

St Mary's Stretton

Annual Report



May 2021

St Mary's Stretton with Claymills

Registered Charity No. 1130916

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PCC Members

October 2020—May 2021

Rev'd George Crossley	Minister—Chair
Rev'd Ben Care	Curate
Rev'd Dennis Warner	Associate Minister
Charles Pidsley	Church Warden
Brian Cook	Church Warden
Shirley Irons	Licensed Reader
Jenny Knopik	Licensed Reader
Kas Fearn	Licensed Reader
Ruth James	Deanery Synod—Oct 2020
Pauline MacDonald	Deanery Synod—Oct 2020
Pauline Pidsley	Deanery Synod—Oct 2020
Andrea Tabberer	Elected October 2020
Chris Rimmer	Elected April 2019—Treasurer
Celia Hogg	Elected April 2019°
Tim Shambrook-Cox	Elected April 2019°
Christine Davenport	Elected April 2019
Laura Spencer	Elected April 2019
Paul Spencer	Elected April 2019
Louise Burke	Elected April 2018*

° standing down at the APCM

* up for re-election 2021

Vicar's Report

The Lord said to Abram 'Leave your country, your people and your father's household and go to land I will show you.' (Genesis 12:1)

For the second time I am writing my report in the midst of the Covid-19 pandemic. The realities and uncertainties of the pandemic have coloured our actions and thinking for over a year now. At this point we think we can see the restrictions coming to an end, possibly at the end of June, but we are also aware that things can change and there is the high probability of a resurgence of the virus in the autumn, though probably not on the scale that we have seen in the last year. That back-drop makes 'looking forward' still a difficult task; the fog might have thinned a bit, but it is still a thick mist at best.

At our APCM last year I spoke of our being in a liminal place, in an in-between time. We are still

there and the uncertainty it engenders is difficult. I spoke then that we should not rush into making decisions as to what the church will look like post-pandemic. That argument still remains – of course we would like a clear vision, of course we want to make plans. But we need to be cautious, our focus should be on what God wants us to do, not our own desire as to what we want to do. At this time we need to continue to focus on prayer and paying attention to the guidance of the Holy Spirit: this is a task for all of us, not just for those who are in positions of leadership. Whilst we wait we need to be both patient and expectant, which is a bit of a balancing act; looking forward with hope, listening for God but at the same time not letting patience become apathy or complacency.

At this point individuals and groups are meeting and praying what God's vision for our churches may be. It is important to bear

in mind that vision is about receiving from God, rather than pressure to build good ideas. Until that vision is clear we need to proceed with caution, it is far better to take our time before we set off in the direction God is calling us than to rush ahead with a vision that seems good to us, one that makes us feel good and assures us we are doing something, but to head off in the wrong direction. Discerning what God's vision for our churches requires prayer, trust, reflection upon the last year or more and a consideration of the resources we have: do we have sufficient to build the tower (Luke 14:28)? Such considerations are as godly as having the desire to achieve for God. In all likelihood we will have to lay down tasks that we used to do in order to do fewer things, this can be painful as well as liberating.

I was privileged to take part in a bible study recently, in the context of discerning God's vision for his church, which focussed on the

story of the Valley of Dry Bones, in Ezekiel 37:

The hand of the Lord was on me, and he brought me out by the Spirit of the Lord and set me in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. 2 He led me back and forth among them, and I saw a great many bones on the floor of the valley, bones that were very dry. 3 He asked me, "Son of man, can these bones live?"

I said, "Sovereign Lord, you alone know."

4 Then he said to me, "Prophecy to these bones and say to them, 'Dry bones, hear the word of the Lord! 5 This is what the Sovereign Lord says to these bones: I will make breath enter you, and you will come to life. 6 I will attach tendons to you and make flesh come upon you and cover you with skin; I will put breath in you, and you will come to life. Then you will know that I am the Lord.'"

7 So I prophesied as I was commanded. And as I was

prophesying, there was a noise, a rattling sound, and the bones came together, bone to bone. 8 I looked, and tendons and flesh appeared on them and skin covered them, but there was no breath in them.

9 Then he said to me, "Prophecy to the breath; prophecy, son of man, and say to it, 'This is what the Sovereign Lord says: Come, breath, from the four winds and breathe into these slain, that they may live.'" 10 *So I prophesied as he commanded me, and breath entered them; they came to life and stood up on their feet—a vast army.*

We are going to have a short bible study on this text at the APCM, if you are unable to attend please give it some consideration yourself.

As always I am grateful to so many people who share in the ministry to the parishes of St Chad and St Mary – our clergy and reader team, church wardens,

treasurers, house group leaders all those who are faithful in prayer and worship, those who visit and make phone calls, those who just hold on in faith in difficult times. Your faithfulness and hard work is essential and appreciated by many, it is your service to God and neighbour, may you be blessed because of it.

George Crossley—Vicar

Deanery Synod Report

The Deanery Synod did not meet in 2020.

Pauline MacDonald

Church Wardens' Report

Compared to the previous year to April 2020, the last year has been relatively uneventful. The big exception being that for much of the year, the Church and Church Hall have been closed!

Significant work has been required to ensure the Hall and Church are "Covid secure". The

wardens are grateful to Kas for her considerable input into ensuring this was effective and proportionate. We also note the grant from the Councillor's Community Fund administered by Councillor Lamb which allowed the purchase of barriers to facilitate one way flow in and out of the Hall.

The advantage of closure is that wear and tear has reduced on the buildings and there has been little significant to report in terms of repairs and renewals.

This was confirmed by the recent Terrier that we carried out on 10th April. The item of significance being the loss of 4 traffic cones!

The Lightning conductor has been upgraded and now meets the performance recommended.

In the Hall there is a non-functioning light fitting which may require replacement. This may be expensive due to the roof containing sealed asbestos which could be disturbed during this

work.

General maintenance of the Church roof, bell tower, and organ has all continued. Electrical and Gas boiler checks have all been carried out according to recommendations.

Due to financial constraints, there has been no progress on non-essential work itemised in the last Quinquennial report.

The Churchyard has been maintained between myself, Brian and John the Stretton villager who tends to the Cremated remains section. The Church pays for professional cutting of the field and the Hall surrounds as and when required.

The old Horse Chestnut outside the North porch and the Yew tree in the front section have been cut back as recommended by the Diocesan tree advisor. I am aware of concerns expressed by one of our neighbours in Hillfield Lane regards the height of the trees lining this border. A view is awaited

from the tree advisor although he had previously advised that they do not need crowning for their wellbeing.

The faculty for a memorial bench to be sited nearby the existing bench in the Churchyard has been applied for and granted. Its installation is expected in the next 4-6 weeks. This was at the request of the family of Tammy Minshall and previous MP and Ben Robinson.

The fundraising activity for the development at the back of the Church has ceased and funds will be returned to the donating organisations. It has proven very difficult to obtain monies for this kind of project and all funding for the last year has been clearly earmarked for Covid related support.

Regrettably our insurance has not covered business interruption due to Covid, but the furlough scheme administered by the Diocese has been very welcome for our salaried staff.

Health and Safety documentation

has been brought up to date together with review of Church policies to ensure we have ready access to those we are required to keep up to date.

Looking forward, we welcome the anticipated opening of the Church in May, the appointment of a Kickstart apprentice to assist in Churchyard and general maintenance, and the completion of clearing of the undercroft where there are still a lot of discarded organ parts.

Your Churchwardens, Charles Pidsley and Brian Cook

PCC Report

“And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus...” Colossians 3: 17.

This past year, via Zoom, we have discussed and made decisions on a wide range of agenda items.

Items can include: church hall, churchyard trees, benches, scout

hut, etc. etc. as well as the reports on Finance, Health and Safety, Safeguarding, and from the church wardens.

Some items/decisions may seem small or trivial; however, taking the scripture above as a guiding principle, we aim as a PCC to make every decision in the best interests of all who (in the Covid world) currently virtually 'attend' our church, whilst not compromising our beliefs and our mission statement: 'Making a difference in the community'.

Following the last APCM, the PCC has grown in number, and we don't necessarily all share the same view on all things – which I believe is healthy and challenges us all to see things from another P.O.V. I believe we have a strong, committed and diverse PCC membership, which well represents the full church family at St. Mary's.

Personally, I hope and pray, going forward, that given the opportu-

nities we have coming out of lockdown, and the setting up of a working group to take a fresh look at all aspects of church life and practice, following the model set out by Ben to the PCC and to the church as a whole, we as a PCC can be brave, have renewed vision, and look forwards to how to continue to be the church. Let us not be like Lot's wife, who looked back, and thereby, was unable to go forward.

Celia Hogg

On behalf of the PCC

Treasurer's Report

We have had a good year in our accounts and managed to pay all our invoices within a few days of receiving them.

I would like to thank Revd. Dennis Warner for his commitment and work as Planned Giving Officer. He has managed our 'weekly envelopes and offering plate giving' to process our quarterly Gift Aid tax claims, which boosts our regular income by a further 25% for all eligible 'Gift Aided' giving.

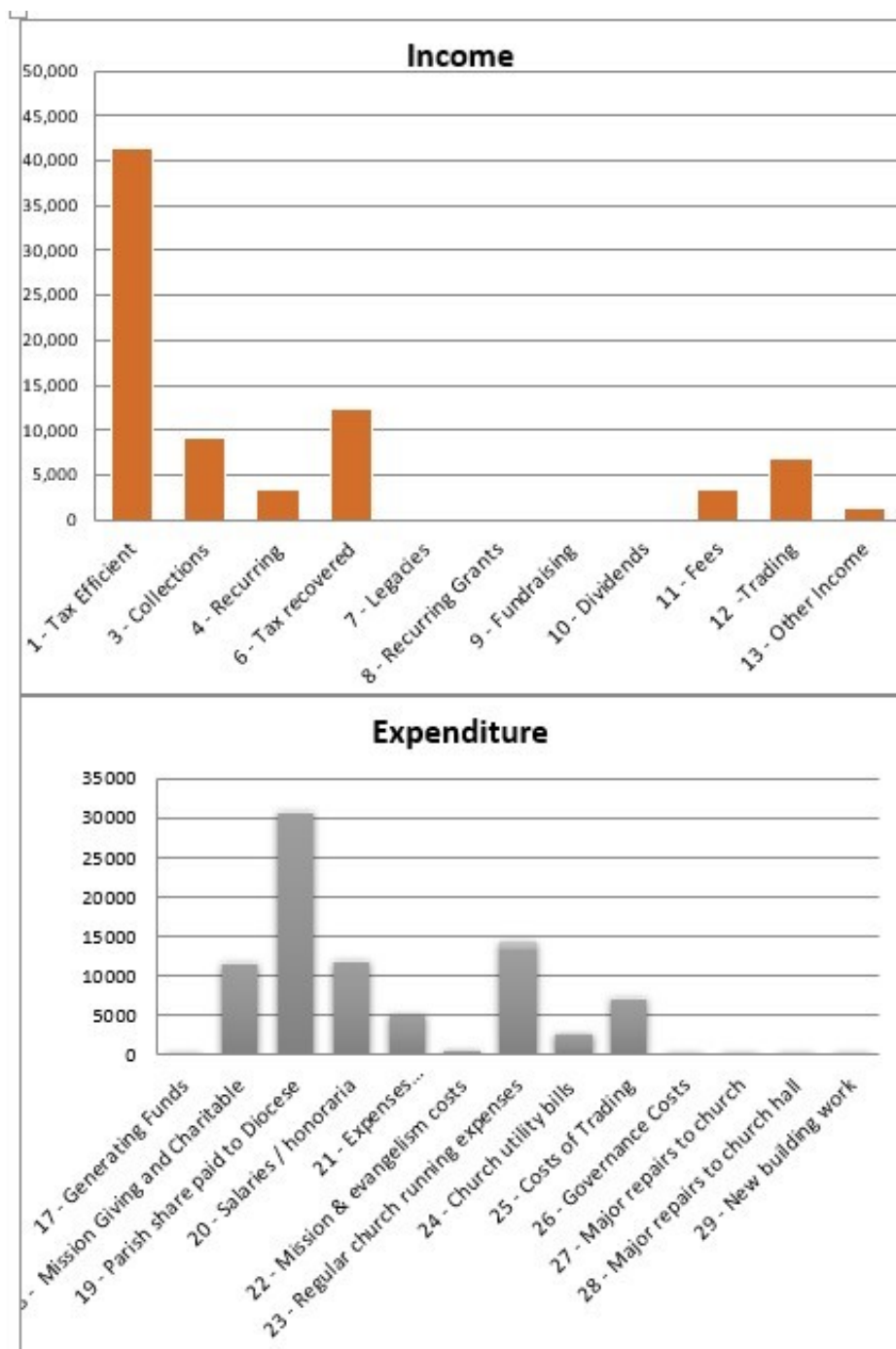
Without doubt the last year has been an exception one but we continue to have blessings as well as difficulties during this period of pandemic. It goes almost without saying that we will need to raise our level of income if we are to increase our mission and continue to meet our commitments in 2021 and beyond. We trust in God's provision and I give thanks that He never fails us.

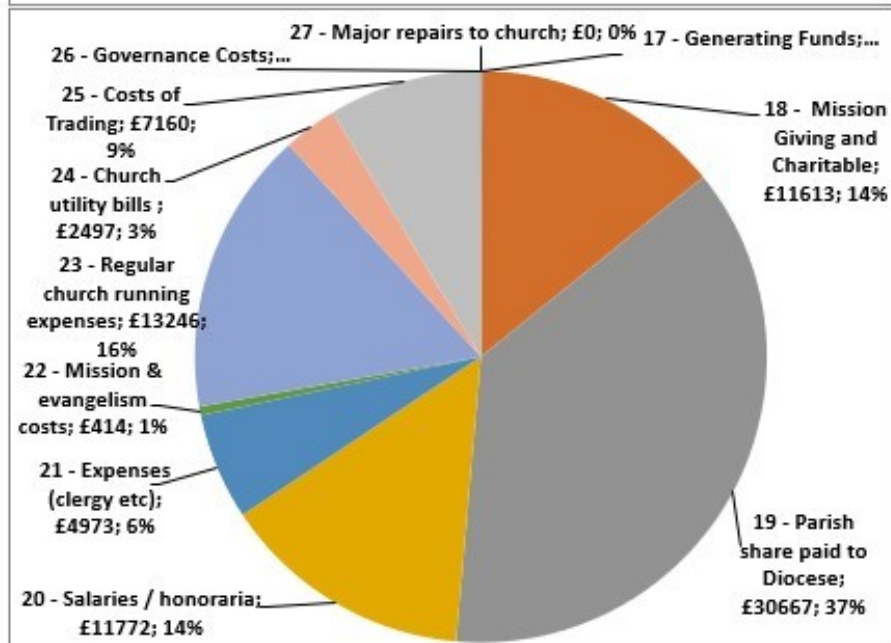
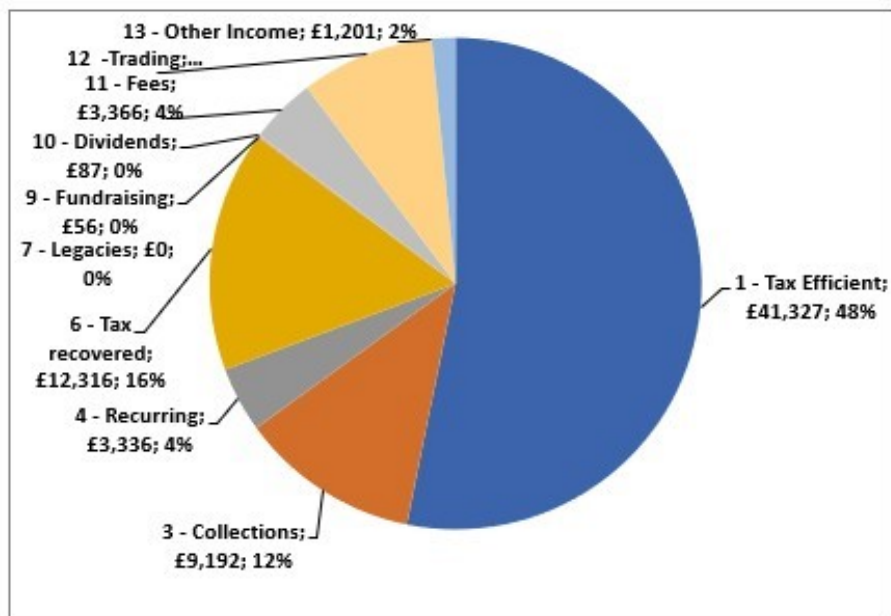
Negotiations and funding plans have had to be placed on hold towards the Disabled Toilet at the rear of church.

I am pleased to confirm that despite the financial difficulties due

to losing a large part of our generated income and reduced income from donors we have been able to end the year very close to meeting the terms of our reserves policy referred to above. This is largely due to our donors sacrificially giving what they can while themselves facing financial difficulty due to the pandemic. This together with a measure of reduced expenditure have resulted in an acceptable level of financial security. Through the generosity of the Diocese in rebating 15% of our Parish Share we were able to make the decision as a PCC to support our sister parish of St Chad's financially by making a grant of £3,809 towards payment of their parish share. A grant of £500 was made to Burton CAP (Christians Against Poverty) to support their vital work. These together corresponded to the Parish Share rebate.

The PCC tithe their income. This means that we calculate the amount of applicable income during the year and grant one tenth of this to the following charities. CMS - 25%; Footprints Orphanage - 25%; Burton YFC - 25%; Burton YMCA - 25%. This year this is





£1,776 each with a total tithe of £7,104.

The outcome of this difficult year has led to a decrease in our Unrestricted Reserves to £7,024. This figure was £11,582 for 2019. Previous years Reserves going back from 2018 to 2010 were £12,933, £5,907, £5,188, £12,066, £16,412, £14,362, £9,365, £9,929 and £9,781.

As indicated earlier as we emerge, hopefully soon, from the effects of this pandemic we will need to continue to try and increase our income if we are to expand the mission of the church that we all desire and pray for.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank every one of you for your much appreciated giving. Whether it is regular or not, gift aided or not, it is vital to the work of our church. Without this commitment to Christ's church, we would not be able to serve God and our community in the way that we do. Remember that God allows us to keep the rest of his provision beyond our giving for ourselves.

Can I ask you to pray regularly for the financial ministry of our

church? I believe that God has responded to our prayers regarding our finances. Many of you tithe your income, thank you, but if you do not already, please prayerfully consider doing so. Especially, please also pray for the funds to cover all our work planned for this year.

Chris Rimmer - Treasurer

January 2021

Planned Giving

The year 2020 has been both the best of times and the worst of times. We can view this year not simply as one crisis after another but as challenging opportunities for individual church members and congregations.

Faithful stewards, formed and fuelled by the Gospel, are the medium God uses to bring the best results even from the worst of times. God calls us to faithful stewardship for such a time as this.

In Christ we have a new self: forgiven, child of God, cleansed, and destined for life everlasting. St. Paul encourages us to "put on the new self" and consciously exert

effort to cling to Christ in faith and claim our new identity in Him.

Coming to the Lord's House, faithfully supporting the ministry, and praying and reading Scripture daily are the works of the new self.

Church members are still giving faithfully over the year, with the total only a few hundred pounds less than last year, even though a few longstanding members left us during the year. The number of givers gift aiding their gifts was 38, and about 8 regular givers were not using Gift Aid.

Although giving fell slightly compared to 2019, using Gift Aid enabled us to claim just over £12,000 in tax refunds from the Government. If you're a UK tax payer you can Gift Aid your donations, making them worth 25% more to us, at no extra cost to you and with no obligation. This additional income makes a real difference.

I am very happy to talk to anyone about giving regularly, using envelopes or Standing Orders, and about Gift Aid especially.

Dennis Warner—Planned Giving Officer

Electoral Roll

The statutory notice period this year was from 9 April to 25 April 2021. Due to Covid and the church not being open during this time, the revision of the roll was advertised on the church door, in the newsletter, and on Facebook.

The roll lists 89 people as members (which is 4 less than last year): 25 men and 64 women. The roll will open again on 26 May after the APCM.

Kas Fearn—Electoral Roll Officer

Justice and Care

Children's Society

The Children's Society is a registered charity that runs 70 projects up and down the country to support vulnerable children who have no where else to turn. These include young runaways, neglected teenagers, children in care and young carers.

Some members of St Mary's Church have a collection box at home to collect any spare loose change which is collected once a year to pay into the Children's Society charitable account. This year £325.00 was collected. Anyone

who would be willing to have a box please ask me; every penny counts. Thank you.

Pauline Pidsley

SAMS

Mags Southern has been awarded a BEM for services to education in Paraguay.

We do not support Mags financially now, but keep in touch. She is now living in England at Thornton Cleveleys with her friend Gwen. They had been hoping to go back to Paraguay this year with their friend Claire Holmes and her church from Richill, but Clare has been ill and unable to go.

Janet Wedd

CMS

Throughout the pandemic I have kept in touch with Jason, Tracy, Ruby and Libby Day in Thailand, by email, What's App and more recently Zoom. In 2020 Covid numbers were low with only 64

deaths. However due to illegal border crossings, the country are now in a third lockdown. The children are educated on line.

Tracy continues her Thai language study, which she says is not easy. The family are coming to the end of a 12 month dormitory parent contract. Once a month they have supported a modular study group of teenagers who meet in Chiang Mai. They are mission families children from rural settings who have one week of intensive study with qualified Maths, English and Science teachers. Tracy says it has been a wonderful opportunity to share the gospel.

I plan to continue zoom meetings with the family and hope others will join us.

Thank you to the church and individual members of the congregation for their financial support.

Ruth James

Footprints

Kerry and Patrick have continued to make some changes to the Childrens Home in Kenya whilst maintaining all 20 buildings and looking after the staff and Children. Another 4 children were rescued in the last year. They are settling in well at the home and having the care they deserve. There are now over 40 children and adults in the care of Footprints.

Work is going on to prepare a piece of land near the Diani Beach area which has recently been purchased to give the 11 children who are over the age of 18 some independent living accommodation. The money for the land has been given by some generous donors. A bore hole has been drilled to give the site pumped water and a wall surrounding the site is nearing completion. The plan is to build units of 4 flats as finance becomes available. The past year has been very challenging for the

home as there has been no normal charity fund raising events and only a few online fundraisers, and Footprints has suffered greatly. However, in spite of the setbacks and having to home school all the children, the home is surviving and we are planning for the future. Please pray for the decisions that have to be made on a weekly basis and for the future direction. A big thank you to the PCC for their tithe gift this year

The charity is now known as “The Footprints Family” and is looking for new Trustees. If you feel able to become one, further details can be obtained by E mailing Paul at pspencer@uwclub.net or contacting the Footprints Website.

Paul Spencer—Trustee

YMCA

First and foremost I can confirm that the YMCA is most appreciative of the continued support from St Mary's Church both in the donation given each year as part of the Church tithe and in the volunteering of Church members.

As with all charities, Covid has presented major challenges to fund raising and operations. The YMCA is no different but has been aided by hugely well motivated staff, volunteers and leadership.

Although fundraising events were considerably curtailed, the sleep out did continue but remotely with those involved keeping in touch via social media and streamed links, Over £40,000 was raised and the model has been used by many other YMCA's in England and Wales.

The BYMCA has been helped considerably by a substantial grant from the National Lottery Fund for Covid support, which means it has ended the year in good finan-

cial health,

For the time being, I am acting Chair of the Board of Trustees who have continued to meet via Zoom and have been busy with ensuring continued development of the organisation through the lockdowns.

The shops operated by Burton YMCA were opened on April 12th.

The YMCA was very saddened to learn of Clive Bestall's passing as we all have, and remembers well the considerable support he and Val have given to the foodbank. It should not be forgotten that Mary Jones was instrumental in the setting up of this vital service.

A big thank you to all at St Mary's who support the Burton YMCA.

Charles Pidsley—Trustee

Burton YFC

Throughout this last year God has been faithful. He's provided for all our needs and continued to open up new opportunities in which to serve Him. We've been able to support several schools and have adjusted by working more on a one-to-one basis with young people who've been most vulnerable at this time. We've been training up volunteers and offering virtual listening and mentoring by zoom or telephone, as well as walk and talk. These have proved successful and some of our best conversations have been whilst walking through mud, climbing trees, or eating a bag of chips. Our primary school work has continued through delivering online and pre-recorded assemblies.

We have also continued to support the alternative education charity Eagles Nest, supporting small groups and individual young people with their learning and development. This is through

climbing, cooking and one to one activities.

It has now been more than a year since we were able to run a full youth club session. Having piloted and re-opened one youth club in September alongside Riverside Church and the help of some brilliant young people - we closed 6 weeks later! Since then, we have offered a weekly online gaming club and a general youth club with time to chat and play games.

Our Church youth event has come to a stand still at the moment, with also having to cancel our residential weekend twice! We are currently looking at how to re-engage with the Christian young people in the town as well as supporting the local churches in their mission to reach children and young people.

Thank you so much for your support as a Church family. We value your giving, your prayers, and your ongoing encouragement.

Sue Garb— Burton YFC Director

Baptism

As it was for a lot of people, baptisms have meant an extremely challenging year since March 2020 when William Bailey was baptised. Our one and only service for well over a year.

I kept in touch with couples who had baptisms booked by calling them a couple of times and sending them a Christmas card to let them know we hadn't forgotten them. By the end of the year "off" I had 14 babies/people on our waiting list. This next year will be a much busier one.

Cheryl Broom—Baptism Coordinator

Weddings

Following the outbreak of the virus, most of the weddings booked for 2020 were postponed and in the end there were just 3 couples who got married at St Mary's. All the services were conducted by George and verger's duties were shared between myself, Val and

Sue Jones. For one wedding, the groom's father played the organ, and Roger Sharp played for the other two services.

Many weddings have been rearranged and we currently only have 3 booked for 2021. We have been unable to hold our annual Marriage Preparation Day due to the restrictions.

Please look out for notices about the banns of marriage and forthcoming weddings in the Newsletter and pray for the couples and their wedding services. All the wedding couples are personally invited to come and hear their banns being read so if you should meet them in church, please make them welcome.

Laura Spencer—Wedding Coordinator

Bereavement Team

It's been a very difficult year for many people, not only here in St Mary's but Nation Wide and

indeed World Wide. In our own Family of St Mary's we have lost a number of loved ones, we shall miss their presence enormously. During these times of Covid, Friends and Family have experienced added grief through necessary separations from their loved ones, followed by restricted Funeral arrangements. Of course the love and support of Friends and Family is always a Blessing. May those who are Bereaved find the strength of their Faith, that has, and will carry them through. It is comforting to know, that the God who loves us, strengthens and comforts us during times of need, promising never to leave us.

Sue Jones.

Bereavement Co-ordinator

starting the role we had Covid-19 so the way visits were able to go ahead changed. I drew up a list of everyone from the congregation who weren't part of a house group and asked the pastoral visitors to make phone calls to everyone they had been allocated to see if they wanted calls throughout the crisis then if it was a yes to offer an ear. It's been a longer crisis than anyone could imagine so my grateful thanks to the team for their Stirling work, and hope that once things slowly get back to any normality that they will continue in this very important role and of course we will welcome anyone who feels that this may be a role they feel able to do.

Andrea Tabberer—Pastoral Co-ordinator

Pastoral Care

I took over this role from Mel Siner near the beginning of 2020, so grateful thanks to Mel for the great job she did. Shortly after

Safeguarding

I took over the role of Safeguarding Officer in November 2021. Firstly, thanks must go to Celia Hogg for the Stirling work she did. Because of Covid-19 with the Church being closed there has been very little for me to report on. However, what has been done is we now have a definitive list of Church roles and the training and/or DBS certification each role requires. I've also concentrated on the roles still in operation and anyone who needs training and DBS which are now up to date. Once the Church re-opens we will then look at who needs what and work out how best to offer training for anyone who is taking up roles for the first time or continuing in their chosen roles, for which we are all grateful for their service.

Andrea Tabberer—Safeguarding Officer

House Groups

All groups have kept in touch with each other. Carol Wheale's group have done various subjects, the last one being a follow-on from Ben's sermon on peace. The Wednesday group continue to zoom and presently doing Zechariah.

Lynette Yates— House group Co-ordinator

Messy Church

It is now over a year since Messy Church has taken place in person. Along with most other groups we are still not able to meet and we still have no clear picture if/when we will be able to hold Messy Church at William Shrewsbury School again.

We continue to post out copies of 'Messy Church at Home' to all the children who came to Messy Church before lockdown. The sheets follow our normal pattern; a bible story with some kind of commentary, 3 activities, a

Prayer etc. Each session has a main theme and we are still trying to keep these relevant to the childrens' changing circumstances. The session material is in colour and is posted out by Kas to each child individually. Each envelop also contains any specialist materials needed to complete the activity tasks. Session material is sent out each month.

We are doing our best to maintain contact with our Messy Church children but we are acutely aware that by September 2021 there will be 2 cohorts of children who have had no contact with Messy Church.

All we can do is leave this in God's hands.

Sue Stokes

Family Church

This new ministry was launched in January 2020 with personal invitations sent to each child who attends Messy Church or who had been baptised in the last 5 years. The January meeting attracted 15

families (some 70 adults and children). Unfortunately the February meeting clashed with half-term and a number of families were away and the March meeting was held just as the country was going into lockdown.

On-line videos have been posted on the 3rd Sunday of each month, and appear to have been well received. We don't know yet whether this is something we can pick up again or not, but as Sue said about Messy Church, we are just trying to keep in touch with everyone. 2021 is going to be an exciting new adventure with God, but we are not quite sure where yet!

Kas Fearn

Holiday Club

Although Holiday Club could not meet up in person in 2020, we did deliver activity packs, including craft materials to make a bird feeder, and a photo quiz encouraging families to explore Stretton, to each child that came to the

2019 Holiday club—52 children in all.

Church Hall

2020 has been a very quiet year due to Covid-19. The hall had to close at the end of March, and remained closed until August, when a couple of regular hirers returned for the autumn and early winter. In preparation for the partial return of some hirers a one-way system has been put into operation, along with restricted use of certain facilities.

The financial implications of the hall been closed, or restricted in use, have been severe and I look forward to the hall being open again for all hirers, and having some parties again!

Kas Fearn—Hall Manager

Lunch Club

Unfortunately to the current pandemic we have been unable to meet together since March 2020.

Helping Hands

As you can image Helping hands has been really busy this year, it's been great to be there in the community showing God's love for all in a year where it couldn't be more important. The jobs include collecting doctor forms to swap surgeries, food shopping which at times proved problematic as at times the shops didn't also have the brand or item available! removal of a dead bird! There have been many hospital appointments and due to the volunteers, the people have managed to attend these important appointments. There have been dentist visits and also taking people to get their vaccinations. As always, a big thank you to Andrea for manning the phone calls and thanks goes to all the volunteers as this would not succeed without their support.

Louise Burke

Book Club and Not Just Sunday

Both groups were unable to meet in 2020 so have nothing to report.

Community Café @ St Mary's

The Community Café has been unable to meet since 13 March 2020.

Claire Goodwin—Café Organiser

Other activities during lockdown

In April 2020 we were donated around 100 plants these were distributed throughout the village to most St Mary's members, helping hands contacts and others known throughout the village. A big thank you to Ian manager of Berkeley garden centre for the donation, and Colin who helped me to deliver the plants.

200 packs of flowers, vegetable seeds were delivered in May, In June little packs of tea, coffee and hot chocolate were given out to enjoy a cuppa on us.

July 100's of cookies were delivered around the village as well as some lemon drizzle cake, I know these were really yummy, and much enjoyed. A big thank you to Janet Jarvis who baked the goodies. We also kept in touch with all our messy church, family church and holiday club families by hand delivering 100 activity packs for them to take part in.

August little bags of bible verses were given out to some people in the village.

We were also able to deliver food parcels to some of our venerable, elderly, single people and thank you to Mrs. Poulos who provided most of the food.

In December we managed to deliver 4,200 Christmas cards to the whole village, we also hand delivered to all the messy church, family church, baptism families and holiday club children a book that we normally give out at our

Christmas services.

In February 2021 we delivered valentine's cards to the whole village to keep in touch with them all, hopefully showing God's love is for all. We then also sent out Easter cards showing what Easter means to every Christian.

Louise Burke



St Mary's Church Stretton with Claymills

Trustees Annual Report incorporating End of Year Financial Statements

Year ending 31 December 2020



The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Mary, Stretton with Claymills
St Mary's Church, Church Road, Stretton, Burton upon Trent DE13 0HD
01283 564216 parishoffice@stchadstmary.org.uk
Vicar: Revd Dr George Crossley,
Registered Charity No. 1130916

Reference and Administration Details

Structure, governance and management

Governing Document

Parochial Church Council Powers Measure (1956) as amended, and Church Representation Rules that came into effect on 2 January 1957.

How the charity is constituted

Church Representation Rules 2 January 1957

Names of Charity Trustees - PCC Members

Revd Dr George Crossley	Minister – Chair
Revd Dennis Warner	Minister
Mrs Karen Fearn	Licensed Reader - Secretary
Mrs Shirley Irons	Reader Emeritus
Mr Brian Cook	Churchwarden - elected October 2020
Dr Charles Pidsley	Churchwarden - elected October 2020
Mrs Pauline Pidsley	Deanery Synod Representative – elected October 2020
Mrs Pauline Macdonald	Deanery Synod Representative – elected October 2020
Miss Ruth James	Deanery Synod Representative – elected October 2020
Mrs Celia Hogg	elected for 3 years April 2018
Mrs Louise Burke	elected for 3 years April 2018
Mr Chris Rimmer	elected for 3 years April 2019 – Treasurer
Mr Tim Shambrook-Cox	elected for 3 years April 2019
Mr Paul Spencer	elected for 3 years April 2019
Mrs Laura Spencer	elected for 3 years April 2019
Mrs Christine Davenport	elected for 3 years April 2020
Mrs Andrea Tabberer	elected for 3 years April 2020

Public Benefit Statement

The trustees of the Charity are aware of the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit in *The Advancement of Religion for the Public Benefit* and have had regard to it in their administration of the Charity.

The trustees believes that, by promoting the work of the Church of England in the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Mary's Stretton with Claymills it helps to promote the whole mission of the Church

(pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical) more effectively, within the Ecclesiastical Parish, and that in doing so it provides a benefit to the public by:-

- Providing facilities for public worship, pastoral care and spiritual, moral and intellectual development, both for its members and for anyone who wishes to benefit from what the Church offers: and
- Promoting Christian values, and service by members of the Church in and to their communities, to the benefit of individuals and society as a whole.

Objectives and Activities

The trustees are committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship at our church and to become part of our parish community at Stretton with Claymills. The trustees maintain an overview of worship throughout the parish and makes suggestions on how our services can involve the many groups that live within our parish. Our services and worship put faith into practice through prayer and scripture, music and sacrament.

Achievements and Performance

St Mary's, as a lively and outward looking church, continues to put it's objectives into practice with good effect. This is reviewed on a regular basis through it's bi-monthly trustee and other business meetings.

Future plans

Alongside, and as part of, this Trustees Annual Report an Annual and Finance Report is produced giving more detail on the year's achievements and our future plans.

Financial Review

Reserves Policy

The trustees operate their finances on an unrestricted reserve equal to the anticipated highest expenditure within any one month.

Restricted Funds

We operate a number of restricted funds where donors or grant making bodies have given money for a specific (restricted) purpose. The full list is included in the financial statements that follow.

Funds Materially in Deficit

There are no funds materially in deficit.

Investments

The day-to-day financial reserves of the charity are held in a CAF (Charities Aid Foundation) Bank cash account. All other reserves are held in a CAF Bank deposit account except that Standing Order donations are directed to a general account held with Lloyds Bank. All income into this Lloyds Bank account is transferred to either of the two CAF Bank accounts monthly.

Due to the minimal levels of these reserves no other form of investment is deemed necessary.

Financial risk management

Two persons are needed to authorise all mandate or online transactions on behalf of the charity. Four persons have online access to the CAF Bank accounts for authorisation and oversight purposes. This online access requires input of three levels of information, all unique to each person. In addition to this a Debit card is held in the name of the Treasurer, Administrator and Church Warden for other occasional payments. These debit cards are only used for small payments and when confirmed with another mandated person. The treasurer prepares a monthly report to the trustees for their information and oversight. This procedure helps to ensure that any unusual financial transactions are noted at the earliest opportunity and the day-to-day cash-flow is satisfactory.

Safeguarding

‘Safeguarding is God’s agenda & everyone’s responsibility’.

The trustees will take all reasonable steps to work towards ‘The protection of Children and Adults within the Diocese of Lichfield, its churches and parishes.

The trustees will work towards adopting the recommendations of the House of Bishops as published in the Policy for Safeguarding Children Protecting All God’s Children (2010) and Promoting a Safe Church (2006).

The trustees will work towards complying with: The Diocese of Lichfield Safeguarding Policy 2017 and the Safer Recruitment; application of DBS & Training Policy as relating to Safeguarding 2017.

The trustees will ensure full compliance with Health and Safety Guidelines.

Independent Examiner's Report to the trustees of St Mary's, Stretton with Claymills

I report on the accounts for the year ended 31st December 2020 which are set out on the following pages.

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 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: 

Date: 

Name: Mark Desmond Vickers
Address: 50 Stanton Road,
Stapenhill
Burton upon Trent,
DE15 9RP

Statement of Financial Activities

	Unrestricted funds	Designated funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Prior year total funds
Income and endowments from:						
Incoming resources from donors	66,171	—	—	—	66,171	67,911
Other voluntary incoming resources	—	—	10	—	10	5,750
Activities in furtherance of the councils objects	10,471	973	146	—	11,591	33,024
Income from investments	37	50	—	—	87	76
Total income	76,680	1,023	156	—	77,860	106,762
Expenditure on:						
Costs of generating funds	72	—	—	—	72	170
Grants	11,613	—	—	—	11,613	8,942
Activities relating to the work of the Church	69,482	1,176	1,230	—	71,889	88,908
Church management and administration	70	—	—	—	70	70
Total expenditure	81,237	1,176	1,230	—	83,644	98,091
Net income / (expenditure) resources before transfer	(4,557)	(152)	(1,074)	—	(5,784)	8,670
Transfers						
Gross transfers between funds - in	—	—	—	—	—	405
Gross transfers between funds - out	—	—	—	—	—	(405)
Other recognised gains / losses						
Net movement in funds	(4,557)	(152)	(1,074)	—	(5,784)	8,670
Total funds brought forward	11,582	3,348	11,390	—	26,321	17,650
Total funds carried forward	7,024	3,196	10,316	—	20,537	26,321
Represented by						
Unrestricted						
General fund	7,024	—	—	—	7,024	11,582
Designated						
Bell Tower Upkeep	—	210	—	—	210	165
Churchyard Upkeep	—	—	—	—	—	74
Designated Projects	—	304	—	—	304	304
Helping Hands Welfare	—	290	—	—	290	290
Organ Maintenance	—	2,391	—	—	2,391	2,515
Restricted						
Bell Tower Upkeep	—	—	91	—	91	91
Churchyard Upkeep	—	—	20	—	20	10
Community Events (PCC)	—	—	230	—	230	230
Disabled Toilet Fund	—	—	9,974	—	9,974	9,974
Organ Maintenance	—	—	—	—	—	912
Organ Restoration	—	—	—	—	—	172

Balance sheet

	Total funds	Prior year funds
Current assets		
Debtors	9,813	6,442
Cash at bank and in hand	22,323	29,998
	32,137	36,440
Liabilities		
Creditors: Amounts falling due in one year	11,600	10,119
	11,600	10,119
Net current assets less current liabilities	20,537	26,321
Total assets less current liabilities	20,537	26,321
Total net assets less liabilities	20,537	26,321
Represented by		
Unrestricted		
General fund	7,024	11,582
Designated		
Bell Tower Upkeep	210	165
Churchyard Upkeep	—	74
Designated Projects	304	304
Helping Hands Welfare	290	290
Marriage Preparation	—	—
Organ Maintenance	2,391	2,515
Altar Frontal	—	—
Restricted		
Youth Project	—	—
Worship Projects	—	—
Summer Club (PCC)	—	—
Bell Tower Upkeep	91	91
Church Hall Project	—	—
Churchyard Upkeep	20	10
Community Events (PCC)	230	230
Disabled Toilet Fund	9,974	9,974
Messy Church (PCC)	—	—
Organ Maintenance	—	912
Organ Restoration	—	172
Funds of the church	20,537	26,321

Statement of assets and liabilities

	General	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	This year	Last year
Current assets - Cash at bank and in hand						
PCC Cash in hand -	285	(173)	12	—	124	74
PCC CAFCash -	38,113	(26,989)	(5964)	—	5159	6,099
PCC CAF GOLD -	(29,546)	30,308	15,521	—	16,284	20,571
PCC Lloyds -	(2)	—	50	—	48	2,544
Diocese Vicarage Decoration -	708	—	—	—	708	708
Totals	9,558	3,146	9,619	—	22,323	29,998
Current assets - Debtors						
Accounts Receivable -	9,763	50	—	—	9,813	6,442
Totals	9,763	50	—	—	9,813	6,442
Liabilities - Creditors: Amounts falling due 1 yr.						
Accounts Payable -	12,298	—	—	—	12,298	10,817
Accounts Payable -	—	—	(698)	—	(698)	(698)
Totals	12,298	—	(698)	—	11,600	10,119
Grand total	7,024	3,196	10,316	—	20,537	26,321

Fund movement by type

	Opening	Incoming	Outgoing	Transfers	Gains/losses	Closing
General - General fund						
Unrestricted	11,582	76,680	81,237	—	—	7,024
Sub-total for General	11,582	76,680	81,237	—	—	7,024
DBells - Bell Tower Upkeep						
Designated	165	45	—	—	—	210
Restricted	91	—	—	—	—	91
Sub-total for DBells	256	45	—	—	—	301
HallProject - Church Hall Project						
Restricted	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sub-total for HallProject	—	—	—	—	—	—
DChurchyar - Churchyard Upkeep						
Designated	74	225	299	—	—	—
Restricted	10	10	—	—	—	20
Sub-total for DChurchyar	84	235	299	—	—	20
Community - Community Events (PC						
Restricted	230	—	—	—	—	230
Sub-total for Community	230	—	—	—	—	230
DProjects - Designated Projects						
Designated	304	—	—	—	—	304
Sub-total for DProjects	304	—	—	—	—	304
Access - Disabled Toilet Fund						
Restricted	9,974	—	—	—	—	9,974
Sub-total for Access	9,974	—	—	—	—	9,974
DWelfare - Helping Hands Welfar						
Designated	290	—	—	—	—	290
Sub-total for DWelfare	290	—	—	—	—	290
DOrganMain - Organ Maintenance						
Designated	2,515	753	876	—	—	2,391
Restricted	912	146	1,058	—	—	—
Sub-total for DOrganMain	3,427	900	1,935	—	—	2,391
OrganRest - Organ Restoration						
Restricted	172	—	172	—	—	—
Sub-total for OrganRest	172	—	172	—	—	—
Worship - Worship Projects						
Restricted	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sub-total for Worship	—	—	—	—	—	—
Grand total	26,321	77,860	83,644	—	—	20,537

Analysis of income and expenditure

	General	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	This year	Total Last year
Income and endowments from:						
Incoming resources from donors						
01Env - GA Reg Envelopes	9153	-	-	-	9153	11780
01EnvNGA - Non GA Reg Envelopes	1756	-	-	-	1756	1471
01SO - GA Reg Bank SO	28308	-	-	-	28308	27401
01SONGA - Non GA Bank SO	2110	-	-	-	2110	1880
03Card - Contactless Card Donations	255	-	-	-	255	75
03EnvGAS - Gift Aid envelopes at services (One Off)	6542	-	-	-	6542	4247
03EnvNGAS - Non GA Envelopes at services	832	-	-	-	832	689
03Plate - Loose plate Donations	1562	-	-	-	1562	4351
04CP - Donations to Church Project	-	-	-	-	-	2500
04GAYL - Give as you live donations	165	-	-	-	165	-
04Gen - Donations to General Fund	3171	-	-	-	3171	1513
06Gen - PCC Tax Recovered on GA	12316	-	-	-	12316	12005
Incoming resources from donors Totals	66171	-	-	-	66171	67911
Other voluntary incoming resources						
08GNR - Non-Recurring or One-Off Grants	-	-	-	-	-	5000
08GR - Recurring Grants	-	-	10	-	10	750
Other voluntary incoming resources Totals	-	-	10	-	10	5750
Activities in furtherance of the councils objects						
09Gentd - Generated Funds	56	-	-	-	56	2612
11Fees - Fees Weddings Funerals	3116	250	-	-	3366	8472
12CCAFE - Community Cafe Income	851	-	-	-	851	884
12Hall - Hall Income	5920	-	-	-	5920	17471
12OffInc - Office income Printing etc	-	-	-	-	-	2
12Reimb - Reimbursements to PCC	51	-	-	-	51	919
13InsC - Insurance Claims Church	478	723	147	-	1348	2664
<i>NOTE Relates to church flooding due to blocked drain</i>						
Activities in furtherance of the councils objects Totals	10472	973	147	-	11592	33024
Income from investments						
10BInt - PCC Bank Interest	12	-	-	-	12	14
10VDSB - Vicarage Decoration Scheme Bonus	25	50	-	-	75	63
Income from investments Totals	37	50	-	-	87	77
Income and endowments Grand totals	76680	1023	157	-	77860	106762
Expenditure on:						
Costs of generating funds						
17Env - Collection Envelopes	-	-	-	-	-	118
17FREv - Fundraising Events	50	-	-	-	50	-
17Stew'p - Contactless / Stewardship Costs	23	-	-	-	23	53
Costs of generating funds Totals	73	-	-	-	73	171

Grants						
18NTONSec - Other Non-secular Grants (Non-tithe)	4309	-	-	-	4309	-
18NTTTrust - Transformation Trust(CiB)	200	-	-	-	200	200
18TBYFC - Burton YFC - (tithe)	1776	-	-	-	1776	2186
18TCMS - CMS - (Tithe)	1776	-	-	-	1776	2186
18TFoot - The Footprints Family (Tithe)	1776	-	-	-	1776	2186
18TYMCA - Burton YMCA (tithe)	1776	-	-	-	1776	2186
Grants Totals	11613	-	-	-	11613	8942

Activities relating to the work of the Church

19Share - Parish Share (Purse)	30667	-	-	-	30667	34404
20Admin - Administrator	10802	-	-	-	10802	10506
20Clean - Cleaner	495	-	-	-	495	1435
20DioAdmin - Diocese Salary Admin Charge	120	-	-	-	120	120
20SS1 - Daniel Ortiz Sunday School Session	200	-	-	-	200	970
20SS2 - Rachel Ortiz Sunday School Session	120	-	-	-	120	665
20VisMus - Visiting Organist/Buglar/Musician	-	-	-	-	-	135
20VisSp - Visiting Speakers	35	-	-	-	35	50
21CExp - Curate - Expenses	118	-	-	-	118	515
21Gift - Gifts (Flowers & 80+)	23	-	-	-	23	117
21OEquip - Office Equipment (Small)	56	-	-	-	56	30
21OS/W - Office Software Materials	301	-	-	-	301	23
21Post - Postage Stamps	191	-	-	-	191	123
21Print - Printers - Lease - Toner - Maint.	3550	-	-	-	3550	3778
21SS1 - Daniel Ortiz Sunday School Expenses	29	-	-	-	29	102
21SS2 - Rachel Ortiz Sunday School Expenses	-	-	-	-	-	42
21Stat - Office Stationery	101	-	-	-	101	148
21VExp - Vicar - Expenses	213	-	-	-	213	252
21VRes - Vicar - Resources Books/Software	36	-	-	-	36	-
21VTel - Vicar - Telephone	355	-	-	-	355	369
22CHC - Children's Holiday Club	98	-	-	-	98	316
22EvMat - Evangelism Materials	165	-	-	-	165	195
22Family - Family Church	133	-	-	-	133	-
22Messy - Messy Church	18	-	-	-	18	119
23ABankCh - Bank Charges	60	-	-	-	60	60
23ABells - Bells Belltower	-	-	-	-	-	667
23ACClean - Church Cleaning	254	-	-	-	254	159
23ACIns - Church Insurance	4191	-	-	-	4191	4370
23ACInsRep - Insurance Repairs - Church	-	-	-	-	-	4077
23ACSecu - Church Security	1120	-	-	-	1120	1214
23ACYard - Churchyard Upkeep	225	300	-	-	524	2907
23ADeanSub - Deanery Subscription	-	-	-	-	-	24
23AHMaint - Heating Maintenance	74	-	-	-	74	864
23AMinRep - Minor Repairs / Maint. / Equip.	1929	-	-	-	1929	1806
23AOffTel - Office - Broadband Telephone	492	-	-	-	492	459
23APub - Publicity	642	-	-	-	642	620
23AQuin - Quinquennial	625	-	-	-	625	-
23AREimb - Reimbursible Expenditure	-	-	-	-	-	780
23ASubs - Subscriptions (General)	105	-	-	-	105	105

23AWeb - Website	90	-	-	-	90	-
23PBapt - Baptism Confirmation Preparation	97	-	-	-	97	177
23PComm - Community Events	-	-	-	-	-	160
23PMPrep - Marriage Preparation	108	-	-	-	108	159
23PTrain - Training Courses Materials	-	-	-	-	-	51
23WGEqu - Worship Equipment General	110	-	-	-	110	213
23WHosp - Services Hospitality	48	-	-	-	48	182
23WInst - Instrument Organ Piano Maintenance	-	876	1231	-	2107	-
23WLic - Licences - Copyright etc.	475	-	-	-	475	462
23WLitMus - Liturgy Books Music	-	-	-	-	-	21
23WMat - Services Materials	162	-	-	-	162	122
23WMEqu - Worship Equipment Major	1006	-	-	-	1006	-
23WSacr - Sacristry	96	-	-	-	96	319
23WSSRes1 - Daniel Ortiz Sunday School Resources	58	-	-	-	58	344
23WSSRes2 - Rachel Ortiz Sunday School Resources	35	-	-	-	35	163
24Elec - Church Electricity	200	-	-	-	200	1234
24Gas - Church Gas	2163	-	-	-	2163	2007
24Wat - Church Water	133	-	-	-	133	93
25CCMan - Community Cafe Manager	363	-	-	-	363	472
25CCOth - Community Cafe Costs	127	-	-	-	127	581
25Clean - Hall Cleaning materials	164	-	-	-	164	741
25Elec - Hall Electricity	309	-	-	-	309	533
25Equip - Hall Equipment Fittings	136	-	-	-	136	585
25Gas - Hall Gas	692	-	-	-	692	1050
25Ins - Hall Insurance	950	-	-	-	950	873
25Mow - Hall Field Mowing	445	-	-	-	445	150
25Rep - Hall Repairs etc	318	-	-	-	318	727
25SalCle - Hall Cleaner salary	2183	-	-	-	2183	3413
25SalMan - Hall Manager inc. mobile phone	1336	-	-	-	1336	1267
25Wat - Hall Water	138	-	-	-	138	286
Activities relating to the work of the Church Totals	69482	1176	1231	-	71889	88908
Church management and administration						
23AIndEx - Independent Examiner	70	-	-	-	70	70
Church management and administration Totals	70	-	-	-	70	70
Expenditure Grand totals	81238	1176	1231	-	83645	98092

Conclusion

Without doubt the last year has been an exception one but we continue to have blessings as well as difficulties during this period of pandemic. It goes almost without saying that we will need to raise our level of income if we are to increase our mission and continue to meet our commitments in 2021 and beyond. We trust in God's provision and I give thanks that He never fails us.

Negotiations and funding plans have had to be placed on hold towards the Disabled Toilet at the rear of church.

I am pleased to confirm that despite the financial difficulties due to losing a large part of our generated income and reduced income from donors we have been able to end the year very close to meeting the terms of our reserves policy referred to above. This is largely due to our donors sacrificially giving what they can while themselves facing financial difficulty due to the pandemic. This together with a measure of reduced expenditure have resulted in an acceptable level of financial security. Through the generosity of the Diocese in rebating 15% of our Parish Share we were able to make the decision as a PCC to support our sister parish of St Chad's financially by making a grant of £3,809 towards payment of their parish share. A grant of £500 was made to Burton CAP (Christians Against Poverty) to support their vital work. These together corresponded to the Parish Share rebate.

The PCC tithe their income. This means that we calculate the amount of applicable income during the year and grant one tenth of this to the following charities. CMS - 25%; Footprints Orphanage - 25%; Burton YFC - 25%; Burton YMCA - 25%. This year this is £1,776 each with a total tithe of £7,104.

The outcome of this difficult year has led to a decrease in our Unrestricted Reserves to £7,024. This figure was £11,582 for 2019. Previous years Reserves were £12,933 in 2018. £5,907 in 2017, £5,188 in 2016, £12,066 in 2015, £16,412 in 2014, £14,362 in 2013, £9,365 in 2012, £9,929 in 2011 and £9,781 in 2010.

As indicated earlier as we emerge, hopefully soon, from the effects of this pandemic we will need to continue to try and increase our income if we are to expand the mission of the church that we all desire and pray for.

A separate Annual and Finance Report contains further information and reports that form part of our Trustees Annual Report.

This report dated 31 January 2021.

Adopted at meeting of the PCC on 9 March 2021

Vicar
9 March 2021



Treasurer
9 March 2021



Addendum to Treasurers report for 2020

In my main report I stated that “as we emerge, hopefully soon, from the effects of this pandemic we will need to continue to try and increase our income if we are to expand the mission of the church that we all desire and pray for”.

However, the effects of Covid 19 on all areas of our income has continued to the effect that as at 30 April this year our general (unrestricted) reserves were in a negative balance by £3,937.

I have now analysed in detail our income trends over the last 2 years and as you might expect our income from the church hall together with weddings and funeral fees have taken a big hit during the pandemic, hopefully these will recover as the effects of lockdown are lifted. The analysis of our voluntary giving trends has shown that this area of income has been declining, most markedly in the last 4 months.

To address this the PCC have agreed a strategy to try and redress these difficulties by the end of this current financial year. Church members will be receiving more information on this strategy soon.

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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: 

Date: 

Name: Mark Desmond Vickers
Address: 50 Stanton Road,
Stapenhill
Burton upon Trent,
DE15 9RP