



# St Lawrence Towcester

Reports of  
Church Groups, Activities  
and Ministers

for the

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> May 2021

11.30 am

**Due to the current pandemic the following committees and activities have not taken place since 2020**

- **Social and Outreach Committee**
- **Worship Committee Report**
- **Benefice Committee**
- **Friday Coffee Morning**

## **Churchwardens Report**

### **Pastoral and Services**

During this unprecedented year of continuous change, often at a moment's notice, the community that is the body of St. Lawrence, has remained strong, supportive and with an incredible spirit of 'can do'.

With the Church closed for much of the year, one of the most positive outcomes has been the communication telephone 'tree' and the friendships and conversations shared with those we might not have otherwise known so well. On a weekly basis, phone calls have generated a feeling of strength and spiritual continuity, albeit from our own homes.

The other comfort has been the opportunity for Private Prayer each week since early Summer. The quiet reflection and peace of the Church has offered solace to many, some very regularly, and has been well received and a privilege for those of us who have been able to help.

June saw the welcome arrival of the Revd Angela Hammett and her husband Chris to the benefice, living at the Rectory in Greens Norton.

When we have been able to open the Church for socially distanced Services, and with the help of the Parish Office and members of the PCC and their families, the Church was open and complying with all regulations. Those who have attended have been patient and understanding as we got to grips with the one-way system and seating arrangements.

Claire Reetz, our Children and Families Worker since January 2018 and has been able to contribute significantly to the Family Service which had an excellent attendance in excess of 40 people and children on each occasion. Her enthusiasm and attention to detail made for an interactive and enjoyable Service for everyone and her Christmas activity bags were particularly well received.

Michael Tinsley's contribution as our Organist gave a touch of normality to our Services. The Christmas Lessons and Carol Service conducted on Zoom, with representatives from each Parish, had an excellent 'attendance' of 380 views. Our Crib Service had 202 views.

The Christmas Day Eucharist was well attended and the Rector led Carols in the Churchyard after the Service.

The Treasurer and Gift Aid Officer have been mindful of the lack of fundraising events which had been planned and those implications for the Parish Share and other financial shortfalls and their guidance and continued diligence is appreciated by all of us. Nevertheless, the generosity of the Community has not gone unnoticed and hopefully we can improve our income considerably as this year progresses.

### **Church and Churchyard**

Regular maintenance checks have been made on both the inside and outside of the Church. Preparatory work has been done in advance of the Quinquennial Inspection in June 2021 and particular mention must be given to Kate Saul who retires this year as Chair of the Fabric Committee. Her tireless work has kept a keen eye on particular building issues which have been resolved before they became a major problem.

The Town Council continue to maintain the Churchyard (together with volunteers who help look after the Remembrance Garden). Work on the Mill Stream wall continues and regular conversations take place with the Town Clerk and we are in discussion with the DAC over permissions that are required for each piece of work.

The Bell Ringers have been able to ring on certain occasions prior to Sunday Services and their presence as always been supportive and in keeping with all the government guidelines and restrictions.

### **Reflection**

A steep learning curve of understanding of what we can and cannot achieve has been a new experience but nonetheless, very rewarding. None of this could have been achieved without the Rector's remarkable energy and ability to adapt and drive the changes to enable St. Lawrence to continue offering its special brand of spiritual comfort and care.

The Clergy and Ministry Team also deserve praise for their significant impact on our ability to be the Church in this difficult and different year, much of which has been unseen or recorded.

Elizabeth Manning

## **Chantry Committee**

For every one of us the last year has been very strange, and the same is true for 42 St Lawrence Road South and The Chantry House – so much but so little has happened!

Financially, our heads are still above water despite the usual bills coming in and some items of maintenance and repair that have been required.

42 St Lawrence Road South has new tenants; unfortunately our last couple had to return home during the Covid crisis to help with family. There was a minimal delay before our managing estate agents found us new tenants and they have settled well. There were some inspections that were required at the change of tenancy and a repair was required to the house roof but no other major issues occurred.

The Chantry House has just undergone a quinquennial style inspection from which a maintenance and repair schedule can be prepared. The upstairs kitchen has been refreshed: cupboards moved and new worktops fitted. There is now room for a small countertop fridge to be installed once we are able to get one.

Of course, despite the outgoings continuing in the Chantry, unfortunately we have had no income as our bookings all had to stop – our bank account has therefore not shown much increase in our funds this year. Use of the building has continued as the Benefice Office (although operating behind closed doors) has been working through the lockdowns.

Following lengthy discussions at Chantry, Standing and PCC committees the control and governance of the Chantry House has been clarified and organised in accordance with the current legal responsibilities of Trustees (of the PCC) under the Charity Act legislation. A constitution, by which the Chantry will be managed, was prepared, discussed and formally accepted by all committees involved. The Chantry accounts will continue to be consolidated as usual with the PCC accounts prior to presenting them to both the Charity Commission and the Church of England. The Chantry will work on an annual budget that is set following thought and discussion between all parties and finally approved by the PCC.

As the year progresses we all hope that restrictions will begin to lift and our building can once again become a hub of life within the heart of our town and church. Don't forget that before the rooms can be opened for public hire and use, the garden (which is sheltered and beautiful) should be available for hire.

Isobel Gilbert - Chair Chantry Committee

## **Fabric Committee**

The Fabric Committee has been unable to meet during the past year due to the lockdowns resulting from the Covid 19 Pandemic. However, the following items have been completed.

### **1. The 2016 Quinquennial Stonework Repairs to the Church**

The QQ Repairs were carried out by Steve Todd during the 1<sup>st</sup> lockdown last April and our architect Russell Christison, who signed off the work, was pleased with Steve's work. The stonemason's and architects' fees have been paid and we have recovered the VAT from the Listed Places of Worship Scheme. Our treasurer, Peter Morris, estimates there will be a balance of about £8,000 in the restricted Fabric Fund, which will go towards the forthcoming QQ Inspection, due to be held in June 2021, and any further work which may be required. Our grateful thanks to Peter for managing the Fabric Fund and for recovering the VAT.

### **2. The Repairs to the Church Bells**

Brett Masters, the Steeple Keeper, reported that the main repair works to the church bells was completed on 27<sup>th</sup> November last year by John Taylor and Co., with a few minor things still to do. The work was also supported by local volunteers who contributed over 500 hours to the scheme, thereby saving significant expenditure. (Please see the enclosed report from Brett which was presented at the Bell Ringers AGM in January 2021)

As yet, the Bell Ringers have not managed to ring the bells altogether as the ring of 12, but they did manage to ring 6 of them on Christmas Day and everyone noticed the difference. They are looking forward to ringing all the bells later this year.

### **3. The E-Bound Roof Alarm**

The annual service of the roof alarm by E-Bound is scheduled for the 9<sup>th</sup> April 2021. There were minor problems at first, with frequent activation of the alarm, but this has now been resolved.

### **3. Ongoing Repairs and Maintenance to be carried out**

a) The leaks in the church roof and the repair to the 'door stay' on the left-hand side of the West Door are ongoing and will be included in the next QQ Survey.

During the winter months with heavy rainfall, water gushed out of the downpipes and on to the roof above the South Aisle. Russell, our architect, thought that this could potentially be directed underneath the splash lap of the lead roll giving rise to the leaks in the roof. A simple solution to this the problem would be to continue the drainpipe across the roof and into the parapet gutter.

b) In December, Steve Todd cleared the gutters and downpipes of debris, and he has agreed to do this on an annual basis.

c) A Maintenance Schedule for the church has been drawn up and accepted by the PCC.

### **4. The Churchyard, which is the responsibility of the Town Council**

a) Repairs to the millstream wall. This matter is ongoing, due to revised documentation being required by the Diocesan Advisory Committee.

b) With regard to the tree which is rubbing against the north aisle corner of the church, near the choir vestry, we are awaiting a report from an arboriculturist, so that a tree surgeon can deal with the problem. I should like to thank Reverend Paula and the Tove Benefice Office for all their help and support during the past year, which has been a challenging time for all of us.

Kate Saul - Fabric Committee

## **St Lawrence Society of Ringers**



### **Steeple Keeper's Report 2020**

**Issued January 24<sup>th</sup> during the 2021 AGM**

Maintenance has been carried out on a proactive and reactive basis throughout the year.

The Tower is generally in very good condition, with only a leak in the roof to report. All facilities have been available throughout the year - when required.

Details of tasks undertaken are within the attached table, these are divided into quarters for both the Bells and Tower.

The Bell Project finally started in November. Clappers for 8 & 12 and sliders sent to John Taylor & Co on Monday 9<sup>th</sup>. Preparation for the works started over the weekend of 14<sup>th</sup> when the back 7 wheels were removed, slider runner boards removed, trap doors opened, and a big clear-out began. Main works started on 16<sup>th</sup> November; wheels were replaced to the back 7 bells, new slider runner boards installed, and sliders refitted. New bearings fitted to 10 & 11 when the 11<sup>th</sup> proved a little bit too big for its pit... Sliders for 1-4 were lifted and the re-roping of 4 & 5. Works with JT&Co signed off on Nov 24<sup>th</sup> with a few DIY tasks remaining. New Ceiling bosses have been installed in the clock floor to reduce rope wear and the rope guide boards reworked to suit.

The clock chiming system has continued to be problematic with Cumbria Clock Company not responding to calls for support. A new control system was tested in December with great success, the 'system' is in its infancy and work is ongoing to be finalise this so it can be used to replace the current system. There is an opportunity to revive the chiming drum using this system.

As always, works in the tower is seldom a single person task and support is always gratefully received – this year more than most. Thank you to Jonathan King, John Stanworth, John White, Chris Bullied for their support throughout the year and with the bell project. Also, a thank you to Andrew, Barbara, Joanne, Richard and Rev. Paula for their support with the bell project

Thank You!

Brett Masters  
Steeple Keeper 2020

## **Servers Report**

There is nothing to report as we have not had Acolytes duties since March 20. I have only ordered two transfers for Paschal Candles.

Chris Williams

## **Report from Music**

This year the Covid pandemic has had a devastating effect to the music in the Church, both to the choir and for the congregation.

Choir practices in person have had to move to virtual meetings, this limits collective singing due to the latency issues. At Christmas there was limited practice allowed and a recording was made of "Once in Royal" to open the Virtual Carol service. With a live performance there may be more nerves, but any mistakes made are just passed over, however with a recording the mistakes stay and somehow are more noticeable. The choir rose to the challenge of not only having to be recorded but also having a camera pointed at them while they were singing.

At the beginning of the first lockdown, I decided that I would try to record every track of the album that made me fall in love with the organ. I uploaded these to YouTube and the links were included in the new letters that Paula sent out. I was very touched that people did enjoy these.

A few virtual services were created during the last year, some hymns or solo organ music was recorded for these special services.

Michael Tinsley

## **St Lawrence Society of Ringers**

From April 2020 till August 2020 there was no ringing at St Lawrence due to lockdown. Restrictions eased in August 2020 and there was ringing before services for 15 minutes on 6 out of the 12 bells. As we entered the second wave ringing was stopped again.

September saw the bell project happen. Due to local labour of Brett Masters, John Stanworth, Jonathan King and John White we only required a professional bellhanger for 2 days. The wheels on the back 7 bells were replaced and sold for funds, and there was other general maintenance carried out in order to ease the 'go' of some of the back bells. Ringing was allowed on Christmas day and again 6 out of the 12 bells were rung. In 2021 we have not seen any lifting of restrictions. However, the tenor bell has been tolled for both the funeral of Captain Sir Tom Moore, and for the funeral of Margaret Lawson (Grandma of the society). We are hopeful that ringing will resume after the final social distancing measures are lifted in June.

Celia Wood - Secretary

## **Deanery Synod Report**

Synod has met only once since last year and that was in November when a traffic light system was put forward for services moving forward. What we cannot do, what we might be able to do and what we can do. A new representative needs to be appointed as I have stepped down from this committee too.

Rona Cambray

## **Churches Together in Towcester (CTT)**

We started 2020 with our programme of meetings for the year planned as were the usual events such as The Good Friday Service, Ascension Day and Pentecost.

Unfortunately, this did not all go as planned as we were soon in lockdown.

However, Rev Lulu, who was chair at that time, ensured that Churches Together activities did not come to an end. In the first instance we quickly up scaled our computer skills so that we were able to continue meeting via Zoom.

Whilst virtual services were held for Easter Ascension Day, Pentecost and other occasions which occur in the cycle of church life the focus for many changed to ensure the practical needs of the community were being met during the pandemic.

We have received regular updates from The Food bank and the Wellbeing Cafe These are much valued resources in our community It says so much about the inspirational and innovative leadership of these 2 resources that they have managed to continue serving the community so well during these challenging times.

We were sorry to lose Rev Paul Knight who retired and left the area and who had done such inspirational work in the community. His place on the CTT committee was taken by Melanie Whitlock Paul had in fact written the Lent courses for 2020 which was a cross denominational resource.

Despite the pandemic the "Its Your Move" booklets were distributed as usual to the primary schools in Towcester and Greens Norton

Our AGM was held virtually in September and Melanie stepped up to the role of Chair. She quickly became proactive in organising a virtual Carol Service as we were unable to organise "Carols in the Square.

It was not possible to hold a service this year for World Day of Prayer. However, information was circulated as to how a service could be accessed on line and we look forward to hopefully returning to a traditional service in 2022.

The Welcome Cakes initiative was not able to continue due to Covid restrictions. However, people were continuing to move into the new houses. The Welcome card was quickly updated and reprinted giving up to date details of the churches and the clergy.

Expenditure this year has been on the "Its Your Move" booklets. The Virtual Carol Service and the new Welcome cards

Our meetings have also been an opportunity to offer thanks to all the clergy who have guided us so well through unprecedented times. At the present time we are on a challenging road and much of the future is still unknown but the CTT remain positive and are looking ahead to exploring new ways for the Churches to work together in the Post Pandemic era.

Carol Lucas - Secretary

## **Marriage Preparation**

See Child and Families worker report.

## **Mothers' Union**

During this past year members have kept in touch with each via email, cards, telephone calls etc. We managed to hold one in-person meeting in St Bartholomew's church in September for the annual Wave of Prayer Service. In 2021 we have adapted yet again and have held two Zoom meetings. MU nationally has been very supportive sending news and inspirational messages "on line". Our members have continued to generously donate to MU projects both at home and abroad. This year we have 14 enrolled members. We are hoping that it will not be too long before we can get together in person to share fellowship and stories of how we all got through this strange year.

Carol Johnson

## **St Lawrence Flower Arrangers**

There was a virtual flower festival in 2020 which seemed to be appreciated by the community.

Regrettably we do not plan to hold one this year as we cannot be sure social distancing will be removed by August. Hopefully we can make more of Harvest in terms of Church decoration.

Rona Cambray

## Reader's Report

It goes without saying that this has been a very strange year. When we went on holiday on the 1<sup>st</sup> of March last year we had no idea what would happen whilst we were away and believed that Zoom was an iced lolly. When we returned on 4th April it was to a very different place to the one that we left and a new Zoom was to take a leading role in our lives from then even until now.

As a Reader I have used Zoom to attend and lead Morning Prayer, attend and sometimes lead Sunday worship and lead weekly Bible Study.

In the absence of in-church services I have contributed to the reflections used on Sundays.

I have continued to play a part on the Ministry team and attend meetings twice a month, again mostly on Zoom.

Services at Ridgway have ceased but I have maintained contact by phone, but am anxious, as are John Smith and Chris Williams, to resume as soon as possible.

Believing that fellowship is an important part of our life together, I have been involved in the venture of Men-not-at-The Bull when we meet to discuss something of interest about once a month.

I look forward to our churches being open again without having to book and to the changes in the way that we exercise our ministry as a Benefice which may be deemed desirable.

John Booth

## Licensed Lay Minister

The past year has been very different to my usual year as Licensed Lay Minister. During this time I have stayed in contact with a good number of people I would normally visit as well as others I know. I have been reading, and watching/listening to many discussions on media sites – listening and learning which has been so useful during this time.

We don't know how our ministry will look when we are able to return. I am prepared to go along with new regulations if it means I can minister to the elderly in our community. I am excited about the prospect of a new way if this is what it will mean and I will endeavour to support our clergy as they ask.

Mary Blanchard

## Report from Claire Reetz, Children and Families worker with Marriage Preparation report

Work in the Benefice	Tots own and little sprouts	Pre-school groups in the Benefice were closed in March of last year due to the start of lockdown. Claire then began to add all existing contacts to the database created by Revd Paula. Following this families were contacted weekly via a mailing with bible stories, craft ideas and prayers. Tots Own restarted in the Autumn for a short time in September and again in December. Claire has provided walking groups for adults in Towcester for parents across the Benefice and has met up with individuals to provide support throughout the year. Pre-school groups are due to reopen in April 2021.
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	Family Service	Family service in Towcester has been severely disrupted this year. The service resumed in the Autumn but for a short period before the November lockdown. Attendance was low during this period. Family service will resume in St Lawrence in June.
	Family Praise	Family praise in Greens Norton has been severely disrupted this year. The service resumed in the Autumn but for a short period before the November lockdown. Attendance was low during this period. Family service will resume in St Bartholomew's in May.
	Family Worship	Claire has worked alongside a group of worship leaders to plan a family zoom service which will take place monthly.
	Messy Church	No messy church sessions have taken place this year due to restrictions.
	Other church events	Claire worked as part of the planning team for the Greens Norton Scarecrow festival last autumn. She organised a team of volunteers to create a Christmas trail event in Towcester which welcomed around 200 families from across the Benefice. Claire is now working with volunteers to create Easter trails at St. Bartholomew's, St. Lawrence, St. Mary's and St. Michael's churches. Claire has worked as part of a team of churches together leaders to plan and lead a wellbeing after school group with 15 children aged between 9 and 14.
	Marriage preparation course	6 couples attended the Marriage preparation course held in the Chantry house in February 2020. Due to restrictions, the next course will be held on zoom.
	Lent group	Claire offered a Lent course which ran for 3 weeks, with a group of adults in Greens Norton. Unfortunately, this group had to stop due to the lockdown.
	It's your move	Claire led 'it's your move' sessions with Melanie Whitlock and Revd Paula via zoom to talk to children about moving to secondary school in Greens Norton, Towcester CE and Nicholas Hawksmoor Primary Schools.
	Children and families committee meetings	The children and families committee meet quarterly to discuss work in the benefice, training and finances. This group is made up of a representative from each parish, as well as representative from the diocese. Minutes of the meetings can be available on request and Claire shares a short report for committee members to share with PCC's.
Work in School	Greens Norton Primary	Claire continues to support the school as a school governor and has provided weekly Collective Worship for the past academic year. Claire is looking forward to going back into school to support for an afternoon each week in the summer term.
	Towcester Primary	Claire continues to support the school by providing weekly collective worship for the past academic year. She will be running an after-school club via zoom for year 4 children beginning after Easter.
Diocese work	Children and families worker meetings	As a diocese, children and families workers/ministers are encouraged to meet every other month to share ideas and good practice as well as to discuss upcoming training opportunities.
Deanery work	Deanery synod meetings	Claire attends Deanery Synod meetings and Greater Chapter meetings.

Training		Claire continues to study for her three-year diploma in Pioneering, mission and leadership. The course is now all on zoom and Claire is due to complete her second year in July this year.
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## Report from Revd Angela Hammett, Curate

I am grateful for the opportunity to serve my title here in the Tove benefice. This means that I will spend between three and five years here completing my initial training as a clergyperson under the supervision of Revd Paula. I began work here on Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> of June 2020.

Like Ven David and Revd Lulu, I am serving on a house for duty basis. The house that the diocese has made available to us so that we can live and serve in the benefice is the Rectory on Towcester Road in Greens Norton. It is a lovely house and we are happy to live here. We were fortunate to be able to move in as soon as the first lockdown lifted and we arrived here on June 10<sup>th</sup>.

In exchange, I have committed to work Sundays and three other days a week. One of these is meant to be devoted to my curacy studies. In practice I consistently spend more time than this in parish work. I have also taken a Biblical Hebrew class and have also been spending other days in the week continuing to study Luke's gospel – specifically Luke 7.36-50. Curacy training days and weekends have gone ahead, but on Zoom.

Covid, and the measures needed to combat its spread, have had a significant impact on my first year of curacy. My ordination as a deacon was delayed until September 26<sup>th</sup> and, even then, the ordination took place behind masks in a nearly empty cathedral. In the meantime, I served as an assistant curate because Bishop Donald declared that I shared in his cure of souls. (The word curate comes from cure of souls.) It is hoped that I, and others in my cohort, will be ordained priest in another quiet ceremony at the cathedral on June 27<sup>th</sup> 2021.

Inevitably the usual opportunities to spend time with people have been limited by the requirements to stay at home and to social distance. My first physical meetings with people were at individual private prayer. Contact with children and families has been focussed on the Christmas and Easter trails. Chances to be hospitable as we would like still lie in the future.

I am very grateful for Zoom which has made it possible to start to get to know a number of you over the internet. The daily 9am Zoom morning prayer is an anchor. Zoom has also made possible collaborative working, through deanery chapters, ministry team meetings, PCCs, standing committees, and worship planning groups. The fellowship of Time4tea (which Jane Small, Mary Blanchard and I set up together) is a pleasure every Wednesday afternoon as it attracts approximately a dozen people to chat for three quarters of an hour before closing with prayer.

I have had ample opportunities to contribute to the reshaping of worship for our changing circumstances. This has included zoom worship, as well as socially distanced matins, Sunday Eucharists, family worship, and festive services. I have also learnt to write Sunday reflections – a subtly different discipline from the usual sermon writing.

I consider myself privileged to be able to work and learn alongside such a varied, gifted ministry team as we serve God in the communities of this benefice. Thank you.

## **Report from Revd Lulu Pelly, Assistant Priest**

As for everyone, the last year has been challenging as I have sought new ways to minister. The March to June was a period of learning about online worship through Zoom (an ongoing experience) and listening to how God is calling us to be his people, also on going. My roles include being Assistant Priest in the Benefice, for the Diocese Bishop's Self-Supporting Officer for the Northampton Archdeaconry and for the County, Chaplain to St. John Ambulance Northamptonshire and Trustee of the Towcester foodbank. From March 2020, I felt God was calling all of us to be practising our faith outside of our church buildings in new ways.

Churches Together in Towcester founded the Towcester foodbank in 2012. Until June 2020, Revd Paul Knight, Baptist minister was Chair of the Trustees. Paul retired in July 2020 and for the next six months I took the chair. Working with the team at the foodbank has taken up about 50 per cent of my ministry time. The foodbank has, like the Church, needed to adapt to an ever-changing scene with restrictions and guidelines. One effect of the First Lockdown was that 80 % of volunteers were shielding. Fortunately, many stepped forward to take their place but due governance and taking up two references for each person has taken a lot of administrative time. The foodbank is ably run by an Operational Team and Helen Garton. Co-Ordinator and Trainer of volunteers and David Andrews, Store Manager have been key to the foodbank service with the other trustees and supervisors contributing hugely of time and effort. The community continues to give generously stock and money to the work of the foodbank and for which we are very grateful.

From January to March I completed a 500-mile pilgrimage (averaging 6-7 miles a day) in memory of my eldest brother who died from Covid 19 in April 2020. This has been hugely rewarding in many ways and I look forward to sharing walking and talking with others in the Benefice. I am very grateful for the generous donors who supported me by raising in excess of £5000 for the work of the foodbank.

Pastoral, hospital and residential home visiting and home communion, face to face meetings have all been severely restricted, but we hope these restrictions will ease shortly. I continue to value being part of the Benefice Ministry Team; staff meetings, worshipping and working together to serve our community is a blessing. I am grateful to Paula our Rector on her initiative to communicate fully and widely through the weekly Bulletin which provides so much prayerful resource both locally and from the Diocese and the wider Church.

## **Report from Revd Paula Challen, Rector**

This is the second APCM report as Rector. 2020 was certainly not the year any of us expected it would be. I delivered my 2019 report at Greens Norton and Towcester last year on the weekend before we headed into the first lockdown. There was a hope in the air, that come the end of the summer we would be returning to 'normal', and yet having just marked the first anniversary we are still not back to 'normal' and suspect the effects will last for many months to come.

The Greens Norton and Towcester APCMs were also the day I announced we would be getting a curate and it has been a delight to welcome Angela and Chris into the benefice and to ministry team. Angela is here as a House for Duty Curate. What that means is her benefice time is 3 days plus Sundays. Her current working pattern is Sunday to Wednesday – therefore please be mindful of this when calling or emailing if you don't get an immediate response.

Whilst mentioning working pattern, I would also point out that Lulu is also House for Duty and her commitment to the benefice should be 2 days plus Sundays. Throughout the lockdown she worked full time and I am extremely grateful for her support in 2020. Lulu's working pattern is slightly more fluid, but please be mindful when contacting her too.

In my 2019 report I spoke about **communication** and said “how we do communication is essential, not only within our churches but also in our wider communities. Good communication isn’t necessarily about doing more, it is about making sure what we are doing is being read alongside thinking carefully about how and where we communicate.” Little did we know how much we would develop and need to change. Everything stepped up a gear as we realised we needed to keep in touch: the pastoral telephone tree, weekly emails that are sent to over 300 people and monthly postal letter to 50 people. We used zoom for Bible study, church social groups, PCC and general meetings, marriage preparation, governor meetings, funeral, and wedding meetings.

The ways we **worship** across the benefice have had to adapt to lockdown and then various release stages of guidance since. As a clergy team we tried to meet a broad spectrum of needs and abilities to connect with us. Providing weekly reflection on the Word every single week for the past year (via email) has been a significant achievement. This has enabled people at home, joining in zoom services and, when we could, those gathering in church to hear the same message. We knew early on that zoom may not be everyone’s preferred method of worship that is why we offered alternative suggestions and resources. Thank you to everyone who has supported the whole ministry team in the new and different ways we each have experienced being church.

I reflected last year on how Lulu and my priestly ministry ‘touches lives’ across our communities and in 2020 not only our communities, but across the world. Our communities are diverse and growing, it continues to be a privilege to serve them and remind us of the quote attributed to William Temple “The Church is the only society that exists for the benefit of those who are not its members.”

Here is just a couple of messages I received this year *‘I don’t think I can say thank you enough for everything you did’* and *‘you were/are the rock that held us together over the last couple of months and I really appreciate everything you did’*.

The **financial** impact of 2020 was felt across the benefice and each PCC treasurer will share more about that in their report. The ongoing financial impact continues to be of great concern, with 3 of churches now seeing income significantly less than expenditure. Financial struggles are not a new challenge, when they were working on the bell in St Lawrence they came across some parish magazines from Canon Curtis along with some paper accounts. Even in those days Canon Curtis was telling the people of Towcester how short they were of money and that they need to look at fundraising efforts in order to make ends meet. However, we cannot just sit back expecting things will automatically get better, we need to start addressing this continued issue in 2021 – bottom line is we need to find ways in which to increase our income or we need to reduce our expenditure. As soon as we start saying “well we won’t pay our benefice share” we are saying something about the value we place on ministry. I want us to be a thriving benefice where we can continue to bless our community. As part of a wider stewardship campaign I have asked Chris Hammett to head up a benefice treasurers’ group to look at a number of specific areas, and this will be reported back to PCCs in due course.

Whilst the majority of reports at APCM focus on the past 12 months, I also think the incumbent’s report should say something about the future. I am excited by the Church of England’s Vision in the 2020s work which is subtitled ‘Christ centred and Jesus shaped. Simpler, humbler, bolder’ and I hope that during 2021, with my ministry team, Churchwardens and PCCs we can look at developing our own vision and strategy based on this central vision alongside the 5 Marks of Mission.

- To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom
- To teach, baptise and nurture new believers
- To respond to human need by loving service
- To transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind and pursue peace and reconciliation
- To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation, and sustain and renew the life of the earth

Finally, I would like to say thank you to the Ministry Team, Benefice Office staff, Churchwardens and PCC members for the care and support they have shown me. I continue to be excited about the future, and I know that the diocese are excited by what they can already see us doing in the Tove Benefice, and that they are keen to help, support and encourage us. I hope and pray you continue to be excited to and willing to join me on this adventure as we grow in faith ourselves and make Christ known and shared across the benefice.

# Treasurer's Report

## 1. Introduction

The accounts for the year end 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2020 comprising the consolidated Statements of Financial Activity (SoFA) and Balance Sheets of the PCC and Chantry Committee are attached.

The accounts have been subject to an independent examination, which identified no matters of concern; and were approved at the January meeting of the PCC.

In November, 2020, Trustees of the PCC approved a Constitution and Delegation of Authority for Chantry Committee, which clearly sets out its role, responsibilities and a delegation of authority to commit to agreed spending plans.

This positive step brings the needed clarity to the relationship between the PCC and Chantry Committee and, therefore, the integrity to external financial reporting. Subject to approval at this APCM, the accounts will form the basis of reporting to the Charity Commission and the Church of England.

## 2. Key features of the accounts

Without doubt the major influence on the financial performance of the PCC during 2020 was, and still is, the impact of the COVID pandemic. The closure of the Church and the inability to hold the usual fund-raising activities, fewer weddings, not being able to hire rooms at the Chantry are just some of reasons why levels of receipts fell so significantly.

In April, as insufficient reserves were held to weather the financial storm, Standing Committee agreed that monthly payments of Parish share would be reduced. A revised budget was prepared with the assumption that matters would begin to improve towards the end of the year. Clearly, this was an invalid assumption. The impact on the PCC's finances were sudden, significant and long term, and the situation was looking bleak. A significant deficit was being forecast, with a substantial erosion of reserves being predicted. At the beginning of the year, reserves were already £8,000 lower than the minimum level advised by the Charity Commission.

Then, throughout the remainder of the year, the position turned so much for the better:

- An approach to the Trustees of the Richard Hicks Charity led to an additional £10,000 being given towards meeting the shortfall in Parish Share payments.
- An approach to the Combined Charities resulted in £4,500 being given to meet defined operating costs.
- An on-line giving account was created, which through the generosity of individuals, a further £4,400 (including Gift Aid) was raised.
- The new Parish Giving Scheme was successfully introduced by Bill Blyth and this has brought much needed certainty to the flow of receipts.
- There has been a number of meaningful donations from people associated with the Church.

The outcome of these actions is that after a transfer of funds from Chantry Committee, a surplus of £7493.55 was generated and reserves are now held, more or less, in line with levels recommended by the Charity Commission. Given the ongoing impact of COVID on the PCC's finances, this will prove to be important during 2021.

## 3. Conclusion

We started last year with little sign of the things to come. By April, with COVID, the situation had become serious and stressful. The degree of uncertainty and potential risks to the ongoing financial stability of the PCC were significant and worrying.

Then things got better and the year-end saw an outcome that could not have been foreseen earlier in the year. From my, the Treasurer's point of view, I want to thank the following people who have been instrumental in changing the position (and removing my headache):

- Reverend Paula for being so proactive and getting things done, and providing me with vital support and faith.
- Grahame Blanchard for steering Trustees of the Richard Hicks Charity towards giving support during a challenging year (in total the Charity supported the PCC with £34,000 towards Parish Share, and a further £17,428 in contributions that enabled the roof alarm to be installed and the Quinquennial repairs to be completed).
- Isobel Gilbert for her contributions and support in the review and consultation process, as well as the implementation of the new constitution for Chantry Committee.
- Bill Blyth his for wisdom, experience and support.
- Brian Manning for being the Independent Examiner and all the other help he continues to give me unseen in the background.
- All those who have shown their generosity and support to the Church through donations.

#### 4. Recommendation

I am happy to try and answer questions on the accounts either during or after the APCM.

And I recommend that the attached accounts for 2020 are approved and that they form the basis for all external financial reporting.

Peter Morris

**Towcester St Lawrence Parochial Church Council**  
Statement of Financial Activity 2020

	General	Restricted	Designated	Total	2019
	£	£	£	£	£
<b><u>Incoming Resources</u></b>					
<b>Voluntary Income</b>					
Planned Giving	35313.60			35313.60	45978.49
Tax Recovered	9725.25	1350.00		11075.25	11466.66
Hicks Charity	34000.00	17428.50		51428.50	20000.00
Combined Charity	5538.12	5000.00		10538.12	0.00
Collections & Donations	7755.21	112.00		7867.21	6167.71
Other receipts		7398.78		7398.78	
Restricted and Designated Fund receipts					18873.52
<b>Total</b>	<b>92332.18</b>	<b>31289.28</b>		<b>123621.46</b>	<b>102486.38</b>
<b>Activities for Generating Income</b>					
Magazine & copying	1306.80			1306.80	764.42
Sale of refreshments	187.79		221.86	409.65	2743.90
Flower festival and raffles	45.00			45.00	1770.53
Musical events and Film nights	111.00			111.00	700.20
Sales	90.00			90.00	90.67
Fete	0.00			0.00	552.26
Chantry House hire fees			2815.00	2815.00	8415.50
<b>Total</b>	<b>1740.59</b>		<b>3036.86</b>	<b>4777.45</b>	<b>15037.48</b>
<b>Income from Church activities</b>					
Wedding fees	278.00			278.00	2094.00
Funeral fees	1792.00			1792.00	2458.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>2070.00</b>			<b>2070.00</b>	<b>4552.00</b>
<b>Investment Income</b>					
Rent from 42 St Lawrence Road South			9883.90	9883.90	10675.00
Deposit Interest	4.27		0.88	5.15	
<b>Total</b>	<b>4.27</b>		<b>9884.78</b>	<b>9889.05</b>	<b>10675.00</b>
<b>Other</b>					
Restricted and Designated Fund receipts				0.00	
Other Parishes for Benefice costs	6290.40			6290.40	5660.00
Miscellaneous	50.00			50.00	
<b>Total</b>	<b>6340.40</b>			<b>6340.40</b>	<b>5660.00</b>
				0.00	
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>102487.44</b>	<b>31289.28</b>	<b>12921.64</b>	<b>146698.36</b>	<b>138410.86</b>

## Outgoing Expenses

<b>Parish Share</b>					
Paid in Full	(63265.00)		(63265.00)	(61500.00)	
<b>Total</b>	<b>(63265.00)</b>		<b>(63265.00)</b>	<b>(61500.00)</b>	
<b>Church Activities</b>					
Utilities & Insurance costs	(6929.48)	(3424.10)	(10353.58)	(12608.63)	
Cleaning & Maintenance	(1915.96)	(2880.60)	(4796.56)	(7081.95)	
Cost of Upkeep	(64.83)		(64.83)	(996.07)	
Clergy expenses & Training	(811.54)		(811.54)	(2624.14)	
Organist & Choir fees	(238.00)		(238.00)	(1990.00)	
Licences	(472.90)		(472.90)	(679.44)	
Other	(35.73)	(750.00)	(785.73)		
<b>Total</b>	<b>(10468.44)</b>	<b>(7054.70)</b>	<b>(17523.14)</b>	<b>(25980.23)</b>	
<b>Cost of Fundraising</b>					
FWO	(50.88)		(50.88)	(184.56)	
Other costs					
<b>Total</b>	<b>(50.88)</b>		<b>(50.88)</b>	<b>(184.56)</b>	
<b>Administration</b>					
Salaries	(14458.44)		(14458.44)	(15053.08)	
Printing & Stationery	(6586.58)		(6586.58)	(7685.25)	
Telephone & Broadband	(1609.59)		(1609.59)	(1320.38)	
Website	(813.14)		(813.14)	(925.54)	
Other costs	(1756.14)		(1756.14)	(72.00)	
<b>Total</b>	<b>(25223.89)</b>		<b>(25223.89)</b>	<b>(25056.25)</b>	
<b>Other costs</b>					
Fees and Costs re 42 St Lawrence Road South		(6648.19)	(6648.19)	(1880.13)	
Donations and Subscriptions	(70.00)		(70.00)	(538.46)	
Restricted and Designated Fund payments		(36080.99)	(36080.99)	(1701.53)	
<b>Total</b>	<b>(70.00)</b>	<b>(36080.99)</b>	<b>(6648.19)</b>	<b>(42799.18)</b>	<b>(4120.12)</b>
<b>Total Payments</b>	<b>(99078.21)</b>	<b>(36080.99)</b>	<b>(13702.89)</b>	<b>(148862.09)</b>	<b>(116841.16)</b>
<b>Increase/(Decrease) in Resources before transfers</b>	<b>3409.23</b>	<b>(4791.71)</b>	<b>(781.25)</b>	<b>(2163.73)</b>	<b>21569.70</b>
<b>Transfers between funds</b>					
Designated to Restricted		824.47	(824.47)	0.00	
From Chantry Committee	4084.32		(4084.32)	0.00	0.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>4084.32</b>	<b>824.47</b>	<b>(4908.79)</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>
<b>Net Increase/(Decrease) in Resources</b>	<b>7493.55</b>	<b>(3967.24)</b>	<b>(5690.04)</b>	<b>(2163.73)</b>	<b>21569.70</b>
<b>Net Current Assets brought forward from previous year</b>	<b>17014.43</b>	<b>14758.73</b>	<b>10084.39</b>	<b>41857.55</b>	
<b>Net Current Assets at 31st December 2020</b>	<b>24507.98</b>	<b>10791.49</b>	<b>4394.35</b>	<b>39693.82</b>	

## Note

The transfer of £824.47 from Designated to Restricted Fund relates to two donations made (WW1 Fund of £324.47 and one of £500) given specifically for contributions to the Altar cloth and wrongly allocated as Designated Fund during 2019.



**Towcester St Lawrence Parochial Church Council**  
**Balance Sheet at 31st December 2020**

	General £	Restricted £	Designated £	Consolidated £	2019 £
<b>Tangible Assets</b>					
Chantry House			250000.00	250000.00	250000.00
42 St Lawrence Road South			160000.00	160000.00	160000.00
<b>Investments</b>					
Shares in Traidcraft	532.50			532.50	532.50
<b>Total Fixed Assets</b>	<b>532.50</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>410000.00</b>	<b>410532.50</b>	<b>410532.50</b>
<b>Current Assets</b>					
Cash at bank	16999.12	10791.49	3988.82	31779.43	38140.09
Cash in hand			14.36	14.36	27.60
Deposits COIF/CBF	364.82		385.86	750.68	745.53
Accrued receivables	8434.00		5.31	8439.31	7124.51
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>25797.94</b>	<b>10791.49</b>	<b>4394.35</b>	<b>40983.78</b>	<b>46037.73</b>
<b>Current Liabilities</b>					
Accrued amounts falling due	(1289.96)			(1289.96)	(4180.18)
<b>Net Current Assets</b>	<b>24507.98</b>	<b>10791.49</b>	<b>4394.35</b>	<b>39693.82</b>	<b>41857.55</b>
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>25040.48</b>	<b>10791.49</b>	<b>414394.35</b>	<b>450226.32</b>	<b>452390.05</b>
<b>Receivables</b>	£	£			
Planned Giving	4443.00				
Tax recovered	611.00				
Donations	2286.00				
Wedding fees	278.00				
Funeral fees	816.00	8434.00			
<b>Amounts Falling Due</b>					
Crown Gas & Power	(549.81)				
Apogee P&S	(533.18)				
Colemans P&S	(206.97)	(1289.96)			
<b>Total</b>		<b>7144.04</b>			
<b>Restricted Funds Balances</b>					
Christmas Lunch Fund	675.38				
"Little Sprouts" Towcester	911.98				
Altar Cloth Fund	924.47				
Fabric Fund	8279.66				
<b>Total</b>	<b>10791.49</b>				
<b>Represented by the following Net Current Assets:</b>				<b>Total</b>	
				£	
Cash at bank - PCC - Lloyds	16999.12	10791.49	2375.16	30165.77	
Cash at bank - Chantry Committee - HSBC			1613.66	1613.66	
Deposited with CCLA/COIF	364.82		385.86	750.68	
Cash in hand			14.36	14.36	
Net accruals	7144.04		5.31	7149.35	
				0	
<b>Total</b>	<b>24507.98</b>	<b>10791.49</b>	<b>4394.35</b>	<b>39693.82</b>	
<b>Cash at banks</b>					
Lloyds Bank	30715.77				
HSBC (Chantry Committee)	1613.66				
Held on behalf of Wildlife Trust	(550.00)				
<b>Total</b>	<b>31779.43</b>				

**Note**

Cash at Lloyds bank @ 31 December 2020 includes £550 held on behalf of Wildlife Trust bringing balance to £30165.77



## Independent examiner's report on the accounts

### Section A

### Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/ members of	The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Lawrence, Towcester		
On accounts for the year ended	31 <sup>st</sup> December 2020	Charity no (if any)	1130077
Set out on pages			

#### Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act,
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act, and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

#### Basis of independent examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with 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 trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an 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

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention ~~(other than that disclosed below \*)~~

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect, the requirements:

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities 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.

*\* Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.*

Signed:

Date: 19/1/21

Name:

Brian W J Manning

Relevant professional qualification(s) or body

Inst. of Bankers (AIB)  
Retired Bank Director

Address:

32 Benham Rd, Greens Norton, Towcester, Northants, NN12 8DB



**Towcester St Lawrence**  
**Annual Report of the Treasurer**  
**To the**  
**Annual Parochial Church Meeting**

**1. Introduction**

The accounts for the year end 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2020 comprising the consolidated Statements of Financial Activity (SoFA) and Balance Sheets of the PCC and Chantry Committee are attached.

The accounts have been subject to an independent examination, which identified no matters of concern; and were approved at the January meeting of the PCC.

In November, 2020, Trustees of the PCC approved a Constitution and Delegation of Authority for Chantry Committee, which clearly sets out its role, responsibilities and a delegation of authority to commit to agreed spending plans.

This positive step brings the needed clarity to the relationship between the PCC and Chantry Committee and, therefore, the integrity to external financial reporting. Subject to approval at this APCM, the accounts will form the basis of reporting to the Charity Commission and the Church of England.

**2. Key features of the accounts**

Without doubt the major influence on the financial performance of the PCC during 2020 was, and still is, the impact of the COVID pandemic. The closure of the Church and the inability to hold the usual fund-raising activities, fewer weddings, not being able to hire rooms at the Chantry are just some of reasons why levels of receipts fell so significantly.

In April, as insufficient reserves were held to weather the financial storm, Standing Committee agreed that monthly payments of Parish share would be reduced. A revised budget was prepared with the assumption that matters would begin to improve towards the end of the year. Clearly, this was an invalid assumption. The impact on the PCC's finances were sudden, significant and long term, and the situation was looking bleak. A significant deficit was being forecast, with a substantial erosion of reserves being predicted. At the beginning of the year, reserves were already £8,000 lower than the minimum level advised by the Charity Commission.

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- An approach to the Trustees of the Richard Hicks Charity led to an additional £10,000 being given towards meeting the shortfall in Parish Share payments.
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- An on-line giving account was created, which through the generosity of individuals, a further £4,400 (including Gift Aid) was raised.
- The new Parish Giving Scheme was successfully introduced by Bill Blyth and this has brought much needed certainty to the flow of receipts.
- There has been a number of meaningful donations from people associated with the Church.

The outcome of these actions is that after a transfer of funds from Chantry Committee, a surplus of £7493.55 was generated and reserves are now held, more or less, in line with levels recommended by the Charity Commission. Given the ongoing impact of COVID on the PCC's finances, this will prove to be important during 2021.

### 3. Conclusion

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Then things got better and the year-end saw an outcome that could not have been foreseen earlier in the year. From my, the Treasurer's point of view, I want to thank the following people who have been instrumental in changing the position (and removing my headache):

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- Isobel Gilbert for her contributions and support in the review and consultation process, as well as the implementation of the new constitution for Chantry Committee.
- Bill Blyth his for wisdom, experience and support.
- Brian Manning for being the Independent Examiner and all the other help he continues to give me unseen in the background.
- All those who have shown their generosity and support to the Church through donations.

### 4. Recommendation

I am happy to try and answer questions on the accounts either during or after the APCM.

And I recommend that the attached accounts for 2020 are approved and that they form the basis for all external financial reporting.

Peter Morris  
March, 2021

**Towcester St Lawrence Parochial Church Council**

Statement of Financial Activity 2020

	General £	Restricted £	Designated £	Total £	2019 £
<b>Incoming Resources</b>					
<b>Voluntary Income</b>					
Planned Giving	35313.60			35313.60	45978.49
Tax Recovered	9725.25	1350.00		11075.25	11466.66
Hicks Charity	34000.00	17428.50		51428.50	20000.00
Combined Charity	5538.12	5000.00		10538.12	0.00
Collections & Donations	7755.21	112.00		7867.21	6167.71
Other receipts		7398.78		7398.78	
Restricted and Designated Fund receipts					18873.52
<b>Total</b>	<b>92332.18</b>	<b>31289.28</b>		<b>123621.46</b>	<b>102486.38</b>
<b>Activities for Generating Income</b>					
Magazine & copying	1306.80			1306.80	764.42
Sale of refreshments	187.79		221.86	409.65	2743.90
Flower festival and raffles	45.00			45.00	1770.53
Musical events and Film nights	111.00			111.00	700.20
Sales	90.00			90.00	90.67
Fete	0.00			0.00	552.26
Chantry House hire fees			2815.00	2815.00	8415.50
<b>Total</b>	<b>1740.59</b>		<b>3036.86</b>	<b>4777.45</b>	<b>15037.48</b>
<b>Income from Church activities</b>					
Wedding fees	278.00			278.00	2094.00
Funeral fees	1792.00			1792.00	2458.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>2070.00</b>			<b>2070.00</b>	<b>4552.00</b>
<b>Investment Income</b>					
Rent from 42 St Lawrence Road South			9883.90	9883.90	10675.00
Deposit Interest	4.27		0.88	5.15	
<b>Total</b>	<b>4.27</b>		<b>9884.78</b>	<b>9889.05</b>	<b>10675.00</b>
<b>Other</b>					
Restricted and Designated Fund receipts				0.00	
Other Parishes for Benefice costs	6290.40			6290.40	5660.00
Miscellaneous	50.00			50.00	
<b>Total</b>	<b>6340.40</b>			<b>6340.40</b>	<b>5660.00</b>
				0.00	
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>102487.44</b>	<b>31289.28</b>	<b>12921.64</b>	<b>146698.36</b>	<b>138410.86</b>



## Outgoing Expenses

<b>Parish Share</b>					
Paid in Full	(63265.00)		(63265.00)	(61500.00)	
<b>Total</b>	<b>(63265.00)</b>		<b>(63265.00)</b>	<b>(61500.00)</b>	
<b>Church Activities</b>					
Utilities & Insurance costs	(6929.48)	(3424.10)	(10353.58)	(12608.63)	
Cleaning & Maintenance	(1915.96)	(2880.60)	(4796.56)	(7081.95)	
Cost of Upkeep	(64.83)		(64.83)	(996.07)	
Clergy expenses & Training	(811.54)		(811.54)	(2624.14)	
Organist & Choir fees	(238.00)		(238.00)	(1990.00)	
Licences	(472.90)		(472.90)	(679.44)	
Other	(35.73)	(750.00)	(785.73)		
<b>Total</b>	<b>(10468.44)</b>	<b>(7054.70)</b>	<b>(17523.14)</b>	<b>(25980.23)</b>	
<b>Cost of Fundraising</b>					
FWO	(50.88)		(50.88)	(184.56)	
Other costs					
<b>Total</b>	<b>(50.88)</b>		<b>(50.88)</b>	<b>(184.56)</b>	
<b>Administration</b>					
Salaries	(14458.44)		(14458.44)	(15053.08)	
Printing & Stationery	(6586.58)		(6586.58)	(7685.25)	
Telephone & Broadband	(1609.59)		(1609.59)	(1320.38)	
Website	(813.14)		(813.14)	(925.54)	
Other costs	(1756.14)		(1756.14)	(72.00)	
<b>Total</b>	<b>(25223.89)</b>		<b>(25223.89)</b>	<b>(25056.25)</b>	
<b>Other costs</b>					
Fees and Costs re 42 St Lawrence Road South		(6648.19)	(6648.19)	(1880.13)	
Donations and Subscriptions	(70.00)		(70.00)	(538.46)	
Restricted and Designated Fund payments		(36080.99)	(36080.99)	(1701.53)	
<b>Total</b>	<b>(70.00)</b>	<b>(36080.99)</b>	<b>(6648.19)</b>	<b>(42799.18)</b>	<b>(4120.12)</b>
<b>Total Payments</b>	<b>(99078.21)</b>	<b>(36080.99)</b>	<b>(13702.89)</b>	<b>(148862.09)</b>	<b>(116841.16)</b>
<b>Increase/(Decrease) in Resources before transfers</b>	<b>3409.23</b>	<b>(4791.71)</b>	<b>(781.25)</b>	<b>(2163.73)</b>	<b>21569.70</b>
<b>Transfers between funds</b>					
Designated to Restricted		824.47	(824.47)	0.00	
From Chantry Committee	4084.32		(4084.32)	0.00	0.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>4084.32</b>	<b>824.47</b>	<b>(4908.79)</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>
<b>Net Increase/(Decrease) in Resources</b>	<b>7493.55</b>	<b>(3967.24)</b>	<b>(5690.04)</b>	<b>(2163.73)</b>	<b>21569.70</b>
<b>Net Current Assets brought forward from previous year</b>	<b>17014.43</b>	<b>14758.73</b>	<b>10084.39</b>	<b>41857.55</b>	
<b>Net Current Assets at 31st December 2020</b>	<b>24507.98</b>	<b>10791.49</b>	<b>4394.35</b>	<b>39693.82</b>	

### **Note**

The transfer of £824.47 from Designated to Restricted Fund relates to two donations made (WW1 Fund of £324.47 and one of £500) given specifically for contributions to the Altar cloth and wrongly allocated as Designated Fund during 2019.

**Towcester St Lawrence Parochial Church Council**

Balance Sheet at 31st December 2020

	General £	Restricted £	Designated £	Consolidated £	2019 £
<b>Tangible Assets</b>					
Chantry House			250000.00	250000.00	250000.00
42 St Lawrence Road South			160000.00	160000.00	160000.00
<b>Investments</b>					
Shares in Traidcraft	532.50			532.50	532.50
<b>Total Fixed Assets</b>	<b>532.50</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>410000.00</b>	<b>410532.50</b>	<b>410532.50</b>
<b>Current Assets</b>					
Cash at bank	16999.12	10791.49	3988.82	31779.43	38140.09
Cash in hand			14.36	14.36	27.60
Deposits COIF/CBF	364.82		385.86	750.68	745.53
Accrued receivables	8434.00		5.31	8439.31	7124.51
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>25797.94</b>	<b>10791.49</b>	<b>4394.35</b>	<b>40983.78</b>	<b>46037.73</b>
<b>Current Liabilities</b>					
Accrued amounts falling due	(1289.96)			(1289.96)	(4180.18)
<b>Net Current Assets</b>	<b>24507.98</b>	<b>10791.49</b>	<b>4394.35</b>	<b>39693.82</b>	<b>41857.55</b>
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>25040.48</b>	<b>10791.49</b>	<b>414394.35</b>	<b>450226.32</b>	<b>452390.05</b>

<b>Receivables</b>	£	£
Planned Giving	4443.00	
Tax recovered	611.00	
Donations	2286.00	
Wedding fees	278.00	
Funeral fees	816.00	8434.00
<b>Amounts Falling Due</b>		
Crown Gas & Power	(549.81)	
Apogee P&S	(533.18)	
Colemans P&S	(206.97)	(1289.96)
<b>Total</b>		<b>7144.04</b>

<b>Restricted Funds Balances</b>	
Christmas Lunch Fund	675.38
"Little Sprouts" Towcester	911.98
Altar Cloth Fund	924.47
Fabric Fund	8279.66
<b>Total</b>	<b>10791.49</b>

**Represented by the following Net Current Assets:**

				Total £
Cash at bank - PCC - Lloyds	16999.12	10791.49	2375.16	30165.77
Cash at bank - Chantry Committee - HSBC			1613.66	1613.66
Deposited with CCLA/COIF	364.82		385.86	750.68
Cash in hand			14.36	14.36
Net accruals	7144.04		5.31	7149.35
				0
<b>Total</b>	<b>24507.98</b>	<b>10791.49</b>	<b>4394.35</b>	<b>39693.82</b>

**Cash at banks**

Lloyds Bank	30715.77
HSBC (Chantry Committee)	1613.66
Held on behalf of Wildlife Trust	(550.00)
<b>Total</b>	<b>31779.43</b>

**Note**

Cash at Lloyds bank @ 31 December 2020 includes £550 held on behalf of WildLife Trust bringing balance to £30165.77



## Independent examiner's report on the accounts

### Section A

### Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/  
members of

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of  
St Lawrence, Towcester

On accounts for the year  
ended

31<sup>st</sup> December 2020

Charity no  
(if any)

1130077

Set out on pages

**Respective  
responsibilities of  
trustees and examiner**

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act,
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act, and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

**Basis of independent  
examiner's statement**

My examination was carried out in accordance with 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 trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an 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**

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention ~~(other than that disclosed below \*)~~

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect, the requirements:
  - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; and
  - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities 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.

*\* Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.*

Signed:

Date:

19/1/21

Name:

Brian W J Manning

Relevant professional  
qualification(s) or body

Inst. of Bankers (AIB)  
Retired Bank Director

Address:

32 Benham Rd, Greens Norton, Towcester, Northants, NN12 8DB





# Independent examiner's report on the accounts

## Section A

## Independent Examiner's Report

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Date:

19/1/21

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Brian W J Manning

**Relevant professional  
qualification(s) or body**

Inst. of Bankers (AIB)  
Retired Bank Director

Address:

32 Benham Rd, Greens Norton, Towcester, Northants, NN12 8DB