

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF RUSHDEN WHITEFRIARS

England & Wales · Charity number 1130312

Details

Other names	WHITEFRIARS CHURCH PCC, RUSHDEN
Status	Registered
Legal form	Previously excepted
Registered	2009-06-24
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	Whitefriars Church C/O The Full Gospel Church 60 High Street South Rushden Northamptonshire NN10 0QX
Phone	01933 825576
Email	office@whitefriarschurch.org.uk
Website	www.whitefriarschurch.org.uk

Activities

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

Activities: Regular public worship open to all. Pastoral work. Teaching of Christianity through sermons, courses and small groups. Providing a youth ministry with a Christian ethos. Providing a range of mentoring activities. Promoting the whole mission of the church through provision of a range of activities. Supporting other charities in the UK and overseas.

Classification

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

Geography

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

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£144,441	£164,587	-	-
2023-12-31	£161,621	£134,818	-	-
2022-12-31	£125,835	£124,271	-	-
2021-12-31	£111,704	£111,978	-	-
2020-12-31	£147,288	£122,701	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Andrew Kenneth Owst		2023-04-24
CANON ANDREW ROY PRESLAND BSC HONS		
Emma Croxon		2024-04-22
Jeremy Smith		2021-03-01
Joshua Clarke		2025-04-28
Karen Patricia Woolley		2025-04-28
Luke Edward Makepeace		2025-05-19
Nisha Slater		2022-04-26
Rev Timothy Stewart Smith		2026-01-19
Richard Holley		2015-04-19
SARA ANN RAWLINSON OWST		2025-04-28
Simon Paul King		2025-04-28

Accounts

Whitefriars Church Rushden (Charity Number 1130312)

Trustees Annual Report 2024

Background

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) of Whitefriars Church, Rushden, has the responsibility of promoting the whole mission of the Church (pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical) in the parish. It became a registered charity in 2009 with the PCC members being registered as its trustees. It has complied with its duty of 'promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the church', and in section 4 of the Charities Act 2006 to have due regard to public benefit, guidance published by the Charity Commission.

Review of activities in 2024

This is an outline summary of the activities of Whitefriars church.

Whitefriars church started and finished 2024 without a Vicar. The church has continued to meet regularly, both on Sundays and in small mid-week groups. This has been enabled by a willing group of volunteers, augmented by visiting clergy with Permission To Officiate at monthly Holy Communion services.

A small group continued to hold monthly worship services in two of the town's residential care homes. These services followed a range of themes, as well as celebrating the major Christian festivals and are well attended by a good proportion of the residents in each home.

Additionally, monthly events provided spiritual and pastoral care for a group of retired people living more independently in the town.

The PCC met six times during 2024. Various sub-committees met several times between PCC meetings to look at specific areas of church management. Areas of PCC discussion and action included reviewing various policies and appropriate training for those holding DBS clearances. All the relevant church policies have been reviewed and updated, where required. PCC meetings also included active monitoring of Whitefriars church finances and consideration of issues from the wider church, through reports from Deanery, Diocesan and General Synods, as well as the Rushden Council of Churches.

As our paid youth worker resigned to move away in February, the PCC agreed to a small group of volunteers taking over responsibility for and running the Ignite youth group. With agreement from the PCC several members of Whitefriars engaged with other churches in Rushden to plan and run an Illuminate mission to teenage children in the local community. The LZ7 band was invited to come into 6 local secondary schools to talk to the students who were invited to attend concerts of relevant music and personal testimony from band members. PCC and other church members continue to help run a weekly youth group that resulted from this. Our thanks go to everyone involved in these activities.

In October we were formally told that our church office in Whitefriars School grounds would need to be vacated at the end of March 2025 and demolished - and that we would need to sign licenses so that the school could achieve academy status as part on the Tove Academy. We

took legal advice from Diocesan legal advisors and signed the licences in November after minor amendments were made.

We continue to employ 2 part-time members of staff. Emma Croxon has continued to develop as Children and Families Minister, working both with pre-school children and those in primary school – as well as overseeing age-appropriate children’s ministry within our weekly Sunday services, Sara Owst has continued to provide administrative support for the churchwardens and oversight of H&S procedures, etc.

GDPR

There have been no reported breaches of data, and the church continues to function within the guidelines laid out in the General Data Protection Regulations. The continued use of the ChurchSuite database has been instrumental in enabling safe communications with members of the church within the UK GDPR guidelines.

Safeguarding has always had a high priority within our church. Our Safeguarding Policy is kept updated in line with the guidelines laid down by the National safeguarding Team and the Diocesan Safeguarding Advisors. All members of the church are encouraged to complete a basic safeguarding training programme. All those that have contact with children and/or vulnerable adults hold current DBS certificates and have completed higher levels of safeguarding training that is appropriate to their role within the church. Whitefriars has a designated Parish Safeguarding Officer and an Assistant Safeguarding Officer (who is also a Diocesan Safeguarding Trainer and Recruiter). No major safeguarding issues have been reported.

PCC membership

At the annual meeting in April 2024, the following were either serving or elected:

Vicar	Vacant	
Wardens	Richard Holley Nisha Slater	
Diocesan Synod members	Andrew Presland	(General Synod)
Deanery Synod Representatives	Steve Holman Rosie Benn Richard Holley	
Elected members	Hannah Barker (to 2025) Celia Underwood (to 2025) Ken Owst (to 2025) Ally Gibson (to 2026) Lynda King (to 2026) Steph Chadwick to 2026) Emma Croxon (to 2027) Melvyn Hunter (to 2027) Jeremy Smith (to 2027)	(Treasurer) (PCC Secretary)

Unelected members

Matt Croxon

(Licensed Lay Minister)

Karen Wooley

(Licensed Lay Minister)

PCC committees and groups

Standing and Resources Committee: transacts urgent business as required between PCC meetings, including oversight of Whitefriars church finances, drafting the annual budget, monitoring income and expenditure as well as promoting planned giving.

Bridge Management and Minibus Management: carry out routine checks on the state of the Bridge church office, ensuring that safety checks and routine maintenance are carried out; ensure that the minibus is correctly maintained and insured.

Mission Committee: promotes a range of mission and outreach activities, including mission support, both in this country and overseas. Much of this is promoted to the congregation through the church's weekly notices and within Sunday services.

Each of these sub-committees has a Chair whose responsibilities include ensuring that they meet regularly, that meetings are properly minuted and reports returned to the PCC, management of their budget allocation, ensuring that expenditure is kept within the amounts allocated.

Richard Holley – Churchwarden 2024

whitefriarschurchrushden
Statement of Financial Activities

For the period from 01 January 2024 to 31 December 2024

	Unrestricted funds	Designated funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Prior year total funds
<i>Income and endowments from:</i>						
Donations and legacies	108,671.68	—	15,503.31	—	124,174.99	119,278.54
Income from charitable activities	2,870.24	4,165.77	10,413.11	—	17,449.12	39,777.79
Other income	1,257.13	—	1,560.00	—	2,817.13	2,565.11
Total income	112,799.05	4,165.77	27,476.42	—	144,441.24	161,621.44
<i>Expenditure on:</i>						
Expenditure on charitable activities	96,728.89	58.03	24,267.57	—	121,054.49	129,343.85
Other expenditure	—	3,205.42	40,327.08	—	43,532.50	5,474.50
Total expenditure	96,728.89	3,263.45	64,594.65	—	164,586.99	134,818.35
Net income / (expenditure) resources before transfer	16,070.16	902.32	(37,118.23)	—	(20,145.75)	26,803.09
<i>Transfers</i>						
Gross transfers between funds - in	—	—	7,500.00	—	7,500.00	5,000.00
Gross transfers between funds - out	(7,500.00)	—	—	—	(7,500.00)	(5,000.00)
<i>Other recognised gains / losses</i>						
Net movement in funds	8,570.16	902.32	(29,618.23)	—	(20,145.75)	26,803.09
<i>Reconciliation of funds</i>						
Total funds brought forward	21,277.51	29,078.25	31,744.15	—	82,099.91	55,296.82
Total funds carried forward	29,847.67	29,980.57	2,125.92	—	61,954.16	82,099.91
<i>Represented by</i>						
Unrestricted						
General fund	29,847.67	—	—	—	29,847.67	21,277.51
Designated						
Bridge Reserve	—	2,960.16	—	—	2,960.16	2,960.16
Mini Bus	—	4,885.99	—	—	4,885.99	3,996.39
Mission Fund	—	20,938.52	—	—	20,938.52	20,925.80
PA Fund	—	1,120.54	—	—	1,120.54	1,120.54
Vicarage Reserve	—	75.36	—	—	75.36	75.36
Restricted						
Children's & Youth Fund	—	—	1,778.68	—	1,778.68	1,419.64
Compassion	—	—	316.80	—	316.80	28.75
LZ7 Mission	—	—	—	—	—	30,202.02
Youth Residentials	—	—	30.44	—	30.44	93.74

Independent Examiner's Report to the PCC of Whitefriars Church, Rushden, Northamptonshire.

This report, on the accounts of Whitefriars Church, Rushden, for the year ended 31 December 2024, which is set out below, is in respect of an examination carried out under s.145 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act).

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The church's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The church's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of 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 examiners report

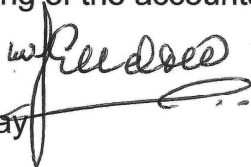
My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the church and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures 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 examiners statement

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

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect, the requirements:
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 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;
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

John Elldred
6 Nightingale way
Higham Ferrers
NN10 8PR



Date: ~~tba~~ 01/03/25

Accounts

Whitefriars Church, Rushden (Charity Number 1130312): Trustees' Annual Report for 2023

Background

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) of Whitefriars Church, Rushden, has the responsibility of promoting the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical in the parish. It became a registered charity during 2009, with the PCC members being registered as its trustees. It has complied with its duty of 'promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the church', and in section 4 of the Charities Act 2006 to have due regard to public benefit, guidance published by the Charity Commission.

Review of activities in 2023

This is an outline summary of the activities of the church.

During 2023, the Church has returned to meeting together for worship and for meetings, though some of the smaller committee meetings are still held using Zoom as committee members live and work at some distance and Zoom meetings reduce the negative effects of travel on the environment.

The Church has also become involved in the Greener Church project looking at ways in which members of the church collectively and individually can make small changes to their live-style that can have a beneficial long-term impact on the environment. The Bronze Award has already been achieved.

A small group has continued the monthly worship services in two of the town's residential care homes, though occasional outbreaks of Covid still intervene from time to time. These services follow a range of themes as well as the major festivals and are attended by a good proportion of the residents in each home.

The PCC met six times during 2023. The sub-committees met several times between PCC meetings. Areas of PCC discussion and action during 2023 included a review of the church's safeguarding policy and appropriate training for those holding DBS clearances, updates on the church's children's and youth work and its staffing and funding. All the relevant church policies have now been updated. Some have to be reviewed every year: others are revisited every three years. PCC meetings also included active monitoring of church finances, and consideration of issues from the wider church, through reports from Deanery, Diocesan and General Synods and the Rushden & Higham Council of Churches.

The vicar, Revd. Chris Youngman, decided that he would retire during the summer: this coincided with the need for surgery and would provide him with the time to recuperate afterwards. Our curate, Revd. Josh Thorne, also secured a living of his own during the summer months. We held a celebratory service and shared lunch at the end of August to wish them both well.

The work of our employees: Emma Croxon has continued to develop as Children and Families Minister, working with pre-school children and those at primary school; Lizzie Moesbauer, who joined us as a youth work apprentice in September 2018, completed her degree course at Ridley College: her work focuses on teenagers and youth. Sara Owst has continued to provide administrative support for the vicar and staff team on a part time basis.

UK GDPR: there have been no reported breaches of data and the church continues to function within the guidelines laid out in the United Kingdom General Data Protection Regulations. The continued use of Church Suite has been invaluable in enabling safe communication with members of the church within the UK GDPR guidelines.

Safeguarding has always had a high priority within the church. Our Safeguarding Policy has been updated in line with the new guidelines laid down by the National Safeguarding Team and the Diocesan Safeguarding Advisors. All members of the church are encouraged to complete a basic safeguarding

training programme that takes about 30 minutes. All those who have contact with children and/or adults at risk also hold current DBS certificates and have completed higher levels of safeguarding training that is appropriate to their role within the church. The church has a nominated Parish Safeguarding Officer and an Assistant Safeguarding Officer: the assistant is also a Diocesan Safeguarding Trainer and Recruiter. There have been no major safeguarding issues reported. The church has continued to keep contact with those who are house-bound or who are unsure about meeting in public following the pandemic.

PCC membership

At the annual meeting of 2023, the following were either serving or elected to the PCC.

<i>Vicar</i>	Rev. Chris Youngman	
<i>Curate</i>	Rev. Josh Thorne	
Wardens	Richard Holley [Vacancy]	
<i>Diocesan Synod members</i>	Andrew Presland	(General synod)
<i>Deanery Synod representatives</i>	Richard Holley Steve Holman Rosie Benn	
<i>Elected members</i>	Melvyn Hunter (to 2024) Matt Croxon (to 2024) Jeremy Smith (to 2024) Hannah Barker (to 2025) Celia Underwood (to 2025) Ken Owst (to 2025) Ally Gibson (to 2026) Lynda King (to 2026) Nisha Slater (to 2026)	(PCC secretary) (Treasurer) (Safeguarding)

PCC committees and groups

Standing and Resources Committee: transacts business as required between PCC meetings, including overseeing the finances of Whitefriars Church, drafting the annual budget, monitoring income and expenditure and promoting planned giving.

Bridge Management and Minibus Management: carry out routine checks on the state of the Bridge and ensure that safety checks and routine maintenance are carried out; ensure that the minibus is correctly maintained and insured.

Mission Committee: promotes a range of mission and outreach activities including mission support, both in this country and overseas. Much of this is promoted to the congregation through the vicar's bulletin.

Each of these committees has a chair whose responsibilities include ensuring that sub-committees within each meet regularly, that meetings are properly minuted and reports returned to the PCC, management of the budget allocation, ensuring that expenditure is kept within the amounts allocated.

Melvyn Hunter - PCC Secretary
2024

Churchwarden's report April 2024

Have you noticed any differences in the last 12 months?

From one perspective there have been some massive changes – Rev Chris retired last summer, closely followed by our curate Josh Thorne when he moved to Northampton. Then Lizzie felt that God was calling her to move to Lymington in February, together with her husband Mikey who was leading the Youth Band.

But have you noticed any significant difference? Of course we miss those that have left for pastures new, but Whitefriars has continued to do well, despite losing our leaders - and this is due to the magnificent effort of our remaining staff and a whole host of volunteers who continue to step up and do their best to keep the church operating and moving forward.

There are too many people to thank individually, but I would personally like to thank everyone who turn up faithfully and make Whitefriars the best church in town that also has an impact in the local community and schools. There is one person I will mention, however, and that is Melvyn. He carries out some of the tasks normally done by the churchwardens and I am not sure how I would have survived without him.

The guys that I bring from Recovery House are very positive about coming to Whitefriars because you are very welcoming and friendly - and it has been lovely to see 3 of them continue on their faith journey this year, despite being free to not go to church. You should all be proud of yourselves, so keep on looking out for newcomers. There is a distinct possibility that we may get some teenagers and their parents because of the Illuminate outreach events recently. At the time of writing, 322 children have done the 3 steps of faith on the AAA pass and 86 have booked a ticket for the AAA series. These potential newcomers may be people that do not know how we behave in church, what language we use, or our normal procedures – so please continue to be welcoming, friendly and gracious towards them.

One of Chris Youngman's major priorities was that we become disciples of Christ who make other disciples. He also said that all our small groups should put as much emphasis on outreach as we do our relationships with God and each other. How are we doing with that? Are we still asking the 2 Discipleship Questions, or has your group regressed into its comfort zone of doing bible studies with no outward focus? If you are not a member of a Discipleship group, please consider joining one so that we can all consider some important spiritual issues facing the church.

After a lot of work by the PCC on the Parish Profile and adverts for our vicar's post it was disappointing that there were no applicants. There does seem to be a shortage of vicars across the country, and it seems that Evangelicals in particular, are reluctant to move currently because of the controversial proposals coming out of General Synod. All the recent local vacancies for incumbents have taken a considerable time to fill, so maybe I shouldn't have been surprised. I see this as a test of our faith but am convinced that God will bring the right person to us if we pray and remain faithful.

There was some discontent from a few people about some of the words in the Parish Profile. The PCC has listened to this and made a few changes to the profile and an advert, but we are aware that we cannot please all of the people, all of the time. Some others have been upset because we have made the changes. Remember that the PCC are elected by you to use our best judgement, rather than to carry out a referendum every time we need to make decisions about the church. At the end of the day I want to please God, not please people, when there is a conflict of interests.

Looking forward, the vicar's post will continue to be advertised until Ally Gibson and I feel we have a suitable candidate that is willing to come and lead us. Also, the new Bishop of Peterborough, Rt Rev Debbie Sellin, has offered to come to preach at Whitefriars in July this year.

Please take every opportunity to continue to pray for our church – both locally for God's choice of a new leader and that we can continue to glorify God through our witness in the community - and for God's church in England generally that we get strong leadership in accordance with God's wishes.

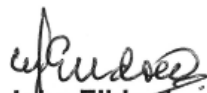
INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S CERTIFICATE

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 church 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

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 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Acthave not been met;
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.


John Eildred
6 Nightingale way
Higham Ferrers
NN10 8PR

Date: 23-03-24

whitefriarschurchrushden
Statement of Financial Activities

For the period from 01 January 2023 to 31 December 2023

	Unrestricted funds	Designated funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Prior year total funds
<i>Income and endowments from:</i>						
Donations and legacies	103,957.13	—	15,321.41	—	119,278.54	118,216.74
Income from charitable activities	3,408.00	5,312.61	31,057.18	—	39,777.79	4,947.16
Other income	891.00	—	1,674.11	—	2,565.11	2,671.67
Total income	108,256.13	5,312.61	48,052.70	—	161,621.44	125,835.57
<i>Expenditure on:</i>						
Expenditure on charitable activities	100,238.20	4,693.91	24,411.74	—	129,343.85	120,287.40
Other expenditure	988.31	3,817.23	668.96	—	5,474.50	3,984.43
Total expenditure	101,226.51	8,511.14	25,080.70	—	134,818.35	124,271.83
Net income / (expenditure) resources before transfer	7,029.62	(3,198.53)	22,972.00	—	26,803.09	1,563.74
<i>Transfers</i>						
Gross transfers between funds - in	—	—	5,000.00	—	5,000.00	1,128.77
Gross transfers between funds - out	(5,000.00)	—	—	—	(5,000.00)	(1,128.77)
<i>Other recognised gains / losses</i>						
Net movement in funds	2,029.62	(3,198.53)	27,972.00	—	26,803.09	1,563.74
<i>Reconciliation of funds</i>						
Total funds brought forward	19,247.89	32,276.78	3,772.15	—	55,296.82	53,733.08
Total funds carried forward	21,277.51	29,078.25	31,744.15	—	82,099.91	55,296.82
<i>Represented by</i>						
Unrestricted						
General fund	21,277.51	—	—	—	21,277.51	19,247.89
Designated						
Bridge Reserve	—	2,960.16	—	—	2,960.16	6,512.16
Mini Bus	—	3,996.39	—	—	3,996.39	2,501.01
Mission Fund	—	20,925.80	—	—	20,925.80	22,067.71
PA Fund	—	1,120.54	—	—	1,120.54	1,120.54
Vicarage Reserve	—	75.36	—	—	75.36	75.36
Restricted						
Children's & Youth Fund	—	—	1,419.64	—	1,419.64	2,812.16
Compassion	—	—	28.75	—	28.75	(157.45)
LZ7 Mission	—	—	30,202.02	—	30,202.02	—
Youth Residentials	—	—	93.74	—	93.74	1,117.44

whitefriarschurchrushden
Balance sheet (Church of England)
As at: 31 December 2023

	As at 31/12/2023	As at 31/12/2022
	£	£
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Current assets		
Cash at bank and in hand	82,099.91	55,296.82
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	82,099.91	55,296.82
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Net current assets less current liabilities	82,099.91	55,296.82
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total assets less current liabilities	82,099.91	55,296.82
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total net assets less liabilities	82,099.91	55,296.82
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Represented by		
<hr/>		
Unrestricted		
Unrestricted - General fund	21,277.51	19,247.89
Designated		
Designated - Bridge Reserve	2,960.16	6,512.16
Designated - Bridge management	—	—
Designated - Mini Bus	3,996.39	2,501.01
Designated - Mission Fund	20,925.80	22,067.71
Designated - PA Fund	1,120.54	1,120.54
Designated - Vicarage Reserve	75.36	75.36
Restricted		
Restricted - Constance Travis	—	—
Restricted - Youth Residentials	93.74	1,117.44
Restricted - Compassion	28.75	(157.45)
Restricted - Diocesan Mission Fund	—	—
Restricted - Families in Need	—	—
Restricted - Hope Beyond	—	—
Restricted - Heritage Lottery Fund	—	—
Restricted - LZ7 Mission	30,202.02	—
Restricted - Restricted Purposes	—	—
Restricted - Children's & Youth Fund	1,419.64	2,812.16
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Funds of the church	82,099.91	55,296.82
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Accounts

Whitefriars Church, Rushden (Charity Number 1130312): Trustees' Annual Report for 2022

Background

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) of Whitefriars Church, Rushden, has the responsibility of promoting the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical in the parish. It became a registered charity during 2009, with the PCC members being registered as its trustees. It has complied with its duty of 'promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the church', and in section 4 of the Charities Act 2006 to have due regard to public benefit, guidance published by the Charity Commission.

Review of activities in 2022

This is an outline summary of the activities of the church: more detail of some areas will be found in the Vicar's Report.

During 2022, the Church has returned to meeting together for worship and for meetings, though some of the smaller committee meetings are still held using Zoom as committee members live and work at some distance and Zoom meetings reduce the negative effects of travel on the environment.

The Church has also become involved in the Greener Church project looking at ways in which members of the church collectively and individually can make small changes to their live-style that can have a beneficial long-term impact on the environment.

A small group has restarted the monthly worship services in two of the town's residential care homes, though occasional outbreaks of Covid still intervene from time to time. These services follow a range of themes as well as the major festivals and are attended by a good proportion of the residents in each home.

The PCC met six times during 2022. The sub-committees met several times between PCC meetings. Areas of PCC discussion and action during 2022 included a review of the church's safeguarding policy and appropriate training for those holding DBS clearances, updates on the church's children's and youth work and its staffing and funding. A new cycle of reviewing other policies has been put in place to ensure that all have been updated within the next twelve months. PCC meetings also included active monitoring of church finances, and consideration of issues from the wider church, through reports from Deanery, Diocesan and General Synods and the Rushden & Higham Council of Churches.

All those involved in leadership within the church were invited to an 'away day' in September when there were opportunities to look at where we saw God within our church, where we thought others saw God and where we thought non-church members might see God, with opportunities to discuss possible ways forward in making God more central.

The work of our employees: Emma Croxon has continued to develop as Children and Families Minister, working with pre-school children and those at primary school; Lizzie Moesbauer, who joined us as a youth work apprentice in September 2018, completed her degree course at Ridley College: her work focusses on teenagers and youth. Sara Owst has continued to provide administrative support for the vicar and staff team on a part time basis.

GDPR: there have been no reported breaches of data and the church continues to function within the guidelines laid out in the General Data Protection Regulations. The continued use of Church Suite has been invaluable in enabling safe communication with members of the church within the UK GDPR guidelines.

Safeguarding has always had a high priority within the church. Our Safeguarding Policy has been updated in line with the new guidelines laid down by the National Safeguarding Team and the Diocesan Safeguarding Advisors. All members of the church are encouraged to complete a basic safeguarding training programme that takes about 20 minutes. All those who have contact with children and/or adults at risk also hold current DBS certificates and higher levels of Safeguarding training that is appropriate to their role within the church. The church has a nominated Parish Safeguarding Officer and an Assistant Safeguarding Officer: the assistant is also a Diocesan Safeguarding Trainer. There have been no major

safeguarding issues reported. The church has continued to keep contact with those who are house-bound or who are unsure about meeting in public following the pandemic.

PCC membership

At the annual meeting of 2022, the following were either serving or elected to the PCC.

<i>Vicar</i>	Revd. Chris Youngman	
<i>Curate</i>	Revd. Josh Thorne	
<i>Wardens</i>	Matt Croxon Richard Holley	
<i>Diocesan Synod members</i>	Andrew Presland	(General synod)
<i>Deanery Synod representatives</i>	Richard Holley Steve Holman	
<i>Elected members</i>	Nick Amis (to 2023) Simon King (to 2023) Nisha Slater (to 2023) Melvyn Hunter (to 2024) Lucy Jekyll (to 2024) Jeremy Smith (to 2024) Hannah Barker (to 2025) Glenda Dodds (to 2025) Celia Underwood (to 2025) Ken Owst*	(Resigned in November) (PCC secretary) (Safeguarding) (Treasurer)

PCC committees and groups

Standing and Resources Committee: transacts business as required between PCC meetings, including overseeing the finances of Whitefriars Church, drafting the annual budget, monitoring income and expenditure and promoting planned giving.

Bridge Management and Minibus Management: carry out routine checks on the state of the Bridge and ensure that safety checks and routine maintenance are carried out; ensure that the minibus is correctly maintained and insured.

Mission Committee: promotes a range of mission and outreach activities including mission support, both in this country and overseas. Much of this is promoted to the congregation through the vicar's bulletin.

Each of these committees has a chair whose responsibilities include ensuring that sub-committees within each meet regularly, that meetings are properly minuted and reports returned to the PCC, management of the budget allocation, ensuring that expenditure is kept within the amounts allocated.

Melvyn Hunter.
PCC Secretary
2023

* Ken Owst was seconded to the PCC in November 2022, taking the casual vacancy left by Nick Amis.

Whitefriars Church Vicar's Report – 2022.

2022 was, in many ways, a year of rebuilding. I am reminded of the diligence and resilience of Nehemiah rebuilding the walls of Jerusalem. But the verse I think is most relevant is Psalm 127:1

*Unless the LORD builds the house,
the builders labour in vain.*

*Unless the LORD watches over the city,
the guards stand watch in vain.*

The pandemic did give us the opportunity to reconsider all that we had been doing, and check if Christ is central, before reinstating it, or stopping it as appropriate. We tried to measure everything against our developing Missional Culture by asking: **Is this Jesus centred? Is this Kingdom centred?**

One example of literal rebuilding was the work carried out by Steve Oram and Pete Squires (thank you both) to **redevelop the Bridge Garden**. The pond was drained and filled, new planters were built and a sensory garden was created. Thanks too, to Emma and Sara for ideas, planting and tending. I was particularly impressed by the vibrancy of the sunflowers and the aroma of the rosemary. All this, the excellent Winter Clothes swap and some of our teaching programme (for example the climate themed services at the start and end of the summer) helped towards attaining the **Bronze eco-church award**.

Over the course of the year, most of our regular activities were re-established, though it was notable that many were reluctant to volunteer at the level they had been pre-covid. Following the 2022 APCM our midweek gatherings were renamed Discipleship groups to reflect the learning we had engaged with through Kairos Connexion. I met with the leaders monthly, by and large, modelling to them praying and studying together and latterly eating and having fun together as well; also asking the two discipleship questions: **What is God saying to you?** and **What are you going to do about it?**

Much of the regular pattern of church life was restored: children and youth groups; re-engagement with schools; monthly prayer and worship evenings; unrestricted Sunday worship gradually returned to more familiar levels. You can read about the excellent ministries to Children and Families and Young people in their respective reports. Whitefriars really has kept close to its origins in intergenerational ministry.

Some highlights for me were **at Rushden Academy**: we supported the Ethos Team with the Christmas Assemblies and lessons and we co-ordinated the GSUS live project, which took lessons on Forgiveness, Fear and Rejection from a Christian perspective to all Y7,8,9 students. I have also loved the gradual emergence of our Youth Band who are skilled and gaining confidence in leading worship. Josh Thorne has provided leadership and encouragement, and we have been blessed to have Mikie, Lizzie's fiancé, join the youth team and band.

Staffing:

Our staff team has remained stable throughout the year. Josh Thorne has now completed his curacy training and did an excellent job of covering for me at various times, first during my month-long medical leave in February 2022, then stepping in for me when I got Covid in the summer and more recently when I took a Sunday off for my own well-being. I am sure he will make a great vicar when he leaves us at some stage in 2023. Sara Owst our Ministry Resources Manager, has supported the whole staff team and maintained the website, often working remotely but still managing the office. I am most grateful for all the help she has been to me during the year. At the start of 2023 she had to take time off for the first time, with severe back pain. Please pray for her as she returns to work.

Emma Croxon has been our Children and Families Minister since April 2018, and her ministry is now well established. We extended her hours to allow her to continue the great work she did with young families, initially using the Hope Beyond grant funding. We are now at the stage where we need to make up this funding gap. Lizzie Moesbauer finished her Youth Ministry degree at Ridley College, Cambridge and has been supporting youth ministry all around the deanery and running a number of deanery wide youth events. All her salary costs are funded by the diocesan Gen₂ project scheme grant. The deanery has saved sufficient to cover our contribution over the first 3 years out of college, but we need to significantly increase funding to provide the long term employment security we want to offer her. Both their detailed reports are elsewhere.

Teaching programme at Whitefriars:

From the start of 2022 we studied the Gospel of Luke, (we looked at one chapter a week right up to the summer holidays), particularly noticing when the disciples were: with Jesus, learning to be like Jesus and doing what Jesus did. These concepts came from some external input a few of us have been receiving from Kairos Connection. Over 2 years they will have helped us to improve the culture of the church in the areas of Mission, Discipleship, Community and Leadership. They have helped us sharpen the Jesus focus on the 3 dimensions of our Growth Action Plan: UP, IN and OUT.

- **UP** is more than worship, it is about **Being with Jesus**,
- **IN** is more than fellowship, it is about **Becoming like Jesus**,
- **OUT** is more than social action, it is about **Doing what Jesus did**,

UP – By encouraging everyone, particularly in groups, to Listen to God and act on what he is saying to them. From September we studied together on Sunday morning and in our discipleship groups using Pete Greig's book "**how to hear God**" as a basis. We have been gathering on 2nd Sunday evenings to "**Step In**" to the presence of God, listen to him in the context of more informal worship, more exploratory study and more freedom in our prayer ministry.

IN – By encouraging one another to listen carefully to God, then ask the two discipleship questions: "**What is God saying to me?**" and "**What am I going to do about it?**" we have been going deeper in our relationships with Jesus as we seek to become more like him. Of late we have been encouraging fun and food to add to the fellowship and think of our discipleship groups as families on Mission.

OUT – Our **Stepping Out groups** have continued, new ones established, old ones re-focused. The **retirees group** goes from strength to strength, helping people journey to the Silver Service and the Sunday worship and come to faith. I particularly enjoyed their Queens Jubilee Tea party. Wild Church quickly attracted people from outside the church family to worship outdoors. Unfortunately, this was unable to continue for lack of leadership once Chad stepped back to prepare for his curacy.

It has been great to have more examples of how God has been working in people's lives to use as testimony to encourage us all. We can always use more! We have been blessed by the ministries of Matt, Karen and Nisha who are undertaking **Licensed Lay Ministry** training with the diocese and we are benefitting from their learning. We have also enjoyed the teaching of many others in the church family, what a gifted group of preachers we have, translating God's word into real life application.

So I thank all those, staff and volunteers, who have worked tirelessly to develop the worship, teaching, fellowship and witness of the church through this growing time. God has blessed us with many wonderful people who have quickly become part of the family of God in this place. May we all, rooted in Jesus Christ, grow from strength to strength in the coming year.

Rev Chris Youngman, Vicar

Independent Examiner's Report to the PCC of Whitefriars Church, Rushden, Northamptonshire.

This report, on the accounts of Whitefriars Church, Rushden, for the year ended 31 December 2022, which is set out below, is in respect of an examination carried out under s.145 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act).

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The church's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The church's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of 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 report

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 church 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:

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 Acthave not been met;
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



W.J. Eildred
6 Nightingale Way
Higham Ferrers
NN10 8PR

Date 3rd March 2023

whitefriarschurchrushden
Statement of Financial Activities

For the period from 01 January 2022 to 31 December 2022

	Unrestricted funds	Designated funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Prior year total funds
Income and endowments from:						
Donations and legacies	102,145.25	1,302.78	14,768.71	—	118,216.74	115,253.19
Income from charitable activities	1,405.00	2,778.16	764.00	—	4,947.16	3,019.96
Other income	931.38	—	1,740.29	—	2,671.67	1,214.84
Total income	104,481.63	4,080.94	17,273.00	—	125,835.57	119,487.99
Expenditure on:						
Expenditure on charitable activities	98,957.11	2,560.58	18,769.71	—	120,287.40	117,329.79
Other expenditure	824.00	2,486.43	674.00	—	3,984.43	4,354.56
Total expenditure	99,781.11	5,047.01	19,443.71	—	124,271.83	121,684.35
Net income / (expenditure) resources before transfer	4,700.52	(966.07)	(2,170.71)	—	1,563.74	(2,196.36)
Transfers						
Gross transfers between funds - in	246.00	66.25	816.52	—	1,128.77	3,133.43
Gross transfers between funds - out	(65.00)	(997.52)	(66.25)	—	(1,128.77)	(3,133.43)
Other recognised gains / losses						
Net movement in funds	4,881.52	(1,897.34)	(1,420.44)	—	1,563.74	(2,196.36)
Reconciliation of funds						
Total funds brought forward	14,366.37	34,174.12	5,192.59	—	53,733.08	55,929.44
Total funds carried forward	19,247.89	32,276.78	3,772.15	—	55,296.82	53,733.08

Represented by

Unrestricted						
General fund	19,247.89	—	—	—	19,247.89	14,366.37
Designated						
Bridge Reserve	—	6,512.16	—	—	6,512.16	5,262.16
Mini Bus	—	2,501.01	—	—	2,501.01	2,143.03
Mission Fund	—	22,067.71	—	—	22,067.71	25,519.43
PA Fund	—	1,120.54	—	—	1,120.54	1,174.14
Vicarage Reserve	—	75.36	—	—	75.36	75.36
Restricted						
Compassion	—	—	(157.45)	—	(157.45)	(62.45)
Hope Beyond	—	—	—	—	—	1,863.59
Youth Fund	—	—	2,812.16	—	2,812.16	1,783.53
Youth Residentials	—	—	1,117.44	—	1,117.44	1,607.92

Accounts

Whitefriars Church, Rushden (Charity Number 1130312): Trustees' Annual Report for 2021

Background

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) of Whitefriars Church, Rushden, has the responsibility of promoting the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical in the parish. It became a registered charity during 2009, with the PCC members being registered as its trustees. It has complied with its duty of 'promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the church', and in section 4 of the Charities Act 2006 to have due regard to public benefit, guidance published by the Charity Commission.

Review of activities in 2021

This is an outline summary of the activities of the church: more detail of some areas will be found in the Vicar's Report.

During 2021, the Church initially continued to provide pre-recorded services because of the restrictions that were in place in the fight against Covid. There were some outdoor services offered, for example at Easter. From September, indoor services restarted with much restricted numbers and social separation. Stepping Out activities on the second Sunday of the month, and a range of other activities through the week, some provided primarily for church members and others aimed more at the wider community also restarted from September. Stepping Out is an initiative of missional communities which have been set up around a range of activities, with the specific intention of encouraging church members to invite friends and neighbours to have contact with the church. The Well, started in 2017, suffered greatly during the pandemic and, primarily because of insufficient leadership capacity and lack of venue, this was closed down towards the end of the year with members encouraged to join the main congregation in Whitefriars. The PCC has regularly discussed the format of services and any restrictions to be applied.

The PCC met six times during 2021. The sub-committees met several times between PCC meetings. Areas of PCC discussion and action during 2021 included a review of the church's safeguarding policy and appropriate training for those holding DBS clearances, updates on the church's youth work and its staffing and funding. PCC meetings also included active monitoring of church finances, and consideration of issues from the wider church, through reports from Deanery, Diocesan and General Synods and the Rushden & Higham Council of Churches.

The work of our employees: Emma Croxon has continued to develop as Children and Families Minister; Lizzie Moesbauer, who joined us as a youth work apprentice in September 2018, continued with her degree course at Ridley College. Sara Owst has continued to provide administrative support for the vicar and staff team on a part time basis.

Regular monthly visits to residential homes in the parish are still to restart: this is under direction from the homes which have struggled greatly during the pandemic.

GDPR: there have been no reported breaches of data and the church continues to function within the guidelines laid out in the General Data Protection Regulations. The continued use of Church Suite has been invaluable in enabling safe communication with members of the church within the GDPR guidelines.

Safeguarding has always had a high priority within the church. Our Safeguarding Policy has been updated in line with the new guidelines laid down by the National Safeguarding Team and the Diocesan Safeguarding Advisors. All members of the church are encouraged to complete a basic safeguarding training programme that takes about 20 minutes. All those who have contact with children and/or adults at risk also hold current DBS certificates and higher levels of Safeguarding training that is appropriate to their role within the church. The church has a nominated Parish Safeguarding Officer and an Assistant Safeguarding Officer: the assistant is also a Diocesan Safeguarding Trainer. There have been no major safeguarding issues reported. The church has ensured that all those who may have been potentially at risk as a result of the Covid19 pandemic have been contacted on a regular basis and help has been provided as required and appropriate.

PCC membership

At the annual meeting of 2021, the following were either serving or elected to the PCC.

<i>Vicar</i>	Revd. Chris Youngman	
<i>Wardens</i>	Hannah Barker Matt Croxon	
<i>Diocesan Synod members</i>	Andrew Presland	(General synod)
<i>Deanery Synod representatives</i>	Richard Holley Steve Holman	
<i>Elected members</i>	Glenda Dodds (2022) Celia Underwood (to 2022) Cheryl Stainer (to 2022) Nick Amis (to 2023) Simon King (to 2023) (Vacancy for y/e 2023) Melvyn Hunter (to 2024) Lucy Jekyll (to 2024) Jeremy Smith (to 2024)	(Safeguarding) (PCC secretary)

PCC committees and groups

Standing and Resources Committee: transacts business as required between PCC meetings, including overseeing the finances of Whitefriars Church, drafting the annual budget, monitoring income and expenditure and promoting planned giving.

Bridge Management and Minibus Management: carry out routine checks on the state of the Bridge and ensure that safety checks and routine maintenance are carried out; ensure that the minibus is correctly maintained and insured.

Mission Committee: promotes a range of mission and outreach activities including mission support, both in this country and overseas. Much of this is promoted to the congregation through the vicar's bulletin.

Each of these committees has a chair whose responsibilities include ensuring that sub-committees within each meet regularly, that meetings are properly minuted and reports returned to the PCC, management of the budget allocation, ensuring that expenditure is kept within the amounts allocated.

Melvyn Hunter.
PCC Secretary
2022

Vicar's Comments on Financial report 2021

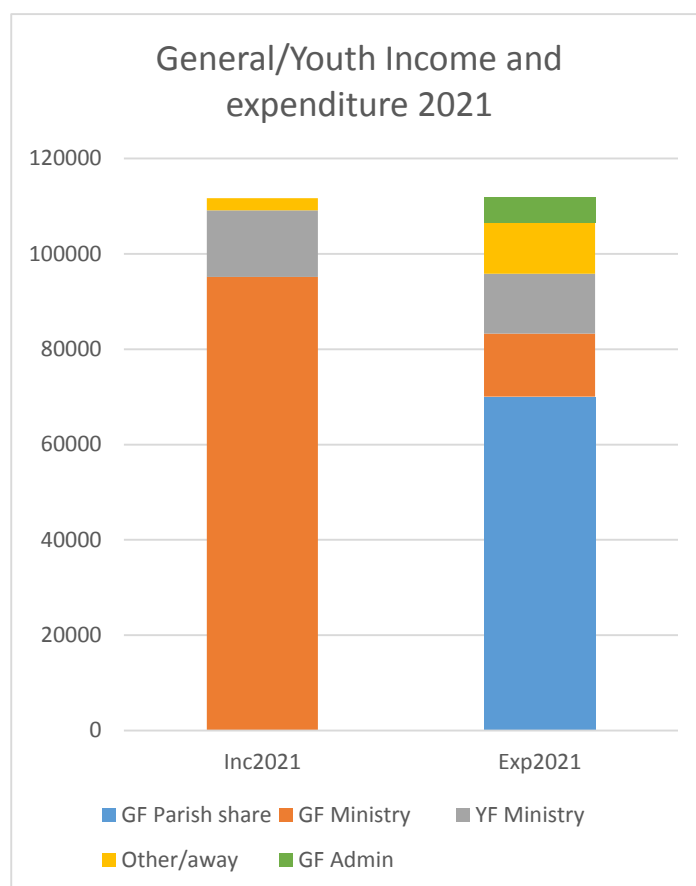
The importance of regular giving via the Planned Giving Scheme (PGS) was apparent in 2021 in that generally our income held up well in spite of not gathering for worship for most of the year. Thank you to all who give in this way. Having projected a considerable shortfall in 2021, we received some generous new giving (both regular and one off), for which we are very grateful. So having been on track to cover our budgeted expenditure for most of the year, it was disappointing to end the year with a small shortfall. This was the result of a number of people who changed their giving because of a change in their financial circumstances or because they decided to move away from Whitefriars, in some cases to worship elsewhere.

As a result, our total income to the general fund was £98,337 and expenditure was £100,461. After transfers (primarily to Bridge Reserve) our General fund reduced by £2,399 to £14,366. This is below the level of reserves we would like to hold (2 month's expenditure) and we would like to restore this quickly. Our youth fund grew slightly to £1,783 its income more than covering its expenditure and the Mission fund created by a substantial gift in 2020 stand at £25,519.

The overall giving across General and youth funds is shown graphically below.

Whitefriars Church Financial report summary

<u>General Fund</u>		2021
Income		
Planned Giving	£	95,155
Other income	£	2,583
Total	£	97,738
Expenditure		
Away Giving	£	10,829
Parish Share	£	70,068
Ministry	£	13,181
Administration	£	5,294
Total	£	99,372
Youth Fund		
Income		
Planned Giving	£	13,966
Expenditure		
Ministry	£	12,606



Budget 2022

Because the reduction in income happened at the very end of 2021, we are now facing a shortfall in our 2022 budget, of around £8,400 which would provide sufficient to cover our general expenditure, recover the shortfall in reserves and provide £2,000 towards the cost of Bridge repairs which will be needed in the not too distant future. Please do consider what you can give in response to God's generosity to us. Because inflation is running at over 7% the inflationary increase to our PGS income would almost cover our budget. We trust in God, through the faithfulness of his people, to cover our every need.

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the Parochial Church Council (PCC) of WHITEFRIARS CHURCH, RUSHDEN
on the accounts for the year ended 31st December 2021

Respective responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner

The PCC are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. They 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

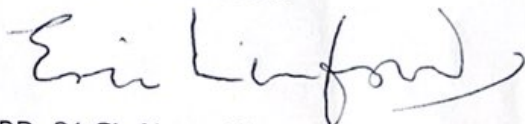
My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the PCC and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from the PCC 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:

- 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;
 - 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, apart from the statement of assets and liabilities (by fund), which could be expressed more clearly. I have given the church guidance on this matter.

Signed:



Date: 24.1.2022

ERIC LINFORD, 21 St. Marys Way, Roade, Northampton. NN7 2PQ

Accounts

The Parochial church Council of the
Ecclesiastical Parish of Rushden Whitefriars

known as

Whitefriars Church, Rushden

Annual Report and Financial Statements

Year ended: 31 December 2020

Charity registration number 1130312

We are a church where lives are being transformed by the Holy Spirit into the likeness of Christ

Romans 12:1-2

12 Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. ² Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but **be transformed by the renewing of your mind**. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

2 Corinthians 3:17-18

¹⁷ Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. ¹⁸ And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate the Lord's glory, **are being transformed into his image** with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.

Whitefriars Church, Rushden (Charity Number 1130312):

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Notes forming part of the financial statements	12
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Vicar's Report – 2020.

2020 was a year like none other; as challenging as any of us has faced. Each of us individually, our community, our town, our country and in truth the whole world has had to deal with the impact of the coronavirus pandemic, its consequences and how it has been tackled with two national lockdowns and a third announced in early 2021. Whilst there is no doubt about the devastating impact of Covid-19 we know we have a God who is greater than any crisis and who has stood with us through the pain and suffering it has brought.

The lockdowns have curtailed but, in the main, not stopped the activities of the church; we have responded and adapted our Sunday offering as circumstances and guidelines allowed. Some activities have had to stop for safety reasons, in particular attendance at care homes to lead services and the sharing of food which has been such a significant part of The Well's activity. But other things have continued.

Staffing:

The most significant change to the staff team was in June 2020, when Josh Thorne arrived in Rushden, with his wife Corrine, to start his curacy training. They were welcomed to the parish (remotely for the most part) and he has quickly settled into parish life. He has brought a fresh approach to the way we produce on-line material. We celebrated with them at the birth of Ezekiel in November.

At the start of the year, our Youth Minister, Rosie Benn, applied successfully for a new role working in a Christian Ethos team based in Rushden academy. This was great opportunity for the church to engage with the local secondary school, through this well-established organisation. Rosie was joined by a member of the congregation, Lynda King, on the team.

So, Lizzie Moesbauer, who joined us as Youth Apprentice in September 2018, stepped up to become the only employed Youth Minister and the PCC decided not to replace Rosie. The team in place to cover the full range of children's and youth ministry is now well established. Emma Croxon has been our Children and Families Minister since April 2018, and Lizzie started her second year at Ridley College, Cambridge (all teaching is now online) in September 2020 and continues on a half time placement with us, all her fees and salary funded by the diocesan Gen2 project scheme. She will build up her involvement in supporting youth work across the deanery during her college years.

Sara Owst has faithfully continued as Ministry Resources Manager, often working remotely but still managing the office and the frequently changing rotas throughout the year. She has been an invaluable help to me during the year.

Teaching programme at Whitefriars:

At Whitefriars, we started the year looking at the Old Testament books of Ruth and Joel. The first lockdown was announced on 23rd March and our services went on-line. The church responded brilliantly whilst I took 4 weeks of compassionate leave and a programme taking a different Psalm each week, with a wide variety of different speakers from amongst the church family working well. I thank all those who stepped up and helped in any way, from the leadership team who co-ordinated, to the various contributors of talks, readings, prayers and favourite songs.

Whitefriars Church, Rushden (Charity Number 1130312):

In the summer we tackled some of the difficult questions thrown up by the pandemic. We met in person, outside on the school field in and around a newly purchased marquee on 3 Sundays in August. When we gathered in person from September in carefully distanced pre-booked places in church we followed a course called Mission Shaped Living, for the Autumn term offering the same material in person and on-line.

The Well were hampered as a community due to the closure of the King Eddie pub, in 2019, which had been their Sunday base for some time. They had reverted to meeting in homes, which hindered community cohesion, until lockdown, only meeting handful of times since. Chad continued to lead the core team until he commenced ordination training in September. Nick Amis headed up an Alpha course starting in January 2020 and a new Dinner Table resulted. The leadership team have worked hard to produce material for their Dinner Tables based on their Life Together values of being Known and Loved, Followers of Jesus, Serving the Community.

Work on the **Growth Action Plan (GAP)** that we believe that God has given us has had to be put on hold, in light of the pandemic. It will need to be reviewed in 2021 in the light of the new normal and the incoming PCC will have a key role in this.

Various aspects of church life have continued, albeit online throughout 2020.

UP – our relationships with God

- Apart from September and October, plus a little of December, all our Sunday worship has been pre-recorded and on-line.
- At the start of lockdown, weekly sessions of 24 hours of prayer were organised and well attended, with an hour of Prayer and Praise on Saturday evenings on Zoom. The 24H prayer was made monthly in the summer and the Prayer and Praise evenings became twice monthly
- In the second lockdown we added weekly morning and evening prayer a couple of times and Chad led Compline (night prayer) each Sunday evening in Advent

IN – our relationships with one another

- Home groups and Dinner Tables continued through the medium of Zoom. Some new members joined and one new virtual group was created.
- Pastoral care, particularly of those who live on their own has been excellent, in the main, with a variety of formal and informal relationships sustained, and regular contact maintained.

OUT – our relationships with the wider community

- The Well took a lead at the start of lockdown in distributing many postcards offering practical and prayerful support in the neighbourhood in the northern part of the parish
 - Practical support has naturally been limited but has been provided when possible in a safe way.
 - We have continued to budget away giving to bless the community, local national and international
- We continue to be well represented on the Whitefriars school governing body as church members give of their own time to serve the community in this way

Youth and Children's Ministry.

Under the leadership of Emma and Lizzie, this has continued also in different ways due to the pandemic restrictions. Here are the activities involving children and young people.

- High quality Kid's Spots throughout the year
- Face to face children's ministry in the autumn. Emma led sessions in the autumn term preparing our children to be mission agents for God.
- Faith at home meetings were held to support parents in their key role of developing their children as disciples of Christ
- Schools work:
 - o Pre-recorded assemblies have been a well-received resource for our primary schools
 - o Bibles were distributed to a Y3 classes at both Whitefriars and Denfield with a recorded introduction to the bible
 - o Recorded workshop for Y6 pupils at both schools helped them with transition, though it was not possible to run Golden Ticket events. The feedback was very positive.
 - Youth work
- o At the beginning of 2020, we brought Lego and The Way together, to start Youth Alpha on Sunday evenings. It was great to see them hang out together, engage and connect with God in ways they haven't before. We held a weekend away just before lockdown, which was a great chance for our teenagers to gel as a group and meet with the Holy Spirit.
 - o Our mentoring scheme has continued and is under review at the moment
- o There was much creativity shown in the first lockdown, with Taskmaster type challenges. It has been challenging to come up with new ideas each week and Lizzie has done a good job in thinking creatively. The majority of the young people continue to engage on-line.

Some face to face sessions were possible and well received in the autumn allowing the young people to re-connect as they considered different ways of studying the bible.

Other Schools ministry

Much of our other school, children's and youth work had to stop: Sparklers, Moral maze, Prayer space, after school drop-in café, in person assemblies, lunchtime clubs, mentoring in school. But we are hopeful that we will be able to return to this type of ministry before too long.

There were two particular highlights of events we were able to hold.

- New parents support group for families who had had babies in lockdown. This new initiative, in small socially distanced groups, was well received in the autumn
- My personal highlight of the year was the Nativity Trail on 20th Dec which saw 133 people either taking part, or experiencing the Christmas story, through song and spoken word inside and then in small groups, "meeting" the Nativity characters played by church members at various locations outside.
 - We also held 2 Christingle services on Christmas Eve and the Christmas day service was on Zoom

Looking forward and prayer points

We are absolutely convinced that it will take the whole church family to develop the faith and discipleship growth in our children and young people. Parents have a vital part to play and we will support with programmes, events and activities as best we can. We know that the mental health of the nation has been adversely impacted by the pandemic and our children and young people too, will need support and encouragement to recover.

Please pray for the following things:

- That as restrictions are lifted we may be able to quickly and effectively re-connect with school and community groups once again
- That faith at home and intergenerational worship would form the backbone of a joined up strategy to help our children and young people come to faith and grow as disciples
- That once we can meet together again we would know a new depth in our worship; our faith; and see a renewed engagement with our community

It has been an extraordinary year, and the church has responded brilliantly to the challenges it has faced. We have learned much through it and following a sufficient period of recovery we look forward to reconstructing church: keeping the best of this new learning; reinstating the best of what we had before; and letting go of the things we had pre-Covid which were less than helpful and casting off the things we have had to put in place during lockdown which are no longer needed.

We long to see God's people restored, and relationships re-established; his Kingdom grow and lives transformed by the Holy Spirit into the likeness of Christ more and more.

Every Blessing

Rev Chris Youngman

February 2021

Whitefriars Church, Rushden (Charity Number 1130312):

PCC membership

<i>Vicar</i>	Revd. Chris Youngman	
<i>Wardens</i>	Val Cummins Karen Woolley	
<i>Diocesan Synod members</i>	Andrew Presland	(General synod)
<i>Deanery Synod representatives</i>	Melvyn Hunter Ken Owst (Vacancy)	(PCC secretary)
<i>Elected members</i>	Emma Croxon (to 2021) Celia Underwood (to 2022) Irene Alford (to 2022) Josh Benn (to 2020)	(Children's and families minister) (Safeguarding) (resigned in October 2020)
Darren Barker (to 2020)	Richard Holley (to 2021) Judy Buchanan (to 2020) Cheryl Stainer (to 2022) (Vacancy for y/e 2021)	(resigned in July 2019)

At the annual meeting of 2019, the following were either serving or elected to the PCC (finishing years for elected members are shown in brackets). As we were unable to hold an APCM in 2020 those terms of office which should have ended in 2020 were extended for a further year.

PCC committees and groups

Standing and Resources Committee: transacts business as required between PCC meetings, including overseeing the finances of Whitefriars Church, drafting the annual budget, monitoring income and expenditure and promoting planned giving.

Bridge Management and Minibus Management: carry out routine checks on the state of the Bridge and ensure that safety checks and routine maintenance are carried out; ensure that the minibus is correctly maintained and insured.

Mission Committee: promotes a range of mission and outreach activities including mission support, both in this country and overseas. Much of this is promoted to the congregation through the monthly prayer sheet.

Youth and Children's Committee: this oversees the management and development of the Whitefriars Church children's and youth ministries.

Each of these committees has a chair whose responsibilities include ensuring that sub-committees within each meet regularly, that meetings are properly minuted and reports returned to the PCC, management of the budget allocation, ensuring that expenditure is kept within the amounts allocated.

Contact details:

- office@whitefriarschurch.org.uk
-
- www.whitefriarschurch.org.uk
- Tel: 01933 312270

Operational address:
The Bridge
Whitefriars Primary School
Boughton Drive
RushdenNorthamptonshire NN10 9HX

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

Background

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) of Whitefriars Church, Rushden, has the responsibility of promoting the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical in the parish. It became a registered charity during 2009, with the PCC members being registered as its trustees. It has complied with its duty of 'promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the church', and has due regard to the public benefit guidance published by the charity commission under section 17 of the Charities Acts 2011.

Review of activities in 2020

This is an outline summary of the activities of the church: more detail of some areas will be found in the Vicar's Report.

During 2020, the Church initially continued and developed the range of activities that it carried out. These included worship services on Sundays and other days, Stepping Out activities on the second Sunday of the month, and a range of other activities through the week, some provided primarily for church members and others aimed more at the wider community. Stepping Out is an initiative of missional communities which have been set up around a range of activities, with the specific intention of encouraging church members to invite friends and neighbours to have contact with the church. The Well, started in 2017, has continued to grow in discipleship and reach out to people in the northern part of the parish. Following the lock-down caused by the Covid-19 pandemic, all church activities were initially stopped. Sunday worship and some youth meetings were arranged via on-line options – YouTube and Zoom. During August and September, socially distanced meetings for worship were organised outdoors. Indoor worship, with much restricted numbers and pre-booking, started in October and continued until December, when another lock-down stopped this. The PCC then decided that only pre-recorded on-line worship would be offered.

The PCC met five times during 2020 (the meeting in March was cancelled at the start of lockdown). The sub-committees met several times between PCC meetings. Areas of PCC discussion and action during 2020 included a review of the church's safeguarding policy and appropriate training for those holding DBS clearances, updates on the church's youth work and its staffing and funding. PCC meetings also included active monitoring of church finances, and consideration of issues from the wider church, through reports from Deanery, Diocesan and General Synods and the Rushden & Higham Council of Churches. – page 7

The work of our employees: Emma Croxon has continued to develop as Children and Families Minister; Lizzie Moesbauer, who joined us as a youth work apprentice in September 2018, continued with her degree course at Ridley College. Sara Owst has continued to provide administrative support for the vicar and staff team on a part time basis.

Regular monthly visits to residential homes in the parish have continued at the start of the year, but were stopped in March. A service of worship and Holy Communion is provided at The Beeches on the first Thursday of each month, and a service of worship that had been provided at Victoria House on the third Thursday of each month.

Whitefriars Church, Rushden (Charity Number 1130312):

The continued use of Church Suite has been invaluable in enabling safe communication with members of the church within the guidelines set out by GDPR.

Staffing and volunteers

Policies for the recruitment, appointment, induction and training of new staff are in place.

The following applies to appointments made by Whitefriars Church.

- ~ Clergy appointments are made by the diocese and separate arrangements apply to these.
- ~ The filling of other posts is decided by the PCC.

Financial review

The total income received in 2020 was £147,288 with expenditure being £122,701, including gift aid recovery of £21,635. Our cash reserves on 31 December 2020 stood at £55,929 (2019 £31,343). A one-off gift of £30,000 from a long standing church member was received anonymously via the parish giving scheme. The donation shown in the designated funds and is to fund local mission at the discretion of the Vicar.

Reserves Policy

The church trustees aim to hold in the general fund: two times operational expenses plus one additional month of salary, (£17,211) in reserves to cover staff salaries and running costs.

M.D. Hunter
M.D. Hunter (Jul 29, 2021 21:39 GMT+1)

Jul 29, 2021

Melvyn Hunter.
PCC Secretary

2021

Whitefriars Church, Rushden (Charity Number 1130312):

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Whitefriars Church, Rushden

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31st December 2020 which are set out on pages 10 to 14.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

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

Independent examiner's statement

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

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

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

 (Jul 30, 2021 12:36 GMT+1)

Jul 30, 2021

Sylvia Lambden FCCA

Calculus Accountants and Tax Advisers Limited

Accountants

5 Priory Road

Loughton

Essex IG10 1AF

Jul 30, 2021

Date: 2021

Whitefriars Church, Rushden (Charity Number 1130312):

Statement of Financial
Activities

Year ended 31 December 2020

	Unrestricted funds	Designated funds	Restricted funds	Total funds 2020	2019 Total funds
<i>Income and endowments from:</i>					
Donations and legacies	97,326	30,040	14,528	141,894	110,228
Income from charitable activities	1,191	312	3,101	4,604	6,150
Other income	140	—	650	790	2,461
Total income	98,657	30,352	18,279	147,288	118,841
<i>Expenditure on:</i>					
Expenditure on charitable activities	97,833	2,457	16,219	116,510	135,814
Other expenditure	1,176	1772	3,243	6,191	2,229
Total expenditure	99,009	4,229	19,463	122,701	138,043
Net income / (expenditure) resources before transfer	(353)	26,123	(1,184)	24,586	(19,202)
<i>Transfers</i>					
Gross transfers between funds - in	5,311	5,309	632	11,252	7,847
Gross transfers between funds - out	(5,579)	(5,672)	-	(11,252)	(7,847)
<i>Other recognised gains / losses</i>					
Gains / losses on investment assets	—	—	—	—	—
Gains on revaluation, fixed assets, charity's own use	—	—	—	—	—
Net movement in funds	(623)	25,760	(551)	24,586	(19,202)
<i>Reconciliation of funds</i>					
Total funds brought forward 1/1/2020	17,387	10,290	3,664	31,343	50,545
Total funds carried forward 31/12/2020	16,767	36,050	3,112	55,929	31,343

Whitefriars Church, Rushden (Charity Number 1130312):

Statement of Assets and Liabilities

As at: 31 December 2020

	General Fund	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	At 31/12/2020 £	At 31/12/2019 £
Current assets					
Cash at bank and in hand	17,667	36,050	3,662	57,379	31,543
Current assets	17,667	36,050	3,662	57,379	31,543
Liabilities					
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	900	—	550	1,450	200
Net current assets less current liabilities	16,767	36,050	3,112	55,929	31,343
Total assets less current liabilities	16,767	36,050	3,112	55,929	31,343
Total net assets less liabilities	16,767	36,050	3,112	55,929	31,343
Represented by					
Unrestricted					
Unrestricted - General fund	16,767	—	—	16,767	17,387
Designated					
Designated - Bridge Reserve	—	4,212	—	4,212	6,257
Designated - Bridge management	—	-	—	-	(2,085)
Designated - Fruit Youth Group	—	-	—	-	399
Designated - Mini Bus	—	3,660	—	3,660	4,318
Designated - Misslon Fund	—	26,928	—	26,929	—
Designated - PA Fund	—	1,174	—	1,174	1,324
Designated - Vicarage Reserve	—	75	—	75	75
Restricted					
Restricted - Constance Travis	—	—	935	935	935
Restricted - Compassion	—	—	5	5	(144)
Restricted - Families in Need	—	—	358	358	358
Restricted - Restricted Purposes	—	—	98	98	(75)
Restricted - Youth Fund	—	—	1,378	1,378	2,901
Restricted - Youth Residentials	—	—	338	338	(310)
Funds of the church	16,767	36,050	3,112	55,929	31,343

The financial statements on pages 10 to 14 were approved by the Trustees on and signed on their behalf by:



Jul 26, 2021

Rev Chris Youngman

2021

Notes to the financial statements

Year to 31st December 2020

- 1 Basis of preparation of the accounts
The accounts are prepared on a 'Receipts & Payments' basis under Section 133 of the Charities Act 2011, the statement of assets and liabilities include assets listed at insured values. The financial statements are prepared in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).
- 2 The Bridge is a prefabricated building which is in the grounds of the school where the Church meets, it is used as the Church office and also for small meetings and Youth Work, there is no payment made to the school in term of rent. Income is usually from use as a Polling Station.
- 3 The Minibus is used by the Church and rented out to other organisations.
- 4 Staff costs consist of salary, pension and running expenses. Salaries are set by the PCC, and the pay roll is managed by the Diocese.
- 5 Staff and clergy expenses are reimbursed in full on presentation of appropriate receipts and business mileage claim records
- 6 The Well is a missional community which is part of the Church and meets separately on most Sundays.
- 7 Use of Buildings: the Church has no buildings of its own and operates from Whitefriars Primary School for Sunday Services and other uses under a licence.
- 8 Reserves policy: the Church seeks to hold in reserve in our general, unrestricted fund a sum not less than 2 months of operational expenditure and an additional month of staff salary and expenses. Our Youth fund similarly seeks to hold 3 months of salary, there being no other significant expenditure.
- 9 Financial position 31/12/2020: the PCC is aware that the unrestricted fund balance of £16,746 is £318 short of the reserves target. In the Budget set for 2021 it is calculated that exceptional fundraising of £4,000 is required to correct this position and is taking steps to address this.
- 10 A more serious shortfall of £2,350 was anticipated in the Youth fund against the reserves policy (balance £1,378) largely due to the purchase of a marquee. This should be addressed by the current levels of income to this fund which exceeds its expenditure, by the end of 2021.

Whitefriars Church, Rushden (Charity Number 1130312):

Detailed analysis of income and expenditure
Year to 31 December 2020

	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	2020	2019
Income and endowments					
<i>Donations and legacies</i>					
Planned Giving	76,606	—	10,354	86,960	86,470
Tax Recovered	17,986	—	3,648	21,635	20,635
Offerings	1,071	—	—	1,071	2,507
One/off gifts	1,660	30,040	525	32,225	614
Legacies	—	—	—	—	—
<i>Donations and legacies Totals</i>	97,325	30,040	14,528	141,893	110,228
<i>Income from charitable activities</i>					
Wedding & funeral fees	1,1191	—	165	1,356	532
Use of bridge	—	-	—	-	600
Use of photocopier	-	—	—	-	37
Netball	—	—	—	—	—
Mini Bus	-	312	—	312	1,213
Fruit youth group	—	-	-	-	318
Income for specific purposes	—	-	2,936	2,936	3,450
<i>Income from charitable activities Totals</i>	1,191	312	3,101	4,604	6,150
<i>Other income</i>					
Grant income	—	—	—	—	-
Residential Income	—	—	650	650	2,238
Bank interest	14	—	—	140	223
<i>Other income Totals</i>	140	—	650	790	2,462
Income and endowments Grand totals	98,657	30,352	18,279	147,289	118,841

Whitefriars Church, Rushden (Charity Number 1130312):

Year to 31st December 2020

Expenditure

	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	2020	2019
<i>Expenditure on charitable activities</i>					
Parish share	70,068	—	—	70,068	67,764
Vicars expenses	1,799	—	—	1,799	2,326
Staff costs	8,433	—	12,706	21,140	35,482
Staff expenses (children and youth)	-	24	206	230	-
Training	142	—	834	976	534
Worship	96	—	—	96	654
PA	—	150	—	150	100
The Well	-	1,145	—	1,145	943
Stepping out	-	15	—	15	100
Use of building	3,452	—	—	3,452	2,418
Children's Group	-	—	180	180	240
Residentials	—	—	525	525	5,687
Youth other	135	950	1,671	2,756	1,411
Fruit	—	36	56	92	394
Away giving	8,924	—	-	8,924	10,095
Blessing the community	-	151	—	151	600
Bridge costs	1,663	-	—	1,663	3,175
Photocopier	432	—	—	432	479
Office supplies.	442	—	—	442	394
Web site	102	—	—	102	1,358
Copyright, licences & insurance	1,375	—	—	1,375	536
Sundries	749	-	39	788	1,117
Grant Expenditure	—	—	—	—	—
<i>Expenditure on charitable activities Totals</i>	97,833	2,457	16,219	116,510	135,814
<i>Other expenditure</i>					
Bridge Management	73	-	—	73	135
DBF Fees	1,103	—	—	1,103	137
Decoration	-	—	—	-	9
Mini-bus	—	971	74	1,045	1,577
Bank Charges	—	—	—	—	—
Exp for specific purposes	—	800	3,170	3,970	370
<i>Other expenditure Totals</i>	1,176	1,771	3,244	6,191	2,229
Expenditure Grand totals	99,009	4,229	19,464	122,701	138,044