THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ALL SAINTS THORNTON HOUGH

England & Wales · Charity number 1131417

Details

Other names	ALL SAINTS PCC, All Saints PCC, All Saints' PCC (Thornton Hough)
Status	Registered
Legal form	Previously excepted
Registered	2009-08-28
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	6 St. Stephens Close Wirral CH60 3TA
Phone	01513424800
Email	office@allsaintsth.org.uk
Website	www.allsaintsth.org.uk

Activities

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

Activities: Our purpose as a church is to worship God through our regular services and through the fellowship of our loving community. We share the love of God with those around, serving the community and witnessing to others about the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. We have social events and group meetings catering for all ages. We encourage members to offer loving support to one another.

Classification

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

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Geography

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

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-12-31	£156,575	£152,553	-	-
2024-12-31	£125,223	£124,754	-	-
2023-12-31	£126,569	£127,046	-	-
2022-12-31	£87,871	£135,425	-	-
2021-12-31	£107,191	£108,456	-	-
2020-12-31	£81,338	£102,128	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Rev Victoria Louise Barrett	Chair	2019-05-16
Carole Adams		2026-05-17
Cathryn Anne Allen		2024-05-10
Diane Edith Hughes		2025-05-10
Gillian Charvill		2023-05-15
Iain Stinson		2018-04-22
June Doreen Allcock		2024-05-10
Linda Margaret Arch		2022-05-15
Mrs Sue Stinson		2021-05-23
Patricia June Baker		2022-05-15
Richard Alan Singleton		2022-05-15
Tracey Lynn Heaps		2026-05-17
Verity Jane Smith		2026-05-18

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THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ALL SAINTS THORNTON H

England & Wales - Charity number 1131417

Accounts

ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF
ALL SAINTS' THORNTON HOUGH
DIOCESE OF CHESTER

Charity Commission Number 1131417



ANNUAL REPORTS FOR 2025

All Saints' Parochial Church Council
The Parish Office, The Parish Hall, Church Road, Thornton Hough, Wirral, CH63 1JW

Part 1: Trustees' report to the Charity Commission

1. Aims and Purposes

Our aim is
'To promote the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical'

Our purpose as a church is to worship God through our regular services and through the fellowship of our loving community. We share the love of God with those around, serving the community and witnessing to others about the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.
All Saints' Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the legal responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish of Thornton Hough the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. The PCC is also specifically responsible for the maintenance of the church building and churchyards on Raby Road, and the Parish Hall on Church Road.

2.Objectives

A Vision for All Saints' Church

A Place of Welcome

"In the name of Christ: You matter!"
Accessibility for all; being a "safe space" for everyone.
Being mindful that the "reception team" on the door may be overwhelming for some, and underwhelming for others; what can attract some will repel others.

●	Continued support and training for welcoming teams	R
●	Take steps to become a "Dementia Friendly" church	A
●	Take steps to ensure accessibility for those with autism or other neurodiversities	A
●	Offer a "Welcome Pack" for newcomers in church	R
●	Put a "Welcome to your New Home" card through the door of new residents	R
●	Local "tagline": Your parish church	G
●	Hold an "Open Day": introducing the history of the church, architecture, music, local history – with refreshments	R
●	Consult, both within existing congregation and with wider parish, on provision of activities & events in which people can relax, identify with, feel part of	R

The Vicar has attempted to RAG-rate each of the bullet points describing how we thought we could achieve our Vision planning when we devised it in 2024.

R=no progress ***A=some/partial progress*** ***G=plan is running fully or action achieved***

Worship

Praising God together
Celebrating and valuing our choral and congregational tradition in worship, whilst being
open to expanding the styles and format of worship

●	Add an extra music slot in existing Sunday morning services; expand the repertoire of worship music	G
●	Look at providing a space for different kinds of worship music	A
●	Guitar/keyboard/worship songs in our service scheduling	R

Everyday Faith

Learning together and living the learning out - "to love and serve the Lord" through whole week
Growing more confident about talking about our faith. Engaging together to provide a forum for discussion & exploration of prayer and Bible reading as part of individual faith journey

●	Highlight the talks provided by Chester Cathedral	A
●	Continue Pilgrim Course – expanded the variety of courses on offer	G
●	Home Group	A
●	Using Parish Hall as a space for games evenings, coffee and conversation	A
●	Encourage people to contribute to Parish Magazine describing the impact of their faith on their everyday lives	R
●	Being a "Mission Partner" – Learning more about mission in the wider, global context, and supporting an organisation in response	R
●	Celebrating	A
●	Being thankful that God is good, and sharing that good news!	A
●	More parties!	A
●	Marking the seasons with events – fair, food, music	A
●	Songs of Praise across the Deanery	A
●	Celebrating Christmas more widely within the community; a Christmas trail around the village/decorated windows/participate with the Village Trust in their Christmas Tree celebration	R

R=no progress ***A=some/partial progress*** ***G=plan is running fully or action achieved***

Community Collaboration

Working together for good! Making connections with different elements of the community. Building dialogue and participation.

●	Litter picking as a regular, quarterly activity	G
●	Continue working with Thornton Hough Primary School; displays in church; using the church and Parish Hall as a source for local history and art projects	G
●	Uniformed groups – Rainbows/Brownies/Guides celebrating Mothering Sunday, Harvest, Remembrance, Christmas together	G
●	Build further links with local Dementia Walking Group - music/refreshment	R
●	Offer our facilities to support local charity events, eg Clatterbridge/Arrowe Park	A
●	Charity Christmas carols in church, Parish Hall for Macmillan support group; base for starting New Year's Day charity run to Willaston	A
●	Participating in Village Trust meetings and events	G

Growing Church

Extending the way in which we enable people of all ages to encounter the news of Jesus Christ. Being "church" in different ways, in different places

●	"Taster services" – short, family friendly events	R
●	Promoting the church to local businesses; church being present on hotel publicity	R
●	Promoting support for staff and families in local businesses	A
●	Continue to explore ways of increasing connections with the residents of Raby Mere	A
●	Regular worship currently active in 2/3 of nursing homes in the parish; renewing links with the third	G
●	Explore the possibility of links to Raby Hall (Autism Together)	R

Caring for the Environment

We recognise that this is one of the Marks of Mission of the Church and want to help care for God's creation. We need to be good examples as a church organisation and individually, and collaborate with others to reduce our carbon footprint.

●	More recycling of paper; reduce use of plastic	A
●	More control of heating in the Parish Hall	R
●	Working with School Council/local businesses on joint methods to reduce waste/plastic use; improve recycling	R
●	Collaborate with school/uniformed groups on use of churchyard for bug spotting, wildlife counts etc.	A
●	Install more bird boxes, hedgehog houses, bug hotels in New Graveyard	R

R=no progress ***A=some/partial progress*** ***G=plan is running fully or action achieved***

3. Activities, Achievements and Performance 2025

We give thanks for another busy year, and for the continued support of those who quietly, generously and faithfully serve God in many ways at All Saints' Church. Prompted by the encouragement at the end of every service to "Go in peace to love and serve the Lord," the church continues to be at the heart of local community life, civic service and love for all, in all the stages and changes of life. Thanks are due to all who help to create that sense of warmth which people experience when they come to church; giving a smile, making space for someone and remembering a person's name make a difference. Our Welcomers play an important role in this, as do those who serve refreshments, both on Sundays and at midweek gatherings. Particular thanks go to Tim Allan-Price, Churchwardens June Allcock and Patsy Baker, our choir, Director of Music Iain Stinson, our Verger, Margaret Gamble, Brian Morris, who organises our rotas and edits our bi-monthly Magazine, and Sue Stinson, whose posters and notices are always eye-catching.

Our Vision in Practice

A Place of Welcome

People continue to comment on the warmth of the welcome received at All Saints', even when the heating had broken at the end of the year. We have yet to find a suitable date for a Welcomers' training session.

The new signage outside the church, and also at the Raby Road churchyard, have a brighter appearance. The church noticeboard enables us to affix posters which are eye-catching and kept weather-proof.

We have continued to use the tagline, "Your Parish Church" on another round of leaflet deliveries throughout the parish at the start of September highlighting events and activities at the start of the new academic year. We also delivered parish Christmas cards in the larger format again. The Vicar had some very positive conversations with parishioners as part of the deliveries of both materials, building on our invitation, "In the name of Christ, you matter!"

We continue to be mindful of the need to be "Dementia Friendly."

Worship

Our Director of Music continues to include new hymns and worship songs to extend our repertoire. These complement the themes in the Bible readings for the service and often help us to reflect and respond in new ways.

Everyday Faith

Lent 2025 saw us explore "Holy Habits." This course, written by Andrew Roberts, encouraged participants to follow the holy habits in the life and passion of Jesus. Each standalone session offered opportunities for prayer and discussion, to reflect on a Bible passage and listen to music. They ended with a particular "take-home" item for personal reflection and action during the week. One of these was the gift of a jar of water, which participants were invited to fill afresh each day, praying for a fresh filling of the Holy Spirit and a commitment to read a portion of scripture daily. Some have continued to use this jar throughout the year.

Our monthly Coffee Mornings have offered opportunities for companionship and fun, with the raffle delighting many.

The Christmas "Merry Mince Pies and Carols" event was well-attended, attracting newcomers who enjoyed the informal setting and some of whom were encouraged to join in church services as well.

Celebrating

We continue to be intentional and invitational in our celebrations, marking the seasons together. We held our Soup and Sandwich lunch in February sharing a simple meal and making donations to Wirral Foodbank as well. Our summertime Strawberry Tea in July was well-received. The Harvest Lunch in September was a very enjoyable way to conclude our Harvest Week (14th-21st September), with over 40 people coming. A massive 213kgs (33½ stone) was delivered to Wirral Foodbank. The Autumn Fair was well-attended and raised nearly £900 for church funds.

The choir returned to sing carols at Thornton Hough Village Club, where over 150 adults, around 30 children and dogs joined in for a night of festive celebrations. The Vicar was later told that the evening had helped some families to "finally feel really Christmassy."

Community Collaboration

The Village litter pick has become the regular event envisaged, not only bringing together different people with one purpose, but has elicited some wider, positive conversations about caring for the area with users of the Village Green, such as families coming to support their football teams and dog-walkers. Some of the more random items discovered in our autumn litter pick were a pair of slider sandals and a large industrial floodlight. We continue to appreciate the help of our Wirral Parks team, Paul, Colin and Richard. Links with Thornton Hough Primary School continue to be strong; the Vicar is Deputy Chair of Governors and the staff and children come to church for their end of term assemblies. The Vicar has again been into school and taught Year 4 children three hour-long interactive sessions about the Bible as part of their RE curriculum in the summer term. F2 and Reception classes came at the start of December to see the church sparkling with decorations and to hear the Christmas story. They used their learning to help bring all the characters into the Nativity scene at the back of church – although baby Jesus was not going to be in the crib until Christmas morning!

The Parish Hall was used as the Registration centre for the New Year's Day 5K fun run from Thornton Hough to Willaston, which raises money for local suicide prevention charities. This gives a warm, sheltered place for the runners to gather and also enables different people to see the potential of the Parish Hall as a venue for hire.

The Uniformed Groups continue to participate in Mothering Sunday, Harvest and Remembrance events. Representatives from the four groups joined the Remembrance procession and gave readings and lit candles as part of the Act of Remembrance and Civic Service. This year, the Brownies and Guides had been learning about "Dig for Victory" and a trug of home-grown produce was part of a display at the back of church. We were joined by the Deputy Lord Lieutenant of Merseyside at the Civic Remembrance service for the first time. He was very supportive of the collaboration between the Village Trust, the church and uniformed groups and enjoyed being part of the event.

Our Poppy Arch and altar cloth using poppies knitted and crocheted by many people within the parish and beyond was on display again as part of the Remembrance service. The altar cloth was also used as part of our commemoration of the 80th anniversary of VE Day in May.

Growing Church

Numbers attending church through the year remain steady, however more people have come on special occasions at Easter and through Advent services, with over 100 more coming during this period.

Our three care homes in the parish: Westwood Hall, Elderholme and Brimstage Manor now each have well-established, distinctive monthly worshipping communities of between 12-18 people. This helps to meet their spiritual needs, offer comfort in anxiety and opportunities for reminiscences together. Furthermore, passing staff and families have listened in, some making a point of pausing to hear a favourite hymn or to say The Lord's Prayer. The monthly gathering at Elderholme is also supported by a member of the pastoral team from Christ Church, Higher Bebington, demonstrating our collaboration across parish boundaries. The choir came to sing carols in both Brimstage Manor and Westwood Hall again this Christmas and were much appreciated.

Caring for the Environment

Concern for God's creation and a desire to tread more lightly with our carbon footprint continues. Linda Arch has attended many Cool Wirral events and advocates at PCC and in church more widely on how we can improve our care for the environment. Eco church is a standing item on our PCC agenda.

We had just begun looking at the journey necessary for replacing our heating system when a section of the boundary wall collapsed. However, the complete failure of our church heating just before Christmas will entail further close examination in the future.

Regular Service Patterns

Sunday Worship

We continue with our regular pattern of Sunday worship:

- An 8:00am service of Holy Communion using the Book of Common Prayer on the first and third Sunday of the month
- A service at 10:30am each Sunday, usually Holy Communion but occasionally a Morning Prayer Service of the Word to mark a special occasion
- A choral service in the evening of the second Sunday of the month

Midweek Service

The Wednesday service of Holy Communion at 10:30 is a more informal service followed by hot drinks and refreshments.


Harvest
Thanksgiving
2025

Festivals and Occasional Offices

We welcomed guests from Neston Parish Church to our Ash Wednesday evening service of Holy Communion. Father Kevin Crinks (assisted by Brian the Dog) preached the sermon. 38 people came.

48 adults and 4 children attended our morning Mothering Sunday service; there were 3 at the afternoon Quiet Space. 43 adults and 1 child attended our service of readings and music for Passiontide.

60 adults and 2 children attended the Palm Sunday service, 28 adults came to our evening Communion service on Maundy Thursday, 25 came to our Good Friday meditation which this year was a reflection based around Edward Lutyens' sculpture in Liverpool Cathedral, "The Outraged Christ." A total of 85 attended our Easter services.

The evening service of Holy Communion on Ascension Day (29th May) was attended by 18 people.

We welcomed Bishop Julie to our Harvest Festival service on 21st September.

We marked All Saints' Day, our Patronal Festival, in the morning of 2nd November. 10 people came to the 8am Holy Communion service, and 37 adults and 3 children to the 10:30am service. We held our annual service for the Faithful Departed in the afternoon. The families of those who had lost a loved one during the year were joined by many who value this time to remember and give thanks for a loved one who has died some time ago. A candle was lit and each person was remembered by name. 57 adults and one child attended.

Remembrance Sunday was on 9th November this year. Our Act of Remembrance in our morning service was attended by 56 adults and 6 children. The Civic Service began at 2:45pm at the War Memorial, with the Port Sunlight Silver Band in good number to accompany the march to the War Memorial. Members of the community came out in numbers to join the act of remembrance, and 68 adults and 24 children, including the Deputy Lord Lieutenant of Merseyside, local dignitaries, representatives of the Armed Forces and uniformed groups came to church to continue the service. The Guides and their leaders served refreshments in the Parish Hall afterwards.

Advent began on 30th November with the choir leading a service of Readings and Carols. 52 adults and 2 children attended.

We welcomed 52 adults and 20 children to our Christingle service on 7th December. Our services from Readings and Carols in the evening of 22nd December up to our Christmas Day Communion saw a total of 211 adults and 52 children mark the occasion with us in church. 56 adults and 5 children came to our Communion at nearly midnight on Christmas Eve. The joy of Carols at the Club, attended by at least 130 adults and 28 children, appeared to have had a positive influence on people attending church services.

Baptisms, Weddings & Funerals

We welcomed 1 child into the church family through baptism in 2025.

3 weddings were solemnized at All Saints in 2025.

There were 7 funerals in church, and a further 5 full funeral services were conducted by the Vicar at a crematorium. A total of 10 burials of ashes took place.

Revd Vicky Barrett

4.Governance and PCC Membership

In 2025 the PCC membership and Standing Committee membership was as follows

Elected Members of the Laity		Other Members	
Mrs K Allen (from March 2025)		Revd V Barrett*	Vicar (Chairman)
Mrs G Charvill		Mrs J Allcock*	Churchwarden
Mrs M Gamble		Mrs P Baker*	Churchwarden
Mrs T Heaps (from September 2025)		Mrs L Arch*	Parish Safeguarding Officer Deanery Synod representative
Mrs D Hughes (from May 2025)		Mr I Stinson*	PCC Treasurer Deanery Synod representative
Mr R Singleton		Mrs S Stinson*	PCC Secretary Deanery Synod representative
Mrs V Smith (from September 2025)		Miss Lucinda Russell (to March 2025)	
** Members of the Standing Committee*			

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 Registered Charity.

The appointment of PCC members is governed by and set out in the Church Representation Rules (2020). The PCC at All Saints consists of the incumbent (our Vicar), the Churchwardens, elected representatives to the Deanery Synod, elected lay representatives and co-opted members.

Members were also elected to the sub committees dealing with Finance, Fabric and Health and Safety and Remuneration. The committees exist to discuss and, for more major issues, make recommendations, which are then taken to the full PCC.

In 2025 PCC meetings were held on 11th February, 11th March, 8th April, 13th May, 10th June, 16th September, 21st October and 18th November.

The Standing Committee did not meet in 2025 but communicated by email on several occasions.

The Annual Meetings were held on 11th May 2024.

5. Safeguarding

The PCC has complied with the duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Measure 2016 (duty to have regard to House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding and vulnerable adults). (See Church Representation Rules 2020 p76)

6. Activities of the PCC in 2025

After a break in January, we were welcomed back In the February meeting. We considered *Carbon footprint reduction: the next steps*. Caring for the environment is one of the five Marks of Mission. We decided to sign up for the new A Rocha Eco Church survey which provides a framework to support churches and their leadership to take practical action on caring for God's earth.

The PCC provisionally accepted the Draft End of Year Finance Report for 2024 and agreed to it being forwarded to Verity Smith, the independent examiner. A proposed *Procurement Policy and Process* had been circulated in advance of the meeting and the PCC adopted this in the meeting.

The Treasurer reported that the heating bills for the church and the Parish Hall looked 'terrifying' (due to increased fuel costs). There are challenges with heating the church efficiently. It is a single thickness sandstone building with no insulation, draughty windows and doors and possible damp. Regulating the heating in the hall also posed challenges.

In March we learned that Lucinda Russell had resigned due to family commitments and a conflict with timings. Vicky and the PCC expressed their gratitude to Lucinda for all her commitment to the PCC. A new member, Kate Allen was appointed to the PCC and welcomed by Vicky.

A draft policy on *Responding to Concerns or Allegations of Abuse* had been circulated before the meeting and this was adopted in the meeting. The Annual Report was also accepted as a true record of 2025. This was subsequently distributed to people in the church, uploaded to the Charity Commission website and sent to the Diocese.

We received the first signs that we should start to think about replacing the heating in March. The boiler had been repaired and the heating serviced but it was becoming increasingly difficult to source the parts. For some years now Iain Stinson has been monitoring the heating and liaising with the heating engineers. He suggested that the time had come to speak to a heating specialist.

The poor state of a section of the boundary wall on Church Road was an ongoing topic on the agendas earlier in 2025. The PCC received reports on the steps being taken to repair it and also considered how the repair would be financed. Plans were developed with the Church Architect, a Civil Engineer and trees specialist to carry out the repair.

With major expenditure on the horizon the Treasurer had been in contact with the Chester Diocese Board of Finance about releasing some of the money that we held in trusts overseen by the Diocese. Resolutions were passed agreeing to ask for the release of money from these funds.

The Annual Meetings took place on 11th May so the main focus of the PCC meeting on 13th May was the appointment of officers of the PCC.

The following officers were appointed:

Role			**Role**	
PCC Chairman	The Vicar		Electoral Roll Officer	Tom Mairs
Vice Chairman	June Allcock		Parish Safeguarding Officer	Linda Arch

Role			Role	
Treasurer	Iain Stinson		Charity Commission Officer	Iain Stinson
Secretary	Sue Stinson		Eco-representative	Linda Arch
Planned Giving Secretary	Brian Morris		Health and Safety Officer	June Allcock

The PCC also agreed the membership of the Standing Committee, the Finance Committee, the Fabric, Health and Safety Committee, and the Remuneration Committee. Signatories for the bank accounts were approved, and dates were fixed for the coming year.

On 2nd June the Vicar and June Allcock had welcomed the Archdeacon, Michael Gilbertson for the Triennial Inspection. In the PCC meeting they reported back to the PCC on the visit. It was the first one since Vicky had been in post as Vicar and was very positive and encouraging. Mike was impressed that we were reaching out to the community in new ways such as carol singing at the Village Club at Christmas. He had some minor pieces of advice for us; he noted that our old burials book, which is still used for reference and kept in the safe, is over 100 years old. He advised us that once the Chester Archives are re-opened, we should send it, and any other books which are over 100 years old, to the archive. He also gave some guidance on filling out the Logbook. The insurance certificates, Safeguarding notices, No Smoking notices and Fire Evacuation notices were all in order.

In July we counted our blessings and gave thanks. Among the things mentioned were:

- Toybox
- New faces-including wedding couples
- An open, welcoming church
- People saying that the church has a nice feel and being drawn to it
- People willing to help
- The Strawberry Tea
- Nice grounds and environment
- The windows
- The new noticeboards
- The environment in the Raby Road graveyard and its potential as a haven for wildlife
- Word of mouth.
- Contact with the community via flyers, posters, personal invites etc

In July Iain Stinson, the Treasurer, reported back on his communications with the Diocese about our investments. They had agreed that money could be released as requested to cover the cost of the wall repair.

We also learnt that the M&G Charibond fund, which was one of our best performing funds and one that we relied on as a major source of income, had been closed by M&G and a cheque sent to the Diocese. As a matter of urgency, it was decided that the Standing Committee should look at re-investing this money.

A formal decision was taken to continue to be insured by Trinitas.

The PCC also heard that the maintenance contract for the Raby Road Cemetery had been reviewed and the contract awarded to Leverts who look after the churchyard around the church.

June Allcock reported that Castree (Civil Engineers) had shared the specification and drawings for the proposed works to the boundary wall. These were circulated to the PCC and discussed at the meeting. The church architect, Jennifer Chambers, was happy with them and ready to submit them to the diocese.

Two new members (Tracey Heaps and Verity Smith) were welcomed to the PCC in September.

The September meeting looked forward to events being planned for Autumn. The Harvest Thanksgiving Service and Harvest Lunch were on Sunday 21st September. Bishop Julie (Bishop of Birkenhead) was preaching at the service but not coming to the lunch. It was agreed that any profit from the lunch should go to the Wirral Foodbank. A celebration for All Saints' was planned and a Service for the Faithful Departed scheduled. The Autumn Fair was in the diary for 15th November and arrangements for this were discussed.

The fire alarm in the hall was not working, and two emergency air horns had been mounted on the walls of the Parish Hall. The insurance company is happy with this.

A revised Health and Safety Policy and Evacuation Procedure was discussed and agreed by the PCC. They also agreed that Barlows should be asked to decommission the fire alarm.

The Treasurer had circulated a paper on Trusts and Investments, and this was considered and discussed in September. He had suggested an investment policy and in line with this the PCC resolved:

a. To improve the diversification of our investments, we should divide the money to be invested into two equal parts and invest these in different products (at the cost of some small reduction in income).

b. One part should be invested in the *M&G Charifund (income)* product, because it offers the best return and because we have experience of their performance over a number of years.

c. The other part should be invested in the *CCLA's CBF Church of England Property Fund* product because it has a good level of return and the tenants are screened following advice from the Church of England's Ethical Investment Advisory Group (EIAG).

Iain Stinson was asked to convey our wishes to the Diocese.

The section of the boundary wall on church road collapsed on 17th September during the time of public consultation about the proposed repair of the boundary wall. The Standing Committee (by email) agreed that the proposed repair be undertaken (following the plans developed for a "planned" repair).

In October there were updates on the wall project. Quotes had been received from two contractors, and the Treasurer was still waiting for a reply from the Diocese about releasing money, for the repair, from the investments.

It was reported that only two of the boilers were working, one had failed. Two were not enough to heat the church adequately and we needed to give some serious thought to

how to move forward. It was hoped that while servicing the boilers they could be repaired and would function again. The church was getting colder and a humidity and temperature sensor recorder would be put into the church. This would help to inform the procurement of a new heating system. Changing the heating system is a major piece of work. June Allcock and the Fabric Team agreed to approach the Diocese for advice on how we should take this forward.

Arrangements for the Autumn Fair were making good progress, arrangements for the civic Service of Remembrance were in hand.

Looking forward, it was decided that we should produce a Christmas card in the same format as the year before but with a picture of the Nativity window in All Saints on the front. This would be delivered to homes in the parish and contain details of our Christmas and Advent services. A *Merry Christmas! Mince Pies and Carols* event was planned. We had been invited to sing carols in the Village Club again, and also to sing carols in Westwood Hall and Brimstage Manor. The Carol Service would be followed by mince pies, tea and coffee.

In November it was reported that the Service for the Faithful Departed had been well attended, the Autumn Fair had been a success, and a litter pick had been organised. The Christmas cards had arrived; they just needed to be delivered!

To the relief of everybody the repair to the boundary wall had gone smoothly and without any significant disturbance of the soil.

Verity Smith had been our independent examiner in recent years but now that she was on the PCC she was no longer independent and therefore no longer eligible. She was thanked for all that she had done in the role. The PCC appointed Scirard Lancelyn Green as the External Examiner for All Saints', Thornton Hough.

£1,200 had been allocated in the budget to support charities**.** The PCC and the congregation had been asked, over several weeks, to nominate charities for consideration. We aim to support local, national and overseas Christian charities. A list of nominated charities was circulated in the meeting. Each member of the PCC was given 4 votes to express their preferences. The charities that we chose to support this year were:

Charles Thompson Mission
https://charlesthompsonsmission.org
Mercy Ships. (Match funding available)
https://www.mercyships.org.uk/who-we-are/vision/
Mary's Meals. (Match funding available)
https://www.marysmeals.org.uk

Wirral Hospice St John's.
https://www.wirralhospice.org/about/

Kind (Liverpool)
https://kind.org.uk/

Each charity was sent £240.

Late in November, we received the money we had requested to be released from the investments to pay for the repair of the boundary wall.

At the beginning of December, the heating engineers reported that all of the church heating boilers had failed and were unrepairable (parts were no longer available). Scirard Lancelyn Green and Iain Stinson set up some temporary heating using six convector heaters. This provided some warmth and we were able to hold our December services in church. The replacement of the church heating system is our top priority for 2026.

Throughout the year the PCC have received regular Financial Statements and reports, reports from the Fabric and Health and Safety Team, Safeguarding Reports, Eco Reports, Electoral Roll Reports and Deanery Synod Reports.

As members of the PCC, we are always facing new challenges and opportunities. It can be very rewarding to feel that you are working as part of a team and helping to contribute to the life of All Saints'. We always welcome new members- please consider whether this is a way in which you can serve. Revd Vicky or other members of the PCC are only too willing to tell you more.

Thank you to everyone who served on the PCC during 2025.

Finally, I would like to say a huge thank you to Vicky. As Rural Dean she has faced extra challenges this year, but she continues to stay cheerful and enthusiastic. Her leadership, guidance, care and support are really appreciated.

Sue Stinson
PCC Secretary

7. Charity Information

Contact details	All Saints PCC, The Parish Office, The Parish Hall Church Road Thornton Hough, Wirral, CH63 1JW	
	www.allsaintsth.org.uk	0151 245 4986
Church of England Diocese	Chester	
Charity Registration Number	1131417	

Part 2: Reports from the PCC

8. Electoral Roll Report

On 1st January 2025 there were 100 names on the Electoral Roll.

In 2025 we needed a complete revision of the Electoral Roll. This meant that everyone who was on the roll had to fill out the form again and reapply to be on the roll if they wished to remain on the roll. New people were also able to apply to be on the roll, subject to the qualifying conditions. (This happens every five years).

At the Annual Meeting it was reported that 81 people had applied to be on the new roll by the deadline. A further 5 forms were then received, and when these were added, after the meeting, this brought the number to 86.

At the end of 2025 there were 88 on the Electoral Roll.

We are very grateful to Tom Mairs who volunteered to take on the role of Electoral Roll Officer.

Apart from a short, closed period just before an Annual Meeting it is possible to apply to be on the roll throughout the year. If you meet the qualifying conditions and would like to apply to be on the Electoral Roll then please complete an Electoral Roll form and hand it to the Electoral Roll Officer, a Churchwarden or the Vicar. If you need more information then please speak to the Electoral Roll Officer, a Churchwarden, the Vicar or the PCC Secretary.

Sue Stinson
PCC Secretary

9. Fabric, Goods and Ornaments

We have continued to follow our Planned Maintenance Programme, which we first started using in 2024. This plots month by month the various regulatory checks, reviews and routine maintenance that need to be carried out. Over the year it has helped us to ensure that we keep on top of things.

Another busy year, and despite best efforts, things do fail and deteriorate! We have continued to work closely with our Church Architect, Jennifer Chambers, and we are extremely grateful to her for her expertise, guidance and support over the year.

9a. Church

The church bell was initially assessed by the Diocesan Bell Adviser who recommended that we enlist the services of the renowned bell foundry, Taylor's of Loughborough, to inspect our bell and advise on the remedial action needed. Taylor's subsequently inspected the bell and produced a report and quote for the remedial work needed to get it ringing again. This work required Faculty permission, so we submitted the necessary reports and documents to the Diocese. We completed the 28 day public notice period in mid December and we now await final approval from the Diocese. We are hopeful that we will hear the bell ringing again in Spring 2026.

There has been a number of lighting failures, and these have been rectified along the way, but of course this is an ongoing problem.

A Fire Risk Assessment is now in place for the church and will be reviewed annually. Fire extinguishers have been inspected, replaced, as appropriate.

The Health and Safety Policy has been reviewed, updated and signed off by PCC.

There have been some roof and rainwater goods related problems, and these have been investigated and repaired as they have arisen. This is also an ongoing problem.

Portable electrical appliances are visually inspected at regular intervals throughout the year and are also part of a testing regime by a certified electrician.

The biggest problem we now face is replacing the current heating system. The existing gas boilers broke down in December and are beyond repair, so work has commenced to begin the lengthy process of exploring replacement options. We have to be mindful of the Church of England's target to reach net zero carbon by 2030. This means that we cannot just assume that we will be able to replace like for like. Faculty approval will be necessary, so the Diocese will insist that all heating options have been fully appraised, before approval will be granted. This is going to be very costly and once we know what the new replacement heating system will be, we will need to raise the money to pay for it. We will of course explore whether there is any Grant Funding available, but this is going to be a major expense for us.

In the interim, our thanks to Iain Stinson and Scirard Lancelyn Green for setting up a small number of electrical convector heaters to provide some warmth to the church.

Routine maintenance to the church clock and the organ has been carried out. Thank you to Iain Stinson for overseeing this.

9b. Church grounds

Early in 2025 we noticed that the bowed section of the boundary wall by the cedar tree in Church Road was deteriorating further. Peter Arch took measurements of the lean out and sure enough these confirmed that it had worsened considerably. We immediately notified the Church Architect, the Diocese and also Wirral Council.

There followed months of liaison with various professional bodies; structural engineers, arborists, the local Environmental Health Officer, Funeral Directors and most importantly the loved ones of those buried close to the bowed section of the wall. Once again Faculty permission was needed, so detailed plans and supporting documents were submitted to the Diocese for approval. These plans involved carefully dismantling the bowed section of the wall and rebuilding it. We were in the 28-day public notice period when, on 17th September, the bowed section of the wall collapsed into the road. Thankfully, no graves were disturbed, no one was injured and there was no damage to vehicles.

Interim Faculty approval was immediately given, and we were able to proceed with the tender exercise to engage a contractor to carry out the repair work. Sincere thanks to our church architect, Jennifer Chambers, and to Brian Ebbrell (successful tender) for their work on this. The wall was successfully repaired in November.

For some time we have thought it would be beneficial to have a Garden Maintenance Agreement in place for the Raby Road Cemetery to help to clarify and formalise our requirements and avoid any misunderstandings. We put this out to tender and Levert Ground Maintenance were successful and commenced in August.

Our Fabric Team has carried out some general tidying, weeding and sweeping in the churchyard.

9c. Parish Hall and Hirst Cottage

We now have a Fire Risk Assessment in place for the Parish Hall. The old broken and obsolete break glass audible fire alarm has been decommissioned and removed and replaced with two Firechief Emergency Air Horns and signage: one in the Parish Hall entrance hall and one in the main hall adjacent to the fire exit. Each of these emits a noise level of 120 decibels and has an audible range of 1500m. The emergency evacuation procedures have been updated accordingly and our insurers notified of the change.

Essential repairs have been carried out to the roof of the Parish Hall and to Hirst Cottage. A leak in the men's toilet has been fixed and a new seat fitted.

Routine gas safety checks have been carried out to both the Parish Hall and Hirst Cottage boilers. Portable electrical appliances are visually inspected at regular intervals throughout the year and are also part of a testing regime by a certified electrician.

The Church Log Book has been reviewed and updated.

Thank you to all those who have helped us during the year by giving their time and sharing their expertise – Peter Arch, Alan Heaps, Patsy Baker and Phil Charvill. Also, not least, thank you to Margaret and Victor Gamble for their caretaking.

June Allcock

10.Wirral South Deanery Synod Report

The first meeting of the Wirral South Deanery Synod in 2025 was on 26th February at St Michael's Church, Neston. The main focus of the meeting was originally on vocation but due to the sudden death of Father Mark Turner (the Vicar of St Paul's Church, Hooton), we started the meeting with a reflection, thinking about Mark and the work he had done, and praying for his family and the people at his church. A shortened presentation followed led by Lyndon Bannon, Simon Chesters and Jenny Bridgman of the Diocesan Ministry Team.

The next meeting was on Wednesday 29th May at St Thomas & All Saints Church, Ellesmere Port. The main item was the ongoing challenge we face with Net Zero and Eco Church, where/what the targets are, and what help is available. This was led by Katy Purvis and Jill Elston from Church House. It was an open session, and synod members were encouraged to invite people from their parishes to join us.

The last meeting in 2025 was on Wednesday 22nd October, at Christ Church, Willaston. The speaker was Nadene Wright, the Diocesan Racial Justice Officer who led the meeting on racial justice and on how the Church of England is addressing this; it was an open meeting. This also gave us an opportunity to see inside Christ Church which was reordered earlier this year and has become a community hub.

Sue Stinson
Wirral South Deanery Synod Rep

The Trustees' report to the Charity Commission was approved by the PCC on 10th March 2026.

Part 3: Reports on activities

Worship, Prayer and Pastoral Care
Report of the Vicar

"Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth.

Worship the Lord with gladness; come before him with joyful songs.

Enter his gates with thanksgiving

and his courts with praise." (Psalm 100 verses 1 and 4)

There is much to rejoice in as we review 2025. Part of that joy is the way in which we continue to grow as the body of Christ, learning from one another and gaining a sense of God's love through our mutual support and encouragement. I am enormously grateful for our Churchwardens, Patsy Baker and June Allcock, who have made such a good team in their pastoral and organisational skills, and their wisdom and grace in all kinds of situations. June has led our Fabric, Health and Safety team with great skill, ensuring that a rolling programme of checks and maintenance work has been kept up to date, liaising with the Church Architect over the repair of the collapsed wall.

Worship is at the heart of our life at All Saints' and can emerge through a range of senses and settings. The sun shining through the stained glass is a joy to the senses and inspires us to reflect on the way that God can shine through us, too. It is good that many visitors will stop to sit and spend time in quiet contemplation throughout the day. The wonder of the beautifully crafted words of the Book of Common Prayer, used in both our fortnightly 'said' 8am Holy Communion services and in our monthly Choral Evensong services draw us to worship. We praise God through the grandeur of music: our gifted choir encourages others to sing and we are blessed with our Director of Music and his accomplished playing on the organ. Worship has also taken place in the livelier atmosphere of the Village Club as we sang Christmas carols in a packed room.

Even when our boilers failed at the end of the year and we had to move to the Parish Hall for services, worship continued; we were warm and safe, and began to inhabit the new environment. Our choir still sang, accompanied by the Director of Music on electronic keyboard, and people found new places to sit and fresh companions to speak to.

Age, infirmity or cognitive decline are no barriers for worship. The distinct "worshipping communities" of the three care homes in our parish are another indicator of how different groups can find ways to experience God's love and praise him. At Westwood Hall, residents enjoy a broadly free choice of hymn selections, singing joyfully unaccompanied, and respond enthusiastically to them. Prayer topics emerge from these shared thoughts. At Brimstage Manor next door, the residents prefer a shorter service with a narrower range of hymns selected by me and the Activities Co-ordinator and accompanied via a Bluetooth speaker, often just with The Lord's Prayer and a short Bible verse. Elderholme residents like a far more structured, liturgical service using PowerPoint and a much wider variety of hymns, songs, pictures and music for quiet reflection.

We have our 'creative corner' in the South Transept of church to create a space for children and families to feel comfortable and part of our worship, with colouring and suggestions for play which link with our weekly Bible readings and themes. It is a delight to see some

children try to imitate my gestures during Holy Communion, showing that they are watching and wondering. I often hope that some "grown ups" might feel that they would like to come to the Transept and try out some of the activities on offer, too!

Holy Communion is an important part of our regular worship, with the orders of service changed as we move through the seasons and are reminded of the different aspects of our faith journey. Everyone is invited to receive a blessing if they do not wish to take Communion, however it would be wonderful to see more people taking the step of baptism and confirmation, regardless of age or how long they have been exploring the Christian faith.

Prayer is the bedrock of our Christian commitment. The Vicar usually says Morning Prayer in church every Monday, Tuesday and Thursday at 9.15am. Anyone is welcome to join her. The church is open daily for quiet reflection for all. Requests for prayers can be made to the Vicar or Churchwardens. These will be kept confidential unless express permission is given for these to be added to the Sunday church Prayer List.

The Vicar conducts home visits, care home visits, and phone calls to those who cannot come to church. Communion at home for the housebound and their families is also available. Members of the congregation offer great support to others, especially in faithful and regular visits to those who have gone into care homes, and through their prayers. Caring for each other is a team effort. Part of that is the continuing attention to our Safeguarding responsibilities: our Parish Safeguarding Officer Linda Arch has ensured that visually striking posters encouraging us to "Speak out: Stay safe" are in place in both the church and Parish Hall, and contact details for support and reporting are readily accessible.

We share the sadness of losing much-loved family members. The Vicar visits each family in preparing for funerals, and all those who have been bereaved, whether recently or longer ago, are welcomed to our service for the Faithful Departed, which took place in November this year. Our church community continues to mourn the loss of Sydney Deakin and Alan Smathers, two gifted and wise gentlemen who enriched the lives of all who knew them. May they, and all who have died this year, rest in peace and rise in glory.

Margaret Gamble continues to ensure that the church and Parish Hall are kept in good order for our services. She is a reassuring presence at weddings, always able to help calm an anxious bride or give a firm word where needed. She ensures that funerals run smoothly and her knowledge of the churchyard and local history is encyclopaedic. I am grateful to Victor Gamble for his careful, efficient manner when digging cremation plots. They are a great team.

The PCC has a vital role in the oversight of our church development, mission, financial stewardship and matters of legal and Safeguarding compliance. Every meeting begins and ends in prayer. Each member brings invaluable insight and I am most grateful to each of them for their thoughtfulness and time, both within the meetings and beyond. This has been a year with significant challenges, as Sue Stinson's PCC report attests, but much cause for rejoicing in all that God is doing. Her work as our PCC Secretary – and much besides – is greatly appreciated. Iain Stinson has worked extremely hard as Treasurer, helping us to manage and understand our finances.

Revd Vicky Barrett

11. Report of the Churchwardens

Patsy Baker and June Allcock were elected as Churchwardens for 2025/26 at the Church AGM. They were sworn in at an Archdeacon's Visitation Service at St Berteline's in Norton, near Runcorn on 9th June. Tim Allen-Price accompanied them. An unintended trip across the Mersey Flow toll bridge, plus the necessary return journey two minutes later, added to the experience! Our Rural Dean, Revd Vicky did the same!

Patsy and June attended Church Warden Training in Sandbach on 18th October 2025. Archdeacon Mike led the event, and it was interesting to hear from various speakers from the Diocesan Team in Church House covering a range of topics, such as finance, Safeguarding, the Diocesan Advisory Committee. It was also good to meet other churchwardens from across the Diocese. Both Patsy and June have completed all mandatory Safeguarding training up to Leadership level.

It has been another busy and interesting year! Once every three years the Archdeacon is required to inspect each church in their area. Although more than three years had elapsed since the last inspection, Archdeacon Mike conducted the triennial inspection of All Saints on 2nd June. Revd Vicky and June met with him and talked about parish matters, the joys and the challenges. He inspected our registers and records and checked that mandatory requirements had been met. Feedback was constructive and positive.

How satisfying and lovely it was to bring out of storage all those beautiful knitted and crocheted poppies from last year and once again decorate the archway, Church doorway and altar. It's a lovely ongoing reminder of the dedication put in by so many parishioners and friends and a lasting tribute to those service men and women.

Whilst we have had some major setbacks this year, such as the boundary wall and now the heating breakdown, this has been countered by the joy of welcoming our regular worshippers throughout the year and to see so many new ones joining us. Thank you. It is your support that makes all the difference.

A special thank you to Margaret Gamble for her beautiful decorations throughout the Church year, Easter, Harvest Festival and Christmas in particular.

There are so many people to thank! Our valued team of volunteers – sides people, those serving refreshments, flower arrangers, our fabric team, and Tim Allen-Price. Thank you to Iain Stinson and our choir for the beautiful music and singing. Thank you to our PCC members and all those serving on other committees.

Our sincere thanks, as ever, to Revd Vicky for her spiritual guidance and encouragement, her dedication and hard work, her sense of fun and enthusiasm and her friendship. It genuinely has been a pleasure!

June Allcock and Patsy Baker
Churchwardens

12. Verger's Report

The Verger is there to assist the Vicar at weddings, funerals, internment of ashes and school visits, to make sure people have access to the church every day and to help people looking for their family graves.

Margaret Gamble
Verger

13. Parish Hall

The Parish Hall is used by Stepping Out and once again we are grateful to Gill Woods for her continued support. Birkenhead North Cycle Club and Thornton Hough Fishing Club have also continued to use the hall. In the run up to Christmas it was used by the NHS Choir. There were no elections this year, so the council did not require the hall.

Church groups continue to use the hall. Coffee Mornings, Toybox, refreshments after the Sunday service and PCC meetings are all held in the hall.

There was a Soup and Sandwich lunch in February, a Summer Strawberry Tea, a Harvest Lunch, an Autumn Fair and Merry Christmas Carols and Mince Pies. A hot drink and mince pies was served after the Christmas Carol Service and the Guides served refreshments after the Civic Remembrance Service.

The hall is also hired occasionally for private parties. If you are interested in hiring the hall, please contact us.

Margaret Gamble

14. Safeguarding

Safeguarding responsibilities are taken seriously at All Saints' Thornton Hough. Safeguarding is an agenda item at all PCC meetings.

There are posters on display in Church and the Parish Hall with contact details for local, Diocesan and national organisations for anyone wanting to discuss or report safeguarding matters. In 2025 the Chester Diocese "Speak Out Stay Safe" campaign was launched and the brightly coloured campaign posters are also on display. Parishioners may have noticed lanyards, in the same bright colours, being worn to draw attention to those at All Saints 'who can be approached about safeguarding issues. In addition, our comprehensive All Saints' website has useful links to the Church of England safeguarding policies and procedures, including the new user-friendly Safeguarding e-manual and a link to access online safeguarding training courses. These courses are free of charge, and everyone is invited to complete the Basic Awareness module.

Safeguarding information is passed on from Chester Diocese via the regular e-Bulletin and throughout the year there is a series of Parish Safeguarding Officer Network meetings where new initiatives and examples of "best practice" are shared. I attend these meetings as part of keeping updated, on behalf of All Saints'.

Thanks to the effort and cooperation of PCC Members / Trustees and All Saints' Volunteers, all DBS checks and mandatory safeguarding training courses have been completed or repeated.

We continue to work through the Church of England Safeguarding Dashboard. The Dashboard is a traffic light system to advise whether policies and procedures within parishes align with the Safeguarding Standards of the Church of England. No personal information is recorded. The Dashboard is an ongoing process, which will never reach a final conclusion, because DBS checks and mandatory safeguarding training need to be repeated at 3-year intervals and standards are regularly developed to become more rigorous. The Dashboard can generate All Saints' specific Action Plans to facilitate progress.

Linda M Arch
Parish Safeguarding Officer











The Autumn Fair







15. Families' ministries

Children in church

The South Transept of the church is our quiet and comfortable children's area, with a mat and soft toys and a small table and chairs for craft, puzzles, and drawing. There are usually activities available which link to the day's readings, enabling children and their families to participate in the service in a more creative, playful way.

These materials are available throughout the week when the church is open, enabling visitors with younger children to have access to engaging materials and toys.

We have ensured that a similar area has been set up in the Parish Hall during 10.30 services to help children continue to feel welcome and relaxed.

Revd Vicky Barrett

Toybox

Toybox is our group for babies and toddlers with their carers (parents, grandparents, nannies etc). We meet from 10am to 11:30am on the second Monday of each month.

We thought that the expansion of nursery places might have affected our numbers but there is a constant stream of new faces keen to join us, as well as new arrivals in our existing families. It has been lovely to see friendships forming and the children enjoying themselves.

After a period of free play, while the carers chat, the children sit down for a snack and then a craft activity. Among other things this year we have made penguins, fluffy sheep pictures, rockets, dinosaur puppets, butterflies, and finally, at Christmas, thought about the very first Christmas with a Nativity sticker scene. These activities seem to be enjoyed by the carers as much as the children and the children love taking something home at the end. The sessions end with an interactive story led by Vicky and singing.

It is always sad to see the children move on when they start nursery or school- they grow up so quickly.

A huge thank you to the regular team of Vicky, Patsy, Pat, Brenda and Kate for making Toybox such a success. Thank you also to Iain for helping to set up the hall and Linda for her assistance.

I would also like to express my gratitude to the Raby School Trust. Their generous donations have enabled us to present each of the leavers with a Children's Bible.

Sue Stinson
Toybox coordinator

16. Choir and music

At the end of 2025 our choir has nine members (ten with the Vicar): four sopranos (five with the Vicar), two altos and three basses, but, alas, no tenors. Sadly, Helen Tankard is no longer able to join us on a regular basis due to family commitments. Not having a regular tenor means that we must sometimes "adjust" the division of voices in some pieces of music to make them work. On a few occasions we were joined by Tim Barrett (tenor) and members of the Stinson Family (trebles, alto and tenor).

The choir has led the music at the Sunday 10:30am throughout the year. Holidays, seasonal and other illness have occasionally reduced our numbers, but we have managed to include an anthem or similar choir item at each of these services.

On Sunday evenings, we have sung Choral Evensong on eight occasions (with settings of the responses and canticles, anthems and congregational hymns), The numbers in the

congregation for Evensong are a little disappointing but we are very grateful to those members of the congregation who come along to support these services.

As well as the regular Sunday services, the choir led the Passiontide Service of Readings and Music, the Service of Readings and Music for Advent and the Christmas Carol Service.

We have been fortunate that Brian Moate has played the organ for us when I have been absent. Brian is an experienced musician and regularly plays the organ at West Kirby and Heswall Methodist churches. His assistance is greatly appreciated.

I would like to thank all members of the choir for their support, commitment and patience (with me); without the active participation of each chorister, our ability to lead the worship at All Saints' Church would be significantly reduced. I would particularly like to thank Val Splitt, ably assisted by Alan, for all her work as our music librarian.

If you are interested in being in the choir, please get in touch. We practise for about an hour each Friday Evening and sing each Sunday at the 10:30am service (and once a month at 6:30pm). The choir is a great place to share and enjoy fellowship.

Iain Stinson
Director of Music



The Carol Service

17. The Prayer Group

We are a small, friendly group who meet on the second Monday of the month in members' homes from 2pm to 4pm.

We appreciate the help and support we get from these meetings and anyone who would like to join us would be most welcome.

Shirley McEvoy

18. All Saints' and the environment

Eco Church

Early in the year at an online meeting of the Chester Diocesan Eco-Church Network, Rev Jill Elston, as Diocesan Environmental Adviser, suggested the appointment of a volunteer Eco Church Rep as a new role within parishes. Probably because I was already attending the online and some in-person meeting of "Cool Wirral Places of Worship" the PCC asked me to take on the new role. They also agreed to make the small achievable commitment to register with the A Rocha Eco Church scheme and work towards the Bronze Level Award.

There were two interesting online presentations in the Diocesan Eco-Church Network programme. One was delivered by Ecclesiastical Insurance on the subject of Climate Change and its effects on church buildings and grounds and the second was given by Cheshire Wildlife Trust on how churchyards could contribute to nature and biodiversity.

Cool Wirral

Cool Wirral is an inter-faith group, funded by Wirral Borough Council. Its purpose is to encourage places of worship to contribute to WBC environmental strategies, including Working Towards Net Zero and Working Towards Climate Resilience. At meetings participants exchange ideas and plan events. In November I hosted one of the three round-table discussions at a Cool Wirral Event in Birkenhead, timed to link with the COP30 meeting held at Belem in Brazil. My theme was Living Sustainably.

The Vicar and PCC continue to look at ways of increasing awareness of and involvement in practical ways to care for the environment. Litter-picking, as a joint venture with members of the Village Trust and other residents, is one example along with references to caring for God's creation in sermons and prayers.

Linda M Arch
Eco Representative

Practical Ministries

19. Parish Magazine

The editors, Patsy Baker, Revd Vicky Barrett, Brian Morris and Iain Stinson, continue to try to produce a magazine which is interesting and informative to its readers and especially to members of the parish. We have kept the parishioners informed of what is happening at our church through the events page, the diary and articles written on church life. At the same time, we have brought everyday stories from individuals about events which have happened in their lifetime and of interest.

Our thanks go to regular and occasional contributors who make the magazine so interesting. We are very grateful for the regular contributions on non-church matters from Caroline Lancelyn Green, Gavin Hunter, Ann Slee Jones, Brian Moate, Janet Gaywood and Patsy Baker which add variety to the magazine. We hope that the readers gain comfort and enjoyment from the articles. During 2025 six editions of the magazine were printed and circulated as in previous years and placed on the website.

We have continued to receive many complimentary comments from those who have enjoyed not only the content but also the format we have used. The magazine is distributed free to anybody who wishes to have a copy, but we do ask for a donation towards the cost of printing. We are indebted to our advertisers and to the voluntary donations given by our readers which meets most of the cost of producing the magazine.

The printing and co-ordinating the distribution is done by Margaret Gamble and we are indebted to her for continuing with this task as she has done for many years. Our thanks also go to the distributers who deliver the magazines.

We feel it is important that the magazine continues to bring to the attention of the parishioners the various articles, events, quizzes and stories in paper form as not everybody has a computer for the online version. 220 copies of the magazine are printed every two months and are distributed to homes in Thornton Hough, Raby Mere, Brimstage and Raby. Magazines are also posted to homes outside the parish: to Heswall, Neston, Oxton, Willaston, Chester, Port Sunlight, and as far afield as Evershot, Hornby (near Lancaster) and Broadstone (in Dorset). The Magazine (current and past editions) are available on the church website.

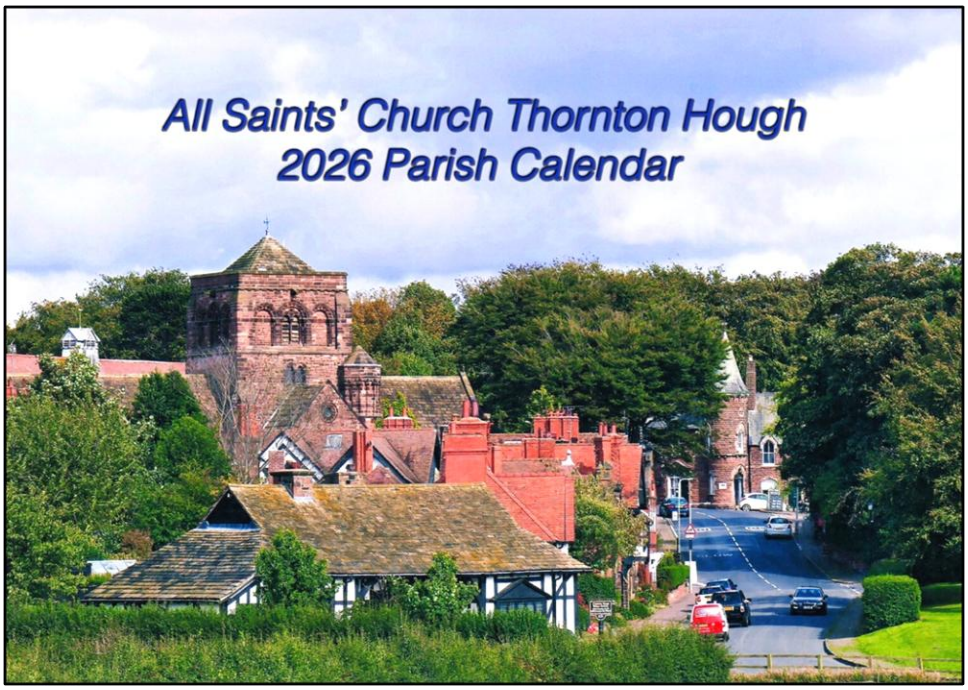
Our editorial team welcomes contributions, so if you have a story or know of an event which you feel might be of interest, please send it to us for consideration with all the other articles.

The Editors

20. 2026 Thornton Hough Calendar

Following the success of previous calendars, a 2026 Thornton Hough Calendar was produced and printed with the support provided by Sue and Iain Stinson. Contributions of photographs of our beautiful village and neighbourhood were requested via the pulpit and through the bi-monthly magazine. After much deliberation, twelve photographs were selected from a large group depicting views of our beautiful parish at different times in the year. Around 175 copies were printed and sent to many parts of the country and far-off lands.

We were indebted to 12 local businesses and companies who each sponsored a month thus covering the printing costs and to those people who sold the calendars to friends and relatives. We should mention that The Village Hall and AJ & Son Motors sold many of our calendars and we are very grateful for their support once again. Thanks must also go to Margaret Gamble who again sold many calendars to friends and family. We are delighted to report that the calendars made a handsome profit of about £950 for church funds.



The front of our calendar for 2026 was a view of the village taken by Alan Smathers who sadly died last year. Alan was instrumental (along with his friend Brian Morris) in producing the first Thornton Hough calendars. He was a talented photographer, and we enjoyed looking at his pictures on our walls for many years.

We look forward to producing another calendar for 2027 so we hope that many new and old photos will come to light during the Spring and Summer of 2026 and sent to us for consideration.

Brian Morris

21. Website report

The church website provides information about our church, contact details and includes a calendar of services and events taking place at All Saints'. We announce any last-minute changes to planned events and services on our home page. We publish copies of The Magazine on the website for those who prefer to read online; this also provides a growing record of our activities over recent years.

The website is an important communications tool. Comments and suggestions about the website are always welcome. Please look regularly at www.allsaintsth.org.uk – you might be pleasantly surprised by what you find.

Iain Stinson

22. Church Flowers

We are grateful to June Allcock, Verity Smith and Caroline Lancelyn Green for their help with arranging flowers in the church.

Once again for Harvest it was good to see members of the congregation decorate the windows and we decorated pots of primulas for Mothering Sunday.

If anyone would like to join this little group, please let us know it is something you might enjoy.

Margaret Gamble

23. Coffee Mornings

Despite no longer having an ACF group we are still having monthly coffee mornings on the 4th Wednesday of each month - except for August and December.

We average about 20 attendees regularly and spend an hour and a half drinking coffee/tea, eating biscuits and enjoying good conversation.

The session ends with our prize raffle consisting of items which attendees have kindly donated e.g. wine, chocolates, biscuits and other items. We thank Tim for selling the raffle tickets, Shirley McEvoy and Margaret Wignall who serve the coffee and tea. Thanks also to those who provide the biscuits.

Everybody is welcome to join us.

Alan Splitt

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of All Saints, Thornton Hough

Registered Charity number 1131417

End of Year Financial Statements

(Receipts & Payments)

Year ending December 31st 2025

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Financial review

Overall receipts in 2025 were £156,576, £31,353 more than in 2025: £28,766 of this was received from the Diocese from the sale of units in the Fryer Trust to pay for the repair of the collapsed boundary wall in Church Road. £2,587 was from other income sources. The total expenditure in 2025 was £152,553 and the income was £4,023 greater than the expenditure. In 2024 expenditure exceeded income by £4,657.

At the end of the year the cash assets of the PCC were £48,678 (this excludes the value of investments and property); this is £3,824 more than at the end of 2024.

Total receipts of unrestricted funds were £156,381. Of this £50,076 was from giving through standing orders, weekly envelopes and open plate collection, and we received £21,333 in unrestricted grants and gifts.

We recovered a total of £10,887 through the UK's Gift Aid schemes on qualifying gifts and donations.

Income from investments (Permanent Trust Income) was £20,551; this was £2,235 less than the return received in 2024. At the end of December 2025, the value of the investments owned by the PCC was £30,893 more than at the end of 2024.

The PCC's investments are controlled in partnership with the Diocese of Chester, the Diocese taking a role like that of a custodian trustee. The Diocese needs to support any resolutions made by the PCC about its investments; in some cases, The Charity Commission's permission may be required. The PCC's Finance Committee monitors the performance of its investments and, should it deem it necessary, make proposals about these to the PCC. If the PCC wished to take any such proposals forward, the PCC would have to pass a formal resolution setting out the actions to be taken. Any such resolution would be passed to the Diocese of Chester for review, approval, and implementation. The Diocese of Chester does not provide any financial advice to PCCs.

In July 2025, M&G closed the Charibond Fund in which the PCC had an investment valued at £138,701 at the end of 2024. M&G returned the closing value of the fund, £139,331, to the Diocese of Chester. The Diocese had apparently not taken any action when M&G had announced the closure of the fund in March/April. The Diocese held the money returned in one of their holding accounts. The Diocese notified the parish about the closure of the fund in September as a part of discussion about another matter. The Parish had to decide how to reinvest this money. After careful consideration the PCC agreed to invest it in two funds: 50% of the money was invested in M&G Charifund and 50% in CCLA's CBF Property Fund. The PCC informed the Diocese of its decision and the Diocese completed the reinvestment in December 2025.

There were some social activities during 2025; though their focus was not on raising funds, all of these (at least) broke even. The income from calendar sales and sponsorship was £1,025. The cost of producing the calendar was about £100 (for the 2026 edition) and so the net benefit from the 2026 edition of the calendar was around £925.

During 2025, donations towards the cost of the Magazine were £564 and revenue from advertisers was £850.

The rental for use of the Parish Hall by outside organisations generated £7,187 during 2025; this is £1,453 lower than the amount received in 2024.

The Parish Share for 2025 was £77,604 (3% higher than in 2024) and was paid in regular monthly instalments to the Diocese. This meets the cost of clergy salaries, pensions, clergy housing and training; it also provides support for the Diocese of Chester and the central organisation of the Church of England.

Whilst the salary for the Vicar is met by the Diocese, the PCC pay the Council Tax and water charges for the vicarage and the expenses incurred by the vicar in carrying out her role in the parish.

The cost of maintenance of the churchyard and graveyard was £6,325 compared to £5,716 for the equivalent work in 2024. (The sum reported for 2024 included tree maintenance work.).

In 2024 the PCC spent a total of £4,582 maintaining the church building and £1,168 maintaining the Parish Hall.

The repair of the collapsed boundary wall in Church Road cost £23,284. The cost of this was met from the sale of a part of the Fryer Trust. (Tis an endowment owned by the Diocese that was given with the request that it benefit All Saints Thornton Hough.)

In 2025 the PCC spent £5,568 on major repairs to Hirst Cottage and £999 on regular maintenance and insurance for the building.

The total cost of employing two staff, the Verger/Caretaker and the Director of Music, was £8,438 in 2025. During the year, the Director of Music decided to only accept payment for weddings and funerals and not a regular salary.

Our energy supply is provided by EON on a three-year fixed price contracts for gas and electricity that began in September 2024.

The PCC meets the day-to-day costs of running the parish from Unrestricted Funds (General Fund). The results for 2025 show that there is £32,930 in the General Fund (unrestricted) at the end of the year £3,328 more than when the year began.

At the end of 2025, the Designated Funds available to the PCC are £13,221 and at the end of 2024 were £12,349. During the year the PCC received £28,766 from the sale of units in the Fryer Trust (by the Diocese) to pay for the repair of the collapsed boundary wall. The Designated Funds include £7,281 from this money (the project cost significantly less than the estimated cost). (See Notes on the Accounts, note 7 for further details.) The PCC can use these Designated Funds to address some of the maintenance and development projects that need to be undertaken at All Saints'.

The restricted funds held by the PCC amount to £2,501 discounting the unrealised values of the Parish Hall and Hirst Cottage, and this must be used for the purposes specified by the donors of the money. (£2,678 at the end of 2024.)

There remain concerns about our being able to meet the costs which are incurred in sustaining our regular activities. The level of income being received from planned giving and open plate giving (plus the Gift Aid on this) is less than half of the total annual expenditure. With income from the investments slowly recovering, we have been dependent on one-off donations and grants to meet our costs. This has been the case for the last few years.

The church heating system failed in December 2025 and must be replaced. Finding the funds to meet the high cost of the replacement of the heating system is of great and immediate concern. There will also be other fabric matters that will need to be addressed.

It is important that All Saints' increases its income so that we can meet our ongoing costs and obligations, and so that we are able to continue to support God's work in our parish.

The accounts

This financial report is produced under the Church of England guidance for PCCs (Church Accounting Regulations 2006) adopting the ***Receipts and Payments*** method provided for by the Church and The Charities Act (2011).

This report consists of pages numbered 1 to 16; pages 17 to 19 do not form a part of the formal report.

This report shows all the PCC's open bank accounts.

There may appear to be minor discrepancies in the totals in the reports as the pence are not shown.

All members of the PCC are Trustees of the registered charity.

Two PCC members (trustees), Mrs Margaret Gamble and Mr Iain Stinson are employees of the PCC. Mrs Gamble is the Verger/Caretaker and Mr Stinson is the Director of Music (posts they both held before first being elected or co-opted as PCC members). Neither Mrs Gamble nor Mr Stinson receive any payment for their roles as PCC Members (trustees).

No payments were made to PCC members for their role as a member of the PCC other than as minor reimbursements for items purchased.

These accounts have been prepared using Data Developments' Finance Coordinator (version 4.62) software package following the PCC's Accounting Policies which are appended to this report. They have been prepared on behalf of the PCC by Mr Iain Stinson who does not receive any payment for undertaking the duties of Honorary Treasurer.

The following assets are recognised but not valued in the accounts: moveable church furnishings held by the vicar and trustees on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal.

It is the PCC's policy to maintain a balance on unrestricted funds (whenever possible), which equates to approximately two months unrestricted payments, to meet cash flow requirements and to cover emergency situations that may arise from time to time.

The "Notes on the accounts" may be found on pages 12 to 14.

Balance Sheet December 31st 2025

		As at 31/12/2025	As at 31/12/2024
Fixed assets			
(note 1)	6430: Church Hall	£350,000	£350,000
	6431: Hirst Cottage	£150,000	£150,000
(note 2)	6432: M&G Charibond	—	£138,701
	6433: M&G Charifund	£306,315	£205,024
	6434: CBF Property Fund	£68,303	—
	Total Fixed assets	**£874,618**	**£843,725**
Current assets			
	6501: CAF Current A/c.545	£27,201	£22,537
	6502: CAF Restricted A/c.546	—	—
	6503: CAF Deposit A/c.274	£19,904	£19,524
(note 3)	6505: HSBC Current A/c.163	£1	£1
	6506: HSBC Current A/c.388	£1,571	£2,791
	Total Current assets	**£48,678**	**£44,854**
Liabilities			
(note 4)	6699: Agency collections	£26	£225
	Total Liabilities	**£26**	**£225**
	Net Asset surplus (deficit)	**£923,271**	**£888,355**
Reserves			
	Excess / (deficit) to date	£4,022	(£4,667)
	Starting balances	£888,355	£892,878
	Other gains/(losses)	£30,892	£144
	Total Reserves	**£923,271**	**£888,355**

Represented by funds		
Unrestricted	£32,930	£29,602
Designated	£13,221	£12,349
Restricted	£502,501	£502,677
Endowment	£374,618	£343,725
Total	**£923,271**	**£888,355**

Statement of Assets and Liabilities as at December 31st 2025 (1 of 2)

Class and nominal code	General	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	Total	Last year
Fixed assets – Investments *(note 2)*						
6432 : M&G Charibond	—	—	—	—	—	£138,701
6433 : M&G Charifund	—	—	—	£306,315	£306,315	£205,024
6434 : CBF Property Fund	—	—	—	£68,303	£68,303	—
Total	—	—	—	£374,618	£374,618	£343,725
Fixed assets - Tangible assets *(note 1)*						
6430 : Church Hall	—	—	£350,000	—	£350,000	£350,000
6431 : Hirst Cottage	—	—	£150,000	—	£150,000	£150,000
Total	—	—	£500,000	—	£500,000	£500,000
Current assets - Cash at bank and in hand						
6501 : CAF Current A/c.545	£12,754	£12,897	£1,549	—	£27,201	£22,537
6503 : CAF Deposit A/c.274	£18,526	£400	£978	—	£19,904	£19,524
6505 : HSBC Current A/c.163 *(note 3)*	£1	—	—	—	£1	£1
6506 : HSBC Current A/c.388	£1,548	£23	—	—	£1,571	£2,791
Total	£32,830	£13,321	£2,527	—	£48,678	£44,854
Liabilities - Agency accounts						
6699 : Agency collections *(note 4)*	—	—	£26	—	£26	£225
Total	—	—	£26	—	£26	£225
Net total assets	£32,830	£13,321	£502,501	£374,618	£923,271	£888,355
Represented by *(note 5)*						
Unrestricted - General	£32,930	—	—	—	£32,930	£29,602
Designated - ACF	—	—	—	—	—	£1,349
Designated - FeesHold	—	£190	—	—	£190	£190
Designated - Hallimp	—	£2,400	—	—	£2,400	£2,400
Designated - Kitchen	—	—	—	—	—	£150
Designated – Legacies	—	—	—	—	—	£4,890
Designated – Roof	—	£2,515	—	—	£2,515	£2,515
Designated – Toybox	—	£274	—	—	£274	£294
Designated – VicarProj	—	£560	—	—	£560	£560
Designated – Build (note 6)	—	£7,281	—	—	£7,281	—

Statement of Assets and Liabilities as at December 31st 2025 (2 of 2)

Class and nominal code		General	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	Total	Last year
Restricted - ChoirFee		—	—	£345	—	£345	£420
Restricted - Choir		—	—	£546	—	£546	£603
Restricted - Hall		—	—	£350,000	—	£350,000	£350,000
Restricted - Flowers		—	—	£1,017	—	£1,017	£976
Restricted – Hirst		—	—	£150,000	—	£150,000	£150,000
Restricted - Organ		—	—	£0	—	£0	£86
Restricted - Taxi		—	—	£241	—	£241	£241
Restricted - Vicar		—	—	£350	—	£350	£350
Endowment - CBFProp		—	—	—	£68,303	£68,303	—
Endowment - Charifund		—	—	—	£306,315	£306,315	£205,024
Endowment - Charibond		—	—	—	—	—	£138,701
	Total	£32,930	£13,221	£502,501	£374,618	£923,271	£888,355

Statement of Financial Activities from January 1st 2025 to December 31st 2025

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Prior year total funds
Income and endowments from:					
Donations and legacies	£82,698	£70	—	£82,768	£78,684
Income from charitable activities	£9,747	£125	—	£9,872	£8,915
Other trading activities	£8,415	—	—	£8,415	£10,333
Investments *(note 7)*	£25,353	—	—	£25,353	£27,689
Other income	£30,167	—	—	£30,167	(£400)
Total income	**£156,381**	**£195**	**—**	**£156,576**	**£125,223**
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds	£5,736	—	—	£5,736	£4,929
Expenditure on charitable activities	£146,316	£371	—	£146,688	£124,754
Other expenditure	£129	—	—	£129	£206
Total expenditure	**£152,182**	**£371**	**—**	**£152,553**	**£129,890**
Gains / losses on investment assets	—	—	£30,892	£30,892	£144
Net income / (expenditure) resources before transfer	**£4,199**	**(£176)**	**£30,892**	**£34,915**	**(£4,522)**
Transfers *(note 8)*					
Gross transfers between funds - in	£15,255	—	£139,331	£154,586	£300
Gross transfers between funds - out	(£15,255)	—	(£139,331)	(£154,586)	(£300)
Other recognised gains / losses					
Gains on revaluation, fixed assets, charity's own use	—	—	—	—	—
Net movement in funds	**£4,199**	**(£176)**	**£30,892**	**£34,915**	**(£4,522)**
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward	**£41,951**	**£502,677**	**£343,725**	**£888,355**	**£892,878**
Total funds carried forward	**£46,151**	**£502,501**	**£374,618**	**£923,271**	**£888,355**

Analysis of income and expenditure from January 1st 2025 to December 31st 2025

(1 of 3)

	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Total This year	Total Last year
Income and endowments					
Donations and legacies					
1010 -Planned Giving Standing Orders	£32,175	—	—	£32,175	£32,615
1015 - Planned Giving Envelopes	£7,684	—	—	£7,684	£9,650
1020 - Gift Aid - Occasional	—	—	—	—	—
1030 - Gift Aid - tax rebate	£10,887	—	—	£10,887	£12,112
1040 - Open Plate	£10,219	—	—	£10,219	£9,217
1060 - Wall Safe	£397	—	—	£397	£423
1070 - Donations - Sundry	£21,283	—	£70	£21,353	£14,167
1080 - Appeals - Donations	—	—	—	—	—
1110 - Grants - non recurring	£50	—	—	£50	£500
Donations and legacies totals	£82,698	—	£70	£82,768	£78,684
Income from charitable activities					
1120 - Events and Activities	£1,660	—	—	£1,660	£1,358
1121 - Coffee Mornings	£559	—	—	£559	£385
1122 - Toybox	£295	—	—	£295	£375
1150 - Choir - Wedding fees	£125	—	£125	£250	£440
1160 - Funerals - PCC	£2,877	—	—	£2,877	£2,294
1170 - Funerals extra charges	—	—	—	—	£100
1210 - Weddings - PCC	£1,002	£100	—	£1,102	£1,614
1240 - Fees for weddings and funerals *(note 9)*	£1,239	£474	—	£1,713	£1,708
1400 - Magazine donations	£564	—	—	£564	£509
1402 - Magazine - adverts	£850	—	—	£850	£130
Income from charitable activities totals	£9,173	£574	£125	£9,872	£8,915
Other trading activities					
1140 - Halls - rentals	£7,197	—	—	£7,197	£8,650
1300 - Printing / Copying (commercial)	£192	—	—	£192	£197
1410 - Calendar Income	£1,025	—	—	£1,025	£1,485
Other trading activities Totals	£8,415	—	—	£8,415	£10,333
Investments					
1130 - Hirst Cottage - Rent	£4,380	—	—	£4,380	£4,380
1500 - Permanent Trust Income	£20,551	—	—	£20,551	£22,786
1510 - Bank Interest	£422	—	—	£422	£522
Investments totals	£25,353	—	—	£25,353	£27,689
Other income					
1600 - Advanced payment of fees	(£100)	£100	—	—	(£400)
1650 - Other Ordinary Income *(note 10)*	£1,401	£28,766	—	£30,167	—
1655 - Prior year adjustment	—	—	—	—	—
Other income totals	£1,301	£28,866	—	£30,167	(£400)
Income and endowments totals	£126,941	£29,440	£195	£156,576	£125,223

Analysis of income and expenditure from January 1st 2025 to December 31st 2025

(2 of 3)

	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Total This year	Total Last year
Expenditure					
Raising funds					
2400 - Hall - Consumables	£189	—	—	£189	£129
2410 - Hall - Electricity	£784	—	—	£784	£520
2415 - Hall - Gas	£1,390	—	—	£1,390	£989
2420 - Hall - Insurance	£1,070	—	—	£1,070	£1,110
2425 - Hall - Fire protection & safety	£183	—	—	£183	£44
2430 - Hall - Water charges	£241	—	—	£241	£165
2535 - Magazine & Bookstall	—	—	—	—	£50
3010 - Copier rental & copies	£1,876	—	—	£1,876	£1,918
Raising funds totals	£5,736	—	—	£5,736	£4,929
Expenditure on charitable activities					
2000 - Parish Share	£77,604	—	—	£77,604	£75,344
2010 - Clergy and staff - expenses	£1,220	—	—	£1,220	£1,553
2015 - Clergy - locum costs	£59	—	—	£59	£56
2020 - Parsonage - Council Tax	£2,567	—	—	£2,567	£2,441
2035 - Parsonage - Water charges	£349	—	—	£349	£351
2100 - Church - Electricity	£1,627	—	—	£1,627	£1,001
2105 - Church - Gas	£2,964	—	—	£2,964	£2,475
2110 - Church - Water charges	£572	—	—	£572	£503
2115 - Church- Fire Protect. & Safety	—	—	—	—	£255
2120 - Church - Insurance	£2,495	—	—	£2,495	£2,386
2125 - Church - Cost of services	£271	—	—	£271	£268
2127 - Flowers	—	—	£28	£28	—
2130 - IT & Web	£336	—	—	£336	£313
2200 - Church – Repairs *(note 10)*	£552	£23,284	—	£23,836	£7,992
2201 - Church - minor maintenance	£3,444	—	—	£3,444	£1,312
2202 -Church - maintenance contracts	£586	—	—	£586	—
2300 - Church Yard (Church Road)	£3,823	—	—	£3,823	£5,076
2310 - Grave Yard (Raby Road)	£2,502	—	—	£2,502	£3,325
2440 - Hall repairs/exterior	£393	—	—	£393	£300
2445 - Hall repairs/interior	£775	—	—	£775	£270
2455 - Hirst Cottage - repairs	£348	£5,568	—	£5,916	£390
2460 – Hirst Cottage property upkeep	£651	—	—	£651	£730
2500 - Misson / Outreach	£181	—	—	£181	£241

Analysis of income and expenditure from January 1st 2025 to December 31st 2025

(3 of 3)

	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Total This year	Total Last year
2505 - Children's Ministry	—	£19	—	£19	£457
2510 - Church Societies	—	—	—	—	£738
2520 - Relief agencies	£1,200	—	—	£1,200	£165
2525 - Church Overseas	—	—	—	—	—
2530 - Secular Societies	£315	—	—	£315	£636
2605 - Music - costs	£137	—	£56	£193	£133
2611 - Fees paid out (note 8)	£1,064	£286	£200	£1,550	£969
2615 - Organ - tuning & maintenance	£623	—	£86	£709	£668
2620 - Organist - Locum organists	—	—	—	—	—
2701 - Office - telecoms	£781	—	—	£781	£688
2710 - Office - consumables	£526	—	—	£526	£624
3000 - Staffing Costs (Salaries)	£7,256	—	—	£7,256	£9,121
3001 - Pension contributions	—	—	—	—	—
3002 - Tax & NIC payments	£1,182	—	—	£1,182	£2,584
3005 - Staffing fees	£527	£52	—	£579	£1,076
3300 - Miscellaneous	—	—	—	—	£8
4002 - Costs of stewardship	£73	—	—	£73	£78
4003 - Costs of Fetes/events	£92	—	—	£92	£215
4005 - Governance Costs	—	—	—	—	—
Expenditure on charitable activities totals	£117,106	£29,210	£371	£146,688	£124,754
Other expenditure					
4006 - Bank charges	£129	—	—	£129	£206
Other expenditure totals	£129	—	—	£129	£206
Expenditure Grand totals	£122,972	£29,210	£371	£152,553	£129,890

Notes on the accounts

Note 1.
The Church Hall and Hirst Cottage are owned by the PCC and the valuation in the accounts was obtained some years ago. If the PCC wished to consider selling these assets, up to date valuations would need to be obtained.

Note 2.
The endowments (investments) are managed by the PCC in partnership with the Diocese of Chester – the Diocese deals with the operational management of the endowments for the PCC. In July 2025, M&G closed the Charibond Fund, and returned the closing value of the fund, £139,331, to the Diocese of Chester. (The Diocese had apparently not taken any action when M&G had announced the closure of the fund in March/April.) The Diocese held the money returned in one of their holding accounts. The Diocese notified the parish about the closure of the fund in July as a part of discussion about another matter. The Parish had to decide how to invest this money. After careful consideration the PCC agreed to invest it in two funds: 50% of the money was invested in M&G Charifund and 50% in CCLA's CBF Property Fund. The PCC informed the Diocese of its decision and the Diocese completed the reinvestment in December 2025.

The investments owned by the PCC at the *start* of 2025 were as shown below.

Principal donor	**Specified purpose**	**Holding**	**Number of shares**	**Value 31 Dec 2024**
Leverhulme		M&G Charibond Inc	128,546.10	£138,701
		M&G Charifund Inc	13,645.03	£200,909
Lever	Churchyard maintenance	M&G Charifund Inc	264.01	£3,887
Fernie	Churchyard maintenance	M&G Charifund Inc	15.46	£227
Total value of investments				**£343,725**

At the end of 2025 the investments owned by the PCC are shown in the following table.

Principal donor	**Specified purpose**	**Holding**	**Number of shares**	**Value 31 Dec 2025**
Leverhulme		CCLA CBF Property Fund	54,277.80	£68,303
		M&G Charifund Inc	17,744.16	£301,565
Lever	Churchyard maintenance	M&G Charifund Inc	264.01	£4,486
Fernie	Churchyard maintenance	M&G Charifund Inc	15.46	£262
Total value of investments				**£374,618**

Note 3.
The HSBC bank account ending in 163 is used as a part of the standing order collection process and automatically transfers its contents, other than £1, into the HSBC bank account ending in 388 at the end of each month.

Note 4.
The PCC collects fees for weddings, funerals and cremation services on behalf of the Diocese. These fees are held separately from the church's funds and paid over to the Diocese each month. The liability shown is the amount of these fees in the PCC's bank accounts which will be paid over to the Diocese.

Note 5.

Summary of the funds

The PCC may used General and Designated funds for any purpose that is in the best interest of the charity. Restricted funds are to be used for the purpose specified when they were given.

Name	Type	Details
General	General	The main operating fund for the PCC. Receives most of the income and pays almost all the running costs for the PCC.
ACF	Designated	Funds from the ACF group, which no longer operates. It is a Designated fund and may be used as the PCC deems appropriate.
FeesHold	Designated	This fund holds any fees pay in advance of weddings.
Hallimp	Designated	This is for improvements / redecoration of the Parish Hall
Kitchen	Designated	This is for minor work on the Parrish Hall kitchen.
Legacies	Designated	This fund receives any legacies given to the church where the donor does not specify how the money given is to be used.
Roof	Designated	For roof repairs to the church.
Toybox	Designated	For funds given specifically for Toybox.
VicarProj	Designated	A fund for small projects. The projects require the vicar to agree with them.
Build	Designated	A fund for major works on the church building.
ChoirFee	Restricted	Holds and pays out choir fees from weddings and funerals.
Choir	Restricted	For purchase of choir music.
Flowers	Restricted	For flowers for the church.
Organ	Restricted	For repairs and maintenance of the organ.
Taxi	Restricted	To meet occasional costs of transporting people to and from church and church events.
Vicar	Restricted	A discretionary fund which the vicar may use.
Hall	Restricted	Represents the value of the Parish Hall (owned by the PCC)..
Hirst	Restricted	Represents the value of Hirst Cottage (owned by the PCC).
Endowment		Represents the investments owned by the PCC.

Note 6.

The money in this fund includes the remainder of the funds received from the Diocese to rebuild the boundary wall in Church Road which collapsed in 2025. The Diocese allowed the PCC to draw funds from an investment owned by the Diocese but which was requested to be used for the benefit of All Saints' by the donor – the Fryer Endowment. The Diocese paid the PCC the estimated cost of the project to rebuild the wall (£28,766): the actual cost of the project was £23,284.

Note 7.

This Investment Income includes the rental for Hirst Cottage (£4,380), bank interest (£422) and receipts from the investments (£20,551).

As well as the income from investments owned by the PCC, the investment income also includes income from a gift made in 1956 by Miss K.P. Fryer to the Diocese of Chester Board of Finance. The gift was made with a request that it be used for the benefit of All Saints' Thornton Hough and that a portion be used to provide a memorial in the Church to her parents. At the end of 2024 the Diocese of Chester Board of Finance held 6,304.15 shares in the CBF Investment fund as the remaining part of this gift; and the value of these shares at 31st December 2024 was £142,506.

This is the fund referred to in Note 6 above. Using some of this fund to repair the boundary will reduce the income the PCC receives from this in subsequent years. The end of 2025 Investment Report from the Diocese did not include the value of the remaining portion of this endowment. For many years (at least ten years), the value of this investment had been reported to the PCC, but it is not being reported as it is owned by the Diocese not the PCC. The Head of Finance at the Diocese has written: "You may already be aware, that the direction to spend from the trust for the benefit of

Thornton Hough PCC is only a wish not a requirement. That said, you can rest assured that there is no appetite from anyone in the DBF to spend outside that expressed with. *(sic) That is why the PCC has continued to receive the full income and has received withdrawals from the trust."*

The table below shows the income received from these investments during 2025.

Fund	**Income 2025**	
M&G Charifund	£13,158	
M&G Charibond	£3,342	Closed in July2025
CBF Investment fund (Fryer)	£4,050	
Total	***£20,550***	

Note 8.
The closure of the M&G Charibond Fund and the reinvestment of the money from that trust in M&G ChariFund and CCLA CBF Property Fund is recorded in the *Transfers Endowment* column.
The £15,225 in the Transfers Unrestricted Funds column includes consolidating funds during the year.

Note 9.
Fees received for the verger and organist for weddings and funerals, (and some grave digging fees) are recorded under code 1240. Payments from this income made to employees are recorded under code 3005 and to others under code 2611. Choir Wedding fees are received into a restricted fund and paid after the ceremony using code 2611.

Note 10.
The Diocese of Chester sold some parts of the Fryer Trust endowment to meet the estimated costs of repairing the collapsed boundary wall (£28,766). (See *Note 6*)

Approval

Approved by the Trustees and signed on their behalf by:



Revd Vicky Barrett (Vicar)



Mrs Patsy Baker (Churchwarden)



Ms June Allcock (Churchwarden)

Date: 20th April 2026

Independent examiner's report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of All Saints, Thornton Hough (Registered Charity number 1131417) (the Trust) for the year ended 31st December 2025.

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:

Name: SCIRARD LANCELYN GREEN

Relevant professional qualifications or membership of relevant professional bodies (if any):

Address: Poulton Hall

Date: 20th April 2026

Appendix: Accounting Policies

Note: These are not a part of the formal Financial Report

1. Accounting

The financial statements are prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006, together with applicable accounting standards and the SORP 2005. The financial statements are prepared under the historical cost convention except for the valuation of investment assets, which are shown at market value. The accounts include transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC is held responsible in law. They do not include the accounts of church groups that owe an affiliation to another body nor those that are informal gatherings of church members.

2 Funds

Unrestricted funds are general funds which can be used for PCC ordinary purposes.

Restricted funds represent (a) income from trusts and endowments which may be expended only on those restricted objects provided in the terms of the trust or bequest, and (b) donations or grants received for a specific object or invited by the PCC for a specific object. The funds may only be expended on the specific object for which they were given. Any balance remaining unspent at the end of each year must be carried forward as a balance on that fund. The PCC does not usually invest separately for each fund.

Endowment funds are funds, the capital of which must be maintained; only income arising from investment of the endowment may be used either as restricted or unrestricted funds depending on the purpose for which the endowment was established.

3 Reserves Policy

It is the PCC's policy to maintain a balance of unrestricted funds (i.e. a balance of funds excluding restricted funds), whenever possible, which equates to approximately two months unrestricted payments, to meet cash flow requirements and to cover emergency situations that may arise from time to time. For the purpose of monitoring the reserves balance, the two months unrestricted payments will be deemed to one sixth of 90% of the budgeted expenditure of the current financial year.

4 Incoming Resources

Collections are recognised when received by or on behalf of the PCC. Planned giving receivable under Gift Aid is recognised only when received. Gift Aid recoverable on qualifying donations is recognised when the Gift Aid is received.

Legacies to the PCC are accounted for when the PCC receives them. Grants are recorded when received.

Rental income from the letting of Hirst Cottage is recognised when the rent is due. Income from Parish Hall rentals is recognised when the income is received.

Dividends and interest are accounted for when received. Tax recoverable on such income is recognised in the same accounting year as when claimed.

All other income is recorded when received.

Realised gains or losses are recognised when investments are sold. Unrealised gains or losses are accounted for on the revaluation of investments at 31 December.

Wherever practically possible all incoming resources are accounted for gross.

5 Resources Used

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

Salaries, pay, tax, NI, fees and exceptional expenditure are recognised in the accounts when they are due.

The Diocesan Parish Share is accounted for when due.

All other expenditure is generally recognised when it is incurred and, where practical, is accounted for gross.

Activities which involve regular and ongoing payments are handled through unrestricted funds. Where donations (and other income) are received to support a specific activity which involves regular and ongoing payments, these will be held in a restricted fund. Where funds are available, transfers will be made from the restricted fund to the unrestricted fund (from which the payments for the activity are made) as expenditure for that activity is incurred. Restricted funds do not go into deficit. Unexpended resources will remain in the restricted fund.

6 Fixed Assets

Consecrated land and beneficed property is excluded from the accounts by s.96(2)(a) of the Charities Act 1993. No value is placed on movable church furnishings which are held by the Churchwardens, on special trust for the PCC, and which require a faculty for disposal and which are inalienable property. All expenditure incurred during the year on consecrated or beneficed buildings and movable church furnishings, whether maintenance or improvement, is written off as expenditure in the SOFA and separately disclosed.

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

7 Payments to PCC Members

Expenses paid to the vicar may include a small immaterial proportion which relates to the vicar's function as a PCC member. No other payments are made to PCC members other than as reimbursements for items purchased.

8 **Investment Policies**

When buying an investment product the PCC will consider each of the following:

1. The financial return offered by the product.
2. The risk (of financial loss) of any investment product (and spreading the risk across products).
3. The Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) and ethical policies of the investment product.

4. The investment company must be FCA registered (https://www.fca.org.uk/).
5. The diversification of our investments across different investment companies.

The PCC will take a balanced view across these headings depending on its requirement from the product. (There can be "conflict" between these headings. For example a higher return may come with a higher risk.)

The investment product (and the company providing them) must not be in conflict with purposes of the PCC or potentially damage the reputation of the PCC or the wider Church of England.

The PCC will consider the advice of the guidance issued by the Charity Commission for investments being made by charities. This can be found at https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/charities-and-investment-matters-a-guide-for-trustees-cc14/charities-and-investment-matters-a-guide-for-trustees

Updated September 2025

Independent examiner's report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of All Saints, Thornton Hough (Registered Charity number 1131417) (the Trust) for the year ended 31st December 2025.

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Independent examiner's statement

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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:

Name: SCIRARD LANCELYN GREEN

Relevant professional qualifications or membership of relevant professional bodies (if any):

Address: Poulton Hall

Date: 20th April 2026

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ALL SAINTS THORNTON H

England & Wales - Charity number 1131417

Accounts

ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF
ALL SAINTS' THORNTON HOUGH
DIOCESE OF CHESTER

Charity Commission Number 1131417



ANNUAL REPORTS FOR 2024

All Saints' Parochial Church Council
The Parish Office, The Parish Hall, Church Road, Thornton Hough, Wirral, CH63 1JW

Part 1: Trustees' report to the Charity Commission

1. Aims and Purposes

Our aim is
'To promote the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical'

Our purpose as a church is to worship God through our regular services and through the fellowship of our loving community. We share the love of God with those around, serving the community and witnessing to others about the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.
All Saints' Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the legal responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish of Thornton Hough the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. The PCC is also specifically responsible for the maintenance of the church building and churchyards on Raby Road, and the Parish Hall on Church Road.

2.Objectives

A Vision for All Saints' Church

A Place of Welcome

"In the name of Christ: You matter!"

Accessibility for all; being a "safe space" for everyone.

Being mindful that the "reception team" on the door may be overwhelming for some, and underwhelming for others; what can attract some will repel others.

- Continued support and training for welcoming teams
- Take steps to become a "Dementia Friendly" church
- Take steps to ensure accessibility for those with autism or other neurodiversities.
- Offer a *"Welcome Pack*" for newcomers in church
- Put a *"Welcome to your New Home"* card through the door of new residents
- Local "tagline": *Your* parish church
- Hold an "Open Day": introducing the history of the church, architecture, music, local history – with refreshments
- Consult, both within existing congregation and with wider parish, on provision of activities & events in which people can relax, identify with, feel part of

Worship

Praising God together

Celebrating and valuing our choral and congregational tradition in worship, whilst being open to expanding the styles and format of worship

- Add an extra music slot in existing Sunday morning services; expand the repertoire of worship music
- Look at providing a space for different kinds of worship music; guitar/keyboard/worship songs in our service scheduling

Everyday Faith

Learning together and living the learning out - "to love and serve the Lord" through whole week

Growing more confident about talking about our faith. Engaging together to provide a forum for discussion & exploration of prayer and Bible reading as part of individual faith journey

- Highlight the talks provided by Chester Cathedral
- Continue Pilgrim Course
- Home Group
- Using Parish Hall as a space for games evenings, coffee and conversation
- Encourage people to contribute to Parish Magazine describing the impact of their faith on their everyday lives

Being a "Mission Partner" – Learning more about mission in the wider, global context, and supporting an organisation in response

Celebrating

Being thankful that God is good, and sharing that good news!

- **More parties!**
- Marking the seasons with events – fair, food, music
- Songs of Praise across the Deanery
- Celebrating Christmas more widely within the community; a Christmas trail around the village/decorated windows/participate with the Village Trust in their Christmas Tree celebration

Community Collaboration

Working together for good! Making connections with different elements of the community. Building dialogue and participation.

- Litter picking as a regular, quarterly activity
- Continue working with Thornton Hough Primary School; displays in church; using the church and Parish Hall as a source for local history and art projects
- Uniformed groups – Rainbows/Brownies/Guides celebrating Mothering Sunday, Harvest, Remembrance, Christmas together
- Build further links with local Dementia Walking Group – music/refreshment
- Offer our facilities to support local charity events, eg Clatterbridge/Arrowe Park Charity Christmas carols in church, Parish Hall for Macmillan support group; base for starting New Year's Day charity run to Willaston
- Participating in Village Trust meetings and events

Growing Church

Extending the way in which we enable people of all ages to encounter the news of Jesus Christ. Being "church" in different ways, in different places

- "Taster services" – short, family friendly events
- Promoting the church to local businesses; church being present on hotel publicity
- Promoting support for staff and families in local businesses
- Continue to explore ways of increasing connections with the residents of Raby Mere
- Regular worship currently active in 2/3 of nursing homes in the parish; renewing links with the third
- Explore the possibility of links to Raby Hall (Autism Together)

Caring for the Environment

We recognise that this is one of the Marks of Mission of the Church and want to help care for God's creation. We need to be good examples as a church organisation and individually, and collaborate with others to reduce our carbon footprint.

- More recycling of paper; reduce use of plastic
- More control of heating in the Parish Hall
- Working with School Council/local businesses on joint methods to reduce waste/plastic use; improve recycling
- Collaborate with school/uniformed groups on use of churchyard for bug spotting, wildlife counts etc.
- Install more bird boxes, hedgehog houses, bug hotels in New Graveyard

3. Activities, Achievements and Performance 2024

It has been a very full year. Our Vision for All Saints' Church, introduced in May 2024, has provided a helpful means by which to examine our activities, achievements and performance through the year.

None of these could happen without the support and encouragement of a wide network of people. We are indebted to all who offer their gifts of hospitality, especially our Welcomers and those who make refreshments, generosity, kindness and organisational skills. Particular thanks are owed to Tim Allan-Price, Churchwardens June Allcock and Patsy Baker, our choir, Director of Music, Iain Stinson and our Verger, Margaret Gamble.

Regular Service Patterns

Sunday Worship

We continue with our regular pattern of Sunday worship:

- An 8.00am service of Holy Communion using the Book of Common Prayer on the first and third Sunday of the month
- A service at 10.30am each Sunday, usually Holy Communion but occasionally a Morning Prayer Service of the Word to mark a special occasion
- A choral service in the evening of the second Sunday of the month

Midweek Service

The Wednesday service of Holy Communion at 10.30 is a more informal service followed by hot drinks and refreshments.

Festivals and Occasional Offices

We welcomed guests from Neston and Burton Parish Churches to our Ash Wednesday evening service of Holy Communion. Father Kevin Crinks (assisted by Brian the Dog) preached the sermon.

68 people attended our morning Mothering Sunday service.

53 people attended the Palm Sunday service, 28 came to our evening Communion service on Maundy Thursday, 27 came to our Good Friday meditation and a total of 77 attended our Easter Day services.

Revd. Vicky was licensed as Rural Dean of Wirral South Deanery on 17th April by the Bishop of Birkenhead, Julie Conalty.

The evening service of Holy Communion on Ascension Day (9th May) was attended by 20 people.

Harvest week ran from 15th September to 22nd September. 68 people attended the Harvest Thanksgiving service.

We marked All Saints' Day, our Patronal Festival, in the morning of 3rd November. We held our annual service for the Faithful Departed in the afternoon. The families of those who had lost a loved one during the year were joined by many who value this time to remember and give thanks for a loved one who has died some time ago. 52 people attended the service. A candle was lit, and each person was remembered by name. Each person was given a tealight in a colourful holder as a way to remind them of their loved one and the way that the light and hope of Christ is with us all.

Remembrance Sunday was on 10th November this year. Our Act of Remembrance in our morning service was attended by 43 people. The Civic Service began at 2.45pm at the War Memorial in much kinder weather than the previous year. Members of the community came out in numbers to join the act of remembrance, and 70 people, including local dignitaries, representatives of the Armed Forces and uniformed groups came to church to continue the service. The Guides and their leaders served refreshments in the Parish Hall afterwards.

Advent began on 1st December with the choir leading a service of Readings and Carols. 54 people attended.

We welcomed 48 adults and 16 children to our Christingle service on 8th December. Our services from Readings and Carols in the evening of 22nd December up to our Christmas Day Communion saw a total of 211 adults and 10 children mark the occasion with us. 75 people came to our Communion at nearly midnight on Christmas Eve. It is always heartening to run out of service sheets because so many people have arrived.

Baptisms, Weddings & Funerals

We welcomed 2 children into the church family through baptism in 2024. We also held a Service of Thanksgiving for two adopted children. All such occasions are joyous ones.

4 weddings were solemnized at All Saints in 2024. One couple had a blessing service.

There were 4 funerals in church and 4 burials of ashes took place.

Our Vision in Practice

A Place of Welcome

People have commented on the warmth of the welcome received at All Saints', however there is more to be done to consolidate our support and training for those on the Welcoming Team to ensure that everyone is affirmed, "In the name of Christ, you matter!"

We have extended our welcome to people throughout the parish through a leaflet drop at the start of September to highlight events and activities at the start of the new academic year with the tagline, "Your Parish Church", and through our parish Christmas card with a beautiful snowy picture of the church on. This year's larger format was not only cheaper to produce than previous versions, but was commended both for its appearance and being easier to read.

We continue to be mindful of the need to be "Dementia Friendly": In October, the Vicar, June Allcock and Linda Arch attended a training Session held as part of our Deanery Synod programme at St Mary's Eastham and have received certificates and badges as Dementia Friends. The insights gained from this course are helping to inform our thinking in terms of services, hospitality, possible future modifications and repairs to the church fabric.

Revd. Vicky and June Allcock completed their Level 3 First Aid training course in July.

Worship

We now have a regular Gradual hymn or anthem between the two Bible readings. The worship music for both congregation and choir have been expanded to introduce new hymns and settings.

Everyday Faith

We undertook another module of the Pilgrim Course in Lent 2024: Church and Kingdom, which explored some of the important aspects underpinning "Everyday Faith": Praying through life; At home and at work; Living generously; In all my relationships; Confronting the injustices of the world; Treading lightly on the earth. Lively conversation and practical challenges were shared by up to 12 people who attended some or all of the sessions.

In addition to the invaluable fellowship offered in our monthly Wednesday Coffee Mornings, the after-service coffee and conversation in church on the remaining Wednesdays has been appreciated by visitors and the regular appearance of our hard-working Wirral Parks team, who often join us for their coffee break.





Celebrating

We have enjoyed a range of happy events together: our Soup and Sandwich lunch in February was a great opportunity to share a simple meal and to donate to the Wirral Foodbank as well. The Vicar celebrated her 5th "Vicar-versary" on 16th May, and held a party to mark the occasion in the Parish Hall with nearly 50 parishioners attending on the following Sunday. The Harvest Lunch in September was a very enjoyable way to conclude our Harvest Week (15-22nd September). People were so generous with their donations to the Wirral Foodbank that it took two cars to transport all the items to the depot, weighing in at 301 kgs.

Having had a delightfully encouraging parish Songs of Praise service in June, where the congregation were invited to nominate their favourite hymns and explain why they were so loved, the first Deanery Synod meeting with Revd. Vicky as Rural Dean in October was a Deanery Hymns of Praise. There was a wide range of hymns and representatives shared something of what God was doing in their parish and points for prayer were offered. It was a very moving and encouraging evening for all who came.

The Choir were invited to sing Christmas carols at Thornton Hough Village Club and at least 75 adults, plus children and dogs joined in a happy, memorable evening of seasonal singing and celebrating; it was enjoyed so much that they have been invited back for 2025.



Community Collaboration

We have had another Village litter pick, which helped to bring together people from across the parish. Links with Thornton Hough Primary School continue to flourish; not only have the pupils and staff come for end-of-term services in church, but Year 3 children have undertaken studies of the stone used in our churchyard as part of a Science project, and Year 6 pupils came to learn more about the South Transept window as they concluded their study of Easter, and made their own drawings. The Vicar continues as a School Governor and shares the delight of the whole school community in receiving an Outstanding report from their OFSTED inspection in February.

The Uniformed Groups continue to participate in Mothering Sunday, Harvest and Remembrance events. The Vicar joined the Rainbows, Brownies, Guides and Rangers for activities during the year. The girls created some beautiful Mothering Sunday cards, the

Brownies created painted Remembrance pebbles which were left near the War Memorial and Church steps, and Guides and Rangers made poppy displays at the back of church. Representatives from the four groups joined the Remembrance procession and gave readings and lit candles as part of the Act of Remembrance and Civic Service. Along with the Brownies, the Vicar received a special Remembrance Poppy Badge honouring the bravery of Guides and women of the ATS during the Second World War.

The church links with the Wirral University Teaching Hospitals charity have grown this year. The Vicar supported the charity by abseiling down the side of Arrowe Park Hospital in May, and led a Baby Loss service at the hospital in October. All Saints' hosted a special Christmas Concert to support the charity and those who came were greatly entertained by the singing from "A Handbag of Harmonies."

One of the members of the congregation had suggested making a knitted and crocheted poppy arch to mark Remembrance back in the sunny days of August. This proposal was met with great enthusiasm from many people as the word spread. A "Crafternoon" where people were invited to enjoy refreshments and conversation whilst supporting one another in their endeavours was well-attended and much enjoyed. Nearly 1000 knitted and crocheted poppies were made, and these were used to create a vibrant cascade of poppies over the archway outside church, two drapes of poppies at the doors, and an altar cloth. Not only was it a delight to see the whole community participating in the activity, but also a joy that some people found their knitting skills were reawakened and they discovered a fresh appetite for their craft.

The Village Trust has been most generous in supporting All Saints' financially with a generous donation to help repair the church clock. During the period it was out of commission, it was noticed how much all those who come through the village rely on a glance up at the blue faces for a time check and many found they missed the clock's hourly chimes.

Growing Church

The number of those engaging with church has increased this year.

The Vicar is now taking services on a monthly basis in all three of the care homes in the parish: Westwood Hall, Elderholme and Brimstage Manor. These are now established, distinct worshipping communities of between 12-18 people. Each home has a slightly different format for worship to suit the residents and the facilities available. Westwood Hall residents enjoy an hour of informal singing, conversation and reflective prayer. Elderholme uses an interactive TV screen with hymns and words as part of a PowerPoint slide show, and services have a more structured liturgical format. Residents at Brimstage Manor prefer to meet mid-morning for a simpler service with five familiar hymns, concluding with The Lord's Prayer. The choir came to sing carols in both Brimstage Manor and Westwood Hall this Christmas and were much appreciated.

Caring for the Environment

Concern for God's creation and a desire to tread more lightly with our carbon footprint continues. Linda Arch has worked hard to inspire and encourage everyone to participate with her journey to reduce her carbon footprint through a series of articles in The Magazine.

We have replaced some of our old fluorescent tube lights with newer LED bulbs and will continue to look at where we can continue this process in the future.

Revd Vicky Barrett

4.Governance and PCC Membership

In 2024 the PCC membership and Standing Committee membership was as follows

Elected Members of the Laity		Other Members	
Mrs G Charvill		Revd V Barrett*	Vicar (Chairman)
Mrs M Gamble		Mrs J Allcock*	Churchwarden
Mrs L Russell		Mrs P Baker*	Churchwarden
Mr R Singleton		Mrs L Arch*	Parish Safeguarding Officer Deanery Synod representative
Mrs H Tankard		Mr I Stinson*	PCC Treasurer Deanery Synod representative
		Mrs S Stinson*	PCC Secretary Deanery Synod representative
** Members of the Standing Committee*			

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 Registered Charity.

The appointment of PCC members is governed by and set out in the Church Representation Rules (2020). The PCC at All Saints' consists of: the incumbent (our Vicar), the Churchwardens, elected representatives to the Deanery Synod, elected lay representatives and co-opted members.

Members were also elected to the sub committees dealing with Finance, Fabric and Health and Safety and Remuneration. The committees exist to discuss and, for more major issues, make recommendations, which are then taken to the full PCC.

In 2024 PCC meetings were held on 6th February, 12th March, 16th April, 14th May, 11h June, 10th September, 8th October, 12th November and 10th December.

The Standing Committee did not meet in 2024 but communicated by email on several occasions.

The Annual Meetings were held on 12th May 2024.

5. Safeguarding

The PCC has complied with the duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Measure 2016 (duty to have regard to House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding and vulnerable adults). (Church Representation Rules 2020 p76)

6. Activities of the PCC in 2024

At the first meeting of the year, in February, the PCC accepted the new Vision Statement for the following five years. This now forms part of the Annual Report.
We looked at the events and activities in the diary for Lent, Easter and beyond. A Soup and Sandwich lunch was being planned for 10th February, a litter pick for 9th March, the Pilgrim course was starting on 20th February.





Soup and Sandwich Lunch

The special services included Mothering Sunday when the uniformed groups and families were being invited.
16th May was the day that Vicky would have been in post for 5 years and she was planning a party in the Parish Hall on Sunday 19th May!

The PCC approved the draft Year End Finance Report for 2023 and agreed that it could be passed to the Independent Examiner, Verity Smith.

Throughout 2024 the PCC received regular Finance Reports, Fabric Health and Safety Reports, Safeguarding reports and Cool Wirral Reports (looking at Carbon reduction and the next steps). Linda Arch has written a report on this which can be found later in this Annual Report.

In the March meeting we heard that a cedar tree on Church Road was causing the churchyard wall to lean out. Peter Arch had been monitoring the lean. Work was needed to the cedar tree to reduce the risk of wall collapse and falling branches.
PCC agreed that work should be done on the cedar tree and work also done to improve the safety of the trees in the Raby Road Cemetery

In April the PCC heard that Revd Vicky Barrett has been appointed as the next Rural Dean for Wirral South Deanery. The commissioning service was to be held on 17th April in All Saints' Church. Bishop Julie (the Bishop of Birkenhead) was officiating and The Archdeacon, Mike Gilbertson was preaching.
Revd John Coyne from Burton and Shotwick was going to be the Associate Rural Dean.

In April we also looked at 'Where we are at'. Vicky asked us to consider the 'Good, Weak, Opportunities and Threats'. There was plenty to feel good about. To name but a few there have been some wonderful responses to services, and some have been very well attended. We have seen a slight uplift in numbers. We are starting to see families attending. We get visitors and they are highly complimentary and impressed that we are open. Toybox is attracting families, and the children are excited to be there. There is now worship in all three care homes: Elderholme, Westwood Hall and Brimstage Manor .

The church (and the Vicar) were in OK magazine and the Sunday Mirror after a Baptism! The message conveyed by the photos was that "Church is a good and happy place."

Threats come from the challenges of maintaining the building rather than our missional purpose. We have an elderly heating system which might cost us money to maintain or replace. Future fuel costs are an unknown. There is also the threat that we will suffer from burn-out with a lack of new people willing to take on key roles.

We have opportunities. With Vicky as the Rural Dean there is an opportunity for more sharing, both formally and informally. We are in contact with families through the school and through Toybox. There is the possibility that more children's parties are booked. More grants could be available. We could be part of more school projects eg looking at our windows for art and our links to local history. The Pilgrim Course went down well- we could keep that going.

In June we looked at events in the diary for Summer and Autumn: the Strawberry Tea, Harvest week and a Harvest lunch were being planned. We decided that a flyer was needed to advertise Toybox, Coffee Mornings, Harvest Thanksgiving week, service and lunch and the Autumn Fair. This was subsequently prepared and delivered at the end of August/ beginning of September. Thank you to all those who helped to deliver it. Feedback was very positive. The PCC also approved the necessary work on the spire and the replacement of strip lights which no longer worked.

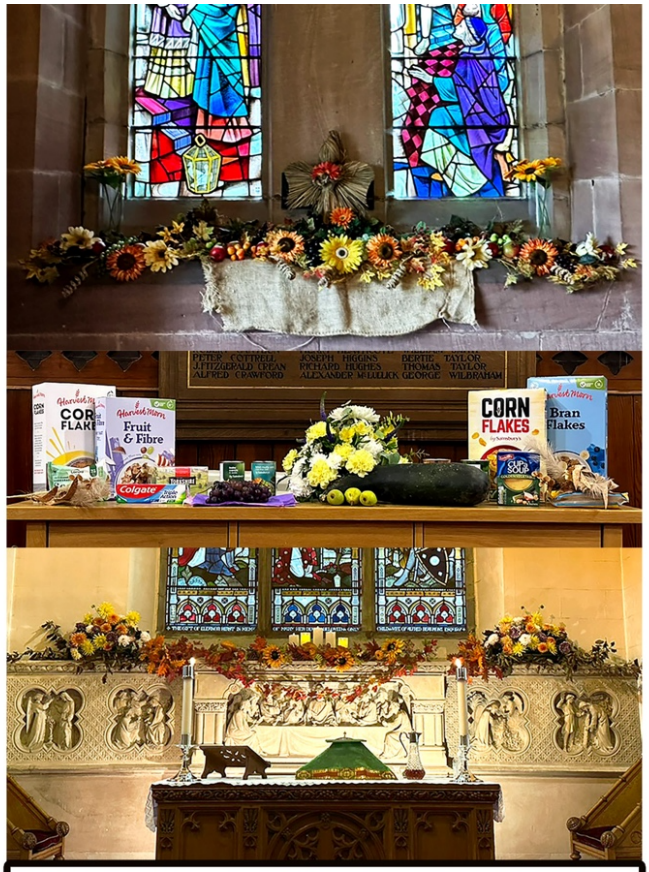
By the September meeting preparations were well under way for Harvest and the PCC started to discuss the Autumn Fair.

Our energy contract was due to end, and Iain Stinson circulated a paper explaining the options and the decision taken by the Standing Committee in July. The best option had been to go with Eon Next. The Eon contract was 186% more expensive than the current contract with British Gas. Renewing the contract with British Gas would have cost 267% more. Another benefit was that Eon Next are greener than some other companies for electricity- it is from renewable sources.
The boundary wall on Church Road next to the cedar tree was still a potential cause for concern. To reduce the risk of collapse of the wall the PCC agreed that we should get the tree crown lifted/cleared.

By October the church clock, which had been out of action for some time, had been repaired. The Village Trust and the Parishioners had been very generous and contributed to the cost. The PCC expressed their sincere thanks for this invaluable help.

The project to replace the church noticeboards had been stalling due to the difficulty of finding someone to remove and dispose of the old noticeboard. At last, a company in Chester had been found that would give us a competitive quote, and who would remove and install the two new noticeboards, one outside the church and one at the Raby Road Graveyard. The PCC were shown photos and figures then agreed to the project going ahead. I am pleased to say that this work has now been done (in January).

In October we also reviewed some of our policies.



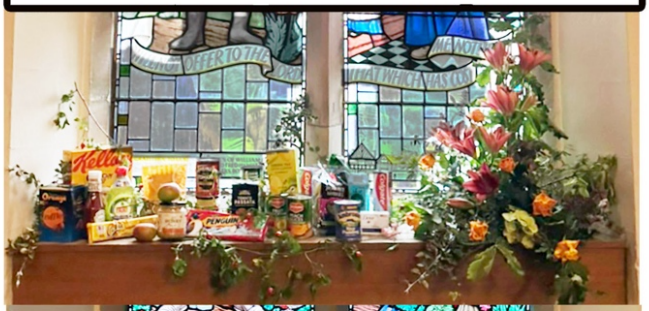




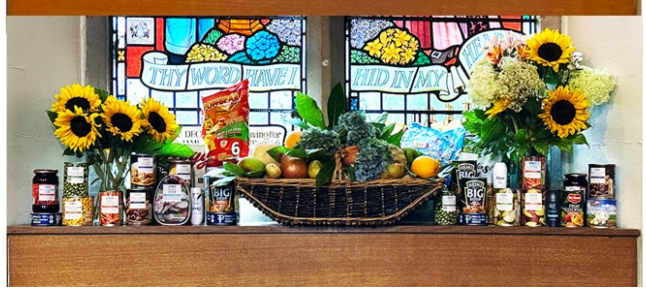




Harvest Thanksgiving









With the end of the year rapidly approaching, in November the PCC approved the charities which the church should support for 2024. We aim to support a mix of charities, some local, some national, some international, some faith based etc. It was agreed to support the following charities:

i. Mission Aviation Fellowship (MAF)

ii. Wirral Hospice, St John's

iii. Claire House Children's Hospice

iv. Embrace the Middle East

v. Maggie's Place, Wirral

vi. The Salvation Army

vii. Church Missionary Society (CMS)

Each charity was be sent £172.

In November we also looked forward to the Advent and Christmas services and events.
A service of readings and Music for Advent and a Christingle service were in the diary. We were hosting a Charity Concert in aid of Clatterbridge and Arrowe Park Hospitals in the church. Carol singing in Westwood Hall and Brimstage Manor was being planned.
The Service of Readings and Carols for Christmas followed by tea, coffee and mince pies was being looked forward to.
A design for the Parish Christmas card was approved and after some discussion it was agreed to hold a more light-hearted 'Merry Christmas Carols and Mince Pies' on 11th December.

The main emphasis of the December meeting was finance.
The Remuneration Committee had been discussing the fees charged for weddings and funerals and the salaries paid. Margaret Gamble and Iain Stinson (employees) and Sue Stinson (married to an employee) withdrew for this part of the meeting.

The Remuneration Committee recommended the following fees for 2025

Fees for Weddings and Funerals

	Weddings			Funerals	
	Verger	Organist	Choir	Verger	Organist
Current 2024	£80.00	£120.00	£120.00	£50.00	£80.00
Recommended 2025	£85.00	£126.00	£122.00	£52.00	£84.00

These are paid by those "using the service".

The PCC agreed to their proposals.

The Treasurer's Report, Management Accounts and a Budget Proposal for 2025 had been circulated in advance of the meeting. The Treasurer, Iain Stinson, talked us through it and the PCC voted to accept the proposed budget.

The Christmas cards had been delivered throughout the parish and there had been some very positive comments about the new format (which had worked out cheaper than in previous years). The cards wished our parishioners a Happy Christmas and invited them to join us for the Christmas services. I am pleased to say that our Christmas services were well attended, and we enjoyed welcoming everyone into the church as we celebrated the birth of Jesus.

As members of the PCC we are always facing new challenges and opportunities. It can be very rewarding to feel that you are working as part of a team and helping to contribute to the life of All Saints'. We always welcome new members- please consider whether this is a way in which you can serve. Revd Vicky or other members of the PCC are only too willing to tell you more.

Thank you to everyone who served on the PCC during 2024.

Finally, I would like to say a huge thank you to Vicky for her first five (and a bit) years with us. Her leadership, enthusiasm, care and support are really appreciated.

7. Charity Information

Contact details	All Saints PCC, The Parish Office, The Parish Hall Church Road Thornton Hough, Wirral, CH63 1JW	
	www.allsaintsth.org.uk	0151 245 4986
Church of England Diocese	Chester	
Charity Registration Number	1131417	

Part 2: Reports from the PCC

8. Electoral Roll Report

On 1st January there were 97 names on the Electoral Roll.

At the Annual Meeting on 12th May it was reported that there were 98 names on the Electoral Roll.

By the end of 2024 this number had gone up to 100.

Helen Tankard stepped down as Electoral Roll Officer in October and we are now looking for someone to take her place. I should like to thank Helen for the work that she has done in keeping the roll up to date.

In 2025 we need a complete revision of the Electoral Roll. This means that everyone currently on the roll will have to fill out the form again and reapply to be on the roll. New people will also be able to apply to be on the roll, subject to the qualifying conditions. (This happens every five years).

Please keep an eye open for the notices publicising this. Forms will be available at the back of church in March/April, before the next Annual meetings. The new roll will be prepared in advance of the Annual meetings.

Sue Stinson
PCC Secretary

9. Fabric, Goods and Ornaments

Our current Fabric Team was formed in October 2023, so we have now completed a full year together. We have been working to our Planned Maintenance Programme, which we put in place in January 2024. This plan details month by month what we need to concentrate on and has enabled us to systematically work our way through the various maintenance and regulatory checks and reviews.

It has been a busy and productive year and much has been achieved. We have worked closely with our Church Architect, Jennifer Chambers, and would like to thank her for her guidance and support throughout the year.

9a. Church

A beautiful bespoke sink unit, made from reclaimed pitch pine floorboards, designed, built and installed by a local craftsman, Chris Hawkins, was installed in the Vicar's Vestry, together with a new hot water heater. This has made a huge difference, as it replaced a tiny wall mounted cloakroom sink. The new sink unit enables items to be washed and cleaned and provides excellent storage, helping to keep the Vestry free from clutter.

The spire was in dire need of attention, with vegetation growing out of the masonry and rooks and crows nesting inside, depositing all sorts of debris within the bell tower. In July we engaged a team of steeplejacks to remove the vegetation, treat any roots and repoint the mortar. The steeplejacks also replaced the missing mesh grilles from the spire apertures to prevent birds accessing the tower in future. A small team of volunteers then cleared all the birds' debris from within the bell tower. Further work on the spire will be necessary in the future and again, working with Jennifer Chambers, we will need to have a full survey carried out on the spire and then develop a maintenance plan to remedy any issues that come to light.

There have been a number of roof related problems: slipped tiles, water ingress etc. These have been investigated and repaired throughout the year as they have arisen. The Fabric Team has systematically checked and cleared any blocked grids around the Church.

The Church clock has been maintained and was also recently repaired with the very generous donations received from the village community and local businesses.

The Church bell is in need of repair. The bell is the original and was cast in 1867. It has two strikers; one is controlled by the clock mechanism and chimes the hours; the other is operated manually by a bell rope in the porch. We have had the bell looked at by the Diocesan Bell Adviser and on his recommendation, we have now enlisted the help of a well-known Bell Foundry to come out and inspect the bell, report on what remedial work is required to get it working again and to provide a quote.

The decorative stone lintel above the main door has been repaired. We had applied for help with funding for this from the Church of England's, Minor Works and Repairs Grant, but this was significantly oversubscribed and sadly we, along with numerous other churches across the Diocese, were unlucky and so had to meet the cost in full from our own financial resources.

9b. Church grounds

The Raby Road stone steps have been levelled and the old metal gate stub removed.

There is an ongoing issue with a section of the boundary wall in Church Road. Advice has been sought from our Church Architect, and from a structural engineer, and we know that we need to plan to dismantle and rebuild the bowed section of the wall. In the interim, we are grateful to Peter Arch for monitoring the extent of the lean at regular intervals to establish any deterioration.

A tree survey has been carried out and crown thinning and lifting undertaken by certified tree surgeons and arborists in both the Churchyard and new cemetery. The Fabric Team has also carried out general garden maintenance, trimming overgrown shrubs and bushes, weeding and trimming around the ashes' plots, for example.

9c. Parish Hall and Hirst Cottage

Damaged ceiling tiles in the Parish Hall have been replaced and a leaking tap fixed.

In addition to these ad hoc jobs, all regulatory requirements have been met:

- First Aid Boxes have been inspected and the contents updated
- Portable Electrical Appliances have been tested
- Lightning Conductors have been tested
- Fire extinguishers have been tested
- Gas Safety and electrical inspections carried out
- Boiler maintenance and servicing undertaken
- Health and Safety risk assessments undertaken
- Fire Risk Assessment is in the process of being updated.

The Church Logbook has been reviewed and updated.

Our thanks go to our Fabric Team and to all those additional helpers, Phil Charvill, Iain and Sue Stinson, Patsy Baker, Scirard Lancelyn-Green and Jane Wilson. Also to Margaret and Victor Gamble for their sterling caretaking of the Church precinct.

June Allcock

10.Wirral South Deanery Synod Report

The first meeting of the Wirral South Deanery Synod in 2024 was on Wednesday 13th March, at St Thomas & All Saints Church, Ellesmere Port. The speaker was Revd Debbie Wilkinson, Mission Lead for Wirral Waters who outlined and described what was happening at Wirral Waters.

In April Beth Glover stepped down as Rural Dean after many years' service. On Wednesday 17th April the Bishop of Birkenhead commissioned Revd Vicky Barrett as the new Rural Dean at a service in All Saints, Thornton Hough.

The next synod meeting was scheduled for Wednesday 29th May but as this was also the date of Revd Rachel Newell's Induction Service as Incumbent of Ellesmere Port. Deanery Synod members attended the Induction Service at St Thomas & All Saints Church, Ellesmere Port.

In July an election of four members of the House of Laity of the Diocesan Synod was held.

A number of parishes in the Wirral South Deanery had expressed a desire to become more Dementia Friendly and on Saturday 19th October a Dementia Friends Information Session was organised at St Mary's Community Church Hall, Eastham Rake.

On Wednesday 23rd October we held a Deanery service for Deanery Synod members and parishioners at 7.15pm in All Saints' Church, Thornton Hough. This was an opportunity for people from all our parishes to meet with each other and share in worship. Refreshments were served after the service. Each parish was asked to propose a favourite hymn (or a prayer) to include in the service and to outline what it meant to them.

Sue Stinson
Wirral South Deanery Synod Rep

The Trustees' report to the Charity Commission was approved by the PCC on 12th March 2024.

Part 3: Reports on activities

Worship, Prayer and Pastoral Care
Report of the Vicar

> *"And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him." (Colossians 3:17)*

There is so much for which we can give thanks in 2024. We continue to grow, both in number and in faith. The name of our church, All Saints', is a reminder that everybody plays a part in its life and character. Our church is built upon the faithful prayer, dedication and hard work of both those who worship here now, in our own time, and our forebears.

I remain indebted to our Churchwardens, June Allcock and Patsy Baker, for all they do to ensure the good order of our church life in so many ways. Alan Splitt continues to offer his wisdom and is always ready to keep our candles trimmed carefully.

Our pattern of worship is described in an earlier section of this Report. It is good to see different people coming to join in and find the kind of service which feels "right" to them, whether on a regular or more occasional basis. Our aim is to have genuinely all-age services where there is space and welcome for the youngest, those of "riper years," and all in between to encounter God through music, our beautiful surroundings, prayer, language and silences, and through toys, colouring and crafts.

We continue to value regular Holy Communion in our services. We mark the seasons and rhythms of the church year in our varied forms of liturgy and by the use of coloured cloths on the altar and the Vicar's vestments.

Music remains an integral part of our worship at All Saints' and I am enormously grateful to our Director of Music and the choir for their inspiring leadership in our singing. However, the quiet of an 8.00 Prayer Book Communion service, or our afternoon Quiet Space on Mothering Sunday are also very powerful points in which to worship.

The intergenerational nature of the church has been demonstrated in the celebration of two weddings this year where the brides were daughters of mothers who were also married at All Saints'. A further two weddings took place this year, along with a special blessing service.

Prayer is the bedrock of our Christian commitment. The Vicar usually says Morning Prayer in church every Monday, Tuesday and Thursday at 9.15am. Anyone is welcome to join her. The church is open daily for quiet reflection for all. Requests for prayers can be made to the Vicar or Churchwardens. These will be kept confidential unless express permission is given for these to be added to the Sunday church Prayer List.

The Vicar conducts home visits and phone calls to those who cannot come to church. Holy Communion at home for the housebound and their families is also available. Members of the congregation also offer prayerful support to others.

Helen Tankard stepped down from leading ACF afternoon talks and coffee mornings. We are all very grateful for her hard work in taking the group on as we emerged from lockdown and ensuring a wide-ranging set of speakers. We set ACF to rest with a Strawberry Tea in July, where people were invited to share their highlights of coming to meetings through the years. We continue to enjoy regular monthly coffee mornings and share the lively excitement of the raffle which concludes each event. This gathering allows us to enjoy

relaxed conversation and a space to which people who would not necessarily attend a church service can feel at home.

We share the sadness of losing much-loved family members. The Vicar visits each family in preparing for funerals, and all those who have been bereaved are welcomed to our service for the Faithful Departed in October. This year saw the passing of Brenda Elphick, Robin Marshall and Jen Joyner, who have all been part of the All Saints' community for many years.

I am most grateful to Margaret Gamble for all she does in her capacity as Verger, especially for her reassuring presence for families at weddings and funerals, keeping the church clean throughout the year, and in the way she and her family have ensured that the church and Parish Hall twinkle with festive cheer at Christmas. Her quiet hard work both in church and as Parish Hall caretaker is invaluable. She celebrated her Golden anniversary as Verger and Caretaker in April.

Our PCC has worked throughout the year to help oversee the church's development and planning, and offered insights and great practical assistance. Their work often goes unnoticed and they give generously and graciously of their time, wisdom and talents. I am grateful to Helen Tankard for her contributions prior to her decision to step down from her membership of the PCC during the course of the year. The work of our Treasurer, Iain Stinson, and our PCC Secretary, Sue Stinson, and the continuing focus of the members of the Fabric Team are much appreciated.

Revd Vicky Barrett

11.Report of the Churchwardens

Patsy Baker and June Allcock were elected as Churchwardens for 2024/25 at the Church AGM. They were sworn in at an Archdeacon's Visitation Service at St Paul's Church, Hooton on 20th June 2024. The prayers were led by the new Rural Dean for South Wirral, our very own Revd Vicky. The service was also attended and supported by Tim Allen-Price.

Patsy and June attended both Church Warden Training events: at Church House, Daresbury on 13th July and then in Lostock Gralem on 12th October 2024. It was interesting to hear from Archdeacons Mike and Jane, various speakers and to meet with other Churchwardens from across the Diocese and to hear of their experiences. Both Churchwardens have also completed all mandatory Safeguarding training up to Leadership level.

It has been an enjoyable year with some memorable highlights. It was absolutely fascinating to watch the steeplejacks at work on the spire in the summer and so rewarding to see the spire cleared of vegetation and looking spruce. Satisfying too to watch those pesky rooks and crows denied access to the bell tower.

Also, how wonderful it was to see the idea of knitting poppies to decorate our archway take off with such enthusiasm with so many people, including us, knitting away. Didn't the finished display, including Revd Vicky's beautiful altar cloth, look spectacular! A huge thank you to all who helped to create such a fitting tribute to all those servicemen and women.

Particular thanks go to Margaret Gamble for decorating the Church so beautifully throughout the year, Easter, Harvest Festival and Christmas in particular.

A special mention too for our volunteers. Thank you to Tim Allen-Price for being ever present to assist at services, to all our excellent sides people, all those who help serving teas and coffees, our steadfast small band of flower arrangers and our Fabric Team. A very special thank you to Iain Stinson and our choir for the beautiful music and singing, week in /

week out. How much poorer we would be without them. Thank you to those who serve on the PCC and other committees. All are integral to the smooth running of All Saints' Parish Church.

Finally, enormous thanks are due to Revd Vicky for her hard work throughout the year, for her spiritual guidance, her leadership and joyful enthusiasm, and her friendship. It has been a pleasure! Thank you.

June Allcock and Patsy Baker
Churchwardens



12. Verger's Report

The Verger is there to assist the Vicar at weddings, funerals, internment of ashes and school visits, to make sure people have access to the church every day and to help people looking for their family graves.

Margaret Gamble
Verger

13.Parish Hall

The hall is used by Stepping Out every week and we are most grateful to Gill Woods for this. Other outside groups using the hall are Birkenhead North Cycle Club and Thornton Hough Fishing Group. It is also used as a polling station for elections.

Church groups use the hall regularly for Toybox, Coffee Mornings, and coffee and chat after the morning service on a Sunday. PCC meetings are held in the hall once a month.

A Soup and Sandwich Lunch, a celebration of Vicky's first five years as our vicar, the ACF Strawberry Tea, the Harvest Lunch, the Autumn Fair, 'Merry Christmas Carols and Mince Pies', and drinks and mince pies after the carol service all took place in the hall. The hall was also used for refreshments after the civic Remembrance Day service, after a Deanery Synod meeting, after a charity concert and for children's parties.

It would be good to see the hall used a lot more.

Margaret Gamble


The
Autumn
Fair

14. Safeguarding

At All Saints' Thornton Hough we continue to take our Safeguarding responsibilities seriously. Posters displayed in Church and the Parish Hall include local, Diocesan and national safeguarding contact details. As Parish Safeguarding Officer I can be contacted in person or via the dedicated email address, which is on the posters, in the All Saints' Parish Magazine and on our All Saint's website.

The website also has useful links to Church of England safeguarding policies and procedures and to online safeguarding courses. Mindful that "safeguarding is everyone's business", not just for those with the official responsibility, I can recommend the online Church of England Safeguarding Basic Awareness Training Course for anyone with access to the internet. This course, along with the other online courses on the Church of England Safeguarding Training Portal, is free of charge. All are user-friendly and do not have to be completed in a single continuous sitting, even encouraging regular breaks for refreshment.

DBS checks have been completed or repeated for everyone with an All Saints' role for which this is recommended and there has been a steady stream of people undergoing online and in-person safeguarding training courses. Such training is mandatory for all PCC members.

Ongoing Safeguarding information is passed on from the Diocese of Chester via the regular e-Bulletin and as a new initiative, the Diocesan Safeguarding Team holds a series of Parish Safeguarding Officer meetings for updating, sharing of best practice and support. I have attended both meetings specifically aimed at Parishes within the Wirral Deaneries.

Another national initiative is the Church Of England Safeguarding Dashboard, to which All Saints' signed up at the first invitation. A simple explanation of the "Dashboard" is a traffic light system to advise whether policies and procedures within parishes align with the emphasis on the Safeguarding Standards of the Church of England. Revd Vicky Barrett and I are steadily working through our Dashboard, which is designed to be an ongoing process.

Safeguarding is an agenda item at all PCC meetings.

Linda M Arch
Parish Safeguarding Officer

15. Families' ministries

Children in church

The South Transept of the church has been set out with a small table and chairs for any children that attend the service on Sunday at 10:30. Craft, play and puzzle activities linked to the day's readings are provided. Although not used every week they have been greeted with enthusiasm at times and have often provided a focus for the children while the parents take part in the service. These are often used by visitors to church during the week, so they are clearly meeting a need.

We also have some toys for the younger children to play with during the services.

Toybox

Toybox is our group for babies and toddlers with their carers (parents, grandparents, nannies etc). We meet from 10am to 11:30am on the second Monday of each month.

By the end of 2024 we were welcoming twenty families to each session. It has been lovely to see friendships forming and the children enjoying themselves.

After a period of free play, while the carers chat, the children sit down for a snack and then a craft activity. Among other things this year we have decorated crowns, made penguins, jungle scenes, made rockets, farmyard scenes and finally, at Christmas, thought about the very first Christmas with a Nativity sticker scene. These activities seem to be enjoyed by the carers as much as the children and the children love taking something home at the end. The sessions end with an interactive story led by Vicky and singing.

It is always sad to see the children move on when they start nursery or school- they grow up so quickly.

A huge thank you to the regular team of Vicky, Patsy, Pat, Brenda and Kate for making Toybox such a success. Thank you also to Iain for helping to set up the hall and Linda for her assistance.

I would also like to express my gratitude to the Raby School Trust. Their generous donations have enabled us to buy new mats (to replace the old ones that had worn out) and to present each of the leavers with a Children's Bible.

Sue Stinson
Toybox coordinator

16. Choir and music

At the end of 2024 there were ten members of the church choir (eleven with the Vicar): five sopranos (six with the Vicar), two altos and three basses, but, alas, no tenors.

Not having a regular tenor means that we must sometimes "adjust" the division of voices in some pieces of music to make them work. We have sung a new setting of the Magnificat (Tim Knight in G), for Soprano, Alto and Bass and a few other three-part anthems.

The choir has led the music at the Sunday 10:30am throughout the year. Seasonal and other illness have occasionally reduced our numbers, but we have managed to include an anthem or similar choir item at each of these services.

On Sunday evenings, we have sung Choral Evensong on seven occasions (with settings of the responses and canticles, anthems and congregational hymns), one evening Holy Communion Service and a popular "Favourite Hymn" service. The numbers in the congregation for Evensong are a little disappointing but we are very grateful to those members of the congregation who come along to support these services. The "Favourite Hymn" service was well attended and enjoyed by everyone: the retiring collection at the service was £125 which was given to support the work of the Royal School of Church Music (RSCM).

As well as the regular Sunday services, the choir led the Passiontide Service of Readings and Music, the Service of Readings and Music for Advent and the Christmas Carol Service. We were joined by a tenor, Tim Barrett for the Christmas Carol service.

We have been fortunate that Brian Moate has played the organ for us when I have been absent. Brian is an experienced musician and regularly plays the organ at West Kirby and Heswall Methodist churches. His assistance is greatly appreciated.

I would like to thank all members of the choir for their support, commitment and patience (with me); without the active participation of each chorister, our ability to lead the worship at All Saints' Church would be significantly reduced. I would particularly like to thank Val Splitt, ably assisted by Alan, for all her work as our music librarian.

If you are interested in being in the choir, please get in touch. We practise for about an hour each Friday Evening and sing each Sunday at the 10:30am service (and once a month at 6:30pm). The choir is a great place to share and enjoy fellowship.

Iain Stinson
Director of Music

17. Bible Study Group

We continue to meet on the second Monday of the month in members' homes.

We were sorry to hear that Robin Marshall had died. Robin and his wife Anne had been faithful members of the Bible Study Group for many years. Robin was informative and knowledgeable as he guided us through the readings each month. Anne has gone to be near her family in Cheltenham, so our prayers are with her.

Due to our situation now, after careful consideration we felt we would benefit from having a Prayer Meeting instead of a Bible Study.

We are a small, friendly group and anyone who would like to join us would be most welcome.

Shirley McEvoy

18. All Saints' and the environment

At a PCC meeting towards the end of 2023, there was some discussion about whether All Saints' should strive towards an eco-church award. Following on from this, I accompanied Revd Vicky Barrett on a visit to a local church which had achieved A Rocha gold award and we were given a list of useful contacts. One of these was "Cool Wirral Places of Worship", an inter-faith group, currently receiving financial support from Wirral Borough Council, to help Wirral places of worship to be as ecologically / environmentally-friendly as possible. There are monthly meetings, mostly on Zoom, but some in-person meetings and some larger events with speakers.

Through "Cool Wirral" I attended a Carbon Literacy Course, choosing the online option. This included committing to a project which would give a 1 tonne "Carbon Footprint" reduction for the year 2024 in a community setting. My project was a personal commitment for my household, but by sharing my 2024 eco-journey in our Parish Magazine, I was able to involve other parishioners, so they might consider the environmental impact of their own lifestyles.

I attended most of the "Cool Wirral" Zoom meetings and two of the 2024 larger meetings. At the first, local politicians explained their political party stance on environmental issues. The second event had speakers from the University of Liverpool and Liverpool John Moores University explaining, in an accessible way, the science behind Climate Change and some of the actions places of worship and individuals could take to make a difference. The Churchwardens attended the meeting considering waste management.
There is an ongoing challenge for us at All Saints' to decide how we engage with the environment in the future.

Linda M Arch

Practical Ministries

19. Parish Magazine

The editors, Iain Stinson, Patsy Baker, Revd Vicky Barrett and Brian Morris continue to try to produce a magazine which is interesting and informative to its readers and especially to members of the parish. We have kept the parishioners informed of what is happening at our church through the events page, the diary and articles written on church life. At the same time, we have brought everyday stories from individuals about events which have happened in their lifetime and of interest.

Our thanks go to regular and occasional contributors who make the magazine so interesting. We hope that the readers gain comfort and enjoyment from the articles in the magazine. During 2024 six editions of the magazine were printed and circulated as in previous years and placed on the website.

We have continued to receive many complimentary comments from those who have enjoyed not only the content but also the format we have used. The magazine is distributed free to anybody who wishes to have a copy, but we do ask for a donation towards the cost of printing. We are indebted to our advertisers and to the voluntary donations given by our readers which meets most of the cost of producing the magazine.

The printing and co-ordinating the distribution is done by Margaret Gamble and we are indebted to her for continuing with this task as she has done for many years. Our thanks also go to the distributers who deliver the magazines.

We feel it is important that the magazine continues to bring to the attention of the parishioners the various articles, events, quizzes and stories in paper form as not everybody has a computer for the online version. 220 copies of the magazine are printed every two months and are distributed to homes in Thornton Hough, Raby Mere, Brimstage and Raby. Magazines are also posted to homes outside the parish: to Heswall, Neston, Oxton, Willaston, Chester, Port Sunlight, and as far afield as Evershot, Hornby (near Lancaster) and Broadstone (in Dorset).

Our editorial team welcomes contributions, so if you have a story or know of an event which you feel might be of interest, please send it to us for consideration with all the other articles.

The Editors

20. 2025 Thornton Hough Calendar

Following the successful previous calendars, a 2025 Thornton Hough Calendar was produced and printed with thanks to the support provided by Sue and Iain Stinson. Contributions of photographs of our beautiful village and neighbourhood were requested via the pulpit and through the bi-monthly magazine. After much deliberation, twelve photographs were selected from a large group depicting views of our beautiful parish at different times in the year. Once again over 175 copies were printed and sent to many parts of the country and far-off lands.

We were indebted to 12 local businesses and companies who each sponsored a month thus covering the printing costs and to those people who sold the calendars to friends and relatives. We should mention that Gordale, The Village Hall and AJ& Son Motors sold many of our calendars and we are very grateful for their support once again. Thanks must also go to Margaret Gamble who again sold many calendars to friends and family. We are delighted to report that the calendars made a handsome profit of over £1,250 for church funds.

We look forward to producing another calendar for 2026 so we hope that many new and old photos will come to light during the Spring and Summer of 2025 and sent to us for consideration.

Brian Morris

21. Website report

The church website provides information about our church, contact details and includes a calendar of services and events taking place at All Saints'. We announce any last-minute changes to planned events and services on our home page. We publish copies of The Magazine on the website for those who prefer to read online; this also provides a growing record of our activities over recent years.

The website is an important communications tool. Comments and suggestions about the website are always welcome. Please look regularly at www.allsaintsth.org.uk – you might be pleasantly surprised by what you find.

Iain Stinson

22. Church Flowers

Thank you to everyone who has either arranged flowers or given a donation to the flower fund this year. People are very generous with their donations and it's a good way to remember their loved ones.

We are very short of people to arrange the flowers in church. Please think whether this is something you could help with. You don't have to be an expert.

It was especially good to see the church decorated at Harvest when members of the congregation decorated windows. In addition the entrance to the church, the font and the area around the altar all looked spectacular. We also enjoyed special displays at Easter and Christmas.

Margaret Gamble

23. ACF Report

Afternoon Meetings and Coffee Mornings

In the early part of 2024 I took the difficult decision to stand down from running ACF activities due to increasing family commitments. In order that a replacement volunteer or team of volunteers could be found I agreed to keep leading ACF until our annual meeting in May. Unfortunately, no-one in the Parish was able to commit to this role and we had to take the decision to cancel our afternoon meetings following the strawberry tea in July. The June meeting with Wirral Wildlife was very kindly hosted by Linda Arch. The July strawberry tea was organised by various members of the Church. All relevant paperwork and a comprehensive list of future speakers is safely stored in the Parish Hall should a volunteer be found in the future.

Before the closure of ACF afternoon meetings we were able to host a variety of speakers from the following charities:

Wirral Foodbank	Wirral Youth for Christ	Emmaus
Wirral Hospice St Johns	Wirral Wildlife	



The coffee mornings on the 4th Wednesday of the month have been able to continue on a rota basis to ensure there is a supply of hot drinks and biscuits, and also, for someone to run on the day. These coffee mornings continue to be enjoyed and well attended.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who helped out in any way however big or small at the afternoon meetings or coffee mornings. A special mention goes to Tim, Shirley, Margaret Wignall, Margaret Gamble, Di, Val and Alan Splitt, Heather and Vicky.

Helen Tankard

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of All Saints, Thornton Hough

Registered Charity number 1131417

End of Year Financial Statements

(Receipts & Payments)

Year ending December 31st 2024

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Financial review

Overall receipts in 2024 were £125,233, -£1,336 less than in 2023. The total expenditure in 2024 was £129,890 and the expenditure exceeded the income by £4,657. In 2023 expenditure exceeded income by £477.

At the end of the year the cash assets of the PCC were £44, 855 (this excludes the value of investments and property); this is £4,559 less than at the end of 2023.

Total receipts of unrestricted funds were £124,673 (General plus Designated funds). Of this £51,482 was from giving through standing orders, weekly envelopes, and open plate collection and we received £13,881 in unrestricted grants and gifts.

We received £675 in designated funding and £110 in restricted funding,

We recovered a total of £12,112 through the UK's Gift Aid schemes on qualifying gifts and donations.

Income from investments (Permanent Trust Income) was £22,786; this was 8.8% higher than the return received in 2023. At the end of December 2024, the value of the investments owned by the PCC was 0.04% higher than at the end of 2023.

The PCC's investments are controlled in partnership with the Diocese of Chester, the Diocese taking a role like that of a custodian trustee. The Diocese needs to support any resolutions made by the PCC about its investments; in some cases, The Charity Commission's permission may be required. The PCC's Finance Committee monitors the performance of its investments and, should it deem necessary, make proposals about these to the PCC. If the PCC wished to take any such proposals forward, the PCC would have to pass a formal resolution setting out the actions to be taken. Any such resolution would be passed to the Diocese of Chester for review, approval, and implementation. The Diocese of Chester does not provide any financial advice to PCCs.

There were some social activities during 2024; though their focus was not on raising funds, all of these (at least) broke even. The income from calendar sales and sponsorship was £1,485. The cost of producing the calendar was about £200 (for the 2025 edition) and so the net benefit from the 2025 edition of the calendar was around £1,285.

During 2024, donations towards the cost of the Magazine were £509 and revenue from advertisers was £130. Payments for the advertising in the Magazine for 2025 will be received in 2025.

The rental for use of the Parish Hall by outside organisations generated £8,650 during 2024; this is significantly lower than the amount received in 2023 (£12,354): one of our regular users moved to alternative accommodation and another major user reduced their rentals because of illness.

There were fewer weddings and funerals in church during the year and consequently the fees collected (£4,008) were less than in 2023 (£7,264).

The Parish Share for 2024 was £75,344 (5% higher than in 2023) and was paid in regular monthly instalments to the Diocese. This meets the cost of clergy salaries, pensions, clergy housing and training; it also provides support for the Diocese of Chester and the central organisation of the Church of England.

Whilst the salary for the Vicar is met by the Diocese, the PCC pay the Council Tax and water charges for the vicarage and the expenses incurred by the vicar in carrying out her role in the parish.

The cost of maintenance of the churchyard and graveyard was £8,401. This is included work on tree maintenance (£2,685) as well as keeping the grass and shrubs tidy. In 2023 the cost (excluding any major tree work) was £5,974.

In 2024 the PCC spent £5,423 from the Legacies Fund (a Designated Fund) repairing the church steeple, stonework around the south door, the steps from Raby Road and replacing some the vicar's vestry lighting. They spent £2,987 from the General Fund replacing the sink and water heater in the vicar's vestry, church roof repairs, and other minor works. The church clock transponder (used to restart the clock at the correct time) was replaced and the clock serviced at a cost of £894: £850 of this was paid for by generous donations made by the Thornton Hough Village Trust and local residents.

The PCC spent £570 on repairs to the Parish Hall and £607 on repairs and statutory checks on Hirst Cottage. Work has been started on repairing and repainting the outside woodwork at Hirst Cottage in at the end of 2023. It has never been completed, and no payment has been made for this work

The total cost of employing two staff, the Verger/Caretaker and the Director of Music, was £11,705 in 2024, 6.8% more than in 2023.

Energy prices continued to rise in 2024, and our three-year fixed price contracts for gas and electricity came to an end in September 2024. After a careful review of the market, a new fixed price three-year contract has been put in place: this was the lowest cost contract available to us. This reflects the cost of energy in the last quarter of 2024 and Is almost twice the cost of the previous contract.

The PCC meets the day-to-day costs of running the parish from Unrestricted Funds (General Fund). The results for 2024 show that there is £29, 602 in the General Fund (unrestricted) at the end of the year £3,835 more than when the year began (14.8% more).

At the end of 2024, the Designated Funds available to the PCC are £12,349 and at the end of 2023 were £19,200. The PCC can use these Designated Funds to address some of the maintenance and development projects that need to be undertaken at All Saints'. The restricted funds held by the PCC amount to £2,678 (discounting the unrealised values of the Parish Hall and Hirst Cottage) and this must be used for the purposes specified by the donors of the money.

There remain concerns about our being able to meet the costs which are incurred in sustaining our regular activities. The level of income being received from planned giving and open plate giving (plus the Gift Aid on this) is less than half of the total annual expenditure. With income from the investments slowly recovering, we have been dependent on one-off donations and grants to meet our costs. This has been the case for the last few years.

There are further concerns about the likely costs of maintaining our buildings and grounds.

It is important that All Saints' increases its income so that we can meet our ongoing costs and obligations, and so that we are able to continue to support God's work in our parish.

The accounts

This financial report is produced under the Church of England guidance for PCCs (Church Accounting Regulations 2006) adopting the ***Receipts and Payments*** method provided for by the Church and The Charities Act (2011).

This report consists of pages numbered 1 to 15; pages 16 and 17 do not form a part of the formal report.

This report shows all the PCC's open bank accounts.

There may appear to be minor discrepancies in the totals in the reports as the pence are not shown.

All members of the PCC are Trustees of the registered charity.

Two PCC members (trustees), Mrs Margaret Gamble and Mr Iain Stinson are employees of the PCC. Mrs Gamble is the Verger/Caretaker and Mr Stinson is the Director of Music (posts they both held before first being elected or co-opted as PCC members). Neither Mrs Gamble nor Mr Stinson receive any payment for their roles as PCC Members (trustees).

No payments were made to PCC members for their role as a member of the PCC other than as minor reimbursements for items purchased.

These accounts have been prepared using Data Developments' Finance Coordinator (version 4.62) software package following the PCC's Accounting Policies which are appended to this report. They have been prepared on behalf of the PCC by Mr Iain Stinson who does not receive any payment for undertaking the duties of Honorary Treasurer.

The following assets are recognised but not valued in the accounts: moveable church furnishings held by the vicar and trustees on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal.

It is the PCC's policy to maintain a balance on unrestricted funds (whenever possible), which equates to approximately two months unrestricted payments, to meet cash flow requirements and to cover emergency situations that may arise from time to time.

The "Notes on the accounts" may be found on page 12 and 13.

Balance Sheet December 31st 2024

		As at 31/12/2024	As at 31/12/2023
Fixed assets			
(note 1)	6430: Church Hall	£350,000	£350,000
	6431: Hirst Cottage	£150,000	£150,000
(note 2)	6432: M&G Charibond	£138,701	£143,765
	6433: M&G Charifund	£205,024	£199,815
	Total Fixed assets	**£843,725**	**£843,581**
Current assets			
	6501: CAF Current A/c.545	£22,537	£27,094
	6502: CAF Restricted A/c.546	—	—
	6503: CAF Deposit A/c.274	£19,524	£19,050
(note 3)	6505: HSBC Current A/c.163	£1	£1
	6506: HSBC Current A/c.388	£2,791	£3,267
	Total Current assets	**£44,854**	**£49,413**
Liabilities			
(note 4)	6699: Agency collections	£225	£117
	Total Liabilities	**£225**	**£117**
	Net Asset surplus (deficit)	**£888,355**	**£892,878**
Reserves			
	Excess / (deficit) to date	(£4,667)	(£476)
	Z01: Starting balances	£892,878	£893,625
	Z02: Other gains/(losses)	£144	(£270)
	Total Reserves	**£888,355**	**£892,878**

Represented by Funds		
Unrestricted	£29,602	£25,767
Designated	£12,349	£19,200
Restricted	£502,677	£504,329
Endowment	£343,725	£343,581
Total	**£888,355**	**£892,878**

Statement of Assets and Liabilities as at December 31st 2024 (1 of 2)

Class and nominal code	General	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	Total	Last year
Fixed assets – Investments *(note 2)*						
6432 : M&G Charibond	—	—	—	£138,701	£138,701	£143,765
6433 : M&G Charifund	—	—	—	£205,024	£205,024	£199,815
Total	—	—	—	£343,725	£343,725	£343,581
Fixed assets - Tangible assets (*note 1)*						
6430 : Church Hall	—	—	£350,000	—	£350,000	£350,000
6431 : Hirst Cottage	—	—	£150,000	—	£150,000	£150,000
Total	—	—	£500,000	—	£500,000	£500,000
Current assets - Cash at bank and in hand						
6501 : CAF Current A/c.545	£13,677	£6,935	£1,924	—	£22,537	£27,094
6503 : CAF Deposit A/c.274	£13,055	£5,491	£978	—	£19,524	£19,050
6505 : HSBC Current A/c.163 ***(note 3)***	£1	—	—	—	£1	£1
6506 : HSBC Current A/c.388	£2,768	£23	—	—	£2,791	£3,267
Total	£29,502	£12,449	£2,902	—	£44,854	£49,413
Liabilities - Agency accounts						
6699 : Agency collections (note 4)	—	—	£225	—	£225	£117
Total	—	—	£225	—	£225	£117
Total	£29,502	£12,449	£502,677	£343,725	£888,355	£892,878
Represented by (note 5)						
Unrestricted - General	£29,602	—	—	—	£29,602	£25,767
Designated – ACF	—	£1,349	—	—	£1,349	£1,170
Designated - FeesHold	—	£190	—	—	£190	£590
Designated - Hallimp	—	£2,400	—	—	£2,400	£2,400
Designated - Kitchen	—	£150	—	—	£150	£150
Designated - Legacies	—	£4,890	—	—	£4,890	£11,814
Designated - Roof	—	£2,515	—	—	£2,515	£2,515

Statement of Assets and Liabilities as at December 31st 2024 (2 of 2)

Class and nominal code	General	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	Total	Last year
Designated - Toybox	—	£294	—	—	£294	—
Designated - VicarProj	—	£560	—	—	£560	£560
Restricted - ChoirFee	—	—	£420	—	£420	£320
Restricted - Choir	—	—	£603	—	£603	£603
Restricted - Hall	—	—	£350,000	—	£350,000	£350,000
Restricted - Flowers	—	—	£976	—	£976	£866
Restricted - Hirst	—	—	£150,000	—	£150,000	£150,000
Restricted - Organ	—	—	£86	—	£86	£755
Restricted - Taxi	—	—	£241	—	£241	£250
Restricted - Vicar	—	—	£350	—	£350	£350
Endowment - Charifund	—	—	—	£205,024	£205,024	£199,815
Endowment - Charibond	—	—	—	£138,701	£138,701	£143,765
Total	£29,602	£12,349	£502,677	£343,725	£888,355	£892,878

Statement of Financial Activities from January 1st 2024 to December 31st 2024

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Last year total funds
Income and endowments from:					
Donations and legacies	£78,574	£110	—	£78,684	£71,925
Income from charitable activities	£8,475	£440	—	£8,915	£14,783
Other trading activities	£10,333	—	—	£10,333	£13,931
Investments (note 6)	£27,689	—	—	£27,689	£25,712
Other income	(£400)	—	—	(£400)	£217
Total income	**£124,673**	**£550**	**—**	**£125,223**	**£126,569**
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds	£4,929	—	—	£4,929	£3,622
Expenditure on charitable activities	£122,553	£2,201	—	£124,754	£123,231
Other expenditure	£206	—	—	£206	£193
Total expenditure	**£127,688**	**£2,201**	**—**	**£129,890**	**£127,046**
Gains / losses on investment assets	—	—	—	£144	(£270)
Net income / (expenditure) resources before transfer	**(£3,015)**	**(£1,651)**	**—**	**(£4,522)**	**(£747)**
Transfers (note 7)					
Gross transfers between funds - in	£300	—	—	£300	£3,180
Gross transfers between funds - out	(£300)	—	—	(£300)	(£3,180)
Other recognised gains / losses					
Gains on revaluation, fixed assets, charity's own use	—	—	—	—	—
Net movement in funds	**(£3,015)**	**(£1,651)**	**—**	**(£4,522)**	**(£747)**
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward	**£44,967**	**£504,329**	**£343,581**	**£892,878**	**£893,625**
Total funds carried forward	**£41,951**	**£502,677**	**£343,725**	**£888,355**	**£892,878**

Analysis of income and expenditure from January 1st 2024 to December 31st 2024

(1 of 3)

	General	Designated	Restricted	Total This year	Total Last year
Income and endowments (note 9)					
Donations and legacies					
1010 - Planned Giving SO	£32,615	—	—	£32,615	£32,495
1015 - Planned Giving Envelopes	£9,650	—	—	£9,650	£9,127
1020 - Gift Aid - Occasional	—	—	—	—	£1,120
1030 - Gift Aid - tax rebate	£12,112	—	—	£12,112	£11,325
1040 - Open Plate	£9,217	—	—	£9,217	£6,561
1060 - Wall Safe	£423	—	—	£423	£184
1070 - Donations - Sundry	£13,881	£175	£110	£14,167	£6,578
1080 - Appeals - Donations	—	—	—	—	£33
1090 - Legacies	—	—	—	—	£4,500
1110 - Grants - non recurring	—	£500	—	£500	—
Donations and legacies Totals	£77,898	£675	£110	£78,684	£71,925
Income from charitable activities					
1120 - Events and Activities	£1,358	—	—	£1,358	£2,163
1121 - Coffee Mornings	£231	£154	—	£385	£77
1122 - Toybox	£133	£242	—	£375	£378
1150 - Choir - Wedding fees	—	—	£440	£440	£550
1160 - Funerals - PCC	£2,294	—	—	£2,294	£5,250
1170 - Funerals - supplementary	—	£100	—	£100	—
1210 - Weddings - PCC	£1,514	£100	—	£1,614	£2,014
1240 - Fees for weddings and funerals (note 8)	£1,708	—	—	£1,708	£2,493
1400 - Magazine donations	£509	—	—	£509	£757
1402 - Magazine - adverts	£130	—	—	£130	£1,100
Income from charitable activities Totals	£7,879	£596	£440	£8,915	£14,783
Other trading activities					
1140 - Halls - rentals	£8,650	—	—	£8,650	£12,354
1300 - Printing / Copying (commercial)	£197	—	—	£197	£122
1410 - Calendar Income	£1,485	—	—	£1,485	£1,455
Other trading activities Totals	£10,333	—	—	£10,333	£13,931
Investments					
1130 - Hirst Cottage - Rent	£4,380	—	—	£4,380	£4,380
1500 - Permanent Trust Income	£22,786	—	—	£22,786	£20,942
1510 - Bank Interest	£522	—	—	£522	£389
Investments Totals	£27,689	—	—	£27,689	£25,712
Other income					
1600 - Advanced payment of fees	(£100)	(£300)	—	(£400)	£200
1650 - Other Ordinary Income	—	—	—	—	£17
1655 - Prior year adjustment	—	—	—	—	—
Other income Totals	(£100)	(£300)	—	(£400)	£217
Income and endowments totals	£123,700	£972	£550	£125,223	£126,569

Analysis of income and expenditure from January 1st 2024 to December 31st 2024

(2 of 3)

	General	Designated	Restricted	Total This year	Total Last year
Expenditure					
Raising funds					
2400 - Hall - Consumables	£129	—	—	£129	£182
2410 - Hall - Electricity	£520	—	—	£520	£592
2415 - Hall - Gas	£989	—	—	£989	£807
2420 - Hall - Insurance	£1,110	—	—	£1,110	£1,013
2425 - Hall - Fire protection & safety	£44	—	—	£44	—
2430 - Hall - Water charges	£165	—	—	£165	£157
2535 - Magazine & Bookstall	£50	—	—	£50	£127
3010 - Printing - Copier rental & copies	£1,918	—	—	£1,918	£740
Raising funds Totals	£4,929	—	—	£4,929	£3,622
Expenditure on charitable activities					
2000 - Parish Share	£75,344	—	—	£75,344	£71,756
2010 - Clergy and staff - expenses	£1,553	—	—	£1,553	£1,861
2015 - Clergy - locum costs	£56	—	—	£56	—
2020 - Parsonage - Council Tax	£2,441	—	—	£2,441	£2,091
2035 - Parsonage - Water charges	£351	—	—	£351	£198
2100 - Church - Electricity	£1,001	—	—	£1,001	£1,108
2105 - Church - Gas	£2,475	—	—	£2,475	£2,200
2110 - Church - Water charges	£503	—	—	£503	£437
2115 - Church- Fire Protection & Safety	£255	—	—	£255	£118
2120 - Church - Insurance	£2,386	—	—	£2,386	£2,352
2125 - Church - Cost of services	£268	—	—	£268	£404
2127 - Flowers	—	—	—	—	—
2130 - IT & Web	£313	—	—	£313	£326
2200 - Church - Repairs	£2,569	£5,423	—	£7,992	£3,561
2201 - Church - Minor maintenance.	£1,312	—	—	£1,312	£834
2202 - Church - Maintenance contracts	—	—	—	—	£896
2300 - Church Yard (Church Road)	£3,576	£1,500	—	£5,076	£3,402
2310 - Grave Yard (Raby Road)	£2,140	—	£1,185	£3,325	£2,572
2440 - Hall repairs/exterior	£300	—	—	£300	£706
2445 - Hall repairs/interior	£270	—	—	£270	£323
2455 - Hirst Cottage – repairs	£390	—	—	£390	£9,049
2460 - Property – upkeep	£730	—	—	£730	£345
2500 - Misson / Outreach	£241	—	—	£241	£482
2505 - Children's Ministry	—	£457	—	£457	—
2510 - Church Societies	£688	—	£50	£738	£780
2520 - Relief agencies	£165	—	—	£165	£550

Analysis of income and expenditure from January 1st 2024 to December 31st 2024

(3 of 3)

	General	Designated	Restricted	Total This year	Total Last year
2525 - Church Overseas	—	—	—	—	—
2530 - Secular Societies	£516	£120	—	£636	£465
2605 - Music - costs	£133	—	—	£133	£223
2610 - Director of Music - Costs	—	—	—	—	—
2611 - Fees paid out ***(note 8)***	£679	—	£290	£969	£1,162
2615 - Organ - tuning & maintenance	—	—	£668	£668	£322
2620 - Organist - Locum organists	—	—	—	—	—
2701 - Office - Telecoms	£688	—	—	£688	£631
2702 - Office - equipment	—	—	—	—	—
2710 - Office - consumables	£624	—	—	£624	£894
3000 - Staffing Costs (Salaries)	£9,121	—	—	£9,121	£8,415
3001 - Pension contributions	—	—	—	—	—
3002 - Tax & NIC payments	£2,584	—	—	£2,584	£2,546
3005 - Staffing fees	£1,076	—	—	£1,076	£1,728
3300 - Miscellaneous	—	—	£8	£8	£100
4002 - Costs of stewardship	£78	—	—	£78	£76
4003 - Costs of Fetes/events	£194	£21	—	£215	£305
4005 - Governance Costs	—	—	—	—	—
Expenditure on charitable activities totals	£115,030	£7,522	£2,201	£124,754	£123,231

Notes on the accounts

Note 1.
The Church Hall and Hirst Cottage are owned by the PCC and the valuation in the accounts was obtained some years ago. If the PCC wished to consider selling these assets, up to date valuations would need to be obtained.

Note 2.
The M&G Charibond and M&G Charifund investments are managed by the PCC in partnership with the Diocese of Chester for the PCC. The investments owned by the PCC are as follows:

Principal donor	**Specified purpose**	**Holding**	**Number of shares**	**Value 31 Dec 2024**
Leverhulme		M&G Charibond Inc	128,546.10	£138,701
		M&G Charifund Inc	13,645.03	£200,909
Lever	Churchyard maintenance	M&G Charifund Inc	264.01	£3,887
Fernie	Churchyard maintenance	M&G Charifund Inc	15.46	£227
Total value of investments				£343,725

The value of these investments was £144 higher than at the end of 2023.

Note 3.
The HSBC bank account ending in 163 is used as a part of the standing order collection process and automatically transfers its contents, other than £1, into the HSBC bank account ending in 388 at the end of each month.

Note 4.
The PCC collects fees for weddings, funerals and cremation services on behalf of the Diocese. These fees are held separately from the church's funds and paid over to the Diocese each month. The liability shown is the amount of these fees in the PCC's bank accounts which will be paid over to the Diocese.

Note 5.
Summary of the funds
The PCC may used General and Designated funds for any purpose that is in the best interest of the charity. Restricted funds are to be used for the purpose specified when they were given.

Name	**Type**	**Details**
General	General	The main operating fund for the PCC. Receives most of the income and pays almost all the running costs for the PCC.
ACF	Designated	Funds from the ACF group, which no longer operates. It is a Designated fund and may be used as the PCC deems appropriate.
FeesHold	Designated	This fund holds any fees pay in advance of weddings.
Hallimp	Designated	This is for improvements / redecoration of the Parish Hall
Kitchen	Designated	This is for minor work on the Parrish Hall kitchen.
Legacies	Designated	This fund receives any legacies given to the church where the donor does not specify how the money given is to be used.
Roof	Designated	For roof repairs to the church.
Toybox	Designated	For funds given specifically for Toybox.
VicarProj	Designated	A fund for small projects. The projects require the vicar to agree with them.
ChoirFee	Restricted	Holds and pays out choir fees from weddings and funerals.
Choir	Restricted	For purchase of choir music.
Flowers	Restricted	For flowers for the church.

Organ	Restricted	For repairs and maintenance of the organ.
Taxi	Restricted	To meet occasional costs of transporting people to and from church and church events.
Vicar	Restricted	A discretionary fund which the vicar may use.
Hall	Restricted	Represents the value of the Parish Hall (owned by the PCC)..
Hirst	Restricted	Represents the value of Hirst Cottage (owned by the PCC).
Endowment		Represents the investments owned by the PCC.

Note 6.
This Investment Income includes the rental for Hirst Cottage (£4,380), bank interest (£522) and receipts from the investments (£22,786).

As well as the income from investments owned by the PCC, the investment income also includes income from a gift made in 1956 by Miss K.P. Fryer to the Diocese of Chester Board of Finance. The gift was made with a request that it be used for the benefit of All Saints' Thornton Hough and that a portion be used to provide a memorial in the Church to her parents. The Diocese of Chester Board of Finance holds 6,304.15 shares in the CBF Investment fund as the remaining part of this gift; the value of these shares at 31st December 2024 was £145,768.

The table below shows the income received from these investments during 2024.

Fund	**Income 2024**	**Yield**
M&G Charifund	£12,532.05	6.11%
M&G Charibond	£6,299.16	4.54%
CBF Investment fund	£3,955.86	2.71%
Total	***£22,787.07***	

Yield is defined as income during the year / value at the end of the year.

Note 7.
The transfer of funds in 2024 was between the fund use to hold advanced payment of wedding fees to the General Fund.

Note 8.
Fees received for the verger and organist for weddings and funerals, (and some grave digging fees) are recorded under code 1240. Payments from this income made to employees are recorded under code 3005 and to others under code 2611. Choir Wedding fees are received into a restricted fund and paid after the ceremony using code 2611.

Note 9.
In 2024, no income was received from the sale of endowments and no endowments were purchased.

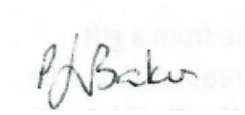
Note 10.
Types of Fund
Restricted Funds may only be used for the purposes specified by the donor. The General Fund may be used by the PCC without restriction. The PCC may choose to transfer some parts of the General Fund into a Designated Fund to indicate that it intends to use this for a specified purpose. However, the PCC, at its discretion, may move Designated Funds to the General Fund or to a different Designated Fund. In the accounts, an Unrestricted Fund is any fund which is not a Restricted Fund: the total of Unrestricted Funds is the sum of the General Fund and all Designated Funds.

Approval

Approved by the Trustees and signed on their behalf by:



Revd Vicky Barrett (Vicar)



Mrs Patsy Baker (Churchwarden)



Mrs June Allcoack (Churchwarden)

Date: 8th April 2025

Independent examiner's report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of All Saints, Thornton Hough (Registered Charity number 1131417) (the Trust) for the year ended 31st December 2023.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 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: V. J. Smith

Name: VERITY SMITH

Relevant professional qualifications or membership of relevant professional bodies (if any):

Address:. HOYLAKE

Date: 6.4.25

Appendix: Accounting Policies

Note: These are not a part of the formal Financial Report

1. Accounting

The financial statements are prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006, together with applicable accounting standards and the SORP 2005. The financial statements are prepared under the historical cost convention except for the valuation of investment assets, which are shown at market value. The accounts include transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC is held responsible in law. They do not include the accounts of church groups that owe an affiliation to another body nor those that are informal gatherings of church members.

2 Funds

Unrestricted funds are general funds which can be used for PCC ordinary purposes.

Restricted funds represent (a) income from trusts and endowments which may be expended only on those restricted objects provided in the terms of the trust or bequest, and (b) donations or grants received for a specific object or invited by the PCC for a specific object. The funds may only be expended on the specific object for which they were given. Any balance remaining unspent at the end of each year must be carried forward as a balance on that fund. The PCC does not usually invest separately for each fund.

Endowment funds are funds, the capital of which must be maintained; only income arising from investment of the endowment may be used either as restricted or unrestricted funds depending on the purpose for which the endowment was established.

3 Reserves Policy

It is the PCC's policy to maintain a balance of unrestricted funds (i.e. a balance of funds excluding restricted funds), whenever possible, which equates to approximately two months unrestricted payments, to meet cash flow requirements and to cover emergency situations that may arise from time to time. For the purpose of monitoring the reserves balance, the two months unrestricted payments will be deemed to one sixth of 90% of the budgeted expenditure of the current financial year.

4 Incoming Resources

Collections are recognised when received by or on behalf of the PCC. Planned giving receivable under Gift Aid is recognised only when received. Gift Aid recoverable on qualifying donations is recognised when the Gift Aid is received.

Legacies to the PCC are accounted for when the PCC receives them. Grants are recorded when received.

Rental income from the letting of Hirst Cottage is recognised when the rent is due. Income from Parish Hall rentals is recognised when the income is received.

Dividends and interest are accounted for when received. Tax recoverable on such income is recognised in the same accounting year as when claimed.

All other income is recorded when received.

Realised gains or losses are recognised when investments are sold. Unrealised gains or losses are accounted for on the revaluation of investments at 31 December.

Wherever practically possible all incoming resources are accounted for gross.

5 Resources Used

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

Salaries, pay, tax, NI, fees and exceptional expenditure are recognised in the accounts when they are due.

The Diocesan Parish Share is accounted for when due.

All other expenditure is generally recognised when it is incurred and, where practical, is accounted for gross.

Activities which involve regular and ongoing payments are handled through unrestricted funds. Where donations (and other income) are received to support a specific activity which involves regular and ongoing payments, these will be held in a restricted fund. Where funds are available, transfers will be made from the restricted fund to the unrestricted fund (from which the payments for the activity are made) as expenditure for that activity is incurred. Restricted funds do not go into deficit. Unexpended resources will remain in the restricted fund.

6 Fixed Assets

Consecrated land and beneficed property is excluded from the accounts by s.96(2)(a) of the Charities Act 1993. No value is placed on movable church furnishings which are held by the Churchwardens, on special trust for the PCC, and which require a faculty for disposal and which are inalienable property. All expenditure incurred during the year on consecrated or beneficed buildings and movable church furnishings, whether maintenance or improvement, is written off as expenditure in the SOFA and separately disclosed.

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

7 Payments to PCC Members

Expenses paid to the vicar may include a small immaterial proportion which relates to the vicar's function as a PCC member. No other payments are made to PCC members other than as reimbursements for items purchased.

Revised January 2020

All Saints Thornton Hough Financial Statement year ending 31st December 2024

Independent examiner's report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of All Saints, Thornton Hough (Registered Charity number 1131417) (the Trust) for the year ended 31st December 2023.

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Signed: V. J. Smith

Name: VERITY SMITH

Relevant professional qualifications or membership of relevant professional bodies (if any):

Address:. HOYLAKE

Date: 6.4.25

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ALL SAINTS THORNTON H

England & Wales - Charity number 1131417

Accounts

ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF
ALL SAINTS' THORNTON HOUGH
DIOCESE OF CHESTER

Charity Commission Number 1131417



ANNUAL REPORTS FOR 2023

All Saints' Parochial Church Council
The Parish Office, The Parish Hall, Church Road, Thornton Hough, Wirral, CH63 1JW

Part 1: Trustees' report to the Charity Commission

1. Aims and Purposes

Our aim is
'To promote the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical'

Our purpose as a church is to worship God through our regular services and through the fellowship of our loving community. We share the love of God with those around, serving the community and witnessing to others about the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.
All Saints' Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the legal responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish of Thornton Hough the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. The PCC is also specifically responsible for the maintenance of the church building and churchyards on Raby Road, and the Parish Hall on Church Road.

2.Objectives

A Vision for All Saints' Church

A Place of Welcome

"In the name of Christ: You matter!"

Accessibility for all; being a "safe space" for everyone.

Being mindful that the "reception team" on the door may be overwhelming for some, and underwhelming for others; what can attract some will repel others.

- Continued support and training for welcoming teams
- Take steps to become a "Dementia Friendly" church
- Take steps to ensure accessibility for those with autism or other neurodiversities.
- Offer a *"Welcome Pack*" for newcomers in church
- Put a *"Welcome to your New Home"* card through the door of new residents
- Local "tagline": *Your* parish church
- Hold an "Open Day": introducing the history of the church, architecture, music, local history – with refreshments
- Consult, both within existing congregation and with wider parish, on provision of activities & events in which people can relax, identify with, feel part of

Worship

Praising God together

Celebrating and valuing our choral and congregational tradition in worship, whilst being open to expanding the styles and format of worship

- Add an extra music slot in existing Sunday morning services; expand the repertoire of worship music
- Look at providing a space for different kinds of worship music; guitar/keyboard/worship songs in our service scheduling

Everyday Faith

Learning together and living the learning out - "to love and serve the Lord" through whole week

Growing more confident about talking about our faith. Engaging together to provide a forum for discussion & exploration of prayer and Bible reading as part of individual faith journey

- Highlight the talks provided by Chester Cathedral
- Continue Pilgrim Course
- Home Group
- Using Parish Hall as a space for games evenings, coffee and conversation
- Encourage people to contribute to Parish Magazine describing the impact of their faith on their everyday lives

Being a "Mission Partner" – Learning more about mission in the wider, global context, and supporting an organisation in response

Celebrating

Being thankful that God is good, and sharing that good news!

- **More parties!**
- Marking the seasons with events – fair, food, music
- Songs of Praise across the Deanery
- Celebrating Christmas more widely within the community; a Christmas trail around the village/decorated windows/participate with the Village Trust in their Christmas Tree celebration

Community Collaboration

Working together for good! Making connections with different elements of the community. Building dialogue and participation.

- Litter picking as a regular, quarterly activity
- Continue working with Thornton Hough Primary School; displays in church; using the church and Parish Hall as a source for local history and art projects
- Uniformed groups – Rainbows/Brownies/Guides celebrating Mothering Sunday, Harvest, Remembrance, Christmas together
- Build further links with local Dementia Walking Group – music/refreshment
- Offer our facilities to support local charity events, eg Clatterbridge/Arrowe Park Charity Christmas carols in church, Parish Hall for Macmillan support group; base for starting New Year's Day charity run to Willaston
- Participating in Village Trust meetings and events

Growing Church

Extending the way in which we enable people of all ages to encounter the news of Jesus Christ. Being "church" in different ways, in different places

- "Taster services" – short, family friendly events
- Promoting the church to local businesses; church being present on hotel publicity
- Promoting support for staff and families in local businesses
- Continue to explore ways of increasing connections with the residents of Raby Mere
- Regular worship currently active in 2/3 of nursing homes in the parish; renewing links with the third
- Explore the possibility of links to Raby Hall (Autism Together)

Caring for the Environment

We recognise that this is one of the Marks of Mission of the Church and want to help care for God's creation. We need to be good examples as a church organisation and individually, and collaborate with others to reduce our carbon footprint.

- More recycling of paper; reduce use of plastic
- More control of heating in the Parish Hall
- Working with School Council/local businesses on joint methods to reduce waste/plastic use; improve recycling
- Collaborate with school/uniformed groups on use of churchyard for bug spotting, wildlife counts etc.
- Install more bird boxes, hedgehog houses, bug hotels in New Graveyard

3. Activities, Achievements and Performance 2023

The year has been full of the steady busy-ness of worship, marking life events, sharing and celebrating God's goodness through the seasons.

We welcomed Linda Tudor, Reader-in-Training from St Thomas' Church, Ellesmere Port on placement with us from Palm Sunday 2nd April – 14th May. She enjoyed getting to know people in the congregation, and took part in a range of services, leading intercessions and preaching.

Sunday Worship

Our regular pattern of Sunday worship is:

- an 8.00am service of Holy Communion using the Book of Common Prayer on the first and third Sunday of the month
- A service at 10.30am each Sunday, usually Holy Communion but occasionally a Morning Prayer service of The Word to mark a special occasion
- A choral service in the evening of the second Sunday of the month

The mean attendance at the 8.00 Holy Communion service for the year was 10. This early service is welcoming to all, especially those who enjoy the traditional rhythms of the Book of Common Prayer. The congregation moved into the choir stalls in August and this more intimate setting has continued to be appreciated.

The mean attendance at the 10.30 service was 42.

We continue to be grateful to all who assist with offering a friendly welcome as part of the welcoming team, and particularly for the cheerful help of the ever-present Tim Allan-Price, and Churchwardens Alan Splitt, Pam Machin and June Allcock for their oversight and assistance. Alan and June's help was essential to the smooth running of services whilst the Vicar was recovering from her broken ankle.

Festivals and Occasional Offices

We continue to develop our marking of occasions throughout the year, participating with the wider community to make All Saints' a place of warm welcome and safety for all.

We dedicated the new lectern and pew Bibles and ourselves to being readers and 'doers of the word' as part of a special morning service on 22nd January. Many people have generously donated to their purchase, and specially designed book plates in each one


Coronation
Picnic
on the Green
and
Litter Pick
for the
Big Help Out

commemorates an individual. Surplus funds were given to The Bible Society to support their work.

The Ash Wednesday evening Communion service with the imposition of ashes has become an increasingly significant part of people's way of starting Lent. 36 people attended.

Our morning Mothering Sunday service on 19th March was attended by 52 people. The Thornton Hough Rainbows, Brownies and Guides helped to create cards for the occasion in the shape of teapots, with a teabag attached, which accompanied the gifts of pots of primulas. Our afternoon "Quiet Space" service offered a much-needed oasis for the few who came, demonstrating that numbers attending a service is by no means the best way of assessing its worth.

60 attended the Palm Sunday service, 23 came to our evening Communion service on Maundy Thursday, 28 came to our Good Friday meditation and a total of 102 people attended our Easter services.

Our evening Communion service on Ascension Day (18th May) was attended by 17 people.

The celebrations for King Charles III's Coronation began with a special service on Sunday 7th May attended by 55 people, followed by a picnic in the sunshine on the Green with others from Thornton Hough village. Church and wider community members joined in the national "Big Help-Out" on Monday, 8th May in a "Big Litter Pick." This has led to a resolution to repeat the Litter Pick every quarter, with assistance from Wirral Borough Council, Thornton Hough Primary School and the Village Trust.

Our Harvest Week ran from 17th-24th September. We invited donations for the Wirral Foodbank during the week and everyone was most generous. The week concluded with a Harvest Thanksgiving service followed by a Harvest Lunch in the Parish Hall, where over 40 people enjoyed happy conversation and good food.

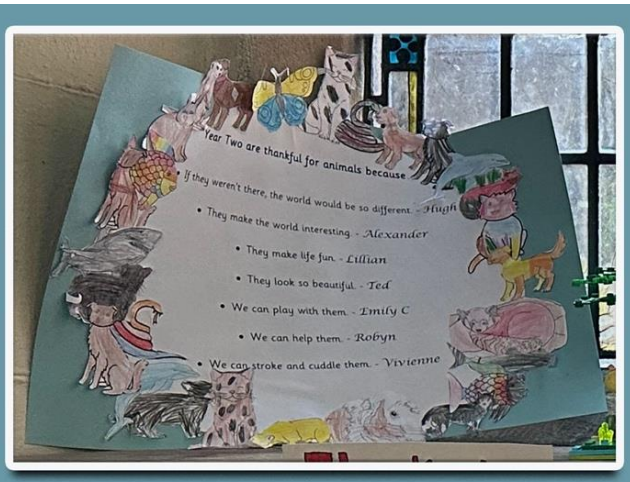
We marked All Saints' Day, our patronal festival, on 5th November. 46 people attended. We held our Service for the Faithful Departed in the afternoon, at which all families who have lost a loved one in the past year are particularly invited to attend. We welcomed 76 people. Families continue to value this event, with the simple candle-lighting to remember each person, hymns, prayers and choral music.

Remembrance Sunday was on 13th November this year. We made an Act of Remembrance as part of our morning service at 11.00 with 39 in attendance. Amongst the commemorative decorations in church were posters in Morse Code and poppy wreath decorations created by the Thornton Hough Rainbows, Brownies and Guides. The afternoon Civic service, with the procession led by the Port Sunlight Lyceum Band, began with a gathering in increasingly heavy rain for an Act of Remembrance by the village War Memorial and then processed to church for the service.

Advent began on 3rd December with a special service of seasonal readings and music led by the choir. 40 people attended.

We held a special Christingle service at 4pm on 10th December, raising money and awareness for the work of The Children's Society. It was good to see three generations of some families participating in this lively service, attended by 21 children and 50 adults.









Thornton Hough School Harvest Window









The Service of Readings and Carols for Christmas took place on 17th December, with 76 people present. We followed the service with festive mince pies and wine in the Parish Hall.

The service of Communion at "nearly midnight" on Christmas Eve continues to be enjoyed by many. 71 people were there to hear the church bell strike the hour into Christmas morning as they stepped out into the night. The 10.30am service on Christmas Day was attended by 29 adults and 3 children.

Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals

We welcomed 4 people into the church family through baptism in 2023.
6 weddings were solemnized at All Saints' in 2023.

There were 10 funerals in church and 9 burials of ashes.

Regular Midweek Worship and Fellowship at Care Homes

Our Wednesday Holy Communion service offers a more informal service followed by hot drinks and refreshments in church. The mean number of attendees was 8.

Westwood Hall: Some 12-15 residents come to sing and pray together with Revd Vicky and Emma, the home's Activities Co-ordinator each month. Some hymns offer great opportunities for residents to reminisce, and residents are encouraged to continue their faith journey by asking questions and offering prayers. It was unfortunate that a bout of illness in the home meant that the planned visit by the choir to sing and celebrate Christmas had to be cancelled at the last minute.

The monthly programme of visits to sing and pray with residents at Elderholme on the Clatterbridge Hospital campus in partnership with Revd Eunice Blackmore from Christ Church, Higher Bebington has made good progress, despite the departure of two Activities Co-ordinators in the course of the year. Numbers attending the sessions have varied, but there is a real sense of an emerging worshipping community; as one resident put it, "But we are a little church together, aren't we?"

Children and Families

We have not seen lots of younger families attend services on a regular basis this year, but we continue to ensure that there are craft, play and puzzle activities linked to the day's readings on offer. These are often used by visitors to church during the week, so clearly meeting a need.

Thornton Hough Primary School

Revd Vicky continues to work with the staff and pupils at Thornton Hough Village Primary School, both in the classroom and as a Governor. She again taught three afternoon sessions for Year 4 children on The Bible in June. All Saints' Church provides a valuable venue for all pupils and parents to gather for Christmas and Easter and to mark the end of the school year and the Year 6 valedictory presentations. Each event sees over 200 people come to church. The children are happy and at ease in the building and are always full of good questions.

Pilgrim 23: Lent Course on The Beatitudes

After the positive response to our previous Pilgrim course on The Lord's Prayer, we ran a second module on The Beatitudes as our Lent Course. A lively mix of people came together to the Vicarage over the six weeks; up to 12 gathered for tea, cake, discussion and reflection.

Links with the Community

We have supported the Wirral Foodbank in many ways throughout the year; we have encouraged people to leave donations of food supplies at the back of church which have been taken to the charity's depot at Wallasey as they have built up. We have also made more focused appeals for donations at Harvest, and at the end of November by supporting their Reverse Advent Calendar initiative. The Vicar's car was laden with boxes and large bags in every available space with the quantity of kind gifts.

All Saints' Church hosted the Christmas Concert by Wirral Community Choir in aid of Arrowe Park and Clatterbridge Hospitals' Charity on December 16th.

Caring for the Environment

New steps are being taken to encourage us to reduce our carbon footprint both as a church organisation and individually. Linda Arch and the Vicar visited Christ Church Higher Bebington in November to see how they have worked to reduce their carbon footprint and achieve the A Rocha Gold Award. The PCC then took the A Rocha questionnaire to begin work on "benchmarking" our own response.

Revd Vicky Barrett

4. Governance and PCC Membership

In 2023 the PCC membership and Standing Committee membership was as follows

Elected Members of the Laity		Other Members	
Mrs P Baker*	Standing Committee from May 2023	Revd V Barrett*	Vicar (Chairman)
Mrs G Charvill	From May 2023	Dr P Machin*	Churchwarden until May 2023
Mrs M Gamble		Mr A Splitt*	Churchwarden From May 2021
Mrs D Hughes*	Until May 2023	Mrs J Allcock	Churchwarden from May 2023
Mrs L Russell		Dr E Macbeath	Deanery Synod representative until May 2023
Mr R Singleton		Mr G Allan Price	Deanery Synod representative until May 2023
Mrs H Tankard		Mrs L Arch (Parish Safeguarding Officer)	Deanery Synod representative from May 2023
		Mr I Stinson* (PCC Treasurer)	Deanery Synod representative from May 2023
** Members of the Standing Committee*		Mrs S Stinson* (PCC Secretary)	Deanery Synod representative

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 Registered Charity.

The appointment of PCC members is governed by and set out in the Church Representation Rules (2020). The PCC at All Saints' consists of: the incumbent (our Vicar), the Churchwardens, elected representatives to the Deanery Synod, elected lay representatives and co-opted members.

Members were also elected to the sub committees dealing with Finance, Fabric and Health and Safety, Remuneration and Three Churches Together. The committees exist to discuss and, for more major issues, make recommendations, which are then taken to the full PCC.

In 2023 PCC meetings were held on 7th February, 14th March, 18th April, 23rd May, 13th June, 11th July, 12th September, 10th October, 14th November and 12th December.

The Standing Committee did not meet in 2023.

The Annual Meeting was held on 14th May 2023.

5. Safeguarding

The PCC has complied with the duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Measure 2016 (duty to have regard to House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding and vulnerable adults). (Church Representation Rules 2020 p76)

6. Activities of the PCC in 2023

In the first meeting of the year in February the PCC heard that the Soup and Sandwich Lunch had been a success and people had donated very generously to the Wirral Food Bank.

A paper on a new Vision Statement for the church, written by Revd Vicky, had been circulated in advance of the meeting. A lot of good ideas had come out of previous meetings and the paper drew them together and provided a basis on which to move forward. Discussions on our Vision continued at subsequent meetings in the year.

Also, in the February meeting a letter from Bishop Julie about Safeguarding was circulated, along with a summary document prepared by the Vicar and the Safeguarding Officer, Linda Arch. All applicants offering themselves for election to the PCC and any current members seeking re-election will need to fill in the PCC nomination forms and confirm that they are not disqualified from standing for the PCC- including confirmation that they are not on the barred lists. PCC members are also required to complete very accessible, user-friendly safeguarding training.

In March we read a circulation from Bishop Mark re decisions taken at General Synod. Although the paper had been circulated to clergy the content was for sharing. Much heat but little light had been generated on the issues of human sexuality, blessing and marriage of same-sex couples in church and the pronouns used in The Lord's Prayer. They were part of an ongoing dialogue and Mark's tone made it clear that we need to be calm and measured in our approach.

In March and April we discussed celebrations for the Coronation of King Charles on 6th May, the day of community celebration and street parties (The Coronation Big Lunch) on Sunday 7th May and the day of volunteering and service, The Big Help Out, on Monday 8th May. The Church of England had produced a Book of Daily Prayers to be used on the

28 days before the coronation and it was agreed that we should order some of these for sale in the church.

In April the PCC voted not to oppose a faculty for permission to install a non-compliant memorial at the grave of Victoria Marion Ann Tower in All Saints' Churchyard. This has subsequently been granted by the Diocese.

The new Churchwarden, June Allcock and new and re-elected members of the PCC were welcomed to the PCC in May. Their responsibilities were highlighted. Members were elected to serve on the sub committees.

In June we discussed sharing the Common Cup when distributing Holy Communion. This had been suspended due to Covid. Many people were still very nervous about re-instating this and it was decided to continue with placing an intincted wafer into people's hands. The practice is inclusive for people who find access challenging and people who only want to receive a blessing. It also overcomes the problem of crowding and close contact when going up to the altar to take Communion.

In July we considered the health of our church and what people outside expect of us. There are new families moving in to Thornton Hough and their children are attending the school. How can we engage with them, how can we engage with people in Raby Mere where there is no focal point? We need to focus on where God is taking us now, not just look back to the past, and work out how to do this healthily.

Planning for the second half of 2023 started in July. September and Harvest gave us another opportunity to celebrate. After the success of the decorated windows the previous year it was decided to continue this again in 2023 with themed windows reflecting things that are connected to the parish such as farming, the school, Toybox etc. A Harvest lunch was planned for 24th September.

In 2022 we had failed to find a date for a Christmas Fair so for 2023 it was decided to hold an Autumn Fair on Saturday 4th November. With further opportunities to celebrate on All Saints' Day and in the run up to Christmas it was decided to repeat last year's mail drop at the end of August to publicise the Harvest celebrations and other special services, the Autumn Fair, ACF and the coffee mornings, and Toybox. This would be followed by the Christmas card in late November which would give the dates of the Advent and Christmas services.

In July we heard that the Ricoh photocopier which we leased from the manufacturer was very old and they would not renew the lease. They were proposing a new lease, on a new machine, which was a little cheaper and had a slightly lower copy charge. The PCC voted in favour of renewing the lease with Ricoh.

It was back to business again in September. The mail drop had been completed, a litter pick was being planned, a group to discuss the vision was being convened, covenants on the drive had been checked prior to repair, and preparations for Harvest were well advanced. We were required to move the church website to the hosting company's new Content Management System and Iain Stinson had done a lot of work on this ready for the changeover.

Ideas for stalls at the Autumn Fair were discussed and arrangements for special services reported on.

In October we heard that the Harvest lunch had been a delight and the church had been beautifully decorated for Harvest. We were particularly pleased that the school had

decorated one of the church windows. The congregation had again donated generously to the Wirral Foodbank.

Revd Vicky reported on the Deanery Chapter meeting on Diocesan Vision planning. Various responses from the 'Casting the Net Wide' roadshow had been gathered together and a booklet has been produced. A strategic Project Director for the Diocese, John Pocock, had started on 2nd October. Bishop Mark is keen that we are making new contacts with people beyond the church. What would people miss if we were not here? How does that work for us, how can we be relevant globally and locally? The PCC heard that January to May in 2024 would be the strategy and implementation phases of the vision rollout.

Linda Arch and Revd Vicky had visited Christ Church, Higher Bebington to find out what they had done to achieve the A Rocha Eco-Church Gold Award and to see whether there were any ideas that we could implement. They reported back in October.

In November the PCC started to consider what steps we, as a church, could take towards being an Eco-Church.

In 2023 we had allowed £1,200 in the budget to give away to charities. £150 had already been given to the Turkey disaster appeal but £1,050 still needed to be allocated.

After some discussion the PCC voted to give £200 each to:

- Simeon's Trustees (our patrons)
- Water Aid
- Tearfund
- Tomorrow Women's Wirral
- Help for Heroes

and £50 to Maggies

Plans for Advent and Christmas were well under way and people were thanked for all they were doing.

The main focus of the December meeting was the end of year financial report and the proposed budget for 2024. The Treasurer's Report, Management Accounts and a Budget Proposal for 2024 had been circulated in advance of the meeting. The Treasurer, Iain Stinson, talked us through it and the PCC voted to accept the proposed budget.

The Remuneration Committee had been discussing the remuneration of the employees and the fees paid and their recommendations were put to the PCC.

The Remuneration Committee recommended the following fees for 2024:

Fees for Weddings and Funerals

	Weddings			Funerals	
	Verger	Organist	Choir	Verger	Organist
Current 2023	£75.00	£115.00	£110.00	£48.00	£73.00
Recommended 2024	£80.00	£120.00	£120.00	£50.00	£80.00

These are paid by those "using the service".

The PCC agreed to their proposals.

The Verger, the Director of Music and his wife withdrew while the PCC discussed the Remuneration Committee's proposals.

Throughout the year the PCC received and discussed reports on Finance, Fabric and Health and Safety, Safeguarding, Deanery Synod, the Electoral Roll and Cool Wirral meetings (attended by Linda Arch).

Fabric issues covered over the year included re-tarmacking the end of the drive, painting and repairs at Hirst Cottage, lights in the churchyard, removal of debris left by birds in the tower, repair of mesh in external access points on the tower, roof repairs, noticeboards, the repairs to the water heaters in the church and installation of a sink in the Vicar's Vestry.

As members of the PCC we are always facing new challenges and opportunities. It can be very rewarding to feel that you are working as part of a team and helping to contribute to the life of All Saints'. We always welcome new members- please consider whether this is a way in which you can serve. Revd Vicky or other members of the PCC are only too willing to tell you more.

Sue Stinson
(PCC Secretary)

7. Charity Information

Contact details	All Saints PCC, The Parish Office, The Parish Hall Church Road Thornton Hough, Wirral, CH63 1JW	
	www.allsaintsth.org.uk	0151 245 4986
Church of England Diocese	Chester	
Charity Registration Number	1131417	

Part 2: Reports from the PCC

8. Electoral Roll Report

On 1st January there were 90 names on the Electoral Roll.

At the Annual Meeting on 14th May it was reported that there were 99 names on the Electoral Roll, 53% resident and 47% non-resident. I took over as Electoral Roll Officer from Dr E. Macbeath following this Annual Meeting

The next time that there will need to be a preparation of new rolls will be 2025.

Helen Tankard
Electoral Roll Officer

9. Fabric, Goods and Ornaments

We began the year without a Fabric, Goods and Ornaments team. Specific works were being managed through the kindness and goodwill of individuals from the congregation. A new, revivified Fabric Team was formed in October 2023, with Graham Seagrave continuing as Health and Safety Officer, and new volunteers Gill Charvill, Richard Singleton and June Allcock.

JA volunteered to lead the new team and developed the team's Scope and Aims to help the new members understand their roles and responsibilities. These were discussed and agreed with Revd Vicky, who then held an inaugural meeting with the new team to help set the scene and start them off. The Church Log Book has been reviewed. The team developed and introduced a Planned Maintenance Programme; a "see at a glance" calendar of checks to be carried out month by month to keep things on track. This is now up and running.

There are many maintenance tasks which continue to be carried out by individuals: thanks go to Brian Morris for keeping the paved area by the Parish Hall weed-free, and in repainting the edges of the steps into the churchyard; to Scirard Lancelyn-Green for work on the lights both in church and in the church grounds, and to Iain Stinson for his monitoring of the boilers, the servicing of the clock and the oversight of the repairs to the church drive and to Margaret and Victor Gamble for their time and care in “going the extra mile” in keeping the whole church precinct and interior clean, safe and secure.

The Faculty was granted for the headstone and kerbed border for the grave of Victoria Tower, daughter of Lord Leverhulme. The white marble memorial masonry is now in place.

9A. Church

The twigs left by generations of birds and other materials in the spire have been removed following two working parties. The gutters and downpipes of both the church and parish hall have been cleared of leaves, however the condition of rainwater goods remains a concern. Slipped roof slates have been repaired through the year.

Ongoing fabric concerns include the deterioration of the decorative stone lintel above the church door and also the uneven steps on to Raby Road. Working with our Church Architect, Jennifer Chambers, quotes have been obtained for the remedial works.

Towards the end of the year the Church of England announced that £9 million had been awarded to dioceses for repairs. Chester Diocese received £123,750 of this and invited applications for funding from this Minor Works and Repairs Grant. We therefore submitted an application for help with the cost of the remedial works to the stone lintel

and steps. The initiative has been significantly oversubscribed, and successful applicants will be contacted in 2024.

Routine fire extinguisher inspections have been undertaken.

The church heating system has been serviced and some repairs carried out.

Fire evacuation procedures have been reviewed; temporary reflective exit signs and instructions have been placed in the pews to assist with safety at events where many people are present, e.g. concerts, weddings, Christingle.

The water heater in the Flower Vestry has been repaired. Investigation is under way for a bespoke solution to the replacement sink and water heater required in the Vicar's Vestry.

9B. Church grounds

The tarmac at the driveway entrance has been replaced. This was a larger repair than initially expected, due to the further deterioration of the surface. The exterior tap on the south side of church has been repaired, enabling families to clean memorials and water plants. We continue with our gardening maintenance contracts for the churchyard and Raby Road.

Initial work was undertaken by Scirard Lancelyn Green and Iain Stinson to replace failed light bulbs and fittings; further work to the floodlights on the north side of the church is planned for 2024.

9C. Parish Hall and Hirst Cottage

Routine servicing of boilers and safety checks have been undertaken. A leaky toilet in the Parish Hall has been repaired.

Work commenced on repairs and painting on the exterior of windows in Hirst Cottage. Final paintwork remains to be completed.

June Allcock and Revd Vicky Barrett

10. Wirral South Deanery Synod Report

The first meeting of the Wirral South Deanery Synod was on Wednesday 8th March 2023, at St John the Evangelist, Great Sutton when the speaker was Zarah Ross, the Faith and Climate Coordinator for Faiths4Change. It was an open meeting for all those interested in how we can meet very challenging environmental targets. Unfortunately the meeting was cut short due to bad weather.

Zarah returned for our next meeting on Wednesday 24th May 2023 at St Thomas and All Saints' Church, Ellesmere Port to continue the discussions.

On Wednesday 25th October we met at the Church Centre, Eastham Rake. Scouse, coffee and cake were served then we welcomed back Harriet Roberts, the Director of Development (Vision & Strategy) in Chester Diocese who had led the Vision Café for us in October 2022. John Pocock from Church House was also in attendance. John was going to continue the work in the Diocese started by Harriet. Harriet gave us an update on the Casting the Net Wide vision and strategy work taking place across the diocese.

Sue Stinson
Wirral South Deanery Synod Rep

The Trustees' report to the Charity Commission was approved by the PCC on 12th March 2024.

Part 3: Reports on activities

11. Worship, Prayer and Pastoral Care
Report of the Vicar

"Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;
his love endures for ever." (Psalm 107:1)

I am deeply grateful for the kind prayers and pastoral care shown to me by so many in church and Thornton Hough village in August and early September when I returned from my summer holiday with a broken fibula. Churchwardens Alan and June were very patient in ferrying me to services and meetings, and with the ministrations of Revd Canon Ian Davenport to assist at some Holy Communion services and pastoral "visits" by phone, the pattern of worship, prayer and pastoral care at All Saints' continued uninterrupted. There were lessons learned about accessibility in the village and the challenges of living with limited mobility, and much laughter as the Vicar trundled, hopped, scooted and finally strode back into full swing.

Our worship is chiefly based around celebrating Holy Communion, with congregational and choral singing accompanied by the church organ at our regular 10.30 services, choral evensong and special services, such as those marking Passiontide and Advent. There is also an important place for encountering the wonder of God in more reflective services, such as in the 8am Prayer Book service on Sunday mornings, midweek Communion, the Quiet Space on Mothering Sunday, and the Good Friday meditations.

I remain enormously grateful to our Director of Music and the choir for their hard work and cheerfulness in leading the congregation in music and continuing to develop a wide and sometimes challenging repertoire. Philip Stopford's beautiful anthem, "In My Father's House", initially sung at our Passiontide service, was a poignant addition to our Service for the Faithful Departed on 5th November.

It has been particularly good to welcome different generations of the same family to some of our services, offering a striking picture of the church as a family. Four generations of the Job family were in church as we baptised Maximilian, Eileen's great-grandson, and three members of one family were baptised together in October. Our lively Christingle service also had three generations of some families present, full of the anticipation of Christmas and in a pantomime-like mood with enthusiastic audience participation in the readings.

The joy of a family gathering to share a meal together was seen in the Soup and Sandwich lunch in February and again in the Harvest Thanksgiving Lunch. The generations came together again at the Autumn Fair in the Parish Hall, where amongst the happy conversations over refreshments, people were able to browse amongst beautiful spring bulb planting and flowers on sale, a bottle tombola, raffle, a craft table for children, books, bric-a-brac, Guess the Name of the Bear, and cakes and sweets.

We celebrated with six couples as they were married in church. Most of the weddings took place in glorious sunshine, however one couple made their vows accompanied by the sound of a thunderous downpour of rain.

Families also gathered in church to mark the passing of loved ones. We remember especially George Dobb, Brenda Somerset-Jones, Christine Jones and Brenda Littler who passed away in the course of the year. The annual service commemorating the Faithful

Departed continues to provide comfort to those who attend. Everyone was given a daffodil bulb to plant as a symbol of resurrection hope this year.

The Vicar has attended some of the Diocese's meetings for leaders in rural ministry this year and was invited to lead the Diocesan Service for the Countryside at The Cheshire Show in June. She has now been asked to help with the Church at the Show in 2024.

The Vicar and prayer team offer prayers for all who would like them; these are entirely confidential and names are only added to the church Prayer List used in Sunday worship on request. The Vicar visits an increasing number of housebound people to offer prayer and Holy Communion at home. Members of the congregation also show their friendship and care through visits, phone messages and prayer.

The Vicar's links with the Thornton Hough Brownies and Guides continue: as well as preparing for the Mothering Sunday service the Vicar visited the groups again on a couple of Wednesday evenings in November as their thoughts turned to Remembrance. They were working on a special badge commemorating the contribution of Guides to the work in the Second World War of sending secret messages. We learned about Morse Code and first aid. We spoke about the need for resilience and resistance: in the second visit, the Vicar led a "Chocolate Challenge" for the girls, in which they had to resist the temptation to eat a pile of chocolate buttons set out in front of them for 3 minutes.

Our Vision may still be a little fuzzy, but we have worked on devising a refreshed Vision Plan. Revd Vicky attended the livestreamed event at Christ the King Birkenhead in May where Bishop Mark outlined the priorities gleaned for the Diocesan Vision Plan from a long period of consultation; individual parishes were encouraged to consider how they envisaged reaching their part of the 1.5million people in the Diocese who have not heard about Jesus Christ. After discussions at PCC throughout 2023 we held two open evening "workshop" sessions in November, using Bible explorations to help in the compilation of our Vision Plan. In the first session, we reflected on the theme of "What is in your hand?": the question put by God to Moses as Moses asks how he would be able carry out God's plans in Exodus 4:1-2, and which undergirds Jesus' question to the disciples as he asks them what resources they have to feed the hungry multitudes in Mark 6 and 8 and John 6. We then reflected upon what resources we have in our hands as a church. Our second session took this a step further by exploring how God might be calling us to use and develop these resources. We used coat hangers, each with a separate theme, to enable us to physically attach our ideas, each one as an action or activity we can carry out.

It is impossible to express the gratitude for all the hard work, kindness and goodwill which has helped the life of All Saints' Church to flourish in 2023. Everyone has a part in that life, because we are all part of "the body of Christ." Many thanks to Churchwardens Pam Machin, June Allcock and Alan Splitt, to Margaret Gamble, Iain and Sue Stinson, Tim Allan-Price, and all who have been part of the PCC through 2023.

In times when life can seem increasingly fraught and frantic, Philippians 4:6 is helpful: "Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God."

Revd Vicky Barrett











Harvest Thanksgiving 2023











12. Report of the Churchwardens

This year Alan Splitt and June Allcock were elected as Churchwardens for 2023/2024 by the Parishioners at the Church AGM (2023) and later sworn into office at an Archdeacon's Visitation Service at St Mary's Church, Upton on 29th June 2023.

New to the role, June attended training for new Churchwardens at Church House, Daresbury in July and the training for churchwardens at Lostock Gralam in October. June has completed three of the four Safeguarding modules and is grateful to all who have taken the time to provide guidance, and by sharing their experience in the role with her.

One unfortunate incident this year was that Vicky, our Vicar, had an accident whilst on holiday at the end of July and suffered a broken ankle. We, as churchwardens and friends of our vicar did a little bit of extra work assisting her: taxi driving to and from church and also, for a while, distributing communion under her authority. At this time, during Vicky's convalescence, it was a pleasure to welcome and assist the Revd Ian Davenport, who helped us out at many services. In addition, during August, whilst Vicky was recovering, we were pleased to welcome a Dementia Walking Group to look around the church. The visitors were particularly impressed with our beautiful west window. During the same month we both took Vicky to attend the induction service of the Revd Kevin Crinks in Neston.

In October June volunteered to lead a newly formed Fabric Team and is looking forward to working with Graham Seagrave, the Health and Safety Officer, and other volunteers Gill Charville and Richard Singleton.

The Terrier, Inventory and Logbook have been kept up to date. The moveable furniture and ornaments in the church are in good order.

We would like to thank Tim Alan-Price and all our sidespersons for their sterling work and support to us by their welcoming presence, and their assistance at communion. Thanks also to Margaret Gamble, our verger, for her unstinting work. Both of us give huge thanks to Vicky for the enormous amount of work she undertakes.

Please note that we are readily approachable by any of our parishioners if they have church related concerns.

Alan Splitt and June Allcock
Churchwardens

13. Verger's Report

The verger is there to help the vicar with weddings, funerals, interment of ashes and school visits to the church. A lot of their time is taken up with waiting for people like florists and people who want to look at the church or parish hall; you have to be a person who doesn't mind if people don't arrive on time!

There were 6 weddings, 10 funeral services and 9 interments of ashes in 2023. The Verger was present at most of these, handing out service booklets and making sure all was in order at the back of the church. The Verger has to be a person who is very welcoming and understanding on these special occasions.

Margaret Gamble
Verger


The Autumn Fair
Name the Bear 50p a guess
JAR & BOTTLE
50p for 3 Tickets

14. Parish Hall

The Parish Hall continues to be used for the meetings of Toybox, ACF, Coffee Mornings, Weight Watchers, Thornton Hough Fishing Group, Birkenhead North Cycle Club and Stepping Out (Dance classes). The hall is also used by the council as a Polling Station when there is an election.

Church events held in the hall this year included the Soup and Sandwich Lunch, the Harvest Lunch, the Autumn Fair, the ACF Christmas Lunch (with carols), and Mince Pies and Wine after the Carol Service. Refreshments are served each Sunday after the 10:30am service.

Thank you to Gillian Wood of Stepping Out for her continued support over the past year.

Margaret Gamble

15. Safeguarding

At All Saints Thornton Hough we take our Safeguarding responsibilities seriously. The updated posters displayed in Church and the Parish Hall include current local, Diocesan and national safeguarding contact details. I am identified as the Parish Safeguarding Officer on the photos of PCC members displayed at the back of church and I can be contacted via the dedicated email address, or in person. Safeguarding information is easily accessible on our website, with useful links to Church of England safeguarding policies and procedures and to online training courses.

During the year there has been a steady stream of DBS checks being issued, since PCC members have been added to the roles within parishes requiring these checks, which must be renewed every three years.

PCC members and volunteers have undertaken online safeguarding training courses. These courses are free of charge and are very user-friendly, requiring minimal IT skills. There is provision for breaks within modules for those who are unable to commit time to complete a module in a single sitting. I would encourage as many parishioners as possible to do the Basic Awareness training module, because “Safeguarding is everyone’s business”.

In April I joined in the online Induction Course for new Parish Safeguarding Officers, though for me it was a refresher. It was worthwhile to keep up with new initiatives. Ongoing safeguarding information is passed on from the Diocese via the e-bulletin and Parish Safeguarding Officer Newsletters. Safeguarding is an agenda item at all PCC meetings, so this information is reported to the PCC.

Since the last annual report, more “face-to-face “safeguarding training is steadily being rolled out within the Diocese, for those who prefer it.

Linda M Arch
Parish Safeguarding Officer

16. Families’ ministries

Children in church

The South Transept of the church has been set out with a small table and chairs for any children that attend the service at 10:30. Although there are very few children, we continue to ensure that craft, play and puzzle activities linked to the day’s readings are provided. These are often used by visitors to church during the week, so they are clearly meeting a need.

Toybox

Toybox is our group for babies and toddlers with their carers (parents, grandparents, nannies etc). We meet from 10am to 11:30am on the second Monday of each month.

After a period of free play, while the carers chat, the children sit down for a snack and then a craft activity. Among other things we have decorated crowns, created baskets of flowers, made penguins, jungle scenes, space scenes and finally at Christmas thought about the very first Christmas with a Nativity sticker scene. These activities seem to be enjoyed by the carers as much as the children and the children love taking something home at the end. The sessions end with an interactive story led by Vicky and singing.

Families come and go as the children grow up, but the sessions have been well attended and well received. It has been lovely to see friendships forming and the children enjoying themselves.

A huge thank you to the regular team of Vicky, Patsy, Pat, Brenda and Kate for making Toybox such a success. Thank you also to Iain for helping to set up the hall and Linda for her assistance.

Sue Stinson
Toybox coordinator

17. Choir and music

At the end of 2023 there were ten members of the church choir (eleven with the Vicar): five sopranos (six with the Vicar), two altos and three basses, but, alas, no tenors. We were pleased to welcome Pat Moate to our number (following singing with us at Christmas 2022).

Not having a regular tenor means that we must sometimes “adjust” the division of voices in some pieces of music to make them work. We have invested in some new three-part music (soprano, alto and men) which better matches our resources, though sometimes the alto and men’s parts are a compromise to work as three rather than four-part pieces.

The choir has led the music at the Sunday 10:30am throughout the year. Seasonal and other illness have occasionally reduced our numbers, but we have managed to include an anthem or similar choir item at each of these services. Evening Services, usually on the second Sunday of the month, have continued during the year – we try to make these a little more “choral” with settings of the responses and canticles, anthems and congregational hymns. Sometimes attendance in the evening has been a little disappointing, but we are very grateful to those members of the congregation who come along to support these services.

As well as the regular Sunday services, the choir led the Passiontide Service of Readings and Music, the Service of Readings and Music for Advent and the Christmas Carol Service. We were joined by two tenors, Tim Barrett and Brian Moate, for the Christmas Carol service. We were also joined by some visiting members of the Stinson family (David, Angela, Ben and Dan) for services over the Christmas period.

Over the year the choir has sung at more than 65 services.

We have been fortunate that Brian Moate has played the organ for us when I have been absent. Brian is an experienced musician and regularly plays the organ at West Kirby and Heswall Methodist churches. His assistance is greatly appreciated.

I would like to thank all members of the choir for their support, commitment and patience (with me); without the active participation of each chorister, our ability to lead the worship at All Saints' Church would be significantly reduced. I would particularly like to thank Val Splitt, ably assisted by Alan, for all her work as our music librarian.

If you are interested in being in the choir, please get in touch. We practice for about an hour each Friday Evening and sing each Sunday at the 10:30am service (and once a month at 6:30pm). The choir is a great place to share and enjoy fellowship.

Iain Stinson
Director of Music

18. Bible Study Group

We are a small, friendly group who meet on the second Monday of the month 2pm to 4pm in members' homes.

We are studying 1 and 2 Timothy and Titus guided by a book by Tom Wright and if anyone would like to join us, they would be most welcome.

Shirley McEvoy

Practical Ministries

19. Parish Magazine

The editors, Patsy Baker, Revd Vicky Barrett, Brian Morris and Iain Stinson, have continued to try to produce a magazine which is interesting and informative to its readers and especially to members of the parish. We have kept the parishioners informed of what is happening at our church through the events page, the diary and articles written on church life. At the same time, we have brought everyday stories from individuals about events which have happened in their lifetime and of interest.

Our thanks go to regular and occasional contributors who make the magazine so interesting. We hope that the readers gain comfort and enjoyment from the articles in the magazine. During 2023 six editions of the magazine were printed and circulated as in previous years and placed on the website.

We have continued to receive many complimentary comments from those who have enjoyed not only the content but also the format we have used. The magazine is distributed free to anybody who wishes to have a copy, but we do ask for a donation towards the cost of printing. We are grateful to our advertisers and for the voluntary donations given by our readers which meet most of the cost of producing the magazine.

The printing and co-ordinating the distribution is done by Margaret Gamble and we are indebted to her for continuing with this task as she has done for many years. Our thanks also go to the distributers who deliver the magazines.

We feel it is important that the magazine continues to bring to the attention of the parishioners the various articles, events, quizzes and stories in paper form as not everybody has a computer for the online version. 220 copies of the magazine are printed every two months and are distributed to homes in Thornton Hough, Raby Mere, Brimstage and Raby. Magazines are also posted to homes outside the parish: to Heswall, Neston, Oxton, Willaston, Chester, Port Sunlight, and as far afield as Evershot, Hornby (near Lancaster) and Broadstone (in Dorset).

Our editorial team welcomes contributions, so if you have a story or know of an event which you feel might be of interest, please send it to us for consideration with all the other articles.

The Editors

20. 2024 Thornton Hough Calendar

Following the successful previous calendars, a 2024 Thornton Hough Calendar was produced and printed with thanks to the support provided by Sue and Iain Stinson.

Contributions of photographs of our beautiful village and neighbourhood were requested via the pulpit and through the bi-monthly magazine. After much deliberation, Revd Vicky and I selected twelve photographs from a large group depicting views of our beautiful parish at different times in the year. Once again over 200 copies were printed and sent to many parts of the country and far-off lands.

We were indebted to 12 local businesses, companies and an individual who each sponsored a month, thus covering the printing costs and to those people who sold the calendars to friends and relatives.

Thanks must also go to Margaret Gamble who once again sold many calendars to friends and family. We are delighted to report that the calendars made a handsome profit of approximately £1,255 for church funds.

We look forward to producing another calendar for 2025 so we hope that many new and old photos will come to light during the Spring and Summer of 2024 and sent to us for consideration.

Brian Morris on behalf of the Calendar Team

21. Website report

The church website provides information about our church, contact details and includes a calendar of services and events taking place at All Saints'. We announce any last-minute changes to planned events and services on our home page. We publish copies of *The Magazine* on the website for those who prefer to read online; this also provides a growing record of our activities over recent years.

In the summer of 2022, the hosting company for our website introduced a new content management system and we (and all their customers) had to update our website to work with their new system. This required a significant amount of work and brought little direct benefit to us.

The website is an important communications tool. Comments and suggestions about the website are always welcome. Please look regularly at www.allsaintsth.org.uk – you might be pleasantly surprised by what you find.

Iain Stinson

22. Church Flowers

Thank you to everyone who has either arranged flowers or given a donation to the flower fund this year.

We are really short of volunteers to arrange flowers so if there is anyone who would like to have a go you don't have to be an expert- you just have to like flowers and there is always someone to give you a hand.

Margaret Gamble

23. ACF Report

Afternoon Meetings and Coffee Mornings

The afternoon meetings are held once a month at 2.15pm on the second Wednesday except August, and December (we have been holding a Christmas Lunch at 12.30 for the last two years). The coffee mornings are held on the fourth Wednesday of each month at 10.30am except August and December.

We have had another successful year of ACF holding 9 meetings with speakers, a strawberry tea in July and a Christmas lunch with carols in December. The average attendance over the year is 14 and this is increased to about 40 for our events in July and December which are ticketed events and members of the congregation are invited to join us.

We have had a varied programme of speakers that included topics such as the rescue of hedgehogs, Merseyside and Cheshire Blood Bikes and their important work with urgent supplies, and beekeeping. Our vicar, Revd Vicky Barrett talked us through some customs followed in Lent and an ACF member Margaret Crawford talked about her first year at Tabeetha School in Israel. We also supported the following local charities Tomorrow's Women Wirral, Christians against Poverty and Charles Thompson Mission.

We have a range of speakers booked in for 2024 that includes Wirral Foodbank, Wirral Wildlife, Autism Together and Flower arranging with Neston Flower Society. Each speaker receives £30 and we also have a collection on the day. Our three chosen charities for 2023 who have already received £100 will provide speakers for next year. They are:

- Emmaus
- Wirral Youth for Christ
- Wirral Hospice St Johns

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who helps out at these meetings and everybody's generosity to our speakers.

I have a regular band of refreshment helpers who organise serving tea and coffee, and then clearing up afterwards: I couldn't manage to run these events without your help so a huge "Thank You". I would like to thank Tim for helping out with the raffle and Alan who calls out the numbers as everyone eagerly awaits to see if they have won a prize. Thank you also goes to all the raffle prizes that are donated – wine and chocolates are always popular. A big thank you to Heather who has been making jams, marmalades, chutneys, delicious cakes, individual shepherd's pies and a variety of greetings cards for ACF and All Saints' Church for many years and has raised a huge amount of money. For this we are eternally grateful and it has allowed us to give money to many charities and also to support our Church. In 2023 we were able to donate £500 towards new noticeboards for the church which will be replaced in the not-too-distant future. Thank you also goes to Shirley for your lemon drizzle cake and any other bakers within the group.

Coffee mornings are always well attended and there is always plenty of chatter. We serve hot drinks and biscuits, and enjoy hot cross buns at Easter time. Thank you to ACF members who have supplied these and also mince pies at Christmas time. We also hold the raffle and have our sales table of home-made goods.

Helen Tankard

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of All Saints, Thornton Hough

Registered Charity number 1131417

End of Year Financial Statements

(Receipts & Payments)

Year ending December 31st 2023

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Financial review

Overall receipts in 2023 were £126,569, £14,654 more than in 2022. The total expenditure in 2023 was £127,046 and the expenditure exceeded the income by £476. In 2022 expenditure exceeded income by £24,540, this included paying for the boundary wall repair. The income for 2022 did not include the donations (£19,000) received in 2021 for this repair work. Taking this into account, the comparative deficit for 2022 would be £5,540.

At the end of the year the cash assets of the PCC were £49,297 (this excludes the value of investments and property); this is £477 less than at the end of 2022.

Total receipts of unrestricted funds were £125,142. Of this £48,367 was from giving through standing orders, weekly envelopes, and open plate collection and we received £6,759 in unrestricted grants and gifts.

We received £4,594 of designated funding, including a legacy of £4,500.

We recovered a total of £12,445 through the UK's Gift Aid schemes on qualifying gifts and donations.

Income from investments (Permanent Trust Income) was £20,942; this was 12.8% higher than the return received in 2022. At the end of December 2023, the value of the investments owned by the PCC was 0.08% lower than at the end of 2022.

The PCC's investments are controlled in partnership with the Diocese of Chester, the Diocese taking a role like that of a custodian trustee. The Diocese needs to support any resolutions made by the PCC about its investments; in some cases, The Charity Commission's permission may be required. The PCC has established an Investment Committee to monitor the performance of its investments and, should it deem necessary, make proposals about these to the PCC. If the PCC wished to take any such proposals forward, the PCC would have to pass a formal resolution setting out the actions to be taken. Any such resolution would be passed to the Diocese of Chester for review, approval, and implementation. The Diocese of Chester does not provide any financial advice to PCCs.

In September 2022, the PCC considered items of work which needed to be progressed, and its overall cash flow for the next couple of years. This showed than unless some additional income was available, there was a small risk that the PCC could run out of money. After careful consideration, the PCC passed a resolution to sell some of its investments (up to a value of £40,000 depending on the requirements for funds). As 2023 progressed, this decision was reviewed by the PCC and it was found that it was not necessary to sell any of its investments at that time.

There were some social activities during 2023; though their focus was not on raising funds, all of these (at least) broke even. The income from calendar sales and sponsorship was £1,455. The cost of producing the calendar was about £200 (for the 2024 edition) and so the net benefit from the 2024 edition of the calendar was around £1,255.

During 2023, donations towards the cost of the Magazine were £775 and revenue from advertisers, including some advanced payments for 2024, was £1,100. This approximately covers the cost of producing six editions of The Magazine during the year.

The rental for use of the Parish Hall by outside organisations generated £12,354 during 2023 (12% more than in 2022).

There were more weddings and funerals in church during the year and consequently the fees collected (£7,264) were significantly more than in 2022 (£4,057).

The Parish Share for 2023 was £71,756 (3% higher than in 2022) and was paid in regular monthly instalments to the Diocese. This meets the cost of clergy salaries, pensions, clergy housing and training; it also provides support for the Diocese of Chester and the central organisation of the Church of England.

Whilst the salary for the Vicar is met by the Diocese, the PCC pay the Council Tax and water charges for the vicarage and the expenses incurred by the vicar in carrying out her role in the parish.

The cost of maintenance of the churchyard and graveyard was £5,974. This is a little less than the 2022 cost which included some additional tree maintenance.

In 2023 the PCC spent £2,880 repairing the church driveway (the owner of "The Old Vicarage" paid a proportion of the cost). £617 was spend repairing the church heating system and £662 on servicing the church heating system and carrying out the statutory gas checks. (Two services were carried out in 2023, one in January was delayed from 2022.) Church roof repairs during the year cost £899 and the clock servicing cost £234. This work totalled £5,292.

The PCC spent £9,049 in 2023 for repairs to Hirst Cottage; most of this (£8,900) was for work carried out at the end of 2022 to address serious damp problems. Work has been started on repairing and repainting the outside woodwork at Hirst Cottage; when the work is completed payment will be made (in 2024).

The total cost of employing two staff, the Verger/Caretaker and the Director of Music, was £10,961 in 2023.

Although energy prices have risen dramatically during 2022, the church's gas and electricity contracts were set up for a period of three years before the prices started to rise: we shall only see the effect of increased costs after September 2024.

The PCC meets the day-to-day costs of running the parish from Unrestricted Funds (General Fund). The results for 2023 show that there is £25,767 in the General Fund (unrestricted) at the end of the year, £5,524 more than when the year began (27% more).

The Designated Funds available to the PCC are £19,200 (at the end of 2023). The PCC can use these designated funds to address some of the maintenance and development projects that need to be undertaken at All Saints'. The restricted funds held by the PCC amount to £4,329 (discounting the unrealised values of the Parish Hall and Hirst Cottage) and this must be used for the purposes specified by the donors of the money.

During the year the balance (£8,902) of the General Support Fund and Quinquennial Repair Fund have been used to meet the costs of some of the repairs.

There remain concerns about our being able to meet the costs which are incurred in sustaining our regular activities. The level of income being received from planned giving and open plate giving (plus the Gift Aid on this) is less than half of the total annual expenditure. With income from the investments slowly recovering, we have been dependent on one-off donations and grants to meet our costs. This has been the case for the last few years.

It is important that All Saints' increases its income so that we can meet our ongoing costs and obligations, and so that we are able to continue to support God's work in our parish.

The accounts

This financial report is produced under the Church of England guidance for PCCs (Church Accounting Regulations 2006) adopting the ***Receipts and Payments*** method provided for by the Church and The Charities Act (2011).

This report consists of pages numbered 1 to 14; pages 15 and 16 do not form a part of the formal report.

This report shows all the PCC's open bank accounts.

There may appear to be minor discrepancies in the totals in the reports as the pence are not shown.

All members of the PCC are Trustees of the registered charity.

Two PCC members (trustees), Mrs Margaret Gamble and Mr Iain Stinson are employees of the PCC. Mrs Gamble is the Verger/Caretaker and Mr Stinson is the Director of Music (posts they both held before first being elected or co-opted as PCC members). Neither Mrs Gamble nor Mr Stinson receive any payment for their roles as PCC Members (trustees).

No payments were made to PCC members for their role as a member of the PCC other than as minor reimbursements for items purchased.

These accounts have been prepared using Data Developments' Finance Coordinator (version 4.60) software package following the PCC's Accounting Policies which are appended to this report. They have been prepared on behalf of the PCC by Mr Iain Stinson who does not receive any payment for undertaking the duties of Honorary Treasurer.

The following assets are recognised but not valued in the accounts: moveable church furnishings held by the vicar and trustees on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal.

It is the PCC's policy to maintain a balance on unrestricted funds (whenever possible), which equates to approximately two months unrestricted payments, to meet cash flow requirements and to cover emergency situations that may arise from time to time.

The "Notes on the accounts" may be found on page 12 and 13.

Balance Sheet December 31st 2023

		As at 31/12/2023	As at 31/12/2022
Fixed assets			
(note 1)	6430: Church Hall	£350,000	£350,000
	6431: Hirst Cottage	£150,000	£150,000
(note 2)	6432: M&G Charibond	£143,765	£139,228
	6433: M&G Charifund	£199,815	£204,623
	Total Fixed assets	**£843,581**	**£843,851**
Current assets			
	6501: CAF Current A/c.545	£27,094	£20,662
	6502: CAF Restricted A/c.546	—	—
	6503: CAF Deposit A/c.274	£19,050	£18,701
(note 3)	6505: HSBC Current A/c.163	£1	£1
	6506: HSBC Current A/c.388	£3,267	£10,422
	Total Current assets	**£49,413**	**£49,786**
Liabilities			
(note 4)	6699: Agency collections	£117	£13
	Total Liabilities	**£117**	**£13**
	Net Asset surplus (deficit)	**£892,878**	**£893,625**
Reserves			
	Excess / (deficit) to date	(£476)	(£24,540)
	Z01: Starting balances	£893,625	£947,833
	Z02: Other gains/(losses)	(£270)	(£29,667)
	Total Reserves	**£892,878**	**£893,625**

Represented by Funds		
Unrestricted	£25,767	£20,243
Designated	£19,200	£25,779
Restricted	£504,329	£503,751
Endowment	£343,581	£343,851
Total	**£892,878**	**£893,625**

Statement of Assets and Liabilities as at December 31st 2023 (1 of 2)

Class and nominal code	General	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	Total	Last year
Fixed assets – Investments *(note 2)*						
6432 : M&G Charibond	—	—	—	£143,765	£143,765	£139,228
6433 : M&G Charifund	—	—	—	£199,815	£199,815	£204,623
Total	—	—	—	£343,581	£343,581	£343,851
Fixed assets - Tangible assets *(note 1)*						
6430 : Church Hall	—	—	£350,000	—	£350,000	£350,000
6431 : Hirst Cottage	—	—	£150,000	—	£150,000	£150,000
Total	—	—	£500,000	—	£500,000	£500,000
Current assets - Cash at bank and in hand						
6501 : CAF Current A/c.545	£9,917	£13,708	£3,468	—	£27,094	£20,662
6503 : CAF Deposit A/c.274	£12,581	£5,491	£978	—	£19,050	£18,701
6505 : HSBC Current A/c.163 *(note 3)*	£1	—	—	—	£1	£1
6506 : HSBC Current A/c.388	£3,267	—	—	—	£3,267	£10,422
Total	£25,767	£19,200	£4,446	—	£49,413	£49,786
Liabilities - Agency accounts						
6699 : Agency collections *(note 4)*	—	—	£117	—	£117	£13
Total	—	—	£117	—	£117	£13
Net total assets	£25,767	£19,200	£504,329	£343,581	£892,878	£893,625
Represented by						
Unrestricted - General	£25,767	—	—	—	£25,767	£20,243
Designated - ACF	—	£1,170	—	—	£1,170	£667
Designated - FeesHold	—	£590	—	—	£590	£390
Designated - GenSupport	—	£0	—	—	£0	£7,902
Designated - Hallimp	—	£2,400	—	—	£2,400	£2,400
Designated - Kitchen	—	£150	—	—	£150	£150
Designated - Legacies	—	£11,814	—	—	£11,814	£10,194
Designated - Quinquenn	—	—	—	—	—	£1,000
Designated - Roof	—	£2,515	—	—	£2,515	£2,515
Designated - VicarProj	—	£560	—	—	£560	£560
Restricted - ChoirFee	—	—	£320	—	£320	£200

Statement of Assets and Liabilities as at December 31st 2023 (2 of 2)

	General	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	Total	Last year
Represented by						
Restricted - RabyGrave	—	—	£1,185	—	£1,185	£1,085
Restricted – Choir Music	—	—	£603	—	£603	£599
Restricted - Hall	—	—	£350,000	—	£350,000	£350,000
Restricted - Flowers	—	—	£866	—	£866	£589
Restricted - Hirst	—	—	£150,000	—	£150,000	£150,000
Restricted - Organ	—	—	£755	—	£755	£677
Restricted - Taxi	—	—	£250	—	£250	£250
Restricted - Vicar	—	—	£350	—	£350	£350
Endowment - Charifund	—	—	—	£199,815	£199,815	£204,623
Endowment - Charibond	—	—	—	£143,765	£143,765	£139,228
Total	£25,767	£19,200	£504,329	£343,581	£892,878	£893,625

Statement of Financial Activities from January 1st 2023 to December 31st 2023

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Last year total funds
Income and endowments from:					
Donations and legacies	£71,048	£877	—	£71,925	£68,158
Income from charitable activities	£14,233	£550	—	£14,783	£8,407
Other trading activities	£13,931	—	—	£13,931	£12,813
Investments	£25,712	—	—	£25,712	£22,734
Other income	£217	—	—	£217	(£200)
Total income	**£125,142**	**£1,427**	**—**	**£126,569**	**£111,915**
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds	£3,622	—	—	£3,622	£4,139
Expenditure on charitable activities	£122,382	£848	—	£123,231	£132,119
Other expenditure	£193	—	—	£193	£195
Total expenditure	**£126,197**	**£848**	**—**	**£127,046**	**£136,455**
Gains / losses on investment assets	—	—	(£270)	(£270)	(£29,667)
Net income / (expenditure) resources before transfer	**(£1,055)**	**£578**	**(£270)**	**(£747)**	**(£54,207)**
Transfers (note 7)					
Gross transfers between funds - in	£3,180	—	—	£3,180	£5,911
Gross transfers between funds - out	(£3,180)	—	—	(£3,180)	(£5,911)
Other recognised gains / losses					
Net movement in funds	**(£1,055)**	**£578**	**(£270)**	**(£747)**	**(£54,207)**
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward	**£46,022**	**£503,751**	**£343,851**	**£893,625**	**£947,833**
Total funds carried forward	**£44,967**	**£504,329**	**£343,581**	**£892,878**	**£893,625**

Analysis of income and expenditure from January 1st 2023 to December 31st 2023

Income and endowments *(note 9)*	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Total This year	Total Last year
Donations and legacies					
1010 - Planned Giving SO	£32,495	—	—	£32,495	£30,398
1015 - Planned Giving Env.	£9,127	—	—	£9,127	£9,093
1020 - Gift Aid - Occasional	£1,120	—	—	£1,120	£1,020
1030 - Gift Aid - tax rebate	£11,325	—	—	£11,325	£11,078
1040 - Open Plate	£6,561	—	—	£6,561	£6,258
1060 - Wall Safe	£184	—	—	£184	—
1070 - Donations - Sundry	£5,606	£94	£877	£6,578	£9,274
1080 - Appeals - Donations	£33	—	—	£33	—
1090 - Legacies	—	£4,500	—	£4,500	—
1110 - Grants - non recurring	—	—	—	—	£1,035
Donations and legacies Totals	£66,453	£4,594	£877	£71,925	£68,158
Income from charitable activities					
1120 - Events and Activities	£1,301	£862	—	£2,163	£705
1121 - Mrs Hunnibuns	—	£77	—	£77	£72
1122 - Cots to Tots	£378	—	—	£378	£138
1150 - Choir - Wedding fees	—	—	£550	£550	—
1160 - Funerals - PCC	£5,250	—	—	£5,250	£2,557
1210 - Weddings - PCC	£1,814	£200	—	£2,014	£1,500
1240 - Fees for weddings and funerals	£2,493	—	—	£2,493	£2,075
1400 - Magazine subscriptions	£757	—	—	£757	£659
1402 - Magazine - adverts	£1,100	—	—	£1,100	£700
Income from charitable activities Totals	£13,094	£1,139	£550	£14,783	£8,407
Other trading activities					
1140 - Halls - rentals	£12,354	—	—	£12,354	£10,971
1300 - Printing / Copying (commercial)	£122	—	—	£122	£302
1410 - Calendar Income	£1,455	—	—	£1,455	£1,540
Other trading activities Totals	£13,931	—	—	£13,931	£12,813
Investments					
1130 - Hirst Cottage - Rent	£4,380	—	—	£4,380	£4,380
1500 - Permanent Trust Income	£20,942	—	—	£20,942	£18,259
1510 - Bank Interest	£389	—	—	£389	£95
Investments Totals	£25,712	—	—	£25,712	£22,734
Other income					
1600 - Advanced payment of fees	(£100)	£300	—	£200	(£200)
1650 - Other Ordinary Income	£17	—	—	£17	—
Other income Totals	(£83)	£300	—	£217	(£200)
Income and endowments Grand totals	£119,108	£6,034	£1,427	£126,569	£111,915

Analysis of income and expenditure from January 1st 2023 to December 31st 2023

(2 of 3)

Expenditure	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Total This year	Total Last year
Raising funds					
2400 - Hall - Consumables	£182	—	—	£182	£140
2410 - Hall - Electricity	£592	—	—	£592	£609
2415 - Hall - Gas	£807	—	—	£807	£801
2420 - Hall - Insurance	£1,013	—	—	£1,013	£896
2425 - Hall - Fire protection & safety	—	—	—	—	£104
2430 - Hall - Water charges	£157	—	—	£157	£140
2535 - Magazine & Bookstall	£127	—	—	£127	£27
3010 - Printing - Copier rental & copies	£740	—	—	£740	£1,418
Raising funds Totals	£3,622	—	—	£3,622	£4,139
Expenditure on charitable activities					
2000 - Parish Share	£71,756	—	—	£71,756	£69,666
2010 - Clergy and staff - expenses	£1,861	—	—	£1,861	£1,391
2015 - Clergy - locum costs	—	—	—	—	£44
2020 - Parsonage - Council Tax	£2,091	—	—	£2,091	£2,217
2035 - Parsonage - Water charges	£198	—	—	£198	£187
2100 - Church - Electricity	£1,108	—	—	£1,108	£994
2105 - Church - Gas	£2,200	—	—	£2,200	£1,840
2110 - Church - Water charges	£437	—	—	£437	£347
2115 - Church- Fire Protect. & Safety	£118	—	—	£118	£27
2120 - Church - Insurance	£2,352	—	—	£2,352	£2,192
2125 - Church - Cost of services	£404	—	—	£404	£2,107
2130 - IT & Web	£326	—	—	£326	£305
2200 - Church - Repairs	£681	£2,880	—	£3,561	£24,434
2201 - Church - Ad hoc/minor maint.	£834	—	—	£834	£350
2202 - Church - Maint. contracts	£896	—	—	£896	£210
2300 - Church Yard (Church Road)	£3,402	—	—	£3,402	£3,688
2310 - Grave Yard (Raby Road)	£2,572	—	—	£2,572	£2,500
2440 - Hall repairs/exterior	£706	—	—	£706	—
2445 - Hall repairs/interior	£323	—	—	£323	£1,193
2455 - Hirst Cottage - repairs	£147	£8,902	—	£9,049	£132
2460 - Property - upkeep	£345	—	—	£345	£509
2500 - Misson / Outreach	£482	—	—	£482	£371
2510 - Church Societies	£580	£200	—	£780	£530
2520 - Relief agencies	£550	—	—	£550	£1,035
2530 - Secular Societies	£305	£160	—	£465	£190
2605 - Music - costs	£127	—	£96	£223	£166
2611 - Fees paid out ***(note 8)***	£732	—	£430	£1,162	£725
2615 - Organ - tuning & maint.	—	—	£322	£322	£758
2620 - Organist - Locum organists	—	—	—	—	£134
2700 - Office - telephone	—	—	—	—	£70
2701 - Office - Broadband	£631	—	—	£631	£257
2710 - Office - consumables	£894	—	—	£894	£1,381

Analysis of income and expenditure from January 1st 2023 to December 31st 2023

(3 of 3)

				Total	
Expenditure	**Unrestricted**	**Designated**	**Restricted**	**This year**	**Last year**
3000 - Staffing Costs (Salaries)	£8,415	—	—	£8,415	£8,112
3002 - Tax & NIC payments	£2,546	—	—	£2,546	£2,452
3005 - Staffing fees	£1,728	—	—	£1,728	£1,295
3300 - Miscellaneous	—	£100	—	£100	£100
4002 - Costs of stewardship	£76	—	—	£76	£77
4003 - Costs of Fetes/events	£235	£69	—	£305	£123
Expenditure on charitable activities Totals	£110,070	£12,311	£848	£123,231	£132,119
Other expenditure					
4006 - Bank charges	£191	£1	—	£193	£195
Other expenditure Totals	£191	£1	—	£193	£195
Expenditure Grand totals	£113,884	£12,313	£848	£127,046	£136,455

Notes on the accounts

Note 1.
The Church Hall and Hirst Cottage are owned by the PCC and the valuation in the accounts was obtained some years ago. If the PCC wished to consider selling these assets, up to date valuations would need to be obtained.

Note 2.
The M&G Charibond and M&G Charifund investments are managed by the PCC in partnership with the Diocese of Chester for the PCC. The investments owned by the PCC are as follows:

Principal donor	**Specified purpose**	**Holding**	**Number of shares**	**Value 31 Dec 2023**
Leverhulme		M&G Charibond Inc	128,546.10	£139,228
		M&G Charifund Inc	13,645.03	£195,805
Lever	Churchyard maintenance	M&G Charifund Inc	264.01	£3,789
Fernie	Churchyard maintenance	M&G Charifund Inc	15.46	£222
Total value of investments				£343,581

The value of these investments was 0.08% (£270) less than their value at the end of 2022.

Note 3.
The HSBC bank account ending in 163 is used as a part of the standing order collection process and automatically transfers its contents, other than £1, into the HSBC bank account ending in 388 at the end of each month.

Note 4.
The PCC collects fees for weddings, funerals and cremation services on behalf of the Diocese. These fees are held separately from the church's funds and paid over to the Diocese each month. The liability shown is the amount of these fees in the PCC's bank accounts which will be paid over to the Diocese.

Note 5.
The ACF Fund holds money generated by the church's ACF group and is used to meet the costs associated with running the group and for donations the group may wish to make.

Note 6.
This Investment Income includes the rental for Hirst Cottage (£4,380), bank interest (£389) and receipts from the investments (*£20,942.62)*.

As well as the income from investments owned by the PCC, the investment income also includes income from a gift made in 1956 by Miss K.P. Fryer to the Diocese of Chester Board of Finance. The gift was made with a request that it be used for the benefit of All Saints' Thornton Hough and that a portion be used to provide a memorial in the Church to her parents. The Diocese of Chester Board of Finance holds 6,304.15 shares in the CBF Investment fund as the remaining part of this gift; the value of these shares at 31st December 2023 was £142,506.

The table below shows the income received from these investments during 2023.

Fund	**Income 2023**	**Yield**
M&G Charifund	£11,905.45	5.96%
M&G Charibond	£5,141.84	3.58%
CBF Investment fund	£3,895.33	2.73%
Total	***£20,942.62***	

Yield is defined as income during the year / value at the end of the year.

Note 7
The following funds transfers have taken place.

Transfer (Funds)	**Amount**	**Reason for transfer**
Legacies Fund to Build Fund	£2,880	Pay for repair work
Advance Fees Fund to General Fund	£300	Transferred when ceremony has taken place.
Total transfers	***£3,180***	

Note 8.
Fees received for the verger and organist for weddings and funerals, (and some grave digging fees) are recorded under code 1240. Payments from this income made to employees are recorded under code 3005 and to others under code 2611. Choir Wedding fees are received into a restricted fund and paid after the ceremony using code 2611.

Note 9.
In 2023, no income was received from endowments and no endowments were purchased.

Approval

Approved by the Trustees and signed on their behalf by:

Revd Vicky Barrett (Vicar)



Mr Alan W Splitt (Churchwarden)



Ms June Allcock (Churchwarden)



Date: 16th April 2024

Independent examiner's report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of All Saints, Thornton Hough (Registered Charity number 1131417) (the Trust) for the year ended 31st December 2023.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 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: N.J. Smith

Name: VERITY SMITH

Relevant professional qualifications or membership of relevant professional bodies (if any):

Address:. HOYLAKE, CH47 1HS

Date: 24.3.24

Appendix: Accounting Policies

Note: These are not a part of the formal Financial Report

1. Accounting

The financial statements are prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006, together with applicable accounting standards and the SORP 2005. The financial statements are prepared under the historical cost convention except for the valuation of investment assets, which are shown at market value. The accounts include transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC is held responsible in law. They do not include the accounts of church groups that owe an affiliation to another body nor those that are informal gatherings of church members.

2 Funds

Unrestricted funds are general funds which can be used for PCC ordinary purposes.

Restricted funds represent (a) income from trusts and endowments which may be expended only on those restricted objects provided in the terms of the trust or bequest, and (b) donations or grants received for a specific object or invited by the PCC for a specific object. The funds may only be expended on the specific object for which they were given. Any balance remaining unspent at the end of each year must be carried forward as a balance on that fund. The PCC does not usually invest separately for each fund.

Endowment funds are funds, the capital of which must be maintained; only income arising from investment of the endowment may be used either as restricted or unrestricted funds depending on the purpose for which the endowment was established.

3 Reserves Policy

It is the PCC's policy to maintain a balance of unrestricted funds (i.e. a balance of funds excluding restricted funds), whenever possible, which equates to approximately two months unrestricted payments, to meet cash flow requirements and to cover emergency situations that may arise from time to time. For the purpose of monitoring the reserves balance, the two months unrestricted payments will be deemed to one sixth of 90% of the budgeted expenditure of the current financial year.

4 Incoming Resources

Collections are recognised when received by or on behalf of the PCC. Planned giving receivable under Gift Aid is recognised only when received. Gift Aid recoverable on qualifying donations is recognised when the Gift Aid is received.

Legacies to the PCC are accounted for when the PCC receives them. Grants are recorded when received.

Rental income from the letting of Hirst Cottage is recognised when the rent is due. Income from Parish Hall rentals is recognised when the income is received.

Dividends and interest are accounted for when received. Tax recoverable on such income is recognised in the same accounting year as when claimed.

All other income is recorded when received.

Realised gains or losses are recognised when investments are sold. Unrealised gains or losses are accounted for on the revaluation of investments at 31 December.

Wherever practically possible all incoming resources are accounted for gross.

5 Resources Used

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

Salaries, pay, tax, NI, fees and exceptional expenditure are recognised in the accounts when they are due.

The Diocesan Parish Share is accounted for when due.

All other expenditure is generally recognised when it is incurred and, where practical, is accounted for gross.

Activities which involve regular and ongoing payments are handled through unrestricted funds. Where donations (and other income) are received to support a specific activity which involves regular and ongoing payments, these will be held in a restricted fund. Where funds are available, transfers will be made from the restricted fund to the unrestricted fund (from which the payments for the activity are made) as expenditure for that activity is incurred. Restricted funds do not go into deficit. Unexpended resources will remain in the restricted fund.

6 Fixed Assets

Consecrated land and beneficed property is excluded from the accounts by s.96(2)(a) of the Charities Act 1993. No value is placed on movable church furnishings which are held by the Churchwardens, on special trust for the PCC, and which require a faculty for disposal and which are inalienable property. All expenditure incurred during the year on consecrated or beneficed buildings and movable church furnishings, whether maintenance or improvement, is written off as expenditure in the SOFA and separately disclosed.

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

7 Payments to PCC Members

Expenses paid to the vicar may include a small immaterial proportion which relates to the vicar's function as a PCC member. No other payments are made to PCC members other than as reimbursements for items purchased.

Revised January 2020

Independent examiner's report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of All Saints, Thornton Hough (Registered Charity number 1131417) (the Trust) for the year ended 31st December 2023.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 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: N.J. Smith

Name: VERITY SMITH

Relevant professional qualifications or membership of relevant professional bodies (if any):

Address:. HOYLAKE, CH47 1HS

Date: 24.3.24

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ALL SAINTS THORNTON H

England & Wales - Charity number 1131417

Accounts

ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF
ALL SAINTS' THORNTON HOUGH
DIOCESE OF CHESTER

Charity Commission Number 1131417



ANNUAL REPORTS FOR 2022

All Saints' Parochial Church Council
The Parish Office, The Parish Hall, Church Road, Thornton Hough, Wirral, CH63 1JW

Part 1: Trustees' report to the Charity Commission

1. Aims and Purposes

Our aim is

'To promote the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical'

Our purpose as a church is to worship God through our regular services and through the fellowship of our loving community. We share the love of God with those around, serving the community and witnessing to others about the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.

All Saints' Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the legal responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish of Thornton Hough the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. The PCC is also specifically responsible for the maintenance of the church building and churchyards on Raby Road, and the Parish Hall on Church Road.

2. Objectives

Statement of Vision and Goals for 2017 to 2022

Vision

Our aspiration for All Saints' Church is:

- for God to be central in all that we do and in the lives of all our members
- to share the love of God with those around, serving the community and witnessing to others about the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Goals

1. **Spiritual Growth**
   To promote a deepening of love and spiritual growth.
   To develop and grow our knowledge through study of the Bible, through prayer and through teaching at our services and other events so that we are better able to apply the Bible's teaching in today's world.
2. **Mission**
   To share the good news about Jesus Christ with others so that they too may receive and enjoy the grace and blessings of God in their lives.
   To support others who also work to share the good news of Jesus Christ.
3. **Care for others in the church and in the community**
   To reach out to others and demonstrate his love in practical ways by caring for and serving others within the church and without, including all age groups, newcomers, and those in need.
4. **Worship**
   To use our talents to make our worship more meaningful.
   To ensure that our worship and events are worthy offerings to God, that they meet the needs of our existing members and are attractive and accessible to those outside the Christian community who are interested in what we do.
5. **Organisation**
   To promote the smooth running of the church we need to:
   - Devise and explore ways of involving more of our members in all aspects of running our church.
   - Ensure that we are using people's God given talents in the most effective way possible.
   - Generate sufficient income to balance the books.

6. **Communication**
   To improve our use of appropriate communication channels to support and enhance all of our activities at All Saints'.

3. 2022 Activities, Achievements and Performance

2022 marked a return to a full suite of services without any public health restrictions. We introduced some new events and activities during the year

- for young children and their carers,
- to encourage spiritual development,
- and to create new links with care homes.

Sunday Worship

Our regular pattern of Sunday worship is:

- an 8.00am service of Holy Communion using the Book of Common Prayer on the first and third Sunday of the month
- A service at 10.30am each Sunday, usually Holy Communion but occasionally a Morning Prayer service of The Word to mark a special occasion
- A choral service in the evening of the second Sunday of the month.

It has been good both to welcome new people to the congregation at all three services and to have old friends return.

The South Transept of the church has been set out with small tables and chairs for children's activities during the service at 10.30. There are a range of crafts, puzzles and colouring set out each week which relate directly to the day's readings as well as other toys. This has been well-received and continues to offer interest to younger visitors during the week.

The mean attendance at the 8.00 Holy Communion service for the year was 9. This service offers a valuable quiet space for people wishing to come to church at the very start of the day and has a very committed congregation.

The mean attendance at the 10.30 service was 38.

We continue to be grateful to all who assist with offering a cheerful welcome as part of the sidespeople team, and particularly to Pam Machin, Tim Allan-Price and Alan Splitt for their presence and oversight.

Festivals and Occasional Offices

We have been able to celebrate many special occasions together at All Saints' throughout the year.

We commenced Lent with a very moving Ash Wednesday Communion service which included the imposition of ashes. 23 people attended.

Our Mothering Sunday service was attended by 31. The Thornton Hough Rainbows and Brownies helped to create special cards for the occasion, which accompanied the gifts of pots of primulas. The Vicar took some of these to housebound ladies once she had recovered from Covid.

38 attended the Palm Sunday service, 14 came to our evening Communion service on Maundy Thursday, 19 came to our Good Friday meditation and 52 attended the services on Easter Day.

Our evening Communion service on Ascension Day (26th May) was attended by 15 people.

Whit Sunday, 5th June, coincided with the national celebrations for Her Majesty the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. There were 9 at the Holy Communion service at 8.00am, and 87 at a special Service of Thanksgiving at 10.30am. The choir sang an anthem especially composed for the occasion. Despite miserable weather, some hardy souls went from church to join in the festivities on the Village Green which followed the service.

The joy of commemorating the Queen's Jubilee was turned to sadness with the news of her death in September. We placed a Book of Condolence in church for all in the community to sign and said special prayers for her and for all the Royal Family in our services on 11th September.

Our Harvest Week began on Sunday, 18th September, concluding on 25th September with a Harvest Thanksgiving service attended by 49 people, followed by a splendid and joyous Harvest Lunch in the Parish Hall. We invited donations for the Wirral Foodbank during the week and the Vicar took 184.20kgs of goods to their warehouse in response to the appeal.

We were delighted to welcome the Bishop of Chester, Mark Tanner, to Choral Evensong on 9th October. He enjoyed meeting people at a special tea before the service and the congregation enjoyed his thoughtful sermon.

We marked All Saints' Day, our patronal festival, on 30th October. 46 people attended. We held our Service for the Faithful Departed in the afternoon, at which all families who have lost a loved one in the past year are particularly invited to attend. We welcomed 71 people. Families continue to value this event, with the simple candle-lighting to remember each person, hymns, prayers and choral music.

Remembrance Sunday was on 13th November this year. We made an Act of Remembrance as part of our morning service at 11.00 with 40 in attendance. Amongst the commemorative decorations in church were poems and poppy wreath collages created by the Thornton Hough Rainbows, Brownies and Guides. The afternoon Civic service, with the procession led by the Port Sunlight Silver Band, began with a gathering for an Act of Remembrance by the village War Memorial and then processed to church for the service. 94 people came.

Advent began on 27th November with a special service of seasonal readings and music led by the choir. 49 people attended.

We held a special Christingle service at 4pm on 11th December, raising money and awareness for the work of The Children's Society. It was attended by 61 people.

The Service of Readings and Carols for Christmas took place on 18th December, with 114 people. We followed the service with festive mince pies and wine in the Parish Hall.

The "Midnight" service of Communion on Christmas Eve proved to be very popular this year – so much so that we ran out of service sheets. 69 people came on this crisp, starry night to welcome the coming of the Christ-child. The 10.30am service on Christmas Day, our final service of 2022, was attended by 37 people.

Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals

We welcomed 9 people into the church family through baptism in 2022. We celebrated a wedding blessing which also included a family baptism.

5 weddings were solemnized at All Saints' in 2022.

There were 9 funerals in church and 4 burials of ashes.

Regular Midweek Worship and Fellowship at Care Homes

Our Wednesday Holy Communion service offers a more informal service followed by hot drinks and refreshments in church. The mean number of attendees was 8.

Rev Vicky has been able to visit Westwood Hall Care Home on a monthly basis to sing hymns and pray with residents and some family members. Many of those attending the service have been there since before Covid and the group has become a very well-established fellowship group within the home. There have been between 12 and 15 people at each session.

A new monthly programme of visits to sing and pray with residents at Elderhome on the Clatterbridge Hospital campus in partnership with Rev Eunice Blackmore from Christ Church, Higher Bebington, began in September. Numbers attending have risen to 10 with the arrival of a new Activities Co-ordinator.

The Vicar, Director of Music and some members of the choir were able to sing Christmas Carols with residents at Brimstage Manor Care Home in December. This is the first time we have been able to return to the Home since Covid struck. It is hoped that this marks the beginning of further fresh links with the home.

Children and Families

Sunday children's activities have consisted of focused craft and colouring activities provided in church to enable children to enjoy a more "hands-on" response to the Bible readings and themes of the day's service.

Toybox, our new group for babies and toddlers with their carers gave us an opportunity to share the real Christmas story with them.

Rev Vicky continues to work with the staff and pupils at Thornton Hough Village Primary School. She has attended assemblies and taught three afternoon sessions for Year 4 children on The Bible in June. Key Stage 1 children have learned more about churches with a visit to All Saints' led by Margaret Gamble. The pupils and parents of Year 6 came to church for a very moving Leavers' Service in July and the whole school came for a Christmas service at the end of term in December. Her role as a Governor continues.

Pastoral Care

The Prayer and Pastoral Care group continues to share concerns and prayer points about individuals on a confidential basis via email and telephone. The Vicar has been visiting housebound individuals and some resident in care homes to offer home communion. Other members of the congregation visit housebound individuals on a social basis.

Lenten Meditations

We had a series of reflections which enabled people to use responses to pictures, words and music this year. We began with an invitation to "Come to the Table" by looking at Rublev's Icon and shared a short Holy Communion service together at the end. Our second meeting was led by Caroline Lancelyn-Green, and the final one was led by Iain Stinson.

Pilgrim

We began following a six-week module from the Church of England's Pilgrim Course on The Lord's Prayer in September. The sessions took place at the Vicarage, accompanied by tea and cake. The pattern of short video and audio reflections, discussion starters and Bible meditations encouraged people from different parts of the parish and congregations to come and participate. Although not everyone could come to each session, between 9 and 12 people attended through the course and said that they enjoyed the informal, open-ended discussions. No prior reading or knowledge was needed, and conversations were wide-ranging and thoughtful.

Pilgrims will be encouraged to join in another module of the course in 2023.

Revd Vicky Barrett

4. Governance and PCC Membership

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 Registered Charity.

The appointment of PCC members is governed by and set out in the Church Representation Rules (2020). The PCC at All Saints' consists of: the incumbent (our Vicar), the Churchwardens, elected representatives to the Deanery Synod and elected lay representatives.

In 2022 the PCC membership and Standing Committee membership was as follows

Elected Members of the Laity		Other Members	
Mrs L Arch	From June 2022	Revd. V Barrett*	Vicar (Chairman)
Mrs P Baker	From June 2022	Dr P Machin*	Churchwarden
Mrs M Gamble		Mr A Splitt*	Churchwarden From May 2021
Mrs D Hughes*		Dr E Macbeath	Deanery Synod representative
Mrs L Russell		Mr G Allan Price	Deanery Synod representative
Mr R Singleton	From June 2022	Mrs S Stinson* (PCC Secretary)	Deanery Synod representative
Mr I Stinson* (PCC Treasurer)			
Mrs Helen Tankard		** Members of the Standing Committee*	

Members were also elected to the sub committees dealing with Finance, Fabric and Health and Safety, Remuneration and Three Churches Together. The committees exist to discuss and, for more major issues, make recommendations, which are then taken to the full PCC.

In 2022 PCC meetings were held on 8th February, 15th March, 5th April, 24th May, 6th June, 12th July, 13th September, 11th October, 8th November and 6th December.

The Standing Committee met on 30th August in 2022.

The Annual Meeting was held on 15th June 2022.

5. Safeguarding

The PCC has complied with the duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Measure 2016 (duty to have regard to House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding and vulnerable adults). (Church Representation Rules 2020 p76)

6. Activities of the PCC in 2022

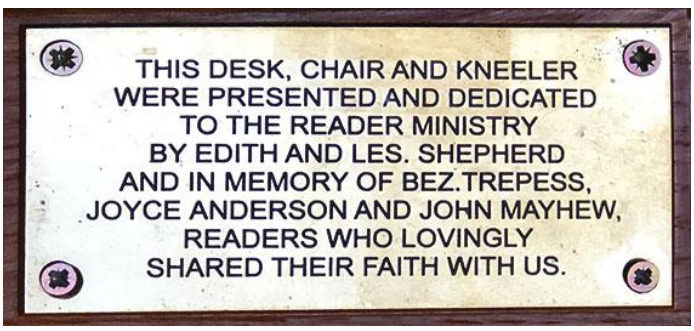
At the beginning of the year 2022 the PCC heard that positive progress was being made towards repairing the boundary wall which had collapsed some months previously. Once permission had been granted by the local council the work could proceed.

On a more celebratory note, the PCC looked forward to the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in June. As part of the celebrations a sculptural bronze porch with ceremonial glass doors for the west end of Chester Cathedral was to be unveiled. This was welcomed by the PCC and we discussed the photographs that we could submit '*of a significant and meaningful element from your church'* to be encapsulated in the glass within the artwork. The photographs etched in the glass provided a way of linking all the churches in Chester Diocese together. A section of the west window was submitted and has now become part of the design on the doors.

At a more local level we discussed a Thanksgiving Service for Queen Elizabeth II and our desire to work with the community and take part in the village celebrations.

Throughout the year regular reports on the Finances, Safeguarding, Health, Safety and Fabric, the Electoral Roll and Deanery Synod meetings were brought to the PCC and discussed. Dangerous trees, tarmac, remedial work at Hirst Cottage and new noticeboards for the church were regularly on the agenda. Maintenance on the church and in the graveyards was brought to the attention of the PCC and faculties were applied for when needed.

Permission to affix a small plaque on the readers' desk, chair and kneeler donated to the church by Edith and Les Shepherd (in memory of Bez. Trepess, Joyce Anderson and John Mayhew), was discussed and a faculty was applied for and granted. The items are in regular use in the church and much appreciated by the congregation.



In February we heard about '*Living in Love and Faith'*, a national initiative by the Church of England which was launched in November 2020. As a church we need to be

respectful of others and to bear in mind the fundamental Pastoral Principles. Everyone should feel welcome in the church.

Following on from that we noted that our Vision Statement for the five years from 2017 to 2022 was coming to an end and we needed to start looking to the future. This was picked up again later in the year and the meetings in April, June and July gave the PCC an opportunity to discuss this, to reflect on what we do well and put forward their ideas on our future direction. Many good ideas came out of this, some of which we have already acted on. These discussions continue as we look ahead and plan our way forward.

The Pastoral Principles were discussed again during the June meeting. It is good to have diversity in the PCC and the church but sometimes tensions can arise, and we need to learn to work together if that happens.

In July we heard about the Pilgrim Course and discussed how this could be introduced and publicised. We also considered how we should celebrate Harvest.

During the year the Church Architect, Mark Pearce, resigned and the PCC members were involved in the appointment process. In July they voted to appoint Jennifer Chambers as the new Church Architect.

The Standing Committee met in August to discuss the financial situation. This was reported to the PCC in September. At that time the deficit on the General Fund was running at about £1,893 per month and it was predicted that we could breach our reserves target by the end of the year and by March 2023 the General Fund could negative.

The PCC passed two resolutions in September

1. By the middle of November, sell shares/units in investments to realise £40,000 to improve our current financial position, to support the work of our church and meet our responsibilities, including carrying out the essential work on Hirst Cottage.
2. Standing Committee will review the details of the proposed sale and if appropriate approve this on behalf of the PCC

In October the financial situation in the country was in turmoil and it was not a good time to sell. It was agreed that we needed to think carefully when we do sell, and the PCC passed the resolution to:

- Change the date in Resolution 1 [above] to the middle of March.

It was reported that the Bishop's visit had been very successful. Bishop Mark had felt very welcome and had enjoyed Choral Evensong.

In October and November we discussed the plans for Advent and Christmas (including sending out Christmas cards to people in the parish), the new pew Bibles and the need for a new church noticeboard.

One of the main points of discussion in November was which charities the church should support this year. The PCC members were asked for suggestions and voted for their preferred options.

It was agreed that the charities we support in 2022 should be

- Wirral Ark £200 https://wirralark.org.uk/
- Maggies £200 https://www.maggies.org/
- Shelter £200 https://www.shelter.org.uk
- Church Mission Society £200 https://churchmissionsociety.org
- Charles Thompson Mission £200 https://charlesthompsonsmission.org.uk
- Liverpool Seafarers £200 http://liverpoolseafarerscentre.org

The main focus for the December meeting was the end of year financial report for 2022 and the budget for 2023.

The Remuneration Committee had been discussing the remuneration of the employees and the fees paid and their recommendations were put to the PCC.

The Remuneration Committee recommended the following fees for 2023:

Fees for Weddings and Funerals

These are paid by those "using the service".

	Weddings			**Funerals**		
	Verger	**Organist**	**Heating**	**Verger**	**Organist**	**Heating**
Current 2022	£70.00	£110.00	£30.00	£45.00	£70.00	£20.00
Recommended 2023	**£75.00**	**£115.00**	**£35.00**	**£48.00**	**£73.00**	**£30.00**

The Verger, the Director of Music and his wife withdrew while the PCC discussed all the recommendations and accepted them.

Sue Stinson (PCC Secretary)

7. Charity Information

Contact details	All Saints PCC, The Parish Office, The Parish Hall Church Road Thornton Hough, Wirral, CH63 1JW	
	www.allsaintsth.org.uk	0151 245 4986
Church of England Diocese	Chester	
Charity Registration Number	1131417	

Part 2: Reports from the PCC

8. Electoral Roll Report

On 1st January 2022 there were 93 names on the Electoral Roll, 53% resident, 47% non-resident.
At the Annual Meeting it was reported that there were 95 and on 31st December there were 93.

9. Fabric, Goods and Ornaments

The Fabric, Health and Safety (FHS) Committee co-ordinates works to the church buildings and grounds, focusing on maintenance, refurbishment and Health and Safety concerns. Graham Tongue has spearheaded the team, offering insight and support even after his departure for his new home in rural Oxfordshire. We continue to be most grateful for his assistance.

Our Church Architect, Mark Pearce resigned from his position following the successful completion of the reconstruction of the collapsed church wall on Church Road. Graham Tongue, Alan Splitt and the Vicar interviewed two candidates for the role and Jennifer Chambers, an architect from Tattenhall, Cheshire, accepted the invitation to be our new Church Architect. She has an interest in building conservation and particularly Victorian architecture and family connections to the Wirral. She is also a member of the Chester Diocesan Advisory Committee, which oversees and approves church building and fabric developments.

We received the final completed Faculty Approval for the work on the wall and also for a plaque for the Reader's Desk in October 2022. This process has taken a very long time and it was with much joy and not a little relief that Les Shepherd was able to put in place the small brass plaque to commemorate the lives and care of those Readers who have helped encourage members of the congregation in their faith over the years.

Pam Machin has continued to maintain the Church Log Book to ensure that all the maintenance records and details of works completed are in good order.

It was gratifying that Bishop Mark commented on the well-kept appearance of All Saints' Church when he came to Evensong in October.

There are many maintenance tasks which continue to be carried out by individuals: thanks go to Brian Morris for his care in repainting the edges of the steps into the churchyard, to Scirard Lancelyn-Green for work on the lights both in church and in the church grounds, to Iain Stinson for his monitoring of the boilers and to Margaret and Victor Gamble for their time and care in "going the extra mile" in keeping the whole church precinct and interior clean, safe and secure.

Revd Vicky Barrett

9A. Church

Maintenance of the roof and rainwater goods has continued to be a significant part of the works on the building. Routine maintenance has been carried out and an electrical inspection has been undertaken.

Revd Vicky Barrett

9B. Church grounds

The large stump from the holm oak tree and its roots were ground out prior to the wall on Church Road being repaired.

We have approached several contractors to repair the tarmac at the entry to the church drive, however we continue to wait for their quotations.

The contractors for maintaining the churchyard grass and shrubs have continued to keep the precinct looking tidy, despite challenging weather conditions which meant that the grass continued to grow well into November after the dry summer. The gardener for the Raby Road graveyard has also been working on levelling and re-seeding areas where the ground has sunk and is sowing wildflower seeds in a border to enhance the area to the left as you enter the graveyard.

Revd Vicky Barrett

9C. Parish Hall and Hirst Cottage

Routine servicing of boilers and safety checks have been undertaken. Replacement emergency lighting was fitted in the Parish Hall in response to the electrical inspection.

Significant works to tackle damp and improve insulation in the ground floor of Hirst Cottage were completed in December, along with a replacement window.

Revd Vicky Barrett

10. Wirral South Deanery Synod Report

Regular meetings of the Deanery Synod resumed again in 2022.

The first meeting was on Wednesday 23rd February at St Mary's Church, Eastham. Vanessa Layfield, the Engagement and Inclusion Advisor in our diocese gave a general overview and invited questions and comments on 'Living in Love and Faith'.

The next meeting was on Wednesday 25th May, at St Thomas & All Saints' Church, Ellesmere Port. The main item was 'Healing Ministry' led by Fr Timothy Hupfield (the Chester Diocesan Healing Adviser).

During the year Chester Diocese sponsored a number of events to consider how local churches can encourage people to live out their faith in everyday life. The event for Wirral South Deanery and Frodsham Deanery was on 6th October at St Paul's Church, Helsby.

The final meeting took the form of a Vision Café (with a fish and chip supper) on 26th October. We met in the Church Centre at the Chapel of the Holy Spirit, Eastham.

The meeting was part of the 'Casting the net wide' consultation launched by Bishop Mark to establish a collective vision for the diocese. It was hosted by Harriet Roberts, Director of Development (Vision & Strategy) in Chester Diocese.

The Diocesan website explained that: 'A Vision Cafe is an inspiring drop-in event to share ideas in a fun, creative way'. There were many interactive activities and the ideas shared were reported back to the parishes afterwards.

Sue Stinson
Wirral South Deanery Synod Rep

The Trustees' report to the Charity Commission was approved by the PCC on 7th February 2023.

Part 3: Reports on activities

11. Worship, Prayer and Pastoral Care
Report of the Vicar



"With God's help."

2022 has been the first full year in which we have been able to gather without restriction since 2019. With God's help and the enthusiasm, generosity and commitment of many people, there are signs of growth in our church: in terms of numbers, new groups beginning, and new enquiries for baptisms and weddings.

We are growing as learners about our faith and how we learn. We had three Lenten talks which were designed to appeal to different interests: art, literature and music. As well as the joyous celebration of Mothering Sunday with families and gifts in the morning, we also had a quiet, reflective service in the afternoon for those who find this day difficult. The Pilgrim course exploring The Lord's Prayer used a range of features to encourage us to respond: short video and audio presentations, discussion, and using the Lectio Divina method of reflecting on a Bible passage.

Our Harvest celebrations in October garnered an impressive quantity of gifts for Wirral Foodbank and concluded with a delightful lunch in the Parish Hall. The decoration of the window sills in church by individuals giving thanks to God for a particular aspect of their life was a new way for people to offer worship in a creative way.

The steady rhythm of Holy Communion using the traditional language of the Book of Common Prayer at 8.00 am on 1st and 3rd Sundays each month and at Evensong makes a connection with generations of Christians who have gone before us who have celebrated these services in the same way. Our evening choral services have become a feature on the second Sunday of most months. It was a particular joy to welcome Bishop Mark Tanner to Choral Evensong in October. Our service of Readings and Carols using passages from the Authorised Version of the Bible recounted the Christmas story afresh to families young and old.

We have developed a suite of seasonal orders of service for Holy Communion at our 10.30 services so that the particular themes and tone of periods such as Lent and the lengthy run of Ordinary Time can be marked and the liturgy used has greater variety. Our choir continues to enrich our worship by supporting congregational singing and through anthems and in special services such as our Hymns and Readings for Passiontide and Advent.

It is good to see people joining the welcoming team of sidespeople, the rota of readers, those who make refreshments after the service and those who brighten our church with


We plough the fields and scatter the good seed on the land
Harvest
Thanksgiving
2022

flowers. These activities also enhance our capacity to worship and enable us to grow in fellowship together.

Two new ventures have commenced this year. Toybox, our monthly group for young children and their carers, has proved to be a great success. The sight of children entering the Parish Hall and looking excitedly at the varied array of toys and puzzles, learning to play and sit to eat together accompanied by the buzz of conversations amongst their parents and carers, has been a delight. Sue Stinson has ably led her team to establish a very happy group.

A new worship group has been established at Elderhome. The residents enjoy singing and provide cheer to other staff and residents along the corridors.

As well as sharing many joys through the year, we have also accompanied families in the sorrow of losing a loved one. Our joy at marking Her Majesty the Queen's Platinum Jubilee was turned to sadness and thanksgiving as we opened a Book of Condolence for people to sign after her death in September. We held our annual service for the Faithful Departed in October. We remember especially Brian Jenkins, Charles Elphick, Anne McTigue, her daughter Janet Green, Don Colley and Maria Bland, who passed away in the course of the year.





Relationships with younger people have been maintained through the Vicar's visits to the Thornton Hough Rainbows, Brownies and Guides and school liaison. The Rainbows and Brownies created Mothering Sunday greeting cards and the Guides and Brownies devised some striking descriptive writing and wreaths which were used to decorate the church as part of our acts of remembrance.

Pupils, parents and staff have come to church to mark Easter, Year 6 Leavers and Christmas in 2022, and the Vicar has been able to teach Year 4 children about the Bible again. They responded through discussion, drama and some written work.

The Vicar has continued to visit the housebound to offer prayer and Holy Communion at home. Members of the congregation have also extended their friendship through visits and regular prayer. The Vicar also completed a Mental Health First Aid training course in September.

Heartfelt thanks go out to everyone for their part in the life of All Saints' church this year. The continued support, prayer and hard work of churchwardens Pam Machin and Alan Splitt, Margaret Gamble, Iain and Sue Stinson and the ever-watchful, willing presence of Tim Allan-Price are invaluable.

With God's help, we look forward to the next chapter in the life of All Saints' Parish Church.

Revd Vicky Barrett

Report of the Churchwardens

This year Pamela Machin and Alan Splitt were elected as churchwardens for 2022-23 by the parishioners at the church AGM (2022) and later sworn into office at an Archdeacon's Visitation service in Ellesmere Port.

Both churchwardens have completed their basic Safeguarding Training.

It has been good this last year that our church has been able to remain open for all our services and we have gradually removed most of the Covid restrictions. The sidespeople have been most helpful to us in the services and it has been good to see some more of our congregation volunteering to take further parts. Of course, due advice and assistance has been given by us to the 'newbies' in this respect.

We still meet with our Vicar about every three weeks – as well as at services – to keep up with matters of importance to the church and the church family. By the way it has also been good to see many of the sidespeople helping us by helping the Vicar at communions.

The Terrier, Inventory and Log-book have been kept up to date and suitable faculties have been acquired for any change or additions. We particularly mention the new plaque on the Readers Desk/Seat which names some of those Readers who have put much into this church and parish. The moveable furniture and ornaments are in good order.

Perhaps we should mention here what churchwardens are? Although elected by our parishioners we are actually officers of the bishop and it is our duty, on the Bishop's or Archdeacon's Visitation, at the end of our year of office, to answer such questions as may be put to us about the state of the parish, and report whatever may be amiss. We will be glad to say nothing (or very little) this year, apart from the fact that it has been a pleasure to assist our Vicar.

Please note that we are readily approachable by any of our parishioners if they have church related concerns.

Pamela Machin and Alan Splitt
Churchwardens

Verger's Report

There were 5 weddings, 9 funeral services and 4 interments of ashes in 2022. The Verger was present at most of these, handing out service booklets and making sure all was in order at the back of the church.

Parish Hall

Thank you especially to Gill Woods (Stepping Out), Weight Watchers, Thornton Hough Fishing Club and Birkenhead North Cycling Club for their support over the last twelve months.

We were able to have the ACF meetings, Coffee Mornings, Coffee after the Sunday Morning services, Harvest Lunch, Tea with Bishop Mark and a new venture Toybox in the Parish Hall. All of these were well supported.

Margaret Gamble
Verger

12.Safeguarding

We continue to give high priority to Safeguarding at All Saints Thornton Hough. Posters are on display in Church and the Parish Hall, giving current local and Diocesan safeguarding contact details. In addition, safeguarding information can be easily found on our website. Safeguarding is an agenda item at all PCC meetings.

During the last year, no new DBS checks were required, but 4 DBS renewals have been processed successfully. It is now necessary for DBS checks to be renewed every 3 years.

Similarly, safeguarding training courses should be repeated after 3 years. For this reason, I have personally completed 3 different online safeguarding training course and I am pleased to report that a steady stream of parishioners with a range of roles within All Saints have been completing the online Basic Awareness safeguarding training course. This course is very user-friendly and is recommended for all parishioners, not only those with a designated safeguarding role. A link is on our All Saints' website.

In my last annual report, I mentioned that Revd Vicky Barrett and I had been in discussion with the Diocese of Chester about safeguarding training for those who have a strong preference for "face-to-face" (in-person) learning. Towards the end of the year, these courses were starting up within the Diocese.

Linda M Arch
Parish Safeguarding Officer

13. Families ministries

Children in church

The South Transept of the church has been set out with small tables and chairs for children's activities during the service at 10.30. There are a range of crafts, puzzles and colouring put out each week which relate directly to the day's readings as well as other toys. This has been well-received and continues to offer interest to younger visitors during the week.

Toybox

In September 2022 we launched Toybox, our group for babies and toddlers with their carers (parents, grandparents, nannies etc). After periods of lockdown and reduced social interaction this was welcomed by the local community and the sessions were well attended.

We meet from 10am to 11:30am on the second Monday of each month. After a period of free play, while the carers chat, the children sit down for a snack and then a craft activity. The sessions end with a story and singing.

It has been lovely to see friendships forming and the children enjoying themselves. A huge thank you to Vicky and all the other helpers for making Toybox a success.

Sue Stinson
Toybox coordinator

14. Choir and music

During 2022, the choir has continued to help lead the worship at our services. At the end of 2022, there were ten (eleven with the Vicar) regular members the choir: five sopranos (six with the Vicar), two altos and three basses. Our tenor, Brian Jenkins, sadly died in July and, although he had not been able to sing regularly for some time, he is greatly missed. We are thankful for his long and faithful service to All Saints', latterly as a chorister but also as organist and choirmaster in earlier times.

Although services have continued on each Sunday in 2022, there have been occasions where illness, (Covid-19 and other "seasonal" illness) have reduced the number of choristers able to take part in the service. I was absent due to a Covid-19 infection for the end of Holy Week and Easter Day. The choir did a grand job of leading the worship using recorded accompaniments, and continued to provide a firm lead when the sound system failed and the carefully recorded music could not be heard!

Evening Services (usually on the first Sunday of the month) have continued during the year – we try to make these a little more "choral" with settings of the responses and canticles, anthems and congregational hymns. Bishop Mark (Bishop of Chester) joined us for the October service of Choral Evensong.

As well as the regular Sunday services, the choir lead the Passiontide service of readings and music (using parts of Bob Chilcott's St John Passion), the service of Readings and Music for Advent and the Christmas Carol Service. We were joined by two tenors, Tim Barrett and Brian Moate, and two sopranos (Ann Hughes and Pat Moate) for the Christmas Carol service. This service included two new carols, one by Bob Chilcottt and another by Peter Nardone. For the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Service in June, we sang the special anthem composed for the occasion – "In Our Service" (words and music by Thomas Hewitt Jones taking inspiration from speeches by HM The Queen). Sadly a few months later, on September 18th we sang for our service giving thanks for the life of HM Queen Elizabeth II.

I would like to thank all members of the choir for their support, commitment and patience (with me); without the active participation of each chorister, our ability to lead the worship at All Saints' Church would be significantly reduced. I would particularly like to thank Val Splitt, ably assisted by Alan, for all her work as our music librarian.

If you are interested in being in the choir, please get in touch. We practise for about an hour each Friday evening and sing each Sunday at the 10:30am service (and once a month at 6:30pm). The choir is a great place to share and enjoy fellowship.

Iain Stinson
Director of Music

15. Bible Study Group

We were pleased to be able to meet up again from March 2022.
We continue to meet on the second Sunday of the month in members' homes. We are a small, friendly group and anyone who would like to join us as we continue studying Acts from the book by John Stott would be most welcome.

Shirley McEvoy

16. Events

Many things had been put on hold during the Covid lockdowns and, as the year progressed, people welcomed the opportunity to meet up again socially. The ACF Coffee Mornings have returned as a regular monthly social event.

The Harvest Lunch in September was very much enjoyed by all who attended. This was followed by a tea in October to welcome the Bishop of Chester, Mark Tanner, when he came to be with us for Choral evensong. It was his first visit to the parish and the congregation welcomed the opportunity to meet him and tell him about All Saints' Church.

In November the church hosted the Service of Remembrance for the local community and afterwards the Brownies took over the Parish Hall and served tea.

In December we got together for the ACF Christmas Lunch; we had sandwiches, a mince pie and cake then sang Christmas Carols.

Finally, we celebrated the coming of Christmas with (more) mince pies and wine (or tea and coffee) after a well-attended carol service.

Our thanks go to Margaret Gamble, Vicky Barrett, the Brownies and all the others who helped to cater for these events and make them a success.



The Vicar with the Bishop of Chester


The
Harvest
Lunch

Practical Ministries

17. Parish magazine

The editors, Brian Morris, Iain Stinson, Patsy Baker and Revd Vicky Barrett have tried to produce a magazine which is interesting and informative to its readers and especially to members of the parish. We have kept the parishioners informed of what is happening at our church through the events page, the diary and articles written on church life. At the same time, we have brought everyday stories from individuals about events which have happened in their lifetime and of interest. Our thanks go to regular and occasional contributors who make the magazine so interesting. We hope that the readers gain comfort and enjoyment from the articles in the magazine.

During 2022 six editions of the magazine were printed and circulated as in previous years and placed on the website.

We have continued to receive many complimentary comments from those who have enjoyed not only the content but also the format we have used. The magazine is distributed free to anybody who wishes to have a copy, but we do ask for a donation towards the cost of printing. We are indebted to our advertisers and to the voluntary donations given by our readers which meet most of the cost of producing the magazine. The printing and co-ordinating the distribution is done by Margaret Gamble and we are indebted to her for continuing with this task as she has done for many years. Our thanks also go to the distributers who deliver the magazines.

We feel it is important that the magazine continues to bring to the attention of the parishioners the various articles, events, quizzes and stories in paper form as not everybody has a computer for the online version. 220 copies of the magazine are printed every two months and are distributed to homes in Thornton Hough, Raby Mere, Brimstage and Raby. Magazines are also posted to homes outside the parish: to Heswall, Neston, Oxton, Willaston, Chester, Port Sunlight, and as far afield as Evershot, Hornby (near Lancaster) and Broadstone (in Dorset). Our editorial team welcomes contributions, so if you have a story or know of an event which you feel might be of interest please send it to us for consideration with all the other articles.

The Editors

18.2023 Thornton Hough Calendar

Following the successful previous calendars, a 2023 Thornton Hough Calendar was produced and printed with thanks to the support provided by Sue and Iain Stinson. Contributions of photographs of our beautiful village and neighbourhood were requested via the pulpit and through the bi-monthly magazine. After much deliberation, Revd Vicky and I selected twelve photographs from a large group depicting views of our beautiful parish at different times in the year. Once again over 200 copies were printed and sent to many parts of the country and far-off lands.

We were indebted to 12 local businesses and companies who each sponsored a month thus covering the printing costs and to those people who sold the calendars to friends and relatives. Thanks must also go to Margaret Gamble who once again sold many calendars to friends and family. We are delighted to report that the calendars made a handsome profit of £1,325 for church funds. We look forward to producing another calendar for 2024 so we hope that many new and old photos will come to light during the Spring and Summer of 2023 and sent to us for consideration.

Brian Morris on behalf of the Calendar team

19. Website report

The church website provides information about our church, contact details and includes a calendar of services and events taking place at All Saints'. We announce any last-minute changes to planned events and services on our home page. We publish copies of The Magazine on the website for those who prefer to read online; this also provides a growing record of our activities over recent years.

The website is an important communications tool. Comments and suggestions about the website are always welcome.

Please look regularly at www.allsaintsth.org.uk – you might be pleasantly surprised by what you find.

Iain Stinson

20. Church Flowers

Margaret Gamble has set up a rota for flower arranging and for people to donate money to help with the purchase of flowers in remembrance of loved ones or special anniversaries. She has used seasonal flowers from the family's allotment to create displays and helped new volunteers build up skills and confidence. More people have signed up to join the rota and discovered new talents and friendships by "buddying up" to get started – more helpers would be very welcome. There are funds available to help buy flowers. Very many thanks to Margaret and all those who have helped make the church look so beautiful.

21. ACF Report

Afternoon Meetings

These are held once a month on the second Wednesday except for August.

We had a very successful year of ACF meetings in 2022 and only missed the January meeting due to an increase in cases of Covid. We averaged 14 members throughout the year with increased numbers at our summer tea (21 members) and Christmas lunch and Carols (39 members).

This is the first time we have done a Christmas Lunch and it proved very successful. ACF members and friends enjoyed sandwiches, mince pies and home-made cake; I think this may become a regular on our calendar. There was plenty of chatter and good hearty singing of Christmas Carols accompanied by our Musical Director and several members of All Saints' choir.

We had a range of speakers throughout the year that included Claire House, North West Air Ambulance, Christian Aid, Guide Dogs for the Blind Association and the Leprosy Mission of England and Wales. We also had an Easter talk from our Vicar Revd Vicky Barrett, a talk entitled "Singing the Psalms" from our Musical Director, Iain Stinson and Dr Ian Cubbin took us on a journey exploring Central Africa in the time of David Livingstone.

We have a very varied programme arranged for 2023 which includes delights such as beekeeping, hedgehog rescue and Merseyside & Cheshire Blood bikes. We also have three charities for 2022 which are all local to the Wirral and each received £100 and they have provided a speaker for 2023.

They are:

- Tomorrow's Women Wirral
- Christians Against Poverty
- Charles Thompson Mission

Other speakers are offered £30 and travel expenses if they have travelled a distance. Our members are also very generous in donating to the charity on the day of the talk.

Prior to the meeting we hold a short service consisting of a hymn, reading and prayers. In 2023 we are hoping to make our meetings more informal in style and attract new members. It will also give us more time to talk with our speakers and each other over a cup of tea or coffee.

Helen Tankard

22. Coffee Morning Report

These are held once a month on the fourth Wednesday except August and December.

Coffee mornings are well attended each month and as well as a hot drink and a biscuit, there is an excellent raffle and sales table of home-made goods.

Helen Tankard

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of All Saints, Thornton Hough

Registered Charity number 1131417

End of Year Financial Statements

(Receipts & Payments)

Year ending December 31st 2022

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Financial review

Overall receipts in 2022 were £111,915, £16,922 less than in 2021.

The results for 2022 show that there is £20,243 in the General Fund (unrestricted) at the end of the year, £2,691 less than when the year began. This indicates that our income in not sufficient to cover our *regular* outgoings.

Total receipts of unrestricted funds were £105,795 of which £45,749 was voluntary giving through standing orders, weekly envelopes, and open plate collection; we received £6,605 in unrestricted grants and gifts.

We received £3,414 of designated funding, including a donation of £3,000 towards the completion of the wall repairs.

We recovered a total of £11,078 through the UK's Gift Aid schemes on qualifying gifts and donations.

Income from investments (Permanent Trust Income) was £18,259; this is higher than the return received in 2021 (£17,264). The value of the investments owned by the PCC has decreased by 7.94%.

The PCC's investments are controlled in partnership with the Diocese of Chester, the Diocese taking a role like that of a custodian trustee. The Diocese needs to support any resolutions made by the PCC about its investments; in some cases, The Charity Commission's permission may be required. The PCC has established an Investment Committee to monitor the performance of its investments and, should it deem necessary, make proposals about these to the PCC. If the PCC wished to take any such proposals forward, the PCC would have to pass a formal resolution setting out the actions to be taken. Any such resolution would be passed to the Diocese of Chester for review, approval, and implementation. The Diocese of Chester does not provide any financial advice to PCCs.

In September, the PCC considered items of work which needed to be progressed, and its overall cash flow for the next couple of years. This showed than unless some additional income was available, there was a small risk that the PCC could runout of money. After careful consideration, the PCC passed a resolution to sell some of its investments (up to a value of £40,000 depending on the requirements for funds); the resolution specified that the sale had to take place by the end of March 2023. It is highly likely that this sale will have to proceed in 2023.

There were some social activities during 2022; though their focus was not on raising funds, all of these (at least) broke even. The income from calendar sales and sponsorship was £1,540, of which £10 was late receipts for the 2022 edition. The approximate cost of producing the calendar was £205 (for the 2023 edition) and the net benefit from the 2023 edition of the calendar was about £1,325.

During 2022, donations towards the cost of the Magazine were £669 and revenue from advertisers, including some advanced payments for 2023, was £700. This approximately covers the cost of producing six editions of The Magazine during the year.

The rental for use of the Parish Hall by outside organisations generated £10,971 during 2022.

There were fewer weddings and funerals in church during the year and consequently the fees collected (£4,057) were significantly less than in 2021 (£8,212).

The Parish Share for 2022 was £69,666 (2.08% higher than in 2021) and was paid in regular monthly instalments to the Diocese. This meets the cost of clergy salaries, pensions, clergy housing and training; it also provides support for the Diocese of Chester and the central organisation of the Church of England.

Whilst the salary for the Vicar is met by the Diocese, the PCC pay the Council Tax and water charges for the vicarage and the expenses incurred by the vicar in carrying out her role in the parish.

The repair to the boundary wall in Church Road, which collapsed in February 2021, was completed during the year. The total cost was £22,361 (including architects fees and VAT). This was fully met by donations received in 2021 and during 2022. We are most grateful to those donors for their support.

The maintenance of the churchyard and graveyard were £6,188 (11% more than in 2021).

In 2022, a total of £2,634 was spent on maintenance of the church building. Minor work on the church roof cost £801, and the electrical safety inspection and remedial works required following the inspection, cost £1,272. Other maintenance work was minimal costing only (£560). Some work items remain to be undertaken during 2023.

An electrical inspection was carried out on the Parish Hall: this found that the emergency lighting needed to be replaced. The cost of the new emergency lighting, the inspection and other remedial work was £1,098.

The cost of employing two staff, the Verger and Caretaker and the Director of Music, was £10,564 in 2022.

The total expenditure for 2022 was £136,445 (including the work on the boundary wall).

The PCC meets the day-to-day costs of running the parish from Unrestricted Funds (General Fund). The amount of Unrestricted Funds at the end of 2022 was £2,691 less than at the end of 2021 (11.7% less).

Although energy prices have risen dramatically during 2022, the church's gas and electricity contracts were set up for a period of three years before the prices started to rise: we shall only see the effect of increased costs after September 2024. In December we received a grant of £985, from the Church of England's central funds (via the Diocese of Chester), to help with energy costs.

There remain concerns about our being able to meet the costs which are incurred in sustaining our regular activities. The level of income being received from planned giving and open plate giving (plus the Gift Aid on this) is less than half of the total annual expenditure. With income from the investments remaining low in recent years, we have been dependent on one-off donations and grants to meet our costs. This has been the case for the last few years.

The Designated Funds available to the PCC are £25,779 (at the end of 2022). The PCC can use these designated funds to address some of the maintenance and development projects that need to be undertaken at All Saints'. The restricted funds held by the PCC amount to £3,751 (discounting the unrealised values of the Parish Hall and Hirst Cottage) and this must be used for the purposes specified by the donors of the money.

In December 2022, urgent repairs were carried out to Hirst Cottage to address a serious problem with dampness. The cost of these repairs was £8,910. This and other urgent work on the cottage will have to be paid for during 2023.

We are very fortunate that we have some investments which we can sell to help provide money which is required to meet our obligations – though this is not something we can do regularly. Selling investments will reduce the income that they generated (as there will be less money invested to earn that income).

It is now very important that All Saints' increases its income so that we can meet on ongoing costs and obligations, and so that we are able to continue to support God's work in our parish.

The accounts

This financial report is produced under the Church of England guidance for PCCs (Church Accounting Regulations 2006) adopting the ***Receipts and Payments*** method provided for by the Church and The Charities Act (2011).

This report consists of pages numbered 1 to 14; pages 15 and 16 do not form a part of the formal report.

This report shows all the PCC's open bank accounts.

There may appear to be minor discrepancies in the totals in the reports as the pence are not shown.

All members of the PCC are Trustees of the registered charity.

Two PCC members (trustees), Mrs Margaret Gamble and Mr Iain Stinson are employees of the PCC. Mrs Gamble is the Verger and Caretaker and Mr Stinson is the Director of Music (posts they both held before first being elected or co-opted as PCC members). Neither Mrs Gamble nor Mr Stinson receive any payment for their roles as PCC Members (trustees).

No payments were made to PCC members for their role as a member of the PCC other than as minor reimbursements for items purchased.

These accounts have been prepared using Data Developments' Finance Coordinator (version 4.59) software package following the PCC's Accounting Policies which are appended to this report. They have been prepared on behalf of the PCC by Mr Iain Stinson who does not receive any payment for undertaking the duties of Honorary Treasurer.

The following assets are recognised but not valued in the accounts: moveable church furnishings held by the vicar and trustees on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal.

It is the PCC's policy to maintain a balance on unrestricted funds (whenever possible), which equates to approximately two months unrestricted payments, to meet cash flow requirements and to cover emergency situations that may arise from time to time.

The "Notes on the accounts" may be found on page 12 and 13.

Balance Sheet as at December 31st 2022

		As at 31/12/2022	As at 31/12/2021
Fixed assets			
(note 1)	6430: Church Hall	£350,000	£350,000
	6431: Hirst Cottage	£150,000	£150,000
(note 2)	6432: M&G Charibond	£139,228	£156,826
	6433: M&G Charifund	£204,623	£216,693
		£843,851	**£873,519**
Current assets			
	6501: CAF Current A/c.545	£20,662	£38,221
	6502: CAF Restricted A/c.546	—	—
	6503: CAF Deposit A/c.274	£18,701	£23,532
(note 3)	6505: HSBC Current A/c.163	£1	£1
	6506: HSBC Current A/c.388	£10,422	£12,670
		£49,786	**£74,425**
Liabilities			
(note 4)	6699: Agency collections	£13	£111
		£13	**£111**
		£893,625	**£947,833**
Reserves			
	Excess / (deficit) to date	(£24,540)	£20,380
	Z01: Starting balances	£947,833	£906,356
	Z02: Other gains/(losses)	(£29,667)	£21,096
		£893,625	**£947,833**

Represented by Funds		
Unrestricted	£20,243	£22,934
Designated	£25,779	£47,915
Restricted	£503,751	£503,463
Endowment	£343,851	£373,519
Total	**£893,625**	**£947,833**

Statement of Assets and Liabilities as at December 31st 2022 (1 of 2)

Class and nominal code	General	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	Total	Last year
Fixed assets – Investments *(note 2)*						
6432 : M&G Charibond	—	—	—	£139,228	£139,228	£156,826
6433 : M&G Charifund	—	—	—	£204,623	£204,623	£216,693
Total	—	—	—	£343,851	£343,851	£373,519
Fixed assets - Tangible assets *(note 3)*						
6430 : Church Hall	—	—	£350,000	—	£350,000	£350,000
6431 : Hirst Cottage	—	—	£150,000	—	£150,000	£150,000
Total	—	—	£500,000	—	£500,000	£500,000
Current assets - Cash at bank and in hand						
6501 : CAF Current A/c.545	(£2,411)	£20,287	£2,786	—	£20,662	£38,221
6503 : CAF Deposit A/c.274	£12,232	£5,491	£978	—	£18,701	£23,532
6505 : HSBC Current A/c.163	£1	—	—	—	£1	£1
6506 : HSBC Current A/c.388	£10,422	—	—	—	£10,422	£12,670
Total	£20,243	£25,779	£3,764	—	£49,786	£74,425
Liabilities - Agency accounts						
6699 : Agency collections	—	—	£13	—	£13	£111
Total	—	—	£13	—	£13	£111
Net total assets	£20,243	£25,779	£503,751	£343,851	£893,625	£947,833
Represented by						
Unrestricted – General	£20,243	—	—	—	£20,243	£22,934
Designated – ACF ***(note 5)***	—	£667	—	—	£667	£412
Designated – Bibles ***(note 6)***	—	—	—	—	—	£1,000
Designated – Advance fees	—	£390	—	—	£390	£790
Designated – General Support	—	£7,902	—	—	£7,902	£10,000
Designated – Hall Improvements	—	£2,400	—	—	£2,400	£2,400
Designated – Kitchen improvements	—	£150	—	—	£150	£150
Designated - Legacies	—	£10,194	—	—	£10,194	£10,500
Designated – Quinquennial repairs	—	£1,000	—	—	£1,000	£1,000
Designated – Roof repair	—	£2,515	—	—	£2,515	£2,515
Designated - Projects	—	£560	—	—	£560	£560
Designated – Church Building	—	—	—	—	—	£18,587
Restricted – Choir Fees	—	—	£200	—	£200	£200
Restricted – Raby Graveyard improvements	—	—	£1,085	—	£1,085	£1,300
Restricted – Choir Music	—	—	£599	—	£599	£556

Statement of Assets and Liabilities as at December 31st 2022 (2 of 2)

Class and nominal code	General	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	Total	Last year
Restricted – Parish Hall (value)	—	—	£350,000	—	£350,000	£350,000
Restricted - Flowers	—	—	£589	—	£589	£379
Restricted – Hirst Cottage (value)	—	—	£150,000	—	£150,000	£150,000
Restricted – Organ maintenance	—	—	£677	—	£677	£428
Restricted – Taxi / Transport to church	—	—	£250	—	£250	£250
Restricted – Vicar's discretionary	—	—	£350	—	£350	£350
Endowment - Charifund	—	—	—	£204,623	£204.623	£216,693
Endowment - Charibond	—	—	—	£139,228	£139,228	£156,826
Total	£20,243	£25,779	£503,751	£343,851	£893,625	£947,833

Statement of Financial Activities from January 1st 2022 to December 31st 2022

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Prior year total funds
Income and endowments from:					
Donations and legacies	£66,848	£1,310	—	£68,158	£81,724
Income from charitable activities	£8,407	—	—	£8,407	£13,891
Other trading activities	£12,813	—	—	£12,813	£11,375
Investments ***(note 7)***	£22,734	—	—	£22,734	£21,646
Other income	(£200)	—	—	(£200)	£200
Total income	**£110,605**	**£1,310**	**—**	**£111,915**	**£128,837**
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds	£4,139	—	—	£4,139	£4,203
Expenditure on charitable activities	£131,089	£1,030	—	£132,119	£104,095
Other expenditure	£195	—	—	£195	£158
Total expenditure	**£135,425**	**£1,030**	**—**	**£136,455**	**£108,456**
Gains / losses on investment assets	—	—	(£29,667)	(£29,667)	£21,096
Net income / (expenditure) resources before transfer	**(£24,819)**	**£279**	**—**	**(£54,207)**	**£41,476**
Transfers (note 8)					
Gross transfers between funds - in	£5,903	£8	—	£5,911	£10,310
Gross transfers between funds - out	(£5,911)	—	—	(£5,911)	(£10,310)
Other recognised gains / losses					
Gains on revaluation, fixed assets, charity's own use	—	—	—	—	—
Net movement in funds	**(£24,827)**	**£287**	**—**	**(£54,207)**	**£41,476**
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward	**£70,850**	**£503,463**	**£373,519**	**£947,833**	**£906,356**
Total funds carried forward	**£46,022**	**£503,751**	**£343,851**	**£893,625**	**£947,833**

Analysis of income and expenditure from January 1st 2022 to December 31st 2022 (1 of 3)

	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	Totals This year	Totals Last year
Income and endowments						
Donations and legacies						
1010 - Planned Giving SO (Gift Aid)	£30,398	—	—	—	£30,398	£29,789
1015 - Planned Giving Env.(Gift Aid)	£9,093	—	—	—	£9,093	£9,728
1020 - Gift Aid - Occasional	£1,020	—	—	—	£1,020	£3,760
1030 - Gift Aid - tax rebate	£10,328	£750	—	—	£11,078	£11,084
1040 - Open Plate	£6,258	—	—	—	£6,258	£4,260
1052 - Planned G. SO (non Gift Aid)	—	—	—	—	—	£46
1060 - Wall Safe	—	—	—	—	—	£144
1070 - Donations - Sundry	£4,550	£3,414	£1,310	—	£9,274	£3,943
1100 - Grants - recurring	—	—	—	—	—	£2,000
1110 - Grants - non recurring	£1,035	—	—	—	£1,035	£16,966
Donations and legacies Totals	£62,684	£4,164	£1,310	—	£68,158	£81,724
Income from charitable activities						
1120 - Events and Activities	£233	£472	—	—	£705	£707
1121 - Mrs Hunnibuns	—	£72	—	—	£72	£33
1122 - Cots to Tots	£138	—	—	—	£138	—
1150 - Choir - Wedding fees	—	—	—	—	—	£230
1160 - Funerals - PCC	£2,557	—	—	—	£2,557	£6,456
1210 - Weddings - PCC	£1,300	£200	—	—	£1,500	£1,756
1240 - Fees for weddings and funerals	£2,075	—	—	—	£2,075	£2,975
1400 - Magazine subscriptions	£659	—	—	—	£659	£668
1402 - Magazine - adverts	£700	—	—	—	£700	£1,065
Income from charitable activities Totals	£7,662	£744	—	—	£8,407	£13,891
Other trading activities						
1140 - Halls - rentals	£10,971	—	—	—	£10,971	£9,421
1300 - Printing / Copying (commercial)	£302	—	—	—	£302	£348
1410 - Calendar Income	£1,540	—	—	—	£1,540	£1,605
Other trading activities Totals	£12,813	—	—	—	£12,813	£11,375
Investments						
1130 - Hirst Cottage - Rent	£4,380	—	—	—	£4,380	£4,380
1500 - Permanent Trust Income	£18,259	—	—	—	£18,259	£17,264
1510 - Bank Interest	£95	—	—	—	£95	£2
Investments Totals	£22,734	—	—	—	£22,734	£21,646
Other income						
1600 - Advanced payment of fees	(£100)	(£100)	—	—	(£200)	£200
Other income Totals	(£100)	(£100)	—	—	(£200)	£200
Income and endowments Grand totals	£105,795	£4,809	£1,310	—	£111,915	£128,837

Analysis of income and expenditure from January 1st 2022 to December 31st 2022 (2 of 3)

	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	Totals This year	Totals Last year
Expenditure						
Raising funds						
2400 - Hall - Consumables	£140	—	—	—	£140	—
2410 - Hall - Electricity	£609	—	—	—	£609	£457
2415 - Hall - Gas	£801	—	—	—	£801	£1,022
2420 - Hall - Insurance	£896	—	—	—	£896	£848
2425 - Hall - Fire protection & safety	£104	—	—	—	£104	—
2430 - Hall - Water charges	£140	—	—	—	£140	£36
2535 - Magazine & Bookstall	£27	—	—	—	£27	—
3010 - Printing - Copier rental & copies	£1,418	—	—	—	£1,418	£1,838
Raising funds Totals	£4,139	—	—	—	£4,139	£4,203
Expenditure on charitable activities						
2000 - Parish Share	£69,666	—	—	—	£69,666	£68,241
2010 - Clergy and staff - expenses	£1,391	—	—	—	£1,391	£1,272
2015 - Clergy - locum costs	£44	—	—	—	£44	£158
2020 - Parsonage - Council Tax	£2,217	—	—	—	£2,217	£2,146
2035 - Parsonage - Water charges	£187	—	—	—	£187	£747
2100 - Church - Electricity	£994	—	—	—	£994	£818
2105 - Church - Gas	£1,840	—	—	—	£1,840	£2,085
2110 - Church - Water charges	£347	—	—	—	£347	£171
2115 - Church- Fire Protect. & Safety	£27	—	—	—	£27	£115
2120 - Church - Insurance	£2,192	—	—	—	£2,192	£2,031
2125 - Church - Cost of services	£722	£1,385	—	—	£2,107	£324
2130 - IT & Web	£305	—	—	—	£305	£533
2200 - Church - Repairs	—	£24,434	—	—	£24,434	£1,492
2201 - Church - Ad hoc/minor maint.	£350	—	—	—	£350	£1,127
2202 - Church - Maint. contracts	£210	—	—	—	£210	£678
2300 - Church Yard (Church Road)	£3,688	—	—	—	£3,688	£3,388
2310 - Grave Yard (Raby Road)	£2,285	—	£215	—	£2,500	£2,183
2440 - Hall repairs/exterior	—	—	—	—	—	£358
2445 - Hall repairs/interior	£1,193	—	—	—	£1,193	£70
2455 - Hirst Cottage - repairs	£132	—	—	—	£132	—
2460 - Property - upkeep	£509	—	—	—	£509	£463
2500 - Misson / Outreach	£371	—	—	—	£371	£430
2510 - Church Societies	£430	£100	—	—	£530	£400
2520 - Relief agencies	£800	£235	—	—	£1,035	£600
2530 - Secular Societies	—	£190	—	—	£190	—
2605 - Music - costs	£110	—	£56	—	£166	—
2610 - Director of Music - Costs	—	—	—	—	—	£31
2611 - Fees paid out ***(note 9)***	£725	—	—	—	£725	£1,325
2615 - Organ - tuning & maint.	—	—	£758	—	£758	—
2620 - Organist - Locum organists	£134	—	—	—	£134	£86
2700 - Office - telephone	£70	—	—	—	£70	£348
2701 - Office - Broadband	£257	—	—	—	£257	£318
2710 - Office - consumables	£1,381	—	—	—	£1,381	£758
3000 - Staffing Costs (Salaries)	£8,112	—	—	—	£8,112	£7,180
3002 - Tax & NIC payments	£2,452	—	—	—	£2,452	£1,996
3005 - Staffing fees ***(note 9)***	£1,295	—	—	—	£1,295	£1,830
3300 - Miscellaneous	—	£100	—	—	£100	£200
4002 - Costs of stewardship	£77	—	—	—	£77	£68
4003 - Costs of Fetes/events	£123	—	—	—	£123	£111
Expenditure on charitable activities Totals	£104,644	£26,445	£1,030	—	£132,119	£104,095

Analysis of income and expenditure from January 1st 2022 to December 31st 2022 (3 of 3)

Other expenditure						
4006 - Bank charges	£195	—	—	—	£195	£158
Other expenditure Totals	£195	—	—	—	£195	£158
Expenditure Grand totals	£108,979	£26,445	£1,030	—	£136,455	£108,456

Notes on the accounts

Note 1.
The Church Hall and Hirst Cottage are owned by the PCC and the valuation in the accounts was obtained some years ago. If the PCC wished to consider selling these assets, up to date valuations would need to be obtained.

Note 2.
The M&G Charibond and M&G Charifund investments are managed by the PCC in partnership with the Diocese of Chester for the PCC. The investments owned by the PCC are as follows:

Principal donor	**Specified purpose**	**Holding**	**Number of shares**	**Value 31 Dec 2022**
Leverhulme		M&G Charibond Inc	128,546.10	£139.228
		M&G Charifund Inc	13,645.03	£200,516
Lever	Churchyard maintenance	M&G Charifund Inc	264.01	£3,879
Fernie	Churchyard maintenance	M&G Charifund Inc	15.46	£227
Total value of investments				£343,851

The value of these investments has decreased from £373,519 at the end of 2021 to £343,851 at the end of 2022, a decrease in value of £29,667 (7.94%).

Note 3.
The HSBC bank account ending in 163 is used as a part of the standing order collection process and automatically transfers its contents, other than £1, into the HSBC bank account ending in 388 at the end of each month.

Note 4.
The PCC collects fees for weddings, funerals and cremation services on behalf of the Diocese. These fees are held separately from the church's funds and paid over to the Diocese each month. The liability shown is amount of these fees in the PCC's bank accounts which will be paid over to the Diocese.

Note 5.
The ACF Fund holds money generated by the church's ACF group and is used to meet the costs associated with running the group and for donations the group may wish to make.

Note 6.
The Bible Fund was established in 2020 to hold money donated to buy new Bibles to be used in church. These were purchased in 2022.

Note 7.
This Investment Income includes the rental for Hirst Cottage (£4,380), bank interest (£95) and receipts from the investments.

As well as the income from investments owned by the PCC, the investment income also includes income from a gift made in 1956 by Miss K.P. Fryer to the Diocese of Chester Board of Finance. The gift was made with a request that it be used for the benefit of All Saints' Thornton Hough and that a portion be used to provide a memorial in the Church to her parents. The Diocese of Chester Board of Finance holds 6,304.15 shares in the CBF Investment fund as the remaining part of this gift; the value of these shares at 31 December 2021 was £147,433.

The table below shows the income received from these investments during 2022.

Fund	Income 2022	Yield
M&G Charifund	£11,557	5.648%
M&G Charibond	£2,828	2.031%
CBF Investment fund	£3,873	2.976%
Total	***£18,259***[1]	

Note 8.

The following funds transfers have taken place.

Transfer (Funds)	Amount	Reason for transfer
GenSupport to Build	£5,097	Move funds for fabric maintenance
General to Organ	£8	Clear small deficit on the organ fund
Legacies to Bible	£305	Move funds for Bible donation.
Advance Fees to General	£400	Transferred when ceremony has taken place.
General to Advance Fees	£100	Transfer to advance fees payment
Total transfers	***£5,911***[2]	

Note 9.

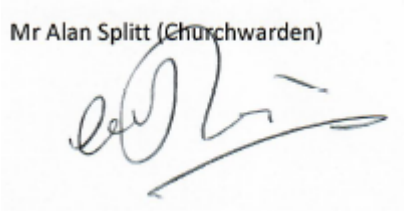
Fees for the verger and organist for weddings and funerals, (and some grave digging fees) are recorded under code 1240; payments from this income made to employees are recorded under code 3005 and to others under code 2611.

Approval

Approved by the Trustees and signed on their behalf by:

Revd Vicky Barrett (Vicar)





Date: 29th March 2023

[1] Difference in the total due to omission of the pence.

Independent examiner's report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of All Saints, Thornton Hough (Registered Charity number 1131417) (the Trust) for the year ended 31st December 2021.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

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

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

Name: VERITY J. SMITH

Relevant professional qualifications or membership of relevant professional bodies (if any):

Address: Hoylake, Wirral.

Date: 29th March 2023

Appendix: Accounting Policies

Note: These are not a part of the formal Financial Report

1. Accounting

The financial statements are prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006, together with applicable accounting standards and the SORP 2005. The financial statements are prepared under the historical cost convention except for the valuation of investment assets, which are shown at market value. The accounts include transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC is held responsible in law. They do not include the accounts of church groups that owe an affiliation to another body nor those that are informal gatherings of church members.

2 Funds

Unrestricted funds are general funds which can be used for PCC ordinary purposes.

Restricted funds represent (a) income from trusts and endowments which may be expended only on those restricted objects provided in the terms of the trust or bequest, and (b) donations or grants received for a specific object or invited by the PCC for a specific object. The funds may only be expended on the specific object for which they were given. Any balance remaining unspent at the end of each year must be carried forward as a balance on that fund. The PCC does not usually invest separately for each fund.

Endowment funds are funds, the capital of which must be maintained; only income arising from investment of the endowment may be used either as restricted or unrestricted funds depending on the purpose for which the endowment was established.

3 Reserves Policy

It is the PCC's policy to maintain a balance of unrestricted funds (i.e. a balance of funds excluding restricted funds), whenever possible, which equates to approximately two months unrestricted payments, to meet cash flow requirements and to cover emergency situations that may arise from time to time. For the purpose of monitoring the reserves balance, the two months unrestricted payments will be deemed to one sixth of 90% of the budgeted expenditure of the current financial year.

4 Incoming Resources

Collections are recognised when received by or on behalf of the PCC. Planned giving receivable under Gift Aid is recognised only when received. Gift Aid recoverable on qualifying donations is recognised when the Gift Aid is received.

Legacies to the PCC are accounted for when the PCC receives them. Grants are recorded when received.

Rental income from the letting of Hirst Cottage is recognised when the rent is due. Income from Parish Hall rentals is recognised when the income is received.

Dividends and interest are accounted for when received. Tax recoverable on such income is recognised in the same accounting year as when claimed.

All other income is recorded when received.

Realised gains or losses are recognised when investments are sold. Unrealised gains or losses are accounted for on the revaluation of investments at 31 December.

Wherever practically possible all incoming resources are accounted for gross.

5 Resources Used

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

Salaries, pay, tax, NI, fees and exceptional expenditure are recognised in the accounts when they are due.

The Diocesan Parish Share is accounted for when due.

All other expenditure is generally recognised when it is incurred and, where practical, is accounted for gross.

Activities which involve regular and ongoing payments are handled through unrestricted funds. Where donations (and other income) are received to support a specific activity which involves regular and ongoing payments, these will be held in a restricted fund. Where funds are available, transfers will be made from the restricted fund to the unrestricted fund (from which the payments for the activity are made) as expenditure for that activity is incurred. Restricted funds do not go into deficit. Unexpended resources will remain in the restricted fund.

6 Fixed Assets

Consecrated land and beneficed property is excluded from the accounts by s.96(2)(a) of the Charities Act 1993. No value is placed on movable church furnishings which are held by the Churchwardens, on special trust for the PCC, and which require a faculty for disposal and which are inalienable property. All expenditure incurred during the year on consecrated or beneficed buildings and movable church furnishings, whether maintenance or improvement, is written off as expenditure in the SOFA and separately disclosed.

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

7 Payments to PCC Members

Expenses paid to the vicar may include a small immaterial proportion which relates to the vicar's function as a PCC member. No other payments are made to PCC members other than as reimbursements for items purchased.

Revised January 2020

Independent examiner's report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of All Saints, Thornton Hough (Registered Charity number 1131417) (the Trust) for the year ended 31st December 2021.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

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

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

Name: VERITY J. SMITH

Relevant professional qualifications or membership of relevant professional bodies (if any):

Address: Hoylake, Wirral.

Date: 29th March 2023

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ALL SAINTS THORNTON H

England & Wales - Charity number 1131417

Accounts

ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF
ALL SAINTS THORNTON HOUGH
DIOCESE OF CHESTER

Charity Commission Number 1131417



ANNUAL REPORTS FOR 2021

All Saints' Parochial Church Council
The Parish Office, The Parish Hall, Church Road, Thornton Hough, Wirral, CH63 1JW

Part 1: Trustees' report to the Charity Commission

1. Aims and Purposes

Our aim is

'To promote the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical'

Our purpose as a church is to worship God through our regular services and through the fellowship of our loving community. We share the love of God with those around, serving the community and witnessing to others about the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.

All Saints' Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the legal responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish of Thornton Hough the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. The PCC is also specifically responsible for the maintenance of the church building and churchyards on Raby Road, and the Parish Hall on Church Road.

2. Objectives

Statement of Vision and Goals for 2017 to 2022

Vision

Our aspiration for All Saints' Church is:

- for God to be central in all that we do and in the lives of all our members
- to share the love of God with those around, serving the community and
- witnessing to others about the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Goals

1. **Spiritual Growth**
   To promote a deepening of love and spiritual growth.
   To develop and grow our knowledge through study of the Bible, through prayer and through teaching at our services and other events so that we are better able to apply the Bible's teaching in today's world.
2. **Mission**
   To share the good news about Jesus Christ with others so that they too may receive and enjoy the grace and blessings of God in their lives.
   To support others who also work to share the good news of Jesus Christ.
3. **Care for others in the church and in the community**
   To reach out to others and demonstrate his love in practical ways by caring for and serving others within the church and without, including all age groups, newcomers, and those in need.
4. **Worship**
   To use our talents to make our worship more meaningful.
   To ensure that our worship and events are worthy offerings to God, that they meet the needs of our existing members and are attractive and accessible to those outside the Christian community who are interested in what we do.
5. **Organisation**
   To promote the smooth running of the church we need to:
   - Devise and explore ways of involving more of our members in all aspects of running our church.
   - Ensure that we are using people's God given talents in the most effective way possible.

- Generate sufficient income to balance the books.

6. **Communication**
   To improve our use of appropriate communication channels to support and enhance all of our activities at All Saints'.

3. 2021 Activities, Achievements and Performance

Regular Sunday Worship

2021 started with an 8am Service of Holy Communion and a 10:30am Service of Holy Communion in church on 3rd January but then we locked down and services went online until we returned to church again on Passion Sunday (21st March). Our regular pattern of Sunday worship has been affected by the Covid pandemic; even when we were meeting together in church again some people felt unable to return in person immediately while others preferred to come to the 8am Sunday services or the midweek services.

Towards the end of the year the Omicron variant arrived, and infection rates soared again meaning that some of the more vulnerable members of our congregation returned to self-isolation. Throughout the year we have maintained social distancing, mask wearing and extra hygiene measures. We have continued to update our risk assessments as necessary.

Our regular pattern of worship when meeting in church has been:

- An 8:00 am service of Holy Communion on the first and third Sundays of the month.
- A 10:30am service each Sunday, usually Holy Communion but sometimes Morning Prayer.
- From the latter part of 2021 a 6:30pm service once a month. Some of these services are Holy Communion, and some Choral Evensong.
- A midweek service of Holy Communion at 10:30am each Wednesday of the month, apart from the fourth Wednesday.

We have continued the practice of having new service sheets printed each week for the Sunday services at 10:30am and 6:30pm. This meant that we were able to be more flexible, using a wider range of liturgy resources to fit the changing seasons and themes. We continued sharing the Peace using British Sign Language to maintain our social distance, but also to make gesture and eye contact more meaningful.

Part way through the year the congregation, following the Church of England guidance, was able to resume receiving Holy Communion. Using every other row of pews enabled the priest to take the sacrament to the people rather than having everyone moving around the church. The wafers were dipped into the wine by the officiant rather than the congregation sharing the common cup. This practice has continued until the end of the year and into 2022.

Congregational singing was allowed again after the lockdown and this was welcomed by everyone. Very few children have attended the services in 2021 and the Sunday School did not restart due to the vulnerability of our helpers.

Following the sad announcement at the end of 2020, that St. George's URC Church was to close we continued to welcome some members of St George's to our services and events.

It has been a pleasure to welcome some new members of the congregation who joined us during the year. We also value the continuing links with some former members of the St George's congregation.

The mean attendance on a Sunday was 47 and midweek was 8.

We have been very grateful to Tim Allen-Price, Pam Machin, Alan Splitt and the team of welcomers who have ensured that the services have run smoothly, and people have felt safe while in church.

Festivals and Occasional Offices

After the initial lockdown we returned to church for Palm Sunday on 28th March. This meant that our special services for Ash Wednesday and Mothering Sunday were only online. From Palm Sunday to Easter Day the Sunday services were available both online and in church.

35 people attended our Palm Sunday service, 19 attended the Maundy Thursday service in the evening, 23 attended on Good Friday and a total of 53 people attended the services on Easter Day.

Our evening service on Ascension Day, 5th May, was attended by 20 people and at Pentecost, Sunday 23rd May, there were 39 people in church.

Harvest brought a welcome opportunity for celebration in the middle of a challenging year. Our Harvest Thanksgiving Service on 19th September was attended by 47 people.

It was a joy to welcome the first wedding without severely restricted numbers into the church at the end of August. This was followed by a further three weddings and two wedding blessings.

We were also delighted to see the return of baptisms when two young children were baptised in November.

Our patronal festival was celebrated on Sunday 31st October and 37 people attended.

On the same day, in the afternoon, we held two services to remember the Faithful Departed which were attended by 46 at the first and 57 at the second.

On 14th November we held our church Service of Remembrance at 10:30am. 42 people attended this. Unfortunately, the Civic Service planned for the afternoon was cancelled by the police about 15 minutes before the scheduled start due to a terrorist explosion in Liverpool that morning and fears for people's safety locally.

The Advent Carol Service was held on Sunday 28th November. This was a service of readings and music for Advent led by the choir. 38 people attended.

On Tuesday 30th November the Vicar and the Churchwardens welcomed the Bishop of Birkenhead and the Bishop of Stockport along with other members of the clergy from across the Deanery to All Saints'. 12 people attended a service of Holy Communion.

The Christingle Service on the afternoon of 12th December was an opportunity to welcome visitors to the church; it was attended by 44 people.

The Carol Service was held earlier in the day than usual, at 3pm on 19th December. The effects of the Omicron variant were being felt by this time, but we were pleased to welcome 45 people to the service.

The Christmas Eve service on 24th December was attended by 30 people, the Christmas morning service was attended by 25 people and the service on 26th December was attended by 22 people.

During 2021 we conducted the following occasional offices:

Baptisms	2
Confirmations	0
Weddings	4
Wedding blessings	2
Funerals	15
Committal	1
Burial of ashes	6
Commemoration of the Faithful Departed	2

Regular Midweek Worship and Fellowship

Our Wednesday Holy Communion service became a regular fixture again when it returned on 24th March, after the lockdown at the beginning of the year. Some people preferred the quiet, informal, socially distanced services; the mean number of attendees was 8.

Sadly, the impact of Coronavirus on nursing homes has meant that our regular visits to Westwood Hall and Brimstage Manor have not been able to restart yet. The Vicar was able to join in a special service of carols and say prayers with the residents of Westwood Hall in December.

Children and Families

The Children's Sunday Group was unable to meet in 2021.

Visits by Revd Vicky to Thornton Hough Primary School were put on hold during the lockdown but she managed to stay in touch via Zoom and took special Easter assemblies with Key Stage 1 and 2 pupils. In the summer term she went into the school for two afternoon sessions to teach Year 4 pupils about The Bible. She took assemblies in the autumn term on the theme of Resilience and introducing the season of Advent.

She continues to liaise with the school through her role as Governor.

Pastoral Care

The Prayer and Pastoral Care group have continued to share concerns about individuals on a confidential basis via email and telephone. Home visits by the group and home communion by the vicar had to pause due to restrictions but resumed later in the year.

Lent Course

During Lent a group met via Zoom to explore and discuss 'The Bible's Back Roads'.

4. Governance and PCC Membership

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 Registered Charity.

The appointment of PCC members is governed by and set out in the Church Representation Rules (2020). The PCC at All Saints' consists of: the incumbent (our Vicar), the Churchwardens, elected representatives to the Deanery Synod and elected lay representatives.

In 2021 the PCC membership and Standing Committee membership was as follows

Elected Members of the Laity		Other Members	
Mr P Arch	Until November 2021	Revd. V Barrett*	Vicar (Chairman)
Mrs R Brothwell	Until September 2021	Mrs A Jones*	Churchwarden until May 2021
Mr S Deakin	Until May 2021	Dr P Machin*	Churchwarden
Mrs M Gamble		Mr A Splitt*	Churchwarden From May 2021
Mrs D Hughes*		Dr E Macbeath	Deanery Synod representative
Mr D Jones	Until May 2021	Mr G Allan Price	Deanery Synod representative
Mrs L Russell		Mrs S Stinson* (PCC Secretary)	Deanery Synod representative
Mr I Stinson* (PCC Treasurer)			
Mrs Helen Tankard	From May 2021	** Members of the Standing Committee*	

Members were also elected to the sub committees dealing with Finance, Fabric and Health and Safety, Remuneration and Three Churches Together. The committees exist to discuss and, for more major issues, make recommendations, which are then taken to the full PCC.

In 2021 PCC meetings were held on 8th February, 15th March, 13th April, 20th April, 23rd May, 15th June, 13th July, 14th September, 12th October, 9th November and 7th December.

The Standing Committee met on 25th February, 1st March, 8th March and 10th September in 2021.

The Annual Meeting was held on 23rd May 2021.

5. Safeguarding

The PCC has complied with the duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Measure 2016 (duty to have regard to House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding and vulnerable adults). (Church Representation Rules 2020 p76)

6. Activities of the PCC in 2021

2021 was another challenging year for the PCC due to the lockdowns and being unable to meet in person for some of the year. The meetings in February, March and April were held entirely on Zoom. From May the meetings were held in person with an option to use Zoom if requested for those who were still shielding.

The PCC has continued to consider regular reports on the Finances, Fabric, Health and Safety, Prayer and Pastoral Care and the Electoral Roll.

In addition to the regular items the PCC discussed Worship while we were locked down, the Lent Course, cots2tots (the toddler group) which had been paused due to the pandemic, applications for faculties, 'The Way Ahead', looking at the direction the church was going as we returned to regular patterns of meeting, the collapse of the boundary wall and how we could rebuild it, keeping people safe in church during the pandemic, clergy wellbeing, Harvest Thanksgiving, church activities, social activities and fundraising, offering the use of the Small Hall to the Hope Programme, the closing of St George's United Reformed Church in Thornton Hough, Charitable Giving, the visit of the Bishop of Birkenhead and the Bishop of Stockport to the Deanery and Thornton Hough.

In 2021 the PCC approved gifts of £200 to each of the following charities

Local charities

- Claire House, the local children's hospice. Details can be found at https://www.clairehouse.org.uk/.
- Ferries Families Groups. This is a local charity which supports families in crisis, provides peer support, helps to strengthen families etc. More information can be found at: https://ferriesfamilygroups.org.uk/about-us/

Overseas Aid

- Mary's Meals. This charity provides life-changing meals to some of the world's poorest children every day they attend school. They use local resources and monitor the provision to ensure that the food gets to the children. More information can be found at https://www.marysmeals.org.uk/what-we-do/
- The Barnabas Fund. They work to provide hope and aid for the persecuted church, from Christians, to Christians, through Christians. They support Christians in Afghanistan. More information can be found here: https://barnabasfund.org

Parish Support

- Simeon's Trustees. They are our patrons and support parishes during vacancies and the clergy.

The Standing Committee

On 25th February the Standing Committee met to discuss the return to church and took the decision to resume services on Passion Sunday, 21st March, with 8:00am Holy Communion and 10:30am Morning Prayer. They also discussed the Annual Meetings and the collapsed wall in Church Road.

On 1st March they convened a meeting to discuss the boundary wall which had collapsed, next to the holm oak stump, and what we should do next. Decisions were taken to enable the project to move forward. A further meeting on 8th March discussed the insurance claim, options for dealing with the wall and the holm oak stump and engaging the church architect to oversee the work. The meeting in September was also called to discuss the wall project.

7. Charity Information

Contact details	All Saints PCC, The Parish Office, The Parish Hall Church Road Thornton Hough, Wirral, CH63 1JW	
	www.allsaintsth.org.uk	0151 245 4986
Church of England Diocese	Chester	
Charity Registration Number	1131417	

Part 2: Reports from the PCC

8. Electoral Roll Report

On 1st January 2021 there were 95 names on the Electoral Roll.

On December 31st 2021 there were 93 names on the Electoral Roll, 53% resident, 47% non-resident.

Dr Elly Macbeath

9. Fabric, Goods and Ornaments

The Fabric, Health and Safety (FHS) Committee co-ordinates works to the church buildings and grounds, focusing on maintenance, refurbishment and Health and Safety concerns. Keeping the church buildings and grounds warm and safe were the Committee's priorities during the year. With the ongoing restrictions due to Coronavirus affecting church activities throughout the year, much of the Committee's energies were spent on ensuring that risk assessments covering the buildings and activities taking place were kept under constant review.

Negotiations to repair the collapsed section of the wall on Church Road in February took up a considerable amount of time and energy throughout the rest of the year.

The Quinquennial Inspection report based on the Church Architect's visit in October 2020 and also including a section on the collapsed wall was finally received in a revised form in May 2021. The summary noted that "the cast iron rainwater goods are now in exceedingly poor condition and are now causing water saturation of the masonry. Their repair / renewal is now essential." Concerns were also raised about the use of red mastic mortar pointing around the church, which has caused damage to the stonework. These two matters will require attention and planning for the considerable costs attached to remedying them.

Some meetings were held via Zoom, whilst others were managed by careful walks round the site and email. The FHS Committee is grateful for the contributions over many years of Darren Jones, who stepped down as Chair of the Fabric Committee in May, Peter Arch, and Derek Machin, who was co-opted to assist with the repairs to the wall. We welcomed Graham Tongue to the Committee. There are also several individuals who have continued to contribute quietly to maintenance tasks helping us to keep the church warm and safe.

Revd Vicky Barrett

9A. Church

The trio of gas boilers which heat the building have required further repairs as well as routine maintenance. Recommendations to seek ways to improve our energy efficiency were made in the Quinquennial Inspection report, however there appear to be few sustainable solutions available at present. Repairs have been undertaken to some of the lights both inside and outside the church and thanks are due to Scirard Lancelyn-Green for his assistance in this matter. Roof tiles have been replaced where they have slipped. Members of the Committee worked to clear some of the drains and vents.

Revd Vicky Barrett

9B. Church grounds

The collapse of the wall on Church Road in February was due to a number of factors, not least the roots of the holm oak tree pressing on the stones and poor weather. Quotations at considerable cost were received from three companies for repairs, however negotiations with a local contractor offered an alternative. The Vicar applied successfully for financial assistance from the Leverhulme Charitable Trust and the family of a local resident also contributed to the works. We are extremely grateful for their generosity. The existing tree stump was cut down to four inches above ground before Christmas, allowing better access to the remains of the wall. The wall project has been carried out under the supervision of the Church architect, as required by the Diocese.

The maintenance of the churchyard grass, smaller trees and shrubs and the Raby Road graveyard continue to be maintained by contractors. They have removed some shrubs which were blocking drains as part of this process.

Revd Vicky Barrett

9C. Parish Hall and Hirst Cottage

Routine servicing of boilers and safety checks have been undertaken.

Revd Vicky Barrett

10. Wirral South Deanery Synod Report

A service was held at St Mary's Church, Eastham on Wednesday 6th October at 7:30pm. Representatives from the thirteen churches in the Deanery gave reports on activities undertaken and plans for 2021.

Dr. Elly Macbeath
Wirral South Deanery Synod Rep

The Trustees' report to the Charity Commission was approved by the PCC on 15th March 2022.

Part 3: Reports on activities

11. Worship, Prayer and Pastoral Care
Report of the Vicar

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.
His love endures forever. **Psalm 136:1**

2021 was a year of lament, change and of many joys. As you read this report, you may find it helpful to read the refrain from Psalm 136 after each paragraph. God's goodness and enduring love embraces all the different seasons through which we have passed through the year.

The continuing impact of Covid marked our lives as a church and individuals. Recorded services remained in place until 21st March. Restrictions on choral and congregational singing and our brief services were difficult to bear, but I am deeply grateful to all who continued to attend and contribute faithfully to the life of our church through this lean time. It has been heartening to see people showing their consideration and care for one another by adhering to the regulations concerning wearing masks, distancing and using hand sanitiser. The way in which everyone coming to Holy Communion services has adopted (and in some cases adapted!) the British Sign Language method of sharing the peace, concentrating on deliberate actions and eye contact is very moving.

There were many funerals through the year. Each one, whether the service is in church or at the crematorium, marks the special nature of the person who has died, and our two well-attended services to remember the Faithful Departed in October offered a reflective space for families to gather. Each person received a plaited set of ribbons to take away as a reminder of the way in which their lives and love were bound together with their loved one and also with the love of God. We remember especially Christine Cade, Colin Thompson, Edith Shepherd, David Woodhouse, Freda Jenkins and Bill Brennan who all passed away in the course of this year.

Our sense of bereavement was compounded by the closure of St George's Church at the end of July. We continue to await further developments as the URC plan their next steps for the building, and welcome all who have made All Saints' their place to worship, whether occasionally or regularly.

The sudden collapse of a section of the boundary wall in Church Road on 23rd February proved to be a particular challenge. We discovered that there are all kinds of labyrinths in church law and insurance, not to mention costs, when trying to tackle what might appear to be a simple repair at first sight. I am grateful to Peter Arch and Derek Machin for their work in handling the repair project, and to the Fabric Team and Standing Committee for their careful scrutiny of details. The Leverhulme Charitable Trust and the family of the late Bill Gault have been most generous in their assistance with the project. We have learned much about teamwork as we care for our church precinct.

Despite all these things, there has been much joy shared. Information Technology has its place: emails continue to enable the prayer team to share concerns and rejoice about answered prayer; Zoom enabled us to gather for committee meetings as well as to explore and discuss 'The Bible's Back Roads' during Lent. Recorded services on YouTube, resources on our church website and mailshots of reflections enabled people to stay connected. It was, however, a great joy to have a full choir and then congregational singing again, and to begin monthly evening services in addition to those in the morning.

Thank you to the choir and our Director of Music for their contribution to our worship and faith journeys.

Church social events have returned in smaller, cautious measures, but with much happiness. Our Harvest celebrations were memorable for the generosity of donations for the Wirral Foodbank, the riot of colour and scent from produce largely gathered from gardens and allotments, and for the wonderful Harvest Lunch, organised with great efficiency and good cheer by Do Mosedale, Margaret Gamble and Pam Machin. Our Coffee and Carols morning in December was a great "warm-up" to Christmas. It has also been good to see ACF resume its activities.

It has been wonderful to return to the joys of celebrating weddings, wedding blessings and baptisms. It is a privilege to share in the happiness of these life events. In addition, it is a privilege to take Holy Communion to those who are housebound, emphasising that if people cannot come to church, the church can come to the people.

Building links with children and young people in the parish remains a priority. I was able to stay in contact with Thornton Hough Village Primary School through Zoom for the first few months of the year, taking special Easter assemblies with Key Stage 1 and 2 pupils. Their questions were profound; probably the most memorable being: "If God loves us so much, how come he created slugs and wasps?" I went into school for two afternoon sessions to teach Year 4 pupils about The Bible in the summer term. I have also kept in contact with our local Brownie and Guide groups who meet in the Village Hall. Whilst our plans for the Civic Remembrance Service were dashed at the last minute, we continue to look forward to further shared events in the future. The girls' creative poppy displays by the West Window and in the Parish Hall were very impressive.

Thank you all for your love, support and forbearance this year. I would like to extend my particular gratitude to Churchwardens Pam Machin and Alan Splitt, to Margaret Gamble and Iain and Sue Stinson; your quiet, faithful hard work and care is much appreciated.

Revd Vicky Barrett

Harvest

A week of harvest thanksgiving was held between 16th and 25th September. We accepted goods donated for the Wirral Foodbank as part of our thanksgiving. Items were left in the church porch or in the baskets at the back of church. These included specific items requested by the Foodbank such as donations of tinned fish, tinned potatoes, squash, sugar, UHT milk, instant mash, coffee (small jars), jam, cereals, shampoo, deodorant etc. Many thanks to everyone who donated so generously.

Our sincere thanks also go to Margaret Gamble, Caroline Lancelyn Green and their helpers for the wonderful flower arrangements and for making the church look so spectacular.

The donations were delivered to the Foodbank on Monday 27th September by Revd Vicky and were very gratefully received.









Harvest Thanksgiving







12. Report of the Churchwardens

Our year started with Alice Jones and Pamela Machin in post as churchwardens.

Our Annual Meeting of Parishioners and our Annual Parochial Church Meeting were delayed until 23rd May 2021 and at this time Alice Jones stepped down as a churchwarden. We wish to thank her wholeheartedly for her four years of service, a year of which was during interregnum with its extra challenges.

Pamela Machin and Alan Splitt were elected as churchwardens for 2021-22 and sworn into office by our vicar under a special dispensation from Bishop Mark; this was given due to the ongoing pandemic preventing the normal Archdeacon's Visitation Services from going ahead.

Pamela attended the on-line "Training for New Churchwardens" session held on 20th July 2021 and has completed the on-line C of E Safeguarding Training – Basic Awareness and Safeguarding Foundations.

The churchwardens meet with our vicar every three weeks to discuss matters of importance to the church and church family.

Our first church service of 2021 celebrated Epiphany on 3rd January 2021 and was also our last for the next eleven weeks as the church was closed to communal worship due to the pandemic. The church family stayed in touch and supported one another via regular phone calls and on-line services.

The Lenten Reflections went ahead on Zoom and PCC meetings continued, initially on Zoom and later as a hybrid of Zoom plus in-person masked and socially distanced attendances.

Services in church resumed on 21st March 2021 with social distancing, mask wearing by all adults and Holy Communion by simultaneous administration. Track and Trace forms were completed at all services.

Serving of coffee and tea in the Parish Hall after the 10.30am Sunday services resumed on 5th September and a Harvest Lunch with wine was held after the morning service on 19th September. This proved most enjoyable with a good attendance and thanks go to Do Mosedale and Margaret Gamble for helping to make it so successful.

A generous donation of tinned and dried foodstuffs collected in church was delivered by our vicar to the Wirral Foodbank later that week.

A rota of members of the congregation willing to help with serving coffee and tea after the 10.30am Sunday services was re-established on 26th September- many thanks to those who volunteered to be part of this! New volunteers are always welcomed!

On 12th October our PCC addressed the "Covenant for Clergy Care and Wellbeing " – an Act of Synod expressing the view of the Church of England on issues relating to clergy care and wellbeing. We had a thoughtful and wide ranging discussion, initially without our vicar present and then with her participation and hopefully this has raised our awareness of problems that can arise and of our responsibility to recognise and address them.

On 23rd October 2021 members of our congregation who had expressed their willingness to act as sidespersons met in church for a question and answer session relating to their specific duties and responsibilities.

We are planning training sessions on Safeguarding and on First Aid and Using a Defibrillator. The "Guide for Sidespersons" booklet has been extensively updated and a small library of useful information is now available in the Vicar's Vestry.

After our meeting there was a light-hearted "Church Knowledge Quiz", a tour of the Church building and a sumptuous Afternoon Tea in the Parish Hall. Thank you to Margaret Gamble for the delicious roulade!

We are always looking for new recruits, training is readily available and you will not be left on your own to cope!

Following the meeting a sidesperson rota has now been re-established and we are most grateful to those who have agreed to serve.

On Sunday 31st October we commemorated the Faithful Departed in 2 well attended services at 2.30pm and 4pm. This was arranged in order to be able to maintain Covid-safe social distancing.

Remembrance Sunday on 14th November was commemorated in church by the customary 2 minutes silence at 11am. Unfortunately, the usual afternoon service at the Thornton Hough War Memorial followed by its continuation in our church had to be cancelled at short notice due to concerns following an explosion in Liverpool suspected to be linked to terrorism.

We were delighted to welcome our Diocese's two relatively new Bishops, Bishop Julie of Birkenhead and Bishop Sam of Stockport to All Saints' on 30th November along with other clergy in our deanery. Bishop Sam presided over a short service of Holy Communion which was followed by lunch in the Parish Hall. After lunch Revd Vicky took the Bishops to meet the Headmaster of our local Primary School and some of the pupils and following that the Churchwardens and Vicky took Bishop Julie and Bishop Sam on a guided tour of our Parish.

Our Christmas services began on 28th November with a wonderful rendering of Advent Carols by our Choir and our Director of Music Iain Stinson.

On Saturday 4th December Iain and the Choir again delighted us with their "Christmas Coffee and Carols" event held in the Parish Hall. This included Carol singing by all, a most amusing reading by Di Hughes of an alternative interpretation of the "12 Days of Christmas", a quiz, a raffle and of course coffee and mince pies. It was well attended and hugely enjoyable.

Christmas services also included our Christingle Service on 12th December, our Service of Lessons and Carols for Christmas on 19th December, "Midnight Holy Communion on 24th December, Holy Communion on Christmas Morning and Morning Prayer on the first Sunday of Christmas.

Many thanks to our Vicar, Director of Music and Choir for all their hard work.

Thanks also to all who help out in ways large and small to keep our church a warm and welcoming gathering place to meet each other and to meet with God.

Pamela Machin and Alan Splitt
Churchwardens

13. Verger's Report

The verger was in attendance at 15 funerals and 6 weddings/blessings during 2021.

It was a strange time as we had to ask congregations to sanitise their hands and to wear a mask. Numbers were reduced in the earlier part of the year but the weddings we had in December were attended by large numbers of guests.

Parish Hall

We were very lucky to have Gill Woods (Stepping Out) who, when allowed, used the hall for her dance class making sure she stuck to Covid guidelines. In November other groups started up: Birkenhead North Cycle Club, Thornton Hough Fishing Club, Weight Watchers and church activities. We were able to have coffee after church, ACF, Coffee Mornings, even Christmas 'Coffee and Carols' with the choir getting us into the Christmas spirit.

The PCC very kindly allowed the Hope Charity to use the hall for their meetings. This group helps people who have had cancer and need to meet to talk about how they are getting on; this has been very much appreciated.

Margaret Gamble
Verger

14. Safeguarding

We continue giving high priority to Safeguarding at All Saints' Thornton Hough. Posters are on display in Church and the Parish Hall, giving local safeguarding contact details and safeguarding information can be easily found on our website. The Model Safeguarding Checklist provided by the House of Bishops, prompts ongoing reviews to ensure that information is currently correct, and this has been carried out.

No new DBS checks have been required during the year, but two renewals have been submitted. From January 2022, the DBS renewal period recommended by the Diocese will be shortened from 5 to 3 years. This means that as we move away from the pandemic situation, with its restrictions on some church activities, more DBS checks will be needed.

There is renewed emphasis on Safeguarding Training in the Diocese and this training should be repeated at 3 yearly intervals. Therefore I am repeating and extending my own training. This has been online, with Zoom courses booked for 2022. I, along with Revd Vicky Barrett, have been in discussion with the Diocese about the delivery of training for parishioners who have a strong preference for "face to face" training.

Linda M Arch

15. Families ministries

Children's Sunday School Group

There have been no meetings of the Group since March 2020.

Linda M Arch

16. Choir and music 2021

2021 began with the celebration of The Epiphany; we sang Harold Darke's beautiful setting of "In the bleak midwinter". A great start to 2021. However, immediately after Epiphany, with the infection rate from Covid-19 again increasing rapidly, services at All Saints' were again paused.

Working with the Vicar, with some individual sing

ers from the choir, and using some recordings (from St. Martin's Singers), we produced recorded services (and meditations) which were made available via YouTube on Sunday mornings. Links to the services were added to our website and members of the church's contact list were notified by email when they were published. These services took us from the first Sunday of Epiphany through to Easter Day. They were watched by around 40 or so people each week giving continuity to our worshiping community.

When government restrictions were eased once more, it was with great joy that we were able to return to "In person" worship on the Palm Sunday. Initially only the choir was allowed to sing, and it was not really until later that the congregation could also join in with the singing. There was one point during this period when, because of poorly drafted regulations, the number of choristers taking part each week had to be constrained to six. But by September, musically things were returning to a more "normal" state, though face coverings were worn in church when not singing throughout the remainder of 2021.

The choir has continued to lead the worship at All Saints' whenever it has been possible throughout the year. Our numbers are now reduced; Maureen Thompson moved away, Judi Cooke (and Ciara and Ruby) have not been able to return to us, Kerry Hughes has found that with now working fulltime she is unable to join us, and Brian Jenkins has retired from the choir. We are very grateful to all of these choristers who have given so much to support the worship at All Saints' over a number of years. We wish them every blessing. We have been encouraged that Helen Tankard has joined the choir again, having been a chorister at All Saints' in her teens. We are always keen to welcome new and indeed returning members to the choir. If you know anyone who would enjoy joining us, please let me know.

To reduce the risk of infection, the length of our services has been shortened and only a few evening services took place in 2021; this has made it more difficult to maintain our repertoire. However, the choir has provided an anthem (or special item) at most services. In addition to the normal weekly 10:30am service, we sang two choral evensong services and provided the music for the services commemorating the faithful departed. On Advent Sunday the choir led a service of Readings and Music for Advent and on December 23rd led our Service of Lessons and Carols for Christmas. Our repertoire covers a wide range of different types and styles of church music; in 2021 we sang works by Byrd, Tallis, Mozart, Schubert, Attwood, Stanford, Elgar, How, Rutter, Kendrick, Bell, Chilcott etc.

I would like to thank all the members of the choir (including the Vicar) for their support and commitment to providing the best music we can at All Saints'. I would particularly like to thank Val Splitt, ably assisted by Alan, for the work she carries out as our music librarian.

The last two years have been particularly challenging. We look forward with the hope that 2022 might not be disrupted by measures to limit the impact of the pandemic, and that we may continue to "make a joyful song to the Lord!"

Iain Stinson
Director of Music


The
Harvest Lunch

17.Bible Study Group

The Bible Study group managed to meet for some of the year on the fourth Monday of each month in members' homes. Unfortunately, the group had to stop due to the lockdown and high Covid rates.

We were studying Acts from the book by John Stott. When lockdown came, we decided on the day of our meeting to read a passage from the Bible chosen by a member and, by doing this, we could continue to give friendship and support to each other and pray for other people.

We look forward to being able to meet up with each other again in March 2022 and to continue with our study of Acts.

Shirley McEvoy

18.Events

Covid restrictions made it challenging to organise events this year but we were able to meet together for a Harvest lunch after our service for Harvest Thanksgiving in September.

In December we held a light-hearted "Coffee and Carols" with music led by the choir, a quiz and a raffle which gave us an opportunity to come together and enjoy ourselves in a socially distanced way.

Practical Ministries

19. Parish magazine

The editors Patsy Baker, Revd Vicky Barrett, Brian Morris and Iain Stinson have tried to produce a magazine which is interesting and informative to its readers and especially to members of the parish. We have kept the parishioners informed of what is happening at our church through the events page, the diary and articles written on church life. At the same time, we have brought everyday stories from individuals about events which have happened in their lifetime and are of interest to a wider audience. Our thanks go to regular and occasional contributors who make the magazine so varied. We hope that readers gain comfort from the articles in the magazine in these difficult times.

During 2021 six editions of the magazine were printed and circulated as in previous years and a copy placed on the website.

We have continued to receive many complimentary comments from those who have enjoyed not only the content but also the format we have used. The magazine is distributed free to anybody who wishes to have a copy, but we do ask for a donation towards the cost of printing. We are very grateful for these donations and for the contributions from the advertisers. Printing and the co-ordination of the distribution is done by Margaret Gamble and we are indebted to her for continuing with this task as she has done for many years. Our thanks also go to the distributers who deliver the magazines.

We feel it is important that the magazine continues to bring to the attention of the parishioners the various articles, events, quizzes and stories in paper form as not everybody has a computer for the online version. 220 copies of the magazine are printed every two months and are distributed to homes in Thornton Hough, Raby Mere, Brimstage and Raby. Magazines are also posted to homes outside the parish: to Heswall, Neston, Oxton, Willaston, Chester, Port Sunlight, and as far afield as Evershot, Hornby (near Lancaster) and Broadstone (in Dorset). Our editorial team welcomes contributions, so if you have a story or know of an event which you feel might be of interest, please send it to us for consideration with all the other articles.

The Editors

20. 2022 Thornton Hough Calendar

Following the successful 2020 and 2021 calendars, a 2022 Thornton Hough Calendar was produced and printed with thanks to the support provided by Sue and Iain Stinson. Contributions of photographs of our beautiful village and neighbourhood were requested via the pulpit and through the bi-monthly magazine. After much deliberation, Revd Vicky and I selected twelve photographs from a large group depicting views of our beautiful parish at different times in the year. Once again over 200 copies were printed and sent to many parts of the country and far-off lands.

We were indebted to 10 local businesses and companies who each sponsored a month thus covering the printing costs and to those people who sold the calendars to friends and relatives. Thanks must also go to Margaret Gamble who once again sold many calendars to friends and family. We are delighted to report that the calendars made a handsome profit of over £1,250 for church funds. We look forward to producing another calendar for 2023 so we hope that many new and old photos will come to light during the Spring and Summer of 2022 and sent to us for consideration.

Brian Morris on behalf of the Calendar team

21. Website report 2021

The church website continues to be an important element of our communications strategy. It provides information about our church, contact details and includes a calendar of services and events taking place at All Saints'. We announce any last-minute changes to planned events and services on our home page. We publish copies of The Magazine on the website for those who prefer to read online; this also provides a growing record of our activities over recent years.

During 2021, when we paused "In person services" because of the pandemic (from the Sunday after Epiphany to Easter Sunday), we used the website to keep in touch with those of our congregation who use the Internet. As we did in 2020, we provided spiritual resources for people to use at home. These included recorded services and meditations (written by our Vicar) and were a way of trying to keep our worshipping community together (albeit virtually). These resources, along with those published in 2020, are still available on the website (look at Spiritual Resources on the home page).

We made use of an email list of contacts which people were able to join (originally during the interregnum) to tell people about important announcements and about the publication of each reflection, meditation, or service. If you are not on that list, please consider subscribing (from the link on the home page of the website). Because some of our congregation opted to be contacted by post rather than email, as in 2020, we sent printed copies of the meditations written by Vicky to those individuals.

We made use of an online booking form (accessible from the website) to allow people to book seats at our services commemorating the faithful departed and for the Christmas Carol Service.

The website continues to be an important communications tool. Comments and suggestions about the website are always welcome.

Please look regularly at www.allsaintsth.org.uk – you might be pleasantly surprised by what you find.

Iain Stinson

22.Church Flowers

This year, due to Covid, we didn't have a flower rota, but we were very grateful to the members of the congregation who volunteered to have a go at arranging flowers for the altar. Flowers for Christmas, Easter and harvest were donated.

We are very sorry that Jane Wilson hasn't been able to help this year and we would like to thank her for all her help over the last few years.

Margaret Gamble

23. ACF Report for 2021

During 2021 our meetings were once again affected by the covid pandemic. However, I am pleased to say that we were able to resume in September and achieved our last four meetings of the year. We regularly had fifteen members join us each month and also welcomed visitors depending on the speaker and the subject. All speakers receive a fee and we also had generous donations from individuals on the day of the talk.

We continue to follow the five principles of:

Fellowship Worship Service Study Giving

Before our talks we hold a short service with a hymn, Bible reading and prayers.

I would like to thank all those members who help out each month with these, and also those who look after refreshments.

In September we had Ann Barlow from the Children's Society who gave us a detailed history of the Charity from when it was formed in 1881 up until the present day. Ann also gave us an update about the BEAM project which was set up in the Midlands to provide a drop-in service for young people. She also gave us some statistics for Wirral of children living in poverty and with mental health issues.

One of our ACF members Elly Macbeath took us on a 5772-mile train journey at our October Meeting on the Trans-Siberian Railway from Moscow to Vladivostok. We were shown pictures of wonderful scenery and had our appetites whetted with photographs of local food.

In November we were treated to a journey though the history of Christmas music from our Musical Director Iain Stinson. We listened to music of contrasting styles from the earliest times up until present day.

Our final meeting of the year in December was a social event with hearty singing of our favourite Christmas Carols. This was followed by festive refreshments with mince pies and homemade cake.

The talks were varied in content, but we all came away having learnt something new.

Helen Tankard

24. Coffee Morning Report 2021

These were also able to resume in September and were well attended. We were able to hold a raffle each month as well as a well-stocked sales table selling cards, jams, marmalades, home-made cake and cottage pies. These events raised a goodly sum each month which will be used to support charities in 2022.

Helen Tankard

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of All Saints, Thornton Hough

Registered Charity number 1131417

End of Year Financial Statements

(Receipts & Payments)

Year ending December 31st 2021

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Financial review

The COVID-19 pandemic continued during 2021 and the measures taken in the UK to limit its impact on the health of the nation have meant that our activities during 2021 at All Saints' were again reduced. As in 2020, our congregation continued to support All Saints' through this difficult time and our financial position reflects this support. The PCC wishes to record its sincere thanks for this support during what has been another difficult year for everyone.

Overall receipts in 2021 were £128,837, £26,297 more than in 2020. This £26,297 included a grant of £16,000 from Lord Leverhulme's Charitable Trust and a donation of £3,000 from a parishioner towards the repair of the boundary wall in Church Road, which collapsed in February 2020. It also included an earmarked donation of £1,000 from a member of the congregation to repair the church heating boilers and donations in memory of members of the congregation who had died. Regular planned giving through bank standing orders and weekly envelopes was sustained throughout the year, including during the period when there were no in person services at All Saints'.

The results for 2021 show that there is £22,933 in the General Fund (unrestricted) at the end of the year, £1,141 more than when the year began.

Total receipts of unrestricted funds were £107,724 of which £43,777 was voluntary giving through standing orders, weekly envelopes, and open plate collection, £3,588 in donations and £2,966 in grants.

£20,862 of designated funding was received.

We recovered a total of £11,084 through the UK's Gift Aid scheme on qualifying gifts and donations.

Income from investments (Permanent Trust Income) was £17,264; this is higher than the return received in 2020 (£16,803) but still lower than the return in 2019 (£18,669). The value of the investments owned by the PCC has increased by 5.99% over the year.

The PCC's investments are controlled in partnership with the Diocese of Chester, the Diocese taking a role like that of a custodian trustee. The Diocese needs to support any resolutions made by the PCC about its investments; in some cases, The Charity Commission's permission may be required. The PCC has established an Investment Committee to monitor the performance of its investments and, should it deem necessary, make proposals about these to the PCC. If the PCC wished to take any such proposals forward, the PCC would have to pass a formal resolution setting out the actions to be taken. Any such resolution would be passed to the Diocese of Chester for review, approval, and implementation. The Diocese of Chester does not provide any financial advice to PCCs.

There were few social activities during 2021 which raised any funds, though a few activities by individuals, including the production of the 2022 calendar, the sale of jams, pickles, cards etc., did provide some positive financial benefits for All Saints' as well as bringing some joy to our community. The income from calendar sales and sponsorship was £1,605 of which £155 was late receipts for the 2021 edition; the approximate cost of producing the calendar was about £195 (for the 2022 edition) and the net benefit from the 2022 edition of the calendar was about £1,255.

During 2021, donations towards the cost of the Magazine were £668 and revenue from advertisers, including some advanced payments for 2022, was £1,065. This approximately covers the cost of producing six editions of The Magazine each year.

The rental for use of the Parish Hall by outside organisations generated £9,432 during 2021. This is an excellent result. The regulations for keeping the space Covid-19 safe have required significantly more effort both on the part of the external organisers and on our caretaker.

There were more weddings and funerals in church during the year and consequently the fees collected (£8,212) were much higher than in 2020.

The Parish Share for 2021 was £68,241 (0.91% higher than in 2020) and was paid in regular monthly instalments to the Diocese. This meets the cost of clergy salaries, pensions, clergy housing and training; it also provides support for the Diocese of Chester and the central organisation of the Church of England.

Whilst the salary for the Vicar is met by the Diocese, the PCC pay the Council Tax and water charges for the vicarage and the expenses incurred by the vicar in carrying out her role in the parish.

Costs associated with the maintenance and running of the church building (£8,517) and Parish Hall (£2,791) were a little higher than in 2020. The maintenance of the churchyard and the graveyard was £5,571, 5% higher than in 2020. During 2021 no significant expenses were incurred on repairs to the church or to property owned by the PCC.

The repair to the boundary wall in Church Road, which collapsed in February 2021, is being undertaken under the direction of the church architect (as required by the Diocese). The Buildings (Designated) Fund is being used to account for this work and fund has a balance of £18,587. We expect the repair work to be completed in early 2022.

The cost of employing two staff, the Verger and Caretaker and the Director of Music, was £9,176 in 2021.

The total expenditure for 2021 was £108,456, £6,328 more than in 2020.

The PCC meets the day-to-day costs of running the parish from Unrestricted Funds (General Fund). The amount of Unrestricted Funds at the end of 2021 was £1,141 more than at the end of 2020. This small increase in General Fund over the year is in part due to maintenance projects not being undertaken/completed during the year and some donations being received to support specific maintenance and repair costs.

There remain concerns about the on-going financial position of All Saints' to sustain our regular activities. The level of income being received from planned giving and open plate giving (plus the Gift Aid on this) is only about 50% of the total annual expenditure. With income from the investments remaining stubbornly low in recent years, we have been dependent on one-off donations and grants to meet our costs. This has been the case for the last few years.

A few years ago, the PCC received a generous donation of £10,000 to support the employment of a parish administrator. Whilst this donation would have enabled the PCC to appoint a part-time administrator for a couple of years, given the PCC's financial position, it was unlikely that this could be sustained beyond the initial period funded by the donation. During 2021, the donor of this money agreed that this could be used for other purposes as deemed appropriate by the PCC. This money was held in a *restricted fund* which has been closed; the balance of £10,000 has been transferred to a new *designated fund* which may be used at the discretion of the PCC to support All Saints'.

The Designated Funds available to the PCC are £47,915 (at the end of 2021); this includes funds to repair the boundary wall. The PCC can use these designated funds to address some of the maintenance and development projects that need to be undertaken at All Saints'.

The accounts

This financial report is produced under the Church of England guidance for PCCs adopting the ***Receipts and Payments*** method provided for by the Church and The Charities Act (2011).

This report consists of pages numbered 1 to 14 pages 15 and 16 do not form a part of the formal report.

This report shows all the PCC's open bank accounts.

There may appear to be minor discrepancies in the totals in the reports as the pence are not shown.

All members of the PCC are Trustees of the registered charity.

Two PCC members (trustees), Mrs Margaret Gamble and Mr Iain Stinson are employees of the PCC. Mrs Gamble is the Verger and Caretaker and Mr Stinson is the Director of Music (posts they both held before first being elected or co-opted as PCC members). Neither Mrs Gamble nor Mr Stinson receive any payment for their roles as PCC Members (trustees).

No payments were made to PCC members for their role as a member of the PCC other than as minor reimbursements for items purchased.

These accounts have been prepared using Data Developments' Finance Coordinator (version 4.54) software package following the PCC's Accounting Policies which are appended to this report. They have been prepared on behalf of the PCC by Mr Iain Stinson who does not receive any payment for undertaking the duties of Honorary Treasurer.

The following assets are recognised but not valued in the accounts: moveable church furnishings held by the vicar and trustees on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal.

It is the PCC's policy to maintain a balance on unrestricted funds (whenever possible), which equates to approximately two months unrestricted payments, to meet cash flow requirements and to cover emergency situations that may arise from time to time.

The "Notes on the accounts" may be found on page 12 and 13.

Balance Sheet as at December 31st 2021

		As at 31/12/2021	As at 31/12/2020
Fixed assets			
(note 1)	6430: Church Hall	£350,000	£350,000
	6431: Hirst Cottage	£150,000	£150,000
(note 2)	6432: M&G Charibond	£156,826	£161,299
	6433: M&G Charifund	£216,693	£191,123
	Total Fixed assets	**£873,519**	**£852,423**
Current assets			
	6501: CAF Current A/c.545	£38,221	£24,480
	6502: CAF Restricted A/c.546	—	—
	6503: CAF Deposit A/c.274	£23,532	£23,530
(note 3)	6505: HSBC Current A/c.163	£1	£1
	6506: HSBC Current A/c.388	£12,670	£6,135
	Total Current assets	**£74,425**	**£54,147**
Liabilities			
(note 4)	6699: Agency collections	£111	£214
	Total Liabilities	**£111**	**£214**
	Net Asset surplus (deficit)	**£947,833**	**£906,356**
Reserves			
	Excess / (deficit) to date	£20,380	£411
	Z01: Starting balances	£906,356	£944,161
(note 5)	Z02: Gains/(losses) on investment assets	£21,096	(£38,216)
	Total Reserves	**£947,833**	**£906,356**

Represented by Funds

Unrestricted	£22,934	£21,794
Designated	£47,915	£18,625
Restricted	£503,463	£513,513
Endowment	£373,519	£352,423
Total	**£947,833**	**£906,356**

Statement of Assets and Liabilities as at December 31st 2021 (1 of 2)

				Balance	Previous balance
(**note 1**)	**Investments**				
	6432: M&G Charibond - Asset				
	M & G Charibond	Endowment		£156,826	£161,299
				£156,826	£161,299
	6433: M&G Charifund - Asset				
	M & G Charifund	Endowment		£216,693	£191,123
				£216,693	£191,123
			Investments	**£373,519**	**£352,423**
(note 2)	**Tangible assets**				
	6430: Church Hall - Asset				
	Church Hall	Restricted		£350,000	£350,000
				£350,000	£350,000
	6431: Hirst Cottage - Asset				
	Hirst Cottage	Restricted		£150,000	£150,000
				£150,000	£150,000
			Tangible assets	**£500,000**	**£500,000**
	Cash at bank and in hand				
	6501: CAF Current A/c.545 - Asset				
(note 9)	ACF	Designated		£412	—
	Activities approved by the Vicar	Designated		£560	£560
(note 6)	Bibles for church	Designated		£1,000	£1,000
	Choir fees	Restricted		£200	£270
	Fees Holding Fund	Designated		£390	£100
	Hall improvements	Designated		£2,400	£2,400
	Improvements to graves / graveyard in Raby Road	Restricted		£1,300	£1,300
	Kitchen improvements	Designated		£150	£150
	Legacies	Designated		£10,500	£10,500
	Repairs idenitified in Quinquennial Report	Designated		£1,000	£1,000
	Replacement of roof and rainwater goods	Designated		£2,515	£2,515
	General fund	Unrestricted		(£1,891)	£3,505
	Buildings Fund	Designated		£18,587	—
	Choir music	Restricted		£56	£56
	Flower Fund	Restricted		£379	£359
	Organ Fund	Restricted		£428	£428
	Transport Fund	Restricted		£72	£72
	Vicar's Discretionary	Restricted		£50	£50
	Agency collection	Restricted		£111	£214
				£38,221	£24,480

Statement of Assets and Liabilities as at December 31st 2021 (2 of 2)

				Balance	Previous balance
	6503: CAF Deposit A/c.274 - Asset				
(note 8)	Admin Support	Restricted		—	£10,000
	Fees Holding Fund	Designated		£400	£400
(note 8)	For General Support £10,000 (was Admin Support)	—			
	General fund	Unrestricted		£12,154	£12,152
	Choir music	Restricted		£500	£500
	Transport Fund	Restricted		£178	£178
	Vicar's Discretionary	Restricted		£300	£300
				£23,532	£23,530
	6505: HSBC Current A/c.163 - Asset				
	General fund	Unrestricted		£1	£1
				£1	£1
	6506: HSBC Current A/c.388 - Asset				
	General fund	Unrestricted		£12,670	£6,135
				£12,670	£6,135
			Cash at bank and in hand	**£74,425**	**£54,147**
	Agency accounts				
(note 4)	**6699: Agency collections - Liability**				
	Agency collection	Restricted		£111	£214
				£111	£214
			Agency accounts	**£111**	**£214**
			Grand Total	**£947,833**	**£906,356**

Statement of Financial Activities from January 1st 2021 to December 31st 2021

	Unrestricted Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total This year	Total Last Year
Income and endowments from:						
Donations and legacies	£61,618	£20,085	£20	—	£81,724	£67,446
Income from charitable activities	£13,284	£377	£230	—	£13,891	£6,207
Other trading activities	£11,375	—	—	—	£11,375	£7,783
Investments **(note 7)**	£21,646	—	—	—	£21,646	£21,202
Other income	(£200)	£400	—	—	£200	(£100)
Total income	**£107,724**	**£20,862**	**£250**	**—**	**£128,837**	**£102,540**
Expenditure on:						
Raising funds	£4,203	—	—	—	£4,203	£4,578
Expenditure on charitable activities	£102,532	£1,262	£300	—	£104,095	£97,490
Other expenditure	£158	—	—	—	£158	£60
Total expenditure	**£106,894**	**£1,262**	**£300**	**—**	**£108,456**	**£102,128**
Net income / (expenditure) resources before transfer	**£830**	**£19,600**	**(£50)**	**—**	**£20,380**	**£411**
Transfers (note 8)						
Gross transfers between funds - in	£310	£10,000	—	—	£10,310	£1,100
Gross transfers between funds - out	—	(£310)	(£10,000)	—	(£10,310)	(£1,100)
Other recognised gains / losses						
Gains / losses on investment assets	—	—	—	£21,096	£21,096	(£38,216)
Gains on revaluation, fixed assets, charity's own use	—	—	—	—	—	—
Net movement in funds	**£1,140**	**£29,290**	**(£10,050)**	**£21,096**	**£41,476**	**(£37,805)**
Reconciliation of funds						
Total funds brought forward	**£21,794**	**£18,625**	**£513,513**	**£352,423**	**£906,356**	**£944,161**
Total funds carried forward	**£22,934**	**£47,915**	**£503,463**	**£373,519**	**£947,833**	**£906,356**

Analysis of income and expenditure from January 1st 2021 to December 31st 2021 (1 of 3)

	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	Total This year	Total Last year
Income and endowments						
Donations and legacies						
1010 - Planned Giving SO (Gift Aid)	£29,789	—	—	—	£29,789	£28,458
1015 - Planned Giving Env.(Gift Aid)	£9,728	—	—	—	£9,728	£9,426
1020 - Gift Aid - Occasional	£760	£3,000	—	—	£3,760	£790
1030 - Gift Aid - tax rebate	£10,334	£750	—	—	£11,084	£10,278
1040 - Open Plate	£4,260	—	—	—	£4,260	£1,754
1050 - Planned G. Env.(Non Gift Aid)	—	—	—	—	—	—
1052 - Planned G. SO (non Gift Aid)	£46	—	—	—	£46	—
1060 - Wall Safe	£144	—	—	—	£144	£243
1070 - Donations - Sundry	£3,588	£335	£20	—	£3,943	£9,731
1080 - Appeals - Donations	—	—	—	—	—	£998
1085 - Appeals - Restricted	—	—	—	—	—	—
1090 - Legacies	—	—	—	—	—	£1,750
1100 - Grants - recurring	£2,000	—	—	—	£2,000	£16
1110 - Grants - non recurring	£966	£16,000	—	—	£16,966	£4,000
Donations and legacies Totals	£61,618	£20,085	£20	—	£81,724	£67,446
Income from charitable activities						
1120 - Events and Activities	£530	£177	—	—	£707	£52
1121 - Mrs Hunnibuns	£33	—	—	—	£33	£127
1122 - Cots to Tots	—	—	—	—	—	£321
1123 - Income/ Donations for 150th Anniversary	—	—	—	—	—	—
1150 - Choir - Wedding fees	—	—	£230	—	£230	—
1160 - Funerals - PCC	£6,456	—	—	—	£6,456	£3,096
1170 - Funerals - supplementary charges	—	—	—	—	—	—
1210 - Weddings - PCC	£1,556	£200	—	—	£1,756	£274
1230 - Weddings - supplementary charges	—	—	—	—	—	—
1240 - Fees for weddings and funerals **(note 10)**	£2,975	—	—	—	£2,975	£915
1400 - Magazine subscriptions	£668	—	—	—	£668	£746
1402 - Magazine - adverts	£1,065	—	—	—	£1,065	£675
Income from charitable activities Totals	£13,284	£377	£230	—	£13,891	£6,207
Other trading activities						
1140 - Halls - rentals	£9,421	—	—	—	£9,421	£6,223
1300 - Printing / Copying (commercial)	£348	—	—	—	£348	£201
1310 - Printing / copying (personal)	—	—	—	—	—	£5
1410 - Calendar Income	£1,605	—	—	—	£1,605	£1,352
Other trading activities Totals	£11,375	—	—	—	£11,375	£7,783
Investments						
1130 - Hirst Cottage - Rent	£4,380	—	—	—	£4,380	£4,380
1500 - Permanent Trust Income	£17,264	—	—	—	£17,264	£16,803
1510 - Bank Interest	£2	—	—	—	£2	£18
Investments Totals	£21,646	—	—	—	£21,646	£21,202

Analysis of income and expenditure from January 1st 2021 to December 31st 2021 (2 of 3)

	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	Total This year	Total Last year
Other income						
1520 - Insurance Claims	—	—	—	—	—	—
1600 - Advanced payment of fees	(£200)	£400	—	—	£200	(£100)
1650 - Other Ordinary Income	—	—	—	—	—	—
1655 - Prior year adjustment	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other income Totals	(£200)	£400	—	—	£200	(£100)
Income and endowments Grand totals	£107,724	£20,862	£250	—	£128,837	£102,540
Expenditure						
Raising funds						
2400 - Hall - Consumables	—	—	—	—	—	£299
2410 - Hall - Electricity	£457	—	—	—	£457	£492
2415 - Hall - Gas	£1,022	—	—	—	£1,022	£858
2420 - Hall - Insurance	£848	—	—	—	£848	£961
2425 - Hall - Fire protection & safety	—	—	—	—	—	£30
2430 - Hall - Water charges	£36	—	—	—	£36	£56
2535 - Magazine & Bookstall	—	—	—	—	—	£83
3010 - Printing - Copier rental & copies	£1,838	—	—	—	£1,838	£1,795
4000 - Fees - fund raisers	—	—	—	—	—	—
4004 - Management Costs	—	—	—	—	—	—
Raising funds Totals	£4,203	—	—	—	£4,203	£4,578
Expenditure on charitable activities						
2000 - Parish Share	£68,241	—	—	—	£68,241	£67,624
2010 - Clergy and staff - expenses	£1,272	—	—	—	£1,272	£1,196
2015 - Clergy - locum costs	£158	—	—	—	£158	£91
2020 - Parsonage - Council Tax	£2,146	—	—	—	£2,146	£2,250
2025 - Parsonage - PCC Support	—	—	—	—	—	—
2030 - Parsonage - Garden maint.	—	—	—	—	—	—
2035 - Parsonage - Water charges	£747	—	—	—	£747	£1,033
2100 - Church - Electricity	£818	—	—	—	£818	£1,061
2105 - Church - Gas	£2,085	—	—	—	£2,085	£2,393
2110 - Church - Water charges	£171	—	—	—	£171	£272
2115 - Church- Fire Protect. & Safety	£115	—	—	—	£115	£141
2120 - Church - Insurance	£2,031	—	—	—	£2,031	£2,812
2125 - Church - Cost of services	£324	—	—	—	£324	£323
2127 - Flowers	—	—	—	—	—	—
2130 - IT & Web	£533	—	—	—	£533	£914
2200 - Church - Repairs	£330	£1,162	—	—	£1,492	£337
2201 - Church - Ad hoc/minor maint.	£1,127	—	—	—	£1,127	£166
2202 - Church - Maint. contracts	£678	—	—	—	£678	£297
2210 - Church - Modifications	—	—	—	—	—	—
2220 - Church - Decoration	—	—	—	—	—	—
2300 - Church Yard (Church Road)	£3,388	—	—	—	£3,388	£3,462
2310 - Grave Yard (Raby Road)	£2,183	—	—	—	£2,183	£1,827
2330 - Choir - Junior Chorister fees	—	—	—	—	—	£95
2440 - Hall repairs/exterior	£358	—	—	—	£358	—
2445 - Hall repairs/interior	£70	—	—	—	£70	£152
2455 - Hirst Cottage - repairs	—	—	—	—	—	£84
2460 - Property - upkeep	£463	—	—	—	£463	£422
2500 - Mission / Outreach	£430	—	—	—	£430	£208
2505 - Children's Ministry	—	—	—	—	—	£82
2510 - Church Societies	£400	—	—	—	£400	£475

Analysis of income and expenditure from January 1st 2021 to December 31st 2021 (3 of 3)

	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	Total This year	Total Last year
2520 - Relief agencies	£600	—	—	—	£600	£619
2525 - Church Overseas	—	—	—	—	—	—
2530 - Secular Societies	—	—	—	—	—	—
2605 - Music - costs	—	—	—	—	—	£184
2610 - Director of Music - Costs	£31	—	—	—	£31	—
2611 - Fees paid out (**note 10)**	£1,025	—	£300	—	£1,325	£220
2615 - Organ - tuning & maint.	—	—	—	—	—	£306
2620 - Organist - Locum organists	£86	—	—	—	£86	£53
2700 - Office - telephone	£348	—	—	—	£348	£407
2701 - Office - Broadband	£318	—	—	—	£318	£183
2702 - Office - equipment	—	—	—	—	—	—
2710 - Office - consumables	£758	—	—	—	£758	£460
3000 - Staffing Costs (Salaries)	£7,180	—	—	—	£7,180	£5,867
3001 - Pension contributions	—	—	—	—	—	—
3002 - Tax & NIC payments	£1,996	—	—	—	£1,996	£791
3005 - Staffing fees **(note 10)**	£1,830	—	—	—	£1,830	£598
3015 - PRINTING - in house	—	—	—	—	—	—
3300 - Miscellaneous	£100	£100	—	—	£200	—
4001 - Costs for grants	—	—	—	—	—	—
4002 - Costs of stewardship	£68	—	—	—	£68	£67
4003 - Costs of Fetes/events	£111	—	—	—	£111	—
4005 - Governance Costs	—	—	—	—	—	—
Expenditure on charitable activities Totals	£102,532	£1,262	£300	—	£104,095	£97,490
Other expenditure						
4006 - Bank charges	£158	—	—	—	£158	£60
Other expenditure Totals	£158	—	—	—	£158	£60
Expenditure Grand totals	£106,894	£1,262	£300	—	£108,456	£102,128

Notes on the accounts.

Note 1.
The Church Hall and Hirst Cottage are owned by the PCC and the valuation in the accounts was obtained some years ago. If the PCC wished to consider selling these assets up to date valuations would need to be obtained.

Note 2.
The M&G Charibond and M&G Charifund investments are managed by the PCC in partnership with the Diocese of Chester for the PCC. The investments owned by the PCC are as follows:

Principal donor	**Specified purpose**	**Holding**	**Number of shares**	**Value 31 Dec 2021**
Leverhulme		M&G Charibond Inc	128,546.10	£156,826
		M&G Charifund Inc	13,645.03	£212,343
Lever	Churchyard maintenance	M&G Charifund Inc	264.01	£4,108
Fernie	Churchyard maintenance	M&G Charifund Inc	15.46	£240
Total value of investments				£373,519[1]

The value of these investments has increased from £352,423 at the end of 2020 to £373,519 at the end of 2021, an increase in value of £21,096 (5.99%).

Note 3.
The HSBC bank account ending in 163 is used as a part of the standing order collection process and automatically transfers its contents, other than £1, into the HSBC bank account ending in 388 at end of each month.

Note 4.
The PCC collects fees for weddings, funerals and cremation services on behalf of the Diocese. These fees are held separately from the church's funds and paid over to the Diocese each month. The liability shown is amount of these fees in the PCC's accounts which will be paid over to the Diocese.

Note 5.
The value of the M&G investments owned by the PCC has increased from £352,423 at the end of 2020 to £373,519 at the end of 2021, an increase in value of £21,096 (5.99%).

Note 6.
The Bible Fund was established in 2020 to hold money donated to buy new Bibles to be used in church. It is expected that these will be purchased during 2022.

Note 7.
This Investment Income heading includes the rental for Hirst Cottage (£4,380), bank interest (£2) and receipts from the investments.

As well as the income from investments owned by the PCC, the investment income also includes income from a gift made in 1956 by Miss K.P. Fryer to the Diocese of Chester Board of Finance. The gift was made with a request that it be used for the benefit of All Saints' Thornton Hough and that a portion be used to provide a memorial in the Church to her

[1] Difference in the total due to omission of the pence.

parents. The Diocese of Chester Board of Finance holds 6,304.15 shares in the CBF Investment fund as the remaining part of this gift; the value of these shares at 31 December 2021 was £147,433.

The table below shows the income received from these investments during 2021.

Fund	**Income 2021**	**Yield**
M&G Charifund	£10,304	4.755%
M&G Charibond	£3,213	2.049%
CBF Investment fund	£3,745	2.541%
Total	***£17,264***[2]	

Note 8.
A few years ago, the PCC received a donation of £10,000 to support the employment of a parish administrator. During 2021, the donor of this money agreed that this could be used for other purposes as deemed appropriate by the PCC. This money was held in a restricted fund (named *AdminSuppo*). This fund has been closed and the balance of £10,000 transferred to a new designated fund named *GenSupport*, which may be used at the discretion of the PCC to support All Saints'. £310 was transferred from the designated advanced payment of fees to the General Fund.

Note 9.
The church's ACF group closed its own bank account and passed the money to All Saints' to manage as part of the PCC's funds. The ACF Fund has been established to enable the group to continue to direct the use of its resources with All Saints' finance management.

Note 10.
Fees for the verger and organist for weddings and funerals, (and some grave digging fees) are recorded under code 1240; payments from this income made to employees are recorded under code 3005 and to others under code 2611.

Approval

Approved by the Trustees and signed on their behalf by:

Revd. Vicky Barrett (Vicar)

Dr Pamela Machin (Churchwarden)

Mr Alan Splitt (Churchwarden)

Date: 15th March 2022

[2] Difference in the total due to omission of the pence.

Independent examiner's report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of All Saints, Thornton Hough (Registered Charity number 1131417) (the Trust) for the year ended 31st December 2021.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

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

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

Name: VERITY SMITH

Relevant professional qualification or membership of professional bodies (if any):

Address: HOYLAKE

Date: 25.2.22

Appendix: Accounting Policies

Note: These are not a part of the formal Financial Report

1. Accounting

The financial statements are prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 together with applicable accounting standards and the SORP 2005. The financial statements are prepared under the historical cost convention except for the valuation of investment assets, which are shown at market value. The accounts include transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC is held responsible in law. They do not include the accounts of church groups that owe an affiliation to another body nor those that are informal gatherings of church members.

2 Funds

Unrestricted funds are general funds which can be used for PCC ordinary purposes.

Restricted funds represent (a) income from trusts and endowments which may be expended only on those restricted objects provided in the terms of the trust or bequest, and (b) donations or grants received for a specific object or invited by the PCC for a specific object. The funds may only be expended on the specific object for which they were given. Any balance remaining unspent at the end of each year must be carried forward as a balance on that fund. The PCC does not usually invest separately for each fund.

Endowment funds are funds, the capital of which must be maintained; only income arising from investment of the endowment may be used either as restricted or unrestricted funds depending on the purpose for which the endowment was established.

3 Reserves Policy

It is the PCC's policy to maintain a balance of unrestricted funds (i.e. a balance of funds excluding restricted funds), whenever possible, which equates to approximately two months unrestricted payments, to meet cash flow requirements and to cover emergency situations that may arise from time to time. For the purpose of monitoring the reserves balance, the two months unrestricted payments will be deemed to one sixth of 90% of the budgeted expenditure of the current financial year.

4 Incoming Resources

Collections are recognised when received by or on behalf of the PCC. Planned giving receivable under Gift Aid is recognised only when received. Gift Aid recoverable on qualifying donations is recognised when the Gift Aid is received.

Legacies to the PCC are accounted for when the PCC receives them. Grants are recorded when received.

Rental income from the letting of Hirst Cottage is recognised when the rent is due. Income from Parish Hall rentals is recognised when the income is received.

Dividends and interest are accounted for when received. Tax recoverable on such income is recognised in the same accounting year as when claimed.

All other income is recorded when received.

Realised gains or losses are recognised when investments are sold. Unrealised gains or losses are accounted for on the revaluation of investments at 31 December.

Wherever practically possible all incoming resources are accounted for gross.

5 Resources Used

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

Salaries, pay, tax, NI, fees and exceptional expenditure are recognised in the accounts when they are due.

The Diocesan Parish Share is accounted for when due.

All other expenditure is generally recognised when it is incurred and, where practical, is accounted for gross.

Activities which involve regular and ongoing payments are handled through unrestricted funds. Where donations (and other income) are received to support a specific activity which involves regular and ongoing payments, these will be held in a restricted fund. Where funds are available, transfers will be made from the restricted fund to the unrestricted fund (from which the payments for the activity are made) as expenditure for that activity is incurred. Restricted funds do not go into deficit. Unexpended resources will remain in the restricted fund.

6 Fixed Assets

Consecrated land and beneficed property is excluded from the accounts by s.96(2)(a) of the Charities Act 1993. No value is placed on movable church furnishings which are held by the Churchwardens, on special trust for the PCC, and which require a faculty for disposal and which are inalienable property. All expenditure incurred during the year on consecrated or beneficed buildings and movable church furnishings, whether maintenance or improvement, is written off as expenditure in the SOFA and separately disclosed.

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

7 Payments to PCC Members

Expenses paid to the vicar may include a small immaterial proportion which relates to the vicar's function as a PCC member. No other payments are made to PCC members other than as reimbursements for items purchased.

Revised January 2020

Independent examiner's report All Saints Thornton Hough

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of All Saints, Thornton Hough (Registered Charity number 1131417) (the Trust) for the year ended 31st December 2021.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

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

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

Name: VERITY SMITH

Relevant professional qualification or membership of professional bodies (if any):

Address: HOYLAKE

Date: 25.2.22

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ALL SAINTS THORNTON H

England & Wales - Charity number 1131417

Accounts

ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF
ALL SAINTS' THORNTON HOUGH
DIOCESE OF CHESTER

Charity Commission Number 1131417



ANNUAL REPORTS FOR 2020

All Saints' Parochial Church Council
The Parish Office, The Parish Hall, Church Road, Thornton Hough, Wirral, CH63 1JW

Part 1: Trustees' report to the Charity Commission

1. Aims and Purposes

Our aim is

'To promote the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical'

Our purpose as a church is to worship God through our regular services and through the fellowship of our loving community. We share the love of God with those around, serving the community and witnessing to others about the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.

All Saints' Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the legal responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish of Thornton Hough the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. The PCC is also specifically responsible for the maintenance of the church building and churchyards on Raby Road, and the Parish Hall on Church Road.

2. Objectives

Statement of Vision and Goals for 2017 to 2022

Vision

Our aspiration for All Saints' Church is:

- for God to be central in all that we do and in the lives of all our members
- to share the love of God with those around, serving the community and
- witnessing to others about the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Goals

1. **Spiritual Growth**
   To promote a deepening of love and spiritual growth.
   To develop and grow our knowledge through study of the Bible, through prayer and through teaching at our services and other events so that we are better able to apply the Bible's teaching in today's world.
2. **Mission**
   To share the good news about Jesus Christ with others so that they too may receive and enjoy the grace and blessings of God in their lives.
   To support others who also work to share the good news of Jesus Christ.
3. **Care for others in the church and in the community**
   To reach out to others and demonstrate his love in practical ways by caring for and serving others within the church and without, including all age groups, newcomers, and those in need.
4. **Worship**
   To use our talents to make our worship more meaningful.
   To ensure that our worship and events are worthy offerings to God, that they meet the needs of our existing members and are attractive and accessible to those outside the Christian community who are interested in what we do.
5. **Organisation**
   To promote the smooth running of the church we need to:
   - Devise and explore ways of involving more of our members in all aspects of running our church.
   - Ensure that we are using people's God given talents in the most effective way possible.
   - Generate sufficient income to balance the books.

6. **Communication**
   To improve our use of appropriate communication channels to support and enhance all of our activities at All Saints'.

3. 2020 Activities, Achievements and Performance

Regular Sunday Worship

Our regular pattern of Sunday worship has been affected by the Covid pandemic. We closed the church from 22nd March and resumed public worship on 19th July 2020. A second lockdown later in the year meant that we paused our services from 5th November and reopened for the Second Sunday in Advent: 6th December. We resumed worship at our Sunday morning services only in order to ensure that appropriate time was set aside for cleaning. We maintained our pattern of having one service of Holy Communion available each week: either at our 8.00am Book of Common Prayer service held on alternate Sundays or at our weekly 10.30am services. A careful Risk Assessment for the conduct of Holy Communion services has been carried out and followed.

The numbers of those attending the early service rose from a regular cohort of 5 pre-pandemic to 9 after July. Worshippers appreciated the quiet service and the space around them which enabled them to feel safe. Individuals were encouraged to either bring their own Prayer Book with them or "adopt" a church copy to bring with them and take home each time to avoid transmission of the virus.

The 10.30am services resumed with new service sheets printed for each week. This meant that we were able to be more flexible, using a wider range of liturgy resources to fit the changing seasons and themes. We introduced sharing the Peace using British Sign Language to maintain our social distance but also making gesture and eye contact more meaningful. We involved some members of the congregation in the service who were keeping safe at home by playing recordings made of them reading the lessons or intercessions. The choir was only able to resume singing in August and congregational singing has yet to be permitted again.

The impact of Covid on attendance was marked; prior to the first lockdown, regular congregations were around 50 adults and 4 children, however they settled at nearer 40 and no children on return during the summer and early autumn.

Opportunities for worship and reflection during lockdown were provided through a mixture of written reflections and video recordings, made available for Sunday mornings. People were signposted towards other resources to help nurture their spiritual life as well, such as the Daily Hope phoneline: 0800 804 8044.

Tim Allen-Price and Pam Machin have been steadfast welcomers at our 10.30am services; thanks to them, Rachel Brothwell and others who have ably assisted, often at short notice, to ensure that people have been able to worship in safety.

Festivals and Occasional Offices

On Friday 6th March we welcomed visitors from other churches to All Saints' for the World Day of Prayer. 42 people attended this service.

The Mothering Sunday service on 22nd March 2020 was the first service which had to be cancelled due to the lockdown for the COVID-19 pandemic.

On 26th February we held an Ash Wednesday Service at 7.00pm; this was the first time for many years that there had been an imposition of ashes service to begin the Lent season.

We were still in lockdown for Easter but provided online reflections, prayers and hymns on the All Saints' website and posted the material out for those who were unable to access the online material. We had established a contact list during the 2018 interregnum and this has proved invaluable for keeping in touch with our congregation.

The annual Thornton Hough Primary School Year 6 Leavers' Service and presentation of books which is usually held in All Saints' church in July had to be cancelled in 2020.

We celebrated our patronal festival on Sunday 1st November and 43 people attended. In the afternoon of 1st November we held a Remembrance of the Departed service and 62 people were present.

By Remembrance Day we were back in lockdown and the church service in the morning, the parade to the War Memorial and the village service in All Saints' Church had to be cancelled. Instead we made an online service available.

The Advent Carol Service was held a week later than planned due to the lockdown and this was attended in person by 43 people and also viewed online.

We were unable to hold the Christingle Service and the Crib Service in December due to worries about Covid safety, but we did have an interactive Nativity Service with props from goody bags. This service was also made available online with the goody bags delivered to anyone who was unable to join us in church.

The Service of Lessons and Carols became a bookable service and was run twice with an attendance of 49 people at the first service and 47 at the second.

44 people attended church at Christmas (24th and 25th December), all of whom were communicants.

During 2020 we conducted the following occasional offices:

Baptisms	0
Confirmations	0
Weddings	1
Funerals	21 (7 services in church, 14 at the crematorium)
Burial	1
Thanksgiving services	2

Regular Midweek Worship and Fellowship

Our Wednesday Holy Communion service became a regular weekly fixture when it returned in September after lockdown and a summer break – but without coffee and biscuits. Numbers rose from a steady 10 to 14 by December, as people enjoyed a quiet, informal, socially distanced service.

Sadly, the impact of Coronavirus on nursing homes meant that our visits to Westwood Hall and Brimstage Manor had to cease after February.

Children and Families

The Children's Sunday Group ran for the first part of 2020 until the lockdown came in March when it had to be paused.

Visits by Revd Vicky to Thornton Hough Primary School have also been paused due to the Coronavirus, however she continues to liaise with the school through her role as Governor. She led a small Act of Remembrance by the village War Memorial for pupils as they gathered outside school on 11th November.

Pastoral Care

The Prayer and Pastoral Care group have continued to share concerns about individuals on a confidential basis via email and telephone. Home visits by the group and home communion by the vicar had to pause due to restrictions, however a slightly larger team of 9 committed to telephoning a designated small cohort of individuals on a regular basis. Regular walks round the parish during lockdown have helped the vicar to establish links with the wider parish "over the garden fence".

4. Governance and PCC Membership

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 Registered Charity.

The appointment of PCC members is governed by and set out in the Church Representation Rules (2017). The PCC at All Saints' consists of: the incumbent (our Vicar), the Churchwardens, elected representatives to the Deanery Synod and elected lay representatives.

In 2020 the PCC membership and Standing Committee membership was as follows

Elected Members of the Laity		Other Members	
Mr P Arch		Revd. V Barrett*	Vicar (Chairman)
Mrs R Brothwell		Mrs P Baker*	Churchwarden Until September 2020
Mr S Deakin		Mrs A Jones*	Churchwarden
Mrs M Gamble		Dr P Machin*	Churchwarden From September 2020
*Mrs D Hughes		Dr E Macbeath	Deanery Synod representative
Mr D Jones		Mr B Brennan	Deanery Synod representative. Until September 2020
Miss E Roberts	Until September 2020	Mr G Allan Price	Deanery Synod representative from September 2020
Mrs L Russell		Mrs S Stinson* (PCC Secretary)	Deanery Synod representative from September 2020
Mr A Splitt			
Mr I Stinson* (PCC Treasurer)		** Members of the Standing Committee*	

Members were also elected to the sub committees dealing with Finance, Fabric and Health and Safety, Remuneration and Three Churches Together. The committees exist to discuss and, for more major issues, make recommendations, which are then taken to the full PCC.

In 2020 PCC meetings were held on 3rd February, 9th March, 2nd September, 15th September, 13th October, 10th November and 8th December.

The Standing Committee met on 8th June, 13th June and 4th July in 2020.

The Annual Meeting was held on 15th September 2020, having been postponed from April due to the pandemic.

5. Safeguarding

The PCC has complied with the duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Measure 2016 (duty to have regard to House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding and vulnerable adults). (Church Representation Rules 2020 p76)

6. Activities of the PCC in 2020

2020 has been a challenging year for the PCC due to the lockdowns and being unable to meet in person for some of the year. The meetings in February and March were the only ones in which all the members were able to meet in person. Subsequent meetings have been hybrid meetings held with some people meeting in person and others online using Zoom, or, during total lockdowns, only on Zoom with members receiving the minutes and having a chance to vote on proposals just after the meetings. This meant that people who could not access the Zoom meetings still had a chance to vote.

The PCC has continued to consider regular reports on the Finances, Fabric, Health and Safety, Prayer and Pastoral Care, Electoral Roll and Three Churches Together.

In addition to the regular items the PCC discussed the purchase of new Bibles for the pews in the church, the introduction of the new hymn books, a faculty application for the churchyard, toilet twinning, implementation of Churchyard Regulations, safeguarding including the past cases review (PCR 2) and courses, record keeping, the safe opening of the church, worship, the appointment of a new Independent Examiner and charitable giving.

The Standing Committee met on 19th March, 18th June, 13th June and 4th July.
In March they considered the opening of the church for private prayer only, communication during the lockdowns, including the suspension of the magazine and the circulation of reflections and a newsletter. They also discussed setting up a telephone network to keep in touch with people, in addition to pressing matters that needed attention while the PCC were unable to meet.

In June, after a lockdown in which all worship had been suspended and the church building closed, they met to discuss the safe re-opening of the church, how we could implement social distancing, signage, cleaning the church, removal of cushions, kneelers and hymn books, the provision of hand sanitiser etc.

In July the Standing Committee discussed running the services in a Covid- safe way and publicising the re-starting of services.

7. Charity Information

Contact details	All Saints PCC, The Parish Office, The Parish Hall Church Road Thornton Hough, Wirral, CH63 1JW	
	www.allsaintsth.org.uk	0151 336 1654
Church of England Diocese	Chester	
Charity Registration Number	1131417	

Part 2: Reports from the PCC

8. Electoral Roll Report

On 1st January 2020 there were 101 names on the Electoral Roll.

On December 31st 2020 there were 98 names on the Electoral Roll, 53% resident, 47% non-resident.

Elly Macbeath

9. Fabric, Goods and Ornaments

The Fabric and Health & Safety (FHS) Committee continues to coordinate works to the church buildings and grounds in terms of maintenance, refurbishment and health & safety issues. Our work is organised into scheduled tasks (regular maintenance and checks on the buildings and grounds); one-off improvement projects; and, very much to the fore this year, regularly reviewing health and safety matters and risk assessments to ensure that our buildings are safe for all users.

With much of 2020 spent coming to terms with the impact of lockdown and coronavirus restrictions, much of our time this year has been focused on undertaking new risk assessments and keeping these under regular review to ensure that our buildings are 'Covid-secure' and adhere to all relevant Government and Church of England regulations and guidelines. This is an on-going task as circumstances change and the restrictions and guidance react to these.

Whilst our buildings have been used less this year, and at times access has been restricted, many of our scheduled maintenance tasks have continued throughout the year, albeit our planned Spring working party to undertake a number of routine maintenance jobs in the church and grounds had to be cancelled as the first lockdown came into force. The FHS Committee wishes to extend our thanks to the many other people who contribute to the on-going running and upkeep of the church, grounds and buildings, by volunteering to undertake some of the routine tasks coordinated by the Committee.

One-off improvement projects are organised into current and pending projects. Current projects are those actively being pursued. Many of these require a good deal of research, planning and organisation in the background before any noticeable works can start. The committee meet regularly throughout the year to discuss these, before making recommendations to the PCC. The Committee has continued to meet, albeit virtually, but progress with most current projects has been slower this year. There are over 20 projects on our current projects list at present, include replacing the tired-looking noticeboard and carrying out repairs and remedial works to the church spire. Some of the others are mentioned below.

Pending projects are those which the FHS committee is not able to pursue at the present time, but are being kept on the radar for when time and resources allow. Pending projects are reviewed regularly to assess whether priorities have changed or additional resources have become available. Once we are able to return to a more 'normal' pattern of meeting and gathering, the Committee will review whether there are any projects that need to move up the priority list as we adapt to the 'new normal', whatever that may be! There are 15 projects on this list at present, some of which are 'nice to have' improvements and others are major maintenance projects that will be required in the medium term, such as a major overhaul of the church roof and

repointing of the stonework to the church. Both of these will need considerable time, effort, and of course financial resources.

Our Quinquennial Inspection was arranged to happen in May 2020, but had to be postponed due to the lockdown restrictions in force at the time, and was eventually undertaken in October 2020. We are still awaiting the report from our church architect and have been notified that this is expected by Easter 2021, due to a backlog caused by the restrictions. When we receive the report, it will provide us with more guidance and advice about the state of repair of our church and churchyard and recommendations for essential and desirable works. The Committee will review this carefully once received and will use it to inform our priorities for 2021.

Should anyone wish to bring any matter to the attention of the Fabric, Health & Safety Committee, we can be contacted by email on buildings@allsaintsth.org.uk

Darren Jones

9A. Church

Further repairs have been carried out this year to the gas boilers which heat the church building. Spare parts are becoming increasingly difficult to source for these boilers and it would be sensible to plan for replacement of these in the next couple of years. Routine maintenance and servicing have been on-going as required.

Minor works have included maintenance of the lighting systems, repairs to the church roof to fix leaks and replace broken and slipped roof tiles and the cleaning of some blocked drains.

Whilst we have yet to receive our Quinquennial Inspection report, initial indications are that the condition of the roof has not deteriorated significantly since the last inspection, and indeed some of the patch repairs we have had done have left it overall in a better state than 5 years ago. The less good news, however, is that the roof is reaching the end of its working life and replacement or major renovation does need to be planned for.

More urgently the gutters, downpipes and other rainwater goods are in need of replacement, some urgently, and this work will incur substantial expense. The Committee is investigating various sources of grants and match-funding that might be able to assist with this.

Darren Jones

9B. Church grounds

Works to the churchyards over the past twelve months has been mainly routine maintenance. We are continuing to monitor the condition and lean of the boundary walls, with measurements being taken so that we can be aware of any movements in the walls.

The handrails have been replaced at the Raby Road steps to the new churchyard and the handrails to the main entrance steps to the church will follow soon. We are also working on plans to replace the noticeboard on Raby Road with a new high quality noticeboard, welcoming visitors and clearly displaying essential information about us and our services.

Darren Jones

9C. Parish Hall and Hirst Cottage

Only routine maintenance works have been carried out this year, including repairs to the roofs. The condition of the old pew outside the Parish Hall is deteriorating and we are looking to get this removed.

Darren Jones

10. Wirral South Deanery Synod Report

The Deanery Synod meeting was held at All Saints' on 5th March.

No meetings have been held since March 2020 when we had the first lockdown due to the Covid pandemic.

Dr. Elly Macbeath
Wirral South Deanery Synod Rep.

The Trustees' report to the Charity Commission was approved by the PCC on 15th March 2021.

Part 3: Reports on activities

11. Worship, Prayer and Pastoral Care

Report of the Vicar

No-one could have envisaged what challenges would face us both nationally and as a parish in 2020.

However, in the midst of the uncertainties, we have been reminded:

> The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases,
> his mercies never come to an end;
> they are new every morning;
> great is your faithfulness. (Lamentations 3:22-23)

We have begun to see afresh the vital place our church has within the parish: our church is a safe space, a place of joy and support, learning and encouragement, and of deep consolation. It is not just for those who would consider themselves "members" of the church; rather, it remains a beacon and place of welcome for all. Our next steps will be to see where this vision might take us in the future.

Ensuring the church is a safe place has been at the forefront of planning through the year. Our grounds and the church are places of peace and sanctuary for many visitors. I am particularly grateful to our Health and Safety Officer, our Verger Margaret Gamble, and Iain and Sue Stinson for their hard work on preparing the church for Covid-safe reopening and conducting and reviewing Risk Assessments. Thanks too for the support and insights from Churchwardens Patsy Baker, Alice Jones and Pam Machin and the Standing Committee. It was good to discover that people from different places, faiths and none dropped in after we reopened the building for private prayer on 18th June.

Reviewing records dating back well over a century at the start of the year as part of the Diocese's Past Case Review 2 offered no evidence of past concerns about the safeguarding of children or vulnerable adults at All Saints' but was a salutary reminder of the continuing need to take seriously our responsibilities for the way in which we treat others.

We were able to share the joy of a Harvest service together in which we shared the good things from our larders with Wirral Foodbank and enjoyed the bounty of people's gardens in beautiful flower displays. The Nativity service in December also offered a chance to share the joy of the Christmas story, and families unable to attend were sent their own special "goody bag" of items.

We supported those around us by learning to adhere to social distancing rules; using hand sanitiser and donning masks have become acts of love for one another. I am very grateful to those who have helped to support people by committing to making regular phone calls and doing shopping. These practical acts run alongside the prayers which have been offered.

We have had to learn many things this year, not least how to be patient; going into lockdown, returning to public worship and then back into lockdown has stretched us all. We have had to learn to be resourceful, adapting to restrictions and developing skills and strategies to manage Zoom meetings, accessing resources online and in printed forms. I am grateful to Iain Stinson for his considerable technical support and Margaret Gamble for printing many packs of support materials. We have all learned more about what sustains us spiritually.

We can all be encouraged by the fact that even when the church was closed physically, the life of the church continued. Whilst we were unable to share Easter Sunday together, the good news of Jesus being risen remains. It was also good to see that many people felt happy to return to public worship. I am also enormously grateful for the personal encouragement which so many have given me this year.

All Saints' Church continues to be a place where we are reminded of the deep consolation of the Christian message. We lament the pain experienced during the last twelve months. Our special afternoon Service for the Faithful Departed enabled us to give voice and space for families who have lost loved ones in 2020. Each person present was given a painted clay heart to remind them of their loved one and of God's love for them. As a church family we were particularly saddened by the deaths of Penny Dodd, Don Cooksley, John McIver, Ken Edwards, John Lewis and June Smith. We pray that all those who have died this year may rest in peace and rise in glory.

Very many thanks to all those who have contributed to building up the life of All Saints' Church in 2020, whether in large or small part. We thank God for his faithfulness, and his love for this wonderful parish of Thornton Hough and its people.

Harvest: Thanks be to God!

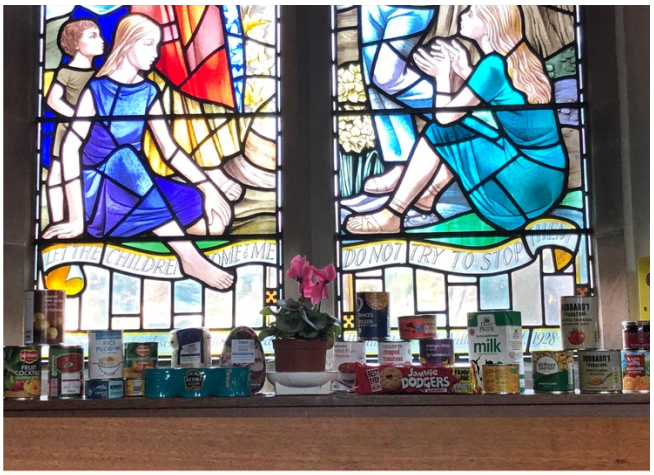
Our Harvest Thanksgiving Week was a time of great generosity and joy in 2020.
The church was a riot of colour for our service on 20th September, decorated with flowers and foliage largely picked from parishioners' gardens and allotments.
The windowsills were laden with tins of food. These generous donations were taken to the Wirral Foodbank, where they would help to provide nutritious food for those on limited incomes.





The tins were put onto pallets at the Foodbank and our contributions weighed in at 168.2 kilogrammes; that's nearly 26 and a half stone!







Harvest Festival









12. Report of the Churchwardens

2020 has been an eventful year, both within the church and without.

The year began uneventfully as news of a new virus began to circulate. We enjoyed a return to worship after the Christmas season, with a gradual introduction of increased interventions to keep our parishioners safe. We celebrated the World Day of Prayer on the 6th of March and then enjoyed a rousing "Sing In" on the 8th of March at which many attendees were able to request their favourite hymns as the Director of Music encouraged us to explore our new hymn books. As Lent began we joined together in a weekly study of the book of Jonah.

As the weeks progressed, and the country went into lockdown, we too locked down and meeting for study and worship were suspended in line with national recommendations. Our Annual Meetings were postponed. With face-to-face meetings suspended communications moved to electronic and paper newsletters, using our website to keep in touch and material including songs, reflections and links to videos created by the Vicar were posted to maintain links within the parish.

As we were able to reopen the church, in a Covid secure manner, Private Prayer and then smaller services were able to be started. We were able to hold our Annual Meetings in a combined in person and Zoom format on the 13th September and began our week of Harvest Thanksgiving. 168.2kg of tinned and dried food was collected which was delivered to Wirral Foodbank by the Vicar with further donations online offered by others. The Churchwardens attended the Archdeacon's Visitation service on Zoom on the 23rd of November to be sworn into office. We would like to thank Patsy Baker who, thanks to the pandemic, had an unexpectedly long final term of office and has worked tirelessly for the church over her six and a half years of service as a churchwarden.

On the 8th October we welcomed the Church Architect to perform the Quinquennial Inspection which had had to be delayed earlier in the year due to lockdown. We are yet to receive the report but this will be shared as usual when we receive it.

Some of our celebration services have had to be held in a modified format due to pandemic regulations. Our All Saints' Day service to remember the departed was a - lovely reflective invitation only service for families at which we remembered 21 individuals. There Advent Carol service was held on the 6th December and we held two Services of Lessons and Carols with prebooking required. These services were well attended and the music and singing were much appreciated. We would like to extend our thanks to the Director of Music and the choir for their hard work and flexibility during these services and throughout this challenging year.

During 2020 our dedicated PCC members have continued to meet in person, in a hybrid face-to-face and Zoom hybrid format or on Zoom as we have been allowed in order to keep the business of the church in working order. Although this has been challenging and required a very flexible way of working, particularly from the PCC Secretary, we have found a way of rising to the challenge. Our Sidesperson and Coffee rotas were suspended as lockdown came in and we hope that these will be able to be started up again as we move forward into 2021. We are currently not permitted to allow congregational singing and we hope that this too is allowed soon and that the new hymn books can come out of storage and back into use.

We would like to thank the Magazine team and all those who have made phenomenal efforts to keep in touch, and keep reaching out, to our parishioners and congregation in

very challenging circumstances. We would also like to thank our Verger who has worked tirelessly to keep our buildings Covid secure. Of course we would also like to thank our Vicar, Revd Barrett, who has met each challenge which the year has posed with grace, poise and an imaginative approach to use new technologies to keep us encouraged.

Alice Jones and Pam Machin
Churchwardens

13. Verger's Report

2020 was a strange year for weddings, funerals and interment of ashes in church. There was only one wedding, due to the government restrictions, five funerals and five interments of ashes.

Parish Hall

We went into lockdown in March and since then we have opened and closed a few times.

We have been very lucky to have Gillian Woods (Stepping Out) who, when we were open, has used the hall every evening and every Thursday each week. Weight Watchers have also used the hall on a Friday morning.
Risk assessments were carried out, notices were put up and hand sanitiser was provided to ensure that the hall could be used safely, in line with the government requirements. Both groups filled in Covid safe forms and made sure when using the hall that everyone was safe at each meeting.
We have not heard from any of the other regular users and polling was cancelled in May.

The PCC has held some meetings in the hall, but we have not been able to use the Parish Hall for any other church events. We look forward to a time when we can re-start all these activities again.

Margaret Gamble
Verger

14. Safeguarding

We continue to take Safeguarding seriously at All Saints' Thornton Hough, despite the changes to parish activities caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Though the previous annual safeguarding audit was completed in the autumn of 2019, it was repeated early in 2020, using the Model Parish Safeguarding Checklist from the Church of England's Parish Safeguarding Handbook, rather than the pro forma that I had "inherited" from the previous Parish Safeguarding Co-ordinator/Officer. No DBS checks required renewal during the year.

The face-to-face "Raising Awareness of Domestic Violence and Abuse" course has been, understandably, suspended in the Diocese of Chester. I shall rebook when this is possible, because my original booking was for autumn 2018. Throughout the pandemic, I have made efforts to encourage as many parishioners as possible to complete the online "Basic Awareness" safeguarding course, but with only limited success.

As part of the Past Cases Review Part Two, linked to the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse, I was able to confirm to Revd Vicky Barrett that none of the archives passed over to me, as current Safeguarding Co-ordinator / Officer, contained any relevant material, though of course she needed to examine the paperwork for herself. During the year, nothing of concern has been reported.

Looking forward, it has been agreed with the Vicar and PCC that the annual safeguarding audit 2021 should be delayed until activities at All Saints' settle into something approaching routine.

Linda M Arch

15. Families ministries

Children's Sunday School Group

In January the Children's Sunday Group started up again in the Choir Vestry, during the morning service. The sessions followed a similar format to those in 2019, with teaching, reading from the Bible, discussion and craft suitable for children of primary school age. They were delivered by the same small team of 3 leaders and 3 helpers (1 leader and 1 helper per session) and were based on teaching material in the "Click" books published by The Good Book Company. We explored how Jesus is revealed as the Son of God, in Mark's Gospel, through His teaching and healing. The Group remained small with only 4 children.

During March our programme was suspended when the COVID-19 pandemic swept across our nation and for various pandemic-related reasons, the Children's Sunday Group was unable to meet again for the rest of the year.
In May there was an exchange of emails and telephone conversations between the Vicar, leaders and helpers, in place of the planning meeting that would normally have taken place. The uncertainty about progress of the pandemic, with its restrictions and precautions, made planning for the future inadvisable. Once the virus has been tamed and we are able to have some understanding about the "new normal", decisions can be made about how to move the Children's Sunday Group into the future.

Linda M Arch

cots2tots

2020 started well for cots2tots. Each Monday morning in term time from 9:00am to 11:30am we welcomed babies, young children and their carers (including mothers, fathers, grandparents and child minders) to our sessions in the Parish Hall. The morning started with free play for the children. Quality educational toys and activities were set out and varied each week, encouraging the children to interact and develop.

After the free play healthy snacks were served, followed by a craft session (this could get messy!) a story which encouraged the children to listen, but also to interact with and finally singing. The children loved the familiar nursery rhymes and action songs.

We would like to say a huge thank you to Rachel Brothwell for all her hard work and enthusiasm each week in organising the sessions, and to all the helpers that helped to make it such a success.

Sadly, once the lockdowns started, we had to suspend cots2tots. Even when some activities in the Parish Hall were tentatively starting up again it was impossible to resume cots2tots due to the problems of social distancing with young children in the confined space and the vulnerability of some of the helpers.

We hope to review the future of cots2tots once we can see our way out of the lockdowns but for the time being, we think of all the children that used to come. They will be getting bigger and some will have started school. Our best wishes go out to all the children and their carers. God be with them all.

Sue Stinson
cots2tots Secretary

16. Choir and music 2020

2020 began well: the choir sang some special music at Epiphany and at the start of Lent. We were preparing the music for our service of Readings and Music for Passiontide when the first COVID-19 lockdown was introduced and our last service of public worship was the Third Sunday of Lent. During this first lockdown, I provided some videos of hymns (played on the organ with words) on the church website for people to sing along with at home. I also provided music to accompany Revd Vicky's meditations and reflections. This mode of online worship lasted from Mothering Sunday (Lent 4), 22nd March) until the Sixth Sunday after Trinity (July 19th). For nearly four months there was no live music in All Saints' Church; we could only mark and celebrate Passiontide, Easter, Ascension, Pentecost and Trinity with our simple online hymns.

Although public worship began again on Trinity 6 (July 19th) even with seating in church arranged to be "socially distant", there could be no singing. At our services we had the hymns played on the organ with the congregation following the words in the specially printed service booklets. Some found this a comfort and others frustrating. There had even been some doubt about the use of organs, as they sound by blowing wind through pipes. However, once it was recognised that this "wind" was not produced by human breath and so did not carry the same risks of transmitting the virus as orchestral woodwind or brass instruments, the Church of England decided that organs could be used. We kept the volume of the music down, following recommendations, so that people did not have to raise their voices when speaking.

On August 17th the Church of England allowed choirs to once again sing during public worship. We carried out a risk assessment for the return of the choir. This required the members of the choir to be seated following social distancing guidelines. Fortunately, we were able to take advantage of some members being in the same COVID-19 "bubble" and this made it possible to spread out the choir in the chancel in a COVID-19 safe seating arrangement. The choir did not use the vestry to avoid "congestion" and so sang unrobed. Music was laid out in advance for services and rehearsals and social mingling avoided. We sang our first service since March 15th on August 23rd.

We were able to sing at services through September, October and on November 1st. We sang hymns and anthems at our "shortened" services, though the congregation were still not allowed to join in the singing. We sang at the All Saints' Day Holy Communion Service and in the afternoon of All Saints' Day at the special service to commemorate those who had died during the last twelve months. Some of our services were recorded and posted on YouTube (and are accessible through the church website).

Lockdown 2 was announced and was to take effect on November 5th. The choir met on November 2nd to record some music which we were able to use in the recorded services for Remembrance Sunday and for the feast of Christ the King.

Lockdown 2 ended just after Advent Sunday. On the Second Sunday of Advent we held our Service of Readings and Music for Advent. The choir did a great job in providing a most uplifting service, with very little rehearsal time. This service was recorded and published through the website. We managed to sing appropriate music throughout Advent, again with little rehearsal time – one of the benefits of having an experienced group of singers. The Christmas Carol Service on December 20th became a booked event at 4:30pm and repeated at 6:30pm. We had a good attendance from the congregation (justifying the effort to repeat the service) and it was a wonderful service. The service

was shorter than usual with six readings rather than nine and the readings were read from the Authorised (King James) version of the Bible.

2020 was not the year we had expected or planned. I am particularly grateful to all members of our choir for their forbearance during the year, for their willingness to come and sing at short notice, to come along and sing on days which were also significant family days and birthdays, to deal with a seating arrangement which makes singing harder, for managing the uncertainty of the times. All Saints' is most fortunate to have such a faithful and caring group of choristers, and I am indeed privileged to work with them. I would like to thank all who have helped with the arrangements and administration during this difficult year, in particular, our vicar, Revd Vicky who has had to deal with complex situations which change with almost no notice and my wife Sue, who has been a great support to me in many ways including the production of the material for the website, checking service booklets and helping with the arrangements in church.

Our hope is that as 2021 proceeds, things will improve, and we can all once again enjoy the great privilege of singing hymns and songs as we worship our God.

Yea, we know that thou rejoicest
o'er each work of thine;
thou didst ears and hands and voices
for thy praise design;
craftsman's art and music's measure
for thy pleasure
all combine. *Francis Pott (1832–1909)*

Iain Stinson
Director of Music

17. Bible Study and Fellowship Groups

a. The Bible Study Group

The Bible Study group meet on the fourth Monday of each month in members' homes. We had been studying Acts from the book by John Stott. When lockdown came, we decided on the day of our meeting to read a passage from the Bible chosen by a member and, by doing this, we could continue to give friendship and support to each other and pray for other people.

We look forward to being able to meet up with each other and to continue with our study of Acts.

Shirley McEvoy

b. Monday Group

The Monday Group meets on the second Monday of each month in members' homes.

During lockdown we wanted to continue to give prayers, friendship and support to each other, so we decided to read a passage from the Bible each month at the time of our meeting; this enabled us to think of each other and pray for people who needed our prayers.

We were greatly saddened by the death of June Smith. She was a faithful member, and we will miss the joy and support she brought to our meetings.

We were able to send our annual donation to the Wirral Women's and Children's Aid.

Shirley McEvoy

c. Chatterbox Club

This is an enjoyable social group who meet in members' homes on the third Tuesday of each month to play mainly dominoes and Scrabble.

June Smith will be very much missed as she was a keen Scrabble player and also helped to provide some lovely cake and scones as our refreshments.

To keep in touch with each other we have been saying the Lord's Prayer at what would have been the start of our meeting.

We are looking forward to being able to meet as a group again.

Shirley McEvoy

18. Events

All events planned for 2020 had to be cancelled or put on hold due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the measures put in place to keep us safe. We are all hoping that during 2021 the restrictions will gradually be eased and that we will be able to celebrate getting together again.

Practical Ministries

19. Parish magazine

The editors, Iain Stinson, Patsy Baker, Revd Vicky Barrett and Brian Morris have tried to produce a magazine which is interesting and informative to its readers and especially to members of the parish. Our solitary meeting in August, restricted by the COVID-19, continued to be humorous, enjoyable and rewarding. For most of the year we have communicated through emails and telephone conversations. We have kept the parishioners informed of what is happening at our church through the events sheet, the diary and articles written on church life. At the same time we have brought everyday stories from individuals about events which have happened in the their lifetime and of interest to everybody. Our thanks go to regular and occasional contributors who make the magazine so interesting. We hope that the readers gain comfort from the articles in the magazine in these difficult times especially from the reflections written by Revd Vicky.

During 2020, the February March edition appeared as usual and the April May edition was published a little early so that it was distributed just as the first lockdown began. We published a "one month" edition of The Magazine in September and resumed our normal bimonthly publication with the October-November edition. We published five short newsletters between April 5th – July 11th: these included parish news and some articles of general interest. They were published on the web and those on the church's contact list received email notifications about their publication. For those without Internet access on the contact list, the newsletters were included with the sets of reflections that were sent by post. Some printed copies of the newsletters were left in church to be picked up by those coming for private prayer. Throughout 2020 we have tried to maintain our connections with our readers.

We have continued to receive many complimentary comments from those who have enjoyed not only the content but also the format we have used. The magazine is distributed free to anybody who wishes to have a copy, but we do ask for a donation towards the cost of printing. The printing and co-ordinating the distribution is done by Margaret Gamble and we are indebted to her for continuing with this task as she has

done for many years. Our thanks also go to the Magazine distributers who deliver the magazines.

We feel it is important that the magazine continues to bring to the attention of the parishioners the various articles, events, quizzes and stories in paper form as not everybody has a computer for the online version. 220 copies of the magazine are printed every two months and are distributed to homes in Thornton Hough, Raby Mere, Brimstage and Raby. Magazines are also posted to homes outside the parish: to Heswall, Neston, Oxton, Willaston, Chester, Port Sunlight, and as far afield as Evershot, Hornby (near Lancaster) and Broadstone (in Dorset). The magazine provides a valuable link with friends who no longer live locally. Our editorial team welcomes contributions, so if you have a story or know of an event which you feel might be of interest please send it to us so that we can consider it along with all the other articles.

The Editors

20. 2021 Thornton Hough Calendar

Following the successful 2020 calendar, a 2021 Thornton Hough Calendar was produced and printed with thanks to the support provided by Sue and Iain Stinson. The publication of this calendar was advertised from the pulpit when there were services, and mentioned in the Parish magazine and newsletters during 2020 requesting contributions of photographs of our beautiful village and neighbourhood. After much deliberation twelve photographs were selected by the team consisting of Ruth Whieldon, Alan Smathers and Brian Morris whilst isolating from each other during the pandemic. They were assisted by the Revd Vicky. Once again over 200 copies were printed and sent to many parts of the country and far-off lands.

We were indebted to 11 local businesses and companies who sponsored a month each thus covering the printing costs and to those people who sold the calendars to friends and relatives. Thanks must also go to Margaret Gamble who sold many calendars to friends and family near and far. We are delighted to report that the calendars made a handsome profit of over £1,250 for church funds. We look forward to producing another calendar for 2022 so we hope that many new and old photos will come to light during the Summer of 2021 and be sent to us for consideration for this calendar.

Brian Morris on behalf of the Calendar team

21. Website report 2020

The church website has been an important element of our communications strategy during 2020. When the first lockdown was announced, it was agreed that we should give some priority to keeping in touch with our congregations; the website offered a way of providing information and support to those who could use the Internet, either from their computers, tablets or smart phones. Announcements about the opening and closing of the church, the pausing and restarting of services and other relevant information has been published on the website throughout the year. Where appropriate we have provided links to Diocesan announcements and activities (including the announcement of the new Bishop of Chester, Bishop Mark.)

Revd Vicky has been producing a meditation, reflection or service each week since the first lockdown started around March 20th (in some weeks she has produced more than one). These have been published on the website under the Spiritual Nurture section - this was a new section which we added at the start of the first lockdown. The material produced by Revd Vicky covers the period from Lent 2020 to Christmas 2020 (and is

continuing in 2021). It was felt important that material continued to be provided even when church was open, to support those who felt they did not want to venture out (for medical reasons). We have added some hymns to the website to complement these.

We made use of an email list of contacts which people were able to join (originally during the interregnum) to tell people about important announcements and about the publication of each reflection, meditation or service. Because some of our congregation opted to be contacted by post rather than email, we have periodically sent sets of these reflections to those people (9 batches in 2020). Some 40 people presently have subscribed to receive email messages and 36 messages by post. People can join the email list through the website and we would like to encourage those who can to do so.

During 2020 we have recorded some church services which have been published on YouTube. These have been recorded in church and some have included music sung by the church choir. These are accessible through links in the Spiritual Nurture section of the website.

We made use of an online booking form (accessible from the website) to allow people to book seats at our Christmas Carol Service: this mechanism worked well.

The website continues to be an important communications tool and during 2021 we expect to see this continue. Comments and suggestions about the website are always welcome.

Please look regularly at www.allsaintsth.org.uk – you might be pleasantly surprised by what you find.

Iain Stinson

22. Church Flowers

This year we have not put flowers in church every week, but we did celebrate harvest with flower arrangements and plants in the windows along with the many grocery items which were donated to the Wirral Foodbank.

At Christmas along with the Christmas tree, the candles and the usual decorations we put poinsettias on the reredos

The list of people wishing to do flowers is getting less and less but as there are no church services at the moment we will look again at the list and see what we can do later in the year.

Margaret Gamble

23.ACF Report for 2020

A church fellowship for anyone from anywhere.

At our yearly review in January 2020 Eileen Roberts stood down as Secretary and handed over the reins to me, Helen Tankard. We have 20 members in the ACF, and we often have visitors come as well depending on the subject matter of the meeting; they are always very welcome. Thank you to Eileen for your continued support whilst I settle in.

We continue to follow the five principles of the Diocesan ACF:

Fellowship Worship Service Study Giving

The meeting always starts with a hymn, a Bible reading and prayers: members take it in turns to lead this short service.

The programme of meetings was already prepared and distributed to members so I thought I would have a quiet time settling into my new role. However, we only managed to have three meetings before the pandemic appeared and we were all put into lockdown on Tuesday 23rd March. This started a period of worry and uncertainty for everyone and my role as Secretary became one of cancellations.

I am grateful for the speakers that were able to come and speak to us before our world turned upside down. They were:

- John Oldershaw - "Feathered Verse"
- Dr. Ian Cubbin – Agatha Christie "It wasn't who did it but how they did it"
- James Hennessey – Wirral Youth for Christ

All speakers received a fee, and these were often supplemented with collections on the day.

We also have three chosen charities each year that receive £100 and agree to provide a speaker the following year.

Our three charities for 2019 are listed below and they were due to give talks in 2020:

- Wirral Youth for Christ
- North West Air Ambulance
- Beam Project – Children's Society

We only managed to have the talk from Wirral Youth for Christ in March immediately before lockdown. The other speakers have agreed to come in 2021. As we have been unable to meet for the last ten months, we have been unable to organise our next three charities as these are usually voted for in June.

During the late summer when our life was beginning to open up again, I was hoping to start meetings again in November probably with a different more informal format as we couldn't guarantee that speakers could attend. I spoke to many members on the telephone who were eager to return but a tightening of restrictions meant that this was unable to go ahead.

Our two social events, a "Strawberry Tea" and "Christmas Party" were unable to go ahead.

As we start a new year, I hope that we will be able to meet up again soon, but we may have to change the format depending on regulations at the time. I may be called upon to play some light music or as the weather gets warmer, we could look into arranging our meetings outside.

Helen Tankard

24. Coffee Morning Report 2020

Unfortunately, due to the pandemic we were only able to hold two coffee mornings in January and February: both were well attended. Our next coffee morning was to be our Easter one with hot cross buns.

There is always a sales table and raffle at each coffee morning. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Heather Timms who has kindly continued to sell jams, marmalades and cards throughout the pandemic. I also acknowledge all those ACF members and friends who have continued to purchase items from Heather. All money raised goes to the church.

We look forward to the time when we can meet again, and I think we should celebrate with cake!

Refreshments and organisation in the kitchen ably run by Shirley McEvoy. Thank you.

Helen Tankard

25. Church Partnership

3 Churches Together

2020 started well and 3 Churches Together (All Saints', St George's and St Luke's) had a successful Lent course in which we studied Jonah in *Wot? No Whale?*, a series of meditations led by Revd Vicky Barrett. We met together in person for the first two sessions, but the final reflections were sent out in paper form and put online due to the national lockdown.

Unfortunately, 3 Churches Together hasn't been able to meet since.

In November we heard the very sad news that St George's will be closing in July 2021. Our good wishes go out to the congregation of St George's and Nick Jones. We have valued our links with them over the years and there will always be a welcome for them at All Saints'.

World Day of Prayer

This was a lovely occasion. It was good to welcome people from churches in the area to All Saints.

United services

During 2020 we have had the following united services with St George's:
2nd February, 26th February (Ash Wednesday), 1st March, 6th September, 4th October, 1st November (All Saints' Sunday).

We were unable to hold our usual service at the war memorial followed by a service (it was due to be in All Saints' this year) on Remembrance Sunday. Instead, a service was recorded and made available on YouTube.

Other services had been planned but these had to be cancelled due to the lockdown.

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of All Saints, Thornton Hough

Registered Charity number 1131417

End of Year Financial Statements

(Receipts & Payments)

Year ending December 31st 2020

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Financial review

The Covid-19 pandemic and the measures taken in the UK to limit its impact on the health of the nation have meant that our activities during 2020 at All Saints' have been significantly reduced. The consequences for the PCC's finances would have been more serious had it not been for the support of our congregation during the year. The PCC wishes to record its sincere thanks for this support during what has been a difficult year for everyone.

Overall receipts in 2020 were £102,540, £15,802 lower than in 2019. The 2019 figure includes a legacy of £10,000 we received. This legacy is to be used to support the activities of the parish, with the preference that it is not used to meet *regular* expenses. The total expenditure for 2020 was £102,128.

The results for 2020 show that there is £21,794 in the General Fund (unrestricted) at the end of the year, £584 lower than when the year began.

Total receipts of unrestricted funds were £102,540 of which £39,638 was voluntary giving through standing orders, weekly envelopes, and open plate collection, £9,731 in donations and £4,000 in grants, including a £2,000 grant from the Diocese of Chester. We recovered £10,279 through the UK's Gift Aid scheme on qualifying gifts and donations.

Income from investments (Permanent Trust Income) was £16,803; this is lower than the return received in 2019 (£18,669) and reflects the poor performance of the UK markets during 2020. The value of the investments owned by the PCC has fallen by 9.78% over the year.

The PCC's investments are controlled in partnership with the Diocese of Chester, the Diocese taking a role like that of a custodian trustee. The Diocese needs to support any resolutions made by the PCC about its investments; in some cases, The Charity Commission's permission may be required. The PCC is expected to monitor the performance of its investments and, should it deem necessary, propose any actions that should be taken (by passing a formal resolution). Any such proposal would be passed to the Diocese of Chester for review and implementation. The Diocese of Chester does not provide any financial advice to PCCs. The PCC is presently establishing governance arrangements for the management of its investments.

There were very few social activities during 2020 which raised any funds, though a few activities by individuals, including the production of the 2021 calendar, the sale of Christmas cakes, the sale of jams, pickles, cards etc., did provide some positive financial benefits for All Saints' as well as bringing some joy to our community. The rental for use of the Parish Hall by outside organisations generated £6,223 during 2020. This is a most pleasing result since the regulations for keeping the space Covid-19 safe when we were permitted to open the hall did require significantly more effort both on the part of the external organisers and on our caretaker.

There were fewer weddings and funerals in church during the year and consequently the fees collected (£3, 370) were 45% less than the amount received in 2019.

Many items of expenditure remained to be paid even with the reduced level of activity.

The Parish Share for 2020 was £67,624 (about 2.5% higher than in 2019) and was paid in regular monthly instalments to the Diocese. This meets the cost of clergy salaries, pensions, clergy housing and training; it also provides support for the Diocese of Chester and the central organisation of the Church of England.

Whilst the salary for the Vicar is met by the Diocese, the PCC pay the Council Tax and water charges for the vicarage and the expenses incurred by the vicar in carrying out her role in the parish.

Costs associated with the maintenance and running of the church building (£6,679) and Parish Hall (£2,696) were a little lower because of the reduction in activities, but the maintenance of the churchyard and the graveyard (cemetery) were not really affected (£5,289). During 2020 no significant expenses were incurred on repairs to the church or to property owned by the PCC.

The costs of employing staff, the Verger and the Director of Music, as £6,659 in 2000, £2,925 less than in 2019. During the periods when public worship was paused, the Director of Music declined to be paid.

The total expenditure for 2020 was £102,128, £9491 lower than in 2019.

During 2020, we opened an appeal to buy Bibles for using in the church. A total of £1,000 has been received by the end of 2020 for this purpose.

The PCC meets the day-to-day costs of running the parish from Unrestricted Funds. The amount of Unrestricted Funds at the end of 2020 was £584 lower than at the end of 2019. This reduction in Unrestricted Funds over the year would have been greater if some required, larger maintenance projects had been carried out and if some donations made to support specific maintenance and repair costs (a total of £1,450) had not been received.

It is important to note that whilst the reduction in General Funds is quite small, there remains concern about the on-going financial position of All Saints'. The level of income being received from planned giving and open plate giving (plus the Gift Aid on this) is only about 48% of the total expenditure for the year. With income from the investments remaining stubbornly low in recent years, we have been dependent on one-off donations and grants (about £15,000 in 2020) to meet our costs. This has been the case for the last few years.

Whilst we give thanks for the blessings we have received and for the generosity of a few donors, we must take seriously the need to increase the level of giving by our congregation.

The accounts

This financial report is produced under the Church of England guidance for PCCs adopting the ***Receipts and Payments*** method provided for by the Church and The Charities Act (2011).

This report consists of pages numbered 1 to 14 pages 15 and 16 do not form a part of the formal report.

This report shows all the PCC's open bank accounts.

There may appear to be minor discrepancies in the totals in the reports as the pence are not shown.

These accounts have been prepared using Data Developments' Finance Coordinator (version 4.44) software package following the PCC's Accounting Policies which are appended to this report.

All members of the PCC are Trustees of the registered charity.

Two PCC members (trustees), Mrs Margaret Gamble and Mr Iain Stinson are employees of the PCC. Mrs Gamble is the Verger and Caretaker and Mr Stinson is the Director of Music (posts they both held before first being elected or co-opted as PCC members). Neither Mrs Gamble nor Mr Stinson receive any payment for their roles as PCC Members (trustees).

These accounts have been prepared using Data Developments' Finance Coordinator (version 4.44) software package following the PCC's Accounting Policies which are appended to this report. They have been prepared on behalf of the PCC by Mr Iain Stinson who does not receive any payment for undertaking the duties of Honorary Treasurer.

No payments were made to PCC members for their role as a member of the PCC other than as minor reimbursements for items purchased.

The following assets are recognised but not valued in the accounts: moveable church furnishings held by the vicar and trustees on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal.

It is the PCC's policy to maintain a balance on unrestricted funds (whenever possible), which equates to approximately two months unrestricted payments, to meet cash flow requirements and to cover emergency situations that may arise from time to time.

The "Notes on the accounts" may be found on page 12 - 13.

Balance sheet as at 31st December 2020

		As at 31/12/2020	As at 31/12/2019
Fixed assets			
(note 1)	6430: Church Hall	350,000	350,000
	6431: Hirst Cottage	150,000	150,000
(note 2)	6432: M&G Charibond	161,299	159,397
	6433: M&G Charifund	191,123	231,242
	Total Fixed assets	**852,423**	**890,639**
Current assets			
	6501: CAF Current A/c.545	24,480	24,240
	6502: CAF Restricted A/c.546	—	—
	6503: CAF Deposit A/c.274	23,530	23,511
(note 3)	6505: HSBC Current A/c.163	1	1
	6506: HSBC Current A/c.388	6,135	5,711
	Total Current assets	**54,147**	**53,464**
Liabilities			
(note 4)	6699: Agency collections	214	(57)
	Total Liabilities	**214**	**(57)**
	Net Asset surplus (deficit)	**906,356**	**944,161**
Reserves			
	Excess / (deficit) to date	411	7,264
	Z01: Starting balances	944,161	901,539
(note 5)	Z02: Gains/(losses) on investment assets	(38,216)	35,357
	Total Reserves	**906,356**	**944,161**

Represented by Funds

Unrestricted	21,794	22,378
Designated	18,625	17,725
Restricted	513,513	513,418
Endowment	352,423	390,639
Total	**906,356**	**944,161**

Statement of Assets and Liabilities as at 31st December 2020 (1 of 2)

				Balance	Previous balance
Investments					
(note 1)	**6432: M&G Charibond - Asset**				
	M & G Charibond	Endowment		161,299	159,397
				161,299	159,397
	6433: M&G Charifund - Asset				
	M & G Charifund	Endowment		191,123	231,242
				191,123	231,242
			Investments	**352,423**	**390,639**
Tangible assets					
(note 2)	**6430: Church Hall - Asset**				
	Church Hall	Restricted		350,000	350,000
				350,000	350,000
	6431: Hirst Cottage - Asset				
	Hirst Cottage	Restricted		150,000	150,000
				150,000	150,000
			Tangible assets	**500,000**	**500,000**
Cash at bank and in hand					
	6501: CAF Current A/c.545 - Asset				
	Activities approved by the Vicar	Designated		560	560
(note 6)	Bibles for church	Designated		1,000	—
	Choir fees	Restricted		270	270
	Fees Holding Fund	Designated		100	200
	Hall improvements	Designated		2,400	2,400
	Improvements to graves / graveyard in Raby Road	Restricted		1,300	1,300
	Kitchen improvements	Designated		150	150
	Legacies	Designated		10,500	10,500
	Repairs identified in Quinquennial Report	Designated		1,000	1,000
	Replacement of roof and rainwater goods	Designated		2,515	2,515
	General fund	Unrestricted		3,505	4,532
	Choir music	Restricted		56	134
	Flower Fund	Restricted		359	229
	Organ Fund	Restricted		428	385
	Transport Fund	Restricted		72	72
	Vicar's Discretionary	Restricted		50	50
	Agency collection	Restricted		214	(57)
				24,480	24,240

Statement of Assets and Liabilities as at 31st December 2020 (2 of 2)

				Balance	Previous balance
	6503: CAF Deposit A/c.274 - Asset				
	Admin Support	Restricted		10,000	10,000
	Fees Holding Fund	Designated		400	400
	General fund	Unrestricted		12,152	12,133
	Choir music	Restricted		500	500
	Transport Fund	Restricted		178	178
	Vicar's Discretionary	Restricted		300	300
				23,530	23,511
	6505: HSBC Current A/c.163 - Asset				
(note 3)	General fund	Unrestricted		1	1
				1	1
	6506: HSBC Current A/c.388 - Asset				
	General fund	Unrestricted		6,135	5,711
				6,135	5,711
			Cash at bank and in hand	**54,147**	**53,464**
	Agency accounts				
	6699: Agency collections - Liability				
(note 4)	Agency collection	Restricted		214	(57)
				214	(57)
			Agency accounts	**214**	**(57)**
			Grand Total	**906,356**	**944,161**

Statement of Financial Activities
1st January 2020 to 31st December 2020

	Unrestricted funds	Designated funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Prior year total funds
Income and endowments from:						
Donations and legacies	66,966	—	480	—	67,446	71,660
Income from charitable activities	6,107	100	—	—	6,207	13,596
Other trading activities	7,783	—	—	—	7,783	10,551
Investments	21,202	—	—	—	21,202	23,034
Other income	—	(100)	—	—	(100)	(500)
Total income	**102,060**	**—**	**480**	**—**	**102,540**	**118,342**
Expenditure on:						
Raising funds	4,578	—	—	—	4,578	5,685
Expenditure on charitable activities	97,105	—	384	—	97,490	105,874
Other expenditure	60	—	—	—	60	60
Total expenditure	**101,743**	**—**	**384**	**—**	**102,128**	**111,619**
Net income / (expenditure) resources before transfer	**316**	**—**	**95**	**—**	**411**	**6,722**
Transfers						
Gross transfers between funds - in	100	1,000	—	—	1,100	1,208
Gross transfers between funds - out	(1,000)	(100)	—	—	(1,100)	(1,208)
Other recognised gains / losses						
Gains / losses on investment assets	—	—	—	(38,216)	(38,216)	35,357
Gains on revaluation, fixed assets, charity's own use	—	—	—	—	—	—
Net movement in funds	**(583)**	**900**	**95**	**(38,216)**	**(37,805)**	**42,080**
Reconciliation of funds						
Total funds brought forward	**22,378**	**17,725**	**513,418**	**390,639**	**944,161**	**902,081**
Total funds carried forward	**21,794**	**18,625**	**513,513**	**352,423**	**906,356**	**944,161**

Analysis of income and expenditure: 1st January 2020 to 31st December 2020 (1 of 3)

	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	Total This year	Total Last year
Income and endowments						
Donations and legacies						
1010 - Planned Giving SO (Gift Aid)	28,458	—	—	—	28,458	26,308
1015 - Planned Giving Env.(Gift Aid)	9,426	—	—	—	9,426	11,918
1020 - Gift Aid - Occasional	790	—	—	—	790	165
1030 - Gift Aid - tax rebate	10,278	—	—	—	10,278	11,013
1040 - Open Plate	1,754	—	—	—	1,754	3,848
1060 - Wall Safe	243	—	—	—	243	566
1070 - Donations - Sundry	9,251	—	480	—	9,731	7,825
1080 - Appeals - Donations	998	—	—	—	998	—
1090 - Legacies	1,750	—	—	—	1,750	10,000
1100 - Grants - recurring	16	—	—	—	16	16
1110 - Grants - non recurring	4,000	—	—	—	4,000	—
Donations and legacies Totals	66,966	—	480	—	67,446	71,660
Income from charitable activities						
1120 - Events and Activities	52	—	—	—	52	1,588
1121 - Mrs Hunnibuns	127	—	—	—	127	624
1122 - Cots to Tots	321	—	—	—	321	1,151
1150 - Choir - Wedding fees	—	—	—	—	—	360
1160 - Funerals - PCC	3,096	—	—	—	3,096	4,029
1210 - Weddings - PCC	174	100	—	—	274	2,061
1240 - Fees for weddings and funerals	915	—	—	—	915	2,741
1400 - Magazine subscriptions	746	—	—	—	746	741
1402 - Magazine - adverts	675	—	—	—	675	300
Income from charitable activities Totals	6,107	100	—	—	6,207	13,596
Other trading activities						
1140 - Halls - rentals	6,223	—	—	—	6,223	8,180
1300 - Printing / Copying (commercial)	201	—	—	—	201	805
1310 - Printing / copying (personal)	5	—	—	—	5	—
1410 - Calendar Income	1,352	—	—	—	1,352	1,565
Other trading activities Totals	7,783	—	—	—	7,783	10,551
Investments						
1130 - Hirst Cottage - Rent	4,380	—	—	—	4,380	4,330
1500 - Permanent Trust Income	16,803	—	—	—	16,803	18,669
1510 - Bank Interest	18	—	—	—	18	35
Investments Totals	21,202	—	—	—	21,202	23,034
Other income						
1520 - Insurance Claims	—	—	—	—	—	(500)
1600 - Advanced payment of fees	—	(100)	—	—	(100)	—
Other income Totals	—	(100)	—	—	(100)	(500)
Income and endowments Grand totals	102,060	—	480	—	102,540	118,342

Analysis of income and expenditure: 1st January 2020 to 31st December 2020 (2 of 3)

	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	Total This year	Total Last year
Expenditure						
Raising funds						
2400 - Hall - Consumables	299	—	—	—	299	154
2410 - Hall - Electricity	492	—	—	—	492	715
2415 - Hall - Gas	858	—	—	—	858	1,193
2420 - Hall - Insurance	961	—	—	—	961	1,008
2425 - Hall - Fire protection & safety	30	—	—	—	30	26
2430 - Hall - Water charges	56	—	—	—	56	156
2535 - Magazine & Bookstall	83	—	—	—	83	281
3010 - Printing - Copier rental & copies	1,795	—	—	—	1,795	2,148
Raising funds Totals	4,578	—	—	—	4,578	5,685
Expenditure on charitable activities						
2000 - Parish Share	67,624	—	—	—	67,624	65,992
2010 - Clergy and staff - expenses	1,196	—	—	—	1,196	1,543
2015 - Clergy - locum costs	91	—	—	—	91	375
2020 - Parsonage - Council Tax	2,250	—	—	—	2,250	831
2025 - Parsonage - PCC Support	—	—	—	—	—	1,349
2035 - Parsonage - Water charges	1,033	—	—	—	1,033	709
2100 - Church - Electricity	1,061	—	—	—	1,061	1,036
2105 - Church - Gas	2,393	—	—	—	2,393	1,571
2110 - Church - Water charges	272	—	—	—	272	241
2115 - Church- Fire Protect. & Safety	141	—	—	—	141	26
2120 - Church - Insurance	2,812	—	—	—	2,812	3,493
2125 - Church - Cost of services	323	—	—	—	323	546
2127 - Flowers	—	—	—	—	—	165
2130 - IT & Web	914	—	—	—	914	407
2200 - Church - Repairs	337	—	—	—	337	311
2201 - Church - Ad hoc/minor maint.	166	—	—	—	166	2,736
2202 - Church - Maint. contracts	297	—	—	—	297	517
2210 - Church - Modifications	—	—	—	—	—	296
2300 - Church Yard (Church Road)	3,462	—	—	—	3,462	3,332
2310 - Grave Yard (Raby Road)	1,827	—	—	—	1,827	2,053
2330 - Choir - Junior Chorister fees	95	—	—	—	95	140
2440 - Hall repairs/exterior	—	—	—	—	—	126
2445 - Hall repairs/interior	152	—	—	—	152	—
2455 - Hirst Cottage - repairs	84	—	—	—	84	150
2460 - Property - upkeep	422	—	—	—	422	553
2500 - Misson / Outreach	208	—	—	—	208	170
2505 - Children's Ministry	82	—	—	—	82	358
2510 - Church Societies	475	—	—	—	475	960
2520 - Relief agencies	619	—	—	—	619	200
2605 - Music - costs	107	—	77	—	184	582
2611 - Fees paid out	220	—	—	—	220	1,786
2615 - Organ - tuning & maint.	—	—	306	—	306	613
2620 - Organist - Locum organists	53	—	—	—	53	254
2700 - Office - telephone	407	—	—	—	407	330
2701 - Office - Broadband	183	—	—	—	183	350
2710 - Office - consumables	460	—	—	—	460	479
3000 - Staffing Costs (Salaries)	5,867	—	—	—	5,867	7,457
3002 - Tax & NIC payments	791	—	—	—	791	2,127
3005 - Staffing fees	598	—	—	—	598	1,380
4002 - Costs of stewardship	67	—	—	—	67	65

Analysis of income and expenditure: 1st January 2020 to 31st December 2020(3 of 3)

	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	Total This year	Total Last year
4003 - Costs of Fetes/events	—	—	—	—	—	235
4005 - Governance Costs	—	—	—	—	—	15
Expenditure on charitable activities Totals	97,105	—	384	—	97,490	105,874
Other expenditure						
4006 - Bank charges	60	—	—	—	60	60
Other expenditure Totals	60	—	—	—	60	60
Expenditure Grand totals	101,743	—	384	—	102,128	111,619

Notes on the accounts.

Note 1.
The Church Hall and Hirst Cottage are owned by the PCC and the valuations in the accounts was obtained some years ago. If the PCC wished to consider selling these assets up to date valuations would need to be obtained.

Note 2
The M&G Charibond and M&G Charifund investments are managed by the PCC in partnership with the Diocese of Chester for the PCC. The investments owned by the PCC are as follows:

Principal donor	Specified purpose	Holding	Number of shares	Value 31 Dec 2020
Leverhulme		M&G Charibond Inc	128,546.10	£161,299
		M&G Charifund Inc	13,645.03	£187,287
Lever	Churchyard maintenance	M&G Charifund Inc	264.01	£3,623
Fernie	Churchyard maintenance	M&G Charifund Inc	15.46	£212
Total value of investments				**£352,423**

The value of these investments has fallen from £390,639 at the end of 2019 to £352,423 at the end of 2020 a decrease in value of £38,216 (9.78%).

Note 3.
The HSBC bank account ending in 163 is used as a part of the standing order collection process and automatically transfers its contents, other than £1, into the HSBC bank account ending in 388 at end of each month.

Note 4.
The PCC collects fess for weddings, funerals and cremation services behalf of the Diocese. These fees are held separately from the church's funds and paid over to the Diocese each month. The liability shown is amount of these fees in the PCC's accounts which will be paid over to the Diocese.

Note 5.
The value of the M&G investments owned by the PCC have fallen by £38,216 during 2020. In 2019 their value increased by £35,357 from the value in 2018 of £355,282.

Note 6.
The Bible Fund was established in 2020 to hold money donated to buy new Bibles to be used in church.

Note 7.
This Investment Income heading includes the rental for Hirst Cottage (£4,380), bank interest (£18) and receipts from the investments. The investment income also includes income from a gift made in 1956 by Miss K.P. Fryer to the Diocese of Chester Board of Finance. The gift was made with a request that it be used for the benefit of All Saints Thornton Hough and that a portion be used to provide a memorial in the Church to her parents. The Diocese of Chester Board of Finance holds 6,304.15 shares in the CBF Investment fund as the remaining part of this gift; the value of these shares at 31 December 2020 was £128,898.

The table below shows the income received from these investments during 2020.

Fund	**Income 2020**	**Yield**
M&G Charifund	£9,329	4.88%
M&G Charibond	£3,856	2.39%
CBF Investment fund	£3,617	2.80%
Total	***£16,803***	

Note 8.
The donations for the new church Bibles were initially held in the General Fund and then transferred to the newly established Bible Fund. This is shown as a transfer of £1,000 from the unrestricted General Fund to the Designated Bible Fund. £100 was transferred from the Fees Holding Designated Fund (used to hold fees for services paid in advance) to the General Fund (Weddings PCC heading in the accounts).

Approval

Approved by the Trustees and signed on their behalf by:

Revd. Vicky Barrett (Vicar)

Mrs Alice Jones (Churchwarden)

Date 21/3/2021

Dr Pamela Machin (Churchwarden)

Independent Examiner's Report on the accounts of the Parochial Church Council of All Saints Church, Thornton Hough.

For the year ended 31st December 2020 **Charity Number1131417**

Set out on pages number 3 to 13

I report to the Members of the Parochial Church Council of All Saints Church, Thornton Hough on my examination of their accounts for the year ended 31st December 2020

Responsibilities and basis of report

As Members of the PCC 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 Parochial Church Council's accounts carried out under section145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed 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 which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act

or

- the accounts do not accord with accounting records

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

23rd March 2021

Signed

Charles Elphick

Retired Chartered Accountant

23 Beechways Drive Neston

Appendix: Accounting Policies

Note: These are not a part of the formal Financial Report

1. Accounting

The financial statements are prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 together with applicable accounting standards and the SORP 2005. The financial statements are prepared under the historical cost convention except for the valuation of investment assets, which are shown at market value. The accounts include transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC is held responsible in law. They do not include the accounts of church groups that owe an affiliation to another body nor those that are informal gatherings of church members.

2 Funds

Unrestricted funds are general funds which can be used for PCC ordinary purposes.

Restricted funds represent (a) income from trusts and endowments which may be expended only on those restricted objects provided in the terms of the trust or bequest, and (b) donations or grants received for a specific object or invited by the PCC for a specific object. The funds may only be expended on the specific object for which they were given. Any balance remaining unspent at the end of each year must be carried forward as a balance on that fund. The PCC does not usually invest separately for each fund.

Endowment funds are funds, the capital of which must be maintained; only income arising from investment of the endowment may be used either as restricted or unrestricted funds depending on the purpose for which the endowment was established.

3 Reserves Policy

It is the PCC's policy to maintain a balance of unrestricted funds (i.e. a balance of funds excluding restricted funds), whenever possible, which equates to approximately two months unrestricted payments, to meet cash flow requirements and to cover emergency situations that may arise from time to time. For the purpose of monitoring the reserves balance, the two months unrestricted payments will be deemed to one sixth of 90% of the budgeted expenditure of the current financial year.

4 Incoming Resources

Collections are recognised when received by or on behalf of the PCC. Planned giving receivable under Gift Aid is recognised only when received. Gift Aid recoverable on qualifying donations is recognised when the Gift Aid is received.

Legacies to the PCC are accounted for when the PCC receives them. Grants are recorded when received.

Rental income from the letting of Hirst Cottage is recognised when the rent is due. Income from Parish Hall rentals is recognised when the income is received.

Dividends and interest are accounted for when received. Tax recoverable on such income is recognised in the same accounting year as when claimed.

All other income is recorded when received.

Realised gains or losses are recognised when investments are sold. Unrealised gains or losses are accounted for on the revaluation of investments at 31 December.

Wherever practically possible all incoming resources are accounted for gross.

5 Resources Used

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

Salaries, pay, tax, NI, fees and exceptional expenditure are recognised in the accounts when they are due.

The Diocesan Parish Share is accounted for when due.

All other expenditure is generally recognised when it is incurred and, where practical, is accounted for gross.

Activities which involve regular and ongoing payments are handled through unrestricted funds. Where donations (and other income) are received to support a specific activity which involves regular and ongoing payments, these will be held in a restricted fund. Where funds are available, transfers will be made from the restricted fund to the unrestricted fund (from which the payments for the activity are made) as expenditure for that activity is incurred. Restricted funds do not go into deficit. Unexpended resources will remain in the restricted fund.

6 Fixed Assets

Consecrated land and beneficed property is excluded from the accounts by s.96(2)(a) of the Charities Act 1993. No value is placed on movable church furnishings which are held by the Churchwardens, on special trust for the PCC, and which require a faculty for disposal and which are inalienable property. All expenditure incurred during the year on consecrated or beneficed buildings and movable church furnishings, whether maintenance or improvement, is written off as expenditure in the SOFA and separately disclosed.

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

7 Payments to PCC Members

Expenses paid to the vicar may include a small immaterial proportion which relates to the vicar's function as a PCC member. No other payments are made to PCC members other than as reimbursements for items purchased.

Revised January 2020

Independent Examiner's Report on the accounts of the Parochial Church Council of All Saints Church, Thornton Hough.

For the year ended 31st December 2020 **Charity Number1131417**

Set out on pages number 3 to 13

I report to the Members of the Parochial Church Council of All Saints Church, Thornton Hough on my examination of their accounts for the year ended 31st December 2020

Responsibilities and basis of report

As Members of the PCC 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 Parochial Church Council's accounts carried out under section145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed 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 which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act

or

- the accounts do not accord with accounting records

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

23rd March 2021

Signed

Charles Elphick

Retired Chartered Accountant

23 Beechways Drive Neston