



Frome Deanery
Wells Archdeaconry
Diocese of Bath and Wells



Annual Report
and
Financial Statements
of the
**Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical
Parish of Frome Selwood**
(Registered Charity number 1133925)
otherwise
Frome St John the Baptist PCC
for the year ended
31st December 2020

Office: St John's Parish Office, St John's Cottage, 1 Church Steps, Frome, Somerset BA11 1PL

Website: www.sjfrome.co.uk Email: administrator@sjfrome.co.uk

Facebook: FromeStJohntheBaptist Twitter: @FromeStJohnBapt

Incumbent : The Revd Colin Alsbury, St John's Vicarage, Vicarage Close,
Christchurch Street East, Frome, Somerset BA11 1QL
Email: colin.alsbury@btinternet.com

Auditor: B.O.A. Accountancy Ltd t/as Berkeley Hall Ltd, Unit 2, Southgate, Commerce Park,
Frome BA11 2RY

Architect: George Chedburn, Chedburn Dudley, Glove Factory Studios, Brook Lane, Holt, Bradford on
Avon BA14 6RL

Legal advisors: FDC Law, 21 Bath Street, Frome BA11 1DJ

Bank: NatWest Bank, 4 Market Place, Frome, Somerset BA11 1AE

The Church of St John the Baptist at Frome Selwood is of ancient foundation, being founded as a mission church by St Aldhelm in AD 685. A royal church in its early years, the patronage passed in the middle ages to Cirencester Abbey and then at the reformation into the hands of the Thynne family at Longleat, who delivered the patronage to the Diocese of Bath and Wells (Board of Patronage) in the late 1930s.

The benefice of Frome St John is currently held in plurality with that of St Katharine, East Woodlands.



Ministry

Vicar: Revd Colin Alsbury MA

Readers: Mrs Janet Caudwell MA

Ms Ross Frooms

A number of retired priests with Permission to Officiate (PTO) have contributed to the ministry and worship of the parish.

Parochial Church Council (PCC)

The role of the PCC

St John's PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent in promoting the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical.

Charitable status of the PCC

In 2009 the PCC, previously excepted from registration, registered with the Charity Commission, and the registration process was completed in early 2010.

Contents

PCC membership 2020	4
Other PCC officers and appointees	4
Committees	5
Collaborative ministry	5
Inclusive church	6
Major churches / Greater Churches Network	6
PCC funds	7
Associated and related non-PCC funds	7
Trusts and bequests in the care of the Incumbent/Churchwardens	7
Strategy for Mission and Ministry	8
Statistics for Mission / Electoral roll information	9
Report on the fabric, ornaments and goods	10
Report of the proceedings of the Parochial Church Council	11
Statement of financial activities	12
Balance sheet	13
Notes to the financial statements	14-16
Accounting policies	17
Additional notes regarding accounting policies	18-19
Operational risk statement: Impact of Covid-19 in 2020 and beyond	20
Independent examiner's report	21
Property notes	22-23
Committee reports	24
Stewardship report	24
Bennett Centre (St John's Church Hall) Project Report	25
Charity/Trust Funds income and expenditure accounts	26

Mission statement

Our mission and ministry:

'Seven whole days, not one in seven'

Cherishing our inheritance of Christian faith and worship,
we strive to welcome all
and share the joy of the Gospel message in Christ,
through concern for the wholeness of individuals
and active involvement in community life in all its diversity.

PCC Membership 2020

Clergy:

Revd Colin Alsbury (Vicar, Deanery Synod, Diocesan Synod, & Surrogate)

Churchwardens (elected annually):

Mr Neil McCormick

Mr Terry Bushell

Deanery Synod Members:

Mrs Lois Bushell (Deanery Synod 2020-23)

Ms Ross Frooms (Deanery Synod 2020-23)

PCC members elected until 2021:

Mr Peter Connew (PCC 2018-21, Lay Chair of PCC)

Mr Chris Lewis (PCC 2018-21)

Ms Angela Pater (PCC 2018-21)

PCC members elected until 2022:

Mrs Amanda Crook (PCC 2019-22, PCC Secretary)

Mr D Daniels (PCC 2019-2022, resigned 2020)

Ms Ross Frooms (PCC 2019-22)

Mrs Elaine Gilbert (PCC 2020-22, elected 2020)

PCC members elected until 2023:

Mrs Christine Holland (PCC 2020-23, PCC Treasurer)

Mr Neil McCormick (PCC 2020-23)

Mrs Kathryn Yeaman (PCC 2020-23)

Readers (appointed annually):

Mrs Janet Caudwell

Ms Ross Frooms

Note: Within the Frome Town Group Ministry the other incumbents are also entitled to attend and take part in, but not have any vote in, the proceedings of any PCC meeting:

Revd Liz Dudley (from Feb 2020) Christ Church & St Mary's

Revd Graham Owen Holy Trinity

Other PCC officers and appointees

Senior servers	Mr Peter Connew & Mr Gerry Russell
Organist	Ms Jackie Bevan
Choir leader	Mrs Rosemary McCormick
Sacristy	Mrs Marian Alsbury
Tower captains	Mr Andy Mead
Flower co-ordinator	Mrs Elaine Gilbert
Hon archive supervisor	Vacant (c/o Incumbent)
Safeguarding officer	Mrs Judith Davies
Health & safety issues	Mr Peter Connew
Electoral roll officer	Mr Neil McCormick
Stewardship	Mr Peter Davies & Mrs Judith Davies
Magazine editors	Mrs Amanda Crook
Church administrator	Mrs Karolyn Curle

Committees

The PCC operates through a number of committees, which meet between full meetings of the PCC. The Vicar is a member of all committees ex-officio. Though most members of committees are also on the PCC, membership of committees is open to persons who are not members of the PCC.

Standing Committee

This is the only committee required by law. The Vicar and Churchwardens are ex-officio members, and the PCC appoints a further two members. It has power to transact the business of the PCC between its meetings, subject to any directions given by the PCC.

Worship Committee (jointly with Woodlands St Katharine)

This committee co-ordinates the efforts and vision of all those involved in preparing and leading our worship, meeting every couple of months. It makes recommendations to the PCC on any change or development in our pattern of worship.

Social Committee

This committee oversees and organises events to build fellowship within the life of the parish.

Note: The *Restoration Joint Committee* is not a sub-committee of the PCC alone but forms a partnership with the separate associated registered charity 'Frome St John Restoration Fund'.

Collaborative ministry

Frome St John the Baptist and Woodlands St Katharine, as benefices held in plurality and sharing the same incumbent, co-operate through sharing a parish magazine, a worship committee and a safeguarding officer, and through other joint events. Under a Bishop's direction those qualified to marry in any one of the parishes may marry in either.

On 26th September 2018 Bishop's Council approved a Scheme creating a Joint PCC for the two benefices to which the separate PCCs are delegating a number of areas of responsibility including safeguarding, health & safety and publicity.

The parishes of the Frome Town Group are able to collaborate through a Group Council. In order to balance the pastoral care responsibilities of the benefices within the town there is a working agreement in place whereby some parts of Christ Church parish are cared for by Holy Trinity and St John's.

The parish is committed to supporting the meetings and ministry of Frome Area Christians Together (FACT). Pending a review FACT has only operated on a limited basis in the past year or so. St John's has regularly afforded use of premises for FACT events and also for the HopeFrome coffee van that functioned on the forecourt alternate Friday nights.

The Clergy of the Frome Deanery meet regularly as Clergy Chapter for worship, study and fellowship.

Inclusive Church

On 27th September 2018 the application by the PCC of Frome St John the Baptist parish church to be recognised as part of Inclusive Church was accepted.

Inclusive Church is a network of churches, groups and individuals uniting together around a shared vision:

‘We believe in inclusive Church - church which does not discriminate, on any level, on grounds of economic power, gender, mental health, physical ability, race or sexuality. We believe in Church which welcomes and serves all people in the name of Jesus Christ; which is scripturally faithful; which seeks to proclaim the Gospel afresh for each generation; and which, in the power of the Holy Spirit, allows all people to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Jesus Christ.’

Further information is available at <https://www.inclusive-church.org/>



Major Churches Network

For many years there was a somewhat self-defined Greater Churches Network where those involved with the more significant churches, in terms of size and heritage, have shared support and areas of common interest.

In 2016 a report funded by Historic England and supported by the Church Buildings Council and Heritage Lottery Fund was published which aimed to investigate the problems faced by Major Churches and suggest ways of supporting them. The new national definition of a Major Church includes such factors as its listing grade (I or II*) and its size (over 1000 sqm footprint). Some 300 churches fall into this category nationally, of which Frome St John the Baptist is one of just seven in the Diocese of Bath & Wells.

The Church Buildings Council recognise that such Major Churches face issues normally associated with cathedrals, but with parish church-sized resources. Part of the support given to Major Churches will come through assistance in developing a comprehensive Conservation Management Plan.

The Greater Churches Network re-formed in 2019 as the Major Churches Network (MCN), with regional meetings being held, in order to support Major Churches in management, mission and ministry.

Through 2020 much useful information was disseminated through the MCN to support and guide churches as they faced the challenges arising from the Covid-19 pandemic.

PCC funds

Apart from the General Fund, which is unrestricted in use, the following funds are held by the PCC:

Unrestricted funds that have been designated:

- (a) holding of legacy monies received
- (b) administration of the Parish Office and printing accounts.

Because of legal changes, from 1st January 2013 payments in respect of Parochial Fees belong to the PCC and DBF (Diocesan Board of Finance), and are managed by the PCC rather than the incumbent. Fees are therefore processed through the PCC accounts.

Restricted funds that hold:

- (a) monies received or donated for specific support of other charitable bodies
- (b) grants and payments received for specified works in the life of the parish
- (c) income from and relating to the management of the Bennett Centre – St John's Church Hall. (From 1 Jan 2008 the terms of any letting income for the hall are that it shall be applied first for the maintenance, upkeep and running of the Centre.)

Associated or related non-PCC funds

The following funds are not under the control of the PCC but are held for purposes within or connected with the life of the parish of Frome St John:

Frome St John Restoration

Established by a Trust Deed in July 1986 as the Friends of St John's, this is a separate registered charity (No 295057) whose objects are 'the maintenance and repair of the fabric of St John's Church and its surrounds'.

The Trustees of this associated charity are accountable directly to the Charity Commissioners for its funds, and notes of their work do not form part of the PCC Annual Report. Their Annual Meeting was held on 16th March 2021.

The report of their Trustees is separately available.

Sacristy Fund

Under the terms of a bequest from Rose Hunt a capital sum is held by the Diocesan Trustees, and the income is paid to the parish for the upkeep of vestments etc.

'Vicarage Garden' Trust fund

This fund, which arose from the sale of land adjoining the former vicarage garden, is held by the Diocesan Trustees for the benefit of the Church School.

Trusts and bequests in the care of the Incumbent/Churchwardens

The following funds are in the care of the Incumbent or the Incumbent and Churchwardens:

Charities Funds

Byard (Education), Taunton (Music), T Smith (Alms), Singer (Bennett Services), Leversedge (Fabric), Baily (Clock, Carillon, Bells), Hutchings (Grave & Fabric)

Trust Funds

W Baily (Bennett Memorial), Via Crucis, Bennett Grave, Foster (Flowers)

The accounts of these Trusts and Charities were received at the Annual Meeting of Trustees on 16th March 2021. They are included here on page 26, but for information only. They do not form part of the PCC's Annual Report.

Strategy for Mission and Ministry: 'Seven Whole Days ...'

Congregation	to grow as a viable, sustainable community of worship, ministry & mission
<i>Worship</i>	to maintain and develop a rich variety of worship
<i>Nurture</i>	to establish an effective programme of all-age learning and growth
<i>Fellowship</i>	to provide and enjoy regular social events
<i>Membership</i>	to affirm a sense of belonging, encouraging new membership and maintaining accurate and up to date membership records
<i>'One Holy, Catholic & Apostolic Church</i>	to draw strength from and contribute to the wider life of the Church
<i>Plurality of St John & Woodlands</i>	to share resources effectively
<i>Group Ministry</i>	to share common policies and vision for the town
<i>Frome Area Christians Together</i>	to grow in mutual fellowship and ministry
<i>Deanery / Diocese</i>	to take an active role in the synodical process
<i>Wider Church</i>	to learn from and support the work of the wider church
<i>Mission partnerships</i>	to give a proportion of our income to support the wider mission and ministry of the Church and to welcome fresh understanding of our calling through learning from the life of the wider church
Community	to engage actively with the whole life of the community in which we are set
<i>Pastoral care</i>	to share people's joys and sorrows and provide appropriate care, support and guidance
<i>Prayer Network</i>	to hold in prayer all those whose needs are known to us
<i>Baptism</i>	to welcome all who would seek to begin their journey of faith
<i>Marriage</i>	to celebrate mutual love and commitment in marriage
<i>Bereavement</i>	to support people in the time of grief
Geographical parish	to engage with the ordinary life of the community that live, work or take their leisure within the parish
<i>Resident population</i>	to reach out in service and witness to the people of the parish
<i>Voluntary sector</i>	to know and be known by those working for the welfare of the local community
<i>Business community</i>	to value the people involved in the local economy, especially at Rogation and Harvest
Education	to affirm all involved in the work of education and support individuals of all ages in their learning and personal growth
<i>Church School</i>	to actively share in and contribute to the life of St John's School
<i>Church as a teaching resource</i>	to enable the use of the Church building for school visits and as a place where learning can be enriched
Heritage	to cherish the inheritance which is in our trust and provide as best we can for that inheritance to be maintained and developed
<i>The site & building</i>	to work creatively with heritage bodies to assure the future of a living site
<i>Parish archives</i>	to work with county archives and others to preserve our unique records
<i>Conservation & access</i>	to keep safe and ensure security of records, including provision of archive quality copies; to provide reasonable access to records, including provision of copies, finding aids and indices where possible
Visitors & tourism	to welcome casual visitors and organised visits and enrich the experience of their visit
<i>An open church – stewarding</i>	to maintain a team of volunteers who will be confident in explaining the history, life and mission of the parish
<i>Guides & literature</i>	to provide in accessible form a variety of literature which enrich people's visit
Music & the arts	to develop the offering of music and arts within worship and to host appropriate exhibitions and concerts throughout the year
<i>Frome Festival</i>	to work closely with the Festival organisers in promoting music and the arts

Statistics for Mission

A number of returns are made each year to the Diocese and Church Commissioners regarding membership, attendance and other aspects of church life.

Because of the impact of Covid-19, with periods of 'Lockdown' and other associated restrictions, many planned services, both regular and in terms of occasional offices, were not able to be held as usual in 2020.

At the end of 2020 the core worshipping community at St John's, defined as those who attend worship at least once a month, or would do so if not restricted by health or other reasons comprised 57 individuals, a decrease of 8 on the previous year:

<i>Children (0-10)</i>	<i>Youth (11-17)</i>	<i>Adult (18-69)</i>	<i>Older (70+)</i>	<i>Total</i>	
1	2	29	25	57	In 2020
1	3	41	20	65	In 2019

The number of baptisms, weddings and funerals were:

<i>Baptisms</i>	<i>2020</i>	<i>2019</i>
Under 1 year	2	7
Age 1-4	0	3
Age 5-10	1	1
Age 11+	0	0
<i>Total</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>11</i>

<i>Weddings</i>	<i>2020</i>	<i>2019</i>
Number of couples	0	7

<i>Funerals</i>	<i>2020</i>	<i>2019</i>
in church	3	8
at crematorium	7	7

The numbers attending Easter, Advent and Christmas services were:

<i>Easter Day</i>	<i>Communicants</i>	<i>Attending</i>
2020	N/A	N/A
2019	66	75

<i>Advent</i>	<i>For congregation & local community</i>	<i>For civic and school</i>	<i>Christmas</i>	<i>Communicants</i>	<i>Attending</i>
2020	0	0	2020	27	42
2019	225	925	2019	93	339

Electoral roll

The number on the church electoral roll for 2020 was 84.

Wardens' report on the fabric, ornaments and goods for 2020

Everything to do with 2020 was affected by the global coronavirus pandemic. As a result, work done to the fabric of the church was largely confined to finishing things off rather than embarking on new projects.

Changes to the fabric were largely temporary and in response to the pandemic, such as moving pews to create social distancing, installation of hand sanitisers and signage.

One thing that got in just before the pandemic was the consecration of the Ken Stone just inside the west door. The physical work was carried out in 2019, but we are already seeing the beginnings of a reorientation of the west end of the church around it.

The thurible stand was repaired by re-welding one of its feet.

Temporary lighting was installed to better illuminate the rood on the rood screen, and in particular the figure of Jesus on the cross. This has led to discussions over a more permanent improvement to the lighting in the church and possibly further changes in the years to come.

Some fabric changes have been carried over to next year, in particular:

- installation of permanent rain water pipe near the south porch in place of the temporary one in place at the moment
- completion of work to the stonework at the top of the boiler chimney.

Further projects which are under discussion include:

- installation of a fall arrest line system on the roof
- improvements to the car parking in the forecourt.

Neil McCormick and Terry Bushell

Churchwardens 2020/2021

Report of the proceedings of the Parochial Church Council in 2020

The Council had seven meetings in 2020, three in person (January, February and September), two by email (March and May) and two via Zoom (July and November).

The year started as usual, the January and February meetings being concerned with the planning of dates for the year: APCM in the spring, the well dressing, Frome Festival events, the spring and Christmas sales, the shoebox appeal, the Cards for Good Causes shop. A list of the weddings booked for 2020 was presented. However, with the beginning of the first Coronavirus lockdown in March, everything changed, and in the end none of the events planned at these meetings was able to go ahead.

Our first PCC meeting of the pandemic – in late March – was, not surprisingly, largely concerned with working through government guidance on the pandemic and making plans for keeping in touch with the congregation while the church building was closed and services stopped. For example, services were prepared for people to access via YouTube, a weekly singing session via the Zoom app was established, extra prayers and reflections were included with the weekly sheet, which were distributed via email, post and hand delivery along with the monthly Inspire magazine and an extra weekly newsletter. Underlying all this, the pastoral team were working harder than ever to keep in even more regular touch with all the congregation.

By the next PCC meeting, two months later at the end of May, there was hope that the church could soon re-open, and the PCC meeting was dominated by exploring the safety measures – such as sanitisers and social distancing notices – that would be needed before the church could re-open, which actually happened at the end of June, initially just for stewarded private prayer sessions. Plans were also made to extend the use of the Zoom app to online PCC meetings and informal ‘coffee and chat’ sessions. Church services – initially morning and evening prayer rather than communion services – re-started in mid-July.

The July PCC meeting was therefore an optimistic one, especially with news of the imminent return of communion services, the FACT prayer session and the Julian meeting, also the re-opening of the Bennett Centre. There was also news that a grant application to Mendip DC to help with loss of income due to the Covid crisis had been successful.

By the September meeting the PCC was able to meet in-person but socially distanced in the Bennett Centre, during which preparations for the much delayed APCM were made for a date in October, and plans for a return to singing by the choir (though still not the congregation) were made, with the choir mistress, Rosemary McCormick, coming off furlough at the end of September. It was reported that the Cards for Good Causes shop would definitely not be running in the church in 2020.

For the final PCC meeting of the year in November, the PCC had once again to meet via Zoom as the country was back in lockdown. The meeting received news on achieving Eco-Church status, of the toilet twinning arrangement with a school in Zambia; also the plan to hold services via Zoom for the first time. Particularly encouraging was the news that the application to the Cultural Recovery Fund for Heritage for a substantial grant had been successful. As well as helping to cover such essentials as insurance costs, cleaning etc, the grant enabled the meeting to give the go ahead to plans to install Wi-Fi and a contactless giving point in church; also to seek professional advice about partially glazing the inner West doors and undertaking subfloor investigations at the west end.

The year 2020 was a very unusual year for the PCC, as for everyone, and it ended 2020 facing the prospect of a further three months of lockdown in the New Year.

Mandy Crook, Hon secretary

Statement of financial activities

		Unrestricted	Restricted	Endowment	Total Funds	
		Funds	Funds	Funds	2020	2019
	Note	£	£	£	£	£
Incoming Resources						
<i>Incoming resources from donors</i>	2(a)	35,785.26	726.87	-	36,512.13	39,154.92
<i>Other voluntary incoming resources</i>	2(b)	5,795.00	6,571.22	-	12,366.22	7,148.63
<i>Income from charitable and ancillary trading</i>	2(c)	1,601.42	-	-	1,601.42	4,891.66
<i>Income from investments</i>	2(d)	2,506.54	-	-	2,506.54	3,999.08
<i>Other ordinary incoming resources</i>	2(e)	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Bennett Centre</i>	2(f)	5,648.09	727.97	-	6,376.06	27,854.19
<i>St Johns Cottage</i>	2(g)	11,836.21	385.30	-	12,221.51	9,551.74
Total Incoming Resources		<u>63,172.52</u>	<u>8,411.36</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>71,583.88</u>	<u>92,600.22</u>
Resources Used						
<i>Grants</i>	3(a)	65.00	600.00	-	665.00	1,311.40
<i>Activities directly relating to the work of the church</i>	3(b)	50,379.04	8,751.87	-	59,130.91	55,881.82
<i>Fund-raising and publicity</i>	3(c)	-	-	-	-	547.69
<i>Church management and administration</i>	3(d)	3,019.99	-	-	3,019.99	3,519.89
<i>Bennett Centre - Grant Expenditure</i>	3(e)	5,356.31	6,853.54	-	12,209.85	20,352.19
<i>St Johns Cottage</i>	3(f)	4,040.71	385.30	-	4,426.01	16,031.51
Total Resources Used		<u>62,861.05</u>	<u>16,590.71</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>79,451.76</u>	<u>97,644.50</u>
Net Incoming/(Outgoing) Resources		311.47	(8,179.35)	-	(7,867.88)	(5,044.28)
Balances brought forward at 1 January 2020 (2019)		<u>42,616.80</u>	<u>6,372.38</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>48,989.18</u>	<u>54,033.46</u>
Balances at 31 December 2020 (2019)		42,928.27	(1,806.97)	-	41,121.30	48,989.18
Unrestricted/Restricted Funds Adjustment		<u>(11,680.08)</u>	<u>11,680.08</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Final Balances Carried Forward at 31 December 2020 (2019)		<u><u>31,248.19</u></u>	<u><u>9,873.11</u></u>	<u><u>-</u></u>	<u><u>41,121.30</u></u>	<u><u>48,989.18</u></u>

Note: the adjustment for unrestricted/restricted funds results from thorough checking of accounts for the past twenty five years and reflects historic confusion between designated and restricted funding.

Balance sheet at 31 December 2020

	Note	2020 £	2019 £
Fixed Assets			
Tangible Fixed Assets	5	-	-
Current Assets			
Debtors	7	12,172.46	8,318.51
Prepayments		3,877.98	3,566.72
Bank and cash accounts		<u>75,095.30</u>	<u>56,562.57</u>
		91,145.74	68,447.80
Liabilities			
Amounts falling due within one year	8	36,123.45	15,465.70
Accruals water2business		21.41	26.42
Deferred income - magazine advertisements		98.00	126.50
Deferred Income - Culture Recovery Fund for Heritage		12,911.73	-
Deferred income rent		449.85	420.00
St John's Restoration Fund Loan	9	0.00	3,000.00
Rental Deposit		420.00	420.00
		<u>50,024.44</u>	<u>19,458.62</u>
Net Current Assets		41,121.30	48,989.18
Net Assets		<u>41,121.30</u>	<u>48,989.18</u>
Funds	6		
Unrestricted		31,248.19	43,366.80
Restricted		9,873.11	5,622.38
Endowment		-	-
		<u>41,121.30</u>	<u>48,989.18</u>

Approved by the standing committee of the Parochial Church Council on 15 April 2021 and signed on its behalf by Revd Colin Alsbury, Vicar and Chair of PCC

Notes to the financial statements

for the year ended 31 December 2020

1 Accounting Policies - See Appendix on page 17

2 Incoming Resources

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total Funds	
				2020 £	2019 £
2(a) Incoming resources from donors					
Planned giving:					
Tax efficient planned giving	21,874.17	-	-	21,874.17	24,192.00
Other planned giving	5.00	-	-	5.00	5.00
Gift Aid - planned giving+small donations	6,856.96	-	-	6,856.96	7,906.05
Collections at all services	2,986.50	-	-	2,986.50	3,974.74
Sundry donations	4,062.63	726.87	-	4,789.50	3,077.13
	<u>35,785.26</u>	<u>726.87</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>36,512.13</u>	<u>39,154.92</u>
2(b) Other voluntary incoming resources					
Legacies	-	-	-	-	-
Culture Recovery Fund for Heritage	-	3,075.00	-	3,075.00	-
HMRC JRS Grant	-	1,921.22	-	1,921.22	-
MDC - LA Discretionary Grant	5,320.00	-	-	5,320.00	-
St John's Fees AC	475.00	-	-	475.00	-
St John's Charities	-	1,260.00	-	1,260.00	750.00
Fairs and other fundraising events	-	315.00	-	315.00	6,398.63
	<u>5,795.00</u>	<u>6,571.22</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>12,366.22</u>	<u>7,148.63</u>
2(c) Income from charitable and ancillary trading					
Printing account including magazine	1,014.92	-	-	1,014.92	1,849.16
Bookstall/Trading	42.50	-	-	42.50	285.50
Fees	544.00	-	-	544.00	2,757.00
	<u>1,601.42</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,601.42</u>	<u>4,891.66</u>
2(d) Income from investments					
NS&I account	3.15	-	-	3.15	3.47
COIF Charity Funds	58.09	-	-	58.09	145.47
Bank Interest	526.15	-	-	526.15	553.48
Rent (Church and Forecourt)	1,919.15	-	-	1,919.15	3,296.66
	<u>2,506.54</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,506.54</u>	<u>3,999.08</u>
2(e) Other ordinary incoming resources					
Insurance claim	-	-	-	-	-
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
2(f) Bennett Centre					
Donations					
General	256.50	-	-	256.50	134.34
Gift Aid					
General	49.55	-	-	49.55	36.50
Stacking Chairs	-	-	-	-	1,802.64
Grant Garfield Weston	-	-	-	-	20,000.00
Culture Recovery Fund for Heritage	-	727.97	-	727.97	-
Fundraising					
General	-	-	-	-	-
Rent	5,292.95	-	-	5,292.95	5,810.75
Bank Interest	49.09	-	-	49.09	69.96
	<u>5,648.09</u>	<u>727.97</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>6,376.06</u>	<u>27,854.19</u>
2(g) St John's Cottage					
Donation - Renovation Works	-	-	-	-	2,375.00
Gift Aid	-	-	-	-	593.75
Grants					
St Thomas Alms	-	-	-	-	2,239.00
MDC Local Restrictions Support Grant	1,334.00	-	-	1,334.00	-
MDC LA Discretionary Grant	4,680.00	-	-	4,680.00	-
Culture Recovery Fund for Heritage	-	385.30	-	385.30	-
Rent	5,450.00	-	-	5,450.00	4,180.00
SSE credit	-	-	-	-	163.99
water2business credit	372.21	-	-	372.21	-
	<u>11,836.21</u>	<u>385.30</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>12,221.51</u>	<u>9,551.74</u>
Total Incoming Resources	<u>63,172.52</u>	<u>8,411.36</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>71,583.88</u>	<u>92,600.22</u>

Notes to the financial statements
for the year ended 31 December 2020(continued)

3 Resources Used

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total Funds	
				2020 £	2019 £
3(a) Grants					
Missionary and charitable giving:					
Church overseas	-	-	-	-	-
Home missions and other Church Societies	-	-	-	-	492.40
Secular charities and other charitable giving	65.00	600.00	-	665.00	819.00
	<u>65.00</u>	<u>600.00</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>665.00</u>	<u>1,311.40</u>
3(b) Activities directly relating to the work of the church					
Ministry					
Parish share	32,556.00	-	-	32,556.00	31,413.00
Clergy expenses	1,589.10	-	-	1,589.10	735.90
Church running costs	7,851.47	1,510.50	-	9,361.97	11,101.83
Church maintenance	2,792.35	900.00	-	3,692.35	4,265.29
Upkeep of services	169.56	-	-	169.56	515.94
Upkeep of churchyard/forecourt	-	-	-	-	-
Salaries and Honorarium	2,611.78	3,845.72	-	6,457.50	6,907.28
Extra-ordinary expenditure	-	-	-	-	942.58
Ken Stone	2,368.78	2,368.78	-	4,737.56	-
Bad Debt - church hire	110.00	-	-	110.00	-
Urn, Soup tureen	-	126.87	-	126.87	-
Hand Sanitisers	330.00	-	-	330.00	-
Depreciation on tangible fixed assets	-	-	-	-	-
	<u>50,379.04</u>	<u>8,751.87</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>59,130.91</u>	<u>55,881.82</u>
3(c) Fund-raising and publicity					
Costs of fairs and other fund-raising events					
Frome Festival					
Flowers	-	-	-	-	370.00
Other	-	-	-	-	177.69
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>547.69</u>
3(d) Church management and administration					
Administration:					
Printing, stationery(incl Stew'ship envelopes)	782.98	-	-	782.98	1,098.52
Fees, subscriptions	1,436.48	-	-	1,436.48	1,488.13
Printing account	800.53	-	-	800.53	933.24
	<u>3,019.99</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3,019.99</u>	<u>3,519.89</u>
3(e) Bennett Centre					
Admin	118.27	-	-	118.27	255.69
Running costs	4,462.21	487.97	-	4,950.18	5,528.13
Maintenance	725.83	240.00	-	965.83	1,408.55
Signage/Leaflets	-	-	-	-	-
Extra-ordinary expenditure	-	-	-	-	2,486.38
Urn	50.00	-	-	50.00	-
Cloister project	-	-	-	-	-
GW Grant project works	-	6,125.57	-	6,125.57	10,434.30
Kitchen project	-	-	-	-	239.14
	<u>5,356.31</u>	<u>6,853.54</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>12,209.85</u>	<u>20,352.19</u>
3(f) St John's Cottage					
Running costs	3,030.80	385.30	-	3,416.10	4,383.93
Maintenance	1,009.91	-	-	1,009.91	134.40
Renovation Works	-	-	-	-	11,513.18
	<u>4,040.71</u>	<u>385.30</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>4,426.01</u>	<u>16,031.51</u>
Total Resources Used	<u>62,861.05</u>	<u>16,590.71</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>79,451.76</u>	<u>97,644.50</u>

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2020 (continued)

4 Staff Costs	2020	2019
	£	£
Salaries and Honorarium	6,457.50	6,907.28
During the year the PCC employed a choir leader and parish secretary.		
Remuneration for others, eg organist, is under contract for services.		

- 5 Fixed Assets for use by the PCC**
No items retaining any net book value are currently held.

6 Analysis of Net Assets by Fund

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Fund	Total
	£	£	£	£
Fixed Assets	-	-	-	-
Current Assets	66,443.67	10,801.08	-	77,244.75
Current Liabilities	(35,195.48)	(927.97)	-	(36,123.45)
Fund Balance	<u>31,248.19</u>	<u>9,873.11</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>41,121.30</u>

7 Debtors	2020	2019
	£	£
Debtors	12,172.46	8,318.51
	<u>12,172.46</u>	<u>8,318.51</u>

8 Liabilities

Amounts falling due within one year

Creditors for goods and services	1,630.90	6,360.09
Other creditors	34,492.55	9,105.61
	<u>36,123.45</u>	<u>15,465.70</u>

Creditors higher than 2019 due to loan repayment and large proportion of Parish Share not paid until after year end.

9 St John's Restoration Fund Loan

The loan of £3,000 for the Cottage renovation works was repaid in 2020 following receipt of additional support grants during 2020.

10 Reserve

On current policy and figures, unrestricted funding of £27,000 - £30,000 is the baseline for a working reserve. The balance of unrestricted funds at year end was only just in excess of this threshold.

11 2020 Deficit

The overall deficit of £7,867.88 largely represents capital expenditure from Restricted funds. Regular Giving, donations and grant funding has been much appreciated in a very difficult year, enabling unrestricted funds to be close to balance.

12 Known liabilities for 2021 and beyond

There is a very limited balance of General Account funds beyond working reserve and therefore all works entered into within 2021 need to have funding sources identified before commencement.

Grant funded work for the Bennett Centre continues with £3,926.89 grant money in hand. Further grants are being sought.

13 Church Insurance

Payment of Church insurance is by Direct Debit.

14 Parish Share

Current cash flow allows only part of the Parish Share to be paid by Direct Debit.

The 2020 figure for Parish Share was £32,556 and was paid in full.

15 Parish Giving

Our policy has been that 10% of stewardship giving has been donated to home missions and overseas aid but there were insufficient funds generally to allow donations to be made at present.

Separate Vicar and Church Wardens' Charities and Trust Fund accounts continue to make grants as appropriate as do Social Committee and some generous individuals from time to time.

Appendix to the statement of financial activities

Accounting policies

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 1997 together with applicable accounting standards and the Charities SORP.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention except for the valuation of investment assets, which are shown at market value.

Funds

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

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

Incoming resources

Voluntary income and capital sources:

- (1) Collections are recognised when received by or on behalf of the PCC.
- (2) Planned giving receivable under covenant is recognised only when received.
- (3) Income tax recoverable on covenants or gift aid donations is recognised when the income is recognised.
- (4) Grants and legacies to the PCC are accounted for as soon as the PCC is notified of its legal entitlement and the amount due.
- (5) Funds raised by fetes, garden parties and similar events are accounted for gross.
- (6) Sales of books and magazines from the church bookstall are accounted for gross.

Other ordinary income: Rental income from the letting of the church premises is recognised when the rent is due.

Income from investments: Dividends and interest are accounted for when receivable. Tax recoverable on such income is recognised in the same accounting year.

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

Resources used

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

Activities directly relating to the work of the church: The diocesan quota or parish share is accounted for when payable. Any quota unpaid at 31 December is provided for in these accounts as an operational (though not a legal) liability and is shown as a creditor in the balance sheet.

Prepayments: Prepayments below the threshold of £75 and non-recoverable payments less than £100 are generally treated as payment at the time rather than being apportioned over relevant years.

Fixed assets

Consecrated land and buildings and movable church furnishings:

- (1) Consecrated and beneficed property is excluded from the accounts by s.96(2)(a) of the Charities Act 1993.
- (2) No value is placed on movable church furnishings held by the churchwardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal since the PCC considers this to be inalienable property.

All expenditure incurred during the year on consecrated or benefice buildings and movable church furnishings, whether maintenance or improvement, is written off as expenditure in the statement of financial activities (SOFA) and separately disclosed.

Other fixtures, fittings and office equipment: Equipment used within the church premises is depreciated on a straight line basis over 4 years. Individual items with a purchase price of £2,500 or less are written off when the asset is acquired. Items that have had no net book value for a clear financial year are retained on the inventory but no longer listed on the accounts.

Investments: Investments are valued at market value at 31 December.

Current assets:

- (1) Amounts owing to the PCC at 31 December in respect of fees, rents or other income are shown as debtors less provision for amounts that may prove uncollectable.
- (2) Short-term deposits include cash held on deposit either with the CBF Church of England Funds or at the bank.

Additional notes regarding accounting policies

Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme

Monies recoverable under this scheme have been identified as debtors to the parish until the monies are received. Changed policy includes a risk that not all claimable VAT expenditure will be subject of a grant in compensation. Whilst VAT expended which may be or is the subject of a claim will continue to be shown as debtors there will be a future risk of non receipt. Such non receipt will be shown as a bad debt within the accounts.

Employment

Persons employed (e.g. church administrator) and self-employed persons who contract to provide regular services (e.g. organists) have been grouped together for accounting purposes within salaries and honoraria. Such grouping together is of no bearing with regard to their employment status.

Reserves policy

A formal reserves policy has been adopted suggesting that a working reserve of unrestricted funds of the order of half the annual parish share plus three to four months other ordinary turnover is vital to sustain sensible cash-flow management. This is reinforced by cash-flow modelling of income and expenditure through the year.

A further factor in management of reserves is that at 1 Jan a substantial sum of additional reserve (of the order of 20% of projected project cost) is required in years where substantial capital expenditure is planned involving reclaim of VAT under the government Listed Places of Worship grant scheme as the VAT has to be paid first and reclaimed later with some uncertainty now as to whether funds will always be fully recoverable due to changes in government policy.

The end of year position for 2017 showed a balance close to the ideal reserve figure for the second consecutive year after several difficult preceding years. Astute cashflow management over those years, during which we have steadily moved back into a position where we have now paid our full parish share, has been critical in achieving this progress.

Successive years of running at a deficit had exhausted unrestricted reserves, and the PCC is now aiming to operate a balanced budget at all times.

Now that finances are reaching stability the PCC will be looking to develop a modest working reserve so that some of the many important or desirable capital works and mission initiatives previously unable to be funded by the general funds of the PCC can be taken forward.

Policy documents

Policy documents – including a donations and fundraising policy document adopted in September 2014 – are available for inspection at the Open Door sessions in church (on the second Saturday of every month) or in the parish office.

Risk management

The PCC identified the following principal risk categories. The issues arising under these categories are reviewed annually.

Financial risk – *the most common category of risk and it is possible to measure many non-financial risks in terms of financial impact. Financial risks can be managed through budgets and internal financial procedures as well as strategic business and development plans, and management accounts.*

Cash flow management has been tightly managed through the recovery of the past few years and similar controls will remain in place to assure a firmer footing for future development.

Reputational risk – can have an impact on parishes if, for example, unwelcome publicity hinders the mission of the Church.

Statutory and legal requirements – such as health and safety, employment law, Equality Act, Charities Act, safeguarding (Child Protection and vulnerable adults) and associated matters which could lead to substantial liabilities arising from claims or other legal action.

Continuing vigilance with regard to Safeguarding policy has been an important aspect of work in close collaboration with the Diocesan Safeguarding Officer and other local churches through the Deanery and Frome Area Christians Together.

The PCC is committed to and complies with the National Safeguarding policies of the Church of England and those of the Diocese of Bath & Wells which require every PCC to have due regard to House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults (section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016).

A Fire Safety risk assessment and plan is in place.

The test of 'reasonable'-ness in the Equalities Act, Disability Discrimination Act and similar duties with regard to Health and Safety clearly requires any organisation to exercise due diligence at all times. We have a responsibility to recognise, plan and implement response to these issues as a priority claim on resources.

First Aid provision, emergency procedures, exit routes and related matters need to be regularly reviewed and all sidesmen, stewards and other responsible persons kept up to date in training.

New General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) legislation came into force in 2018 (replacing the Data Protection Act), and the PCC has worked to take on board the implications of this new legislation.

The parishes of the Frome Town Group are able to collaborate through a Group Council. In order to balance the pastoral care responsibilities of the benefices within the town there is a working agreement in place whereby some parts of Christ Church parish are cared for by Holy Trinity and St John's.

Operational risk – relates to threats to the Church's ability to deliver its objectives due, for example, to damage to the church building.

Steps have been taken to reduce risk in this area in relation to alarm systems, stewarding at times of higher risk, etc.

In 2020 the global Covid-19 pandemic provided an unanticipated level of operational risk to all manner of businesses, charities and churches. Throughout the pandemic ongoing risk assessments have been made regarding day to day functioning. On overview statement follows on the next page of this report.

Risk assessment can feel a negative process – it is also an opportunity to define priorities and imagine and develop strategies to overcome deficiencies.

Operational risk statement: Impact of Covid-19 in 2020 and beyond

In 2020 the global Covid-19 pandemic provided an unanticipated level of operational risk to all manner of businesses, charities and churches. The loss of ability to function in the normal patterns of worship, fellowship, mission, use of premises etc, has had significant consequences, and it is likely that aspects of 'normal' functioning may not fully return until well into 2022 at the earliest.

For much of the year gathering for public worship has been impossible, or significantly restricted. Alternatives were provided using online facilities such as YouTube and Zoom. Such mitigation is only partially effective as there are a number of people without online access and whilst regular emails and postal mailings have been sent out there will be a number of people who will have lost contact with the life of the parish. The pastoral team have made considerable effort to mitigate this by trying to keep in touch with people by phone or otherwise.

The provision of occasional offices has been severely affected. Many bereaved families have only been able to hold modest limited services remembering their loved ones; A significant number of couples have had wedding plans thrown into confusion resulting in postponements, or very small ceremonies. Hardly any baptisms have been possible. The consequent impact on the wider network of those who feel St John's to be 'their' church cannot yet be assessed, but some loss of engagement and support seems inevitable.

A wide range of regular hires of our premises, especially the Bennett Centre, have not been able to proceed, resulting in significant loss of income. Most fundraising events have not been able to proceed.

Key steps in planning the process of managing the situation and planning ahead for the process of recovery include:

- regular reviewing of guidance and risk assessments to enable safe reopening when possible;
- use of Zoom for PCC and other meetings to ensure ongoing effective management;
- application for government grants administered by the local authorities in relation to business rated premises (St John's Cottage);
- application to the government's Culture Recovery Fund for Heritage to fund (between Oct 2020 and March 2021) some ongoing costs, provision of contactless giving facilities, installation of Wi-Fi at St John's, professional fees relating to improvement of the welcome area at the West End., and the filming of a 360° video of the church allowing virtual visits as well as providing a 'guide' to those visiting in person;
- development of our presence on YouTube, which includes the 2020 virtual Remembrance for the town of Frome as well as a variety of services.

Rebuilding of fellowship and community as and when restrictions significantly ease will need to be a priority for the life of the parish. Particular thanks are due to the regular givers whose stewardship giving has remained near constant through this challenging time.

Colin Alsbury, Vicar

ST JOHN THE BAPTIST CHURCH FROME
PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Report and financial statements for the year ended 31st December 2020

We B O A Accountancy t/as Berkeley Hall Limited of Unit 2, Southgate, Commerce Park, Frome, report that we have carried out an examination in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 1998, the regulations made under Part IV of the Charities Act 1993 and in accordance with any applicable directions given by the charity commissioners.

In connection with this examination we can confirm that no matter has come to our attention which would give me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect:

- A) The Council's accounting records have not been kept in accordance with Section 41 of the Charities Act 1993 and with above regulations.
- B) That the accounts do not accord with those records.
- C) The statement of accounts which have been prepared on an accruals basis does not comply with any of the requirements.

No matter has come to my attention which in our opinion should be disclosed in the report in order to enable a proper understanding to be reached.



S A Smith ACA ATII

Property notes

Bennett Centre – St John's Church Hall

The Bennett Centre was built in 1854 as a school on land partly the site of the former Grammar School (of Edward VI foundation) and partly land acquired by Vicar Bennett that had been occupied by a number of small poor-quality dwellings. Below the Centre the spring and cistern that lay within the courtyard of those properties remain, evidencing the 18th century ground level. The site is held by the PCC, having been acquired for £5 under a conveyance of 19th May 1961, and is subject to a reversion clause should it cease to be used as a Church Hall or for church purposes. The book value to the PCC of the property is therefore limited to the sum of £5. The Centre has been significantly improved over recent years with two of three intended phases of works now effectively complete.

Churchyard and Curtilage

The ancient churchyard included the western half of the present nave and part of the present forecourt. The visible churchyard was officially closed for burials by Order in Privy Council in 1854 and the southern area substantially re-landscaped at that time. Somewhat irregularly, burials resumed and continued until the mid-20th century. The present-day care and maintenance of the (walled) churchyard, including trees, is the responsibility of the Mendip District Council, although the PCC remains responsible for the structure of the Via Crucis. Interment of ashes within the churchyard is allowed within the area along the eastern edge of the main churchyard and the PCC has worked through the DAC (Diocesan Advisory Committee) to remove the restriction that has been in place for some 30 years or so that such interments could not be marked in situ with memorial slabs.

Via Crucis

The extension of the churchyard to include the Via Crucis in the 1860s is the subject of a memorandum of Agreement dated 25th of September 1856 between the then Marquess of Bath and the then Vicar and Churchwardens. The Via Crucis is Listed in its own right, and structural repair work has qualified for the LPWG Scheme. The steps in this area have been repaired by Mendip District Council working with Somerset County Council, and occasional services of 'Stations of the Cross' are now held at the Via Crucis.

Blindhouse

The 'Blindhouse' in the corner of the southern churchyard appears to have been relocated to its position where what was Twattle Alley met Church Lane (as Blindhouse Lane was formerly known) in 1798. The re-ordered churchyard was consecrated in 1801 by the then Bishop of Bristol.

Forecourt

The forecourt as now seen was formed in about 1818 when Bath Street was cut. It includes an area of the old churchyard and land formerly parochial glebe and other properties belonging to the Vicar and Churchwardens. It was cleared on the north side between 1815 and 1818 and on the south side between 1826 and 1837. Somerset County Council maintains the highway through the forecourt under a licence agreement, and a further agreement from 1848 allows the owners of 8 Bath Street access to the rear of their property through the forecourt area.

Church Cottage

The Cottage site was conveyed to the Vicar and Churchwardens from the Longleat Estate, and since its use as the Verger's residence, it has been let in all or part to a variety of bodies. It has been managed by the PCC on behalf of the Vicar and Churchwardens and currently provides office space including our own parish office, and some storage. The PCC authorised significant works including

rewiring and relocation of the toilet in early 2019 ready for new users (Focus Counselling) to move in.

Church School

The school site is formed from a total of six parcels of land originally the site of the Rectorial Manor House and Tithe Barn of Frome and now vested in the Diocesan Board of Trustees as holding trustees on behalf of the owners, the Vicar and Churchwardens. One parcel is held under the School sites act for educational purposes having been given by the Lamb Brewery in 1932, but the remainder were purchased at various dates from 1910 to 1918 and in 1939 and are all held for general church purposes.

Chancel repair liability

By October 2013 all liability for Chancel Repair should be registered at the Land Registry as any land related liability remaining unregistered at that date will cease upon the next conveyance of that land.

Anciently the responsibility fell to Cirencester Abbey and was accepted by Longleat when they acquired the Rectory of Frome in the 16th century. Though Longleat is described as 'impropriate Rector' in the 1936 Tithe Act documentation, there is some lack of clarity concerning liability for Chancel Repair as it attached to the Rectorial Glebe of the parish and other properties listed in the relevant Schedule of Ascertainments. A lengthy and thorough period of investigations has revealed that the lands described as Rectorial Glebe in 1840 known as 'Hewish' near the present Frome station were acquired by the Wilts, Somerset and Weymouth Railway about 1846, and that area of land is now fragmented into a considerable number of separate ownerships. A copy of the Schedule of Ascertainments has also been obtained from the National Archives, and it lists several hundred parcels of land as having a proportionate liability. Many of these parcels have since that date been divided into further smaller parcels as development has taken place in the area.

In the light of guidance received through the Diocese and Church Commissioners, and following research as to the number of properties listed in the relevant Schedule of Ascertainments, the PCC decided in 2012 that no registration against properties in respect of Chancel Repair Liability will be made.

This decision has been made bearing in mind the administrative burden involved in identifying the many hundreds of properties that would be involved, the legal and other costs that would be incurred both in registration and in any future enforcement of the liability, and the reputational risk and pastoral consequences of registration against a substantial proportion of properties in the parish.

Christ Church Churchyard

The northern extension to the churchyard at Christ Church was originally conveyed to the parish of Frome St John the Baptist, and details of current title are awaiting clarification.

Mary Baily Playing Field

Although this field is vested in other parties and managed by the Town Council for recreational use by children, there is a clause in Mary Baily's will specifying that upon any breach of the trust upon which the land is held it will then be given over to the Vicar and Churchwardens of Frome St John the Baptist with power of sale and any such proceeds to be held for the general purposes of the parish.

Committee reports

St John's and St Katharine's Worship Committee

Our first Worship Committee meeting of 2020 was on Saturday 18 January. Little did we realise, then, that it would be the only time we would meet to review and plan worship in our churches. We enthusiastically planned ahead: Mothering Sunday, Holy Week (there was some talk of a donkey at St Katharine's), Easter, VE day, a Confirmation service, the Well Dressing, some weddings, a possible Pulpit Swap, Patronal Festival. The date of our next meeting was to be 2 May 2020. Of course, none of this happened, or at least not as we had planned it.

Colin quickly started a series of YouTube services: the Easter period provided opportunities for some interesting and reflective pieces, especially the Easter Day daybreak service.

As we moved through 2020 we experienced further times of lockdown and brief relaxations. Some of us have become used to sitting apart, to waving at each other during the Peace, to receiving Communion in an unfamiliar way, to listening to a choir singing, *but not joining in*. Some of us discovered something called Zoom and were able to join in services where our fellow worshippers appeared in little squares on our screens. Sadly, for some of us, worship as part of St John's or St Katharine's congregation just did not take place in 2020.

There have been some bright points: our final service at St Katharine's before lockdown was the Daffodil service, at the beginning of which we were able to pay tribute to Joy Chant who had been such a valued member of both our church choirs; both congregations were able to sing a carol outside church following services at Christmas; faithful lesson readers and intercessions leaders have continued their valued ministry either in church or via Zoom; music at St John's has continued thanks to Rosemary's weekly choir sessions and occasional Compline services, in addition to the Sunday Zoom services; every week we are all receiving an order of service together with a reflection, by email, post or hand delivery (and thanks are due to *everyone* involved in that process). We look forward to normal services being resumed. *Janet Caudwell*

St John's Social Committee

Our pattern of fortnightly Parish lunches in 2020 began brightly with three full lunches (with puddings!) before we embarked on the FACT lunches. We managed to host three Lent Lunches before, following guidance from several churches, we suspended all hospitality. The empty months without the fellowship of lunches and Tea Time at St John's, Harvest Supper and Christmas Lunch have been bleak. We hope that we will be able to resume this valuable aspect of parish life eventually. *Janet Caudwell*

St John's Pastoral Team

The personal contact with members of our congregation, maintained by a small group of parishioners, has proved a real life-line during this difficult year. Many of us have not seen each other face to face throughout 2020, but the occasional telephone call or email have each been reassuring. Christmas and Easter Cards and Palm Crosses have been well received. By keeping close contact with each other (usually by email – but we did meet in someone's gazebo) the Pastoral Team tries to ensure that we do not lose touch with anybody. In a year of isolation we have tried to maintain the fabric of our church life. *Janet Caudwell*

Stewardship report

As we all know this has been a very confused year for all of us, no normal church services, minimal socialising with no coffee mornings, teatime at St Johns or Parish lunches. There have also been no opportunities for raising larger amounts of money such as at our regular sales and raffles. We are very grateful to everyone who has continued to support us financially with regular giving by standing order, weekly envelopes and generous donations. This income has helped to pay the bills, some of which such as insurance, gas and electricity still need to be met. Thank you all again and hopefully we will have a more optimistic report next year.

Judith Davies. Stewardship treasurer

Bennett Centre (St John's Church Hall) Report

The first three months of 2020 were extremely busy. Bookings really took off and the diary was filling up rapidly for the forthcoming year. It was not unusual for Janet to come home from work and have 10 or so emails, inquiring about the availability of space for hire. We had even booked in a regular Saturday for a Finnish language school for children to start in September.

On the redevelopment front the year started well too with the home-built bell tower (fleche) being lifted into place on a bright February morning, and the bell now rings during the daylight hours. The fleche meant we could also complete the lightning protection and that was certified just before the March 2020 lockdown. We began to plan for further fundraising then ...

COVID!

Like everywhere else we had to lock down, but we managed to keep the Frome Food Hub running as it was providing an essential service, and it has kept running throughout the year. Once we had clarity on what we could and could not continue to do during lockdown, we also completed the remaining H&S aspects in the kitchen by installing the cleaner's sink and a hand wash basin in the kitchen itself. The volunteers, socially distanced, salvaged enough lias from the offcuts of the cloister floor to complete dressing the half dozen steps within the Upper Room corridor. Thanks to all who helped there. What we can consider in 2021 will depend on further lockdown arrangements and, of course, funding.

With the gradual easing of the lockdown restrictions in July, we were able to allow some social distancing events to take place over the summer and early autumn: exercise classes, children's groups, Christian Fellowship, individuals rehearsing and some educational training, but overall many classes were understandably cautious to come back. Then we had to lockdown again for the month of November, and when restrictions were eased for December only one or two groups felt it was worth returning for the three weeks before Christmas.

One potential piece of good news appeared in an enquiry from an organisation supporting young people with learning difficulties in Somerset, helping them get more from life. They are interested in renting the Cloister space from Monday to Friday on a 3-4 year basis whilst also investing considerably in the space by bringing disabled access to the Cloisters and finishing the windows and doors. This could be an amazing opportunity, bringing us closer to completing the building work. Before Christmas we held two constructive meetings with them at the Bennett Centre, and hopefully in the New Year we can take this further, COVID permitting.

David Daniels

Management Committee, Bennett Centre.

Charity/Trust funds

Income and expenditure accounts 2020

Notes:

1. For information only – these do not form part of the PCC's annual report.
2. Some of the Trusts and Charities result from the merging of a number of smaller old Trusts and Charities and the descriptive wording relating to purpose for which held is indicative rather than being a full statement of the purposes for which the relevant funds may be applied.

St John the Baptist Church, Frome

Charity/Trust Funds Year Ending 31/12/2020

Charity/Trust	B/F 01/01/2020	Income	Interest	Total Income	Expenditure	Surplus/ Deficit	C/F 31/12/2020	
Charity Funds								
1 Byard	47.12	29.26	0.42	29.68	0.00	29.68	76.80	Education
2 Taunton	178.50	530.86	2.47	533.33	409.63	123.70	302.20	Choir
4 T Smith	1,060.42	542.80	8.80	551.60	0.00	551.60	1,612.02	St Thomas' Alms
12 Singer	308.68	51.08	2.18	53.26	0.00	53.26	361.94	Bennett Memorial Service
14 Leversedge	35.82	285.49	0.88	286.37	300.00	(13.63)	22.19	Fabric
17 Bailly	3,535.36	0.00	25.38	25.38	0.00	25.38	3,560.74	Clock, Carillon, Bells
19 Hutchings	1,350.41	284.65	9.70	294.35	600.00	(305.65)	1,044.76	Hutchings Grave
	6,516.31	1,724.14	49.83	1,773.97	1,309.63	464.34	6,980.65	
Trust Funds								
21 W Bailly	2,337.53	0.00	16.83	16.83	0.00	16.83	2,354.36	Bennett Memorial
22 Via Crucis	448.74	0.00	3.23	3.23	0.00	3.23	451.97	
23 Bennett Grave	131.27	0.00	0.95	0.95	0.00	0.95	132.22	
25 Foster	661.09	0.00	4.75	4.75	0.00	4.75	665.84	Easter Flowers
	3,578.63	0.00	25.76	25.76	0.00	25.76	3,604.39	
Total Funds	10,094.94	1,724.14	75.59	1,799.73	1,309.63	490.10	10,585.04	