



United Parish of  
Oakley with Wootton St Lawrence

# Annual Report 2021



Charity Registration Number 1131064

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## Introduction: Ben's Piece

*"Let us start rebuilding,"* the people of Israel said to Nehemiah as they surveyed the smouldering rubble of the decimated walls of the city of Jerusalem. *"And so they began this good work"* (Neh 2.18).

This time last year, I sat here at my desk preparing my report for another virtual APCM. We were only a couple of months into what would become the longest lockdown of the pandemic, stretching from the beginning of January to the end of July 2021. Much like Nehemiah, I found myself surveying the broken walls of our common life as a church and as a local community. I noticed evidence of weariness, anxiety, grief, and longing. I could also see clear signs of God's Spirit at work, guiding our way with points of light and hope and encouragement. As we pushed through the worst of the pandemic and the seemingly endless disruptions and challenges it posed to all our lives, we began to look ahead once more. We began to lay new foundations, new priorities, and a new vision for a future. As we set those plans into action, we began to recover and rebuild, and rediscover along the way who we are called to be as God's people in this place.

2021 has definitely become a year for rebuilding the walls.

Brick by brick, we witnessed our church coming back together again. Outdoor services recommenced. Friends and family reconnected. Small groups reconvened. Live-streaming cameras were installed in church. Weddings were celebrated and babies christened. The St Leonard's Centre relaunched. Children and youth were welcomed back to church. The house of God was filled with prayer and music and defiant hope once again.

Brick by brick, individuals started taking up their own little sections of the wall – using their gifts, skills, and talents to help get our church back on its feet again.

Brick by brick, we pressed on with the work constantly inviting the Holy Spirit to come and form us into ...

A church for **worship**

A church for **community**

A church for **growth**

A church for **belonging**

A church for **the next generation**

A church for **our time**

A church for **wellbeing**



'Al fresco' Sunday worship at St John's – May 2021

Make no mistake. This has been an intense, exhausting, relentlessly busy season ... perhaps more so than any I can remember. It has been a time of constant change and countless false starts due to the disruptions of COVID. And yet when I look back at the bold vision for rebuilding we mapped out last May and when I look around at where we are today and all that God has done ... I am absolutely amazed at the journey God has led us through.

### **A Church for Worship**

In June we produced our final pre-recorded YouTube services of Church@Home and Kids@Home. With newly installed cameras and AV equipment, St Leonard's began a new journey into 'hybrid church' – livestreaming all of our live Sunday services at St Leonard's. As lockdown eased, we began with our first in-person services outdoors at St John's. One of the greatest joys of this time was the return of sung worship under the leadership of Tina Skinner and Tim Saunders. Another was welcoming our 8:00 congregation back to holy communion and to our much loved (and much missed) breakfast! In the Autumn term, we launched a new service at Wootton St Lawrence, now offering two Sunday morning services each month.

We received 17,221 views on our YouTube channel in 2021. When we switched from Church@Home to livestreaming, I initially expected our online presence to diminish. Interestingly, that's not been the case. Despite having a fairly full church most Sundays, we are still seeing roughly the same number of views online as we did during the height of the pandemic. I notice that new guests seem more relaxed and at home in our Sunday services and families more at ease when I visit to discuss Christenings. At first this perplexed me, but then I realised it is because they have already been worshipping with us for some time ... online.

Not only is our online presence continuing to be a lifeline of connection and community to members of our church family who are unable to return to live services, but it is also a wonderful front window to anyone wishing to discover a bit more about our church.

I want to say a huge, huge thank you to everyone on the tech team who have sustained this effort throughout the year: Mark, Rowland, Graeme, Colin, Christine, Harry. We literally could not have done this without you! We are seeing the fruit of this ministry left, right and centre. If you'd like to get involved in supporting the tech team, you would be most welcome!

### **A Church for Community**

If there is one positive to come out of this terrible COVID experience, it is the way circumstances empowered our church to forge new and lasting relationships with our local village community. Through the work of projects like the Oakley Support Network, the Wootton Bee Fayre, Green Week, Remembrance Day, and the Easter/Christmas in Oakley programme, we are learning the value of working 'with' and 'alongside' the community toward common goals and a shared vision.

This year we also launched several new support groups, including: the Bereavement Journey, Men@Hart, Men's Curry, and the Cancer Support Group. These have all been an enormous blessing to both the church and the village.

Once again, Katey Butler and her pastoral care team pulled out all the stops to love and bless people at Christmas. We were able to give out dozens of festive care packages to the village and were asked to provide at least three times the number of hardship hampers as normal to the Oakley Infant and Junior Schools.

## A Church for Growth

We noticed during lockdown that God was on the move in so many different ways. We couldn't quite believe it, but it seemed as though in this crazy disrupted time God was actually *growing* the church here in Oakley and Wootton St Lawrence. It's one thing to say that about our newly discovered online presence, but what would it look like when we switched the lights back on and attempted live gatherings again?

It's been a journey, but we are seeing signs of growth across our church. Our Sunday gatherings have basically returned to pre-pandemic levels. Every single week we are welcoming new people to our church. People who have moved into the village during lockdown are now beginning to connect and find a place to belong. Many have become active members of our church family this year. The GAP youth club has bounced back ... and then some: regularly welcoming up to 120 children each month to Malshanger. Jamie Colman and his team ran two brilliant Alpha courses this year, one online and the other live at the Centre. Both courses have seen people grow deeper in their journey of faith and several marked that in a profound and public way at the recent confirmation service at St Leonard's.

It has been wonderful offering christenings and weddings once again. We've noticed a change here as well, with most of our recent christenings welcoming up to 75 to 100 guests. This has become an excellent opportunity to get to know more people in the community and to introduce them to a different way of doing church.

## A Church for Belonging

During the summer, I invested a lot of time having one-to-one 'belonging' conversations with dozens of members of our church. What I learned from these conversations is that our church is full of amazing people whom God has blessed with different gifts, talents, and callings.

I also became aware that some people felt stuck having served in one area of church for a long time, whereas others had always longed to have a go but never felt they had the chance. This has been a wonderful time to encourage people to realign to the place they feel God is calling them, the place they belong. We are just at the tip of the iceberg. There is much more work to do to help others who are new or perhaps a bit on the fringe to feel like they belong too and can make a deep and meaningful contribution to our church.

One of the challenging tasks of 2021 has been rebuilding all our teams: Sunday service team, prayer ministry team, AV tech team, worship team, preaching team, children & youth team, discipleship team, Alpha team, bereavement team, eco church team, finance team, Centre management team, comms team, etc.

This is one of those moments when we need the full body of Christ with all its gifts and experience in order to lean into the radical calling Christ invites us into as his people.



## **A Church for the Next Generation**

The first half of 2021 felt very strange not being able to welcome our children and young people into church. In September, Helen Miller and her team relaunched all of our Sunday groups for children and youth. After the long break, the GAP, the youth meal night, and our engagements with the local schools launched straight back into action. We even managed to start an experimental new Sunday service called 'Sunday Fun Day' once per term, which welcomed tons of new families to church.

The most exciting development within children and youth is the preparations made to appoint a new full-time youth worker to our parish. This new role will be tasked with launching a new youth group to operate alongside The Gap, to work within our local schools, and to be a mental health and wellbeing advocate for your people within our community. Within a month of asking, the congregations at St Leonard's alone pledged enough financial support for the project that we were able to fund the post in full for three years! This is a huge investment and it is right and fitting and necessary for us to do so for the sake of the next generation. This appointment will completely reconfigure our approach to children and youth. And we invite the Holy Spirit to come and pave the way for all that is to come.



## **A Church for Our Time**

Whilst the circumstances of 2021 prevented the Church for Our Time building project to advance to its next phase, we were able to tackle a lot of projects in the Church and the Centre. With the reopening of the Centre, we invested in reordering the parish office and the prayer room. We installed our live-streaming technology up at church. Major works have been undertaken to repair the vestry at Wootton St Lawrence.

In addition, there have been significant developments with our finance team. Simon Constantine, our new treasurer, together with Alice Felton, have completely revamped the financial structures of the church, bringing clarity, transparency, and fresh vision to this area. A huge word of thanks goes to Alice, who sacrificed a huge amount of her time to help us rebuild our financial infrastructure.

It has also been a joy and a delight to welcome Victoria Moody as a new member to the office admin team.

## **A Church for Wellbeing**

As we emerged from our long lockdown and began to see life come back to normal, it became clear very quickly that whilst life was coming back toward normal many of us were struggling with mental health and wellbeing. Whether it was the prolonged social isolation, the constant fear narratives around COVID, intense stress and anxiety, or even the experience of post-pandemic trauma, this year has taken its toll. Many are only beginning to feel the delayed impact of the previous year.

During the Nehemiah series, we sensed God wanting us to talk about all this more honestly and openly as a church. In October, we launched a series on wellbeing and mental health at St Leonard's. We invited a range of speakers (clinical counsellor, NHS nurse, mental health charity founders, GP) to talk. We hosted a panel discussion for the wider village and launched our first parish-wide rhythm of quiet day retreats.

As we move to the other side of this pandemic, this conversation about wellbeing is going to continue to shape the context of our ministry for a very long time. In order to rebuild the people as well as the walls, we need to be intentional about becoming a church that is equipped to listen, to make space, to be honest, open and vulnerable, and to stand in the gap for one another when life happens.

### **Looking forward ...**

2022 will be a year of many changes for us. We will soon be welcoming our new full-time Youth Worker to join our staff team. This new ministry has enormous potential to transform our engagement with children, young people, and their families. Needless to say, we are all very keen to see what God will be doing here!

Sadly, this APCM marks Derek Felton's retirement as Churchwarden. It is difficult to put into words the debt of gratitude I have for Derek for all he has given to the life of our church these last 5 years. Derek and Sheila Compton led our parish through the vacancy and recruitment process with great wisdom, skill, and vision. From day one, Derek and Shirley have been a constant source of support and encouragement for me, Jo, and the boys. Throughout the pandemic, Derek was instrumental in the development and success of the Oakley Support Network and countless other projects. I cannot imagine how we would have gotten to this place without the gift of Derek's encouraging and strategic leadership. We are going to miss him. And our one consolation is knowing that he isn't going to be very far away!

I want to bring my reflections on the year to a close with a final word of gratitude. We are so fortunate in our church to be blessed and served by such an amazing team. I want to give a special shout out to Helen and Derek, Penny and Katey, and Sue and Jamie.

The scale of what you've done to support our church and bless our village ... it is humbling and remarkable. Without you, this would have been an immensely difficult and overwhelming year. Because of you, I look around overwhelmed with thanks.

We still have a significant journey of 'rebuilding' ahead of us, but God's work of healing, restoration and renewal is already well underway. Let us pray with boldness and expectancy for the new thing God is doing in our midst.

Come, Holy Spirit!

Set our hearts alight with love for you.

Give us courage to be your people

in the midst of dark and troubled times.

And may your kingdom come and set us free  
to live the good news of Jesus.

Yours in Christ,

Ben



# Parochial Church Council Report

## Summary

Oakley with Wootton Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility of cooperating with the incumbent in promoting in the parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. The PCC is also responsible for the operation and maintenance of two Centres: St Leonard's and St John's.

The parish has two churches: St Leonard's in Oakley and St Lawrence in Wootton. The churchyards at St John's and at St Lawrence's are open for burials although the PCC is actively working with the relevant agencies to prepare for the closure of St John's graveyard.

The PCC's main tasks in 2021 was to manage the enduring consequences of the Covid-19 pandemic while planning and supporting the relaunch of church activities and growth priorities.

It has been a busy time. While 2020 brought the challenges of launching an on-line church, 2021 required us to operate a hybrid church with strong on-line and physical elements.

All of our church activities have had to adapt. We have had no continuity at all and we have learned to not look too far into the future. All parts of the church family adapted well to the situations we have faced.

Simon Constantine and the Finance Committee led a 'root and branch' review of our Finance systems and processes, Victoria Moody joined the Office Team and Mark Peryer and the Building and Maintenance Team have progressed a significant number of modest and major repairs to the churches and centres.



## Structure, governance and management

The procedures for appointing PCC members are set out in the Church Representation Rules. In Oakley with Wootton parish, the membership of the PCC in 2020 consisted of the Rector, Churchwardens, Treasurer, Administrator, Deanery Synod representatives and members elected by those members of the congregation who are on the electoral roll of the church. All those who attend our services are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC.

PCC members are responsible for making decisions on all matters of general concern and importance to the parish including deciding on how the funds of the PCC are to be spent. New members receive initial training into the workings of the PCC.

The full PCC met 5 times during the year. The average level of attendance was 85%

Given its wide responsibilities, the PCC has a number of committees dealing with different aspects of parish life. The Leadership Team continued to meet weekly and support short term decision-making to enable the church to respond to the changing implications of the pandemic. This team includes clergy, church wardens, church administrator and the lead for Pastoral Care.

Teams responsible for Safeguarding, Finance, Buildings and Maintenance, A Church for Our Time, Centre Management, outward giving (Mission Action Group) report to the PCC as necessary.

## Safeguarding

The Church Safeguarding Officer is Teresa Bates. Teresa leads a team that supports all church activities with policy, policy compliance, procedures and advice.

The PCC has complied with the duty under Section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure of 2016.

## Administrative information

The United Parish of Oakley with Wootton includes two churches (St Leonard's and St Lawrence) and a Garden of Remembrance on the site of the chapel of St John in East Oakley. It is part of the Diocese of Winchester within the Church of England. The correspondence address is:

The Church Office, St Leonard's Centre Rectory Road,  
Oakley, Basingstoke, Hampshire RG23 7ED.

The PCC is a corporate body established by the Church of England. (PCC Powers Measure 1956, Church Representation Rules 2006) and is registered as a charity (number 1131064).

Our Independent Examiner is Paul Sherrington, MBA FCCA

## PCC members at 31/12/20

Ex Officio PCC members: Incumbent: Rev'd Ben Kautzer; Associate Minister: Rev'd Sue Colman Treasurer: Simon Constantine, PCC Secretary, Penny Brown

Churchwardens: Helen Miller; Derek Felton

Deanery Synod PCC members: Rev'd Ben Kautzer, Helen Miller, Derek Felton and Diana Rundle

Elected PCC members:

- Tim Saunders (1<sup>st</sup> term ends 2022), Katey Butler (1<sup>st</sup> term ends 2022), Tina Skinner (1<sup>st</sup> term ends 2022)
- Teresa Bates (1<sup>st</sup> term ends 2023), Kate Goucher (1<sup>st</sup> term ends 2023), Phillipa Spicer (1<sup>st</sup> term ends 2023).
- Abigail Compton-Burnett (2<sup>nd</sup> term ends 2024), Mark Peryer (2<sup>nd</sup> term ends 2024), Graeme Wheeler (1<sup>st</sup> term ends 2024)

PCC Report Approved by the PCC on 21<sup>st</sup> March 2022

## Financial Review

2021 was the second year in which we were impacted financially by the pandemic, most notably by St Leonard's Centre remaining shut until September, save for the operation of our Pre-School. This resulted in about half the normal level of rental income being received. We also faced some significant increases in utility costs in the second half that continue into 2022.

The most significant income for the Church is of course giving, primarily from our worshipping community and wonderfully this actually increased over the previous year and almost equalled gifts given in 2019. This enabled us to continue the many streams of both online and physical ministry as you will read elsewhere in this report. We also met our requested contribution to the Diocese Common Mission Fund in full once again; this is by far our largest outgoing.

During the year, the financial systems, controls and presentation of accounts were redesigned after a number of years where the Church's activities have increased to the point where financial reports were not reflecting the activities in the most helpful way. The activities of both St Leonard's and St John's Centres were brought into the main monthly accounts and the PCC now has full visibility of all activities regularly, including Pre-School and Evergreens, where significant funds are involved.

The Church and Centres together showed a small deficit for the year of £6,932 (2020: surplus of £1,500) and the Pre-School, which is now included in Unrestricted Funds, a surplus of £6,966. Restricted Funds increased by £62,503 primarily due to continued gifts being made into the Church for our Time initiative.

The full Financial Statements are included in the Annual Report.

## Reserves Policy

It is the policy of the PCC to maintain sufficient unrestricted operating reserves (those not relating to property) to cover the normal ministry, management and administration costs of the Church for a minimum of six months. Additional reserves are set aside where, in the view of the PCC, it is prudent to allow for future planned spending.

The level of unrestricted operating reserves as at 31 December 2021 was £132,664 (2020: £132,631), which represents approximately seven and a half months of normal expenditure.

*Simon Constantine, Treasurer*

## From the Church Wardens

2021 was an extremely busy year and one that has required significant effort and energy from the Rectory and the Leadership Team as a whole. At times, it felt that we were trying to operate two churches – the online church that had provided so much support to us all when we couldn't meet and a relaunched physical church environment that remained heavily restricted.

It was a year when we asked people to consider how they 'belong' to the church and what this means. Some would stand back for a bit, others would get involved in new ways and others have asked to try something completely different.

Thank you for your resilience through 2021 and your commitment and generosity in time and energy as we restarted church activities. We also thank you for the way you have responded to the call to invest in a youth worker. So many have you have worked hard to rebuild, restart and renew church life. We are grateful to you all.

*Derek Felton*

*Helen Miller*

## Pastoral Care

As I look back on the past year, I remember times of great joy when we have celebrated together, but also what a difficult year it has been with times of great sorrow as we have said goodbye to some very dear friends.

The length of time we have been living with Covid and facing certain restrictions has had an impact on us all in terms of our physical health, mental wellbeing and, in some respects, our confidence. But in all these circumstances you have continued to show God's love and compassion to your neighbours, friends and family through your prayers and acts of kindness. Thank you to everyone who has provided meals, baked cakes, sent cards and flowers, visited, phoned, prayed and given words of hope and encouragement.

Once again we have demonstrated God's love and blessing to individuals within the community and church family with the giving of mini Christmas Hampers. We were also blessed to be in a position to provide hampers in response to requests from Besom, Basingstoke Foodbank and the local schools. A huge 'Thank You' to everyone, including the young people from The Gap, who provided items and the delivery team that distributed the hampers. The response to these gifts has been extremely positive.

This year there has been a focus on providing support to the bereaved and this has taken several forms including running a bereavement course and establishing a regular meeting point for bereaved men.

We have been networking with outside agencies to establish the level of support that we can realistically offer to some of the more vulnerable members of our community.

Although the OSN was wound up earlier this year, a small number of elderly people are still being supported by phone buddies from the church.

The Pastoral Care Team continues to meet and work together to ensure we understand who is in need of support and how best to put this in place. The Team is grateful to everyone who has played a part in supporting others during this past year. Your kindness, generosity and care will have made a positive difference to a person's life. All these acts of love and compassion are part of our worship to God.

If you want to get involved, or you are aware of any pastoral care needs please contact me and I would be pleased to listen and know more.

*Katey Butler*



Remembering the Duke of Edinburgh

## From Sue Colman, Associate Minister

To be called to minister at OWW with such a faith filled congregation and excellent team has been a surprising journey and a huge joy.

There has been a lot of change in my role at OWW over the last 5 years.....

- 2018 – whilst licensed to a London parish, helping the church wardens and carrying the congregations through an interregnum.
- 2019 – welcoming Ben and Jo and the family in May and then getting licensed here as a part-time Associate Minister
- 2020 – in March and the midst of lockdown arrives - I am sworn in as Hampshire High Sheriff and step back from much of my church roles at Oakley with Wootton while we all play at trying to gauge what any role looks like in this strange time
- 2021 in March the role as High Sheriff ends, but we are still in the strange Covid landscape and we shape a new 'normal', whatever that means for us all!

And so to now – 2022 – and some clarity for the years .... with space for God to keep on surprising us.

As a part time Associate Minister, my 'working days' are Thursday and Sunday – broadly 14 hours – but the joy is that the rest of my week can often be flexible so I try and fit things in the best possible places! Friday is my day off...oh and Tuesday is granny day – equally important! And Mondays term times I work in London as a Chaplain to a Theological College – with whom I also go on residentials for 7 weekends each year.

I look forward with great anticipation as to what God will do in the years ahead...and how he will invite each of us to join in with his perfect plans.

*Rev'd Sue Colman*

## Bereavement Support

This year the church had the opportunity to carry out 25 funerals and 8 burials of ashes. We connect to families and loved ones after these services through personal connection and with cards and invitations to appropriate services and courses.

The annual In 'Loving Memory' service was much appreciated and the invitation to light candles personally and place these on the Altar was very meaningful. Refreshments provided afterwards in the Centre provided a helpful opportunity to talk and share with others in similar situations.

The 'Blue Christmas' service on 19 December helped support those facing loneliness, sadness and loss and for whom the programmed happiness of the season feels difficult. The service was a safe, gentle and encouraging place which was greatly valued by those who came.

The 'Journeying Together' group for those facing fertility problems and childlessness of varying kinds continued on-line and proved to be of real value especially during lockdown. In the Autumn, the core group felt it right to take a break until the new year. One couple now have a baby and there was a lovely Thanksgiving Service arranged in St Lens which our Rector lead most sensitively. This and another pregnancy in the group has brought both celebration and challenge.

A 6 week course 'The Bereavement Journey' in January was run on-line due to Covid restrictions. It was found to be extremely valuable and there are plans to run another course 'in person' in the Centre are in hand. Thanks are due to the team who have enabled this to run so well.

*Diana Rundle*

## Office@HereandThere

It has been a second eventful year for the Church Office, which was run from home at the start of the year before moving back into St Leonard's Centre in the summer.

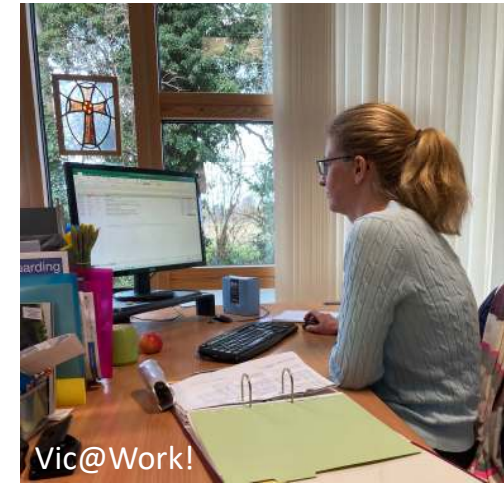
The Big Centre Clear-out involved a stock take in every cupboard and the removal of many unwanted and unused items. We sorted, 'crated' and labelled the things we needed to keep and we had a fresh look at furniture and displays. New racks were introduced for the bookstall, cards and Traidcraft.



Helen, Laura and Jeni sorted through all the children's stuff and amalgamated them in easy-to-find drawers in cupboards. Michael had the unenviable task of sifting through old financial statements and receipts.

So after several industrial bins were emptied and with the aid of an industrial shredding company, we are now officially 'decluttered'.

Amazon and Facebook helped us find new storage and shelving for the office and kitchen. Rowland and Harry painted the room and Rowland built a new desk and cupboard out of an old desk and cupboard, so we can still sit 3-5 people at the desk. This has proved really useful, and the new office layout is a great use of space.



The opening of the office window from the entrance area has also been really useful and it allows us to interact with people at a safe distance!

We also have changed the way we rota the different roles for Sunday services. Sunday Teams have been created to manage the different stewarding and hospitality roles on a Sunday and these have been a great success. We are very grateful to those who have stepped forward to be part of these teams, especially the team leaders. But there is always space for more, so do step forward if you would like to welcome, steward and serve coffee.

The biggest and best change in the office was the arrival of Vic in July. Taken on to do Linda's booking admin role, but with additional hours to help with the day to day finance operations like banking and expense paying, she is also deputising for me. Vic's previous experience with a major bank has been a real blessing to the Church and she is surely destined for great things.

One of the key 'tech' aims for 2022 is to make more and better use of the iKnow system. We will be updating all the info currently on there and so we will be asking you to help us with that during the Spring Term.

I completed a course, set up originally by St. John's Theological College in Nottingham, on 'The Work of the Church Administrator'. This was distance learning covering everything from filing to social media, Bible teachings on administration to handling tricky customers. It ends with writing a report on your church with observations and ideas on how to improve the way we do things. Huge thanks to Jan who mentored me (for 'mentored' please read – 'held me accountable') and gave me a much-needed shove and food to help me get over the finish line.

Thank you for all your feedback on the Friday email. My virtual walk from Land's End to John O'Groats certainly led to some interesting conversations, especially people with people calling out to me in the Oakley streets to ask me where my virtual location was: Loch Ness or wherever, only to be overheard by puzzled looking, non-church folk!

As ever we could not function without the amazing wider office support team, especially Graeme, without whom the Welcome Sheet just wouldn't happen. We were very sad to lose Joan Smith as she stepped back from the office team, but she is still helps us out with administrative support behind the scenes.

Thank you to everyone who has had made any contribution to the smooth running of the churches and centres: the services, private prayer, and odd jobs in the Centre ... and obviously to the Church Leadership Team for their support and encouragement as we navigate and cope with these strange times.

*Penny Brown and Vic Moody*

## Church for Our Time

It has been a pretty frustrating year as we seek the final approvals from the Local Authority and Diocese to proceed with improvements to St Leonard's Church.

We always knew that our designs for an extension at the main church door would be contentious and likely to attract concerns and comments from Historic England, the Victorian Society and The Society for Protection for Ancient Buildings but we have always believed that this is the location that is most obvious and appropriate for introducing the changes we want to make.

We did receive positive responses when we had pre-planning discussions with the Local Authority and we continue to receive huge support from local Councillors. The planners asked us to increase the pitch of the extension (previously we had been advised to keep it as low as possible!). Subsequent meetings with the Diocese have welcomed this design and it passed preliminary reviews with no objections from the historic societies.

We have, however, been asked to prepare more detailed specifications on particular aspects of the design before we are granted final permissions from the Diocese and this is needed earlier than the architects had anticipated. We will then submit final planning applications.

In the meantime, we are looking to see what elements of the improvements we can bring forward. This does cause extra work as we still need to get Diocesan approvals but it has meant that we can introduce new technologies, for example, to allow video streaming.

*Derek Felton*



## Wootton St Lawrence

During the year as restrictions began to ease, the community life, activities & services in Wootton re-emerged. From May, the church building has been open daily providing a quiet space for private prayer and reflection. An established prayer group continues to meet.

On 23rd May, following a partial lifting of Covid restrictions, a service of Holy Communion for the whole parish was held at St Lawrence and in July, we celebrated a Wootton family wedding, with a reception on the green.



In August, we held our first Bee Fayre. St Lawrence Church is the pastoral home to Charles Butler, acknowledged as the Father of English Beekeeping. With the involvement of Basingstoke Beekeepers Association and the local community, people were invited to meet the bee keepers; learn about the secret life of bees, and enjoy local market stalls, beekeeping workshops, demonstrations, crafts & activities. Short talks & presentations were held in the church. It was a very successful day and we have plans for this to be a regular event.



In October, there was a meeting in St Lawrence to listen to the views of local people regarding services and the use of St Lawrence Church. It was a very encouraging time with many creative ideas shared for how we might continue and enhance our times of worship in the church along with how we might

see it as a community venue for a range of other events.

Later that month we held our Harvest Thanksgiving Service followed by refreshments, to inaugurate the new rhythm of Sunday morning worship.

This is: 1st Sunday of the month at 9am a traditional Communion service; 3rd Sunday of the month at 9am a more informal service.

On Remembrance Sunday, a simple act of Remembrance was held at the memorial, led by Sue Colman. This was well attended and clergy involvement was much appreciated by the villagers.

Following on from this, a short ceremony took place dedicating a tree planted in memory of Arthur & Kathleen Pooles, who had provided much service to the church & local community during their lives. We gathered afterwards in the church for refreshments afterwards.

In December we held our Christmas Tree Festival and Big Sing. Members of the local community decorated trees on the Saturday and then on the Sunday afternoon, people were invited to explore the brilliant display, vote for their favourite tree and enjoy mulled wine, mince pies in a festive atmosphere. Funds raised for St Lawrence Church Fund. After this, the Big Sing commenced with musical performances, poetry, readings & a Christmas singalong! We had great contributions from residents of both Oakley & Wootton.

We held our traditional crib service with readings & carols by candlelight. To maintain covid safety, we couldn't have a lot of children gathering at the crib, however Ben did an excellent job of placing the characters & animals in the stable!

Work on the fabric of the church this year has included removing the carpets that were damaging the floor tiles and there has been significant renovation of the vestry. In the coming year, we hope to move forward with improving our church facilities so that we have a much needed water supply, kitchen, toilet and flexible space to offer a better welcome for congregations and the community. We plan to write a vision statement, then ask for volunteers with experience/enthusiasm to form a team/working party to move this forward. Let me know if you want to get involved!

*Teresa Bates*



## Eco Church

The 'Love Oakley Go Green' banner continues to provide a uniting theme that encourages and expands environmental issues and awareness throughout the Community, as well as the Church. In this, we have benefitted from valuable contributions from Barbara, Clerk to the Oakley Parish Council, Chris from the Oakley Community Association and Naomi from the Oakley Junior School.

Alongside the Bee Fayre that was held in Wootton St Lawrence, the team planned the annual Green Week and Green Fayre. Sadly, the predicted torrential rain and high winds meant that the Green Fayre had to be cancelled.

However, throughout the 2020 Green Week, there were a range of activities including visits, walks and talks. The Oakley Gardening club put together a fantastic display of shrubs and plants loved by bees and butterflies, together with a variety of bug hotel ideas and caring for hedgehogs.

Ben hosted the Big Green Questions in the church and this was streamed to enable people to participate and get involved online. We also learned from the experiences of Overton village as they seek to say 'No' to single use plastics. During the week, the Hampshire and IoW Woodland Trust visited Oakley Junior School year groups 5 and 6. The children engaged with issues, showing a strong awareness of nature, and at the same time extending their knowledge and understanding of the work of the Trust and wider green issues.

On the Friday evening, there was an opportunity to learn how to reduce CO2 emissions in the home. Speakers talked on ground and air source heat pumps, home insulation, solar panels, and how to calculate home carbon footprints. There was a demonstration of a thermal camera which can detect heat loss.

The Greening Campaign ran alongside the 'Love Oakley Go Green' programme with the Oakley Parish Council encouraging the Community to commit to five challenges to reduce their home CO2 emissions.

10% of the Community was covered by counting the Challenge Cards in windows. On this basis, good annual results were achieved saving: 105.5 tons of CO2 emissions and £55,000. We would like to think more villagers joined in but didn't put their cards in windows. If half our community did join in then the potential savings would be 527.5 tons of CO2 and £275,000 pa.

We can all make small changes to achieve this. A huge thank-you to those of you who joined in, and to the volunteers who delivered and counted the cards. We are very grateful.

As we progress into 2022, we want to build ever stronger links with the Community. With everybody's support, Oakley will continue to 'go greener'.

### ECO Church Award

We still have a way to go to achieve the Gold standard. We are constantly reminded that it is our responsibility to steward God's Creation to protect His wonderful world. A major challenge is to improve the carbon footprint of our Churches and Centres. Let's continue to challenge ourselves and commit to improvement.

*Linda Wain*

### Bishop's Commission for Mission: Creation Care

Many congratulations to Linda for completing the Bishop's Commission for Mission (BCM) for Creation Care. This is for individuals who want to help their churches take more steps towards caring for God's Creation. The six sessions cover the theology behind creation care as well as the practical actions that can be launched as we seek to learn how to be better stewards of God's wonderful world.

## Deanery Synod Report

Due to Covid restrictions the first meeting of the Synod was held on 13 July at Tadley and in July, Ben was appointed as the new Assistant Area Dean of Basingstoke

Chris Hill (new Diocesan Mission Trainer) explained from as from September four areas of study for the Bishops Commission for Mission (BCM) would be offered: Worship; Youth & Families; Prayer Champions; Creation Care.

Richard Harlow introduced LLF (Living in Love & Faith) course which sets out to inspire people to think more deeply. Courses will be offered within the Deanery.

Two newly-ordained Curates were introduced (Kim Robins – St Marks Kempshott and Steve McKay – St Marys Tadley North).

The second Synod meeting on 5 October were advised that three new laity members were accepted as Basingstoke Deanery Representatives on Diocesan Synod (Pippa Aslet – Sherborne w Pamber; Philip Hiorns – St Marys Eastrop and David Josey – Christchurch Chineham).

There was a presentation on Basingstoke Movement for Recovery (BM4R). A network across the churches, Council, Police, business community, social care and voluntary sector work together across the problem areas of food, housing, unemployment and health to engage in recovery actions. 596 volunteers had been involved in helping 11,507 people. They were encouraged that Basingstoke Council asked the group to lead on Foodbank and Night Shelter.

Penny Dilley shared an update on the Community Food Link (CFL). Volunteers collect food from supermarkets across the town which is sorted and delivered to various hubs for distribution on different days. Queues form for around an hour before food is laid out on tables and all is gone within 30 minutes.

*Diana Rundle*

## 8 O'Clockers

The Covid restrictions in 2020 changed our wonderful and faithful community of 8 o'clockers.

The momentary panic of the first lock down forced us to change from meeting every other week for a Book of Common Prayer Service of Holy Communion to meeting every Sunday by Zoom for a service of the Word and introduce a mid-week Zoom "Coffee Morning".

We discovered hidden talents for leading prayers and bible reading – along with really enjoying seeing each other's faces instead of the back of each other's heads during worship. We also enjoyed listening to hymns together.

As soon as we were able to do so, we transitioned back into being in church together, on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays each month, with a slightly different style of worship – still a quiet and gentle early morning space, but with some music; thankfully again sharing communion together, but with words which are more familiar to our 21<sup>st</sup> century ears.

In the autumn we tried meeting in the alternate weeks for our legendary after service breakfast and completed some of the Alpha course together to help us go deeper in our relationships with each other and with God. The 8 o'clock service looks forward to 2022 and beyond with a new confidence, able to welcome newcomers who value the slightly more contemplative worship and of course our regular post service breakfast together.

*Rev'd Sue Colman*

## Buildings and Grounds

The general idea with the work of the buildings and ground team is that you shouldn't notice that we've been at work. But rest assured, we have been very busy this year:

At St Leonard's:

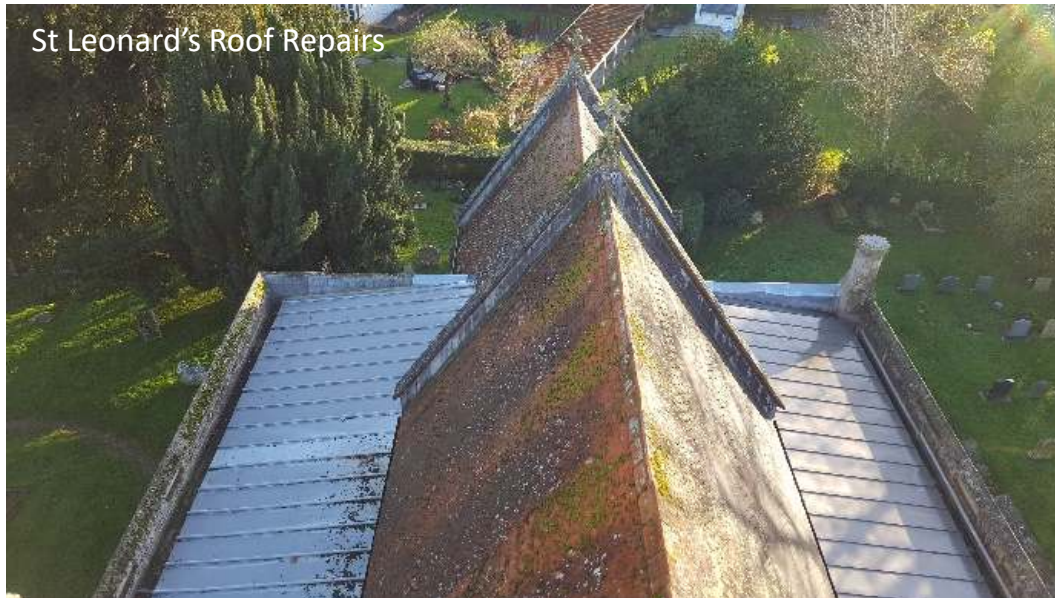
- replacing stolen lead flashings from the lower roof

At St Lawrence:

- treating woodworm
- removing the carpet
- treating the floor tiles
- renovating the vestry

We also fixed the leaking water supply and the hot water system at St John's Centre and we reordered the Prayer Room at St Leonards Centre.

If you ever feel like you would like to get out of the house and do something practical just let me know, the list of maintenance jobs has a life of its own.



One outcome that you may have noticed signs of is the project to get equipment installed in St Leonards Church to allow us to stream live services and other events, such as the Green Week Debate to our YouTube channel.

This improvement was envisaged as part of the Church for Our Time project and we initiated the work in 2021 to get early benefits, particularly as we needed to operate a physical and on-line church as we emerged from pandemic restrictions.

The system became operational in May 2021 and since then a small team of operators has faithfully been working to refine their skills to provide what has proven to be a much needed channel, not just for the immediate church family but those with wider spread friends and family who otherwise wouldn't be able to connect with weddings and funerals.

In addition to the camera operator, a typical service crew also has a laptop and a sound desk operator, in the absence of rolling credits in our videos I should like to acknowledge their contributions.

*Mark Peryer*



## St Leonard's Pre-School

Thank you all for your continued prayer support of the families and staff at St Leonard's.

This has been an eventful year with the pre-school remaining open to all children for the whole year, despite Covid! It was during the summer term, whilst reading a book about parties, that it suddenly struck me that none of the children would know what a children's birthday party, with friends, was like. I am glad to say that slowly this is beginning to change. Another impact of Covid is that all children accept practitioners and adults wearing masks as part of everyday life.

This year has seen the appointment of several new members of staff, who are all settling in well. Parents have now accepted Covid as part of life and have been keen to send their children to preschool to meet and play with others. I am pleased to say that currently the preschool is well attended.

Last year we had a very successful time fundraising and bought new mathematics and sensory equipment for inside and bikes, water wall, water pipettes and big construction equipment for the outside area. We also received many good quality donations of equipment for the preschool which the children are benefitting from.

September saw the introduction of the new Early Years Foundation stage which we are busy implementing. We have started to invite people back into the setting. We have had chicks, guinea pigs, rabbits and a tortoise visit the setting much to the children's enjoyment. At Christmas we had our Nativity for the first time in the church. This proved to be very successful, and we had a large audience of families to perform to.

We are starting to think about the redevelopment of the outside area, so the preschool has its own space within the outside area.

Hopefully by the next annual report this will have started or taken place. Please pray for wisdom and guidance on the way forward.

*Caroline Edwards*

## Pre-School Committee

This is a sub-committee of the PCC and exists to oversee the running of the pre-school and support Caroline and the staff.

There was a successful fundraising initiative led by the Parent Reps enabling Caroline to purchase new resources including the outdoor blackboards that can be seen on the fence.

At the beginning of 2021 Sarah Pritchard was appointed to undertake a few hours administration. She has been busy setting up efficient electronic systems e.g. for enrolling children, as well as updating paperwork and policies.

From Easter the afternoon hours were extended to 3.00pm to provide more time for the children.

Caroline has professionally led the staff through some challenging times; they coped admirably with all the Covid precautions and are now in the process of implementing the new Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum

We are pleased to say the pre-school is currently flourishing with the highest number of children on role over the last year plus regular visits from prospective new children and their parents.

*Sheila Compton*



## Children, Youth and Families

What a year it has been in the life of our families, children and youth! During the pandemic our families and youth got very used to connecting with each other through the wonder of YouTube, emails and Zoom. But in this last year, we have begun to tentatively reconnect face-to-face and only fully appreciated then how much we had missed all being together.

We saw Kids@Home continue right up until the summer last year with weekly services online for all: each with a different theme and all with the participation of lots of our local families and children. There was no limit to what we tackled and talked about, the families and children who watched being fed wherever and whenever they accessed it. These services were also used as the weekly collective worship for our junior school. Kids@Home reached far beyond our expectations and I believe we are still seeing the fruitful results and impacts in our community as a result of it.

Sunday morning groups restarted and we have loved welcoming all children back to our Centre to eat, chat, share and learn together. Having the children there on Sundays has brought such life and joy back into our Centre building. We have seen new members join our Leaders and Helpers Team as well. We spent time prioritising to ensure that we made sure all children were welcomed back into their church and to take their place. Our focus was to help everyone adjust to being together again and recognise the importance of belonging. It has been wonderful to welcome back our families as well as getting to know new ones.

We have introduced 'Sunday Fundays'. This is a new service on Sunday afternoons with a real party celebration feel. These were fun afternoons filled with worship, stories, balloons, face painting, crafts, yummy food, and even a bouncy castle and more! We were delighted that so many new faces joined us at these afternoons with lots of happy, messy and noisy children. The Sunday Fundays shared God's love and fun with our community at a time everyone needed it.



For the first time since March 2019, we could gather back in church together, young and old. The youth and children joined the whole congregation to worship and show the church what they had been learning during our wellbeing series.

We enjoyed an 'in-person' Christingle service, complete with a life size orange vicar! We have had to continue to adjust and be patient. Just as we started to get used to be back together again, we had to move our Crib service back online.... but how wonderful it was and so many families took part to ensure that we could still celebrate together.



The Gap youth group also returned and welcomed back huge numbers of young people. We met monthly again at Malshanger Social Club and it was filled with youth and teens all happy to be together again and connect with friends, old and new. The gap team has seen new helpers and leaders join as well. The Gap continues to provide a safe, fun and parent free zone for our local youth to hang out. The mission of The Gap has no limits.

The Teens Group leaders were quick to get the teen's dinner nights going again and their table has been filled with teens and youth ever since! They are such brilliant evenings with yummy food and games. It is a true blessing to the children and a very important opportunity for our children to socialise again. There have been so many attending the dinners that they have had to meet at the Centre instead of in a home! Teens dinners are a key part of our youth ministry and have the potential to reach many more in our community alongside other groups.

This year saw the launch of our youth worker project. This was a real highlight to our year and the outcome of years of prayer and preparation. We have worked as a team to develop a Job Profile and Description for a full time youth worker with an emphasis on wellbeing and mental health. We launched the project to our church family and then the local community and have been overwhelmed with the response and generosity. We have moved onto the next phase of the project and we are currently actively advertising and interviewing candidates. We are so excited for the future and continue to pray into God's will being done.

During the lockdowns we were able to not just simply continue but develop our links and relationship with our local schools. As they returned over the last year this has been a challenge with restrictions changing so often. We were all constantly adjusting to new rules and high numbers of Covid cases. Despite this, we continue to have a very positive relationship with our infant and junior schools. This has included visits to church, online Christmas celebrations with our Evergreens group, assemblies with Ben, the links with Sunday Fundays and The Gap and of course with Kids@Home. We look forward to this coming year as we can welcome back Prayer Space, have regular assemblies and work alongside the school in their RE curriculum. Our youth worker will also be involved regularly in our schools. We have much to look forward to and hope to build and expand our teams involved in our school projects.

We continue to be so grateful for all God has done for us over this last year. We have been abundantly blessed with so many youth, children and their families engaging with our church and activities. We now look forward to a new phase in a changed world and we want to be there, letting children know that God's love for them never changes and they have a warm welcome waiting for them at church.

*Helen Miller*



## Evergreen

We were unable to meet as a group in St Leonard's Centre until August. Until then, we met in groups of six in helpers homes for Morning Coffee or Afternoon Tea. Also during that period we kept in touch by telephone and the delivery of small surprises.

The August concessionary meeting helped the Evergreens to learn to meet in a large group again and enjoy Afternoon Tea together.

In September we were privileged to hear Angela Rush read from her book of Poems. We also welcomed five new members.

At last, we celebrated our 21<sup>st</sup> Birthday in October with entertainment from St Leonard's Magician, Dave Rundle with his extended repertoire, causing much amusement! We also enjoyed a special tea with an amazing 21<sup>st</sup> birthday cake. Balloons and flower arrangements were in abundance and so were the smiles. In November, our Rector Ben celebrated a Remembrance Communion – appreciated by all.



Covid restrictions prevented our usual delightful visit to the Junior School to be entertained by the children in year six. Evergreens were sad and the children were sad. However, Ben and Mr Rich, the Headmaster, organised the production of a DVD of the children singing carols in St Leonard's Church and recordings of conversations between the children and three of the Evergreens. This was amazing.

*Marilyn and Rodney Scott*

## Men@Hart

Men@Hart is a recently started facility the church can offer to men who find themselves on their own.

We gather on the last Tuesday of the month at The White Hart in Overton, except for a very boisterous meal at the Red Fort whilst the White Hart was being renovated, for a tasty meal and lots of chat.

Each meal has provided a lovely evening with some quite surprising revelations!

Do get in touch if you know of anyone that would benefit from and welcome joining us.

*Graeme Wheeler*



## Alpha 2021

We ran two Alpha courses during 2021, the first was an online course that started in January and then we restarted face-to-face Alpha in September. Both courses were small in terms of the numbers of guests, but nevertheless very significant.

A face-to-face Alpha is an enormous undertaking involving around 30 people who are organised to plan the purchase and preparation of food for 10 weeks and a full day away; to set up the themed environment we meet in and to welcome our guests; to gather with our guests around a table and serve, clear away and wash up after a meal together. Then to screen a film which we watch together before we break out into small groups for discussion which is usually deep and always lively. Lastly, and most significantly, to have alongside throughout a dedicated team to pray and intercede for our guests, listening out for how God wants to bless each one of them.

At both Alphas we witnessed significant progression into faith for some and deepening faith for others. For everyone involved this was an invigorating journey in which we saw first-hand the wonderful promises of God being fulfilled.

Each Alpha Course is unique, taking on the character of those organising and attending it; but it has one common theme – being exposed to good news, and meeting with our amazing triune God – God the father and creator, Jesus His son, and the Holy Spirit whom Jesus promised to leave with us until His work was done.

The other really wonderful characteristic that we see in each Alpha Course is how everyone journeying into faith or deeper in faith is also called by bonds of close friendship and fellowship into discovering and using their gifts and talents for the benefit of our communities, and for many that means joining the Alpha Course with a new key role of leadership of some kind. It's such a joy to see these giftings taking shape

and being used by our gracious God to see just a little bit of His Kingdom come and His will being done on earth as it is in heaven.

We plan to continue with a regular rhythm of Alpha; another Alpha Course started in January and will continue up to Easter, and we plan to start the next course in September 2022. We are inspired to expect this rhythm of a bi-annual course, to stimulate many new people to participate and so develop their practical, pastoral and leadership gifts, as well as coming to Baptism and Confirmation, and even, God willing, to discovering a particular vocation in service in the Body of Christ.

*Jamie Colman*



## Our Mission Partners

Each year, the Mission Action Group receives nominations for supporting Christian projects and initiatives in Basingstoke, the wider United Kingdom and internationally. These are the mission partners we supported in 2021



**MECHANICS**  
FOR AFRICA



**United Parish of Church Oakley with Wootton St Lawrence**

**FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021**

**Charity Registration Number 1131064**



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**Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of  
Oakley with Wootton Parochial Church Council ("the PCC")**

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the PCC for the year ended 31 December 2021.

**Responsibilities and basis of report**

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

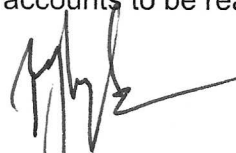
Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the PCC are not required to be audited and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your charity's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Act. In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions 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 matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe:

1. Accounting records were not kept in respect of the PCC 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 accounting requirements of 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 a part of an independent examination; or
4. The accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and the Republic of Ireland (FRS102).

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.



WELLER MACKRILL

Paul Sherrington FCCA, membership number 1326429  
Weller Mackrill  
Chartered Certified Accountants  
South Building  
Upper Farm  
Wootton St Lawrence  
Basingstoke  
Hampshire  
RG23 8PE

21 March 2022

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES**  
For the year ended 31st December 2021

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	TOTAL 2021	TOTAL 2020
<b>INCOMING RESOURCES</b>						
Incoming Resources from Donors	2a	126,817	68,987		195,804	163,490
Income from investments	2b	29	799		828	977
Gains / (Losses) on investments	2c		2,472		2,472	-1,222
Income from Charitable and Ancillary Trading	2d	30,784			30,784	33,878
Income from Designated Activities	2e	73,579			73,579	81,439
		231,210	72,258	0	303,468	278,562
<b>RESOURCES EXPENDED</b>						
Church Activities	3a	162,826	9,115		171,941	153,889
Governance Costs	3b	300			300	560
Costs of Designated Activities	3c	66,614			66,614	60,449
		229,740	9,115	0	238,855	214,898
<b>NET INCOMING RESOURCES</b>						
		1,470	63,144	0	64,613	63,664
<b>DEPRECIATION</b>						
	5	1,436	641		2,077	3,143
<b>NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS</b>						
		34	62,503	0	62,536	60,521
Balance brought forward at 1 January 2021		155,799	996,356	2,139	1,154,293	1,093,772
Transfers from Restricted to Unrestricted Funds	8d	702,809	(702,809)			
Balance carried forward at 31 December 2021		858,641	356,050	2,139	1,216,830	1,154,293

# **BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST DECEMBER 2021**

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	2021	2020
<b>TOTAL FIXED ASSETS</b>	5	729,885	7,049		736,935	729,361
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>	6					
Debtors		3,247	50		3,297	2,639
Investments		0	6,598		6,598	5,820
Short Term Deposits		68,320	283,586		351,906	268,889
Cash at Bank and in Hand		71,307	59,045	2,139	132,491	152,248
<b>LIABILITIES</b>		142,874	349,279	2,139	494,292	429,595
Amounts falling due within one year	7	-14,118	-279		-14,397	-4,663
<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS</b>		128,756	349,000	2,139	479,895	424,932
<b>LIABILITIES</b>						
Amounts falling due after more than one year	7	0	0		0	0
<b>TOTAL NET ASSETS</b>		858,641	356,050	2,139	1,216,830	1,154,293
<b>PARISH FUNDS</b>						
Unrestricted - Operating Reserves	8	132,664			132,664	130,799
Unrestricted - Relating to Property	8	725,977			725,977	25,000
Restricted	8		356,050		356,050	996,356
Endowment	8			2,139	2,139	2,139
		858,641	356,050	2,139	1,216,830	1,154,293

Approved by the PCC on 21 March 2022 and signed on its behalf by:



Revd Ben Kautzer (PCC Chairman)

The notes on pages 6 to 11 form part of these accounts

## **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 Accounting and Reporting by Charities Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 01/01/2015) - (Charity SORP (FRS102)) and the Charities Act 2011.

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention except for the valuation of certain fixed assets and investments, which are shown at market value. The financial 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 main affiliation to another body, nor those that are informal gatherings of church members.

There are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue operating.

##### **Funds**

Unrestricted Funds represent the funds of the PCC that are not subject to any restrictions regarding their use and are available for application to the general purposes of the PCC. Funds designated by the PCC for the operation of St Leonard's Pre-School are also unrestricted.

Restricted Funds comprise donations or grants intended for a specific PCC activity.

Endowment Funds are funds, the capital of which must be retained either permanently or at the PCC's discretion; the income derived from the endowment is to be used either as restricted or unrestricted income depending upon the purpose for which the endowment was established.

##### **Incoming Resources**

Donations are recognised when received by or on behalf of the PCC.

Planned giving under gift aid is recognised when the income is received. Income Tax recoverable on gift aid is recognised at the same time as giving is received.

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.

Income relating to other activities is recognised as the activities occur. Income and expenditure are recognised separately.

Dividends and interest are accounted for when receivable.

##### **Resources Expended**

Grants and donations are accounted for when paid over, or when awarded, if that award creates a binding obligation on the PCC.

The diocesan parish share is accounted for when payable. Other expenditure is accounted for when it is incurred.

## **Taxation**

As a Charity the PCC does not undertake any activity which falls within the scope of UK Income taxation.

## **Fixed Assets**

Consecrated and beneficed property is excluded from the accounts by s.96(2)(a) of the Charities Act 2011. No value is placed on moveable church furnishings held by the church wardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal since the PCC considers these to be inalienable property. All expenditure incurred during the year on consecrated or beneficed buildings and moveable church furnishings, whether maintenance or improvement, is written off as expenditure in the Statement of Financial Activities.

Other fixed property is vested in the Diocesan Board of Finance as Diocesan Authority under the Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956, effectively in trust for the PCC, with the PCC acting as managing trustees. Under the Charities Act, such property is included in the accounts notwithstanding the PCC's lack of title. Such properties are valued by the PCC using the best available advice as to free market value for the current usage less any provision for restrictions on such a sale.

Fixtures, fittings and office equipment used within the church premises is capitalised at cost and depreciated on a straight-line basis over its expected useful life, subject to the initial purchase price being greater than £1,000. Purchases with an initial value less than or equal to £1,000 are written off in the year of purchase.

## **Current Assets**

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

Short term deposits include cash held on deposit either with the CBF Church of England Deposit Fund or at a bank.

Any sums legally due and payable by the PCC are included in the accounts as creditors and reflect the full value deemed likely to be paid. Contingent assets and liabilities are not brought into the accounts but may be reflected by way of note.

## **Financial Instruments**

The PCC only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value.

## **Reserves**

Reserves act as a buffer to smooth fluctuations from month to month and protect against unforeseen significant reductions in giving or increases in expenditure. The PCC aim to hold the equivalent of approximately six months of Unrestricted Fund annual expenditure in the form of net current assets.

## **Agency Income and Expenditure**

Voluntary donations received by the PCC, purely as agent, for specified objects over which the PCC has no discretion are not included in either the income or expenditure of these account.

## 2 INCOMING RESOURCES

### 2a Incoming resources from Donors

Substantially all of the donations received into both Unrestricted and Restricted Funds were from individual donors with income tax recovered under Gift Aid or from charitable trusts.

	<u>Unrestricted Funds</u>	<u>Restricted Funds</u>	<u>TOTAL 2021</u>	<u>TOTAL 2020</u>
<b>2b Income from Investments</b>				
Interest on bank deposits and Church of England Deposit Fund	29	485	514	693
Dividends on M&G Charifund holding		314	314	284
	<b>29</b>	<b>799</b>	<b>828</b>	<b>977</b>
<b>2c Gains / (Losses on investments)</b>				
Change in market value of units held in M&G Charifund		<b>779</b>	<b>779</b>	<b>(1,222)</b>
<b>2d Income from Charitable and Ancillary Trading</b>				
Hire of St Leonard's and St John's Centres	19,769		19,769	18,756
Weddings and funerals	9,645		9,645	11,211
Other	1,370		1,370	3,911
	<b>30,784</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>30,784</b>	<b>33,878</b>

Included in the hire of St Leonard's Centre is £6,944 (2020: £5,819) charged to the Pre-School, which appears in the costs of Designated Activities (Note 3c)

### 2e Income from Designated Activities

Substantially all of the income received is from Hampshire County Council and individuals to fund places for children in pre-school.

### 3 RESOURCES EXPENDED

	<u>Unrestricted Funds</u>	<u>Restricted Funds</u>	<u>TOTAL 2021</u>	<u>TOTAL 2020</u>
<b>3a Activities Directly Relating to the work of the Church</b>				
Common Mission Fund	75,239		75,239	75,239
Fees paid to Diocese for weddings and funerals	4,910		4,910	4,857
Payroll costs	26,357		26,357	23,163
Donations to charities	10,000		10,000	10,000
Utilities	10,625		10,625	8,863
Insurance	5,630		5,630	6,441
Other churches & centres expenses	23,144		23,144	7,796
Buildings maintenance	6,921		6,921	3,594
Architect and Planning expenditure		4,011	4,011	5,200
Other		5,104	5,104	8,736
<b>TOTAL RESOURCES USED</b>	<b>162,826</b>	<b>9,115</b>	<b>171,941</b>	<b>153,889</b>
<b>3b Governance Costs</b>				
Independent Examiner's fees	300		300	560
	<b>300</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>560</b>
<b>3c Costs of Designated Activities</b>				
Payroll costs	54,633		54,633	50,384
Rent	6,944		6,944	5,819
Other pre-school costs	5,038		5,038	4,246
<b>TOTAL RESOURCES USED</b>	<b>66,614</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>66,614</b>	<b>60,449</b>

Rent is paid to St Leonard's Centre and appears in Income from Charitable and Ancillary Trading (Note 2d).

### 4 STAFF COSTS

	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>
The average number of staff on the payroll (all part time)	12	11
Salaries and wages	78,980	71,584
Pension Costs	2,009	1,726
	<b>80,989</b>	<b>73,310</b>

The stipend and pension of the Rector are paid by the Church Commissioners who receive money via the Diocese as part of the Parish Share paid and are therefore not included in the numbers here. Expenses were reimbursed to a number of members of the PCC for materials and expenses incurred on Church Activities.

<b>5</b>	<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>	<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>	<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>	<b>Restricted Funds</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
		Land and Buildings	Fittings and Equipment	Fittings and Equipment	
	<b>Actual / Deemed Cost</b>				
	As at 1st January 2021	725,977	68,296		794,273
	Additions		1,960	7,690	9,651
	As at 31st December 2021	725,977	70,256	7,690	803,924
	<b>Accumulated Depreciation</b>				
	As at 1st January 2021		64,912		64,912
	Charge for the year		1,436	641	2,077
	As at 31st December 2021	0	66,348	641	66,989
	Net Value				
	<b>As at 31st December 2021</b>	<b>725,977</b>	<b>3,908</b>	<b>7,049</b>	<b>736,935</b>
	<b>As at 31st December 2020</b>	<b>725,977</b>	<b>3,384</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>729,361</b>

Land and buildings comprise two separate sites. The first is St Leonard's Centre, Rectory Road, Oakley, which is held at £700,977 being its cost of redevelopment in 2009. The second is adjacent to St Johns Garden of Remembrance and St John's Centre in Oakley but is not part of the Church consecrated grounds. The area is approximately 0.7 acres and its value is deemed to be £25,000. It should be noted that, if sold for building land, its current market value could exceed £700,000.

	<b><u>2021</u></b>	<b><u>2020</u></b>
<b>6</b>	<b>DEBTORS</b>	
	Income tax recoverable	1,405
	Other debtors and prepayments	1,817
		1,893
		822
	<b>3,297</b>	<b>2,639</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>LIABILITIES</b>	
	<b>Amounts falling due within one year</b>	
	Fees payable to Diocese for weddings and funerals	2,414
	Independent Examiner's fees payable	2,736
	Donations to charities	300
	Other creditors and accruals	560
		10,000
		0
		1,683
		1,367
	<b>14,397</b>	<b>4,663</b>
	<b>Amounts falling due after one year</b>	
	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

## **8 PARISH FUNDS**

- 8a** Unrestricted funds comprise funds for use at the discretion of the PCC; those relating to property are shown separately as they are not readily realisable.
- 8b** Restricted funds represent donations and a legacy for the redevelopment of St Leonard's Church, the maintenance of St Lawrence Church and the provision of community services.
- 8c** Endowment funds are for chancel repairs, the maintenance of certain graves and the running of Sunday school at St Lawrence Church.
- 8d** During the year reserves totalling £702,809 were transferred from Restricted to Unrestricted Funds; these related to the property at St Leonard's Centre (£700,977), Pre-School (£33,378), Fabric (-£36,855) and Hardship (£5,309). A number of other minor corrections totalling £8,796 were made to the reserves brought forward.

## **9 STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT**

The Parochial Church Council is a corporate body established by the Church of England. The PCC operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure. The PCC is a charity (registered number 1131064) registered with the Charity Commission.

**United Parish of Church Oakley with Wootton St Lawrence**

**FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021**

**Charity Registration Number 1131064**



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**Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of  
Oakley with Wootton Parochial Church Council ("the PCC")**

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the PCC for the year ended 31 December 2021.

**Responsibilities and basis of report**

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

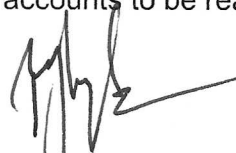
Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the PCC are not required to be audited and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your charity's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Act. In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions 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 matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe:

1. Accounting records were not kept in respect of the PCC 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 accounting requirements of 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 a part of an independent examination; or
4. The accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and the Republic of Ireland (FRS102).

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.



WELLER MACKRILL

Paul Sherrington FCCA, membership number 1326429  
Weller Mackrill  
Chartered Certified Accountants  
South Building  
Upper Farm  
Wootton St Lawrence  
Basingstoke  
Hampshire  
RG23 8PE

21 March 2022

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES**  
For the year ended 31st December 2021

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	TOTAL 2021	TOTAL 2020
<b>INCOMING RESOURCES</b>						
Incoming Resources from Donors	2a	126,817	68,987		195,804	163,490
Income from investments	2b	29	799		828	977
Gains / (Losses) on investments	2c		2,472		2,472	-1,222
Income from Charitable and Ancillary Trading	2d	30,784			30,784	33,878
Income from Designated Activities	2e	73,579			73,579	81,439
		231,210	72,258	0	303,468	278,562
<b>RESOURCES EXPENDED</b>						
Church Activities	3a	162,826	9,115		171,941	153,889
Governance Costs	3b	300			300	560
Costs of Designated Activities	3c	66,614			66,614	60,449
		229,740	9,115	0	238,855	214,898
<b>NET INCOMING RESOURCES</b>						
		1,470	63,144	0	64,613	63,664
<b>DEPRECIATION</b>						
	5	1,436	641		2,077	3,143
<b>NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS</b>						
		34	62,503	0	62,536	60,521
Balance brought forward at 1 January 2021		155,799	996,356	2,139	1,154,293	1,093,772
Transfers from Restricted to Unrestricted Funds	8d	702,809	(702,809)			
Balance carried forward at 31 December 2021		858,641	356,050	2,139	1,216,830	1,154,293

# **BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST DECEMBER 2021**

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	2021	2020
<b>TOTAL FIXED ASSETS</b>	5	729,885	7,049		736,935	729,361
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>	6					
Debtors		3,247	50		3,297	2,639
Investments		0	6,598		6,598	5,820
Short Term Deposits		68,320	283,586		351,906	268,889
Cash at Bank and in Hand		71,307	59,045	2,139	132,491	152,248
<b>LIABILITIES</b>		142,874	349,279	2,139	494,292	429,595
Amounts falling due within one year	7	-14,118	-279		-14,397	-4,663
<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS</b>		128,756	349,000	2,139	479,895	424,932
<b>LIABILITIES</b>						
Amounts falling due after more than one year	7	0	0		0	0
<b>TOTAL NET ASSETS</b>		858,641	356,050	2,139	1,216,830	1,154,293
<b>PARISH FUNDS</b>						
Unrestricted - Operating Reserves	8	132,664			132,664	130,799
Unrestricted - Relating to Property	8	725,977			725,977	25,000
Restricted	8		356,050		356,050	996,356
Endowment	8			2,139	2,139	2,139
		858,641	356,050	2,139	1,216,830	1,154,293

Approved by the PCC on 21 March 2022 and signed on its behalf by:



Revd Ben Kautzer (PCC Chairman)

The notes on pages 6 to 11 form part of these accounts

## **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 Accounting and Reporting by Charities Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 01/01/2015) - (Charity SORP (FRS102)) and the Charities Act 2011.

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention except for the valuation of certain fixed assets and investments, which are shown at market value. The financial 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 main affiliation to another body, nor those that are informal gatherings of church members.

There are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue operating.

##### **Funds**

Unrestricted Funds represent the funds of the PCC that are not subject to any restrictions regarding their use and are available for application to the general purposes of the PCC. Funds designated by the PCC for the operation of St Leonard's Pre-School are also unrestricted.

Restricted Funds comprise donations or grants intended for a specific PCC activity.

Endowment Funds are funds, the capital of which must be retained either permanently or at the PCC's discretion; the income derived from the endowment is to be used either as restricted or unrestricted income depending upon the purpose for which the endowment was established.

##### **Incoming Resources**

Donations are recognised when received by or on behalf of the PCC.

Planned giving under gift aid is recognised when the income is received. Income Tax recoverable on gift aid is recognised at the same time as giving is received.

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.

Income relating to other activities is recognised as the activities occur. Income and expenditure are recognised separately.

Dividends and interest are accounted for when receivable.

##### **Resources Expended**

Grants and donations are accounted for when paid over, or when awarded, if that award creates a binding obligation on the PCC.

The diocesan parish share is accounted for when payable. Other expenditure is accounted for when it is incurred.

## **Taxation**

As a Charity the PCC does not undertake any activity which falls within the scope of UK Income taxation.

## **Fixed Assets**

Consecrated and beneficed property is excluded from the accounts by s.96(2)(a) of the Charities Act 2011. No value is placed on moveable church furnishings held by the church wardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal since the PCC considers these to be inalienable property. All expenditure incurred during the year on consecrated or beneficed buildings and moveable church furnishings, whether maintenance or improvement, is written off as expenditure in the Statement of Financial Activities.

Other fixed property is vested in the Diocesan Board of Finance as Diocesan Authority under the Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956, effectively in trust for the PCC, with the PCC acting as managing trustees. Under the Charities Act, such property is included in the accounts notwithstanding the PCC's lack of title. Such properties are valued by the PCC using the best available advice as to free market value for the current usage less any provision for restrictions on such a sale.

Fixtures, fittings and office equipment used within the church premises is capitalised at cost and depreciated on a straight-line basis over its expected useful life, subject to the initial purchase price being greater than £1,000. Purchases with an initial value less than or equal to £1,000 are written off in the year of purchase.

## **Current Assets**

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

Short term deposits include cash held on deposit either with the CBF Church of England Deposit Fund or at a bank.

Any sums legally due and payable by the PCC are included in the accounts as creditors and reflect the full value deemed likely to be paid. Contingent assets and liabilities are not brought into the accounts but may be reflected by way of note.

## **Financial Instruments**

The PCC only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value.

## **Reserves**

Reserves act as a buffer to smooth fluctuations from month to month and protect against unforeseen significant reductions in giving or increases in expenditure. The PCC aim to hold the equivalent of approximately six months of Unrestricted Fund annual expenditure in the form of net current assets.

## **Agency Income and Expenditure**

Voluntary donations received by the PCC, purely as agent, for specified objects over which the PCC has no discretion are not included in either the income or expenditure of these account.

## 2 INCOMING RESOURCES

### 2a Incoming resources from Donors

Substantially all of the donations received into both Unrestricted and Restricted Funds were from individual donors with income tax recovered under Gift Aid or from charitable trusts.

	<u>Unrestricted Funds</u>	<u>Restricted Funds</u>	<u>TOTAL 2021</u>	<u>TOTAL 2020</u>
<b>2b Income from Investments</b>				
Interest on bank deposits and Church of England Deposit Fund	29	485	514	693
Dividends on M&G Charifund holding		314	314	284
	<b>29</b>	<b>799</b>	<b>828</b>	<b>977</b>
<b>2c Gains / (Losses on investments)</b>				
Change in market value of units held in M&G Charifund		<b>779</b>	<b>779</b>	<b>(1,222)</b>
<b>2d Income from Charitable and Ancillary Trading</b>				
Hire of St Leonard's and St John's Centres	19,769		19,769	18,756
Weddings and funerals	9,645		9,645	11,211
Other	1,370		1,370	3,911
	<b>30,784</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>30,784</b>	<b>33,878</b>

Included in the hire of St Leonard's Centre is £6,944 (2020: £5,819) charged to the Pre-School, which appears in the costs of Designated Activities (Note 3c)

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Substantially all of the income received is from Hampshire County Council and individuals to fund places for children in pre-school.

### 3 RESOURCES EXPENDED

	<u>Unrestricted Funds</u>	<u>Restricted Funds</u>	<u>TOTAL 2021</u>	<u>TOTAL 2020</u>
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Independent Examiner's fees	300		300	560
	<b>300</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>560</b>
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Payroll costs	54,633		54,633	50,384
Rent	6,944		6,944	5,819
Other pre-school costs	5,038		5,038	4,246
<b>TOTAL RESOURCES USED</b>	<b>66,614</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>66,614</b>	<b>60,449</b>

Rent is paid to St Leonard's Centre and appears in Income from Charitable and Ancillary Trading (Note 2d).

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Salaries and wages	78,980	71,584
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	<b>80,989</b>	<b>73,310</b>

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<b>5</b>	<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>	<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>	<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>	<b>Restricted Funds</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
		Land and Buildings	Fittings and Equipment	Fittings and Equipment	
	<b>Actual / Deemed Cost</b>				
	As at 1st January 2021	725,977	68,296		794,273
	Additions		1,960	7,690	9,651
	As at 31st December 2021	725,977	70,256	7,690	803,924
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	As at 1st January 2021		64,912		64,912
	Charge for the year		1,436	641	2,077
	As at 31st December 2021	0	66,348	641	66,989
	Net Value				
	<b>As at 31st December 2021</b>	<b>725,977</b>	<b>3,908</b>	<b>7,049</b>	<b>736,935</b>
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	<b><u>2021</u></b>	<b><u>2020</u></b>
<b>6</b>	<b>DEBTORS</b>	
	Income tax recoverable	1,405
	Other debtors and prepayments	1,817
		1,893
		822
	<b>3,297</b>	<b>2,639</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>LIABILITIES</b>	
	<b>Amounts falling due within one year</b>	
	Fees payable to Diocese for weddings and funerals	2,414
	Independent Examiner's fees payable	2,736
	Donations to charities	300
	Other creditors and accruals	560
		10,000
		0
		1,683
		1,367
	<b>14,397</b>	<b>4,663</b>
	<b>Amounts falling due after one year</b>	
	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

## **8 PARISH FUNDS**

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