

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.

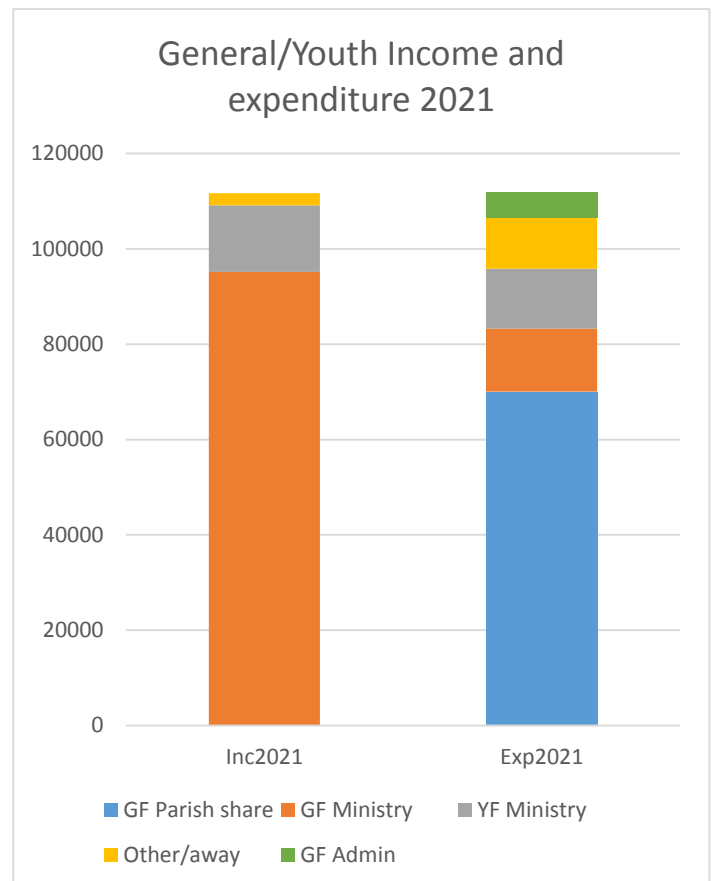
As a result, our total income to the general fund was £98,337 and expenditure was £100,461. After transfers (primarily to Bridge Reserve) our General fund reduced by £2,399 to £14,366. This is below the level of reserves we would like to hold (2 month's expenditure) and we would like to restore this 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

<u>Youth Fund</u>	
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

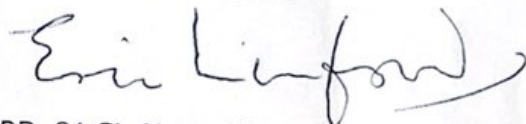
My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the PCC and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures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