

St. Martin-in-the-Fields, Finham, Coventry

Charity Commission Number 1133962

Annual Report and Financial Statements of the Parochial Church Council

For the year ended 31st December 2020

Incumbent: Rev. Matthew Taylor



Bank: Santander

Bootle, Merseyside, L30 4GB

Independent Examiner:

Howard Thomas Oliver

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST MARTIN IN THE FIELDS, FINHAM, COVENTRY, FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 2020.

AIM and PURPOSE

St. Martin's PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. It also has maintenance responsibilities for the Church Hall, Fellowship Room and Community Hub of St. Martin's.

The PCC is a charity that is registered with the Charity Commission, Number 1133962.

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

St. Martin's Church is situated in Green Lane, Finham, Coventry. It is part of the Diocese of Coventry within the Church of England.

The correspondence address is: The Vicarage, 136 Green Lane, Finham, Coventry, CV3 6EA.

The PCC is a body corporate, operating under the PCC Powers Measure 1956 which came into effect on 2nd January, 1957 and the Church Representation Rules (within Schedule 3 to the Synodical Government Measure 1969, as amended).

Members of the PCC are either ex-officio or elected by the Annual Parochial Meeting (APCM) in accordance with Church Representation Rules.

At the 2001 APCM a resolution was adopted for 12 elected members to serve on the PCC. Members elected would serve for a period of three years and one third of the elected members would retire annually. Retiring members would be eligible to offer themselves for re-election.

There are 127 parishioners on the Church Electoral Roll, of which 48 are not resident within the parish. All those attending St. Martin's are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and to consider standing for election to the PCC.

The average church attendance on a normal Sunday in 2020 was 25 in person and many, many more watching on live stream each week.

MEMBERSHIP OF THE PCC FOR 2020 WAS:

Vicar: Rev Matthew Taylor

Curate: Rev Abby Rhodes

Church Wardens: Mrs Helen Buckby and Mr Dan Saxton

Lay Reader

Dr Andrew Barclay

Representatives on the Deanery Synod

Mrs Jackie Cubitt from 2020

12 Elected Members

4 Deanery Synod Members

Re-election

2021

1. Alison Court

2. Stan McCarthy
3. Dave Foxwell

2022

4. Caroline Brown
5. Gill Blackmore
6. Richard Morris

2023

7. Martin Bint
8. Paul McEwan co opted
9. Fran Armitage

GOVERNANCE, MANAGEMENT and OBJECTIVES

The PCC members are responsible for making decisions on all matters of general concern and importance to the parish, including deciding on how the funds of the PCC are to be spent.

The full PCC met 9 times during the year. The PCC has Working Teams which normally meet on a regular basis and a Standing Committee, on a monthly basis. The Teams met between PCC meetings when government guidance allowed and minutes of their deliberations were received by the full PCC and discussed where necessary.

The Standing Committee has a core of six members who are Rev Matthew Taylor, Rev Abby Rhodes, Dr Andrew Barclay, Mrs Jackie Cubitt, Mrs Helen Buckby and Mr Dan Saxton.

Standing Committee: This is the only committee required by law. It has the power to transact the business of the PCC between its meetings, subject to any directions given by the Council. The Standing Committee also oversees the monitoring of income and expenditure and the preparation of the annual budget. It oversees the work of the building sub-committee which ensures that the Church, Church Hall, Fellowship Room, Community Hub and grounds are maintained in a high standard of repair and cleanliness and oversees the use of the premises.

PUBLIC BENEFIT

The PCC continues to support and encourage a wide and growing number of church and local organisations, including the Mothers' Union, 4 O'clock Focus and a variety of youth orientated entities.

The PCC continues with its basic mission of providing an opportunity for all in the area and further afield to join in worship and celebration of the Sacraments of the Church. All are welcome to join in our services either in person or via Liv Stream and Zoom.

VICAR'S REPORT - REV MATT TAYLOR

As we began our year of the Bible, we had no idea of the storm which was about to hit or how much we would need the anchor of his word throughout 2020. We were blessed by the fact that Abby had joined us 9 months before and we had that time to get to know her 'face to face', not realising how much of a rarity that would become in the coming months.

In March things changed at a pace. We had to make decisions quickly, how would we build a continuity with our existing worship in times where everything else was uncertain? What technology could we use, how would we still connect with those less digitally inclined? Grateful of a previous career where sometimes I edited video, I knew that prerecording and editing would be very time

consuming and there was so much to do. I also knew I would be tempted to spend far too long on getting things 'right'. We both felt that wasn't authentic to church life. Each week we make mistakes and that is all part of being authentically us. St Martin's didn't want slick TV presenters, they just needed their ministers to reassure them and bring God's message of hope, keeping things as familiar as possible.

The day after public worship was suspended, we started our first livestream (sideways as we were unsure if the phone switched to landscape when live!). We did the first Sunday livestream in an empty church building on Mothering Sunday, then when complete lockdown happened, we broadcast from our own homes from 25th onwards. We learned quickly how to involve others in the service live too. We were grateful for Abby's singing/musical skills and for Sandra's voice which meant we could keep music live and not fall into the copyright pitfalls that many churches were struggling with at the time. The year has brought many new opportunities to communicate the Gospel and I have been grateful to Abby with her openness to try out the new and not run when I say 'I've got an idea'. One of which was a live, off-the-cuff conversation on the day's text, between the two of us, without any preparation, to encourage others to discuss God's word. Because of our advances in this area, we were very pleased when we were asked to host the Ordinations as Priests for Coventry Diocese, made even more special for us as Abby was one of those being ordained.

But how would we reach those who didn't use the internet? First, we created a weekly service sheet which involved us preparing the Sunday sermon by Wednesday each week (quite an ask!). We also took the official list of telephone numbers and systematically called each one (twice). The pastoral team also connected with as many people as they could. Members in the church delivered care packages to many who felt isolated.

We built our COVID task force which included Dan Saxton, Helen Buckby, Jackie Cubitt and Andrew Barclay (who is now also a member of the standing committee). Each have worked so hard for the church – I will always remember and be grateful for all their support and all they have done during this time. We entered the world of keeping up to date with C of E guidance, hand sanitisers and risk assessments. Zoom became a word which was always on our lips and all too often running on our laptops.

Our Children's work also moved online, the first major event was 'Countdown to Easter' masterminded by Kate Saxton, and she has continued all year to produce work that has met the children's needs and kept ahead of the game by keeping in contact with our schools through online lessons and assemblies (some live, some pre-recorded). Later in 2020 Lisa Clamp joined the team bringing a fresh and encouraging spirit, working with both the young people and enabling the youth team to function well.

We met the challenges and sadness of funerals with on occasions only 10 people present. It was in 2020 that we lost Connie Reid, a long-standing member of our Church community, and during the early days of the pandemic I sadly lost my own father too, most likely to the virus.

After a rollercoaster year of lockdown and easing and then lockdown again we ended a difficult year with some really memorable Christmas services, despite the restrictions we were all under. With our impressive hand-made 'Hope' sign, which has become a local landmark and daily photo opportunity, shining out on the cold winter nights the encouraging truth of the Gospel which brings hope even in the darkest of times.

I do believe that in this most difficult of years, we have all made a deeper connection with the people of Finham. People are watching our livestreams who might never have considered actually coming into our church, an online Alpha which connected with younger families who would have found it difficult to attend a course otherwise and further connections via SaFE (Styvechale and Finham Empower community group).

I want to say thank you to the whole of our family at St Martin's. You have been encouraging, faithful and caring, many of you sharing the love of Jesus by acts of practical kindness to our community. I have been proud, if I am allowed to say that, as well as feeling privileged, to be known as your vicar. I want to say thank you to Sandra who has put up with me, regularly sung and brought stories that sometimes I think the adults love as much as the children. Finally, to Abby who has been such a faithful co-worker in the Gospel, who has been not just a trainee curate, but a colleague, with a wise head, who has been both an inspiration and blessing to us all.

CURATE'S REPORT - REVD ABBY RHODES

I had not expected a global pandemic, just 9 months into my curacy! However, this is what 2020 brought to all of us. It was, as we know, a shocking, disorienting time as the first lockdown hit us and it was almost surreal, trying to work out how to sustain a busy, active church when even Matt and I couldn't meet in person. Whilst I have heard other curates talk about it as a "lost year" in their training, I am clear that I have gained insight, understanding and a myriad of new skills that I wouldn't have known about without Covid-19. I have, however, also gained some grey hairs....

We had begun 2020 as the Year of the Bible, excited for what God might do with us as we explored his word carefully together. As the impact of Covid became clear, we were determined not to lose the focus on God's word and it was great to see how so many embraced our daily bible reading challenge throughout the year, handling the joys and the challenges of scripture as we read together. Some of the planned activities for the Year of the Bible, like our reading of Mark's Gospel in one evening, almost worked *better* online – where we could share pictures and use maps and other resources to help more fully illustrate what we were reading.

Working purely online and by phone or letter for much of 2020 was a steep learning curve and one I definitely didn't always get right. Theology colleges will almost certainly include online worship leading/ remote congregations as a course module in the future but it is something my cohort wasn't prepared for! I am deeply grateful for Matt, who encouraged me and others the whole way – even when we were having to lead from our respective dining rooms and work through the wobbly wonders of a Skype connection to broadcast together, alongside providing paper resources for those who didn't have internet access.

I got used to being on screens a lot (and not minding too much) and having to remember that lots of people from beyond our church community were looking in on our services but I never got used to preaching and leading to an empty church; I'll never again take the sound of people arriving to worship together for granted.

From the end of May onwards, each week became a problem-solving exercise, ably helped by an amazing group of people. We couldn't have reopened church without the wider team – let alone as quickly as we did – and I have learnt much from all of them. As we were able to move into the church my technical skills started to expand beyond Zoom and Skype in to live-streaming technology.

I learnt new skills but I have also learnt a lot about myself and the way I minister most naturally. I found funerals, especially at the start of lockdown, very difficult. Pre-Covid, this was a part of my ministry that I was beginning to feel could be a strength. However, the lack of in-person contact with families before the service, the severely restricted numbers allowed and the brutally short service time all sent me back to my ministerial "toolkit", to find new ways of serving bereaved families as well as I could during this time. It's safe to say that my toolkit has expanded for this and many other things as a result of the pandemic.

Perhaps one of the high points of the year for me was (finally!) being ordained priest on 26th September. It should have all happened in early July so it was a relatively frustrating delay. However, as plans were re-thought and re-arrangements made for smaller, local ordinations for the priest candidates, away from the grandeur of the Cathedral, I was delighted that I could be ordained in St Martin's. In spite of the limited congregation permitted and the other Covid compromises, the service was such a memorable, Spirit-filled moment. There was an intimacy and familiarity that the Cathedral

couldn't have offered and I can now say that I've had the best of both worlds across my two ordinations!

I am deeply grateful for all that 2020 has taught me – even when it felt stressful, sad and remote from so much of the church life and church family that I love. I think I will be a better minister in the long-term for all that I have experienced and as a result of the support, love and help that I have received from Matt, the churchwardens and so many others across the whole church. Thank you all!

CHURCH WARDENS REPORT 2020

CHURCH FABRIC, GOODS AND ORNAMENTS

Gary Askew took the decision that, due to health issues, he was unable to continue as churchwarden after completing 12 months in post. He stepped down in April 2020. Helen would like to thank Gary very much for his support and hard work during his time as churchwarden.

This year saw the retirement of Ron Jones as the church site supervisor. Ron did an excellent job opening up the building on weekdays and ensuring the facilities were clean, tidy and well maintained. We would like to thank him for his diligence and hard work and wish him a long and happy retirement.

The year also saw the retirement of Brian Nutt as our cleaner. We would like to thank Brian for his many years of hard work cleaning the facilities.

During 2020 the Church building, Hall and Fellowship Room were in and out of use depending on the government and Church of England legislation at the time.

With the exception of a couple of months during the first Covid lockdown, when not in use for 'face to face' services, the church building was still used by a small team for live streaming of services and school's work.

This meant that whilst the annual maintenance of church facilities continued as normal (boilers, heating, Fire System etc), there were less requirements for on-going repairs to the building. However, there was a significant increase in the paperwork required to change how people used the spaces when they were able to do so.

The Churchwardens would like to say a huge "thankyou" to everyone who has supported them over this challenging year.

COVID RISK ASSESSMENTS

The Standing Committee (Matt, Abby, Helen B, Jackie C, Andrew B [plus Dan after the APCM in October 2020]) have worked together to ensure that we remain compliant with the ever-changing government legislation and Church of England guidelines.

As part of this a Covid risk assessment has to be in place for everything taking place within the church facilities. This includes all activities run by St Martins directly and also those by other groups. All risk assessments are reviewed and where necessary updated (by the group running the activity) to ensure continued compliance.

CLEANING

As mentioned earlier, after Brian retired, we engaged a contract cleaning company (Spring Action Cleaning Company, run by Coventry Refugee and Migrant Centre) to ensure areas of the buildings are thoroughly cleaned. The cleaner currently attends the site on a Monday, Tuesday and Thursday. The toilets are cleaned on each visit. Other areas cleaned at least once a week are the Church, Narthex, Hub and Hall. The Fellowship Room was not used during 2020.

In addition to this, volunteers were needed to clean the touch points (seat backs, door handles etc.) in church between the 9am and 11am Services.

BUILDING WORKING GROUP

The team continued to meet either outside 'face to face' or via Zoom.

Some of the works discussed and carried out include:

Repairing of the rear fire doors as they had been damaged when the wind caught them and recoating the external surface as the beeswax had washed off through heavy rain.

Investigation into the rear church wall and water damage testing.

Regular Fire Alarm testing.

GROUNDNS

Trees – the Quinquennial report required us to create a plan to manage our trees effectively. It was agreed that they were very overgrown and were preventing good use of the car park in some areas. Dan Saxton pruned all the trees (up to 7 feet) in the front and rear car parks and around the field perimeter. A specialist tree surgeon was then employed to carry out needed works to remove dead trees, branches and carry out works ‘at height’ that couldn’t be safely done by the church volunteers.

Concrete shed/garage – The Buildings Group agreed that this building should be removed due to its collapsed roof and that it would free up car parking space. Thanks to Alan and team for organising the removal of the broken asbestos roof and temporary recovering.

After considerable investigation into an alternative building construction and location, it was agreed that the Cursillo equipment would be moved to the ‘Open the Book’ part of the ‘side garage’ and the sectioned off part of the garage would be used to keep the tools and gardening equipment.

Decoration – as the year had been a difficult, dark and miserable time for many, it was agreed to put up some decorations at the front of church to bring a little cheer into people’s lives as they drove or walked past.

A ‘HOPE’ sign was made from old pallets, lights added, and was placed at the front of the church. It’s been interesting to see so many people using it as a landmark, having their photo taken next to it or mentioning it on their social media.

We also bought some new outside ‘string lights’ to decorate the trees at the roadside.

Both these decorations had a huge impact and also enhanced the outdoor Christingle service.

UTILITIES

After many years of organising the electricity and gas contracts for the 3 utility meters the church has, Trevor Brigden decided to step down and pass the baton to Dan Saxton – we would like to formally thank Trevor for his commitment and diligence.

Unfortunately, with this change, SSE, the utilities supplier at the time, cancelled the contract earlier than expected and so we had to quickly go out to tender for a new contract. We selected People’s Energy as our new supplier, which reduced our forecasted costs whilst securing ‘green’ electricity as part of the contract.

Due to the government legislation, church windows were left open to ensure free-flowing air during, and after people were in the building. This is anticipated to show an increased gas bill as the church building still needed to be heated while in use.

GROUNDNS

Thank you again to the hard-working team who spend many hours looking after the grounds both in front of and behind the church. With so many working so hard in the church garden, the grounds always provide an attractive feature. Thank you so much to everyone involved.

Helen Buckby and Dan Saxton

DEANERY SYNOD REPORT 2020

There were three meetings in 2020 in accordance with the decision made at the previous meeting in November. However, due to the Coronavirus pandemic the February meeting was the only one when the parish representatives met in a church; the remaining two were conducted via Zoom and followed the usual pattern for meetings. All meetings, therefore, began with Opening Worship followed by the host parish presenting a résumé of their activities. Each meeting then focussed on a different theme. All closed with prayer and a blessing. Brief details of the meetings are as follows:

Tuesday 18th February – St Barnabas, Kenilworth

Following opening worship, a presentation was given by Revd. Stella Bailey relating to her mission of “planting seeds” over the last three years since she was appointed to **St Nicholas & St Barnabas, Kenilworth**. The newly appointed Ven Barry Dugmore then introduced himself and spoke on the **Missional Vision of the Diocese** and explained that the deaneries and parishes would be part of it. He explained that the Mission has three dimensions: - 1) Mustard seeds – offer a little seed and God does something great 2) Diamonds – we are precious to God and called to shine in the places where we are 3) Dancing feet – hand in hand with God – if learning to dance, then the spirit leads. The Revd. Greg Smith and Revd. Stella Bailey then spoke about the **Deanery Parish plans**, which is when each deanery needs to make plans for the future including paying special attention to parish boundaries, which may change, and what may happen when your clergy person leaves. They stressed the importance of each parish being involved; Kenilworth deanery has already started this process and Coventry South needs to begin. Prior to closing it was announced that Nicola Perryman would no longer be secretary for Coventry South and therefore someone would be needed to fulfil this role.

Tuesday 15th September – Zoom

After opening worship, the Revd. Andy March gave a presentation on **St Christopher’s, Allesley Park** and amongst other things he explained how the church and its ministry had adapted to the change necessitated by the “lockdown”. This was followed by a presentation on **Collective Trauma in our Community** from the Revd. Stella Bailey. This talk highlighted the three phases of Collective Trauma. In the first phase an adrenaline rush is experienced which is manifested by much activity and help given and this phase can last days, weeks or even months. The second phase is when emotions rise to the surface and lethargy and disillusionment is experienced until a turning point is reached. Rebuilding is the third phase and this is the phase when what has happened is acknowledged and the process of how to shape the future is approached while being aware not to rush things but to take time. There followed information on the deanery finance issues and the proposal, from clergy and treasurers’ meeting that there is no change in the figures for Kenilworth in 2021 was approved in the understanding that those churches that have applied for the relief fund are receiving that for which they have applied

Monday 30th November – Zoom

Following opening worship, a parish presentation on **Christ Church, Cheylesmore** was given by Revd. Arthur Woo in which he explained how the church had changed and adapted as a result of the pandemic and gave details of two future projects. Following this a brief talk was given by Revd. Jim Perryman on the **Synodical Structure of the Church of England**. He explained how Parishes are

independent and these are grouped into Deaneries which in turn are grouped into Dioceses and these then make up the Church of England and also includes the Diocese in Europe. To ensure that every parish has a voice the clergy and elected representatives are on Deanery Synod; the Deaneries then elect clergy and lay representatives to the Diocesan Synod which is chaired by a Bishop. Bishops, clergy and lay representatives from every Diocese are elected to serve on General Synod and by this method everyone is given a chance to "have a say".

Members were then given a chance to meet some other members of Synod, through break-out rooms, and discuss any positive experiences from Covid. The two deaneries then separated and elected their officers.

In addition to these meetings **Revd. Mark Bratton** attended the General Synod in February, in his capacity as General Synod representative, House of Clergy

All minutes of the above meetings are available from Jackie Cubitt.

Jackie Cubitt Deanery Synod Rep.

VOLUNTEERS

Our thanks are given to all those who freely give of their time, talents and treasure to all areas of the church's ministry, from banking, dealing with Gift Aid, working with children, pastoral care, administration and all those other tasks which together fulfil the holistic role of St Martin's both in the Church and in the wider community. Thanks too to our Vicar, Matt, Curate, Abby, the Churchwardens, Helen and Dan, Lay Reader, Andrew and all on the PCC for all their hard work in 2020. We look to the future with confidence.

EMPLOYEES

We are particularly appreciative of Jackie Birt our Parish Administrator, our part time Children and Family worker Kate Saxton and Lisa Clamp our part time Youth Enabler, who make a significant contribution to the mission of St Martin's as we seek to help people Explore Faith, Love Jesus and serve our community.

SAFEGUARDING REPORT

First of all, I would like again, to say a really big thank you to everyone who either works with children, adults or who is in a Leadership Role. During the Lockdown there has been no face-to-face training but those who needed to keep up with their certificates have been renewing their training on line. A big thank you to Kate and Lisa, who have completed so many Risk Assessment forms for the groups during the year as the guidelines change.

The PCC has complied with the duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Disciplinary Measure 2016, which imposes a legal duty on the PCC *to have due regard to guidance issued by the House of Bishops on matters relating to the safeguarding children and vulnerable adults.*

You might wonder what it means to "have due regard", and the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse (IICSA) observed that this legal term was not well understood. If you would like further details, please do contact the Safeguarding Officer.

No safeguarding incidents have been reported to the DSA. The DBS checks continue to come through fairly quickly. Ten people have been DBS checked this last year 2020.

Two people have completed their C0 training during the year and five completed C1. There were no training courses for the C2 course and as most of last year was in lockdown there have not been any Safeguarding Officers meetings, but we have kept up to date with the Parish Dashboard. The Parish Dashboard forms the Action Plan from the Safeguarding Policy adopted by the PCC four years ago

and is a great asset, making sure all safeguarding regulations are adhered to. There are three levels and I am pleased to say that we are on level three. The PCC have regular updates at each PCC meeting and have reviewed the Cause for Concern and Allegations Policy. Safeguarding is high up on the agenda at every PCC meeting so members receive up to date information on Safeguarding and the Action Plan from the Parish Dashboard. Please do ask if you would like to know more about the Parish Dashboard. There is more information on Safeguarding in the Narthex, Fellowship Room and the main Hall. Thank you to everyone who has made this role so much easier by completing references, filling in forms, booking on line courses and also the support I have had from Matt, Abby, Kate and Lisa. Thank you so much.

Jackie Cubitt - Safeguarding Officer

CHILDREN & FAMILY/YOUTH PROVISION

The year 2020 started off with normal activity, the schools work already regularly happening in Finham Primary school and beginning to develop in Stivichall primary too. IGNITE group, Wednesday Youth café, (which I had run since Stacey Gales had left in December 2019) also Friday night Youth led by Dave Foxwell and our Family Community Movie Morning in February, were all running smoothly and as expected, until mid-March! The covid-19 pandemic had hit us and we were all in Lockdown!

This brought many challenges – one main challenge was how to communicate with the Youth & Children in our church community and their families?

As soon as we could, we offered on-line sessions, using the zoom platform to keep the links with our Y&C - running quizzes, challenges, scavenger hunts around the home, along with some simplified bible lessons for the IGNITERS. One of the boys from the IGNITE group said how much he loved the sessions and he looked forward to them every Thursday. He said the best part is that he gets to see and talk to his friends but he also liked all the challenges. He said it's 'his time'. His mum thought the sessions have been invaluable for maintaining his well-being during this tricky period time.

The groups over lockdown, have also shown me how resilient the children & youth are, and it was wonderful to see them each week, they have been very faithful to the groups, when I first thought we might lose contact with them!

It's very important too, at this point, to thank all the volunteers who helped throughout this period, even though the groups were running on zoom, we still needed the extra leaders to facilitate these groups. We are very lucky to have dedicated volunteers that clearly have a passion for the Youth & Children in our community and serving God. Particularly, Dave Foxwell & Marilyn Douglas who supported me and always logged onto these meetings, every week!

"Countdown to..." Group / Holiday@ Home / school's work inc assemblies and lessons, all continued over zoom / teams. Some, Pre-recorded for use in schools (while we couldn't visit) or for use during home schooling. We must thank Dan Saxton's editing skills and the time he spent working on these lessons to enable us to provide professional material for schools.

Parent's feedback about Countdown "my son loved the session, it was full of fun activities and chat, broken up with music. He enjoyed the craft challenges and can't wait for the next meeting. The sessions are invaluable for him. He loves being able to see his friends and interact with them, albeit remotely. I can't stress too much just how important it is for his well-being. This current situation is tricky for everyone, but especially for children like *** who feel the effects of isolation more acutely."

Over each lockdown, I was able to reach out to families via email / text and offer support to parents & families. Everyone has found this time really difficult and it's been wonderful to connect with members of our church & community during 2020; this time has also enabled me to strengthen and build stronger relationships with families that I normally only have contact with during drop off and pick up times.

Sunday Children's Groups – Sharon Wheeler left the church in December 2019, so from January 2020, Sue Jones looked after this ministry; I had been supporting Sue Jones and the team and

helping her on the rota until the pandemic hit. We would see between 7 and 10 children during the services.

During the first lockdown, Sue prepared colouring sheets to be downloaded from the website / facebook page, each week, for the families in addition to the live services. During these, Sandra Taylor was able to tell the story for the children and is an amazing story teller (she is so gifted at this!) It has now become a welcome addition to all the live services of 2020

Over 2020 we had seen a range of children ages 3 – 11 in the primary age group – We introduced the Toddler & parent area in church, however this had to be removed due to transfer of germs / virus.

In September, Sue Jones stepped down from the volunteering leader role, and MT / AR and myself, decided that I should take over the running, planning and implementing of children's groups – especially, as we were uncertain whether the sessions would be face to face or on zoom. Also, at this point, there was no-one else coming forward to run this provision (understandably)

With the pandemic, the whole practical elements of running children's groups had to change because of the virus – shared resources became impossible, so we had to work out how we could deliver safe and engaging ways to teach the children. Making up individual craft packs, which meant planning took longer. We had to find safer alternatives and this usually meant being creative about how we taught the children that attended our groups.

Lisa Clamp (Youth Enabler) joined the team in November and was able to come out into children's groups in addition to all the fabulous leaders that we have. I would like to thank our Sunday morning leaders for their support and help during 2020 – we certainly would not be able to run our groups without their practical and physical help – we are a very blessed church, with leaders wishing to give up their time to support our youngsters growing Faith at St Martin's.

As an umbrella group of St Martin's church, it's important to notice the work that Alison and her team of volunteers have put into Stay & Play during 2020. It is a busy, thriving community group, offering support, fun play for pre-schoolers, babies and parents and also delivering the gospel in a child / tot friendly way. The group has been on & off / face to face / live sessions on Facebook throughout 2020. The group meets many needs in the community, it is a friendly place for supporting families, mentally and physically. Each time, when lockdowns happened, the provision was reviewed with care and consideration to the members & volunteers. Christmas was a highlight of 2020, as the face-to-face Christmas party was able to go ahead, where as well as sharing the story of Jesus' birth, Santa was able to visit – making the end of what has been a difficult year, a really special time for the families that attended!

Alison Court said "Kate has been supporting myself and the team, encouraging us through what has been a really challenging year!"

Lastly, I would also like to thank Matt & Abby for their extraordinary strength and leadership, during 2020 – as a team, we have done so much together that would take me completely out of my comfort zone! I am very grateful for them, for being there for me during this time, especially when I was shielding my son and also, encouraging me to keep "on swimming" during the difficult times. We have really seen changes that we wouldn't have expected, and we laugh about our TV presenter style lessons and assemblies. I would like to thank them for believing that I can do this and anything is possible! (especially with God on our side)

Although, there have been many changes during 2020, it has been a great privilege to be able to see God working through our church leaders, church family and our community. 2020 has certainly been a most challenging, yet rewarding time, in so many ways. God is Good, all the time!

Kate Saxton, Children and Family Worker

A message from Dave Foxwell: Regarding the Youth work at St Martin's

"Youth cafe sessions were generally run in line with schools open policy and after the initial full lockdown as the schools reopened we opened the youth cafe sessions. Although it would be fair to say the numbers were relatively low the quality time we were able to spend with the youth directly and they with each other was of high value.

It would also be good to note the help from various helpers stepping in especially prior to summer shutdown enabled these sessions to go ahead. On a couple of occasions we were unable to use any activities because of the restrictions but we were still able to meet up and show the youth that we were there to listen to them.

After the main holiday shutdown we again stayed totally in line with recommended procedures but always tried to open if reasonably possible. These sessions ran right through to when Lisa joined in November. Even sometimes in weeks where only one person turned up the quality time spent made the session extremely worthwhile.

Friday night youth - due to the excellent team of helpers, we were able to run in person sessions at all times when COVID-19 laws allowed us to open the hall to physically access. At the times we were unable to open in person we found that zoom sessions on a Wednesday run initially by Kate with a group of volunteers worked best. At any point when we opened the halls it was encouraging to see the youth still wanting to be involved in what was going on.

This was also a great time when we were able to welcome Cameron onto our team of leaders and he has done a great job since that point."

A message from Lisa Clamp: (Youth Enabler) (November / December)

I joined in November and have spent the last few months adapting the sessions to be open when possible around the government guidelines to provide a safe provision for the Young people between the ages of 11-18. These sessions were a mixture of face to face when allowed and interactive zoom sessions during Lockdown times.

I have used this time to engage and contact all current volunteer leaders, ensuring that they feel valued and are able to fulfil their volunteer roles. During this 2 month period, I created a document to understand how our volunteers may want to take the Youth groups forward in the future identifying any new skills which may be needed if these ideas are chosen to take forward. Including networking with other repair shops since this was an idea favoured by the team.

I have been actively working with the team, to help with the service and covid bubbles. I was involved in the Christingle car park service, actively engaging safely with the local people as they passed by the church and inviting them to join our service. The church nativity, Christmas Eve service and family prayer.

I have been in virtual contact with the parents of the Young people weekly to reassure them of each step and change. During these 2 months, a very unusual time, I have built up relationships with the Team, the parents and carers of the Young people, the Young people, our volunteer leaders and many of the congregation in general

MISSION WORKING GROUP REPORT

Our church's mission statement:

Supporting agencies that spread the good news of Jesus & demonstrate God's love in practical ways. Raising awareness of the agencies' activities & needs, locally & world-wide, & how their needs are being met by agencies & individuals within a Christian framework.

During 2020 we gave donations to :

World-wide :

- * The Osgood family. Tim is the Finance Officer for Operation Mobilisation, which evangelises & helps Christians in many countries.
- * Mvumi Hospital in Tanzania.
- * Africa Mercy Hospital Ship.
- * Partnership with Murico Parish in Rwanda. We gave donations towards school lunches which enable the poorest children to continue their education. We also sent money to rent a plot of land near the school where vegetables can be grown to supplement the lunch menus. Some members of our congregation sponsor secondary school students.

Local Agencies:

- * Coventry City Mission, working in deprived areas of our city.
- * Thrive, a youth leaders support group.
- * Lighthouse, a Christian counselling service.

Local Agencies we continued to support in practical ways :

Unfortunately due to the Coronavirus restrictions our support for local agencies was seriously curtailed from April : Food Bank, Clothes Bank, Carriers of Hope,.

The Mothers' Union members have continued their efforts, making jumpers, hats and gloves and making a donation to the Haven Refuge. They have also sent cardigans, hats and blankets to the Hospital Neo-natal ward.

The Children's Society : a small amount was able to be collected which will be put towards the 2021 collections.

Thank you to everyone who has given generously of their time, expertise & money in different ways, so that we have been able to reach out to people in need, both here & abroad, during a very difficult year.

The Mission Board in the Narthex gives some information about the agencies we support & also the contacts within our church family.

Gail Brigden

OPEN THE BOOK REPORT

It was a very short year last year! I think we did about three sessions in the new year before I was notified by Alison Clark head of OTB saying that we were advised not to go into schools to present our stories, instructed from 'The Bible Society'. This was mid-March, at the start of the COVID Pandemic. Sadly, Lynette Askew left the team because of other commitments! So we were down to Four people in the team Me, Gail Brigden, Stan and Rosemary McCarthy. Kathryn Hunt helped out a couple of times which was good.

During the start of the Pandemic, I gave a lot of thought and prayers about whether I should continue doing Open the Book! I felt that I had given 19 years to this wonderful outreach and now was the time to step down. I think the team would need a couple of extra helpers to comfortably carry on, to cover illness and holidays. It would be good to have more support and interest from the church if OTB is going to continue at Finham Primary.

Since Linda Tope stepped down as Co-ordinator, we have no contact with other teams, so things have changed a lot regarding feedback and ideas.

We also have to sort out our own planning and timetable, which used to be done for us.

We occasionally see other OTB teams when they pick up props from the shed, but I think they have started to make a lot of the props themselves, save travelling.

We also had to buy our own set of books and resources (paid out of OTB funds), so things have changed quite a lot

Despite all this, we always look forward to going into Finham and telling these wonderful stories, starting with prayer, then a rushed rehearsal and then a Spirit lead performance.

I feel blessed that I was able to serve the Lord all those years.

Marilyn Douglas

SENIOR CITIZEN'S @ ST MARTIN'S

Senior Citizens @ St Martins met just nine times before lockdown 2020 began. Our last meeting was fittingly lunch to celebrate the club's 49th birthday in the Marco Pierre White restaurant at the Manor Hotel Meriden. We had the most amazing time not really understanding how life was going to change from then on. Random bottles of hand sanitizer dotted here and there were the only clues of what was to follow, and who could have predicted what a major part of life in 2020 these were going to play!

Despite being physically closed for business all other aspects of club continued. Birthday cards and Easter cards posted, flowers and gifts ordered and delivered to those celebrating a *significant* birthday. A multitude of phone calls made by me and members of the committee checking on the welfare of members now thrown into isolation. Linking those in need with the Finham SAFE teams and checking all had sufficient supplies in the house. Supporting those missing friends and family, those worrying for their safety. Our members knew they could contact us whenever they needed to.

We opened again Monday 28th September, not entirely to club as we knew it, but with protocols in place, and a more limited range of "covid safe" activities, it was still marvellous. We continued for seven weeks before Coventry entered Tier 4 and we closed again, with a trimmed down Christmas Party to send us on our way.

We thank Matt and Abby for their help in interpreting the government guidance for us. But a huge thank you goes to the club's committee who, despite their limitations, worked enormously hard sanitizing, checking checklists etc to ensure protocols were completed. Their Dunkirk spirit made meeting together possible. A true team effort.

Treasurer's Report for 2020

- Income of £122,000 was a reduction of 19% on the previous year (excluding Rwanda Fund).
- Expenditure of £128,000 was a reduction of 21% on the previous year (excluding Rwanda Fund).
- Expenditure exceeded income by just under £6,000.
- Total assets remained unchanged at £253,000.

Income

The coronavirus pandemic impacted significantly on hall lettings, with rental income down by almost £13,000 on the previous year. Total giving (excluding Rwanda Fund) fell by £11,000, of which reduction £7,000 was due to deaths, leavers, and changes in circumstances unrelated to the pandemic. Reductions in other income streams were balanced out by similar reductions in expenditure. For example, lost income from Refreshments was compensated by reduced expenditure on Sundry Supplies.

Expenditure

There was a reduction of £32,000 in expenditure on staff, following the resignations of the Youth Worker in December 2019, the Site Supervisor in January 2020, and the Cleaner in September 2020. Many church activities were restricted by the pandemic, leading to reduced expenditure. Live streaming of services incurred some additional costs, particularly for the clergy. Some essential buildings maintenance has been postponed, which will impact on expenditure in 2021.

Investments

Our CAF savings account was closed in March, with £40,000 moved to the CCLA Deposit Account and £20,000 to the current account to ensure adequate cash flow during such uncertain times. The pandemic caused massive movements in the stock market during the year. Thankfully, by the end of the year our investments had recovered from earlier losses. The value of our holding in the CBF Church of England Investment Fund (CCLA) rose by 7% to just under £125,000 and, in addition, paid out more than £3,000 in dividends during the year. The value of our endowment with Black Rock fell by 4% to just under £50,000. The fact that 69% of total assets are at risk on the stock market is a possible cause for concern.

Reserves In January the PCC reviewed its policy on financial reserves and decided that sufficient accessible funds should be kept at all times to cover 6 months of essential expenditure. Based on 2020, the amount to be kept in reserve is estimated to be £57,000. In fact, cash reserves at the end of 2020 amounted to £79,000.

External Giving

Despite the pandemic, the Church maintained its policy of giving away an amount no smaller than 10% of its unrestricted income in the preceding year. Giving to missions, relief and development agencies totalled £12,063 this year, with the following beneficiaries. Operation Mobilisation £4,200 Kigeme Diocese Rwanda £2,550

Coventry City Mission £1,500

The Lighthouse £1,000

Thrive Youth Ministries £1,000

Coventry Youth for Christ £1,000

The Children's Society £505

Friends of Mvumi Hospital £308

A further £1,483 of donated funds was sent to our partner parish of Murico in Rwanda, to assist needy families with school fees and famine relief. All donations to Rwanda were sent through the auspices of the Maidenhead Malachi Trust, to whom we express our sincere thanks.

D. N. Hunt January 2021



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/
members of

Charity Name

THE P.C.C. OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST. MARTIN-IN-THE-FIELDS, FINHAM, COVENTRY

On accounts for the year
ended

31 DECEMBER 2020

Charity no
(if any)

1133962

Set out on pages

1-2

(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31st December, 2020

Responsibilities and
basis of report

As the charity trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with 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 which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect,:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the 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 this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:

Date:

1/02/2021

Name:

Harold Thomas Oliver

Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body
(if any):

MA, CPFA

Address:

16 Dalmeny Road

Coventry

CV4 8AX

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted to nearest £	Restricted to nearest £	Endowment to nearest £	Total funds to nearest £	Last year to nearest £
Receipts					
Standing Orders	58,777	3,372	-	62,149	63,128
Planned Giving Envelopes	10,951	520	-	11,471	19,824
Hall Lettings	7,720	-	-	7,720	20,670
Tax Recovered	17,118	1,266	-	18,384	19,190
Donations	9,936	1,100	-	11,036	9,016
Rwanda Partnership	-	270	-	270	18,061
Fund-raising	-	327	-	327	1,660
One-off Grants	-	-	-	-	-
Loose Plate Collections	1,553	-	-	1,553	4,759
Weddings & Funerals	2,785	-	-	2,785	3,504
Refreshments	184	-	-	184	1,139
Receipts from Youth	-	574	-	574	2,139
Appeals	-	-	-	-	68
Legacies	1,500	-	-	1,500	-
Sundry Receipts	45	-	-	45	85
Interest/Dividends	3,919	-	-	3,919	4,378
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income)	114,487	7,429	-	121,917	167,620

Asset and investment sales

None	-	-	-	-	-
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Payments

Ministry Parish Share	66,084	-	-	66,084	65,423
Staffing & Overheads	17,539	1,971	-	19,510	51,324
Mission Agencies	-	12,063	-	12,063	13,741
Buildings	4,386	-	-	4,386	6,774
Rwanda Partnership	-	1,483	-	1,483	17,164
Youth	-	336	-	336	1,373
Children	84	287	-	372	1,579
Working Groups	-	-	-	-	36
Music and Sound	438	-	-	438	2,146
Vision	4,292	-	-	4,292	701
Utilities	5,532	-	-	5,532	5,111
Administration	3,419	-	-	3,419	3,568
Insurance	3,540	-	-	3,540	2,910
Wedding/Funeral Fees - Diocese	1,483	-	-	1,483	1,295
Sundry Supplies	415	-	-	415	1,737
Clergy Expenses	1,341	-	-	1,341	644
Worship, Sacramental & Lay Training	674	-	-	674	1,404
Churchyard Upkeep	1,520	-	-	1,520	132
Publicity	542	-	-	542	1,118
Honoraria	121	-	-	121	202
Fund-raising Activities	-	-	-	-	1,114
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	111,411	16,140	-	127,551	179,497

Asset and investment purchases

None	-	-	-	-	-
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Net receipts/(payments)	3,077	- 8,711	-	- 5,634	- 11,877
Transfers between funds	- 10,808	10,808	-	-	-
Cash funds last year end	82,509	1,831	-	84,340	96,217
Cash funds this year end	74,778	3,928	-	78,706	84,340

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

	Unrestricted to nearest £	Restricted to nearest £	Endowment to nearest £	Total funds to nearest £	Last year to nearest £
Cash funds					
Santander Current Account	13,829	-	-	13,829	3,108
CCLA Deposit Account	60,785	3,928	-	64,713	21,012
CAF Deposit Account	-	-	-	-	60,000
Cash in Hand	165	-	-	165	220
Total cash funds	74,778	3,928	-	78,706	84,340

Investment assets	Status	Cost	Current value	Last year
CCLA Investment Account	Unrestricted	94,168 (2017)	124,833	116,801
Black Rock Charities UK Equity Fund	Endowment	20,000 (1995)	49,589	51,838
		Total Assets	253,128	252,980

Liabilities	Fund	Amount due	When due
None		-	
	Total	-	

Section C Position of funds at the end of the period

Fund	Starting balance	Receipts	Payments	Net transfers	End of year balance
General	82,509	114,487	111,411	- 10,808	74,778
Youth (Restricted)	379	5,912	2,594	-	3,696
Mission (Restricted)	178	1,077	12,063	10,808	-
Garden/ECO (Restricted)	100	-	-	-	100
Rwanda (Restricted)	1,175	440	1,483	-	132
Sub-total (Cash Funds)	84,340	121,917	127,551	-	78,706
Investments	168,639	5,782	-	-	174,422
Total	252,980	127,699	127,551	-	253,128

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval