

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST. JOHN (THE) BAPTIST CHURCH, CLAINES

England & Wales · Charity number 1130734

Details

Other names	ST. JOHN BAPTIST, CLAINES
Status	Registered
Legal form	Previously excepted
Registered	2009-07-24
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	Claines Parish Hall Cornmeadow Lane Claines Worcester WR3 7NY
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Activities

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

Activities: Public worship open to allA sacred space for prayer and contemplationPastoral work for the sick and bereaved.Teaching Christianity through sermons courses groupsReligious assemblies in schoolsA youth club with Christian ethos.Promotion of Christianity through events meetings activities for senior citizens parents and toddlers and other groupsSupporting charities in UK and overseas

Classification

- **How:** Provides Other Finance, Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Provides Services, Other Charitable Activities
- **What:** Religious Activities
- **Who:** Children/young People, Elderly/old People, People With Disabilities, Other Charities Or Voluntary Bodies, The General Public/mankind

Geography

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

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£205,022	£156,310	-	-
2023-12-31	£211,067	£195,680	-	-
2022-12-31	£129,901	£135,111	-	-
2021-12-31	£105,048	£92,734	-	-
2020-12-31	£87,033	£88,602	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Annette Summers		2018-04-30
Gareth Price		2025-04-06
Gaye Bayliss		2025-04-06
Helen Fitzgerald		2018-04-30
IAN STANLEY WITT CRAMP BSC, CENG		
Ian Townley		2020-10-07
Jan Kear		2020-10-07
Julie Palmer		2020-10-07
LORRAINE DEEPROSE		2018-04-30
Laura Stevens		2016-04-27
Matthew Stevens		2025-04-06
PAUL NICHOLAS ALYN FULBROOK		
PHILIP VICTOR KEAR		2011-05-25
Paula Rowlands		2025-04-06
RACHEL MARY CRAMP		2011-05-24
Rev Sarah Carwardine		2024-06-05

Accounts

**Parish Church of St. John Baptist, Claines,
Worcester Annual Report and Financial Statement
of the Parochial Church Council for the year ended
31st December 2024**



Parish Office, Claines Parish Hall, Cornmeadow Lane,
Worcester WR3 7NY
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Introduction

The Parish Church of St John Baptist is part of the Diocese of Worcester within the Church of England. The correspondence address is Claines Parish Hall, Cornmeadow Lane, Worcester, WR3 7NY.

The Parochial Church Council is a charity registered with the Charity Commission (Number 1130734). Members of the Parochial Church Council (PCC) are either ex- officio or elected annually by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) in accordance with the Church Representation Rules.

Church Officers

Standing Committee:

Priest in Charge

Reverend Sarah Carwardine from June 2024

Churchwardens

Philip Kear and Annette Summers

PCC Secretary

Helen Fitzgerald

PCC Treasurer

Janet Wilson

Ministry Team:

Priest in Charge

Reverend Sarah Carwardine from June 2024

Associate Priest

Reverend Jennie Hayward

Associate Priest

Reverend Peter Davies

Licensed Lay Ministers

Jan Kear & Rachel Cramp

Authorised Lay Ministers

Paul Fulbrook, Ian Cramp & Phil Kear

Parish Administrator

Tammara Adams

Health & Safety Officer

Ian Cramp

Electoral Roll Officer

Julie Palmer

Data Protection Officer

Helen Fitzgerald

Safeguarding Officer

Lorraine Deeprose

Children's Worship

Rachel Cramp

Independent Examiner

Tony Archer

Banks

Barclays Bank PLC, Worcester

Lloyds, Worcester

PCC MEMBERSHIP at the end of 2023-2024 term

Ex-Officio

Reverend Sarah Carwardine

Chair from June 2024

Jo Siddles

Lay Chair- Acting Chair until June 2024

Philip Kear

Churchwarden - Completed 13 years

Annette Summers

Churchwarden - Completed 3 years

Jan Kear	LLM Since 2020
Rachel Cramp	LLM Since 2023

Elected Members (up to 12)

Jo Siddles -	2016-2024
Janet Wilson - Treasurer	since 2014
Helen Fitzgerald - Secretary	since 2018
Laura Stevens	since 2016
Lorraine Deeprose	since 2018
Ian Townley	since 2020
Julie Palmer	since 2020
Judy Hooper	2020-2024

Deanery Synod Members

Paul Fulbrook	since 2017	
Ian Cramp	since 2017	(& ALM since 2023)

The appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. All church attendees are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and may stand for election to the PCC. The work of the PCC is carried out at regular meetings, throughout the year. In addition regular Standing Committee meetings have been held, comprising the Vicar or Chair, Wardens, PCC Secretary and PCC Treasurer.

PCC STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE & MANAGEMENT

The work of the PCC was also undertaken through meetings of various sub-groups:

Standing Committee	Ministry Team
20/20+ Vision, Project Group	Buildings Management Group
Parish Magazine Committee	

When they have met, these groups have provided regular reports to the full PCC meetings, in addition to reports from the Deanery Synod representatives.

ELECTORAL ROLL - Julie Palmer

The Church electoral roll is the register of electors for the parish. In the same way that being on the civic Electoral Roll allows you to vote in parliamentary and local elections and referenda, joining the Church Electoral Roll means that you can vote on Church matters, attend the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) and stand for election to the PCC. In 2025 the electoral roll has been completely refreshed, and everyone has been required to re-apply to be on the roll. At the time of the APCM there were 88 members on the roll, down from 126 members in 2023.

MINISTRY RERPORTS

WORK OF THE PARISH- Reverend Sarah Carwardine

2024 began with the church in vacancy and, as I understand it, run by a very capable team of people and supported by visiting clergy. It seems only right to begin this report by thanking the whole ministry team; Rev Peter, Rev Jennie, Phil & Jan and Ian & Rachel for continuing the ministry of the church in a period of vacancy so well. They were of course well supported, in particular, by churchwardens Annette & Phil, by Janet the treasurer and by the PCC secretary Helen Fitzgerald. Thanks is also extended to all the visiting clergy who supported the church during this time.

My licensing service was on 5th June at St George's with a wonderful Joint Service of celebration on Sunday 9th June at Claines. Both of these services were so lovely, and I'd like to extend my personal thanks to all who worked to make the services what they were and all who came long to both. I received such a warm welcome from both churches as I began, and I have felt well supported through my first seven months in post. Thank you.

Working Together

A lent course and an advent course were run jointly across Claines, St George's and St Stephens with each church well represented. These were good times of coming together, breaking down barriers more and pursuing God together.

Once I was licenced, we began hold joint services when there was a 5th Sunday in a month. These have been uplifting times that we have shared together and they have been well received. Over the Christmas period Claines, St George's and St Stephens united together along with other ecumenical churches to sing carols at care homes and sheltered accommodations, visiting Homenash House, Fernhill House, The Belmont, Noele Court, St Stephen's, The Willows and Northwick Grange bringing much festive cheer to the community around us!

Looking to 2025, we look forward to joining with St Stephen's too for 5th Sundays as Rev Lindsey and I formally become associates in one another's churches.

Children's Work

Our monthly youth group has gone from strength to strength during 2024. There are 12 members of the youth group, and almost all attend every month. The group rotates around the churches and is leading the way in how we work together well. The success of the group is down to Helen Laird who worked so hard to make it happen, alongside Rev Lindsey, myself and the volunteers who have continued to support this work, Elisabeth, Becky and Rachel.

Our Children's, Youth and Family Worker Helen Laird felt the nudge of the Holy Spirit to apply for a job with the URC and left us on 30th November after being in post for 13 months. We are so grateful for all that she accomplished in the time she was here and wish her well for her new post. We began the process to employ someone new quickly and managed to interview for the post in November. We changed the job title from 'worker' to 'minister' in recognition that it is an important ministerial role and are delighted that Heather Murphy will be joining us as our new Children, Youth and Families Minister in February 2025.

Our schools work continued to flourish throughout the year with Helen and Rachel both regularly taking assemblies and Godly Play sessions at Claines School. Claines school come into the church regularly for different occasions and they are always well received, we love having the relationship with the school that we do and will be looking to strengthen that even more in 2025. Connections were also built and strengthened with the North Worcester Academy, The Grange and the River School during 2024.

Occasional Offices

Baptism and Wedding packs were redesigned, and once I was in post it wasn't long before new enquiries came flooding in and previous enquiries waiting for a Priest began to clear. There had been



a bit of a lull in wedding ministry since covid, but with all the enquiries that came in in 2024 it seems it may just be picking back up again now, which is really exciting. Baptism enquiries are also slowly picking up and I'm so deeply grateful to the Mother's Union who are so supportive at the baptisms we do - thank you so much!

We supported many bereaved families through our funeral ministry during the year, and of course we sadly lost Harry Sansome this year. It was a privilege to take such a special service as we said our farewells to him. Jean Smallwood also passed away and there was a memorial service held for her in Claines.

Worship

I have been truly blessed to arrive and to find such talented musicians at Claines and would like to extend special thanks to Vanessa who arranges our organists, leads the music group and the choir. I've been so impressed by all that she does and have personally found her so very helpful. A big thank you to Simon Taranzuk and Robin Walker too who are such talented organists and play for us regularly.

Café Church is a newer form of church, but one that reaches children and families in a way that maybe a traditional Sunday Service doesn't, and I'm so delighted to see how well this is run. The Café Church team do such a great job, so thank you to all those who've been involved in this; although I don't get to come along often, I hear about it every month and I'm so pleased with how it's going.

Sunday worship that happens in the church comes in wide variety from the traditional communion to the devotions at dusk. Each form of worship is valid in its own right and each gives us that time with God that we all need. I'm enormously grateful to the ministry team who run so many of these services and enable everyone to meet with God in the space we have in different and creative ways.

Thank you!

I couldn't list all the people I'd like to thank, it would fill a book already, but I am so, so grateful to everyone who serves our church in anyway, there is a whole army of people who keep this church running and half of them you wouldn't even know about. My deepest thank you to everything that you do and the part you play for our community, it is really appreciated.

Looking to the Future

2025 will be an exciting year for us and I'm eagerly anticipating all that God might have planned for us! I'm looking forward to working more closely with Rev Lindsey and to Heather starting in post. I'm also very much looking forward to our PCC away day in March as Claines and St George's, and I'm excited to start discerning God's vision for us as Churches.

CHURCHWARDENS' REPORT- Phil Kear and Annette Summers

2024 has been another busy year for us all at Claines. During the first half of the year, we remained in interregnum. The support we received by visiting clergy during this period towards services was tremendous and included a visit from Bishop John to Café Church. Our own ministry team worked to ensure we provided our scheduled services and with the professional support from Tam in the office managing all additional requests. We thank them all.

It was wonderful news to announce that we had appointed our new vicar, Sarah Carwardine, and we all enjoyed her licensing at St George's in June followed by a joint communion service at Claines the following Sunday. It has been lovely to continue these joint services with St George's regularly. We look forward to Lindsey Coulthard, the vicar from St Stephens who will be licensed to Claines and St Georges and sharing services with the congregations of all three churches in the future.

We held a wonderful community fundraising event in July which brought so many residents from the local area into church and helped to raise our profile which we are certainly looking to build on in 2025.

The church buildings require consistent maintenance if they are to be useable and provide a valuable resource for all our community. Maintenance fell behind during covid and we are now trying to catch up. Obviously, we can only manage this when we have the funds available and why fundraising is very important, and we all have a part to play and support this. Your support could be through events, but we should all consider our regular giving, donations and future legacies. The church has also experienced vandalism and damage and we would ask all members of the community to be vigilant and if you see any suspicious activity around the church buildings to report it immediately to the police. The PCC works with the priest in the mission of the church and are consulted about all the work we undertake within the parish. This year we have several members retiring and we would love to invite you to consider joining us and supporting YOUR church.

Inventory

This has been checked and found to be in good order.

Fabric, Fixtures, Fittings and Furniture

All relevant checks have been carried out.

The temporary removal of some pews to create the gathering area has been made a permanent fixture and we continue working towards the completion of the kitchen area in 2025.

The Medieval Tiles removed in 2023 have been cleaned and are being framed and a faculty is being arranged for them to be hung back in the church in 2025.

Churchyards

Muddy Boots have continued to strim and mow the churchyard. Andrew Johnson and Steve Taylor have provided their services as Sexton, and we are very grateful for their continued support.

Parish Giving

We had a strong Parish Giving Scheme from the beginning, this has been affected by the general economic situation, but the uptake of new members is not keeping pace with the loss of members. We cannot sit back, and the Parish Budget needs to balance. The focus for 2025 will be to strengthen our regular giving and raise the funds to maintain our buildings. We have enjoyed superb controls on the finances by our treasurer, Janet Wilson, and we thank her for her hard work over the years as she retires from her position at the APCM.

Thanks

We are so lucky in Claines to have many volunteers who carry out their duties, without whom we would be unable to function. Thank you to all who give their time to support the church and for all those working in the background that are not seen.

Special thanks are due to the following: -

- Tammara Adams our Parish Administrator who provides invaluable support across so many areas of our work.
- Julie Palmer for arranging the monthly rota and also our Electoral Role Officer
- Organists, music group, band and choir who bring such wonderful music to our church and community.
- Duty Warden's, servers, readers, Intercessors, sides people and refreshment team for their diligence at all our services.

- Those that act as vergers', cleaners, flower arrangers', bellringers, Mother's Union members at Baptisms, those that open and close the church daily and those fulfilling other roles across our church, its grounds, and buildings.

We are so grateful to all that volunteer as without you our church could not operate.

We would also like to acknowledge our Ministry Team. We are blessed to have such a strong group that support us in all areas of worship as well as meeting the needs of the congregation. **Thank You**

Quinquennial Inspection- Ian Cramp

It is a requirement that an inspection of the church and its grounds takes place at intervals of 5 years to ensure that the building is in good condition and to identify any remedial works that need to be undertaken in order to keep it in good condition is especially important with Heritage Buildings- our church is Listed 2* (among the top 5% of important buildings in the United Kingdom).

The inspection was undertaken in 2023 by an experienced architect approved by the Diocesan Advisory Committee as having the appropriate expertise for listed buildings and their methods of construction. This identified a number of issues with the church and, thankfully, most are of a minor nature. However, it is necessary to continue to ensure that the church is maintained in good condition and it is thanks to those who have done this in previous years that our church does not require major expenditure. Fundraising is taking place in order to provide the money necessary to complete this important work.

Church Buildings- Ian Cramp

As well as undertaking minor works in church, the Building Management Group have continued to look after the other church properties- the Parish Hall, the Institute and Institute House. These provide income for the church. However, the skill base required for working in Listed buildings is different and more costly than for normal properties.

FINANCIAL REPORT- Janet Wilson

Overview

In another year of changing circumstances and pressure of rising prices, we successfully paid our portion of the Ministry Share (£42,255) in full. The income from The Parish Giving Scheme and Standing Orders remained stable but at a reduced level from 2023. Income increased slightly from casual gift aid, cash collections and the card reader.

Income

- **Voluntary Income:** Slightly decreased compared to last year, primarily due to general reduced giving.
- **Donations:** Considerably increased in 2024.
- **Card Payment Machine:** Continues to be well-used, aiding our cash collections.
- **Legacies:** Received contribution from Anthony Leeson
- **Additional Contributions:** Magazine Fund, The Hall and Institute Fund and LinC each contributed towards church funds.

Expenditure

Our general expenditure was well-controlled, with significant costs attributed to:

- Energy
- Insurance
- Alarm System

Building Work

Outstanding costs from phase 1 include heating and the restoration/display of medieval tiles. Funding is also available for phase 2, including removal of additional pews to facilitate the installation of kitchen facilities.

Children's Minister

The Diocese continues to cover 80% of the costs for our Children's Minister. The remaining 20% is shared equally between Claines, St George's, and St Stephen's from General Funds. A huge thank you to everyone for their ongoing financial support and involvement. Your gifts make a real difference to the life of the church.

BUILDINGS MANAGEMENT GROUP (BMG)- Ian Cramp

There have been a number of challenges and issues during the last 12 months. Despite these, we have maintained the Hall and Institute in good condition and ready to serve their many users in the community. This has taken a significant amount of time and effort by the Building Management Group (BMG) and we are grateful to them for their hard work. Their efforts have also meant that the letting charges have been kept to a minimum, despite those factors such as energy and maintenance costs which have been increasing considerably throughout the year. The biggest outgoing cost continues to be energy.

Maintenance

We have been actively involved in the maintenance of our buildings. As part of this, we have undertaken works ourselves, if possible, and carefully monitored expenditure on contractors. An important part of maintenance has been cleaning and we have tried to maintain good standards. Further lighting replacement took place in the entrance lobby, the toilets and kitchen.

Institute House

We have carried out all required tests and inspections for Institute House and are very pleased with the positive way the tenant is caring for the property.

Occupation

Thanks to hard work by Katrina Boucher, the Hall is well occupied during most periods of the week and we have been successful in attracting a number of new bookings, despite the current poor financial climate, however, party bookings have reduced.

There is more availability in the Institute and we will be working to increase the number of hirers. It is felt that the Hall is more popular with groups in view of its better location in the centre of population. We believe that both venues offer good value for money.

BMG Committee

We thank the BMG committee who work extremely hard to ensure good standards in all our premises. We are also very grateful to committee member Dilwyn Price who has made further generous donations to the Hall on behalf of the Community Café.

We really appreciate the hard work by others on the committee especially Katrina Boucher, the Hall and Institute Manager. We are very grateful to Gordon Smith for his practical help in many ways, including redecorating the Hall kitchen, even though he is not a committee member.

Finally, please can we ask you to use our buildings whenever you can. A number of varied activities take place in them that should appeal to everyone.



HEALTH AND SAFETY- Ian Cramp

The church has been used for a number of events during 2024 when large numbers of people have been present. There have been no health and safety issues despite the buildings having uneven floors and being surrounded by paths and walkways of various levels. We have not had any incidents in the Hall or Institute.

For large events, risk assessments are prepared in advance in order to ensure, as far as possible, the safety of those using the building.

We continue to regularly inspect all equipment necessary for use in the event of an emergency.

SAFEGUARDING- Lorraine Deeprise



Safeguarding Report



First of all - a very big thank you to the magnificent team of volunteers and paid roles at St John Baptist Claines - who serve both our local and church community - and a personal thanks from me for getting their DBS applications completed, going online and registering with the Government Update Service and for completing the appropriate training.

Over the last few years safeguarding has become a priority in all faith communities - not least the Church of England, who now prescribe the way we recruit, check, train and support everyone working in a volunteer/paid role in or on behalf of the church.

This in the normal run of things is what is being done -

- Safeguarding is an item on all PCC agendas as is this report for the APCM.
- Volunteers/paid roles with a direct contact with children or vulnerable adults must be police checked (DBS) and these are rechecked every 3 years.
- All volunteers/paid roles are expected to sign up to the Government Update Service. This means a DBS application does not have to be done again, but the volunteer/paid role is reminded by the Update service to renew their registration every year. This then enables the PSO to check annually through the online system that they have not been involved in the harm of any child, young person or vulnerable adult and can continue in their role within our church.
- Everyone is expected and encouraged to complete safeguarding training at a level conducive with the level of their responsibilities and these must be renewed every 3 years. Helpfully, much of this training is now available online.

- The Parish Dashboard is kept up to date with relevant information as to what is happening within our church.
- All groups & activities that come under the umbrella of the church are complying to all policies, practices and expectations regarding safeguarding. Keeping all those they come into contact with safe from harm.

It is my wish for St John Baptist Claines that whilst we continue to maintain good practice in terms of safeguarding practice, policy and procedure we also develop an even stronger culture of safeguarding so that everyone who has contact with us feels safe, respected and cared about and that we are seen as a church for whom safeguarding is at the forefront of all aspects of our work and mission.

ADDENDUM TO APCM - SAFEGUARDING REPORT April 6th 2025

Safeguarding Statement

To the best of our understanding, the PCC of St John Baptist Claines, Worcester have complied with the duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 (duty to have due regard to the House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults). In 2024 we conducted the following:

- 30 new DBS processed (this was due to a number of DBS checks being over 3 years old).
Total people with an up-to-date DBS = 35
- Number of DBS applications that required referral to DSA/ADSA = 0
- Number of DBS that have lapsed without renewal = 0
- Number of people who have attended training = 30
- Any advice sought from DSA/ADSA this year and any actions as a result? **Yes - advice was sought regarding a variety of safeguarding general questions.**
- Are there any safeguarding agreements in place in the parish? **No**
- Have there been any serious incident reports made to the Charity Commission? **No**
- Sharing of updates from PSO network meetings? Or training events? **PSO submits reports on network meetings and training she and others attended at PCC meeting**
- Any policy changes/new statements added/new Diocesan/National policies adopted?
 - 1. Safeguarding is on the agenda at every PCC meeting.**
 - 2. We include a report in the Church Annual Report's, and**
 - 3. This Addendum will be incorporated in every year's Annual report**
- Completion of toolkit/take up of Dashboard? **Yes, St John Baptist Claines is Green across Level 3 Dashboard**
- Highlights of Parish action plan? **To check compliance of all parish activities taking place.**
- How many children's/adult activities are taking place in the parish? **7 adult/5 children's**
- Any new ones planned? **We are currently working with the CYFM and new groups/activities are in the pipeline.**
- **We currently don't have defined role description for those working with vulnerable adults and children. The Diocese has templates for most roles within the church, we will be carrying out additional work to produce specific job descriptions for every role.**

Parish Safeguarding Policies

Our Safeguarding Policies are reviewed on an annual basis by the PCC. All policies were reviewed and agreed this will take place at our first PCC meeting after the APCM. All our policies are displayed in every church venue, along with 'Who's Who' poster for Safeguarding, plus useful websites and contact details for anyone who needs help, support, isolated or feeling vulnerable.

DATA PROTECTION-Annette Summers

There have been no instances of data breaching. Good GDPR practice is followed.

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER 2024	
Signed on behalf of the Trustees	
.....	
.....	
Rev. Sarah Carwardine	Date ...06.04.25.....



ACTIVITIES OF THE PARISH

WORCESTER DEANERY SYNOD- Paul Fulbrook

Deanery Synod has met 3 times this year. On each occasion we are at a different venue. This serves two purposes. The first is the opportunity to visit the very varied locations of parishes in our Deanery and also to ensure not every Synod member has a distance to travel each time.

The first Synod was an opportunity to meet the new Arch Deacon - Mark Badger. He encouraged us to think about mission with a particular focus on engaging with people moving into new housing developments but also thinking about how we connect with new people moving into existing homes in our parishes. As groups from different churches we were encouraged to look at what our churches currently offer and where there are openings to extend our welcome beyond the church setting. The aim is to bring people gradually into contact with the church and faith by using experiences and settings where they feel more comfortable.

At our second Synod meeting we were invited to bring our Treasurers along. Quite often issues involving finance are discussed at Diocese level without the impact of everyday, individual parish life being articulated. This meeting was used to discuss the issues faced by us as parishes which were then presented to the Diocesan Officers for them to understand our concerns.

Our final meeting had two guest speakers. Rev Kim Brown has been appointed to help develop New Worshipping Communities. She has a wealth of experience and provided many resources and ideas that parishes can build into current parish activities. She is willing to help all churches wanting support to develop their interaction in communities. The second speaker was the Rev Duncan Hutchinson who has launched the 'Church and School Partnership Award' in our Diocese.

An extra event, organised by Rev Paul Wilcox, was a Deanery Prayer event. It was held on September 11th, offering prayer stations linked to praying for different aspects of our Deanery life. The detail that was put into the evening was excellent but unfortunately very few non-clergy attended. This was a shame as the quality of what was offered was excellent.

Elizabeth Fleming and Nick Stephens

20/20+ VISION PROJECT- Ian Cramp

In 2023 we reported that the majority of the 2020 project had been completed. This has comprised the construction of two toilets in the vestry together with reordering of the space to allow new storage and cupboards to be installed.

Since then we have been making full use of the new facilities as well as the improved storage in the vestry. The toilets and drainage system are much appreciated and work well.

The vacancy meant that the majority of those managing the project were required to assist with the running of the church but the appointment of Rev. Sarah has meant that work can resume on the few outstanding issues.

The medieval tiles on the wall of the North porch had been carefully removed and stored before work commenced in forming an arch into what would become the accessible toilet. Work has now taken place to restore them and enable them to be presented in the best possible way and it is planned to mount them on two panels at the rear of the nave once a faculty has been obtained to do so.

PROJECT WORKS- Ian Cramp

During the year, the faculty permitting us to permanently remove a few pews from the North West corner of the church was approved and it is planned to use some of them to form the outside of a

catering unit. We have found that the meeting area created by the removal of these pews has worked extremely well and provides a comfortable space for gathering after services and also for some meetings. It also forms a useful area when music is provided by the Instrumental Group. Work has proceeded with the design of this area to accommodate a catering unit to serve light refreshments, storage (we can never have enough!) and flexible seating space. The architect developed plans during the year and it is hoped to apply for a faculty in Spring 2025. As part of our inclusive church policy, it is also hoped to remove a pew at the junction of the nave and transept to allow persons in wheelchairs and motorised scooters to be closer to the front of the church. Minor modifications to the threshold step at the South door will be made to improve access. Competitive quotations have been obtained for a new public address system and video facilities although it is likely that only the public address system will be installed in 2025. During the year we have experienced issues with the tower clock. The manufacturers have advised that the motor is at the end of its working life (it was installed in 1947) and parts are no longer available. Additionally, someone has to manually reset the mechanism following a power cut, of which there have been several during the year. We are very indebted to Derry Clifford and members of his family who in August undertook a sponsored parachute jump to raise the money needed to replace the motor. Many of you will know that Derry has significant experience in clocks of all types and has been appointed the clocks advisor to Worcester Diocesan Advisory Committee.



CHILDREN, FAMILIES AND YOUTH WORK- Rachel Cramp and Rev Sarah Carwardine

Helen Laird had been employed as the Children's, Youth and Families Worker since September 2023. By the beginning of 2024 Helen was very actively involved in many aspects of Children, Youth and Families work and in local schools, and during the year there were many changes. Rev Sarah Carwardine joined us in June and then in November we wished Helen Laird a fond farewell as she moved on to a new job.

2024 was a very busy year! A new worshipping community called 'Gather' was started, and once a month children and families were invited after school, into church for a story, song, prayer, activities and hot chocolate and toast! Whilst the numbers remained small, those that came really enjoyed the sessions, but this finished in July.

In church Helen continued to place photocopies of age-appropriate materials into church, to link to the Lectionary, which children could use, and themed bags of stories and activities were available for use in the Children's Worship area or in pews with parents. Children happily set up the Children's altar on Sundays and we looked forward to our purpose made altar being completed, also occasionally Godly Play stories were told in church.

Little Friends Toddler Group continued their wonderful sessions, led by Heather Murphy and an organising Group. A prayer box for Little Friends and Little Fish was placed in the foyer of the Hall.

Little Fish was held on the third Tuesday of the month in Claines Parish Hall, from 10 am until 11.30 am and aimed at pre-school children and led by Helen Laird, Rachel Cramp LLM, Kathy Hathaway and the team. The children came along with a parent or carer to join in with songs, prayers and an interactive Bible Story, enjoy creative activities and enjoy a drink and a biscuit. The Easter and Christmas sessions were held in Claines Church.

During 2024 we learned about Jesus' life, and how Jesus is our friend and teaches us to be kind and caring. We learned about Lent, Easter, Advent and getting ready for Christmas. Other topics included Harvest time and the Lost Sheep and we finished the school year in July with a joint session with Little Friends, and held a 'Big Picnic' and looked at the story of the Feeding of the 5000.

We are always happy to welcome new children and very much appreciate the help and support of the mums, grandparents and carers of our Little Fish. We would like to say a ***huge special thank you*** to Mothers' Union members, Annie Ray, Jane Saint and Pat Price who help in the kitchen and join in the sessions.

POG (Path of God) The Joint churches Youth Group has continued to meet monthly, moving around the three churches in turn: Claines, St George's and St Stephen's. The numbers of young people has been growing and everyone enjoys the range of themes, games and activities and the lovely food they share, s'mores being a particular favourite! Helen Laird, Becky Lowe and Elisabeth Witter have led these sessions with support from Rev Sarah, Rev Lindsey and Rachel.

Junior Bishop was once again re-instated this year, with a Junior Bishop, supported by his Junior Chaplain in post for Advent. They undertook many roles, including reading from the bible, preparing and reading prayers and the Junior Bishop reflected on his own faith; a courageous thing to do, especially during the teenage years



Schools work has been very important during the year, with young people coming into church for a range of activities, from Claines Primary, North Worcester Primary Academy and The Grange. Claines School regularly hold services in church and Helen and Rachel have taken Godly Play stories into school to support the curriculum and also take assemblies. Rev Sarah has welcomed parents and children to school once a week when she is on the gate.



There were many other times of worship: a lovely Remembrance Service was held, with large numbers of the Uniformed Groups in church, an Eco Christingle was held in church when we welcomed the support of the Guides and a busy, fun Crib Service was held. Both Claines Posada and the Diocesan Posada travelled around both church and school families.

STOP PRESS – We are delighted to announce that Heather Murphy has been appointed as the new Children, Youth and Families Minister for the three churches and will take up her post in February 2025.

CLAINES COMMUNITY CAFÉ- Jane Saint and Annie Ray

We are pleased to report that 2024 was another successful year for the café with those attending each week numbering between 40 and 50. We are so grateful to all our regular helpers whether they bake, serve, welcome, keep the tea flowing, set up, clear up, wash up or manage our funds. Four members of the team were honoured to be invited to the Mayor's inaugural banquet in September in recognition of our contribution to the community. We were also fortunate to receive a grant from the Mayor which funded a coach trip to Evesham Vale Country Park. This was a great success and much enjoyed by all. Another coach trip is planned.

This year we have gradually introduced a few extra attractions; live music afternoons, a quiz, a visit from fire safety officers and of course our Christmas party which was again a joyful event with live music and dancing, Father Christmas and gifts for all. We have managed to keep our charges modest (£2 for tea and cake) and still contribute to Worcester Foodbank, Dementia UK and The Salvation Army. We have maintained the defibrillator and replaced café and hall equipment as necessary.

We are at the Parish Hall from 2 - 3.30 every Tuesday. Everyone is welcome. We are always on the lookout for newcomers and will make sure they are introduced to others. Thank you to all who attend the café for their loyal and cheerful support.



ECO CHURCH- Ian Cramp

Since obtaining our Silver Eco- Church award in 2022, we have been continuing to look at ways in which we can reduce our impact on the planet. We have been looking closely at energy costs and obtaining the best tariffs in all our buildings. This is not an easy task with so much uncertainty in the energy marketplace.

We have also looked at reducing the amount of energy we use and when we use it. The biggest problem we face is in the Hall and Institute where one hirer might feel that the room is too hot, so they open all the doors and the next group to enter finds that it is then too cold! We installed a remotely operated thermostat so that the Hall temperature could be easily controlled. This has led to significant energy savings.

We are working towards the Gold standard for Eco-Church. However, to do this we will need to spend money on, among other things, better insulating our buildings and funds are likely to be an issue. We are investigating the possibility of grants for the Hall and Institute.

QUEST BEREAVEMENT GROUP- Tricia Greenwood

The group is for someone who has lost a loved one and can chat to others in a similar position. The numbers have stayed at a steady 15 including. We meet every third Thursday of the month for tea and cake.

Unfortunately we did not have outings in 2024 and they were certainly missed. We will rectify this for 2025! We did have our Christmas Meal at the New Inn which was well accepted. They look after us very well. If you are interested in joining the group or having a chat please contact Trish for more details. 01905 28580

THE WORCESTER FOODBANK- Lyn Crowther

At both churches we support Worcester Foodbank by giving a regular supply of both food and essential household goods. Financial support is also given from church funds and from individuals. Both churches give support from volunteers either working in the warehouse or as delivery drivers. December 2024 saw record numbers needing the services of the Foodbank as well as during peak times of the year such as school holidays. The increased opening times of 2022 have continued into 2024 and it looks as if they will be needed for the foreseeable future. The premises are being extended into the former salon services in the near future which will give much needed increased capacity. In the meantime, our regular giving of food, goods, time and money are essential to the ongoing work of the Foodbank here in Worcester. A heartfelt thanks to you all.

LUNCH IN COMPANY (LINC)- John Brady

Linc lunch has been running for quite a few years now and continues to take place on the second Saturday of every month providing a meal and a good chat for those who attend. Meals range from Shepherd's pie, to pork chops in cider, to lasagne, to chicken chasseur, to well, you name it. A popular meal is the succulent spring lamb that has become a must for every Eastertide. Puds are equally good and nearly always with custard plus our Christmas meal is really not to be missed. We were, again, very grateful to St Georges' for allowing us to use the Magdalene room for a yummy fish and chip supper. It is nice to get away from our usual Church Hall venue to somewhere different, once a year.

Sadly, as is the case every year, some of our regulars are no longer with us. We wish those who have moved away or are unable to come along due to ill health some good dinners, wherever they are. Hopefully you may be able to join us again in the future. It is always good to have people return for the occasional meal.

As always, thanks should also be expressed in this report, to the members of the team who provide LINC lunches, that is, Jane and Simon Saint, Matt and Laura Stevens, Ian Townley, Jan Kear, Pat Harris, Alan Long, Anne Ray and myself. We all feel that providing LINC lunches is a very rewarding experience. If you would like to help in the future, please get in touch with any of those mentioned. New helpers would be most welcome

Finally, we would welcome any new diners to our lunches and our company. If you are on your own then please do get in touch with us, or the vicar, and we will get back to you.

John Brady

CHURCH MAGAZINE- Pat Oddy

As usual, we have produced 10 magazines in the year to December 2024. Four of them had 40 pages and the other six had 36. Each issue contained about 31 advertisements, which helps to defray the cost of printing.

Fortunately we receive interesting articles from our readers which is very reassuring, and means that we usually have no trouble in filling the number of pages available each month! The articles entitled 'Parish Personalities' seem to have been popular with readers, but less popular when we descend on a possible contributor to reveal all. Once you put pen to paper you will find that 400 words+ and two photos is not much to ask and one or two memorable reminiscences will soon fill the space.

We are particularly interested in contributions from those who have lived in Claines for all (or most of) their lives and who can write about the Claines of their youth.

Stories about the personalities of the past, particularly those who made a contribution to the life of Claines Parish Church are top of our list. If you have a possible story but really need some advice, please speak to the editor as 'ghost writers' are available!

The talent in the pews is amazing with gardeners, poets, puzzle solvers, cooks and writers, and we are delighted to hear from them all; thank you for your continued support, and I hope anyone else who is inspired will put pen to paper – you do not have to be a computer genius!

This year we have been pleased to welcome the Reverend Sarah to our production team and are grateful to her for stepping up so quickly to writing the ministerial letters at the front of the magazines. We are also grateful to all the organisers who have provided us with details of events in good time to encourage maximum support, especially for fund-raising events for church.

Sadly, this year we have lost a number of our long term subscribers to the magazine, which has reduced the number we print, but we still make sure that there are plenty for sale in church each month. If this is how you prefer to obtain your copy, would you please be kind enough to put your £1 payment in one of the brown envelopes available on the table, before placing this in the safe on the pillar by the South door, so that we can calculate how many we have sold. It is helpful to be able to balance the number we need with the number we get printed.

Meanwhile, we are hugely grateful to all those who deliver the magazines each month – and moreover collect in the annual subscriptions – they do a wonderful job and once again in 2024 were entertained to strawberries and fizz in July.

SOCIAL MEDIA - Rachel Cramp

Throughout 2024 Social Media has remained an important way to communicate with the congregation and wider parish, especially very active Facebook account.



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We currently have 1516 followers on the Claines Church Facebook site, 75% women and 25% men; 27% of the current audience are aged 35-44, 17% aged 45-54 and 22% aged 65+, but 34% are in the 25-34 and younger age group – so reflecting an intergenerational audience. Half of our followers are from Worcester and Fernhill Heath, with others from elsewhere in Worcestershire, further afield and overseas. The most popular posts include photographs and links. There has again been an increase on the Claines Parish Hall and Institute site, up to 567 followers, 86% women and 14% men; 39% are aged 35-44, 24% aged 45-54, 14% aged 55-64 – 23% younger or older than the categories given. Hirers of the Hall and Institute appreciate being able to place ads and updates on their classes, which they really appreciate. 77% of the audience are from Worcester and Fernhill Heath.

Last year we explained there were concerns about 'X' and how it was being run. Whilst we had approximately 500 followers, it had been largely dormant for a year. Worcester Diocese, and many clergy moved from 'X' to Blue Sky. It had been useful for networking, but many Dioceses, individuals and groups had left. It was decided to close the Claines Church X account, and during 2025 we plan to explore other options that might be useful for networking in the future.

We would like to thank our 'Zoom drivers'; all who contribute to the Facebook sites and Rachael Wilson who looks after our Claines Church website: <https://claineschurch.co.uk>

LITTLE FRIENDS- Heather Murphy

During 2024, Little Friends continued to be led by a committee of volunteers in accordance with our constitution. The committee currently consists of:

Chair - Heather Murphy
 Secretary - Ally Craven
 Treasurer - Julie MacRae

Additional parent volunteers regularly help us to set up, pack down and oversee our facebook page. The Mothers Union continues to support us by serving refreshments, and two volunteers from Claines Church help us do the heavy lifting.

Overview:

Little Friends meets Tuesday mornings (excluding the third Tuesday of the month) during term time from 10am-11.30am at Claines Parish Hall on Cornmeadow Lane. We support and run in

conjunction with Little Fish. We primarily communicate via Facebook and email claineslittlefriends@gmail.com. We charge £1.50 per family with 50p for each additional child. Funds continue to be managed in a sub-account of Claines church. Our intention is to provide a safe, inclusive, nurturing stay and play session for children aged birth-school and their families/carers. We have a strong understanding of the EYFS Development Matters curriculum and provide activities and resources to stimulate babies and children in attendance. A strong focus is on growing relationships, supporting parents and carers, building community and links to Claines Church.

Some of the toys/activities available each week include: a train set, dolls house, car garages, home corner, dressing up, ride on toys, slide, puzzles, duplo, mega bloks, baby toys. We also set up crafts, messy play, water play, painting and malleable activities such as play dough or jelly. We have a book corner with a library system allowing families to borrow books. As well as using the hall, we use the outdoor paved area and during good weather broaden out onto The Patch. A "family style dining snack table" is set up with free, healthy food for children. Hot drinks, biscuits and toast are provided for adults. Each session ends with a story, nursery rhymes and bubbles. Feedback forms were sent out at the end of the academic year. We had a high response with extremely positive and encouraging comments.

Numbers:

During 2024, the average number of children per session was 30. This means that the hall has been very busy as each child is accompanied by parents and/or carers. For health and safety reasons, during wet weather our maximum number of children is 34. This does mean that on occasion, we are forced to close our doors and families are unable to join our session. However, during dry months, The Patch can be used. With the additional space we are able to admit more families. Our busiest sessions during May and July had 40 children in attendance.

Christian Ethos:

During the autumn term, we collected baby clothes, toys and equipment for Grow Baby [Growbaby International Children's Supplies Charity](#). This was very successful and we filled a van with donations of clothing and equipment for babies and children in Worcester.

An Easter bake sale, Christmas card project and plant sales collectively raised £151.20 for Worcester Neonatal Unit [Worcs Neonatal Unit Fund](#). We continue to collect stamps for the charity Kicks Count. [Your Baby's Movements Matter. Kicks Count is the UK's leading baby movement campaign, keeping mums and babies safe.](#)

For the second year, we collected items for the Foodbank during Harvest and to mark Mothering Sunday we blessed the women with daffodil posies. Families were given a "nativity scene advent calendar" which included daily bible verses. Easter story booklets were handed out. Parents/carers going through difficult times or big "life moments" are given flowers. A prayer post-box is accessible during sessions. A breast-feeding support worker now attends most sessions and can offer feeding advice to new mums.

It continues to be a privilege to chair Little Friends. Please continue to pray for our group, for our volunteers and families. Thank you to all our 2024 Little Friends volunteers

- Ally, Jules, Lou, Chloe, Alice, Sarah, Sarah J, Haimisha, Eva, Pav, Lynne, Jane, Annie, Pat, Rob, Derry and Helen.

Thank you



MOTHER'S UNION - Jan Hayden and Rachel Cramp

Our members can be found in all aspects of church life and include welcomers, Bible readers, intercessors, vergers, choir members, musicians in the church music group, members of the Flower Guild and Licensed Lay Ministers. Members also support Little Friends, Little Fish, LINC, Café Church and the Community Café. Members have a special ministry at baptisms, supporting clergy, welcoming and looking after the congregation and undertaking readings.

Claines Mothers' Union continues to increase its membership and meets regularly to enjoy fellowship locally and within the Deanery and Diocese by attending numerous joint meetings and Acts of Worship.

We hold regular fund-raising events throughout the year to help fund the various projects/programmes Mothers Union support across the World.

We begin our meetings in prayer and our programmes are very diverse from talks such as "The Malvern Water Cure" to craft evenings, musical evenings and times when we get out and about visiting places of interest or learning about our own town, for example by undertaking a history walk around Worcester.

In December Gwen Clifford stepped down as Branch Co-Ordinator to take on the role of Vice President of the Worcester Diocese Mothers' Union, with a particular responsibility for the Southern Archdeaconry. We all wish Gwen well in her new role.

We extend our continued thanks to the clergy, the church congregation and all in the community who support us in prayer, and who care for our work.



PARISH MUSIC - Vanessa Gunter

The church musicians have been as busy as ever and it has been another rewarding year. It has been lovely to welcome Charlotte and Kathy to the church choir. Their enthusiasm and hard work is infectious and they have helped to swell and strengthen our wonderful soprano line. Throughout 2024, the choir have regularly sung services on the 4th Sunday of each month, with many members also opting to join forces and sing on the 2nd Sunday as well. These monthly appearances are an important part of our ministry, and we are very grateful for the chance to use our voices to lead worship in this way.

We have enjoyed the opportunity to sing at additional services throughout the year, with extra appearances around Easter and Christmas allowing us to explore seasonal music in more depth. The Carol Service at Claines on 22nd December was a real highlight. The choir worked incredibly hard to



prepare for this and, from our opening carol, 'People look East' to the closing 'Cowboy Carol' and 'Hark the Herald', there was something for everyone.

The instrumental group have been hard at work this year too, playing on the 1st Sunday of the month and continuing to enjoy exploring new repertoire. This is an incredibly hardworking and committed group of musicians, and they continue to delight the congregation each month. A highlight of 2024 was the opportunity to join forces with the musicians at St George's for the licensing of Rev. Sarah Carwadine, at the beginning of June. It was wonderful to collaborate in this way, and we hope that there will be many more opportunities to do this in the future.

Our regular organists, Simon Taranczuk and Robin Walker, and teenage organ scholar Rory Woodward leave many of us in awe and filled with wonder when they bring their talent to play for us. All in all, music is in a great place at Claines at the moment and we are looking forward to seeing what 2025 will hold.

SPARK TO A FLAME - Ann Sansome

2024 started with several new singing members who have faithfully served throughout the year.

We have enjoyed another year of leading worship at the monthly Cafe Church expanding our repertoire of songs and hymns. We have also started to meet once a month, as often we can, to meet and sing for an hour one evening. Anyone is welcome to join us for a short time of worship preparing for the next Cafe Church but enjoying a time of fellowship and worship along the way.

In December the band led worship at the annual Christingle and Crib Services which were again attended by lots of families and young people.

We are always looking to add to our group of singers and any instrumentalists would be very welcome to join us. It is a privilege to serve our community by leading worship.



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BELL RINGING - Martyn Hills

Claines is in the same position as many churches with bells; ringing is largely achieved by bell ringers coming together from different churches, this can be challenging when service times coincide.

On a more positive note, a band to ring the bells can usually be arranged for couples choosing to get married at Claines. Leaving through the South door to the sound of the bells is a very memorable finale to the church element of the day.

Occasionally visiting bands come to ring but requests are falling in line with declining numbers of ringers.

It's great to still be able to ring to celebrate special occasions; Remembrance Day and the Carol service were supported with ringers from the Cathedral.

FLOWER GUILD - Pat Harris

The flower guild work to produce beautiful and much appreciated flower arrangements for regular services throughout the year; they are in keeping with the church calendar. Special events, such as Christmas and Easter are marked with extra displays.

There were only two weddings in church in 2024; we were able to put flowers in church as a welcome.

Our Plant sale in May did excellently and boosted our funds. The Guild would appreciate another volunteer to organise running the plant sale in 2025.

KINGDOM ARTS - Alex New & Sue Ashby-Davies

It has been another full and exciting year at Kingdom Arts. We are grateful to God for what he has taught us, for the people who have joined us in this special community and for the support and encouragement we receive from one another.

After a time of worship, we share the theme for the morning. This always guides our thoughts and fashions our creative activities. This year we are looking at the work and lives of some Christian artists and also the stories behind some of the 20th Century Christian Martyrs depicted in stone statues at Westminster Abbey. After being creative for the morning we have a time of sharing and it is wonderful to hear from people what they have learnt during this time or what God may have put on their hearts to share. The creative writing that people produce is very special and a very encouraging and exciting part of the morning. Do look at the website and see what is produced each month. (kingdom-arts.co.uk)

This year in November, we celebrated the start of our 10th year of Kingdom Arts. We exchanged surprise gifts together to mark the occasion. Everyone was encouraged to bring something they had made, stitched, painted or written to give away. What lovely surprises we had!

None of this would happen without the support, love, hard work, commitment and encouragement of the amazingly gifted team. Each member willingly and tirelessly brings their own unique gifts and talents. Barbara and Bob, Clive and Lyn, Jan Butterworth, "Coffee maker" Pam, Trevor, Margaret Stokes, Carolyn. Our morning would not be complete without the delicious soup lunch that our "Super Chef" Jan Kear makes. We are also grateful to David Moore, from St Peters, Ipsley, who helps lead our Worship every month.

We look forward to all that this year may bring to us as we journey together in the creative community that is Kingdom Arts.

CHRISTIAN AID - Alison Clarke

'Everyone is equal in the sight of God.'

'The unstoppable power of hope' is how Christian Aid sums up its mission in this 80th anniversary year of its work. Events are being planned nationally and locally to mark this special year.

As a Christian Aid Emergency Church, St George's is able to respond quickly in times of need. In October 2024, with need horrendously increased in Gaza, you donated generously to Christian Aid's Middle East Crisis appeal.

In May at St George's, our invited speaker at our Christian Aid Week Café Church was Batanai Padya (church engagement and fundraising officer for CA in the Midlands). We focussed on Burundi, where we learnt about Aline, victim of an abusive marriage and torn from her children. We learned how, with Christian Aid's help, she was able to acquire new skills, make a fresh start and welcome back her children. Your prayers, gifts and campaigning make such a difference. At Claines your church collection raised £86.50. Thank you! At St George's we raised £750.67 through a folk concert and church collection. Thank you!

To get involved with Christian Aid activities or to find out more, please speak to Alison Clarke
clarke.alison@gmail.com

THE CHILDREN'S SOCIETY- Julie Palmer

The Church of England Children's Society began in 1881. Edward Rudolf, a young Sunday school teacher and civil servant in South London, saw the effects of poverty on the children and decided to do something about it.

It is a national charity working to transform the hopes and happiness of young people facing abuse, exploitation and neglect. It supports them through their most serious life challenges and campaigns for the big social changes that will improve the lives of those who need hope most. More details on the work of the Children's Society can be found on their website.

In 2024 Claines Church raised £317.69 for the Children's Society.

- £240.20 was raised via the box collections and
- £77.49 was collected at the Christingle Service.

I have now completed my time as the Children's Society Coordinator for Claines. Thank you so much to everyone who has donated time and/or money to the charity, your support has been very much appreciated.

LEGACIES - MAKING A LASTING DIFFERENCE

Only five per cent of people in the UK have left a gift for a charity in their will, and yet legacies are the largest single source of income for many charities in this country today. Once you have provided for your family and friends, leaving a gift to Claines Church will ensure that our work can continue for many years to come.

Legacies have over the years, and thanks to the generosity of those who have made bequests, contributed greatly to the work and mission of Claines church. The PCC appreciates all bequests both large and small. There are many types of gifts that can be made:

Pecuniary legacy - a cash gift of any size.

Specific legacy - items of value such as property, a car or jewellery.

Residuary bequest - balance of your estate after all debts, taxes, expenses and other legacies have been paid.

All legacies are tax free. If you make such a gift in your will, its value will be deducted from your estate before inheritance tax is calculated. If you are thinking about leaving a legacy or have already remembered us in your will, we would love to talk to you about it; everything you say will be treated in the strictest confidence. We would then have the opportunity to thank you for your generosity. When considering leaving a legacy, we recommend that you consult a Solicitor who will be able to give you specialist advice according to your own individual circumstances.





St John Baptist Claines PCC

ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2024

Independent examination
I report to the trustees

Responsibilities
As the charity trustees, you are responsible for the preparation and the fair presentation of the accounts in accordance with the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act'). I report in relation to whether you have followed all the applicable accounting requirements.

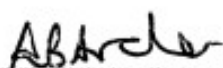
Independent examination
I have completed the examination of the accounts in accordance with the Chartered Accountants' Code of Ethics and the Chartered Accountants' Code of Practice.

1. accounting records
2. the accounts disclosed
3. the accounts disclosed

Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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

Signed;



A B Archer
3 Shrawley Road
Fernhill Heath
Worcester
WR3 7UQ

26/02/2025



Charities Act 2011 ('the Act')
the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act')

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and Reports)

PCC of St John Baptist, Claines

Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31st December 2024

Charity Registration No 1130734

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
INCOMING RESOURCES						
Voluntary income	2.1	52,775	361	3,033	56,169	84,098
Activities for generating funds	2.2	2,663	422	7,100	10,185	52,344
Income from investment	2.3	718	913	2,029	3,660	3,316
Income from Church activities	2.4	5,213	79,877	32,320	117,410	57,264
Other incoming resources	2.5	8,811	3,778	5,008	17,597	14,044
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES		70,180	85,351	49,490	205,022	211,066
RESOURCES EXPENDED						
Costs of generating funds	3.1	216	-	-	216	216
Grants and donations	3.2	487	151	-	638	250
Activities directly relating to the work of the church	3.3	67,952	42,637	30,496	141,085	102,672
Church management and administration	3.4	1,072	6,444	6,855	14,370	92,542
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED		69,727	49,232	37,351	156,310	195,680
NET INCOMING/(OUTGOING) RESOURCES		453	36,119	12,139	48,711	15,387
Transfers between funds		-	-	-	-	-
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		453	36,119	12,139	48,711	15,387
BALANCES BROUGHT FORWARD AT 1ST JANUARY		23,685	34,371	81,766	139,822	124,435
BALANCES CARRIED FORWARD AT 31ST DECEMBER		24,138	70,490	93,905	188,533	139,822

Balance Sheet at 31st December 2024

	Notes	2024 £	2023 £
FIXED ASSETS			
	4	4,144	4,362
CURRENT ASSETS			
Stock		200	200
Debtors	5	8,718	1,591
Short term deposits		80,038	77,076
Cash at bank and in hand		116,193	66,283
		<u>205,149</u>	<u>145,150</u>
LIABILITIES: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR	6	(20,760)	(9,690)
NET ASSETS		188,533	139,822
FUNDS			
Unrestricted	7	24,138	23,685
Designated	7	70,490	34,371
Restricted	7	93,905	81,766
		<u>188,533</u>	<u>139,822</u>

Approved by the PCC on 26/3/25 and signed on its behalf by

S. C.
Chair

James R. Wilson
Treasurer

PCC of St John Baptist, Claines
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the year ended 31st December 2024

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 together with applicable accounting standards and the SORP 2005. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

The statements include all transactions, assets, and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law. They do not include the accounts of church groups that owe their affiliation to another body, nor those that are informal gatherings of church members.

Funds

General funds represent the funds of the PCC that are not subject to any restrictions regarding their use and are available for application for the general purposes of the PCC. Funds designated for a particular purpose by the PCC are also unrestricted. Unrestricted funds can be used for PCC ordinary purposes.

Restricted Funds represent a) Income from trusts that are restricted as provided in the terms of the trust or bequest and b) Donations or grants received or invited by the PCC for a specific object and must be retained in that fund and expended only on the specific object for which they were given. The PCC does not usually invest separately for each fund.

Incoming resources

Collections are recognised when received by or on behalf of the PCC. Planned giving receivable under Gift Aid is recognised when it is received. Income tax recoverable on Gift Aid donations is recognised when the related donation is recognised.

Grants and legacies to the PCC are accounted for as soon as the PCC is notified of its legal entitlement, the amount due is quantifiable and its ultimate receipt by the PCC is reasonably certain.

Other income

Rental income from the letting of church premises is recognised when the rental is due.

Income from investments

Interest entitlements are accounted for as they accrue.

Resources used

Grants and donations

Grants and donations are accounted for when awarded.

Activities directly relating to the work of the Church

As at 31st December 2024 £30,000 (2023 £33,000) of our allocation had been paid, our allocated share for 2024 was £42,255 (2023 £40,242). An amount of £12,255 (2023 £7,242) was provided for and paid in full before the 4th February deadline. The balance of £nil (2023 £nil) remained unpaid.

Fixed assets

Consecrated property and movable church furnishings

Consecrated property of any kind is excluded from the accounts by s.96(2)(a) of the Charities Act 1993.

Movable church furnishings held by the Vicar and Churchwardens on special trust for the PCC, and which require a faculty for disposal are accounted for as inalienable property unless consecrated. They are listed in the church's Inventory and can be inspected (at any reasonable time). For inalienable property acquired prior to 2003 there is insufficient cost information available and therefore such assets are not valued in the accounts. Items acquired since 1st January 2003 will be capitalised and depreciated in the accounts over their currently estimated useful economic life on a straight line basis. All expenditure incurred in the year on consecrated buildings, individual items under £1,000 or on the repair of movable church furnishings acquired before 1st January 2003 is written off.

Other fixture, fittings and office equipment

Equipment used within the church premises is depreciated on a straight line basis over 4 years. Individual items of equipment with a purchase price of less than £1,000 or less are written off when the asset is acquired. However, the safe purchased in 2023 will be depreciated at 5% per annum on a straight line basis.

Current assets

Stock represents trading stock and candles and is valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value.

Amounts owing to the PCC at 31st December are shown as debtors less provision for amounts that may prove uncollectable.

Short term deposits include cash held on deposit with the CBF Church of England deposit fund.

PCC of St John Baptist, Claines
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the year ended 31st December 2024

	Unrestricted General Funds £	Unrestricted Designated funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
2. INCOMING RESOURCES					
2.1 <i>Voluntary income</i>					
Planned giving and gift aid envelopes	34,805	-	-	34,805	37,929
Income tax recoverable	8,664	-	547	9,211	10,849
Collections at services	4,206	-	-	4,206	3,521
Grants	-	-	376	376	3,505
Donations	3,600	361	610	4,571	8,294
Legacies	1,500	-	1,500	3,000	20,000
	52,775	361	3,033	56,169	84,098
2.2 <i>Activities for generating funds</i>					
Fund raising events	2,663	422	7,100	10,185	52,344
2.3 <i>Income from investments</i>					
Dividends and interest	718	913	2,029	3,660	3,316
2.4 <i>Income from Church Activities</i>					
Childrens Worker	-	-	32,320	32,320	8,437
Magazine sales and advertising	-	4,191	-	4,191	4,459
House, Hall and Institute lettings	-	75,687	-	75,687	40,159
Wedding and funeral fees	5,213	-	-	5,213	4,209
	5,213	79,877	32,320	117,410	57,264
2.5 <i>Other Incoming Resources</i>					
Sundry income (including Forces Fund transfer)	8,811	3,778	5,008	17,597	14,044
	8,811	3,778	5,008	17,597	14,044
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES	70,180	85,351	49,490	205,022	211,066
3. RESOURCES EXPENDED					
3.1 <i>Costs of generating voluntary income</i>					
Fundraising expenditure	216	-	-	216	216
	216	-	-	216	216
3.2 <i>Grants-Charitable giving</i>					
Secular Charities	487	151	-	638	250
	487	151	-	638	250
3.3 <i>Activities directly relating to the work of the church</i>					
Diocesan Ministry Share	42,255	-	-	42,255	40,242
Clergy expenses	349	-	-	349	699
Church maintenance	1,390	350	-	1,740	1,002
Church running expenses	13,584	-	-	13,584	13,693
Parish magazine expenses	-	2,248	-	2,248	2,785
Upkeep of churchyard	1,158	-	260	1,418	1,284
Parish Hall and Institute costs	-	40,040	-	40,040	26,904
Flowers	-	-	-	-	181
Parish education	-	-	-	-	-
Childrens worker	2,016	-	30,236	32,252	9,782
Contracted services	7,200	-	-	7,200	6,100
	67,952	42,637	30,496	141,085	102,672
3.4 <i>Church management and administration</i>					
Pastoral administration	1,068	-	-	1,068	1,732
Miscellaneous expenditure	3	6,444	6,636	13,084	90,810
Depreciation	-	-	218	218	-
	1,072	6,444	6,855	14,370	92,542
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED	69,727	49,232	37,351	156,310	195,680

PCC of St John Baptist, Claines
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the year ended 31st December 2024

4. FIXED ASSETS

	Portable altar	Safe	Total
	£	£	£
COST			
Brought forward	1,596	4,362	5,958
Additions	-	-	-
As at 31st December 2024	<u>1,596</u>	<u>4,362</u>	<u>5,958</u>
DEPRECIATION			
Brought forward	1,596	-	1,596
Charge for the year	-	218	-
As at 31st December 2024	<u>1,596</u>	<u>218</u>	<u>1,814</u>
NET BOOK VALUE			
As at 31st December 2024	<u>-</u>	<u>4,144</u>	<u>4,144</u>
As at 31st December 2023	<u>-</u>	<u>4,362</u>	<u>4,362</u>

The PCC does not have a record of the cost or valuation of the church hall and institute buildings . The PCC considers that the cost of obtaining these would outweigh the benefit in including these in the accounts.

5. DEBTORS

	2024	2023
	£	£
Income tax recoverable	1,583	1,308
Prepayments and accrued income	<u>7,135</u>	<u>283</u>
	<u>8,718</u>	<u>1,591</u>

6. LIABILITIES:AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2024	2023
	£	£
Ministry Share	12,255	7,242
Accruals of utility and other costs	<u>8,505</u>	<u>2,448</u>
	<u>20,760</u>	<u>9,690</u>

PCC of St John Baptist, Claines
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the year ended 31st December 2024

7. FUNDS DETAILS

Name	Purpose	Balance at				Balance at
		1.1.24	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	31.12.24
General	Unrestricted	23,685	70,180	69,727	-	24,138
Unrestricted funds designated by the PCC						
Restoration	Maintenance of church property	906	204	-	-	1,110
Choir	Choir expenditure	196	4	-	-	200
Hall & Institute	Maintenance and running of Parish Hall, Institute and House	20,286	76,394	40,039	-	56,641
Flower Guild	Provision of church flowers	2,119	1,551	1,276	-	2,394
Memorial flower funds	Provision of memorial flowers	49	160	160	-	49
Restoration	Tower Restoration	1,312	-	350	-	962
Little Friends	Baby and Toddlers	1,532	934	1,409	-	1,057
Magazine	Publication of church magazine	2,139	4,190	3,747	-	2,582
LinC	Lunch in company	714	1,914	2,139	-	489
General	General	5,118	-	112	-	5,006
Total Unrestricted designated funds		34,371	85,351	49,232	-	70,490
Restricted funds						
Churchyard	War Graves	40	-	40	-	-
	Maintenance Canon Clinch Grave	1,051	-	-	-	1,051
	Memorial Garden	81	-	-	-	81
	Roses	305	-	-	-	305
	Maintenance of churchyard	1	1,500	220	-	1,281
Family tree	Family tree	155	-	-	-	155
Bell fund	Maintenance of Bells	12,808	499	-	-	13,307
Ashcroft	Ashcroft Anniversary	83	-	-	-	83
Property	Property	61,772	7,117	1,468	-	67,421
Youth	Youth	713	150	-	-	863
PortAltar	Portable Altar	84	-	-	-	84
Jubilee	Jubilee Fund	2,113	60	-	-	2,173
ClergyDisc	Clergy Discretionary Fund	238	-	-	-	238
Café	Café	3,053	5,384	5,386	-	3,051
Childrens Worker	Childrens Worker	- 731	32,318	30,237	-	1,350
Clock	Clock	-	2,462	-	-	2,462
Total restricted funds		81,766	49,490	37,351	-	93,905

PCC of St John Baptist, Claines
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the year ended 31st December 2024

8. MINISTRY SHARE

As at 31st December 2024 £30,000 (2023 £33,000) of our allocation had been paid, our allocated share for 2024 was £42,255 (2023 £40,242). An amount of £12,255 (2023 £7,242) was provided for and paid in full before the 4th February deadline. The balance of £nil (2023 £nil) remained unpaid.

9. TRUSTS AND OTHER ACCOUNTS

Ever since we altered the accounts to comply with the new regulations we have reported in summary the movement of funds on Trusts associated with the Church on this page. These accounts have not been independently examined.

Claines Forces Fund (for the benefit of the Church Hall) of £nil (2023 £25,160) in the Church of England Investment Fund following a transfer to the Hall and Institute during the year.

Institute Funds of £1,861 at 31st December 2024 (2023 £1,493), £nil (2023 £10,399) in the Church of England Investment Fund following a transfer to the Hall and Institute during the year.

EW Whinfield for Church Trust £2,942 at 31st December 2024 (2023 £2,878) in the COIF Charities Investment Fund.

Martin Mence Charity £2,541 at 31st December 2024 (2023 £2,435) & COIF £3,916 (2023 £3,830).

No other known assets and no income.

St John Baptist - Reserves Policy

The Charity Commission requires the Church to be accountable for all the money that comes into its hands. The general aim is to expend its funds for the purposes of the Church rather than put them aside for some unspecified future purpose.

The various funds held by St John Baptist and for which the PCC is responsible are set out on page 6 of the Annual Accounts

General Fund

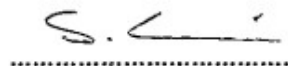
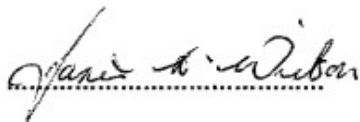
The need for a policy for this fund is to ensure that the level of balances is adequate, but not too high, to ensure the Church's viability and future. It is considered that the ideal balance to aim for is between 33% and 50% of our annual turnover. Part of this balance would be for an adequate working balance. The remainder would provide a cushion for a sudden reduction in income or a large item of expenditure such as an urgent building repair or equipment replacement. With an annual turnover of about £70,000 these parameters indicate that a reasonable balance would be between £23,100 and £35,000. Our balance as at 31st December 2024 was **£24,138**; the lower end of the range.

Monitoring of Funds

This is done by the PCC in March when the annual accounts are considered.

Janet Wilson

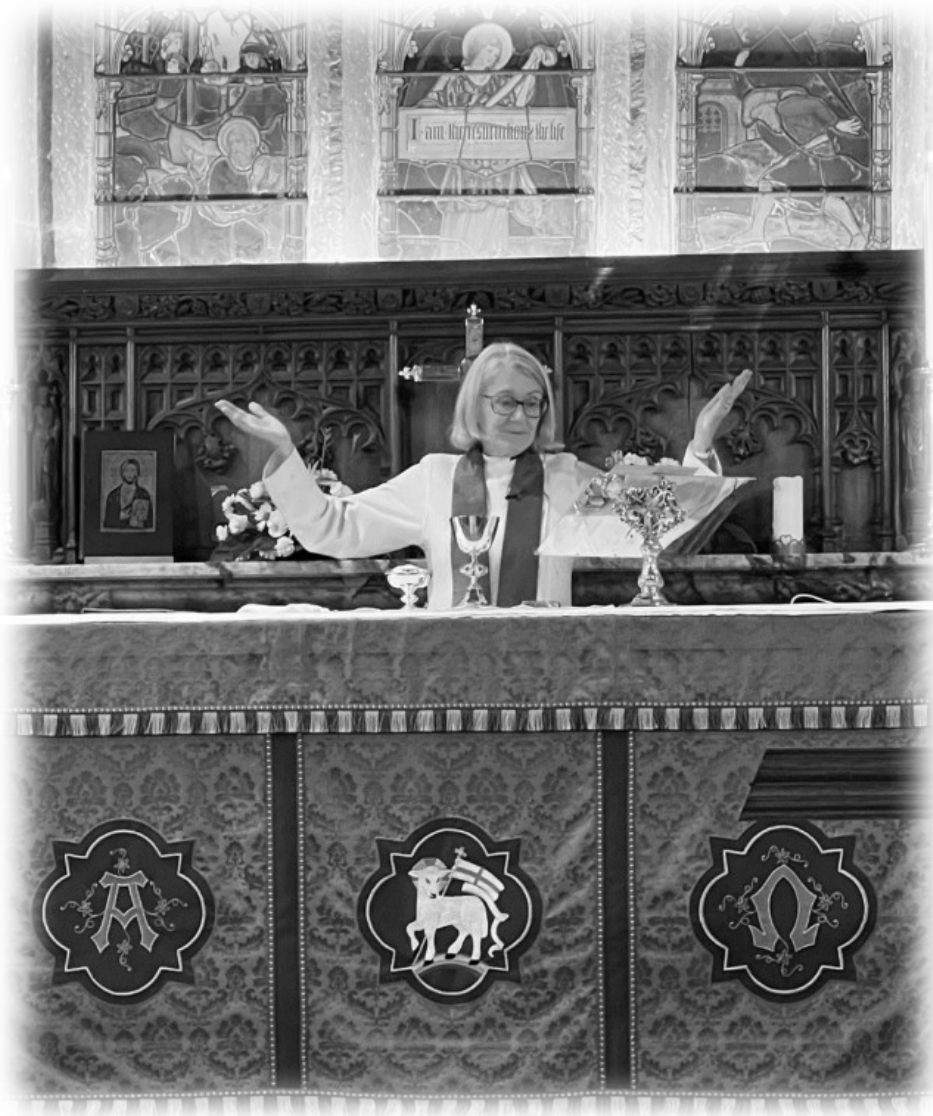
Church Treasurer



Date 26th March 2025

Accounts

**Parish Church of St. John Baptist, Claines,
Worcester Annual Report and Financial Statement
of the Parochial Church Council for the year ended
31st December 2023**



Parish Office, Claines Parish Hall, Cornmeadow Lane,
Worcester WR3 7NY
Tel: 01905 759702 email: claines.stgeorge@gmail.com

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Introduction

The Parish Church of St John Baptist is part of the Diocese of Worcester within the Church of England. The correspondence address is Claines Parish Hall, Cornmeadow Lane, Worcester, WR3 7NY.

The Parochial Church Council is a charity registered with the Charity Commission (Number 1130734). Members of the Parochial Church Council (PCC) are either ex- officio or elected annually by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) in accordance with the Church Representation Rules.

Church Officers

Standing Committee:

Priest in Charge

Reverend Jo Musson until Sept 2023

Churchwardens

Philip Kear and Annette Summers

PCC Secretary

Helen Fitzgerald

PCC Treasurer

Janet Wilson

Ministry Team:

Priest in Charge

Reverend Jo Musson until Sept 2023

Associate Priest

Reverend Jennie Hayward

Associate Priest

Reverend Peter Davies

Licensed Lay Ministers

Jan Kear & Rachel Cramp from Sept 2023

Authorised Lay Ministers

Paul Fulbrook, Rachel Cramp,
From Sept 2023 Ian Cramp & Phil Kear

Parish Administrators

Tammara Adams

Health & Safety Officer

Ian Cramp

Electoral Roll Officer

Julie Palmer

Data Protection Officer

Helen Fitzgerald

Safeguarding Officer

Lorraine Deeprose

Children's Worship

Rachel Cramp

Independent Examiner

Tony Archer

Banks

Barclays Bank PLC, Worcester
HSBC, Worcester

PCC MEMBERSHIP at the end of 2022-2023 term

Ex-Officio

Reverend Jo Musson

Chair until Sept 2023

Jo Siddles

Lay Chair- Acting Chair Oct 2023

Philip Kear

Churchwarden - Completed 12 years

Annette Summers

Churchwarden - Completed 2 years

Jan Kear

LLM Since 2020

Rachel Cramp

LLM Since Sept 2023

Elected Members (up to 12)

Jo Siddles -	since 2016
Janet Wilson - Treasurer	since 2014
Helen Fitzgerald - Secretary	since 2018
Laura Stevens	since 2016
Lorraine Deeprose	since 2018
Ian Townley	since 2020
Julie Palmer	since 2020
Judy Hooper	since 2020

Deanery Synod Members

Paul Fulbrook	since 2017
Jan Hayden	since 2017 until Dec 2023
Ian Cramp	since 2017 (& ALM since 2023)

The appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. All church attendees are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and may stand for election to the PCC. The work of the PCC is carried out at regular meetings, throughout the year. In addition regular Standing Committee meetings have been held, comprising the Vicar or Chair, Wardens, PCC Secretary and PCC Treasurer.

PCC STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE & MANAGEMENT

The work of the PCC was also undertaken through meetings of various sub-groups:

Standing Committee	Ministry Team
20/20+ Vision, Project Group	Buildings Management Group
Parish Magazine Committee	

When they have met, these groups have provided regular reports to the full PCC meetings, in addition to reports from the Deanery Synod representatives.

Electoral Roll - Julie Palmer

The Church electoral roll is the register of electors for the parish. In the same way that being on the civic Electoral Roll allows you to vote in parliamentary and local elections and referenda, joining the Church Electoral Roll means that you can vote on Church matters, attend the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) and stand for election to the PCC.

At the end of 2022 there were 128 members on the electoral roll. There were no additions during 2023 and 2 members came off the list, leaving a total of 126 members on the Church Electoral Roll at the end of 2023.

Work of the Parish- Helen Fitzgerald

Reverend Jo Musson was Priest in Charge until September 2023, after which there has been a vacancy at Claines and St. George's.

Developments during 2023

This year the work of the Parish was able to proceed without pandemic restrictions, although some of ways of working which began because of restrictions were kept, such as intinction at Eucharist and Zoom services for those unable to come into church.

Claines has continued to evolve, with some important additions to our work:

- The appointment of a Mission Enabler, Nigel Tween, who began work in January.

- Completion of Phase One of the project to reorder the church vestry.
- The Licensing of Lay Ministers.
- The appointment of a Children's Youth and Families worker, Helen Laird

The funded Children's Youth and Family Worker started in September, working jointly between St. George's, St. Stephens and St. John Baptist and the primary schools connected to them.

The funded Mission Accompanier role began in January and is a joint role with St. George's.

Ministry Team

Phil Kear and Ian Cramp from Claines and Alison Clarke and Lyn Crowther from Saint George's, embarked on training to become Authorised Lay Ministers in Leading Worship. They were licensed in September 2023 and have worked to lead worship during the vacancy.

Rachel Cramp completed her training to become a Licensed Lay Minister (Reader). She was licensed as a Reader (LLM) in September and continues to develop her role during the vacancy, leading worship and preaching. She continues her roles at Claines School as Governor, leading assemblies and Godly Play.

From September to December clergy and lay ministers worked to provide services. We are grateful for their time and support.

Gratitude

To Rev Jo for her faithful work over the last ten years. We wish her a very happy retirement.

The PCC supports Annette and Phil as they continue the dedicated role of Churchwarden and are grateful for the additional time needed during the vacancy and for their role in appointing a new priest.

Janet Wilson plays a vital role as Treasurer; she ensures that all the incoming and outgoing funds are fully accounted for and enables the PCC to make informed decisions about spending. Thank you Janet.

We are thankful for the work of the Mother's Union, who are involved in every aspect of church life and give generously of their time for services including weddings, baptisms, funerals.

Music plays a key part of our parish worship. Thanks goes to Vanessa who arranges our organists, Simon Taranczuk and Robin Walker who each play monthly, and also leads the Choir and Music Group (Orchestra). Our worship band Spark to a Flame was led by Adrian Musson, and as of September is now led by Ann Sansome. We are grateful for all the time and energy put into the varied music offerings at Claines.

Rev Jo's Retirement- Jo Siddles

At 10:30am on Sunday, 24th September 2023, 120 parishioners, friends and family joined a service of Thanksgiving and Farewell to Reverend Jo Musson at Claines Church, joined by a dozen on Zoom.

Rev Jo likened our trust in God to start Café Church, and keeping the church open to visitors, to the Israelites trusting in God to provide their daily bread.

She spoke very movingly on the themes of Generosity, Trust and Compassion; reminding us of the time our church cared generously for one another and our neighbours during the pandemic, and thanked the work of volunteers in the church who give of their time so freely and willingly. Rev Jo encourages us, as we move into the vacancy to not be afraid, take a chance, and trust in God; assuring us God will catch us if we fall and that when we trust in God, God will reward us.

She also spoke of the great compassion our church has for those within and beyond the church; our work with the foodbank; deep and faithful prayer for the sick and the deceased; loving care for the bereaved; and gentle support for the lonely.

The Litany of Farewell and Thanksgiving was led by Rev. Jo, Adrian, and Lay Ministers Rachel Cramp and Jan Kear with the congregation supported with heartfelt responses.

After a final procession the sound of popping corks could be heard as everyone toasted Rev. Jo and Adrian to thank them for the last ten years with us and the wish them a wonderful future, and Rev Jo was presented with a beautiful painting for their new home.

During Phil Kear's and Ian Cramp's toast, they reflected how much Rev Jo has personally done to support and raise funds for the reordering works. It had been hoped the toilets would be ready for Jo

to experience the “first flush”. Although this did not transpire, the toilets will proudly bear a plaque to tell everyone of her inspiration and determination to make the project happen.

At the end of her address, Rev Jo said; “Thank you for the generosity and grace you have shared and shown me personally. Thank you for allowing me the privilege to play a part in the life of this church and in your lives. Saying farewell to you is one of the hardest things to do, but I know the time is right. I will never forget you. I know God goes with you. Amen.”

Looking ahead

St. George’s and Claines have worked jointly to create a Parish Profile, which has been used to advertise the role and Rev. Sarah Carwardine was successfully appointed in January 2024.

A Minister’s Letter – Rev Peter Davies

In previous years, our priest-in-charge has presented a Report for the parish’s Annual Report. Rev Jo took this responsibility very seriously and prayerfully invested much time in its preparation.

We are grateful to God for how Rev Jo sought the Holy Spirit to guide her and thus to be our guide. Moreover, we are grateful to God for her ministry and faithful service amongst us. Her ministry was sometimes unseen but visible and known to God, ministry that touched the lives of people and situations that craved God’s love, and situations into which she was prepared to speak and act with prophetic voice.

I have been invited to make a report, which comes to you as one who is part of the ministry team that serves you. However, it is a personal note and with a differently nuanced tone; perhaps better described as ‘A Minister’s Letter’.

The wider ministry team comprises priests with the bishop’s permission to officiate (Revs Jennie Hayward and Peter Davies), licenced lay ministers (Jan Kear and Rachel Cramp) and authorised lay ministers (Alison Clarke, Ian Cramp, Lyn Crowther and Phil Kear). On behalf of everyone in the wider ministry team I express our thanks for your prayerfulness, commitment and support, and to the ministry team for their prayerful diligence in their ministry. And I offer our thanks to Helen Laird, our shared Children, Youth and Families Worker. Her energy and faith make hers a key appointment, and her ministry in local schools, the parish and community is transformational.

And to those thanks, I add thanks to those who have presided and preached during the vacancy enabling as far as possible for us to be fed in both word and sacrament. It’s good to name Bishops John and Martin, Archdeacons Nikki and Mark, and Revs Diane Cooksey, Doug Chaplin, John Wright and Ian Spencer who have encouraged, refreshed and guided us.

Yet those who really keep the church running are not the ones who stand in front of a congregation to lead worship on Sundays and midweek. Those who keep the church running are those who witness day in, day out, who bring God’s love through being the light of Christ to the community both within and beyond church life, in pastoral care, in visiting, being alongside another in their moment of need or pain—their hearts truly sing ‘Brother, sister, let me serve you, let me be as Christ to you.’ And they are those who so generously give of their time as Zoom-drivers, parish officers, working on councils and committees, dealing with queries and without their collective experience and wisdom church life would flounder. And they are those who give sacrificially financially to support the mission and ministry of God’s church. And they are those who bring beauty and expression to our collective worship in music, song and floral arrangement. Then besides which, nothing in church life happens unless the numerous, parish saints who prepare, open, close, welcome, clean up someone else’s mess, keep our buildings safe ... the list goes on ... and unless these things are done, church simply doesn’t happen. So, to everyone, ‘Thank you,’ for your faithful and generous service and gracefulness.

During the vacancy, our parish administrator, Tammara Adams, has been generous beyond all expectation in her commitment to both parishes. Thank you, Tammara, for the example of Christian service that you have shown.

Nothing in church life happens without prayer. Prayer undergirds and upholds everything that God

calls us to do. And chiefly, God calls us to worship him, the holy and blessed, undivided Trinity: God who is Father, God who is Son, God who is Holy Spirit. Our sole purpose is to glorify God following the example of Jesus' life and witness, and the purpose of everything in parish life is to witness to that sole purpose.

When I came to Claines and St George's in 2015, the diocese asked me what I sought in where I would go next to serve in priestly ministry. I asked only that I would be with people whom I could love and would be loved by them. That gift has been mine vastly beyond any expectation with which I came. My prayer is that in June when we welcome Rev Sarah Carwardine that she, too, will know the light and presence of God in all our hearts, and so be encouraged in the abundance of both God's and our collective love to fulfil all that God has for us in the coming years.

Let us make this our prayer for Sarah and ourselves:

Lord, you have taught us
that all our doings without love are nothing worth:
send your Holy Spirit
and pour into our hearts that most excellent gift of love,
the true bond of peace and of all virtues,
without which whoever lives is counted dead before you.
Grant this for your only Son Jesus Christ's sake. Amen.

CHURCHWARDENS' REPORT- Phil Kear and Annette Summers

2023 seems to have come and gone in a flash. The year has brought many changes to the Claines Church Community, an Authorised Lay Minister and Licensed Lay Minister's joined the Worship team and of course we were all very sad to see Jo leave us in September.

When Jo announced that she was retiring in April it felt that September was way off, but it soon came round. The preparation to find a new minister was started in early summer and progressed slowly. The advert was posted at the beginning of December and was completed in early February, and we will welcome our new Minister in the summer of 2024.

We are fortunate that in the last four months of 2023 whilst in vacancy we have been blessed with support from across the dioceses to cover services. We are thankful to all those that work hard in the background to ensure at St John Baptist, Claines we have beautiful music, singing, readings, servers, flowers, the buildings are clean and all those unseen jobs completed in the background.

The biggest change at Claines this year has been the completion of Phase 1 of the re-ordering project. This saw the installation of two toilets, moving the organ and installing the Vestry screen. This felt very much like a marathon, not a sprint, with a few false starts, we were never put off especially when we hit issues that we had to overcome. Toilets were certainly never imagined in a church building of the age we were working with at Claines so to have this facility has ensured the building can be used more and be available to the community we serve. In 2024 we will continue working through the phases as funds become available to make the building even more adaptable. Thanks to the 20/20 project team who supported this work but in particular we must highlight and thank Ian Cramp for his support, project management and wise council. Thank you, Ian.

The Church joined the community event to mark the Kings Coronation in May and enjoyed a great day at the Rec.

Inventory

This has been checked and found to be in good order.

Fabric, Fixtures, Fittings and Furniture

All relevant checks have been carried out.

The first phase of the re-ordering was completed, and we now have two magnificent toilets and the beautiful screen across the vestry. The medieval tiles removed in the porch have been carefully removed for cleaning, refurbishment and replacement in the church.

The temporary removal of some pews to create the gathering area has certainly been a success and is used on many occasions and by many groups. We also use this for Standing and PCC meetings on occasions.

The next phase of the reordering work is now being planned and will include the permanent removal of pews in the north aisle, the installation of a kitchen servery and rehangng the medieval tiles in the church.

Quinquennial Inspection

The Quinquennial report is shortly awaited, and we are sure we will have items to address. These will be reviewed and prioritised so the PCC can ensure we address all urgent matters.

Churchyards

Muddy Boots have continued to strim and mow the churchyard. Andrew Johnson and Steve Taylor have provided their services as Sexton, and we are very grateful for their continued support. We also provided hard standing for the waste bin as it was difficult to move when being emptied.

Church Buildings

The Building Management Group Team manage the Hall and Institute buildings and over the last 12 months have had several issues to contend and these have depleted their funds. They have also seen changes within the members of the group, and we are grateful both to those that have given their time over the last few years and look forward to working with the revitalised group in 2024. We thank Gordon Smith for all his help in and around the church and are grateful to our cleaning team who are truly our unsung heroes.

Parish Giving

We are fortunate we have a strong Parish Giving Scheme, but this has been affected by the general economic situation and the loss of some members. We cannot sit back and must never be complacent; we introduced the machine in the church for people to give using a card and this is started to be used regularly. We are thankful for those who support the church with their regular giving and grateful that we have such superb controls on the finances by our treasurer, Janet Wilson, and we thank her for her hard work.

Thanks

It's always hard to name individuals as we are so lucky in Claines to have many volunteers that carry out their duties, without whom we would be unable to function, which has been most apparent during the vacancy period. Thank you to all who give their time to support the church and for all those working in the background that are not seen.

Special thanks are due to the following: -

- Tammara Adams our Parish Administrator who provides invaluable support across so many areas of our work and for taking on additional roles during the vacancy
- Julie Palmer for arranging the monthly rota.
- Organists, music group, band and choir who bring such wonderful music to our church and community.
- Duty Warden's, servers, readers, Intercessors, sides people and refreshment team for their diligence at all our services.

- Those who act as vergers', cleaners, flower arrangers', bellringers, Mother's Union members at Baptisms, those that open and close the church daily and those fulfilling other roles across our church, its grounds, and buildings.

We are so grateful to all who volunteer as without you our church could not operate.

We would also like to acknowledge our Ministry Team. We are blessed to have such a strong group that support us in all areas of worship as well as meeting the needs of the congregation. Thank You

Quinquennial Inspection- Ian Cramp

A Quinquennial Inspection took place at the end of 2023. It is a requirement that an inspection of the church and its grounds takes place at intervals of five years to ensure the building is in good condition and to identify any remedial works that need to be undertaken in order to keep so. This is especially important with Heritage Buildings- our church is Listed 2* (among the top 5% of important buildings in the United Kingdom).

The inspection is undertaken by an experienced architect approved by the Diocesan Advisory Committee as having the appropriate expertise for listed buildings and their methods of construction. Readers may recall that, during the hot weather in summer 2022, we became aware of cracks in the southwest corner of the church and appointed a structural engineer to investigate. He felt that the cracking could be due to changes in the moisture in the surrounding soil and the presence of clay causing heave (the name Claines indicates clay which is found in strips throughout the churchyard). This item was also inspected during the Quinquennial Inspection. We await the completed report.

Church Buildings- Ian Cramp

The Building Management Group have continued to look after the other church properties- the Parish Hall, the Institute and Institute House as well as undertaking minor works in church. However, the skill base required for working in Listed buildings is different and more costly.

FINANCIAL REPORT- Janet Wilson

After a year of relative stability, we were faced with the Cost-of-Living crisis in 2023, however we were still able to pay our portion of the Ministry Share (£40,242) in full.

The income from the Parish Giving Scheme and Standing Orders decreased in the last two months of the year and this will have a greater impact next year. Consequently, our voluntary income was slightly down compared with last year. The Card Payment machine is well used and helps towards our cash collections. We also received legacies from Ken Ashman and Phil Love. A contribution of £1,000 each towards church funds was received from the Magazine Fund and The Hall and Institute Fund which was greatly appreciated.

Again, our expenditure was well controlled, and our Energy, Insurance and Alarm System costs make up a substantial portion of our outgoings.

After a long wait we were able to complete the building work to install the toilet facilities and refurbish the vestry with the addition of the vestry screen. We were awarded generous contributions towards the costs from Garfield Weston, Benefact, Turner Trust, Edward Cadbury, Beatrice Laing and another National Charity. There are still some additional costs to come for heating and the restoration and display of the medieval tiles. We also have funding available towards phase 2, to install the kitchen facilities etc.

The Diocese are providing 80% of the costs of our Childrens Worker; the remaining 20% will be spread equally between Claines, St George's and St Stephen's from General Funds.

A huge thank you to everyone for their ongoing financial support and involvement, your gifts make a real difference to the life of the church.

BUILDINGS MANAGEMENT GROUP (BMG)- Ian Cramp

There have been a number of challenges and issues during the last 12 months. Despite these, we have maintained the Hall and Institute in good condition and ready to serve its many users in the community. This has taken a significant amount of time and effort by the Building Management Group (BMG) and we are grateful to them for their hard work. Their efforts have also meant letting charges have been kept to a minimum, despite those factors such as energy and maintenance costs which have been increasing considerably throughout the year.

The biggest problem was the significant increase in energy prices. This had been initiated by the problems in Ukraine and supply disruptions of gas and oil from Russia. We were fortunate we had negotiated good tariffs for most of this period and thanks are due to Phil Kear for his knowledge and contacts in the marketplace. It did however mean that all costs and temperatures had to be carefully controlled to minimise the expenditure. The wisdom of insulating the end wall of the Hall (which had originally been of lightweight, minimal insulated construction with a view to future extension of the Hall), really helped in this respect.

During the summer, Cadent renewed the gas distribution mains in Cornmeadow Lane, outside the Parish Hall. They examined our gas meter and refused to reconnect it to their mains because the meter was too large! This led to a long and protracted process between Cadent and British Gas which resulted in the Hall being without gas for 13 weeks. Communication between both parties was extremely poor and we were finally forced to buy a smaller meter, to be subsequently advised that the one that had been installed previously was correct! We have submitted a claim to Cadent and British Gas for compensation due to the large amount of time we have wasted and the costs incurred.

Later in the year, National Grid wanted to prune some of the vegetation in the grounds of the Institute as this could affect the power lines. After they had done this, we noticed that they had broken a manhole cover while crossing it with their heavy vehicles. We have submitted a claim to them and are awaiting their comments and action.

Maintenance

We have been actively involved in the maintenance of our buildings. As part of this, we have undertaken works ourselves where possible, and carefully monitored expenditure on contractors. At times it has been difficult to get work done due to a shortage of labour and materials.

An important part of maintenance has been cleaning and we have been very fortunate in having good reliable cleaners for both the Institute and Hall as well as for the vestry and toilets in church. The lighting in the Hall was replaced towards the end of the year and the LED fittings have made a big improvement both to better light, longer lasting lamps and reduced energy cost.

Institute House

We have carried out all required tests and inspections for Institute House and are very pleased with the positive way the tenants are caring for the property. During the year, the kitchen windows have been replaced with double-glazed units.

Occupation

Thanks to hard work by Katrina Boucher, the Hall is well occupied during most periods of the week and we have been successful in attracting new bookings, despite the current poor financial climate. However party bookings have reduced.

There is more availability in the Institute and we will be working to increase the number of hirers. It is felt the Hall is more popular with groups in view of its better location in the centre of population. We believe both venues offer good value for money.

The Next Step

We hope to shortly commence an exercise to develop parts of the Hall, perhaps by reconfiguring the kitchen and maybe adding some new rooms. We propose to fully consult with users beforehand and to try to obtain grant funding for the works which we hope would include improvement of insulation.

BMG Committee

During the year Alan McWilliams retired, Jan Hayden also left the group and Sheryl Robinson also resigned as treasurer. We thank them for their long and dedicated service and welcome Simon Wilson who joins us as treasurer. We are also very grateful to committee member Dilwyn Price who has made a number of generous donations to the Hall on behalf of the Community Café. We really appreciate the hard work by others on the committee especially Katrina Boucher, the Hall and Institute Manager. We are very grateful to Gordon Smith for his practical help in many ways, even though he is not a committee member. Finally, please can we ask you to use our buildings whenever you can. A variety of activities take place in them that should appeal to everyone.

HEALTH AND SAFETY- Ian Cramp

The church has been used for a number of events during 2023 when large numbers of people have been present. There have been no health and safety issues despite the buildings having uneven floors and being surrounded by paths and walkways of various levels. We have not had any incidents in the Hall or Institute.

For large events risk assessments are prepared in advance to ensure, as far as possible, the safety of those using the building.

We continue to regularly inspect all equipment necessary for use in the event of an emergency.

SAFEGUARDING- Lorraine Deeprose



Safeguarding Report



The Parish continues to keep up to date with all regulations and guidance set down by the Diocese for safeguarding.

There were no safeguarding issues at Claines Church in the last year, however, we have received some calls to the parish office from members of the public who were asking for help. We have taken advice from the Diocese Safeguarding Team and will continue to support anyone in need and signpost them to other organisations that may be able to help their specific need.

We continue to check all those in regulated activity with children and adults. The online DBS system for checking suitability has made this process easy for both the applicant and me to check the ID. DBS checks need to be renewed every three years. This year we have several volunteers who will need new DBS checks and updates in their safeguarding training.

Currently within our parish the following activities take place on a regular basis and those who lead or partake in regulated activity with children and adults require a DBS check.

1. CHOIR
2. LINC (LUNCH CLUB)
3. LITTLE FISH
4. LITTLE FRIENDS
5. OPEN THE BOOK
6. SERVING TEAM
7. WORSHIP BAND
8. BELL RINGERS
9. CHILDRENS CHURCH
10. CYF ACTIVITIES

In partnership with these groups we make sure that the following is in place:-

1. Risk Assessments
2. Insurance Cover
3. Safer Recruitment
4. DBS checks – done and up to date
5. Safeguarding Training
6. Safer Environment

We continue to update the Parish Dashboard, which is an online tool for Parish Safeguarding Officers to use and enter data relating to the following points :-

1. POLICIES AND ACTION PLAN
2. SAFEUARDING PROCEURES
3. SAFEGUARING ROLES
4. TRAINING FOR KEY ROLES
5. DISPLAYED INFORMTATION
6. REVIEWS AND REPORTS
7. CHURCH ACTIVITIS
8. NON-CHURCH ACTIVITIES
9. SAFER RECRUTEMENT AND PEOPLE MANAGEMENT

Safeguarding is **EVERYONE'S** responsibility. At St John Baptist Claines we make safeguarding part of our culture, we promote it on our website, on notice boards, in our parish magazine, at every PCC meeting, at church events. Safeguarding is something we are happy to talk about, answer any questions, be open and honest. Our mission is to 'Promote a Safer church' where everyone can praise and worship in a safe place.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the PCC, paid and voluntary parishioners and those accessing and participating in all the activities and events our church provides, for their continued support with regard to Safeguarding.

Safeguarding Statement

To the best of our understanding, the PCC of St John Baptist Claines, Worcester have complied with the duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 (duty to have due

regard to the House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults). In 2023 we conducted the following:

- 6 new DBS processed. Total people with an up to date DBS = 31
- Number of DBS applications that required referral to DSA/ADSA = 0
- Number of DBS that have lapsed without renewal = 0
- Number of people who have attended training = 3
- Any advice sought from DSA/ADSA this year and any actions as a result? **Yes - advice was sought regarding a variety of safeguarding general questions**
- Are there any safeguarding agreements in place in the parish? **No**
- Have there been any serious incident reports made to the Charity Commission? **No**
- Sharing of updates from PSO network meetings? Or training events? **PSO submits reports on network meetings and training she and others attended at every PCC meeting**
- Any policy changes/new statements added/new Diocesan/National policies adopted?
 - 1. Safeguarding is on the agenda at every PCC meeting.**
 - 2. We include a report in the Church Annual Report's, and**
 - 3. This Addendum will be incorporated in every year's Annual report**
- Completion of toolkit/take up of Dashboard? **Yes, St John Baptist Claines is Green across Level 3 Dashboard**
- Highlights of Parish action plan? **To check compliance of all parish activities taking place.**
- How many children's/adult activities are taking place in the parish? **5 adult/4 children's**
- Any new ones planned? **We are currently working with the CYFW and new groups/activities are in the pipeline.**
- **We currently don't have defined role description for those working with vulnerable adults and children. The Diocese has templates for most roles within the church, we will be carrying out additional work to produce specific job descriptions for every role.**

Parish Safeguarding Policies

Our Safeguarding Policies are reviewed on an annual basis by the PCC. All policies were reviewed and agreed this will take place at our first PCC meeting after the AGM. Policies are displayed in every church venue, along with 'Who's Who' poster for Safeguarding, plus useful websites and contact details for anyone who needs help or support, or has feelings of isolation or vulnerability.

DATA PROTECTION- Helen Fitzgerald

The systems we use for recording (Life Events Diary) and communication (Mailchimp) are GDPR compliant. Locked cupboards are used for paper records. The use of blind copy on emails is encouraged.

The data protection policy and procedures will be reviewed in 2024 to ensure St. John Baptist is compliant. Tam, Parish Administrator, has completed training to keep up to date with regulations regarding the parish office.

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER 2023

Signed on behalf of the Trustees

.....
.....

Jo Siddles

Date

Activities of the Parish

WORCESTER DEANERY SYNOD- Paul Fulbrook

The Worcester Area Deanery Synod has been established for three years. In the year 2023 there were three formal meetings of the Deanery Synod and one gathering of members for the Ascension Day Service (18th May), which was at Hallow. The first meeting was held at the parish church of St Philip and St James in Hallow in March. Area Dean, Revd Diane Cooksey, asked the outgoing Archdeacon, Robert Jones to lead us in worship. Revd Kalantha Brewis the Vicar at Hallow gave an overview of the four churches that make up the West Worcester Beacon Group of churches with Hallow being the largest, but also including Grimley, Holt, and Lower Broadheath. The (then) Lay Chair, Robert Pearce, gave an update on vacancies – particularly the Saltway Team which is to be provided with an extra 50% diocesan post to make it up to a full-time post – and the position of retired, Revd David Sherwin's position to be filled as a 'House for Duty'. Feedback was given from the Diocesan Synod and a copy of that summary later circulated for PCC members and Parish

Secretaries. If you as a Parishioner did not get a copy of that and want to in the future just ask your Deanery Representative or PCC Secretary.

In regards to 'Kingdom People' and priorities, Diane Cooksey spoke about the vision for doubling the number of children and young people attending. The intention to fund 'at least' two children/youth workers per Deanery. Regarding 'New Housing Communities' we were told that money may be available for new building developments. Mention was made of 'Faith at Work'.

New and returning Synod Members attended the 1st Session of the 2nd Worcester Area Deanery Synod at Broadwas Village Hall in July. The Area Dean reminded the meeting that our Deanery currently has 42 church buildings not including the Cathedral; 12 Benefices; 31 Parishes; 14 stipendiary Clergy; 6 stipendiary Curates; an unknown amount of PTO's (as some live within or without the Deanery...); 2 self-supporting Curates; 13 LLM's (and some in training); 27 ALM's (last year!) of differing vocations.

Synod Representatives were asked to consider what: 1) Joys, 2) Challenges that we thought our individual Parishes represented. Diane explained that following the retirement of Revd David Sherwin 18 months ago, it had been agreed that the Northwest parishes of Clifton, The Shelsleys and Harpley will be transferred to the Kidderminster and Stourport Deanery where they will form part of what will be a 'Rural Mission Area' with three priests sharing a responsibility for them all. It was hoped that the Rev'd Julia Curtis will be licensed to these parishes in the Autumn.

Sarah Northall spoke on Mainly Music - Anne Potter spoke about 'Forest Church', Lyndsey Coulthard told us of a 'Sunday Stars'. Money is available (up to £1000 initially) to 'kickstart' a project from the Kingdom People fund.

Diane declared Sue Rowlands - Lay Chair; Paul Fulbrook - Secretary; Robert Pearce - Treasurer.

Diane appointed Revd's Paul Wilcox and Anne Potter to the Deanery Leadership Team.

The final meeting took place on Tuesday 14th November 2023 at St Helen's, Worcester.

Rev'd Dr Rich Johnson gave Synod some information about the restoration of St Helen's Church, including a brief history of St Helen, the mother of Emperor Constantine.

Sue Rowlands, the Lay Chair, gave a brief introduction to herself and said that she would like to be invited to parishes to come and find out more about them. She introduced the three priorities that should be the focus over the next 3 years of this current synod. They are: Praying for one another, Communicating more effectively, Working more Collaboratively where appropriate.

20/20+ VISION PROJECT- Ian Cramp

The highlight of this year has been the successful completion of Phase 1 of the 20/20 project.

This has comprised the construction of two toilets in the vestry together with reordering of the space to allow new storage and cupboards to be installed. Although this sounds very easy, it was in fact, a complicated exercise.

The first part of the project was to install a sewage treatment and drainage system for the new toilets. The equipment and tank was very carefully installed in the ground near the North porch. The works were supervised by archaeologists who were on hand to investigate anything of significance discovered during the digging of the pit and pipework to it.

Once this had been successfully achieved, the next step was to relocate the organ console to an area in the Catherine Chapel in front of a new, oak faced wooden screen that was to be constructed to separate the vestry from the chapel. The console (or keyboard) is connected underground to the organ pipes at the back of the church by around 150 wires- one for each key, plus additional ones for the stops. These had to be carefully pulled back into the cellar below the vestry through which they passed, and then threaded through a long slot which had been chased out in the vestry floor screed to the location where the console would be finally placed. By taking great care, and a bit of luck, the wires were long enough to go to the new console position without needing to be extended!

The relocation of the console allowed the main works to proceed. We had originally chosen a contractor who we found was unable to commence work in a realistic timescale due to other commitments. Instead, we decided to use GJ Builders, a local firm who had undertaken the repair to the Institute ceiling last year. This turned out to be a wonderful choice as they were able to complete the work to very high standards of quality and appearance in a realistic timescale.

The medieval tiles on the wall of the North porch had been carefully removed and stored before work commenced in forming an arch into what would become the accessible toilet. This work was carefully done as was the removal of part of the floor screed in the vestry to allow persons with reduced mobility to enter without needing a ramp. All this messy work was done without causing disruption to the users of the church although, for a short time, they had to enter and leave via the south door. After this, partitions and insulation were installed, and the electrical works took place. Finally new cupboards, storage and a new sink unit were constructed. The works were completed at the end of October 2023 and a cleaning regime put in place for them.

Overall the area is working well as planned. It was particularly successful over the Christmas period with good use being made of the toilets. The sewage treatment plant also worked as promised with no noise or smell.

Behind the scenes, fund raising took place led by Rev Jo and Janet Wilson. This enabled us to proceed with the scheme as planned in the timescale that we desired. We wanted to substantially complete the works before Rev Jo retired. We are very grateful to those individuals and organisations who so generously have supported the work. We would especially like to thank Rev Jo for her sponsored wing walk and Vanessa Gunter for her sponsored running. She ran over 1066 miles!

The Next Step

An application was made for an Archdeacon's Licence to allow us to temporarily remove a number of pews from the northwest corner of the church to create a meeting area that could be used for refreshments after services as well as small meetings. This has been very successful and an application for a faculty will be made to confirm this change. (The Archdeacon's Licence expires in Summer 2024).

It is proposed to construct a small kitchen area to assist in the serving of light refreshments.

Additionally a new sound system and video facilities are planned together with a glass inner door in the South porch. This work will form the basis of a separate faculty application later in 2024.

It is hoped to clean the medieval tiles and mount them on the wall on either side of the font area.

CHILDREN, FAMILIES AND YOUTH WORK- Helen Laird

On Easter Sunday a group of children received their First Communion, following a preparation course led by Rev Jo. We are grateful to Stan Summers who is crafting a new children's altar for the Children's Worship area, from the Catherine Chapel altar, which had become defective; this work was approved by faculty. The Eco Christingle was a great success - the church was full. The Posada went out around the community during December; everyone was encouraged look after a sheep and return it to church at the Crib Service, another full church.

I have been employed as the Children's, Youth and Family's Enabler since September 2023. I have spent some time getting to know the three churches, the activities they already provide and working alongside some of the schools and starting a new worshipping community called 'Gather'.

Photocopies of age-appropriate materials are being provided weekly for each church.

'Gather' on November 30th over 75 people came to 'Gather' for their Christingle candles to be lit following a whole school Christingle event for Claines school. The January 18th 'Gather' was not very well advertised due to the Christmas break and 1 family came, The February 'Gather' was not advertised by the school due to sickness and was cancelled.

I have taken two whole school assemblies at Claines school and used Godly Play for the whole school to explore about Epiphany. I attended the school's Carol service and reflected on that service with year 6 the following week. Reception have visited the church and so I created a sheet of images for them to find; during this session I overheard a comment about prayer, so I am visiting Reception to discuss prayer after half-term. A Splat the Snowman was taken into the school fayre. The splat the Snowman was built by the Youth Group (POG). A tentative link between waiting to hit the snowman at the right time and waiting during Advent. I created a large felt clock of the church year, so that the children can understand why the altar cloth changes and appreciate the significance of the season that the cloth represents.

Little Friends Is doing well and the numbers attending are growing. We are introducing a prayer box for the session which will also be available for use at Little Fish. Heather is trying to link in the theme from Little Fish into the following weeks Little Friends. A toaster has been introduced for Mums who may not have managed breakfast. At Little Fish there are a few regular families who attend each month. Rachel has been using Godly Play for the story time.
POG (Path of God) The joint churches youth group is meeting more regularly.

MISSION ACOMPANIER- Nigel Tween

We began our Mission Accompanier (MA) journey in January 2023. The Diocese of Worcester, transformation and change programme identified the need to develop a Mission Accompanier (MA) scheme to assist parishes in becoming healthier and more sustainable. The purpose of the MA scheme is to enable churches to engage with two key questions: what does health and sustainability look like in our context/setting/tradition, and what do we need to do to get to that point (and what resources/support do you need)? The scheme commenced in the Diocese of Worcester in the Spring of 2022 and has grown to support 64 Churches in 35 contexts (parishes/groups/teams) supported by 24 Mission Accompaniers.

I am enjoying my MA role working with St John Baptist, Claines and St George's. I held regular meetings with Rev Jo Musson and the MA team it was also a pleasure to preach one Sunday and visit some of the midweek activities. Following Rev Musson's retirement, Phil Kear and I have continued to liaise. It is acknowledged that with so many added responsibilities we slowed down during the vacancy.

In March 2023 we held a Parish-away day with teams from both churches. Various people had been tasked to prepare presentations. We spent time reviewing the past-present life of our parish, and we considered Next steps. This resulted in identifying three primary targets for the "Health and Sustainability" planning.

- ✓ To appoint a Children and Family Worker – Complete!
- ✓ *To develop effective Communication Plan – In progress
- ✓ To continue on going prayer – In progress

*The greatest need is to work on communication and telling our story, there is no need to launch new activities with so many good and creative programmes already in place. We are wanting to 'tell our story'. We believe our God is a 'Welcoming God and we want to be a Welcoming People'. We have begun work on this important task – So, watch this space!

The Parish Profile used to advertise for a Priest in Charge is a wonderful witness to the faithfulness of God and His people. The scope, variety and quality of both churches is exemplary. It is encouraging to see all that is being achieved as we live out our witness to Christ

Finally, it has been an absolute joy to work with you. I am encouraged by the life and activity of the parish. Some churches are understandably still static after Covid. It feels to me that Claines St Johns is in a good place. You are to be congratulated on the breadth and range of all that was achieved. May God continue to bless each of you.

CLAINES COMMUNITY CAFÉ- Jane Saint and Annie Ray

We are open at the Parish Hall on Tuesday afternoons from 2.00pm - 3.30pm, serving afternoon tea with home made cakes and pastries, and providing an opportunity for local folk to meet their old friends and make new ones. We welcome between 40 and 50 customers every week.

At Christmas we celebrated with our party afternoon, enjoying live music, dancing and a visit from Father Christmas who again arrived with a sack full of gifts.

This year we have been able to support Worcester Foodbank, Claines Parish Magazine fund, maintain the defibrillator, supply replacement equipment for the hall and kitchen and contribute to hall funds.

We are very grateful to our willing and hardworking team of volunteers whose dedication and enthusiasm ensures that we can continue to run the café weekly, providing a regular meeting place for the community.

A big thank you to our team and customers for your continued support and the cheerful friendly atmosphere you help to create.

Everyone is welcome.

ECO CHURCH- Ian Cramp

Since obtaining our Silver Eco- Church award in 2022, we have been continuing to look at ways in which we can reduce our impact on the planet. We have been looking closely at energy costs and obtaining the best tariffs in all our buildings. This is not an easy task with so much uncertainty in the energy marketplace.

We have also looked at reducing the amount of energy we use and when we use it. The biggest problem we face is in the Hall and Institute where one hirer might feel that the room is too hot, so they open all the doors and the next group to enter finds that it is then too cold! We hope to be able to monitor and control temperature remotely in the Hall in early 2024.

We are slowly working towards the Gold standard for Eco-Church. However, to do this we will need to spend money on, among other things, better insulating our buildings and funds are likely to be an issue. We are investigating the possibility of grants for the Hall and Institute.

QUEST BEREAVEMENT GROUP- Tricia Greenwood

This group is for people who have recently lost a loved one and gives opportunity to chat to others in a similar position. The numbers have stayed at a steady 15, including 3 new members, of which I am very grateful as one has joined the committee after Jo's leaving and also makes cakes!! We meet every third Thursday of the month for tea and cake.

During the year we had afternoon tea at the Cob House we were treated to a lovely tea, and afterwards some went to see the Alpacas in the field. We had Christmas Dinner at the New Inn, Ombersley Road, and as always could not fault the meal and we were looked after very well. We said a sad farewell to Rev Jo as the Quest Group was something she started when she first came to Claines and St Georges. If you are interested in joining the group please contact Trish for more details. 01905 28580

THE WORCESTER FOODBANK- Lyn Crowther

At both churches we support Worcester Foodbank by giving a regular supply of both food and essential household goods. Financial support is also given from church funds and from individuals. Both churches give support from volunteers either working in the warehouse or as delivery drivers. Last year for St. George's report I wrote that we were in the middle of a storm due to increasing costs of food and fuel which resulted in an increase of people using the Foodbank. Unfortunately, this trend has continued and I'm sorry to say has got worse. December 2023 saw record numbers needing the services of the Foodbank. The increased opening times of 2022 continued all through 2023 and looks as if they will be needed for the foreseeable future. Volunteers are always needed particularly for deliveries. It is something which is mainly but not exclusively suitable for couples as need two people in each vehicle. For further information talk to Jane and Simon at Claines or Clive and myself at St. George's. In the meantime, our regular giving of food, goods, time and money are essential to the ongoing work of the Foodbank here in Worcester. A heartfelt thanks to you all.

CLAINES CE PRIMARY SCHOOL- Rachel Cramp

Spring Term - In January, after a break during Covid, children in Years 4, 5 and 6 returned to Young Voices and following an afternoon rehearsal, joined six thousand children to perform for parents and wowed everyone with their enthusiasm and talent! Also in January the Early Years classroom was

overhauled and the Senior Leadership team and EYFS staff worked together to develop focused Writing and Maths sessions.

The Spring Term was busy with sporting matches, tournaments and individual events, including Cross Country, girl's football and netball – and very importantly the children's attitude, determination and teamwork were exemplary and made everyone really proud.

Children took their learning out of the classroom and were well behaved, focused and thoroughly enjoyed the opportunities the visits provided. Other activities included a whole school collaborative project to complete a wall hanging, Godly Play sessions, World Book Day, Author of the Month and 'Reader Leaders' helped create a real buzz around reading. Music concerts were held, parents were invited into school to share a Maths lesson with their children, the Pupil Parliament were busy and children took part in a drama festival at RGS, the only state school to do so and won, showing the high aspirations the school has for its pupils. In church we were pleased to welcome children, staff and parents into church for a wonderful Easter Service, led by Year 5.

Summer Term – It was a jam-packed term, with KS1 and KS2 SATs, receiving excellent results, and just before that the choir performed for the Coronation of King Charles at the British Legion, to Worcester Wheels clients.

In sport the boys football team showed perseverance against tough competition and finished third in the Worcester City league, and the Netball team had great successes.

The Early Years children took part in an Early Years Music Festival, with a pirates' theme, staff and children looked amazing, and the children sang their hearts out and their behaviour was super.

It is difficult to summarise such a huge amount of fun and learning, but it included: Y2 learning about the seaside; local fieldwork studies in Geography for Years 3 and 4; Year 5 have been involved in a STEM workshop, making it through to the last 40 schools nationally, and a Year 6 a textiles unit – there were many trips too and Year 5 went on taster days at Bishop Perowne and Blessed Edwards and were looking forward to being in Year 6!

At the beginning of July, Charlotte Sanders from the Claines Church congregation, joined the Governing Body as a Foundation Governor. She keeps in close touch with the Early Years children and has worked hard to increase the communication between church and school and school and church.

It was lovely to be part of the Year 6 leavers service in church, when Year 6 and their parents broke bread together.

Autumn Term – The term began with a residential trip for Years 5 and 6, when children pushed themselves beyond their comfort zones and completed many adventurous activities and were a credit to the school.

The new Reception children settled really well and had visits from the police and ambulance service and Y1 went off to the theatre! Years 2 and 4 had History Drama workshops and Y5 had STEM workshops.

It was a time of Farewell and Welcome, as Rev Jo Musson retired and said goodbye to the School, but Helen Laird, Children, Youth and Families worker for Claines, Saint George's and Stephen's Church, was welcomed into school. No-one will forget the hugely engaging Christingle assembly Helen led, and children in every class made Christingles and after school attended the first short 'Gather' service for parents and children after school in church, when the Christingles were lit! The school also came down to church for Remembrance and the KS2 Carol Service.

Ofsted Inspection

This is a very happy and ambitious school. Pupils are taught to live by the school motto: 'never settle for less than your best and your best is good enough'.

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'This is a very happy and ambitious school. Pupils are taught to live by the school motto: never settle for less than your best and your best is good enough'

'From early years, children are taught to behave in ways that reflect the school's Christian values'. An Ofsted Inspection took place in the Autumn term, and the school were very pleased with the report which confirmed all the hard work that had been put in. The children took the Inspector on tours of the school, and she was very thorough. The school would like to thank every member of staff and governors who ensure we are 'stronger together'.

Under the new Ofsted process, the inspection was ungraded, but the school look forward to a 'Graded' inspection next time.

LUNCH IN COMPANY (LINC)- John Brady

Linc lunch provides an opportunity each month for people who usually eat alone to come together for a shared meal. It continues to take place on the second Saturday of every month providing a meal and a good chat for those who attend. The meals are varied and are cooked by our volunteers. Puddings are eagerly anticipated and often have custard.

With the passing of another year we have said sad farewells to some of our regular diners.

Thanks to the team who plan, cook and provide LINC lunches, that is, Jane and Simon Saint, Matt and Laura Stevens, Ian Townley, Jan Kear, Pat Harris, Alan Long, Anne Ray and myself. We all feel that providing LINC lunches is a very rewarding experience. If you would like to help in the future, please get in touch with any of those mentioned. New helpers would be most welcome.

Finally, we would welcome any new diners to our lunches and our company. If you are on your own then please do get in touch with us, and we will contact you.

CHURCH MAGAZINE- Pat Oddy

The Church Magazine goes from strength to strength I am pleased to say. Members of the congregation are proving to be great supporters and are helping to supply some informative and stimulating articles, not just occasionally but on a regular basis. Then we have the valiant band who each month deliver the magazine with Gordon's help, and the editorial team are truly grateful for all this entails, whatever the weather! Two long-standing members of the band have had to retire this year, but immediately other volunteers stepped up to take over their rounds and are doing a magnificent job, not only in the deliveries but in collecting in the much needed annual subscriptions. We are looking forward to another get-together in the summer to catch up with each other over strawberries and fizz – date to be announced in due course!

We continue to have a loyal group of advertisers and are delighted when we learn that these suppliers are being supported by our readers. They play a vital role in keeping down our ever increasing expenses and it is good to get feedback when the advertisers provide particularly impressive service, such as cleaning out guttering and replacing doors and windows. Sadly the numbers of subscribers taking the magazine continues to fall by natural wastage, but thankfully this does not seem to be because the magazine disappoints, and we are grateful from anyone for suggestions for articles that will appeal to our readers in the wider community of Claines and not only the church congregation. We aim to reach you all with our range of articles and information of events taking place locally. Bevere Gallery is particularly good at keeping us informed and we were delighted when a member of our congregation, Angela Lanyon, won second prize in the writing section of this year's arts festival held there in the summer for a poem entitled: **Age Related Macular Degeneration**. (See the September magazine.) We look to more success this year.

SOCIAL MEDIA - Rachel Cramp

Throughout 2023 Social Media has remained an important way to communicate with the congregation and wider parish, especially the very active Facebook account.

We currently have 1500 followers on the Claines Church Facebook site, 76% women and 23% men; more than a quarter of the current audience are aged 35-44, and 21% aged 65+, but 18.3% are in the 25-34 age group – so reflecting an intergenerational audience. Half of our followers are from Worcester and Fernhill Heath, with others from elsewhere in Worcestershire, further afield and overseas.

There has again been a substantial increase on the Claines Parish Hall and Institute site, up to 561 followers, 86% women and 14% men; 40% are aged 35-44 and a further 20% aged 45-54. Hirers of the Hall and Institute really appreciate being able to place ads and updates on their classes. 77% of the audience are from Worcester and Fernhill Heath.

We also continue our presence on Claines Church X account (formally Twitter) with 554 followers, though this is largely dormant due to concerns as to how 'X' is being run. It had been useful for networking, but many groups have left, with some joining Threads, which is something we can consider.

We thank Rev Jo for running the Claines Church Instagram page, though it was closed when she left. We can decide whether we want to begin a new Claines Church Instagram page in the future, linked to our Facebook site.

We would like to thank our 'Zoom drivers'; all who contribute to the Facebook sites and Rachael Wilson who looks after our Claines Church website: <https://claineschurch.co.uk>

LITTLE FRIENDS- Heather Murphy

Jen Chow retired from running Little Friends at the end of the academic year. She began the group when she had two young children of her own and has continued until now (her children are both in high school). The children and adults who have attended over those years have appreciated being able to attend such a well-run, welcoming group for young children and thank her for her dedication.

Since September 2023, Little Friends has been run by a committee of volunteers in accordance with our constitution:

Chair - Heather Murphy

Secretary - Ally Craven

Treasurer - Louise McKay

We have four additional parent volunteers who regularly help us to set up, pack down and oversee our facebook page. The Mothers Union continues to support us by serving refreshments, and two volunteers from Claines Church help us do the heavy lifting.

Little Friends meets Tuesday mornings (excluding the third Tuesday of the month) during term time from 10am-11.30am at Claines Parish Hall on Cornmeadow Lane. We support and run in conjunction with Little Fish. We primarily communicate via Facebook and email claineslittlefriends@gmail.com. Since September, numbers have steadily risen. We average at 25-30 children per session. Twice we have been at capacity with 35 children in attendance (not including babes in arms). We charge £1.50 per family with 50p for each additional child. Funds continue to be managed in a sub-account of Claines church.

Our intention is to provide a safe, inclusive, nurturing stay and play session for children aged birth-school and their families/carers. We have a strong understanding of the EYFS Development Matters curriculum and provide activities and resources to stimulate babies and children in attendance. A strong focus is on growing relationships, supporting parents and carers, building community and links to Claines Church.

Some of the toys/activities available each week include: a train set, dolls house, car garages, home corner, dressing up, ride on toys, slide, puzzles, duplo, mega bloks, baby toys. We also set up crafts, messy play, water play, painting and malleable activities such as play dough or jelly. We have a book corner and have introduced a library system allowing families to borrow books. As well as using the hall, we use the outdoor paved area and during good weather broaden out onto The Patch. A snack table has been reintroduced providing healthy food for children. Hot drinks, biscuits and a toast tuck shop is now available for adults. Each session ends with a story, nursery rhymes and bubbles.

To bless our families, we organized a Christmas party with a bouncy castle, ball pit and a visit from Santa and Mrs Clause. We ended the Easter term with parachute games and an Easter egg hunt. Other highlights since include dressing up for World Book Day, a visit from a roving bookshop, and a hand knitted baby clothes sale.

Our Christian ethos is visible in numerous ways. Since September we have chosen to support Worcester Neonatal Unit and so far have raised £78.70 through an Easter bake sale and Cauliflower Card Christmas designs. We are enquiring about Toilet Twinning and are collecting stamps for the charity Kicks Count.

<https://wahcharity.org/neonatal-unit>

<https://toilettwinning.org/>

<https://www.kickscount.org.uk/>

We collected items for the Foodbank during Harvest. Families were given a “nativity scene advent calendar” which included daily bible verses. Parents/carers going through difficult times or big “life moments” are given flowers. We have been liaising with Helen Laird to set up a prayer requests system.

Going forwards, with “cultural capital” in mind, we are considering ways to bring families experiences and opportunities they may not ordinarily have.

It has been a privilege to take on Little Friends. As a team we look forward to the summer term and beyond. Please continue to pray for our group, for our volunteers and families. Prayer over our storage space would be greatly received.

Thank you to Jen, Rev Jo and all who originally paved the way for Little Friends. Thank you to Ally, Lou, Chloe, Alice, Eva, Pav, Jan, Jane, Annie, Pat, Rob, Derry and Helen who have all helped Little Friends to continue and grow.

LITTLE FISH - Pat Price

Little Fish is held on the third Tuesday of the month in Claines Parish Hall, from 10 am until 11.30 am and is aimed at pre-school children. The children come along with a parent or carer to join in with songs, prayers and an interactive Bible Story, before making a picture and enjoying a drink and a biscuit. We often finish with the okey cokey which continues to be a favourite with the children. The Easter and Christmas sessions are held in Claines Church. We do not hold a session in August but in July we enjoy a picnic on the Patch (the outside area to the side of the hall) if the weather permits us to do so.

During 2023 we learned about Jesus’ life, beginning with the Angel’s visit to Mary, his mother. We heard about how he was baptised by John the Baptist and how Jesus taught us to be kind and caring. We learned about Advent and getting ready for Christmas. Other topics covered were Harvest time and Noah’s Ark.

Rev Jo’s last Little Fish was at the Teddy Bear’s Picnic in July and we gave her a fond farewell.

Fortunately Rachel Cramp, Licensed Lay Minister and Helen Laird, Childrens, and Youth Worker were on hand to present story time and activities during the latter part of the year.

We are happy to welcome new children and very much appreciate the help and support of the mums, grandparents and carers of our Little Fish. Mothers’ Union members, Annie Ray, Jan Hayden, Jane Saint and Pat Price provided help in the kitchen as well as any assistance needed to ensure the sessions ran safely and smoothly.

MOTHER’S UNION - Gwen Clifford, Jan Hayden and Rachel Cramp

Mothers’ Union at Claines has steadily increased its membership over the past twelve months and meets regularly to enjoy fellowship. The group holds fundraising events to aid Mothers’ Union projects both worldwide and locally.

This year we were pleased to organise a Lenten Lunch and to assist in organising a Harvest Supper in the parish. Working towards the aim of the Mothers’ Union our members assist the Clergy Team at Baptism Services. We also continue to be involved in the weekly Little Friends and Little Fish baby and toddler groups, we are represented at the weekly Community Café and the monthly Lunch-in-Company Club.

The Group also participated in the Mothers’ Union national campaigns; “Increasing Awareness of Modern Day Slavery” and “Rise Up Against Gender Based Violence” by organising displays and prayers in church and attending Services in Worcester Cathedral.

Our members can be found in all aspects of church life and include welcomers, bible readers, intercessors, vergers, choir members, musicians in the church music group, members of the flower guild, lay readers and a vicar.

Thank you to the clergy, the church congregation and all in the community who support us in prayer and care for our work.

PARISH MUSIC - Vanessa Gunter

The Claines Church musicians have had another very enjoyable and successful year.

The choir have had the privilege of singing at a number of weddings, and particularly enjoyed going 'on tour' to Holt Church on what was possibly the wettest day in July! Performing 'A Heart full of Love' and 'Sine Macula' (the old St Mary's Convent School hymn) at this service pushed us out of our comfort zone but was a truly heartwarming and uplifting experience.

In the autumn, we were invited to sing at the Licensing service in the Cathedral, celebrating the licensing of the new LLMs, including Rachel Cramp. Ably led by Eileen Tomlin, we sang a wide variety of music that formed a core part of a very special service. This was a wonderful occasion and was very much enjoyed by everyone who took part.

The Carol Service in December was a wonderful celebration in music and word. As ever, the choir worked hard to learn lots of challenging new carols, and they really did themselves proud in the service. From the beautiful 'O come, o come Emmanuel' to the uplifting 'Tomorrow shall be my dancing day', they held the congregation spellbound.

The instrumental group have continued to work hard this year, playing on the first Sunday of each month for our Worship together service. It has been lovely to welcome Liz and Charlotte Fazey (clarinet and tenor saxophone) to the group. They are both accomplished players and the addition of these instruments has allowed us to develop the inner parts of the hymns, producing a fuller more rounded sound as a group. Esther, our resident descant expert continues to patiently decipher my handwritten music without complaint! Listen out for her beautiful playing in the last verse of each hymn - it is very special.

Several of the instrumental group are also members of Claines Mothers' Union. We were delighted to be invited to be the entertainment at the MU Christmas gathering in December. We thoroughly enjoyed introducing the members to some more unusual carols from around the world, interspersed with lots of old favourites that enabled everyone to have a good sing. The members were in fine voice and great fun was had by all!

As ever, both groups are always keen to welcome new members. If you are interested then please do get in touch with Vanessa.

SPARK TO A FLAME - Ann Sansome

The worship band enjoyed another year of leading worship at the monthly Cafe Church. We continued to expand our list of hymns and songs whilst hopefully keeping our favourites fresh and full of the Holy Spirit.

In April, due to changes in shift times at work, Joey had to say goodbye to the band. As our much-loved rhythm section this came as a blow. Thankfully Charlotte was happy to pick up her drum and join the band.

In September we also said "Goodbye" to Ade as he and Rev Jo moved on to pastures new. Ade was the rock on which the band began and matured, and he is greatly missed.

In December the band led worship at the annual Christingle and Crib Services which were well attended by families and young people.

As we start 2024, we have welcomed several new members swelling the number of singers.

Everyone is welcome as singers and instrumentalists, just make yourself known to any member of the band. Help us to spread the Good News in song and praise.

BELL RINGING - Martyn Hills

Claines no longer has enough bellringers in the local band to ring the bells for Sunday services. This is a position unfortunately shared by the majority of churches with bells. Ringing is now largely achieved by bell ringers coming together from different churches - this is challenging when service times coincide.

On a more positive note, a band to ring the bells can usually be arranged for couples choosing to get married at Claines. Leaving through the South door to the sound of the bells is a very memorable finale to the church element of the day.

Like a lot of mechanical things, bell fittings deteriorate when they are not used regularly. Fortunately, 8 ringers from various churches have been coming together on the 4th Monday every other month at 10:30 to ring a quarter peal, around 1h of ringing. These are very good ringers, if you get a chance to listen then this is what very good bell ringing sounds like.

Occasionally visiting bands come to ring but requests are falling in line with declining numbers of ringers.

On May 7th the bells were rung to celebrate the coronation of King Charles III.

FLOWER GUILD - Pat Harris

This year we were glad to get back to arranging flowers for the weddings in church. There were 10 weddings which we did the flowers for.

The Posies were made for Mothering Sunday. At Easter the flowers were donated in memory of loved ones, of which we were happy to arrange. Harvest was a lovely time for the flowers, of which some were taken to people in the community who were sick or lived on their own. The Poppies were placed in the church for Remembrance Day to remember the lost. And Christmas was a joyous time for us to decorate for Christmas.

Our Plant sale were very well attended and the plants were given by many friends as well as ourselves, This boosted our funds towards the flowers in church when there were no weddings. Many thanks to all our ladies.

KINGDOM ARTS - Alex New & Sue Ashby-Davies

It has been another full and exciting year at Kingdom Arts. We are grateful to God for what he has taught us, for the people who have joined us and for the support and encouragement we receive from one another. We look to celebrate in this report all that God has done for us this year.

We have loved unpacking our new theme where we've looked at the stories behind some of our well-known hymns, songs and poems of faith. Thank you to those on the team, who researched these songs and presented them in such exciting and imaginative ways. We have heard the stories behind "Silent night", "It is well with My Soul", Woodbine Willie's" poetry and some African American Spirituals to mention a few. It's been so uplifting to sing some of them in our times of Worship. The Artwork always ties in with the theme and it's quite incredible to listen to the comments at the end of our morning on not only what people have learnt from the various art techniques, but what God might have brought to them through this time together. The creative writing that people produce is quite something and often brings a tear to your eye. Do look at the website and see what is produced each month. (www.kingdom-arts.co.uk)

We had a visit from one of the Diocesan Communications teams before Christmas. She was writing an article on New Worshipping Communities using us as an example. We have appeared twice in the Diocesan Prayer diary in 2023/24!!

We are developing and encouraging more people to take roles in running some of the "art" tables. We are amazed at the talent God has brought and is continuing to bring to our fellowship.

None of this would happen without the support, care, love, hard work and encouragement of the amazingly gifted team. Each member brings their own particular and unique gifts and talents to be used unstintingly. Barbara and Bob, Clive and Lyn, Jan Butterworth, Pam, Trevor, Margaret Stokes, Carolyn. Our morning would not be complete without the delicious soup that our Super Chef Jan makes. We can't thank you enough, Jan.

We continue to thank God for his provision for us and look forward to all that this year may bring to us.

CHRISTIAN AID - Alison Clarke

‘Everyone is equal in the sight of God.’

For over 75 years, this truth has inspired Christian Aid to stand together in solidarity with our most marginalised global neighbours, of all faiths and none. Poverty is an outrage against humanity. It robs people of their dignity and lets injustice thrive.

As a Christian Aid Emergency Church, St George’s is able to respond quickly in times of need. We were able to donate generously to the Africa Hunger Crisis appeal in 2022, as well as to the Turkey/Syria earthquakes appeal in 2023.

In May 2023 at St George’s, our Christian Aid Week service was led by Revd. Lindsey. We learned about and prayed for rural farmers in Malawi, about the benefits – in the context of the changing climate – of cultivating pigeon peas instead of traditional crops. At Claines, just over £100 and at St George’s almost £1,000 was raised through generous giving, challenges and a folk concert. A big ‘thank you’ to Sue Cottam for her Pigeon Peas Challenge.

In 2023, shortly after the outbreak of war in the Middle East, we used Christian Aid resources to hold a prayer vigil for peace in Gaza, Israel and Palestine, as well as in Ukraine.

This was a joint initiative of St George’s and St John Baptist, Claines and was attended by people from other denominations and Anglican churches.

In February 2024, St George’s hosted the Worcester Christian Aid groups annual Fish and Chip Supper. This was held in the Magdalene Room and well attended by around 50 people. We enjoyed a great supper, provided by Paul at the Golden Gourmet restaurant on the Tything. We learned about Christian Aid’s work in Sierra Leone from CA supporter Paul Grime and about themes for Christian Aid Week 2024 from Church Engagement and Fundraising Officer for the West Midlands, Batanai Padya. We were also delighted to be able to recognise our dear friend Dot Johnson for her many years of service and campaigning with Christian Aid’s Long Service Award.

To get involved with Christian Aid activities or to find out more, please speak to Alison Clarke
clarke.alison@gmail.com

THE CHILDREN’S SOCIETY- Julie Palmer

The Church of England Children’s Society is a national charity working to transform the hopes and happiness of young people facing abuse, exploitation and neglect. It supports them through their most serious life challenges and campaigns for the big social changes that will improve the lives of those who need hope most. We’ve been doing this for 140 years

“We fight for hope by deeply understanding the needs of young people and by supporting them through their most serious life challenges. We work with young people who have suffered years of abuse, who have run away from home or are struggling with mental health issues. We look out for young carers and those who are at risk of being groomed by criminal groups. We help refugees who have no one else to turn to in this country.”

More details on the work of the Children’s Society can be found on their website.

In 2023 the Claines Church raised £316.48 for the Childrens Society.

- £230.98 was raised via the box collections and
- £85.50 at the Christingle Service.

Thank you so much to everyone who has donated time and/or money to this Charity which does so much to help vulnerable children in the UK.

LEGACIES - MAKING A LASTING DIFFERENCE

Only some five per cent of people in the UK have left a gift for a charity in their will, and yet legacies

are the largest single source of income for many charities in this country today. Once you have provided for your family and friends, leaving a gift to Claines Church will ensure that our work can continue for many years to come.

Legacies have over the years, and thanks to the generosity of those who have made bequests, contributed greatly to the work and mission of Claines church. The PCC appreciates all bequests both large and small. There are many types of gifts that can be made:

Pecuniary legacy - a cash gift of any size.

Specific legacy - items of value such as property, a car or jewellery.

Residuary bequest - balance of your estate after all debts, taxes, expenses and other legacies have been paid.

All legacies are tax free. If you make such a gift in your will, its value will be deducted from your estate before inheritance tax is calculated. If you are thinking about leaving a legacy or have already remembered us in your will, we would love to talk to you about it; everything you say will be treated in the strictest confidence. We would then have the opportunity to thank you for your generosity. When considering leaving a legacy, we recommend that you consult a Solicitor who will be able to give you specialist advice according to your own individual circumstances.

St John Baptist Claines PCC

ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2023

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of St John Baptist PCC, Claines

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of St John Baptist PCC, Claines for the year ended 31st December 2023.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Trust you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 (The Act). I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 148 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(c) 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 Trust 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

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

Signed,



A B Archer
3 Shrewley Road
Fenchill Heath
Worcester
WR13 7UG

26/02/2024

PCC of St John Baptist, Claines

Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31st December 2023

Charity Registration No 1130734

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
INCOMING RESOURCES						
Voluntary income	2.1	57,096	1,545	25,457	84,098	61,511
Activities for generating funds	2.2	440	-	51,904	52,344	8,789
Income from investment	2.3	805	288	2,223	3,316	939
Income from Church activities	2.4	4,209	44,618	8,437	57,264	48,276
Other incoming resources	2.5	2,030	3,406	8,608	14,044	10,386
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES		64,581	49,857	96,629	211,067	129,901
RESOURCES EXPENDED						
Costs of generating funds	3.1	216	-	-	216	216
Grants and donations	3.2	250	-	-	250	1,100
Activities directly relating to the work of the church	3.3	62,442	30,020	10,210	102,672	121,124
Church management and administration	3.4	1,732	5,417	85,393	92,542	12,671
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED		64,640	35,437	95,603	195,680	135,111
NET INCOMING/(OUTGOING) RESOURCES		(60)	14,420	1,026	15,387 -	5,210
Transfers between funds		-	0	-	-	-
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		(60)	14,420	1,026	15,387 -	5,210
BALANCES BROUGHT FORWARD AT 1ST JANUARY		23,744	19,951	80,740	124,435	129,645
BALANCES CARRIED FORWARD AT 31ST DECEMBER		23,684	34,371	81,766	139,822	124,435

Balance Sheet at 31st December 2023

	Notes	2023 £	2022 £
FIXED ASSETS	4	4,362	-
CURRENT ASSETS			
Stock		200	200
Debtors	5	1,591	3,039
Short term deposits		77,076	77,800
Cash at bank and in hand		66,283	52,372
		145,150	133,411
LIABILITIES: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR	6	(9,690)	(8,978)
NET ASSETS		139,822	124,435
FUNDS			
Unrestricted	7	23,685	23,744
Designated	7	34,371	19,951
Restricted	7	81,766	80,740
		139,822	124,435

Approved by the PCC on 6/3/24 and signed on its behalf by

Key Chair

Treasurer

PCC of St John Baptist, Claines
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the year ended 31st December 2023

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 together with applicable accounting standards and the SORP 2005. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

The statements include all transactions, assets, and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law. They do not include the accounts of church groups that owe their affiliation to another body, nor those that are informal gatherings of church members.

Funds

General funds represent the funds of the PCC that are not subject to any restrictions regarding their use and are available for application for the general purposes of the PCC. Funds designated for a particular purpose by the PCC are also unrestricted. Unrestricted funds can be used for PCC ordinary purposes.

Restricted Funds represent a) Income from trusts that are restricted as provided in the terms of the trust or bequest and b) Donations or grants received or invited by the PCC for a specific object and must be retained in that fund and expended only on the specific object for which they were given. The PCC does not usually invest separately for each fund.

Incoming resources

Collections are recognised when received by or on behalf of the PCC. Planned giving receivable under Gift Aid is recognised when it is received. Income tax recoverable on Gift Aid donations is recognised when the related donation is recognised.

Grants and legacies to the PCC are accounted for as soon as the PCC is notified of its legal entitlement, the amount due is quantifiable and its ultimate receipt by the PCC is reasonably certain.

Other income

Rental income from the letting of church premises is recognised when the rental is due.

Income from investments

Interest entitlements are accounted for as they accrue.

Resources used

Grants and donations

Grants and donations are accounted for when awarded.

Activities directly relating to the work of the Church

As at 31st December 2023 £33,000 (2022 £36,549) of our allocation had been paid, our allocated share for 2023 was £40,242 (2022 £39,454). An amount of £7,242 (2022 £6,905) was provided for and paid in full before the 4th February deadline. The balance of £nil (2022 £nil) remained unpaid.

Fixed assets

Consecrated property and movable church furnishings

Consecrated property of any kind is excluded from the accounts by s.96(2)(a) of the Charities Act 1993.

Movable church furnishings held by the Vicar and Churchwardens on special trust for the PCC, and which require a faculty for disposal are accounted for as inalienable property unless consecrated. They are listed in the church's Inventory and can be inspected (at any reasonable time). For inalienable property acquired prior to 2003 there is insufficient cost information available and therefore such assets are not valued in the accounts. Items acquired since 1st January 2003 will be capitalised and depreciated in the accounts over their currently estimated useful economic life on a straight line basis.

All expenditure incurred in the year on consecrated buildings, individual items under £1,000 or on the repair of movable church furnishings acquired before 1st January 2003 is written off.

Other fixture, fittings and office equipment

Equipment used within the church premises is depreciated on a straight line basis over 4 years. Individual items of equipment with a purchase price of less than £1,000 or less are written off when the asset is acquired. However, the safe purchased in 2023 will be depreciated at 5% per annum on a straight line basis.

Current assets

Stock represents trading stock and candles and is valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value.

Amounts owing to the PCC at 31st December are shown as debtors less provision for amounts that may prove uncollectable.

Short term deposits include cash held on deposit with the CBF Church of England deposit fund.

PCC of St John Baptist, Claines
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the year ended 31st December 2023

Approved by the Vestry on 18th January 2024
Signed: _____
Secretary

	Unrestricted General Funds £	Unrestricted Designated funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
2. INCOMING RESOURCES					
2.1 Voluntary income					
Planned giving and gift aid envelopes	37,829	-	-	37,829	39,714
Income tax recoverable	9,102	-	1,747	10,849	9,653
Collections at services	3,521	-	-	3,521	4,138
Grants	-	835	2,870	3,505	8,479
Donations	1,544	710	6,040	8,294	1,330
Legacies	5,600	-	15,000	20,600	200
	<u>57,596</u>	<u>1,545</u>	<u>25,457</u>	<u>84,598</u>	<u>61,512</u>
2.2 Activities for generating funds					
Fund raising events	440	-	51,904	52,344	8,789
2.3 Income from investments					
Dividends and interest	805	288	2,223	3,316	939
2.4 Income from Church Activities					
Childrens Worker	-	-	8,437	8,437	-
Magazine sales and advertising	-	4,459	-	4,459	3,495
House, Hall and Institute lettings	-	40,159	-	40,159	37,879
Wedding and funeral fees	4,209	-	-	4,209	7,701
	<u>4,209</u>	<u>44,618</u>	<u>8,437</u>	<u>57,264</u>	<u>48,275</u>
2.5 Other Incoming Resources					
Sundry income (including Forces Fund transfer)	2,030	3,406	8,608	14,044	10,386
	<u>2,030</u>	<u>3,406</u>	<u>8,608</u>	<u>14,044</u>	<u>10,386</u>
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES	64,581	49,657	96,629	211,067	129,901
3. RESOURCES EXPENDED					
3.1 Costs of generating voluntary income					
Fundraising expenditure	216	-	-	216	216
	<u>216</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>216</u>	<u>216</u>
3.2 Grants-Charitable giving					
Secular Charities	250	-	-	250	1,100
	<u>250</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>250</u>	<u>1,100</u>
3.3 Activities directly relating to the work of the church					
Diocesan Ministry Share	40,242	-	-	40,242	43,454
Clergy expenses	657	-	42	699	981
Church maintenance	1,002	-	-	1,002	899
Church running expenses	13,543	150	-	13,693	9,697
Parish magazine expenses	-	2,785	-	2,785	5,064
Upkeep of churchyard	285	-	999	1,284	1,250
Parish Hall and Institute costs	-	26,904	-	26,904	52,613
Flowers	-	181	-	181	1,617
Parish education	-	-	-	-	-
Childrens worker	613	-	9,169	9,782	-
Contracted services	6,100	-	-	6,100	5,850
	<u>62,442</u>	<u>30,020</u>	<u>10,210</u>	<u>102,672</u>	<u>121,125</u>
3.4 Church management and administration					
Pastoral administration	1,732	-	-	1,732	1,830
Miscellaneous expenditure	-	5,417	85,393	90,810	10,841
	<u>1,732</u>	<u>5,417</u>	<u>85,393</u>	<u>92,542</u>	<u>12,671</u>
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED	64,549	35,437	95,603	195,689	135,112

PCC of St John Baptist, Claines
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the year ended 31st December 2023

4. FIXED ASSETS

	Portable altar	Safe	Total
COST	£	£	£
Brought forward	1,596	-	1,596
Additions	-	4,362	4,362
As at 31st December 2023	<u>1,596</u>	<u>4,362</u>	<u>5,958</u>
DEPRECIATION			
Brought forward	1,596	-	1,596
Charge for the year	-	-	-
As at 31st December 2023	<u>1,596</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,596</u>
NET BOOK VALUE			
As at 31st December 2023	<u>-</u>	<u>4,362</u>	<u>4,362</u>
As at 31st December 2022	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

The PCC does not have a record of the cost or valuation of the church hall and institute buildings . The PCC considers that the cost of obtaining these would outweigh the benefit in including these in the accounts.

5. DEBTORS

	2023	2022
	£	£
Income tax recoverable	1,308	1,529
Prepayments and accrued income	283	1,510
	<u>1,591</u>	<u>3,039</u>

6. LIABILITIES:AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2023	2022
	£	£
Ministry Share	7,242	6,905
Accruals of utility and other costs	2,448	2,071
	<u>9,690</u>	<u>8,976</u>

PCC of St John Baptist, Claines
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the year ended 31st December 2023

7. FUNDS DETAILS

Name	Purpose	Balance at 1.1.23	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	Balance at 31.12.23
General	Unrestricted	23,744	64,581	64,640	-	23,685
Unrestricted funds designated by the PCC						
Restoration	Maintenance of church property	628	280	-	-	908
Choir	Choir expenditure	192	4	-	-	196
	Maintenance and running of Parish Hall, Institute and House	7,027	40,164	26,905	-	20,286
Flower Guild	Provision of church flowers	1,964	1,330	1,175	-	2,119
Memorial flower funds	Provision of memorial flowers	19	210	180	-	49
Restoration	Tower Restoration	1,630	-	318	-	1,312
Little Friends	Baby and Toddlers	1,418	684	550	-	1,532
Magazine	Publication of church magazine	1,466	4,458	3,785	-	2,139
UnC	Lunch in company	612	1,927	1,825	-	714
General	General	4,997	820	699	-	5,118
Total Unrestricted designated funds		19,851	49,657	35,437	-	34,371
Restricted funds						
Churchyard	War Graves	28	12	-	-	40
	Maintenance Canon Clinch Grave	1,051	-	-	-	1,051
	Memorial Garden	81	-	-	-	81
	Roses	305	-	-	-	305
	Maintenance of churchyard	-	1,000	999	-	1
Family tree	Family tree	155	-	-	-	155
Bell fund	Maintenance of Bells	12,249	559	-	-	12,808
Ashcroft	Ashcroft Anniversary	83	-	-	-	83
Property	Property	61,384	79,202	78,814	-	61,772
Youth	Youth	740	-	27	-	713
PortAltar	Portable Altar	84	-	-	-	84
Jubilee	Jubilee Fund	1,039	2,170	1,096	-	2,113
ClergyDisc	Clergy Discretionary Fund	950	-	712	-	238
Café	Café	2,591	5,249	4,767	-	3,053
Childrens Worker	Childrens Worker	-	8,437	9,168	-	731
Total restricted funds		80,749	96,629	95,603	-	81,766

PCC of St John Baptist, Claines

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 31st December 2023

8. MINISTRY SHARE

As at 31st December 2023 £33,000 (2022 £36,549) of our allocation had been paid, our allocated share for 2023 was £40,242 (2022 £39,454). An amount of £7,242 (2022 £6,905) was provided for and paid in full before the 4th February deadline. The balance of £nil (2022 £nil) remained unpaid.

9. TRUSTS AND OTHER ACCOUNTS

Ever since we altered the accounts to comply with the new regulations we have reported in summary the movement of funds on Trusts associated with the Church on this page. These accounts have not been independently examined.

Claines Forces Fund (for the benefit of the Church Hall) of £25,160 (2022 £22,979) in the Church of England Investment Fund.

Institute Funds of £1,493 at 31st December 2023 (2022 £1,129), but some funds have been transferred to the Hall and Institute however, £10,399 (2022 £9,497) in the Church of England Investment Fund remains.

EW Whinfield for Church Trust £2,878 at 31st December 2023 (2022 £2,632) in the COIF Charities Investment Fund.

Martin Mence Charity £2,435 at 31st December 2023 (2022 £2,329) & COIF £3,830 (2022 £3,503).

No other known assets and no income.

St John Baptist - Reserves Policy

The Charity Commission requires the Church to be accountable for all the money that comes into its hands. The general aim is to expend its funds for the purposes of the Church rather than put them aside for some unspecified future purpose.

The various funds held by St John Baptist and for which the PCC is responsible are set out on page 6 of the Annual Accounts

General Fund

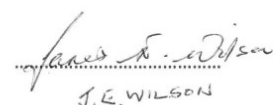
The need for a policy for this fund is to ensure that the level of balances is adequate, but not too high, to ensure the Church's viability and future. It is considered that the ideal balance to aim for is between 33% and 50% of our annual turnover. Part of this balance would be for an adequate working balance. The remainder would provide a cushion for a sudden reduction in income or a large item of expenditure such as an urgent building repair or equipment replacement. With an annual turnover of about £65,000 these parameters indicate that a reasonable balance would be between £21,500 and £32,500. Our balance as at 31st December 2023 was **£23,684**; the lower end of the range.

Monitoring of Funds

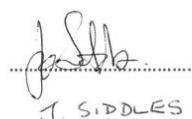
This is done by the PCC in March when the annual accounts are considered.

Janet Wilson

Church Treasurer


J. E. WILSON

Date 6/3/24


J. SIDDLES

Accounts

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Introduction

The Parish Church of St John Baptist is part of the Diocese of Worcester within the Church of England. The correspondence address is Claines Parish, Cornmeadow Lane, Worcester, WR3 7NY.

The Parochial Church Council is a charity registered with the Charity Commission (Number 1130734). Members of the Parochial Church Council (PCC) are either ex- officio or elected annually by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) in accordance with the Church Representation Rules.

Church Officers

Standing Committee:

Priest in Charge
Churchwardens

Reverend Jo Musson
Philip Kear with Ian Cramp until May 2022, then Annette Summers
Helen Fitzgerald
Janet Wilson

PCC Secretary
PCC Treasurer

Ministry Team:

Priest in Charge
Associate Priest
Associate Priest
Licensed Lay Ministers

Reverend Jo Musson
Reverend Jennie Hayward
Reverend Peter Davies
Jan Kear
John Butterworth

Authorised Lay Ministers
Parish Administrators
Health & Safety Officer
Electoral Roll Officer
Data Protection Officer

Paul Fulbrook & Rachel Cramp
Tammara Adams
Ian Cramp
Julie Palmer
Reverend Jo Musson

Safeguarding Officer
Children's Worship
Independent Examiner

Lorraine Deepprose
Rachel Cramp
Tony Archer

Banks

Barclays Bank PLC, Worcester
HSBC, Worcester

PCC MEMBERSHIP at the end of 2021-2022 term

Ex-Officio

Reverend Jo Musson
Philip Kear
Annette Summers
Jan Kear

Chair
Churchwarden - Completed 11 years
Churchwarden - Completed 1 year
LLM Since 2020

Elected Members (up to 12)

Jo Siddles - Lay Vice Chair	since 2016
Janet Wilson - Treasurer	since 2014
Helen Fitzgerald - Secretary	since 2018
Laura Stevens	since 2016
Lorraine Deeprose	since 2018
Annette Summers	since 2018
Ian Townley	since 2020
Julie Palmer	since 2020
Judy Hooper	since 2020

Deanery Synod Members

Paul Fulbrook	since 2017
Jan Hayden	since 2017
Ian Cramp	since 2017

The appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. All church attendees are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and may stand for election to the PCC. The work of the PCC is carried out at regular meetings, throughout the year. In addition regular Standing Committee meetings have been held, comprising the Vicar, Wardens, PCC Secretary and PCC Treasurer

PCC STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE & MANAGEMENT

The work of the PCC was also undertaken through meetings of various sub-groups:

Standing Committee**Ministry Team****20/20+ Vision, Project Group****Buildings Management Group****Parish Magazine Committee**

When they have met, these groups have provided regular reports to the full PCC meetings, in addition to reports from the Deanery Synod representatives.

Electoral Roll - Julie Palmer

The Church electoral roll is the register of electors for the parish. In the same way that being on the civic Electoral Roll allows you to vote in parliamentary and local elections and referenda, joining the Church Electoral Roll means that you can vote on Church matters, attend the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) and stand for election to the PCC. I took over the role of electoral roll officer at the AGM in May 2022 and would like to extend a big 'thank you' to Andrew Oddy for all of his work before me and for all of the help and advice he provided handing over the role. At the 2022 AGM there were 128 members on the electoral roll. During 2022 two new members were added and 4 were removed from the list. So at the end of 2022 there were 126 members on the Church Electoral Roll.

MINISTER'S REPORT- Rev. Jo Musson

2022 was an encouraging year, and we gave thanks that we could be back in church, in the Hall and Institute, gathering, worshipping and socialising together again. The church played an important role as a place of worship and bereavement for two significant National events: the Jubilee and the death of the late Queen, Elizabeth II. Lay ministry flourished and many of our groups grew. More children were admitted to their first communion and the school came back into church. As we settled into a new normal following the pandemic, we were blessed in so many ways and reminded that through it all, God has been there with us. Now we can look forward to the future with some exciting new

initiatives. I am as ever grateful to everyone who participates in the life and ministry of the church and most especially to Phil Kear, Annette Summers, Janet Wilson, and Helen Fitzgerald and all of the Ministry Team, in particular Rev Peter Davies who has been such a significant support over the last twelve months.

Collaboration - Working Well Together

We began a process of exploring how we could work more closely with St Stephen's Church. Together with Reverend Andy Todd, Curate Reverend Lindsey Coulthard, lay people from St Stephen's and Saint George's we met to explore how the three local churches could work more effectively together. On 9th June the standing committees of St Stephen's, St George's, and Claines met to continue the conversation around 'Working Well Together,' with a lively exploration (using Lego) of what we might achieve for the community by working together more closely. In July we met again, this time facilitated by Rev'd Alison Maddocks who helped us explore further, assessing impact and outcomes and looking at 'what could possibly go wrong?' Having a social together was identified as a 'quick-win' start, and as a result 45 people in 3 teams enjoyed a Skittles Afternoon at the Alma Tavern. St George's won! It was a great start, breaking down barriers and preconceptions and I hope this will be the beginning of further socialising to break down any perceived barriers.

Mission

One of the highlights of our mission in 2022 was celebrating the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. We led a short worship service on the Recreation Ground and worked with other community groups (Scouts, Guides, RBL, local Councilors and businesses) to put on a large outdoor party, with activities, music, and a large picnic. Hundreds of people attended and it was a wonderful example of the whole community coming together. A Mulberry Tree was ceremoniously planted by our Queen for the Day - Pauline Coupland. Both the joint Jubilee services were well attended. Following the death of the late Queen, the church became a place for people to remember and give thanks, with a large framed photograph of her majesty on display. Thanks to all those who enabled this to happen.

Once again we came together with the other North Worcester Churches and ran a stall at the Worcester Show. The Show was even bigger than usual and held on the Racecourse. With record temperatures, several toddlers and dogs appreciated the mini paddling pool which was initially intended as a prayer activity!

The weekly Mailchimp newsletter now goes to more than 330 people via email and around 20 people by post. We hit our record recently with 204 people opening the email. By marketing standards this is great. Thanks to the 'Posties' who deliver printed copies by hand every week to ensure that everyone gets to read the week's news. Thanks too to Rachel Cramp who dissects the news each week and posts it onto Facebook thus spreading the information and the Gospel even further afield!

Following a successful application, we were allocated a Mission Accompanier - Nigel Tween. His support and consultancy came through a grant from the Healthier Churches fund. Nigel will be able to help us access further funding from the Healthier Churches fund. Nigel is an experienced Pastor from the Elim Church, previously Principle of Regent's Bible College. As well as meeting with me for one-to-one coaching, and with the Parish reps, he has visited Kingdom Arts and Little Friends and will come and preach at both churches in 2023. He is very encouraging of all that we are doing and wrote this: 'You have accomplished a huge amount of lasting change in just ten years and now offer a wide menu of activities in terms of worship and community focused events. You have built excellent connections with wider parishes, individuals and organisations.' Nigel is helping us explore the possibility of getting funding to employ a Children's, Families' and Youth Worker shared between the three local churches.

Beer & Carols was back to its pre-pandemic energy at The Mug House and The New Inn thanks to the help of my sister Reverend Sarah Hewitt and her husband Neil for the saxophone accompaniment. It is wonderful to see so many young men making a point of attending this annual event, some dressing up for the occasion in shirts, ties and jackets!

With Sue and Trevor Davies' joyous music we sang carols and danced at Homenash and Gheluveld Court, and with Pat Dorman (Rebecca's father in law) at Fernhill House and the Belmont Care Home. The Christmas Trees and flowers were magnificent and a true witness to the joy we encounter at Christmas.

Phil and I attended the New Communities Group to consider the possibility of applying for support to engage with the new residents on the two new housing estates. This is something else we could consider through the Healthier Churches Fund.

Members of both parishes engaged with the National Consultation 'Living in Love and Faith.' Several people took part across the whole Deanery, organised by the Area Dean and with thanks to Ian Cramp as zoom driver. This was part of the consultancy around marriage and the blessing of same sex couples and the bigger picture of working towards being more inclusive.

We held several Bible Study Groups, with people attending in person and via zoom. During Lent we explored 'Women of Holy Week' by Paula Gooder and In Advent we read and discussed Paula's bible-based novel 'Lydia'. Both series were well received and attended.

Another highlight in our mission was on Sunday 20th November when Dean Jones a regular member of our Café Church congregation was confirmed at Worcester Cathedral. Dean gave this testimony: 'I live in Claines with my wife Melissa and our four beautiful children aged from 7 to 23. I am a retired police detective chief inspector and served 30 years in the West Midlands and West Mercia Police. Having always lived my life in what I believe to be a good way and bringing my children up in the same way, respecting and wherever possible helping those less fortunate than ourselves and attending our local church and indeed the family friendly cafe church I thought the time was right for me to confirm my beliefs by making the commitment to be confirmed. I have very much enjoyed the pre confirmation sessions with my Vicar Rev Jo, and these have enabled me to learn more and consider more deeply the elements of what it means to be a Christian'.

Ministry Team

A major loss for both churches in 2023 was Reader Judy Morris who left Worcester to return to her hometown of Barrow. This left a large gap in the Ministry team, our funeral ministry and more generally across the breadth of missional events and socials at Saint George's. Judy is remembered fondly for her big heart for the marginalized and for being able to rustle up a feast for the masses without batting an eyelid.

Following an invitation to both congregations to consider whether they were being called to step up and fulfil a role in ministry, Phil Kear and Ian Cramp from Claines and Alison Clarke and Lyn Crowther from Saint George's, embarked on training to become Authorised Lay Ministers in Leading Worship. ALM is a one year course which trains people to lead worship, to be aware of CofE guidelines and resources, to write liturgy, reflections and prayers. They will be licensed in September 2023. Please hold them in your prayers.

Rachel Cramp commenced her second year of training to become a Licensed Lay Minister (Reader) and successfully finished a 3 month placement at St John's in Bedwardine. She is already contributing to services and preaching, as well as continuing her role at Claines School as Governor and leading assemblies and Godly Play. We look forward to her licensing as a Reader (LLM) on 9th September 2023 with great anticipation.

Family Support and Occasional Offices

We continue to support families at times of loss through our funeral ministry, several bereaved spouses joined the Quest group. We held a number of Weddings and I am grateful to Rev'd Peter and Vergers Gwen and Derry for their support and hard work, also to the MU Baptism reps Gwen Clifford and Jane Saint who attend the monthly zoom Baptism Preparation sessions, and arrange the rota of MU ladies who support two baptism services every month. Their help is invaluable, and they themselves are an important link between church and Little Friends and Fish.

Over the last year many families were catching up from lockdown and as a result we baptized over 40 children plus 2 adults! I am grateful to Jan Hayden who kindly makes up the wedding and baptism packs for both churches and checks they are well stocked. Many of our baptism families attend Little Fish, our monthly Toddler Service, and the Little Friends Baby & Toddler group. Although numbers have dropped a little since we lost the older children to school, it is still appreciated, and we know from experience that numbers will creep up again. Looking ahead it is essential to our ministry that we continue to support these groups after the imminent 'retirement' of Jennifer Chow.

Thanks to the MU team: Pat, Annie, Jane, and Jan these groups would not happen and well done to them for leading it one month themselves whilst I was on holiday! We must never underestimate the effect such activities have on our mission and outreach and Mothers' Union are there at all of them. Well done and thank you from the bottom of my heart! Claines MU is truly the foundation stone of so much of our ministry and mission.

In the Parish Office on 14th November our new administrator Tammara Adams started. Tam has picked up the role brilliantly and is ensuring a caring and efficient presence and support for both churches. A huge thank you to Gwen Clifford and John Brady who continue to cover gaps and holiday leave and have done a wonderful job training and supporting Tammara.

Children's Ministry

On 20th July Claines School and Y6 parents came back into church for the first time since March 2020, to say farewell to the Y6 Leavers. The Autumn term felt like a return to normality with the whole school and their parents back at church for their Harvest Festival. Because of lockdown, for many of the children and their parents, it was their first time they had ever been inside the Church and there was a wonderful sense of joy and gratitude.

Rachel Cramp and I attend every service in church with the school. Members of the congregation are always most welcome to come and help us with welcoming the families and crowd control - most of these services result in around 350 people in church! We also go into school and lead activities, Godly Play and assemblies, and recently we attended the theatre to see the children perform with Worcester Musical Theatre Group. I am grateful to Rachel for her commitment and diligence as a School Governor building effective links between church and the staff and children.

Both Reception classes from the new North Worcester Primary Academy visited Claines Church in July; for many of the children it was the first time they had ever been inside a church! They were excited to walk across the field through the corn which was taller than most of them. We gave each of them a small gift of a Bible Story to keep as a memento. I was also invited into the school to teach a class about baptism and baptize a baby (doll) - who the children named Petal!

Rachel and I attended a Children's Work Training evening with the Deanery Synod and I also attended the Calling Young Disciples End of project celebration where we recognised the progress we had made through working with St George's and St Stephen's over the years for children's events. Towards the end of the year we put on Children's Christmas Parties at both churches for our church families which was a great success. Sadly we had no Junior Bishop again at Claines but Rachel and I are hopeful that with some creative planning this can be remedied for 2023.

Worship

I am most grateful to Vanessa who arranges our organists (Simon Taranzuk and Robin Walker who each play monthly and are excellent musicians), and also leads the Choir and Music Group (Orchestra), which now includes saxophone and bass guitar. We are blessed to have someone of her calibre. I am grateful to Adrian who leads the band Spark to a Flame at Café Church. The commitment of so many singers, choristers and musicians is a real blessing to us all, and ensures a varied programme and something for all tastes. Following a consultation with those who attend the afternoon services, we now use CDs and a special Celtic Song Book as well as the hymn book.

It has been encouraging after the pandemic to see numbers at normal services creeping gradually back up, with an average of around 40 communicants. PCC decided not to bring back the common

cup, having adopted the practice of the priest intincting the wafer in the wine, a situation which is reviewed regularly by the PCC. Some minor revisions to the pattern of worship were implemented which worked well and facilitated a better spread of clergy resource across each month. Reverend Peter reached a significant birthday (congratulations to him!) and quite rightly asked to have 2 clear weeks off each month which we have achieved through me not attending Café Church. I am hugely grateful to him for his support, dedication and prayerful ministry. It is a delight that Rev Jennie continues to play an active part, and as well as her ministry, I thank her for her friendship and support. Her practical teaching sermons are always appreciated.

One of the positive things to come out of the pandemic is our ability to offer online worship and we have a small number of people regularly worshipping with us via ZOOM. This can be a real lifeline for people who cannot attend church or get out of the house (or if they have Covid) and I am grateful to our three Zoom drivers Barbara Mitra, Elisabeth Witter and Janet Wilson for their continued dedication.

We ended 2022 with some wonderful worship and gatherings to celebrate the birth of our Lord, and it was wonderful to see people coming back to church for the Crib Services, Midnight Mass and Christmas Day. The Carol Service was truly a highlight and I am grateful to the choir for their hard work and dedication. The Eco Christingle Communion was something new and wonderful to see how well our Eco Christingles of crocus bulbs planted in biodegradable pots were received by young and old alike.

Sadness

2022 was another year when we had to say farewell to some of our long serving members: Malcolm Darling, Ken Ashman, Bernard Potter and Lynne Barnacle. Within the community the death of Judy Allen, publican at The Mug House, came as a huge shock and it was humbling to see the church packed with people who are more often used to walking past the church doors, for her funeral. The Archdeacon gave a wonderful eulogy. We pray that all those who rest in peace will rise in glory. On a personal note, I am grateful to everyone for their kindness and support following my Dad's death, it was reassuring to know my family were being held in your prayers and I am grateful to all those who held the fort in my absence. Thank you.

Looking ahead

2023 promises to be an exciting year, with the possibility of a paid children's, families' and youth worker, new Lay ministers and finally and at long last – toilets in the church! Claines Church is recognised as being a vibrant and effective missional community. We have much to offer and much to celebrate. Thank you to you all for your hard work and commitment. *"For I know the plans I have for you," says the Lord. "They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope. In those days when you pray, I will listen. If you look for me wholeheartedly, you will find me."* Jeremiah 29.11-13

CHURCHWARDENS' REPORT- Phil Kear and Annette Summers

We started 2022 with excitement as we gradually moved out of the restrictions over the previous two years, and within a few weeks doors would be opened across Claines as we welcomed Ukrainian families into our community when they fled war in their country. We are so grateful to all those providing spaces in their homes and the opportunity to share time with Ukrainian families at many of our church activities.

The year brought changes to the Church Wardens as Ian Cramp stood down. We are so thankful to have had his wise council in the past but even more grateful that he continues to support us with his knowledge and wisdom. Thank you, Ian. After stepping in to cover Phil Kear's temporary absence, Annette Summers was voted in as a warden at the APCM and continues to learn the role.

A significant high was the late Queen's Jubilee in June. We saw a large turnout at the Rec on Cornmeadow Lane where many of the local organisations came together and we were lucky with the British weather. However, later in the year we were all saddened by the passing of Queen Elizabeth and joined the country in its period of National Mourning.

Inventory

This has been checked and found to be in good order.

Fabric, Fixtures, Fittings and Furniture

All relevant checks have been carried out.

An Archdeacon's Faculty was approved to remove pews to create a social area at the rear of the church. This work was completed in November, and we are grateful to all those that helped prepare the area and arrange the storage of the pews. The area has been used already on several occasions by different groups and feedback so far has been very positive. It will be reviewed to see if this should be made permanent as part of the next phase to re-order the church.

The church notice board was damaged during a storm early in the year and we were grateful to Stan Summers for its restoration and reinstatement.

Quinquennial Inspection

The Quinquennial report is due in 2023 but we have outstanding items to address from the previous report. These will be reviewed and prioritised.

Churchyards

Muddy Boots have continued to strim and mow the churchyard. Andrew Johnson mows the paths and Garden of Remembrance and he and Steve Taylor have provided their services as Sexton, and we are very grateful for their continued support.

Church Buildings

A program of works to ensure all the church buildings are maintained is well managed. Alan McWilliams with support of the Building Management Group Team manage the Hall and Institute buildings and we are very grateful for their work. However, they were hit by a catastrophe when the ceiling in the Institute came down and all bookings had to be cancelled from September which had a big impact on their finances. They have managed to regain bookings and the roof and new lighting is a tremendous asset.

We thank Gordon Smith for all his help in and around the church and grateful to our cleaning team who are truly our unsung heroes.

Across all our buildings we have had to focus attention on our energy costs as the country was hit with increases and Phil Kear has been invaluable in managing this on our behalf to ensure we maintain control.

Parish Giving

We are fortunate that we maintain a strong Parish Giving Scheme which is well supported but we must never sit back and rest on our laurels and be thankful for those who support the church with their regular giving. Our finances are ably looked after by Janet Wilson, and we thank her for the superb control she maintains.

Thanks

It always hard to name individuals as we are so lucky in Claines to have many volunteers that carry out their duties and without whom we would be unable to function. Thank you to you all. Special thanks are due to the following: -

- Tammara Adams who joined us as Parish Administrator and is already making her mark on the role and to all those who have supported us during the transition in the role.
- Julie Palmer for arranging the monthly rota with such precision.

- Organists, music group, band and choir who bring such wonderful music to our church and community.
- Deputy Warden's, servers, readers, Intercessors, sidespeople and refreshment team for their diligence at all our services.
- Those that act as vergers', cleaners, flower arrangers', bellringers, Mother Union members at Baptisms, those that open and close the church daily and those fulfilling other roles across our church, its grounds, and buildings.

We are so grateful to all that volunteer as without you our church could not operate.

We would also like to acknowledge our Ministry Team. We are blessed to have such a strong group that support us in all areas of worship as well as meeting the needs of the congregation. **Thank You**

FINANCIAL REPORT- Janet Wilson

After 2 years of disruption 2022 has been a year of adjustment. The main change on the financial side has been the introduction of The Ministry Share Scheme which is the new name for the Parish Share Scheme.

From January 2022 this changed to create a clearer link between the amount of stipendiary ministry in a parish (or a group of parishes) and the amount contributed. Our Ministry Share is calculated on Claines and St George's combined and covers the cost of stipend, pension, housing costs, training for new priests and a contribution towards Diocesan support. Claines portion for 2022 was £39,454, 60% of the total for the two churches, and I am pleased to report that we were able to pay this in full. We paid an additional £4,000 towards the Ministry Support Fund to assist during the transition period.

The regular income from The Parish Giving Scheme and Standing Orders remains at nearly 90% of our total voluntary giving, and collections at services gradually increased during the year. We also received a legacy from John Barton. A contribution of £1,500 towards church funds was received from the Magazine Fund which was greatly appreciated. Again, our expenditure was well controlled, and our Energy, Insurance and Alarm System costs make up a large portion of our outgoings.

Our charitable giving was spread across 7 charities including YMCA, Practical Action, Samaritans, Food Bank, FareShare, A Rocha and FCN. During this year we have made application to several Charitable Trusts for grants towards our Reordering Project. We have been successful in obtaining funding from four Trusts and we have yet to hear from four more. In addition, we have received some generous donations and are confident that we will be fully funded early next year.

A huge thank you to everyone for their ongoing financial support and involvement, your gifts make a real difference to the life of the church.

BUILDINGS MANAGEMENT GROUP (BMG)- Alan McWilliams

General statement

As you are aware the Covid 19 pandemic continued for the first few months of 2022, however, complying with the Government recommendations we were able to continue to hire out the Hall and Institute. Four Free issue cycle racks have been fitted to the walls; two at the Institute and two at the Parish Hall.

As you are aware, Ann Sansome retired at the start of 2022 after numerous years as treasurer of the BMG, we are extremely grateful for her service and dedication. Ann handed over the role of Treasurer to Sheryl Robinson who we are fortunate to have as a valued member of the BMG.

BMG committee

The present committee consists of the following members: Alan McWilliams (Chair), Katrina Boucher, Jan Hayden, Ian Cramp, Sheryl Robinson (Treasurer) and Dillwyn Price. Although Gordon Smith is not a member of the BMG, his input in carrying out minor repairs to the various Church, buildings and landscape is greatly appreciated by all.

During the past year 2022-2023 we had four meeting to discuss and ensure that the Parish Hall and Institute complied with current Covid Government Recommendations and have in place all the sanitizing materials required. We also discuss the various Building Maintenance Projects that we planned and consequently carry out this year. We continue to have two cleaning contractors, Jenny Radley and Emily Rowlands who clean the Parish Hall while Julie does the Institute

Maintenance request forms received over the last 12months

Although we have been subject to the Covid restrictions the Hall and Institute have been in use for most of the year although we have however had very few requests which have been verbal Listed below is the official number of requests received although a number of additional minor items of maintenance have been carried out as deemed necessary.

Church.....	2
Church house.....	1
Parish Hall.....	3
Institute.....	2
Total	8

Building Inspection report

It is the intension that a revised report will be compiled in 2023 that covers the external and internal element of our three buildings, House, Institute and Parish hall

Maintenance Items/projects worthy of note

Church - The original Quinquennial Report and the actions identified have stayed under the control of the Church Wardens and PCC. However, BMG have carried out small maintenance items as and when requested with the replacement of light bulbs as required and the repairing of the electrical components to the 3rd lamp hanging light adjacent the alter. We were involved in organising the adjustments to the electrics in the combined effort to remove the 6th pew in the North West corner that now is the social area. The fire extinguishers had their annual service in June 2022.

Institute Church House - Our new tenants are very happy with the house and have asked if they can carry out the landscaping to the back garden and also if they can decorate the various rooms to their requirement. During the year we have arranged for the oil boiler to be serviced and we have carrying out the annual internal house inspection and found all was well. We have replaced the 3 old metal kitchen windows with new that have double glazed glass units which will help the thermal efficiency of the house. When funds are available will arrange for the sitting room windows to be replaced with similar. The holes in the access road to the car park were made good with cold bitumen macadam.

Institute - This year although we still had Covid Restrictions the bookings for the building were picking up but as you all know in September a small section of the plastered ceiling fell down, fortunately no one was in the building at the time. As we were unsure of the stability of the remaining areas we replaced the whole of the existing plastered ceiling with plasterboard and a skim coat of plaster. The existing florescent lights were replaced with new LED units, 2 loft access hatches where installed and an additional 300mm of loft insulation installed. Therefore, from September the Institute was closed for bookings until January 2023 which obviously affected our income. The heating on/off programme times are adjusted as required to suit the bookings. The fire alarms and firefighting equipment have had their annual service carried out. The timber palisade fence between the car park and the children's play area that was blown down has been reinstated.

The hedges around the house, Institute and carpark have had their annual trim as required. We are truly thankful to Gordon Smith and the local farmer Mr Kevin Gwillam who carried out the work.

Parish Hall - This year we carried out the annual servicing to the heating system, the fire alarms, the firefighting equipment plus the servicing of the gas water heater in the kitchen. The grass to the garden and external areas has been cut as required by Marks Gardening Services with the external Defibrillator regularly checked by the Community Café'.

This year as planned and agreed with the PCC we carried out the various building enhancements

which include the external painting, insulating the end gable wall to the main hall plus the replacement of a number of existing single glazed metal windows to the Ladies toilet, the gable end wall and the porch lantern with new double glazed UPVC units. These measures will no doubt help with the Thermal Efficiency of the hall and therefore reduce the heating costs. As and when funds are available we will be look at replacing the remaining single glazed metal windows with new ones that are double glazed, insulating the external walls on the inside, modernising the kitchen facilities and supplementing the existing heating system with additional heaters. The debris and unwanted equipment stored in the outbuilding was cleared out with the help of volunteers and either given away or dump in the skip provided.

Over the past year particularly in January and February, with the help of the groups using the Hall and the BMG team we kept the building open for business all in accordance with the Covid 19 Government guide lines.

Finances - As you are aware, our income is generated from the letting of the Church House, the Parish Hall and the Institute. However, this year our income has mainly been generated from the house rent and the parish hall bookings. The income from the institute bookings was curtailed in September due to the repairs to the ceiling. The income from the Parish Hall and Institute in January 2023 is reasonable healthy. The bookings for the Hall and the institute allowing for a 5 day week and possible 9 hours availability the present capacity for the hall stands at 70% and the Institute at 40%, the figures exclude weekend bookings.

In April 2020 we increased the rates to the Hall and Institute by a small amount. We have planned at our next meeting in May to assess the increased energy costs and if necessary, inform our regular hirers by letter if the rates need to be increased.

The rent for the Church House is fair and reasonable as agreed by our Letting Agent and therefore was not increased. The other factor we took into consideration was the generous work they are carrying out on the landscape and the new cooker they have installed. This year's balance sheet for 22-23 would have been quite healthy considering we spent in around £20000 on planned upgrades to the various buildings and it would have been similar to last year. However due to the unforeseen repairs required for the Ceiling to the Institute at a cost of £11200 our balance in January 23 stood around £5000. Now that the Institute is available together with the Parish Hall we feel fairly optimistic that our 2023 year ending accounts will be very much healthier. The BMG 12 month accounts are included in the financial section of the PCC Report.

HEALTH AND SAFETY- Ian Cramp

A number of things have changed since the last Annual Report was produced regarding health and safety. The significant reduction in the number of Covid infections has meant that we have been able to resume our activities in a "normal" manner. Government and Church of England advice has also supported this course of action throughout the country. While this does not mean that Covid has been eliminated, the use of vaccinations has meant that the severity of infections and consequential risk to health has been reduced. However, we remember that there are groups of people who may be susceptible to any form of infection and will always take care to ensure that they are adequately protected as far as possible while in our buildings.

We always try to ensure that our properties are properly ventilated and that space is available for persons who feel vulnerable to infection to sit away from others if they desire. We are, of course, happy if persons wish to wear masks. The Ministry team are continuing to regularly review such issues as exchanging the Peace and sharing the Common Cup. We continue to ensure that our properties are regularly checked to ensure compliance with all necessary Health and Safety standards. We also compile risk assessments for all large events or activities where there could be risk.

The summer of 2022 was extremely hot and dry and we found that, while visually examining the church, a new large crack was discovered in the South West corner. A specialist structural engineer was appointed and he examined the crack. His opinion was that the crack had been caused by heave in the clay soil and possibly by a tree spreading its roots in a search for moisture. However his recommendation was that there was no danger to the building or congregation and that we should infill the crack.

A further cause for concern was the partial collapse of the ceiling in the Institute which was noticed on 7th September 2022. Thankfully, no person was in the building when the collapse of the lath and plaster ceiling occurred, and further details are given elsewhere in the Report. From a health and safety point of view, we established that the risk of a further collapse was possible and, in view of the age of the ceiling, took the decision to completely replace it with a new plasterboard ceiling. We were unable to establish any reason for the partial collapse.

Overall, we had a good year with no significant incidents and thanks are due to all persons using our buildings for taking care.

SAFEGUARDING- Lorraine Deeprise

The Parish continues to keep up to date with all regulations and guidance set down by the Diocese for safeguarding. There were no safeguarding issues at Claines Church in the last year. We continue to check all those in regulated activity with children and adults. The online DBS system for checking suitability has made this process easy for both the applicant and the person checking the ID. Over the next year I will be looking at those people already DBS checked and may need renewals.

It is now a requirement for any new DBS applicant to complete the Basic Awareness Training. Our process when applicants apply for their DBS is that they complete the Basic Awareness Training at the same time, and this has worked really well.

Moving forward with Safeguarding I am going to be looking at the regular activities that take place in our parish weekly and monthly calendar. These are currently: -

1. CHOIR
2. LINC (LUNCH CLUB)
3. LITTLE FISH
4. LITTLE FRIENDS
5. OPEN THE BOOK
6. SERVING TEAM
7. WORSHIP BAND
8. BELL RINGERS
9. CHILDRENS CHURCH

I will be working in partnership with the leaders of all these groups to make sure the following good practice procedures are in place:- 1. Risk Assessments 2. Insurance Cover 3. Safer Recruitment 4. DBS checks - done & up to date 5. Safeguarding Training 6. Safer Environment

The Parish Dashboard is an online tool for PSO to use and enter data relating to the following points:-

1. POLICIES AND ACTION PLAN
2. SAFEGUARDING PROCEDURES
3. SAFEGUARDING ROLES
4. TRAINING FOR KEY ROLES
5. DISPLAYED INFORMATION
6. REVIEWS AND REPORTS
7. CHURCH ACTIVITIES
8. NON-CHURCH ACTIVITIES
9. SAFER RECRUITMENT AND PEOPLE MANAGEMENT

The Dashboard helps me to update regularly to make sure our parish is compliant with all safeguarding regulations. There are 3 levels of compliance Green is good - Amber for action - Red means urgent. I am pleased to report we are Green and at Level 3. At every PCC meeting I submit a Parish Safeguarding Summary Action Plan which highlights areas that need data updating.

Safeguarding is **EVERYONES** responsibility. At St John Baptist Claines we make safeguarding part of our culture, we promote it on our website, on notice boards, in our parish magazine, at every PCC meeting, at church events. Safeguarding is something we are happy to talk about, answer any questions, be open and honest. Our aim and mission is to 'Promote a Safer church' where everyone can praise and worship in a safe place.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the PCC, paid & voluntary parishioners and those accessing and participating in all the activities and events our church provides, for their continued support with regard to Safeguarding.

Safeguarding Statement

To the best of our understanding, the PCC of St John the Baptist Claines, Worcester have complied with the duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 (duty to have due regard to the House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults). In 2022 we conducted the following:

3 new DBS processed. Total people with an up to date DBS = 29

Number of DBS applications that required referral to DSA/ADSA = 0

Number of DBS that have lapsed without renewal = 0

Number of people who have attended training = 4

Any advice sought from DSA/ADSA this year and any actions as a result? **Yes - advice was sought regarding a variety of safeguarding general questions**

Are there any safeguarding agreements in place in the parish? **No**

Have there been any serious incident reports made to the Charity Commission? **No**

Sharing of updates from PSO network meetings? Or training events? **PSO submits reports on network meetings and training she and others attended at every PCC meeting**

Any policy changes/new statements added/new Diocesan/National policies adopted?

1. Safeguarding is on the agenda at every PCC meeting.

2. We include a report in the Church Annual Report, and

3. This Addendum will be incorporated in every year's Annual report

Completion of toolkit/take up of Dashboard? **Yes, St John Baptist Claines is Green across Level 3 Dashboard**

Highlights of Parish action plan? **To check compliance of all parish activities taking place.**

How many children's/adult activities are taking place in the parish? **5 adult/4 children's**

Any new ones planned? **Nothing as yet**

We currently don't have defined role description for those working with vulnerable adults and children. The Diocese has templates for most roles within the church, we will be carrying out additional work to produce specific job descriptions for every role.

Parish Safeguarding Policies

Our Safeguarding Policies are reviewed on an annual basis by the PCC. All policies are reviewed and agreed this will take place at our first PCC meeting after the AGM. All our policies are displayed in every church venue, along with 'Who's Who' poster for Safeguarding, plus useful websites and contact details for anyone who needs help, support, isolated or feeling vulnerable.

DATA PROTECTION- Rev. Jo Musson

The systems we use for recording (Life Events Diary) and communication (Mailchimp) are GDPR compliant. Locked cupboards are used for paper records. The use of blind copy on emails is encouraged.

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER 2022

Signed on behalf of the Trustees

.....
.....

Reverend Jo Musson

Date

Activities of the Parish

WORCESTER DEANERY SYNOD- Paul Fulbrook

There were three meetings of the Worcester Area Deanery Synod in 2022 with Representative numbers rising from 33 to 39 over the year. Understandably, there will always be people who find that their diaries have a clash of commitments, but it is sad when one hears comments from people in parishes that they had not been aware of a recent initiative or change in Diocesan policy direction. The question usually then asked is why that PCC is not disseminating the information to parishioners given to them by their Deanery Synod Representatives? Of course, some churches cannot find anyone interested enough to volunteer to be a Deanery Synod Representative or if elected to attend the very few annual meetings.

Our first meeting of the year was at St Wulstan, Cranham Drive on Thursday 28th April. Chosen especially so that there would be well lit streets to park in with a bright and cheerful building to sit in where we could be gathered in a friendly manner around tables, rather than serried rows of uncomfortable pews. Our Area Dean, Revd Diane Cooksey reported on the results of the 'Deanery Enquiry' questionnaire that had circulated. Unfortunately, some Parish representatives had either not consulted their parishioners or had declined to answer but there were 26 replies from a possible 31 Churches. The aim of the survey had been to get a 'Base Line' of what is happening around the deanery as we came out of the pandemic.

This being our first 'in person' meeting for a while we were shown a map of the Deanery so that members could get an idea of the geography. We had: 42 Church Buildings; 31 Parishes; 12 Benefices. There are 14 Stipendiary Clergy; 4 Curates; 12 Readers with 4 in training; 27 A.L.M's but the number of clergy with 'Permission to Officiate' was not mentioned.

A lack of a cohesive Youth Programme was the main criticism and that funding an Outreach initiative would probably be the best way forwards for 'Growing the Kingdom'.

The meeting was handed over to guests, Simon Hill and his colleague Emma who passed out to the meeting identical sets of Lego © which were then used to express concepts that we were being offered on a range of subjects. The aim of this was to encourage people to respond to the question 'What is the deanery for now?' It certainly got people talking and feedback was collected afterwards for the Leadership Team to peruse later.

The 5th Session of the Worcester Area Deanery Synod: was held in rural splendour at St John the Baptist, Suckley on Tuesday 5th July. Revd Anne Potter was acting as Area Dean because Revd. Diane Cooksey had departed on sabbatical leave. Again, the meeting was in a comfortable hall and whilst it had required a little navigation to find, in my opinion, Worcestershire in July cannot be bettered. The meeting was opened by the Deanery Lay Chair, Robert Pearce who welcomed us and then asked the acting Area Dean to lead us in a short act of worship. We were shown a video of the local community and school.

We were then treated to an exceptional talk by Geoff Sansome, Head of Agriculture at Natural England who had worked in both Russia and Ukraine for several years, about the history, culture, and current situation in Ukraine. He went on to speak about the refugee and invasion problems caused by Russia and local efforts to help in Worcestershire.

Our 6th Session of the Worcester Area Deanery Synod in November was due to the need for parking and street lighting, held in St Stephen, Barbourne. The Area Dean having returned to harness welcomed us to the meeting and it was gratifying that more Synod representatives felt able to attend. Revd Andy Todd, the Vicar introduced us to the church building where although we were warm and well lit, we had to sit in pews. Guest speakers, Sian Morgan and Helen Laird gave an input to the meeting about the 'Calling Young Disciples' Scheme. A short introduction and a short video included descriptions of youth work in: Kidderminster; Halas; Stourbridge; Leigh; and also Warndon. As we had discovered on the Deanery questionnaire post-covid this was the area that all parishes in our Deanery wanted to develop. Members were then able to explore the opportunities offered and ask questions about the direction that their parishes could expand in.

On a slightly downbeat note, Revd Andy Todd gave the meeting the current Diocesan budget view on the new Ministry Share system. His message was clear. If you as a Church can meet the financial demand, then OK, if not then there may be repercussions about future levels of paid ministry. Some churches will become uneconomic. Unrepresented churches will lose that discussion opportunity.

Revd. Diane Cooksey spoke more on the 'three priorities' and Developing Diocesan Strategy document that is now available on the Diocesan website. The Kingdom People Vision had not been replaced by this, but the strategy highlights the direction of travel and intentionality in the use of resources to encourage and enable church growth. It was very helpful to have fulsome explanations of this. The continued diocesan vision for all churches to become Healthy and Sustainable reiterated the point that sustainability includes being able to fund the Ministry as well as the Mission.

One of the priorities focussed on connecting with children and young families with the possibility of employing some Children/Youth/Family Workers in a couple of parishes in each deanery. The hope is that across the diocese each major centre of population will have at least one flourishing church with children/youth and families. As always current and up to date information was provided to members to pass on to their PCC's and also to their congregations.

Another priority spoken of was around the developing New Worshipping Communities e.g., walking church; forest church; café church with the emphasis they will involve new people rather than recycling existing congregations. This is something that all parishes are being asked to get involved with and we hope to devote some time in Synod during 2023 to focus on this. Bishop John has made it clear that he intends that there will be training provided to support clergy and laity and we will pass this on as soon as we hear how that develops.

As ever, the ages of Deanery Synod members increases, and I urge you all to consider recruiting younger parishioners to take on the task ahead.

20/20+ VISION PROJECT- Ian Cramp & Phil Kear

2022 was a good but somewhat frustrating year regarding the project. It was necessary to update all the quotes that had been received both pre- lockdown and during lockdown to ensure that they were correct. There were also some queries from the Registry which meant that public notices had to be amended and feedback obtained from consultees such as Historic England and the Victorian Society in view of the time that had elapsed since the project was originally submitted in 2019. However, the final scheme was submitted to the Chancellor of the Ecclesiastical Consistory Court in early August 2022 and approval to proceed granted on 27th October 2022 subject to 2 conditions.

Despite the time that has elapsed, we have worked hard on finalising details and trying to arrange a project programme. The project will start with the removal of the wall tiles in the North porch followed by the relocation of the organ console in order to give room to rearrange the vestry ready for the new toilets. Much care and attention to detail is required to ensure that everything is done effectively and disruption is minimised. It is also very important to ensure that good tradespersons with the correct skills and expertise are used.

Much time has been spent on fundraising and this has involved us in the preparation of applications for grants from a number of organisations. This has been very successful and significant sums of money have been obtained towards the cost of the project. We are so grateful to Janet Wilson and Rev Jo for their hard work.

While these activities are taking place, we are also thinking about Stage 2 of the project. This involves further improvements to the church to encourage its use for a number of activities. In November 2022 we removed a number of pews from the North West corner of the church to create a flexible gathering area where refreshments could be served. This work has been done using an Archdeacon's Permission which means that at the end of a three-year trial period either a faculty has to be obtained or the area restored to its original condition. (The removed pews have been carefully

stored on stage in the Parish Hall). The trial is very successful and is helping us to finalise our plans for the North part of the church and the needs of the congregation. We are also thinking about how best we can share with others the interesting features of our wonderful church.

CLAINES COMMUNITY CAFÉ- Jane Saint

The Claines Community Café is open every Tuesday afternoon from 2.00 - 3.30 in the Parish Hall. Tea or coffee and fresh homemade cakes and pastries are served at minimal prices and we are delighted to be currently welcoming 40-50 friends each week. The highlight of 2022 was our Christmas Celebration afternoon when we enjoyed live music, dancing and a visit from Father Christmas with a gift for everyone. The prestigious award of Star Baker of 2022 was presented to Sue Price whose Eccles cakes and sausage rolls are top quality and always in great demand.

A huge thank you from the café team to all our skilled volunteer bakers - we couldn't run the café without their delicious cakes. Thank you also to all our cheerful and friendly customers who make the café a pleasure for the team to run.

We have been happy to be able to make donations from our funds towards repair projects and the replacement of equipment at the Parish Hall. Our grateful thanks go to Brown and Fincher Ltd Euronics in Droitwich for their generous donation of a new fridge and to our treasurer Dil Price for organising it. Come and join us at the Café - there is a warm welcome for everyone.

ECO CHURCH- Ian Cramp

The good news is that we applied for and obtained our Silver Eco Church award in December 2022. This is a significant achievement. It looks like we have 51 churches in the Diocese registered with the Eco Church site and, at the time of writing, 37 who have achieved an award (22 bronze and 15 silver). The Church of England has announced that it wants all churches to have Net Zero Emissions by 2030. There is a lot of work to do to achieve this and at Claines we are in a strong position as we are all electric and using "clean" electricity.

The award reflects the measures that have been taken to promote sustainability and minimise use of resources not only in church buildings but in the local community. Members of the church are also encouraged to participate in their own homes by managing energy use, using eco-friendly products and other initiatives such as cycling and car sharing.

There are a number of criteria to meet including:

- Worship and teaching
- Management of buildings and land
- Community and global engagement
- Lifestyle

Rev Jo Musson said "We are very pleased that, having previously received the bronze award, our continuing efforts have been recognised by the silver award. I encourage everyone to consider how they can help to protect our environment and our planet by using eco-friendly products. It is so important for us all and for future generations that we modify our behaviour to better care for creation." We now intend to continue with our work and aim for the gold award. In some areas, such as worship and teaching, we have already achieved this standard.

QUEST BEREAVEMENT GROUP- Tricia Greenwood

The group is for someone who has recently lost a loved one and can chat to others in a similar same position. The numbers have stayed at a steady 12-15 including 2 new members, we hope they are enjoying the fellowship. We meet every third Thursday of the month for tea and cake. During the year we had afternoon tea at Davids Nurseries which was very enjoyable. We all entered a

competition and won a bench which is now in the Claines Church Hall Garden. We had Christmas Dinner at the New Inn, Ombersley Road, we could not fault the meal and they looked after us all very well. If you are interested in joining the group please contact Rev. Jo for more details.

THE WORCESTER FOODBANK- Adrian Musson

2022 has seen increased Foodbank demand from people in Worcester. Each month has seen increases ranging from 35% - 50% compared to the same months in 2021 as the cost of living crisis has hit home for local residents. Worcester Foodbank has added an additional shift on Tuesdays to cope with these increases and this is proving to be effective and needed. The people in Claines parish are regular givers to the Worcester Foodbank, both in food and monetary donations and we also have several individuals from the parish who volunteer their time on duty at the warehouse and doing deliveries to support this much needed charity. Thank you to all of you.

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE- Rachel Cramp

Children's Worship Area - Children continue to use the Worship area well - especially on *second Sundays* when the Children's Altar is set up, which the children do during the sermon, with volunteers, parents or with older children leading. They reflect on the meaning of what is placed on the altar, and they take part in prayer activities.

In addition there are always Bible Book bags, with books and activities that can be taken to the children's pews or they can sit at the little tables in the Worship area, and there are always books and colouring sheets and a Children's Lectionary.

Godly Play - On the *fourth Sundays* of the month Godly Play stories take place in the Institute, with wonderful 'wondering' after the stories are told, by Godly Play leaders Rachel Cramp or Lorraine Deeprise.

Café Church takes place on *third Sundays* and is for all ages and whole families, with lots of interaction with the children, and during 2022 we were able to resume offering our usual breakfasts. The number of families and children attending has continued to grow.

First Sundays are **Worship Together** services where the sermons are planned to engage all ages, including children.

Worship in the Wild - One session has been held in the churchyard for Claines School during 2022. It is hoped to hold more Worship in the Wild sessions in 2023, to be held jointly with Saint George's and St Stephen's churches.

Posada - This Advent the Posada was sent out and visited families, Claines School and Cornmeadow Nursery.

Open the Book - During 2022 in the Spring and early part of the Summer Term we continued to record stories every fortnight. We have worked as one Open the Book team, with people from both Claines and Saint George's taking part, and the stories are sent into Claines Primary and St George's CofE Primary and we sent the stories into the Pupil Referral Unit. The schools are very appreciative of the resource and classes can show the recordings when it is convenient to them.

We are grateful to Ian Cramp for helping with technical side of the Zoom recordings and to everyone who takes part - we have lots of fun recording the stories and we are getting more inventive in our 'productions'!

We hope to resume going into Claines Primary in 2023.

Preparation for First Communion - in the early months of the year, children joined preparation sessions in Claines Institute, and took their First Communion on Easter Sunday at both Claines and Saint George's churches.

Looking ahead to 2023 we hope to hold our popular Pancake Party, jointly with Saint George's and St Stephen's, and hope to prepare another group of children for First Communion.

CLAINES CE PRIMARY SCHOOL-Rachel Cramp, Governor

A few highlights of the year at Claines CE Primary School!

At the start of the year it was wonderful that Covid restrictions were being eased, and during the year things returned to normal and it was a very busy year for the school. In the Spring, the first Ukrainian child joined the school, and the children held a Humanitarian Ukrainian Appeal sale, to help the people of Ukraine.

At Easter a service was held in Claines church again, though parents were not able to attend, due to ongoing Covid restrictions. Afterwards great fun was had at a cupcake challenge!

The school sports teams including netball, boys' football and girls' football, all played very well and importantly the children were congratulated on the excellent spirit in which they played.

In May the Queens Jubilee was celebrated in school and the Year 5 and Year 6 Choir sang Jubilee songs at the Claines British Legion, which brought tears to the eyes. An amazing number of school trips took place: to a Synagogue, a Hindu Temple, to Weston- Super-Mare for a seaside project, to the Botanical Gardens, Wimbledon and a Tri Golf Festival to name but a few! More than £2000 was raised for school at the Summer Fair, children took part in Coin Art and a Competitive Drama festival where they achieved a distinction, and they held many other fund-raising activities. In the summer the SATs results were excellent – the children were congratulated, and the staff thanked for their hard work throughout the pandemic. An interesting curriculum initiative has taken place in morning phonics lessons, which has led to excellent participation and results.

At Harvest, Remembrance and Christmas, services were held at Claines Church, and parents were able to attend again as usual. The children always lead the services and sing; they are always joyful and moving. In Year 6 Worship leaders are involved in worship in school assemblies and church services.

In the autumn Worcester County Cricket Club worked with Year 5, as they prepared to become Playground Buddies to the younger children. Year 6 children act as Buddies at the gate in the mornings and listen to younger children read.

At the AGM in September, Dr Mike Best stood down as Chair of Governors, though he remains as Governor. Mrs Claire Green was elected as the new Chair of Governors and Dr Geof Smith as Vice-Chair.

LUNCH IN COMPANY (LINC)- John Brady

LINC lunch continues to take place on the second Saturday of every month providing a meal and a good chat for those who attend. Meals range from Shepherd's pie, to pork chops in cider, to salmon, to....well, you name it. A forthcoming meal will be Toad in the Hole which I'm told is eagerly anticipated.

Puds are just as good, custard with most, and the Christmas meal is not to be missed. This year our annual meal out at the Perdiswell was no longer possible, it having closed. Instead we were grateful to St George's for being able to have fish and chips in their Magdalene room. Finding a suitable pub to replace the Perdiswell that meets our needs has proved difficult. Hopefully something will turn up this year. It is nice to get out somewhere different once a year.

Sadly, as is the case every year, some of our regulars are no longer with us. We wish those who have moved away, or are unable to come along due to ill health, some good dinners wherever they are. Hopefully you may be able to join us again in the future. It is always good to have people return for the occasional meal.

Thanks, should also be expressed, in this report, to the members of the team who provide LINC lunches, that is, Jane and Simon Saint, Matt and Laura Stevens, Ian Townley, Jan Kear, Pat Harris, Alan Long, Anne Ray and myself. We all feel that providing LINC lunches is a very rewarding

experience. If you would like to help in the future, please get in touch with any of those mentioned. New helpers would be most welcome.

Finally, we would welcome any new diners to our lunches and our company. If you are on your own then please do get in touch with us, or the vicar, and we will contact you.

CHURCH MAGAZINE- Pat Oddy

The Church Magazine underwent a complete change of production team during the course of 2022. Steve Taylor retired as editor at the end of 2021 after more than 25 years in post. Then, in the autumn, Andrew Johnson retired as Magazine Treasurer and Advertising Manager and Margaret Study retired as Distribution Manager after more than 30 years. Presentations were made to Steve and Margaret at the morning service on 27th November 2022 and a few days later the new editor delivered a similar token of the parish's esteem to Andrew Johnson.

The new team is:

- Editor - Pat Oddy
- Treasurer and advertising manager - Henry Briggs
- Distribution manager - Gordon Smith

The magazine continues, as it always has, to record the life of the Church in Claines, but now also features news and reports of events in the wider community. The introduction of email and social media means, however, that the Magazine cannot usually be the first to announce forthcoming events, but it does provide a more permanent forum for recording the life of the Parish - or at least it would if a set of magazines had been kept on file year by year.

I have collected magazines from a number of people to cover the last 25 years, but the run is by no means complete and before 1990 very little appears to have survived apart from a few bound volumes from the very early 20C and a single volume for 1960-61. The latter suggests that 60 years ago someone was binding annual sets, but where are they now? If you know, or if you have any old magazines, please contact the editor.

The number of magazines printed each month during the year fell from 350 in February to 300 in December.. The fall was due to a few people deciding not to renew but also to a review of the actual number of magazines needed by each of our hard working delivery volunteers, to whom we are very grateful.

SOCIAL MEDIA - Rachel Cramp

Throughout 2022 Social Media has remained an important way to communicate with the congregation and wider parish. Facebook has continued to be very important, though during the year it was agreed that as the midweek services had returned to the normal routine, they no longer needed to be live streamed. The main Sunday services are however live streamed on Zoom. We currently have 1183 followers on the Claines Church Facebook site, 73% women and 27% men; a quarter of the current audience are aged 35-44, and just less than a quarter aged 65+.

There has again been a substantial increase on the Claines Parish Hall and Institute site, up to 489 followers, 86% women and 14% men; 40% are aged 35-44 and a further 20% aged 45-54. Hirers of the Hall and Institute appreciate being able to place ads and updates on their classes.

We also continue our presence on Claines Church Twitter with 557 followers, and Rev Jo continues to update the Claines Church Instagram page.

We would like to thank our 'Zoom drivers'; all who contribute to the Facebook sites and Rachael Wilson who looks after our Claines Church website: <https://claineschurch.co.uk>

LITTLE FRIENDS- Jennifer Chow

Little Friends is run entirely by volunteers from the community, with support from Mother's Union members and Reverend Jo Musson. We meet during term time in Claines Parish Hall on Tuesday mornings (except for Little Fish Tuesdays). Originally established as a complement to Little Fish, Little Friends aims to provide a secure, comfortable and friendly space for young children and their carers to gather and socialise every week, whilst also providing a convenient and accessible link to Claines Church. We currently keep in touch with attendees via our email address (claineslittlefriends@gmail.com) and blog (<https://claineslittlefriends.blogspot.com/>).

With HSBC having introduced bank fees for charitable bank accounts in 2021, in early 2022 we closed our Little Friends bank account and our funds are now managed as a sub-account of Claines Church. Whilst this means we are no longer strictly subject to holding committee meetings, we will still meet as a volunteer team whenever needed to discuss any pressing or essential issues.

Attendance has remained fairly steady, although there have been occasional dips in numbers. Going forward we will work on promoting Little Friends a bit more via print and social media to ensure that potential attendees are aware of the group.

In July 2023 I will step down from my organiser role which I have held since Little Friends started running in 2014. Throughout the years we have regularly asked for more helpers from among our attendees. As we anticipate the transition to a new organiser (or team of organisers), we will require additional volunteers to ensure that Little Friends runs without interruption in September 2023.

In the meantime, I would once again like to thank our beloved refreshment ladies from Claines Mother's Union, our lovely mum volunteers and our dedicated annexe helpers for their outstanding collective contribution. Thanks to our volunteers' ongoing commitment, Little Friends has been able to continue serving families in the local community as originally intended.

LITTLE FISH - Pat Price

Our Little Fish session is held on the third Tuesday of the month in the Parish Hall, from 10 am until 11.30 am, and is aimed at pre-school children. The children come along with a parent or carer to join in with songs, prayers and an interactive Bible story read by Reverend Jo. At Easter time and Christmas we hold the session in Church.

On arrival at the hall, the children attach their named fish to the board and then collect items hidden around the room which relate to the planned story. We sing some songs then settle down for a short story, after which the children sit down to make a picture. We then stop for refreshments and a chat and end the session with the Hokey Cokey (in which the children take great delight).

Topics covered in 2022 were: The birth of Jesus, Jesus gets lost, Jesus said "Let the children come to me", Jesus teaches us how to pray, Jesus performs miracles, Jesus is alive, Jesus makes people better, the Story of Pentecost, Teddy Bears picnic, the Good Shepherd and the Parable of the mustard seed.

We are always happy to welcome new members, and very much appreciate the help and support of the mums/grandparents/carers of our Little Fish. Of course, the sessions could not go ahead without the assistance of Jo's helpers - Jan Hayden, Jane Saint, Pat Price and Annie Ray.

MOTHER'S UNION - Gwen Clifford, Jan Hayden and Rachel Cramp

After all the Zoom meetings and the need to meet outdoors and sit two metres apart, we were able to return to some sort of normality last year.

We had a variety of speakers at our meetings; a local poet, a bee keeper, a representative of the Hereford and Worcester Fire Brigade, and a senior member of the MU who helped us to reflect on the changes taking place in our worldwide organisation. We supported the MU campaign to raise awareness and to rid the world of modern-day slavery when our members knitted chains that decorated the inside and outside of Claines Church and who can forget the chain on the War Memorial? We honoured our late Queen, Patron of the Mothers' Union in June; to commemorate her Platinum Jubilee we planted a Queen Elizabeth Rose just outside the South Porch of Claines Church. We enjoyed a delicious afternoon tea at Holland House in July. Our members organised a Harvest Supper in October, the first one to take place in the parish for quite a few years. The Sausage Sizzle event in November was a successful fundraiser and also a marvellous community get together. We enrolled six new members during the year. At the close of the year we were able to donate £800 to various MU projects both at home and abroad and we thank you all for supporting the work of the Mothers Union in Claines.

PARISH MUSIC - Vanessa Gunter

Both the choir and the instrumental group have enjoyed a successful year. The lifting of Covid restrictions has enabled both groups to return fully to what we love – using our voices and instruments to facilitate worship for all. This is an incredible privilege and something we never take for granted.

The choir have enjoyed singing in a number of weddings during the year, in addition to our regular services. These are always lovely occasions and it is a joy to be part of a couple's special day. This year's Carol Service was a real highlight. For many of us, we felt it was one of the best we have done! We are always on the lookout for new members, especially tenors and basses. Everyone is welcome.

The instrumental group have worked hard this year and have continued to develop our already extensive repertoire. It has taken a while, but we have now completed a gradual transition to using AHON for the majority of our services, only occasionally returning to Sing Praise where we feel this is more appropriate. This has allowed us to offer more varied hymns and allows us to work more closely with the readings and themes set for each week, which is definitely an important development for us.

As with the choir, we are always keen to welcome new members to the group. Both groups are in a great place at the moment, and we thoroughly looking forward to continuing our mission in 2023.

SPARK TO A FLAME - Adrian Musson

It was great to get back to a more normal worship pattern in 2022. After some initial trepidation at the start of the year, we had almost forgotten about the worries of COVID by the end of the year. We led worship at Claines Cafe Church and it was great to get back to live performances after the pre-recorded needs of COVID.

In August we also returned to the Worcester Show on what turned out to be the hottest day of the year. We were under a shelter but the temperatures were around 38 degrees. Andy Todd from St. Stephens and some of the team from St. Georges worship band also joined us. We brought out the sunshine in our playing and singing for the attendees of the show. December saw us leading a Christingle service and two packed crib and carol services. It was a great way to end the year.

This year we are looking forward to welcoming new singers and members of the band (all budding musicians are welcome - please contact the office if you're interested).

BELL RINGING - Martyn Hills

Claines no longer has enough bellringers in the local band to ring the bells for Sunday services. This is a position unfortunately shared by the majority of churches with bells. Ringing is now largely achieved by bell ringers coming together from different churches - this is challenging when service times coincide.

On a more positive note, a band to ring the bells can usually be arranged for couples choosing to get married at Claines. Leaving through the South door to the sound of the bells is a very memorable finale to the church element of the day.

Like a lot of mechanical things, bell fittings deteriorate when they are not used regularly. Fortunately, 8 ringers from various churches have been coming together on the 4th Monday in the month at 10:30 to ring a quarter peal, around 1h of ringing. These are very good ringers, if you get a chance to listen then this is what very good bell ringing sounds like.

A bell was tolled at Claines on Friday 9th September for 1hr to mark the death of Queen Elizabeth II and the muffled Tenor bell was tolled 96 times at 1 minute intervals before the funeral on 19th September.

Guidance published by the National organisation of bellringers and the Church of England ensured that virtually all churches with bells were tolling their bells on the same days at the same times. Where availability of ringers allowed, there was open (unmuffled) ringing for the proclamation of King Charles III on Saturday 11th September. Extensive further pieces of muffled/half-muffled ringing in memoriam of Queen Elizabeth took place until the day of the state funeral. The vast majority of this ringing is published on a website, <https://bb.ringingworld.co.uk>.

On the 26th September the quarter peal band, who ring at Claines each 4th Monday in the month at 10:30, rang 1280 changes of Elizabeth II Jubilee Surprise Major. It is hoped that the bells can be rung for the Coronation on 6th May 2023.

FLOWER GUILD - Pat Harris

Last year we were glad to get back to arranging flowers for the weddings in church. There were 10 weddings last year for which we did the flowers for the couples. The Posies were made for Mothering Sunday, and at Easter the flowers were donated in memory of loved ones, which we were happy to arrange. Harvest was a lovely time for the flowers, of which some were taken to people in the community who were sick or lived on their own. The Poppies were placed in the church for Remembrance Day to remember the lost. Christmas was a joyous time for us to decorate for Christmas. Our Plant sale were very well attended and the plants were given by many friends as well as ourselves, this boosted our funds towards the flowers in church when there were no weddings. Many thanks to all our ladies.

KINGDOM ARTS - Alex New & Sue Ashby-Davies

It has been such a blessing to be back again in full swing at Kingdom Arts. We are grateful to God and look to celebrate in this report all that God has done for us this year. We have enjoyed our new theme, looking at different "Heroes of the Faith" and it has been so interesting following the lives and faith journeys of Oscar Romero, Mother Theresa, Gladys Alyward and John Newton to name a few. Thank you to those on the team, who researched their hero and presented it in such exciting ways. It was glorious too to look at the different places in the world where these people lived and worked to match up our art expressions to the art and culture of South America, India, China and Africa.

We have also experienced our own sadness this year as we mourned the death of lovely Vikki (a wonderful artist, seamstress and saxophonist) who's untimely and sudden death happened in October. We have grieved with her husband David (one of our Worship leaders and website provider). We are so grateful to him for continuing in these roles. We hold him in our prayers.

Do look at our website and see the art work in the Gallery and unbelievably wonderful creative writing which is created each month (kingdom-arts.co.uk) We are developing and encouraging more people to take roles in running some of the "art" tables. We are amazed at the talent God has brought and is continuing to bring to our fellowship. We are hitting numbers we have never had before! God is good! None of this would happen without the support, care, love, hard work and encouragement for the amazingly gifted team. Each member brings their own particular and unique gifts and talents to be used unstintingly. Barbara and Bod, Clive and Lyn, Jan Butterworth, Pam, Trevor, Margaret Stokes, Carolyn and our "Soup Maker Supermo" Jan Kear. We can't thank you enough. Thanks also to Rev Jo for her never ending support and encouragement.

CHRISTIAN AID - Alison Clarke

Christian Aid Week 2022

Ambitious plans for royal themed walks around Worcester and a celebration tea to mark HM Queen Elizabeth's platinum jubilee did not come to fruition due to family and personal illness. Nevertheless, between our two churches we raised a fantastic **£1,263.27**. Thank you! **Claines** – a collection raised £163.45 and GiftAid was claimed. Christian Aid Week was the theme of our May Café Church at St George's.

East Africa Hunger Appeal

A devastating drought in East Africa (the worst in 40 years), compounded by general food supply difficulties caused by the war in Ukraine, brought the threat of serious famine in East Africa in summer 2022. As an emergency response church our September 2022 collection at St George's raised £100 for this appeal.

Turkey/Syria Earthquake Appeal

Following the devastating earthquakes on Monday 6 and later on 20 February this year, upwards of 50,000 lives have been lost and countless homes, buildings and infrastructure destroyed. Together we raised £1413, with an additional £793 in GiftAid, in just over a week. I was bowled over by your generosity. The money was sent via Christian Aid to the DEC appeal.

Annual Fish and Chip Supper

It was great to see some St George's friends amongst the 50 or so people who came to Worcester Christian Aid group's annual supper. We were warmly hosted by Ombersley Road Methodist Church in their church hall and delighted to meet our new West Midlands manager for Christian Aid, Batanai Padya and to greet again our former West Midlands manager, Kate Ormerod, who is now managing the whole of England!

Thank you for your warm, generous and ongoing support for Christian Aid.

THE CHILDREN'S SOCIETY- Julie Palmer

The Children's Society fight for the hope and happiness of young people when it's threatened by abuse, exploitation and neglect. They do this by gaining a deep understanding of the needs of young people and by supporting them through their most serious life challenges. The charity works with young people who have suffered abuse, who have run away from home or are struggling with mental health issues. They look out for young carers and those who are at risk of being groomed by criminal groups. To find out more about the work of the Children's Society please visit <https://www.childrenssociety.org.uk/>

All the money donated via box collections and the Christingle Service goes directly to the charity. In 2022 the Church we raised £389 for the Children's society. £78 was raised at the Christingle service and £311 was raised via the box collections. This year the Christingle service had a more

environmentally friendly approach. There was concern about spending a large amount of money on oranges, most of which would be thrown away after the service. So this year the Christingles took the form of a small biodegradable plant pot containing a spring bulb and some soil. The pot was encircled with some red tape. Inside the pot we placed a candle, 4 cocktail sticks and sultanas. The young people were also given a small packet of sweets so they didn't feel they had missed out. We are hoping they will water the bulbs and bring them back into church once they have flowered.

LEGACIES - MAKING A LASTING DIFFERENCE

Only some five per cent of people in the UK have left a gift for a charity in their will, and yet legacies are the largest single source of income for many charities in this country today. Once you have provided for your family and friends, leaving a gift to Claines Church will ensure that our work can continue for many years to come.

Legacies have over the years, and thanks to the generosity of those who have made bequests, contributed greatly to the work and mission of Claines church. The PCC appreciates all bequests both large and small. There are many types of gifts that can be made:

Pecuniary legacy - a cash gift of any size.

Specific legacy - items of value such as property, a car or jewellery.

Residuary bequest - balance of your estate after all debts, taxes, expenses and other legacies have been paid.

All legacies are tax free. If you make such a gift in your will, its value will be deducted from your estate before inheritance tax is calculated. If you are thinking about leaving a legacy or have already remembered us in your will, we would love to talk to you about it; everything you say will be treated in the strictest confidence. We would then have the opportunity to thank you for your generosity. When considering leaving a legacy, we recommend that you consult a Solicitor who will be able to give you specialist advice according to your own individual circumstances.

St John the Baptist Claines PCC

ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2022

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of St John the Baptist PCC, Claines

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of St John the Baptist PCC, Claines for the year ended 31st December 2022.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Trust you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act'). I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

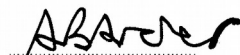
Independent examiner's statement

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 Trust 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

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

Signed;



A B Archer
3 Shrawley Road
Fernhill Heath
Worcester
WR3 7UQ

23/02/2023

PCC of St John the Baptist, Claines

Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31st December 2022

Charity Registration No 1130734

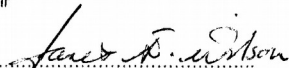
	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
INCOMING RESOURCES						
Voluntary income	2.1	53,396	3,715	4,400	61,511	62,357
Activities for generating funds	2.2	396	393	8,000	8,789	1,449
Income from investment	2.3	230	81	628	939	699
Income from Church activities	2.4	7,701	40,574	-	48,276	35,833
Other incoming resources	2.5	1,548	4,023	4,815	10,386	4,710
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES		63,272	48,786	17,843	129,901	105,048
RESOURCES EXPENDED						
Costs of generating funds	3.1	216	-	-	216	216
Grants and donations	3.2	1,100	-	-	1,100	1,100
Activities directly relating to the work of the church	3.3	57,124	62,842	1,158	121,124	83,772
Church management and administration	3.4	1,882	3,486	7,303	12,671	7,646
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED		60,322	66,328	8,461	135,111	92,734
NET INCOMING/(OUTGOING) RESOURCES		2,950 -	17,542	9,382 -	5,210	12,314
Transfers between funds		-	0	-	-	-
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		2,950 -	17,542	9,382 -	5,210	12,314
BALANCES BROUGHT FORWARD AT 1ST JANUARY		20,794	37,493	71,358	129,645	117,331
BALANCES CARRIED FORWARD AT 31ST DECEMBER		23,744	19,951	80,740	124,435	129,645

Balance Sheet at 31st December 2022

	Notes	2022 £	2021 £
FIXED ASSETS			
	4	-	-
CURRENT ASSETS			
Stock		200	200
Debtors	5	3,039	10,607
Short term deposits		77,800	71,351
Cash at bank and in hand		52,372	76,576
		<u>133,411</u>	<u>158,734</u>
LIABILITIES:AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR	6	(8,976)	(29,089)
NET ASSETS		124,435	129,645
FUNDS			
Unrestricted	7	23,744	20,794
Designated	7	19,951	37,493
Restricted	7	80,740	71,358
		<u>124,435</u>	<u>129,645</u>

Approved by the PCC on 22/3/23 and signed on its behalf by


Chair


Treasurer

PCC of St John the Baptist, Claines

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 31st December 2022

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 together with applicable accounting standards and the SORP 2005. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

The statements include all transactions, assets, and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law. They do not include the accounts of church groups that owe their affiliation to another body, nor those that are informal gatherings of church members.

Funds

General funds represent the funds of the PCC that are not subject to any restrictions regarding their use and are available for application for the general purposes of the PCC. Funds designated for a particular purpose by the PCC are also unrestricted. Unrestricted funds can be used for PCC ordinary purposes.

Restricted Funds represent a) Income from trusts that are restricted as provided in the terms of the trust or bequest and b) Donations or grants received or invited by the PCC for a specific object and must be retained in that fund and expended only on the specific object for which they were given. The PCC does not usually invest separately for each fund.

Incoming resources

Collections are recognised when received by or on behalf of the PCC. Planned giving receivable under Gift Aid is recognised when it is received. Income tax recoverable on Gift Aid donations is recognised when the related donation is recognised.

Grants and legacies to the PCC are accounted for as soon as the PCC is notified of its legal entitlement, the amount due is quantifiable and its ultimate receipt by the PCC is reasonably certain.

Other income

Rental income from the letting of church premises is recognised when the rental is due.

Income from investments

Interest entitlements are accounted for as they accrue.

Resources used

Grants and donations

Grants and donations are accounted for when awarded.

Activities directly relating to the work of the Church

As at 31st December 2022 £36,549 (2021 £29,000) of our allocation had been paid, our allocated share for 2022 was £39,454 (2021 £67,837). An amount of £6,905 (2021 £21,000) was provided for and paid in full before the 4th February deadline and this included an additional £4,000 towards the Ministry Fund. The balance of £nil (2021 £17,837) remained unpaid.

Fixed assets

Consecrated property and movable church furnishings

Consecrated property of any kind is excluded from the accounts by s.96(2)(a) of the Charities Act 1993.

Movable church furnishings held by the Vicar and Churchwardens on special trust for the PCC, and which require a faculty for disposal are accounted for as inalienable property unless consecrated. They are listed in the church's Inventory and can be inspected (at any reasonable time). For inalienable property acquired prior to 2003 there is insufficient cost information available and therefore such assets are not valued in the accounts. Items acquired since 1st January 2003 will be capitalised and depreciated in the accounts over their currently estimated useful economic life on a straight line basis.

All expenditure incurred in the year on consecrated buildings, individual items under £1,000 or on the repair of movable church furnishings acquired before 1st January 2003 is written off.

Other fixture, fittings and office equipment

Equipment used within the church premises is depreciated on a straight line basis over 4 years. Individual items of equipment with a purchase price of less than £1,000 or less are written off when the asset is acquired.

Current assets

Stock represents trading stock and candles and is valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value.

Amounts owing to the PCC at 31st December are shown as debtors less provision for amounts that may prove uncollectable.

Short term deposits include cash held on deposit with the CBF Church of England deposit fund.

PCC of St John the Baptist, Claines
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the year ended 31st December 2022

	Unrestricted General Funds £	Unrestricted Designated funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
2. INCOMING RESOURCES					
2.1 <i>Voluntary income</i>					
Planned giving and gift aid envelopes	39,714	-	-	39,714	39,409
Income tax recoverable	9,403	-	250	9,653	9,106
Collections at services	4,136	-	-	4,136	2,273
Grants	-	3,549	2,930	6,479	6,139
Donations	144	166	1,020	1,330	1,931
Legacies	-	-	200	200	3,500
	53,396	3,715	4,400	61,511	62,358
2.2 <i>Activities for generating funds</i>					
Fund raising events	396	393	8,000	8,789	1,449
2.3 <i>Income from investments</i>					
Dividends and interest	230	81	628	939	699
2.4 <i>Income from Church Activities</i>					
Magazine sales and advertising	-	3,495	-	3,495	3,153
House, Hall and Institute lettings	-	37,079	-	37,079	25,035
Wedding and funeral fees	7,701	-	-	7,701	7,645
	7,701	40,574	-	48,276	35,833
2.5 <i>Other Incoming Resources</i>					
Sundry income (including Forces Fund transfer)	1,548	4,023	4,815	10,386	4,710
	1,548	4,023	4,815	10,386	4,710
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES	63,272	48,786	17,843	129,901	105,049
3. RESOURCES EXPENDED					
3.1 <i>Costs of generating voluntary income</i>					
Fundraising expenditure	216	-	-	216	216
	216	-	-	216	216
3.2 <i>Grants-Charitable giving</i>					
Secular Charities	1,100	-	-	1,100	1,100
	1,100	-	-	1,100	1,100
3.3 <i>Activities directly relating to the work of the church</i>					
Diocesan Ministry Share	39,905	3,549	-	43,454	50,000
Clergy expenses	901	-	80	981	836
Church maintenance	599	-	-	599	-
Church running expenses	9,697	-	-	9,697	10,248
Parish magazine expenses	-	5,064	-	5,064	2,808
Upkeep of churchyard	172	-	1,078	1,250	1,152
Parish Hall and Institute costs	-	52,613	-	52,613	13,674
Flowers	-	1,617	-	1,617	1,162
Parish education	-	-	-	-	32
Contracted services	5,850	-	-	5,850	3,859
	57,124	62,842	1,158	121,124	83,771
3.4 <i>Church management and administration</i>					
Pastoral administration	1,830	-	-	1,830	1,980
Miscellaneous expenditure	52	3,486	7,303	10,841	5,666
	1,882	3,486	7,303	12,671	7,646
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED	60,322	66,328	8,461	135,111	92,733

PCC of St John the Baptist, Claines
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the year ended 31st December 2021

4. FIXED ASSETS

	Portable altar £
COST	
Brought forward	1,596
As at 31st December 2022	<u>1,596</u>
DEPRECIATION	
Brought forward	1,596
Charge for the year	-
As at 31st December 2022	<u>1,596</u>
NET BOOK VALUE	
As at 31st December 2022	<u>-</u>
As at 31st December 2021	<u>-</u>

The PCC does not have a record of the cost or valuation of the church hall and institute buildings . The PCC considers that the cost of obtaining these would outweigh the benefit in including these in the accounts.

5. DEBTORS

	2022 £	2021 £
Income tax recoverable	1,529	-
Prepayments and accrued income	1,510	10,607
	<u>3,039</u>	<u>10,607</u>

6. LIABILITIES:AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2022 £	2021 £
Ministry Share	6,905	21,000
Accruals of utility and other costs	2,071	8,089
	<u>8,976</u>	<u>29,089</u>

PCC of St John the Baptist, Claines
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the year ended 31st December 2022

7. FUNDS DETAILS

Name	Purpose	Balance at				Balance at
		1.1.22	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	31.12.22
General	Unrestricted	20,794	63,272	60,322	-	23,744
Unrestricted funds designated by the PCC						
Restoration	Maintenance of church property	546	80	-	-	626
Choir	Choir expenditure	189	3	-	-	192
	Maintenance and running of Parish Hall, Institute and House	22,559	37,079	52,611	-	7,027
Hall & Institute						
Flower Guild	Provision of church flowers	1,655	1,901	1,592	-	1,964
Memorial flower funds	Provision of memorial flowers	10	144	135	-	19
Restoration	Tower Restoration	1,933	-	303	-	1,630
Little Friends	Baby and Toddlers	945	580	107	-	1,418
Magazine	Publication of church magazine	3,034	3,495	5,063	-	1,466
LinC	Lunch in company	304	1,957	1,649	-	612
General	General	6,318	3,547	4,868	-	4,997
Total Unrestricted designated funds		37,493	48,786	66,328	-	19,951
Restricted funds						
Restoration	Church Notice Board	265	-	265	-	-
Churchyard	War Graves	97	12	81	-	28
	Maintenance Canon Clinch Grave	524	527	-	-	1,051
	Memorial Garden	81	-	-	-	81
	Roses	305	-	-	-	305
	Maintenance of churchyard	999	-	999	-	-
Family tree	Family tree	155	-	-	-	155
Bell fund	Maintenance of Bells	12,090	159	-	-	12,249
Ashcroft	Ashcroft Anniversary	83	-	-	-	83
Property	Property	52,834	10,588	2,038	-	61,384
Youth	Youth	752	-	12	-	740
PortAltar	Portable Altar	84	-	-	-	84
Jubilee	Jubilee Fund	243	2,000	1,204	-	1,039
ClergyDisc	Clergy Discretionary Fund	1,205	-	255	-	950
Café	Café	1,641	4,557	3,607	-	2,591
Total restricted funds		71,358	17,843	8,461	-	80,740

PCC of St John the Baptist, Claines
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the year ended 31st December 2022

8. MINISTRY SHARE

As at 31st December 2022 £36,549 (2021 £29,000) of our allocation had been paid, our allocated share for 2022 was £39,454 (2021 £67,837). An amount of £6,905 (2021 £21,000) was provided for and paid in full before the 4th February deadline and this included an additional £4,000 towards the Ministry Fund. The balance of £nil (2021 £17,837) remained unpaid.

9. TRUSTS AND OTHER ACCOUNTS

Ever since we altered the accounts to comply with the new regulations we have reported in summary the movement of funds on Trusts associated with the Church on this page. These accounts have not been independently examined.

Claines Forces Fund (for the benefit of the Church Hall) of £nil at 31st December 2022 (2021 £487), the balance being transferred to the Hall and Institute but £22,979 (2021 £26,064) in the Church of England Investment Fund remains.

Institute Funds of £1,129 at 31st December 2022 (2021 £955), but some funds have been transferred to the Hall and Institute however, £9,497 (2021 £10,772) in the Church of England Investment Fund remains.

Canon Clinch Legacy (for the maintenance of his grave) of £nil at 31st December 2022 (2021 £527). The balance was transferred to the restricted fund "Maintenance of Canon Clinch Grave" in the church accounts.

EW Whinfield for Church Trust £2,632 at 31st December 2022 (2021 £2,982) in the COIF Charities Investment Fund.

Martin Mence Charity £2,329 at 31st December 2022 (2021 £2,225) & COIF £3,503 (2021 £3,969).

No other known assets and no income.

St John Baptist - Reserves Policy

The Charity Commission requires the Church to be accountable for all the money that comes into its hands. The general aim is to expend its funds for the purposes of the Church rather than put them aside for some unspecified future purpose.

The various funds held by St John Baptist and for which the PCC is responsible are set out on page 6 of the Annual Accounts

General Fund

The need for a policy for this fund is to ensure that the level of balances is adequate, but not too high, to ensure the Church's viability and future. It is considered that the ideal balance to aim for is between 33% and 50% of our annual turnover. Part of this balance would be for an adequate working balance. The remainder would provide a cushion for a sudden reduction in income or a large item of expenditure such as an urgent building repair or equipment replacement. With an annual turnover of about £60,000 these parameters indicate that a reasonable balance would be between £20,000 and £30,000. Our balance as at 31st December 2022 was **£23,744** i.e. at the lower end of the range.

Monitoring of Funds

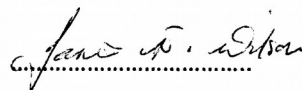
This is done by the PCC in March when the annual accounts are considered.

Janet Wilson

Church Treasurer


.....
Rev Jo Musson

Date 22/3/23
.....


.....
J. R. WILSON

Accounts

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Introduction

The Parish Church of St John Baptist is part of the Diocese of Worcester within the Church of England. The correspondence address is Claines Parish, Cornmeadow Lane, Worcester, WR3 7NY.

The Parochial Church Council is a charity registered with the Charity Commission (Number 1130734). Members of the Parochial Church Council (PCC) are either ex- officio or elected annually by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) in accordance with the Church Representation Rules.

Church Officers

Standing Committee:

Priest in Charge

Reverend Jo Musson

Churchwardens

Philip Kear with Rachel Cramp until May 2021, then
Ian Cramp

Deputy Churchwarden

Annete Summers from September 2021

PCC Secretary

Helen Fitzgerald

PCC Treasurer

Janet Wilson

Ministry Team:

Priest in Charge

Reverend Jo Musson

Associate Priest

Reverend Jennie Hayward

Associate Priest

Reverend Peter Davies

Associate Priest

Reverend Sue Pollard (until November 2021)

Licensed Lay Ministers

Jan Kear

Judy Morris (until May 2022)

John Butterworth

Authorised Lay Ministers

Paul Fulbrook & Rachel Cramp

Parish Administrators

Gwen Clifford, John Brady & Michelle Billings

Health & Safety Officer

Ian Cramp

Electoral Roll Officer

William Andrew Oddy

Data Protection Officer

Reverend Jo Musson

Safeguarding Officer

Lorraine Deeprise

Children's Worship

Rachel Cramp

Independent Examiner

Tony Archer

Banks

Barclays Bank PLC, Worcester
HSBC, Worcester

PCC MEMBERSHIP at the end of 2020-2021 term

Ex-Officio

Reverend Jo Musson

Chair

Rachel Cramp	Churchwarden - Completed 10 years
Philip Kear	Churchwarden - Completed 10 years

Reverend Peter Davies	Licensed Priest
Reverend Sue Pollard	Licensed Priest
Jan Kear	LLM Since 2020

Elected Members (up to 12)

Jo Siddles - Lay Vice Chair	since 2016
Janet Wilson - Treasurer	since 2014
Helen Fitzgerald - Secretary	since 2018
Laura Stevens	since 2016
Lorraine Deepprose	since 2018
Annette Summers	since 2018
Ian Townley	since 2020
Julie Palmer	since 2020
Judy Hooper	since 2020

Deanery Synod Members

Paul Fulbrook	since 2017
Jan Hayden	since 2017
Ian Cramp	since 2017

The appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. All church attendees are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and may stand for election to the PCC. The work of the PCC is carried out at regular meetings, throughout the year; in 2020 they were moved online using Zoom following the initial lockdown of March 23rd. In addition regular Standing Committee meetings have been held, comprising the Vicar, Wardens, PCC Secretary and PCC Treasurer

PCC STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE & MANAGEMENT

The work of the PCC was also undertaken through meetings of various sub-groups:

Standing Committee	Ministry Team	
20/20 Vision, Project Group	Asset Management Group	Buildings
Management Group	Children and Young People's Hub	

When they have met, these groups have provided regular reports to the full PCC meetings, in addition to reports from the Deanery Synod representatives.

Electoral Roll

2021 was the third year of the current six-year Electoral Roll cycle and the roll is normally revised in the weeks leading up to the Annual parochial Meeting. The Covid pandemic made this impossible for the past two years but an attempt at a revision will be made during April 2022. As is inevitable, some parishioners have sadly died while others have moved away, but a few new names have been enrolled. The result is that the Electoral Roll currently

stands at 145. Andrew Oddy has been the Electoral Roll Officer for the last six years but is stepping down at the forthcoming APCM.

Ministry Reports

MINISTER'S REPORT- Rev. Jo Musson

2021 - another year living under the cloud of the Covid pandemic and yet again Claines people proved they were adaptable, creative and generous. With an ever-changing situation, both worshipping communities responded carefully and cautiously to each lifting of restrictions and subsequent re-imposing. I am grateful to all those involved in managing the ever-changing risks, sanitizing, stewarding, prayer and technical support which enabled us to maintain a worshipping presence every week. Both churches worked closely together ensuring all decisions around worship patterns and deployment of our shared clergy resources were made jointly. I particularly want to thank the Ministry Team who rose to every challenge, supported me when everything changed yet again, and helped provide worship that was uplifting, inspiring and comforting. I particularly want to commend Ian Cramp, Phil Kear and Katrina Boucher who managed the practical challenges concerning the use of the Church, Hall and Institute. Thank you.

WORSHIP

Both churches re-opened on Easter Sunday 2021, and we celebrated the resurrection and gave thanks to God, bringing hope, light and encouragement to our congregations and communities. Crosses were erected outside both churches and to illustrate Jesus bursting out of the tomb: at Claines fresh flowers were tied to the cross outside and in St George's Square passers-by tied on brightly coloured prayer ribbons to theirs.

When restrictions prevented us from singing in church we sang outside in the churchyard. With the use of a camera and tripod, we shared our services on Zoom every week, enabling those who were shielding to join in with worship and fellowship and enabling us to reach out to worshippers from all around the globe, using Facebook live-streaming and YouTube. Eventbrite was used to control numbers for the big Christmas services, although in the end some were held outside whatever the weather and will never be forgotten!

A questionnaire resulted in a new pattern of worship for both churches with service times changing to 10.30am and 4.30pm and a midweek service alternating between the two churches. For Saint George's the introduction of a new All Age Holy Communion was an exciting step, and when a further interim review highlighted that the All Age services at both churches were not enabling children to participate in the way originally intended, measures were taken to address this. (The pattern was reviewed again in February 2022 and some tweaks made to improve the overall spread of services which will come into play in July 2022). It was agreed that a Joint Parish Away Day would be held, sadly this has not as yet been held.

Music played a significant part in our worship this year and is somehow even more precious when you have not been able to meet in person for a while. Thanks to all our musicians, particularly Alison Clarke, Sue Ashby and Vanessa Gunter and her family who regularly led our online Worship. On 3 October we said farewell to Ivan Oliver as our regular weekly organists. Ivan was presented with gifts to thank him for 35+ years as Claines Organist, an incredible achievement, and for kindly leaving his electronic organ as a gift to the church.

Ivan has been replaced by King's School Organist Robin Walker who plays on 4th Sundays and Simon Taranczuk Director of Music at King's School on 1st Sundays (this will move to 2nd Sundays from July), plus our wonderful Instrumental Group, and band Spark to a Flame. Des George and Ann Sansome also play and it is good that we still see Ivan who continues to play for weddings when he can.

Mission

The pandemic presented an opportunity to explore what sort of 'normal' we wanted to return to. The 'Back to the Future' group (BTTF) was formed from both PCC's and those involved in children's ministry. The priorities identified they can be summed up as follows:

- To reach as many as possible, making the message of Jesus known to our communities
- To be inclusive, welcoming, encouraging, supportive, loving and pray for one another
- To listen to everyone's views, bringing everyone along on the journey, not only considering what works for ourselves
- To think of our two churches as one church family, maintaining the strong links and friendships made during lockdown
- To build on the community links made during lockdown
- To offer worship to God, grow in Christian maturity and equip God's people to deepen their knowledge of Jesus

Both Standing Committees were invited to a meeting with the Diocesan Secretary John Preston who explained that from 2022 'Parish Share' will be called 'Ministry Share' and Claines and Saint George's will be classed as a **single joint benefice** and asked to pay for the cost of employing one ordained minister which is currently calculated at around £65,000. (This includes all the various overheads: housing, pension, infrastructure, and training of Curates, I don't earn that much!) We must be mindful that the financial situation in the Diocese means clergy resources are diminishing, and many are not being replaced. With only Reverend Peter and myself available to lead full 10.30 communion services we must accept that some weeks two simultaneous communion services will not always be sustainable (Rev Peter is retired and entitled to at least one Sunday off a month!) I am hugely grateful for his support especially this last year. Rev Jennie is also a willing contributor and does as much as she can for which we are grateful.

Following the re-suspension of the right of presentation at St Stephen's, all three Standing Committees met to consider how our three churches might develop a closer relationship over the next 5 years. The group, known as 'Working Well Together,' identified that working together could offer opportunities for better organization, financial savings, a rebalance of resources within the ministry team, the pooling of administrative resources, better communication and promotion of each other's events. In the meantime, it was agreed that St Stephen's Curate Reverend Lindsey Coulthard would lead services for us to broaden her ministerial experience, and that Margaret Mandrell would also help out. Reverend Andy Todd has also led services at both churches when we have been short of clergy.

Discipleship

During Lent we explored Hannah Steele's book 'Living His Story' on zoom. Her book was the Archbishop of Canterbury's Lent book for 2021 and was most engaging. (Hannah is David and Alex New's daughter and Director of St Mellitus College, London). In the summer Reverend Peter, Paul Fulbrook and I were trained to facilitate the National course 'Living in

Love and Faith' and we were all able to help facilitate the course for Worcester Deanery. Please remember that our PCC's are required to make an informed response to the National consultation on the course and the Church's response to same sex relationships. During Advent we followed the Methodist course 'All the Good: Journeying Through Advent' which unfortunately was not as good as we had hoped.

Administration

John Brady and Gwen Clifford both retired and our new Parish Administrator was appointed: Michelle Billings works in the Parish Office Mon, Weds, Friday mornings from 9am -1pm and is employed jointly by the PCC's. She is responsible for administration of weddings, baptisms and funerals, sending out the weekly mailchimp newsletter, ordering liturgical supplies, and producing posters and orders of service. Michelle produces a printable version of the weekly newsletter which a loyal team of 'Posties' hand deliver to those without access to the internet.

The Ministry Team and I produce what is known as 'Service Provision' for each month, a rota of who is leading what service. Production of the detailed rotas of readers and allocation of roles was picked up by Sue Cottam in Saint George's and Julie Palmer at Claines to whom I am most grateful. Previously these were produced by Joy Kite and Gwen Clifford and we thank them for many years tackling what is an essential, complex and sometimes thankless task.

Funerals, Weddings and Baptisms

A new National system for wedding registration was introduced, the old registers were closed and copies deposited at the Hive. Instead we now produce a customized 'wedding document' inhouse which is signed at the wedding and posted to the Registry Office. Couples then apply to the Registry Office for their official certificates. The Life Events Diary software 'iknowchurch' enables us to print the official documents ready for each wedding and helps us manage all the data associated with occasional offices in line with GDPR.

During the second half of the year we were overwhelmed with weddings and baptisms as families tried to rebook all the many events that had been cancelled in 2020. Overall we did more than 30 wedding, baptism and funeral services and I want to thank MU for their continued support at Baptisms.

Ministry Team

Throughout the pandemic, the Joint Ministry Team have met every Monday morning on ZOOM, to say Morning Prayer and to pray for our churches, congregations and the wider world. We were delighted that Rachel Cramp was accepted for training to become a Licensed Lay Minister and as part of her formation, joined the intercessions rota at Saint George's. Cary Taylor went on placement to St. Wulstan's as part of her LLM training and felt the call to transfer there, we were sorry to lose her, she left at the end of October; we wish Cary every success with her training and in her new role. Towards the end of the year Reverend Sue Pollard stepped down from the Ministry Team and subsequently moved back to the Bowbrooke Team. We wish her well.

Outreach

On Sunday 14th February we took part in the Muddy Church initiative 'Heart Bombing' and people across the parishes got busy knitting and crocheting woollen and fabric hearts.

These were hung all around our parishes (some are still there a year later!) and looked marvelous.

Lockdown did not stop us engaging with children and families in our parishes. A group from both churches worked together to produce and deliver Lent bags for all the children with whom we have contact as well as all the adults that form part of our worshipping communities. The adult bags contained things like 'DIY-ash', palm crosses, Mothering Sunday bookmarks, knitted hearts; the children's contained knitted sheep, silver chocolate coin, seeds, a woven heart basket craft, a scratch art cross, a palm cross, chocolate eggs and Easter books. In total we delivered 148 adult bags and 60 Family bags (some for 3 or 4 children). During Lent as part of our online worship, I filmed a weekly video telling a part of the story of Jesus' journey to Jerusalem and showed how to create a Lenten Garden. The children were able to participate at home having been provided with the objects required in their Lent packs, their woolly sheep journeying with Jesus to Jerusalem as well.

Both churches were well represented at the Worcester Show in August. We had an ecumenical stall which was simpler than in the past but effective and appreciated by those who stopped by. We were also invited to lead an Outdoor Service at the Festival of Water on Perdiswell Park by the Boaters' Christian Fellowship. Both events are a reminder of how important it is to share God's love with our community beyond our church walls.

In all this there is Good News. 2021 was another challenging year, but the unchanging reality is that God does not sit distant and aloof watching our pain and loss. In Jesus, God stepped right into the fragility and sadness of the world, to be with us, his beloved children. When all else is changing and shifting, God does not change. God is with us and loves us as his children. Jesus is our rock. Now we are back in church we must not forget the importance of reaching out and sharing this good news with others.

CHURCHWARDENS' REPORT- Ian Cramp and Phil Kear

This has been a challenging year for a number of reasons. The impact of Covid has been significant and has continued to affect us all. However towards the end of the year, the restrictions have reduced somewhat enabling us to try to get activities back to normal as far as possible. To this end we have been well supported by the congregation and users of our facilities.

In September Phil Kear was admitted to hospital for an operation from which he has made a full recovery. For the last quarter of the year Ian Cramp was ably assisted by Annette Summers as Deputy Warden and thanks are due to her for her hard work.

Inventory

This has been checked and found to be in good order.

Fabric, Fixtures, Fittings and Furniture

There have been no significant breakages or equipment found to be at the end of its useful life. Minor maintenance has been undertaken together with all relevant recommended tests such as fire alarms, emergency lighting and fire extinguishers. The organ has been tuned and the tower clock serviced although we have been advised that the mechanism is at the end of its life and cannot be repaired if it stops again. (It has stopped several times in the last few years and Derry Clifford has been able to get it to work again).

Quinquennial Inspection

Our Quinquennial Architect, Richard Lamb of Hook Mason, undertook his inspection in 2018 and the next one is due in 2023. There are some items identified as needing urgent repair and costs have been approved for these to be done in 2022. There is also a list of other items that need to be addressed before the next inspection and quotations are being obtained for these. One of the main items of concern is the Lych Gate at the Mug entrance which appears to be settling. A survey is shortly to be undertaken to establish the cost to repair, and it is hoped to source grant funding for this work.

Churchyards

Muddy Boots, the social enterprise group, continue to trim and mow the churchyard and we really appreciate their work. We are also grateful to Andrew Johnson who looks after the Garden of Remembrance so well. Andrew Johnson and Steve Taylor have provided a very good service as sextons.

In early 2022 we experienced severe storms. These fortunately did not damage the properties, but several boughs were broken from the trees and the notice board by the North door blew down. Costs are being obtained to repair this.

Church buildings

We have been fortunate that our buildings have been well constructed and properly maintained. However, it is important to continue to look after them and invest in them to ensure that they will last for a lot longer. Grateful thanks are due to the Building Management Group led by Alan McWilliams for the way that they have carefully identified any issues and obtained value for money quotations for the works required. Thanks are also due to Gordon Smith for the many ways he helps in and around the church. We are also very thankful to the cleaning team for always keeping the church looking so good.

Parish Giving

Thanks to the continuing generosity of all those who give, especially through the Parish Giving Scheme, and the superb control of our finances by Janet Wilson and Ann Sansome, we are in a better financial position than many other churches despite the restrictions imposed by the Covid lockdowns and limitations on services.

Thanks

Special thanks are due to the following:

- Michelle Billings for the superb way she has taken on the role of Parish Administrator from Gwen Clifford and John Brady.
- Julie Palmer for compiling and managing the monthly rota.
- Our sidespersons for all that they do.
- Those who act as vergers, cleaners, flower arrangers, bellringers, servers, Mothers' Union members at baptisms, organists, choir members, those who open and close the church daily and those fulfilling other roles and duties in the church, its grounds, the Parish Hall and Institute.

Our church could not operate in the way it does without the huge amount of work that is done by a wide range of committed volunteers. Thank you for all your love and devotion: without you our church would not be the welcoming and spiritual place that it is.

Special Thanks to our Ministry Team

We are truly blessed to have an exceptional Ministry team. They are always willing to help and advise and have positively embraced and lead new ways of worship and technology. They give generously of their time and friendship to ensure that all the varying and different needs of our church and its congregation can be fulfilled. They have helped to guide us through the problems over the past 2 years and are leading us forwards to the future.

FINANCIAL REPORT- Janet Wilson

The pressure on our finances continued well into 2021 but with continued generous giving and contribution from the Buildings Management Group we were able to increase our annual Parish Share payment to £50,000, (74%) of our allocation for the year of £67,836.

The regular income from The Parish Giving Scheme and Standing Orders remains more than 90% of our total voluntary giving and collections at services gradually increased during the year. We also received legacies from K Gibson and J Sole.

Again, our expenditure was kept to a minimum but there was very little change in our Energy, Insurance and Alarm System costs which make up a large portion of our outgoings. Our charitable giving was spread across 6 charities including Mind, Practical Action, Samaritans, Food Bank, FareShare and FCN

Thank you to everyone for their ongoing financial support and involvement and a special thank you to Ann for her help and hard work over the past few years.

ASSET MANAGEMENT GROUP (AMG)- Rev. Jo Musson

The group did not meet during the last year, instead, Standing Committee, with input from Alan Mc Williams and Ann Sansome put forward proposals for prioritising expenditure on our properties to the PCC for them to make final decisions. The AMG is to be dissolved and a new way of managing expenditure on building maintenance is being discussed.

BUILDINGS MANAGEMENT GROUP (BMG)- Alan McWilliams

General statement

As you are aware, the Covid 19 pandemic continued in 21-22 which had an effect on our finances and the maintenance of and to the various Church Buildings under our control.

BMG committee

The present committee consists of the following members: Alan McWilliams (Chair), Katrina Boucher, Jan Hayden, Ann Sansome (Treasurer) and Dillwyn Price. Ann who not only served as our Treasurer but as an active member of the BMG for over 6 years and will be sorely missed. We are however very fortunate as we now have a new treasurer Sheryl Robinson and a member of the BMG. Although Gordon Smith is not a member of the BMG, his input in

carrying out minor repairs to the various Church, buildings and landscape is greatly appreciated by all.

During the last year 2021-2022 due to the Pandemic, we have only had a couple of meetings. First; to ensure that the Parish Hall and Institute complied with current Government Recommendations and have in place all the sanitizing materials required. Second; to discuss the various Building Maintenance Projects that we would like to carry out this year. We continue to have two cleaning contractors; Jenny Radley and Emily Rowlands who clean the Parish Hall while Julie does the Institute

Maintenance request forms received over the last 12 months

Although we have been subject to the Covid restrictions the Hall and Institute have been in use for most of the year although we have however had very few requests which have been verbal.

Listed below are the official number of requests received although a number of additional minor items of maintenance have been carried out as deemed necessary.

Church.....	2
Church house.....	1
Parish Hall.....	3
Institute.....	<u>3</u>
Total	9

Building Inspection report

The existing report has been replaced. The external element of our three buildings was re-inspected in July 2020, the internal inspection will be carried out when it is safe to do so after which the report will be re-issued.

Maintenance Items/projects worthy of note

Church - The original Quinquennial Report and the actions identified have stayed under the control of the Church Wardens and PCC. However, BMG have carried out small maintenance items as and when requested with the replacement of light bulbs as required. The personnel activated external light to the north and vestry door was faulty and has now been replaced. One of the 3 pendant internal lights which was faulty has been repaired. The fire extinguishers had their annual service in June 2021

Institute House - Our new tenants moved in on the 22nd March 2021. During the year we have serviced the oil boiler and carried out minor repairs. After replacing the bedroom metal windows with new double glazed, the Thermal Efficiency of the house was retested and is now in category 'E' with The Certificate issued. However, this year we are hoping to replace the existing kitchen windows with new metal double glazed units which will make the building more Thermal Efficient, next year we hope to replace the sitting room windows with similar. We thank our new tenants as they have very kindly installed a new electric cooker free of charge.

Institute - This year, considering the Covid Restrictions, the booking for the building has been healthy, the heating on/off programme times being adjusted as required. The fire alarms and firefighting equipment have had their annual service carried out. The defective sensor light above the front door has been replaced and the flickering internal florescent light repaired. The hedges around the house, Institute and carpark have had their annual trim as required. We are truly thankful to Gordon Smith and the local farmer Mr Kevin Gwillam who carried out the work.

Parish Hall - This year we carried out the annual servicing to the heating system, the fire alarms, the firefighting equipment plus the servicing of the gas water heater in the kitchen. The grass to the garden and external areas have been cut as required by Marks Gardening Services with the external Defibrillator regularly checked by the Community Café.

During 2022 a number of Building Maintenance Projects have been approved by the PCC which include the external painting, insulating the end gable wall to the Parish Hall and the replacement of a number of existing single glazed metal windows and the porch lantern with new double glazed UPVC. These measures will no doubt help with the Thermal Efficiency of the hall and therefore reduce the heating costs.

Over the last year we have managed to keep the building open for business all in accordance with the Covid 19 Government guide lines. BMG held a special meeting in August to ensure the measures we have in place comply with the Government Covid Recommendations.

Finances - As you are aware, our income is generated from the letting of the Church House, the Parish Hall and the Institute. However, this year in spite of the Pandemic the income from the Parish Hall and Institute has generated a reasonable profit with healthy bookings for both Buildings.

In April 2020 we increased the rates to the Hall and Institute by a small amount in line with cost increases and inflation. We have planned at our next meeting in May to assess the increased energy costs and if necessary, inform our regular hirers by letter if the rates need to be increased.

The rent for the new tenant was agreed at the going rate by our Agent and is not intended to be increased this year. Last year's financial balance stood at £13334 while this year's balance 21-22 is a little more at £16233 with a £7000 contribution to the PCC. We anticipate that our year ending balance for 22-23 should be similar. The BMG 12 months accounts are included in the financial section of the PCC Report.

HEALTH AND SAFETY- Ian Cramp

This has been another very difficult year as the various stages of the Covid pandemic have continued to affect our way of life and everything we do.

Guidance from the Government and from the Church of England has changed over the year and this has meant regular discussion and revision of our procedures both in church and in the Parish Hall and Institute. It has been encouraging to note the way in which these changes have been understood and accepted by everyone as far as is practicable. Although compliance has been much easier than last year, due mainly to the use of vaccinations which have helped minimise the severity of any infection, there has still been a strong wish to "get back to normal" whatever that may mean.

In church it has meant that we have been able to have more services with larger congregations, but face protection has been worn in order to protect the more vulnerable. This has also been necessary for singing which is believed to be a strong way of spreading the virus to others. The size of the choir has been increased but they have been socially

distance to avoid this. Additionally the nave altar has been used when the choir are singing in the chancel. We have all become used to Track and Trace so that others can be warned if someone has caught the virus. However, the two things that we really want to do are not allowed at present. These are the exchanging of the Peace (which we do using the British Sign Language symbol) and sharing communion wine from the common cup.

At the start of 2022, the Government has stated that all restrictions are removed but we are only cautiously moving forwards in view of the emergence of Covid strains which can spread faster than the Omicron strain. We therefore continue to be alert in order to safeguard our community as best we can. Apart from Covid, we have had a good year from a health and safety point of view with inspections in all our properties taking place at the correct intervals.

SAFEGUARDING- Lorraine Deeprise

The Parish continues to keep up to date with all regulations and guidance set down by the Diocese for safeguarding. There were no safeguarding issues at Claines Church in the last year.

We have had a record number of new DBS checks this year, which shows that everyone understands the importance of suitable people who are working in the parish with children and adults. The online DBS system for checking suitability of paid and volunteers has made this process easy to navigate and can be accessed at home. The checking of ID is also a simple task which I do face to face and then input the details onto the system to be police checked. We hold a comprehensive DBS log which details all certificate numbers, dates of issue and renewal dates.

It is now a requirement for any new DBS applicant to complete the Basic Awareness Training. We again have had a record number of paid and volunteers complete this. The training is online and gives people the basic skills to understand what to look for and who to go to should they be worried about any child or adult within our parish. We hold a comprehensive training log which details all training attended. A large percentage of training can be done online through the Diocese website, for those of us who have busy work and home life commitments this is great as it can be completed in the evenings or a suitable time without leaving the house. New training on Domestic Abuse has recently been introduced and I have completed this.

As a PCC we agreed when restrictions started to be lifted and a type of 'normal' started to resume, that any parish activity which comes under the umbrella of our church would be risk assessed before starting up. This would mean that all DBS checks and training had to be completed by those leading and taking responsibility were done, I am proud to say we have been able to fulfil our agreement.

Moving forward with Safeguarding, I would like to look at job role descriptions for paid and unpaid volunteers who lead and take responsibility for activities within the church. There is a new Recruitment Training Programme which I am currently attending and I will be putting forward new protocol and data information that is needed to start any new employment process.

Safeguarding is **EVERYONE'S** responsibility. At St John Baptist Claines we make safeguarding part of our culture, we promote it on our website, on notice boards, in our parish magazine, at every PCC meeting, at church events. Safeguarding is something we

are happy to talk about, answer any questions, be open and honest. Our aim and mission is to 'Promote a Safer church' where everyone can praise and worship in a safe place.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the PCC, paid & voluntary parishioners and those accessing and participating in all the activities and events our church provides, for their continued support with regard to Safeguarding.

DATA PROTECTION- Rev. Jo Musson

Our implementation of the new Life Events Diary means the information we hold on people for Weddings, Funerals and Baptisms is fully compliant with GDPR. All other groups must continue to protect data they hold on individuals and never to pass information to a third party.

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER 2021

Signed on behalf of the Trustees

.....
Reverend Jo Musson Date

Activities of the Parish

DIOCESAN MATTERS- Rev. Jo Musson

There was much to celebrate across the Diocese. During 2021, five people were licensed as Lay Ministers (LLM's or Readers), 19 people were authorised as Lay Ministers (ALMs), five people were ordained as Deacons and nine as Priests, and 40 people completed and received the Bishop's Certificate. What will your ministry be? If you want to know more about any of these ministries or want to talk about where God might be calling you please speak to Rev Jo.

In November 2021 the following people were elected for the next five years to represent Worcester Diocese on **General Synod**: House of Laity: Kashmir Garton, Robin Lunn, Lynn Nichol; House of Clergy: Nikki Groarke, Claire Lording, Fraser Oates.

Phil Kear and Janet Wilson were elected to the **Worcester Diocesan Synod** and in so doing became Directors of the Diocesan Board of Finance Limited (the legal entity of the Synod). Phil Kear also serves as a trustee on the Bishop's Council and Standing Committee, these exist primarily to advise the Bishop, plan the business of the Synod and to initiate strategic proposals to the Synod. Phil intends to bring "the view from the pew" to these roles.

In June, after much discussion, and as part of a cost-cutting exercise, the **Diocesan Office** staff moved out of the Old Palace to new offices at 16 Lowesmoor Wharf, Worcester WR1 2RS. The Bishops and Archdeacons remain in their existing offices. The Diocesan staff went through a period of great change and sadly several redundancies had to be made.

The 2nd **Calling Young Disciples** learning hub met for the final time before being commissioned by Archdeacon Nikki. Judy Morris represented our two churches with Andy Todd and Lindsey Coulthard from St Stephens. Archdeacon Nikki spoke of the massive changes that have happened since which we couldn't have imagined: "you have huge potential to bring about change." Each of their group anointed their palms with oil using cotton buds, making the sign of the cross and Nikki prayed for those present and their wider church communities.

In October 200 people from across Worcester gathered to discuss how they could work together to make the city a better place to live and work. Organised by Church leaders of different Christian denominations, the **ROC Conversation** included senior members of West Mercia Police, the Mayor of Worcester and Lord Lieutenant alongside local businesspeople and people in the community and voluntary sector. Both our churches were represented.

Parishes are now being encouraged to apply for a **Mission Accompanier**. Mission Accompaniers will work alongside a small group of clergy and laity in the parish, church or benefice to help understand and work towards what health and sustainability might look like in your context, setting or tradition. Watch a short video with Archdeacon Nikki here: <https://www.cofe-worcester.org.uk/about-us/growing-kingdom-people/>

WORCESTER DEANERY SYNOD- Paul Fulbrook

This report is a synopsis of the work of the re-formed Deanery Synod for the Worcester Area for the year 2021.

Our first meeting was on the 9th March and after being opened by the new Area Dean, Revd. Diane Cooksey our zoom meeting showed 63 active screens including members from the former Deaneries of Martley and Worcester West, Worcester East, and the Saltway Team part of the Droitwich Deanery. We were given instruction by the two Archdeacons and Bishop Martin as to their expectations. Diane Cooksey stated who she intended to appoint as her Leadership Team of six and she was then Commissioned.

Three further meetings for 2021 were planned and announced those being, June, September, and November. Our June meeting was again held on Zoom with Alison Maddocks in her new role as 'Dean of Smaller Churches' speaking to us. We were told that the current definition of a 'smaller church' is based on an Electoral Roll of 20 or less. The

2018 figures are in use at this moment. The September meeting was supposed to be 'face to face' and incorporate a Deanery Service to be held at All Saints in the Deansway. Unfortunately, some people did not appreciate that it was an actual meeting and not a voluntary attendance, misunderstood the instructions given, were worried about the then lack of motor fuel available in the UK or the several other reasons that were given. As it was, those few that attended, enjoyed the experience. November's meeting was again back on Zoom with darker nights and a reoccurrence of Covid surging in the area. John Preston the Diocesan Secretary dealt with the financial health of the Diocese and explained in detail why certain decisions are being taken on our behalf. Whilst the details are not always pleasant to hear, I am sure that your appointed Deanery Synod Representative has already passed on to you, via your PCC's, the salient points.

On a more positive note, A Deanery Questionnaire was prepared by the Leadership Team and most churches, though not all, have replied to that. Analysis of those answers is taking place at the time of writing this summary and some of that evidence and examples will be used at the Diocesan 'Open Conversations 3' due to be held throughout 2022. Deanery synod always used to be referred to something along the lines of a 'group of people in a meeting waiting to go home' and many felt that it had lost its way in the greater scheme of things. By reducing the number of Deaneries and increasing the sizes to now include both Rural and Urban Churches there is a strong chance that your church can by using the stronger voice of an expanded group have a meaningful input into the Worcester Diocese. I urge you to make sure that your Representatives regularly report back to you and that you also ensure that your views and wishes go back, via them into the melting pot.

20/20 VISION PROJECT- Ian Cramp & Phil Kear

During the year we have made extremely good progress with the completion of the project designs for the first phase of the works. This comprises the creation of 2 toilets in the vestry with one of them being via a new opening in the North porch. The vestry will be reordered to permit this, and the organ console will be relocated and a screen constructed to separate the vestry from the Catherine Chapel.

In the construction industry there have been a number of implications arising from Covid. Materials have become more expensive and subject to greater delays and project times have become extended. We have used the time to obtain updated costs and programmes and have also undertaken research into some of the other significant aspects of the project.

We have been advised that the tiles which are wall mounted in the North porch are of interest as important mediaeval floor tiles which have come from a prestigious building such as a cathedral. When works start, these will be carefully removed, probably by Worcester Cathedral stonemasons, and relocated in a more suitable part of the church where they can be better seen.

A key part of the project has been the design and approval of a sewage treatment and drainage system from the toilets. A lot of research has taken place on this in order to find a system which will be reliable, effective and will not require regular maintenance or

emptying. The area near the church is not connected to the mains drains and consequently we have looked at a number of options. Approval has now been given for a system having low visual impact, no noise or smell and will connect the treated output into the Council highway drainage system.

The most important piece of news is that approval has been given for the scheme by the Diocesan Advisory Committee. The design will now go forward to the Chancellor of the Ecclesiastical Consistory Court and, if she approves the scheme, we will be able to commence work.

CLAINES COMMUNITY CAFÉ- Annie Ray & Jane Saint

After 18 months of closure due the Covid Pandemic, Claines Community Cafe finally opened its doors in September 2021, much to the delight of the customers and cafe team alike.

Despite having to meet with strict covid regulations and being very vigilant about how many people attended each week, the customers were very supportive. Grateful thanks to our treasurer Dil Price, who is also a member of the Building Management Committee (BMG), for ensuring that all regulations were adhered to and keeping the team updated of any changes.

The Christmas party was a great success with live entertainment and a gift from Santa.

The cafe continues to be very popular and we are looking forward to celebrating the Queen's platinum jubilee on Tuesday 31st of May, with lots of cakes, live entertainment and a quiz.

All new customers can be assured of a warm welcome, homemade cake and tea.

ECO CHURCH- Ian Cramp

We are now working towards obtaining our Silver Eco Church Award at Claines. This will involve schemes that will affect not only our buildings but also the community.

The Church of England has announced that it wants all churches to have Net Zero Emissions by 2030. There is a lot of work to do to achieve this and at Claines we are in a strong position as we are all electric and using “clean” electricity. We have an air source heat pump providing the heating in the Hall.

You will see elsewhere in the Buildings Management Group section of this report that windows are being replaced in the Institute House and in the Parish Hall in order to save energy. Additionally the end wall of the Hall is being insulated to save energy and it is hoped to introduce better controls to reduce running costs further. The considerable increase in oil and gas tariffs in April this year makes it even more important to save energy. In church we are continuing to carefully control our heating to make savings.

Further thought needs to be given to ways in which we can reduce our impact on the Earth by energy saving in our own homes, careful conservation and care for animals and plants, better recycling and the many other ways to make positive changes. Let's all work together to make small changes which will improve the planet for everyone.

QUEST BEREAVEMENT GROUP- Tricia Greenwood

The group is for someone who has recently lost a loved one and can chat to others who are in the same position. We meet on the 3rd Thursday of the month in Claines Church Hall, Cornmeadow Road.

We started to meet again after the Covid Pandemic in August with 3 ladies from Kidderminster joining us who were looking to start a similar group. The ladies chatted to several of the group to get an idea of what it meant to them, it was very encouraging. It was so lovely to get back together and meet face to face. We have a new member of the team, Margaret Stokes who makes lovely cakes and will be an asset to the team.

The group now has a steady number of 12. After lockdown we had to change the day and venue of the group which, unfortunately, meant a few members could not attend.

We did make an arrangement to go out for Christmas Lunch, but decided to cancel for safety reasons. If it is something you may be interested in please contact Rev. Jo for more details.

THE WORCESTER FOODBANK- Adrian Musson

2021 saw wide-scale increases in Foodbank demand from people in Worcester. We gave meals to over 11,000 people in 2021 who would have gone hungry without your support.

Unfortunately in the UK there are now more Foodbanks than McDonald's restaurants, serving a wider range of clients. The sad fact is that many of the people who are turning to Foodbanks have jobs, but these do not cover their cost of living. We expect the demand to increase during 2022. At the same time rising household finances are affecting those who donate. People in Claines parish are regular givers to the Worcester Foodbank, both in food and monetary donations and we also have several individuals from the parish who volunteer their time on duty at the Warehouse and doing deliveries to support this much needed charity. Thank you to all of you.

OPEN THE BOOK- Rachel Cramp

During 2021 Open the Book was again affected by Covid, and it was not possible to go into Claines Primary, however we have continued to record stories every fortnight and send them into school.

We have also come together as one Open the Book, with people from both Claines and Saint George's taking part, and the stories are sent into Claines Primary and St George's CofE Primary and most recently we have begun sending the stories into the Pupil Referral Unit. The schools are very appreciative of the resource and classes can show the recordings when it is convenient to them.

We are grateful to Ian Cramp for helping with technical side of the Zoom recordings and to everyone who takes part – we have lots of fun recording the stories and we are getting more and inventive in our 'productions'!

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE- Rachel Cramp

During 2021 our work with Children and Young People has been disrupted by the pandemic, but it has given us the opportunity to review what we do.

Children's Worship Area - Rachel Cramp and Lorraine Deeprise have changed the area in church where the children gather from a play area to a Worship Area. They have set it up as a quiet reflective space, with natural materials, rather than plastic. A small table in the area, becomes the Children's Altar, which the children set up during the sermon on the first Sunday of the month. They reflect on the meaning of what is placed on the altar, and they take part in prayer activities.

In addition there are always **Bible Book bags**, with books and activities that can be taken to the children's pews or they can sit at the little tables in the Worship area, and there are always books and colouring sheets and a Children's Lectionary.

Godly Play - On the fourth Sundays of the month Godly Play stories take place in the Institute, with wonderful 'wondering' after the stories are told, by either Rachel or Lorraine.

Café Church take place on second Sundays and is for all ages and whole families, with lots of interaction with the children, and third Sundays are **Worship Together** services where the sermons are planned to engage children.

Worship in the Wild - A new initiative held jointly with Saint George's and St Stephen's is Worship in the Wild. One session has been held in the churchyard using creation as the topic, and great fun was had, measuring trees, singing and worshipping outside! Several classes from Claines School have also had sessions. It is hoped to hold more Worship in the Wild sessions in 2022, hopefully the next one will be in Gheluvelt Park!

Posada and Nativity Trail - This Advent we held a short Children's Nativity Trail around the churchyard and the Posada was sent out and visited families, Claines School, Cornmeadow Nursery and Fernhill House.

Looking ahead to 2022 we hope to hold our popular Pancake Party, jointly with Saint George's and St Stephen's, which is a *Calling Young Disciples* event and hope to prepare children for First Communion.

CLAINES CE PRIMARY SCHOOL-Pat Oddy, Governor

Life has been resuming a more normal pace in recent times as fewer absences are being reported and infections due to Covid have fallen. All in all, a more positive feeling is returning for both staff and pupils. It has been a difficult two years with gaps in learning for the children but an exhausting time, both physically and mentally for teachers, who have been trying to manage work in the classroom and online, as well as their own family issues.

The emphasis now is on closing the gaps which have occurred, not an easy task when learning cannot be rushed, but investment has been made in new methods of teaching both Maths and Reading and Writing, which are going down well with all the classes. One new approach in particular has been applied to all age groups and involves work at the start of every morning in Phonics. This is proving to be very profitable and the pupils are enthusiastic.

Great emphasis has also been placed on physical health and mental wellbeing, as the need became obvious when the pupils returned to school after a long gap. Extra staff have been enrolled and time allowed during the day to use the outdoor facilities, and this has made a huge difference. An added bonus has been the Multi Use Games Area (MUGA) a hard

surface area for play and for sport, funds for which have been generously raised by the parents of pupils.

The Governors have been kept informed through zoom meetings on a regular basis, and policies have been updated, as an eye is kept on the likelihood of the next Ofsted inspection in the not too distant future. A new RE scheme of work was introduced before Covid took hold, and so will be working effectively when the next SIAMS inspection comes around, thanks to Mrs Jew and Mrs Batelen.

Editor: Our thanks go to Pat Oddy, following her retirement, for all her commitment as a Governor and to Rachel Cramp who joined the Governing Body last year.

LUNCH IN COMPANY (LINC)- John Brady

Like many activities, lunches have been on hold during Covid. We restarted in November. It was wonderful to meet up again and say hello to all our regulars. Bookings at the hall meant our usual Christmas dinner had to be changed to an afternoon Christmas tea which was enjoyed by all. Sadly we have said goodbye to some of our regular diners since the onset of the pandemic. We have also lost 2 of our helpers - Jill Cale and Val Kilmartin. We will miss their friendship and laughter as much as their help. God bless them both.

As always huge thanks is due to our incredible LINC team who work so brilliantly together: Matt & Laura Stevens, Ian Townley, Jane & Simon Saint, Jan Kear, Pat Harris and Alan Long.

Providing LinC lunches is such a rewarding experience in so many ways. If you feel you could help then please get in touch with any of those mentioned. Whilst we provide a monthly meal we don't expect the whole team to help on every occasion.

We are limited in the number of diners we can accommodate at the parish hall. If you live on your own and would like to come along we would initially need to add you to our reserve list but once a place is available we would get in touch. The clergy are able to pass on any details to us, or do contact those on the list above. We look forward to welcoming everyone with some good food and a chat.

PARISH MAGAZINE- Stephen Taylor

This has been another difficult year because of the pandemic. We lost one edition of the magazine at the start of the year and church related news was scarce for obvious reasons. Despite that finances held up well.

I stepped down as editor after nearly a quarter of a century and have passed the editorship and finances to Pat Oddy and Henry Briggs respectively and from that point of view I know the magazine is in capable hands.

The production of the magazine is very much a team effort and I would like to thank all those involved as this has helped to make this a seamless production month in and month out.

Going forward, Margaret Sturdy has indicated a wish to step down as Distribution Secretary and Andrew Johnson as Advertising Manager at the end of 2022. These will be difficult roles to fill as both have done a sterling job over many years.

COMMUNICATION AND SOCIAL MEDIA - Ian and Rachel Cramp

During the last year there has been so much change taking place and it has been very important that we can communicate effectively with each other to ensure that we are able to achieve what we need to. The impact of working from home and the increasing use of communications software such as Teams and Zoom has meant that we have all had to become experts in the use of modern technology. We have been so impressed by the wonderful way that members of our congregation, especially the elderly, have learnt how to do this and seen the benefits it can bring.

With the reopening of our churches there was a fall in numbers attending the on-line Sunday Holy Communion on Zoom although there are still a few people who prefer to worship from home rather than in church. For them we provide words of the hymns and prayers so that they can fully participate in the services which alternate between Claines and St George's. Grateful thanks are due to Elizabeth Witter, Janet Wilson, Barbara Mitra and Ian Cramp for making this happen.

Zoom was also still used for many meetings including Mothers' Union, Bible Study groups, Kingdom Arts and PCC meetings until these organisations decided that they could meet together again. Members of the St George's and Claines Open the Book teams have very successfully recorded a number of Bible stories on Zoom which are used by the local schools. This has proved to be very popular.

Facebook has continued to be important, allowing us to broadcast services live and for people to catch up when convenient to them. Midweek services have been broadcast alternately from Claines and Saint George's every Wednesday morning. We currently have 1100 followers on the Claines Church site and a substantial increase on the Claines Parish Hall and Institute site up to 378 followers. Hirers of the Hall and Institute find that being able to place ads and updates on their classes particularly helpful. We also continue our presence on Claines Church Twitter with 548 followers. Thanks to all who contribute to the Facebook sites and Rachael Wilson who looks after our Claines Church website:
<https://claineschurch.co.uk>

LITTLE FRIENDS- Jennifer Chow

Little Friends is run entirely by volunteers from the community with support from Mother's Union members and Reverend Jo Musson. Traditionally we meet during term time in Claines Parish Hall on Tuesday mornings (except for Little Fish Tuesdays). Originally established as a complement to Little Fish, Little Friends aims to provide a secure, comfortable and friendly space for young children and their carers to gather and socialise every week, whilst also serving as a convenient and accessible link to Claines Church. In regard to communication, we have moved away from Facebook and now keep in touch with attendees via our email address claineslittlefriends@gmail.com and blog <https://claineslittlefriends.blogspot.com/>.

Following a long interruption due to Covid-19, Little Friends was able to resume in the summer term, running eight pared-down sessions from May to July 2021. In September 2021 Little Friends returned to its usual pre-pandemic schedule in combination with Little Fish. Attendance has been steady, with previous participants returning and many new families joining the group. We are fortunate that all of our wonderful long-standing MU volunteers returned in September to provide their valuable support in the kitchen. Our

lovely mum volunteers and annexe helpers have been equally dedicated and we remain grateful for all of their hard work.

The most pressing concern going into 2022 is the long-term running of the group. In autumn our existing volunteers were not always able to attend through no fault of their own. Absences were partially due to Covid-19, illustrating that even after attempting to resume more normal operations, the pandemic continued to have an impact on our ability to run the group smoothly. To keep Little Friends sustainable we continue to ask for helpers from among our attendees. Our hope is that more volunteers will come forward so that the group can continue long into the future without interruption.

LITTLE FISH - Pat Price

Little Fish sessions are held on the third Tuesday of the month in the Parish Hall, Cornmeadow Lane, from 10 am until 11.30 am and are aimed at pre-school children. The children come along with their parent or carer to join in with songs, prayers and an interactive Bible story presented by Rev. Jo. The children enjoy creating a picture based on the story they have just heard and drinks and biscuits are provided before we get together for the hokey cokey.

Normally we have our July picnic on the Patch (the area lovingly created at the rear of the Parish Hall) but in 2021, due to Covid, we did not hold Little Fish sessions between January and July. However we did manage to start up again in September, learning about love and hearing about how baby Moses was found floating in the bulrushes by a Princess.

The December session which was to take place in Church and telling of the Birth of Jesus was cancelled due to a rise in Covid cases and instead a pack was delivered to the children who had attended regularly during the year containing a book, bookmark, biscuits, chocolate coins, Christmas card, star, prayer and craft.

We are always happy to welcome new members, and very much appreciate the help and support of the parents and carers of our Little Fish. Rev Jo is ably assisted by MU members, Jan Hayden, Jane Saint, Pat Price and Annie Ray.

MOTHER'S UNION - Gwen Clifford, Jan Hayden and Rachel Cramp

2021 was a difficult year for everyone. The year began by holding our meetings on Zoom and we are very grateful to Margaret Mandrell and Lizzie Lane for giving us interesting talks, which is only an easy task when you are standing in front of an audience and able to gauge their reactions at a glance.

When the weather improved we were able to meet on the Patch and on one particular occasion, courtesy of Jan Hayden, we travelled back to 1955 with archived notes of all the MU meetings held in that year. The notes recorded an "everything and anything" stall at the Summer Fete. That gave us the idea of holding a similar table top "everything and anything" sale in August and although footfall was low we did manage to raise £176 (included a donation by Jane Saint). In July we had a wonderful evening visit to St Michaels and All Angels Church in Stoke Prior. A chance to see the extensive renovations to church and steeple and, of course, to see Paula Honniball again.

In August we had fun in decorating Claines Church South Porch to commemorate the 100th anniversary of Mary Sumner's death and we held our own service of remembrance. The autumn gave us an opportunity to hold our meetings indoors and we welcomed Adrian Musson to talk about Worcester Foodbank and Gerry from the Worcester Street Pastors. We managed also to include a DIY evening, led by Jane, giving us the opportunity to get to know each other a little better. Our Christmas Raffle raised £233 towards our funds.

The most positive and important aspect of 2021 was that we were joined by some new faces, Joan, Sylvia, Vanessa and Esther and we welcome you all. In 2022 we hope to welcome Victoria and Anita.

One sad event was the death in December of our fellow member, Valerie Kilmartin. Valerie joined the Claines MU in 2009. She was an enthusiastic member helping with our fundraising events, Open the Book at Claines School and the Summer Fun Days for children and the children loved her. She always attended our MU Church Services and we enjoyed her company at our meetings. Rest in peace Val.

Again, the group gratefully thanks the ladies who reliably and conscientiously get involved in Claines toddler groups, LinC, Open the Book, Godly Play and the Community Café. You contribute so much to these activities. And what can we say about the Baptism Duties – just an enormous thank you. After all, that is what the MU is all about.

PARISH MUSIC - Vanessa Gunter

It has been a real joy to gradually return to live music making over the last year. This hasn't been without its difficulties and our hearts sank when we started 2021 with a lockdown, but on the whole, we have been gradually moving in the right direction since then.

Instrumental music has been an important part of Zoom services through lockdown and Vanessa has been really grateful to her family for their willingness to take part. It was lovely to be able to put together a Gunter family quartet for our Easter Day service - although we did miss all our other regular players! We were also privileged to be asked to record some music for services during Holy Week. As the year progressed, we were able to expand beyond the family bubble and re-form the instrumental group again and we have loved leading worship and revisiting some of our favourite hymns and worship songs, as well as including a few new ones! We are hoping for a smoother ride through 2022!

The choir welcomed a new member, Michelle in 2021. She brings a lot of experience of choral singing to Claines and has quickly become a valued part of the team. Singing together has been a challenge over the last year, with lots of Covid breaks, but we have made the most of the opportunities available, embracing socially-distanced services in the children's corner, singing through a fog of condensation in visors and finally, courtesy of Caroline, adopting masks that match our lovely green robes! The choir have shown great determination and flexibility in dealing with constantly changing times and their patience was put to the test at Christmas when rapidly rising Covid numbers made it prudent to move the carol service outside. Freezing temperatures made this a good occasion for the members to see just how many clothes can be squeezed under our voluminous robes (Esther won, but she couldn't bend down!), and we all enjoyed the magic of a torch-lit service in the churchyard, before hanging up our hymn books for another short covid break.

This year saw the departure of our regular organist, Ivan, after many years of service at Claines. We will miss him, but are grateful for everything he has done and wish him well for the future. We have been pleased to welcome Robin Walker as a regular organist for our 4th Sunday services. He is a superb musician and experienced church organist and is already impressing us all with his superb voluntaries and sensitive accompanying of hymns. Simon Taranczuk (Director of Music at King's. Worcester) has also recently joined the music team and we are looking forward to working regularly with him in 2022.

Music at Claines is going from strength to strength. We have turned many of the past year's challenges into opportunities and are proud of what we have achieved. We are very much looking forward to continuing to building on these strong foundations as we move into 2022.

As ever, we love to welcome new members to both the choir and instrumental group. Please do put people in touch with Vanessa if they are interested in taking part.

SPARK TO A FLAME - Adrian Musson

The worship band has continued to flourish both during the lockdowns and latterly with the more open environment for singing. For the first part of 2021 we continued to produce music by recording our individual parts (bass guitar, drums, acoustic guitar and singers) and we then mixed them into songs. These were then used within the zoom services.

In July 2021 we managed to organise an outside worship service which was very exciting as the weather turned rainy and stormy. However the spirit was with us and it felt like a joyful release to be able to worship together again.

From that point on we gradually and intermittently started to play together whenever Covid variants and social distancing allowed. In December we played for the crib and carol procession outside the church under an awning - it was freezing but amazing too.

This year we are looking forward to welcoming new members of the band and renewing our regular worship at cafe Church.

BELL RINGING - Martyn Hills

Claines no longer has enough bellringers in the local band to ring the bells for Sunday services. Unfortunately, this is a position shared by the majority of churches with bells. Ringing is now largely achieved by bell ringers coming together from different churches - this is challenging when service times coincide.

On a more positive note, a band to ring the bells can usually be arranged for couples choosing to get married at Claines. Leaving through the South door to the sound of the bells is a very memorable finale to the church element of the day.

Like a lot of mechanical things, bell fittings deteriorate when they are not used regularly. Fortunately, a number of ringers are coming together on the 4th Monday in the month at 10:30 to ring a quarter peal, around 1h of ringing. These are very good ringers, if you get a chance to listen then this is what very good bell ringing sounds like.

FLOWER GUILD - Pat Harris

We had a slow start to last year with the weddings, but we are starting to get back to doing more. This year we have approximately 9 weddings that require the flowers.

We had our annual get together in October and decided to put the price of the flowers up to £125.00, this is because the price of the flowers are going up in the Florists, we always supply the foliage from our own gardens which we are happy to do.

Our numbers are falling, due to bad health in some cases, and we are always glad to welcome new members who would like to help.

Contact, Pat Harris 592555

KINGDOM ARTS - Alex New & Sue Ashby

This was our 6th year of operation, but who could have foreseen such an interruption to our creative flow? However, we were not going into lockdown without making the most of technology and trying to come to terms with it. We therefore organised an Easter ZOOM meeting (March '21) which was really lovely with Kingdom Artists as usual becoming fully engaged by contributing music, artwork and spiritual journey stories.

In order to keep the spirit of Kingdom Arts alive, each team member took on the responsibility for communicating with a small group of people by monthly email. Even if some did not respond, we felt it very important to do this and to show that we care about all who come to our meetings from far and wide. Postings continued to appear on our website throughout the year.

Our first meeting after Lockdown occurred in October '21. It was very special as all were so pleased to be together again. Amazing individual Lockdown stories were shared. We met again in November and December.

We have dipped our toes gently back into the stream and people are returning, not in previous numbers, but enough to maintain our enthusiasm and to experience the warmth and meaningful discourse that reflects Kingdom Arts.

We have respected those who keep their distance and their masks and those who feel free to make their own decisions on mask wearing and social distancing.

A soup lunch has not been provided yet to avoid all of us gathering in a more confined space. Perhaps after Easter we will review this provision.

Thanks as ever to Rev Jo for her continued support and to the Kingdom Arts team: Alex and David New, Sue Ashby and Trevor Davis, Bob and Barbara Rolison, Jan Butterworth, David and Vikki Moore, Jan Kear, Pam Summers, Lyn and Clive Crowther, Trish Greenwood, Carolyn Corfield and Margaret Stokes.

There remains a hunger for meeting in a creative space that allows freedom of expression in the Lord's name and to nurture the love felt and shared among us so that we can go out into the world with confidence and a generous gifting spirit.

CHRISTIAN AID - Alison Clarke

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 2021 – As far as Christian Aid Week goes, St George's and Claines churches are now one body! And this year we raised £2094.74. Thanks to lockdowns and social isolation, people are becoming more comfortable with making online donations, so

we were very pleased locally to make use of the GiveStar (formerly TapSimple) website to facilitate this. We were able to set up a number of different giving 'pages' within a Worcester group area of the website, so that people could donate to particular fundraising ventures and indeed follow the progress of fundraisers as they set out to achieve their goals. My husband, Paul, and I were really grateful to generous support from both churches as well as from friends and family allowing us to raise over £1100 in support of our "100 miles of the Severn Way" hike. Setting up a GiveStar fundraising area for Worcester also allowed us to know how much had been donated online in our area. At the same time, those churches who were able reported how much they had collected in cash donations. So, overall, in Worcester we know that we raised almost £11,500. In fact, the total will have been quite a lot bigger than this, as we know some churches sent cheques directly to Christian Aid.

CAMPAIGNING - Christian Aid continues to campaign, raise awareness and highlight the injustice of how climate change is affecting the lives of the poorest communities on Earth. Since the climate change conference (COP26) in Glasgow in November 2021 [Climate Justice: Every moment matters - Christian Aid](#), there is growing emphasis on Loss and Damage with Christian Aid and others calling for the establishment of a global fund to provide relief for those whose lives have been severely impacted by climate change - [Loss and Damage Petition - Christian Aid](#).

Christian Aid is also encouraging us to petition the UK government to further support the people of Afghanistan both financially and through a global humanitarian conference - [Stand with Afghanistan - Christian Aid](#).

During the past months Christian Aid's chairman, Rowan Williams, has completed his term of office. I am personally delighted that his excellent chairmanship is being followed by John Sentamu. (I am now his Facebook friend! Joy!)

LOOKING FORWARD - I am probably supposed to confine myself to things which have already happened in this report, but I am excited that in 2022 we can look forward to a more normal Christian Aid Week. Already we have a concert planned for Saturday evening of 28 May with our folk band *5 for Silver* (Sue and Trevor and myself, plus our dear friends Bill Scriven and Grahame Lucas) and the wonderful *Orchard Band* led by Ali and Ian Craigan. I also think it's time that the whole congregation had a chance to put in some steps/ wheelies for Christian Aid Week... this year with a royal theme. So watch this space!!

THANK YOU Finally, none of what Christian Aid is able to do would happen if it weren't for your gifts, acts and prayers. So an enormous THANK YOU!!

For what does the Lord require of us but to act justly, to love mercy and to walk humbly with our God? (Micah 6:8)

THE CHILDREN'S SOCIETY- Julie Palmer

The Children's Society is a national charity, working to transform the hopes and happiness of young people facing abuse, exploitation and neglect. The charity supports them through their most serious life challenges and campaigns tirelessly for the big social changes that will improve the lives of those who need hope most. They provide specialist support empowering young people to make positive changes and rediscover their hope.

2021/22 saw some return to normality of parish fundraising for the Children's Society. It was lovely to be able to welcome back the Christingle service in November and those who supported the charity via collection boxes gave very generously. This year £303.50 was raised via the collection boxes and £37 cash was donated at the Christingle service.

For more information on the work of the Children's Society please visit their website:
www.childrenssociety.org.uk

LEGACIES - MAKING A LASTING DIFFERENCE

Only some five per cent of people in the UK have left a gift for a charity in their will, and yet legacies are the largest single source of income for many charities in this country today. Once you have provided for your family and friends, leaving a gift to Claines Church will ensure that our work can continue for many years to come.

Legacies have over the years, and thanks to the generosity of those who have made bequests, contributed greatly to the work and mission of Claines church. The PCC appreciates all bequests both large and small. There are many types of gifts that can be made:

Pecuniary legacy - a cash gift of any size.

Specific legacy - items of value such as property, a car or jewellery.

Residuary bequest - balance of your estate after all debts, taxes, expenses and other legacies have been paid.

All legacies are tax free. If you make such a gift in your will, its value will be deducted from your estate before inheritance tax is calculated. If you are thinking about leaving a legacy or have already remembered us in your will, we would love to talk to you about it; everything you say will be treated in the strictest confidence. We would then have the opportunity to thank you for your generosity. When considering leaving a legacy, we recommend that you consult a Solicitor who will be able to give you specialist advice according to your own individual circumstances.

ADDENDUM TO APCM - SAFEGUARDING REPORT May 25th 2022 **Safeguarding Statement**

To the best of our understanding, the PCC of St John the Baptist Claines, Worcester have complied with the duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 (duty to have due regard to the House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults). In 2021 we conducted the following:

- 15 new DBS processed. Total people with an up to date DBS = 26
- Number of DBS applications that required referral to DSA/ADSA = 0
- Number of DBS that have lapsed without renewal = 0
- Number of people who have attended training = 14
- Any advice sought from DSA/ADSA this year and any actions as a result? **Yes - advice was sought regarding a variety of safeguarding general questions, training/DBS transportation etc.**
- Are there any safeguarding agreements in place in the parish? **No**
- Have there been any serious incident reports made to the Charity Commission? **No**
- Sharing of updates from PSO network meetings? Or training events? **PSO submits reports on network meetings and training she and others attended at every PCC meeting**
- Any policy changes/new statements added/new Diocesan/National policies adopted?
 - 1. Safeguarding is on the agenda at every PCC meeting.**
 - 2. we include a report in the Church Annual Report's, and**
 - 3. This Addendum will be incorporated in every year's Annual report**
 - 4. New policies we have incorporated are, Volunteer Role Description, Domestic Abuse, Lone Working Guidance.**
- Completion of toolkit/take up of Dashboard? **Yes, St John Baptist Claines is now Green across Level 3 Dashboard**
- Highlights of Parish action plan? **N/A nothing currently outstanding. Level 2 comes in shortly and there will be additional requirements to be done then**
- How many children's/adult activities are taking place in the parish? **4 adult/4 children's**
- Any new ones planned? **Nothing as yet**
- **We currently don't have defined role description for those working with vulnerable adults and children. The Diocese has templates for most roles within the church, we will be carrying out additional work to produce specific job descriptions for every role.**

Parish Safeguarding Policies

Our Safeguarding Policies are reviewed on an annual basis by the PCC. All policies were reviewed and agreed at our PCC March 23rd 2022. All our policies are displayed in every church venue, along with 'Who's Who' poster for Safeguarding, plus useful websites and contact details for anyone who needs help, support, isolated or feeling vulnerable.

St John the Baptist Claines PCC

ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2021

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of St John the Baptist PCC, Claines

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of St John the Baptist PCC, Claines for the year ended 31st December 2021.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Trust you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act'). I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed 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 Trust 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

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

Signed;



A B Archer
3 Shrawley Road
Fernhill Heath
Worcester
WR3 7UQ

23/02/2022

PCC of St John the Baptist, Claines

Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31st December 2021

Charity Registration No 1130734

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
INCOMING RESOURCES						
Voluntary income	2.1	52,486	7,303	2,568	62,357	53,153
Activities for generating funds	2.2	424	209	816	1,449	2,841
Income from investment	2.3	11	664	24	699	942
Income from Church activities	2.4	7,645	28,188	-	35,833	24,415
Other incoming resources	2.5	476	1,405	2,829	4,710	5,682
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES		61,042	37,769	6,237	105,048	87,033
RESOURCES EXPENDED						
Costs of generating funds	3.1	216	-	-	216	216
Grants and donations	3.2	1,100	-	-	1,100	1,189
Activities directly relating to the work of the church	3.3	64,871	17,645	1,256	83,772	79,621
Church management and administration	3.4	2,052	1,188	4,406	7,646	7,576
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED		68,239	18,833	5,662	92,734	88,602
NET INCOMING/(OUTGOING) RESOURCES		(7,197)	18,936	575	12,314	- 1,569
Transfers between funds		7,000	(7,000)	-	-	-
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		(197)	11,936	575	12,314	- 1,569
BALANCES BROUGHT FORWARD AT 1ST JANUARY		20,991	25,557	70,783	117,331	118,900
BALANCES CARRIED FORWARD AT 31ST DECEMBER		20,794	37,493	71,358	129,645	117,331

Balance Sheet at 31st December 2021

	Notes	2021 £	2020 £
FIXED ASSETS			
	4	-	-
CURRENT ASSETS			
Stock		200	200
Debtors	5	10,607	4,019
Short term deposits		71,351	73,273
Cash at bank and in hand		76,576	62,706
		<u>158,734</u>	<u>140,198</u>
LIABILITIES: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR	6	(29,089)	(22,867)
NET ASSETS		129,645	117,331
FUNDS			
Unrestricted	7	20,794	20,991
Designated	7	37,493	25,557
Restricted	7	71,358	70,783
		<u>129,645</u>	<u>117,331</u>

Approved by the PCC on 23rd March 2022 and signed on its behalf by



Chair



Treasurer

PCC of St John the Baptist, Claines

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 31st December 2021

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 together with applicable accounting standards and the SORP 2005. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

The statements include all transactions, assets, and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law. They do not include the accounts of church groups that owe their affiliation to another body, nor those that are informal gatherings of church members.

Funds

General funds represent the funds of the PCC that are not subject to any restrictions regarding their use and are available for application for the general purposes of the PCC. Funds designated for a particular purpose by the PCC are also unrestricted. Unrestricted funds can be used for PCC ordinary purposes.

Restricted Funds represent a) Income from trusts that are restricted as provided in the terms of the trust or bequest and b) Donations or grants received or invited by the PCC for a specific object and must be retained in that fund and expended only on the specific object for which they were given. The PCC does not usually invest separately for each fund.

Incoming resources

Collections are recognised when received by or on behalf of the PCC. Planned giving receivable under Gift Aid is recognised when it is received. Income tax recoverable on Gift Aid donations is recognised when the related donation is recognised.

Grants and legacies to the PCC are accounted for as soon as the PCC is notified of its legal entitlement, the amount due is quantifiable and its ultimate receipt by the PCC is reasonably certain.

Other income

Rental income from the letting of church premises is recognised when the rental is due.

Income from investments

Interest entitlements are accounted for as they accrue.

Resources used

Grants and donations

Grants and donations are accounted for when awarded.

Activities directly relating to the work of the Church

As at 31st December 2021 £29,000 (2020 £21,000) of our allocation had been paid, our allocated share for 2021 was £67,837 (2020 £67,836). An amount of £21,000 (2020 £20,000) was provided for and paid in full before the 4th February deadline. The balance of £17,837 (2020 £26,836) remained unpaid.

Fixed assets

Consecrated property and movable church furnishings

Consecrated property of any kind is excluded from the accounts by s.96(2)(a) of the Charities Act 1993.

Movable church furnishings held by the Vicar and Churchwardens on special trust for the PCC, and which require a faculty for disposal are accounted for as inalienable property unless consecrated. They are listed in the church's Inventory and can be inspected (at any reasonable time). For inalienable property acquired prior to 2003 there is insufficient cost information available and therefore such assets are not valued in the accounts. Items acquired since 1st January 2003 will be capitalised and depreciated in the accounts over their currently estimated useful economic life on a straight line basis.

All expenditure incurred in the year on consecrated buildings, individual items under £1,000 or on the repair of movable church furnishings acquired before 1st January 2003 is written off.

Other fixture, fittings and office equipment

Equipment used within the church premises is depreciated on a straight line basis over 4 years. Individual items of equipment with a purchase price of less than £1,000 or less are written off when the asset is acquired.

Current assets

Stock represents trading stock and candles and is valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value.

Amounts owing to the PCC at 31st December are shown as debtors less provision for amounts that may prove uncollectable.

Short term deposits include cash held on deposit with the CBF Church of England deposit fund.

PCC of St John the Baptist, Claines
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the year ended 31st December 2021

	Unrestricted General Funds £	Unrestricted Designated funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
2. INCOMING RESOURCES					
2.1 Voluntary income					
Planned giving and gift aid envelopes	39,409	-	-	39,409	40,300
Income tax recoverable	9,076	-	30	9,106	8,913
Collections at services	2,273	-	-	2,273	1,088
Grants	550	4,701	888	6,139	-
Donations	1,179	602	150	1,931	1,852
Legacies	-	2,000	1,500	3,500	1,000
	52,486	7,303	2,568	62,357	53,153
2.2 Activities for generating funds					
Fund raising events	424	209	816	1,449	2,841
2.3 Income from investments					
Dividends and interest	11	664	24	699	942
2.4 Income from Church Activities					
Magazine sales and advertising	-	3,153	-	3,153	2,526
House, Hall and Institute lettings	-	25,035	-	25,035	18,287
Wedding and funeral fees	7,645	-	-	7,645	3,602
	7,645	28,188	-	35,833	24,415
2.5 Other Incoming Resources					
Sundry income (including Forces Fund transfer)	476	1,405	2,829	4,710	5,682
	476	1,405	2,829	4,710	5,682
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES	61,042	37,769	6,237	105,048	87,033
3. RESOURCES EXPENDED					
3.1 Costs of generating voluntary income					
Fundraising expenditure	216	-	-	216	216
Stewardship costs	-	-	-	-	-
	216	-	-	216	216
3.2 Grants-Charitable giving					
Home church societies and organisations	-	-	-	-	38
Secular Charities	1,100	-	-	1,100	1,151
	1,100	-	-	1,100	1,189
3.3 Activities directly relating to the work of the church					
Diocesan Parish Share	50,000	-	-	50,000	41,000
Clergy expenses	822	-	14	836	839
Church maintenance	-	-	-	-	1,932
Church running expenses	10,158	-	90	10,248	10,784
Parish magazine expenses	-	2,808	-	2,808	2,230
Upkeep of churchyard	-	-	1,152	1,152	846
Parish Hall and Institute costs	-	13,674	-	13,674	19,575
Flowers	-	1,162	-	1,162	320
Parish education	32	-	-	32	48
Contracted services	3,859	-	-	3,859	2,048
	64,871	17,645	1,256	83,772	79,622
3.4 Church management and administration					
Pastoral administration	1,980	-	-	1,980	2,324
Miscellaneous expenditure	72	1,188	4,406	5,666	5,253
Depreciation	-	-	-	-	-
	2,052	1,188	4,406	7,646	7,577
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED	68,239	18,833	5,662	92,734	88,604

PCC of St John the Baptist, Claines
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the year ended 31st December 2021

4. FIXED ASSETS

	Portable altar £
COST	
Brought forward	1,596
As at 31st December 2021	<u>1,596</u>
DEPRECIATION	
Brought forward	1,596
Charge for the year	-
As at 31st December 2021	<u>1,596</u>
NET BOOK VALUE	
As at 31st December 2021	<u>-</u>
As at 31st December 2020	<u>-</u>

The PCC does not have a record of the cost or valuation of the church hall and institute buildings . The PCC considers that the cost of obtaining these would outweigh the benefit in including these in the accounts.

5. DEBTORS

	2021	2020
	£	£
Income tax recoverable	-	-
Prepayments and accrued income	10,607	4,019
	<u>10,607</u>	<u>4,019</u>

6. LIABILITIES:AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2021	2020
	£	£
Parish Share	21,000	20,000
Accruals of utility and other costs	8,089	2,867
	<u>29,089</u>	<u>22,867</u>

PCC of St John the Baptist, Claines

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 31st December 2021

7. FUNDS DETAILS

Name	Purpose	Balance at 1.1.21	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	Balance at 31.12.21
General	Unrestricted	20,991	61,042	68,239	7,000	20,794
Unrestricted funds designated by the PCC						
<i>Restoration</i>	Maintenance of church property	546	-	-	-	546
<i>Choir</i>	Choir expenditure	189	-	-	-	189
<i>Hall & Institute</i>	Maintenance and running of Parish Hall, Institute and House	13,336	29,897	13,674	- 7,000.00	22,559
<i>Flower Guild</i>	Provision of church flowers	1,071	1,656	1,072	-	1,655
<i>Memorial flower funds</i>	Provision of memorial flowers	44	55	89	-	10
<i>Restoration</i>	Tower Restoration	2,224	3	294	-	1,933
<i>Little Friends</i>	Baby and Toddlers	1,224	267	546	-	945
<i>Magazine</i>	Publication of church magazine	2,690	3,152	2,808	-	3,034
<i>LinC</i>	Lunch in company	415	239	350	-	304
<i>General</i>	General	3,818	2,500	-	-	6,318
Total Unrestricted designated funds		25,557	37,769	18,833	- 7,000.00	37,493
Restricted funds						
<i>Restoration</i>	Church Notice Board	265	-	-	-	265
<i>Churchyard</i>	War Graves	85	12	-	-	97
	Maintenance Canon Clinch Grave	524	-	-	-	524
	Memorial Garden	81	-	-	-	81
	Roses	305	-	-	-	305
	Maintenance of churchyard	651	1,500	1,152	-	999
<i>Family tree</i>	Family tree	155	-	-	-	155
<i>Bell fund</i>	Maintenance of Bells	12,034	1,262	1,206	-	12,090
<i>Ashcroft</i>	Ashcroft Anniversary	83	-	-	-	83
<i>Property</i>	Property	53,019	865	1,050	-	52,834
<i>Youth</i>	Youth	756	100	104	-	752
<i>PortAltar</i>	Portable Altar	84	-	-	-	84
<i>Jubilee</i>	Jubilee Fund	243	-	-	-	243
<i>ClergyDisc</i>	Clergy Discretionary Fund	1,341	400	536	-	1,205
<i>Café</i>	Café	1,157	2,098	1,614	-	1,641
Total restricted funds		70,783	6,237	5,662	-	71,358

PCC of St John the Baptist, Claines
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the year ended 31st December 2021

8. PARISH SHARE

As at 31st December 2021 £29,000 (2020 £21,000) of our allocation had been paid, our allocated share for 2021 was £67,837 (2020 £67,836). An amount of £21,000 (2020 £20,000) was provided for and paid in full before the 4th February deadline. The balance of £17,837 (2020 £26,836) remained unpaid.

9. TRUSTS AND OTHER ACCOUNTS

Ever since we altered the accounts to comply with the new regulations we have reported in summary the movement of funds on Trusts associated with the Church on this page. These accounts have not been independently examined.

Claines Forces Fund (for the benefit of the Church Hall) of £487 at 31st December 2021 (2020 £487), together with £26,064 (2020 £22,802) in the Church of England Investment Fund.

Institute Funds of £955 at 31st December 2021 (2020 £605), together with £10,772 (2020 £9,424) in the Church of England Investment Fund.

Canon Clinch Legacy (for the maintenance of his grave) of £527 at 31st December 2021 (2020 £527).

EW Whinfield for Church Trust £2,982 at 31st December 2021 (2020 £2,612) in the COIF Charities Investment Fund.

Martin Mence Charity £2,225 at 31st December 2021 (2020 £2,123) & COIF £3,969 (2020 £3,476).

No other known assets and no income.

Accounts

The Parish of St. John Baptist, Claines, Worcester, serving the communities of Claines and Fernhill Heath



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Parish Church of St John Baptist, Claines

Annual Report and Financial Statements of the Parochial Church Council for the year ending 31st December 2020

The Parish Church of St John Baptist is part of the Diocese of Worcester within the Church of England. The correspondence address is Claines Parish, Cornmeadow Lane, Worcester, WR3 7NY.

The Parochial Church Council is a charity registered with the Charity Commission (Number 1130734). Members of the Parochial Church Council (PCC) are either ex- officio or elected annually by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) in accordance with the Church Representation Rules.

Church Officers

Standing Committee:

Priest in Charge

Reverend Jo Musson

Churchwardens

Rachel Cramp & Philip Kear

PCC Secretary

John Brady to October, then Helen Fitzgerald

PCC Treasurer

Janet Wilson

Ministry Team:

Priest in Charge

Reverend Jo Musson

Associate Priest

Reverend Jennie Hayward

Associate Priest

Reverend Peter Davies

Associate Priest

Reverend Sue Pollard

Curate

Reverend Paula Honniball (Until 1.11.20)

Licensed Lay Ministers

Jan Kear

Judy Morris

John Butterworth

Authorised Lay Ministers

Paul Fulbrook & Rachel Cramp

Parish Administrators

Gwen Clifford & John Brady

Health & Safety Officer

Ian Cramp

Electoral Roll Officer

William Andrew Oddy

Data Protection Officer

Rachel Cramp

Safeguarding Officer

Lorraine Deeprose

Children & Youth Co-ordinator

Ann Sansome

Independent Examiner

Tony Archer

Banks

Barclays Bank PLC, Worcester

HSBC, Worcester

PCC MEMBERSHIP at the end of 2019-2020 term

Ex-Officio

Reverend Jo Musson
Rachel Cramp
Philip Kear
Jean Smallwood
Reverend Peter Davies
Jan Kear

Chair
Churchwarden - Completed 9 years
Churchwarden - Completed 9 years
Reader – *left the area Jan 2020*
Licensed Priest
Since 2020

Elected Members (up to 12)

Jo Siddles – Lay Vice Chair	since 2016
Janet Wilson - Treasurer	since 2014
Helen Fitzgerald - Secretary	since 2018
Laura Stevens	since 2016
Lorraine Deeprose	since 2018
Annette Summers	since 2018
Judy Hooper	since 2019
Ian Townley	since 2020
Julie Palmer	since 2020
Judy Hooper	since 2020

Deanery Synod Members

Paul Fulbrook	since 2017
Jan Hayden	since 2017
Ian Cramp	since 2017

The appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. All church attendees are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and may stand for election to the PCC. The work of the PCC is carried out at regular meetings, throughout the year; in 2020 they were moved online using Zoom following the initial lockdown of March 23rd. In addition Standing Committee meetings have been held, comprising the Vicar, Wardens, PCC Secretary and PCC Treasurer

PCC STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE & MANAGEMENT

The work of the PCC was also undertaken through meetings of various sub-groups:

Standing Committee

20/20 Vision, Project Group
Asset Management Group
Children and Young People's Hub

Ministry Team

Mission and Outreach Group
Buildings Management Group

When they have met, these groups have provided regular reports to the full PCC meetings, in addition to reports from the Deanery Synod representatives.

ELECTORAL ROLL

2000 to 2021 is the second year of the current six-year Electoral Roll cycle and the roll is normally revised in the weeks leading up to the Annual Parochial Meeting. The Covid19 pandemic made this impossible this year and so no new names have been added since the

roll was last published. A number of people have moved away and sadly some of our staunchest members of the congregation have died during this difficult period. The result is that the Electoral Roll currently stands at 145. Andrew Oddy continues as the Electoral Roll Officer and would be pleased to hear from anybody who is new to the congregation or who thinks they may not have filled in an application form last year (waoddy@googlemail.com)

VOLUNTEERS

In common with most churches, the wide variety and range of services, activities, events and groups, would not exist without the input of a considerable number of people who voluntarily give their time throughout the year. Reverend Jo and the PCC are immensely grateful for all the hard work of these volunteers who contribute many hours of time to the church. Every member of the worshipping community is encouraged to get involved to support the mission and ministry of the church.

MINISTER'S REPORT TO THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL MEETING FOR THE YEAR 2020 - Rev Jo Musson

Clearly 2020 did not turn out how any of us was expecting. The COVID-19 pandemic presented all of us with different challenges and as I write this we continue to live through endless changes and disruptions to our lives and plans. Looking back it is easy to think of all the things that couldn't happen, or had to be done differently. We lament the sadness and heartache of being separated from our loved ones and the tragedy of the 100,000+ people who have lost their lives through COVID, as well as the fear and suffering of those who have been ill or lost their jobs and the anguish for children and students whose educations have been disrupted.

The last service in Claines Church before the first lockdown, was Sunday 15th March 2020. Full lockdown in the UK began on 23rd March 2020, with people only allowed out for food, medicine and one form of daily exercise. Church buildings and Halls were closed for public worship, private prayer, meetings and activities. During this time we continued to worship God, care for others, receive the sacrament, and pray, using new technologies most of us had never heard of, we joined forces with Saint George's and live streamed worship twice a week on ZOOM, Facebook and YouTube. Around 50 people attend the ZOOM service every week, one from Australia, and many of the services are subsequently watched by hundreds. Lots of people enjoyed the livestreamed exploration of the Jesse Tree every afternoon during Advent.

When we weren't in lockdown we opened both churches for private prayer and worship, providing a safe and socially distanced seating arrangement, with clear signage and a one way system. This took a huge amount of work, with cleaning, measuring, rearranging of chairs and assessing risks. I am grateful to those who worked so hard to ensure our safety. When we could worship in church, the services were well attended and all the more poignant in the circumstances. Sadly because of the risk of the virus being spread by singing, congregational singing was not (and still isn't) permitted and I want to thank Vanessa Gunter, her family and the Claines choir for bringing life to our worship. They have also supported our weekly ZOOM services along with Sue and Trevor Ashby-Davies and Alison Clarke, and the Claines worship band Spark to a Flame. Their music and singing has been a great blessing, many other churches having had to rely solely on recorded music.

Because of the likelihood that we would endure repeated lockdowns, the decision was made that the ZOOM service at 10.30am would remain a constant weekly event, even if and when the churches could reopen, in order to provide consistency and worship for the many people who continued shielding. Various times were trialled for the 'In-Church' services and the PCC agreed that for the time being 4.30pm was the best time. Lockdown restrictions and Worship provision are reviewed every month by a Joint Ministry and Standing Committee Group who together with Administrators and both Health & Safety Officers are known as the 'Back to the

Future' Group'. They discuss the latest Government rulings and C of E advice and agree the next steps for both churches. Even when things go back to 'normal' the group have made a pledge to continue to provide worship online for those who cannot attend church in person as we have come to realise how important it is to provide something online for people who are carers, or shielding, or who have mobility issues.

At the start of the pandemic, my priority was to ensure I had a way of keeping in touch with everyone, so I set up a database of as many members of the congregations as I could find emails for and learned how to use Mailchimp. A different member of the Ministry Team writes a reflection every week and a team of people write prayers for each day of the week. The weekly e-newsletter now has 245 subscribers and is also printed out and hand delivered by a team of 'Posties' who take it to around 25 church members who don't have the internet.

On 6th December Reverend Paula Honniball was Licensed as Associate Priest at Stoke Prior, Wychbold and Upton Warren. It was a socially distanced service with the absence of the Vicar Mel Beynon due to COVID and also the Bishop due to a serious bike accident, but the Bishop of Dudley did a grand job. We are delighted for Paula but her loss from the ministry team cannot be underestimated. She is greatly missed. Family bereavement meant that Reverend Sue Pollard took time off for much of the year. We are pleased she has rejoined us and continue to hold her, her husband and daughter in our prayers.

I cannot thank the Ministry Team enough, they responded graciously to the challenges and changes, learning to record, livestream, and zoom. Like so many people, the pandemic has shown us that we cannot be as busy as we were in the past. Many in our team are vulnerable and diminishing and in future we must be mindful to only plan for what we can provide with the resources we have, to ensure a fair allocation of resources and not to be overstretched. Stillness and time spent in prayer is just as important as action if we are to listen to God's plans for our lives and our churches.

During the pandemic we have found new and creative ways to reach out to people. On Stir Up Sunday we made Christmas Puddings and delivered them in person to members of the worshipping community, they were well received! Christmas Books were gift wrapped and taken to Little Friends families. Before Lent, people were busy knitting little hearts and sheep for Lent activities. People made hearts and hung them around the parishes. Then at the start of Lent a wonderful team of willing people made up 150 packs of resources for adults, and 60 activity packs for families and delivered them to homes around the two parishes. In Holy Week 100 Easter Eggs with Easter activities were also hand delivered to children who have a close connection with the churches. These acts of kindness have been greatly appreciated. People know we are thinking of them, they know they are not alone, and we have been blessed by sharing God's love in new and different ways.

Throughout the pandemic we also continued to support the Foodbank, taking weekly deliveries donated by people at Private Prayer or at The Vicarage. Some people volunteered at the Foodbank as Delivery Drivers taking Foodbank parcels to those who were isolating.

We continued to manage church governance and worship matters using ZOOM for PCC, Standing Committee, Ministry Team and the 'Back to the Future' group. When allowed smaller meetings were held in my garden - all socially distanced of course. We also set up a circle of pastoral care so that people would receive occasional telephone calls and prayer from someone from the Ministry Team or a senior member of the church. If you would like someone to call you for a chat or a prayer please let me know.

During lockdowns, the Parish Office was closed, eventually reopening but offering reduced hours, just two mornings a week, with Gwen Clifford and John Brady also providing some admin support from home for which I am thankful. Sadly Gwen became ill at the end of the year and now the Parish Office is only open one or two mornings a week. John continues to offer admin support for funerals, which sadly have been all too numerous. Gwen has indicated her wish to retire at some point this year, and we are now in the process of recruiting an additional administrator to cover 2 or 3 further mornings a week in the office, in the meantime I am most grateful for the support Gwen provides covering wedding and baptism admin from

home. We are currently rethinking the processes of booking weddings and baptisms now that these life events can take place again.

I am proud of how our churches have faced the challenges and I want to thank everyone who enabled these things to happen, especially wardens Rachel and Phil, Treasurer Janet Wilson, health & safety officer Ian Cramp, PCC secretary Helen Fitzgerald, our Parish Administrators Gwen and John and our ZOOM drivers Elisabeth Witter, Barbara Mitra and Ian Cramp. Thank you to everyone who helped support our mission and ministry, and enable the gospel to continue to be shared. In many ways despite the difficulties our ministry has flourished. Through all the challenges, we responded creatively and flexibly to ensure that worship and pastoral care continued, and new people are joining us online and in person. Having to think beyond the church walls meant we continued to be a sign of hope within the wider community: the lockdown cairn outside the south porch, the Scarecrow Nativity Scene, the Lenten hearts, the Easter crosses, the Jesse Tree and Lent Garden activities and the journey of Hope the Easter sheep. We have been more visible in our local community, and people have noticed and appreciated it. We also managed to arrange and celebrate two beautiful weddings at short notice and produce special Christmas Carol and Crib Services. Thank you to everyone who has enabled these things to happen.

The pandemic has given everyone the opportunity to re-evaluate lives and priorities, and as we ease out of lockdown, there will be much to reflect on. As we go forwards as a church, we have an opportunity, as well as some difficult decisions to make. We cannot simply put the pieces of the jigsaw back how they used to be, the picture has changed. Lockdown has shown us that it would be unwise to go back to the same levels of activity we maintained before covid, particularly without our Curate. We know that online worship needs to continue for those who are vulnerable; and that we will not go back to three separate services in church every Sunday. During the next two months, Claines worshipping community will be consulted as to the timing of a single gathering every Sunday into which we can put all our resources, all our energy, and gather together as one family to worship and give thanks. How will the Holy Spirit inspire and enable us to build on the creative, visible and expansive outreach we have achieved during lockdown?

I am confident now that whatever happens, when we cannot meet in person, we will continue to be the Church, witnessing to our faith, supporting and blessing our community, and worshipping and trusting in our God who is compassionate and gracious, through Jesus who is Lord of All, and with the strength and inspiration of the Holy Spirit.

CHURCHWARDENS' REPORT - Rachel Cramp and Phil Kear

As Churchwardens we are responsible for the care and management of the Church building and report to you at the APCM what has been done during the year. Wardens also represent and communicate with the congregation, are the Bishop's Officers and have a duty of care for the clergy.

Inventory

This has been checked and everything has been found to be in good order, however the written records are being rewritten into an updated document over the next few months.

Fabric, Fixtures, Fittings and Furniture: Works and Maintenance

General maintenance has been undertaken, such as clearing gutters, but no new works have been undertaken. The church clock had its annual service and the organ was tuned ready for reopening after the first lockdown.

Quinquennial

We are the custodians of our beautiful, historically important Grade 2* listed church and grounds. Our Quinquennial Architect, Richard Lamb undertook an inspection at the end of 2018, the next will be due in 2023. After the pandemic further small works will be

undertaken, quotations for remedial work on the Lychgate will be obtained and further monitoring of wall memorials on the north side of church will take place.

Churchyards

Muddy Boots, the social enterprise group, were able to trim and mow the open churchyard, between lockdowns, we are grateful to them for their work. We also wish to express our sincere thanks to Andrew Johnson for his care of the Garden of Remembrance. We are also grateful to David Agnew for all his work over many years as Sexton, we are grateful to Andrew Johnson and Steve Taylor who have taken over the role.

Church buildings

Our buildings remain in good order; the Parish Hall, Institute and Institute House are in good repair and we are fortunate to have such a dedicated team, the Buildings Management Group (BMG) led by Alan McWilliams and ably supported by the members of this team. We are very grateful to Gordon Smith for voluntarily continuing his regular maintenance work, when the pandemic regulations have allowed.

Response to the Pandemic - Health and Safety

A huge amount of work has been and continues to be done on assessing risks, in all that we do and putting measures into place to mitigate those risks. We offer our thanks to all concerned and we are blessed to receive advice and guidance from Health and Safety Officer Ian Cramp, and who can forget the cleaning team, who de-cobwebbed and cleaned church ready for it to be opened prior to re-opening after Lockdown 1!

Stewardship (money)

It has been a difficult year financially but thanks to the continued generosity of our givers, the regular giving through the Parish Giving Scheme and the excellent financial management by Janet Wilson and Ann Sansome - 'we are riding out the storm'.

Thanks

Our church could not operate in the way it does without the huge amount of work that is done by a wide range of committed volunteers. Thank you for all your love and devotion, without you, our church at Claines would not be the welcoming and spiritual place it is.

Tribute to Clergy and those working within the church - 'Riding out the storm'

We wish to express our thanks to everyone for 'soldiering on' during this difficult year. Everyone in the Clergy team and all who have adjusted to new and changing ways of working and worshiping have been wonderful; their ingenuity and perseverance have abounded and in many ways strengthened us all. Our worship team has provided creative leadership and innovation, enabling us to worship in new ways and to stay in contact with each other. The use of technology: Zoom, Facebook Live and YouTube has been wonderful and enabled us to worship together, meet socially, and hold events such as the Crib Service. We have worked and worshipped together every week with Saint George's Church and at Christmas with St Stephen's.

We want to thank in particular: Gwen Clifford and John Brady for their unfailing support and hard work in the Parish Office and at home during the pandemic; the team of people opening church for Private Prayer on Saturdays; the Zoom drivers; our choir led by Vanessa Gunter, for bringing hymns to our services, and the Verger team, led by Gwen Clifford.

We also want to pay tribute to Rev Paula Honniball, for everything she has done for us during her curacy. The warmth of her smile, her care for us all and her thoughtful ministry over the years, mean she is much missed, and we wish her well in her new parishes.

Sad times ...during 2020 we lost dear friends, who were much loved and are much missed, at a time when we were not able to come together to support one another through the loss, but here we pay tribute to Jill Cale, Sandra Ashcroft, Sallie Sansome and Kit Gibson.

The future...the roadmap out of lockdown for church

As 2021 has begun we continue to work together to keep everyone safe, but as Lockdown 3 is slowly lifted following both Government and Church of England guidelines we will begin to open church for services - but equally take the opportunity to look at the future of the worship and mission of the church.

FINANCIAL REPORT - Janet Wilson Treasurer

This year we were able to pay £41,000 (60%) of our allocated Parish Share which was set at £67,836. Taking into consideration the disruption caused by the unusual circumstances this is a considerable achievement. The regular income from The Parish Giving Scheme and Standing Orders was 90% of our total voluntary giving. Collections at services dropped by nearly 75%. We had several large donations and our Project Fund benefited by a £5,340 donation from the Co-op Community Fund.

Our expenditure was kept to a minimum but there was no reduction in our Insurance and Alarm System costs which make up a large portion of our outgoings.

During the year we were able to give 2% of our general income to 6 charities including Mind, Practical Action, Samaritans, Food Bank, FareShare and FCN

A huge thank you to everyone for their generous financial support and continued involvement and thank you to Ann Sansome for her help and hard work.

At this time, I would like to pay tribute to all the support that Jill Cale gave to me over the past years, she will be sadly missed.

ASSET MANAGEMENT GROUP (AMG) - Rev Jo Musson

The Asset Management Group consists of the Vicar, both wardens, the chair and treasurer of BMG and Ian Cramp as Chair of the 20/20 Group. The pandemic was necessarily the main focus of our discussions during 2020. We met twice on ZOOM to discuss and agree the issues around the closure and re-opening of the Hall, Institute and the management of the Institute Cottage. I am thankful to everyone in AMG and BMG for their hard work during this challenging year.

BUILDINGS MANAGEMENT GROUP (BMG) - Chair Alan McWilliams

1. General statement

As you are aware the Covid 19 pandemic of 20-21 starting on the 23rd March 2020 had a dire effect on our finances and the maintenance of the various Church Buildings under our control

2. BMG committee

The present committee consists of the following members: Alan McWilliams (Chair), Katrina Boucher, Jan Hayden, Ann Sansome (Treasurer) and Dilwyn Price. Although Gordon Smith not a member of the committee, his input in carrying out minor repairs to the various buildings is greatly appreciated.

Unfortunately, this year we lost 2 of our BMG founding members with Sylvia Duggan resigning in July for personal reasons and sadly Jill Cale who passed away in October. Both were well respected and their offers of ideas, support and actions will be truly missed.

During the last year 2020-2021 we held only one meeting in August where we met to discuss what was required to reopen the halls. We continue to have cleaning contractors, Jenny Radley and Emily Rowlands who clean the Village Hall while Sue Broadway who cleaned the Institute is no longer available.

3. Maintenance request forms received over the last 12 months

Due to the hall and Institute not in use for most of the year we have had very few requests

Listed below are the official number of request forms received although a number of additional minor items of maintenance have been carried out as deemed necessary.

Church.....	1
Church house.....	1
Parish Hall.....	Nil
Institute.....	<u>Nil</u>
Total	2

4. Building Inspection report

The existing report has been replaced. The external element of our three buildings was re-inspected in July 2020, the internal inspection will be carried out when it is safe to do so after which the report will be issued.

5. Maintenance Items/projects worthy of note

Church - The original Quinquennial Report and the actions identified have stayed under the control of the Church Wardens and PCC. However, BMG have carried out small maintenance items as and when requested one being the replacement of a section of the broken cast iron gutter on the south porch. The fire extinguishers had their annual service

Institute House - Our tenants Tony and Rosie Hawthorn vacated the house on the 15th March 2021 however we have a new tenant who is planning to move in on the 22nd March 2021. During the year we have serviced the oil boiler and carried out minor repairs required before our new tenant arrived. The Thermal Efficiency of the house was retested and is now in category 'E' with The Certificate issued. When funds allow, we would like to replace another one if not both of the existing front steel windows.

Institute - This year the building was only partially used up to the start of the pandemic in March and has not been used since. The minimum of heating has been left on to prevent frost damage. The fire alarms and firefighting equipment had their annual service.

The hedges around the house, Institute and carpark have had their annual trim as required. We are truly thankful to Gordon Smith and the local farmer Mr Kevin Gwillam who carried out the work.

Parish Hall - This year we carried out the annual servicing to the heating system, the fire alarms, the firefighting equipment plus the servicing of the gas water heater in the kitchen.

On the 3rd of March 2020 the hall was broken into with the office trashed and the contents of the kitchen cupboards scattered around. A schedule was compiled of the items that needed replacing which was issued through Phil to our insurers who agreed with our request, the items have now been replaced as required.

To allow the hall to reopen in September and comply with the Covid 19 Government guide lines BMG held a meeting in August and identified what measures would have to be in place to allow the Hall to re-open. On the 3rd of September we re-met and with the Risk Assessment carried out we then installed the baby gates for the external doors, provided all the health and safety sanitising materials, the direction/instruction notices and the various forms that were to be filled in by the hall users plus the amount of furniture in the hall was relocated and adjusted as required. Unfortunately, the hall had to be close again in December due to the further lockdown and changes to the Government guide lines

6. Finances - As you are aware our income is generated from the letting of the Church House, the hiring of the Parish Hall and the Institute. Due to the Pandemic the Parish Hall

and Institute not being hired for most of the year has had a disastrous effect on our income. In April 2020 rates to the Hall and Institute were to increase by a small amount due to our increased running costs. The rent for the new tenant has been increased slightly and priced at the going rate by our Agent. Last year's financial balance stood at £14733 while this year balance is a little less at £13334 with a £500 contribution to the PCC. The BMG 12 months accounts are included in the financial section of the PCC Report

HEALTH AND SAFETY - Ian Cramp

In view of the Coronavirus pandemic it has become vital to carefully evaluate everything that we have been doing in order to reduce and, hopefully, eliminate the risk of catching this highly contagious virus. During the first lockdown places of worship and Halls were not allowed to open and this, of course, had a dramatic effect. Thankfully, we were able to adapt to the various issues and with the use of the media were able to hold very effective services on Zoom and other platforms.

During the past year, guidance has come from the Government and also from the Church of England. However as very little was known about the virus in the early days, this led to a vast learning curve with advice changing almost daily. In the early days of the pandemic and in view of a number of deaths in a couple of churches in Europe and the Far East, it was initially thought that churches were dangerous places to be in! However, this view was discounted later when facts were established.

In order to safeguard everyone using our premises, a large number of risk assessments were produced and discussed for everything from private worship in church to weddings, funerals, choirs and even bell ringing! Advice was sought regarding best practice in countries such as Australia which had low infection rates. All this led to procedures which were implemented before the church reopened and the Hall could be used. Personal protective equipment such as masks, gloves, aprons and hand wash were procured- a difficult task considering that everyone else in the UK and worldwide wanted the same things. Notices and signage were produced and displayed. Considerable thanks to the many people involved in these activities.

As we look forward in faith and hope to the future, we still must maintain the caution that we have learned about the virus and to continue with the procedures that we have adopted to keep us safe. God's church here in Claines has survived the Plague, the Black Death and numerous other crises including the Spanish Flu. With care, one day the Coronavirus will also be a distant memory.

SAFEGUARDING - Lorraine Deeprise

During this very difficult year safeguarding still continues to be at the forefront of everything the church does to keep safe with regards to services, parishioners, PCC members and the community in which we serve.

During this time, we have been able to look at our safeguarding roles and responsibilities and therefore put together a plan moving forward. The diocese has an online Dashboard which is a toolkit asking lots of questions about safeguarding within our parish, it has a RED, AMBER & GREEN indicator and enables us to see those areas that are RED or AMBER that we need to focus on to make our church safe.

The main areas we cover are:

1. Policies & Action Plan
2. Safeguarding Procedures
3. Safeguarding Roles
4. Training for Key Roles
5. Displayed Information
6. Reviews and Reports

Our safeguarding plan for 2021: -

1. Work on the areas within the Dashboard that are RED & AMBER. We would like to see them all GREEN by September 2021.
2. Due to Covid-19 all activities and groups within the parish were suspended. NO activity or group will re-start until a Safeguarding Risk Assessment has been done, a designated safeguarding leader/s for each activity or group identified, a DBS check and training carried out for that leader/s if it is required.
3. Job description, role & responsibilities for all key roles within the parish completed and circulated to those people requiring it.
4. All DBS checks, training certificates and logs audited and kept in a file at the parish office for GDPR.

As for myself, I am currently updating my all my safeguarding training with the diocese as I feel a refresh is needed every 2 years to keep up to date on the ever-changing legislation and regulations in this area.

I would like to thank the PCC members for their support and cooperation regarding DBS checks and training, this has all been completed and I am ready to roll out to leaders of activities and groups within the parish over the next 2 months. Just like the government have a roadmap to recovery, we as a parish have a roadmap for safeguarding which will bring us out of this time of darkness into the light, well equipped and ready to serve our parish and community as a safe church.

DATA PROTECTION - Rachel Cramp, Data Compliance Officer

In response to Data Protection we have maintained our processes, both in terms of the safety and security of the data we hold. Data is now only held on password-protected computers or in locked storage. Sensitive data e.g. banking details is encrypted.

In 2019 forms were completed asking for permission to retain contact details for use by clergy, the office and church officers. During 2020, and in response to the pandemic, communication with church members has been very important; a weekly eNewsletter has been circulated by Mail Chimp, to which people have subscribed.

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER 2019

Signed on behalf of the Trustees

.....

Reverend Jo Musson

Date

ACTIVITIES OF THE PARISH

DIOCESAN MATTERS - Rev Jo Musson

A series of Open Conversations were held around the Diocese at the start of the year, which were followed by further opportunities to engage virtually, many members of our Parishes attended these. The aim was to consult a wide range of worshippers and share information about the new Diocesan strategy for mission and ministry, the planned reduction in numbers of stipendiary clergy by at least 15 and possibly up to 30, and the planned transformation of Diocesan structures and governance.

During the year, Diocesan Parish Share contributions (which essentially funds the cost of the clergy) were better than expected, although a significant reduction on last year's contributions was inevitable given the huge impact on the parish economy. The Diocese set up a Diocesan Ministry Fund to help fund clergy in these difficult times and many people contributed.

Many of the staff at the Old Palace were furloughed. Savings were made on travel and a move towards being paperless resulted in major savings in postage and photocopying costs. These savings won't match the shortfall in Parish Share, but the Diocesan Board of Finance hope to keep the overall deficit below £1 million. In May 2021 the Diocesan Office is moving out of the Old Palace to cheaper, more easily maintained premises near Lowesmoor Wharf.

By the end of 2020, the Diocese will already have reduced the number of clergy posts by 4.4. A further 5.5 will be saved in 2021, and another 2.2 in 2022, arising from natural moves and retirements, making a total of 12.1 posts altogether. There may be further reductions in posts that arise in the next couple of years to enable the target of 15 reductions to be met. Vacancies where they are deemed essential will continue to be filled.

Despite the pandemic, nine candidates were ordained Deacon in three separate services in the Cathedral, including the Reverend Lindsey Coulthard who is serving her Curacy at St Stephen's, Barbourne. A further four candidates were ordained Priest in their parish churches.

Nationally, the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse, IICSA, published its overarching investigation report into the Anglican Church in England and Wales. The 154 page report makes eight principal recommendations about a range of issues. The first of these and the absolute priority is the Church's response to victims and survivors. There is also a recommendation regarding the structure of safeguarding and the Church is committed to looking at how best to implement greater independent oversight. Commenting on the report, Bishop Martin (who is lead Bishop for Safeguarding in our diocese) said:

"Echoing the words of the Church of England's lead safeguarding bishop, today's report from IICSA into safeguarding in the Church of England makes shocking reading and I too want to express shame about the distress caused to victims and survivors by the Church's failures. We are fully supportive of IICSA's scrutiny of safeguarding practises in the Church of England – it is vital that the church is a safe place for all. Our commitment as the Diocese of Worcester to remain survivor-led and provide fair safeguarding processes continues unabated and we have already identified the need to commit more resources to this vital work."

NORTH WORCESTER GROUP OF CHURCHES - Rev Jo Musson

Plans were well underway for the 2020 Churches Together Good Friday Walk which was going to be quite different this year, culminating in the City Centre to watch a Passion Play in Cathedral Plaza. Pilgrims were invited to dress as Romans and 1st Century Judeans. We were to start at 8am with Morning Prayer at Claines, walking via Ombersley Rd Methodist Church, stopping at Saint George's for Hot Cross Buns and drinks. As usual we would take turns carrying a large wooden cross pausing for a short reading and prayer at each stop. Sadly, the pandemic meant we were in Lockdown (the first as it turned out) and the Passion Play and Pilgrimage were cancelled. Plans are now underway to 'resurrect' them in 2022.

We were however delighted to be able to come together virtually with our friends from St. George's, St Stephen's, Ombersley Road Methodist and the Worcester URC to put on a wonderful Christmas Carol Service. With musical contributions from Claines Choir and Spark to a Flame Worship Band and readers of all ages taking parts in the Nativity Play.

WORCESTER EAST DEANERY SYNOD - Paul Fulbrook

The Worcester East Deanery year of 2020 started in a mood of optimism and drive with the Standing Committee (physically) meeting in early February at the Rural Dean's home for a planning meeting. We discussed the APCM reports that had been prepared for 2019 about the Deanery and spoke on the intended Archdeacon Visitation due in May at St Nicholas Barn. Open Conversations was the theme being pressed on us by the Diocese.

Our first Deanery Synod of the year was due to be on 24th March and in line with the then major World concern we were going to have an input into ECO-Church. Bronze Awards having been obtained by some of our Deanery were to be discussed and practical matters suggested so that other Parishes and our Deanery could apply for the award too. All that rapidly changed as Covid-19 took hold and the meeting was cancelled with only a few days to spare as the country went into the first lockdown on Monday 23rd March 2020.

The June meeting was intended to be an in-depth study (at St Helen's) about Evangelism and speakers were being arranged. It was also intended to have an input about the ALPHA Course. That June meeting would have been the first meeting of the new (17th) Deanery Synod and members who had been elected to be their Parish representatives would have been helping to form the new conclave. Without that happening and with the country in disarray it was decided by Diocese that the existing 16th Synod members would continue as would the Lay Chair, Secretary and Committee members.

The November meeting was planned to revisit St Martin's in the Cornmarket and we were hoping to explore raising awareness to mental health. To that end we were looking at a possible input from MIND and in any case tackling the subjects of: Dementia; Depression; and related topics. The intended date for the Deanery Eucharist was never even considered as being impractical.

Our first Synod of the year did actually take place in early November and took the form of an on-line 'Zoom'. A word which most of us had certainly not heard of in February. We started with a reflection on the year and how it had affected our individual Parishes. We then had an update on the Open Conversations watching a screen share video of Bishop John talking to this theme. We were brought up to date with the intention of the Bishop's Pastoral Order which will reduce the number of Deaneries from 1st February 2021 to enable a more flexible working together of parishes and deployment of Clergy. Our deanery will simply be called the Worcester Deanery and incorporate Martley & Worcester West plus the Saltway Team Ministry from Droitwich Deanery. A new Area Dean will be appointed in due course.

The first meeting of the new Worcester Deanery under the newly appointed Area Dean, Revd Diane Cooksey will take place on Tuesday 9th March 2021. At that time, the Area Dean will be instituted by the Bishop and a Secretary, Treasurer and Lay-Chair will be elected. The dates for meetings for the rest of the year will also be ratified.

READER TRAINING - Cary Taylor

Since Sept 2020 I have been studying to become a Licensed Lay Minister (LLM), otherwise known as a Reader, for St George's and Claines parish churches. It has certainly been an unusual year to begin any type of academic studies, however for a course that at its core requires personal interaction and building of relationships this has been an even harder challenge for the lecturing team to provide. But provide it they have. All of the lectures have been via ZOOM and we have even conducted our residential weekend and study days in this way (no cakes or drinks in the bar though!). Even though we have not met in-person, many of us have managed to form friendships which I'm sure will only grow once we are able to finally meet together.

The material provided electronically has been excellent and the topics covered have been a vital foundation to any form of licensed ministry within the church. The topics so far have been, 'An Introduction to the Old Testament', 'An Introduction to the New Testament', 'An Introduction to Preaching' and 'An Introduction to Christian Worship.' For me the most enjoyable part of all these topics has been looking at them within their historical context; by this I mean, looking at them through an understanding of their origins, cultural setting and influences. I am thoroughly enjoying having new understanding and insight into core aspects of my faith and I am genuinely looking forward to what the rest of this year and next may bring.

COMMUNICATION - Ian Cramp

During the pandemic, there have been a number of challenges which have affected us. The closure of our church has meant that we have not been able to keep people in touch with what is happening as they have not been able to attend services or have been unwilling to do so due to Covid. Almost 250 members of the joint congregations receive the new weekly e-newsletter produced by Rev Jo, while others have kept in touch using prayer chains and contact groups by phone. These were very quickly introduced at the start of the pandemic.

However, a big problem was that we could not see each other and talk to groups easily. To help overcome this, Rev Jo and Elisabeth Witter from Saint George's set up Zoom services. These have been held every Sunday at 1030 on the internet and have been extremely successful in offering a shared service to Claines and Saint George's churches as well as to the wider community as they are then copied to Facebook Live and You Tube so that others can view them at a time and on a network that is convenient to them. Typically, the outreach is several hundred persons per service including regular views from Phil Keen in Australia. Barbara Mitra and Ian Cramp have also become Zoom drivers and the service has been expanded to include PCC meetings, Mothers' Union meetings, Bible Study groups, Kingdom Arts, World Day of Prayer as well as a wide variety of other get-togethers.

Both live and recorded music is used as well as videos. Our talented musicians have been able to record songs and music individually at home and these have been mixed into the combined pieces that we would normally hear in church. (For technical reasons, people cannot sing together on Zoom and we "celebrate" this every Sunday by singing Happy Birthday after the service has ended. The result is very discordant and mixed due to the lag in everyone's voices but always raises a smile). Special services were recorded for Christmas combining our two churches and Saint Stephen's.

Additionally displays outside church such as the scarecrow wedding and scarecrow nativity have helped to remind people that, while the church building may be closed, our worship is very much alive.

CLAINES COMMUNITY CAFÉ - Jane Saint & Community Café Team

We all so enjoyed our Tuesday afternoons at the Café whether as a team member or a customer, prior to the Covid pandemic. What a blow it was to have to close. We never

imagined the closure would last so long. Worst of all has been hearing the sad news that some of our regular café friends have passed away during that time. We send our heartfelt condolences to their families and friends. At Christmas time the team did some detective work to find contacts for all our regular customers and deliver to them a seasonal gift, card and good wishes. Many expressed their pleasure in being contacted in this way and we all look forward to being able to safely reopen the café and be together again sharing tea, cake, conversation and laughter as soon as possible.

20/20 VISION PROJECT - Ian Cramp and Phil Kear

We were in the very fortunate position at the start of 2020 whereby the project designs had been completed and concept approval obtained from the Diocesan Advisory Committee. This is the group that advises the Chancellor whether or not to grant permission to make the changes. The impact of the Coronavirus pandemic in the spring forced us to stop all work on the project as all places of worship were closed and the country was in lockdown. This situation has continued until the current time and we have evaluated and reviewed the need for the project works in view of the use of alternatives such as on-line worship. However we are moving forward in faith and strongly believe that there will be a significant need for the improvements provided by the project once regular worship in church resumes.

It has been agreed that the first phase of the project will commence as soon as practically and financially possible. This involves the creation of 2 toilets in the vestry with access to one of them being via a new opening in the North porch. In order to achieve this the layout of the vestry will be adapted, the organ console will be moved and a screen constructed to separate the vestry from the Catherine Chapel. Work has been done to establish a suitable effluent disposal system as the church is not on mains drainage.

Later phases will be commenced at appropriate times. They comprise the creation of an open meeting space in the North aisle area together with a small kitchen facility. Audio visual arrangements will also be improved and these may well depend upon the pattern of worship adopted for the future.

Thanks are due to the members of the project committee, the MOG Group (Mission and Outreach) and all who have freely given of their time to progress this important project.

ECO CHURCH - Ian Cramp

When we were granted our Bronze award in 2019, we were one of only three churches in the Diocese to have won an award. This has now increased to seven churches with bronze awards and one with a silver award. However, the rate of growth is still far too slow especially as the Church of England is committed to becoming Net Zero Emissions by 2030. **That's in nine years' time!**



We are sourcing green energy supplies and carefully controlling when and how much energy we are using in our buildings. Best practice for heating in churches is electric under pew heaters and we, of course, have these at Claines! This last year we have made significant savings on our heating and lighting costs as the church has been closed due to the pandemic. When things get back to “normal” we will be working towards the Net Zero goal to protect God’s wonderful planet.

Many of us have altered our lifestyles during the past year and discovered the pleasures of exercise including walking and cycling. We hope to fit cycle racks to our buildings to encourage users to cycle more often. Look out for other activities that we hope to introduce to help us along the path towards our Silver Eco Church award!

QUEST BEREAVEMENT GROUP - Rev Jo, Alan Long & Tricia Greenwood

The group is for anyone who has recently lost a loved one and would like an opportunity to socialise and chat to others who are in the same position. The group has now been running for seven years with the number at a steady 18. Until lockdown we were meeting at Claines Institute, Claines Lane. Unfortunately, at the beginning of 2020 Jean Smallwood moved north, she was one of our team members and organised several of our outings. The team and the group will miss Jean very much but we wish her well on her move. Our last meeting was held in February, then came lockdown and we have not been able to meet since. We have spoken to each other on the phone and for Christmas we delivered small gifts to each of the members, which was an ideal way of checking everyone was still good and having a chat. We look forward to meeting again sometime in the future.

THE WORCESTER FOODBANK - Adrian Musson

Foodbank has been very busy this year. As well as wide scale changes to internal processes to accommodate Covid safety, there was also a large change in the volunteer base with many older volunteers no longer able to contribute.

Alongside this Foodbank has seen consistent increases in the numbers of people needing support. From those struggling on furlough reduced wages and those enduring job losses, to those suffering deaths in their families and those who have been put in danger due to long term isolation with people they live with.

Unfortunately, Foodbank expects these trends to continue well into 2021 and beyond.

During the lockdown donations have been dropped off at the Vicarage and taken by myself or Rev Jo to the Foodbank every week. I know from my experiences that your donations are very much appreciated by the people who come to the Foodbank for support.

OPEN THE BOOK - Rachel Cramp

2020 began as usual with our fortnightly visits to Claines Primary. The new team was worked well together: liaising with the school; making suggestions for the interpretation of the stories and having the props and costumes stored in the Institute storage room.

Sadly in March further visits to school were not possible, however during the Autumn term the Open the Book teams from both Claines and Saint George's came together with two joint online teams led by Viv Todd from St Stephens, but also a member of the Saint George's team and Rachel Cramp from Claines, using Zoom. The schools have found these to be a lovely resource, and have been used with Key Workers children in school and have been sent home via the See-Saw App.

LUNCH IN COMPANY (LINC) - John Brady

Sadly, as you might expect, LinC lunches were unable to take place during 2020. We have all, staff and members alike, missed our monthly meals and the companionship that goes with those gatherings.

However, our team has tried to maintain telephone contact with all our LinC members, and I am grateful to our brilliant team of helpers for this important service of keeping in touch.

Initially, when the first lockdown happened, we thought Christmas lunch 2020 might be a target for us to all get back together again - what a party that would have been! Although that failed to materialise, we did manage to provide a small Christmas present and card to all our group.

Sadly, the year saw the passing of our colleague, Jill Cale, whom we will greatly miss both in the kitchen, preparing and cooking meals, and as a great character and friend to all in LinC. We will also miss our long-term member Cyril Fagence who passed away during the year. Other members have moved into care homes, but we hope to get them back to our LinC lunches in the future.

What of the future? The LinC team is composed of members who live on their own and who might be classed as “in the vulnerable group,” as defined by the government. We are very aware of this when providing LinC lunches. Hopefully, we can begin to cook again, in the not too distant future, but concern for the safety of our members will dictate exactly when that is possible

We do look forward to seeing and hearing from you all and sharing your good company as soon as is possible. Let's hope it's soon.

CHURCH MAGAZINE - Stephen Taylor, Editor

Understandably, subscriptions for 2020 were well down on the previous year. Three magazines were missed because of lockdown. This has meant that there has been no contribution from the magazine account to church finances this time round. However, because of reduced costs, owing to the lockdown, and support from advertisers, funding for the coming twelve months is assured.

What some of you will already know is that Rosemary and I are moving away from Worcester. The intention is that I will see the magazine out until the end of 2021, but if it is to continue beyond that it will need someone to step forward and take over the reins which I have had the pleasure to hold for nearly a quarter of a century. The production of the magazine is very much a team effort and I would like to thank all those involved as it helps to make this a seamless production month in and month out.

SOCIAL MEDIA - Rachel Cramp

During 2020 Social Media has been even more important than ever, being a very important way of maintaining contact with the congregation and parish, during the pandemic and church closures.

Facebook has been increasingly useful, broadcasting services from homes and church on Facebook Live. Claines Church reached 1000 followers and currently stands at 1026. Pictures of the churchyard, our outreach including the Scarecrow Wedding and Scarecrow Nativity and Mary and Joseph's travels around the parish during Advent and prayers have been much appreciated. The Claines Parish Hall and Claines Institute site has 226 followers and has been useful this year to inform users of when the Halls had to close or were able to open. We continue to have a presence on Twitter with a further 540 followers.

There were two new initiatives in 2020 - a dedicated Claines Church YouTube site where all online services are uploaded, thanks to Andy Russell from Saint George's and during Lent, a Claines Church Posada website, which included Mary and Joseph's travels, Bible readings, prayers, a video and activities for children - our thanks to David Hudson for creating it for us.

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE - Ann Sansome and Rachel Cramp

At the beginning of 2020 we began a programme of **Calling Young Disciples** events, held jointly with St Stephen's and Saint George's churches with a fun **Pancake Party** held in Claines Parish Hall, with activities, pancake decorating and the consumption of lots of pancakes! But sadly that was the only activity of the year; though one meeting of the Hub was held.

On Friday 6th and Saturday 7th November, members of Calling Young Disciples from Claines, Saint George's and St Stephen's attended (on ZOOM) the bi-annual Hub and there were some exciting outcomes. The most significant being that Reverend Andy Todd (St Stephen's) asked if they could work with us in lockdown on three Christmas events: a Pre-recorded Joint Carol Service to be shown on 20th December; a Scarecrow Nativity Trail, with a scene in each churchyard for families to visit (the week before Christmas) with families asked to bring their own lamb/sheep or animal to add to the scene; and a pre-recorded Joint Crib Service shown at 4.30pm on Christmas Eve. All three events went ahead and were successful in our mission to children and families. They were all great fun to be part of and thanks go to everyone who helped especially those who created the scarecrows and produced the music for the services.

Children's Church and Godly Play sessions were unable to continue due to the pandemic and closure of the church, however in February a wonderful Ark, gifted to Lorraine Deepprose for Godly Play was blessed; we look forward to using it in 2021. One Godly Play story was recorded for Advent and sent into Claines School. The last Children's Church session held in March, just prior to Lockdown 1, focussed on a children's altar, which the children really enjoyed.

Response to the Pandemic

- In all online services there have been activities for both children and any adults who have wanted to join in, and the children have shared their thoughts and creations at the end of every service.
- During Advent Rev Jo told a Bible story on Facebook Live every day focussing on an aspect of the Jesse Tree, both children and adults really enjoyed these stories.
- Each month a Zoom Café Church has taken place; these have been very intergenerational, with both children and adults taking part in the services.
- Families have been really involved in our community outreach activities: the Scarecrow Wedding in October and the life size Scarecrow Nativity during Advent up to Epiphany. Children helped create the figures and many families visited our creations - during Advent the three Kings even travelled to church via cabriolet; thanks to Claines School's involvement in creating the magnificent figures.
- As we were unable to have a Posada this year, our Mary and Joseph figures travelled around the parish visiting places including Worcester Football ground and Hawford Farm!

LITTLE FRIENDS- Jennifer Chow

Little Friends is run by parent volunteers from the community with support from Mother's Union members and Reverend Jo Musson. We normally meet during term time in Claines Parish Hall on Tuesday mornings (except for Little Fish Tuesdays). Originally established as a complement to Little Fish, Little Friends was created to provide a secure, comfortable and friendly space for young children and their carers to gather and socialise every week, whilst also providing a convenient and accessible link to Claines Church. We keep in touch with attendees via our Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/claineslittlefriends>).

Attendance remained robust until March 2020, when Little Friends ceased running due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Together with Rev Jo, the Little Friends committee made an early decision to stop all sessions several weeks before the official lockdown period as it became clear that the coronavirus would pose a huge risk to our attendees, volunteers and greater community. This response was in line with recommendations from Claines Church and the Church of England.

Once government restrictions eased in summer 2020, group volunteers met to discuss running a modified version of Little Friends outside as long as weather might permit. In

September 2020 four meetups with a limited number of attendees were held outdoors. These sessions also made some good use of the Patch, the outdoor space at Claines Parish Hall. From October 2020 the group was shuttered again as government restrictions re-tightened.

Looking forward, our volunteers are scheduled to meet together with relevant church officers via Zoom in March 2021 to discuss the steps required for relaunching Little Friends. Government guidelines should ease sufficiently in mid-April 2021 to allow children's activities to resume with reduced numbers of attendees. Some considerations to be discussed are health & safety (including Covid-19 secure guidelines), safeguarding and recruiting additional volunteers.

LITTLE FISH - Pat Price

Our Report for 2020 will be rather different from previous years due to the pandemic which meant that we only met on two occasions, January and February.

In the past, our Little Fish session were held on the third Tuesday of each month in the Parish Hall from 10 am to 11.30 am and is aimed at pre-school children. The children come along with a parent or carer for 90 minutes of singing, prayers, refreshments and an interactive Bible story presented by Rev Jo or Rev Paula and assisted by Jan Haden, Jane Saint, Pat Price and Anne Ray (members of our Mothers' Union).

At Easter and Christmas we usually meet in Church, and in July we "Picnic on the Patch" (the lovely outside area to the side of the hall).

In January our topic was entitled The Promise and featured Sarah and Abraham. In February we told the story of Rebecca's Wedding.

We look forward to meeting up again when it is deemed safe to do so. We are always happy to welcome new members and very much appreciate the help and support of the mums/grandparents and carers of our Little Fish.

MOTHERS' UNION - Gwen Clifford, Branch Co-ordinator

On the evening of 9 February 2020, when the members of Claines Mothers' Union met for their Annual General Meeting, we did not imagine that we would not meet in the Church Institute again for the rest of the year. We planned a full programme of meetings for the year and a couple of fundraising events. We donated money to the annual Make A Mother's Day Appeal and were looking forward to welcoming Adrian and Gill to our meeting in March to update us on the work of the Worcester Foodbank. But, coronavirus had other ideas!

The worldwide reduction in donations to charity that followed the lockdown in March also affected the Mothers' Union. We held our first Zoom meeting in May and agreed to respond to the Mothers' Union urgent appeal for funds with a generous donation so that the work of the MU could continue.

During August, when the lockdown restrictions were relaxed some of us were able to meet, suitably distanced of course, on The Patch at Claines Parish Hall. The weather was kind and we enjoyed tea and a chat. It was wonderful to meet face to face and just catch-up on the latest news.

We had to turn again to Zoom meetings by October for an intensive planning meeting and in November, again by Zoom, we enjoyed a wonderful musical evening courtesy of our local very

talented harpist, Jan Scarrott. Not able to meet for our usual Christmas Dinner in December we again Zoomed and were treated to Nativity Godly Play by Rachel Cramp and a Festive Quiz compiled by Jan Hayden.

In a difficult year we were determined that the work of the Mothers' Union would not be forgotten and our fellowship would continue and thanks to virtual meetings, emails, social media and the good old telephone we have managed to keep in touch (and increased our membership!)

Unfortunately, the end of 2020 was overshadowed by the death of two of our members, Joan Bull and Sandra Ashcroft. Both ladies gave many years of service to the Mothers' Union and we continue to hold them and their families in our prayers. Whatever 2021 brings our way, we will continue to meet and promote the wonderful work of the Mothers' Union both in this parish and worldwide.

PARISH MUSIC - Vanessa Gunter

2020 has certainly been an interesting year! After a strong start for both the choir and the instrumental group, the pandemic forced us to stop all our group activities as we negotiated what was to be the first of three lockdowns.

Challenges can be seen as opportunities and the last year has allowed us to experiment with new ideas, although we have definitely missed our regular playing and singing!

Zoom church has provided the opportunity for a number of musicians from Claines and St George's to work on a rota basis to provide music for hymn singing during services. It has been lovely to enjoy the variety that this has given us and it has been great to make new friends too!

During the respite between lockdowns, Claines choir enjoyed returning to church for some live, socially-distanced, visor-wearing communal singing. The challenges of steaming up during hymns and the disconcerting effect of a visor on sound production (it amplifies your own voice back at you!) all had to be negotiated, but we nonetheless relished the chance to get back together.

The joint online Christmas service was a triumph of community over adversity and the choir at Claines were very proud to be part of it. A few people had to learn new IT skills in order to record their separate voice parts (rehearsed via Zoom) and submit their recordings for editing into the final piece. They gave superb performances of 'Listen to the message' and 'Infant Holy' and the end result was impressive. We were very grateful to a number of friends and relations who also contributed to this project.

As I write this, we are starting to look forward. Although there is a long way to go, there is now hope that we may be able to return to a more normal way of worshipping through music as 2021 progresses. When we do return, it will be with an even greater appreciation of the gift of live music and its place within our services. We can't wait to get started again!

SPARK TO A FLAME - Adrian Musson

After a brief break because of the initial Covid lockdown the band has performed and produced worship songs for many online services including the Christmas carol service. These included old favourites like '10000 reasons' and 'My Jesus, My Saviour' to learning new songs like 'Who am I?' and 'The Power of the cross'.

I still can't believe how the whole band managed to learn new songs, perform them and create a band experience all while we were in multiple lockdowns.

It was a learning process for us all. We each recorded our own parts on our mobile phones while listening to a backing track, then I mixed them into a band experience. Although this

was initially quite complex and time consuming we have become more proficient during the past year!

I'm really pleased that we continued 'singing' as a band and it has been a great blessing to be able to worship God together.

FLOWER GUILD - Pat Harris

The year 2020 was a rather strange year for us, in that we had very few flowers to arrange in church for weddings etc. We had just one wedding to do. We also did some for Harvest Festival, this enabled us to do some baskets to take out. To some of the elderly and sick in the Parish, also send some tinned food to the Foodbank. We did put a few arrangements in church and decorate an artificial Christmas tree, to celebrate our Lord's birth.

Let's hope that 2021 will be a better year, and that we will have overcome the virus enough that we can get back to something like normal.

KINGDOM ARTS - Jan Kear

Kingdom Arts (KA) as some of you know, is exploring faith through creativity and has been running successfully once a month for at least 4 years. We learn and practice different creative activities and then share the results of our work in an act of worship. We share a simple lunch of homemade soup giving ourselves time for conversation and friendship. Regretfully Kingdom Arts has not taken place in person since February 2020 Alex (New) and Sue (Ashby) have kept us going with a monthly on line newsletter, we held a Christmas session on Zoom with poems, readings, singing and prayers - all very moving. We finished this session with Jan's (me) soup demonstration which was great fun to do and hopefully to watch!

We are planning to gather again on Zoom on March 30th to celebrate Easter. Please check the KA website for information of current plans and articles www.kingdom-arts.co.uk. We are all looking forward to meeting again as soon as possible, thanks to Alex, Sue and all the team for their continued encouragement and enthusiasm. All are welcome

CHRISTIAN AID - Esther Patterson

With the country in lockdown, Christian Aid's 2020 collections were all online, and sadly this looks to be the way things will be in the future. Certainly door to door collecting does not look likely again. I have loved working with my team over so many years but feel now is the time to relinquish my role. Alison Clarke from St George's is the local area Christian Aid Co-ordinator and she is organising an online service for both churches to mark this year's Christian Aid Week (10-16 May 2021). There will be links for people to donate online so that Claines' folk can donate too. Please support this year's appeal.

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 2020 - Alison Clarke

In total we raised nearly 4 million pounds nationally for Christian Aid Week. Christian Aid introduced an e-envelope for online giving which was apparently very successful. 643 JustGiving pages were created to fundraise for CA Week (double the number in previous years); nearly 7000 people signed the drop the debt petition. And locally we held paper and online quizzes, completed walking challenges and sponsored Bible reads and gave generously.

CAMPAIGNING

This year sees the UK hosting COP26, the United Nations Climate Change Conference (1 - 12 November in Glasgow). Christian Aid continues to campaign, raise awareness and highlight

the injustice of how climate change is affecting the lives of the poorest communities on Earth. In November the Worcester Christian Aid group invited you to watch the film 'Thank You for the Rain' and to join a live discussion on ZOOM – excellently chaired by Rev Jo - about the film and the issues it raised. The film shows the impact of climate change on Kisilu Musya, a subsistence farmer, and his family and how he travels to Paris to make his voice heard at the UN climate change talks. The film is sometimes funny, always warm and engaging and at times heartbreaking.

Christian Aid continues to campaign for a Debt Jubilee for poor countries in the global South facing the additional costs and hardships resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic.

<https://www.christianaid.org.uk/campaigns/debt-jubilee-petition>

In addition Christian Aid has published a report Building Back with Justice and has launched a new campaign of the same name in response to the global pandemic.

<https://www.christianaid.org.uk/get-involved/campaigns/building-back-justice-campaign-resource>

Many of us locally wrote to our MPs or petitioned about the absorption of the Department for International Development into The Foreign office, believing that the support to poor communities in the global South would be diluted in the process. We also expressed our disappointment that the government's long-held commitment to a 0.7% budget for international aid will be reduced to 0.5%. There is an opportunity (if you are in a position to do so) to take the 0.7% pledge in support of the World's poorest people.

<https://www.christianaid.org.uk/give/ways-to-donate/0.7-pledge-aid-budget>

All of these events and campaigns took place against the backdrop of a big slimming down of Christian Aid's operations in the UK and abroad, which came into effect fully in June. Locally we are supported by one paid fundraising and church engagement officer based in the West Midlands. We seem to be working really well in our new online mode, so hope and pray for a successful year ahead.

THE CHILDREN'S SOCIETY - Julie Palmer

"We are a national charity working to transform the hopes and happiness of young people facing abuse, exploitation and neglect. We support them through their most serious life challenges, and we campaign tirelessly for the big social changes that will improve the lives of those who need hope most."

"We fight for hope by deeply understanding the needs of young people and by supporting them through their most serious life challenges. We work with young people who have suffered years of abuse, who have run away from home or are struggling with mental health issues. We look out for young carers and those who are at risk of being groomed by gangs. We help refugees who have no one else to turn to in this country."

2020 was obviously a challenging year for fundraising for the Children's Society. The loss of the Christingle service and the difficulty collecting the cash boxes resulted in the reduction in funds raised for the charity. In 2019 Claines Church raised nearly £750 for the Charity, in 2020 this figure was £280.

For more information on the work of the Children's Society please visit their website - www.childrenssociety.org.uk

CLAINES CE PRIMARY SCHOOL - Pat Oddy, Foundation Governor

As a school governor, this has been a particularly difficult year, as we have not been able to visit classes, see the staff or attend meetings for the best part of the year. Sadly none of the usual services have been held in church, however, the Remembrance service was very successfully

conducted on zoom. Regular school assemblies have also been held in this format to which the pupils have quickly adapted.

The staff has been admirable, worked extremely hard throughout the year, teaching the children of key workers in school and also setting full daily timetables for the rest who were being home schooled. This was all marked and returned mostly the same day, which was some achievement! The standard of this remote learning has impressed parents so much that the word has got around, so much so, that the school now has a waiting list for every year group! This progress was aided enormously by the company, employing the husband of one member of staff, in generously providing reconditioned laptops/ipads for a number of children. This also opened the possibility of more being available in time.

All our governors' meetings have been held on zoom, and fortunately Mr Gent has kept us well informed of plans and changes as the weeks have gone by. The school's website has contained weekly contributions from pupils in the different year groups, which illustrate the high standard of work which continues to be achieved. Earlier in the year, Mr Gent received a letter from Nick Gibb MP congratulating the school on obtaining a place in the top 5% nationally for phonics.

Now we can focus on the school reopening and everything once again moving forward at pace!

CLAINES CE PRIMARY SCHOOL - Sarah Jew, Deputy Headteacher

This year has brought us many obstacles and life has become very different with school life changing. With everyone in their own 'bubbles' and isolation being a buzz word in our communities, it would have been easy to have become insular as a school but from our motto 'stronger together' we have been determined, more than ever, to keep our school-church community united. This has proved a challenge with so many demands on us all but when we have joined together, we have loved the unity and normality it has provided for us all, especially the children.

With zoom everything has become possible virtually: a Leaver's message from church by Rev Jo, joining us from the memorial to say a remembrance prayer and numerous zoom assemblies. Between us all, the importance of being part of a church school and the importance of the church within our school community has not been forgotten.

Following on from zoom assemblies, Rev Jo arranged the beautiful Jesse Tree stories in the lead up to Christmas and it was also lovely to be involved as both a school and local community in the travelling journey of the Posada. In addition, we were also able to share Godly Play that Rachel recorded for us. Whilst Christmas was very different and we could not attend church, we managed to put together a whole school bubble nativity telling the Christmas story and ensuring the spiritual magic was not forgotten..... and who could forget the three kings that travelled in true style to the stable!

More recently, we have been very glad to see the Open the Book team back on our screens and we have supported the community love bombing. Today, we have had a visit from 'Hope' the Easter lamb which seems to be very timely as we get the news that we will be able to return to school. It is with hope in our hearts, that we look forward to the future and keep our school-church community STRONGER TOGETHER as our new normal unfolds and 'togetherness' becomes possible once more.

LEGACIES - MAKING A LASTING DIFFERENCE

Only some five per cent of people in the UK have left a gift for a charity in their will, and yet legacies are the largest single source of income for many charities in this country today. Once you have provided for your family and friends, leaving a gift to Claines Church will ensure that our work can continue for many years to come.

Legacies have over the years, and thanks to the generosity of those who have made bequests, contributed greatly to the work and mission of Claines church. The PCC appreciates all bequests both large and small. There are many types of gifts that can be made:

Pecuniary legacy - a cash gift of any size.

Specific legacy - items of value such as property, a car or jewellery.

Residuary bequest - balance of your estate after all debts, taxes, expenses and other legacies have been paid.

All legacies are tax free. If you make such a gift in your will, its value will be deducted from your estate before inheritance tax is calculated. If you are thinking about leaving a legacy or have already remembered us in your will, we would love to talk to you about it; everything you say will be treated in the strictest confidence. We would then have the opportunity to thank you for your generosity. When considering leaving a legacy, we recommend that you consult a Solicitor who will be able to give you specialist advice according to your own individual circumstances.

St John the Baptist Claines PCC

ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2020

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of St John the Baptist PCC, Claines

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of St John the Baptist PCC, Claines for the year ended 31st December 2020.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Trust you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act'). I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

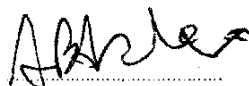
Independent examiner's statement

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 Trust 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

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

Signed;



A B Archer
3 Shrawley Road
Femhill Heath
Worcester
WR3 7UQ

23/02/2021

PCC of St John the Baptist, Claines

Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31st December 2020

Charity Registration No 1130734

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2020 £	Total 2019 £
INCOMING RESOURCES						
Voluntary income	2.1	52,612	101	440	53,153	110,046
Activities for generating funds	2.2	601	-	2,240	2,841	18,690
Income from investment	2.3	73	664	205	942	913
Income from Church activities	2.4	3,602	20,813	-	24,415	49,415
Other incoming resources	2.5	402	1,144	4,136	5,682	9,258
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES		57,290	22,722	7,021	87,033	188,322
RESOURCES EXPENDED						
Costs of generating funds	3.1	216	-	-	216	681
Grants and donations	3.2	1,189	-	-	1,189	3,951
Activities directly relating to the work of the church	3.3	54,539	24,189	894	79,621	127,759
Church management and administration	3.4	1,754	1,762	4,061	7,576	13,392
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED		57,698	25,951	4,954	88,602	145,783
NET INCOMING/(OUTGOING) RESOURCES		(408) -	3,228	2,067 -	1,569	42,539
Transfers between funds		750	(750)	-	-	-
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		342 -	3,978	2,067 -	1,569	42,539
BALANCES BROUGHT FORWARD AT 1ST JANUARY		20,649	29,535	68,716	118,900	76,362
BALANCES CARRIED FORWARD AT 31ST DECEMBER		20,991	25,557	70,783	117,331	118,900

Balance Sheet at 31st December 2019

	Notes	2020 £	2019 £
FIXED ASSETS	4	-	-
CURRENT ASSETS			
Stock		200	200
Debtors	5	4,019	15,654
Short term deposits		73,273	71,023
Cash at bank and in hand		62,705	75,343
		<u>140,197</u>	<u>162,220</u>
LIABILITIES: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR	6	(22,867)	(43,320)
NET ASSETS		<u>117,331</u>	<u>118,900</u>
FUNDS			
Unrestricted	7	20,991	20,649
Designated	7	25,557	29,535
Restricted	7	70,783	68,716
		<u>117,331</u>	<u>118,900</u>

Approved by the PCC on 17th March 2021 and signed on its behalf by


Chair


Treasurer

PCC of St John the Baptist, Claines

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 31st December 2020

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 together with applicable accounting standards and the SORP 2005. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

The statements include all transactions, assets, and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law. They do not include the accounts of church groups that owe their affiliation to another body, nor those that are informal gatherings of church members.

Funds

General funds represent the funds of the PCC that are not subject to any restrictions regarding their use and are available for application for the general purposes of the PCC. Funds designated for a particular purpose by the PCC are also unrestricted. Unrestricted funds can be used for PCC ordinary purposes.

Restricted Funds represent a) Income from trusts that are restricted as provided in the terms of the trust or bequest and b) Donations or grants received or invited by the PCC for a specific object and must be retained in that fund and expended only on the specific object for which they were given. The PCC does not usually invest separately for each fund.

Incoming resources

Collections are recognised when received by or on behalf of the PCC. Planned giving receivable under Gift Aid is recognised when it is received. Income tax recoverable on Gift Aid donations is recognised when the related donation is recognised

Grants and legacies to the PCC are accounted for as soon as the PCC is notified of its legal entitlement, the amount due is quantifiable and its ultimate receipt by the PCC is reasonably certain.

Other income

Rental income from the letting of church premises is recognised when the rental is due

Income from investments

Interest entitlements are accounted for as they accrue

Resources used

Grants and donations

Grants and donations are accounted for when awarded.

Activities directly relating to the work of the Church

As at 31st December 2020 £21,000 (2019 £36,000) of our allocation had been paid, our allocated share for 2020 was £67,836 (2019 £66,506). An amount of £20,000 (2019 £30,506) was provided for and paid in full before the 4th February deadline. The balance of £26,836 (2019 £nil) remained unpaid.

Fixed assets

Consecrated property and movable church furnishings

Consecrated property of any kind is excluded from the accounts by s.96(2)(a) of the Charities Act 1993.

Movable church furnishings held by the Vicar and Churchwardens on special trust for the PCC, and which require a faculty for disposal are accounted for as inalienable property unless consecrated. They are listed in the church's Inventory and can be inspected (at any reasonable time). For inalienable property acquired prior to 2003 there is insufficient cost information available and therefore such assets are not valued in the accounts. Items acquired since 1st January 2003 will be capitalised and depreciated in the accounts over their currently estimated useful economic life on a straight line basis.

All expenditure incurred in the year on consecrated buildings, individual items under £1,000 or on the repair of movable church furnishings acquired before 1st January 2003 is written off.

Other fixture, fittings and office equipment

Equipment used within the church premises is depreciated on a straight line basis over 4 years. Individual items of equipment with a purchase price of less than £1,000 or less are written off when the asset is acquired.

Current assets

Stock represents trading stock and candles and is valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value.

Amounts owing to the PCC at 31st December are shown as debtors less provision for amounts that may prove uncollectable.

Short term deposits include cash held on deposit with the CBF Church of England deposit fund.

PCC of St John the Baptist, Claines
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the year ended 31st December 2020

	Unrestricted General Funds £	Unrestricted Designated funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2020 £	Total 2019 £
2. INCOMING RESOURCES					
2.1 <i>Voluntary income</i>					
Planned giving and gift aid envelopes	40,300	-	-	40,300	44,971
Income tax recoverable	8,897	-	16	8,913	13,161
Collections at services	1,088	-	-	1,088	5,133
Grants	-	-	-	-	1,718
Donations	1,327	101	424	1,852	19,063
Legacies	1,000	-	-	1,000	26,000
	52,612	101	440	53,153	110,046
2.2 <i>Activities for generating funds</i>					
Fund raising events	601	-	2,240	2,841	18,690
2.3 <i>Income from investments</i>					
Dividends and interest	73	664	205	942	913
2.4 <i>Income from Church Activities</i>					
Magazine sales and advertising	-	2,526	-	2,526	4,077
House, Hall and Institute lettings	-	18,287	-	18,287	38,460
Wedding and funeral fees	3,602	-	-	3,602	6,878
	3,602	20,813	-	24,415	49,415
2.5 <i>Other Incoming Resources</i>					
Sundry income (including Forces Fund transfer)	402	1,144	4,136	5,682	9,258
	402	1,144	4,136	5,682	9,258
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES	57,290	22,722	7,021	87,033	188,322
3. RESOURCES EXPENDED					
3.1 <i>Costs of generating voluntary income</i>					
Fundraising expenditure	216	-	-	216	402
Stewardship costs	-	-	-	-	278
	216	-	-	216	680
3.2 <i>Grants-Charitable giving</i>					
Home church societies and organisations	38	-	-	38	130
Secular Charities	1,151	-	-	1,151	3,821
	1,189	-	-	1,189	3,951
3.3 <i>Activities directly relating to the work of the church</i>					
Diocesan Parish Share	41,000	-	-	41,000	66,506
Clergy expenses	839	-	-	839	1,700
Church maintenance	-	1,932	-	1,932	3,646
Church running expenses	10,652	132	-	10,784	12,449
Parish magazine expenses	-	2,230	-	2,230	3,014
Upkeep of churchyard	-	-	846	846	1,013
Parish Hall and Institute costs	-	19,575	-	19,575	29,933
Flowers	-	320	-	320	1,456
Parish education	-	-	48	48	29
Contracted services	2,048	-	-	2,048	8,014
	54,539	24,189	894	79,621	127,760
3.4 <i>Church management and administration</i>					
Pastoral administration	1,754	570	-	2,324	2,223
Miscellaneous expenditure	-	1,192	4,061	5,253	10,770
Depreciation	-	-	-	-	399
	1,754	1,762	4,061	7,576	13,392
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED	57,698	25,951	4,954	88,602	145,783

PCC of St John the Baptist, Claines
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the year ended 31st December 2020

4. FIXED ASSETS

	Portable altar £
COST	
Brought forward	1,596
As at 31st December 2020	<u>1,596</u>
DEPRECIATION	
Brought forward	1,596
Charge for the year	-
As at 31st December 2020	<u>1,596</u>
NET BOOK VALUE	
As at 31st December 2020	<u>-</u>
As at 31st December 2019	<u>-</u>

The PCC does not have a record of the cost or valuation of the church hall and institute buildings . The PCC considers that the cost of obtaining these would outweigh the benefit in including these in the accounts.

5. DEBTORS

	2020 £	2019 £
Income tax recoverable	-	-
Prepayments and accrued income	4,019	15,654
	<u>4,019</u>	<u>15,654</u>

6. LIABILITIES:AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2020 £	2019 £
Parish Share	20,000	30,506
Accruals of utility and other costs	2,867	12,814
	<u>22,867</u>	<u>43,320</u>

PCC of St John the Baptist, Claines
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the year ended 31st December 2020

7. FUNDS DETAILS

Name	Purpose	Balance at	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	Balance at
		1.1.20				31.12.20
General	Unrestricted	20,649	57,290	57,698	750	20,991
Unrestricted funds designated by the PCC						
Restoration	Maintenance of church property	653	25	132	-	546
Choir	Choir expenditure	189	-	-	-	189
	Maintenance and running of Parish Hall, Institute					
Hall & Institute	and House	14,737	18,925	19,576	(750)	13,336
Flower Guild	Provision of church flowers	1,076	292	297	-	1,071
Memorial flower funds	Provision of memorial flowers	55	10	22	-	44
Restoration	Tower Restoration	2,509	-	285	-	2,224
Little Friends	Baby and Toddlers	1,185	242	203	-	1,224
Magazine	Publication of church magazine	2,394	2,526	2,230	-	2,690
LinC	Lunch in company	737	382	704	-	415
General	General	6,000	320	2,502	-	3,818
Total Unrestricted designated funds		29,535	22,722	25,951	(750)	25,557
Restricted funds						
Restoration	Church Notice Board	265	-	-	-	265
Churchyard	War Graves	73	12	-	-	85
	Maintenance Canon Clinch Grave	524	-	-	-	524
	Memorial Garden	81	-	-	-	81
	Roses	305	-	-	-	305
	Maintenance of churchyard	1,494	-	843	-	651
Family tree	Family tree	155	-	-	-	155
Bell fund	Maintenance of Bells	11,983	51	-	-	12,034
Ashcroft	Ashcroft Anniversary	83	-	-	-	83
Property	Property	50,083	5,756	2,820	-	53,019
Youth	Youth	969	-	213	-	756
PortAltar	Portable Altar	84	-	-	-	84
Jubilee	Jubilee Fund	243	-	-	-	243
ClergyDisc	Clergy Discretionary Fund	956	401	16	-	1,341
Café	Café	1,418	801	1,062	-	1,157
Total restricted funds		68,716	7,021	4,954	-	70,783

PCC of St John the Baptist, Claines

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 31st December 2020

8. PARISH SHARE

As at 31st December 2020 £21,000 (2019 £36,000) of our allocation had been paid, our allocated share for 2020 was £67,836 (2019 £66,506). An amount of £20,000 (2019 £30,506) was provided for and paid in full before the 4th February deadline. The balance of £26,836 (2019 £nil) remained unpaid.

9. TRUSTS AND OTHER ACCOUNTS

Ever since we altered the accounts to comply with the new regulations we have reported in summary the movement of funds on Trusts associated with the Church on this page. These accounts have not been independently examined.

Claines Forces Fund (for the benefit of the Church Hall) of £487 at 31st December 2020 (2019 £485), together with £22,802 (2019 £21,335) in the Church of England Investment Fund.

Institute Funds of £605 at 31st December 2020 (2019 £1,065), together with £9,424 (2019 £8,818) in the Church of England Investment Fund.

Canon Clinch Legacy (for the maintenance of his grave) of £527 at 31st December 2020 (2019 £525).

EW Whinfield for Church Trust £2,612 at 31st December 2020 (2019 £2,455) in the COIF Charities Investment Fund.

Martin Mence Charity £2,123 at 31st December 2020 (2019 £2,023) & COIF £3,476 (2019 £3,267).

No other known assets and no income.

