoom, as a weekly prayer group, with

Neston Parochial Church Council Trustees' Report for 2020

more people joining each week than before;

- There were 2 baptisms in our churches. Baptism services are usually celebrated separately after our main Sunday services. We have not been able to celebrate baptisms in church under the Covid19 restrictions;
- There were 65 funerals, though many could not be held in our churches during the year. We have a team of volunteers who support the families and friends of those who have died, who maintain a professional approach to this important ministry;
- There were 2 weddings in our churches;
- There were 201 people on the Electoral Roll for the parish. Jim Wilcock continued as Electoral Roll Officer; and
- Two of the house groups have met regularly through the year. The move to using Zoom for meetings enabled them to meet more frequently and to widen their membership. These GIFT (Growing In Faith Together) groups explored topics in informal ways to grow, strengthen and support the faith of those attending. The three-fold ingredients are prayer, Bible study and fellowship.
- Worship by the Kids' Club restarted fortnightly at St Michaels' Church, alternating with Sunday services for congregational worship. Some children were not able to resume their attendance due to social distancing problems, but were sent email lessons, as they had been during the lockdown. Kids Club has maintained the pattern of fortnightly emails to all the families with the lesson, a link to music, the story, and craft activities.
- The congregation at St Thomas's Church were unable to celebrate the 10th Anniversary of the re-opening of St

Thomas's Church. Instead, we were able to dedicate one of our streamed Sunday Services on St Thomas's Day.

- Apart from a brief period when St Thomas's Church and St Michael's Church reopened for some Sunday services, we have been unable to come together as a church family for our usual annual social events at harvest and Christmas.

Deanery Synod

Neston is part of the Wirral South Deanery in the Diocese of Chester.

- All our clergy are members of the Deanery Synod: Rev Alan Dawson, and Rev Judith Calvert.
- Three lay representatives were elected in 2017 to the Deanery Synod for 3 years: Val Johnson, Richard Lewis, and Richard Skinner.
- Only one lay representative was elected at the delayed APCM in 2020: Richard Lewis. Arrangements for co-opting other people from our parish to Deanery Synod are being explored.
- Deanery Synod met once before lockdown in March 2020. No further meetings were called in 2020.
- Sadly, the Deanery Synod secretary John Lewis of Thornton Hough died during 2020. The Secretary role is unfilled.

Buildings and services

Despite the restrictions placed by the pandemic, our churches have been used – to a limited extent – by the wider community for civic and other purposes which help us to meet our objectives;

- Ladies Club Day was celebrated in different ways in June. The traditional parade, church service and blessing at The Cross could not take place. Instead, parishioners and towns people placed

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Trustees' Report for 2020**

floral displays in the grounds of St Mary & St Helen's Church;

- On Sunday 4th October, a Civic Service was held by Zoom;
- The annual Remembrance Sunday service and the separate Armistice Day commemoration were replaced by brief commemorations at the war memorial. Cascading poppy tributes were placed in the grounds of our three churches;
- The nativity scene at the Parish Church was also welcomed, along with an installation of advent candles; and
- At the beginning of the year, St Thomas's and St Michael's Churches were used regularly by groups and societies in Neston including the Parkgate Society, Music Therapy, Theatre Community Group, Women's Institute, Art Society, Ukulele Club, Martial Arts and Keep Fit classes.
- We have continued to maintain our buildings and grounds, though to a lesser extent while so many people were shielding during the year, to maintain social distancing. Some work has been carried over to 2021 for attention:
- Most of the recommendations made in the Archdeacon's visitation in September 2018 have been implemented. Further work on implementing and managing our health and safety policies is required:
 - At St Mary & St Helen's Church:
 - IT equipment has been bought from the Vision Fund to stream our services on YouTube;
 - The organ was repaired in summer 2020 by David Wells Organ Builders following rainwater damage in November 2019 and is now playing well.

The work was funded – subject to our paying a small excess - by Ecclesiastical Insurance, our insurers.

- Grass cutting in most of the graveyard at St Mary & St Helen's Church was maintained by Cheshire West and Chester Council, while volunteers from the Church and wider parish maintained the graveyard on the east and south sides of the church. This was especially valued during the lockdown when many church members were shielding;
- The North West entrance wall was damaged in a road incident in September 2019. Repairs started in 2020 and were due to be completed in 2021. As the wall is included in the listed status of the Parish Church it is to be repaired to professional, conservation standards; and
- The CCTV recording systems at the St Mary & St Helen's and at St Michael's Churches need servicing and upgrading.
- At St Michael's Church:
 - A new Gardener has been engaged after the retirement of Greenfields Gardener in late 2019.
- At St Thomas's Church:
 - volunteers have continued to work in St Thomas's gardens, keeping the grass mown and looking after the flower beds.
- At the Neston Centre:
 - We have two tenants and the staffed Parish Office in use at present;

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- Since March 2020, Parish Office work has been managed by the PCC Secretary working at home, and one of the other tenants has reduced the time they spent in the building by working at home;
 - Cleaning continued during the pandemic; and
 - Parking continues to be an issue as unauthorised parking causes problems for deliveries to the Centre.
- Planning for a new disabled ramp at St Mary & St Helen's Church has progressed slowly. The current ramp is too steep and needs resurfacing. We have approached an architect who has made recommendations and we are seeking comparisons from other architects.
- Music plays an important role within acts of worship across the parish.
- Daniel Wakefield is our Organist and Choirmaster with Christine Schofield supporting in an administrative role. Jim Wilcox helps to organise the music and play the organ at St. Michael's.
- Currently there are between 16 and 20 regular members of the choir. During lockdown, the choir continued to meet on Zoom. Once choirs could sing services again, a small choir led Sunday services.
- The fault that had developed on the organ in 2019 was repaired by David Wells Organ Builders from Liverpool, and the organ reinstated.
- Bell ringing was severely impacted by the pandemic. No ringing took place between the first lockdown and September. Since then, when there has been no lockdown, the bell ringing band has rung for all the 10.45am services, and for the additional services around Christmas, in accordance with guidance issued by the Central Council of Bell Ringers. Due to the distance between ropes, only four ringers were able to ring for any session of 15 minutes only. It did not sound the same as our normal ringing, but it let the community know there was a service about to take place. The band were overwhelmed with the positive response to their ringing;
- The band has been keeping together with a weekly virtual practice;
- The pandemic has put any plans for the major refurbishment of the frame and fittings on hold. John Taylor & Co, the bellfounders and bellhangers visited the tower again in October 2020 to do some detailed measurements to consider reducing the potential costs. The revised quote is expected imminently. Two other companies have been approached to provide quotes, but this has been hampered by the pandemic. The band have been discussing possible fundraising measures. The PCC has not yet decided to fund refurbishing the bells.
- The bell at St Thomas's Church is rung for Sunday services.
- During 2020 there were limited opportunities for the flower arranging team at St Mary & St Helen's Church. Floral installations were placed outside on the lawns at the east end for Easter, Ladies' Day, and VE Day.
- Flowers are also arranged for services in St Michael's Church and St Thomas's Church.
- The lockdown periods and the rules on social distancing meant that the 2020 Village Fair was cancelled, and the 2020 Christmas Fair did not take place.

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Pastoral Care

- Conversations, telephone calls, input to Prayer and Action along with the Guild of Health and St Raphael prayer chain keep the Ministry Team and Church aware of health and isolation issues within the community. Covid19 restrictions permitting, the Clergy, Licensed Pastoral Worker and the wider Church follow this up with hospital visits, visiting in the Parish and surrounding area. This includes local Residential and Nursing Homes. Where appropriate, Home Communion is offered and taken out from the Church.
- In addition to the Clergy, one of our Readers, Elizabeth Joyce looks after funerals. Another Reader, Tony Cooke is presently in training to lead funerals as is the Pastoral Worker, Lesley Irvin. Covid19 restrictions permitting, funeral ministry extends to many years after initial contact and the immediate impact of bereavement. This includes follow up information, support group, making connections and visiting with particular attention to isolation.
- The Guild of Health and St Raphael continued its key ministry of offering regular prayers for healing, daily for many in the local communities and further afield. Again, the Guild's wider prayers for healing ministry has been a monthly focus within Mid-Week Communion's. Consideration was given to continuing membership of the Guild and alternative arrangements for our ministry in this area were developed. It is expected new arrangements will be put in place during 2021.
- The Bereavement Support Group initially met monthly at St Michael's Church. It provides fellowship and support for those who are bereaved,

with a speaker at most meetings. The aim of the group is to offer a place to meet, enjoy a cup of tea or coffee and a listening ear. It is not a counselling group but contact numbers and information will be available if anyone requires specialist help.

- The Knit and Natter group includes 38 ladies who initially met every fortnight at St Michael's Church. The group provides an opportunity for members developing friendships and caring for each other, as well as knitting goods for church fairs and for charity. These charities include: Arrowe Park Hospital Baby Unit, Alder Hey Hospital, Claire House, the Seamen's Mission, Age Concern, the Fire Brigade, for nursing homes and for African babies.
- Knit and Natter's leadership have maintained close and special care of members during lockdown.
- Deliveries of much valued knitwear have continued.
- Members look forward to meeting face to face as soon as it is safe to do so.
- The Young at Heart group initially met on the first Tuesday of each month in St Mary & St Helen's Church. It is essentially a time where people from the wider community can meet to socialise and play games, such as Scrabble, Rummikub, and dominos. We also have the opportunity for people to try their hand at painting a masterpiece. We have tea, coffee, and cakes halfway through the afternoon. This is for anyone in the community who may feel isolated or would just like to meet up for a sociable afternoon.

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Mission and evangelism

- Stay and Play, the Friday pre-school group at St Mary & St Helen's Church has moved online within Zoom. Teaching and singing are important parts of the offering. Ongoing contact and conversation have been invaluable.
- Children's ministry; Sunday Clubs have as a minimum maintained contact. Lynne Vaughan has offered significant resources online via email. This has been made available through various contacts and well received. In autumn 2020, Kids' Club met on alternate weeks to the service at St Michael's Church.
- Neston Mothers Union (MU) has 40 members and in 2020 had only three meetings.
- MU has met on Zoom and been a monthly focus within Mid-Week Communion's when they were able to celebrate Holy Communion in Church.
- MU did manage three Lent lunches before Lockdown and sent the proceeds of £130 to the MU International Relief Fund.
- MU supported their Worldwide Fund to the tune of £100 and a further £50 in response to their Urgent Appeal in May.
- Knitting has been a popular pastime this year:
 - 14 Blankets, made up of knitted or crocheted squares, were sent to the refugees in Lesbos;
 - 58 baby hats and 7 small blankets (for premature babies) were delivered to the Maternity Unit at Arrowe Park Hospital;
 - 20 emergency toiletry bags were given to the A&E department; and
 - All have expressed their gratitude for these invaluable items.
- Baptism Anniversary cards continue to be sent out.
- MU members continued to support Stay & Play when it continued on Zoom.
- As our financial position weakened during the year while people were at home, the PCC decided not to give unrestricted gifted income to local and overseas charities, apart from donations held over from 2019.
- We continued to support the Wirral Churches Ark project. At Harvest, voluntary cash donations from individual members of our congregations were sent to the Ark.
- Much of the Harvest Festival food went to Foodbank who were co-ordinating distribution due to the pandemic.
- The Parish Website: we continued to maintain our web presence with information about our services and activities on <http://www.nestonparishchurch.org/index.asp>
- The Parish News in its new format was temporarily halted in March 2020 and its future is under consideration as new communication channels have been used since the pandemic started.
- Our Prayer & Action pew sheets are a valuable, informative, and important weekly flyer of group activities, weekly service information keeping everyone constantly updated. Approx. 90% of these are now emailed weekly to members of the congregation and others interested in our work, mainly in the town.
- The Shop was closed in March 2020, but did provide booklets, cards, and hand-made items for sale at the start of the year.

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- Richard and Frances Skinner completed their training as ordinands at Queen's Foundation for Ecumenical Theological Education, Birmingham. On 3rd July 2020 they both took up their Curacies at Holy Trinity, Hoylake (St Hildeburgh's Church), and St John's, Meols, respectively, having been commissioned as Deacons the previous day on Zoom by the Bishop of Birkenhead. They were ordained as deacons in October 2020 by the Bishop of Chester.
- Lesley Irvin has grown into her role as Pastoral Worker. A pilot Pastoral System is now at a stage of benefitting the whole of the Parish. This is based on individual members committing to regular pastoral contact with about six people on an ongoing basis. In many cases this is formalising networks that are already in place and have become most important this year.
- We have two Readers in training. Richard Lewis completed his second year of training in 2020 and is due to be licensed in the autumn of 2021. John Hart began his first year of training last September. He is likely to have a higher profile in the Parish from the summer of 2021.

Ecumenical work

Neston and District Churches Together

Despite the impact of the pandemic which meant that churches within Neston and District Churches Together (NDCT) were physically closed for much of the year, we have continued to support the work of NDCT.

We have assisted (often by streamed services or networked meetings) at events for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, Christian Aid week and One World Week.

Open the Book had to stop, and the teams have been unable to take school assemblies, but once restrictions are lifted, they will be keen to take the bible stories into the schools again.

Christian Aid is an ecumenical organisation, begun nationally by the churches to provide funds to help the poorest of the poor - victims of natural disasters, such as earthquakes and tsunamis; refugees of war and the homeless; those who are unable to survive without help.

- Each church in our area provides a Representative to serve on the Committee. Lynne Vaughan represents the Church of England from our Parish.
- The Committee aims to raise awareness among our congregations about the needs of the most vulnerable people in the world, and to carry out our Christian calling by raising funds to meet these needs. Also, we lobby and raise issues which are felt to contribute to world poverty.
- During the pandemic, the Christian Aid Committee has continued to meet via zoom meetings.
- At Christmas 2020, our supporters helped raise funds by knitting Christmas Angels, and the Committee produced a Recipe Book. These were sold via a pop-up Stall at Neston Methodist Church, and a stall at the Neston Friday Market. The committee were amazed by people's generous donations. The Christmas Appeal raised over £1,045.00.
- The administration base of the organisation has been cut back nationally to make as much money as possible accessible to the on-going projects around the world - as, in common with many other charities,

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there is a significant shortfall in money received.

World Day of Prayer

From 2020 onwards the name of this movement became 'World Day of Prayer' to reflect current attitudes of inclusion due to the changing nature of world communication. In 2020, the focus was on the work of the church in Zimbabwe.

Finances

(see separate annual report and financial statements for details)

The Statement of Financial Activities shows an overall overspend of £16 during 2020. This consists of a grant of £2,000 from Chester Diocese which has been designated (set aside), plus net income from restricted funds of £1,697, less the unrestricted fund (day-to-day expenditure) overspend of £3,714.

During 2019 three large historic accounting adjustments, relating to the property at Ringway which was purchased in 2010, totalling £20,330 were included. When comparing the 2019 and 2020 financial information, the historic adjustments have been excluded.

The 2020 pandemic has impacted the Parish's unrestricted day-to-day income and expenditure.

During 2019 the Parish received unrestricted income of £132,545. During 2020 this was £109,893. The difference of around £23,000 includes reductions in income from:

Donations*	£3,000
(including gift aid)	

Wedding & funeral fees	£3,000
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Parish Fellowship (including Thursday coffee)	£2,000
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Room hire	£5,000
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Parish Church shop	£1,000
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Village & Christmas Fairs and Events	£6,000
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*Donations include the Gift Day donations received during 2020 of £7,800. Of this total, £6,300 was received from four donors.

During the year, a small number of planned givers reduced or stopped their regular giving. The overall effect was a reduction in income of £6,600 per year.

Although the Gift Day has helped plug part of the shortfall for 2020, an increase in regular giving is required to sustain the Parish.

The standing order information to the end of January 2021 indicates that regular donations have so far increased by approximately £850 per month / £10,200 per year.

During 2019 the Parish spent unrestricted funds on day-to-day expenditure of £150,379. During 2020 this was £113,608. The difference of around £37,000 includes reductions in expenditure on:

Outward Giving	£6,000
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Curate's work & house costs	£5,000
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Parish training	£1,000
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Church maintenance	£3,000
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Cleaning (St Michael's)	£1,000	range of activities which are still relevant today.
Altar requisites	£1,000	• Communications • Youth • Ministry Team & Leadership • Worship for all the Family • Fellowship and Social • Prayer and Study • Giving • Outreach & Pastoral • Buildings & Resources
Organists' fees	£4,000	
Flowers	£1,000	
Equipment usage	£2,000	
Heating, lighting & water (three churches)	£7,000	
Neston Centre expenses	£3,000	
Miscellaneous	£2,000	

It is the policy of the PCC to hold enough unrestricted reserves to cover approximately three months' estimated expenditure. This threshold is based on 2019 expenditure and is approximately £37,500 (£150,380 x 3/12) as 2019 is the most recent year of typical expenditure.

At the end of 2020, the PCC had unrestricted reserves of £60,400, equivalent to less than five months' estimated expenditure.

The unrestricted day-to-day income & expenditure of the Parish will continue to be monitored and reported monthly to the PCC and to the Parish via Prayer & Action.

In addition to unrestricted reserves for day-to-day expenditure, the PCC also has a few other funds and details of these can be found in the notes in the financial statements.

The largest restricted fund is the Vision fund which was set up in 2000. These funds, which totalled almost £90,000 at the end of 2020, can be spent on a broad

Safeguarding

In line with Diocese of Chester guidelines Neston Parish has a Safeguarding Officer for the parish, Liz Ledsham.

Information and parish contacts for safeguarding in the parish are displayed in all three church buildings in the parish. These have recently been updated (December 2020) in a new format and distributed to the churches.

During 2020, no safeguarding issues have arisen or been reported to the Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO) or Rev Alan Dawson.

During 2020, the PSO and Rev Alan Dawson have scrutinised Parish archive records held at Chester Records Office on behalf of the Parish, regarding possible past historic abuse or safeguarding issues. This was in line with Past Case Review 2, which was a national review into the handling of safeguarding cases in the Church of England.

Three visits were made to Chester Archive Office and Neston PCC minutes and Standing Committee minutes from 1933 were read and checked for any information of uncorroborated or corroborated evidence of safeguarding or abuse allegations. No allegations were found,

Neston Parochial Church Council Trustees' Report for 2020

and no minutes checked suggested concerns regarding safeguarding or abuse had been raised in the parish in the recorded minutes.

The PSO, Rev Alan Dawson, Michael Maden and Marion Forshaw have reviewed DBS checks and review application procedures. The number of roles requiring DBS checks has dropped because some activities involving children have ceased. The criteria of activities involving adults at risk requiring a DBS check has changed and are not activities that church volunteers would engage in e.g. care activities or regular driving.

In November 2020, following PCC concerns the Parish Safeguarding Policy was reviewed the Church of England Safeguarding Policy has been adopted instead to replace it.

Structure and governance

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Neston is a corporate body established by the Church of England, and is a Registered Charity registered with the Charity Commission, with the public benefit being for the advancement of religious education promoting the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to the doctrines of the Church of England.

The governing documents are the Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956 as amended and the Church Representation Rules 2020.

The object of the charity is to promote the whole mission of the Church in the Ecclesiastical Parish of Neston.

The trustees of the charity, being the elected, co-opted, or ex-officio members of the PCC, organise a formal election each year in the run-up to the Annual Parochial

Church Meeting (APCM) to fill vacancies on the PCC. New members elected to the PCC automatically become Trustees of the charity.

Elected and co-opted PCC members serve for a period of no more than 3 years after which they may seek re-election. There are no limits to the number of times a person may serve as PCC member. On standing down from the PCC, a member is also removed from the list of trustees of the charity. A full list of the trustees of the charity is available on the Charity Commission website.

At the delayed annual meeting in October 2020, there were 201 people on the Electoral Roll. About 35 members attended the meeting either in person or by Zoom.

The members of the PCC in December 2020 were:

Clergy: Rev Alan Dawson (Chair)*; Rev Judith Calvert*;

Churchwardens: Terry Abel*; Marion Forshaw*

PCC Secretary: Richard Lewis*

Trustees: Alex Cummins; Doreen Gordon*; Linda Haigh; Robin Hughes; Lesley Irvin; Val Johnson*; David Richardson; Peter Rossiter.

Deanery Synod – laity: Richard Lewis.

A standing committee - which includes the PCC members whose names are marked with an asterisk - meets to discharge business between PCC meetings and to address issues remitted to them by the PCC.

The Treasurer is Lucy Brooks who is not a member of the PCC.

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Administration and contact details

- St Mary & St Helen's Church: Parish Church, High Street, Neston CH64 9TZ;
- St Michael and All Angels' Church: Marshlands Road, Little Neston CH64 0SN;
- St Thomas the Apostle's Church: School Lane, Parkgate CH64 6SR; and
- Neston Centre: High Street, Neston CH64 9TZ.
- The Parish Office is at the Neston Centre and is staffed on Monday mornings and Wednesday mornings. (0151 336 5346 (incl. answerphone) nestonparishoffice@gmail.com)